

CurrentTap

Comprehensive **Current Affairs Magazine** Covering

GA**ESI****FINANCE****DECEMBER - 2022**

PREFACE TO THE MAGAZINE

What is the most optimum way to utilize this document for RBI Grade B, NABARD Grade A and SEBI Grade A examinations?

Areas to be focused for Current Affairs:

- After thorough analysis of previous year papers, it is evident that the Current Affairs form an integral part of these examinations – both for **Phase 1 and phase 2** [Note: for SEBI/PFRDA Gr A – it would be majorly relevant for Phase 1].
- For **RBI Grade B**, current affairs-based questions are asked in General Awareness (GA) section in **Phase 1** and **Economics and Social Issues (ESI) and Finance papers in Phase 2**.
- For **NABARD Grade A** exam, current affairs questions are asked in **Merit Sections in Phase 1 (GA, ESI and ARD Sections)**, as well as under ESI and ARD Section of Phase 2.

WEIGHTAGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS (CA) IN PHASE 1 AND 2:

Let's look at RBI Grade B first:

Phase 1 – GA	Phase 2 – ESI		Phase 2 – FM	
Total Marks = 80	Objective (50 Marks)	Descriptive (50 Marks)	Objective (50 Marks)	Descriptive (50 Marks)
CA weightage = 60-65 Marks	CA weightage = 40-45 Marks	CA weightage = 15-20 marks	CA weightage = 5-10 Marks	CA weightage = 10-20 Marks

Now, a closer look at NABARD Grade A exam:

Phase 1			Phase 2 (ESI and ARD)	
GA – 20 Marks	ESI – 40 Marks	ARD – 40 Marks	Objective – 50 Marks	Descriptive - 50 Marks
CA weightage = 15-20 Marks	CA weightage = 25 -30 Marks	CA weightage = 10-15 Marks	CA weightage = 35-40 Marks	CA weightage = 20 - 25 Marks

NATURE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS BASED QUESTIONS:

To understand and better appreciate the nature of questions asked, this current affairs document provided by EduTap has been divided into 4 sections namely:

- GA** :- It covers news which is relevant only for the Phase 1 of examination
- GA + ESI** :- It covers those news which is relevant for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 (GA as well as ESI).
- GA + Finance** :- It covers those news which is relevant for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 (GA as well as Finance in RBI & SEBI and in ESI section of NABARD).
- Static GA** :- Relevant for Phase 1 of examination (covers static portion derived from Current Affairs).

Why this division?

- For the simple reason – **Current Affairs needs to be prepared in a combined manner for Phase 1 as well as Phase 2 of these examinations.**
- **General Awareness** has been taken as the **super set** and all other sections – **ESI, Finance and ARD** are nothing but subsets of the super set of **GA** when we talk about current affairs.
- Simply put, this means that all the **current affairs which are important for ESI, ARD and Finance can also be asked in GA** (ARD for NABARD Grade A specifically)

Examples from the Previous Year Questions:

Q. Germany has committed to provide additional support worth euro 10 bn to India by the year ____ to support Green Growth Papers. [RBI Gr B 2022 - Phase 1]

- A. 2026
- B. 2027
- C. 2028
- D. 2029
- E. 2030

- First look at this question suggests that this can be asked in the **ESI section of the examinations** as the topic “**Sustainable Development and Environmental issues**” has been mentioned in the official syllabus of ESI for both RBI Gr B and NABARD Gr A examinations.
- But, **can this question also be asked under General Awareness Section** of Phase 1 of RBI Gr B and NABARD Gr A or SEBI Gr A? **Yes!**

Let us take another example:

Q. India has recently become the only country to adopt the T+1 settlement system after _____. [RBI Gr B 2022 - Phase 1]

- A. China
- B. Russia
- C. United States of America
- D. Germany
- E. Canada

- First look at this question suggests that this can be asked in the **Finance section of the examination** as the topic “**Primary and Secondary Market**” has been mentioned in the official syllabus of Finance for RBI Grade B examination.
- But, **can this question also be asked under General Awareness Section** of Phase 1 of RBI Gr B and NABARD Gr A/B or SEBI Gr A? **Again, Yes!**
- So, we have firmly established that the questions asked based on current affairs in ESI, ARD as well as Finance can be asked in the GA section as well, didn’t we say that **GA is the super set?**
- This also implies that **there are certain areas in GA which cannot be asked in ESI, ARD or Finance.**
- **What are those areas?** Let us consider an example:

Q. What is the name of third India-Bangladesh passenger train that is set to run from New Jalpaiguri (West Bengal) to Dhaka Cantonment Railway Station (Bangladesh)? [NABARD Grade A 2022 – Phase 1]

- A. Samjhauta Express

- B. Sadhvna Express
 - C. Maitri Express
 - D. Mitali Express
 - E. Bandhan Express
- Now, this question can be asked in **GA** section **but not in ESI, Finance or ARD. Why?** For the simple reason that **these questions cannot be linked to any of the topics of ESI, ARD or Finance as given in the official syllabus for RBI Gr B and NABARD Gr A examinations.**

How to read this document for Phase 1?

- **For RBI Grade B** - you need to refer to **all three sections** of the magazine, as the Phase 1 syllabus includes **General Awareness (GA)**. This **GA** includes **GA in news, GA + ESI in news and GA + Finance in news**.
- **For NABARD Grade A** - you need to refer to **first and second part** of the magazine. The syllabus of the exam includes **GA, ESI & ARD** (A separate magazine is provided for ARD in NABARD Course).

How to read this document for Phase 2?

- **For RBI Grade B** - you need to refer to the **second and third sections** of this magazine. First section (GA in news) is not important for Phase 2. Section 2 (**GA + ESI in news**) and Section 3 (**GA + Finance in news**) are important for Phase 2 with two separate exams of ESI and FM, 100 marks each.
- **For NABARD Grade A** – you need to refer to **second and third sections** of this magazine for Phase 2 of this paper. It is important to note that financial developments covered in Finance sections are also relevant for the NABARD Grade A with the changing pattern of the examination.
- **Note:** Syllabus Topic mentioned in ESI part of NABARD Gr A which is related to all the Finance section news – “**Rural banking and financial institutions in India - Reforms in Banking/Financial sector**”.

How we are helping you?

- We have divided the GA section in certain tags based on the Previous Year Questions' analysis. These tags have been arranged in the order of their relevance for examination. You need to go through these tags in the order of priority for best coverage. For example – **First in News, Government Initiatives, MoUs and Agreements etc.**
- **ESI and Finance** sections have also been divided under tags segregated in the order of priority. In both ESI and Finance sections, tag-wise PIB news are being provided separately.

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1 GA IN NEWS

FIRST IN NEWS

S.No	News	Place / Developed by / Launched	Key Facts
1.	First-ever Tribal Winter Festival	Held at: Bandipora District, Jammu and Kashmir	Organized by: Bandipora District Administration
2.	First ever festival celebrating cultural ties between India and Bangladesh – ‘ Silchar-Sylhet Festival 2022 ’	Held at: Silchar, Assam	Organized by: India Foundation under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture (India) and Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies The festival celebrated the linguistic and cultural ties between the Barak Valley region of Silchar (Assam), India and the Sylhet segment of Bangladesh .
3.	First bank to offer real estate specific STACK service	ICICI Bank	The STACK is a combination of digital and physical solutions that enables participants of the real estate sector including builders, Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs) to undertake banking transactions efficiently.
4.	India's first passive tax saver fund – IIFL Equity-Linked Savings Scheme (ELSS) Nifty 50 Tax Saver Index Fund (IN50)	Launched by: IIFL Mutual Fund	Approved by: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Dedicated Fund Manager: Parijit Garg
5.	First company to file a confidential Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) for its Initial Public Offering (IPO)	TATA Play	DRHP filed with: SEBI
6.	India's first Drone Skilling and Training Virtual E-Learning Platform	Inaugurated at: Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Garuda Aerospace Private Limited's Drone Yatra 2.0 (Operation 777) was also flagged off from Thalambur, Chennai . Aim: To demonstrate and educate usage of drones for agricultural purposes across 777 districts in India.
7.	First Indian state to set up a separate Divyang Welfare Department	State: Maharashtra	Financial Outlay: Rs 1,143 crore

8.	India's first Gold Automated teller machine (ATM)	Set-up in: Hyderabad (Telangana) Set-up by: Goldsikka Pvt Ltd	Customers can use a debit or credit card to buy gold coins through the ATM.
9.	India's first indigenously developed seasonal flu vaccine – ‘Quadrivalent Seasonal Influenza Virus-Like Particle (VLP) Vaccine’	To be developed by: Cadila Pharmaceutical	Manufacturing approved by: Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)
10.	First female President of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)	'Meghna Ahlawat'	She replaced Dushyant Chautala .
11.	First Indian to be appointed to state presidium in Germany – ‘Gurdeep Singh Randhawa’	State: Thuringia, Germany	Appointed by: Christian Democratic Union (CDU)
12.	First woman referee in a men's FIFA World Cup match 2022 – ‘Stephanie Frappart’	Held at: Qatar	She is a French Association Football referee .
13.	All India First License for ‘Bullet Resistant Jackets’ and ‘Protective Clothing for Industrial Workers exposed to heat’	License issued by: Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)	License granted to: (for bullet resistant jackets): M/s SMPP Pvt. Ltd., Palwal (Haryana) (for Protective clothing for industrial workers exposed to heat): M/s Star Safety Hub, Faridabad (Haryana)
14.	India's first dedicated platform for innovation curation and venture development for the space entrepreneurial ecosystem – ‘SpaceTech Innovation Network (SpIN)’	To be launched by: Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Social Alpha	Aim: To boost start-ups and Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the Space Industry
15.	First Global Ambassador for Diabetes – ‘Sheikh Hasina’	Announced at: World Diabetes Congress 2022 at Lisbon, Portugal.	Appointed by: International Diabetic Federation (IDF) She is the Prime Minister of Bangladesh
16.	First Airline to launch a digital e-logbook for pilots – ‘IndiGo’	--	Aim: To facilitate the transfer of pilots' flight data directly to the aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) ‘e-Governance of Civil Aviation (eGCA)’ platform
17.	First International Fleet Review (IFR) to be hosted by Bangladesh – ‘BN IFR 2022’	Place: Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh	Participating Nations: 6 (India, China, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and United States of America) Indian Navy ships (INS) Kochi, INS Kavaratti and INS Sumedha to be participating in BN IFR-22 .

18.	India's first private market index – 'StocX Private Market Index (SPMI)'	Launched by: StocX.in	Aim: To monitor the actions of privately traded securities traded within the unlisted market .
19.	First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (New York Fed) – 'Sushmita Shukla'	Place: New York, United States	Appointed by: Federal Reserve System
20.	India's 1st 3D bioprinting Centre of Excellence (CoE)	Inaugurated at: Indian Institute of Science (IISc)'s Campus, Bengaluru (Karnataka) Inaugurated by: IISc and global BioConvergence (BICO) company, CELLINK	Aim: To provide access to 3D bioprinting systems to the researchers, and focus on advancing research on heart, bone, cartilage and cancer through the use of 3D bioprinting .
21.	First Woman President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) – 'Pilavullakandi Thekkерапarambil (P.T.) Usha	--	She also became the First Olympian and First International Medalist to be the president of IOA.
22.	India's 1 st Carbon Neutral Farm – 'Kerala Seed Farm'	Located at: Aluva, Ernakulam (Kerala)	The total amount of carbon emission from the farm in the last one year was 43 tons and its overall procurement was 213 ton .
23.	India's first carbon-neutral Power Exchange – 'Indian Energy Exchange (IEX)'	Located at: Noida, Uttar Pradesh	It uses the market based tradable instruments to offset its carbon emissions
24.	India's first 5.2 amp-hour (Ah) 21700 cylindrical lithium-ion cells	Manufactured at: Hyderabad, Telangana Manufactured by: Godi India Private Limited (Godi India)	--
		Additional Information: GODI India is the first Indian company to get BIS certification to sell lithium-ion cells made with homegrown technology and also the first Indian company to enter into a public-private partnership for large-scale advanced lithium-ion cells manufacturing with Council of Scientific & Industrial Research - Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI)	
25.	India's first mass segment Flex Fuel prototype car – 'Wagon R Flex Fuel prototype model'	Manufactured by: Maruti Suzuki	It is designed to run on ethanol-petrol blend between 20% (E20) and 85% (E85) fuel
26.	First edition of the IEEE MAPCON event (Microwave, Antennas, and Propagation Conference) 2022	Held at: Bengaluru Organized by: Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)	IEEE-Ansys Centre for Skill Development in RF and Microwave and Ansys Innovation Space (AIS) Portal at Reva University in Bengaluru , were inaugurated during the event.
27.	India's First Innovation Lab focusing on the Debt Collection	Launched by: specto	SIL will be collaborating with multiple bank stakeholders to better understand the Non Performing Asset (NPA) crisis ,

	ecosystem – ‘spocto Innovation Lab (SIL)’		and how the team might be able to use tech to resolve it.
	About NPA: An NPA is a loan or advance for which the principal or interest payment remained overdue for a period of 90 days .		
28.	First indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) – ‘Indian Naval Ship (INS) Arnala’	<p>Developed by: Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. (GRSE)</p> <p>Launched by: Indian Navy</p> <p>Launched at: Chennai, Tamil Nadu</p>	<p>Aim: To undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters and Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO)</p> <p>The “Arnala” class of ships will replace the Indian Navy’s “Abhay” class ASW ships.</p>
	Additional Information: The ship has been named Arnala to signify the strategic maritime importance accorded to the island of Arnala (located at the north of Vasai, Maharashtra) by the Maratha warrior, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj .		
29.	First ever Indian to win a medal in the U17 category in Badminton Asia Junior Championship 2022 – ‘Unnati Hooda’	<p>Championship held at: Nonthaburi, Thailand</p>	<p>She won the silver medal in Women’s Singles Under 17 (U17) Category against Sarunrak Vitidsarn of Thailand.</p>
30.	India’s first 5G-driven, artificial intelligence (AI)-guided colonoscopy trials	<p>Conducted by: Apollo Hospitals and Bharti Airtel in collaboration with HealthNet Global, Amazon Web Services (AWS), and Avesha</p>	--
31.	India’s first & World’s 2nd Infantry Research Centre and Museum	<p>Inaugurated at: Mhow cantonment, Indore (Madhya Pradesh)</p> <p>Set up under the aegis of: The Infantry School, Mhow</p>	<p>Aim: To showcase the Infantry Corps’ history from 1747 to 2020 with the theme line – Infantry: The Ultimate.</p>
32.	India’s first Green Steel Brand – “KALYANI FeRRESTA”	<p>Inaugurated at: New Delhi</p> <p>Green Steel Manufactured by: Pune-based Saarloha Advanced Materials (Saarloha), Kalyani Group</p>	<p>Inaugurated by: Union Minister of Steel</p>
33.	India’s First Gas Price Index – ‘GIXI’	<p>Launched by: Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)</p>	<p>Aim: To reflect benchmark natural gas prices for India.</p>
34.	First Transgender Councilor elected in Delhi’s municipal corporation – ‘Bobby Kinnar’	<p>Place: Delhi</p>	<p>Party: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)</p>
35.	Asia’s first drone delivery hub and network – ‘Meghalaya Drone Delivery Network (MDDN)’	<p>Developed by: TechEagle in collaboration with Meghalaya government</p>	<p>Aim: To provide universal access to healthcare to the people of Meghalaya. The Jengjal Sub Divisional Hospital will act as the hub</p>

		Additional Information: The first official drone flight took off from Jengal Sub Divisional Hospital (Hub) and delivered medicines to Padeldoba by TechEagle's Vertiplane X3 Drone in less than 30 mins	
36.	First Female President of Peru – 'Dina Boluarte'	--	She replaced Pedro Castillo .
37.	World's first law to ban smoking for future generation India's 1st Muslim female fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF) – 'Sania Mirza'	Law passed by: New Zealand	The new law states that anyone who is born after 2008 will not be able to buy a packet of cigarettes or tobacco products.
38.		Place: Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh (UP)	She is also the first IAF pilot from UP
39.	First-ever two story 3-Dimensional (3-D) Printed Dwelling Unit for soldiers	Inaugurated at: Ahmedabad Cantt, Gujarat Inaugurated by: Indian Army	Constructed by: Military Engineering Services (MES) in collaboration with MiCoB Pvt Ltd
40.	India's 1st Multi-utility Agriculture Medium Category Drone to receive Type Certification approvals from the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) – 'AG 365 – Agricopter'	Manufactured by: Marut Dronetech Private Limited, Hyderabad (Telangana)	The Drone is now qualified for unsecured loans from the Agri Infrastructure Fund in the amount of Rs 10 lakh at a minimum interest rate of 5-6% , and subsidies ranging from 50% to 100% .
41.	First Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara (Gujarat) – 'Ashwini Vaishnaw'	--	He is the Union Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology . Dr. Manoj Choudhary , Professor IIT, Jodhpur appointed as first Vice Chancellor .
42.	First Black President of Harvard University – 'Claudine Gay'	--	She replaced Lawrence Bacow .
43.	India's First drone startup to receive both Type Certification and Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO) approvals by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) – 'Garuda Aerospace'	--	Certifications received for: Indigenously designed ' Kisan Drones '
44.	First Complete Library Constituency in India – 'Dharmadam'	Place: Kerala	The Dharmadam constituency achieved the feat of opening of libraries in all wards in the constituency.
45.	First-ever resolution of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) over Myanmar	--	Aim: To demand an end to violence and urge the military junta to release all political prisoners , including former leader Aung San Suu Kyi

46.	India's first World Table Tennis series event – 'World Table Tennis (WTT) Star Contender, 2023'	To be hosted by: Panaji, Goa	--
47.	First 'Rohini Nayyar Prize 2022'	Place: New Delhi	Awarded to: Sethrichem Sangtam Awarded for: Helping triple the incomes of 1,200 marginalized farmers in Eastern Nagaland , and for his outstanding contribution to rural development .
48.	USD 1 million fund to build India's first Responsible AI center	Funded by: Google	Funded to: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras Aim: To research on various aspects of bias in artificial intelligence (AI) in Indian perspective.
49.	BSF's first-ever women contingent in regal attire riding camels to be witnessed on Republic Day, 2023	--	Attires designed by: Raghavendra Rathore
50.	India's 1st Project to Conserve Nilgiri Tahr – 'The Nilgiri Tahr Project'	Approved by: Tamil Nadu Government	Financial Outlay: Rs 25.14 crore Period: 5 years (2022-2027)
		Additional Information: Nilgiri Tahr (<i>Nilgiritragus hylocrius</i>) is the state animal of Tamil Nadu.	
51.	Uttar Pradesh's first woman commissioner to take charge as Noida police chief – 'Laxmi Singh'	Place: Noida, Uttar Pradesh	She has replaced previous chief Alok Singh .
52.	First international beach festival – 'Bekal International Beach Festival'	Held at: Spice Coast (North Malabar), Kerala	Aim: To showcase the culture of Kerala
53.	First reported case of brain eating amoeba 'naegleria fowleri'	Reported at: South Korea	--
54.	India's First Underwater Metro Services – 'East-West Metro Corridor project'	To be developed by: Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation (KMRC)	Length: 16.6km To be completed by: December 2023
55.	First state to start the Lokayukta Bill	State: Maharashtra	Aim: To bring the chief minister and council of ministers under the ambit of the anti-corruption ombudsman .

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

S.No	Initiatives / Programs in News	Launched by / Developed by	Key Facts
1.	'Digi Yatra'	Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)	<p>Launched at: Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, New Delhi</p> <p>Launched for: 3 airports (Delhi, Varanasi and Bengaluru), to be followed by 4 airports namely Hyderabad, Kolkata, Pune, and Vijayawada by March 2023.</p> <p>Aim: To use Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) to achieve contactless, seamless passenger processing at airports.</p>
2.	Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative for procurement, operation and maintenance of 10 Mobile Health Clinics (MHC) named 'Doctor Apke Dwar'	Launched by: REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited)	<p>Total Project Cost: Rs. 12.68 crore</p> <p>Aim: To reach the poorest of the poor and people from the underprivileged sections of the society in order to provide better healthcare facilities to all.</p>
3.	24x7 Multi-Lingual Tourist Info-Helpline	Launched by: Ministry of Tourism	<p>Total languages: 12 (English, Hindi, and 10 international languages)</p> <p>Aim: To provide support service in term of information relating to Travel in India and to offer appropriate guidance to tourists in distress while travelling in India.</p>
4.	Indian Standard, IS 19000:2022 - 'Online Consumer Reviews - Principles and Requirements for their Collection, Moderation and Publication'	<p>Launched by: Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)</p> <p>About this Standard: This standard provides requirements and recommendations for the principles and methods for review administrators to apply in their collection, moderation and publication of online consumer reviews.</p>	<p>Applicable to: Any organization that publishes consumer reviews online, including suppliers/sellers of products and services that collect reviews from their own customers, a third-party contracted by the suppliers/sellers or an independent third party.</p>
5.	24-Hour 'Drink from Tap' project	Launched by: Government of Odisha	<p>Launched in: 19 cities and towns of Odisha</p> <p>It was launched virtually under the 5T initiative (Teamwork, technology, transparency, transformation and time limit).</p>

6.	24-Hour 'Drink from Tap' project	Launched by: Government of Odisha	<p>Launched in: 19 cities and towns of Odisha</p> <p>It was launched virtually under the 5T initiative (Teamwork, technology, transparency, transformation and time limit).</p>
7.	Right to Repair Portal, NTH mobile app and new premises of National Consumer Helpline centre on New Delhi	Launched by: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	<p>An MoU was also signed between the Consumer Affairs Department and Indian Institute of Technology(IIT) (BHU), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh and launched a capacity building programme of consumer commissions.</p> <p>About Right to Repair Portal: Under this, Manufacturers will share the manual of product details with customers on the portal, so that they can either repair by self, by third parties, rather than depend on original manufacturers.</p>
8.	'SwasthGarbh' Mobile Application	Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi	Aim: To provide antenatal care and real-time medical support to pregnant women.
9.	7 Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs)	Ministry of Culture	<p>Headquarters: Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur</p> <p>Aim: To organize various cultural activities and programmes on regular basis in their member States throughout the year.</p>
			<p>About ZCCs: These are the autonomous bodies established by Ministry of Culture to preserve and promote arts, crafts, traditions and cultural heritage of India.</p>
10.	'Vanikaran' Project	Noolpuzha grama panchayat, Kerala and Department of Forests, Kerala	<p>Aim: To root out invasive plants and restore natural forests.</p> <p>Project executed on: Sulthan Bathery forest range of the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala</p>
11.	Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) Bill	Karnataka Assembly	Aim: To unify all public transportation services —from autorickshaws to city buses and subway trains
12.	New online portal for the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) and letter rogatory (LR) requests	Ministry of Home Affairs	Aim: To make the system management more efficient for probe agencies.

13.	Industrial status to the tourism sector	Government of Assam	With industry status, restaurants, cafeterias, health clubs, spas and wellness centres among others are eligible for incentives under the industrial policy , encouraging and boosting private investment .
14.	Mobile App 'Prahari' and Manual of Border Security Force (BSF)	Ministry of Home Affairs	The app would act as a single point for BSF Jawans to get information related to accommodation, leaves, General Provident Fund (GPF) , etc.
15.	Blood Donation Camps to commemorate the forthcoming 75 th Army Day	Ministry of Defence and Indian Army	Theme: Donate Blood - Save Lives

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

INTERNATIONAL SUMMITS

S.No	Focus Area	Venue	Key Facts
1.	17 th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage	Rabat, Morocco	Chaired by: Samir Addahre (Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Morocco to UNESCO) The committee recommends how to best protect cultural heritage sites and cultural heritage as a whole.
2.	12 th World Hindi Conference, 2023	Fiji	To be organized by: Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Government of Fiji Theme: Hindi: From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence
3.	4 th meeting of Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan	Moscow, Russia	Aim: To discuss the situation of Afghanistan and provide needed assistance.
4.	19 th Shanghai Cooperation Organization Interbank Consortium (SCO-IBC) meet	New Delhi	This was the first meet under India's presidency . Participants: All 8 members (India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan)
5.	International conference "Standing with the Ukrainian People"	Paris, France	Co-organized by: France and Ukraine Aim: To coordinate international support for civilian resilience in Ukraine

			and address the Ukrainian people's urgent humanitarian needs.
6.	India Week 2023	Leicestershire, Oxford and London in the United Kingdom (UK).	Organizer: The Economic Policy Group (EPG)
7.			
NATIONAL SUMMITS			
S.No	Focus Area	Venue	Key Facts
8.	Climathon-2022	Kochi, Kerala	<p>Organized by: Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM), EY Global Delivery Services (GDS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Startup India</p> <p>Theme: Securing a sustainable and climate-resilient future</p> <p>Tree Tag (green start-up from Kerala) won award under category 'Life On Land'</p>
9.	International Conference on Emerging Trends in Biosciences and Chemical Technology- 2022	Jammu	<p>Organized by: Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) – Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) Jammu, The Biotech Research Society of India, and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Jammu</p> <p>Participants: 14 nations</p>
10.	Ministerial Plenary on the 'Role of Foreign Policy in Enabling Space Diplomacy and International Cooperation'	Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	Organized by: Abu Dhabi Space Debate
11.	7th Global Technology Summit	New Delhi	<p>Co-hosted by: Ministry of External Affairs and Carnegie India</p> <p>Theme: Geopolitics of Technology</p> <p>It is India's annual flagship event on Geotechnology.</p>
12.	9th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2022	Goa	<p>Organized by: Ministry of AYUSH and World Ayurveda Foundation</p> <p>Theme: Ayurveda for One Health</p> <p>Aim: To provide a global platform for all the stakeholders for networking and engaging in intellectual exchange to strengthen the Ayurveda sector, and to boost Ayurveda commerce.</p>

13.	India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) 2022	New Delhi	Theme: Leveraging Techade for Empowering Bharat IIGF is an initiative associated with the UN Internet Governance Forum (UN-IGF) .
About UN-IGF: It is a multi-stakeholder platform bringing representatives together from various groups, all at par to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet .			
14.	8th India SatCom 2022	New Delhi	Organized by: Broadband India Forum (BIF)
Additional Information: Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) , announced that India will be the first country in the world to auction satellite communications (SatCom) spectrum , aiming at attracting investments in the SatCom sector .			
15.	Global Internet of Things (IoT)/ Machine to Machine (M2M) conference	New Delhi	Organized by: Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) in association with the Department of Telecommunications and Telecommunications Standards Development Society India (TSDSI) Theme: Growth of IoT/M2M ecosystem through standardized implementations
16.	3rd edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Regional Anti-Terrorists Structure (RATS) Practical Seminar on “Securing the Cyberspace Frontiers”	New Delhi	Organized by: National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) in association with Data Security Council of India (DSCI) Aim: To examine and deliberate on issues related to Misuse of Internet by Terrorists, Separatists and Extremists (TS&E) .
Additional Information: SCO RATS Member States are the Republic of Kazakhstan , People's Republic of China , Kyrgyz Republic , Islamic Republic of Pakistan , Russian Federation , Republic of Tajikistan , Republic of Uzbekistan and Republic of India .			
17.	Inclusion Conclave	New Delhi	Hosted by: National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA India) Aim: To sharpen the focus on anti-doping education and processes for athletes with disabilities .
18.	7th Petrochemical Conclave, 2022	New Delhi	Inaugurated by: Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) Aim: To provide a platform for Petrochemical stakeholders to deliberate on the opportunities and challenges and brainstorm on the

			impacts of energy transition, Crude Oil to Chemicals, Industry 4.0, etc.
19.	Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) Seminar	Delhi Cantt.	Theme: Civil Military Integration: The Way Forward Aim: To discuss the role of Military and Bureaucracy in adopting Whole of Nation approach to tackle security challenges .
20.	7th Edition of India Water Impact Summit	New Delhi	Organized by: Ministry of Jal Shakti Theme: Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin Aim: To emphasize on the select aspects of ' Mapping and Convergence of 5Ps ' - People, Policy, Plan, Programme and Project .
21.	'Dance to Decarbonise'	Bengaluru, Karnataka	Organized by: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Aim: To build engagement around sustainability by leveraging dance and music .
22.	Conference on Union Territories	New Delhi	Organized by: Ministry of Home Affairs Aim: To come together and work synergistically on a common platform to achieve the national objectives and vision and take the country forward in the journey of development .
23.	13 National Good Governance Webinars	Virtual Sessions	These are being conducted one webinar a month on different themes . Aim: To highlight and disseminate the best practices and sharing of experiences of the award-winning initiatives to facilitate replication by other States/Districts .

MOUs AND AGREEMENTS

BANKING/INSURANCE

S.No	Focus Area	Signed Between	Key Facts
1.	Acquisition Agreement	Acquirer: Bandhan Financial Holdings GIC and ChrysCapital Acquiree: IDFC Asset Management Company (AMC)	Share Acquisition: 100% Acquisition Cost: Rs 4,500 crore Approved by: SEBI

			After the acquisition, IDFC AMC will be renamed Bandhan AMC and IDFC Mutual Fund is proposed to be renamed Bandhan Mutual Fund .
		Acquirer: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) Acquiree: HDFC Ltd.	Total Stakes Acquired: 5.003%
2.	Partnership for sustainability-linked and blue-debt facility to support Fish Farming in India	Asian Development Bank (ADB) and ABIS Exports India Private Limited (ABIS)	Both the entities have signed a non-convertible debenture worth USD 16 million for this.
3.	Bancassurance Partnership to provide insurance services	AU Small Finance Bank and ICICI Lombard General Insurance	Aim: To provide the bank's diverse customers access to the insurer's portfolio and enhance penetration across India.
4.	Partnership for Financial Inclusion in Rural India	Axis Bank and Spice Money Ltd.	Aim: To bridge the rural-urban divide and bring financial inclusivity by providing access to banking products at doorstep .
5.	USD 3 million Project Readiness Financing (PRF) agreement	Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance (MoF)	Aim: To assist preparatory operations for designing the ' Agartala Municipal Infrastructure Development Project ' to strengthen municipal infrastructure in priority areas of Agartala, Tripura .
6.	MoU for innovative banking solutions of startups	NASSCOM Centre of Excellence (CoE) and IDFC First Bank	Aim: To appoint IDFC First bank as a preferred banking partner for startups
7.	MoU to develop Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSMEs) and their ecosystem	Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Monsha'at)	SIDBI will offer its expertise and experience to the newly launched SME Bank in Saudi Arabia .
8.	Co-lending agreement targeted solely towards women borrowers	IndusInd Bank and Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), SV Creditline Limited (SVCL)	Agreement loan amount: Rs. 500 crores Aim: To help rural women access to affordable loans for a wide range of economic activities such as agriculture, animal husbandry, trading and local manufacturing , etc.
9.	Partnership to provide liquidity to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) at low interest rates	Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and M1xchange	Aim: To avail MSMEs with M1xchange's Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) to discount receivables from corporate buyers .
		About TReDS: It is an electronic platform for facilitating the financing / discounting of trade receivables of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through multiple financiers .	

10.	MoU to empower enterprise customers, including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) to adopt Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)	DBS Bank India Limited (DBIL) and Gofrugal Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	Aim: To help MSMEs and other small businesses to introduce and expand their products quickly via ONDC . Note: ONDC has been covered in the November 2022 edition of CurrentTap.
11.	MoU to Provide Services to Defence Pensioners as a part of a part of the Central Government's Outreach Programme for Defence Pensioners on System for Pension Administration Raksha (SPARSH)	Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited and Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Ministry of Defence (MoD)	Aim: To provide one-stop solution to all pension related activities of defence pensioners .
		Bandhan Bank and Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Ministry of Defence (MoD)	
12.	MoU to provide Financial Services to Startups	Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) and HDFC Bank Limited	Aim: To facilitate the banking services to startups in Kerala through KSUM's smart solution – 'SmartUp' About KSUM : It is a state-implemented scheme that promotes entrepreneurship at different levels, i.e., from promoting entrepreneurship in schools to incubating and accelerating startups in Kerala.
13.	Partnership to Empower micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) towards Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)	DBS Bank India Limited (DBIL) and Gofrugal Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	Aim: To empower enterprise customers, including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) and retail merchants , to adopt Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) Note: ONDC has been explained in the November 2022 edition of CurrentTap.
14.	Partnership to launch co-brand credit cards	SBI Card and Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB)	3 card variants have been launched including, PSB SBI Card ELITE, PSB SBI Card PRIME, and PSB SimplySAVE SBI Card .
15.	Scheme Transfer Agreement (STA)	IDBI Bank and LIC Mutual Fund	Aim: To transfer the Schemes of IDBI Mutual Funds (MF) to LIC MF to comply with regulations of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Mutual fund Regulations .

OTHERS

S.No	Focus Area	Signed Between	Key Facts
16.	Partnership on Administrative Reforms and Good Governance	Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and Government of Maharashtra	--

17.	MoU to develop institutional and professional capacities	Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India and the Comptroller General of the Republic of Chile	--
18.	MoU to develop technology in the field of space	Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) with Vyom Space Exploration and Services Private Limited (Vyom Space)	Aim: For joint development of strategic technology in the field of space , with special focus on a human and cargo transportation capsule programme .
19.	Partnership to develop Undersea Cable Infrastructure for High-Speed Internet	Airtel and Meta Platforms, Inc	Aim: To invest together in global connectivity infrastructure and digital solutions based on Communications Platform as a Service (CPaaS) .
20.	MoU to jointly accelerate capacity building for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)	Walmart and Flipkart with National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)	Signed at: Walmart Vriddhi Seller Summit, New Delhi Aim: To support MSMEs to become a part of retail supply chains , locally and globally
		Additional Information: The Walmart Vriddhi Seller Summit marked the milestone of 20,000 MSMEs having completed their training under the Walmart Vriddhi Supplier Development Programme (Walmart Vriddhi) to provide access to business training content, advisory support, tools and knowledge under the program, free of cost .	
21.	Acquisition Agreement	Acquirer: Adani group-owned Vishvapradhan Commercial (VCPL) Acquiree: New Delhi Television Ltd's (NDTV's) promoter firm RRPR Holding	Share Acquisition: 99.5%
22.	MoU to supply Mustard Oil	Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Assam Rifles	Period: 1 year Aim: To encourage local products in a bid to support the " Aatmanirbhav Bharat Abhiyan " through paramilitary forces .
23.	MoU for the promotion of Ayurveda	All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and University of Medical Sciences, Cuba	AIIA also extended the agreement with Rosenberg European Academy of Ayurveda (REAA), Germany , for five more years for the same. The agreements were signed on the sidelines of the 9th World Ayurveda Congress and the Arogya Expo. (See National Summits)
24.	MoU for the implementation of three High-Impact Development Projects (HICDPs) in Nepal	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (Nepal) and Indian Embassy in Kathmandu (Nepal)	The development projects, one each in education, healthcare, and drinking water facilities are being undertaken with funding assistance from the Indian government

25.	Joint Venture (JV) Agreement to develop Rail Infrastructure in Kyrgyz Republic	Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) and Kyrgyzindustry – Open Joint Stock Company (OJSC)	JV Company Created: Kyrgyzindustry-RVNL Aim: To construct a railroad and other infrastructure projects in the Kyrgyz Republic .
26.	MoU to design and develop a two-stage to low-earth orbit all-liquid small satellite launch vehicle	MTAR Technologies and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)	Payload Capacity: 500kg
27.	MoU to promote tourism	Airbnb and Department of Tourism (DoT), Government of Goa	Aim: To jointly promote Goa as the high potential tourism destinations in India and the world.
28.	MoU for the purpose of academic collaboration	Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Manesar (Haryana) and Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University (DSNLU), Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)	Aim: To collaborate for offering Courses, Research and Publications, Advancement of Knowledge, Capacity Building, Awareness and Advocacy
29.	MoU to develop the Krishi-Decision Support System (Krishi-DSS)	Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Department of Space	<p>Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is developing Krishi-DSS, a decision support system, on the lines of Gati Shakti, using RISAT-1A and VEDAS of Department of Space.</p> <p>Aim: To enhance the evidence-based decision-making capability of all the stakeholders in the agriculture sector.</p> <p>About RISAT-1A and VEDAS: Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT)-1A is India's first Radar Imaging Satellite, which can take high resolution geospatial images regardless of lighting conditions. VEDAS (Visualisation of Earth observation Data and Archival System) is an online geoprocessing platform that uses optical, microwave & thermal data covering applications particularly meant for academia, research and problem solving.</p>
30.	Joint declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility	India and Finland	Aim: To facilitate mobility of students, academics, researchers, business people, and professionals and to combat irregular migration .
31.	MoU to support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) exporters in India	Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) and Shiprocket	Aim: To support MSME exporters in India showcasing their products on the Indian Business Portal (IBP) .
			About IBP : It is a business-to-business (B2B) platform that connects Indian exporters with foreign buyers.
32.	MoU to collect location-specific weather data	Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA)	Aim: To install the equipment for collecting weather data from different places in the state, and strengthen and

			densify the weather forecasting network.
33.	Loan Agreement for a 1,000 MW Solar power project at Bikaner, Rajasthan	Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) and Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Green Energy Ltd.	Loan Amount: Rs. 4,444.71 crore
34.	MoU to become an Official Partner of the Fédération Internationale de Hockey (International Hockey Federation) (FIH) Men's World Cup 2023	TATA Steel Ltd. and Hockey India	World Cup 2023 to be held in: Bhubaneswar and Rourkela (Odisha)
35.	MoU for Innovation in Highways Construction	National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) and National Institute of Technology (NIT) Manipur	This MoU will foster research and collaboration in the field of highways and infrastructure and find pragmatic solutions to the challenges posed in the construction of highways facing extreme climatic conditions .
36.	MoU for cooperation related to digitization and inclusion of information on traditional knowledge of India from manuscripts and traditional cultural expressions.	Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) – Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (CSIR-TKDL) Unit	Aim: To facilitate efforts towards protection and preservation of the manuscript knowledge for current and future times, through inclusion of the information into the TKDL database .
37.	Partnership to deliver satellite internet access across the world by 2025	Microsoft and Viasat (global satellite communications company)	This partnership is under Microsoft's Airband Initiative to increase the internet accessibility across the globe.
38.	Partnership to mentor 100 Indian Startups with Appscale Academy 2023	Google and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Startup Hub	Aim: To provide relevant guidance plans to the start-ups through the use of technology through this 6-month training programme.
39.	MoU to propagate the importance of energy conservation across 30 schools in Telangana	Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and Energy Conservation Mission of The Institution of Engineers (India)	The collaboration is also to develop and conduct skill development and training activities for upskilling unemployed youth about energy conservation .
40.	MoU for a USD 50 billion investment commitments target	Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI)	Aim: To set the platform for Singapore investors to participate in several investment opportunities in UP .
41.	MoU to provide digital skill training to the youth	ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)	Aim: To motivate young people from 4 states (Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra) and give them vocational training
42.	MoU to supply 150 megawatts (MW) of green energy	ReNew Power (ReNew) and Microsoft India	Energy to be supplied from: Bikaner, Rajasthan

43.	Quadrilateral intergovernmental agreement on the 500 kiloVolt (kV) Black Sea submarine electric cable	Romania, Hungary, Azerbaijan and Georgia	Aim: To transport the electricity from the Caspian area to Romania . Length: 1,100km Capacity: 1 gigawatt (GW)
44.	Partnership to bring local storage of government-issued IDs on Android devices	Google and DigiLocker	With this, the IDs can now be stored locally on the android devices .
45.	Acquisition Agreement	Acquirer: PhysicsWallah Pvt. Ltd (PW) Acquiree: iNeuron Intelligence Pvt. Ltd	Aim: To expand PW's offerings in the upskilling category .
		Acquirer: Reliance Project and Property Management Services (RPPMSL) , a subsidiary of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. Acquiree: Reliance Infratel Limited (RITL)	Stake Acquisition: 100% Acquisition Cost: Rs. 3270 crore
		Acquirer: Epic Concesiones Pvt Ltd (managed by Edelweiss Alternative Asset Advisors Ltd.) Acquiree: L&T Infrastructure Development Projects Limited (L&T IDPL)	Stake Acquisition: 100%
46.	Partnership to deploy and manage Software Defined Wide Area Network (SD-WAN) for Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)	IOCL and JioBusiness (the enterprise arm of Reliance Jio)	Period: 5 years
47.	MoU to jointly work towards clean energy solutions	Tata Projects Limited and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP) , Dehradun (Uttarakhand)	As a part of this, the clean energy solutions such as room temperature bio-diesel produced from CSIR-IIP shall be used across some of Tata Projects' ongoing sites .
48.	MoU to power drones with advanced digital tools	Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp (Cognizant) and Garuda Aerospace, Chennai	Aim: To bring innovative solutions for enterprises to increase their overall outcomes, productivity, and agility in the drone technology .
49.	Loan Agreement for financing ' Access to Clean Energy Projects ' meant for decentralized solar applications	Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) and German state-owned investment and development bank KfW	Total sanctioned amount: EUR 20 million
50.	MoU to reduce carbon intensity from NTPC's coal fired units	NTPC Limited and GE Power India Limited	Aim: To enable NTPC to reduce the amount of coal fired in their units and gradually replace it by co-firing of ' alternate fuel '
51.	Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to export up to 600 MW	PTC India Limited (PTC) and Druk Green Power Corporation Limited, Bhutan	Aim: To meet Bhutan's power requirement during winter season.

	of power from the Indian market		
52.	Partnership for a 250 kilowatt-hour (kWh) pilot thermal energy storage unit to be operated in India	Switzerland-based E2S Power and India Power Corporation Limited (IPCL)	Aim: To help in transforming thermal power assets into clean energy storage facilities , contributing towards the growth of India's renewable energy sector.
53.	Partnership to provide training and digital certification to new employees	Urban Company and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)	Under this, new employees will receive skill development training from Urban Company in the fields of salon, spa & massage, electrician, plumber, carpenter, appliance repair, and cleaning & pest control .
54.	MoU to develop indigenous Satellite Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) products	Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) and Bengaluru-based startup 'QNu Labs'	QNu Labs , with the support of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and IN-SPACe , aims to demonstrate unlimited distance Satellite QKD based quantum secure communication .
		About QKD: It is a technology that uses principles of quantum mechanics to ensure security to sensitive information shared among different parties.	
55.	MoU to explore business opportunities	Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd. and RITES Ltd.	Aim: To explore business opportunities for products/solutions in the areas of export of railway rolling stock, infrastructure and urban transport for the domestic and overseas markets .
56.	Partnership to gather speech data across India to create an AI-based language model	Google India and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru	It has been done under the ' Project Vaani ' initiative to understand diverse Indian languages and dialects .
		Additional Information: The project Vaani is part of Bengaluru-based IISc and AI and Robotics Technology Park's (Artpark) Bhasha AI project that includes SYSPIN (Synthesizing Speech in Indian languages) and RESPIN (Recognizing Speech in Indian languages).	
57.	Partnership to establish Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Research and Innovation Forum – 'PwC ESG Research and Innovation Forum'	Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) and PwC India	To be established at: IIM-A Aim: To help India achieve the net zero target by 2070 .
58.	MoU to explore possibility to develop Green Methanol Production	NTPC Ltd. and Tecnimont Private Ltd.	Aim: To jointly evaluate and explore the possibility to develop commercial scale Green Methanol Production facility at NTPC project in India .

59.	MoU for Implementation of Early Warning System (EWS) for Vulnerable Hydro Projects/Power Stations	Ministry of Power and Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)	Aim: To jointly work towards developing suitable mitigation measures against avalanches, landslides, glaciers, glacial lakes and other geo-hazards.	
		About EWS: EWS is an integrated system of hazard monitoring, forecasting and prediction, disaster risk assessment, communication and preparedness for timely action to reduce disaster risks in advance of hazardous events.		
60.	Partnership for making official beverage partner for the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023	Hockey India and The Coca-Cola company-owned Limca Sportz	Tournament to be hosted by: Bhubaneswar – Rourkela, Odisha (India)	
61.	Acquisition Agreement	Acquirer: Adani-controlled Radhika Roy Prannoy Roy (RRPR) Holding Private Limited Acquiree: New Delhi Television (NDTV)	Stake Acquisition: 27.26%	
		Acquirer: Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) Acquiree: Metro Cash and Carry India Pvt Ltd (Metro India)	Stake Acquisition: 100% Cost of acquisition: Rs. 2850 crore	
		Acquirer: Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd Acquiree: Lotus Chocolate	Stake Acquisition: 51%	
62.	Partnership for incubation of newer technologies into commercial products	Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) with MSMEs	The agreement was signed to commemorate the launch of the AIC at the BARC to speed up to conversion of products from research labs to markets.	
		Additional Information: The AIC-BARC was introduced as one of the 3 projects of Self reliance of Department of Atomic Energy(DAE), established under the aegis of the Atal Innovation Mission(AIM) to create and promote the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in India.		
63.	MoU for mutual assistance and cooperation in the area of sustainable finance	International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)	--	
64.	Letter of Award (LoA) for Manufacturing and Maintenance of 9000 HP Electric Freight Locomotives	Awarded by: Indian Railways Awarded to: Siemens, India	Time Period: 11 years	
65.	Partnership to pay three EMIs of the borrowers in case they are hospitalized for over five days	Niva Bupa Health Insurance and Swara Fincare	Programme: Niva Bupa Xpress Health - Serious Illness Plan benefit	

BANKING AND FINANCE

BANKING INITIATIVES

S.No	Program / Initiative / Landmarks	Launched / Developed by	Key Facts
1.	'Zwitch'	SBM Bank India and Open Financial Technologies Private Limited	<p>It is Asia's first end-to-end Embedded Finance platform, which will provide Application Programming Interface (API) solution that enables fintechs to build their own financial products</p>
2.	USD 250 million policy-based loan to support India's logistics infrastructure	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	<p>The loan will finance the first subprogram of the Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem (SMILE), which supports a comprehensive policy, planning, and institutional framework at the federal, state, and city levels for multimodal logistics projects (MMLPs).</p> <p>Note: SMILE initiative is covered in the SchemesTap Document.</p>
3.	Zero-fee Banking on Savings Accounts	IDFC First Bank	<p>Aim: To provide free of charge banking services for a range of 25 frequently used customer-focused banking services to the customers, who maintain Average Monthly Balance (AMB) between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 25,000 in their savings accounts.</p>
4.	'Paytm Payment Protect' Insurance Plan	One97 Communications Limited (OCL) – Paytm and HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited	<p>Aim: To insure transactions made through Unified Payment Interface (UPI) across all apps and wallets.</p>
5.	'FIT Rank' – a comprehensive ranking model for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)	TransUnion CIBIL Limited and Online PSB Loans Limited (OPL) under the mentorship of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)	<p>Aim: To increase the credit flow to small businesses and help lenders avoid loan losses using Machine Learning (ML) algorithms to predict the probability of an MSME becoming a non-performing asset (NPA) in the next 12 months.</p>
6.	Regulatory framework for Distribution of Capital Market Products and Services	International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)	<p>Launched under: IFSCA (Capital Market Intermediaries) Regulations, 2021</p> <p>The distributors of capital market products can register with IFSCA and offer their services to clients in various jurisdictions.</p>

7.	USD 400 million loan to boost green affordable housing finance in India	Loan granted by: International Finance Corporation (IFC) (a member of the World Bank Group)	Loan Granted to: Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Limited Aim: To help in bridging the urban housing gap and improve access to climate-smart affordable homes in India.
8.	USD 125 million loan to improve Urban Services in Tamil Nadu (Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program)	Loan granted by: Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Aim: To develop climate-resilient sewage collection and treatment, and drainage and water supply systems in three cities in the state of Tamil Nadu .
9.	USD 100 million external commercial borrowing loan to provide vehicle loans to women entrepreneurs	Loan granted by: ADB	Additional Information: The financing is the third and the last tranche of the \$500 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) for the Program approved by ADB in 2018 . The tranche 3 loan covers Coimbatore, Madurai, and Thoothukudi .
10.	Emerging Opportunity Fund	Set up by: Tata AIA Life Insurance and ULIP (unit-linked insurance plans)	Aim: To invest in mid-cap companies and rising market leaders with the potential to provide significant future growth .
11.	'Bima Vahaks'	To be introduced by: Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)	These are to be introduced in each Gram Panchayat in order to sell and service the ' Bima Vistar ' line of basic parametric bundled insurance policies and strengthen the insurance force in India.
12.	Parivartan SmartUp Grants	HDFC Bank and Government of India's flagship initiative ' Startup India '	Aim: To identify startups working in the social impact space and support them through monetary grants to their incubators. Note: Startup India has been covered under the SchemesTap Document.

OTHERS

S.No	Topic	Key Facts
13.	Monetary Penalty on Bharat Cooperative Bank Limited, Bengaluru	Imposed by: Reserve Bank of India Fine: Rs. 5 lakh The penalty has been imposed due to non-adherence to certain norms under Banking Regulation Act, 1949 .
14.		Restrictions Imposed on: RazorPay and Cashfree Payments

	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed restrictions for on-boarding new merchants till the final Payment Aggregator (PA) license is acquired	Additional Information: RazorPay was one of the first three firms to receive the RBI's in-principal approval licence along with Pine Labs and US-based Stripe .
15.	RBI granted in-principle authorization to act as a Payment Aggregator (PA)	Granted to: Worldline ePayments India Granted under: Guidelines on Regulation of Payment Aggregators and Payment Gateways, 2020
16.	Perpetual License for bill payments business to function as a Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) under Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)	License Granted to: Infibeam Avenues Limited (IAL) Granted by: RBI Granted under: Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
17.	Capproin Financial Advisory Services (CFAS) and its partners barred from the securities markets for three years	Barred by: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Reason: For providing investment advisory services without the market regulator's (SEBI's) authorization.
18.	Monetary Penalty on Mynd Solutions Private Limited	Imposed by: RBI Fine: Rs. 13 lakh Reason: Non-compliance with the guidelines on Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) Penalty imposed as per: Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
19.	Ministry of Finance released the data of loan disbursed by major banks in the last 4 fiscal years	State Bank of India: Rs 1.65 lakh crore Punjab National Bank: Rs59,807 crore

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Initiatives / Programs in News	Launched by / Developed by	Key Facts
1.	CubeSat EQUilibriUm Lunar-Earth point 6U Spacecraft (EQUULEUS)	Launched by: Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)	JAXA has successfully used steam (water) to propel this spacecraft .
2.	Two new non-earth minerals – elaliite and elkinstantonite	Discovered by: University of Alberta Researchers	Discovered from: El Ali Meteorite which was found in Somalia in 2020 .
3.	New species of head-shield sea slug – Melanochlamys bengalensis	Discovered by: Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) Scientists	Discovered from: Coast of Bay of Bengal
4.	Ocean Wave Energy Converter – Sindhuja-I	Developed by: Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	Aim: To generate electricity through ocean waves .

			Project funded by: Department of Foreign Affairs (Australia), Technology business Incubators - Krishna Institute of Engineering & Technology Group of Institutions (TBI-KIET) and Australian Alumni Grant Scheme 2022.
5.	Spatial Data Infrastructure geoportal - 'Geo-Ladakh'	To be developed by: Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS) , a unit of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)	To be developed at: Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh Aim: To train UT-Ladakh officials on Geospatial techniques and applications .
6.	3.6 m Devasthal Optical Telescope of the Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)	--	Located at: Nainital, Uttarakhand It recently detected unexpected kilonova emission from 'a long-duration gamma-ray burst'.
		About ARIES: It is a research institute which specializes in astronomy, solar physics, astrophysics and atmospheric science . It is an autonomous body under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India .	
7.	GAGAN (GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation)	Developed by: Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Airport Authority of India (AAI)	It is a Space Based Augmentation System (SBAS) which aims to provide the best possible navigational services over Indian FIR (Flight Information Region) with the capability of expanding to neighbouring FIRs .
8.	Joint 'Hypersonic Vehicle Trials'	Conducted by: ISRO and Headquarters of Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS)	A hypersonic vehicle has the ability to travel five times faster than the speed of sound , or greater than Mach 5 .
9.	A new species of elusive wren babblers - "Lisu wren babbler"	Discovered by: A team of birdwatchers from Bengaluru (Karnataka) , Chennai (Tamil Nadu) , and Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)	Discovered at: Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh Findings published by: " Indian BIRDS Journal "
10.	A private mission to the moon	Launched by: Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX)	The SpaceX mission carried the Japanese lander named ' HAKUTO ', the United Arab Emirates (UAE) 's Rover named ' Rashid ', and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Lunar Flashlight by its Falcon 9 rocket. Additional Information: The HAKUTO (white rabbit) lander is a part of the first mission by the Japanese lunar exploration company ispace. The Rashid Rover, a first Arab-built lunar spacecraft was built by Dubai's Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC), in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)
11.	Night Trials of nuclear-capable Agni-V Missile	Conducted by: DRDO	Range: 5000km It will be inducted into the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) .

		About Agni-V : Agni-V is an ingeniously built advanced surface-to-surface ballistic missile developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) and developed by DRDO. The IGMDP had five missiles P-A-T-N-A, Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Nag, and Akash.	
12.	160m Trisonic Wind tunnel	Inaugurated by: Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)	Inaugurated at: Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Aim: To have self-reliance and give a boost to the aerospace sector
13.	United States (US)-France satellite 'Surface Water and Ocean Topography' (SWOT)	Developed by: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and French Space Agency Centre National d'Études Spatiales (CNES)	Launched through: SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket Aim: To map all of the world's oceans, lakes and rivers
14.	Two exoplanets – 'Kepler-138c' and 'Kepler-138d' in the constellation Lyra	Discovered by: NASA	Distance: 218 light-years from Earth Discovered through: Hubble and the retired Spitzer space telescopes
15.	40-inch telescope at the Vainu Bappu Observatory under the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) Department of Science and Technology (DST) in Kavalur, Tamil Nadu	Set-up by: Professor Vainu Bappu	It recently celebrated its 50 years of operation , highlighting its major discoveries like the presence of rings around the planet Uranus , a new satellite of Uranus , the presence of an atmosphere around Ganymede which is a satellite of Jupiter .
16.	Mars InSight Lander	Developed by: NASA	It was recently formally retired after 4 years of the mission of collecting unique science on Mars .
17.	India's maiden human space flight 'H1' mission - Gaganyaan	To be launched by: ISRO's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mk III	To be launched in: 4th quarter of 2024 Aim: To send 3 astronauts to space for a minimum of seven days
18.	CE-20 cryogenic rocket engine	Designed and Developed by: Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Kerala	It was recently tested by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) .
19.	NIRMAN Accelerator Program	Launched by: Start-ups Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC), IIT Kanpur Supported by: Department of Science and Technology (DST)	Aim: To help solve challenges in the product development journey of indigenous innovations . Start-ups in its 1 st cohort: 15
20.	Artificial Heart	Developed by: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur	Aim: To help people with serious cardiac problems . The artificial heart can be transplanted .

DEFENCE

DEFENCE EXERCISES

S.No	Exercise	Countries / Forces Involved	Key Facts
1.	12 th Agni Warrior	Indian Army and Singapore Armed Forces	Held at: Devlali (Maharashtra) Aim: To enhance mutual understanding of drills & procedures and improving interoperability between the two armies.
2.	7 th 'Sangam' Naval Exercise	Indian Navy Marine Commandos (MARCOs) and United States (US) Navy Sea, Air, and Land (SEAL) Teams	Held at: Goa Indian Naval Ship (INS) Abhimanyu participated in the exercise.
3.	39 th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT)	Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy	Held at: International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) at Port Blair (Andaman & Nicobar Island) Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk participated in the exercise.
4.	6 th Kazind – 2022	Indian Army and Kazakhstan Army	To be conducted at: Umroi (Meghalaya) Aim: To enhance the level of defence cooperation between Indian Army and Kazakhstan Army
		Additional Information: The joint annual training exercise with the Kazakhstan Army was instituted in 2016 as Exercise Prabal Dostyk , which was later upgraded to a company level exercise and renamed as Ex Kazind in 2018 .	
5.	SURYA KIRAN-XVI	Indian Army and Nepal Army	Held at: Saljhandi (Nepal) Aim: To enhance interoperability in jungle warfare & counter terrorism operations in mountainous terrain .
6.	Sudarshan Prahar	Indian Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps	Held at: Rajasthan The exercise focused on the synergized application of combat power through the integration of force multipliers & practicing new battle techniques in an integrated all arms environment.
7.	Veer Guardian 23	Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF)	To be held at: Japan Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter jets will be participating from India .

DEFENCE INITIATIVES AND TECHNOLOGIES

S.No	Initiative / Missile / Technology	Launched / Developed by	Key Facts
8.	Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III squadron - 840 Squadron '840 Sqn (CG)'	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL)	Commissioned by: Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Commissioned at: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
9.	Akash Weapon System (Indian Army Version)	Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)	DRDO recently handed over the Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP) of the Akash Weapon System to Missile Systems Quality Assurance Agency (MSQAA) in Hyderabad, Telangana .
10.	5th Scorpene-class Conventional Submarine – 'Indian Naval Ship (INS) Vagir'	Constructed by: Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai under collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France	It was recently inducted into the Indian Navy under Project 75 .
		Project 75: The Project 75 (India)-class submarines, or P-75I, for short, are a planned class of diesel-electric submarines, which are to be built for the Indian Navy . 6 submarines are to be built under this.	
11.	Russian-origin AK-103 assault rifles and the American-made Sig Sauer	--	Equipped by: Indian Air Force's (IAF) Garud Special Forces Aim: To upgrade IAF's defence equipment
12.	Indian Naval Ship (INS) Mormugao (D67)	Designed by: Warship Design Bureau (Indian Navy) Built by: Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)	It was recently commissioned at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, Maharashtra . It is the second of four "Visakhapatnam"-class destroyers, also known as the "Project 15B" class of stealth guided-missile destroyers. Note: Project 15B has been covered in November 2022 CurrentTap Magazine.
13.	Procurement of 120 Pralay ballistic missiles for the armed forces	Developed by: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)	Procurement Approved by: Ministry of Defence (MoD) Range: 150-500 km These are indigenously developed new generation quasi-ballistic surface-to-surface missiles .
14.	Two warships (Yard 3033 and Yard 3036) of Anti-submarine Warfare Shallow Craft (ASW SWC) project	Being constructed by: Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd., Kolkata	To be utilized by: Indian Navy

15.	Rafale jet	<p>Manufactured by: Dassault Aviation (France)</p> <p>Additional Information: India received the first batch of 5 Rafale jets in 2020.</p>	<p>India recently received 36th and final Rafale Jet from France.</p>
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ENVIRONMENT

S.No	Topic	Country / State / Organization	Key Facts
1.	3 Himalayan medicinal plants added to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species	<p>Added by: IUCN Species Survival Commission</p> <p>About IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Established in 1964, the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is world's most comprehensive information source on the global extinction risk status of animal, fungus and plant species.</p>	<p>3 Himalayan Plants: Meizotropis pellita commonly known as "Patwa", Fritillaria cirrhosa known as "Yellow Himalayan fritillary", and Dactylorhiza hatagirea known as "Salampanja"</p>
2.	239 Species from India entered in the IUCN Red List	<p>Added by: IUCN Species Survival Commission</p>	<p>Total Threatened Species: 29</p> <p>Endangered Species: White-cheeked Dancing Frog (Micrixalus candidus) found in Karnataka</p> <p>Vulnerable Species: Andaman Smoothhound (Mustelus andamanensis) found in Andaman Sea</p>
3.	Bomb Cyclone	<p>Occurred at: United States and Canada</p> <p>About Bomb Cyclone: Bomb Cyclone is created when the air of different masses whether cold or dry comes together. The temperature usually drops by 11 degree Celsius.</p>	<p>The cyclone occurred due to a low temperature of -40 degrees Fahrenheit</p>

SPORTS

S.No	Tournament	Venue	Winner / Looser	Key Facts
1.	21st Vijay Hazare Trophy, 2022	Ahmedabad, Gujarat	<p>Saurashtra defeated Maharashtra to win the coveted cricket tournament trophy.</p>	<p>Man of the Match: Sheldon Jackson, Saurashtra</p> <p>Man of the Tournament: Ruturaj Gaikwad, Maharashtra</p>
2.	T20 Champions Trophy winners' felicitation	--	Indian Deaf Cricket Team	Felicitated by: Election Commission of India
3.	4th Tata Steel Chess India Open, 2022	Kolkata, West Bengal	Indian Grand Master (GM) Arjun Erigaisi won the ' Blitz'	--

			championship by defeating American GM Hikaru Nakamura.	
			Indian International Master (IM) Vaishali Rameshbabu defeated Ukrainian GM Mariya Muzychuk to win the women's title.	
4.	International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) President's Cup 2022	Cairo, Egypt	Indian Shooter Rudrankksh Patil defeated Italy's Danilo Sollazzo in the 10-metre (m) rifle play off. Indian Anjum Moudgil has won silver medal in the women's 50-m rifle, losing the match to German Anna Janssen.	--
5.	3rd T20 World Cup for the Blind 2022	Bengaluru, Karnataka	Indian National Blind Cricket Team won the tournament by defeating Bangladesh.	Team India has won the title for the third consecutive time (previously won in 2012 and 2017)
6.	50th Cape to Rio Race, 2023	To be held in: Cape Town, South Africa	--	Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini (along with 5 Indian Navy officers , including 2 women officers) is going to participate in one of the most prestigious Trans-Atlantic Ocean races.
7.	Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH) Hockey Women's Nations Cup 2022 by	Valencia, Spain	Indian women's hockey team won the trophy by defeating Spain.	Gold: India Silver: Spain Bronze: Japan Best player: Lucia Jimenez Vicente (Spain) Best Goalkeeper: Savita Punia (India)
8.	International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Championships, 2022	Bogota, Colombia	Indian weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu won the Silver medal , under 49 kg Women category.	Gold: Jiang Huihua of China Bronze: Hou Zihui of China
9.	4th Tennis Premier League, 2022	Pune, Maharashtra	Finecab Hyderabad Strikers defeated Mumbai Leon Army to be champions	--

10.	24 Hrs Ultra Marathon	Taiwan, China	Corporal Amar Singh Devanda represented India and bagged 6th position.	Organized by: Chinese Taipai Association of Ultra runners for 2022
11.	HSBC Badminton World Federation(BWF) World Tour Finals 2022	Bangkok, Thailand	Viktor Axelsen (Denmark) won the Men's Singles title by defeating Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia).	--
12.			Akane Yamaguchi (Japan) won the Women's Singles by defeating Tai Tzu-Ying (China)	
13.	3rd T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind	India	--	Participating Nations: Australia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the host, India
14.	65th National Shooting Championship 2022	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Karnataka shooter Divya T.S has secured her first women's 10m air pistol national title by defeating Sanskriti Bana from Uttar Pradesh.	--
15.	FINA World Swimming Championships 2022	Melbourne, Australia	Indian swimmer Chahat Arora set a national record in the women's 100-metre breaststroke by completing the race in 1 minute, 13.13 seconds.	--
16.	FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championship 2022	Almaty, Kazakhstan	India's Woman International Master Savitha Shri B has won the Bronze in World Women's Rapid Championship.	<p>She became the 3rd Indian after Viswanathan Anand and Konuru Humpy to win a medal at the world rapid championship.</p> <p>Men's Rapid Championship (Gold): Magnus Carlsen (Norway)</p> <p>Women's Rapid Championship (Gold): Tan Zhongyi (China)</p>
17.	Olympic Games 2024	Paris, France	--	Viacom18 Media has secured exclusive media rights to broadcast the next Olympic Games in India and the subcontinent region .

				Approved by: International Olympic Committee (IOC)
18.	FIFA Club World Cup 2023	To be hosted by: Morocco	--	To be held in: February 2023
19.	Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Hockey Finals	Bhubaneswar, Odisha	Haryana Women's Hockey U-18 team won by defeating Madhya Pradesh.	Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Haryana and Jharkhand have qualified for the Khelo India Youth Games to be held in Madhya Pradesh next year.
			Madhya Pradesh defeated Odisha to win Men's Under-18 Qualifiers title.	
20.	6 th Elite Women's National Boxing Championships	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Gold: Lovlina Borgohain and Nikhat Zareen	Lovlina is Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist.

22nd FIFA Men's World Cup 2022

Held at	Qatar
Organized by	International Association Football Federation (Federation Internationale de Football Association – FIFA)
Participants	32 Nations
Prize Money	USD 440 million
Emblem	
Emblem designed by	Lisbon-based Brandia Central branding agency
Slogan	Now is All
Mascot	La'eeb (Arabic word meaning 'super-skilled player')
Theme Song	'Dreamers' sung by Jungkook from BTS and Fahad Al Kubaisi
Match Ball	<p>Al Rihla (Arabic word meaning 'The journey') It was the first ever official match ball created with water-based glues and inks.</p>
Match Ball designed by	Adidas
FIFA World Cup Trophy 2022 i.e. the 'Jules Rimet Trophy' unveiled by	Indian Actress Deepika Padukone and Former Spanish Goalkeeper Iker Casillas

23rd FIFA World Cup 2026 to be held at

Canada, Mexico and the United States (US)

WINNERS/AWARDS

S.No	Award/Match	Winner	Key Facts
1.	FIFA World cup 2022 Trophy	Argentina defeated France to win the trophy.	3 rd and 4 th place were secured by Croatia and Morocco respectively.
2.	Golden Ball	Lionel Messi (Argentina)	He was named as tournament's best player and became the first man in history to win the adidas Golden Ball twice at the FIFA World Cup.
3.	Golden Boot	Kylian Mbappé (France)	He scored 8 goals during the tournament (maximum).
4.	Golden Glove	Emiliano Martínez (Argentina)	He was named tournament's best goalkeeper.
5.	FIFA Young Player Award	Enzo Fernández (Argentina)	--
6.	FIFA Fair Play Trophy	England	--

Miscellaneous Facts

First African country to reach the World Cup semifinals	Morocco
First player to score a goal in all knockout stages of the FIFA World Cup	Lionel Messi
First Indian, and the first global actor to unveil the trophy	Deepika Padukone

AWARDS

S.No	Award/Milestone	Category	Awardee	Key Facts
1.	National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the year 2021 and 2022	--	--	Organized by: Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Awarded by: President of India
2.	Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022	Best Bank in India, 2022	Canara Bank	It was awarded at the Global Banking Summit, held in London, United Kingdom (UK)
3.	Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2022	--	The Chipko Movement: A People's Movement'	This book is written by Shekhar Pathak, about the popular forest conservation campaign 'Chipko Movement'.

		<p>About Chipko Movement: The Chipko movement (or Chipko Andolan) was a non-violent, social and ecological movement by rural villagers, particularly women that took place in 1973 in India which aimed at curbing the felling of trees.</p>		
4.	2 nd Earthshot Prize 2022	Protect & Restore Nature	Kheyti	It is an Indian startup founded by Kaushik Kappagantulu , which developed a Greenhouse-in-a-Box , designed for small-hold farmers to offer crops shelter from pests.
		Clean Our Air	Mukuru Clean Stoves	It is a Kenya based female-founded business with mostly female staff.
		Revive Our Oceans	Indigenous Women Of The Great Barrier Reef	It is an initiative from Australia .
		Build A Waste Free World	Notpla	It is a waste-free solution from the United Kingdom .
		Fix Our Climate	Project 44.01	It is an Oman based project.
5.	Guinness Book of World Record for Construction of longest Double Decker Viaduct	--	National Highway Authority of India and Maha Metro, Maharashtra	Length: 3.14km Constructed at: Nagpur, Maharashtra
6.	Prime Minister's Prizes for Science, 2022	Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Secondary Schools	Veena Nair	She is an Indian-origin teacher in Melbourne, Australia .
7.	Local Adaptation Champions Award at Conference of Parties (CoP)-27	Capacity and Knowledge	Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP)	It is a Pune, Maharashtra based Non-Government Organisation (NGO)
8.	Economic Times Inspiring Leaders Award, 2022	--	A P Shreethar	He is a renowned painter , also known as the Museum Man of India , as he conceptualized India's first 3D interactive Click Art Museum .
9.	Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar	--	V Annamalai (Imayam)	He is a Tamil Writer and Novelist .
10.	22 nd Miss Earth 2022	--	Mina Sue Choi	She is from South Korea .
		<p>Additional Information: Vanshika Parmar from Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh was crowned as Miss Earth India 2022.</p>		
11.	11 th FICCI's Global Sport Summit – TURF 2022 and	Para Sports Person of the Year	Avani Lekhara	Lifetime Achievement of the Year award was given to Manav Rachna

	India Sports Awards of FICCI	Special Sportsperson of the Year	Shrey Kadyan	Education Institutions, received by Director Sarkar Talwar.
12.	Salesforce Partner Innovation Award, 2022	Communications	Prodapt	Prodapt is an Information Technology (IT) services management company.
13.	National Award for Institutional Empowerment 2022	Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan Ke Karyanvayan / Badhamukta Vatavaran Ke Srijan Mein Sarvshrestha Rajya	Maharashtra	Maharashtra has been recognized for the way it has been implementing Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan . Note: Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan has been covered in November 2022 Magazine (Article 2.80)
14.	BBC's 100 Most Influential Women list, 2022	Indian Women in the list	Priyanka Chopra Jonas Sirisha Bandla Geetanjali Shree Sneha Jawale	She is an Indian Actress and Producer . She is an Indian-American Aeronautical engineer . She is an Indian Novelist and writer , who was the 1st Hindi writer to win the International Booker Prize 2022 for Tomb of the Sand , the English translation of her novel Ret Samadhi . She is a social worker .
15.	World Athletes of the Year 2022	--	Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone Armand Mondo Duplantis	She is an American Hurdler and Runner . He is a Swedish Pole Vaulter .
16.	Time Magazine, 2022	Person of the Year	Volodymyr Zelensky	He is the president of Ukraine .
17.	Science & Technology Australia's (STA) Superstars of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) 2023-2024	--	Neelima Kadiyala Dr Ana Baburamani Dr Indrani Mukherjee	She is an IT Program Manager at an Australian Company, Challenger Limited . She is a Scientific Advisor in the Department of Defence- Science and Technology Group, Melbourne, Australia . She is a Deep-time geologist at the University of Tasmania, Australia
18.	19th Forbes' "World's 100 Most Powerful Women" list	Indian Women in the list	Nirmala Sitharaman (36th) Roshni Nadar Malhotra (53rd)	She is the Finance Minister of India . She is the Chairperson of HCL Tech .

			Madhabi Puri Buch (54th)	She is the first female Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) .
			Soma Mondal (67th)	She is the Chairperson of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) .
			Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (77th)	She is the Founder and Executive Chairperson of Biocon Limited .
			Falguni Nayar (89th)	She is the founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nykaa .
Additional Information: The list has been topped by Ursula von der Leyen (President of the European Commission), followed by Christine Lagarde (President of the European Central Bank) and Kamala Harris (Vice President of the United States).				
19.	Australia's Don Award, 2022	--	Ashleigh Barty	She is a retired Australian tennis player .
20.	Badminton World Federation (BWF) Player of the Year Awards, 2022 (Bangkok, Thailand)	Female Para-Badminton Player of the Year	Manisha Ramadass	She is an Indian Para shuttler .
		Male Para Badminton Player of the Year	Daiki Kajiwara	He hails from Japan .
		Male Player of the Year	Viktor Axelsen	He is from Denmark .
		Female Player of the Year	Akane Yamaguchi	She hails from Japan .
21.	25th South Indian Education Society(SIES) Awards, 2022	Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award for Public Leadership	Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu	He is the former Vice-President of India .
		Public Leadership	Arif Mohammed Khan	He is the Governor of Kerala .
		Community Leadership	Ratan Tata	He is an Indian Industrialist .
		Science and Technology	Dr Marthanda Varma Sankaran Valianathan	He is a cardiologist and Padma Vibhushan awardee .
			Prof Ajay Kumar Sood	He is a Scientific Advisor to the Government of India .
		Spiritual Leadership	Vishakha Hari	She is a Carnatic Music vocalist .

22.	Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Awards 2022	Player of the Year	Iga Swiatek	She is a Polish Tennis Player .
23.	Asian Academy Creative Awards 2022	Best Direction (Fiction)	Basil Joseph	He is a Malayalam filmmaker, who won this award for his film Minnal Murali .
		Best Cinematography	Shreya Dube	She is an Indian Cinematographer, who won the award for the movie Thar .
24.	GMR-Delhi Airport Annual Awards 2022	Safety Performer of the Year	SpiceJet	It has been awarded for its efforts to reduce ground safety violations significantly.
25.	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry Corporate Social Responsibility (FICCI CSR) Special Commendation Award	--	Jindal Steel and Power (JSP)	It has been awarded its efforts to counter the COVID-19 pandemic . Additional Information: Immediately after the COVID-19 lockdown, JSP launched 'Mission Zero Hunger' in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand to feed truckdrivers, stranded migrant labourers, and the poor, which was later extended to Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra.
26.	New York Film Critics Circle, 2022	Best Director Award	SS Rajamouli	He is an Indian Filmmaker , who was awarded for his film RRR .
27.	UK's Baillie Gifford Prize	Non-Fiction Book	'Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne'	It is a biography of English poet John Donne written by Katherine Rundell.
28.	IEI (Institution of Engineers, India) Industry Excellence Award 2022	--	NMDC Limited (formerly National Mineral Development Corporation)	NMDC is the largest producer of the iron ore in the country. It was awarded for its outstanding performance and high level of business excellence .
29.	International Tennis Federation (ITF) World Champion Awards 2022	Men's Singles Champion	Rafael Nadal	He is a Spanish Tennis Player .
		Women's Singles Champion	Iga Świątek	She is a Polish Tennis Player .
30.	Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Awards 2022	ATP No. 1 & Most Improved Player of the Year	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)	--
		ATP Doubles No. 1	Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands) and Neal Skupski (United Kingdom)	
		Comeback Player of the Year	Borna Coric (Croatia)	
		Newcomer of the Year	Holger Rune (Denmark)	

	Fans' Favourite (singles)	Rafael Nadal (Spain)		
	Arthur Ashe Humanitarian Award	Andy Murray (United Kingdom)		
31.	PETA India's 'Person Of The Year 2022'	--	Sonakshi Sinha	She is an Indian Actress , awarded for advocating Animal Adoption & Vegan Fashion .
32.	Mrs. World 2022	--	Sargam Koushal	She is an Indian teacher and model .
33.	Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Exemplary Performance Award 2022	--	Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Headquarter, New Delhi	-- About GRIHA : It is a national rating system for green buildings in India .
34.	IBS Intelligence (IBSi) Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2022	--	RBL Bank along with BUSINESSNEXT	They have been awarded for most Impactful Project & Best Customer Relationship Management (CRM) System Implementation .
35.	FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) Ranking, 2022	--	1 st – Brazil 2 nd – Argentina 3 rd – France	Brazil was ranked 1 st , despite Argentina's win in FIFA World Cup 2022 .
36.	AmeriCorps Presidential Lifetime Achievement (PLA) Awards	--	Krishna Vavilala	He has been awarded for his humanitarian services towards community.
37.	Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22	--	Sudeep Sen Shobhana Kumar	He has been awarded for his genre and form bender " Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation ". She has been awarded for her haibun collection "A Sky Full of Bucket Lists" .
38.	Vinfuture Special Prize 2022	--	Professor Thalappil Pradeep	He is an Indian scientist from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) , who won the " Special Prize for Innovators from Developing Countries " for developing a low-cost filtration system to remove arsenic and other heavy metals from groundwater.
39.	'Diwali- Power of One' award 2022	--	Kaha Imnadze	Former Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations (UN)

			Keisha McGuire	Former Permanent Representative of Grenada to the UN
			Georgi Velikov Panayotov	Former Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the UN
			Jean-Claude do Rego	Former Permanent Representative of Benin to the UN
			Eliot Lance Engel	Former Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee of the US House of Representative
40.	Golden Globe Awards 2022 Nominations	Best Picture (Non-English Language)	RRR	RRR is an Indian film directed by SS Rajamouli.
41.	Data Security Council of India (DSCI) Annual Information Security Summit (AISS) Excellence Award 2022	Best Security Practices in Government Sector	Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)	It was awarded for its significant role in securing national critical 'Aadhaar' infrastructure that provides digital identity based welfare services to residents.
42.	PRAKASHmay '15th Enertia Awards 2022'	Best Globally Competitive Power Company of India – Hydropower and Renewable Energy Sector	NHPC Limited	It has been awarded in recognition of its leadership in the hydropower sector with a gross asset class renewable energy capacity of more than 7000 MW.
43.	30th Ekalabya Puraskar, 2022	--	Swasti Singh	She is an international cyclist from Odisha. Awarded by: Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPaCT)
44.	Effective Government Communication Award	--	Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Government of Rajasthan	The award was given by the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) to the Rajasthan Government for taking public welfare schemes through digital media to the general public and the beneficiaries.
45.	European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) Young Investigator network	--	Mahima Swamy	She is an Indian scientist from Bengaluru, Karnataka and is recognized as one of the top talents in biology – Immunology in Europe.
46.	Ambassador of Change Award	--	Vishal Mittal	He is an Indian student at the University of Canberra (UC), Australia and has been awarded for his outstanding work as a Student Mentor and contribution to the University community.

47.	Award for Best Practice in Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization (ACSM) in Tuberculosis (TB) control	--	Meghalaya	The award was felicitated to Meghalaya for adopting 'jan andolan' against TB at the National Workshop on ACSM to end it in India.
48.	Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards 2022 (Oscars of Education)	Best Online Program	IIT Madras' BS (Bachelor's Degree) in Data Science and Applications	It won Silver .
		Lifelong Learning category	NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning)	It won Gold .
		AI in Education Award	Educational Initiatives' Mindspark: Leveraging AI to Enhance Learning Outcomes	It won Silver .
49.	Great Place to Work	--	Tata Steel India Limited	It has been certified for the 6th consecutive year by Great Place to Work Institute for 2023.
50.	Atal Samman Award (Atal Anveshi Shikhab Samman)	--	Prabhu Chandra Mishra	He was honoured with the award for his excellence in the field of science and research .
51.	Global list of the best cuisines for 2022 by Taste Atlas	--	India was ranked 5th in the world.	The list is topped by Italy .
52.	National Award for Safety Excellence (FY2021-22)	Large Enterprise-Cement Manufacturing	ACC Limited	It was awarded at the 10th Global Safety Summit (GSS) held at New Delhi.
53.	7th Digital India Awards (DIA) 2022	Data Sharing and Use for Socio Economic Development	Smart Cities Mission of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs	The mission won the ' Platinum Icon ' in the DIA 2022, for their initiative " DataSmart Cities: Empowering Cities through Data "
		About DIA: The Awards instituted in 2009 are conducted by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) to encourage and honour innovative digital solutions by government entities in realizing the Digital India vision . Note: Smart Cities Mission is covered under the SchemesTap Document.		
54.	Sahitya Akademi Awards 2022	--	Anuradha Roy	She was awarded for her English Novel , ' All The lives We Never Lived '.
			M Rajendran	He was awarded for his Tamil Novel , ' Kaala Paani '.

			Badri Narayan	He was awarded for his Hindi poetry, ' Tumadi Ke Shabd '.		
			Additional Information: Sahitya Akademi Awards are the annual award that recognize the literary works in 24 Indian languages (including English) .			
55.	EAG Laureate award 2022	--	Bank of Baroda	The bank was awarded in the International Olympiad of Financial Security held at Russia.		
56.	International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Awards 2022	Leadership in Crime Prevention	Anti-drug & illicit liquor campaign 'Nijaat'	This is the campaign started by Chhattisgarh police . Additional Information: Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs also recently included the Nijaat campaign among the thirty best smart-policing campaigns in the country.		
57.	K.R. Gouri Amma Foundation Award 2022	--	Aleida Guevara	She is a Cuban social worker and human rights advocate .		
58.	BBC Sports Personality of the Year, 2022	--	Bethany Jane Mead	She is an English Football player , who defeated Germany in the Wembley Finals to win the trophy.		
59.	Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) India's Best Players of 2022	Team India: 2022 Best Performers in Tests	Rishabh Pant (Wicket-Keeper Batsman)	--		
			Jasprit Bumrah (Bowler)			
		Team India: 2022 Best Performers in ODIs	Shreyas Iyer (Batsman)			
			Mohammed Siraj (Bowler)			
		Team India: 2022 Best Performers in T20Is	Suryakumar Yadav (Batsman)			
60.	3rd ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation forum	Grassroots Innovation Competition	Ms. Shalini Kumari (India)	Innovation: Modified walker with adjustable legs		
		Student Innovation Competition	Ms. Napaschol Inthapan (Thailand)	Innovation: ORA (Osteoarthritis Rehabilitation Assistant)		
61.		Best Original Song	Naatu Naatu	From the movie ' RRR '		

Oscars 2023 (95 th Academy Awards) Indian Entries	International Feature Film	Chhello Show (The Last Show)	Gujarati film
	Documentary Feature Film	All That Breathes	--
	Documentary Short Film	The Elephant Whisperers	--

APPOINTMENT

S.No	Person	Position	Organization / Country / State / Company	Key Facts
1.	K.V. Suresh Kumar	Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)	Bharatiya Nabhiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI)	He is a scientist of the Department of Atomic Energy.
2.	Kamlesh Mehta	Secretary-General	Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)	He is a former Indian Table Tennis player.
3.	Anwar bin Ibrahim (succeeded Ismail Sabri Yaakob)	Prime Minister (PM)	Malaysia	He became the 10 th PM of Malaysia.
4.	T G Sitharam (replaced Jagadesh Kumar)	Chairman	All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)	He is the Director of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati.
5.	Prasoon Joshi	Brand Ambassador	Uttarakhand	He is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) of McCann Worldgroup India.
6.	Bala Purushothaman (replaced Tracey Grabowski)	Chief Human Resource Officer (CHRO)	Procter & Gamble (P&G)	--
7.	N Chandrasekaran	Chairman	Business 20 (B20) India	He is the Chairman of Tata Sons. Additional Information: Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has been appointed as the B20 India Secretariat by the government to lead the B20 India process. B20, established in 2010, is the official G-20 dialogue forum with the global business community.
8.	Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu (replaced Jai Ram Thakur)	Chief Minister (CM)	Himachal Pradesh (HP)	He became the 15 th CM of HP.

9.	Bhupendrabhai Patel	CM	Gujarat	He was re-elected as the 18th CM of Gujarat.
10.	Nihar Malaviya (replaced Markus Dohle)	Interim Executive (CEO) Chief Officer	Penguin Random House	--
11.	Sunil	Vice President	Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)	He is the Additional Director General (ADG) of Prasar Bharati.
12.	Shaji K V (succeeded Suchindra Misra)	Chairman	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	--
13.	Dr Jeremy Farrar (replaced Soumya Swaminathan)	Chief Scientist	World Health Organization (WHO)	--
14.	Cindy Hook	CEO	2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organizing Committee	--
	Additional Information: Brisbane, Australia is confirmed as host of the 2032 Summer Olympics.			
15.	Ms. Mette Frederiksen	Prime Minister (PM)	Denmark	Re-elected
16.	Hansraj Gangaram Ahir	Chairperson	National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)	--
17.	Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar	Part-Time chairperson	National Statistical Commission (NSC) of India	
18.	Vijender Sharma	President	Institute of Cost Accountants of India	--
19.	Rakesh Bhalla	Vice President	Institute of Cost Accountants of India	--
20.	Prasanth Kumar	President	Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI)	He is the CEO of GroupM Media (India) Pvt Ltd.
21.	Leo Varadkar	Taoiseach (Head of the Government/Prime Minister)	Ireland	--
22.	Mette Frederiksen	Prime Minister	Denmark	She was re-elected.

23.	Manoj Govil (replaced Rajesh Verma)	Nominated Member Board	Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	He is the Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) .
24.	Shamsher Singh	Managing Director (MD) and Executive Chief Officer (CEO)	State Bank of India Funds Management Limited (SBIFML)	--
25.	Dinesh Kumar Shukla (succeeds G Nageswara Rao)	Chairperson	Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)	--
26.	Anushka Sharma	Brand Ambassador	Puma India	--
27.	Justice Hemant Gupta	Chairperson	New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC)	He is a retired Supreme Court Judge .
28.	Sitiveni Rabuka (replaced Frank Bainimarama)	Prime Minister (PM)	Fiji	He served as PM of Fiji from 1992 to 1999 and was elected for the second term this time.
29.	Pushpa Kamal Dahal (succeeded Sher Bahadur Deuba)	PM	Nepal	He is also known as Prachanda .
30.	P N Vasudevan	Managing Director (MD) and Executive Chief Officer (CEO)	Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB)	His term extended for 3 years .
31.	Baskar Babu Ramachandran	MD and CEO	Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SFB) Limited	His term extended for 3 years .
32.	Manasi Tata	Director	Kirloskar Systems Pvt. Ltd. (KSPL)'s Joint Venture companies	She is the daughter of late Vikram Kirloskar .
33.	Dr PC Rath	President	Cardiological Society of India (CSI)	--
34.	Anil Kumar Lahoti (succeeded Vinay Kumar Tripathi)	CEO and Chairman	Railway board	--
35.	Santosh Kumar Yadav	Chairman	National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)	He is currently an Additional Secretary in the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education (MoE) .

36.	Ajit Kumar Saxena	Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD)	MOIL Ltd. (formerly Manganese Ore (India) Limited)	--
37.	Abdullah Abdul Samad Dashti (succeeded Amir Mahmoud Abdulla of Sudan)	United Nations (UN) Coordinator	Black Sea Grain Initiative	He is a retired Kuwaiti Vice Admiral .
38.	Sundararaman Ramamurthy (replaced Ashishkumar Chauhan)	MD and CEO	BSE Ltd. (Bombay Stock Exchange)	--
39.	Dinesh Kumar Shukla	Chairman	Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)	--
40.	Benjamin Netanyahu (succeeds Yair Lapid)	PM	Israel	--
41.	Ganji Kamala Vardhana Rao (replaced Arun Singhal)	CEO	Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)	He was previously the managing director of the Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) .
42.	Suresh Kishinchand Khatanhar	Deputy Managing Director (DMD)	IDBI Bank Limited	Re-appointed
43.	Lt Gen Arvind Walia (succeeded Lt Gen Harpal Singh)	Engineer-in-Chief	Indian Army	--
44.	Praveen Kumar Srivastava (succeeded Suresh N. Patel)	Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)	India	--
45.	Ajay Kumar Srivastava (succeeded Partha Pratim Sengupta)	MD & CEO	Indian Overseas Bank	--
46.	Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva	President	Brazil	He became the 39th President of Brazil .

PERSONS IN NEWS

S.No	Personality	Profession	Key Facts
1.	Jiang Zemin	Former Chinese Leader	He recently passed away .

2.	Cristiano Ronaldo	Portuguese Football Player	He recently has joined Saudi Arabian club Al-Nassr on a two-and-a-half-year deal worth 200 million euros per season. He previously played for Manchester United (A United Kingdom Club).
3.	Dominique Lapierre	Renowned French author and Padma Bhushan awardee	He recently passed away .
4.	Aditya Mittal	Indian Chess Player	He recently became the 77th Chess Grandmaster (GM) during an ongoing 3rd edition of El Llobregat Open Chess Tournament in Spain.
5.	Swati Kulkarni	Former Executive Vice President and Fund Manager – Equity at UTI Asset Management Company	She recently retired after over 3 decades of service. She is India's first woman fund manager .
6.	Sulochana Tai Chavan	Marathi Lavani singer	She recently passed away .
7.	Ishan Kishan	Indian Cricketer	He recently became the fastest double-centurion in One Day International (ODI) breaking the world record held by West Indies cricketer Chris Gayle. He is 4th Indian after Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag and Rohit Sharma to achieve this feat.
8.	Kenneth Powell	Indian Olympic Sprinter	He recently passed away .
9.	Lionel Messi	Football player from Argentina	He recently became the highest goalscorer for Argentina with his 11th goal in the 2022 FIFA World Cup .
10.	Priya Mohan Sinha (Suman Sinha)	Former Pepsico Chairman and Fast Moving Consumer Goods (EMCG) Veteran	He recently passed away .
11.	Shah Rukh Khan	Indian Actor	He recently has become the only Indian actor to be named on the 50 Greatest Actors Of All Time List of Empire Magazine .
12.	Neeraj Chopra	Indian Javelin Thrower	He recently displaced Usain Bolt to be the most written about athletes .
13.	Dr. Randeep Guleria	Former Director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)	He recently joined Medanta Hospital, Gurugram as Chairman of the Institute of Internal Medicine and Respiratory & Sleep Medicine and Director of Medical Education .
14.	Dominique Lapierre	French Author	He recently passed away .

			He authored a book, City of Joy , based on the hardships of a rickshaw puller in Kolkata.
15.	Eden Hazard	Belgium Football team captain	He recently announced his retirement from international football .
16.	Janet Yellen	Former chairman of the Federal Reserve	The U.S. The Treasury (United States of America's Finance Ministry) has printed the first US banknotes (currency notes) with these two women's signatures . Denominations: USD 1 and USD 5
17.	Lynn Malerba	Treasurer of the United States	
18.	Grant Wahl	US Sports Journalist	He recently passed away while covering a FIFA World Cup match between Argentina and the Netherlands .
19.	Mirosław Hermaszewski	First and only Polish astronaut	He recently passed away .
20.	Joe Root	England's Cricket Player	He recently became the third player in Test cricket history to have scored 10,000 runs and taken 50 wickets during Pakistan vs England, 2nd Test 2022 . Jacques Kallis (South Africa) and Steve Waugh (Australia) were the only other players to have accomplished this feat before Root.
21.	Dev Joshi	Indian Actor	He is one of the eight people Yusaku Maezawa selected for his " dearMoon project ". About dearMoon Project : It is a week-long mission to send civilians to the moon and back through SpaceX-built rocket . The project is birthed by Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa .
22.	Richard Verma	Indian-American lawyer diplomat	The president of the United States, Joe Biden recently nominated him to be the Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources .
23.	Farhaan Behardien	South African Cricketer	He recently announced his retirement from professional cricket .
24.	Karim Benzema	French Football Player	He recently announced his retirement from international football .
25.	Rehan Ahmed	England's Cricket Player	He recently became the youngest cricketer (18 years) to debut for England in Test Cricket Series , and to take a five-wicket haul on debut.

			Debut Match: Pakistan vs. England Finals
26.	Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Kawānanakoa	Last Hawaiian princess	She recently passed away .
27.	PV Sindhu	Indian Badminton Player	She recently became the 12th highest-paid female athlete in the world and the only Indian and badminton player in top 25 of Forbes' annual list of the highest-paid female athletes in the world .
28.	Shane Warne	Former Australian Cricket Player	Cricket Australia recently renamed ' Men's Test Player of the Year Award ' to ' Shane Warne Men's Test Player of the Year award ', which will be presented annually at the Australian Cricket Awards .
29.	Bhairon Singh Rathore	Border Security Forces (BSF) veteran and 1971 India-Pakistan War fighter	He recently passed away .
30.	Sam Curran	English Cricket player	He recently became the costliest cricketer ever to be bought by any franchise of the Indian Premier League (IPL) . Bought by: Punjab Kings Cost: Rs. 18.5 crore
31.	Edson Arantes do Nascimento (Pelé)	Brazilian Football Player and Former Minister of Sports of Brazil	He recently passed away .
32.	Heeraben Modi	Mother of Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi	She recently passed away .
33.	Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI	Head of the Catholic Church	He recently passed away .
34.	H.R. Keshava Murthy	Classical Music Artist (senior gamaka exponent)	He recently passed away .
35.	Cristiano Ronaldo	Portuguese Football player	He recently joined the Saudi Arabian football club Al-Nassr and will receive \$75 million per year , making him the highest-paid footballer in history .
36.	Arata Isozaki	Japanese Architect	He recently passed away . He was also known as ' post-modern giant ', blending the eastern and western influences in his designs.
37.	Rajeev Badyal	Vice-president of Project Kuiper of Amazon	US Vice President Kamala Harris has named him to a key national space advisory group , which is tasked to

			maintain a robust and responsible US space enterprise.
Project Kuiper: It is a long-term initiative to launch a constellation of Low Earth Orbit satellites that will provide low-latency, high-speed broadband connectivity to unserved and undeserved communities around the world.			
38.	George Cohen	England's Football player	He recently passed away .

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

S.No	Book Title	Author	Key Facts
1.	Fit at Any Age: A Practitioner's Guide	Retired Air Marshal P V Iyer	--
2.	Sultan : A Memoir	Wasim Akram and Gideon Haigh	--
3.	Brave Hearts of Bharat, Vignettes from Indian History	Vikram Sampath	--
4.	Forks in the Road: My days at RBI and Beyond	C. Rangarajan	Rangarajan was the 19th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) .
5.	Miracles of Face Yoga	Mansi Gulati	She is an international yogi and the founder of Manasvani , a yoga instruction venture.
6.	India: The Mother of Democracy	Prepared and Published by: Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)	--
7.	The Light We Carry: Overcoming In Uncertain Times	Michelle Obama	--
8.	The Indian Navy@75: Reminiscing the Voyage	Commodore Ranjit B Rai (Retd) and defence journalist Aritra Banerjee	--
9.	The World: A Family History	Simon Sebag Montefiore	--

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

S.No	Festival	Country / State	Key Facts
1.	23rd Hornbill Festival	Nagaland	It is called the ' festival of festivals ' and is celebrated to encourage tribal collaboration and promote cultural heritage of Nagaland.
2.	Swar Dharohar Festival	New Delhi	Organized by: Ministry of Culture and Swar Dharohar Foundation

			It is a Music, Art & Literature Festival to showcase the iconic art and culture of India and, the rich literary Art & Heritage of Indian States.
3.	Geeta Mahotsav/Geeta Jayanti	Haryana	Geeta Jayanti is celebrated as a major festival in Hinduism because according to Hindu mythological belief , Gita was narrated by Lord Krishna himself to Arjuna.
4.	'Kadalekai Parishe' Festival	Bengaluru, Karnataka	It is also known as the groundnut festival of Karnataka .
5.	International Lusophone Festival	Goa	<p>Organized by: Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), and Goa Government</p> <p>Aim: To highlight the connection between Goa and the Community of Portuguese Language Countries</p>
			<p>Additional Information: Lusophones refers to peoples who speak Portuguese as a native or as common second language and nations where Portuguese features prominently in society (for e.g. Angola, Brazil, Macau, Mozambique, Portugal etc)</p>
6.	Delhi International Arts Festival	New Delhi	<p>Organized by: Ministry of Culture and Prasiddha foundation</p> <p>Tagline: 'Where Bharat Meets India'</p> <p>Aim: To celebrate the great Epics, the Warriors Who Fought for Our Freedom, and the many policy decisions and schemes instituted by our government towards 'Women Empowerment', towards 'Cleaning Our Holy Rivers', and towards keeping our Country 'Clean and Free from Dirt and Disease'.</p>
7.	8 th India International Science Festival (IISF)-2022	Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)	<p>Two Guinness Book of World Records attempts will be conducted among the four activities of Agribot (solar), Home automation, Beehive honey extraction and Fibre to Fabric.</p>
8.	Weave-based Handloom Sari Festival "My Sari My Pride" under 'VIRAASAT, Celebrating 75 handwoven saris of India'	New Delhi	<p>Organized by: Ministry of Textiles</p> <p>A social media campaign under a common hashtag #MySariMyPride was also launched to support handloom weavers.</p>
9.	Losar Festival	Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K)	This festival is celebrated to mark the Ladakhi New Year .

			Losar is a Tibetan word meaning New Year .
10.	Dhanu Yatra festival	Bargarh, Odisha	It is the largest open air theatre festival , celebrating the heritage and culture of Odisha.
11.	Bijli Utsav	Baksa District, Odisha	Organized by: REC Ltd. (Formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd.) Aim: To highlight the consumer rights of electricity, benefits of electricity and the challenges faced during electrification in remote areas and how the quality of life improves with access to power.
12.	10 th Edition of the North East Festival (NEF) 2022	New Delhi	Inaugurated by: Union Minister of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Aim: To promote culture and tourism of Northeast India .
13.	National Youth Festival	Hubballi and Dharwad (Karnataka)	To be inaugurated by: Prime Minister The youth festival will mark the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda .
14.	Tirthdanam Mahotasva	Kerala	This mahotsava is celebrated to showcase the cultural heritage of Kerala and to celebrate the preaching of Sree Narayana Guru .

PLACES IN NEWS

S.No	Place	Why in News	Key Facts
1.	Pamban Bridge, Rameshwaram (Tamil Nadu)	It is being re-constructed by the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) Once completed, it will be India's first vertical lift railway sea bridge (expected to be completed by March 2023)	Pamban bridge connects Indian mainland with Rameswaram Island At 2.2 km length, it is longest bridge in India constructed over a bay
2.	National Zoological Park, New Delhi	" International Cheetah Day " and " Wildlife Conservation Day " were recently celebrated here in collaboration with Central Zoo Authority .	Aim: To spread awareness among present generation about the Wildlife Conservation .
3.	Mauna Loa (Long Mountain) Volcano, Hawaii	It recently erupted for the first time in 40 years .	It is the world's largest active volcano .
4.	SIPCOT Industrial Park, Perambalur (Tamil Nadu)	It recently got commissioned in the Perambalur district.	--

5.	Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant, Tamil Nadu	The full capacity of Kudankulam site of 6000 MW is expected to be reached by the year 2027 .	Announced by: Department of Atomic Energy
6.	Greenfield International Airport, Mopa (Goa)	It was recently inaugurated by Prime Minister (PM) of India.	It is Goa's 2nd International Airport , first being at Dabolim .
7.	111km USBRL (Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link), Jammu & Kashmir	Recently, a major milestone was achieved by executing the breakthrough of Escape Tunnel T-49 between Sumber and Kharipat Stations on the Katra –Banihal section of the USBRL project .	It is the longest escape tunnel of India . Length of Escape tunnel of T-49: 12.895 km Length of main tunnel of T-49: 12.75km
8.		Additional Information: The USBRL is a National project undertaken by the Indian Railways for construction of broad-gauge railway line through the Himalayas , with the aim of connecting the Kashmir region with rest of the country .	
9.	Gir forests, Somnath (Gujarat)	The Election Commission recently set up a polling booth for only one voter here.	Voter's name: Mahant Haridas Udaseen of Baneshwar Mahadev Temple
10.	Kanheri Caves, Mumbai (Maharashtra)	The delegates of G20 recently visited here for excursion.	The caves mainly depict the Buddhist Monasteries .
11.	Paradip Port, Odisha	It recently achieved a milestone by handling highest ever cargo traffic of 6,49,730 Metric Tonnes in a single day	--
12.	Mangaluru International Airport (MIA), Karnataka	It recently received the certificate of accreditation from the Airports Council International (ACI) for level 2 of the airport customer experience accreditation programme .	--
13.	Sun Temple, Modhera, Gujarat	It has recently been added to the provisional list of United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage sites .	Situated at the bank of: Pushpavati River
14.	Vadnagar, Gujarat	It has recently been added to the provisional list of United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage sites .	It is a multi-layered Historic town which is also the birthplace of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi.
15.	Rock-cut Sculptures and Reliefs of the Unakoti Range, Tripura	It has recently been added to the provisional list of United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage sites .	It is also known as chiseled "Angkor Wat of the North-East" .

16.	Lusail Stadium, Doha (Qatar)	It hosted the FIFA World Cup 2022 Finals .	It is the USD 45 billion desert city .
17.	Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL), Kochi (Kerala)	India's biggest Business Jet Terminal was recently inaugurated here.	With this, CIAL has now joined the elite club of four airports in the country which operate dedicated terminals for business jet operations . (Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and now Kochi)
18.	Late Miocene hominid locality of India (dated 9.1 Million Years) in Haritalyangar, Himachal Pradesh	The remains of fossil lizards (Varanus) and snakes (Python) have recently been discovered here.	Discovered by: Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Dehradun under DST in association with researchers from Panjab University (PU) Chandigarh, Indian Institute of Technology Ropar (IIT Ropar) and Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia
19.	14-km-long Angul-Balram rail link, Odisha	<p>The link was recently inaugurated by Union Minister of Coal.</p> <p>Additional Information: The 'Angul-Balram rail link' is the first phase of a total 68-km-long Inner Corridor – 'Angul-Balram-PutugadiaJrapada-Tentuloi', which will cater to the coal mines of Talcher coalfields in Angul district of Odisha.</p>	Constructed by MCRL (Mahanadi Coal Railway Limited)
20.	Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project (HEPP), Bhutan	<p>This India-assisted Hydroelectric Power Project built on the Mangdechhu River in Bhutan, was recently handed over to Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) in Bhutan.</p> <p>Additional Information: The project was officially inaugurated by Indian and Bhutan Prime Minister in 2019. PTC India Limited and Druk Green Power Corporation signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) for this project in 2019.</p>	<p>Power Capacity: 720 MW</p>
21.	Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Forest Department (TNFD) and HCL Foundation (HCLF) recently partnered to address the issue of ghost nets and marine debris here.	It is the 1st Marine Biosphere Reserve in South and South-East Asia and is one of the most biologically diverse regions in India .
22.	Omkareswar dam reservoir, Madhya Pradesh	Larsen and Toubro (L&T) Construction's Power Transmission & Distribution (PT&D) is to establish a 90 Megawatt (MW) Floating Solar PV (photovoltaic) plant here.	It is built over Narmada river .
23.	Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS), Kolkata (West Bengal)	This apex institute on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) was recently inaugurated by Prime Minister of India .	Aim: To bridge the knowledge and capacity building gap in the field of public health engineering, sanitation & hygiene , through short, medium & long-term courses.
24.	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	It recently has got A grade by scoring 3.85 points in National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) grading .	This made it become the only University in India to get this score.

25.	Zuari Bridge, Goa	It was recently inaugurated by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways .	It links North and South Goa , and is India's 2nd largest Cable Stayed bridge . Built over: Zuari River
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DAYS IN NEWS

S.No	Days	Date	Themes & Misc.
1.	National Newborn Week	November 15 – November 21	Observed by: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Theme: Safety, Quality and Nurturing care – Birth Right of Every Newborn Aim: To reinforce the importance of newborn health as a key priority area .
2.	National Organ Donation Day	November 27	This day is celebrated to commemorate the contributions made to society by deceased donors and their families.
3.	Red Planet Day	November 28	This day is celebrated to mark the launch of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) 's Mariner 4 spacecrafts on Mars (the red planet) on November 28, 1964 .
4.	International Jaguar Day	November 29	This day is celebrated to raise awareness about the increasing threats faced by the jaguar and the critical conservation efforts ensuring its survival.
5.	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	November 29	The day aims to spread more awareness about the issues faced by the Palestinian people along with promoting a peaceful Palestine-Israel resolution .
6.	Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare	November 30	The day aims to encourage efforts to eliminate the use of chemical weapons and remember those who have suffered because of such warfare.
7.	World Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) Day	December 1	Theme: Equalize
8.	58th Border Security Forces (BSF) Raising Day	December 1	Raising Day Parade held at: Punjab (1st time)
9.	Statehood Day of Nagaland	December 1	Nagaland was formally recognized as a separate state on December 1, 1963 , with Kohima being declared as its capital .

10.	Assam Day	December 2	The day commemorates the arrival of the founder and first King of the Ahom kingdom, 'Sukapha' in the territory of ancient Assam
11.	22nd World Computer Literacy Day	December 2	The day is celebrated to promote digital literacy and raise awareness in underserved communities across the world.
12.	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	December 2	This day is celebrated to raise public awareness of the need to combat modern forms of slavery such as child labour, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, etc.
13.	National Pollution Control/Prevention Day	December 2	This day is celebrated to commemorate the people who lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy on the 2nd and 3rd of December 1984 .
			About Bhopal Gas Tragedy: It was India's 1 st major industrial disaster in which extremely hazardous Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) gas leaked from Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh .
14.	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	December 3	Theme: Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world.
15.	Navy Day	December 4	Celebrated at: Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh This day is celebrated to acknowledge the role of the Indian Navy and commemorate its achievements in ' Operation Trident ' during the 1971 Indo-Pak War . This year, for the first time , Navy Day Celebrations are being conducted outside the National Capital . About Operation Trident: It was an offensive operation launched by the Indian Navy on Pakistan's port city of Karachi during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 . Operation Trident saw the first use of anti-ship missiles in combat in the region.
16.	International Cheetah Day	December 4	Dr. Laurie Marker designated this day in remembrance of Khayam , a cheetah she raised from a cub at Wildlife Safari in Winston, Oregon .
17.	Wildlife Conservation Day	December 4	Aim: To spread awareness among present generation about the Wildlife Conservation .

18.	3rd International Day of Banks	December 4	Theme: Achieve sustainable development goals and improve the global financial architecture
19.	World Soil Day	December 5	Theme: Soils: where food begins
20.	Armed Forces Flag Day	December 7	It is celebrated in honour of the martyrs and the men in uniform who valiantly fought on our borders to safeguard the country's honour.
21.	International Civil Aviation Day	December 7	Theme (from 2020-2023): Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development
22.	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	December 3	Theme: Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world
23.	International Volunteer Day 2022	December 5	Theme: Solidarity through volunteering
24.	38th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter Day	December 8	This day is celebrated to mark the adoption of the SAARC Charter on December 8, 1985 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
25.	Human Rights Day	December 10	Theme: Dignity, Freedom and Justice for All In India, the celebration was organized by National Human Rights Commission in New Delhi.
26.	Swahid Diwas	December 10	This day commemorated the martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the state of Assam from illegal immigrants by taking part in 6-year long Assam movement.
27.	International Mountain Day	December 11	Theme: Women move mountains This day is celebrated to create awareness about the importance of mountains to life.
28.	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) day	December 11	This day marks the creation of UNICEF by United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) on December 11, 1946. United Kingdom (UK) celebrates UNICEF Day for Change, an initiative by UNICEF, on the same day to raise awareness about the condition of children and raise funds for their wellbeing.
29.	International Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day	December 12	Theme: Build the World We Want: A Healthy Future for All

30.	International Day of Neutrality	December 12	This day is celebrated to raise public awareness of the importance of neutrality in international relations .
31.	About Neutrality: It is defined as the legal status arising from the abstention of a state from all participation in a war between other states, the maintenance of an attitude of impartiality toward the belligerents , and the recognition by the belligerents of this abstention and impartiality .		
32.	National Energy Conservation Day	December 14	The National Energy Conservation Day is organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) which operates under the Ministry of Power (MoP) raise awareness on limiting energy loss and showcase the achievements of India in energy efficiency and conservation .
33.	51st Vijay Diwas	December 16	It is annually observed across India and Bangladesh to commemorate the victory of the Indian armed forces against the Pakistan forces in the 1971 Indo-Pak war (India – Pakistan war of 1971) also known as Bangladesh Liberation war .
34.	Minority Rights Day	December 18	Celebrated at: National Commission for Minorities This day is celebrated to safeguard the Constitutionally-guaranteed rights of religious minorities in India.
35.	International Migrants Day	December 18	Theme: Integrating migrants into primary health care
36.	United Nations (UN)'s Arabic Language Day/ World Arabic Language Day (WALD)	December 18	Theme: The Contribution of the Arabic Language to Human Civilization and Culture
37.	Goa Liberation Day	December 19	This day is celebrated to commemorate the state's liberation from Portuguese rule in 1961 .
38.	International Human Solidarity Day	December 20	This day is celebrated to raise public awareness of the value of solidarity , ignite efforts for the eradication of poverty , and remind governments about their responsibilities under international agreements .

39.	National Mathematics Day	December 22	This day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of renowned Indian Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan .
40.	National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas)	December 23	The day aims to spread awareness of the contributions of farmers to the socioeconomic development of the nation and marks the birth anniversary of the ' Champion of Indian Peasants ' and the fifth Prime Minister of India, Chaudhary Charan Singh .
41.	National Consumer Day	December 24	This day is celebrated to create awareness about consumer rights and responsibilities .
42.	National Good Governance Day	December 25	This day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of former PM of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee .
43.	Veer Bal Diwas	December 26	This day is celebrated to mark the martyrdom of the Sahibzadas (4 sons) of the 10th Sikh guru- Guru Gobind Singh Ji in the 17th century .
44.	3rd International Day of Epidemic Preparedness	December 27	This day is celebrated to raise awareness of the importance of prevention of, preparedness for, and collaboration against epidemics .

MISCELLANEOUS

S.No	Miscellaneous News	Key Facts
1.	USD 100 million financial assistance to Maldives	Extended by: Government of India Aim: To tide over the difficult economic situation in Maldives .
2.	EUR 1 billion for energy transition projects across India	To be funded by: Germany The funding is under a bilateral partnership for green and sustainable development .
3.	21 uninhabited islands in Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) named after recipients of Param Vir Chakra	Renamed by: Ministry of Defence and Andaman Administration
4.	A new design for the President's Standard and Colour and Indian Navy Crest for the Indian Navy approved	Approved by: President of India



The **Indian Navy Crest** has been **amended to replace the foul anchor with a Clear Anchor.**

5.	Oxford Dictionary's Word of the Year, 2022	<p>Word: Goblin Mode</p> <p>The word defines as “a type of behavior which is unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy, typically in a way that rejects social norms or expectations.”</p>	
6.	Merriam Webster's Word of The Year, 2022	<p>Word: Gaslighting</p> <p>Merriam-Webster defines it as the act or practice of grossly misleading someone especially for one's own advantage.</p>	
7.	India to provide necessary technical support for the production of milk in Sri Lanka.	<p>Technical Support to be delivered by: National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul)</p>	
8.	Anti-misinformation project in India	<p>Launched by: Google's subsidiary Jigsaw</p> <p>Aim: To use videos designed to counter false claims before they become widespread, thus stopping the spread of any misinformation.</p>	
9.	400th birth anniversary celebrations of Assam's legendary war commander Lachit Barphukan	<p>Organized by: Government of Assam</p> <p>Inaugurated at: New Delhi</p>	
10.	New Name for Monkeypox – 'mpox'	<p>Recommended by: World Health Organization (WHO)</p>	
11.	National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) of Russia and Belarus suspended	<p>Suspended by: International Paralympic Committee (IPC)</p> <p>Reason: Russia's Invasion of Ukraine</p>	
12.	India's first dog to be deployed on anti-poacher duty passed away	<p>Name of the dog: Zorba</p> <p>Breed: Belgian Malinois</p>	
13.	2 wind-solar hybrid projects of 300MW combined capacity in India	<p>Announced by: Amazon with Vibrant Energy (a subsidiary of Macquarie's Green Investment Group)</p> <p>To be established at: Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka</p>	
14.	Indian Navy recently participated in the Hornbill Festival of Nagaland	<p>Participated as per: Indian Navy's Outreach program in the North East</p> <p>Aim: To provide local youth with information about the Indian Navy, its contribution to national security and the various opportunities for employment as officers and sailors.</p> <p>Note: Hornbill Festival has been covered in the Week-1 file of December 2022 magazine (Fairs and Festivals).</p>	

15.	NTPC Ltd. recently crossed 1GW annual capacity in the renewable energy (RE) segment in FY23	Total NTPC non-fossil capacity: 9.41% This feat was achieved after the commissioning of Devikot Solar Photo Voltaic (PV) Projects at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
16.	Geographical Indication (GI) Tag	Awarded to: Assamese ‘Gamocha’ The ‘ gamocha ’ is a handwoven rectangular cotton cloth with red borders and various designs and motifs .
17.		About GI Tag: Geographical Indication (GI) is a sign used on a product that originates from a specific geographical location . A GI is tagged to primarily agricultural, natural or manufactured products, handicrafts and industrial goods originating from a definite geographical territory .
18.	Monthly Presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)	Presidency for December 2022 assumed by: India India had earlier assumed the Presidency of the UNSC in August 2021 .
19.	Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand ' Independence ' launched in Gujarat	Launched by: Reliance Consumer Products (Reliance Retail Ventures-backed FMCG firm)
20.	Special cultural event – DIVYAKALSHAKTI, 2022	Organized by: Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment Organized at: Guwahati, Assam Hosted by: Swami Vivekananda National institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR) Cuttack, Odisha. Additional Information: Divya kala shakti is a self-explanatory classical event contributed by all divyangjan of northeastern states of India in order to showcase and witness their ability in disability .
21.	Aid for commercialization of Remote Operated Vehicles (ROVs) essential to inspection and monitoring of ports & terminals	Granted by: Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science & Technology (DST) Granted to: M/s Planys Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Chennai Aid: Rs. 1.5 crores out of Rs. 3.6 crores of the total project cost. Aim: To develop cutting edge robotics and a sophisticated Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled digital analytics platform that will be implemented extensively across the Inspection-maintenance-repair (IMR) industry .
22.	Iran was recently removed from United Nations' women's rights body	Removed by: U.N. Economic and Social Council India abstained from voting in the resolution to oust Iran from the body.
23.	Project Lion document titled – “Lion @ 47: Vision for Amrutkal”	Prepared by: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Aim: To secure & restore lions' habitats for managing its growing population , scale up livelihood generation and

		<p>participation of local communities and become a global hub of knowledge on big cat disease diagnostics and treatment.</p>
		<p>Additional Information: Project Lion envisages landscape ecology based conservation of the Asiatic Lion in Gujarat by integrating conservation and eco-development. The Project is being implemented in the Gir landscape in Gujarat which is the last home of the Asiatic lion.</p>
24.	Cyclathon to encourage health seeking behavior in the masses through physical activities	<p>Organized by: National Board of Examination in Medical Sciences (NBEMS)</p> <p>Theme: SAVE EARTH, SAVE LIFE</p>
25.	9 Geographical Indication (GI) Tags granted by the government Total: 432	Assamese Gamocha (Assam), Alibag White Onion (Maharashtra), Tandur Redgram (Telangana), Raktsey Karpo Apricot (Ladakh), Attappady red gram (Kerala), Kanthalloor Vattavada Garlic (Kerala), Kodungallur Snap Melon (Kerala), Attappady Aattukombu Dolichos Bean (Kerala) and Onattukara Sesame (Kerala)
26.	Vande Bharatam Nritya Utsav 2023	<p>Organized by: Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Defence</p> <p>500 dancers are selected to perform a grand cultural show during the Republic Day 2023 on the theme of 'Nari Shakti'.</p>
27.	Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 24 Capital Acquisition Proposals	<p>Approved by: Ministry of Defence</p> <p>Procurement cost: Rs 84,328 crores</p> <p>Proposals: 6 for Indian Army, 6 for Indian Air Force, 10 for Indian Navy and 2 for Indian Coast Guard</p>
28.	Polymer brand – ‘HP Durapol’	<p>Launched by: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL)</p> <p>Aim: To enter the petrochemical business through polymer marketing</p>
29.	Loans sanctioned to about 20 projects to help add 836 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of ports capacity	<p>Sanctioned by: India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL)</p> <p>Loan Amount: Rs. 8,244 crore</p>
30.	World's largest wind-solar hybrid power developer – ‘Adani Green Energy Ltd.’	<p>Adani Green recently achieved this feat after commissioning a 450 MW wind-solar hybrid power plant in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.</p> <p>Total operational generation capacity: 7.17 GW</p>
31.	Indian Premiere League (IPL) turns into decacorn	<p>Valuation: USD 10.9 billion</p> <p>Estimated by: “Beyond 22 Yards” – IPL Valuation Report 2022 by D and P Advisory</p>
32.	‘Mahakavi Subramanian Bharathiyan’ Statue, recently inaugurated in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)	<p>Inaugurated by: M.K. Stalin (Tamil Nadu Chief Minister)</p> <p>Mahakavi Subramanian Bharathiyan was a Tamil writer, poet and a journalist.</p>
33.	Indian Army recently recruited four meritorious sports women into the Corps of Military Police as	Recruited sportswomen: Recruit Havildar Sakshi (Boxing), Recruit Havildar Arundhati Choudhary (Boxing), Recruit

	Direct Entry Havildars under its Mission Olympic Programme	Havildar Bhateri (Wrestling) and Recruit Havildar Priyanka (Wrestling)
34.	The bust of India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat unveiled	Unveiled at: United Service Institution of India (USI) New Delhi It was unveiled to commemorate his first death anniversary.
35.	Countries to use Indian rupee for international trade	Countries: Sri Lanka, Russia Aim: To bring countries that are particularly short of dollars into the ambit of Indian rupee trade settlement mechanism .
36.	1 billion units (BUs) mark of traded power crossed	Feat achieved by: Hindustan Power Exchange (HPX)
37.		Additional Information: HPX is promoted by PTC India, Bombay Stock Exchange, and ICICI Bank
38.	Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology (MeitY) to be the nodal agency for Online Gaming	Announced by: President of India It was decided by amending Allocation of Business (AOB) Rules . Amendment: 377th
39.		Additional Information: For e-sports, the Department of Sports, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) , has been notified as the nodal agency .
40.	Aadhar ID mandated for government employees, government pensioners and beneficiaries of various schemes implemented by the government	Mandated by: Government of Tamil Nadu
41.	Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited (WAPCOS) under Ministry of Jal Shakti ranked as the top consulting services firm in the water and other infrastructure sectors	Ranked by: Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its Annual Procurement Report 2022 and Members' Fact Sheet - 2022 WAPCOS is the only Indian Public Sector featuring in all the categories.
42.	255 megawatt (MW) hybrid (wind and solar) power project	To be constructed in: Karnataka To be constructed by: Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL)
43.	Youngest member of European Union adopted 'Euro' as its currency	Member: Croatia It is now the 20th member of the Eurozone and the 27th country to join the passport-free Schengen zone .
44.		About Schengen zone : The largest free-travel zone in the world was first established in 1985 as an intergovernmental effort including five EU nations—France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg .
45.	Law allowing people over 16 years of age to change their legally registered gender without any medical supervision	Law passed by: Spain
46.	Kabaddi Match between Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Tamil Nadu played by the Players from the Pro Kabaddi League	Held at: Banaras Hindu University, Uttar Pradesh Held during: Closing ceremony of Kashi Tamil Sangamam

		Note: Kashi Tamil Sangamam has been covered in November 2022 edition of CurrentTap.
47.	Authorization Certificates for the dealers of registered vehicles to identify the authenticity of a dealer	<p>Introduced by: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)</p> <p>Aim: To promote ease of doing business and transparency in the sale and purchase of registered vehicles.</p> <p>The new rules will come into force from 1 April, 2023.</p>
48.	A plan for a global minimum 15% tax on multinational businesses	<p>Adopted by: European Union</p> <p>Aim: To stop governments racing to cut taxes to lure the world's richest firms to their territory.</p>
49.	Most searched on Google , 2022	<p>Most searched word: Wordle</p> <p>Most searched news: Russia-Ukraine War</p> <p>Most-searched celebrity: Johnny Depp</p>

2 GA + ESI



SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – HEALTH

2.1 Psychosocial Health and Well-Being of Children

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of State for Education has informed about the various initiatives taken by the Ministry of Education for **Psychosocial Health and Well-Being of Children**.

Key Details

- Modular Handbook on **Early Identification and Intervention for Mental Health Problems in School Going Children** has been developed in collaboration with **Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)**.
- The **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** provides pre and post examination **tele-counselling facilities** through centralized toll-free helpline.
 - An app '**Dost for Life**', to provide free counselling sessions by principals and counselors.

- **Audio-visual presentations** on issues affecting mental health on YouTube and Facebook handles.

Manodarpan Initiative

Launch → 21st July 2020

Launched by → Ministry of Education (Under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan)

Aim → To provide **psychosocial support** to students, teachers and families for Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing during the COVID outbreak and beyond

Key Components

Web Page → It has been created on the website of Ministry of Education
National Level Database → Services can be offered voluntarily for Tele-and Directory of counsellors Counselling Service on the National Helpline.
National Toll-free Helpline Number
Interactive Online chat option

Other Features

Sahyog → Live interactive sessions for students (**classes VI-XII**) on **PM e-vidya channel** or promoting mental well-being among students
Paricharsha → Series of Webinars/discussion to create awareness about mental health and well-being concerns
Working Group → To monitor and promote the mental health issues and concerns of students and facilitate support for the same

2.2 Initiatives to Regulate Pharmaceutical Companies

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers has briefed about the initiatives undertaken to regulate pharmaceutical companies.

Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP)

- **Issued by:** Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
- **Came into effect from:** 1st January 2015
- **Objective:** governs the conduct of pharmaceutical companies in their marketing practices & prevent unethical practices by pharma companies.
- **Key Functions** - It details the responsibilities of the Pharmaceutical Associations in constituting the following committees
 - **Ethics Committee for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (ECPMP)** - to handle the complaints
 - **Apex Ethics Committee for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (AECPMP)** - to review, procedure of lodging a complaint, procedure of handling of complaints

Key Acts to control and dis-incentivize the unethical marketing practices

- **Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940** - regulates the **manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs in India**
- **Indian Medical Council Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002** under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.

2.3 Central Mental Health Authority

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare has informed about the Central Mental Health Authority.

Central Mental Health Authority

Constituted in	→ 2018
Constituted by	→ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW)
Constituted under	→ Mental Healthcare Act, 2017
Key Function	→ to monitor and regulate the mental health institutions in India
Chairperson (ex officio)	→ Secretary or Additional Secretary, MoHFW

2.4 WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of AYUSH has informed about WHO-GCTM in Rajya Sabha.

Key details

- It is an outpost centre of WHO (World Health Organisation) and funded by the Government of India.
- It will be jointly established by **Ministry of AYUSH** and **WHO in Jamnagar, Gujarat**.
- It promotes the development of medicines and research related to **Traditional Medicines** and will strengthen evidence-based research, training, and awareness about Traditional Medicines.
- India has committed approx **USD 250 million** to support establishment, infrastructure and operations.
 - Support for **operational costs** with a **10-year commitment**.
 - An **interim office** at the **Institute Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA)**, which is a WHO Collaborating Centre and Institute of National Importance.

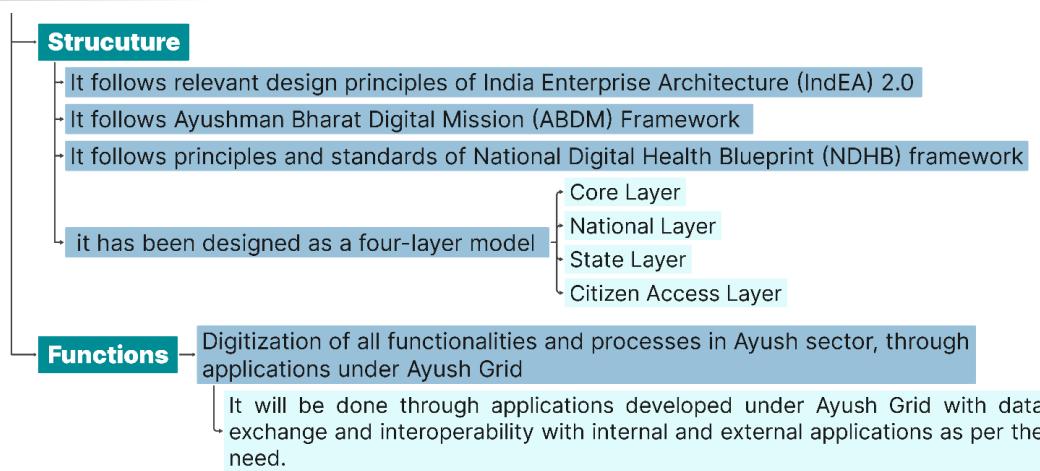
2.5 Ayush Grid Project

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of Ayush has informed about the Ayush Grid Project in the Rajya Sabha.

Ayush Grid Project

conceptualized by	→ Ministry of Ayush in 2018 as a part of Digital India Programme
Aim	<p>To bring onboard all the facilities of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy)</p> <p>To create information Technology (IT) backbone for entire AYUSH Sector</p> <p>It envisages digitization of service delivery across the six functional areas</p> <p>Health Services, Education, Research, Drug Administration, Medicinal Plants and capacity building & media outreach.</p>
Proposed Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance access to Ayush services in India and Global level. Ensure holistic coverage of the Ayush sector by digital solutions. Increase digital collaboration and exchange of best practices among Ayush stakeholders. Attaining highest possible level of health & well-being as per National Health Policy 2017 Good Health & Well-being (Ensure healthy lives & promote well-being for all at all ages) in alignment with SDG-3, 2030. Quality Education (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all) as per SDG-4, 2030 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation) as per SDG-9, 2030



2.6 National Maternal Health Workshop

Why in News?

- Recently, it was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare in New Delhi.
- Theme: “**Striving for zero preventable maternal mortality**”.

Key Details Shared

- Under the "Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)" **more than 3.6 crore pregnant women** have received comprehensive ANC (Antenatal care) across all States and UTs.
- Several states were awarded for their remarkable efforts and achievements in maternal health.

S.No	Particulars	winners
1.	Intensive efforts in reducing MMR	1st position: Kerala and 2nd Maharashtra
2.	Performance as per the NFHS-5: Antenatal Care services & Institutional deliveries	In 4 ANC services: (1st- Madhya Pradesh; 2nd-Rajasthan) Increase in Institutional Delivery in large states: 1st - West Bengal; 2nd - Uttar Pradesh
3.	Roll out of SUMAN (Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan) Notification	In bigger state category (1st - Punjab; 2nd - Tamil Nadu) In smaller state category (1st – Goa; 2nd – Tripura)
4.	Quality certifications under LaQshya (Labour room quality Improvement Initiative)	In bigger state category, Karnataka bagged the first position In small state category, Chandigarh was the winner. In absolute numbers of certifications, Madhya Pradesh holds 1st position Gujarat won the state with highest number of medical colleges prize

2.7 Reduction in TB cases in India

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has shared information about Tuberculosis (TB) cases in India.

Key Information Shared

S.No	Particulars	Key Information
5.	Incidence of TB in India	2015: 256/lakh population 2021: 210/lakh population (Overall reduction: 18%)
6.	Estimates of Drug Resistant TB in India	2015: 1.49 lakh 2021: 1.19 lakh (Overall reduction: 20%)

2.8 Employees' State Insurance (ESI)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Labour and Employment informed that, as on 31.03.2022, the total number of ESI beneficiaries eligible to avail ESI facilities is **12.04 crore**.

Key details

- There are a total of **160 Employees' State Insurance (ESI) hospitals** in the country.
 - It include **51 hospitals run by the ESI Corporation (ESIC) directly** and 109 hospitals run by the States under the ESI scheme (ESIS).
- Note:** ESI Scheme will be covered in SchemesTap of December 2022.

2.9 Indian Oil Corporation Limited

Why in News?

- Recently, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has signed an MoU with the **Central TB Division (CTD)**, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the states of **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** and **Chhattisgarh**.
- Aim:** To support in TB (Tuberculosis) elimination by undertaking intensified TB elimination project.
- Objective:** to end Tuberculosis in India **by 2025**, 5 years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goal.

Key details

- IOCL is the **first corporate** to supplement state efforts in **Active Case Finding campaign** by investing close **to Rs. 64 crore in all 75 districts of UP**, covering about **10% of its population** once a year for 3 years.
- IOCL will provide a cost-effective, novel molecular diagnostic machine '**Truenat**', to all Tuberculosis Units of **8 Aspirational Districts of UP**. It will improve access, availability, and utilization of TB diagnostic.

About IOCL

- Central public sector undertaking (PSU), established in **1959** under **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**.
- It is India's highest ranked (142) Energy PSU in Fortune-500 list (2022). It is India's largest energy PSU.

Additional information

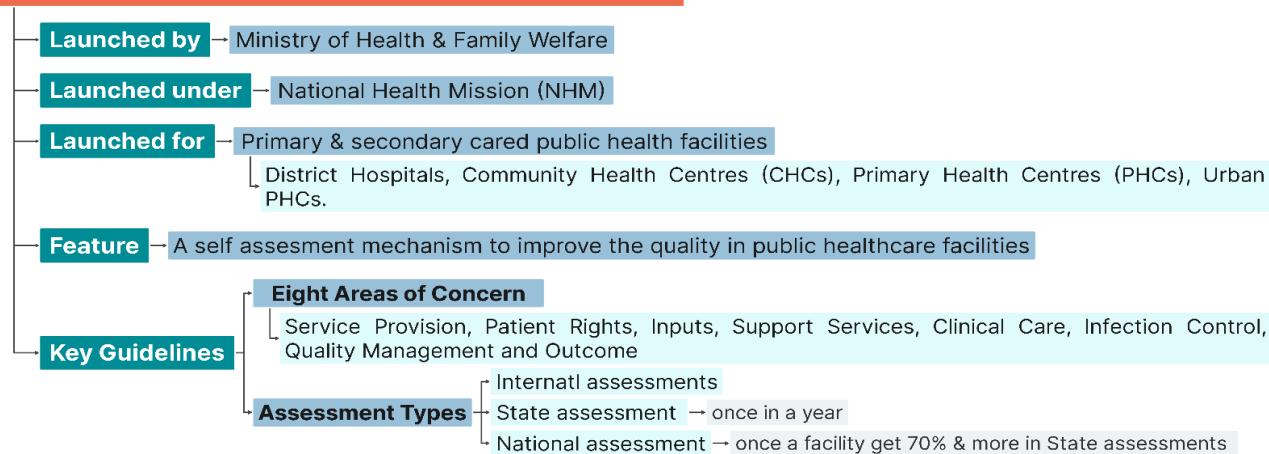
- UP and Chhattisgarh** share the **highest burden** of TB cases among large states in India.
- India has about **one-fourth** of the global TB cases annually.

2.10 National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS)

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Minister for State of Health & Family Welfare** has briefed about National Quality Assurance Standards (**NQAS**).

National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS)



Note: NHM will be covered under SchemesTap – December 2022

2.11 Initiatives to Eradicate TB from India

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare has briefed about the initiatives taken by the Government of India to eradicate tuberculosis (TB) from India.

Initiatives to eradicate TB from India



2.12 The Urban Learning Internship Programme (TULIP)

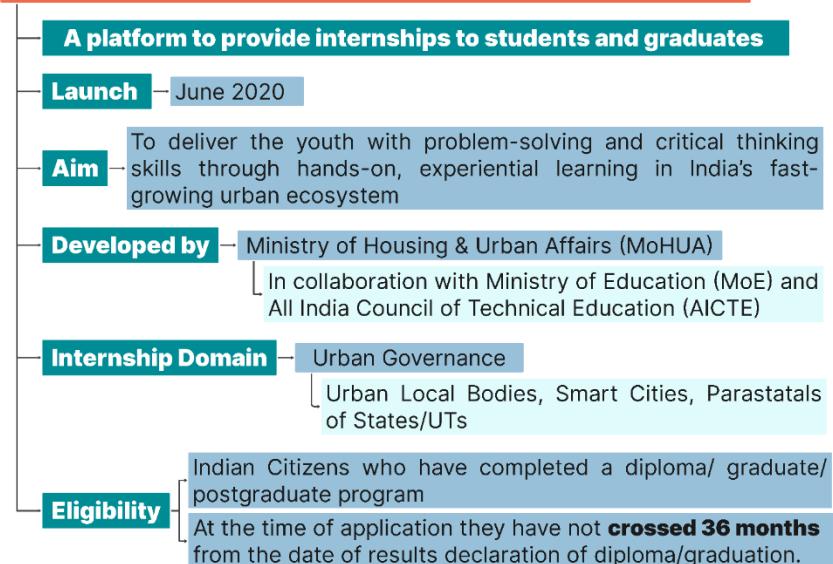
Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has shared updated information about **The Urban Learning Internship Programme (TULIP)**.

Key details

- So far more than 25,000 internship opportunities have been advertised.
 - Out of which more than 5,000 internships have been offered.

The Urban Learning Internship Programme (TULIP)



- Out of which more than 3,500 have been completed.

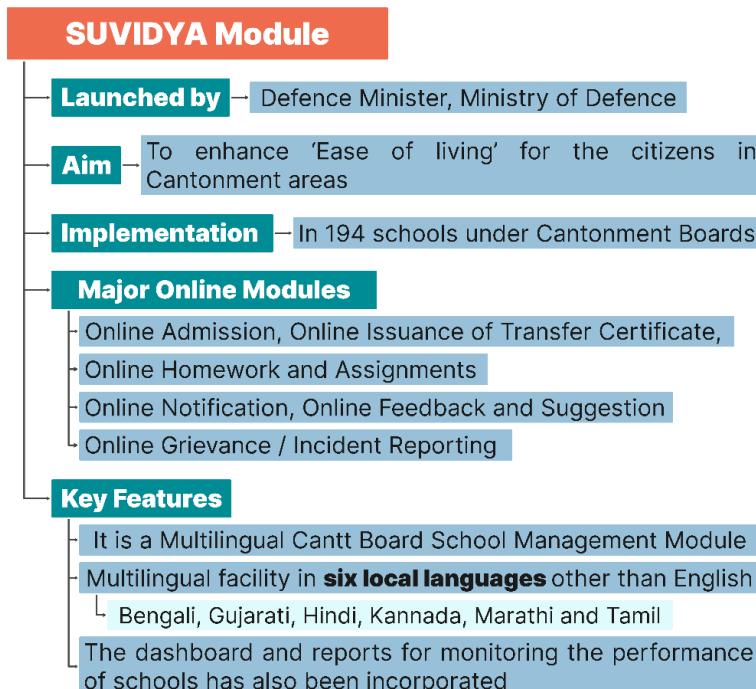
Additional information

- MoHUA in collaboration with **School of Planning & Architecture (SPA), New Delhi** and **Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC)** had launched an e-Course on 'Vulnerability Atlas of India'.

2.13 SUVIDYA

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister for Defence has inaugurated the **SUVIDYA** on Defence Estates Day (16 December).



2.14 National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Education has shared the information regarding **National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage** in the Lok Sabha.

Key Details

- The National Curriculum Framework for **Early Childhood Care and Education (NCFECCE)**, called Foundational Stage is one of the four National Curriculum Frameworks (NCFs) of New Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- Launch: **20th October 2022**.
- **Developed by:** NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training).
- It is the first ever integrated Curriculum Framework for children between **ages 3-8** in India.
 - **3-6 years:** Early childhood education programmes in Anganwadis, Balvatikas, or pre-schools.
 - **6-8 years:** Early primary education programmes in school (Grades 1 and 2).
- This is the **first Stage** in the 5+3+3+4 Curricular and Pedagogical restructuring of School Education as envisioned in **NEP 2020**.
- This framework focuses on '**panchakosha**' concept, the ancient Indian emphasis on the body-mind connect.

- It has five layers (Physical layer, Life force energy Layer, Mind Layer, Intellectual Layer and Inner Self Layer) for holistic development of Child.

2.15 Sainik Schools

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Defence has shared information about New **Sainik Schools in Partnership Mode**.
- The Government aims to set up **100 new Sainik Schools** in partnership mode with **NGOs (Non-Government Organizations)/Private Schools/State Government Schools in all State/UTs**.
- Memorandum of Agreement Signed by: **Sainik Schools Society** with respective authorities.

Key details

- It envisages creation of all necessary infrastructure, faculty and other requirements prescribed for new Sainik Schools. Government of India will not provide the fund for the same.
- However, an **annual support** on **Merit-Cum-Means basis** will be provided by Government of India through Sainik Schools Society.
 - Up to **50% fee support** (upper limit of Rs. 40,000/- per student per annum) for up to **50% of class - strength** (subject to an **upper limit of 50 students** per class per annum) for the approved school.

2.16 ATL Marathon 2022-23

Why in News?

- Recently, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under NITI Aayog has launched the 'ATL Marathon 2022-23'.

Key details



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

2.17 Inter-State Transmission system (ISTS) charges

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Power issued an order for waiver of ISTS charges on transmission of electricity generated from **new hydro-power projects**.
- Aim:** To realize the Government's commitment to achieve its power requirement from **renewable energy sources**.

Key Information Shared

- Duration of waiver:** 18 years from the date of commissioning.
- Eligibility for Waiver:** New hydro power projects for which construction work is awarded and PPA (**Power Purchase Agreement**) are signed on **or before 30.06.2025**.
- The waiver shall be allowed for **Inter-state transmission charges only** and not losses.

Additional information

- Government of India declared hydro power projects as the **renewable source of power** in March 2019.
- India is committed to have **500 GW** of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources **by 2030**.

2.18 GIS Applications Developed by MoEFCC

Why in News

- Recently, the Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change has provided details about the Geographic Information System (**GIS applications**) developed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (**MoEFCC**).

GIS applications developed by MoEFCC

Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub (PARIVESH) Portal

- Features** → a web based, role based workflow application
 - facilitates **single registration for all types of clearances**
 - Environment, forest, wildlife and Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ) clearances

e-Green Watch portal

- Objective** → to facilitate automation, streamlining and effective management of plantation processes & other forestry works under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)
- Feature** → Forest Survey of India (**FSI**) carries out **analysis of geo-spatial data (polygons)** of plantations uploaded by the State Forest Departments

Van Agni Geo-portal

- Initiative of** → Forest Survey of India (**FSI**)
- Feature** → Single point of source for the **information related to forest fires** in India

2.19 Initiatives to Promote the Production of Bio-fuels

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas has shared the initiatives to promote the production of bio-fuels.

Key Information Shared

- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (**IOCL**) has commissioned a **2nd Generation (2G) Ethanol Plant** in Panipat, Haryana.
- Department of Bio-Technology** has established **5 Centres of Excellence in Bioenergy Capacity building** to promote research and production of 2nd Generation biofuels.

- **Location of Research & Development centres of Oil and Gas Public Sector Enterprises:**

- **Panipat** (Haryana) by IOCL
- **Bengaluru** (Karnataka) by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd
- **Noida** (Uttar Pradesh) by Bharat Petroleum Corporation.

2.20 Government Initiatives to Secure Forest for Growth and Livelihood

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change has listed out the initiatives by the Government of India to secure forests for growth & livelihood.

Amendments in Indian Forest Act, 1927

- **Amended by:** Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC)
- **Key Provision:** bamboo grown in non- forest areas exempted from the definition of tree.

National Transit Pass System

- **Launched by:** MoEFCC
- Launched on **pilot basis** for issue of **online transit permits**
- It is an **online transit pass generation system** for **inter-state and intra-state transportation of timber, bamboo and other forest produces** from private lands/government/private depot.

Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Guidelines, 2016

- **Issued by:** MoEFCC
- **Objective:** to decentralize the regulatory processes concerning the wood-based industries for the development of the sector in India.

2.21 E-Waste (Management) Rules

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change has listed out the key features of E-Waste Management Rules.

E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022

Notified by	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change												
Notified in	November, 2022												
Replaced	E-waste (Management) Rules, 2016												
Effective Date	1st April, 2023												
Eligibility	every manufacturer, producer, refurbisher, dismantler and recycler												
Registration	Registration to be done on a portal developed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) Mandatory to carryout e-waste recycling business Replaced Authorization												
Annual E-Waste Recycling Targets	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>60%</td> <td>2023-2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2024-2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>70%</td> <td>2025-2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2026-2027</td> </tr> <tr> <td>80%</td> <td>2027-2028</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2028-2029 & onwards</td> </tr> </table>	60%	2023-2024		2024-2025	70%	2025-2026		2026-2027	80%	2027-2028		2028-2029 & onwards
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	2026-2027												
80%	2027-2028												
	2028-2029 & onwards												

Key Provisions

- Inclusion of a **new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regime**
 - Expansion of **Schedule I**
 - Inclusion of **106 Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE)**
- Inclusion of **Management of solar PV modules/panels/ cells**
- Introduction of Provisions for **environment compensation and verification & audit**
- Provision for constitution of a **Steering Committee**
 - to **oversee the overall implementation** of the rules
- Introduction of Provision for generation and transaction of **EPR Certificate**

2.22 Plastic recycling targets

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change has listed out the **year-wise target** for **minimum level of recycling of plastic waste** across **different categories of plastic packaging**.
- These targets have been fixed under the **Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** for **plastic packaging**.

Key Targets

- **EPR target for plastic packaging made from compostable plastic:** 100% from 2023-24.

S.No	Year	Minimum Target (% of EPR)
1.	2024-25	30-50
2.	2025-26	40-60
3.	2026-27	50-70
4.	2027-28 onwards	60-80

Background

- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has notified the **Guidelines on Extended Producers Responsibility on plastic packaging** under **Plastic Waste Management Rules in February 2022**.
- **Objective:** to strengthen the circular economy of plastic packaging waste and development of recycling infrastructure for plastic packaging waste.

2.23 Initiatives to Cope with Increase in Sea level

Why in News

- Recently, the Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change has briefed about the initiatives to cope with increase in sea level.

Baseline Airborne Lidar Terrain Mapping (ALTM) Elevation Data

- **Acquired by:** Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- **Acquired from:** National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) under Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- **Purpose:** Tsunami Inundation modelling and vulnerability mapping.
- **Features:** The data is available for the mainland Indian coast up to two kilometers from the coast; it is being used to predict the sea-level rise.

Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC)

- **National authority** to issue **tsunami advisories** for India.
- **Established at:** INCOIS
- **Highlight:** INCOIS has set up a **real-time network of 36 tide gauges** at different locations along the Indian coast to monitor the tsunami waves and provide timely advisories.

Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 2019

- **Issued by:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- **Objectives:**
 - to ensure livelihood security to the fisher communities and other local communities, living in the coastal areas,
 - to conserve and protect coastal stretches, its unique environment and its marine area
 - to promote development through sustainable manner based on scientific principles considering the dangers of natural hazards, and sea level rise due to global warming.
- **Key Features**
 - Coastal areas are declared as **Coastal Regulation Zone**.
 - ✓ Prior permission is required to setup & expand industries & other processes.
 - Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) must be prepared/updated by respective States / UTs.

2.24 Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has informed about the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to achieve carbon neutrality.
- It was formed in accordance with the principles of **equity** and **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)**.
- **Objective:** It lays out India's vision and approaches towards reaching **net-zero by 2070**.
- This updated NDC represents the framework for India's transition to cleaner energy for the **period 2021-2030**.

Key Details

- India has submitted its updated NDCs to UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) on **26th August 2022**.
 - India submitted its first NDC to UNFCCC in **2015**.
- The first NDC comprised **eight goals**, three of which have **quantitative targets** upto **2030**.
- Two out of three updated quantitative targets are shown in table below:

S.No	NDC (Quantitative)	Updated Target
1.	Reduction in emissions intensity of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	45% by 2030, from 2005 level (Earlier it was 33%-35%)
2.	Cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources	50% by 2030 (Earlier it was 40%)
3.	Creation of Additional Carbon sink through additional forest and tree cover	2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO ₂ Equivalent (Not changed)

Note: LT-LEDS is covered in November CA Magazine (Article: 2.8).

2.25 Commitments made under CoP 26

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change informed about the commitments made under 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) held at Glasgow, UK.

Key details

- Five key elements (**Panchamrita**) of commitments are given below:

S.No	Elements	Target year
1.	Achieve the target of Net Zero	2070
2.	Increase non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW	2030
3.	Meet 50% of energy from renewable energy	2030
4.	Reduce the total projected Carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes from 2021	2030
5.	Reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by less than 45%	2030

2.26 Climate Change

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has shared information about the Climate Change.

Key Details Shared

- India is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and its Kyoto Protocol (KP), and the Paris Agreement (PA).
- India with more than **17 % of global population** has contributed only about **4%** of the global cumulative greenhouse gas emissions between **1850 and 2019**.
- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has initiated a network project, **National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)** in **2011**.

Additional Information

- Kyoto Protocol (KP):** It was adopted on **11 December 1997 (At CoP 3, Kyoto Japan)**.
 - It is an international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

2.27 National Green Tribunal (NGT)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Jal Shakti has informed about the orders of National Green Tribunal for the control of pollution.

Key Details

- State/ UT Governments were directed to ensure execution of approved action plans by **30.06.2021** for bringing all the polluted river stretches identified by CPCB fit for **bathing purpose**.

- Fit for bathing purpose means Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) < 3 milligram/litre, Dissolved Oxygen more than 5.0 mg/l and Faecal Coliform < 500MPN (Most Probable Number)/100ml).
- **River Rejuvenation Committees (RRCs)** have been constituted by State/UT Governments for implementation of approved action plan for PRS falling in **category priority V**.
- A Central Monitoring Committee has been constituted at Central level to monitor implementation.

About NGT

- Establishment: 2010 under **National Green Tribunal Act** as a **statutory body**.
- It is guided by the **Principle of Natural Justice**.
- Duration of disposal of applications or appeals: **6 Months**.
- **New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting** of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other four place of sitting of the Tribunal.

2.28 Arth Ganga

Why in News?

- Recently, the National Mission for Clean Ganga launched the project on '**Capacity Building Programme for Leveraging Community and Local Resources Based on Technology**' under Arth Ganga Initiative.

Key details about Project

- The project is being **jointly implemented** by NMCG and Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization (HESCO).

Additional Information

- As part of our MoU with **Sahakar Bharati, 75 Ganga Sahakar Grams** will also be developed under Arth Ganga.
- NMCG in collaboration with Wildlife Institute of India (WII), launched **Jalaj Livelihood Model** at 26 locations.

2.29 Ganga Utsav

Why in News?

- Recently, the **6th edition** of 'Ganga Utsav' was organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Key details

Arth Ganga Initiative

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Introduced by | → Prime Minister of India
↳ At the first meeting of the National Ganga Council held in 2019 |
| Launched by | → Ministry Of Jal Shakti |
| Launched under | → Namami Gange Programme |
| Objective | → Linking people with the river through the bridge of economy |
| Target | → to contribute at least 3% of the GDP from the Ganga Basin |
| Slogan | → Banking on River Ganga |

Six verticles/ Areas to focus

- | |
|---|
| → Zero Budget Natural Farming
↳ Chemical-free farming for 10 kms on either side of the river.
↳ promotion of cow dung as fertiliser through the GOBARdhan scheme |
| → Monetization and Reuse of Sludge & Wastewater
↳ Reuse of treated water for irrigation, industries and revenue generation for Urban Local Bodies. |
| → Livelihood Generation Opportunities
↳ by creating haats (Ghaat mein Haat) where people can sell local products, medicinal plants and Ayurveda. |
| → Increase public participation |
| → Promote the cultural heritage and tourism |
| → Empowering local administration for improved water governance |

- As part of this initiative the National-level event was organized at New Delhi and over 75 special events were observed across **5 Ganga Basin States**.
- This year, the event was **dedicated to 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'**.
- It will be celebrated in Ganga Basin States till **August 2023**.
- Objective:** To celebrate our rivers and spread awareness on the significance of river rejuvenation across river basins in India.

2.30 ESG Impact Leader Programme

Why in News?

- Recently, India's first specially designed programme for Environmental-Social-Governance (ESG) professionals – '**ESG Impact Leader Programme**' has been launched.
- Initiative of:** Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), an autonomous institution under Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Key Highlights

- IICA has also created a **National Association of Impact Leaders**.
- It is a **membership-based association for ESG professionals**.

2.31 India Water Impact Summit (IWIS)

Why in News?

- Recently, the **7th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS 2022)** was held in **New Delhi**.
- Summit Organizers:** National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and Center for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga)
- Theme:** 'Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin'
- Focus Area:** 'Mapping and Convergence of 5Ps' - People, Policy, Plan, Programme and Project.
- 5 broad Tracks of summit:** Science and Policy, Finance and Economics, Technology and Innovation, International and Implementation Challenges.
- Key Outcome:** The stakeholders of the summit agreed upon the need to form a National River Framework.

2.32 Skill Development Programmes by MNRE

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy has briefed about the skill development programmes offered by Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE).

Skill Development Programmes by MNRE	
Suryamitra skill development programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch Year → 2015-16 Nodal Agency → National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Gurugram, Haryana Objective → to develop the skills of the youth in the installation, operation & maintenance of Solar Energy Power Projects
Vayumitra Skill Development Programme (Phase I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch Year → 2022 Nodal Agency → National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE), Chennai Objective → to create skilled and trained manpower for Wind power projects Target → to develop over 5000 number of trainees during 2021-22 to 2023-24
Jal-Urgamitra Skill Development Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch Year → 2022 Nodal Agency → Department of Hydro and Renewable Energy (HRED), IIT Roorkee Objective → to train technicians for maintenance of Small Hydro Power Projects Target → to develop over 1700 number of skilled manpower for 5 years i.e. FY 2021-22 to 2025-26

2.33 COP 15 of Convention on Biodiversity

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change has delivered India's National Statement at the **15th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 15)** to the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** at Montreal, Canada

About the Convention on Biodiversity

- Signed by 150 government leaders at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.**
- Aim:** To promote sustainable development.
- Current Parties: **196.**
- Entered into force: On **29 December 1993.**
- The COP is the governing body of the Convention, and advances implementation of the Convention through the decisions it takes at its periodic meetings.
- Convention Protocols:**
 - Cartagena protocol:** It is on Biosafety.
 - Nagoya Protocol:** It is on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

COP 15 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)



Additional Information

- COP16 to be held in **Antalya (Turkey) in 2024.**

2.34 Swachhata Hi Sewa Campaign (SHS)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Jal Shakti has shared the information regarding **Swachhata hi Sewa (SHS) Campaign.**

Key details

- It was organised from **15th September, 2022 to 2nd October, 2022**
- Organised by: **Ministry of Jal Shakti.**
- It was organised as a part of the **Information, Education and Communication (IEC) component** under **Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G).**
 - Upto **3%** of total funding for programmatic components can be utilised by the States/UTs for SHS.
- Statewide Campaign is being launched on **visual cleanliness of villages** during SHS to clean up the garbage/waste dumped around in the villages.

2.35 Waste Water Management

Why in News?

- Recently, Minister of State for Jal Shakti has shared information regarding waste water management in the country.

Key details shared

- As per the **CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board)** report published in 2021:
 - Sewage generation from urban areas is estimated **at 72,368 MLD (millions of liters per day)**.
 - Whereas the total treatment capacity available is **31,841 MLD (44% of the sewage generation)**.
- The **National Water Policy-2012** mandates recycling and reuse of water as general norm and advocates treatment to specified standards before reuse of waste water.
 - It provides for properly **planned tariff system** to incentivize reuse of treated water.
- A **National Framework on Reuse of Treated Waste Water** has been adopted by **Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation**:
 - It is a **guiding document** for the States to formulate their Reuse Water Policy and implement the same in a time bound manner.

2.36 Rooftop solar (RTS) Energy

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy shared various initiatives taken to scale-up rooftop solar in the country.

Key details

- Renewable energy included under **priority sector lending** guidelines of RBI.
- Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020 has been issued for **net-metering up to 500 Kilowatt** or upto the electrical sanctioned load, whichever is lower.
- Launch of **National Portal for Solar Rooftop to implement Rooftop Solar Programme in July 2022**.
 - Residential consumers from any part of the country can apply for installation of rooftop solar and get subsidy directly into his bank account.
 - The subsidy under National Portal has been fixed at **Rs. 14,588/- per kW** (for capacity upto **3 kW**)

Note: **Rooftop Solar Programme** will be covered in SchemesTap of December 2022.

2.37 Update on Renewable Energy

Why in News?

- Recently, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has shared information regarding renewable energy.

Key details

- India's emission intensity of gross domestic product (GDP) has reduced by **24%** between 2005 and 2016.
- India's per capita electricity consumption was **1255 kWh in 2021-22** (one-third of the global average).
- As per the **Generation Expansion Planning studies** carried out by the **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)** for 2029-30:
 - The share of non-fossil fuel based generation capacity in the total installed capacity of the Country is likely to increase from around **42% as on Oct, 2022** to more than **64% by 2029-30**.

2.38 Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has shared information regarding the EBP Programme and current ethanol production in the country.

Key details

- Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have achieved over **10% ethanol blending** in petrol during Ethanol Supply Year (**ESY 2021-22**).
- Various steps to increase production and utilization of ethanol are given below:
 - Ethanol Interest Subvention Scheme(s)**: Financial assistance in the form of **interest subvention @ 6% per annum or 50% of rate of interest charged by banks/financial institutions whichever is lower for five years** including one year moratorium.
 - National Policy on Biofuels-2018**, allowed production of ethanol from a variety of feed-stocks:
 - Agricultural residues, starch containing materials such as maize, cassava etc.
 - Damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice etc.
 - Foodgrains like rice apart from sugarcane and other sugar containing materials.
- Government has amended the **Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951** to ensure free movement of ethanol in the country.
 - GST on ethanol meant for EBP Programme has been reduced from **18% to 5%**.

About Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme

- Launched in **2003** with an objective to enhance India's energy security, reduce import dependency on fuel, save foreign exchange, address environmental issues and give a boost to domestic agriculture sector.
- Targets: **10% Blending by November 2022** (achieved in June 2022) and **20% blending by 2025**.

2.39 Mean Sea Level and Erosion of Coastline

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State of Earth Sciences informed about the rising sea level and erosion.

Key details Shared

- As per the recent report from **Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC-AR6 WG1)**, average sea level increased from **1.3 mm/year between 1901-1971 to 3.7 mm/year between 2006-2018**.
- National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Chennai** an attached office of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is monitoring the shoreline erosion.
 - 6,632 km** long Indian coastline of mainland has been analyzed from 1990 to 2018
 - It is found that about **33%** of the coastline is under **varying degree of erosion, 26 % is of accreting nature** and the remaining **41% is in a stable state**.
 - State with Highest Erosion: Kerala (West Coast) and West Bengal (East coast)

Additional information

- Cyclone Warning Division at India Meteorological Department** (New Delhi) acts as a **Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre** for monitoring, predicting and issuing warning services on tropical cyclones.
- IMD (Under MoES) has **3 Area Cyclone Warning Centres at Chennai, Kolkata & Mumbai**.
- It also has **4 Cyclone Warning Centres** at Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Thiruvananthapuram and Visakhapatnam

2.40 Secretariat for Conservation of Land and Ocean

Why in News?

- Recently, the **High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People** has announced the formation of a new permanent Secretariat.
- Secretariat will be co-hosted by **World Resources Institute (WRI)** and the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**.

About High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People

- It was officially launched at the **One Planet Summit in Paris, France in 2021**.
- Co-chaired by **Costa Rica and France** and by the **United Kingdom as Ocean co-chair**.
- It is an intergovernmental group of **116 countries (India joined in 2021)**.
- Objective:** To protect and conserve at least **30% of the world's land and ocean** by the year 2030 ("30x30").

Additional information

- At present, protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) cover nearly 17% of all land and slightly more than 8% of the ocean.

2.41 Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE)

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** has set up the Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE).
- It is launched under the **National water Mission**.

Key details

- Aim:** To improve the efficiency of water use **at least by 20%** (As per National Water Mission).
- Objective:** For promotion, regulation and control of efficient use of water in irrigation, industrial and domestic sectors
- It will function under administrative control of **Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation**.
- Composition:** Number of Director: One, Deputy Director: 1 and Assistant Director: 2

2.42 EV Yatra Portal & Mobile App

Why in News?

- Recently, the **President of India** has launched the **EV-Yatra Portal & Mobile App** on the occasion of the **National Energy Conservation Day**.

About EV-Yatra Portal & Mobile App

- Developed by:** Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power.
- The **Mobile Application** will facilitate **in-vehicle navigation** to the **nearest public Electric Vehicle (EV) charger**.
- The **website** will disseminate information on central and state-level initiatives to promote e-mobility in India.
- The **web-portal** will enable **Charge Point Operators (CPOs)** to register their charging details securely into the **National Online Database**.

Additional Information

- During the launch event, **National Energy Conservation Award 2022 & National Energy Efficiency Innovation Awards (NEEIA) 2022** were conferred.

- Both the awards have been **instituted by BEE**.

2.43 Gas Imports

Why in News?

- Recently, India's gas imports data were shared in the Parliament Winter Session

S.No	Particulars	Key Details
1.	India's import dependency based on consumption for natural gas	2021-22: 48.2% 2022-23 (April to October): 46.3%

2.44 Work Programme on Just Transition

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Work Programme on Just Transition** was highlighted during the **Parliament session**.
- Work Programme on Just Transition** was **established** during the 27th Conference of the Parties (**COP 27**) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**).
- Objective:** to discuss pathways to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- Additional Information:** COP27 has been termed as an implementation COP.

Note: COP27, Paris Agreement, UNFCCC discussed In November 2022 Magazine (News 2.8).

EMPLOYMENT GENERATION IN INDIA

2.45 Divya Kala Mela

Why in News?

- Recently, the Divya Kala Mela (DKM) was organised on the Kartavya path of India Gate, Delhi.
- Organised by: **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- Objective: To promote self-reliance of Divyangjans.

Key Details

- A seed grant amount of **more than Rs 16 lakhs** has been distributed to the **75 Divyang by IDEA (Inclusive Divyangjan Entrepreneur Association)-SAKSHAM** for their self-employment.
- More than **200 Divyang entrepreneurs** were also given an amount of **Rs 5-5 thousand** for life insurance.
- An online sell portal: **eKam (Entrepreneurship, Knowledge, Awareness and marketing)** has been developed for the disabled.
 - Portal hosted by: NHFDC Foundation (promoted by National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC)).

About IDEA- SAKSHAM

- Formed in **March 2019** with an objective to establish a **unified platform** to create and identify **livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities (PWDs)**.
- Goal:** To create **5,000 Divyangjan entrepreneurs** and **employment for 1,00,000 Divyangjan** in **5 years (2019-2024)**.

About NHFDC (National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation)

- It was set up in **24th January 1997** as a not for profit company.

- It is a **Central Public Sector Undertaking** and work as an apex **corporation** under the aegis of **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)**, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

2.46 Indo-German Joint Working Group

Why in News?

- Recently, the **12th Meeting of the Indo-German Joint Working Group** was held in New Delhi to encourage Vocational Education and Training (VET).
- Co-Chair:** Joint Secretary, **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship**, India and Senior Policy Officer, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany.

Key Details

- A **skill mapping exercise** will be undertaken to **assess the skill gaps**.
 - Based on this, **bridge courses** and **upskilling programmes** will be designed for skill training of Indian workers.
- Earlier India has collaborated with Germany on projects like **Indo-German Vocational Education Training**, **SINADE**, **IGNITE (Indo- German Initiative for Technical Education)**, **QualIndia** and **iMOVE**, to boost overseas mobility of the Indians.
- Under **SINADE** (Strengthening Industry Oriented Approaches for Dual Education and Training) programme, BMBF has funded a complementary project:
 - The project is for strengthening company models of dual VET in industrial clusters in **Northern India** through a **bottom-up approach**.

2.47 Initiatives to Deal with Pending Dues to MSMEs

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises has briefed about the initiatives taken by the Government of India to deal with pending dues to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.

MSME SAMADHAAN	
Delayed Payment Monitoring System	
Launch Year	— 2017
Initiative of	Office of the Development Commissioner (MSME), Ministry of Micro,Small & Medium Enterprises
Objective	to monitor the outstanding dues to the MSEs from the buyers
Feature	Facilitates Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) to file applications regarding delayed payments online
Special sub portal	<p>Launch Year — 2020</p> <p>Launched after the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat announcements</p> <p>Objective — to report the dues and monthly payments by central Ministries/Department/Public Sector Enterprises to MSEs</p>

Micro and Small Enterprise Facilitation Councils (MSEFCs)

Parent Act	— Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006
Objective	— to deal with cases of delayed payments of the Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs)
Composition	<p>— Section 21 (1), MSMED Act</p> <p>Minimum Members — Three</p> <p>Maximum Members — Five</p>
Total MSEFCs	<p>— 2019-20 — 79</p> <p>— 2022-23 — 113</p>

2.48 Rozgar Mela

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions has provided information about **Rozgar Mela**.

Additional Information

- The Department of Public Enterprises (**DPE**) has set up a **dedicated Mission Recruitment cell for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)**.

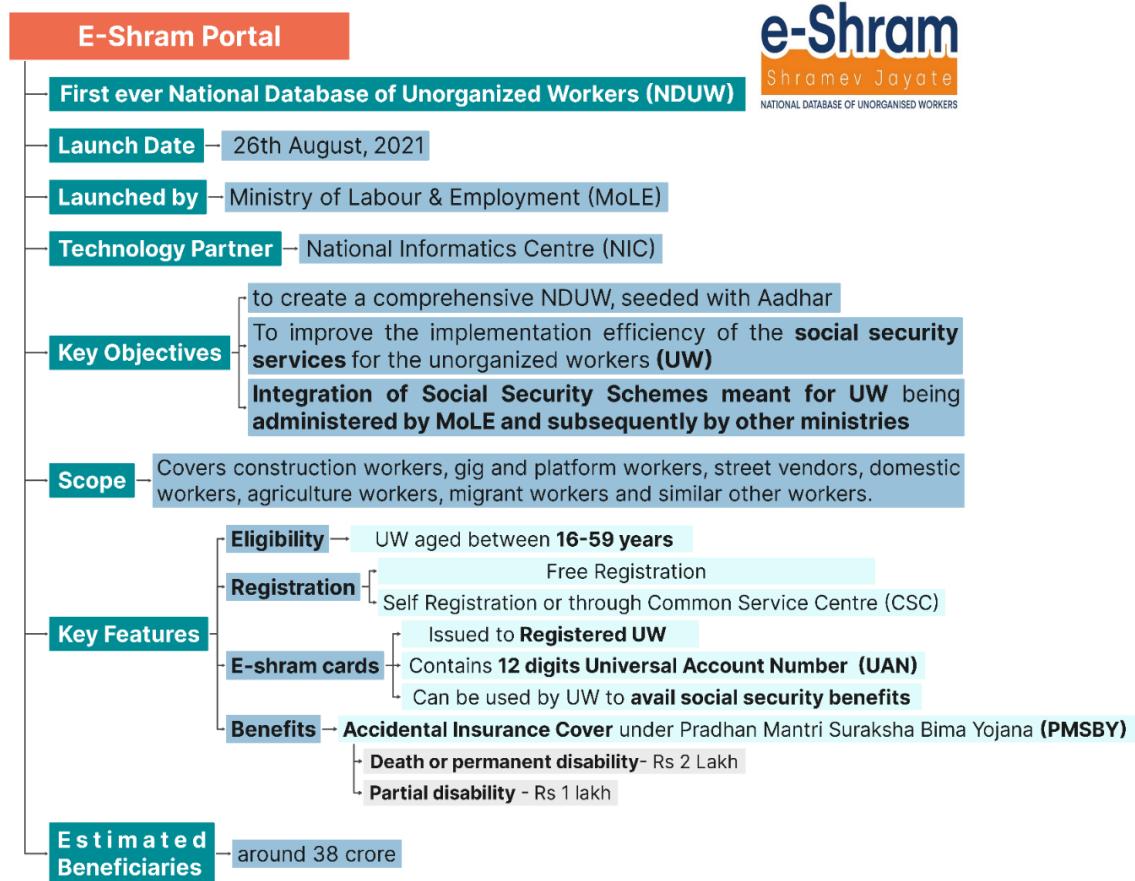
Rozgar Mela (Mission Recruitment)

- The recruitment drive for 10 lakh personnel**
- Launch** → October 2022
- Initiative of** → Government of India (GoI)
- Feature** → New recruits will join **38 Ministries/Departments** of GoI
- Milestone** → So far, over 1.47 lakh new appointees have been inducted

2.49 E-Shram Portal

Why in News?

- Recently, Minister of State for Labour & Employment has provided information about e-shram portal.



2.50 Labour Codes

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Labour & Employment has informed about the **four labour codes**.
- Labour** is in the **Concurrent List** of the Constitution of India

Labour Codes

Formulated by → Ministry of Labour & Employment

Aim → to help workers to get security along with respect, health and other welfare measures with ease

Code on Wages, 2019

→ **Floor wages** → to be fixed by the **Central Government**

→ **Minimum wages**

→ **Universal minimum wage** for all workers

→ It should **not be less than the floor wage**

→ **Guarantee of timely payment of wages** to all workers

→ To be **reviewed every 5 years**

→ **Annual bonus**

→ **8.33% of wages earned or Rs. 100, whichever is higher**

Employees drawing wages not exceeding a monthly amount as notified by

→ **Eligibility** → the Central or State Government

Should have worked **atleast 30 days in an accounting year**

→ **Equal remuneration to male and female workers**

Industrial Relations Code, 2020

→ **Preparation of Standing Order by Companies**

→ **Contents** → classification of workers, holidays, pay days etc.

→ **Eligibility** → Establishments with **Minimum 300 employees**

→ **Provision of Re-skilling Fund** for skill development of workers

Code on Social Security, 2020

→ **Unorganized, Gig & Platform workers**

→ Defined to formulate schemes to provide social security benefits

→ Creation of **Social Security Fund** to offer comprehensive social security to the unorganized sector

→ **Fixed Term Employment (FTE) Workers**

→ to get **same social security benefits as permanent employees**

→ **Minimum service period to receive gratuity** → One Year

→ **Applicability of Employees' Provident Fund**

→ Extended to all industries as against scheduled industries at present

Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020

→ **Definition of inter-State migrant workers (ISMW)**

→ a person indirectly recruited through contractor

→ a person directly recruited by the employer

→ a person migrating on his own for employment in another State

→ **Provision of Appointment Letters to the workers**

→ Made **Mandatory** for the first time

→ **Provision of Mandatory, free annual health check-up** to the workers by the employers

→ **Annual Leave with wages**

→ **Eligibility** → **Minimum working days in a year: 180 days (at present 240 days)**

→ **Leave Entitlement** → Eligible workers can avail **1 day leave for every 20 days of work**

Key Highlights

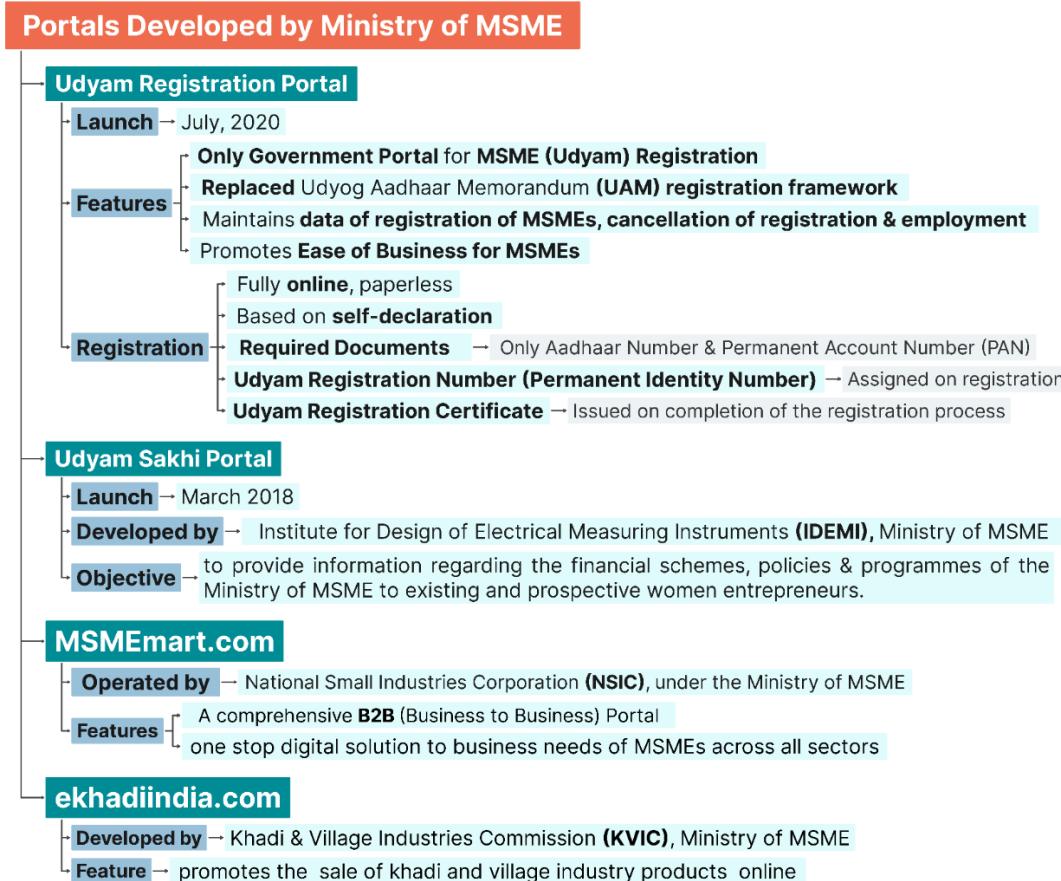
29 Labour Laws have been codified into **4 Labour Codes**

Uniform definition of wages across all the four Labour Codes

2.51 Portals launched by Ministry of MSME

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has provided information about the important **portals launched by the Ministry of MSME**.



2.52 North-Eastern Community Management (NERCORMP)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Development of North-East Region has informed about the NERCORMP.

Additional Information

- To address the issues of open defecation, the **entry point initiative** was launched under the project (to establish affordable toilet facilities).

Region Resource Project

North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP)



- Another initiative supported by the project was Revolving Fund to the SHGs.
- Fund of Rs 1 Lakh was provided to SHGs.

2.53 Rural Self Employment Training Institutes

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has inaugurated the new campus of the National Academy of Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institute (RUDSETI) - NAR at Kumbalagodu in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Key details shared about RSETIs

- RSETIs have trained about 44 lakh youths:-
 - About 29 lakhs (over 66%) are women candidates.
 - Cumulative credit disbursed is about Rs.7200 crores.
 - The average level of credit linkage of RSETI trained candidates is 51%.
 - At present, there are 590 RSETIs functioning in 27 States and 6 Union Territories.
 - RSETIs are sponsored by 24 banks including banks in public, private, co-operative sectors and Garmin Banks.

Additional Information

- In 1982, Canara Bank, erstwhile Syndicate Bank and SDME Trust, Dharmasthala, Karnataka, pioneered the unique concept of RUDSETI.
- The National Academy of RUDSETI (NAR), set up in 2008 entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the Rural Development Ministry in 2011 for providing training to youths in self-employment ventures.

2.54 Hill Area Development Programme (HADP)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of Development of North Eastern Region has briefed about the HADP.

Hill Area Development Programme (HADP)

Ministry	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
Launch Details	Pilot basis for 2 years viz. 2018-19 and 2019-20
Launched in	Tamenglong (now Tamenglong and Noney) district, Manipur
Sanctioned Projects	41
Total project cost	Rs.90.00 crore

2.55 Recruitment of Persons with Disability (PWD)

Why in News?

- Recently, Union Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has shared information regarding the recruitment of PwDs.

Key details shared

- Several measures were initiated by the Government to create public awareness and assist candidates with benchmark disabilities in applying for relevant posts.
 - Facility of Scribes for written examination / computer-based examination.
 - Compensatory time of 20 minutes per hour is also provided to such candidates.
- As per 'The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016', 4% of the total number of vacancies to be filled up by direct recruitment, in the cadre strength, in each group of posts, i.e. Group A, B and C.

2.56 Youth Co: Lab India

Why in News?

- Recently, the 5th edition of Youth Co: Lab India was jointly launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) India, and Citi Foundation.

Key details

- It is Asia Pacific's largest youth innovation movement.
- It was launched in 2019 by UNDP India and Citi Foundation in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog.
- Aim:** To accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation, and entrepreneurship by empowered youths in Asia Pacific Region.
- The 5th edition (2022-23) will focus on identifying and supporting youth-led 30 early-stage social enterprises or innovations working in following 6 thematic areas:
 - Digital and Financial Literacy for Youth.
 - Gender Equality and Women Economic Empowerment.
 - Developing FinTech Solutions focused on Biodiversity Conservation.
 - Promoting Biodiversity-friendly Lifestyles through Technological Solutions in Finance.
 - Accelerating Circular Economy through Upcycling Innovations.
 - Behavioural Nudges for LiFE (Lifestyle For Environment).
- Eligibility:**
 - Early-stage startups (less than 5 years old) led by Indian youth aged between 18 to 29 years.
 - Have a prototype or product ready centered on the themes of this edition.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

2.57 Adoption Awareness Month

Why in News?

- Recently, Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) has observed 'Adoption Awareness Month' in November, 2022.
- The day was celebrated in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Daman & Diu, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)



Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Women and Child Development
Established under	Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015
Organization Type	Statutory organization
Key Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">to undertake the promotion of in-country adoptionsto facilitate inter-state adoptions in accordance with the Hague Convention on Protection of Childrento facilitate cooperation in respect of inter-country adoption

2.58 Initiatives for Senior Citizens

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has informed about the various initiatives taken by the Government to support and rehabilitate the elderly persons of the country.

Key Details

- National Policy on Older Persons, 1999:** It envisages State support to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter, protection and other needs of older persons to improve quality of their lives.
- The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act:**
 - It was enacted in **December 2007** to ensure need based maintenance of parents and senior citizens.
- The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing **Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY)** for senior citizens.
- National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly.
- Scheme of **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension (IGNOAPS)** by **Ministry of Rural Development**.

2.59 Consumer Awareness/ Protection

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution has shared about the various initiatives taken by the Government for Consumer Awareness and Protection.

Key Details

- Jago Grahak Jago Campaign:**
 - Launched by: Department of Consumer Affairs in **2005**.
 - Objective: To create awareness among the consumers.
- Jagriti (Mascot):**
 - Launched in **July 2022** by **Department of Consumer Affairs** for empowering consumers and generating awareness of their rights.
 - "Jagriti" is projected as **an empowered young consumer**.
 - Jagriti Mascot shall be shown along with the tagline "Jago Grahak Jago" in all its media campaign.
- Consumer Protection Act, 2019:**
 - It has replaced the erstwhile **Consumer Protection Act, 1986**.
 - Came into effect: **20th July 2020**.
 - It establishes the **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** under section **10(1)** of the Act.
 - Objective:** To promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers.
 - Important Features:**
 - Simplification** of the adjudication process in the Consumer Commissions.
 - Filing of a complaint by a consumer in the Consumer Commission having **jurisdiction with respect to his place of work/residence irrespective of place of transaction** and place of business or residence of the opposite parties.
 - e-filing of cases** in Consumer Commissions through **e-daakhil portal**.
 - Admissibility of complaints if admissibility is not decided within **21 days of filing**.
 - Court monitored mediation** to facilitate early disposal of cases.
 - Provision of product liability**.

2.60 National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC)

Why in News

- Recently, the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has shared the **annual budget/target** of the **National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC)**.
- Annual Budget/target of NBCFDC in **2021-22: Rs 472.00 crores**

National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC)

Establishment	→ 1992
Nodal Ministry	→ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Organization Type	A not for profit company (under section 8 of Companies Act 2013) A Government of India Undertaking
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">to promote economic and developmental activities for the benefit of Other Backward Classes (OBCs)to assist the poorer section of OBCs in skill development & self-employment ventures

2.61 Child Safety and Development

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Women and Child Development informed about the initiatives for the child safety and development.

Key Details

- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed and launched a portal namely **GHAR - GO Home and Re-Unite (Portal for Restoration and Repatriation of Child)**.
- Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act, 2015).
 - It is for ensuring safety, security, dignity and well-being of children.
 - In **sections 27-30**, the **Child Welfare Committees (CWCs)** have been empowered to take decisions about the children in need of care and protection.
 - Under **section 106**, every State Government has to constitute a **District Child Protection Unit (DCPU)** for every district to take up matters relating to children to ensure the implementation of JJ Act, 2015 and rules thereunder.
 - Head of DCPU: District Magistrates (DMs).

Note: Ghar Portal has been covered in November CA Magazine (Article 2.25).

2.62 Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)

Why in News?

- Recently, Union Minister of State of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions informed about the CPGRAMS.

Key details shared

- Over **60 lakh complaints** have been received on CPGRAMS during the last three years (Highest from Uttar Pradesh).
- From January 2021 to November 2022, a total of 2,40,932 appeals have been filed against 40,73,464 grievances disposed of during this period.

- Government has also established a **feedback Call Centre** to get citizen feedback on disposed of grievances.
 - They can also get the appeal filed through the Call Centre if they are not satisfied with the disposal of the grievance.

About CPGRAMS

- It is an **online platform** available to the citizens 24x7 to lodge their grievances to the public authorities on any subject related to service delivery.
 - It is a single portal connected to all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India and States.
 - It is also accessible to the citizens through **standalone mobile application** integrated with **UMANG** (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance).
- The CPGRAMS grievances shall be resolved within **30 days**.
- **Parent Ministry:** Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions (MoPPP).

Additional Information

- **The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances under MoPPP** is the nodal agency to formulate policy guidelines for citizen-centric governance in the country.

2.63 PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation)

Why in News?

- Recently, Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions has informed about the PRAGATI and Project Monitoring Group (PMG) in last two years.

PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation)

Launch	→ 25th March 2015 (As a part of Digital India Programme)
Aim	To address common man's grievances. To monitor and review important programmes and projects of the Central Government/ State Government
Technology Used	Digital data management, Video-conferencing and Geo-spatial technology
three-tier system	<p>PMO (Prime Minister Office)</p> <p>Union Government Secretaries</p> <p>Chief Secretaries of the States</p>
Other Key Features	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a ICT (Information and communication Technology) based Multi-modal Platform It brings e-transparency and e-accountability with real-time presence and exchange among the key stakeholders. It minimizes inter-departmental communication gap and thus minimizes the time taken for implementation of projects and schemes. 	

Project Monitoring Group (PMG)

Launch	→ 2013 (as a special cell in the Cabinet Secretariat)
	In February, 2019, it has been merged with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
Ministry	→ Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Aim	expedited resolution of issues and regulatory bottlenecks in projects with investments above Rs. 500 Crores in India
Eligibility of Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project can be Public or Private It can be from Union or state level It can be from any sector
	Project having investments above Rs. 500 Crores in India

2.64 CARINGS Portal & Adoption Regulations, 2022

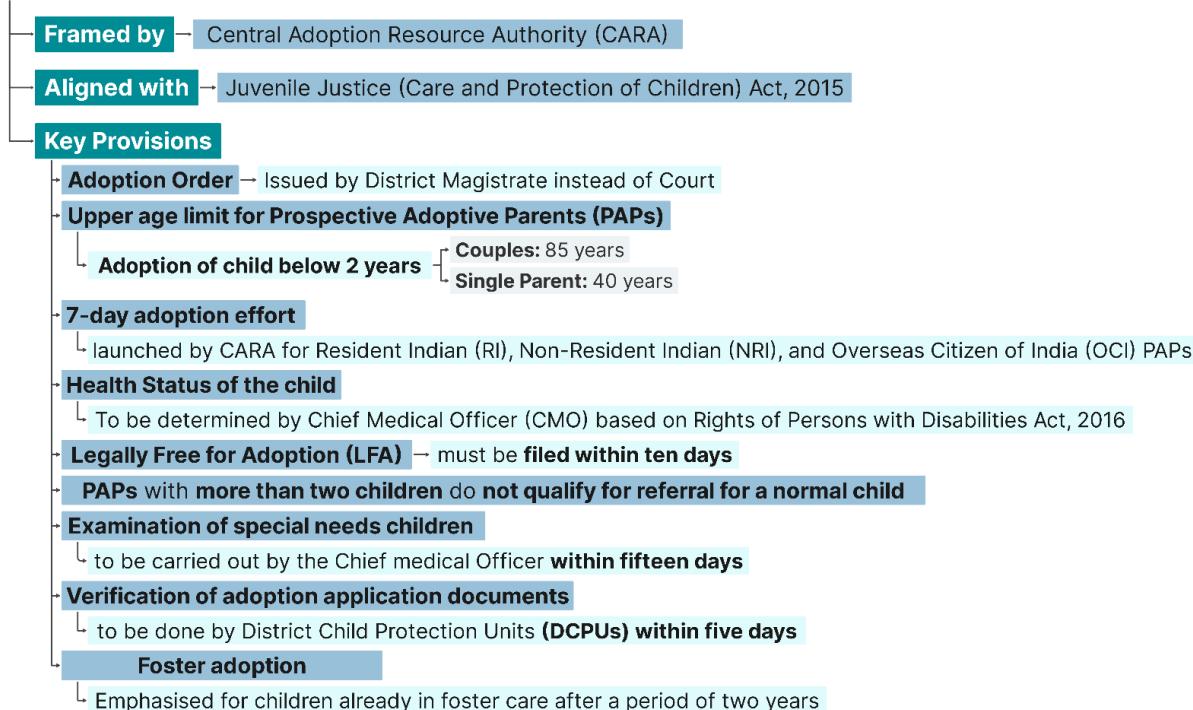
Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister for Women & Child Development has provided information about Child Adoption Resource Information & Guidance System (**CARINGS**) & Adoption Regulations, 2022.

About CARINGS

- Initiative of:** Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA).
- It is an **online portal** to facilitate **transparency in the adoption system**.

Adoption Regulations, 2022



2.65 Food Security (Assistance to State Government) (Amendment) Rules

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has briefed about **Food Security (Assistance to State Government) (Amendment) Rules, 2022**.



Additional Information

- As per the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)Control Order 2015, **operational responsibility of FPS lies with the respective State Governments**.

- The Government of India has proposed the sale of small (5kg) Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders at FPS.

2.66 CPGRAMS Annual Report 2022

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions** has released the **Annual Report** of the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (**CPGRAMS**) for the year 2022.

Highlights of CPGRAMS Annual Report 2022



2.67 UDID (Unique Disability Identity Card) portal

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has shared information about the Registration/Diagnostics/Treatment fee for Divyangjan having UDID cards.

Key details

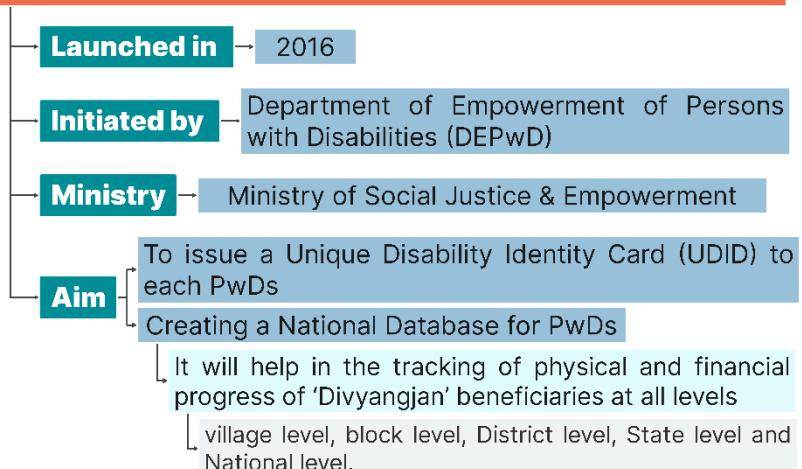
- Registration/Diagnostics/Treatment fee will be waived off for Divyangjan from **1st January, 2023**.
 - Eligibility:** All UDID card holders who have **disability certificate** and are **enrolled on the UDID portal**, irrespective of the **percentage of disability**.
 - This waiver will be applicable at:
 - All National Institutes** (Autonomous Bodies under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

- All Composite Regional Centers (CRCs) (extended arms of NIs).
- In addition, the full course fee will be waived off for Divyangjan students of various courses at National Institutes /CRCs.
 - **Eligibility:** Same as Above.
 - This will be effective for 2022-23 batch students onwards

Additional Information

- As per **Census 2011**, there are **2.68 crore Persons with Disabilities** in India, constituting **2.21%** of the total population of the country.

Unique Disability Identity Card Portal/ Project



2.68 Digital Security of Citizens

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology has shared information regarding Digital Security of Citizens.

Key details

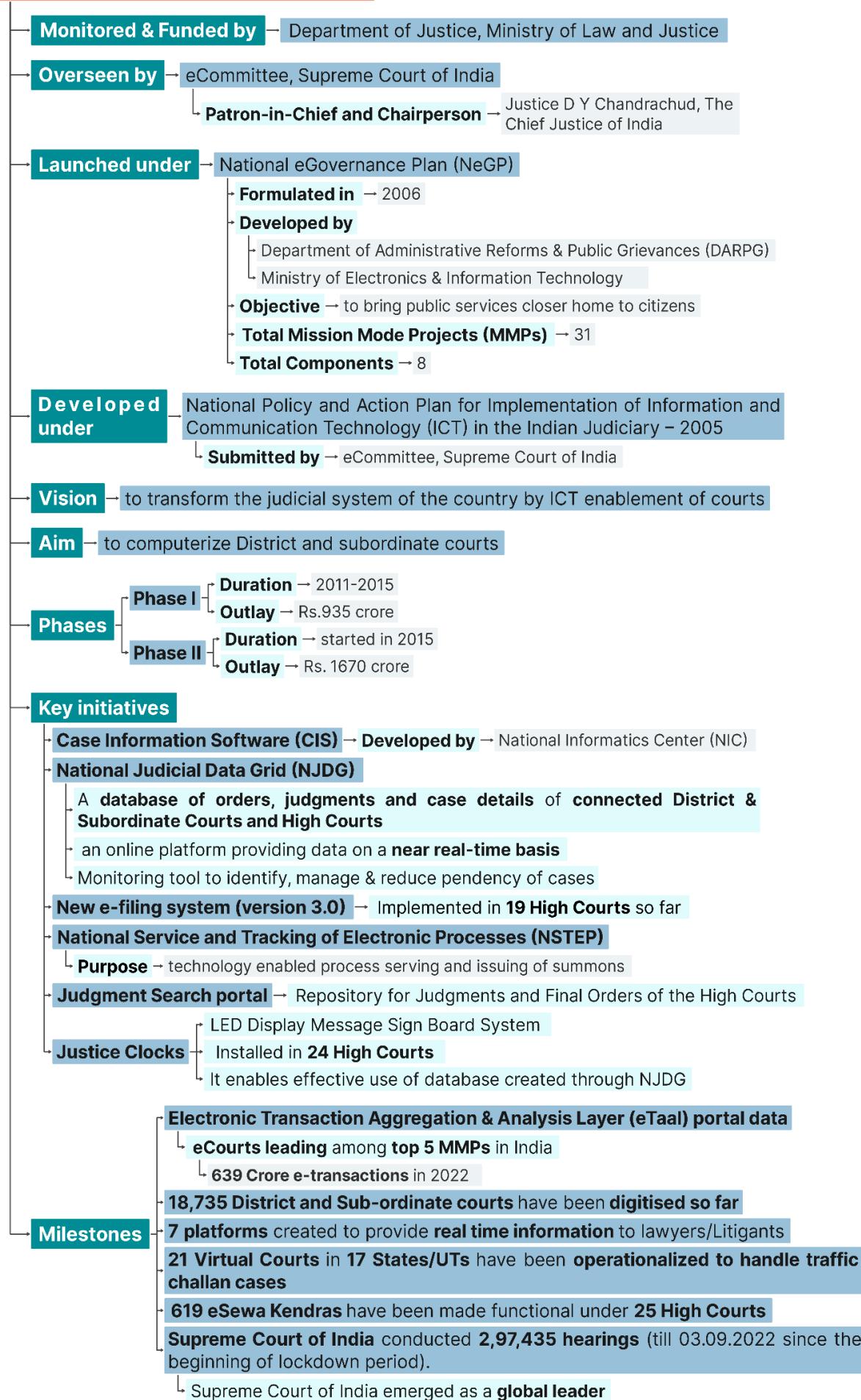
- The **Information Technology Act, 2000 ("IT Act")** contains several provisions for safeguarding users in the cyberspace.
 - **Section 66:** Penalization for various cybercrimes relating to computer resources, including dishonestly or fraudulently accessing a computer resource without the permission of its owner commonly referred to as **hacking**.
 - **Section 66C:** identity theft
 - **Section 66E:** Violation of bodily privacy
 - **Section 67:** Publishing or transmission of obscene material in electronic form
 - **Section 65:** Tampering with computer source documents
 - **Section 77B:** Cybercrimes are cognizable offences.
- **Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Phase-II project:**
 - Approved in 2014, implementation started in **April 2015**, for **5 years** (extended up to **June 2022**)
 - Implementation by: **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**
 - **Target:** To train more than **1.14 lakh persons** in various formal/non-formal courses and more than **13,000 Government officials**.

2.69 e-Courts Mission Mode Project

Why in News?

- Recently, the **e-Courts Mission Mode Project** was mentioned in the Parliament Winter Session.

e-Courts Mission Mode Project



GENDER ISSUES

2.70 Promoting Women Entrepreneurship

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** informed about the various initiatives taken for promotion of women entrepreneurship across the Country.

Key Details

- 'Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs and Start-ups by Women' (WEE) project.
 - Launch:** In 2018, initially for duration of 3 years (2018-21).
 - It has been extended by one year to **July, 2022**.
 - Supported by:** Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the **German Federal Ministry** for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).
 - Aim:** To improve the framework conditions for **women-led enterprises** in India.
 - It is implementing **incubation and acceleration programmes** for women micro-entrepreneurs in the States of **Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and 8 North Eastern States of the country**.
 - Initially, the project was implemented in **3 regions - NER States, Rajasthan & Telangana**, now the project has been extended in **2 more states** i.e. **Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh**.
 - Under the title of '**Her&Now**', a **film and media campaign** has been running to share the stories of successful women entrepreneurs.
- Entrepreneurship Development in Six Holy Cities Project.**
 - Aim:** To catalyse local entrepreneurial activities through involvement of potential & existing entrepreneurs, unemployed youth, college dropouts, youth from backward community etc.
 - The Project is being implemented in **Puri, Bodh Gaya, Kollur, Varanasi, Haridwar and Pandharpur**.

2.71 SHE STEM 2022

Why in News?

- Recently, the **3rd Edition of SHE STEM**, an annual event was successfully organised.
- Organised by:** **Embassy of Sweden in India** in partnership with the **Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, Government of India** and the **German Centre of Innovation and Research (DWIH New Delhi)**.
- It was organised as a part of the **Sweden India Nobel Memorial Week**.

Key Information

- It is an event to celebrate women in the fields of **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)** and **sustainability**.
- SHE STEM hosted the **#SHESTEM2022 Video Challenge** across Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, and Google Drive for students of **ages 13 to 17**.
 - The videos were assessed on novelty of **Idea, clarity of thought and articulation** and **sustainability or climate action angle**.
 - G. Nivethiga Rani** won the first prize at the video challenge.

2.72 Women Participation in Legislature

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of Law and Justice informed about the percentage of women elected/nominated to Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha.

Key Details

S.No	Name of House	% of Women (MP)
1.	Lok Sabha	14.94
2.	Rajya Sabha	14.05

Additional Information

- Women's Reservation Bill** is pending in the Parliament.
- Objective: To amend the Constitution of India to **reserve 33% seats** in the lower house of the parliament, Lok Sabha, and in all state legislative assemblies for women.

2.73 Females in Higher Education

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Education informed about the initiatives for female in higher education in Rajya Sabha.

Key details shared

- University Grants Commission** provides **special post graduate scholarships** for girl students across the country.
- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** is also giving **10000 (5000 for Diploma and 5000 for Degree) scholarships (PRAGATI)** to the girls entering in the technical education.
 - In implementation since 2014-15.
 - Amount:** Rs 50,000 per annum for every year of study.
 - Eligibility:**
 - Up to Two Girls per family.
 - Total income of the family less than Rs. 8 lakh per annum.
 - Admitted in AICTE approved institutions in 1st year of Degree/ Diploma level course or 2nd year of Degree/ Diploma level course through lateral entry.
- To improve female enrolment in the Undergraduate Programmes in IITs, supernumerary seats were created and as a result:
 - Female enrolment has been increased from **8% in 2016 to 20% in 2021-22** in IITs.
 - Similarly, the enrolment of girls in NITs has increased to nearly 22.1% in 2021-22.
- As per **AISHE (All India Survey on Higher Education) Report**, the number of female students enrolled in STEM Courses has increased from 41,97,186 in 2016-17 to 43,87,248 in 2020-21.

About AISHE Report

- Released by: Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.
- Key findings of the report published for **2019-2020 year**.
 - Institutions are categorized in 3 broad Categories:** University, College and Stand-Alone Institution
 - Total enrolment in higher education estimated at **38.5 million** (19.6 million boys, 18.9 million girls)
 - Females** constitute **49%** of the total enrolment.
 - Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher education in India is **27.1** (18-23 years of age group)

- GER for male population is 26.9 and for female, it is 27.3.
- **Uttar Pradesh stood first** with the highest student enrolment followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

2.74 National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)

Why in News?

- Recently, the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) has started the **18th capacity building programme for Secretary Generals of Atolls Councils of Maldives at New Delhi**.
- The capacity building programme is part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NCGG & Civil Service Commission of Maldives signed in June 2019.
 - **MoU Objective:** to provide capacity building training to 1,000 Maldives civil servants by 2024.
 - Under the MoU, **NCGG** will act as **nodal institution** for designing customized training modules.

National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)

Establishment	→ 2014
Nodal Department	→ Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances
Organization type	→ Autonomous Institution
Headquarters	→ New Delhi
Features	<p>Focus Areas: good governance, policy reforms, training and capacity building</p> <p>Offers capacity building to civil servants of foreign countries in partnership with Ministry of External Affairs</p>

2.75 National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)

Why in News?

- Recently, the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) has organized **capacity building programmes for civil servants of Maldives and Bangladesh** at Mussoorie, Uttarakhand.
- So far, **NCGG** has imparted training to civil servants of **15 countries**.

Additional Information

- NCGG has entered a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Government of Bangladesh** for the **capacity building of 1,800 civil servants by 2024**.

MONETARY AND FISCAL POLICY

2.76 Monetary Policy Committee

Why in News?

- Recently, the **bi-monthly meeting** of the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was chaired by Shaktikanta Das, Governor of RBI.

Key Highlights from Bimonthly Monetary Policy Statement- December 2022

S.No	Particulars	Key Information
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7.	Revised Policy Rates (came into effect from 7 December 2022)	Policy Repo Rate: 6.25% (increased by 35 basis points, fifth consecutive increase) Standing Deposit Facility Rate: 6.00% Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.50% Bank Rate: 6.50% Fixed Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
8.	Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Forecast for India for 2022-23 (FY23)	Decreased to 6.8% (previous forecast- 7%)
9.	Quarterly GDP Predictions	2022-23: 4.4% (Q3) & 4.2% (Q4) 2023-24: 7.1% (Q1) and 5.9% (Q2)
10.	Retail Inflation Projection for FY23	6.7%

Four Additional Measures Announced at the MPC meeting

S.No	Particulars	Key Information
1.	Introduction of single-block-and-multiple-debits feature in Unified Payments Interface (UPI)	It will enable a customer to block funds in his/her account for specific purposes , which can be debited whenever needed .
2.	Widening the scope of Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)	Scope of BBPS will be widened to include all categories of payments and collections, viz, a) Recurring & Non-recurring payments b) For all categories of billers (businesses and individuals). At present , BBPS only allows recurring bill payments to merchants .
3.	Hedging of Gold in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)	RBI has decided to allow resident entities to hedge their gold price risk on recognized exchanges in the IFSC
4.	Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) Holdings in Held to Maturity (HTM) category	RBI had earlier increased the limits under Held to Maturity (HTM) category from 19.5% to 23% of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) in respect of SLR eligible securities acquired on or after September 1, 2020, up to March 31, 2023 . The enhancement in HTM limit was made available up to March 31, 2023 . RBI has now decided to extend the dispensation of enhanced HTM limit of 23% up to March 31, 2024 to enable banks to better manage their investment portfolios RBI has also allowed banks to include securities acquired between September 1, 2020 and March 31, 2024 in the enhanced HTM limit. The HTM limits would be restored from 23% to 19.5% in a phased manner starting from the quarter ending June 30, 2024 .

2.77 Customs Act, 1962

Why in News?

- Recently, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (**CBIC**) has celebrated the **completion of 60 years of the enactment of the Customs Act, 1962**.

Key Highlights

- ‘Officer Hans’ – Mascot of CBIC was launched during the event.
 - It symbolizes **purity and knowledge of Customs**.
- A **Medallion for Customs** was also released.
 - It represents commitment to serve and safeguard the country through all three modes i.e. air, sea and land.



Customs Act, 1962

Enactment Date	→ 13th December 1962
Significance	<p>It provides for implementation and collection of customs duty on exports/imports</p> <p>It also deals Import/ Export procedures, Prohibitions on importation and exportation of goods, offences & penalties, etc.</p>

2.78 GST Council Meet

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister for Finance has chaired the **48th Meeting of the GST (Goods and Services Tax) Council**.

Key Details

- The higher rate of **compensation cess of 22%** is applicable to motor vehicle fulfilling all **four conditions**, namely, it is popularly known as **SUV (Sports Utility Vehicles)**, has engine capacity exceeding **1500 cc**, length exceeding **4000 mm** and a **ground clearance of 170 mm** or above.
- **Incentive paid to banks** by Central Government under the scheme for promotion of RuPay Debit Cards and **low value BHIM-UPI transactions** are in the nature of subsidy and thus **not taxable**.
- Measures for facilitation of trade:
 - **Decriminalization** under GST: The Council has recommended to -
 - Raise the **minimum threshold** of tax amount for launching prosecution under GST from **Rs. 1 Crore to Rs. 2 Crores**, except for the offence of issuance of invoices without supply of goods or services or both.
 - Reduce the compounding amount from the present range of **50% to 150% of tax amount to the range of 25% to 100%**.
 - GST Council in its 47th meeting had granted in-principle approval for **allowing unregistered suppliers** and composition taxpayers **to make intra-state supply** of goods through E-Commerce.

About GST Council

- It has been constituted as per the **279(A)** Article of amended constitution (101st Amendment).
- Union Cabinet approved the setting up of GST council on **12th Sept 2016**.
- **Chairperson** - Union Finance Minister, Members - The Union Minister of State, in-charge of Revenue of finance. The Minister In-charge of finance or taxation or any other Minister nominated by each State.

INFLATION

2.79 Price Monitoring Centres

Why in News?

- Recently, the Secretary, **Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)** in a workshop has urged the States to establish the **Price Monitoring Centres** in all districts.
- Central Government intends to achieve the target of having **750 price monitoring centres** by **March 2023**.

Key Information Shared

- Center is making every effort to manage the prices of basic commodities through the **Price Monitoring Division (PMD)**.
 - PMD** in the DCA is responsible for **monitoring prices** of selected **22 essential commodities** from **340 market centres** spread across the country.
- Funding for necessary infrastructure for the effective operation of consumer commissions: **50% by State Government** and another **50% by Central Government**.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

2.80 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry has shared **India's FDI inflow figures** in the Parliament.

S.No	Financial Year	Annual FDI Inflow (USD)
1.	2014-2015	45.15 billion
2.	2021-22	84.84 billion (India's highest ever annual FDI inflow)

EXPORT-IMPORT POLICY

2.81 Work From Home (WFH) for SEZ units

Why in News?

- Recently, the Department of Commerce (DOC), Ministry of Commerce and Industry amended the SEZ (Special Economic Zone) rules to liberalize Work from Home for all SEZ units upto **31 December 2023**.
- DOC amended the rule by inserting a new **rule 43(A)** to enable Work from Home (WFH).
- WFH can be provided upto **100%** of all employees of the SEZ unit.

About SEZs

- It is a specially marked territory or enclave within the national borders of a country that has more liberal economic laws than the rest of the country.
- In India, the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Policy was announced in **April 2000**.
- The **Special Economic Zones Act, 2005** came into effect on **10th February, 2006**.
- SEZs are administered as per the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006.

Additional Information

- Asia's first EPZ (Export Processing Zone) was set up in Kandla, Gujarat in 1965

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS /REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

2.82 Group of Twenty (G20)

News 1

- Under the G20 Presidency, India would be hosting the **G20 Leaders' Summit (18th annual edition)** for the first time in 2023 at New Delhi.
- Duration of India's G20 Presidency:** 1 year [December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023].
- Theme of India's G20 Presidency:** 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.
- Five Identified Priority Issues Under India's G20 Presidency:** growth and prosperity, resilient global value chains, Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), logistics, and World Trade Organization (WTO) reform.

News 2

- Recently, the **1st Sherpa Meeting of India's G20 Presidency** was held at Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- The meeting provided an **overview of India's G20 priorities** across **13 Working Groups**.
- Participants to the meeting:** G20 Members, 9 Guest countries and 14 International Organizations.

Key Highlights

- A side event - **Transforming Lives at the Midpoint of the 2030 Agenda: Accelerating Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in an Era of Cascading and Multiple Crises** was organized.
 - A dialogue on '**Global & Regional Economy: Prospects & Challenges**' was organized.
 - The Sherpas visited historical sites viz, **Kumbalgarh fort and Ranakpur temple** in Rajasthan.
 - Kumbalgarh fort** is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) World heritage site
- Group of Twenty (G20)**

The premier forum for international economic cooperation	 Establishment → 1999 Members → 19 countries + European Union (EU) Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, UK, USA & EU
Guest Countries (2023) → Nine → Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and UAE	
G20 Work Tracks → <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sherpa Track → Coordinated by: Sherpas of member countries India's Sherpa: Amitabh Kant Finance Track → Led by: Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors 	
Secretariat → <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No permanent Secretariat Presidency supported by G20 Troika – previous, current and incoming Presidencies Present G20 Troika - Indonesia (2022), India (2023) and Brazil (2024) 	
Significance → <ul style="list-style-type: none"> G20 members represent around 85% of the global GDP G20 members represent over 75% of the global trade G20 members constitute about two-thirds of the world population 	

2.83 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

Why in News?

- Recently, the 9th Meeting of Ministers of Justice of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States was represented by Union Minister of Law & Justice, Government of India.

Key Details of Meeting

- For the SCO Development Strategy until 2025, the Ministers of (Law and) Justice of the SCO Member States declared the following:



Additional Information

- The next Meeting of the Ministers of Justice of the SCO Member States will be held in **2023** in the **People's Republic of China**.

2.84 European Union-India Competition Week 2022

Why in News?

- Recently, the 5th edition of the **European Union (EU)-India Competition Week** was inaugurated at the Competition Commission of India (CCI) Headquarter, New Delhi.
- Duration: **5th to 7th December**.

Key Information

- It is a **technical cooperation program**.
- It provides a platform for **dialogue and exchange of good practices** between competition authority officials and experts from the EU and India.
- The cooperation between CCI and **Directorate General for Competition of the European Commission** is part of the **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** signed by the two authorities in **November 2013**.

2.85 Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry has participated in the **Ministerial Meeting on Economic Benefits** for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF).
- Earlier, India agreed to three out of four pillars of IPEF, which are **Supply Chains, Tax & Anti-Corruption** and **Clean Energy**.

Key details

- The Union Minister also invited to all partners countries for the next special negotiation round for Pillars 2-4 of IPEF to be **hosted by India** on **8-11 February, 2023**.

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)



2.86 Urban-20 (U20) event

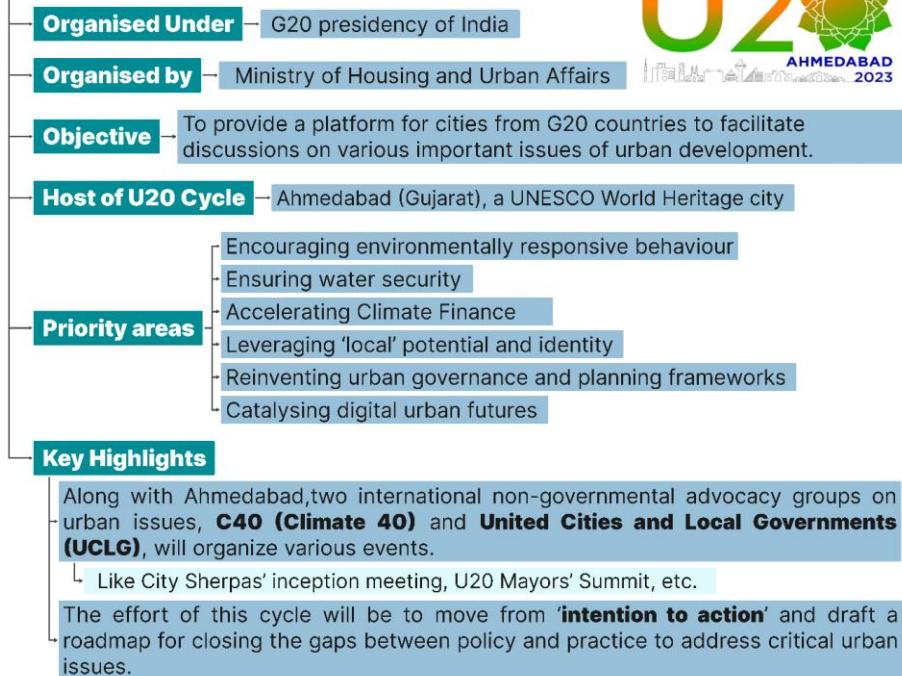
Why in News?

- Recently, the Chief Minister of Gujarat unveiled logo, website, and social media handles of Urban-20 event.

Additional information

- it is estimated that cities will host **two-thirds** of all people by 2050.
- Cities also consume over **75%** of the world's energy, generate **75%** of related emissions.
- Ahmedabad became a member of the **C40 on 30 June 2022** and has been a member of other global alliances like **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy** and **International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)**.

Urban-20 (U20) event



2.87 Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has informed about the Bilateral trade between India and the GCC.

Key details

S.No	particulars	Key figures
3.	Bilateral Trade between India and the GCC	USD 87.35 billion (FY 2020-21) USD 154.66 billion (FY 2021-22) (An increase of 77.06%)
4.	During the current FY 2022-23, for the period April-October 2022	USD 111.71 billion (Up by USD 79.49 billion from previous year's same period) (Increase of 40.53%)
5.	During the period FY 2017-18 to FY 2021-22, bilateral trade between India and the GCC has grown by	10.57% on a compounded annual growth rate basis.

INDIAN AGRICULTURE

2.88 Agriculture Investment Portal (Krishi Nivesh Portal)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare (MoA&FW) inaugurated the integrated "Agriculture Investment Portal".

Key Information

- It is a one stop solution to all the agri-investors who are looking to invest in India in the field of agriculture and allied sector.
- It will be the dedicated **Investor Facilitation Cell** of MoA&FW.

Additional Information Shared

- The Government of India has allocated a **special package of over Rs 1.5 lakh crore (including the Rs. 1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund)** for agriculture and allied sectors under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- The budget for the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW) has been increased from **Rs. 21933.50 crore (2013-14)** to **Rs. 1,24,000 crore (2022-23)**, which is a growth of **465%**.

2.89 International Year of Millets 2023

Why in News?

- Recently, the opening ceremony of the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 has been organised in **Rome, Italy**.
- Organised by:** Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.
- Indian Representation: Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- India's vision is to make IYM 2023 a '**People's Movement**' alongside positioning India as the '**Global Hub for Millets'**.

Key Information

- United Nations General Assembly (**UNGA**) on **5th March 2021**, declared the year **2023** as the **International year of the Millets** (Proposed by India with the support of 72 countries).
- In April 2018, Millets were rebranded as "**Nutri Cereals**", and the year **2018** was declared as the **National Year of Millets** by Indian Government.

About Food and Agricultural Organization

- It is a **specialized agency** of the United Nations (Establishment: 16th October 1945).
- **Objective:** To lead international efforts to defeat hunger.
- **Members:** **195** (194 countries and European Union) - India is one of the founding members of FAO.
- **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy.

Additional Information

- Millets are considered '**Smart Food**' as they are easy to cultivate, mostly organic and contains high nutritional value.
- India is poised to become the global hub for millets with a production of more than **170 lakh tonnes** which makes for more than **80 % of the millets produced in Asia**.
- It is grown in about 131 countries and is the traditional food for around 60 crore people in Asia & Africa.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA

2.90 Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has informed about the **Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP)**.
- **Objective** of Plan: Streamlining the existing regulations and processes and eliminating unnecessary requirements and procedures for ease of doing business.
- Undertaken by: **The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) since 2015**.

Key Details

- In this plan, all States and UTs are assessed on the basis of implementation of designated reform parameters.
- The Action Plan for the year 2022 covers **352 reform points**.
- The Plan is designed keeping in mind **2 factors** viz. **Measurability** and **Comparability across States**.
- To support this initiative, an **online portal**, showcasing rankings was developed and launched in April 2016.

Additional Information

- **DPIIT** is the **Nodal Department** for coordinating the initiatives taken under Ease of Doing Business.

2.91 National Single Window System (NSWS)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry informed that 44000 approvals have been facilitated by National Single Window System (NSWS) since its launch.

National Single Window System (NSWS)

Launch	— 22nd September 2021 (Soft Launched)
Created by	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) As per the budget announcement of creation of an Investment Clearance Cell (ICC).
Ministry	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Aim	To enable the identification and obtaining of approvals and clearances needed by investors, entrepreneurs, and businesses in India
Key Highlights	
Currently, it accepts Applications for 248 G2B (Government to Business) clearances From 26 Central Ministries/ Departments and 16 State Governments.	
Know Your Approvals (KYA) module. It Provides guidance for 32 Central Department and 31 States/UTs.	
Visitors coming from 157 countries on NSWS. — Top Countries: US, UK and UAE	

Additional Information

- It is expected that the onboarding of remaining **8 Ministries/Deptts of Govt of India** would happen by **31 Dec 2022** and the **balance states/UTs** by **31 March 2023**.

2.92 Inland Water Transport (IWT)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways informed about the initiatives taken to promote inland water transport in the country.

Key Details

- **111 waterways** (including **5 existing** and **106 new**) spread over **24 states** have been declared as **National Waterways** under the **National Waterways Act, 2016**.
 - The total length of NWs is **20,275 kms**.
- Waterway usage charges levied by the **IWAI (Inland waterways Authority of India)** on vessels moving on National Waterways have been **waived in July 2020**, initially for a period of three years.

About Inland Waterways Authority of India

- It is an **autonomous organization** constituted on **27th October, 1986**.
- Constituted Under: **Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985**.
- It is primarily responsible for development, maintenance and regulation of those waterways which have been declared as NWs under National Waterways Act, 2016.
- Head office: **Noida**, Uttar Pradesh.

Additional Information

- **IWT Wing** is responsible for development, management, implementation of capacity building and institutional strengthening initiatives in the National Waterways (NWs).
- **Longest NW: NW 1** - Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System (Haldia - Allahabad).
 - Length: 1620 KM.
 - States Covered: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal.

2.93 National Research Development Corporation

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of State for Science and Technology has informed that from **1st January, 2023**, **National Research Development Corporation (NRDC)** will undertake **Technology Commercialization** for benefit of Start-Ups.

Key details shared

- NRDC has concluded more than **5000 license agreements** representing technologies in almost all industry sectors.
- it has facilitated in **filing over 2000 patents** in India.
- It assists the **Inter-Ministerial Board (IMB)** of DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) for technically evaluating Start-ups.
 - It is for their recognition to **avail benefits extended by Government of India**.
 - Till date over **7500 applications of Start-ups** have been assessed.

About National Research Development Corporation (NRDC)

- Established in **1953**, it is a Public Sector Enterprise under Section 8 Company (Non-Profit Organization).
- Parent Ministry:** Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology.
- It is part of Start-Up India Action plan.

2.94 Indigenous Defence Production

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence has shared the details about indigenous defence production.

Value of Indigenous Defence Production

- For **FY 2020-21**: Rs 84,643 crore; For **FY 2021-2022**: Rs 94,846 crore.

Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)

- In **October 2021**, **seven new DPSUs** were carved out of the **erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board**.
- They have been incorporated as Government companies under Companies Act 2013.
- DPSUs envisage to **augment the volume of defence production**.

2.95 Software Exports Data

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, has shared data National Association of Software & Services Companies (**NASSCOM**) data on **exports from Indian Information Technology/ Business Process Management (IT/ BPM) sector**.

S.No	Financial Year	Exports (in USD Billion)
1.	2020-21	152
2.	2021-2022	178

2.96 Government-e-Marketplace (GeM)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry launched the **GeM services** through **Common Service Center e-Governance Services India Ltd.** (CSC-SPV), and **India Post**, Department of Post.
- Objective:** To involve last-mile buyers, sellers and service providers in public procurement.
- Union Minister mentioned that GeM has facilitated over **1 Crore orders** and 55% of these orders are through MSMEs.

Background

- Earlier in May 2022, GeM, CSC-SPV and India Post had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
 - Under this MoU, **5.2 lakh+ Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLE)** under CSC-SPV and approx. **1.5 lakh+ India Post Office (PO-CSC) operators** across India are being trained to assist the followings on GeM portal:

Government-e-Marketplace



- It is a National Public Procurement Portal.**
- Launch** → 2016
- Ministry** → Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Aim** → To enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement
- 3 Pillars** → **1. Efficiency, 2. Transparency and 3. Inclusivity**
- Buyers on GeM** → All Central /State Government departments, cooperative societies and PSUs.
- Sellers on GeM** → Can be from across all segments: Government or Private
- Owner of Portal** → GeM SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle)- Registered under section 8(Companies Act 2013)

2.97 Khadi Reform and Development Programme

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has shared information regarding **Khadi Reforms and Development Programme** in Lok Sabha.

Khadi Reforms and Development Programme

- Initiated in** → 2009
- Implemented by** → Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
- Assistance from** → Asian Development Bank
 - Loan of **USD 150 Million** was provided to Government of India
- Aim** → Revitalizing the Khadi and Village Industries through Strategic/Policy level Reforms and Institutional Reforms to achieve the following objectives:
 - Sustainability of Khadi
 - Artisan Welfare
 - Thrust on Traditional Village industries

Khadi Reform Package envisages reform support in the following areas

- Artisan Earnings and Empowerment
- Direct Reform Assistance to 449 Khadi Institutions (KIs).
- Implementation of a Management Information System (MIS).

About Khadi and Village Industries Commission

- It was established in **April 1957** under the Act of Parliament, the **'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 56'**.
- It is responsible for the promotion of Khadi and other rural industries.
- Parent Ministry:** Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

2.98 QR Codes for LPG Cylinders

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas has shared information regarding pilot study for QR (Quick Response) code tagging of cylinders.

Key details

- A **pilot study** for QR code tagging of cylinders has been undertaken by **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)** at Madanpur Khadar Bottling Plant, Delhi.
 - Objective:** To resolve issues of pilferage, tracking and tracing and better inventory management of gas cylinders.
- Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)** has accorded approval for a period of 3 months w.e.f. 01.09.2022 for filling of QR coded LPG cylinders at the plant.
 - Subsequently, it has **extended the permission further for 3 more months** i.e. till 28th February 2023.

About PESO

- Establishment: **1898** (It is formerly known as Department of Explosives).
- Objective:** To administer the responsibilities delegated under the Explosives Act 1884 and Petroleum Act 1934 and the Rules made there under with the motto "**Safety First**".
- Headquarter:** Nagpur, Maharashtra.

2.99 Steel Industry of India

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Union Minister of Steel** has attended the launch event of Kalyani **Group's first green steel** brand '**Kalyani FeRRESTA**' in New Delhi, where he shared some information regarding Steel industry of India.

Key details

- India is the **2nd Largest producer** of steel in the world (1st is China).
- Target:** Doubling production capacity to **300 MT by 2030** from the current level of 154 MT (As per National Steel Policy 2017).
- He emphasized on balance between steel industry's capacity enhancement targets & green steel adoption for achieving net zero target by 2070.
- He mentioned that the industry needs to move from **fossil fuel intensive BF-BOF (Blast Furnace – Basic Oxygen Furnace) route and Coal-based DRI-EAF/IF (Direct Reduced Iron-Electric Arc Furnace/Induction Furnace)** to **gas-based DRI-EAF** to ensure a successful transition to green steel.
 - Green Steel is **the manufacturing of steel without the use of fossil fuels**.

Additional information

- According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), emissions from steel must be reduced by **50% by 2050** and then continue to fall, to meet the world's climate goals.

2.100 Dedicated Freight Corridor

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of Railways has shared information regarding the Dedicated Freight Corridor in the Lok Sabha
- For dedicated freight movement, Indian Railways has undertaken a mega-infrastructure project namely the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC).

Key details shared

- DFC comprises of:
 - **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC): 1506 KM**
 - From Dadri, UP to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Maharashtra.
 - **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC): 1337 KM**
 - From Ludhiana, Punjab to Sonnagar, West Bengal).

Background

- In 2005, at Japan-India Summit Meeting, India and Japan have signed a **co-operation agreement** for a feasibility study and possible funding of the dedicated rail freight corridors by Japanese Government (Report submitted in 2007).
- **Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL)**: it was set up as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for construction, operation, and maintenance of the DFCs.
 - Establishment: On **30th October 2006** as a schedule A company under the Company's Act 1956.

2.101 Indian Aviation Sector

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation has shared the information regarding Indian Aviation Sector in the Lok Sabha.

Key details shared

- **Domestic growth rate** registered in the Indian Aviation sector in FY 2021-22:
 - **58.5%** (It was -61.7% in 2019-20 due to Covid)
 - Domestic passengers: **167 million**.
- The **percentage growth of the airline sector** in 2021-22 was around 47% as compared to 2020-21.
- Measures taken by Government for growth of aviation sector include the followings:
 - AAI and other Airport Developers have targeted capital outlay of approximately **Rs. 98,000 crore** in airport sector in the **next five years**.
 - 'In-Principle' approval has been accorded for setting up of **21 Greenfield Airports**.
 - Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate has been reduced from **18% to 5%** for domestic Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services.

ROLE OF INDIAN BANKS AND RESERVE BANK IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

2.102 Indian Post Payments Bank

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Communications has informed about the Indian Post Payments Bank in Lok sabha.

Key details shared

- In FY 2022-23, Department of Posts sanctioned Rs 200 crore to IPPB centrally (Not State/ UT wise). (Sanctioned fund has been allocated and utilized).
- At present, Uttar Pradesh has the highest accounts in IPPB.

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)

Launch	in 2017 as Pilot project in Ranchi (Jharkhand) and Raipur (Chhattisgarh). In August 2018 , the Union Cabinet approved Rs.1,435 crore for setting up the bank On 1st Sept 2018 , launched by the Prime Minister of India
Set up by	Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication
Owned by	Government of India (100% equity)
Aim	To make every Indian household financially secure and empowered by providing access to efficient banking services.
Objective	To enable around 1.38 lakh Post Offices to provide Banking services
Tagline	"Aapka bank, aapke dwar"
Motto	Every customer is important, every transaction is significant, and every deposit is valuable.
Headquarter	New Delhi
Services offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accounts → Current Account, Saving Account, Salary Account - Money transfer → Domestic Money Transfer services (IMPS, NEFT, RTGS, UPI) DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) - Social Security Schemes → Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSA), Public Provident Fund (PPF) - Aadhaar based services, Bill Payment services, Issuance of Digital Life Certificates - Post Office Savings Account (POSA) linkage with IPPB accounts - Paperless & Instant account opening, Virtual Debit Card - Cash Management services: Collection of dues for corporates/ Government bodies
Others	

Additional information

- Nearly **1.9 lakh Postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks** with a smartphone and biometric devices are providing doorstep banking Services.
- Presently IPPB has **650 branches** and **1.37 lakh banking access points** through Post Offices network in pan India.

PUBLIC FINANCE - POLITICAL ECONOMY - - SERVICES SECTOR IN INDIA

2.103 National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Ministry of Finance** informed that **NIIF-managed funds** have invested in **16 entities** covering ports and logistics, renewable energy, roads, digital infrastructure, healthcare, manufacturing, etc.

Additional information

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in November 2022 to facilitate investment across multiple sectors in India through an **India Japan Fund**.
 - Parties: **NIIF Limited (NIIFL)** and **Japan Bank for International Development (JBIC)**.
- Currently, NIIF manages assets of over **USD 4.3 billion** through its funds.

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)



1.1 Online request Transfer Portal for Gramin Dak Sevaks

Why in News?

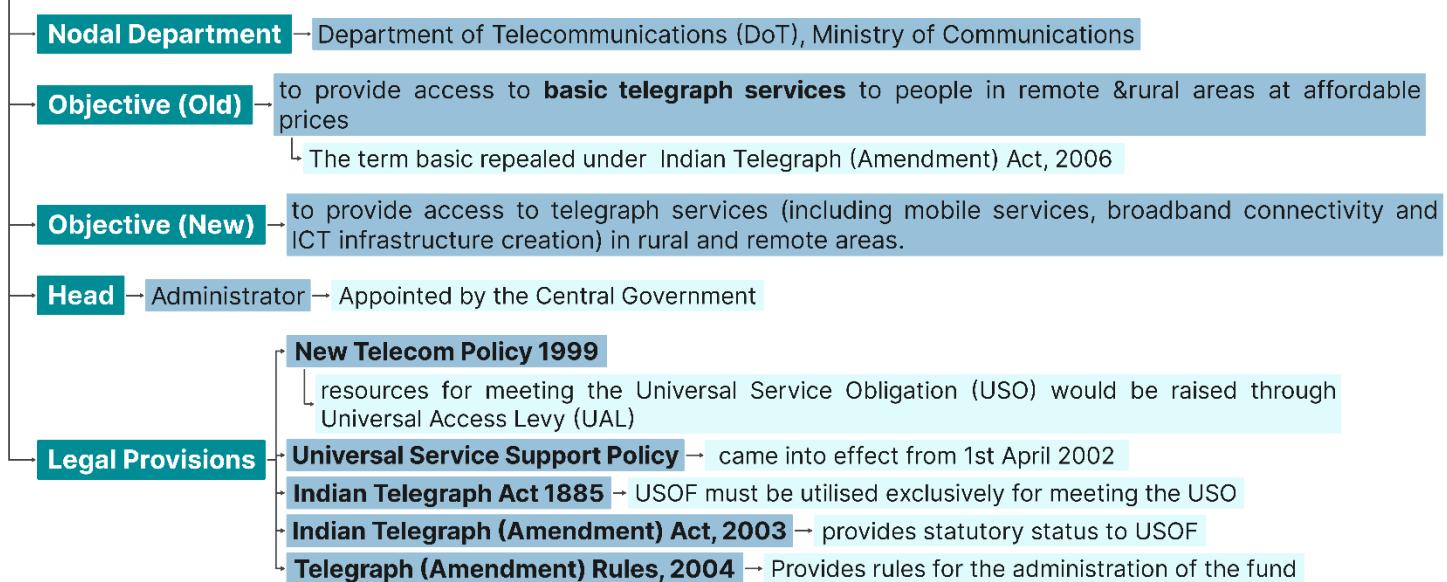
- Recently, the **Department of Posts**, under the **Ministry of Communications**, has launched an **Online Request Transfer Portal for Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS)**.
- The portal has made the entire transfer process of GDS paperless.

1.2 Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State for Communications has briefed about the **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**.

Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)



Additional Information

- Total Number of villages in India** (as per data of Registrar General of India as of November 2019): 6,44,131 villages.
- Villages having mobile coverage (as of March 2022)**: 6,05,230 villages.
- Villages with no mobile towers and coverage**: 38,901 villages.

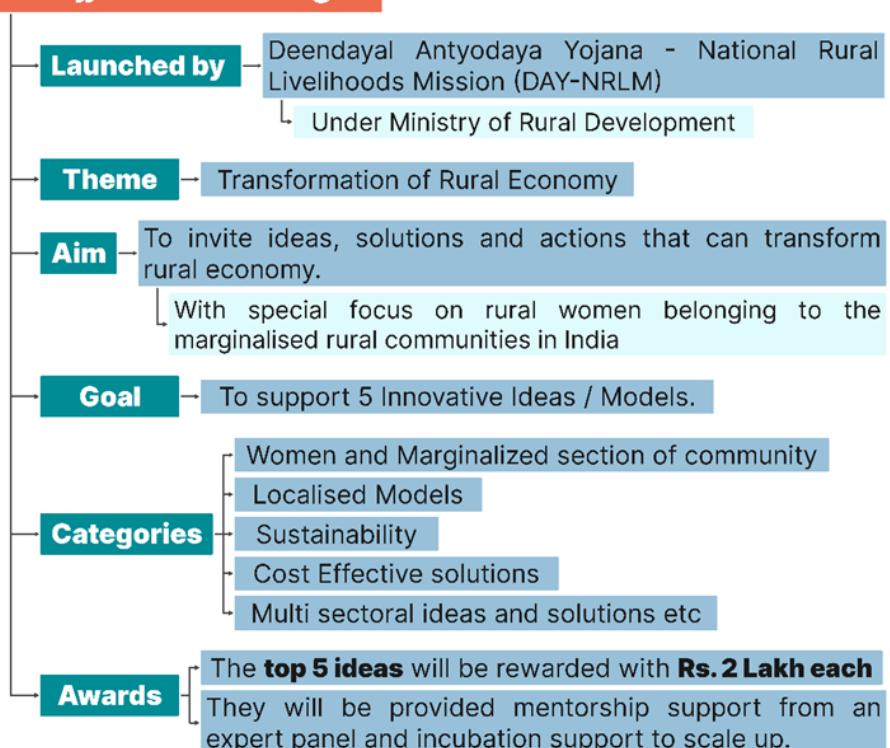
SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

2.104 Prajjwala Challenge

Why in News?

- Recently, the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) has launched the Prajjwala Challenge.

Prajjwala Challenge



URBANISATION AND MIGRATION

2.105 City Finance Rankings 2022 & City Beauty Competition

Why in News?

- Recently, these 2 key initiatives have been launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** to support India's **Urban Rejuvenation** journey.



City Beauty Competition



2.106 Migration of Youth from North Eastern Region

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of Development of the North Eastern Region has provided information on **migrants in the North East Region (NER) states**.

S.No	Particulars	Key Details
1.	Percentage of intra-state migrants from NER	93.80%
	Percentage of inter-state migrants from NER	6.20%

2.	All-India figure for inter-state migration	11.90%
3.	All India figure for intra-state migration	88.10%
4.	Top 3 states to which inter-state migration from the NER States occur	West Bengal (39.56%), Delhi (7.66%) Maharashtra (7.4%).

Initiatives for the Welfare of Migrants from NER

- **Interlinking of Key Portals**
 - Udyam (Udyam Registration)
 - e-Shram
 - National Career Service (NCS)
 - Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee-Employer Mapping (ASEEM)
 - Initiative of → Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)
 - A directory of skilled workforce
- **NCS Centres** — 25 NCS centres for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST)
 - Out of the 25, 6 are in the North Eastern Region (NER)
 - in addition to the 2 centres for the differently abled
- **DigiSaksham**
 - Launched by → NCS, Microsoft
 - Aim → to empower job seekers & youth from rural & semi-urban areas by imparting digital skills
- **Common Norms (2015) for schemes implemented by MSDE**
 - 30% or the last tranche of base cost of all skilling schemes is being incentivised for placement
 - Additional amount for skilling provided for Special Areas including NER
 - Post - Placement Support → Rs. 1,500 per month for Special Areas including NER States
- **Advancing North East portal**
 - Launched by → North Eastern Council (NEC) under Ministry of Development of North-East Region (MDoNER)
 - One Stop Solution Portal for career and livelihood of the youths of the NER
- **Special Police Unit for North East Region (SPUNER)**
 - Set up by → Delhi Police
 - Helpline → 1093
- **A three member monitor committee**
 - Set up by → Ministry of Home Affairs
 - Mandate → to monitor issues & redress grievances relating to racial discrimination faced by people from NER residing in different parts of India
- **Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE)**
 - Parent Ministry → MSDE
 - Location → Guwahati, Assam
 - offers various skill development & entrepreneurship development programmes
- **Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979**
 - Act passed to protect the interest of the migrant workers
 - Subsumed into Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020

INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

2.107 Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of law and Justice has shared some information about the Election laws (amendment) Act, 2021.

Key details shared

- It allows Electoral Registration Officers to require the existing or prospective elector **to provide the Aadhaar number** for the **Purpose of establishing identity on a voluntary basis**.

Background

- In July 2022, The Election Commission of India (ECI), has launched the programme to collect the Aadhaar number of existing and prospective electors on a **voluntary basis** from 1st August, 2022 in all States and UTs.
- Linking of Aadhaar is process driven and **no targets** have been given for linking Aadhaar with EPIC.
- 1st April, 2023** is the date on or before which every person whose name is included in the electoral roll may intimate his Aadhaar number in accordance with **section 23 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950**.

2.108 “Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore” campaign

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of State of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions has launched the **“Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur 2022 campaign”** across the country as part of the Good Governance Week celebrations.

Key details shared

- A retired DC/DM (District Collector / Magistrate) of a District in preparation of Vision document of the District for the Year 2047, District @100.
- All Districts of the country will organize a workshop on **“Good Governance Practices/Initiatives”** under this campaign.
 - 373 good governance practices** are identified for discussion in District Level Workshops.

Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore” campaign (2nd Edition)

It is a Nationwide campaign at Tehsil/District Level
Launch by → Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
Objective → For redressal of public grievances and improving Service Delivery across all the Tehsils/Districts of India.
Organised Under → 2nd “Sushasan Saptah”(Good Governance Week)
Organiser → Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances
Focus on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redressal of pending public grievances in CPGRAMS and State Portals. Targets: For CPGRAMS -31,980 and for State Portals - 19,16,142 No. of services added for online service delivery 3,120 New Services identified by DCs will be added. Disposal of Service Delivery applications → Target: 81,27,944 Collation of Good Governance practices and their dissemination

About Good Governance Week (Sushasan Saptah)

- Duration:** 19-25 December 2025
- Organised by:** Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension.

Additional information

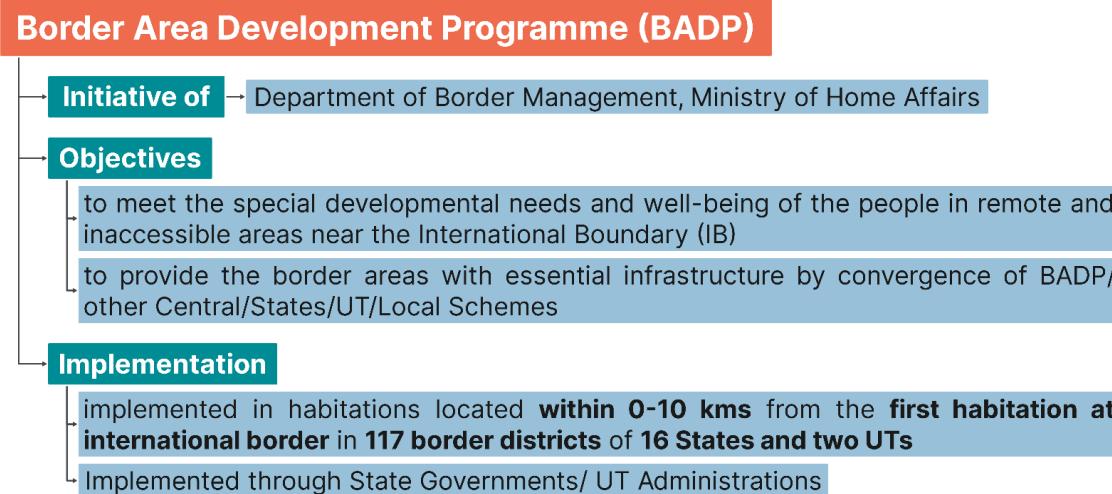
- A portal for ‘Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur’ 2022 for online updation of progress by District Collectors and State Governments has been also launched.
- At present, over **86%** of the grievances in government are filed online.

- The Minister has also inaugurated an **Exhibition on Good Governance Practices**.
-

2.109 Border Area Development Programme (BADP)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence has briefed about the **Border Area Development Programme (BADP)**.



2.110 Revamped e-HRMS 2.0 Portal

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions has launched the **revamped e-HRMS (Human Resources Management System) 2.0 Portal** to mark Good Governance Day (25th December).

Key details of e-HRMS 2.0 Portal

- It will provide the following services in a digital mode to the employees:
 - Transfers (Rotation/Mutual), Deputation, APAR (Annual Performance Assessment Report), IPR (Immovable Property Return), iGOT Trainings, Vigilance Status, Deputation Opportunities, Service Book and other basic HR Services like Leave, Tour, Reimbursements etc.
- It is the **first digital system in Govt. of India** to provide end-to-end HR Services.

About Mobile App of iGOT Karmayogi

- The Union Minister also launched **Mobile Application of iGoT Karmayogi Portal by Karmayogi Bharat (Special Purpose Vehicle)**.
 - **Aim:** To create professional, well trained and future ready civil service for India.
 - **Key facilities of App:**
 - Learn anytime, anywhere, on any device (**even offline**)
 - Learn directly from top institutes and experts and enrich their profile.
 - Identify their gaps & needs and upgrade their skills, attitudes and knowledge.

About Revamped Probita Portal.

- Union Minister also launched the **revamped Probita Portal**:
 - It was originally launched **in 2017**.
- It will capture **real time information** regarding the performance and efficiency of government servants.



OTHER NEWS

SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – HEALTH

2.111 Anaemia Mukta Lakhya Abhiyan (Amlan)

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Government of Odisha** has launched **Anaemia Mukta Lakhya Abhiyan (Amlan)**.
- It is a **multi-departmental campaign** for accelerated reduction of anaemia or haemoglobin deficiency in **Odisha**.

2.112 Grant for Research in Health

Why in News?

- Recently, Experts from the **Public Health Foundation of India** and **University of Leicester** have been awarded a **prestigious grant** of nearly **£10 million** by the **National Institute for Health and Care Research**, United Kingdom.
- Aim:** To improve the health outcomes and re-orient health systems to effectively address **multiple long-term conditions (MLTCs) or multimorbidity** in **India and Nepal**.

Key Details

- The researchers will collaborate with the All India Institute of Medical Science (**AIIMS**), **Jodhpur**, Health Related Information Dissemination Amongst Youth (**HRIDAY**), **Delhi**, and Kathmandu Medical College (**KMC**), **Kathmandu**.
- In first stage of the research implementation:**
 - The researchers will review existing evidences, generate new data as required and identify the best care approach for people with multimorbidity.
- In addition, Public Health Foundation of India and University of Leicester with other co-applicant institutions will deliver short courses to approximately 400 participants.

2.113 Meghalaya Mental Health & Social Care Policy

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Government of Meghalaya** has launched its **Mental Health and Social Care Policy**.
- Meghalaya** has become the **first state in the Northeast** and the **third state in India** to launch such a policy.
 - Kerala and Karnataka** are the other two states to have such policies.
- Objective:** to promote overall mental health and well-being and facilitate appropriate access and care pathways.

Additional Information

- The **Government of India** had launched **India's first ever National Mental Health Policy** in **2014**.

2.114 National Workshop on ACSM to end TB in India

Why in News?

- Recently, the **National Workshop on Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization (ACSM) to end Tuberculosis (TB) in India** was held at New Delhi.
- During the event, **Meghalaya Government** received an award for **Best Practice in ACSM in Tuberculosis control**.
 - Meghalaya Government** had adopted **TB Mukt Bharat campaign**, or **Jan Andolan** (people's movement) against Tuberculosis.

Note: TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan discussed in September 2022 CA Magazine (News 2.6)

2.115 E-Sushrut

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Government of Uttar Pradesh**, in collaboration with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (**C-DAC**), has launched **E-Sushrut Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)** in 22 government medical colleges.
- It will facilitate **improved hospital administration** and **patient health care**.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

2.116 International Climate Club

Why in News?

- Recently, the Group of Seven (**G7**) countries have established an **international climate club**.
- The initiative is **open** for all the countries that want to cooperate in the **fight against global warming**.
- Aim:** to support the rapid and ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement. (to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius [2.7 degrees Fahrenheit]).
- G7 has requested the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (**OECD**), & the International Energy Agency (**IEA**), to host an **interim secretariat** for the Climate Club.

Group of Seven (G7)



2.117 Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Government of Tamil Nadu** has launched the **Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission**.
- Tamil Nadu** has become the **first state** to launch its **own climate change mission**.
- Objective:** to protect the natural resources & restore them on a long-term basis.
- Mission implemented by:** Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC).
- Guidance provided by:** Tamil Nadu Governing Council on Climate Change.
 - It is the **first such council** to be headed by a **Chief Minister of a State**.
- Key Target:** to achieve carbon neutrality much ahead of the National Target (2070).

Key Highlights

- During the mission launch event, a **Memorandum of Understanding** was signed between World Resources Institute, Anna University and National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management.
 - MoU Objective:** to help the government setup 10 smart villages, 25 green schools and achieve blue flag beaches.

2.118 Carbon Credits

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Development** has asked **metro rail corporations** to register for carbon credits.
- The decision is aligned with the Government of India's **roadmap to achieve net zero** carbon emission status.

About Carbon Credit

- It is a **tradable permit or certificate** that provides the holder of the credit the **right to emit one tonne of carbon dioxide or an equivalent of another greenhouse gas**.

2.119 LOTUS Project

Why in News?

- Recently, a novel water quality sensor- **LOTUS sensor** has been developed by researchers at **Université Gustave Eiffel, France** in collaboration with **IIT Guwahati** and the **SME EGM, Sophia Antipolis, France**.
- Developed under:** Low-cost innovative technology for water quality monitoring and water resources management for urban and rural water systems in India (**LOTUS**) Project.
- It builds on the **previous work of Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, France**

LOTUS Project

Launch Year	→ 2019
Co-funded by	Department of Science and Technology (S&T), Ministry of S&T, Govt. of India European Commission → Under the Horizon 2020 programme
Key Indian Partners	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay → Coordinator India IIT, Guwahati
Aim	→ to co-create innovative low-cost technology for India's water challenges
Duration	→ 4 years
Total Budget	→ 4,36 million Euros

EMPLOYMENT GENERATION IN INDIA

2.120 Formal Job Creation: EPFO data

Why in News?

- Recently, the **EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation)** has released the Half-yearly pay roll data for FY 2022-23.
- It covers **organised sector workforce** for establishments that **employ more than 20 workers** and have **provident fund accounts** opened for them.

Key Details

S.No	Particulars	Figures
1.	Formal Job Created in First half (H1) of 2022-23	87.1 lakh (35% increase from H1 of FY 22)
2.	Month in which highest job created	September (16.82 lakh)
3.	Top Sector	Expert Services Sector (More than 36 lakh)
4.	Top 3 states	Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu
5.	Age group getting highest Jobs	22-25 years (Generation Z)

About EPFO

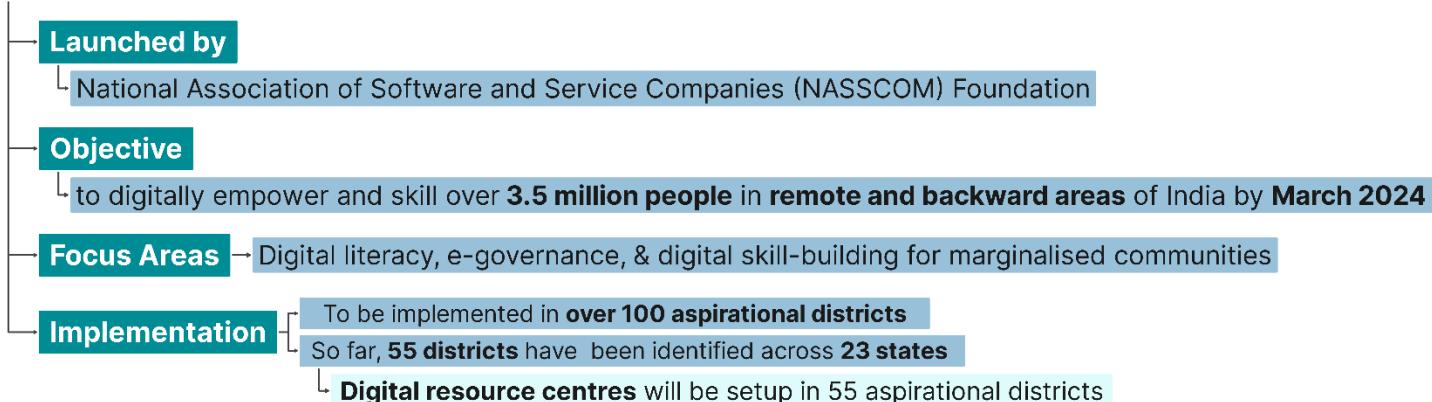
- It was established in 1952 under **Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952**.
- Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Labour and Employment.

2.121 NASSCOM Aspirational Districts Programme

Why in News?

- Recently, the **NASSCOM Foundation** has launched the **Aspirational Districts Programme**.
- It is an **extension of NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme**.

NASSCOM Aspirational Districts Programme



2.122 Top States With Most Number of Active Companies

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** has shared data on **top states in terms of number of active companies** as of **September 30, 2022**.

TOP 5 STATES WITH MOST COS

State	No of active cos*
Maharashtra	300,000
Delhi	220,000
UP	108,000
Karnataka	104,000
Tamil Nadu	99,038
India	1,500,000 <small>BPL</small>

MONETARY AND FISCAL POLICY

2.123 e-filing for non-resident taxpayers

Why in News?

- Recently, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has exempted non-resident Individuals (NRIs) from mandatory electronic filing of Form 10F until March 31, 2023.
- Until the deadline, NRI taxpayers can manually file Form 10F.
- CBDT has provided the exemption under the provisions of Income-tax Act, 1961.

Background

- In July 2022, CBDT mandated the electronic filing of Form 10F.
- As non-resident tax payees are not required to obtain a PAN under the Income Tax Act, this process became cumbersome.

About Form 10F

- It is mandatorily filed by those NRIs taxpayers who do not have PAN & required details of the Tax Residency Certificate (mandated under the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement [DTAA])
- It should be furnished along with the tax residency certificate to resident payers.
- By filing this form, an NRI can avoid TDS (Tax Deducted at Source) on payments received in India & claim benefits under DTAA.
 - Under the DTAA rules, an eligible NRI taxpayer would not have to pay tax on the income received from India.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS /REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

2.124 Wassenaar Arrangement

Why in News?

- India will assume the **chairmanship** of Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) from **1st January 2023** for a **period of one year**.

Wassenaar Arrangement

Establishment	→ July 1996
Aim	To promote "greater responsibility" among its members in exports of weapons and dual-use goods and to prevent "destabilizing accumulations".
Objective	To restrict access to sensitive technologies for terrorist outfits
Secretariat	Vienna, Austria.
Members	42 India joined it in 2017 and became its 42nd member
Key Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a multilateral export control regime It maintains lists of technologies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tier I : A list of basic items Tier II : A list of Sensitive or Very Sensitive Technologies It works on a voluntary basis and decisions are made by consensus In every six months, members exchange information on deliveries of conventional arms to non-Wassenaar members that fall under eight broad weapon categories

2.125 Sovereign Guarantee

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Government of India** has **repaid** the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (**IL&FS**) **loans** to the Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) and **KfW** with **sovereign guarantee**.
- The Government of India has paid the equivalent of **Rs 1,109 crore** and **Rs 29 crore** to **ADB & KfW respectively**.

About Sovereign Guarantee

- It is the guarantee made by a government to discharge the liability of a third person in case of his default.

2.126 Group of Friends Initiative

Why in News?

- Recently, **Government of India** has launched the '**Group of Friends to Promote Accountability for Crimes Against Peacekeepers**'.

Group of Friends to Promote Accountability for Crimes Against Peacekeepers

Initiative of	→ Government of India
Launched under	↳ India's Presidency of the United Nations Security Council [UNSC] (December 2022)
Co-chairs	↳ India, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco and Nepal
Objective	↳ to facilitate the promotion of accountability for all acts of violence against UN peacekeepers (UNSC resolution 2589) ↳ Adopted in August 2021 (India's Presidency of UNSC)
Key Features	↳ It will act as an informal platform ↳ The group will be convened by the co-chairs ↳ Two meetings per year will be convened ↳ One event per year involving Permanent Missions will be organized

2.127 European Union (EU)

Why in News?

- Recently, the EU countries agreed to grant **Bosnia** "candidate status" to join the union.
- Bosnia will join **seven other nations** with **candidate status**: Turkey, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Moldova and Ukraine (Ukraine and Moldova were the most recent countries, added in June 2022)

About European Union (EU)

- It is an international organization created by the **Maastricht Treaty** (1993)
- Headquarter/ Capital: **Brussels** (Belgium)
- Aim:** To enhance European political and economic integration by creating a single **currency (the Euro)**, a unified foreign and security policy, and common citizenship rights and by advancing cooperation in the areas of immigration, asylum, and judicial affairs.
 - Members:** 27 European countries (United Kingdom, a founding member, left the EU in 2020)
- EU was awarded the **Nobel Prize for Peace in 2012** for promoting peace and democracy in Europe.

2.128 World Trade Organization (WTO)

News 1

- Recently, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been selected as the **host** of the **WTO Ministerial Conference 13 (MC13) 2024**.
- Cameroon would be hosting MC14.

About WTO

- Establishment:** 1995; **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland; **Total Members:** 164.
- WTO has replaced General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (**GATT**)
- Ministerial Conference of WTO:**
 - It is a **biennial event**

It is the **largest global gathering of trade ministers**.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA

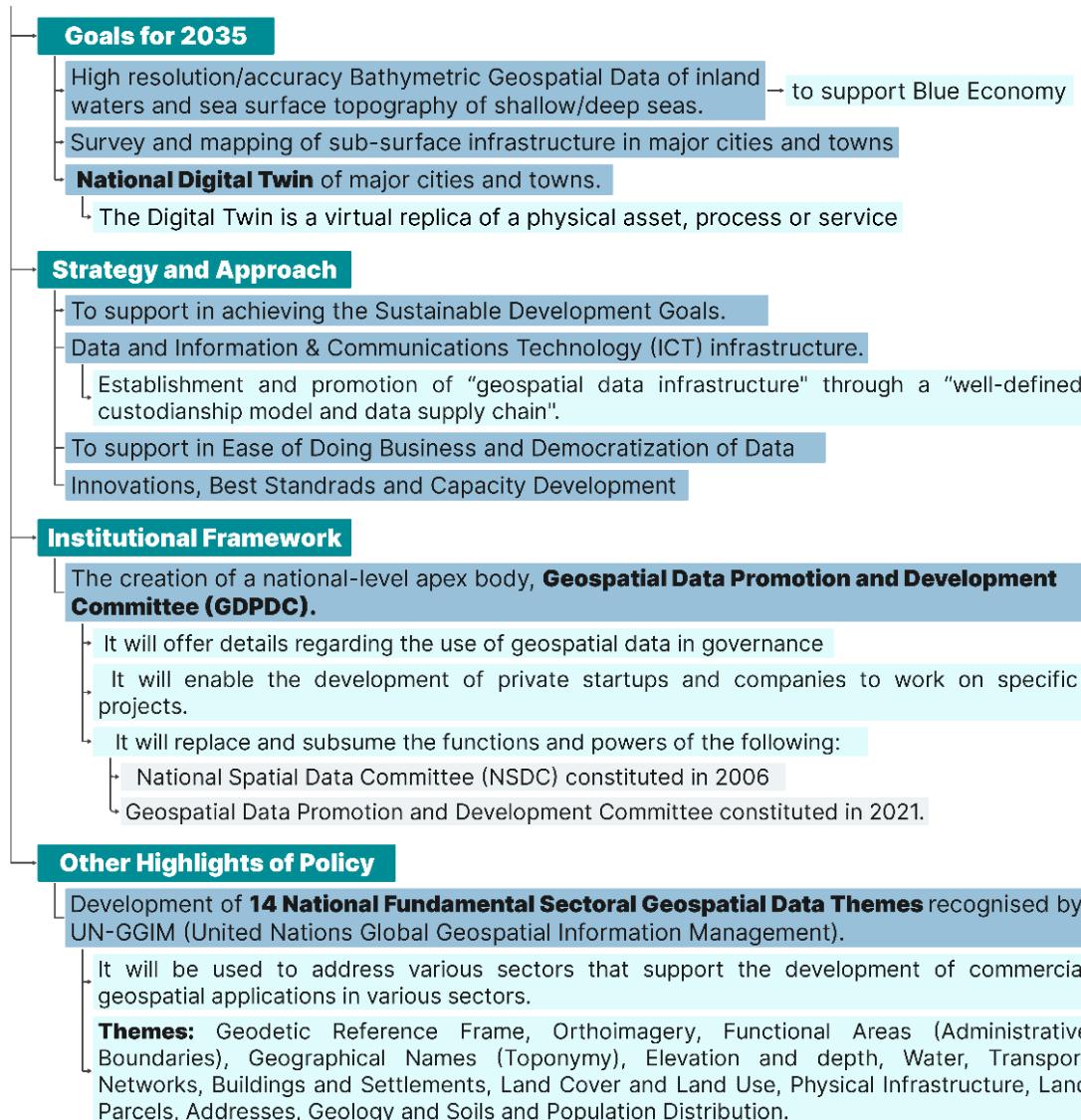
2.129 National Geospatial Policy 2022

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Science and Technology notified the National Geospatial Policy, 2022.

National Geospatial Policy 2022

It is a citizen-centric policy
Notified by → Ministry of Science and Technology
Duration of policy → 13 years (Till 2035)
Aim → To promote and strengthen the country's geospatial data industry.
Goals for 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none">To develop a national geospatial data framework, and enable "easy availability" of data to businesses and general public.To improve availability and access of "better location data" for companies, including private organisations.Redefinition of National Geodetic Framework using modern positioning technologies and provision of online access.Establish and strengthen an integrative interface for all digital data having location dimension collected or developed utilizing public funds, for easy access, sharing, use and reuse.Develop and strengthen national and sub-national arrangements in Geospatial information management and related infrastructuresHigh accuracy Geoid for the entire country.
Goals for 2030 <ul style="list-style-type: none">To develop high resolution topographical survey and mapping → 5-10 cm for urban & rural areas 50 cm-100 cm for forests & wastelands).High-accuracy digital elevation model for the entire country. → 25 cm for plain 1-3 metre for hilly and mountainous areasTo establish an Integrated Data and Information Framework, under which a Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure (GKI) will be developed.Enhance capabilities, skills and awareness to meet the future needs of the country



2.130 Print and Digital Media Association (PADMA)

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** has approved the **Print and Digital Media Association (PADMA)** as a self-regulatory body for publishers of news and current affairs across the country.

Key details

- It is approved under **rule 12** of the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**.
- **Functions:**
 - It will look at grievances related to digital media news content on their platforms.
 - It will also ensure that the member publishers have agreed to adhere to **the provisions of the rules**, including furnishing the requisite information under rule 18.
- **Number of onboard Publishers: 47.**
- **Composition:**
 - **Chairperson:** Mool Chand Garg (Former High Court Judge)
 - **Member:** Ashok Kumar Tandon (Member Prasar Bharti) and Manoj Kumar Mishra (Journalist).

MULTICULTURALISM

2.131 Initiatives to Promote the Safety of the Tourists

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister of Tourism has shared the initiatives taken by the Government of India to promote safety and security of tourists.

Key Initiatives

- A Study titled "**Functioning of Tourist Police in States/UTs & Documentation of Best Practices**"
 - Conducted by:** Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management (IITM), an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Tourism.
- 24x7 Multi-Lingual Tourist Info-Helpline**
 - Set up by:** Ministry of Tourism
 - Available at:** toll free number 1363
 - Languages supported:** 12 Languages [10 international languages + Hindi & English]

Additional Information

- Safety and security of tourists is a **State Government subject**.

INDIAN AGRICULTURE

2.132 Average Monthly Income Per Agricultural Household

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Agriculture has released the **data on the average monthly income per agricultural household across various states**.
- Top 5 states/ UTs- Average monthly income per agricultural household**
 - Meghalaya (Rs 29,348)
 - Punjab
 - Haryana
 - Arunachal Pradesh
 - Jammu and Kashmir
- As per the data, **Punjab would rank first if states dependent the maximum on cash crops is being considered**.
- Major share of horticulture and fruits comes from Meghalaya**.

3 GA + FINANCE



PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET

3.1 Green Debt Securities

Why in News?

- Recently, Green Debt Securities were mentioned in the Parliament Winter Session.

Green Debt Securities

- Defined under** → SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations
- Definition** → a debt security issued to raise funds that are to be utilised for project(s) and/ or asset(s) under any of the following categories
- Renewable and sustainable energy
 - Clean transportation
 - Sustainable water management
 - Climate change adaptation
 - Energy efficiency including efficient and green buildings
 - Sustainable waste management
 - Sustainable land use
 - Biodiversity conservation
 - Category as may be specified by the SEBI, from time to time

3.2 Regulatory Framework for Distribution of Capital Market Products & Services

Why in News?

- Recently, the International Financial Services Centres Authority (**IFSCA**) has notified the **regulatory framework for Distribution of Capital Market Products and Services**.
- It is aligned with **IFSCA's mandate to develop and regulate financial products, financial services and financial institutions** in the International Financial Services Centres (**IFSC**).

Regulatory Framework for Distribution of Capital Market Products & Services

- Notified by** → International Financial Services Centres Authority (**IFSCA**)
- Notified under** → IFSCA (Capital Market Intermediaries) Regulations, 2021

Key Features

- Permitted products for distribution**
 - Capital Market Products → Securities covered under Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956
 - Capital Market Services → portfolio management services and investment advisory services
- Distributors may offer their services to **sophisticated investors** from a **wide range of products/services**
- Restricted set of products and services** only can be offered to **other investors** with higher level of due diligence
- Distributors can enter into **arrangements** with **Associated Distributors** from **India, IFSC and foreign jurisdictions**
- IFSCA registered / licensed entities can undertake distribution services from IFSC through a simplified registration process
 - Entities:** Banking Units, Finance Companies, Broker-Dealers, Investment Bankers, Investment Advisers and Corporate Agents
- Eligibility to invest in jurisdictions permitting omnibus structures**
 - Registered distributors with a **net worth more than USD 1,50,000**

3.3 Exchanged Traded Funds (ETFs)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has accorded approval for **investments of surplus funds in equity**.
- The decision was arrived during the **189th Meeting of ESIC**, held under the chairmanship of **Union Minister for Labour & Employment**

Key Highlights

- The investments should be only made in Exchange Traded Funds (**ETFs**) viz, Nifty50 and Sensex.
- Initial investment:** 5%.
- The investment will be gradually **increased up to 15%**, after a review of **two quarters**.
- The fund managers of the Asset Management Companies (**AMCs**) will manage the funds.

Additional Information

- The **first issue** of the **monthly digital journal of ESIC – ‘ESI Samachar’** was released during the meeting.

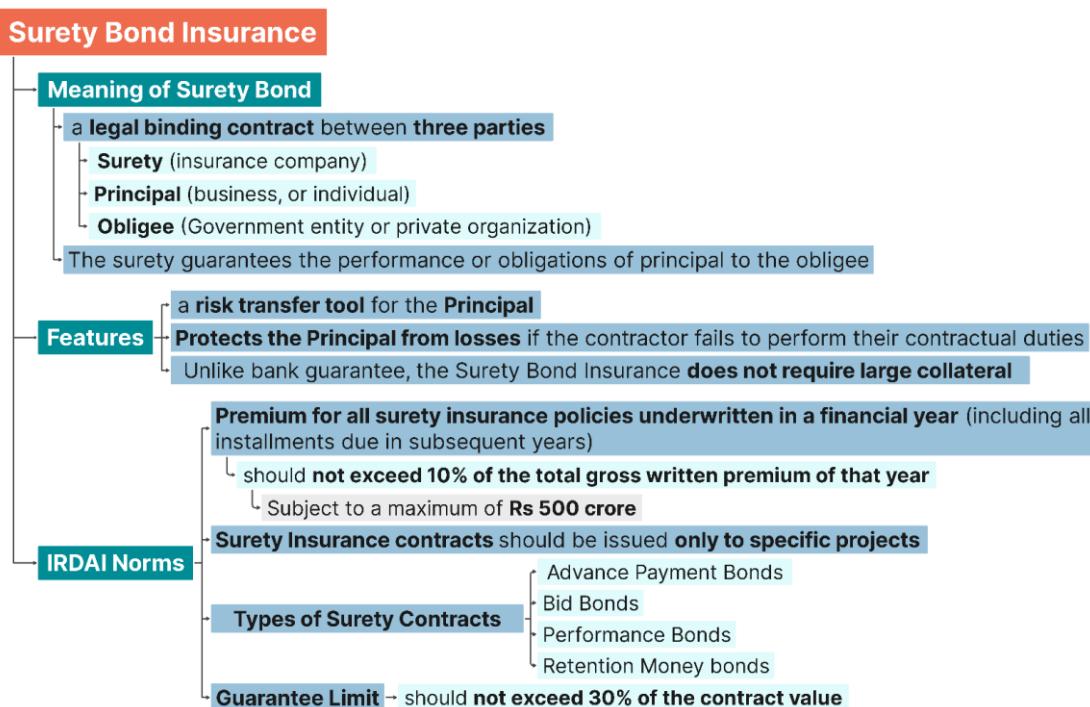
Note: ETFs discussed in October 2022 CA Magazine (News 3.12).

RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN FINANCIAL SECTOR

3.4 Surety Bond Insurance

Why in News?

- Recently, **Bajaj Allianz General Assurance** has launched **India's first Surety Bond Insurance product**.
- It has been launched for **infrastructure projects**.



Background

- The **Union Minister of Finance** while announcing the **Union Budget 2022-23** informed that **surety bond insurance** would be allowed as a **substitute for bank guarantees for government procurement and gold imports**.

BANKING SYSTEM IN INDIA

3.5 Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)

Why in News?

- According to latest data shared by the **Ministry of Finance**, DICGC has settled deposit insurance claims amounting to **Rs 4,055.10 crore** of eligible **depositors of 35 banks** under **All Inclusive Directions (AID)**.

Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)

Establishment	→ 1978
Parent Organization	→ Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
Governed by	DICGC Act 1961 DICGC General Regulations, 1961
Location	Mumbai, Maharashtra
Chairperson	Dr. M.D. Patra
Authorized Capital	Rs 50 crore
Key Function	Provides insurance for bank deposits to protect the interest of investors/account holders
Deposit Insurance	Maximum Cover → Rs 5 lakh Time Bound access to deposits ↳ Section 18A of the DICGC Act, 1961 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim payments to be made by DICGC to the depositors when All Inclusive Directions (AID) are imposed by the RBI on banks. Interim payments of deposits up to Rs 5 lakh should be made within 90 days of imposition of AID Banks placed under AID must furnish a list of depositors showing the net outstanding deposits to the credit of each depositor This information should be submitted within 45 days of imposition of AID ↳ DICGC has to settle claims within 90 days after imposition of AID

About All Inclusive Directions

- RBI imposes All Inclusive Directions on banks under the provisions **of Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- Objective:** to prevent the affairs of any bank being conducted in a manner detrimental to the interests of the depositors or in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the bank itself.

FINTECH

3.6 Account Aggregator (AA) Network

Why in News?

- Recently, Union Minister of State for Finance has provided information about the Account Aggregator (AA) Network.

Key Information Shared

- 94 Financial Institutions** have joined the AA Network as Financial Information User (FIU) as on **12th December 2022**.
- 26 Financial Institutions** have joined the AA Network as Financial Information Provider (FIP) as on **12th December 2022**.

Background

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced the AA Network based on **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) – Account Aggregator (Reserve Bank) Directions**, dated September 02, 2016.

Note: AA Network covered in CurrentTap November 2022 (News 3.19)



OTHER NEWS

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET

3.7 SEBI Panels

Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has set up **three new panels to reform capital markets & improve ease of business**.

S.No	Panel/ Committee Name	Key Information
1.	Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) Advisory Committee (FAC)	Chairperson: Hasmukh Adhia (Total Members: 16) Key Terms of Reference: to review investment avenues available for FPIs and advise on feasibility of new investment avenues
2.	Committee on Review of Takeover Regulations	Chairperson: Justice Shiavax Jal Vazifdar (Total Members: 20) Key Terms of Reference: to advise SEBI on the legal framework for simplification and strengthening of the takeover regulations by adopting appropriate global practices.
3.	Social stock exchange (SSEs) advisory committee	Chairperson: R Balasubramaniam (Total Members: 18) Key Terms of Reference: to advise SEBI on issues pertaining to the regulatory framework for social enterprises

3.8 Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Funds

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Government of India** has launched the **fourth tranche** of the **Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)**.
- In this regard, the **Bharat Bond Fund of Fund (FOF)** has also been **open for subscription**.
- This new **Bharat Bond ETF** and **Bharat Bond Fund of Fund (FOF)** series will mature in **April 2033**
 - With this, the **number of maturity years** of the Bharat Bond ETF series has increased to **six**.
- Through this tranche, the Government of India has proposed to **raise an initial amount of Rs 1,000 crore with a green shoe option of Rs 4,000 crore**.

Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)

Launch	— 2019
Initiative of	— Government of India
Fund Manager	— Edelweiss Asset Management Company (AMC)
Six Maturity Years	— 2023, 2025, 2030, 2031, 2032 & 2033
Key Features	India's first corporate bond ETF Invests only in 'AAA'-rated bonds of public sector companies Funds raised will be utilized to meet capital expenditure of public sector companies

About Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)

- An ETF is a **passive form of investing** which invests in a **basket of securities** that tracks a certain index.
- Unlike mutual funds, ETFs can be **traded only through the stock exchanges**.

3.9 Nifty Bharat Bond Index — April 2033

Why in News?

- Recently, the **NSE Indices** has launched a new index '**Nifty Bharat Bond Index — April 2033**' within the **Nifty Bharat Bond Index series**.

Key Features of Nifty Bharat Bond Index — April 2033

S.No	Particulars	Key Information
1.	Base date	November 30, 2022
2.	Base value	1,000
3.	Maturity	April 2033
4.	Reconstitution of the index	To be rebalanced/reconstituted at the end of every calendar quarter
5.	To be tracked by	Recently launched Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) (sixth in the Bharat Bond ETF series)

About Nifty Bharat Bond Index series

- First two indices with maturities **in April 2023 and April 2030** were launched in **December 2019**.
- The **3rd & 4th** with maturities in **April 2025 and April 2031** were launched in **July 2020**
- It follows a **target maturity date structure**
- Each index in the series measures the **performance of a portfolio of 'AAA' rated bonds** issued by **government owned entities maturing in a specific year**.

3.10 Private Placement

Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has **reduced the timeline for listing of debt securities** issued on a **private placement basis**.
- SEBI has also listed out the steps involved in **pre-listing and post-listing** along with relevant timelines, both through **Electronic Book Provider (EBP) platform and otherwise**
- **Objective:** to provide more clarity and standardization in the process of issuance and listing of debt securities on the private placement basis.
- The new guidelines will come into effect from **January 1, 2023**

Key Guidelines

S.No	Particulars	Key Information
1.	Timeline for listing of debt securities issued on a private placement basis	New Timeline: three working days (T+3) Present Timeline: Four working days (T+4) T refers to closure date
2.	Pre-listing & post-listing under EBP mechanism	Under the EBP mechanism , an issuer wishing to list non-convertible securities or municipal debt securities must ensure receipt of in-principle approval from the stock exchange prior to

		the date of providing the placement memorandum and term sheet to the EBP .
3.	Timeline to receive in principal approval	Under EBP Platform: T-2 or T-5 day Non-EBP platform: T day* T refers to closure date
4.	Bidding process under EBP Mechanism	Issuer must provide the bidding start time and close time on or before T-1 Bidding on the EBP would be done on T day The issuer must ensure receipt of International Securities Identification Number (ISIN) from a depository prior to pay-in and apply to other depository for admission of such proposed debt issuance by T+1 . On or before T+1/T+2 , issue of credit confirmation letter by depositories to issuer and issuers will have to make an application for listing of its debt securities by T+3

Key Terms

S.No	Particulars	Key Information
1.	Private Placement	It is a process by which a company offers its shares or bonds privately to accredited investors
2.	Electronic Book Provider (EBP) platform	A SEBI-registered recognized stock exchange that provides an electronic platform for the private placement of securities

3.11 Portfolio Management Services (PMS)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has introduced **performance benchmarking** and **categorization** for the **portfolio management services (PMS) industry**.
- The guidelines are similar to the present norms followed in mutual funds.
- Purpose:** to assist investors evaluate & compare the performance of service providers.
- The guidelines will come into effect from **April 1, 2023**.

Key Guidelines

S.No	Particulars	Key Information
1.	Additional layer of investment categories	Portfolio managers must adopt an additional layer of broadly defined investment strategies while managing clients' funds Broad Strategies: equity, debt, hybrid and multi-asset It is in addition to the investment approach , which documents the investment philosophy.
2.	Tagging of investment approach	Portfolio managers can tag each investment approach to only one of the strategies. More than one investment approach can be tagged to a specific strategy. Association of Portfolio Managers in India (APMI) can prescribe a maximum of three benchmarks for each strategy . Portfolio managers can change the tagging only after offering an option to subscribers to leave without any exit load.

3.12 SWAMIH Investment Fund

Why in News?

- Recently, the Government of India has **infused about Rs 5,000 crore** in Special Window for Completion of Construction of Affordable and Mid-Income Housing Projects (**SWAMIH I**) Fund.
- With this, the **final close of the fund** has reached **Rs 15,530 crore**.

Additional Information

- SWAMIH Fund received an **initial commitment of Rs 10,037.5 crore** in its first **close in December, 2019**.
- During the first close the **Government of India** had made a **commitment** to infuse up to Rs 5,000 crore.

SWAMIH Investment Fund

Announced in	2019
Set up under	Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing
Objective	to provide priority debt financing to complete stalled housing projects
Sponsor	Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance
Fund Manager	SBICAP Ventures Ltd
Total Corpus	Rs 25,000 crore – Rs 12,500crore + greenshoe option of Rs 12,500crore
Key Features	<p>India's largest social impact fund</p> <p>Category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)</p> <p>Last-mile financing platform</p>
Eligibility	<p>stalled, brownfield, RERA (Real Estate [Regulation and Development] Act) registered residential developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable housing / mid-income category Networth positive projects Close to completion

3.13 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has issued a framework allowing Alternate Investment Funds (**AIFs**) to raise capital from Foreign Portfolio Investors (**FPIs**).
- The framework came into effect from **9th December 2022**.

Key Guidelines

S.No	Particulars	Key Details
1.	Eligibility	<p>The Manager of an AIF must ensure that the FPIs are from the following countries</p> <p>The securities market regulator of a country is a signatory to the International Organisation of Securities Commission's (IOSCO) Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding, or</p> <p>The securities market regulator of a country is a signatory to a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding with SEBI.</p>
2.	Banned countries	<p>An FPI contributing 25% or more in the corpus should not be:</p> <p>Person mentioned in the Sanctions List notified by the United Nations Security Council, a resident in a country identified in the public statement of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF),</p> <p>a country that has not made sufficient progress in addressing the deficiencies, or</p> <p>not committed to an action plan developed with FATF to address such deficiencies.</p>
3.	Further course of action for not meeting the eligibility criteria	If an investor has been onboarded to a scheme of AIF without meeting the conditions, the manager of the AIF will not draw down any further capital contribution from such investor until the investor again meets the conditions.

Note: AIFs discussed in CurrentTap November 2022 (News 3.9).

3.14 Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs)

Why in News?

- Recently, **HDFC Ltd** has received approval from BSE and NSE to transfer non-convertible debentures (NCDs) to its subsidiary **HDFC Bank**.
- The approval has been provided under **Regulation 59** of the **Listing Regulations**.
- The move is part of the **merger of HDFC with HDFC Bank**.

Background

- In April 2022, HDFC bank agreed to take over HDFC in a deal valued at about **USD 40 billion**.
- It is considered to be the **biggest transaction in India's corporate history**.

About NCDs

- It **can't be converted into shares or equities**.
- NCDs are used as a **tool to raise long-term funds by companies through a public issue**.
- NCDs carry **higher rate of return** compared to convertible debentures.

3.15 Mutual Funds

Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has issued the **Regulatory Framework** for execution only platforms (**EOPs**) for **direct mutual fund schemes**.

Key Guidelines

- EOPs may be granted registration under either of the following two categories
 - Category 1 EOP** as an agent of Asset Management Companies (AMCs), registered with Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).
 - Category 2 EOP** as an agent of Investor, registered as a stock broker.

3.16 Suspension on futures trade in key farm commodities

Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has extended the suspension of futures and options trading in seven agricultural commodities for one more year till December 2023.
 - The seven agricultural commodities are paddy (non-basmati), chana, crude palm oil, mustard seeds & their derivatives, soya bean & its derivatives, wheat and moong.

3.17 SEBI Committees

Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has restructured two of its committees.

High Powered Steering Committee on Cyber Security (HPSC-CS)

- Chairperson:** Navin Kumar Singh; **Total Members:** Eight
- Mandate:** to advise SEBI in developing and maintaining cyber security and cyber resilience requirements aligned with global best practices.

Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC)

- Chairperson:** Prof Krishnamurthy; **Total Members:** Seven

- **Mandate:**
 - To approve Information Security Policies.
 - To provide inputs and suggestions to take urgent actions on cyber security incidents of SEBI regulated entities.

3.18 Buy Back of Shares

Why in News?

- Recently, **SEBI** has approved the **gradual phasing out of share buyback by companies** through the **stock exchanges route**. The decision was made during the recent Board Meeting of SEBI.

Key Guidelines

S.No	Particulars	Key Details
2.	Glide Path for the phaseout process	Complete phaseout out by March 2025
3.	Period for completion of the buyback offer	To be reduced from the present-day six months to 66 working days from April 1, 2023 . To be reduced to 22 working days from April 1, 2024
4.	Minimum utilization of amount for buyback through stock exchange	Increased to 75% from the existing 50% , until the complete phase out
5.	Creation of separate window on stock exchanges	Purpose: to undertake buy-back till the time such buy-back is permitted.
6.	Timeline for completion of buybacks through tender offers	reduced by 18 days
7.	Upward revision of the buy-back price	permitted until one working day prior to the record date .

Other decisions by SEBI Board

- SEBI to amend norms to **facilitate sustainable finance and curb greenwashing**.
 - The **scope of the definition of green debt security** to be enhanced.
 - Introduction of **sub-categories of green debt securities** for sectors like water management and solar energy.
- **Framework for board members and key management personnel (KMP)**
 - **Recommended by:** committee on strengthening the governance of market infrastructure institutions (MIIs).
✓ Committee Head: G Mahalingam.

Key Terms

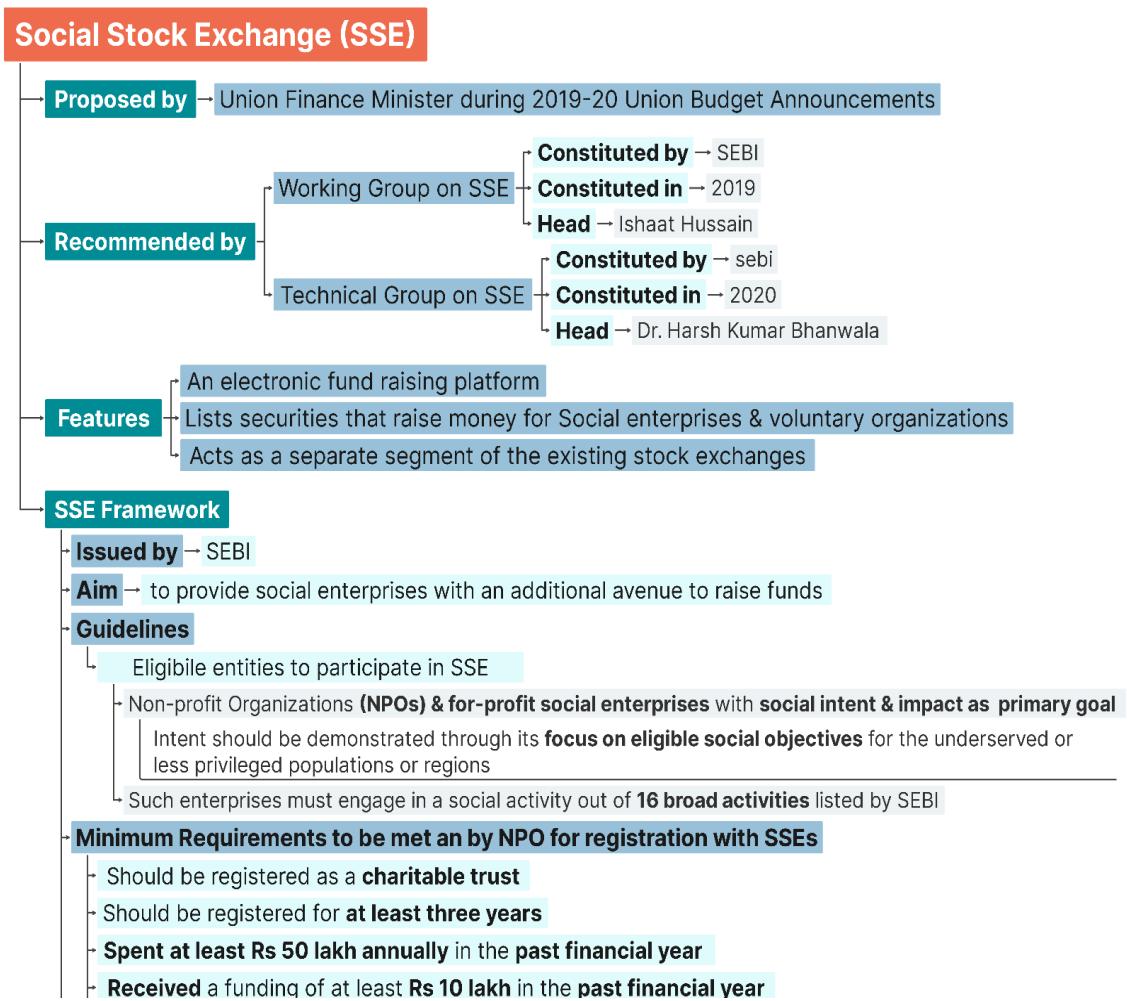
S.No	Particulars	Key Details
1.	Buyback of Shares	A corporate action under which a company buys back its shares from the existing shareholders . Buyback will be usually carried out at a price higher than market price . At present, for share buyback, companies have both options viz, stock exchange and tender offer .

2.	Sustainable Finance	Investment decisions that consider the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors of an economic activity or project.
3.	Green Washing	False claims made by organizations about the positive impact that a company, product or service has on the environment .

3.19 Social Stock Exchange

News 1

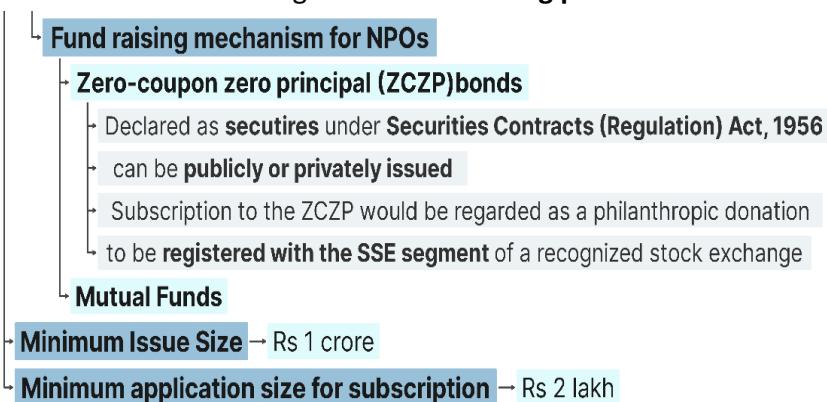
- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has provided **in-principle approval** to National Stock Exchange of India to set up a **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)** as a **separate segment of the NSE**.
- Recently, the **SEBI** has granted **final approval** to introduce **SSE** as a **separate segment** on **BSE**.



3.20 Bharat Highways InvIT

Why in News?

- Recently, **Bharat Highways Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)** has filed **draft prospectus** with the Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) to raise **Rs 2,000 crore** via **Initial Public Offering (IPO)**.
- The issue will be made through the **book building process**.



- 75% excluding the strategic investor portion will be available to institutional investors
- 25% available to non-institutional investors.

About Bharat Highways InvIT

- **Set up in:** August 2022
- **Purpose:** to acquire 100% stake in each of Project Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) from GR Infrastructure Ltd.

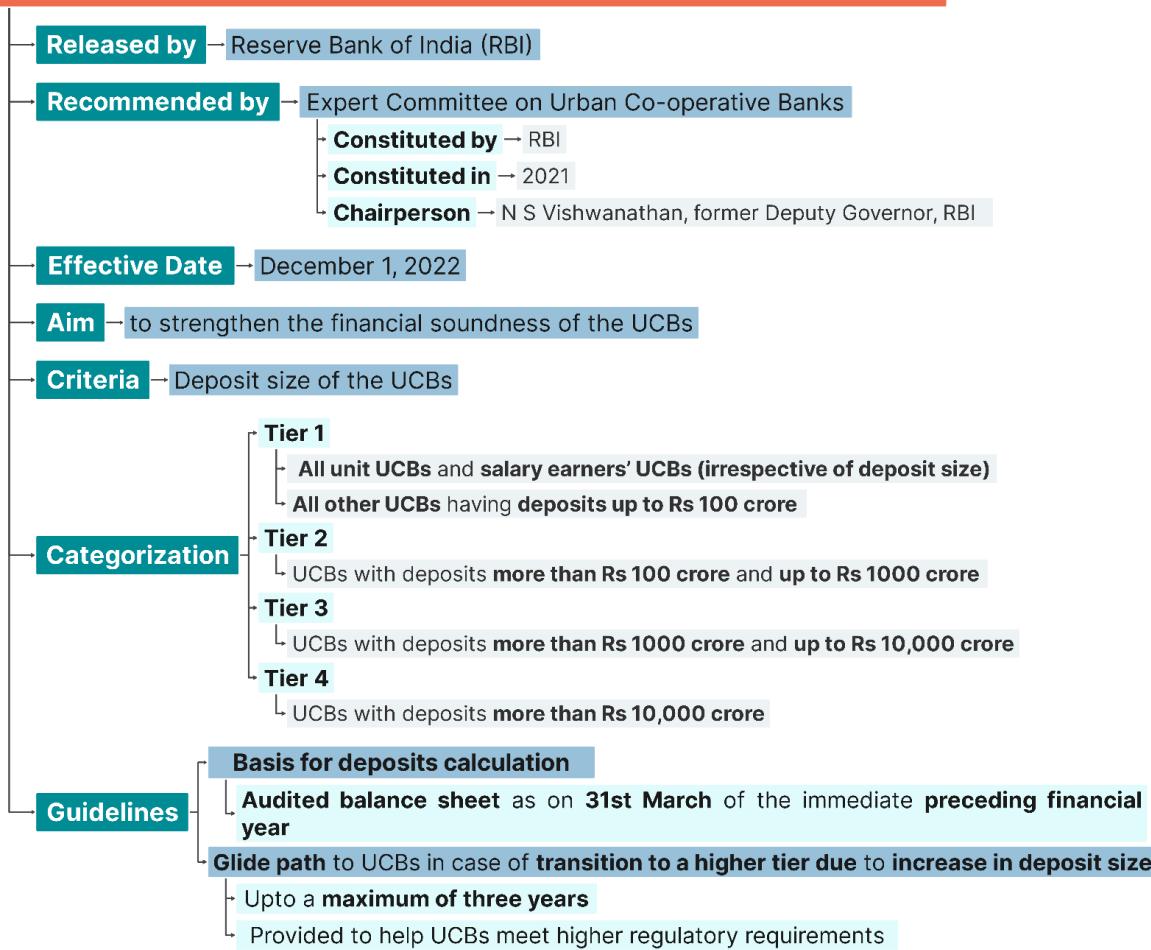
BANKING SYSTEM IN INDIA

3.21 Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks

News 1

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has announced a **four-tiered regulatory framework** for **categorization of Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** under the **Revised Regulatory Framework for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)**.
- It has **replaced the two-tiered framework** for categorization of UCBs.

Four-tiered Regulatory Framework for Categorization of UCBs



News 2

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has released the **net worth** and **capital adequacy requirements of the UCBs**.

Minimum Net Worth Requirements of UCBs

S.No	Category	Minimum Net Worth Requirement
1.	Tier 1 UCBs operating in a single district	Rs 2 crore
2.	All other UCBs (of all tiers)	Rs 5 crore

Deadline to Meet the Net Worth Requirement

S.No	Minimum Net Worth	Deadline
1.	At least 50% of the applicable minimum net worth	on or before March 31, 2026
2.	Entire stipulated minimum net worth	on or before March 31, 2028

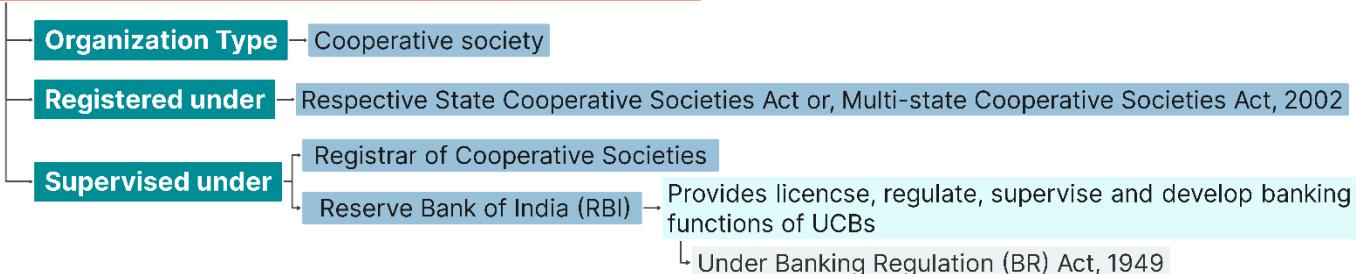
Minimum capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR) Requirement

S.No	Category	Minimum CRAR requirement
1.	Tier 1 UCBs	9% of Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs) on an ongoing basis
2.	Tier 2 to 4 UCBs	12% of RWAs on an ongoing basis

Deadline to Meet Minimum CRAR Requirement

S.No	Category	Deadline to Meet CRAR requirement
1.	Tier 2 to 4 UCBs	at least 10% by March 31, 2024 11% by March 31, 2025, 12% by March 31, 2026.

Primary (Urban) Cooperative Banks [UCBs]



3.22 Framework for Indian Banks' Foreign Businesses

Why in News?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a framework for the foreign businesses of subsidiaries and branches of Indian banks and financial institutions.
- The framework allows overseas subsidiaries and branches of Indian banks and financial institutions to undertake activities not specifically permitted in the Indian domestic market.

Key Guidelines

S.No	Particulars	Key Details
4.	Applicability	Overseas subsidiaries and branches of Indian banks and financial institutions. International Financial Services Centres in India, including Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)
5.	Prior approval requirements	No prior approval required , but subject to compliance with all applicable laws/regulations and conditions stipulated by the RBI and the host regulator . The parent Indian bank and financial Institution must ensure dealing in such products is done with the prior approval from their board and, if required, the appropriate authority in the jurisdictions concerned .
6.	Barred Transactions	Products linked to the rupee unless specifically permitted by RBI, Structured deposits from any Indian residents .

RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN FINANCIAL SECTOR

3.23 Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE)

Why in News?

- Recently, **Karnataka Bank** has **gone live** on the Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (**ICEGATE**).
- Karnataka Bank has joined the initiative under its **KBL-Nxt Digital Transformation project**.

About ICEGATE

- It is the **national portal of Indian Customs**.
- Initiative of:** Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
- It facilitates customers to pay customs duty online.

3.24 National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** has initiated the process to recruit **three new members** viz, one judicial member and two technical members for **NCLAT**.

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)	
Establishment	1st June, 2016
Established under	Section 410, Companies Act, 2013
Ministry	Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Total Benches	Two <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Bench (New Delhi) Chennai Bench
Present Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairperson → Justice Ashok Bhushan Judicial Members → Four Technical Members → Five
Function	Hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal((NCLT) for cases relating to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companies Act Competition Act Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Accounting and Auditing

3.25 Annual General

Meeting (AGM) & Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (**MCA**) has allowed companies to organize Annual General Meeting (**AGM**) & Extraordinary General Meeting (**EGM**) through **video conferencing** until **September 30, 2023**.
- The **virtual AGMs timeline** is **applicable** for companies whose **financial year ends on December 31, 2022**, as well as **March 31, 2023**.

Background

- MCA had allowed conducting virtual AGMs & EGMs from **April 2020** following the **COVID-19 Pandemic**.

FINTECH

3.26 Central Bank Digital Currency Retail (CBDC- R)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has launched the **first pilot** for Central Bank Digital Currency Retail (**CBDC- R**) or Retail Digital Rupee (**e₹-R**).
- Recently, **CCAVenue** has announced plans to offer Central Bank Digital Currency- Retail (**CBDC-R**)/ Retail Digital Rupee (**e₹-R**) as a **mode of payment**.
- CCAVenue is collaborating with IDFC First Bank to roll out CBDC on its platform.

Retail Digital Rupee (e₹-R) Pilot

Initiative of	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
Pilot Launch Date	December 1, 2022
Scope	select locations in closed user group (CUG) comprising participating customers and merchants
Total Cities Covered	Thirteen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase I - Four Cities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Bhubaneswar Subsequent Phases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ahmedabad, Gangtok, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Kochi, Lucknow, Patna and Shimla
Participating Banks	Eight banks identified for the pilot <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase I- Four Banks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank and IDFC First Bank Remaining four banks will join the pilot subsequently <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank
Denomination	Same denomination like paper currency and coins that are currently issued
Distribution	Will be distributed by intermediaries i.e. banks
Transaction Mode	Digital wallets offered by participating banks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can also be stored on mobile phones / devices
Permitted Transactions	both Person to Person (P2P) and Person to Merchant (P2M) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A digital token that represents legal tender Offers features of physical cash like trust, safety and settlement finality It will not offer interest Can be converted to other forms of money like deposits with banks The components are based on blockchain technology
Key Features	

3.27 Credit Card Payments via UPI

Why in News?

- Recently, **Razorpay**, in partnership with **Axis Bank**, has **enabled merchants to accept credit card payments** via Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**).
- With this launch, **Razorpay** has become **India's First Payment Gateway (PG)** to support Credit Cards on **UPI**.

Note: UPI via RuPay credit cards initiative discussed in September 2022 CA Magazine (News 3.14) & October 2022 CA Magazine (News 3.18).

3.28 Third-party app providers (TPAP)

Why in News?

- Recently, the National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) has extended the **deadline for Unified Payments Interface (UPI) players to limit to a market cap of 30%** by two years to **December 31, 2024**.

Note: TPAP discussed in detail in CurrentTap November (News 3.18).

RBI AND IT'S FUNCTIONS

3.29 Central Counterparties

Why in News?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India and the Financial Services Agency (**FSA**) of Japan have exchanged **letters of cooperation** in the field of **central clearing counterparties (CCPs)** or **central counterparty**.
- Objective:** to improve mutual cooperation between both the parties.

About Central Clearing Counterparty

- A financial institution that provides **clearing and settlement services** for trades in **foreign exchange, securities, options, and derivative contracts**.
- It takes on **counterparty credit risk** between parties to a transaction.

Additional Information

- The European Securities and Markets Authority has recently **derecognized six Indian clearing houses**.
- The decision will come into effect on **May 1, 2023**.
- The decision comes in the backdrop of RBI's refusal to permit the foreign body the rights of audit and inspection over Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL)

4 STATIC

IMPORTANT ORGANIZATIONS

S.No	Organization Name	Headquarter	Establishment Year
1.	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Paris, France	November 16, 1945
2.	National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)	Anand, Gujarat	1965
3.	World Health Organization (WHO)	Geneva, Switzerland	April 7, 1948
4.	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	New York City, United States of America	November 22, 1965
5.	National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)	New Delhi	March 1, 1988
6.	Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)	Bengaluru, Karnataka	August 15, 1969
7.	Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)	New Delhi	1958
8.	European Commission (EC)	Brussels (Belgium) and Luxembourg	January 16, 1958
9.	Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	Mumbai, Maharashtra	April 12, 1988
10.	Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)	New Delhi	1895
11.	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)	Kathmandu, Nepal	December 8, 1985
12.	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Manilla, Philippines	December 19, 1966
13.	Bureau of Indian standards (BIS)	New Delhi	December 23, 1986
14.	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Gland, Switzerland	October 5, 1948
15.	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	New York, United States	December 11, 1946

16.	Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)	Delhi	1965
17.	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)	New Delhi	1927
18.	Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)	New Delhi	January 15, 1875
19.	Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)	New Delhi	March 11, 1987
20.	Shanghai Corporation Organization (SCO)	Beijing, China	June 15, 2001
21.	National Statistical Commission (NSC) of India	New Delhi	2005
22.	National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA India)	New Delhi	November 24, 2005
23.	International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)	Madrid, Spain	1983
24.	Financial Action Task Force (FATF)	Paris, France	1989
25.	OECD	Paris, France	1961
26.	International Energy Agency (IEA)	Paris, France	1974
27.	Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)	Hyderabad, Telangana	1999
28.	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Geneva, Switzerland	1964
29.	United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)	Nairobi, Kenya	1972
30.	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)	Vienna , Austria	1966
31.	Election Commission of India	New Delhi	1950
32.	United Nation	Ney York, USA	1945
33.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd	New Delhi	1959

34.	National Commission for Minorities	New Delhi	1993
35.	Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	Mumbai, Maharashtra	1988
36.	United Nations (UN)	New York	1945
37.	World Resource Institute	Washington DC, USA	1982
38.	Global Environment Facility	Washington DC, USA	1991
39.	National Institute of Hydrology	Roorkee, Uttarakhand	1978
40.	IOCL (Indian Oil Corporation limited)	New Delhi	1959
41.	National Research Development Corporation (NRDC)	New Delhi	1953
42.	Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)	New Delhi	2009
43.	Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)	Mumbai, Maharashtra	1954
44.	International Olympic Committee (IOC)	Lausanne, Switzerland	1894
45.	Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)	New Delhi	2008
46.	European Union (EU)	Brussels, Belgium	1993

COUNTRY, CURRENCY AND CAPITAL

S.No	Country	Currency	Capital
1.	Albania	Lek	Tirana
2.	Australia	Australian Dollar	Canberra
3.	Azerbaijan	Manat	Baku
4.	Bangladesh	Taka	Dhaka
5.	Belarus	Belarusian Ruble	Minsk
6.	Belgium	Euro	Brussels
7.	Bhutan	Ngultrum	Thimphu

8.	Bosnia	Bosnian Mark	Sarajevo
9.	Brazil	Brazilian Real	Brasilia
10.	Canada	Canadian Dollar	Ottawa
11.	Chile	Chilean Peso	Santiago
12.	China	Yuan, Renminbi	Beijing
13.	Costa Rica	Costa Rican Colon	San Jose
14.	Croatia	Croatian Kuna	Zagreb
15.	Cuba	Peso	Havana
16.	Denmark	Danish Krone	Copenhagen
17.	Egypt	Egyptian Pound	Cairo
18.	Fiji	Fijian Dollar	Suva
19.	France	Euro	Paris
20.	Gambia	Gambian Dalasi	Banjul
21.	Georgia	Georgian Lari	Tbilisi
22.	Germany	Euro	Berlin
23.	Hungary	Hungarian Forint	Budapest
24.	Indonesia	Rupiah	Jakarta
25.	Israel	Israeli New Shekel	Jerusalem
26.	Italy	Euro	Rome
27.	Japan	Yen	Tokyo
28.	Kazakhstan	Tenge	Astana
29.	Kosovo	Euro	Pristina
30.	Kyrgyzstan	Som	Bishkek
31.	Maldives	Rufiyaa	Male
32.	Moldova	Moldovan Leu	Chisinau (Kishinev)
33.	Montenegro	Euro	Podgorica
34.	Morocco	Moroccan Dirham	Rabat
35.	Myanmar	Kyat	Naypyidaw

36.	Nepal	Nepalese Rupee	Kathmandu
37.	Netherlands	Euro	Amsterdam
38.	North Macedonia	Macedonia Denar	Skopje
39.	Norway	Norwegian Krone	Oslo
40.	Pakistan	Pakistani Rupee	Islamabad
41.	Poland	Zloty	Warsaw
42.	Portugal	Euro	Lisbon
43.	Romania	Romanian Leu	Bucharest
44.	Russia	Ruble	Moscow
45.	Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal	Riyadh
46.	Serbia	Serbian Dinar	Belgrade
47.	Singapore	Singapore Dollar	Singapore City
48.	Somalia	Somali Shilling	Mogadishu
49.	South Africa	Rand	Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein
50.	South Korea	Korean Won	Seoul
51.	Spain	Euro	Madrid
52.	Sri Lanka	Sri Lankan Rupee	Colombo
53.	Sweden	Swedish Krona	Stockholm
54.	Thailand	Thai Baht	Bangkok
55.	Turkey	Turkish Lira	Ankara
56.	UK	Pound	London
57.	Ukraine	Hryvnia	Kyiv
58.	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	UAE Dirham	Abu Dhabi
59.	United Kingdom	Pound Sterling	London
60.	United Kingdom (UK)	Pound Sterling	London
61.	United States of America	U.S. dollars	Washington DC
62.	United States of America (USA)	US Dollar	Washington D.C.

BANKS – HEADQUARTERS AND TAGLINES

S.No	Banks	Headquarter	Tagline
1.	Axis Bank	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi
2.	Bandhan Bank	Kolkata, West Bengal	Aapka Bhala, Sabki Bhalai
3.	Bank of Baroda	Vadodara, Gujarat	India's International Bank
4.	DBS Bank India	New Delhi	Live More, Bank Less
5.	HDFC Bank	Mumbai, Maharashtra	We Understand Your World
6.	ICICI Bank	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Khayal Apka
7.	IDBI Bank	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Banking For All
8.	IDFC First Bank	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Always You First
9.	IndusInd Bank	Mumbai, Maharashtra	We Care Dil Se
10.	IPPB	New Delhi	Aapka bank, Aapke dwar
11.	Karnataka Bank	Mangaluru, Karnataka	Your Family Bank Across India
12.	Kotak Mahindra Bank	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Let's Make Money Simple
13.	Punjab & Sind Bank	New Delhi	Where Service is a Way of Life
14.	Punjab National Bank	New Delhi	The Name You Can Bank Upon
15.	SBM Bank India	Mumbai, Maharashtra	We Made Banking Convenient For You
16.	State Bank of India	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Pure Banking, Nothing Else
17.	Union Bank of India	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Good people to bank with
18.	Yes Bank	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Experience Our Expertise



EduTap Hall of Fame

NABARD Grade A 2021

62 Selections Out of 74



Mr. Albin Sunny



Mr. Amol Darade



Mr. Ankith



Mr. Deepak Kumar



Mr. Gowtham



Mr. Vikram Joshi



Mr. Vinayak Langote



Ms. Arti Shukla



Mr. Nimish



Mr. Nithin



Mr. Prajakt Dhawale



Mr. Pravin



Ms. Dharana



Ms. Pavithra

RBI Grade B 2020 - 21

198 Selections Out of 257



Mr. Ajil



Mr. Aman Choudhary



Mr. Arun Sharma



Ms. Ila Sahu



Mr. Nishant Yadav



Ms. Ojaswi Dale



Mr. Parimal S Athaley



Ms. Resmarani Sahoo



Mr. Ryan Varghese



Mr. Shubham



Mr. Somya Atre



Ms. Srishtil Dabas



Ms. Twinkle Dahlia



Mr. Vaibhav Nayer

SEBI Grade A 2022

58 Selections Out of 80



Abhishek Ashish



Anurag Bolia



Avinash Jaiswal



Chetan Choraria



Gourav Singh



Himanshi



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Sushant Sanjay



Suvarna



Vivek Sharma



Shweta Meena



+91 8146207241



hello@edutap.co.in



www.edutap.co.in



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