

RBI GR B | SEBI GR A | NABARD GR A / B

CURRENT AFFAIRS MONTHLY MAGAZINE

3 Sections

- GA in News (Relevant for Phase 1)
RBI Gr B, NABARD Gr A & B, SEBI Gr A
- GA + ESI (Relevant for Phase 1 & Phase 2)
RBI Gr B, NABARD Gr A & B, SEBI Gr A
- GA + Finance (Relevant for Phase 1 & Phase 2)
RBI Gr B, NABARD Gr A & B & SEBI Gr A

1st – 31st
October
2022

OUR RISING STARS



AIR 1
RAJENDRAN SUNDAR
2018



MR. HARINATH K
2020



MR. SIDDHARTH KAIN
2020



MS. KOMAL KHANDEKAR
2019



MR. AL NIHAD
2019



MR. SALIL
2019



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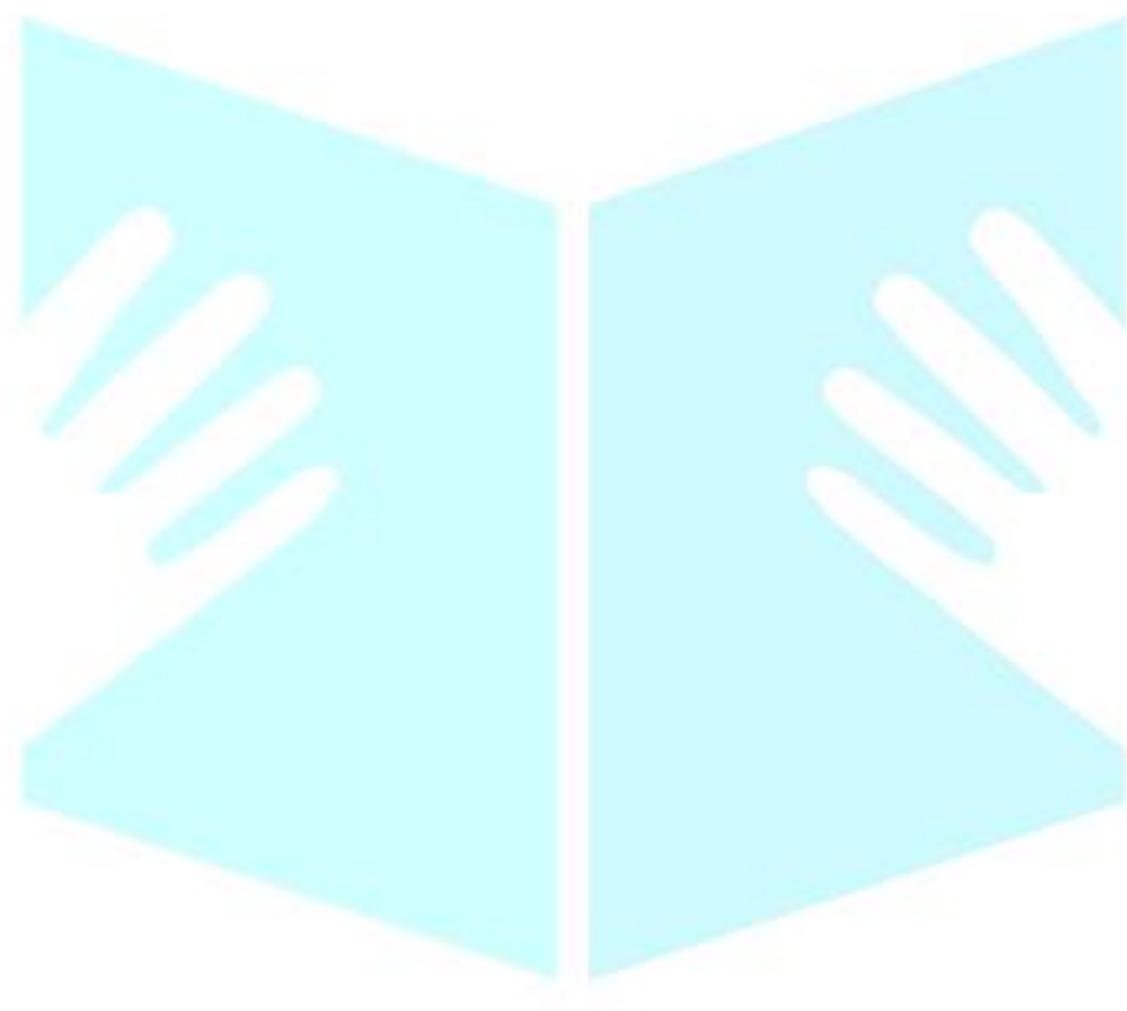
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EduTap

1 GA in News

First in News

| S.No. | News | Place / Developed by / Launched | Key Facts |
|-------|--|--|---|
| 1. | Nicole Aunapu Mann - First native American woman to venture into the Space | -- | She is a National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA) Astronaut, who'll lead NASA's Crew-5 mission to the International Space Station (ISS). |
| 2. | India's first human-carrying drone – 'Varuna' | Developed by: Sagar Defence Engineering Private Limited, Pune (Maharashtra) | To be inducted by: Indian Navy |
| 3. | India's first 4.20-MW wind turbine generator | Installed by: Brazil-based WEG Industries Installed at: Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu | Cost: Rs. 88 crores |
| 4. | World Muslim League celebrated Gandhi Jayanti for the First time | Celebrated at: Saudi Arabia | -- |
| 5. | First indigenously made light combat helicopter (LCH)-'Prachand' | Developed by: Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) | Inducted into: Indian Air Force Inducted at: Jodhpur, Rajasthan |
| 6. | First company to get Bureau of Indian Standards' (BIS) certification to sell lithium-ion cells – Godi India | Place: Hyderabad, Telangana | Godi India became first to manufacture 3000F (farads) high-power supercapacitors. The estimated global market size of supercapacitors is \$25 billion by 2030. |
| 7. | First-of-its-kind law to have a single standard charger for all new smartphones, tablets and cameras from late 2024. | Law passed by: European Union (EU) Parliament | It is expected to save at least 200 million euros (\$195 million) per year. |
| 8. | Amazon sets up its first solar farm in India. | Set up at: Rajasthan | Project Capacity: 420 MW |
| 9. | Hero MotoCorp launches its first electric scooter - Hero Vida V1 | -- | -- |
| 10. | India's first 24x7 solar-powered village | Village: Modhera, Gujarat | Prime Minister (PM) of India laid the foundation stone and dedicated various projects worth over Rs 3900 crore to the nation in Modhera, Gujarat. |
| 11. | First heritage site in India to be powered solely by solar energy | Place: Surya Mandir, Modhera (Gujarat) | PM inaugurated Heritage Lighting at Surya Mandir. |
| 12. | Kadavur slender loris sanctuary – India's first slender loris sanctuary | Place: Tamil Nadu | Slender Loris is listed as an endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). |
| 13. | First-of-its-kind Water Sports Centre in Himachal Pradesh | Set up at: Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh Set up by: Sports Authority of India (SAI) and National | The centre will be dedicated to training athletes in water sports like Rowing, Canoeing and Kayaking. |

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| | | Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) | |
| 14. | First ever National Coal Conclave & Exhibition - 2022 | To be organized by: Indian National Committee World Mining Congress, Ministry of Coal | Theme: Indian coal sector-sustainable mining towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat |
| 15. | MBBS course in Hindi for the first time in the country launched | Launched at: Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh Inaugurated by: Ministry of Home Affairs | -- |
| 16. | India's First Aluminum Freight Rake - 61 BOBRNALHSM1 inaugurated | Inaugurated at: Bhubaneswar Railway Station, Odisha Developed Indigenously by: Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO), Besco Wagon Ltd. and Hindalco | Inaugurated by: Ministry of Railways |
| 17. | First-of-its-kind pilot project on Flexi-Fuel Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicles (FFV-SHEV) in India | Launched by: Ministry of Road Transport & Highways Developed by: Toyota | Aim: To create an ecosystem of electric vehicles and make India, a global leader in the manufacture of these electric vehicles. |
| 18. | First-of-its-kind solar-powered charging plaza for electric vehicles | Set up at: Ladakh Set up by: Convergence Energy Services (CESL) , a subsidiary of the Energy Efficiency Services (EESL) | -- |
| 19. | First-ever merger and acquisition (M&A) transaction in the Indian life insurance sector | Merging entities: HDFC Life Insurance and Exide Life | HDFC Life has acquired 100% stake in Exide Life Insurance Company from its parent Exide Industries for ₹6,687 crore . |
| 20. | First ever all-Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Research & Development (R&D) showcase – 'InvenTiv' | Inaugurated at: IIT Delhi Inaugurated by: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship | -- |
| 21. | First Bank in India to surpass ₹6 trillion in Assets Under Management (AUM) – SBI | -- | State Bank of India (SBI) had crossed ₹5 trillion mark in January 2021 . |
| 22. | India's First Petrol-operated Drone – 'DH Agrigator' | Designed & Manufactured by: Daksha Unmanned Systems Pvt. Ltd. | Director-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued the 'Type Certificate' to this agriculture sprayer drone. |
| 23. | World's first laptops built for cloud gaming introduced by Google | -- | 3 new Chromebooks: Acer Chromebook 516 GE , ASUS Chromebook Vibe CX55 Flip and Ideapad Gaming Chromebook from Lenovo |
| 24. | First Consignment of LHB Wheels to Indian Railways flagged off | Flagged off from: Forged Wheel Plant (FWP) of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh) | -- |
| 25. | 1st ever Khelo India Women's Judo National League | To be held at: Delhi Organized by: Judo Federation of India and Dept of Sports | Commonwealth Games 2022 silver medalist Tulika Maan as well as World Cadet Judo Championship gold medalist |

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| | | (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports) | Linthoi Chanambam will feature in the tournament. |
| 26. | First SemiconIndia FutureDesign roadshow | Held at: Gandhinagar, Gujarat Launched by: Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (Meity) | Aim: To give a boost to the semiconductor design industry in India |
| 27. | First silent store in India | Place: New Delhi Launched by: Blinkit (online grocery delivery organization) | This store is operated by 20 specially abled individuals who are unable to hear and speak. |
| 28. | First private bank to go live in the credit card category on Bharat BillPay ecosystem – Kotak Mahindra Bank | -- | National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL) and Kotak Mahindra Bank have partnered to introduce credit cards on Bharat Bill Payment Ecosystem. |
| 29. | Mawmluh Cave – included in the 'First 100 IUGS (International Union of Geological Sciences) Geological Sites' in the world. | Recognized by: IUGS (one of the largest scientific organization of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) | It is the first Indian Geoheritage site recognized by UNESCO Location of Mawmluh Cave: Sohra, East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya. It is locally known as Krem Mawmluh . With a length of 7.2kms , Mawmluh Cave is the fourth longest cave in the Indian Subcontinent |
| | | Additional Information The full list will be submitted at IUGS's 60th anniversary event, at Zumaia, Spain | |
| 30. | India's first indigenous Overhauser Magnetometer | Developed by: Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG), Mumbai, an autonomous institution under Department of Science & Technology (DST) | Installed at: Alibag Magnetic Observatory (MO) Developed under: technology development program of IIG Purpose: reducing costs of sensing experiments essential for geomagnetic sampling. |
| 31. | Somasila-Siddheshwaram cable-stay-cum-suspension bridge- India's 1st cable-cum-suspension bridge | To be built across Krishna River | Approved by: Government of India under Bharatmala Pariyojana project It would connect Andhra Pradesh & Telangana Total Cost: Rs 1,082.56 crore The bridge would also have the longest glass pedestrian walkway across a river . Once completed, it would also be the second of its kind in the world . |
| 32. | Uttar Pradesh's First All all-woman battalions of the provincial armed constabulary (PAC) | -- | Three all women battalions have been set up under Mission Shakti programme of UP Government. Three battalions named after women warriors Rani Avantibai Lodhi, Uda Devi and Jhalkari Bai |
| 33. | For the first time, Reliance Jio has become the largest landline service provider in August 2022 | -- | Reliance Jio recorded 7.35 million landline connections as on August 31, 2022. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) & Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited |

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| | | | (MTNL) took the 2 nd & 3 rd spots respectively |
| 34. | First Cloud Region of Google | To be set up in Greece | -- |
| 35. | Jyothi Yarraj- first Indian woman to clock sub-13 seconds in 100m hurdles | 61st National Open Athletics Championships, Bengaluru | -- |
| 36. | Rohit Sharma- first ever Indian to play 400 T20s | -- | Indian Skipper Rohit Sharma has achieved this milestone in the Guwahati T20I against South Africa . Rohit Sharma is the only Indian to feature in all 7 editions of T20 World Cup . Former West Indies Cricketer Kieron Pollard (614 matches) has played the highest number of T20 matches. |
| 37. | Nihonshu- First Japanese product that has filed for Geographical Indication (GI) tag at the GI Registry | -- | Nihonshu or Japanese sake is an alcoholic beverage made from fermented rice . The Embassy of Japan , New Delhi, has filed an application to seek GI tag for the product. |
| 38. | First-ever women-only Digital Centre (DC) in India | Opened at: Bengaluru, Karnataka Opened by: HDFC Securities | -- |
| 39. | First Asian & Indian to Be Appointed Independent Expert on Racism - Ashwini K.P. | Appointed by: United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) | He was appointed after E. Tendayi Achiume's (Zambia) resignation. |
| 40. | First Asian American to feature on US currency – Late Anna May Wong | -- | She will be featured in a quarter-dollar coin , which will be the fifth coin in the American Women Quarters (AWQ) Program . |
| 41. | Italy's first woman prime minister (PM) - Giorgia Meloni | -- | She replaced Mario Draghi as the PM. |
| 42. | First Indian firm to use Metaverse as a platform to post the proceedings of its 2 nd quarter earnings call - Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) | -- | The earning call was produced in partnership with GMetri (a no-code metaverse creation platform). |
| 43. | World's first licensing deal for high-priced chronic myeloid leukemia (cancer) drug as part of a public health initiative | Deal signed by: Novartis AG | The oral drug, nilotinib , is used to treat chronic myeloid leukemia and may be made in Egypt, Guatemala, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Tunisia |
| 44. | First indigenous Overhauser Magnetometer | Sensor Installed at: Alibag Magnetic Observatory (MO) | -- |
| 45. | 'Greenovator Incubation Foundation'- India's first green technology incubation centre | To be set up at: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir | Department of Science & Technology (DST) under the Ministry of Science & Technology will finance & support the initiative under Inclusive TBI (i-TBI) initiative for educational institutions |

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| | | | Focus Areas of the Centre: AgriTech, EnviroTech, and AlterTech. |
| | About Inclusive TBI (i-TBI) initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported by: DST; Duration: 3 years Aim: to support startup initiatives, innovative ideas, and promote self-employment and job creation through incubation. | | |
| 46. | Tata Steel's Jamshedpur Steel Plant – India's first to achieve ResponsibleSteel Certification | -- | Three facilities from Tata Steel's Jamshedpur Steel Plant viz, Steel Works, Tubes Division and Cold Rolling Mill (Bara) have received the ResponsibleSteel Certification . |
| | About Responsible Steel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the steel industry's first global multi-stakeholder standard and certification initiative. | | |
| 47. | Foundation Stone laid for C-295 transport aircraft manufacturing facility -first project of its kind in which a military aircraft will be manufactured in India by a private company | Located at: Vadodara, Gujarat Setup by: Tata Advanced Systems Limited and Airbus Defence and Space S.A., Spain | Project Cost: Rs 21,935 crore In September 2021, the Ministry of Defence has signed a deal with Airbus Defence and Space, Spain to procure 56 C-295MW aircraft. Of the 56 aircraft contracted, 40 would be manufactured at the Vadodara facility . All 56 aircrafts will be fitted with indigenous Electronic Warfare suite manufactured by Bharat Electronics Ltd and Bharat Dynamics Limited. C-295 will replace the Avro aircraft in service with the Indian Air Force (IAF). |
| | Additional Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government of India aims to increase defence manufacturing beyond USD 25 billion by 2025 Defence exports will exceed USD 5 billion by 2025 | | |
| 48. | In a First, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced a pay equity policy . | -- | From now on, all centrally contracted women & men cricketers would get the same match fees viz, Rs 15 lakh (test matches), Rs 6 lakh (ODIs) & Rs 3 lakh rupees (T-20). India has become the second country in international cricket to implement equal pay after New Zealand. |
| | Additional Information The first women's Indian Premier League (IPL) will be held in March 2023 . | | |
| 49. | First-of-its-kind satellite index-based Farm Yield Insurance Policy | Launched by: HDFC ERGO | Under this product, a satellite-based index will be used to provide localized coverage at the farm level across the entire crop lifecycle. |
| 50. | Yotta D1- North India's first hyper-scale data centre | Set up by: Yotta Infrastructure (a Hiranandani group company) Location: Yotta Greater Noida Data Centre Park, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Set up cost: Rs 5,000 crore It is the first of the six data centre buildings in Yotta Greater Noida Data Centre Park The Government of Uttar Pradesh & Hiranandani Group have also signed Memorandum of Understanding to invest Rs 39,000 crore in the next 5 to 7 years . |

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| 51. | Maharashtra's first Greenfield Electronics Manufacturing Cluster | To be set up at: Ranjangaon Phase III, Pune | Approved by: Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Project Cost: Rs 492.85 crores |
| | | Additional Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMCs are already operational in Noida, Tirupati, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. • India has set a target to achieve USD 300 billion worth of electronics manufacturing and exports by 2025-26. | |

Government Initiatives

| S.No. | Initiatives / Programs in News | Launched by / Developed by | Key Facts |
|-------|---|--|---|
| 1. | 'herSTART' – a start-up platform | Launched by: President of India | It is a start-up platform of Gujarat University for Women Entrepreneurs. |
| 2. | Special Campaign 2.0 on Swachhta | Conducted by: Ministry of Defence | Being carried out from: October 2, 2022 to October 31, 2022 Aim: Keeping the premises neat and tidy. |
| 3. | Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for the Pahari community in Jammu and Kashmir | Announced by: Home Minister | -- |
| 4. | UPSC – Official App for Android | Launched by: Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) | Aim: To allow people to access examination and recruitment-related information. |
| 5. | "Satyanishtha" App | Launched by: Kangra police, Himachal Pradesh | The app is prepared for crime control and investigation. |
| 6. | Plan to set up 100 labs for 5G technology across India | Planned by: Government of India | At least 12 of them will be used to train students and conduct experiments. |
| 7. | Completion of installation of 30 lakh smart meters | Installed by: Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. (EESL) | Installed in: Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) – Delhi, Bihar, and the union territory of Andaman. |
| 8. | Online Building Plan Approval System (OBPAS) under eChhawani portal | Launched by: Ministry of Defence | The system has been extended for five more Cantonment Boards, namely Agra, Ranikhet, Babina, Jammu and Cannanore. eChhawani: It is a Citizen Centric project of Directorate General of Defence Estates, Ministry of Defence to provide online services across 62 Cantonment Boards through a common web portal in paperless, faceless and cashless manner. OBPAS: This module under eChhawani was initially rolled out to enable 'Ease of Living' and 'Ease of Doing Business' for residents in 17 Cantonment Boards. |
| 9. | Two advisory committees to iron out the challenges in the steel industry | Set up by: Government of India | Aim: To achieve the target of 300 million tonne of steel production capacity by 2030. |
| 10. | Agencies selected for the installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in 8 cities | Selected by: Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) | 8 cities: Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune and Surat |
| 11. | Western Regional Office of Competition Commission of India (CCI) inaugurated | Inaugurated by: Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Inaugurated at: Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra |
| 12. | Model Bye-Laws and Governing Board of Insolvency Professional | Amended by: Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) | The new regime allows entities to register themselves as insolvency professionals and perform associated duties. Earlier they |

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| | Agencies (Amendment) Regulations, 2022 | | were allowed only to provide support services to insolvency professionals. |
| 13. | Cheetah Task Force constituted | Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change | Aim: For monitoring Cheetah introduction in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh and other suitable designated areas. Work facilitation to be done by: National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) |
| 14. | Operation "SEWA" | Railway Protection Force (RPF) | RPF personnel assist the elderly citizens, women, physically disabled and provide amenities like wheelchairs, stretchers, medical help, ambulances, Infant food etc. under this. |
| | Operation "Dignity" | Railway Protection Force (RPF) | RPF works in rescuing persons lost or having run away from their homes or disoriented due to certain reason or distressed and in need of care and protection under this. |
| | Operation "Nanhe Fariste" | Railway Protection Force (RPF) | RPF undertakes the noble cause of identifying and rescuing children lost/runaway/separated from their family due to various reasons and in need of care & protection under this. |
| | Mission "Jeewan Raksha" | Railway Protection Force (RPF) | RPF saves passengers trying to board/de-board a moving train, slip and fall with the risk of coming under the wheels of running train under this. |
| | Operation "Matrishakti" | Railway Protection Force (RPF) | RPF helps pregnant women passengers, experiencing labour pain during their train journey under this. |
| 15. | Fit India Freedom Run 3.0 | Government of India | Launched from: Major Dhyanchand National Stadium in New Delhi Duration: 2 nd October to 31 st October 2022 Highlight: A plog run was organized as a part of the event. |
| | | | Additional Information Fit India Freedom Run was started in 2020 & Fit India Movement was started in 2019. |
| 16. | Matdata Junction | Election Commission of India (ECI) & All India Radio (AIR) | A yearlong voter awareness program 52 Episodes to be broadcast every Friday on Vividh Bharati stations, FM Rainbow, FM Gold and Primary channels of AIR. Programs to be broadcast in 23 languages . Actor Pankaj Tripathi declared ECI's National Icon |
| 17. | Weapon Systems (WS) branch for the Indian Air Force (IAF) to be created | To be created by: Ministry of Defence | The branch would encompass operators in four specialised streams of Surface-to-Surface missiles, Surface-to-Air missiles, Remotely Piloted Aircraft and Weapon System Operators in twin/multi-crew aircraft. |
| 18. | DBT-NIPGR-Pandit Jaiwant Ram Upmanyu Science Museum recently inaugurated | Set up by: National Institute of Plant Genome Research, Department of Biotechnology | Inaugurated by: Ministry of Science & Technology Inaugurated at: Chamba, Himachal Pradesh |

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| 19. | #KickOffTheDream campaign | Launched by: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports | Aim: To show support to the Indian women's U 17 football team set to participate in the U17 FIFA women's world cup. |
| 20. | 'Maa Bharati Ke Sapoot' (MBKS) website to be launched | To be Launched by: Ministry of Defence | To be launched for: Armed Forces Battle Casualties Welfare Fund (AFBCWF) |
| | | About AFBCWF: It is a Tri service fund, utilised for grant of immediate financial assistance of ex-gratia, to the Next of Kin and dependents of Battle Casualties. | |
| 21. | Phase 1 of Modi Shaikshanik Sankul in Ahmedabad, Gujarat inaugurated | Inaugurated by: Prime Minister | It is an educational complex for needy students. The project will help provide facilities to students for holistic development. |
| 22. | Phase I of the Mahakal Lok Project in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh inaugurated | Inaugurated by: Prime Minister | Total Project Cost: Rs 850 crores Aim: To put special emphasis on the conservation and restoration of heritage structures. |
| 23. | Indian handicraft portal launched | Developed by: Office of the Development Commissioner (handicrafts) | The online process will provide equal, fair and transparent opportunity to all artisans. |
| 24. | Sanjeevani - Lifestyle Clinic inaugurated | Inaugurated at: Armed Forces Clinic, New Delhi Launched by: Indian Army | Aim: To provide advice on diet, exercise and behavioural counselling to all serving & retired personnel and their dependents. |
| 25. | Supercomputer Facility at IIT Guwahati – 'Param-Kamrupa' inaugurated | Inaugurated by: President of India | Param-Kamrupa is a state-of-the-art supercomputer set up under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM). The facility will be able to conduct advanced research in various scientific fields. |
| | | About NSM: In 2015, the NSM was launched to enhance the research capacities and capabilities in the country by connecting them to form a Supercomputing grid, with National Knowledge Network (NKN) as the backbone. | |
| 26. | 'Football For All' Campaign | Initiated by: FIFA in collaboration with Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Odisha (KIIT) and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) | Over 43,000 footballs will be distributed in about 2,000 schools of the State. |
| 27. | One time grant to three Public Sector Undertaking Oil Marketing Companies (PSU OMCs) | Proposed by: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas | Grant amount: Rs.22,000 crore 3 PSU OMCs: Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL). |
| 28. | 'PLI Mobile Training App' | Launched by: Ministry of Communications in collaboration with Insurance Institute of India, Mumbai | Aim: To provide online training for the Postal Life Insurance (PLI) sales force. Launched on: Golden Jubilee of PIN Code (October 12) Commemorative Postage Stamp was also released on this occasion. |

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| 29. | 53rd Capacity Building programme in the Field Administration for Civil Servants of Bangladesh | Inaugurated at: National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) | This is the only institute in the country to have trained 1,727 field-level officers of Bangladesh Civil Service . |
| 30. | A fresh batch of medical supplies delivered to Afghanistan as a part of humanitarian assistance . | Delivered by: Government of India | This was the 13th batch of medical supplies as per India's humanitarian assistance . |
| 31. | India's space economy is likely to be worth \$12.8 billion by 2025 | Estimated by: Report released by the Indian Space Association (ISPA) and Ernst and Young . | The satellite services and applications segment would be the largest with a turnover of \$4.6 billion by 2025 . |
| 32. | 4th Vande Bharat Express Train | Launched by: Ministry of Railways | Passage: Amb Andaura, Una (Himachal Pradesh) to New Delhi Flagged off by: Prime Minister |
| 33. | Foundation Stone of Bulk Drug Park laid | Laid by: Prime Minister | Laid at: Una, Himachal Pradesh Estimated cost: Over Rs 1900 crore |
| 34. | Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Una inaugurated | Inaugurated by: Prime Minister | Inaugurated at: Una, Himachal Pradesh |
| 35. | Infrastructure status to data centres with over 5 MW capacity of IT load | Given by: Government of India | Data centre is included in the Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure sub-sectors by insertion of a new item in the category of ' Communication '. Aim: The development helps data centre companies to get easier access to institutional credit at lower rates , attract foreign investments etc. |
| 36. | Solar-Electric Hybrid High Speed Ferry inaugurated | Inaugurated by: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways | Inaugurated at: Panaji, Goa Funded by: Inland Waterways Authority of India Project cost: Rs. 9.6 crores |
| 37. | Google Cloud to become an active participant in India's digital transformation initiatives | Approved by: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) | Google cloud would participate in Project Meghraj that aims at making a multi-level, national cloud-sharing foundation giving affordable, secure, and safe data storage for everyone. |
| 38. | Open House Dialogue with the Intellectual Property (IP) Fraternity | Organized by: Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM) | Aim: To address concerns, grievances and facilitate the discussion on the changes required into the IP Ecosystem . |
| 39. | Target of achieving USD 5 billion in defence exports by 2025 | Set up by: Prime Minister (PM) | Announced by: BrahMos Aerospace |
| 40. | KASHI TAMIL SANGAMAM | An initiative by: Ministry of Education | To be organized in: Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti (BBS) has come up with a proposal to rediscover, reaffirm and celebrate the age-old links between the Tamil culture and Kashi that has existed since centuries. |
| 41. | Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme (CHIS) launched | Launched by: Nagaland Government | CHIS will be implemented in convergence with the Ayushman Bharat scheme of the Centre. |

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| | | | Insurance Partner: Oriental Insurance Company Ltd. |
| 42. | Special Campaign 2.0 for Disposal of Pending Matters | Organized by: Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications | Aim: Effective disposal of public grievances, references from the Members of Parliament, Parliament Assurances, Cleanliness drive, disposal of scrap and weeding out of files. |
| 43. | Fit India Freedom Run 3.0 | Organized by: Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) - National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR) | Run Distance: 3km Aim: To strengthen the 'Fit India Mission' of Government of India |
| 44. | Asia's largest Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plant at Sangrur, Punjab inaugurated | Inaugurated by: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas | Inaugurated Under: Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) Scheme About SATAT Scheme: It was launched by Government of India in October 2018 to establish an ecosystem for production of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) from various waste/ biomass sources in the country. |
| 45. | All registered micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to continue to avail non-tax benefits in their respective categories for three years post reclassification | Announced by: Ministry of MSME | -- |
| 46. | A 50-vehicle fleet of electric 3-wheelers with swappable batteries flagged off in Delhi | Flagged off by: Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and SUN Mobility | Aim: To boost emission-free last mile connectivity. |
| 47. | Lt Gen PS Bhagat Memorial Chair of Excellence instituted | Instituted by: Ministry of Defence | Instituted at: United Service Institution of India (USI) |
| 48. | Exclusive benches created to deal with debt recovery cases above ₹100 crore | Created by: Government of India | Created at: Debt Recovery Tribunals at Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Delhi. |
| 49. | 68 First Mile Connectivity (FMC) Projects for Seamless Evacuation of Coal | Undertaken by: Ministry of Coal | Ministry of Coal has set a target to produce 1.3 billion ton (BT) in FY25 and 1.5 BT by FY30. |
| 50. | India's second Rashtriya Adarsh Veda Vidyalaya (RAVV) or National Model Vedic School | -- | Set up at: Central Sanskrit University Campus, Puri, Odisha Objective: to spread the knowledge of vedas among people First RAVV of India: Maharishi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratishtan in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. |
| 51. | "Main Bhi Subhash" campaign | Organized by: Ministry of Culture & Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose-INA Trust | Launched from: Leh, Ladakh Campaign also implemented from Mumbai and Kolkata Objective: create awareness about Netaji's contribution in the freedom fight. |

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| | | | The campaign part of series of events by the organizers to celebrate Netaji's 125th Birth Anniversary on 23 January 2022. |
| 52. | 75 MW Solar Power Projects | To be commissioned by: Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Ltd. | To be commissioned at: Parasan Solar Park, Uttar Pradesh Total Project Cost: ₹392.3 crore |
| 53. | A dance-drama titled " STREEDESH " | Organized by: Ministry of Culture | The dance drama was based on the lives of 13 legendary women of Jammu and Kashmir. |
| 54. | Special Campaign 2.0 on the cleanliness | -- | Border Road Organization (BRO) carried out trials to extensively use shredded plastic in bituminous road construction in India as well as in Bhutan. |
| 55. | A month-long Mega Safety Drive | To be observed by: Indian Railways | Aim: To remove any gaps in maintenance of fixed assets, locomotives and rolling stock and strengthening safety on Indian Railways. |
| 56. | SAMRIDDHI 2022-23 | Launched by: Lieutenant Governor of Delhi | It is a one-time property tax amnesty scheme to provide a major relief to lakhs of residential and commercial property owners in the city. |
| 57. | Fit India Freedom Run 3.0 | Organized by: National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi | Theme: Azadi ke 75 years, Fitness Rahe Bemisal. Aim: To inculcate the habit of walking and running in people in the quest for better health and fitness. |
| 58. | Cheetah Awareness Programme | Organized by: National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi | -- |
| 59. | 'Honesty shops' on school campuses | Opened by: Student Police Cadet (SPC) | Opened in: Nearly 15 schools in Ernakulam district of Kerala Aim: To provide students a chance to experience the virtue of honesty. |
| 60. | Hike in Reservation for Scheduled Tribes (ST) | Government of Telangana | The Telangana Govt. has increased the reservation for ST to 10% from 6%. With this the total reservation in Telangana will increase to 54%. |
| | | <p>Additional Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to Indira Sawhney Judgement (1992), all reservations are supposed to be capped at 50%. Tamil Nadu (TN) Government has been providing reservation to the extent of 69%. The 69% reservation of TN has been validated and included in the 9th schedule of the Constitution of India. <p>About 9th schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It contains a list of central and state laws which cannot be challenged in courts. | |
| 61. | Diye Jalao, Patake Nahin (light up lamps, not firecrackers) campaign | Launched by: Government of Delhi | Launched at: Central Park, New Delhi Objective: to promote a pollution-free Diwali Festival. |

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| 62. | Increase in Reservation for SC/ST Communities | Karnataka Government | Karnataka Government has increased the reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) from 15% to 17%, and for Scheduled Tribes (STs) from 3% to 7%. |
| 63. | Cyber intelligence unit | To be set up by the Government of Maharashtra | Objective: to curb cyber and financial crime in Maharashtra |
| 64. | Trustees appointed to PM CARES fund | Government of India | Hon'ble Justice K.T. Thomas, former Judge, Supreme Court, Shri Karia Munda, former Deputy Speaker and Shri Ratan Tata has Joined as Trustees of the PM CARES Fund |
| 65. | Rozgar Mela – recruitment drive for 10 lakh personnel | Launched by: The Prime Minister of India | During the ceremony, appointment letters were handed over to 75,000 newly inducted appointees. The new recruits will join 38 Ministries/Departments of Government of India |
| | | Additional Information The Government of India has set a target to spend Rs 100 lakh crore on infrastructure development in India. | |
| 66. | Panel to study Scheduled Caste (SC) status of Dalits post conversion | Constituted by: Government of India | Panel Head: K G Balakrishnan, Former Chief Justice of India Total Members: Three Mandate: to examine whether Caste (SC) status can be accorded to Dalits who have over the years converted to religions other than Sikhism or Buddhism. |
| | | Additional Information At present, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 provides for only those belonging to Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist communities to be categorised as SCs. | |
| 67. | Football4Schools initiative | Initiative of: International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), & United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) | Recently, the Union Ministry of Education has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with FIFA & All India Football Federation (AIFF) to implement the initiative in India. Aim: to empower 25 million young boys and girls in India through sports-integrated learning. Nodal Agency to implement the project in India: Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti Sports Authority of India (SAI) will extend all support for this initiative. |
| | | Global Aim of Football4Schools initiative to contribute to the education, development and empowerment of around 700 million children | |

MoUs and Agreements

| S.No. | Area of MoU/Agreement | Signed Between | Key Facts |
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| MoUs & Agreements related to Banks / Insurance | | | |
| 1. | MoU to launch India's Rupay debit card in Oman | National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Central Bank of Oman | -- |

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| 2. | MoU to contribute in the growth of the supply chain finance penetration in India | IDBI Bank and Vayana Network | Vayana Network is IDBI Bank's first fintech partner for end-to-end digitalization services. The current supply chain finance market in India is estimated at ₹60,000 crore and is expected to grow by 17% per annum. |
| 3. | Partnership to enhance credit access to a larger customer base | Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Ltd. and India Post Payments Bank | As a pilot, this scheme would first go live in the states of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh and will then spread out. |
| 4. | Partnership to offer new insurance policy and renew an existing one through WhatsApp | SBI General Insurance and Gupshup | -- |
| 5. | Partnership to expand Unified Payment Interface (UPI) and Rupay acceptance across Europe | National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) International Payments Ltd. (NIPL) and Worldline | The partnership will allow the acceptance of Indian Payment methods across Europe for Indian visitors. |
| 6. | MoU to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the fintech domain | Gujarat International Finance Tec City (Gift City) & Fintech Association of Japan (FAJ) | Objectives: to promote GIFT City as a fintech hub in India, and exposing young innovators in the fintech domain to opportunities in India and Japan. Location of GIFT City: Gandhinagar, Gujarat. |
| 7. | MoU to empower women with digital skills | American Express and National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) Foundation | Aim: To train and upskill 700 women graduates through an employment-linked training project, ' Women Empowerment Through Technology '. |
| Additional Information: Under this, American Express and Nasscom Foundation are working with two training partners - FUEL (Friends Union for Energizing Lives) and RCED (Regional Centre for Entrepreneurship) to impart women with technology-based skill development and entrepreneurship training. | | | |

Other MoUs & Agreements

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| 8. | MoU for demonstrating Hydrogen co-firing in 9E Gas Turbines to further Decarbonize Power Generation | NTPC Ltd. and GE Gas Power | The hydrogen co-firing blended with natural gas will be done at NTPC's Kawas combined-cycle gas power plant in Gujarat . |
| 9. | Partnership for video making competition as a part of Ayurveda Day 2022 Celebrations | Ministry of AYUSH and MyGov.in | Theme 1: Ayurveda in my day Theme 2: Ayurveda in my kitchen Theme 3: Ayurveda in my garden Theme 4: Ayurveda in my farm Theme 5: Ayurveda in my food/diet |
| 10. | MoU for academic establishment | All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan | AIIA aims to promote Institute's research activities both at a national and international stage, with this MoU. |
| 11. | MoU to promote the implementation of standards and quality, safety and sustainability practices in laboratories | Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Testing, Inspection, Certification Council, India | Aim: To exchange and disseminate the global best practices in the field of laboratories. |

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| 12. | Agreement on White Shipping Information Exchange | Indian Navy and Royal New Zealand Navy | Aim: To promote transparency in Maritime Domain. |
| 13. | MoU to ease searching the Internet in Sanskrit | Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Google | Aim: To improve the Sanskrit translation experience. |
| 14. | Deal agreement to export missiles & weapon systems | India and Armenia | India will export missiles, rockets and ammunition, to Armenia to help defend the nation against Azerbaijan. |
| 15. | MoU to study the possibility to stage the final stages of the Santosh Trophy | All India Football Federation (AIFF) and Saudi Arabia | The final stages of the Santosh Trophy are to be held in February 2023 . |
| 16. | Partnership for research and innovation in the field of zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) | India and California, US | Aim: To support ZEV uptake in India, spurring the development of an EV industry in India and contributing to India's industrial growth. |
| 17. | Amalgamation Agreement | Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited and Bangla Entertainment Private Limited (BEPL) with Culver Max Entertainment Private Limited (CMEPL) (formerly known as Sony Pictures Networks India Private Limited) | Approved by: Competition Commission of India (CCI) |
| 18. | Acquisition Agreement | Acquirer: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) Acquiree: Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd. | LIC increased its stakes in Dr. Reddy Lab to 7.7%. |
| | | Acquirer: RattanIndia Enterprises Ltd Acquiree: Revolt Motors | Share Acquisition: 100% |
| | | Acquirer: Britannia Industries Acquiree: Kenya's Kenafric Biscuits Ltd | Share Acquisition: 51% Cost of Acquisition: 13.87 crore Kenyan Shillings (₹9.2 crore) |
| 19. | Acquisition Agreement | Acquirer: Platinum Owl Acquiree: Intas | Share Acquisition: 3% Approved by: Competition Commission of India (CCI) |
| | | Acquirer: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) Acquiree: Gangavaram Port, Andhra Pradesh | Stake Acquisition: 58.1% Approved by: National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Ahmedabad and NCLT Hyderabad Acquisition Cost: ₹6,200 crore |
| | | Acquirer: Adani Green Energy Limited Acquiree: Equity shareholding of Inox Wind in 3 Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) | 3 SPVs: Wind One Renergy Ltd., Wind Three Renergy Ltd. and Wind Five Renergy Ltd. Share Acquisition: 100% |
| 20. | MoU for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Digital Solutions | NMDC (formerly known as National Mineral Development Corporation) and RailTel Corporation of India | This agreement will enable NMDC to digitally transform using RailTel technical solutions. |
| 21. | MoU for Setting up four large scale coal-to-chemical projects through surface | Coal India Ltd and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) | Estimated project cost: Rs.35,000 crores SCG Projects to be set-up at: West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu |

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| | coal gasification (SCG) route | Coal India Ltd and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) Coal India Ltd and GAIL (India) NLC India Limited (NLCL) and BHEL | |
| 22. | MoU for demonstrating Hydrogen co-firing blended with Natural Gas | NTPC (formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation) and Siemens Ltd. | -- |
| 23. | Partnership for the development and commercialization of 'Swirl Mesh Lean Direct Injection (LDI) system' technology for developing hybrid electric vehicles | Ashok Leyland and Indian Institute of Technology – Madras researchers at National Centre for Combustion Research and Development (NCCRD) | This collaboration will enable the development and demonstration of a series of vehicles with a hybrid concept equipped with the Micro Gas Turbine called the 'Turbine electric vehicle' (TEV). |
| 24. | MoU for developing a solar power project of 1190 MW | Coal India Limited (CIL) and Rajasthan Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL) | To be developed in: Rajasthan |
| 25. | MoU to explore opportunities to train, up-skill and re-skill Armed Forces Personnel and Indian Navy personnel | Indian Navy and Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Nagpur | Aim: To train in emerging areas of Business Management, Financial Management, Block Chain, Project Management, Strategic Management, Digital Marketing, Supply chain, Logistic management and research. |
| 26. | MoU for sharing knowledge of innovative ideas and technologies in the field of Highway Engineering | National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Patna | NHIDCL has already signed the MoU on the similar subject with CSIR- Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), IIT Roorkee, IIT Kanpur and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). |
| 27. | MoU for setting up the testing facility for dietary supplements | Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) | Aim: To benefit athletes and athlete-support personnel by educating and spreading awareness about inadvertent doping due to prohibited substances present in nutritional supplements. |
| 28. | MoU to strengthen the industrial and interdisciplinary research in cost-effective exploration activities | IIT Kharagpur and Drilling Institute of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) | The two institutes will take on several developmental projects and research projects in drilling, cementing fluids, etc. |
| 29. | MoU for cooperation in various economic activities | Government of Dubai and Government of Haryana | -- |
| 30. | MoU for getting 34 CFM56-5B engines | Air India and Willis Lease Finance Corporation | The engines are to be installed on Air India's Airbus A320 family fleet. |
| 31. | MoU to strengthen cooperation in financing railway infrastructure projects | Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) and India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) | -- |
| 32. | Cooperation Agreement to promote Sustainability and Circularity in Textile Value Chain | Textiles Committee (TC), Government of India and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) | Aim: To minimize the negative environmental impacts of the Indian textile industry by promoting sustainable practices. |
| 33. | Partnership to empower women and girls and promote inclusion and | International Cricket Council (ICC) and UNICEF | The partnership will be activated in the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia where all 16 nations will hold 'Cricket 4 |

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| | gender equality through cricket | | Good Coaching Clinics' with school children taking part in each one. |
| 34. | MoU to demonstrate the feasibility for Hydrogen co-firing blended with natural gas | NTPC Ltd., Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. Japan and Mitsubishi Power India Private Ltd. | Demonstration at: NTPC Auraiya Gas Power Plant, Uttar Pradesh |
| 35. | MoU to develop 1,000 MW floating solar power projects | Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Green Energy and Assam Power Distribution Company (APDCL) | The companies will form a Joint Venture, while SJVN will make an investment of ₹6,000 crore in the state to develop the project. |
| 36. | MoU to offer cutting-edge digital engineering services | Tech Mahindra and Gujarat government | Aim: To expand operations in Gujarat and hire more than 3,000 professionals over the next five years. |
| 37. | Partnership to develop raw materials for aerospace parts and components in India | Defence public sector enterprise Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd. (MIDHANI) and Boeing India | -- |
| 38. | MoU to use Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) software solutions for defence and commercial drones | Garuda Aerospace and Lockheed Martin CDL Systems | Lockheed Martin CDL Systems has developed the UAS Software Solution. |
| 39. | Partnership to begin manufacturing small arms domestically in India | Jindal Defence and Brazilian defence major Taurus Armas S.A. | The 2 companies expect to start production from January in a plant in Hisar, Haryana. The plant was set up with an initial investment of \$5 million for the land and construction costs. |
| 40. | MoU to explore low-emission steel production | JSW Steel and Smartex | Aim: Decarbonization of the steel sector in India. |
| 41. | Memorandum of Loan Agreement for financing coal based Buxar Thermal Power Plant (BTPP) | REC Limited and Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) with SJVN Thermal Private Ltd. (STPL) | Estimated Project Cost: ₹12,172.74 Cr Debt to be financed by REC Ltd & PFC: ₹8520.92 Cr |
| 42. | Contractual Agreement to supply power transformers for renewable energy park in Gujarat | Contract Awarded to: Hitachi Energy India Contract Awarded by: NTPC Renewable Energy | NTPC Renewable Energy is to have its upcoming 4.75 GW renewable energy park in Gujarat, which is part of India's largest solar park. |
| 43. | Contractual Agreement to develop 105 MW Floating Solar Project | Contract Awarded to: Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Contract Awarded by: Maharashtra State Power Generation Company (MAHAGENCO) | Development Cost: ₹730 crores |
| 44. | MoU for the supply of 1,000 MW green power | Jindal Steel and Power (JSP) and Greenko | Greenko will supply green power to JSP plant in Odisha. |
| 45. | MoU for Skill Development Training in Additive Technologies | National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC) and Phillips Machine Tools India Pvt. Ltd. | -- |
| 46. | Acquisition Agreement | Acquirer: Verventa Holdings Acquiree: YES Bank | Approved by: Competition Commission of India (CCI) Share acquisition: 10% |

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| | | Acquirer: Adani Defence Systems & Technologies (ADSTL) Acquiree: Air Works | Acquisition Cost: Rs 400 crore Share Acquisition: 100% |
| 47. | Letter of Intent (LoI) for procurement of 300 KW Li-Ion Battery Packs | Triton Electric Vehicle India Pvt Ltd and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) | Procurement is being done for Triton's Semi-Truck project in India at an estimated value of Rs. 8060 Crores . |
| 48. | Partnership to create 10,000 virtual telemedicine clinics for ayurvedic practitioners across the globe over next two years | Madhavbaug and Easy Ayurveda | The joint venture plans to launch customized learning courses and skill building courses for practicing doctors. |
| 49. | MoU for manufacturing Hydrogen fuel cells with technology transfer | BEL and Triton Electric Vehicle | Aim: Tapping the demand for clean energy solutions for various applications, including e-mobility |
| 50. | Multi-year supply contracts for supplying 5G network equipment to Jio | Ericsson and Nokia with Reliance Jio | -- |
| 51. | 16 Licensing Agreements for Transfer of Technology (LAToT) for 10 DRDO-developed technologies to 13 industries | Handed over by: Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) | Signed at: ' Bandhan ' ceremony of the 12th DefExpo in Gandhinagar, Gujarat |
| 52. | MoU to set up a green hydrogen and green ammonia project | Jakson Group (Energy and infrastructure company) and Rajasthan government | Investment: ₹22,400 crore |
| 53. | MoU for strategic collaboration in developing onshore and offshore wind power projects in India | NLC India Ltd. and National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) Additional Information: NLC India Ltd. is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Coal , and NIWE is an autonomous Research and Development institution under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) . | Aim: To synergize the technical expertise of NIWE and the project development capabilities of NLCIL . |
| 54. | Acquisition Agreement | Acquirer: Borosil Renewables Limited (BRL) Acquiree: Interfloat Group | Stake Acquisition: 86% |
| | | Acquirer: Dabur India Acquiree: Badshah Masala | Stake Acquisition: 51% Acquisition Cost: Rs 587.52 crore |
| 55. | MoU for engineering, development and manufacturing of defence products | Jindal Defence and Aerospace and Yantra India Ltd | The MoU is in line with the government's push for a public-private partnership to serve the Indian armed forces . |
| 56. | Partnership to empower youth towards better mental health and create a more resilient future | Ministry of Culture and Art of Living | -- |
| 57. | MoU for seeking and promoting innovative technologies to find solutions for the construction of highways facing extreme climatic conditions | National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) and National Institute of Technology (NIT), Silchar | -- |
| 58. | Partnership to jointly explore setting up a | Keppel Corp. with GIC Holdings Pte Ltd, Abu Dhabi Investment | This comes in the backdrop of the Indian government's plan to allocate around |

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| | 250,000-tonne green ammonia production facility | Authority and Japan's ORIX Corp. backed Greenko Group | ₹6,000 crore each for production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes for electrolyzers and green hydrogen from the ₹20,000 crore green hydrogen mission. |
| 59. | Partnership for promoting indigenous development, manufacturing and testing of a drone, counter-drone, and associated technologies | Technology Development and Acceleration Cell of the Naval Innovation Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) under the Indian Navy and Drone Federation of India | -- |
| 60. | Collaboration to launch 5G experience centre in Atlanta, USA for digital transformation | Cognizant and Qualcomm Technologies Inc. | The collaboration combines Cognizant's experience in 5G, IoT, cloud, and data analytics with Qualcomm's intelligent edge devices, AI, and 5G connectivity solutions. |
| 61. | MoU to supply Zeremis green steel | Tata Steel Nederland and Ford in Europe | -- |
| 62. | Partnership to enhance India Australia trade in Innovation, Skills and Education | National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) International (NSDCI) and Perdaman | -- |
| 63. | MoU to introduce 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor' | Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, IIT(Indian School of Mines [ISM]) Dhanbad and National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela | The MoU envisages active engagement of academia in standards formulation. |
| 64. | MoU to offer training in emerging technologies in tier-ii and iii cities in India. | Edtech company byteXL & Microsoft | The training programme will be led by byteXL. Microsoft will provide infrastructure support |
| 65. | Tie-up to set up a centre of excellence (CoE) for green hydrogen | PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Greenstat Hydrogen India Pvt. Limited | The CoE will be set at PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry's headquarters at New Delhi. Greenstat Hydrogen will be the knowledge Partner. |

Summits & Conference

| S.No. | Summit/Conference/Conclave | Venue | Key Facts |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|
| International Summits | | | |
| 1. | 3rd Global Artificial Intelligence Summit & Awards | New Delhi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized by: All India Council For Robotics & Automation (AICRA) |
| 2. | Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) - International Conference on Biofuels | New Delhi | <p>Theme: A Pathway Towards Sustainable Future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India will push for setting up an international biofuel alliance during its G20 presidency. |
| 3. | Global News Forum 2022 | New Delhi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organiser: Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Theme: "Truth and trust at times of crisis" |
| 4. | | National Security Guard | Hosted by: NSG (India) |

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| | Joint Anti-Terror Exercise (JATE)- 'Manesar Anti-Terror 2022' | (NSG) Manesar Garrison, Haryana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized under: Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) |
| | About SCO RATS | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Committee: based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. | | |
| 5. | 9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) | To be held at: Panaji, Goa | <p>Organizer: World Ayurveda Foundation (WAF)</p> <p>Theme: "Ayurveda for one health"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |
| 6. | Blockchain Summit 2022 | Virtual Event | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizer: Tel Crypto |
| 7. | Global Youth Climate (GYC) Summit 2022 | Khulna, Bangladesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizer: Global Youth Leadership Centre (GYLC) |
| National Summits | | | |
| 8. | 6 th India Mobile Congress (IMC) | New Delhi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme: "New digital Universe" Prime Minister launched 5G services in the congress. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) organized a seminar on "Emerging Trends in Broadcasting Sector" on the recent technological developments in the sector and their impact. |
| 9. | "Digital India Conference of State Information Technology (IT) Ministers" | New Delhi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held along with IMC. IT Ministers from 12 States and UTs attended the conference. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (Meity) has recently approved Rs 26,000 crore to install new 25,000 towers in next 500 days. |
| 10. | India Space Conclave | New Delhi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The conclave was held on the occasion of 1st anniversary of Indian Space Association, ISPA. <p>About ISPA: It is an apex, non-profit industry body exclusively working towards the successful exploration, collaboration, and development of the private and public Space Industry in India.</p> |
| 11. | 4th Heli-India Summit 2022 | Srinagar, Jammu & kashmir | <p>Organized by: Ministry of Civil Aviation</p> <p>Theme: Helicopters for last Mile Connectivity</p> <p>Key Announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A civil enclave will be built in Jammu at a cost of Rs 861 crores. Srinagar's present terminal will be expanded three times to 60,000 square meters at a cost of Rs 1500 crores. |
| 12. | 3 rd World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Athlete Biological Passport Symposium- 2022 | New Delhi | Organized by: National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) |
| 13. | Cyber Security Exercise "PowerEX-2022" | | <p>Designed & Conducted by: Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Power-CSIRTs (Computer Security Incident Response Teams in Power sector)</p> <p>Theme: Defending Cyber induced disruption in Information Technology (IT) & Operational Technology (OT) Infrastructure</p> <p>Objective: To Recognize, Analyse & Respond to Cyber Incident in IT & OT Systems.</p> |

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| 14. | Conference of Power and Renewable Energy Ministers of State/ UTs | Udaipur, Rajasthan | Inaugurated by: Ministry of Power |
| 15. | Conclave - "Manak Mahotsav" | Mumbai, Maharashtra | Organized by: Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Theme: Standards for Sustainable Development Goals - A Shared Vision for a Better World |
| 16. | MINCON 2022 – a Conference on Mines, Minerals and Metals | Nagpur, Maharashtra | Organized by: Maharashtra State Mining Corporation (MSMC) and Vidarbha Economic Development Council |
| 17. | All India Conference of Law Ministers and Law Secretaries | Ekta Nagar, Gujarat | Hosted by: Ministry of Law & Justice Aim: To provide a common forum for policymakers to discuss issues relating to the Indian Legal and Judicial system . |
| 18. | 90 th General Assembly of Interpol | New Delhi | The General Assembly is the international policing organisation's top governing body and meets once a year to take key decisions. |
| 19. | Conference of the Secretaries of Civil Aviation of all the states and union territories | New Delhi | Aim: To promote greater collaboration and synergy between state civil aviation departments and the Ministry of Civil aviation to augment the development of the civil aviation sector. |
| 20. | National Intellectual Property (IP) Conference 2022 | New Delhi | Theme: Strengthening IP Ecosystem for catalyzing the growth of Knowledge Economy |
| 21. | 12 th DefExpo 2022 | Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Theme: Path to Pride Organized by: Ministry of Defence This edition witnessed 451 MoUs, Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreements & product launches during Bandhan ceremony . Investment envisaged: Rs 1.5 lakh crore |
| 22. | India-Africa Defence Dialogue | Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Theme: Adopting Strategy for Synergizing and Strengthening Defence and Security Cooperation Aim: To explore new areas of convergence for defence engagements , including capacity building, training, cyber security, maritime security and counter terrorism . |
| 23. | Manthan 2022 – organized as a part of 12 th DefExpo 2022 | Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Organized by: Innovations for Defence Excellence-Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO), Ministry of Defence Aim: To bring together start-ups, corporates, and military representatives , to ascertain the indigenous innovations leading the Indian defence sector into a bright future. |
| 24. | 5 th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) | New Delhi | Current Presidency of ISA: India and France The Assembly is the apex decision-making body of ISA , in which each Member Country is represented. About ISA: It is an international organization with 110 Member and Signatory countries . It works with governments to improve energy access and security worldwide and promote solar power as a sustainable way to transition to a carbon-neutral future . |
| 25. | National Conference on Tourist Police Scheme | New Delhi | Organized by: Ministry of Tourism in co-ordination with Ministry of Home Affairs and Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) Aim: For effective implementation of Uniform Tourist Police Scheme (UTPS) at pan-India level. |

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| | | About UTPS : Under the scheme, a pool of trained policemen would be made available to render policing service to the tourists and would control the crimes at the places of tourist interest. | |
| 26. | "Akash for Life" Space Conference | To be held at: Dehradun, Uttarakhand | It is first conference on Akash Tatva Organizers: Vijnana Bharati, in association with all major scientific ministries and departments & Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Aim: To showcase blending of traditional and modern knowledge through an extended integration of all schools of thought. |
| 27. | 'Role of meter class telescopes in modern-day astronomy' workshop | Uttarakhand | Organized by: Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) Aim: To commemorate the completion of 50 years of successful operations of the Sampurnanand Telescope (ST) located near Nainital, Uttarakhand . |
| 28. | Chintan (brainstorming) of Home Ministers of States Shivir | Surajkund, Haryana | Organized by: Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Key Announcement: National Investigation Agency (NIA) to have branches in all states by 2024 . About NIA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is the primary counter terrorist task force of India• Established in: December 2008; Headquarters: New Delhi• Established under: NIA Act, 2008; Ministry: MHA At present, NIA has 15 branches |
| 29. | 2nd edition of Naval Commanders' Conference, 2022 | New Delhi | The conference serves as a platform for Naval Commanders to discuss important maritime matters at the military-strategic level through an institutionalized forum . |
| 30. | 81st Indian Road Congress (IRC) | Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh | Hosted by: Government of Uttar Pradesh About IRC It is the apex body of highway engineers ; Setup in 1934 |

Banking & Finance

| Banking Initiatives | | | |
|---------------------|--|---|---|
| S.No. | Program / Initiative / Landmarks | Launched / Developed by | Key Facts |
| 1. | 'HomeVantage Current Account' (HVCA) | ICICI Bank UK PLC (wholly owned subsidiary of ICICI Bank Limited) | It is specially designed to meet every Indian student's banking needs aspiring to study in the United Kingdom (UK) . |
| 2. | 'ACTIV FIT' | Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Limited. (ABHICL) | It is a comprehensive health insurance plan for young and healthy adults. |
| 3. | 'Insure India' campaign | HDFC Life | Aim: To educate Indians about life insurance thereby motivating them to secure their future by offering the dual benefits of protection and long-term savings . |
| 4. | Project World of Advance Virtual Experience (WAVE) | A digital transformation project of Indian Bank | Recently, Indian Bank has launched six new digital initiatives under Project WAVE . Indian Bank , in association with Universal Sompo General Insurance , will provide online vehicle and health insurance through its mobile banking app IndOASIS . |

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| | | | Indian Bank has signed a co-lending agreement with Rupee Capital Pvt. Ltd, to offer jewel loans at customer doorstep. |
| 5. | ₹400 crore (\$50 million) Sustainability-linked loan | Given by: MUFG Bank India | Given to: JSW Cement Ltd. funds for capital expenditure with increasing focus on sustainability. |
| 6. | 'SmartHub Vyapar Merchant' App | HDFC Bank | It is a payments and banking solution for small and medium-sized businesses. |
| 7. | Senior Citizen Care FD scheme extended | HDFC Bank | Extended till: March 31, 2023 Senior Citizen Care FD: It is a special-fixed deposit programme , with a higher interest rate benefit for senior citizens. |
| 8. | 'Smart Wire' Facility | ICICI Bank | It is an online solution to help its customers carry out Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT) based inward remittances in a faster and hassle-free manner. |
| 9. | Next-Gen Contact Center | State Bank of India | The revamped Contact Centre will provide several banking solutions offered in 12 languages , available 24x7 from home . |
| 10. | NPCI Partner Program (NPP) | National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) | Aim: To collaborate with various technological service providers, application service providers , and other similar entities in the industry. |
| 11. | 'Play' credit card | RBL Bank and BookMyShow | Aim: To ease the spending process in the area of entertainment via TV shows and movies. |
| 12. | Dvara Surabhi Loan | Dvara E-Dairy Solutions Pvt Ltd and Jana Small Finance Bank | It is a ' True Cattle loan ' to create scalable access to finance for small dairy farmers in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. |
| 13. | Paytm's All-in-one Electronic Draft Capture (EDC) machines deployed | Paytm and Jana Small Finance Bank | Aim: To further drive digitization among merchants across the country. |
| 14. | KBL Centenary Deposit Scheme | Karnataka Bank | It is a term deposit scheme with a deposit period of 555 days and interest rate of 7.2% (7.6% for senior citizens) . |
| 15. | Travel Now Pay Later (TNPL) payment option | CASHe and Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) | This will enable travelers of Indian Railways to book their rail tickets instantly and pay for it later in EMIs, ranging from three to six months. |
| 16. | 'Edelweiss Crossover Yield Opportunities Fund (ECYOF)' | Edelweiss Wealth Management (EWM) | It is a close-ended Category II alternative investment fund (AIF) to raise ₹3,000 crore About Category II AIF: The AIF under this category includes debt funds or private equity funds , which receive no specific incentives or concessions from the Government of India or any other regulator. |

| Mergers and Acquisition | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| S.No. | Merging Entity | Merged With/Acquired by | Key Facts |
| | Green Data Centre | PhonePe | It is PhonePe's first green data center in India, leveraging technologies and solutions from Dell Technologies and NTT. |
| Others | | | |
| | Topic | Key facts | |
| | License of Brickwork Ratings cancelled | Cancelled by: Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) | |
| 17. | PhonePe completed the process of moving its | PhonePe owned by: Walmart | |

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| | domicile from Singapore to India. | |
| 18. | License of Pune-based Seva Vikas Co-operative Bank as the urban cooperative bank cancelled | License Cancelled by: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Reason: Lack of adequate capital & earning prospects |
| 19. | Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) receives approval for social stock exchange as a separate segment | Approved by: Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) |
| 20. | Tata Consultancy Services enhances its ' Quartz solution ' | Aim: To enable RBI and commercial banks to support the entire lifecycle of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) issuance, book-keeping and transactions. Quartz solution provides the capability to issue, trade and settle a variety of traditional as well as tokenized assets , and handle payment transactions . |
| 21. | Fintech firm Cyngnet recently received in-principle approval to operate as a non-banking financial company (NBFC) account aggregator . | Approved by: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Account Aggregator is one of the largest open financing data-sharing protocols regulated by the RBI . It allows consumers to instantly share their financial data , securely and digitally with various financial institutions . |
| 22. | Dhan Varsha Plan | Launched by: Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India A non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings, single Premium Life Insurance plan. It is a close end plan |
| 23. | India Post Payment Bank (IPPB) launches group accident insurance plan | Programme Partners: TATA AIG and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance companies Eligibility: Anyone aged between 18 and 65 years Premium: Rs 399 or Rs 396 per annum Accidental death coverage: Rs 10 lakh. |
| 24. | NAREDCO Finance Committee (NFC) | Recently, the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) , has set up the NFC. Objective: to enable real estate developers easy access to funds based on merit and viability of the projects. It will also support large-scale projects to access funds via financial institutions and educate members to enhance their credit ratings. |

Science & Technology

| S.No. | News | Developed by / Launched by / Partnership | Key Facts |
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| 1. | 5G Non-Standalone (NSA) Core | Designed & Developed by: Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) | Inaugurated at: India Mobile Congress (IMC), 2022 (New Delhi) |
| 2. | Pangasius Icaria – newly discovered catfish | Discovered by: National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) | Discovered at: Cauvery River. The discovery will be published in the international journal PeerJ . |
| 3. | A space tug capable of shifting satellites between orbits launched | Launched by: Iran | -- |

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| 4. | Rock & Fluid Multiphysics Laboratory established | Set up by: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee | The lab will focus on the study of petroleum engineering, geoscience, and different forms of energy resource. |
| 5. | 'Ergotropy' concept theorized | Conceptualized by: Indian Scientists from various institutions under Department of Science & Technology | The concept draws connections between the laws of thermodynamics and Quantum Information Theory (QIT). This new concept could facilitate harnessing quantum entanglement for futuristic energy storage technology. |
| 6. | World's largest wind-solar hybrid power plant | Commissioned by: Adani Green Energy | This Hybrid Power Plant has been implemented with cutting edge technology, consisting of 600 MW Solar and ~150 MW Wind plants . |
| 7. | Mangalyaan Mission\ Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) ends | Launched by: Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) About Mangalyaan Mission: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launched in: November 5, 2013• Mangalyaan was India's first interplanetary mission.• The mission made India the first Asian country and the fourth in the world after Roscosmos, NASA, and the European Space Agency, to get to the planet.• MOM was launched aboard PSLV C-25• ISRO spent \$75 million to launch the mission, making it the least-expensive Mars mission to date. | ISRO has lost connection with Mars Orbiter Craft. |
| 8. | New evidence for liquid water on Mars | Researched by: Scientists from University of Cambridge and University of Sheffield | Technology used: Spacecraft laser-altimeter Results published in the journal: Nature Astronomy |
| 9. | 10,000 MW of renewable energy capacity, in the next five years in Rajasthan | To be developed by: Tata Power | -- |
| 10. | Abundance of sodium on the moon found for the first time | Found by: X-ray spectrometer 'CLASS' on the Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter | Work published in journal: The Astrophysical Journal Letters |
| 11. | Made-in-India camera drone 'Droni' | Developed by: Garuda Aerospace Launched by: MS Dhoni | This new 'Kisan Drone' is aimed at the agriculture sector, particularly in spraying applications. |
| 12. | Long March-11 rocket launched | Launched by: China National Space Administration (CNSA) | It carried 2 satellites: Centispace-S5 and S6 . |
| 13. | Images of Jupiter's moon – Europa captured | Captured by: Juno Spacecraft's Stellar Reference Unit (SRU) | Images shared by: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) As per NASA, Europa is the sixth-largest moon in the solar system. |
| 14. | Europa's icy shell may contain water reservoirs | Announced by: NASA | Icy Shell Discovered by: Nasa's Galileo orbiter |
| 15. | Google Play Points launched in India | Launched by: Google | Users will be able to earn points when they make purchases with Google Play . |
| 16. | New ethanol-to-jet fuel (ETJ) processing | Announced by: Honeywell | The technology allows producers to convert corn-based, cellulosic, or sugar-based ethanol into sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). |

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| | technology announced | | |
| 17. | GLONASS-K Navigation Satellite successfully launched | Launched by: Russia | Launched through: Soyuz – 2.1b rocket |
| 18. | OneWeb's 36 broadband satellites to be launched | Launched by: Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) heaviest rocket LVM3 | LVM3 was earlier called GSLV Mk III . |
| 19. | Manufacture of an experimental Ebola vaccine against the latest outbreak in Uganda | To be manufactured by: Serum Institute of India (SII) | About 20,000 to 30,000 doses for trial are to be made. |
| 20. | Covid-19 vaccine as a booster dose got United States Food Drug Administration (US FDA) approval | Developed by: Novavax Inc's | -- |
| 21. | Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory (ASO-S), nicknamed Kuafu-1 launched | Launched by: China | Launched on: Long March-2D carrier rocket Aim: To solve mystery of Sun's eruptions |
| 22. | New Species of beetles – Duvalius Dokovici | Discovered by: Serbian Scientists | The species is named after Serbian Tennis player Novak Djokovic . Findings published in journal: Zoological Studies |
| 23. | 'Chandrayaan-3' – India's 3rd mission to moon | To be launched by: Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) | To be launched in: June, 2023 To be launched via: Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) |
| 24. | Humanoid Robot Optimus | Tesla Inc | The prototype of Optimus has been unveiled at Tesla AI Day 2022 at Palo Alto, California, USA. |
| 25. | Crew-5 Mission | Initiative of: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Mission launched by: SpaceX | Mission launched through SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule called Endurance , on top of a Falcon 9 rocket Four astronauts were carried to the International Space Station (ISS) from Florida. Russian cosmonaut Anna Kikina is one of the four astronauts. She is part of the mission through seat swap agreement between NASA & Roscosmos . She is the first Russian cosmonaut to fly with SpaceX and the first to launch on a U.S. spacecraft since 2002 . |
| 26. | New member of the grasshopper world named after Dravidian landscape – 'Dravidacris annamalaica' | -- | Discovered at: Annamalai, Tamil Nadu Findings published in: Zootaxa Journal |
| 27. | Study of Microbial interactions at International Space Station (ISS) | Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) and NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory | Aim: This will help devise strategies for the disinfection of space stations to minimize any potential impact of microbes on the health of astronauts . |

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| 28. | Semi-Confined Unreinforced Brick Masonry (SC-URBM) | IIT Kanpur | Aim: For retrofitting non-earthquake-resistant buildings to prevent major damage in old settlements. |
| 29. | Medical Devices sterilized with electron beam to be launched | BD India in partnership with Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology (RRCAT) | Medical device sterilized: Venflon Pro (BD India) |
| 30. | Dragonfly rotorcraft scheduled to reach the Selk Crater region on Saturn's moon Titan | NASA | To reach there by: 2034 The region is a patchwork of sand dunes and broken-up ice . |
| 31. | Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), in collaboration with the manufacturing industry to create a reusable rocket capable of carrying heavier payloads into orbit . | -- | The proposal comes in the backdrop of India's plan to establish its own Space Station by 2035 . The reusable rocket will be called the Next-Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV) . |
| 32. | Updates from ISRO on its upcoming missions | -- | Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) will be launched in 2022-end . 36 satellites of UK based OneWeb to be commercially launched in 2023 . A navigation satellite for NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) will be launched in 2023 |
| 33. | ISRO hot tests CE-20 Cryogenic engine | -- | CE-20 Engine will be used to launch the next batch of 36 OneWeb satellites into Low Earth Orbit. |

Mergers & Acquisitions

| S.No. | News | Key Facts |
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| 1. | Elon Musk has acquired Twitter | Deal Value: USD 44 billion Elon Musk is the founder & CEO of SpaceX Twitter was cofounded by Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass, Biz Stone, and Evan Williams . |
| 2. | Google has acquired artificial intelligence avatar startup 'Alter' | Google acquired Alter for USD 100 Million |

Environment

| S.No. | Topic | Country / State / Organization | Key Facts |
|-------|--|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. | ReNew PLC announces Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Targets | -- | ReNew has committed to become a net zero firm by 2040 . ReNew aims to reduce Green House Gases (GHG) emissions by 29.4% across all scopes by 2027 & by 90% across all scopes by 2040 . The ESG Targets were announced in its latest sustainability report titled 'Partnering for transition, progressing sustainably, prospering together' . |

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| 2. | Apple Inc. has called its global supply chain to decarbonise by 2030 | -- | Apple has also announced plans to make new investments in Europe to set up wind & solar projects. In 2020, Apple has pledged to remove carbon emissions from its entire business by 2030. |
| 3. | Discovery of New damselfly species | Spotted by: Vibhu Vipanchika, Kannur-based Odonate enthusiast | Discovered at: Brahmagiri Hills, Kanichar grama panchayat, Kannur District. Species Name: Francy's Reedtail Scientific Name: Protosticta francyi sp. nov |
| 4. | Cyclone 'Sitrang' | Location: Eastern Coast of India along Bay of Bengal | Preventive measures by Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha have been taken. |
| 5. | Project 'Vayu Amrit' | Initiative of: Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) & Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) | A crop residue management initiative Launched at: Sangrur District, Punjab The project will be implemented across 9 villages in Sangrur District . |
| | | Additional Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CII already runs this programme in Punjab and Haryana to mitigate stubble burning. At present, the programme covers 300 villages. | |

Defence

Defence Exercises

| S.No. | Exercise | Countries / Forces Involved | Key Facts |
|-------|--|---|---|
| 1. | IBSAMAR VII | Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies | Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tarkash reached Port Gqeberha (also known as Port Elizabeth), South Africa to participate in the exercise. Indian Navy was represented in it by INS Tarkash, a Chetak helicopter and MARCOS special forces. |
| 2. | Prasthan | Indian Navy, Coats Guard and various stakeholders in maritime security | Conducted at: Krishna Godavari Basin Offshore Development Area (ODA) |
| 3. | Combat Readiness Exercise | Indian Navy | Aim: To demonstrate operational capability and readiness of the largest air station of Indian Navy- INS Hansa to undertake 24x7 operations. |
| 4. | 1st edition of India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise (IMT TRILAT), | Indian, Mozambique and Tanzanian Navies | Held at: Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania |
| 5. | Tiger Triumph 2022 (2nd edition) | India & the United States (US) | It is a Tri-Services Amphibious Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise. Held at: Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh |
| 6. | Indo-Pacific Endeavour (IPE)-2022 (3rd edition) | Coordinated by: Australian Defence Force 14 countries including India are participating in this exercise. | Two Australian Navy Ships HMAS Adelaide and Anzac arrived in Visakhapatnam to participate in the exercise with the Indian Navy. For the first time, amphibious operations and exercise have been included in the IPE. |
| 7. | GARUDA - VII | Indian Air Force (IAF) and French Air and Space Force (FASF) | Held at: Jodhpur, Rajasthan The first, third and fifth editions were conducted in India in 2003, 2006 and 2014 respectively. |
| 8. | Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral | Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy | Held at: Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (Harbour Phase) and Bay of Bengal (Sea Phase) |

| | Exercise (SIMBEX) - 2022 | | SIMBEX series of exercises began in 1994 and were initially known as Exercise Lion King. |
|---|--|---|--|
| 9. | 4th Goa Maritime Symposium (GMS) | Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, besides India | Conducted by: Naval War College (NWC) at Goa Theme: Maritime Security Challenges in the Indian Ocean Region: Converting Common Maritime Priorities into Collaborative Mitigation Frameworks |
| 10 | Yudh-Abhyas | Indian Army and United States Army | Held at: Auli, Uttarakhand |
| Defence Initiatives/Technologies | | | |
| | Initiative / Missile / Technology | Launched / Developed by | Key Facts |
| 11 | Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) successfully launched | Launched by: INS Arihant | -- |
| 12 | India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD) | To be hosted by: Ministry of Defence | To be held at: Gandhinagar, Gujarat Theme: India-Africa: Adopting Strategy for Synergizing and Strengthening Defence and Security Cooperation |
| | | Additional Information: The first-ever India-Africa Defence Ministers Conclave was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in conjunction with DefExpo on February, 2020. | |
| 13 | Kalyani M4 inducted in Jammu & Kashmir | Inducted by: Indian Army | Developed by: Kalyani Group's Bharat Forge |
| 14 | 3 remotely unmanned, weaponised boats tested | Developed and Tested by: Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO) | Tested in: Pune, Maharashtra |
| 15 | First Training Squadron (1TS) Training | Conducted by: Indian Navy | Deployed for training at: Port Al-Shuwaikh, Kuwait 1TS ships: Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tir, Sujata and Coast Guard Ship (CGS) Sarathi |
| 16 | No. 51 'swordarms' MiG-21 fighter Squadron retired | Retired by: Indian Air Force (IAF) | Swordarms is based in: Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir |
| 17 | Defence Exports Data | -- | India's Defence Exports increased by 334% in the last five years India exports defence products to over 75 countries |
| 18 | Carl-Gustaf M4 rocket launcher to be built in India | Developed by: Swedish weapons manufacturer, Saab | Range: 1,500 metre |
| 19 | 'Agni Prime'- Ballistic Missile Successfully Tested | | Range: 2000km |
| 20 | A transport aircraft manufacturing project for the Indian Air Force (IAF) | Airbus Defence, TATA Consortium of Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) | Total Project Cost: Rs 21,935 crore. |
| 21 | HTT-40 indigenous trainer aircraft | Designed and Developed by: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) | Launched at: 12 th DefExpo in Gandhinagar, Gujarat Total to be launched: 70 Estimated Cost: Rs 6,800 crore |

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|----|--|---|-------------------------|
| 22 | 18th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) | Hosted by: Indian Coast Guard (ICG) | Venue: New Delhi |
| | | About HACGAM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st edition hosted by Japan Coast Guard in 2004 at Tokyo • Total Members: 23 (including India) • Secretariat provided by Japan Coast Guard | |

Sports

| S.No. | Tournament | Venue | Winner / Looser | Key Facts |
|-------|--|-------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. | Asian Winter Games, 2029 | To be hosted by: Saudi Arabia | -- | -- |
| 2. | Tel Aviv Final 2022 | Tel Aviv, Israel | Novak Djokovic claimed the title. | It is his 89th career title in all. |
| 3. | Chhattisgarh Olympics | Raipur, Chhattisgarh | -- | Inaugurated by: Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Traditional games namely ' langdi ', ' baura ', ' batí ' (kancha), and ' pithul ' will be played. |
| 4. | International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF) World Billiards Championship, 2022 | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | Pankaj Advani won gold by defeating Sourav Kothari . | -- |
| 5. | Japanese Grand Prix, 2022 | Suzuka, Japan | Max Verstappen won the Japanese Grand Prix to become 2022 Formula 1 World Champion . | Max is a Red Bull driver. |
| 6. | 28th Nehru Under-17 Girls Hockey Tournament | New Delhi | NCC Girls Hockey Team won the tournament by defeating Madhya Pradesh women's Hockey Academy . | Winning Team felicitated by: Director General National Cadet Corps |
| 7. | FIFA U-17 Women's Football World Cup | Bhubaneswar, Odisha | -- | Nations participating: 16 |
| 8. | 7 th Women's T-20 Asia Cup | Sylhet, Bangladesh | Indian Women's Cricket Team won the tournament by defeating Sri Lanka . | -- |
| 9. | Astana Open final, 2022 | Astana, Kazakhstan | Novak Djokovic defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas to clinch the trophy. | This is Djokovic's 90th Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Title . |
| 10 | Ostrava Final, 2022 | Ostrava, Czech Republic | Barbora Krejcikova defeated Iga Swiatek to win the title. | This is Barbora's second successive Women's Tennis Association (WTA) title . |
| 11 | Julius Baer Generation Cup Chess Tournament | Online | Magnus Carlson defeated Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi to clinch the trophy. | Magnus hails from Norway . |
| 12 | Laver Cup | London, United Kingdom | Frances Tiafoe (Team World) defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas (Team Europe) to clinch first ever Laver Cup. | Laver cup is the men's team tennis tournament. |

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|----|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 13 | Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup 2023 | To be hosted by: Qatar | -- | India and Saudi Arabia are shortlisted for the 2027 edition of the tournament. |
| 14 | 5 th Khelo India Youth Games | To be held at: Madhya Pradesh | -- | To be organized by: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports |
| 15 | French Open Super 750 crown (French Open 2022 Badminton) | Paris, France | Men's Double Category Winners: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty (India) Runner-Up: Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han (Chinese Taipei) | Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have become first Indian men's duo to win this title |
| 16 | 11 th International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Women's Basketball World Cup | Sydney, Australia | Winner- United States (US) Runner-up - China | -- |
| 17 | Irani Cup | -- | Winner: Rest of India Runner-up: Saurashtra | Irani Cup is association with Cricket |
| 18 | International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championship (RP) | Cairo, Egypt | Category: 10m Air Rifle Men Winner: Rudrankksh Balasaheb Patil (India) Runner-up: Danillo Sollazo (Italy) | With this win, Rudrankksh has won quota for Paris 2024 Summer Olympics. |
| 19 | Meltwater Champions Chess Tour 2022 | Online Tournament | Winner: Magnus Carlsen (Norway) 2nd place: Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Poland) | -- |
| 20 | Air Force Lawn Tennis Championship | Vayusena Nagar, Nagpur | Winner: Western Air Command Runner-up: Training Command | |
| 21 | US Grand Prix, 2022 | Texas, United States | Max Verstappen won the trophy by defeating Lewis Hamilton . | Max is a Red Bull racer. |
| 22 | Khelo India National Ranking Women's Weightlifting Tournament Phase 2 | Ghaziabad, Noida | Akanksha Vyawahare (Maharashtra) created national records in: Snatch: 60kg Clean & Jerk: 71kg Total lift: 131kg | -- |
| 23 | Sultan of Johor Cup 2022 | Johor Bahru, Malaysia | Winner: India Runner Up: Australia | India has won the tournament for the third time . Sultan of Johor Cup is an international men's under-21 field hockey tournament . |
| 24 | International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 | India | Winner: Spain Runner Up: Columbia FIFA Fair Play Award: Japan Golden Ball Award: Vicky López (Spain) Golden Boot Award: Loreen Bender (Germany) | -- |

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|----|---|-------------------------|--|--|
| | | | Golden Glove: Sofía Fuente (Spain) | |
| 25 | ATP 250 Tel Aviv Watergen Open Tennis TOurnament | Tel Aviv, Israel | Men's Single Winner- Novak Djokovic (Serbia) Runner-up- Marin Cilic (Croatia) | -- |
| | | | Men's Double Winners- Rohan Bopanna (India) & Matwe Middelkoop (Netherlands) Runner-up- Santiago Gonzalez (Mexico) & Andres Molteni (Argentina) | |
| 26 | Denmark Open, 2022 | Odense, Denmark | Chinese badminton pair Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong clinch eighth title in the mixed doubles . In the women's doubles , Chinese pair Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan also secured a crown. | -- |
| 27 | 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup (9 th edition) | Australia & New Zealand | -- | Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) announces ' Tazuni '- a fun, football-loving pengu as the official mascot of the event |
| | | | Additional Information: For the first time, two countries would be cohosting the event. | |

| 36 th National Games, 2022 | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|------|---|--------|-------|-----------|
| Inaugurated by | | | Indian Olympic Association (IOA) | | | |
| Hosted by | | | Gujarat (for the first time) | | | |
| Held at | | | Held across six cities in Gujarat: Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot and Bhavnagar | | | |
| Mascot | | | Saavaj | | | |
| Anthem | | | 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' sung by Sukhwinder Singh | | | |
| Theme | | | Celebrating Unity through Sports | | | |
| Games' Logo | | | Statue of Unity & Asiatic Lion Head made of sporting pictograms | | | |
| Sports debuted at 36 th National Games | | | Mallakhamb, Yogasana, Skateboarding, Golf and Soft Tennis | | | |
| 37 th edition to be held in | | | October, 2023 | | | |
| 37 th edition to be hosted by | | | Goa | | | |
| 1 st National Games then known as 'All India Olympic Games' held at | | | Lahore, Pakistan in 1924 | | | |
| 1 st edition of National Games in Independent India held at | | | Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in 1948 | | | |
| Medal Tally | | | | | | |
| S.No. | State/Union Territory/Team | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total | Key Facts |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----|----|----|------------|---|
| 1. | Services | 61 | 35 | 32 | 128 | This is the fourth consecutive overall championship trophy win for the Services at the National Games. |
| 2. | Maharashtra | 39 | 38 | 63 | 140 | Maharashtra bagged the Indian Olympic Association's Best State trophy for finishing second in the medals tally |
| 3. | Haryana | 38 | 38 | 40 | 116 | -- |
| 4. | Karnataka | 27 | 23 | 38 | 88 | -- |
| 5. | Tamil Nadu | 25 | 22 | 27 | 74 | -- |

Achievements

| S.No. | Achievement | Achieved by | Key Facts |
|-----------|--|---|---|
| 1. | Best Male Athlete | Sajan Prakash (Kerala)- five golds, two silvers and one bronze | This was Sajan Prakash's second successive honour , having won the same trophy in 2015 as well. |
| 2. | Best Female Athlete | Hashika Ramachandra (Karnataka) - six golds and one bronze. | First Karnataka Athlete in 23 years to bag the trophy. |
| 3. | 'Viral Star' of the Games | Shauryajit Khaire (Mallakhamb) | He won bronze in Pole Mallakhamb . |
| 4. | Raja Bhalindra Singh Trophy | Service Team | The trophy is presented to overall champions . |
| 5. | First Athlete to win Gold in 'Yogasana'-Traditional Category | Pooja Patel (Gujarat) | -- |

Awards & Milestones

| S.No. | Award/Milestone | Category | Awardee | Key Facts |
|-----------|--|------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. | Lifetime Achievement Award by United States' President | -- | Vivek Lall | He is an Indian-origin chief executive of General Atomics Global Corporation . He is also serving as a US Technical Team Member to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Science and Technology (STO) with the Pentagon. |
| 2. | Nansen Refugee Award | -- | Angela Merkel | Awarded by: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR]/UN Refugee Agency. Angela Merkel was the Former Chancellor of Germany |
| 3. | International Hockey Federation (FIH) Awards, 2022 | Rising Star of the Year | Mumtaz Khan | She is an Indian Women's hockey player from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh . |
| | | Men's Player of the Year 2021-22 | Harmanpreet Singh | He has an Indian Men's hockey player awarded for the second consecutive time . |
| | | Women's Player of the Year 2021-22 | Felice Albers | She is from the Netherlands . |
| 4. | Nobel Prize, 2022 | Physiology and Medicine | Svante Pääbo (Sweden) | He is awarded for his discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution . |
| | | Physics | Alain Aspect (France) | They have jointly won the award for experiments with entangled photons , establishing the violation of Bell |
| | | | John F. Clauser (United States) | |

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|----|--|---|---|---|
| | | | Anton Zeilinger (Austria) | inequalities and pioneering quantum information science. |
| | | Chemistry | Carolyn Bertozzi (United States) | They have jointly won award for discovering reactions that let molecules snap together to create new compounds and that offer insight into cell biology. |
| | | | Morten Meldal (Denmark) | |
| | | | Barry Sharpless (United States) | |
| | | Economics Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences | Ben Bernank (United States) Douglas Diamond (United States) Philip Dybvig (United States) | They have jointly won award for research on how propping up failing banks can stave off an even deeper economic crisis. Additional Information: The Nobel Prize for Economics was established by the Swedish Central Bank in Alfred Nobel's honour, not by his will, in 1895. |
| | | Literature | Annie Ernaux (France) | She won the award for "the courage and clinical acuity" in her largely autobiographical books examining personal memory and social inequality. |
| | | Peace | Ales Bialiatski (Belarus) (currently imprisoned) Memorial , Russian human rights organization Center for Civil Liberties , Ukrainian human rights organization | They have been awarded for their constant peace promoting activities. |
| 5. | Valley of Words Book Awards | English non-fiction | Tagore & Gandhi: Walking Alone, Walking Together | Author: Rudrangshu Mukherjee Published by: Aleph Book Company |
| | | English fiction | The Odd Book of Baby Names | Author: Anees Salim Published by: Penguin Random House India |
| | | Hindi non-fiction | Jeete Ji Allahabad | Author: Mamta Kalia Published by: Rajkamal Prakashan |
| | | Hindi fiction | Khela | Author: Neelakshi Singh Published by: Setu Publications |
| 6. | Highest ever single day sale of Rs. 1.34 crore | -- | Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) | Sale from: CP outlet, New Delhi |
| 7. | World Book of Records Award | Staging and Swinging 101 Oonjals | South Indian Bank | South Indian Bank had recently organized a first-of-its-kind category event 'Staging and Swinging 101 Oonjals' in Kochi, Kerala. |
| 8. | World Green City Award 2022 | Overall Winner | Hyderabad, Telangana | Hyderabad is the only Indian city that was selected for the 'World Green City 2022,' award. |
| 9. | SASTRA Ramanujan Prize, 2022 | -- | Yunqing Tang | She is the Assistant Professor with the University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A. |

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|------------|--|------------------------------|--|--|
| 10. | International Cricket Council (ICC) Player of the Month | Women's Category | Harmanpreet Kaur (India) | -- |
| 11. | 5 th India Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) Conclave & Awards | SME Connect | IndusInd Bank | The bank was awarded for initiating ' Indus Credit for Business '. |
| 12. | 2022 Booker Prize | -- | Shehan Karunatilaka (Sri Lankan author) | He won the prize for his novel ' The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida '. |
| 13. | Ballon d'Or 2022 | Men's Category | Karim Benzema | He is the Real Madrid football striker . |
| | | Women's Category | Alexia Putellas | She plays for Barcelona . |
| 14. | Raksha Mantri's Awards for Excellence, 2021-22 | Defence and Aerospace Sector | Indian Defence Industries | Awarded at 12 th DefExpo, 2022 |
| 15. | Padma Bhushan | -- | Satya Nadella | He is the CEO of Microsoft . |
| 16. | Most Popular Geographical Identification (GI) Award | Food | Hyderabadi Haleem | Awarded by: Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry Hyderabadi Haleem is the only food product from Telangana with a GI Tag . Other GI tagged products from Telangana: Nirmal toys and crafts, Nirmal furniture, Nirmal Paintings, Gadwal sari, and Banaganapalle Mangoes. |
| 17. | 2022 Devendra Lal Memorial Medal | -- | Dr. Roxy Mathew Koll, a scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune | Awarded by: American Geophysical Union's (AGU) Awarded in honour of professor Devendra Lal , a distinguished geophysicist. |
| 18. | International Hockey Federation (FIH) Goalkeepers of the year 2021-22 | Men | PR Sreejesh | Both of them have won the award for the second consecutive time . Savita is now only the third player to win Goalkeeper of the Year (Women) for three years in a row since the launch of the award |
| | | Women | Savita Punia (Captain of Indian women's hockey team) | |
| 19. | Sports Journalists' Federation of India (SJFI) medal 2019 | -- | Prakash Padukone | Prakash Padukone is a legendary badminton player. |
| 20. | Monday- Worst Day of the Week | -- | -- | Declared by: Guinness World Records |
| 21. | National Intellectual Property (IP) Awards 2021 and 2022 | - | Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras | Awarded by: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The award has been conferred to IIT Madras for being the top Indian Academic Institution for patents filing, grants and commercialisation. |
| 22. | | Opening Indian Feature Film | Hadineleantu | 25 Feature Films and 20 Non-Feature Films to be screened during IFFI. |

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| | 53 rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) | Opening Indian Non-Feature Film | The Show Must Go On | |
| 23. | Sir Syed Excellence International Award for 2022 | -- | Barbara D Metcalf | Award given by: Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) |
| 24. | European parliament's Sakharov Prize | -- | People of Ukraine | Ukrainian people are awarded for freedom of thought to honour their fight against Russia's invasion. |
| 25. | International eco-label "Blue Flag" certification | List of Blue Beaches | Minicoy, Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach of Lakshadweep | India now has 12 Blue Flag beaches . About "Blue Flag": The coveted list of Blue Beaches is an eco-label given to the cleanest beaches in the world. Awarded by: Foundation for Environment Education in Denmark (FEE) |
| 26. | 2022 Nikon Small World Photomicrography Competition | -- | Eugenijus Kavaliauskas (Lithuania) | He was awarded for his stunning portrait of an ant's face. |
| 27. | Union Home Minister's Trophy | Best Police Training Institution for Training of Gazetted Officers for the year 2020-21 | National Industrial Security Academy (NISA), at Hakimpet, Hyderabad (Telangana) | The Academy achieved this feat during the serving period of the current Commissioner of Police (CP) Hyderabad, CV Anand . |
| 28. | KRBL Limited Study | World's No. 1 Basmati Rice Brand | India Gate | -- |
| 29. | Saturn Awards 2022 | Best International Film | RRR | Director: SS Rajamouli |
| 30. | Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner | -- | President's Bodyguard (PBG) | Conferred by: The President of India PBG has also recently completed 250 years of service. PBG was raised as the Governor-General's Bodyguard (later the Viceroy's Bodyguard) in 1773 . It was raised in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh , by the then Governor General Warren Hastings It is the only military unit of the Indian Army that is privileged to carry the President's Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner . |
| 31. | Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal 2022 | -- | 4 special operations, comprising 63 police officers from Telangana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Delhi & Jammu & Kashmir | Medal instituted in: 2018 Award conferred for Special Operation in the areas viz, counter terrorism, border action, arms control, prevention of narcotics smuggling and rescue operations. |

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|-----|---|---|--|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------|---|---------------------|---|---------------|---|----------------|----|----------------|---|
| 32. | 67 th Rajyotsava award | -- | Awardees: 67 achievers across various fields & 10 organizations working towards social causes Important Awardee K. Sivan, Former Chairman of ISRO | Rajyotsava Awards are the 2 nd highest civilian honour of Karnataka. Conferred annually on the Karnataka Formation Day (November 1) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 33. | Top 2% scientists' 2022 list. | -- | Late theoretical physicist Dr Thanu Padmanabhan has earned the top rank from India | Released by: Stanford University Introduced in: 2019 It classifies global scientists under 22 distinct fields and 176 sub-fields . | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 34. | All Time 10 Best Indian Films | -- | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td><td>Pather Panchali (1955) (Bengali)</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>Meghe Dhaka Tara (Bengali)</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>Bhuvan Shome (Hindi)</td></tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>Elippathayam (Malayalam)</td></tr> <tr> <td>5</td><td>Ghatashraddha (Kannada)</td></tr> <tr> <td>6</td><td>Garm Hava (Hindi)</td></tr> <tr> <td>7</td><td>Charulata (Bengali)</td></tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>Ankur (Hindi)</td></tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>Pyaasa (Hindi)</td></tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>Sholay (Hindi)</td></tr> </table> | 1 | Pather Panchali (1955) (Bengali) | 2 | Meghe Dhaka Tara (Bengali) | 3 | Bhuvan Shome (Hindi) | 4 | Elippathayam (Malayalam) | 5 | Ghatashraddha (Kannada) | 6 | Garm Hava (Hindi) | 7 | Charulata (Bengali) | 8 | Ankur (Hindi) | 9 | Pyaasa (Hindi) | 10 | Sholay (Hindi) | Awarded by: India Chapter of the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI- India). Pather Panchali was directed by Satyajit Ray . |
| 1 | Pather Panchali (1955) (Bengali) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Meghe Dhaka Tara (Bengali) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Bhuvan Shome (Hindi) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Elippathayam (Malayalam) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Ghatashraddha (Kannada) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Garm Hava (Hindi) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Charulata (Bengali) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Ankur (Hindi) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Pyaasa (Hindi) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Sholay (Hindi) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 35. | National Digital Transformation Awards — DX 2022 Awards | Employee Engagement Operational Excellence Customer Experience | KBL HR NxT (Karnataka Bank) KBL Operations NxT (Karnataka Bank) KBL Customer NxT (Karnataka Bank) | Award Conferred by: Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Purpose: to recognize best practice in digital transformation under the BFSI (banking, financial services and insurance) segment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Additional Information: KBL NxT was launched by Karnataka Bank in 2021 under its KBL Vikas programme 2.0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 36. | YSR Lifetime achievement Awards | Fine Arts and Culture Medical and Health | K. Viswanath (Movie Director) Krishna Yella and Suchitra Yella (Bharat Biotech) Pratap C Reddy (Apollo Hospitals) | Awarded by: Government of Andhra Pradesh. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Appointments

| S.No. | Person | Position | Organization / Country / State / Company | Outgoing Person | Key Facts |
|-------|--|--|---|-------------------|---|
| 1. | Dr Shefali Juneja | Chairperson | Air Transport Committee (ATC) of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) | -- | She is the first Indian to be appointed to the role in 28 years. |
| 2. | Dr G Hemaprabha | Director | Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)- Sugarcane Breeding Institute | -- | She is the first female director of ICAR Sugarcane Breeding Institute |
| 3. | S Bharathan | Director, Refineries | Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) | Vinod S Shenoy | -- |
| 4. | Lalit Bhasin | National President | Indian American Chambers of Commerce (IACC) | Kapil Kaul | -- |
| 5. | Anish Dayal Singh | Director General (DG) | Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) | Sujoy Lal Thaosen | -- |
| 6. | Sujoy Lal Thaosen | 37 th DG | Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) | Kuldiep Singh | -- |
| 7. | Sandeep Kumar Gupta | Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) | GAIL (India) Ltd. | Manoj Jain | -- |
| 8. | Prashant Kumar | Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) | Yes Bank | -- | Reappointed |
| 9. | A. Balasubramanian (MD & CEO, Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC) | Chairman | Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) | -- | Reappointed |
| 10. | Mohit Bhatia | CEO | Bank of India Mutual Fund | N. Chandrasekaran | -- |
| 11. | Kishore Kumar Poludasu | MD & CEO | SBI General Insurance | Paritosh Tripathi | -- |
| 12. | A.K. Anil Kumar | Vice-President | International Astronautical Federation (IAF) | -- | Anil is a senior ISRO Scientist. |
| 13. | Vinod R Tanti | CMD | Suzlon Energy Ltd | Late Tulsi Tanti | -- |
| 14. | Kiara Advani | Brand Ambassador | Fire-Boltt | -- | -- |
| 15. | Smriti Mandhana | Brand Ambassador | Gulf Oil Lubricants | -- | -- |

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|-----|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 16. | Sanjeev Kishore | Director General | Directorate of Ordnance (Coordination & Services [C&S]) | M K Grag | -- |
| 17. | Dr. Rajendra Kumar | Director General | Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) | -- | -- |
| 18. | BD Mishra | Governor | Meghalaya | Satya Pal Malik | -- |
| 19. | Dr. Akhilesh Gupta | Secretary (Additional Charge) | Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) | Sandeep Verma | Dr. Akhilesh Gupta is a Senior Adviser at the Department of Science and Technology (DST). |
| 20. | Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan | Whole-Time Member | Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) | -- | -- |
| 21. | Roger Binny | President | Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) | Sourav Ganguly | -- |
| 22. | Amitabh Bachchan | Brand Ambassador | Omara Dates | -- | -- |
| 23. | Justice Pankaj Mithal | Chief Justice | Rajasthan High Court | Justice S.S. Shinde | -- |
| 24. | Justice Prasanna B. Varale | Chief Justice | Karnataka High Court | Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi | -- |
| 25. | Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey | Chief Justice | Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh | Justice Pankaj Mithal | -- |
| 26. | Vinayak Godse | Chief Executive Officer (CEO) | Data Security Council of India (DSCI) | Rama Vedashree | -- |
| 27. | KG Mohan | Non-Executive Independent Director | Karur Vysya Bank | -- | Reappointed |
| 28. | Abdul Latif Rashid | President | Iraq | Kurd Barham Saleh | -- |
| 29. | Dr. Justice Dhananjaya Yashwant Chandrachud | Chief Justice of India (CJI) | India | Justice Uday Umesh Lalit | -- |
| 30. | Ms Bharati Das | Controller General of Accounts (CGA) | Ministry of Finance | Sonali Singh | -- |
| 31. | Roger Binny | 36 th President | Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) | Sourav Ganguly | -- |
| 32. | Ranbheer Singh Dhariwal | Chief Executive Officer (CEO) | Max Life Pension Fund Management Ltd. | -- | He was the senior vice president of HDFC Life Insurance Company Ltd. before. |
| 33. | H. E. Ulf Kristersson | Prime Minister (PM) | Sweden | Magdalena Andersson | -- |
| 34. | Mallikarjun Kharge | President | Congress Party | Sonia Gandhi | He is the first leader of Congress |

| | | | | | Party from outside the Nehru-Gandhi family. |
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| 35. | Sanjay Malhotra | Revenue Secretary | Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance | Tarun Bajaj | Sanjay was Financial Services Secretary before. |
| 36. | Sourav Ganguly | Brand Ambassador | Bandhan Bank | -- | -- |
| 37. | Deependra Singh Rathore | Interim CEO | Paytm Payments Bank | Satish Gupta | -- |
| 38. | Arun Bansal | CEO | Adani Airports | Malay Mahadevia | -- |
| 39. | Ravi Kumar S | President of Cognizant Americas | Cognizant Technology Solutions Corporation | Surya Gummadi | -- |
| 40. | Bhushan Akshikar | Managing Director (MD) | GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals | Sridhar Venkatesh | -- |
| 41. | Atanu Chakraborty | Independent Chairman | Yubi (formerly CredAvenue) | -- | He is also currently the chairman of board of HDFC Bank . |
| 42. | Navin Wadhwanı | Head, Indian Investment Banking Business | JPMorgan Chase & Co | PD Singh | -- |
| 43. | Amit Choudhary | Chief Operating Officer (COO) | Wipro Ltd. | -- | -- |
| 44. | Dr. Vivek Murthy | United States (U.S.) representative | Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) | -- | He is serving as the 21 st Surgeon General of the US He is the first Surgeon General of Indian descent. |
| 45. | Ajay Bhadoo | Deputy Election Commissioner | Election Commission of India (ECI) | -- | -- |
| 46. | Aakash Tripathi | Chief Executive Officer (CEO) | MyGov, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology. | -- | -- |
| 47. | Basant Garg | Additional CEO | National Health Authority, Department of Health & Family Welfare. | -- | -- |
| 48. | Lochan Sehra | Joint Secretary | Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) | -- | -- |
| 49. | Partha Satpathy | Indian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina | -- | -- | -- |

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| 50. | Ibrahim Traore | Interim President | Burkina Faso | Paul-Henri Sandago Damiba | -- |
| 51. | Aparajita Sarangi | Member, Executive Committee | Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) | -- | -- |
| 52. | Dr Adarsh Swaika | Indian Ambassador to Kuwait | -- | -- | -- |
| 53. | Avtar Singh | India's Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea. | -- | -- | -- |
| 54. | Apoorva Srivastava | India's Ambassador to Slovakia | -- | -- | -- |
| 55. | Dr Prashant Garg | Member | Academia Ophthalmological Internationalis (AOI) | -- | He is the fifth Indian to receive this honour. He is serving as the Executive Chair of the L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI). |
| 56. | Pradeep Singh Kharola | Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) | India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) | -- | ITPO is the premier trade promotion agency of Ministry of Commerce & Industry |
| 57. | Jaxay Shah | Chairman | Quality Council of India (QCI) | Adil Zainulbhai | -- |
| 58. | Rishi Sunak | Prime Minister (PM) | United Kingdom | Liz Truss | Rishi is the first Indian-origin PM of UK. |
| 59. | Sankarasubramanian K | Principal Scientist, Aditya-L1 mission | Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) | -- | -- |
| About Aditya-L1: It is the first observatory-class space-based solar mission from India. | | | | | |
| 60. | Xi Jinping | President | China | -- | Re-elected |
| 61. | Sandeep Bakshi | Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) | ICICI Bank | -- | Re-appointed |
| 62. | A K Goel | Chairman | Indian Banks' Association (IBA) | -- | Re-elected He is the current MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank. |
| 63. | Dr. Shefali Juneja | Chairperson, Air Transport Committee (ATC) | International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) | -- | She became the first Indian in 28 years to chair the ATC. |
| 64. | Bernard Dunne | High-Performance Director | Indian Boxing Team | Santiago Nieva | Bernard is from Ireland. |

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| 65. | Yuvraj Singh | Brand Ambassador | 3rd T20 World Cricket Cup for the Blind | -- | The participating countries are India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Australia, South Africa, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. |
| 66. | Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Amma) | Chair | India's Civil-20 (C-20) engagement group | -- | She is a spiritual leader. |
| About C-20: The C20 is G20's platform for civil-society organizations (CSOs) to bring forth non-government and non-business voices to the G20 leaders. | | | | | |
| 67. | Elizabeth Jones | Chargé d'Affaires ad interim | U.S. Embassy in New Delhi | Patricia A Lacina | -- |
| 68. | Sangeeta Verma | Acting Chairperson | Competition Commission of India (CCI) | Ashok Kumar Gupta | -- |
| 69. | Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva | President | Brazil | Jair Bolsonaro | -- |
| 70. | Lee Jae-yong | Executive Chairman | Samsung | (Late) Lee Kun-hee | -- |
| 71. | Dr. Rajesh Ranjan | Ambassador of India to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire | -- | Mr. Y. K. Sailas Thangal | -- |
| 72. | Kaustubh Kulkarni | Country Head (India) | JP Morgan | Madhav Kalyan | -- |

Persons in News

| S.No. | Personality | Profession | Key Facts |
|-------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. | Tulsi Tanti | Businessman and Founder of Suzlon Energy | He recently passed away. |
| 2. | Hemant K Lohia | Director General (DG), Jammu and Kashmir Prisons department | He recently passed away. |
| 3. | Arun Bali | Actor | He passed away recently |
| 4. | Samantha Cristoforetti (Italy) | European Space Agency (ESA) Astronaut | She recently became the first European Women to command International Space Station. |
| 5. | Tom Cruise | American Actor | He is to become the first actor in the world and civilian to shoot a movie in outer space. |
| 6. | Dr.Temsüla Ao | Poet and Writer | She recently passed away. She played a pivotal role in popularizing the Naga culture through her literary works. |
| 7. | Mulayam Singh Yadav | Politician, former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and former Defence Minister | He recently passed away. |
| 8. | Ravi Kumar S | President of Infosys | He recently resigned as president. |
| 9. | Rahul Koli | 10-year old Indian Actor | He recently passed away, succumbing to leukemia. He acted in India's official entry for the Oscars 2023, Gujarati film Chhello Show (The Last Film Show). |
| 10 | Robbie Coltrane | Actor | He recently passed away. |

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| 11 | Subbu Arumugam | South Indian Folk-Performer | He recently passed away. He popularized villupaattu , a folk art of southern districts, across Tamil Nadu . |
| 12 | James McDivitt | National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA) Astronaut | He recently passed away . He was the commander of Apollo 9 mission testing the first set of equipment to go to the moon . |
| 13 | Suella Braverman | Interior Minister, United Kingdom | She recently resigned , after being appointed less than 2 months ago. |
| 14 | Liz Truss | Prime Minister, United Kingdom | She recently resigned after 45 days in office. |
| 15 | Ms. Chrysoula Zacharopoulou | Minister from France | She recently visited India and called on Department of Atomic Energy, India to discuss Indo-French collaboration in Nuclear Energy . |
| 16 | Aayan Khan | Sports | He recently became the youngest player to feature in the men's T20 World Cup . He played for United Arab Emirates (UAE) XI team against Netherlands He is 16 years old . |
| 17 | Virat Kohli | Cricketer | Recently, Virat Kohli has become the second batter in the world to score 1000 runs in T20 World Cup history Virat Kohli has achieved this milestone during a match against South Africa in Perth, Australia . So far, Kohli has played 23 T20I World Cup matches so far scoring 1,011 runs . Mahela Jayawardene (Sri Lanka) , with 1016 runs in 31 matches , was the first person to achieve this milestone |
| 18 | Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis | Medicine | He passed away recently He pioneered Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) treatment He was from West Bengal . |
| 19 | Shivpal Singh | Sports | National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has suspended Shivpal Singh for four years till 2025 for doping Shivpal Singh is a Javelin thrower from Uttar Pradesh |
| 20 | Kamalpreet Kaur | Sports (Discuss Throw) | Banned by World Athletics (WA) for three years for doping |
| 21 | Nipon Goswami | Actor | He passed away recently He was from Assam |
| 22 | Dietrich Mateschitz | Business | He passed away recently He was the co-owner of Red Bull He was from Austria |
| 23 | Amou Haji | 'Dirtiest man in the world' | He recently passed away . He didn't take a shower for more than half a century . |
| 24 | John Shaw | Former Vice Chairperson of Biocon Ltd. | He recently passed away . |
| 25 | Pierre Soulages | Painter | He passed away recently He was from France |
| 26 | Parag Agarwal | Software Engineer | He was the former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Twitter |

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| | | | He has been fired recently post twitter acquisition by Elon Musk. He was fired along with former Chief Financial Officer Ned Segal and former legal affairs and policy chief Vijaya Gadde |
| 27 | Neel Pawan Baruah | Painter | He passed away recently He was from Assam |

Books and Authors

| S.No. | Book Title | Author | Publisher | Key Facts |
|-------|--|---|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Against All Odds: The IT story of India | Kris Gopalakrishnan, N. Dayasindhu and Krishnan Narayanan | Penguin Random House India (PRHI) | Kris Gopalakrishnan is co-founder of Infosys. |
| 2. | The Last Heroes: Footsoldiers of Indian Freedom | P. Sainath | PRHI | -- |
| 3. | India's Pakistan Conundrum — Managing a Complex Relationship | Sharat Sabharwal | Routledge India | Sharat is a former Indian High (and Deputy) High Commissioner to Pakistan . |
| 4. | Ambedkar: A Life | Shashi Tharoor | Aleph Book Company | -- |
| 5. | Pandemic Disruptions and Odisha's Lessons in Governance | Dr Amar Patnaik | Vitasta Publishing Private Limited | Released by: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik |
| 6. | The Philosophy of Modern Song | Bob Dylan | Simon and Schuster | Bob Dylan is a famous American Musician . |
| 7. | A confused Mind story | Sahil Seth | Blue Rose publication house | Sahil Seth is an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) Joint Commissioner GST, Custom & Narcotics |
| 8. | Maya - I bow to thee, you cannot be overcome | Acharya Prashant | Jaico Publishing House | -- |
| 9. | DELHI UNIVERSITY: Celebrating 100 Glorious Years | Editor: Hardeep Singh Puri | Rupa Publications | -- |
| 10 | The Corbett Papers: Biographical, Legal, & Contextual Material on the Life & Career of Jim Corbett of Kumaon | Co-editors: Akshay Shah & Stephen Alter | Hachette India | Books authored by Jim Corbett: Jungle Stories (his first book) & Man-Eaters of Kumaon. Jim Corbett played a key role in the establishment of Jim Corbett National Park (then Haileys National Park) in Uttarakhand . Jim Corbett National Park is the first National Park of India . |

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| 11 | From dependence to Self-Reliance: Mapping India's Rise as a Global Superpower | Author: Dr Bimal Jalan | Rupa Publications | Dr Bimal Jalan is a former Governor of Reserve Bank of India |
| 12 | The Corbett Papers: Biographical, Legal, & Contextual Material on the Life & Career of Jim Corbett of Kumaon | Akshay Shah and Stephen Alter | Black Kite Publishing | -- |
| 13 | Nuclearization of Asia | Rene Naba | -- | Rene Naba is a French Author The book talks about nuclear emergency and threat posed by the nexus of Pakistan and China to South Asia, and the world at large. |

Fairs and Festivals

| S.No. | Festival | Country / State | Key Facts |
|-------|---|--|--|
| 1. | International Film Festival of India (IFFI) [53rd edition] | Host State: Goa | Organized by: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in collaboration with the Entertainment Society of Goa, Government of Goa. Spearheaded by: National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) Started in: 1952. |
| 2. | Bird Festival | Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) | Organized by: J&K Tourism Department and Sanctuary Nature Foundation |
| 3. | Kongali or Kati Bihu, 2022 (Relocation of Rice Sapling) | Assam | There are another two Bihu festivals celebrated in Assam – Bhogali or Magh Bihu and Rongali or Bohag Bihu . All these Bihu festivals are related to agriculture . |
| 4. | Megha Kayak Festival 2022 | Meghalaya | Hosted at: Umptrew River in Umtham Village |
| 5. | Deepotsav Celebrations | Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh | Commenced on the eve of Deepavali on October 23, 2022 . |
| 6. | 'SARANG – The Festival of India in Republic of Korea' | Seoul, South Korea | Organized by: Indian Embassy in Seoul, South Korea |
| 7. | Chenab White Water Rafting Festival | Organized at: Shibnote, Doda district, Jammu & Kashmir | Festival organized under Back to Village Programme- Phase-4 Objective: to promote adventure tourism round the year in Doda district About Back to Village <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiative of: Government of Jammu & Kashmir An initiative to take the administration to people's doorsteps to address their problems. |
| 8. | Jashn-e-Kashmir | -- | Organized at: Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir Organizers: All J&K Folk Artists Association, Shah Qalander Folk Theatre, in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, |

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| | | | Culture & Languages and the Office of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir. Theme: New Kashmir New Hope |
| 9. | 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention (PBD Convention 2023) | Venue: Indore, Madhya Pradesh About Pravasi Bhartiya Divas | Theme: "Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrated annually on 9th January to mark the contribution of the overseas Indians towards the development of India. • The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on 9th January 1915. |

Places in News

| S.No. | Place | Why in News | Key Facts |
|-------|--|---|---|
| 1. | Jammu | Union Home Minister laid the foundation stone of 263 development projects worth Rs. 1960 crore here. | -- |
| 2. | Srinagar | Union Home Minister laid the foundation stone of 240 development projects worth about Rs.2,000 crore here. | -- |
| 3. | Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh | Prime Minister laid the foundation of multiple projects worth over Rs. 3650 crores . | PM dedicated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIIMS, Bilaspur constructed at a cost of more than Rs 1470 crore • 31 km long project for four laning of the National Highway from Pinjore to Nalagarh on NH-105, worth over Rs. 1690 crore • Medical Device Park at Nalagarh, which will be built at a cost of about Rs 350 crores. • Government Hydro Engineering College at Bandla. |
| 4. | Chandigarh | 90th anniversary of Indian Air force celebrated here. | Attended by: President of India |
| 5. | Durga Puja pandal, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) | The 136 ft tall puja pandal is to be recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records as the tallest ever pandal. | Built by: Utsav Puja Committee The pandal is a replica of the under-construction Chandrodaya temple of Vrindavan . |
| 6. | Jungle Safari Park, Haryana | It will be the largest jungle safari park in the world in the Aravalli range, once created. | Area: 10,000 acres |
| 7. | Sindhi Guru Darbar Temple, Dubai (UAE) | It is one of the oldest Hindu temples in the UAE , and was expanded and dedicated a day before the Dussehra . | -- |
| 8. | Faizabad Cantonment, Uttar Pradesh | Renamed as Ayodhya Cantonment | -- |
| 9. | Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), Mumbai (Maharashtra) | The airport has entirely switched to green sources for its energy consumption needs , making it one of India's 100% sustainable airports . | CSMIA has set a target to achieve " Net Zero Carbon Emission " by 2029 . |

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| 10 | Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Gwalior Airport, Madhya Pradesh | The foundation stone of the new terminal building of Gwalior Airport was recently laid. | Approved by: Ministry of Civil Aviation Estimated Cost: Over Rs. 450 crores |
| 11 | Bhalswa lake, Delhi | Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is to restore and rejuvenate Bhalswa lake in northwest Delhi by December, 2022. | -- |
| 12 | National Maritime Heritage Complex site, Lothal (Gujarat) | Prime Minister (PM) recently reviewed the work in progress at the site. | The complex in Lothal is a fitting tribute to the city's historical legacy and heritage. |
| 13 | Durgavati Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh | Madhya Pradesh Wildlife Board recently approved this new reserve for tigers of Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR). | Final Approval to be granted by: National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) |
| 14 | Sivok Rangpo Rail project, Sikkim | This rail project was launched to enhance rail network connectivity in North-Eastern Region. | Total Length: 44km |
| 15 | West Karbi Anglong, Assam | The government of Assam recently declared that they have withdrawn the declaration of 'disturbed area' under Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958, (AFSPA) from this region. | -- |
| 16 | Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Kakinada Campus, Andhra Pradesh | Location: Kakinada Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Andhra Pradesh It was inaugurated recently Ministry of Commerce & Industry has granted Rs 230 crore to set up the campus. | IIFT already has two branches in Kolkata and Delhi. |
| 17 | Nathdwara, Rajasthan | World's tallest Shiva statue got installed here. | Height: 369-foot |
| 18 | Terai Elephant Reserve (TER), Uttar Pradesh | Ministry of Forest, Environment & Environment Change (MoFECC) recently gave its nod to set up this reserve. | It will be the second elephant reserve in UP and India's 33 rd . |
| 19 | Gatha Swaraj ki-Maratha Gallery | The gallery-cum-exhibition has been recently inaugurated at Jai Vilas Mahal, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. | The gallery is dedicated to history of Marathas. |
| 20 | Maze Garden and Miyawaki Forest | Recently inaugurated at Statue of Unity, Ekta Nagar, Kevadia, Gujarat | -- |
| 21 | GMR Goa International Airport, Mopa | The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has recently granted the aerodrome license to GMR Goa International Airport to enable commercial flight operations | Built by: GMR Goa International Airport Limited (GGIAL), a subsidiary of GMR Airports Limited (GAL). It is the second airport of Goa after Dabolim Airport. |
| 22 | Vijayapura Airport, Karnataka | To be named as Sri Jagajyothi Basaveshwara Airport | -- |

Days in News

| S.No. | Days | Date | Theme & Misc. |
|-------|-------------------------------|--------------|--|
| 1. | World Maritime Day | September 29 | Theme: New technologies for greener shipping |
| 2. | International Translation Day | September 30 | Theme: A World Without Barriers: The Role of Language Professionals in Building Culture, Understanding and lasting Peace |

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| 3. | National Voluntary Blood Donation Day | October 1 | Aim: To increase awareness regarding regular non-remunerated voluntary blood donations |
| 4. | International Day of Older Persons | October 1 | Theme: Resilience of Older Persons in a Changing World. |
| 5. | International Coffee Day | October 1 | The day is marked to celebrate the coffee sector's diversity, quality and passion. |
| 6. | World Vegetarian Day | October 1 | Theme: Make a Difference |
| 7. | 97th Raising Day of Military Nursing Service | October 1 | -- |
| 8. | International Day of Non-Violence | October 2 | The day marks the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi (Father of the nation) and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri. |
| 9. | National Wildlife Week | October 2 – October 8 | The Wildlife Week is celebrated to bring awareness among the citizens to preserve the wildlife . |
| 10. | World Habitat Day 2022 | 3 October | Theme: 'Mind the Gap. Leave No One Behind and No Place Behind' |
| 11. | Shyamji Krishna Varma Jayanti | 4 October | Shyamji Krishna Varma was a freedom fighter, lawyer & journalist from Gujarat |
| 12. | World Animal Day 2022 | 4 October | Theme: "shared planet" |
| 13. | World Space Week 2022 | 4 th to 10 th October | Theme: "Space and Sustainability" |
| 14. | World Teachers Day 2022 | 5 October | Initiative of: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Education International. Theme: "The Transformation of Education Begins with Teachers". |
| 15. | World Cerebral Palsy Day | October 6 | Theme: Millions of Reasons |
| 16. | World Cotton Day | October 7 | Theme: Weaving a better future for cotton Ministry of Textiles celebrated World Cotton Day 2022 by organizing a national level consultation on Sustainability in the Textile Value Chain in India in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Competition Commission of India (CCI) . |
| 17. | 90th anniversary of Indian Air Force | October 8 | -- |
| 18. | World Migratory Bird Day 2022 | October 8 | It is celebrated on the second Saturday in May and October. Theme: Light Pollution |
| 19. | 73rd Raising Day of Territorial Army | October 9 | 1 st Raising Day in: 1949 |
| 20. | Indian Foreign Service Day | October 9 | -- |
| 21. | World Post Day | October 9 | Theme: Post for Planet The day is celebrated to create awareness on the role of the postal sector in daily life. |
| 22. | World Mental Health Day | October 10 | Theme: Make mental health for all a global priority |
| 23. | World Day against Death Penalty | October 10 | Theme/Focus: The Death Penalty: A path paved with torture. |
| 24. | International Day of Girl Child | October 11 | Theme: Our time is now – Our Rights, Our Future |
| 25. | World Arthritis Day | October 12 | Theme: It's in your hands, take action. |

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| 26. | International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction | October 13 | -- |
| 27. | World Sight Day | October 13 | Theme: Love Your Eyes (same as last year) |
| 28. | World Standards Day | October 14 | Theme: Shared Vision for a Better World |
| 29. | 5 th Annual International E-Waste Day | October 14 | Theme: 'Recycle it all, no matter how small! ' |
| 30. | International Day of Rural Women | October 15 | Theme: Rural Women, key for a world free from hunger and poverty. |
| 31. | Global Handwashing Day | October 15 | Theme: Unite for Universal Hand Hygiene |
| 32. | World Students' Day | October 15 | The day commemorates the birthday of former Indian president Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam. |
| 33. | World Food Day | October 16 | Theme: Leave NO ONE behind |
| 34. | International Day for the Eradication of Poverty | October 17 | Theme: Dignity For All in Practice |
| 35. | World Trauma Day | October 17 | -- |
| 36. | World Osteoporosis Day 2022 | October 20 | Theme: 'Step Up For Bone Health' |
| 37. | International Chef's Day 2022 | October 20 | Theme: 'Growing A Healthy Future' |
| 38. | National Solidarity Day 2022 | October 20 | The day is observed to honour Indian Armed Forces On this day in 1962, China attacked India |
| 39. | 3 rd World Statistics Day (2020) | October 20, 2020 | Theme: "Connecting the world with data we can trust". The day is celebrated every five years |
| 40. | Police Commemoration Day | October 21 | The day is celebrated to remember the sacrifices of police officials in the line of duty. |
| 41. | 7th Ayurveda Day, 2022 | October 23 | Theme: Har Din Har Ghar Ayurveda Ministry of AYUSH , Government of India celebrates Ayurveda Day every year on the occasion of Dhanwantari Jayanti (Dhanteras) . |
| 42. | 11 th Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2022 | October 24 – October 31 | Theme: Nurturing trust: A Media and Information Literacy Imperative Hosted by: Nigeria |
| 43. | Disarmament Week 2022 | October 24 – October 30 | -- |
| 44. | United Nations Day | October 24 | Theme: Nourishing Peace |
| 45. | World Polio Day | October 24 | Theme: A healthier future for mothers and children |
| 46. | 61 st Raising Day of Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP) | October 24 | 1 st Raising Day commemorated on: October 24, 1962 ITBP was formerly known as a guerrilla force . |
| 47. | World Development Information Day | October 24 | -- |
| 48. | National Cyber Security Awareness Month | October | Theme: See Yourself in Cyber |
| 49. | Sustainability Day, 2022 | October 26 | -- |
| 50. | Gujarati New Year 2022 (Bestu Varas) | October 26 | -- |
| 51. | Accession Day of Jammu and Kashmir | October 26 | The day marks the anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) signing the Instrument of Accession with the Government of India on 26th October, 1947 |

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| | | | By executing this document under the provisions of the Indian Independence Act, of 1947 , J&K joined the Dominion of India |
| 52. | Shaurya Diwas 2022 | October 27 | <p>Celebrated at: Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K)</p> <p>Organized under: Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav</p> <p>Purpose: to commemorate the 75th year of air landed operations of Indian Army at Budgam Airport in 1947, the first civil-military victory of Independent India.</p> |
| 53. | 76th Infantry Day of Indian Army | October 27 | <p>This day is celebrated to pay homage to the soldiers who fought for the country and laid down their lives in the line of duty.</p> <p>Infantry fraternity is organizing a “Infantry Day Bike Rally 2022” consisting of 4 rallies from Shillong (Meghalaya), Wellington (Tamil Nadu), Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir) to culminate at the National War Memorial.</p> |
| 54. | World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (WDAH) 2022 | October 27 | <p>Theme: “Enlisting documentary heritage to promote inclusive, just and peaceful societies”</p> <p>WDAH 2022 will be celebrated in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of the Memory of the World (MoW) Programme.</p> <p>The celebration will take place from 27 October to 5 November 2022.</p> <p>About Memory of the World Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative of: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) • Key Objective: To facilitate preservation, by the most appropriate techniques, of the world's documentary heritage |
| 55. | International Animation Day | October 28 | This day was declared by: International Animated Film Association (ASIFA) . |
| 56. | International Internet Day | October 29 | The day marks the sending of the first electronic message which was transferred from one computer to another in 1969 . |
| 57. | World Psoriasis Day | October 29 | Theme: Mental Health |
| 58. | World Stroke Day 2022 | October 29 | Theme: #precioustime |
| 59. | 113th Birth anniversary of Homi Jehangir Bhabha | October 30 | He is known as the ' Father of the Indian nuclear program '. |
| 60. | World Cities Day 2022 | October 31 | <p>Theme: "Act Local to Go Global"</p> <p>The global observance of the day has been planned in Shanghai, China</p> |
| 61. | Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day 2022) | October 31 | <p>The day has been dedicated to celebrate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who played a key role in forming states by bringing the princely states together under the Union of India.</p> <p>The day was introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014.</p> <p>As a part of the celebrations 'Run for Unity' was flagged off from National Stadium, New Delhi.</p> <p>This year 75000 runs are being organized under run for unity by conducting 100 runs per district across 750 districts of India as a tribute to 75 years of India's Independence.</p> |

| | | | |
|-----|--|--|---|
| 62. | World Thrift Day (International Savings Day)2022 | October 30 (celebrated in India) | Theme: "Saving prepares you for the future" |
| | | October 31 (celebrated on global level) | |
| 63. | International Open Access Week-2022 (15 th edition) | October 24 to October 30 | Theme: "Open for Climate Justice". It is celebrated globally during the last full week of October . |

Miscellaneous News

| S.No. | Miscellaneous News | Key Facts |
|-------|--|--|
| 1. | Adani Group recently announced the creation of 2 new subsidiaries. | Subsidiaries: Adani Disruptive Ventures (ADVL) , which will be a wholly-owned subsidiary, and Alwar Alluvial Resources (AARL) . |
| 2. | Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) started its operations after being acquired by TATA Steel | Cost of Acquisition: ₹12,000 crore |
| 3. | Delhi government was fined ₹900 crore as environmental compensation for improper management of solid municipal waste | Fined by: National Green Tribunal (NGT) |
| 4. | Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) recently reduced its stake in United Nilgiri Tea Estates Company Ltd. | Before: 9.632% (4.81 lakh shares) After Reduction: 7.613% (3.80 lakh shares) |
| 5. | Demerger of NMDC steel plant in Chhattisgarh from NMDC Ltd. (formerly National Mineral development Corporation) | Approved by: Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) |
| 6. | A list of 50 exclusive and iconic heritage textile crafts of the country released | Released by: UNESCO |
| 7. | Wellness Centre set up by WWE fame "The Great Khali" alias Dalip Singh Rana in Karnal, Haryana . | Inaugurated by: Minister of State (Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions) |
| 8. | Monetary and behavioral sanctions imposed on MMT-Go (MakeMyTrip and Golbibo) and OYO for indulging in anti-competitive conduct. | Imposed by: Competition Commission of India (CCI) Monetary Penalties imposed: At the rate of 5% of their relevant turnovers |
| 9. | Monetary Penalty on Google for abusing its dominant position in multiple markets in the Android Mobile device ecosystem | Imposed by: Competition Commission of India (CCI) Penalty: Rs. 1,337.76 crore |
| 10 | Government's proposal to convert dues of over \$1.92 billion by Vodafone Idea to equity approved | Approved by: Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) The government's stake in Vodafone after the conversion could be more than 30% . |
| 11 | Closure of the Central Organization for Modernization of Workshops (COFMOW) , New Delhi announced | Announced by: Ministry of Railways |
| 12 | Tribunal for the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), related to the ban on the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates. | Tribunal Head: Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma |
| 13 | Japan has scrapped remarriage restrictions on pregnant women | Previously, pregnant women at the time of divorce must wait for wait 100 days before re-marriage in Japan |

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| 14 | Israel & Lebanon has reached agreement on maritime dispute | -- |
| 15 | T20 World Cup Silver Souvenir released | Released by: The India Government Mint, Kolkata (a Unit of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India-SPMCIL) |
| 16 | Monetary penalty on Google for abusing its dominant position with respect to its Play Store policies , imposed | Imposed by: Competition Commission of India (CCI) Imposed amount: Rs. 936.44 crore |
| 17 | Australia drops the recognition of West Jerusalem as Israel's capital | Capital to be considered by Australia for Israel: Tel Aviv |
| 18 | Pakistan has been removed from the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) | Pakistan was placed in the list in: 2018 |
| 19 | Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) to demerge its financial services business and list it separately on the stock exchanges | To be listed as: Jio Financial Services Ltd. To be renamed from: Reliance Strategic Investments Limited (RSIL) |
| 20 | Aerodrome licence granted to Odisha's Jeypore airport | Granted by: Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) |
| 21 | V.O. Chidambaranar Port in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu handled the highest volume of windmill blades in a single consignment | The port handled 120 number of imported windmill blades . |
| 22 | 75 infrastructure projects built by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently inaugurated at Ladakh. These projects are located across six states viz, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab & Rajasthan & two Union Territories (UTs) viz, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. <p>Key Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BRO's first Carbon Neutral Habitat at a height of 19,000 feet was inaugurated at Hanle village in Ladakh. It is BRO's effort towards contributing to Ladakh's resolve of becoming India's first Carbon Neutral UT <p>A 120-metre long Class 70 Shyok Setu on D-S-DBO Road in Ladakh at an altitude 14,000 feet was inaugurated.</p> |
| 23 | Diwali will be public school holiday in New York City starting 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- |
| 24 | NMDC organises Plantation at Landscape Garden and adopts two Tigers at Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad as a part of Swachhta 2.0 campaign | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NMDC is the largest producer of iron ore in India |

Following are the YouTube reference videos for this month, however this does not cover all the news and comprises of important news in a very crisp manner (not in detail):

| Date | YouTube Video Link |
|--|---|
| 1 st to 3 rd October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMY4xzJxu0U |
| 4 th October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Syf6SkiYQhI |
| 5 th to 6 th October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpRBuB4HT5M |
| 7 th October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZGrZkdrdFI |
| 8 th October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tzvqn3K8TU |
| 9 th & 10 th October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4iqoy-zl7A |
| 11 th October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXdjDS4kciA |

| | |
|--|---|
| 12 th October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcNU7024SN4 |
| 13 th October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z303bvatguw |
| 14 th October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6F-a0BpQjKU |
| 15 th to 17 th October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wve5Sp8y0pk |
| 18 th October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfHwogs8NqQ |
| 19 th October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvyO3ijm00g |
| 20 th October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNkuWn7hLkQ |
| 21 st October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZxn8hnINpQ |
| 22 nd October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBK9S1wOUx8 |
| 23 rd to 26 th October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZXXHWAD_G4 |
| 27 th October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jja0tyVwHMQ |
| 28 th October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYvsEJi38EM |
| 29 th to 31 st October | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Q_8O9PJdrk |

2 GA + ESI in News

PIB News

Social Sectors in India – Health

2.1 POSHAN Utsav

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Union Ministry of Women and Child Development** has organized **Poshan Utsav**.
- The event celebrates the **culmination of the 5th Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2022**
- Event Duration:** 30th September to 2nd October 2022; **Venue:** Kartavyapath in New Delhi
- Objective:** to sensitize children & women on age-appropriate good health practices to address the challenges of malnutrition in India.

Note: Rashtriya Poshan Maah discussed in September 2022 CA Magazine (News 2.8)

2.2 Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) Initiative

Why in News?

- Recently, Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (**Tele-MANAS**) initiative was launched at National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (**NIMHANS**), Bengaluru.

Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS)

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Initiative of | Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare |
| Launched on | World Mental Health Day 2022 (10 October) |
| Launched under | National Tele Mental Health Programme (NTMHP) |
| Aim | to provide free tele-mental health services all over India 24/7, particularly to people from remote or under-served areas |
| Target | to open at least one Tele-MANAS Cell in each State/UT |
| Network | 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence |
| Nodal Centre | National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru. |
| Technology Support | International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIITB) |
| Technical Support | Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bengaluru National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHRSC) |
| Implementation | The initiative will be organized in two tier system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Tier I → Comprises state Tele-MANAS cells which include trained counsellors and mental health specialists. At present, there are 51 State/UT Tele MANAS cells → Tier II → comprise of specialists at District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)/Medical College resources for physical consultation and/or e-Sanjeevani for audio visual consultation At present, there are 5 regional coordination centres |
| Helpline Number | 14416 |

Background

- National Tele Mental Health Programme (**NTMHP**) was announced in **Union Budget 2022-23**
- Aim: to further improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services in India.

Additional Information

- Tele MANAS is based on the **E-Manas- initiative of Government of Karnataka & NIMHANS**
- E-MANAS is a **first of its kind mental health repository** launched by any Indian State.
- E-MANAS was launched during the first wave of COVID-19 in 2020 to help people address the stress of pandemic & lockdown.

2.3 CSIR-NIScPR

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Union Ministry of Ayush** & Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (**CSIR-NIScPR**) have organized a **special session on Ayurveda@2047**.
- **Session Theme:** “Basic principles of Ayurveda for being healthy with special focus on old age persons and mental health”.
- Scientifically Validated Societal Traditional Knowledge (**SVASTIK**) program was highlighted during the event.

Scientifically Validated Societal Traditional Knowledge (SVASTIK)

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Launched in | August 2021 |
| Initiative of | Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) |
| Objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none">to conserve the practice of the right traditionto inculcate scientific temper of verifying traditional practices scientificallyTo instil confidence in the citizens regarding the scientific value of our traditional knowledge/practices |
| Key Features | Simplified creative content on scientifically validated traditional knowledge are communicated through digital platforms in English, Hindi, and regional languages. |

About CSIR-NIScPR

- Establishment: 2021; Headquarters: New Delhi

2.4 Developing Countries Vaccine Manufacturers Network (DCVMN)

Why in News?

- Recently, the **23rd Annual General Meeting** of the Developing Countries Vaccine Manufacturers Network (**DCVMN**) was held in Pune, Maharashtra.
- **Co-hosts of the event:** Serum Institute of India (SII) & DCVMN.
- **Theme:** 'Global Equity and Timely-Access: COVID-19 and Beyond'.

Key Information Shared

- In **October 2021**, India achieved **100 crore doses** of COVID-19 vaccines, **nine months** since the **launch of the Covid vaccination drive in January 2021**.
- In **July 2022**, India touched the **200-crore vaccination mark** (18 months since the launch of the drive)

About DCVMN

- A voluntary public health-driven alliance of vaccine manufacturers from developing countries
- **Establishment:** 2000; **Headquarters:** Nyon, Switzerland.

2.5 Global Digital Health Summit

Why in News?

- Recently, the **first ever Global Digital Health Summit, Expo & Innovation Awards** was held at **New Delhi**.
- **Co-Hosts:** Government of India & Internet Governance Forum, United Nations.
- **Theme:** Digital Health for All

Key Information Shared

| Particulars | Key Details |
|--|--|
| First ever resolution on Digital Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tabled by India at the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2016.• Proposed by: Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare |

Social Sectors in India - Education

2.6 National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

Why in News

- Recently, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) organized a **National Workshop** on “**Accountability Framework**: Responsibility of stakeholders on the implementation of **School Safety guidelines** with reference to Psycho-Social aspects”.
- The workshop was organized on the occasion of celebrating “**World Mental Health Week, 2022**”.
- It is **first of its kind workshop** being organized by the Commission at the **National level**.

About NCPCR

- It is a **statutory body** established by an Act of Parliament (The Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005).
- It started its operation in **2007**.
- Its mandate is to ensure that all **Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms** are in consonance with the **Child Rights enshrined in the Constitution** and the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**.
- It has been entrusted with the responsibility of **monitoring the implementation** of the provisions of **Juvenile Justice Act 2015, POCSO Act 2012** and **Right to Education Act 2009**.

2.7 National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational Stage

Why in News

- Recently, Ministry of Education has launched the **National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for Foundational Stage** and the pilot project of **Balvatika 49 Kendriya Vidyalayas** across the country.

Key Details

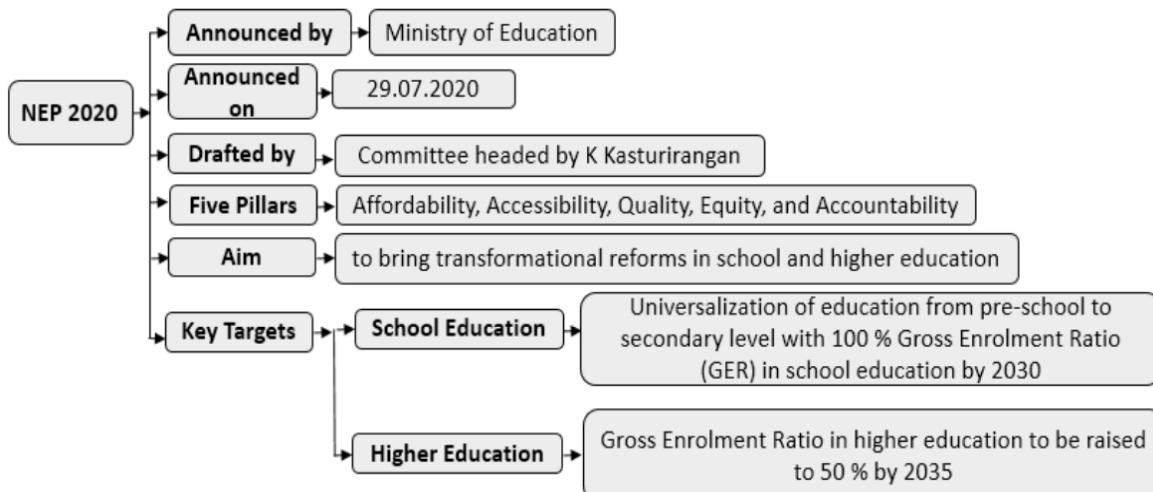
- Foundational, Preparatory, Middle & Secondary** are the **four stages** of NCF for school education.
- The **Foundational Stage** refers to children in the age group of **3 to 8 years**.
 - 3-6 years**: Early childhood education programmes in Anganwadis, Balvatikas, or pre-schools.
 - 6-8 years**: 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 (National Education Policy) 2020.
- It uses ‘**play**,’ at the core of the conceptual, operational, and transactional approaches to curriculum organization, pedagogy, time and content organization, and the overall experience of the child.
- It will also enable the achievement of **foundational Literacy and Numeracy** for all our children.
- It aims to address the Foundational Stage in **institutional settings**, within the overall context of Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE).
- It also deals with the **role of parents and communities** in enabling and enhancing the developmental outcomes that are sought during this stage.

About Balvatika

- Balvatika Classes for students in the age groups of 3+, 4+ and 5+ years of age is being introduced in a set of **49 Kendriya Vidyalayas**.
- NEP 2020 states that ‘prior to the age of 5 every child will move to a “Preparatory Class” or “**Balvatika**” (**that is before Class 1**) which has an **ECCE-qualified teacher**’.
- The Balvatika programme is envisaged as a **one-year programme before Grade 1**.

- **Objective:** To prepare children with cognitive and linguistic Competencies that are prerequisites for learning to read, write and develop number sense through a play-based approach.
- All these engagements are aimed at achieving the three developmental goals of:
 - Maintaining good health and well-being.
 - Becoming effective communicators.
 - Becoming involved learners.

About NEP 2020



Additional Information

- More than 85% of a child's cumulative brain development occurs prior to the age of 6.

Sustainable Development and Environmental issues

2.8 Mission LiFE

Why in News?

- Recently, Prime Minister of India & the Secretary General of United Nations have launched **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)** at a global level at **Statue of Unity in Ekta Nagar, Kevadia, Gujarat**
- **Global Launch of Mission LiFE organized by:** NITI Aayog and Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), in collaboration with Government of Gujarat.
- The **logo & the tagline** of the mission was also unveiled.
- The Prime Minister of India also attended a **bilateral meeting** with the Secretary General of the UN

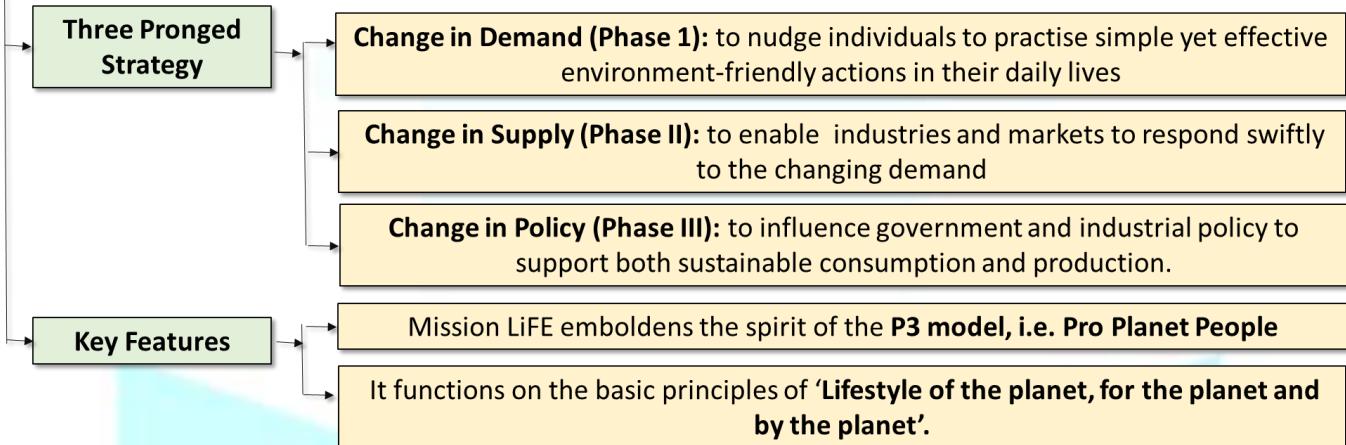
Key Information Shared

| Particulars | Key Details |
|--|--|
| First country to include LiFE in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India |
| First Indian State to initiate measures in the direction of renewable energy and climate protection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gujarat |
| Annual Carbon Foot Print | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India- about 1.5 tonnes/ year • Global Average- 4 tonnes/ year |
| India's global position in renewable energy sources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th largest capacity for renewable energy • 4th in wind energy and 5th in Solar Energy |
| Target of installed electricity capacity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India achieved 40% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil energy sources in November 2021 (nine years ahead of the target year 2030). |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| | A new initiative for sustainable and healthy lifestyle |
| Initiated & Led By | Government of India |
| Aim | to nudge individuals and communities to practice a lifestyle that is synchronous with nature and does not harm it. |
| Objectives | <p>to mobilise at least one billion Indians and other global citizens to take individual and collective action for protecting & preserving environment during 2022-2027</p> <p>at least 80% of all villages and urban local bodies to become environment-friendly by 2028.</p> |
| Mission Duration | 5 years |
| Implementation | <p>1st year: to be curated & incubated by NITI Aayog</p> <p>2nd to 5th Year: to be implemented by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| 10% ethanol blending target | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved in June 2022 (five months before the target- November 2022) |
| Host & Venue Nation of COP 27 (Conference of the Parties 27) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt |

Mission LiFE (Lifestyle For Environment)



Background

- The concept of LiFE was introduced by the Prime Minister of India at Conference of the Parties (**COP26**) at Glasgow, United Kingdom in November 2021.
- On World Environment Day (2022), India launched LiFE Global Movement

2.9 International Conference on Biofuels

Why in News?

- Recently, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (**SIAM**) has organized International Conference on Biofuels – A Pathway Towards Sustainable Future at New Delhi.

Key Information Shared

| Particulars | Key Details |
|---|---|
| Global Alliance on Biofuels | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be launched by: India along with the United States & Brazil• It would be launched during India's G20 presidency [December 2022 to November 2023] |
| National Policy on Biofuels – 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notified by: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas• Ethanol blending target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol advanced to ESY (Ethanol Supply Year) 2025-26 from 2030 |
| Supply of E20 (20% ethanol blended petrol) fuel | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selected petrol pumps to supply from April 2023. |
| India's Ethanol Demand | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To grow to 10.16 billion litres by 2025. |
| Progress of Ethanol Blending | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ethanol-blending percentage in petrol increased from 0.67% in 2013 to 10% in May 2022 |
| Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oil marketing companies (OMCs) have planned to setup 20000 EVCS in major cities and Highways across the nation by 2024 |

2.10 Swachh Bharat 2022 Campaign

Why in News?

- Recently, a mega cleanliness drive under **Swachh Bharat 2022 campaign** was organized from Chandni Chowk, Delhi.

Swachh Bharat 2022 Campaign

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Initiative of | Department of Youth Affairs, Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports |
| Organized through | Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) affiliated Youth Clubs and National Service Scheme Affiliated Institutions |
| Objective | to organize cleaning of public spaces and households across all the districts |
| Target | To collect & dispose 1 crore kg plastic waste |
| Duration | 1 st to 31 st October 2022 |
| Coverage | Campaign organized across 6 Lakh villages of 744 districts |

2.11 State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Union Minister of Home Affairs** has approved **Rs. 17.20 crore** as the **2nd installment** of the **Central share of the SDRF** to be released to **Nagaland** for **2022-23**.
- The funds will be **released in advance** to undertake relief measures following floods caused by monsoon.

State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Recommended by | 13 th Finance Commission |
| Constituted under | Section 48 (1) (a), Disaster Management Act, 2005 |
| Administered by | Ministry of Home Affairs as per the recommendations of Finance Commissions |
| Key Feature | Primary fund available with the State governments to respond to notified disasters to meet expenditure to provide immediate relief . |
| Centre State Contribution Ratio | General Category States/UTs- 75:25 North Eastern & Himalayan States/UTs- 90:10 |
| Centre's Share (2022-23) | Centre's share normally released in two installments every year in June & December 1st installment- Rs. 8,764.00 crore released to 24 States 2nd installment- Rs. 827.60 crore released in advance to three other states |

2.12 International Solar Alliance (ISA)

News 1

- Recently, the **curtain raiser** of the **5th Assembly** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** has been unveiled.
- Venue of the Assembly:** New Delhi.
- The assembly will be **presided by Union Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy**.
- The **deliberations** will be based on **three critical issues** viz, energy access, energy security, and energy transition.
- Three reports** to be released after the assembly viz, World Solar Technology Report, World Solar Market Report & World Solar Investment Report.

News 2

- Recently, **R K Singh**, Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy, **Government of India** has been reelected as the **President of the International Solar Assembly (ISA)**.

- Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, Minister of State for Development, **Government of France**, has been re-elected as **Co-President** of the ISA.

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

| | |
|---|--|
| Initiative of | India & France |
| Launched at | 21st session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-21) in Paris, France at November 2015 |
| Secretariat | Gurugram, Haryana, India |
| Director- General | Dr. Ajay Mathur |
| Total member and signatory countries | 109 |
| Mission | to unlock USD 1 trillion of investments in solar by 2030 while reducing the cost of the technology and its financing |
| Assembly of the ISA | <p>Apex decision-making body of the ISA</p> <p>Presidency: India</p> |

ISA Framework Agreement was signed & ratified by 15 countries in December, 2017

ISA- the first international intergovernmental organization to be headquartered in India

2.13 US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (USISCEP)

Why in News

- Recently, the **Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural gas** has co-chaired the **Ministerial dialogue of USISCEP** with the secretary of Energy, USA in **Washington DC, USA**.
- **Aim:** To strengthen energy security and to accelerate clean, secure, and just energy transition.

About SCEP (Strategic Clean Energy Partnership)

- This Partnership was launched in accordance with **U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership** announced by the **Prime Minister of India and the President of USA** at the **Leaders' Summit on Climate held in April 2021**.
- **Objective:** To advance energy security and innovation, scaling up emerging clean energy technologies, and deploying technical solutions **through 5 pillars**.

STRATEGIC CLEAN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP PILLARS



THE JOURNEY SO FAR



- According to their Joint Statement released, following bilateral efforts will be incorporated:
 - Support India's goal of achieving approximately **50% cumulative electric power** installed capacity from **non-fossil fuel-based energy** resources by 2030.
 - Electrifying and decarbonizing** the transportation sector through setting up an Electric Vehicle (EV) financing services facility in India.
 - Strengthening the power grid** to ensure reliable, affordable, and resilient clean energy.
 - Reducing emissions** across the oil and gas value chain.
 - Decarbonizing the industrial sector**.
 - Deepening cooperation** between Indian and U.S. Department of Energy labs and agencies.
 - To convene **public-private tasks forces on hydrogen and biofuels**.
 - Joint research and development on **smart grids and energy storage** and new collaboration on **carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) technologies**.
 - To explore collaboration on **technologies** like smart grids, energy storage, Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) technology under the **U.S.-India Partnership to Advance Clean Energy-Research (PACE-R)**.
 - The US Department of Energy (DOE) and India's Ministry of Power (MoP) launched a **new Energy Storage Task Force** to support large-scale integration of renewable energy needed to support the clean energy transition.

Additional Information

- Indian and U.S. companies** collaborated through a **Memorandum of Understanding** to deploy **methane abatement technologies** in India's city gas distribution sector under the **Low Emissions Gas Task Force** to help reduce emissions in the oil and gas sector.
- The **US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA)** is funding a feasibility study by a private energy developer (**Shivman Wind Energy Private Limited**) in India.
 - Aim:** To evaluate the **technical and economic viability** of developing a hybrid solar (100 MW) and wind power plant (200 MW) with integrated battery energy storage (100 MWh) at Dwarka in Gujarat.

2.14 Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar Campaign

Why in News

- Recently, the Union Minister of Earth Science has chaired the review meeting of the recently concluded "Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar" campaign held from **5th July to 17th September 2022**.

Key details of the campaign

- It was launched at **75 beaches for 75 days with 75 volunteers for every kilometer** of the coastline.
- It was launched by **Ministry of Earth Science**.
- It is the first-of-its-kind and **longest running coastal cleanup campaign** in the world.
- Aim: To keep **more than 7500 Kilometres long coastal line of India**, clean, safe and healthy.
- Target: To remove **1,500 tonnes of marine litter** from the sea-coasts.
- The three goals of the campaign are to **1. Consume Responsibly 2. Segregate waste at home and 3. Dispose Responsibly**.
- A mobile app “**Eco Mitram**” was launched to **spread awareness about the campaign** and also for the common people for **voluntary registration** for the beach cleaning activity.

Additional information

- Indian coastline includes **9 states and 4 Union Territories**.
- **Gujarat** has the **largest share** in Indian Coastline.
- **17th September 2022** (3rd Saturday of September): **International Coastal Clean-up Day**.

2.15 Swachhta Saarthi fellowship (SSF)

Why in News

- Recently, ‘**Swachhta Saarthi Samaroh**’ was organised at the Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**) Delhi to mark the completion of the **first year of the Swachhta Saarthi fellowship (SSF)** of the ‘**Waste to Wealth Mission**’.
- The **fellows showcased their work** done over the past year in the form of posters/ prototypes/ papers/ presentations/ products in the event exhibition.
- A **Fold scope Microscopy Workshop** for the **Category A fellows** and a session on **Overview of Carbon Credit and Sustainable Future** for the **Category B & C fellows** was conducted.

About the Fellowship

- It was launched on **1st July 2021**.
- It is an initiative to **empower young innovators** who are engaged in **community work** of waste management/awareness campaigns/waste surveys/studies, etc. as ‘**Swachhta Saarthis**’.
- Aim: To recognize students, community workers/self-help groups, and municipal/sanitary workers who are engaged in tackling the challenge of waste management, scientifically and sustainably.
- The **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser** to the Government of India under its “**Waste to Wealth**” **Mission** invites applications for the award of SSF.
- The **three categories** of awards under the fellowships are as below:

| Category | Eligibility | Amount Given per month for a year |
|-----------------|---|--|
| A | School students from 9-12 th standard | Rs. 500 |
| B | College students (UG, PG, Research) | Rs. 1000 |
| C | Citizens working in the community and through SHGs, municipal or sanitary workers | Rs. 2000 |

- Best performing fellow in each category will be recognised as the **Swachta Saarthi** of month.
- At end of the year, **10 best innovative projects/ initiatives/ demo model/ prototypes/ reports** will gain recognition under the programme.

Additional Information

- The ‘**Waste to Wealth**’ Mission is **one of the nine national missions** of the Prime Minister’s Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).

2.16 Commission for Air Quality Management National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM)

Why in News

- Recently, CAQM held a review meeting with the **11 City Gas Distributors (CGDs) of National Capital Region (NCR) and Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG)**.
- Objective:** To get the status of commissioning of gas infrastructure/ PNG/ CNG connectivity in the Districts of the National Capital Region (NCR).
- CAQM has directed **commissioning of gas infrastructure** in the entire NCR **before the next winter season to fight air pollution** arising out of industrial activities and vehicles.

Key Details

- The entire NCR has been divided into **24 GAs (Geographical Areas)** and same has been **divided among 11 CGDs**.
- The NCR has a total **240 Industrial Areas** out of which gas connectivity and infrastructure has been achieved in **74.5% (179)** industrial areas.
- Switching over of industries in NCR to the “**approved**” **clean fuels** including **PNG** is a priority for the CAQM.
 - The approved fuel list shall be completely in force in the entire NCR **w.e.f. 01.01.2023**.
- The Commission has already directed the **NCR State Governments to phase out coal** from NCR and completely avoid use of coal **w.e.f. 01.01.2023** (except Thermal Power Plants).

2.17 High-Level Coalition on Health and Energy

Why in News

- Recently, Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare has addressed the **Second meeting** of the **High-Level Coalition on Health and Energy** virtually.
- Objective of meeting:** To discuss and identify actions **to accelerate clean cooking and electrification of health-care facilities** in countries.
- It was convened by the **Director General of World Health Organisation (WHO)**.
- The outcome of the meeting was “**Call to Action to increase climate resilience of health-care facilities & air quality through sustainable energy**”.

Key Details Shared

- India has successfully **electrified 95%** of district hospitals and around **90%** of sub-divisional hospitals with a three-phased power supply.
- Cumulatively, almost **75% of the health centres** in the country have been electrified with a cumulative solar capacity of **3.5MW**.
- India has attained **SDG target 7.1** of providing **Universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services by 2030** by improving the **electrification of 99.99% of the households**.

About this High level Coalition

- It is comprised of **leaders from governments** supporting **HEPA (Health and Energy Platform of Action)** as well as leaders from **selected international organizations** and other high-level health and energy champions.
- Aim:** **To strengthen cooperation** between **health and energy sectors**, increase political momentum, spur investments, mobilize public support and drive practical solutions.

Additional Information

- The first meeting (Virtual) of the Coalition took place in **June 2021** and resulted in the endorsement of the “**Strategic Roadmap to promote healthier populations through clean and sustainable energy**” by all Coalition members.
- In the context of "**Green and Climate Resilient Healthcare Facilities**", India is a signatory to the **Malé Declaration in 2017**.
 - India has agreed **to promote climate-resilient health-care facilities** to be able to **withstand any climatic event** and ensure that essential services such as water sanitation, waste management, and electricity are functional during such events.

2.18 Integrated approach for a Green Environment: Indian Railways

Why in News

- Indian Railways (IR) has set a target of becoming “**Net Zero**” Carbon emitter by **2030**.
- Objective:** To contribute in India’s NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) towards combating Climate Change.

Key Details

- Reforms undertaken by Indian Railways since 2014**

| Areas | Action |
|--|---|
| Net-Zero Carbon Emission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IR has installed 142 MW solar rooftop capacity and 103.4 MW of Wind energy till August, 2022. Electrification of its routes, shifting from diesel to electric traction. Construction of Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs), Green certification of Railway Establishments. First phase of the DFCs alone is estimated to reduce emissions by about 457 million ton CO₂ over a 30 year period To enhance the share of the Railways in the overall land based freight transport from present 36% to 45% by the year 2030. Use of 5% blending of biofuels in traction diesel fuel. |
| Water Policy 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is issued for effective water management. It is a part of overall efforts to achieve 20% reduction in water consumption by 2020 as a part of NDC. Installing water efficient systems and Water Recycling Plants on railways land. |
| Additional Carbon sink by Afforestation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Afforestation on vacant railways land. Forest Departments of States are being involved in plantation as well as maintenance and disposal of trees. IR has been planting around 1 crore trees annually since 2017 onwards. 72 lakh saplings have been planted during the year 2021-22. |
| Waste Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste to energy/compost/biogas plants/Material recovery facility have been set at more than 250 stations to manage waste. |
| Green certification/Consent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around 700 Railway Stations have been certified for implementation of Environment Management System (ISO: 14001). More than 545 stations have achieved Consent to operate (CTO) from respective State Pollution Control Board. 31 railway buildings, 32 stations and 55 workshops/PUs have achieved green certification. |
| Bio-Toilets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment-friendly Bio-toilets have been developed by IR jointly with Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO). |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The work of fitment of bio-toilets in all the passenger carrying coaches was completed in March 2021. |
| Third party Audit/Survey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey on cleanliness of major stations started in 2016 and carried out again in 2017, 2018 and 2019. First ever Third Party audit cum survey on cleanliness of important trains was carried out in 2018. |
| Housekeeping / cleaning contracts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard Bid Document (SBD) (Aug 2017) and General Conditions of Contract for Services (GCCS) (Feb 2018) have been issued to improve effectiveness of housekeeping / cleaning contracts with special focus on passenger interface areas. |
| Environment related work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision for allocating 1% cost in all sanctioned Works for executing environment related work was issued in May 2016. |

2.19 Sustainable Mountain Development Summit-XI

Why in News?

- Recently, Sustainable Mountain Development Summit-XI, (**SMDS-XI**) was organized at **Leh, Ladakh**.
- Organized by:** Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI)
- Theme:** ‘Harnessing tourism for sustainable mountain development’.
- Mountain Legislators’ Meet (MLM)** and the **Indian Himalayan Youth Summit** were organized as a part of the event.

About Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI)

- A civil society-led forum** working across the **Indian Himalayan Region (IHR)**.
- Secretariat:** Gangtok, Sikkim.

2.20 Water Heroes: Share Your Stories Contest 3.0

Why in News?

- Recently, the **winner** of the **Water Heroes: Share Your Stories Contest 3.0** for the month of **September 2022** has been announced.

| Water Heroes: Share Your Stories Contest 3.0 | |
|--|---|
| Initiative of | Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti |
| Duration | 1 st December 2021 to 30 th November, 2022 |
| Aim | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to create awareness for water conservation by enhancing knowledge and sharing experiences of water heroes to create an attitude towards water conservation and management so that a behavioural change can be created amongst all stakeholders |
| Objectives | to promote value of water, water conservation and sustainable development of water resources |
| Features | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held monthly on MyGov Portal A cash prize of Rs. 10,000/- and a certificate awarded to winners |
| Previous Editions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Edition: September 2019 to August 2020 2nd Edition: September 2020 to August 2021 |

Employment Generation in India

2.21 Defence Accounts Department

- Recently, the **275th Annual Day** of the **Defence Accounts Department (DAD)**, under the Ministry of Defence, was held on **1st October 2022 at New Delhi**.

Key Initiatives by DAD launched during the event

| Initiative | Key Details |
|---|--|
| System for Pension Administration (Raksha) (SPARSH) mobile app | <ul style="list-style-type: none">The app will ensure pensioner access and reach to key functionalities of the SPARSH portal through their mobiles |
| Agniveer Pay System | <ul style="list-style-type: none">A fully automated IT system & secure portal to ensure claim processing and pay-roll management of Agniveers under Agnipath scheme |
| Defence Accounts Receipts and Payment System (DARPAN) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">A unified solution for third party bill payment and accounting |
| Defence Pay Civilian System | <ul style="list-style-type: none">A single, centralised and fully automated system for disbursement of payments to all defence civilians. |
| Pay and Accounts Office (PAO) Bharati | <ul style="list-style-type: none">The armed forces personnel can get real-time data related to pay & allowances and claims through this initiativeSo far, implemented in seven PAOs |
| International Air Ticket booking module in Defence Travel System (DTS) | -- |

Key Highlights of the event

| Particulars | Key Details |
|--|---|
| Raksha Mantri Awards for Excellence 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Awarded to the teams implementing the projects viz, development, testing and implementation of SPARSH; implementation of E-Concurrence in DRDO and PAO Bharati: Your PAO, A call away 24*7. |
| Centralised PAO (Army) for Agniveers | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Inaugurated at Delhi Cantonment |

Key Information Shared

| Particulars | Key Details |
|--|--|
| Budget allocation for Ministry of Defence | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Rs 5,25,166 crore (2022-23) |
| Budget earmarked for domestic defence industry | <ul style="list-style-type: none">68% of capital procurement budget during 2022-23 |

Note: SPARSH discussed in September 2022 CA Magazine (News 2.27)

2.22 Legal Metrology (General) Rules, 2011

Why in News

- Recently, **Department of Consumer Affairs** under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution amended the **Legal Metrology (General) Rules, 2011**.
- Objective: For **ease of doing business** and reducing the **compliance burden** for the industries

Key details

- The amendment will allow retailers to **nominate an officer** with the responsibility of **an establishment** instead of prosecuting directors of the company in case of a violation.
- It will provide major relief to **board members of retail companies** and **manufacturers of packaged goods**.

Background

- Earlier **in case of violations** under the **Legal Metrology Act (LMA), 2009**, the prosecutions were initiated against the Directors of the companies even for the violation done by any establishment or branch or unit of the company.
- **Section 49 (sub section 2)** of LMA allows the companies **to nominate any of its Directors as a person responsible** for the business of the Company.

About Legal Metrology Act (LMA), 2009

- It is an Act **to establish and enforce standards of weights and measures, regulate trade and commerce** in weights, measures and other goods which are sold or distributed by weight, measure or number and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

2.23 Quality Council of India (QCI)

Why in News

- Recently, the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry (**Chief Guest**) has addressed the **Silver Jubilee Celebration (25th year)** of QCI in New Delhi.
- QCI has launched a campaign—“**Gunvatta Se Atmanirbharta**: India’s quality movement”.
 - Aim: To celebrate India’s quality hubs, create awareness about India’s achievements and inform people about the initiatives taken to enhance the quality of lives of all citizens.
- **7th Edition of QCI DL Shah Quality Best Practices Book** was also launched at the event.

About QCI

- It was set up in **1997** as a **National body for Accreditation**.
- It was set up jointly by the **Government of India** and the Indian Industry represented by the **three premier industry associations** [Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (**ASSOCHAM**), Confederation of Indian Industry (**CII**) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (**FICCI**)] through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model.
- It is a **non-profit organization** registered under the **Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860**.
- Nodal Ministry: The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- It has created various boards to take over the functions of accreditation and quality promotion viz-
 - **NABL** (National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration of Laboratories).
 - **NABH** (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers).
 - **NABCB** (The National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies).
 - **NABET** (National Accreditation Board for Education and Training).
 - **NBQP** (National Board for Quality Promotion).
- **Mr Ratan Tata** was its **first Chairman**.

2.24 National Workshop on ‘Ease of Doing Business’

Why in News

- Recently, **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under Ministry of Commerce and Industry has organised this workshop in New Delhi.
- It focused upon the **‘Whole of Government’ approach** to drive reforms **‘Across Nation’**.

Key details

- Ease of Doing Business (EODB) 2.0 was discussed in the workshop.
 - It was announced in the **budget speech of 2022-23** by the finance minister.

- It is in line with the government's strong commitment towards "**minimum government and maximum governance**".
- It is guided by the active **involvement of the states, digitization of manual processes, integration of the central and the state-level systems through IT bridges, single-point access for all citizen-centric services, and standardization and removal of overlapping compliances.**

2.25 Grameen Udyami Project

Why in News

- Recently, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) felicitated 165 students under the **second phase** of Grameen Udyami project.

About Grameen Udyami Project

- It is also known as **Rural Tribal Technical Training Program**.
- It is an initiative of **National Skill Development Corporation** under MSDE.
- The **1st phase** of the project was launched in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh in May 2022.
- The **2nd phase** of the project was launched in Ranchi, Jharkhand in August 2022.
- **Aim:** It was launched with the aim to augment skill training in tribal communities for inclusive and sustainable growth and to increase their employability.
- It also focuses on providing employment opportunities in **both local and rural economies**.
- Training will be provided to the beneficiaries **in 5 disciplines:** 1. Electrical and Solar energy, 2. agricultural mechanization, 3. e-governance, 4. Plumbing and Masonry, 5. Two wheeler repair and maintenance.
- The project is currently being implemented in **six states:** Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Gujarat.
- 2nd Phase of this project is being implemented by **Yuva Vikas Society**, through **Seva Bharti Kendra**.
- NSDC under the aegis of MSDE has supported in setting up labs and classrooms through Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) in Seva Bharti Kendra Skill Development Center.

About National Skill Development Corporation



Note: Launch News of 2nd Phase of Grameen Udyami Project is covered in **August 2022 Magazine**.

2.26 Tribal Youth Exchange Programme

Why in News

- Recently, 14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme for the development of Tribal Youth has been organised in New Delhi.
- Organised by: **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)** in collaboration with **Ministry of Home Affairs** and **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**.

- Aim:
 - To provide **exposure to tribal youth** to the **technological and industrial advancements** in different parts of the country.
 - To help tribal youth to develop **emotional linkages** with their **peer groups** in other parts of the country and enhance their self-esteem.
 - To **sensitize LWE (Left wing Extremism) Tribal Youth** to **Rich Cultural Heritage of India** and to enable them to appreciate the concept of unity in diversity.
- Duration of each such Exchange Programme: **7 days**.
- 220 selected youth in the age group of **18-22 years** are participating in this edition of Programme.
- NYKS has been organizing this programme since 2006.

About Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)

- It was set up in **1987-88** as an **autonomous organization**.
- It was set up under the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**.
- Aim: To oversee the working of **Nehru Yuva Kendras (Established in 1972)**.
- Objective:
 - To involve the **rural youth in nation building** activities.
 - To develop such **skills and values** in them with which they become responsible and **productive citizens** of a modern, secular and technological nation.

2.27 BHAVISHYA Portal

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare** (DoPPW), under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, has launched the **BHAVISHYA 9.0 – a Single Integrated Pensioners' Portal**.
- DoPPW has collaborated with **State Bank of India (SBI)** to develop Bhavishya 9.0.
 - With this, SBI has become the **first pension disbursing Bank to integrate its Pension Seva Portal with BHAVISHYA**.

Key Highlights of the event

| Particulars | Key Details |
|---|--|
| Anubhav Awards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conferred to 15 awardees for 2019-20, 20-21 & 21-22. |
| Launch of Pre-Retirement Counselling (PRC) workshop | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative of: DoPPW |
| Inauguration of Pension Disbursing Bank Exhibition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A first of its kind initiative of DoPPW to enable retiring employees to take an informed decision while opening a Pension account. • All 17 Pension Disbursing Banks participated in the exhibition |

- A Portal for Pension Payment and Tracking System
- A Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) initiative
- Made mandatory for all central government departments since 1st January 2017
- Rated as 3rd best among all Government of India service portals by National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) 2021
- Portals integrated with BHAVISHYA: Centralized Pension Grievances Redress And Monitoring System (CPENGRAMS), Anubhav, ANUDAAN, SANKALP Portal & Pension DASHBOARD

About Anubhav Portal

- Initiative of: Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare; Launch Year: 2015
- Retiring Government employees share their experience for working in Government & provides suggestions for improvement in governance

About Anubhav Awards

- Initiative of: Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare; Launch Year: 2016
- Purpose: to encourage retiring government employees to share their government experience on their retirement.

Other initiatives of Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW)

| Initiative | Key Details |
|---|--|
| Face Authentication Technology for submission of Digital Life Certificates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched in: November 2021 • Developed by: DoPPW, in association with National Informatics Centre (NIC) under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) and Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) • Objective: to enhance Ease of Living of pensioners |
| A Campaign under Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters (SCDPM 2.0) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initiative envisages to enhance adoption of Face Authentication as best practices • Pensioners aged 80 years and above can submit their Life Certificates (Jeevan Praman) from 1st October every year to avoid rush at the banks. |

Note: SCDPM discussed in September 2022 CA Magazine (News 2.113)

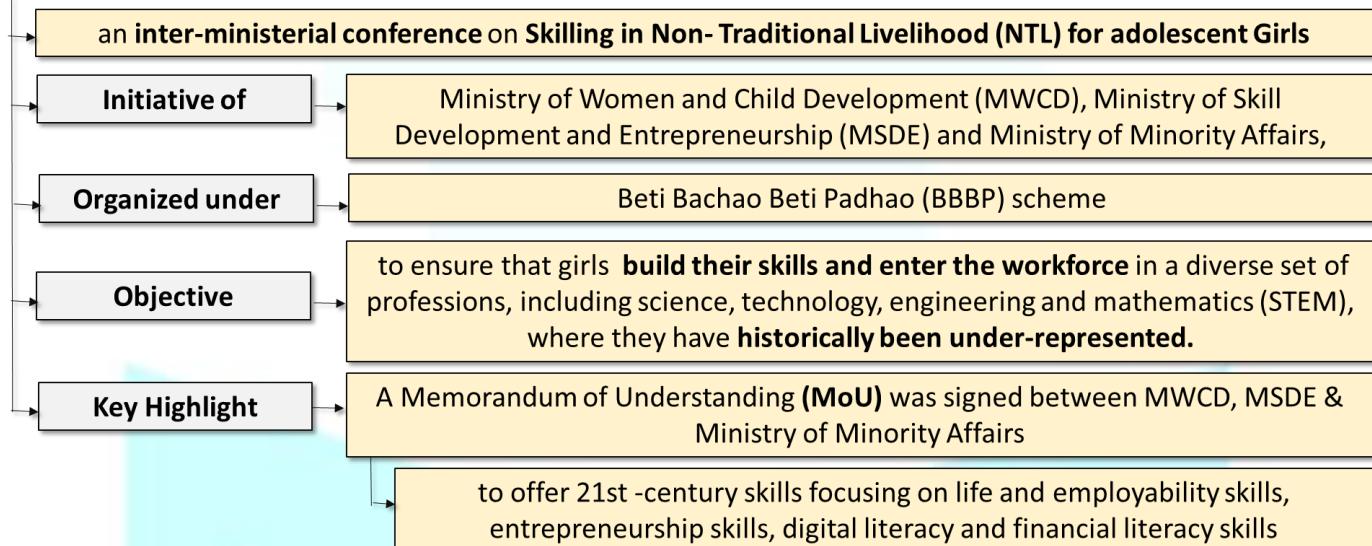
Gender Issues

2.28 "Betiyan Bane Kushal" Conference

Why in News?

- Recently, "Betiyan Bane Kushal" was organized on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child (11th October 2022).

Betiyan Bane Kushal



Note: BBBP will be covered in October 2022 SchemesTap.

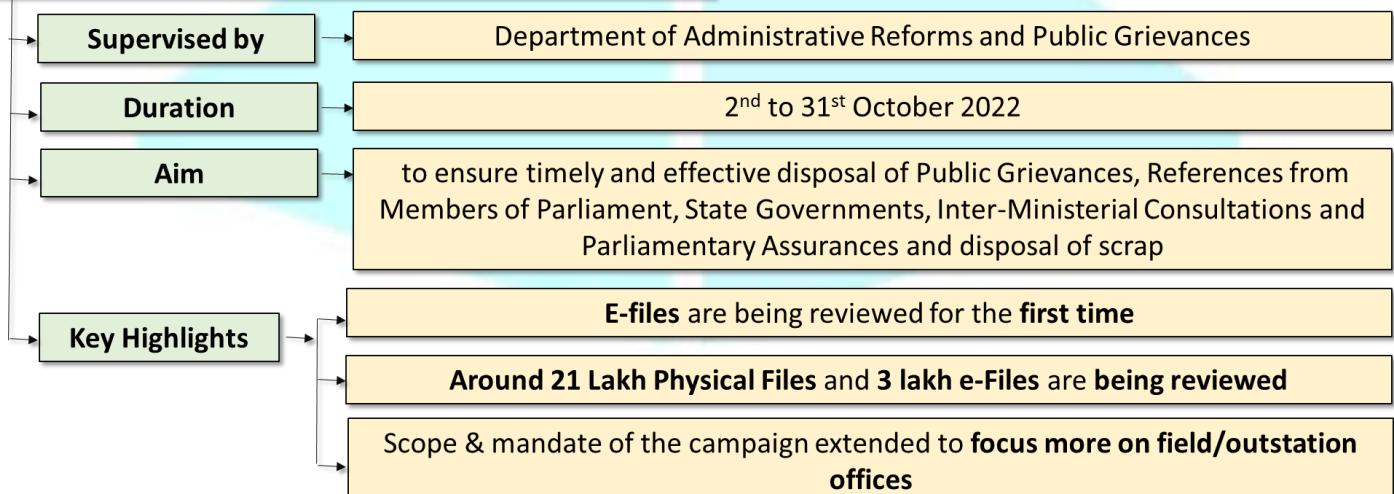
Indian Political System

2.29 Special Swacchta Campaign 2.0

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions has **reviewed the progress of Special Swacchta Campaign 2.0**.

Special Swacchta Campaign 2.0



Additional Information

- As a part of the Special Swacchta Campaign 2.0, **Ministry of Defence** has developed an **Intra-Departmental portal** to **monitor the campaign**

Globalization

2.30 India-UAE High Level Joint Task Force on Investments

Why in News?

- Recently, the **10th meeting** of the United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) - India High Level Joint Task Force on Investments was held in **Mumbai**.

- It is the **first meeting** of the joint task force since the **signing of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** and unveiling of the **Joint UAE-India Vision Statement** during India- UAE virtual summit.
- Co-Chairs of the Meeting:** Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry (India), and Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of the Executive Council of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi (UAE).

Key Announcements

- India Fast Track Mechanism** to be established in UAE to resolve issues faced by Indian businesses and investors in UAE
- India & UAE** to explore establishment of efficient and integrated **Single Window Solutions** and **Virtual Trade Corridors** to reduce time and cost in trade.

About India-UAE High Level Joint Task Force on Investments

- Establishment:** 2013
- Objective:** to promote trade, investment and economic ties between the UAE and India.

Note: India UAE CEPA discussed in September 2022 CA Magazine (News 2.43)

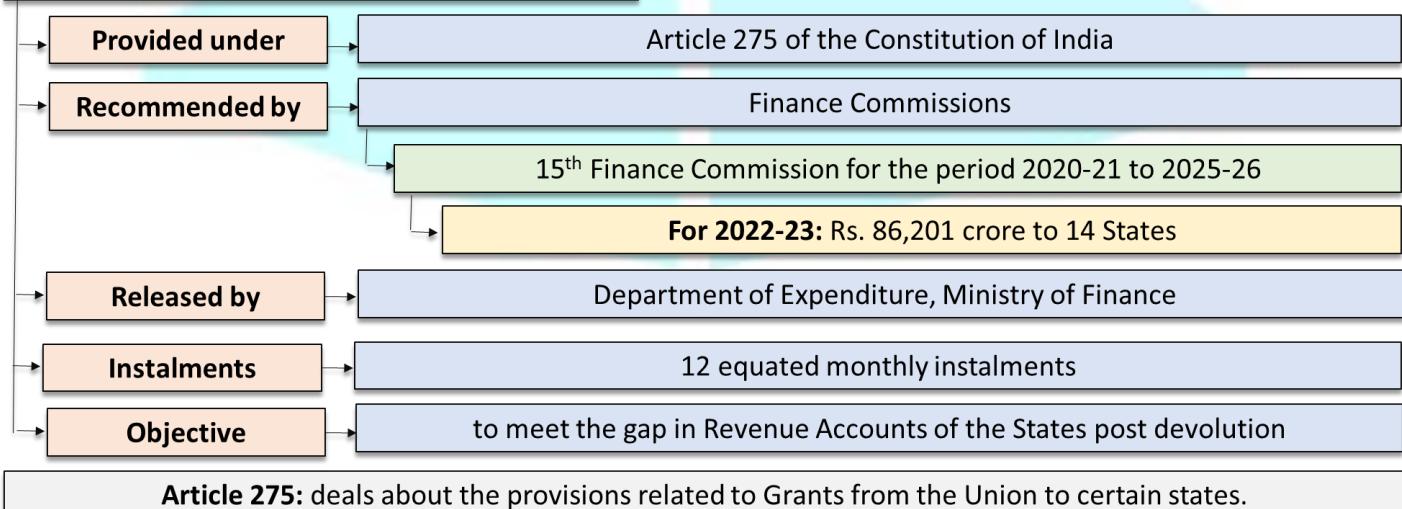
Monetary and Fiscal Policy

2.31 Revenue Deficit Grant

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance** has released the **7th monthly instalment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant** of **Rs.7,183.42 crore** to **14 States** for October 2022.
- Total amount of Revenue Deficit Grants released to the States so far in 2022-23:** Rs. 50,283.92 crore

Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grants



2.32 Government Borrowing Plan for Second Half of FY 2022-23

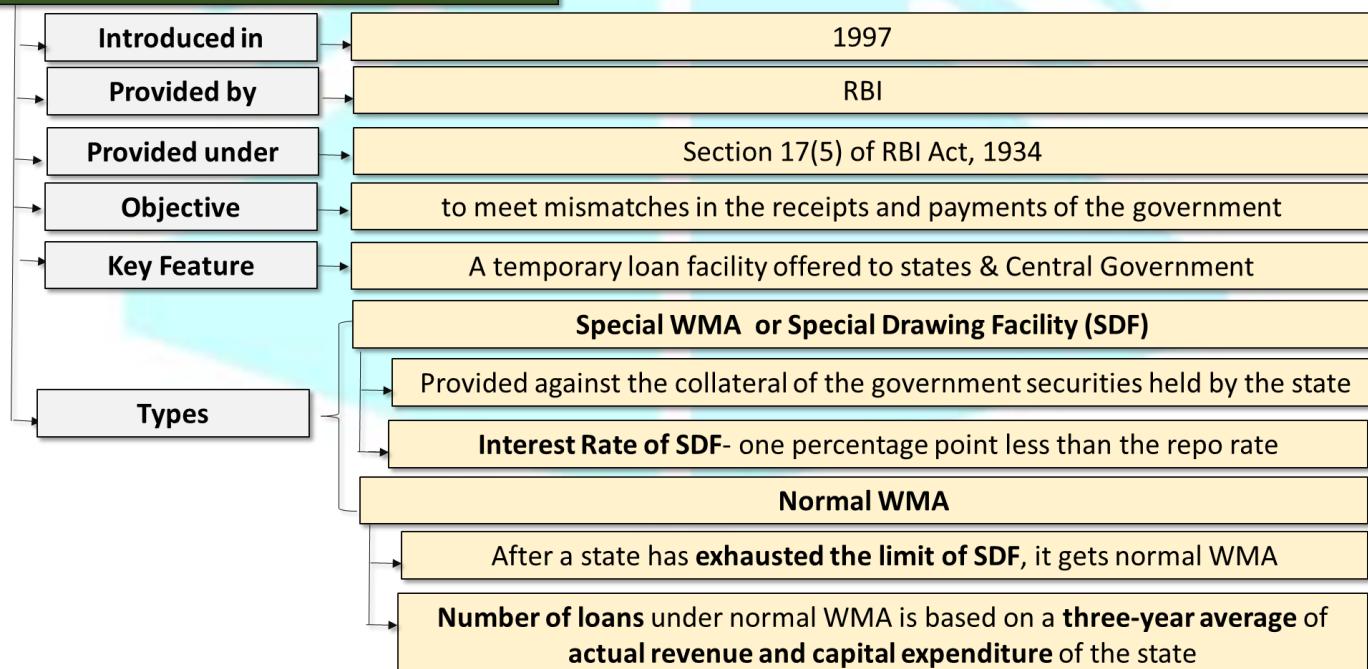
Why in News?

- Recently, the **Government of India**, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**), has finalized its **borrowing programme** for the **second half (H2) of FY 2022-23**.
- The **borrowing target** has been **unchanged** for **FY 2022-23**.

Government Borrowing Plan for Second Half (H2) of FY 2022-23 (FY23)

- The Government of India (GOI) projected a **Gross Market borrowing** of Rs 14.31 lakh crore for FY23
- Out the projected amount, GOI decided to **borrow** Rs 14.21 lakh crore during FY23
- The GOI has **planned to borrow** Rs 5.92 lakh crore (41.7% of Rs 14.21 lakh crore) in H2 FY23
- The borrowing for H2 FY23 will be done through **dates securities**
- It includes Rs 16,000 crore through issuance of Sovereign Green Bonds (**SGrBs**) as announced in **Union Budget 2022-23**
- The gross market borrowing of Rs 5.76 lakh crore (40.5%) shall be completed **20 weekly auctions**
- **Budgeted (BE) Switch amount-** Rs 1,00,000 crore,
➤ **Switch auctions have already been conducted-** Rs 56,103 crore
➤ The balance switch actions will be conducted in H2 FY23 to **smoothen the redemption profile**
- GOI to **continue to exercise greenshoe option** to retain an **additional subscription** of up to Rs 2,000 crore against each of the securities indicated in the auction notification.
- **Amount raised** through this method will be limited to **3 to 5%** of the **gross issuance for H2: FY 23**
- **RBI** has fixed **Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit** for H2 FY23 at **Rs 50,000 crore**

Ways & Means Advances (WMA)



Growth and Development (Measurement of growth)

2.33 North Eastern Council

Why in News?

- Recently, the **70th plenary meeting** of the North Eastern Council (NEC) was held at **Guwahati, Assam**.
- **Session Chairs:** Union Minister for Development of North-East Region (Day 1); Union Minister for Home Affairs (Day 2)

Key Highlights

- **Launch of North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation (NEHHDC) mobile app**

- **App Beneficiaries:** artisans & weavers of North East India.
- **Key Features:**
 - ✓ The app helps NEHHDC to register its artisans and weavers online, collect authentic data.
 - ✓ It provides training through online courses & helps in grievance redressal
 - ✓ It provides important details about Government schemes, initiatives, events, etc.

Key Information Shared

| Particulars | Key Information |
|--|---|
| Amul Merger | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amul to be merged with five other cooperative societies to form a multi-state cooperative society (MSCS). |
| GBS Support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Central Ministries/ Departments are mandated to spend at least 10% of their Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for the Northeastern Region (NER). |
| Tourism Task Force | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Development of North-East Region (MoDER) is setting up a Tourism Task Force to ensure realization of complete potential of the NER. |
| North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a joint initiative of Department of Space (DOS) and the North Eastern Council (NEC) |

North Eastern Council



Eight States of NER: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

2.34 People's Plan Campaign (PPC)–2022

Why in News

- Recently, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has organised a **National Training Workshop on People's Plan Campaign–2022** in New Delhi.

Key Details

- The guidelines for **revamped People's Plan Campaign–2022** and Handbook on **revamped Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) Portal** were also launched during the Workshop.
- The revamped **eGramSwaraj portal** was also launched at the occasion.

About People's Plan Campaign–2022

- **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** organises **People's Plan Campaign (PPC)** every year.
- Duration: **2nd October 2022 to 31st January 2023**.
- Tagline: **Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas**.
- Aim: To prepare **District/ Block/ Gram Panchayat Development Plans** for the year 2023–2024.
- In this PPC 2022, Panchayats will prepare GPDP on the **9 themes** [Localised Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs)] by adopting **Whole-of- Government** and **Whole-of-Society** approach.

- Planning involves the full convergence with Schemes of all related Central Ministries / Line Departments related to **29 subjects** enlisted in the **Eleventh Schedule** (Contains about the Power, authority and responsibility of Panchayats) **of the Constitution**.

About e-GramSwaraj Portal

- It is a **Simplified Work Based Accounting Application for Panchayati Raj (SWARAJ)**.
- Launched by Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- **Aim:** To bring in better transparency in the decentralised planning, progress reporting and work-based accounting.

Note: 9 LSDGs themes are discussed in September CA Magazine in article **2.19**.

International Economic Institutions (IMF and World Bank – WTO) (Regional Economic Cooperation)

2.35 1st ASEAN-India Start-up Festival 2022

Why in News?

- Recently, **1st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - India Start-up Festival (AISF)** was held at **Cibinong Bogor, Indonesia** to commemorate the **30th Anniversary** of the **ASEAN-India diplomatic relationship**.
- **Hosted by:** ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation (**COSTI**), in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology (**DST**), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India via the Indonesian National Research and Innovation Agency (**BRIN**) and the **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur Start-up Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC)**.
- **Organized as a part of :** ASEAN-India Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation program of COSTI & DST
- **Supported under:** ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund (AISTDF), an initiative of DST and Union Ministry of External Affairs.
- **Aim:** to strengthen cooperation and collaboration in science, technology, and innovation between ASEAN Member States and India, as outlined in the **ASEAN-India Partnership Plan of Action for Peace, Progress, and Shared Prosperity (2021-2025)**.

Key Information Shared

| Particulars | Key Details |
|---|---|
| World's third largest startup ecosystem | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India |
| Number of recognized startups in India by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72,993 (as on 30th June 2022) |
| Sector Details of recognized startups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognized startups are spread across 56 diversified sectors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 13% - IT services, ○ 9% - healthcare, ○ 7% - education |
| Total Number of Unicorns in India (as of September 2022) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 107 unicorns with a total value of USD 340 billion |
| Unicorns emerged in 2022 (so far) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 unicorns; market value – USD 26.99 billion. |

Unicorns emerged in 2021

- 44 Unicorns; market value – USD 93 billion.

Timeline of India-ASEAN Diplomatic Relations

| | |
|------|--|
| 1992 | India became a sectoral dialogue partner |
| 1996 | India became a dialogue partner |
| 2002 | India became a summit level partner |
| 2022 | Announced as ASEAN-India Friendship Year to mark the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-India relations . |

Note: ASEAN discussed in September 2022 CA Magazine (News 2.52)

2.36 Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Why in News?

- Recently, the **7th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors** of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was held in **virtual mode**.
- **Theme:** “Sustainable Infrastructure Toward a Connected World”.
- **Key Highlight:** Union Minister of Finance addressed a Roundtable Discussion on the theme “Financing Infrastructure in a Crisis-Prone World”.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Establishment | January 2016 |
| Headquarters | Beijing, China |
| Head | Jin Liqun (President) |
| India at AIIB | <ul style="list-style-type: none">India is a founding member of AIIBIndia has the largest portfolio within AIIBIndia is the second largest shareholder in AIIB |

2.37 East Asia Summit

Why in News?

- Recently, the **6th East Asia Summit Education Minister’s Meeting** was held in **Hanoi, Vietnam**.

East Asia Summit (EAS)

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Inception | 2005 |
| Total Members | <ul style="list-style-type: none">10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries viz, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, VietnamAustralia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States |
| Host | Cambodia (17 th EAS 2022) |
| Chair | Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia (17 th EAS 2022) |

2.38 B20 Indonesia Global Dialogue

Why in News?

- Recently, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**) under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (**CII**), has hosted **Conference on B20 Indonesia Global Dialogue at New Delhi**.
- Key Areas of Discussion:** Trade & Investment; Energy, Sustainability & Climate; Digitisation and Finance and Infrastructure.

About Business 20 (B20)

- The official G20 dialogue forum with the **global business community**
- Establishment:** 2010

Additional Information

- G20 (Group of twenty) represents around **85% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, **75% of global trade**, and **60% of the world's population**.

Note: G20 discussed in September 2022 CA Magazine (News 2.51).

2.39 GEO India 2022

Why in News

- Recently, the **5th South Asian Geoscience Conference (Biennial)**, **GEO India 2022** has been organised in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- Organized by: **Association of Petroleum Geologists (APG) India**.
- Theme: '**Fossil Fuels, Decarbonization and Changing Energy Dynamics**'.

Key details shared at the conference

- The **ethanol blending** percentage in petrol has increased from **0.67% in 2013 to 10% in May 2022**, i.e., 5 months ahead of schedule.
 - It is reducing **2.7 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions**.
- As per the **International Energy Agency (IEA)** estimates, India will contribute a **quarter (25%)** of the growth in **global energy consumption** in the coming **two decades**.
- BP (British Petroleum)** estimates that **India's energy demand will double**, while **natural gas demand** is expected to grow **five-fold by 2050**.
- As per the Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Indian petroleum industry will be able to produce **25% of its crude oil demand by 2030**.
- At present, **5 million barrels of petroleum** is being **consumed** in India **every day** and it is also increasing by **3%**, which is **higher than global average** of around **1%**.
- The global market value of **Oil and Gas Sector** is projected to nearly double and reach to approx. **USD 42 billion by 2030**.

About Association of Petroleum Geologists (APG) India

- It is established in **2000**.
- It is a **non-profit organization** registered under **Section 21** of the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- It is an Indian arm of the **American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG)**.
- AAPG is one of the **world's largest professional geological societies** with more than 40,000 members across 129 countries.
- Objective:** To **promote the technology** of exploring for, finding, and producing petroleum, natural gas, other subsurface fluids, and mineral resources in an economically and environmentally sound manner.

Additional information

- Veteran Geologist **Shyam Vyas Rao**, former Director (Exploration), ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation) was also presented with the **Life Time Achievement Award** by the Minister in the inaugural session.

2.40 Annual Meetings 2022 of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB)

Why in News

- Recently, it was organised in the headquarters of IMF and WB, i.e. Washington DC, USA.

News 1

- Recently, Union Minister of Finance attended the **Plenary Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) in Annual Meetings 2022**.

Key details Shared

- As per Union Minister, Indian economy is projected to grow at **7% in FY 2022-23**.
- India is leading in **digital payments innovations with transaction cost being the lowest** in the world.
- Union minister stressed on the **completion of IMF 16th General Review of Quotas (GRQ)** by **15th December, 2023**.
 - Objective: To provide greater say/Voting Rights to developing economies/emerging market economies (EMES) in the International Monetary Fund.

About International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC)

- It advises and reports to the **IMF Board of Governors** on the **supervision and management** of the **international monetary and financial system**, including on responses to unfolding events that may disrupt the system.
- It has **24 members**, who are central bank governors, ministers, or others of comparable rank.
- **Current Chairman: Nadia Calviño**, Spain's First Vice President and Minister of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation.

News 2

- Recently, Union Minister of Finance participated in joint **WB-IMF Development Committee (DC)** meeting during the Annual Meetings 2022.
- The DC had specifically met to discuss **two critical aspects** that the world is facing:
 - **The food and energy crisis:** Weathering the storm.
 - **Achieving Climate and Development goals:** The Financing Question.

Key Details Shared

- Union Minister stated that the Food and Energy Crisis paper rightly identifies **energy efficiency** as the "**first fuel of choice**".
- Similarly, **reducing crop loss and food waste** should also be the "**first intervention of choice**" to ensure food security.

About Development Committee

- It was established in **1974**.
- It is a **ministerial-level forum** of the WB Group and the IMF for intergovernmental consensus-building on development issues.
- **Aim:** To advise the Boards of Governors of the WB and the IMF on critical development issues and on the financial resources required to promote economic development in developing countries.
- Formally known as the **Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the Bank and the Fund** on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries.

- It has **25 members** (Usually Minister for Finance or Development, who represents full membership of IMF and WB).
- It meets in **two years out of three in Washington** and, in order to reflect the international character of the two institutions, **every third year in a different member country**.

News 3

- Union Minister of finance also participated in a discussion on paper titled “**Learning Losses: What to do about the Heavy Cost of COVID on Children, Youth, and Future Productivity**” during the Development Committee meeting.

Key details shared at the discussion

| Initiatives | Key Facts |
|--|---|
| National Achievement Survey (NAS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was conducted in November 2021, covering 3.4 million students of grades III, V, VII and X to evaluate learning competencies. • It showed national average performance had dropped to 9% as compared to NAS 2017 for comparable grades. |
| National Foundation Learning Study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was conducted in March 2022 for Grade III students. • It has the world's largest sample for one-on-one assessment. • It is the first time ever that numeracy and comprehension benchmarks based on Global proficiency Framework in 20 languages used as medium of instruction in India. |
| DIKSHA Platform | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been identified as one of the 12 Digital Global Goods by India and is now in public domain. • India became the first country in the world to provide QR coded textbooks to elementary school children through this platform. |
| Vidyanjali 2.0 online platform | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been launched to connect volunteers directly with schools of their choice and to help expedite learning recovery. |
| "Teach at the Right Level" initiative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In this children are divided into instructional groups based on learning needs, rather than age or grade. |
| NISHTHA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers for Holistic Advancement. |

2.41 IOR+ Defence Ministers' Conclave

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Union Minister of Defence** has hosted the **Indian Ocean Region plus (IOR+)** Defence Ministers' Conclave (2nd edition) on the **sidelines of DefExpo 2022**.
- **Conclave Organizer:** Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence
- **Venue:** Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- **Conclave Theme:** ‘Challenges Opportunities and Collaborations in the Indian Ocean’.
- **Aim:** to promote strategic and commercial partnerships within the IOR countries, in line with Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)

➤ Term coined by the **Shri Narendra Modi**, the **Prime Minister of India**

➤ Unveiled in **2015**

➤ **India's vision and geopolitical framework of maritime cooperation** in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

Indian Agriculture

2.42 Custom duty on Edible Oil import

Why in News

- Recently, the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has extended existing concessional import duties on specified edible oils up to **March 31, 2023** (Extension of 6 months).
- Aim: To increase domestic supply and keeping prices under control.

Key Details

- It will be applicable on crude palm oil, RBD (**Refined, bleached, and deodorized**) Palmolein, RBD palm oil, crude soybean oil, refined soybean oil, crude sunflower oil and refined sunflower oil.

| Type | Import / Custom Duty | Agricultural Cess | Social-Welfare cess | Effective Duty |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Crude varieties of palm oil, soyabean oil and sunflower oil | 0% | 5% | 10% | 5.5% |
| Refined varieties of palmolein and refined palm oil | 12.5% | - | 10% | 13.75% |
| Refined soyabean and sunflower oil | 17.5% | - | 10% | 19.25% |

Additional Information

- Currently, India imports **more than 60%** of its edible oil requirement.
- India imported a record edible oil of worth **₹1.17 lakh crore** in **2020-21 oil marketing year** (Starts from November and ends in October).

| Oil type | Major Supplier To India | % share (Edible oil) |
|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Palm oil | Indonesia and Malaysia | 62% |
| Sunflower oil | Russia and Ukraine | 15% |
| Soyabean oil | Brazil and Argentina | 22% |

2.43 Sugar Production

Why in News

- In this sugar session (**Oct-Sep**) **2021-22**, more than **5000 Lakh Metric Tons (LMT)** sugarcane was produced in the country.
- India became the **world's largest producer** and **consumer of sugar** and **world's 2nd largest exporter of sugar**.

Key Details

- India has produced about **394 LMT** of sugar out of which **35 LMT** sugar was diverted to ethanol production.
- Highest exports of Sugar: **109.8 LMT** (earned foreign currency of about **Rs. 40,000 crores**).
- Sugar mills procured sugarcane worth more than **1.18 lakh crore** and released payment of more than **1.12 lakh crore** with **no financial assistance** (subsidy) from Government of India.
- During 2021-22, revenue of about **₹ 18,000 crore** has been made by sugar mills/distilleries from sale of ethanol.
- Ethanol production capacity of **molasses/sugar-based distilleries** has increased to **605 crore litres** per annum (to meet targets of 20% blending by 2025 under **Ethanol Blending with Petrol (EBP) Programme**).

2.44 Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) has organized a seminar titled “**Warehousing and Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR) – An Effective Tool for Promoting Pledge Financing**”.
- The event was organized as a part of **foundation day celebrations of WDRA** from 17th to 31st October 2022.

Key Information Shared

| Particulars | Key Details |
|----------------------------|--|
| Pledge Financing Growth | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased by around 104% from Rs. 732 crores in 2020-21 to Rs. 1492 crores in 2021-22 |
| Digital Warehouse Receipts | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Launched by: WDRALaunched in: 2017Made Mandatory from: 2019 |

Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA)

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Constituted in | 2010 |
| Constituted under | Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007 |
| Nodal Department | Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD) |
| Key Objective | to implement Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (NWR) System in India |
| Location | New Delhi |

Negotiable warehouse receipt (NWR) system

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Introduced in | 2011 |
| Regulated by | Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) |
| Key Features | <ul style="list-style-type: none">It allows the transfer of ownership of a commodity stored in a warehouse without physical deliveryThe electronic version is known as e-NWRFarmers can seek loans from banks against their NWR/e-NWR (pledge finance) |

Industrial Developments in India

2.45 Kalpataru -Centre of Entrepreneurship (COE)

Why in News?

- Recently, a Centre of Entrepreneurship-Kalpataru (**COE-Kalpataru**) on **Industry 4.0** has been set up at Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (**RINL**), Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Andhra Pradesh.
- COE-Kalpataru set up by:** consortium of RINL, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of Andhra Pradesh and Software Technology Parks of India (STPI).
- Key Feature:** COE-Kalpataru would act as a hub for providing digital solutions to the Indian steel industry.

2.46 Export Target of Textile Industry

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Minister for Commerce & Industry met with the representatives from Indian Textile Industry.

Key Information Shared

| Particulars | Key Details |
|---|--|
| Export target of Indian textile industry | <ul style="list-style-type: none">to achieve USD 100 billion in the next 5 to 6 years |
| India's outbound shipments from Textile Industry in 2021-22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">around USD 42 billion |

2.47 United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC)

Why in News

- The **Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)** has convening the **Second UNWGIC** in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- Organized by:** Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations.
- Hosted by:** Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Theme:** Geo- enabling the Global Village: No one should be left behind
- Objective:** To ensure that geospatial information has its widest and fullest utility in service of sustainable social, economic and environmental development.

Key Highlight

- Union Minister **unveiled five initiatives** in the **geospatial technology sector**:
 - A **geospatial incubator** and the **Bhunidhi portal**, both developed by **Hyderabad's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)**.
 - A **solar calculator** developed by **ISRO's Space Application Centre in Ahmedabad**.
 - The **National Toponymy Database**.
 - A report titled '**Indian experience in aligning with IGIF (Integrated Geospatial Information Framework)**'.

Key detail shared

- As per the Union Minister of Science and Technology, India's **geospatial economy** is expected to cross **Rs 63,100 crore** by **2025** at a growth rate of **12.8%**.
- Rural Development Ministry has mapped over **45 lakh km of rural roads** by using **21 data layers** of the map, which has **digitized information** regarding water bodies, green areas, plots, and other structures essential for administrative purposes.
- There are around **250 Geospatial Start Ups** in India.
- This sector will provide employment to more than **10 lakh people**.

Additional Information

- 1st edition** of UNWGIC was organised in **China** in 2018 and **Moganshan Declaration** was issued.

Multiculturalism

2.48 UNESCO-MONDIACULT 2022 World Conference [3rd edition]

Why in News?

- Recently, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2022 was hosted by Mexico at Mexico City.
- Convened by:** UNESCO
- Key Outcome:** 150 states unanimously adopted **Declaration for Culture**.

Additional Information

- The first Mondiacult World Conference on Cultural Policies was held in **1982 at Mexico City**.
- The UN Secretary-General's report, **Our Common Agenda** (September 2021), refers to culture as a '**global public good, the good of us all.**'

2.49 National Conference on Project Mausam

Why in News

- Recently, it was organised by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** in New Delhi.
- Title: "**Jaladhipurayatra: Exploring Cross-Cultural Linkages along the Indian Ocean Rim Countries**".

About Project Mausam

- Launched by **Ministry of Culture** at **UNESCO's 38th World Heritage Committee Meeting** held at Doha, Qatar in **2014**.
- Currently, the Project is being administered by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**.
- Implementation by: **Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)**, New Delhi.
- Aim: To **understand the Monsoon Winds** and other **climatic factors** and the ways in which these natural elements impacted, at **different periods of history** and the **interactions (Maritime routes)** between different countries in **the Indian Ocean region**.
- Objectives:
 - To inscribe places as **trans-national nomination** for inscription in **UNESCO's World Heritage Sites**.
 - At the **macro level**, it aims to **re-connect and re-establish** communications between the **countries of the Indian Ocean region**, which would lead to an enhanced understanding of cultural values and concerns.
 - At the **micro level** the focus is on understanding **national cultures** in their regional maritime domain.

About Indian Ocean Rim Countries/ Association

| Indian Ocean Rim Association | |
|---|--|
| It is an Inter-governmental organisation of the countries around the Indian Ocean Region | |
| Establishment | 1997 |
| Aim | To strengthen regional economic cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean Region. |
| Member Countries | 23 countries |
| Dialogue Partner | 10 countries |
| Secretariat | Mauritius |
| Chair | Bangladesh (November 2021 to November 2023) |

Role of Indian banks and Reserve Bank in the development process

2.50 India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)

Why in News?

- Recently, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) & Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) [a wholly owned subsidiary of RBI] have **collaborated for innovations in Financial Product and Services**.
- Under the partnership both the entities would explore projects to
 - Leverage the deep rural reach of IPPB-Department of Posts (DoP)** to expand Rural Finance to a billion Indians.
 - Enable access to sustainable and secure finance services** to every segment of the society, through research and innovation.
- IPPB would also act as an **active participant and partner with RBIH** on the **initiatives of national importance led by RBIH**.

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Established in | 2018 |
| Nodal Department | Department of Posts under Ministry of Communication |
| Owned by | Government of India (100% ownership) |
| Headquarters | New Delhi |
| Tagline | Aapke bank, aapke dwaar |

Note: RBIH discussed in News 3.19 in this Magazine

Public Finance - Political Economy - Services sector in India

2.51 Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)

Why in News

- Recently, it was launched under **National Logistics Policy (NLP)** by the Prime Minister of India.
- Consequently, many organisations have signed **Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)**.
 - Aim:** To access data and develop APIs (Application programming interface) for integration with ULIP (Democratisation of the information).

Key Details

- This platform will enable the industry players to get **secure access to the information** related to **logistics and resources available** with various Ministries.
- It makes the process of data request **simpler, faster, and transparent** (i.e. reduction in cost).
- It will bring all the **digital services related to the transportation sector** into a **single portal**.
- Benefits to all stakeholders: Verification of drivers and vehicles details, tracking & tracing of consignment, Route Optimization Planning, timely update on the destination of the consignment, reduce paper works, empty carrier & container visibility, inventory management etc.

Note: National Logistic Policy is covered in Magazine of September 2022 in article 2.94.

2.52 National Highways Infra Trust (NHAI InvIT)

News 1

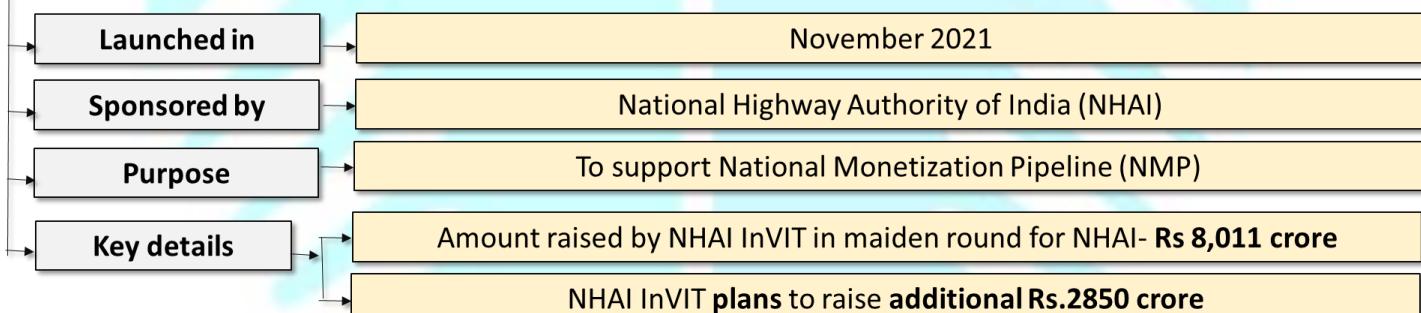
- Recently, the National Highways Infra Trust (**NHAI InvIT**), for the **first time**, has **raised funds through follow-on issuance**.
- NHAI InvIT** has raised **Rs 1,430 crore** from both domestic and international investors.
- Purpose:** to part fund its acquisition of three additional road projects from National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

News 2

- Recently, the **NHAI InvIT** has started the **process of issuing Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs)**.
- Key Details of the Issue**

| Particulars | Key Details |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Amount to be raised | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs 1,500 crore |
| Minimum Investment Amount | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs.10,000 |
| Coupon Rate of NCDs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.90% per annum (payable semi annually) |
| Effective Yield | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8.05% per annum |

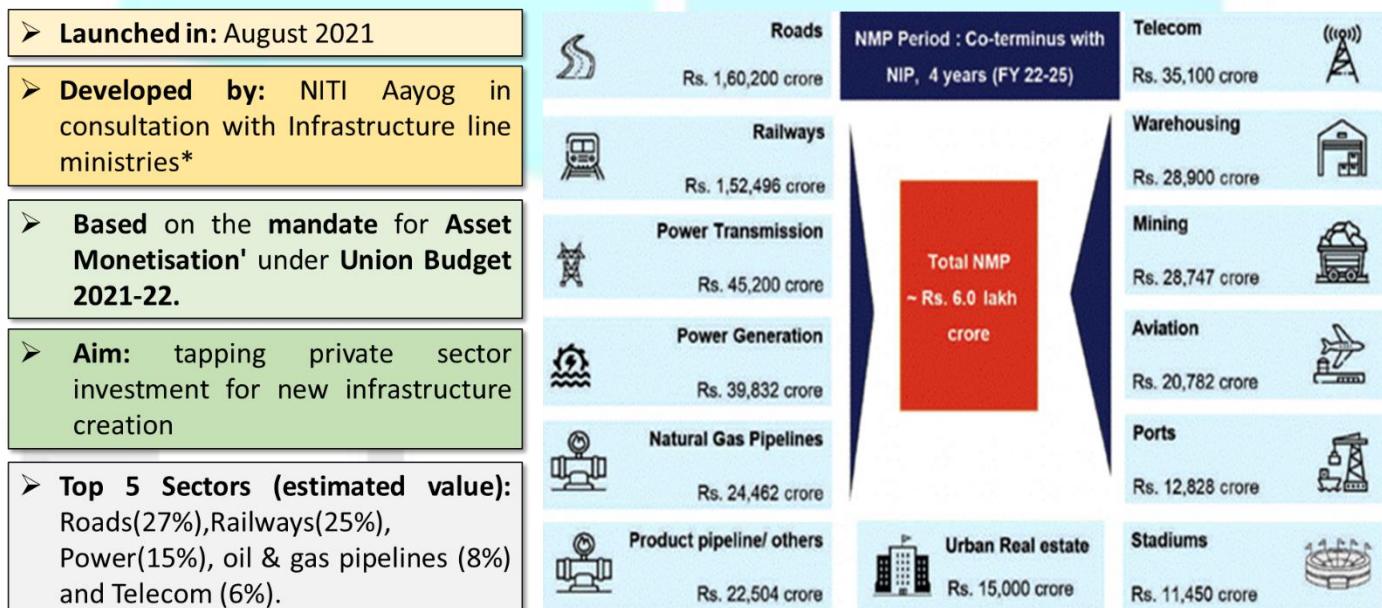
National Highways Infra Trust (NHAI InvIT)



Additional Information

- India has **the second largest road network** in the world covering about **63.72 lakh km**.

National Monetization Pipeline (NMP)



***Infrastructure line ministries-** Roads, Transport and Highways, Railways, Power, Pipeline and Natural Gas, Civil Aviation, Shipping Ports and Waterways, Telecommunication, Food and Public Distribution, Mining, Coal, Housing and Urban Affairs

2.53 DISHA Meeting

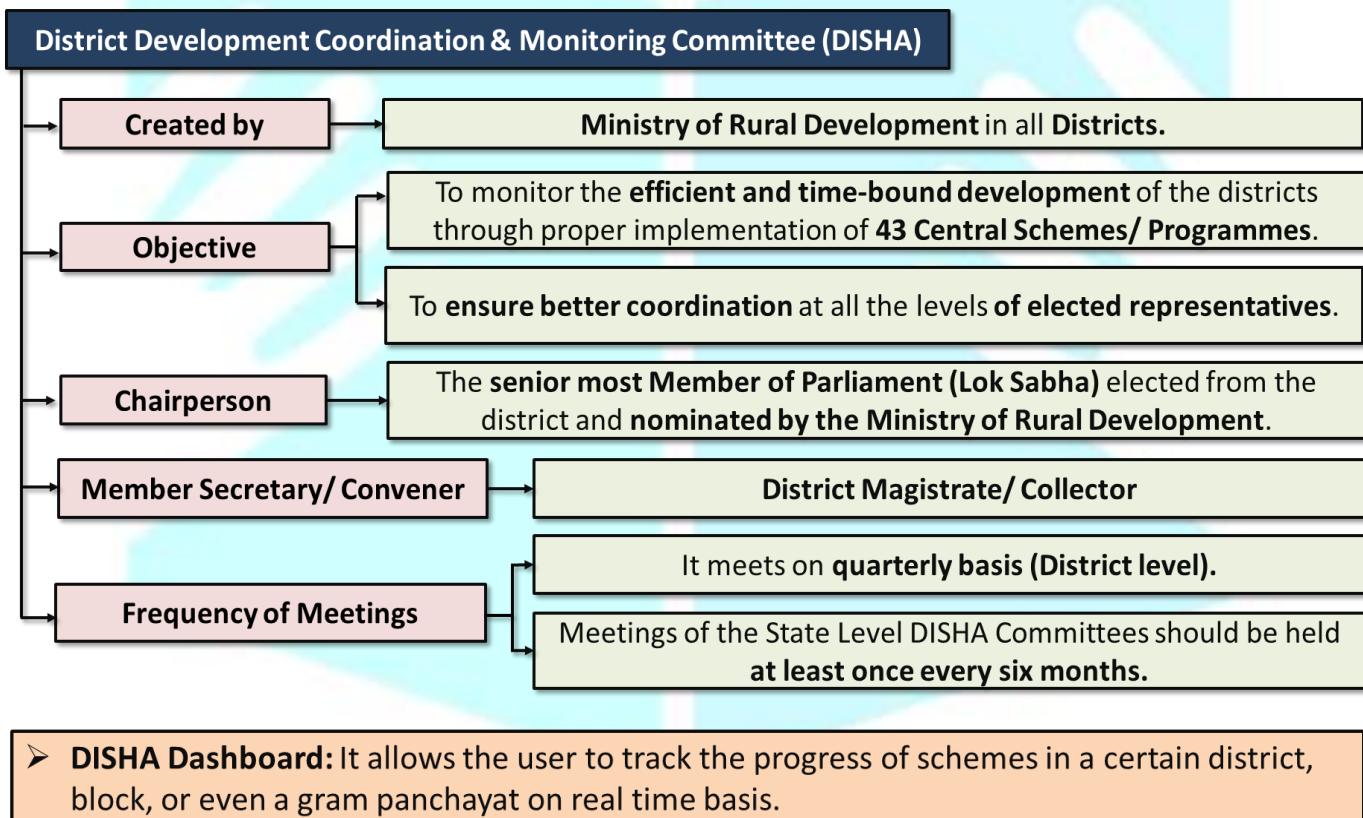
Why in News

- Recently, the Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions presided over the **District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee (DISHA) Meeting** at Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Objective:** To review the progress of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) being implemented in Kishtwar district.

Key details shared

- Kishtwar has emerged as **North India's power hub**, as it is expected to generate **more than 6000 Mega Watt** of electricity.
- The latest addition would be an exclusive **1 Mega Watt Solar Power Plant** for the holy spot of **Machail** which would be a great boon for the pilgrims in the **Machail yatra**.

About DISHA committee



2.54 HARIT ayakar Initiative

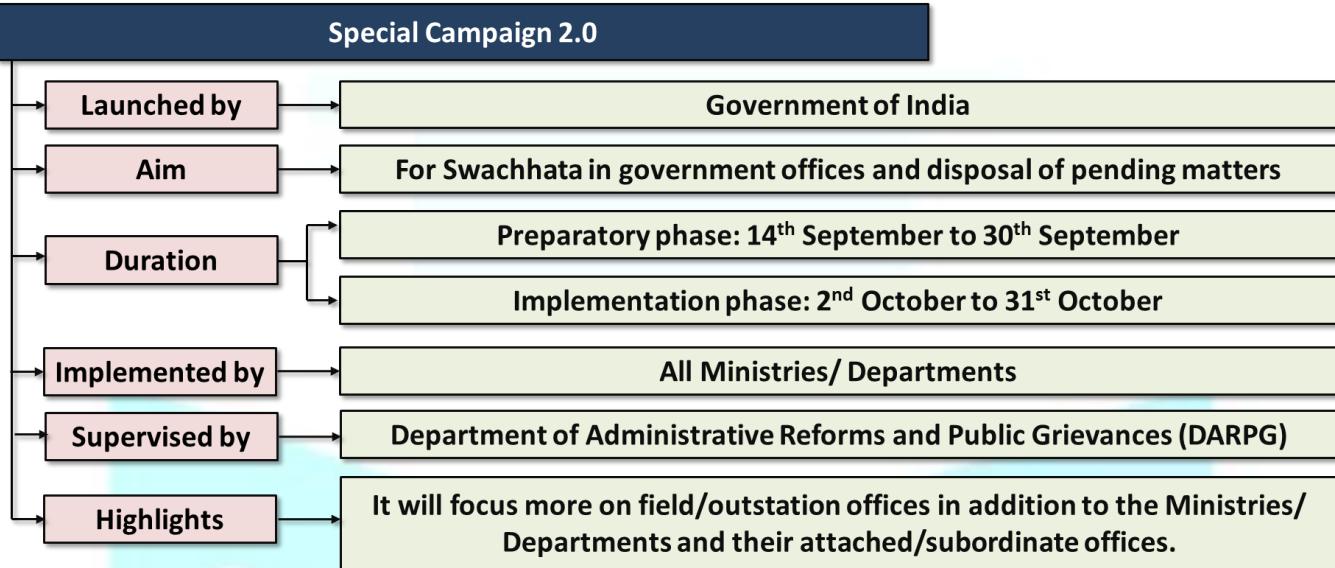
Why in News

- Recently, the **CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes)** has launched the **HARIT Aaykar (Hariyali Achievement Resolution by Income Tax department)** initiative while concluding the Special Campaign 2.0.
- It was launched by planting and inaugurating the “**Aaykar Aranya**”, a series of micro forests near **Attari, Punjab** on the India-Pakistan border.
- Objective:** To **increase green spaces** and **create micro-forests** in and around the Income Tax department's buildings and other public areas.

Key information

- Aaykar Udyaan** is a herbal garden, that has been developed at Aaykar Bhawan, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

About Special Campaign 2.0



News From Other Sources

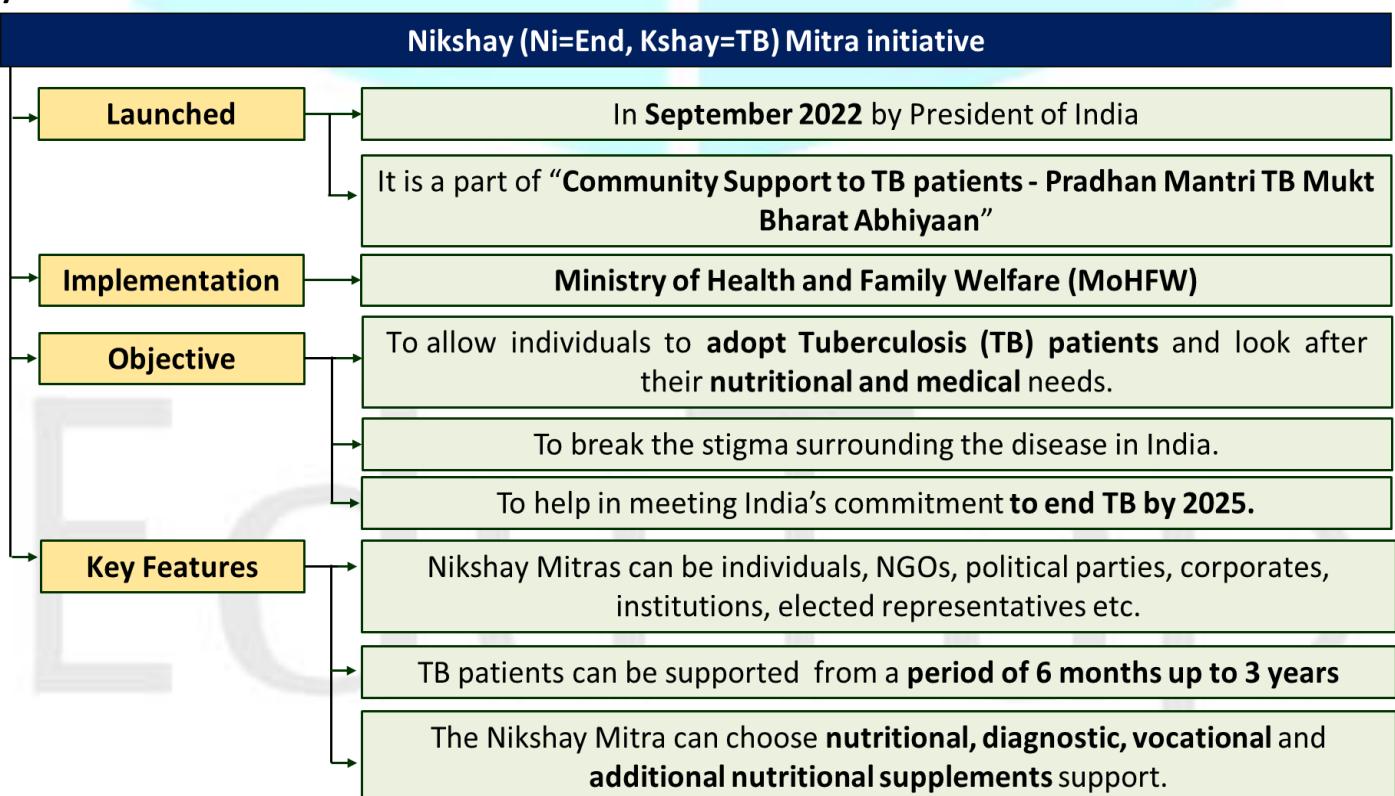
Social Sectors in India – Health

2.55 Nikshay Mitra initiative

Why in News

- Recently, nearly **1 million TB (Tuberculosis) patients** have been adopted in less than a month under this initiative.

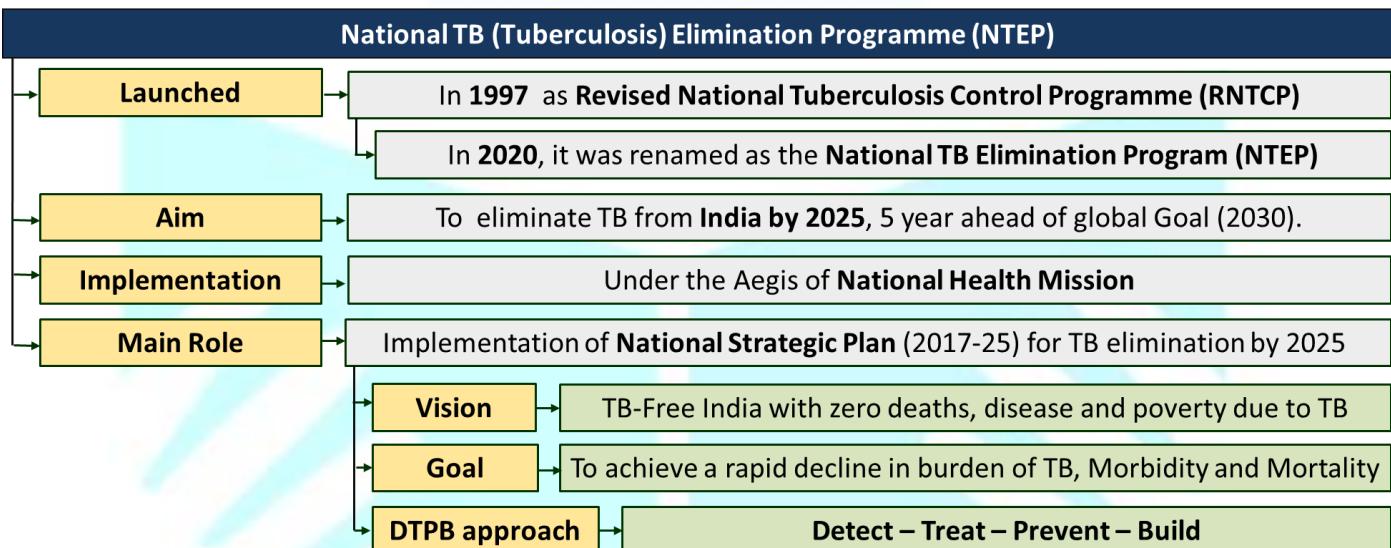
Key Details



About Ni-kshay Portal

- It is a **web enabled patient management system** for TB control under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)
- **Ni-kshay 2.0 portal** will facilitate additional patient support by **community involvement** and **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) opportunities**.
- **Developed and Maintained by** :Central TB Division (CTD), MoHFW, National Informatics Centre (NIC), and the World Health Organisation office of India.

About National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP)



Additional Information

- Around **1.35 million TB patients** are registered on **Nikshay Portal**.
- India is committed to eliminate the **TB by 2025**, **five years ahead** of the **global goal of 2030**.
- **Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana** provides **₹500** to those on **TB treatment** as nutritional support.

2.56 Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2022

Why in News

- Recently, the **5th Rashtriya Poshan Maah** was organised in the month of September by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- Themes: "**Mahila aur Swasthya**", "**Bachcha aur Shiksha - Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi**", "**Gender Sensitive Water Management**" and "**Traditional Food for Women & Child**".

Key Details

- A **National Seminar on Indigenous Toys for Nurturing Early Childhood Development** was organized in Delhi under the **chairperson-ship** of Union Minister of Women and Child Development.
- **Swastha Balak Spardha** was successfully piloted in the **four States of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Assam** during the Poshan Maah.
 - Objective: To identify and celebrate the 'Healthy child' thus instilling a sense of competitiveness among children and families for good health and nutritional status.
- This year, the **Gram Panchayats** are the **focal points** of all the activities during Poshan Maah.

Note: **Rashtriya Poshan Maah** discussed in **September 2022 CA Magazine** in Article 2.8.

2.57 Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme (VAP)

Why in News

- Recently, Indian delegation led by the Secretary, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), took part in the **34th Meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) of Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme (VAP)** at National Institutes of Health, United States of America (USA).
- JWG provides oversight to VAP and comprises of experts and policy makers from India and US.

Key Details

- The current **five-year VAP Joint Statement** has been **extended till 2027**.
- As per practice, a '**Rama-Robbins Lecture**' was organized in the remembrance of **Late Prof. V. Ramalingaswami**, former National Professor and **Late Prof. Fred Robbins**, U.S. Nobel Laureate in Medicine, former Chairman of VAP JWG from US side.
- This year, the '**Rama-Robbins Lecture**' was delivered by **Dr. Fauci (Director, NIAID)** on '**Pandemic preparedness and lessons from COVID-19**'.

About Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme (VAP)

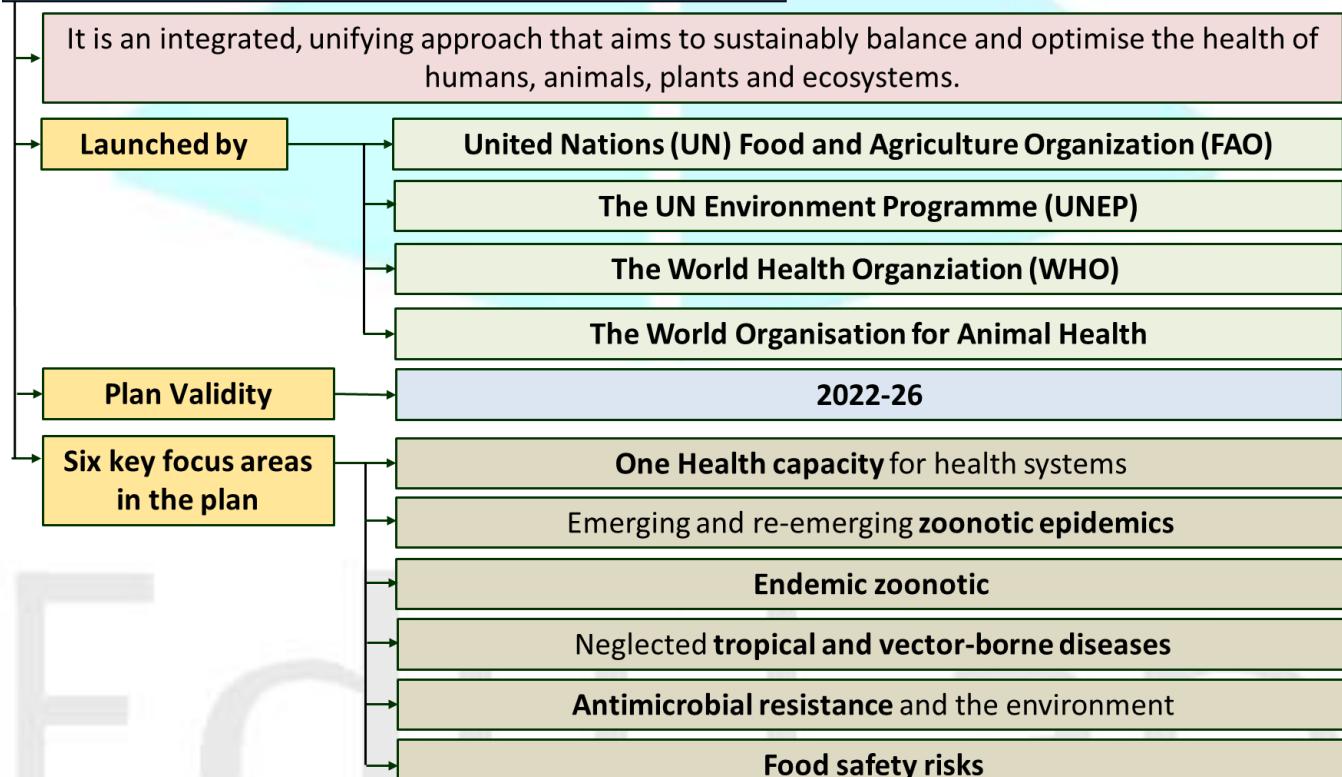
- It is a bilateral collaborative programme by **USA and India** launched in **July 1987**.
- It is implemented **by DBT** jointly with the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, **National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)**, **USA** and **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**, **USA**.

2.58 One Health' plan

Why in News

- Recently, **four multilateral agencies** have launched a global '**One Health' plan** to better address threats to all living beings as well as the environment.

"One Health Pla": A Joint Plan of Action



Key Highlights

- It is aimed at **mitigating the health challenges** at **global, regional, and country levels**.
- It is the **primary approach** for addressing the **complex health challenges** facing our society, such as **ecosystem degradation, food system failures, infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**.

2.59 Advanced Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory

Why in News

- Recently, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare inaugurated an **Advanced Bi-Plane Cardiac Catheterization (Cath) Laboratory** at **DY Patil Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre** in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Key Details

- It is **South Asia's first state-of-the-art**, most advanced model of **Cath Lab** (Lab with special imaging equipment used to visualize the working of the heart).

Data shared by Union Minister

| Particulars | Key Data |
|--|------------------|
| Budget allocated under National Health Infrastructure Mission to strengthen the infrastructure in every district | Rs. 64,000 Crore |
| Number of Health and Wellness Centres started in the country | 1,20,000 |
| Number of Medical colleges and hospitals increased in last 8 years | 300 to 640 |
| Number of Medical seats increased in last 8 years | 45,000 to 98,000 |

Social Sectors in India - Education

2.60 UGC Guidelines

Why in News

- Recently, **UGC (University Grants Commission)** has framed guidelines allowing students to pursue **two academic degrees (Full-time)** simultaneously.

Key Details

- UGC had approved the proposal for the same in **April 2022**.
- It has been done as per the provisions of **New Education Policy 2020**, which emphasizes the need to facilitate **multiple pathways** to learning involving both **formal and non-formal education** modes.
- Degree or diploma programmes under these guidelines shall be governed by the **Regulations notified by the UGC** and also the **respective statutory/professional councils**, wherever applicable.
- The guidelines came into effect from **September 30, 2022**.

About UGC

- Establishment: **1953** (Became statutory body in 1956).
- It was set up by the **Department of Higher Education** in accordance with the **UGC Act 1956**.
- Work profile: Coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of **higher education**.

2.61 Digi Pullampara project

Why in News

- Recently, Kerala's **Pullampara grama panchayat** in **Thiruvananthapuram district** has become the **first fully digitally literate panchayat** in India under the **Digi Pullampara project**.

Key Details

- This programme was launched in **August 2021** under a **five-member core team** led by panchayat president **P.V. Rajesh**.
- Aim:** To impart **digital literacy** to all residents of the panchayats.
- Out of 3,917 people identified, training was provided to 3,300 and around **3,174 trainees successfully cleared** the evaluation test.

- Kudumbashree volunteers and students from National Service Scheme units of engineering colleges and higher secondary schools helped in the training programme.

Additional Information

- Kerala is the **first State** to declare Internet as a **basic right**.
- Kudumshree is the **poverty eradication and women empowerment** programme implemented by the **State Poverty Eradication Mission (SPEM)** of the **Government of Kerala**.

2.62 Rural Infrastructure Development Fund

Why in News

- Recently, NABARD (**National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development**) has sanctioned **Rs 221.99 crore** from **Rural Infrastructure development Fund (RIDF)** to strengthen school infrastructure in **rural schools in Punjab**.

Key Details

- It is for the construction of **additional classrooms, labs (Integrated, Physics, chemistry, biology and computer), National Skills Qualification Framework labs, playgrounds** in rural schools in all **23 districts**.
- It will benefit to a total of **3.80 lakh students**, in more than **3,500 villages**.

About Rural Infrastructure development Fund (RIDF)

- Government of India (GoI) created the RIDF in NABARD in **1995-96**.
- It was created with an initial corpus of **Rs. 2,000 crore**.
- With the allocation of **Rs 40,000 crore for 2021-22 under RIDF XXVII**, the cumulative allocation has reached **Rs. 4,18,408.73 crore**, including **Rs.18,500 crore under Bharat Nirman** (plan for creating basic rural infrastructure).
- At present, there are **39 eligible activities** under RIDF as approved by GoI, under **3 categories**:
 - **1. Agriculture and related sector, 2. Social sector and 3. Rural connectivity.**
 - The projects are eligible for loans from **80% to 95%** of project cost.
- **Mode of Finance:** It releases the sanctioned amount on **reimbursement basis** except for the **initial mobilisation advance - 30% to North Eastern & Hilly States and 20% for other States**.
- **Repayment period:** Loan to be repaid in **equal annual installments** within **seven years** from the date of withdrawal, including a **grace period of two years**.
 - The interest shall be paid at the **end of each quarter**.

2.63 SALT project

Why in News

- Recently, the **World Bank** has extended an unconditional loan of **USD 250 million** to the '**Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT) project**' because of the reforms implemented by the State government.
- It is the **first of its kind World Bank project** sanctioned for the **State Education Department** without any precondition.
- It is allocated under the **Project for Results (P for R) programme**, in which fund can be utilised according to the State government's requirements unconditionally to achieve results in **5 years**.

Key Details of SALT Project

- **Aim:** To improve learning outcomes, quality of teaching practices and school management in basic education for over **50 lakh students** in the State.
- Beneficiaries of this Project:

- About **40 lakh students** (between the **age of 6 and 14**) in over 45,000 government schools.
- Over **10 lakh children** (between the **age of 3 and 6**) enrolled in Anganwadis (Integrated Child Development Centers).
- About **1,90,000 teachers**, and more than **50,000 Anganwadi workers**.
- It will also introduce a **one-year preschool-level course** in **3,500 schools** in the **tribal blocks**.

Additional Information

- RS. **53,000 crore** had been spent on **school education** in the **last three years** in Andhra Pradesh.
- A major part of it (**₹22,617 crore**) had gone to **Amma Vodi** and the **first phase** of the **Nadu-Nedu scheme**.

2.64 India-Norway Joint Working Group on Higher Education

Why in News

- Recently, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, hosted the **6th meeting of the India-Norway Joint Working Group on Higher Education** in New Delhi.
- Co-chaired by: **Joint Secretary**, International Cooperation, Ministry of Education, India and **Director General**, Ministry of Education and Research, Norway.
- Objective: To review the progress made under the **Indo-Norwegian Cooperation Programme** developed under the ambit of the previous India-Norway Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2014.

Key Details

- The **India-Norway Joint Working Group on higher education** was established in **April 2022**.
- Aim: To monitor and oversee the implementation of the MoU on Cooperation in the field of Higher Education signed between India and Norway.

2.65 Google – Government of Assam Partnership

Why in News?

- Recently, **Google** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the **Government of Assam**.
- **MoU Objectives:** to support and accelerate the Government of Assam's mission to promote digital growth and development in the state.

Key Highlights

- **Google** will partner with the Assam Government's Skill, Employment & Entrepreneurship Department (**SEED**) to reinforce their school digitization efforts.
 - Google will provide new **digital learning tools and solutions** to help teaching and learning.
- **Google**, in collaboration with Assam Skill Development Mission (**ASDM**), will offer **scholarships** for Google Career Certificates.
- **Google** will promote the fundamentals of online safety and digital citizenship to school children through the **Be Internet Awesome program** in Assam.

About Be Internet Awesome program

- **Launched by:** Google in collaboration with Amar Chitra Katha
- **Objective:** to teach the fundamentals of internet safety across eight Indian languages.

2.66 'Mission Schools of Excellence' project

Why in News

- Recently, it was launched by the **Prime Minister of India** at Trimandir, Adalaj (Gujarat)

- Aim:** To strengthen education infrastructure in Gujarat by setting up new classrooms, smart classrooms, computer labs, etc.
- It is the largest holistic school transformation programme in the country.

Key Details

| Particulars | Figures |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Total Outlay for Project | Rs. 10,000 crores |
| Schools covered | 20,000 government schools (50% of the total 40,000 government schools). It includes 15,000 primary schools and 5000 grants-in-aid secondary and Higher Secondary Schools . |
| The amount for the first phase | Over Rs 5,567 crores. |

Sustainable Development and Environmental issues

2.67 Partners in the Blue Pacific

Why in News?

- Recently, the **first ever Partners in the Blue Pacific (PBP) Foreign Ministers Meeting** was held in **New York, United States (US)**.
- India participated in the event as an **observer**.

Key Highlights from the joint statement

- PBP will be guided by Pacific Islands Forum's (PIFs) **2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent**.
- Six prospective Lines of Effort** were discussed viz,
 - Climate Change Resilience, Adaptation, and Disasters
 - Secure and Resilient Technology and Connectivity
 - Protection of the Ocean and Environment
 - People Centered Development
 - Resources and Economic Development
 - Political Leadership and Regionalism.

Partners in the Blue Pacific (PBP)

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Launched in | June 2022 |
| Initiative of | USA, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the United Kingdom |
| Led by | USA |
| Key Feature | An informal mechanism to support Pacific islands and to boost diplomatic, economic ties in the region |

Pacific Islands Forum

| | |
|--|---|
| Establishment | 1971 |
| Total Members | 18 |
| Headquarters | Suva, Fiji |
| 2050 strategy for blue pacific continent | It outlines 10 commitments under 7 thematic areas for sustainable long term development of the Pacific Islands region |

2.68 Offshore Wind Projects

Why in News

- Central Government is considering **leasing out its ocean floor** straddling Tamil Nadu to **offshore wind farms**, with the base amount set at **₹1 lakh per square km**, to help it hit net zero emissions by 2070.

Background

- The government had notified a **National Offshore Wind Energy Policy** back in 2015 to harness the potential of offshore wind energy along India's coastline.
- Government is carrying out **offshore wind resource assessments** through the **National Institute of Wind Energy (Chennai, Tamil Nadu)** in identified locations off the coast of **Gujarat and Tamil Nadu**.

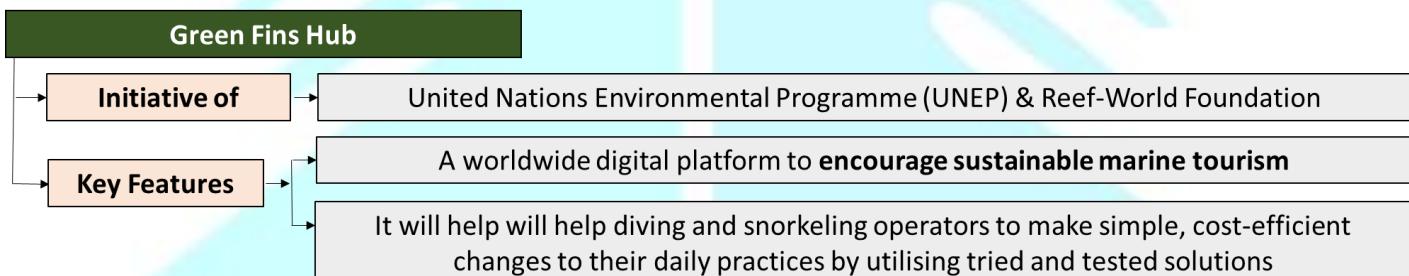
Additional Information

- The **ministry of new and renewable energy** has set a **target of 30 GW** of **offshore wind installations by 2030**.
- Government has permitted **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100%** under the **automatic route** for renewable energy projects, including offshore wind energy projects.

2.69 Green Fins Hub

Why in News?

- Recently, '**Green Fins Hub**'- the **first ever global marine tourism industry platform** has been launched.



2.70 USD 1 billion fund for two-, three-wheeler Electric Vehicle (EV) financing

Why in News?

- The **Government of India** would be soon launching a **USD 1 billion fund** in collaboration with the **World Bank**, and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**).
- Facilitating Agency of the Fund:** NITI Aayog
- Key Features of the fund**
 - The fund would be used to offer **guarantees against defaults on loans** taken to buy electric two or three-wheelers.

2.71 International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Why in News?

- Recently, International Civil Aviation Organization (**ICAO**), an organization of the United Nations (UN), has adopted a **new goal to achieve net zero emissions** in the **aviation industry** by **2050**.

Additional Information

- The **Government of the United States (US)** has committed to make **3 billion gallons of sustainable aviation fuel available by 2030**.

About ICAO

- Establishment:** 1944; **Headquarters:** Montreal, Canada.

2.72 Agni Tattva campaign

Why in News

- Recently, the **first conference** of the Agni tattva campaign was organised in **Leh, Ladakh**.
- Theme: '**Sustainability and Culture**'.

Key Details

- Power Foundation of India** in association with **Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA)** is currently running this campaign to create awareness on **Agni Tattva** under **LiFE - Lifestyle for environment**.
- Aim:** To create awareness of the **core concept of Agni Tattva**, an element that is synonymous with energy and is amongst the **five elements of 'Panchmahabhoot'**.
- The focus is on **decentralized renewable solar power, geothermal energy** and **Green Hydrogen** in **Ladakh Region**.

Additional Information

- This campaign is an initiative under the **umbrella campaign of Sumangalam**.
- Power Foundation of India** is a **Society** registered under **Societies Registration Act, 1860**, under the aegis of the **Ministry of Power**, and supported by leading **CPSEs**.

Note: Refer Article no 2.21 in September 2022 Magazine for Sumangalam campaign.

2.73 United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) initiative

Why in News

- Recently, **JSW Steel** has joined as the newest participant of the **United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) initiative**, the world's largest **voluntary corporate sustainability initiative**.
- It is the **5th Indian company** in the '**Industrial Mining and Manufacturing**' category to join this initiative.

About UNGC initiative

- Aim: To mobilize a global movement of sustainable companies and stakeholders to create the **world we want**.
- It is a call to the companies to align strategies and operations with universal principles on **Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-corruption**.
- It encourages companies to **conduct business responsibly** by aligning their operations and strategies with the **UN's Ten Principles**.

| Category | Derived From | Principles |
|--------------|--|---|
| Human Rights | Universal Declaration of Human Rights | (1) Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights and (2) make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses. |
| Labour | International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work | (3) Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, (4) the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour, (5) the effective abolition of child labour and (6) the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation. |

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Environment | Rio Declaration on Environment and Development | (7) Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges, (8) undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility and (9) encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies. |
| Anti-Corruption | United Nations Convention against Corruption. | (10) Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery. |

- It also supports companies to take actions to **advance broader social benefits**, in accordance with the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Additional Information

- JSW Steel is the flagship company of the diversified **\$22 billion JSW Group**.
- JSW Foundation, the social arm of the JSW group is already a member of UNGC and part of the India local network of UNGC.

2.74 Million Plus Cities/Urban Agglomerations

Why in News

- Recently, the Department of Expenditure under Ministry of Finance released an amount of **Rs. 1,764 crore** to **4 States** for providing grants to Million Plus Cities/Urban Agglomerations (MPC/UAs).
- The States to which grants were released are **Andhra Pradesh (Rs. 136 crore)**, **Chhattisgarh (Rs. 109 crore)**, **Maharashtra (Rs. 799 crore)** and **Uttar Pradesh (Rs. 720 crore)**.

Background

- The **15th Finance Commission** (15th FC) in its report for the period from **2021-22 to 2025-26** has divided the Urban Local Bodies into two categories:

| Categories | Allocation |
|--|--|
| Million-Plus urban agglomerations/cities (excluding Delhi and Srinagar). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of the grants are performance-linked through the Million-Plus Cities Challenge Fund (MCF). Out of total recommended grant, more than 2/3rd is recommended for drinking water supply, rainwater harvesting, water recycling, solid waste management and sanitation and achieving star ratings by the urban local bodies in Solid Waste Management in consonance with the approved City Action Plan (CAP). The remaining 1/3rd is allocated for Ambient Air quality. |
| All other cities and towns with less than one million population (Non-Million Plus cities). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out of the total grants recommended 40% is basic (untied) grant and the remaining 60% is tied grant. Basic grants (untied) are utilised for location specific felt needs, except for payment of salary and incurring other establishment expenditure. Tied grants are released for supporting and strengthening the delivery of basic services of drinking water, rainwater harvesting, solid waste management and sanitation. |

Additional Information

- Total grant of **Rs. 4,761.8 crore** has been released to **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** so far in **2022-23**.
 - Highest in **Uttar Pradesh: Rs. 1988.07 crore**.

2.75 Monitoring Framework for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

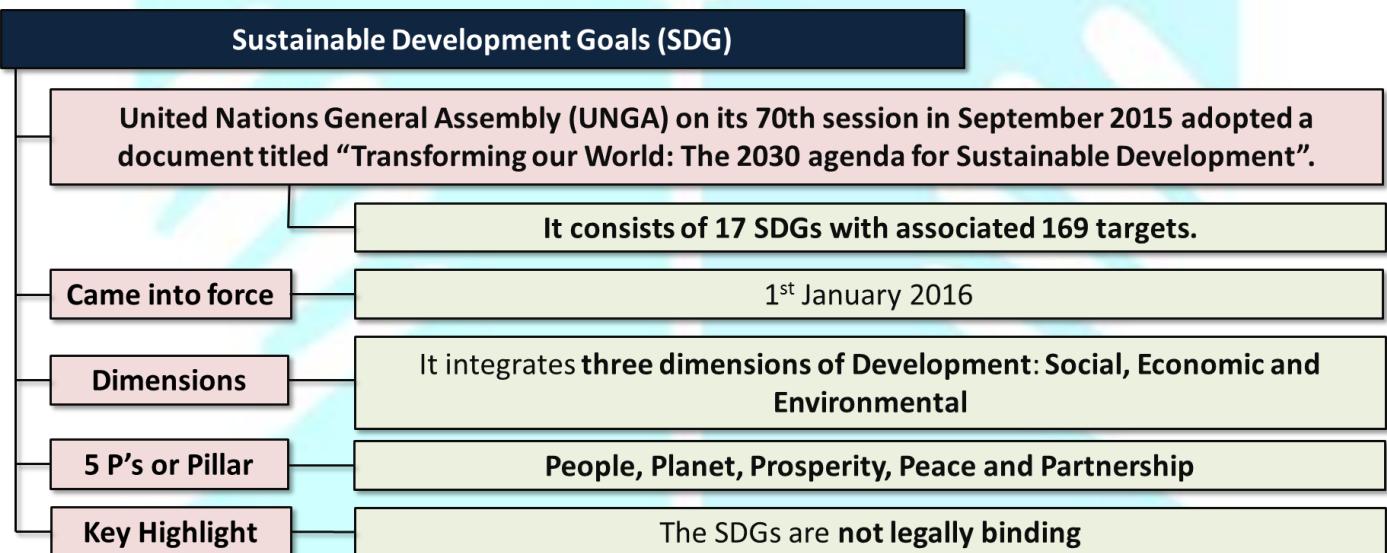
Why in News

- Recently, The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** under the aegis of '**Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)**' organized a "**National Workshop on Developing/Reviewing Sub-National Level Monitoring Framework for SDGs**".
- Objective:** To review the status of the development of the **State Indicator Framework (SIF)/ District Indicator Framework (DIF)** for monitoring SDGs at the sub-national level and to orient the States/UTs for evolving monitoring mechanism.

Key Details

- MoSPI has developed a **National Indicator Framework (NIF)** for monitoring of SDGs.
- The MoSPI had developed and circulated **Guidelines for developing SIF in July 2019** which was further updated in **March 2022**.

About SDGs



2.76 Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP)

Why in News?

- Recently, **G7 countries** have asked India to join in its **Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP)**

Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) Programme



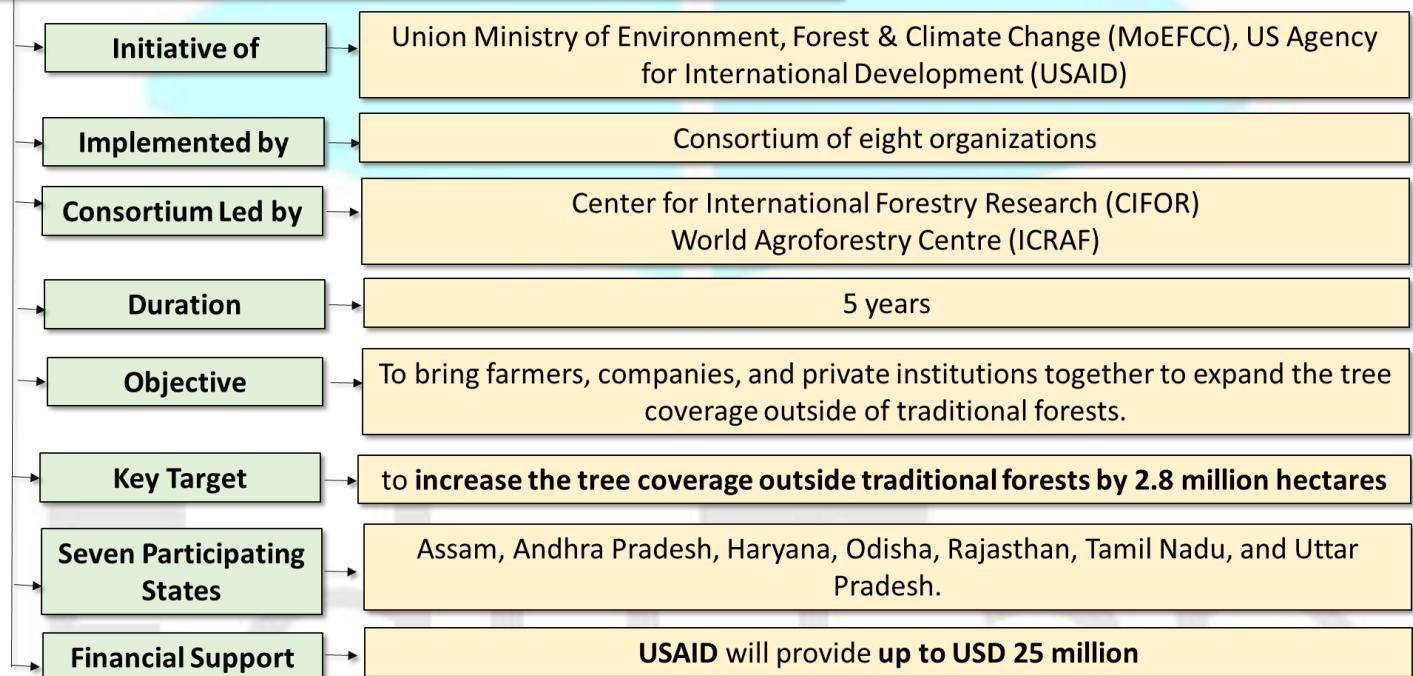
G7 Nations*- Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the US, & European Union (EU).

2.77 Trees Outside Forests in India (TOFI) programme

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Government of Assam** & US Agency for International Development (**USAID**) have launched the trees outside forests in India (**TOFI**) programme in **Assam**.
- TOFI would help India to create an **additional carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030**.

Trees Outside Forests in India (TOFI) Programme



2.78 Windergy 2023

Why in News

- The **5th edition** of the Indian wind industry's biennial **International Trade fair-cum-conference**, "**Windergy 2023**", is scheduled in the month of **October, 2023** in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- Host of the event:** Secretary General, **Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers' Association (IWTMA)**.

- **Organiser:** IWTMA and PDA Ventures Pvt. Ltd.
- Tagline/Theme: “**Wind Power Forever**”

Key Details Shared

- Secretary General of IWTMA have provided the following data about wind energy:
- | Year | Installation |
|---------|---------------------|
| 2021-22 | 1,111 MW |
| 2022-23 | 2,400 MW (Expected) |
| 2023-24 | 4,000 MW (Expected) |
- Wind power plants account for **10 % of total installed electricity capacity** in the country and **5% of energy generation**.
 - **Cumulative Wind Power installed in India: 41,666 MW (till September 2022).**
 - India ranks 4th in wind energy installation globally.
 - The reason for optimism for 2022-23:
 - **Favourable regulation:** The current method of “**reverse auction**” (One Buyer, Many Sellers) for awarding projects would be replaced by “**closed auction**” (Bidders are not aware of other bids).
 - The industry is hopeful of securing ‘**full-year banking**’ ,which means that a wind energy company can ‘bank’ any surplus energy produced during windy seasons with the utilities and draw it back any time during the year (Right now, banking is allowed for a few months only).

About Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers' Association (IWTMA)

- It was established in 1988.
- It is the apex business association and voice of the Indian Wind Industry.

Additional information

- Tamil Nadu is considered as the birthplace of Indian Wind Industry.

Employment Generation in India

2.79 Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

News 1

- Recently, **Paytm** E-commerce Private Limited (PEPL) has become the **first company to go live on ONDC in Bengaluru beta Test.**

News 2

- Recently, **IDBI Bank**, on its **59th Foundation Day**, has joined the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) by launching **ONDC Sellers app**.

News 3

- Recently, Delhi based shipping and logistics solutions provider **Shiprocket** has become the **first inter-city logistics provider** to join the Open Network for Digital Commerce (**ONDC**).
- **ONDC and Shiprocket** are also **working to enable warehousing as a service** on ONDC.

News 4

- Recently, National Securities Depository Limited (**NSDL**) has acquired **5.6% stake in Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** for **Rs 10 crore**.

Note: ONDC discussed in September 2022 CA Magazine (news 2.31).

2.80 Digital India Conference of State IT Ministers

Why in News

- Recently, it was organised in New Delhi, by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information technology**.
- Chairmanship:** Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology.

Key details shared at the event

- Union Minister mentioned that **focus** is on creating employment, achieving target of **1 Trillion Dollar Digital Economy** and **1 Crore Digital Jobs** by **2026**.
- Rs 26,000 crore** had been approved to install **new 25,000 towers** in the **next 500 days**.
- Rs 1.64 lakh crore** will be used for revival of **BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited)** and it will be rolled out in **next 18 months**.
- A special assistance to States for capital expenditure **worth Rs 2000 Crore** has been provided.

Social Justice: Positive Discrimination in favour of the under privileged

2.81 National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)

Why in News

- Recently, the Chief Justice of India inaugurated the two campaigns of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) aimed at inculcating the spirit of inclusivity.

Key Details

| Campaigns | Key Information |
|--|--|
| Empowerment of Citizens through Legal Awareness and Outreach | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim: To organise a mega legal awareness camp on the NALSA module in every district of the country. Outreach teams will visit every village panchayat and subdivision at least once in two weeks to promote legal awareness. |
| Haq_hamara_bhi_hai@75 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim: To provide legal assistance in prisons and childcare institutions. |

Note: NALSA is covered in September CA Magazine in Article 2.96.

Gender Issues

2.82 Women-Friendly Tourism Project

Why in News?

- Recently, the State Responsible Tourism Mission (**RT Mission**) of the **Government of Kerala** has launched the **Women-Friendly Tourism Project**.
- Objective:** to encourage the participation of women in all tourism activities and attract more women tourists to the State.

Indian Political System

2.83 Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958

Why in News

- Recently, The Central government has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in **nine districts of Nagaland** from October 1, 2022 to **March 30, 2023**.

About AFSPA

- It empowers **security forces** to arrest a person without a warrant, enter or search premises without a warrant, and perform other actions.

- It was initially implemented in **Assam and Manipur** and after amendment in 1972, it was also implemented in **Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Central/State government can declare an area as '**disturbed area**' by using the power conferred by **Section 3** of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.
- **Section 4** of AFSPA gives special powers to the **armed forces** to operate in 'disturbed areas'.

2.84 National Conference of State Cooperation Ministers

Why in News

- Recently, in the month of September a **national conference of state cooperative minister** was organised by **Ministry of Cooperation** in New Delhi.

Key Details

- To give boost to the **export of Cooperatives**, the Ministry is facilitating **registration of a National Level Cooperative Export House** under **Multi-State Co-operative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002**
 - It will work in close coordination with **Union Ministry of External Affairs** and **Union Ministry of Commerce** to harness the export potential cooperatives.
- National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is a leader in cooperative financing.

About NCDC

- It was established by an Act of Parliament in **1963** as a **statutory Corporation**.
- Functions:
 - **Planning, promoting and financing programmes** for production, processing, marketing, storage, export and import of **agricultural produce** and certain other **notified commodities**.
 - Loans and grants are **advanced to State Governments** for financing **primary and secondary level cooperative societies** and **direct to the national level** and other societies having objectives extending beyond one State.

Note: Kindly refer article number 2.39 in September 2022 CA for detailed coverage of Conference.

Globalization

2.85 India- UAE CEPA

Why in News?

- Recently, **Malabar Gold and Diamonds** has become the **first jeweller in India to import gold** under the India – United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (**CEPA**).
- It is the **first beneficiary of India-UAE CEPA** both **in jewellery exports and imports**.
- Malabar Gold has **imported 25 kg gold** through **ICICI Bank**.
- It has availed **1% duty reduction** under the agreement.

Background

- In May 2022, Malabar Gold was **one of the first beneficiaries** of India-UAE CEPA to receive **permission to export jewellery from India to the UAE** with tax concessions.
- Under the agreement, the UAE Government has **waived the 5% import duty into the UAE**.

Note: India UAE CEPA discussed in September 2022 CA Magazine (News 2.43).

2.86 India-Sweden Innovation Day

Why in News

- Recently, Union Minister for Science and Technology has addressed the **9th edition of the India-Sweden Innovation Day**.

- It was organised in association with **the Embassy of India to Sweden & Latvia, Sweden-India Business Council (SIBC)**, and **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**.
- Theme: “**Accelerating Green Transition- India Sweden Innovation Partnership**”.

Key information shared by the Union Minister

- Key initiatives between India and Sweden

| Initiative | Facts |
|--|---|
| Industrial Research & Development Programme (April 2019) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is co-funded by the Indian Department of Science & Technology (DST) and Sweden's Innovation Agency – Vinnova. Aim: To address challenges in the area of Smart Cities and Clean Technologies and Digitalization / Internet of Things (IoT). |
| Funding to implement projects (2020) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Vinnova announced grant funding to implement projects. Aim: To produce new solutions, aided by artificial intelligence (AI), to improve public health. |
| India-Sweden Innovation Partnership (April 2018) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim: To increase the impact of bilateral cooperation in innovation, science and technology for a Sustainable Future in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. |

Additional Information

| Particulars | Key Figures |
|---|------------------------------|
| Rank of India in terms of number of Publication (Science and Technology). | 3 rd (Globally) |
| India's Growth rate of Publication in SCI (Science Citation Index) journals. | 14% (Global average – 4%) |
| India's rank in number of Patents filed . | 10 th |

2.87 Democracy Cohort on Election Integrity

Why in News

- Recently, an international **Conference** was organised by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** in New Delhi.
- It was organised under the **Cohort on Election Integrity** led by ECI.
- Theme: “**Role, Framework & Capacity of Election Management Bodies (EMB)**”.
- Democracy Cohort on Election Integrity** was established as a follow on to the ‘**Summit for Democracy**’ held in December 2021.
- Co leads: **Greece, Mauritius, and IFES (The International Foundation for Electoral Systems)**.

Additional Information

- The latest edition of ECI magazine “**Voice International**” on the theme ‘**Collaboration & Partnerships for Voter Education & Awareness**’ showcasing the best initiatives of EMBS was unveiled on the occasion.

2.88 Top Investment Destinations

Why in News?

- According to a recent information shared by the Department for Promotion of Industries and Internal Trade (DPIIT), **India's actual industrial investment between January and July 2022** stood at **Rs 1,71,285 crore**.
- Top 2 investment destination** during **January-July 2022**: Andhra Pradesh (Rs40,361 crore) & Odisha (Rs 36,828 crore)
 - Both these states accounted for 45% of the entire investment inflow in India.

Monetary and Fiscal Policy

2.89 Top Performing States in GST Collection

Why in News?

- According to a recent data released by **Goods & Services Tax Network (GSTN)**, states with a strong manufacturing base performed well in GST revenue collection

| Particulars | Key Details |
|--|--|
| Highest amount of GST on a monthly basis- Top 4 States | <ul style="list-style-type: none">MaharashtraGujaratTamil NaduKarnataka |
| Maximum year-on-year increase in overall GST revenue collection- Top 4 States | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Maharashtra (29%)Karnataka (25%)Gujarat (16%)Tamil Nadu (10%) |
| Source of bulk of revenue collection | <ul style="list-style-type: none">large taxpayers with revenues of more than Rs 500 crore |
| Industry wise share of GST revenue receipt | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Proprietorship (13%), Public limited companies (35%) |

Growth and Development (Measurement of growth)

2.90 Latest Gross Domestic Product (GDP)/ Growth Forecasts for India

| S.No | Agency/Organization Name | GDP Forecast | Previous Estimates |
|------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Nomura | 7% (FY23) | -- |
| | | 5.2% (FY24) | |

2.91 Global trade forecast for 2023

Why in News

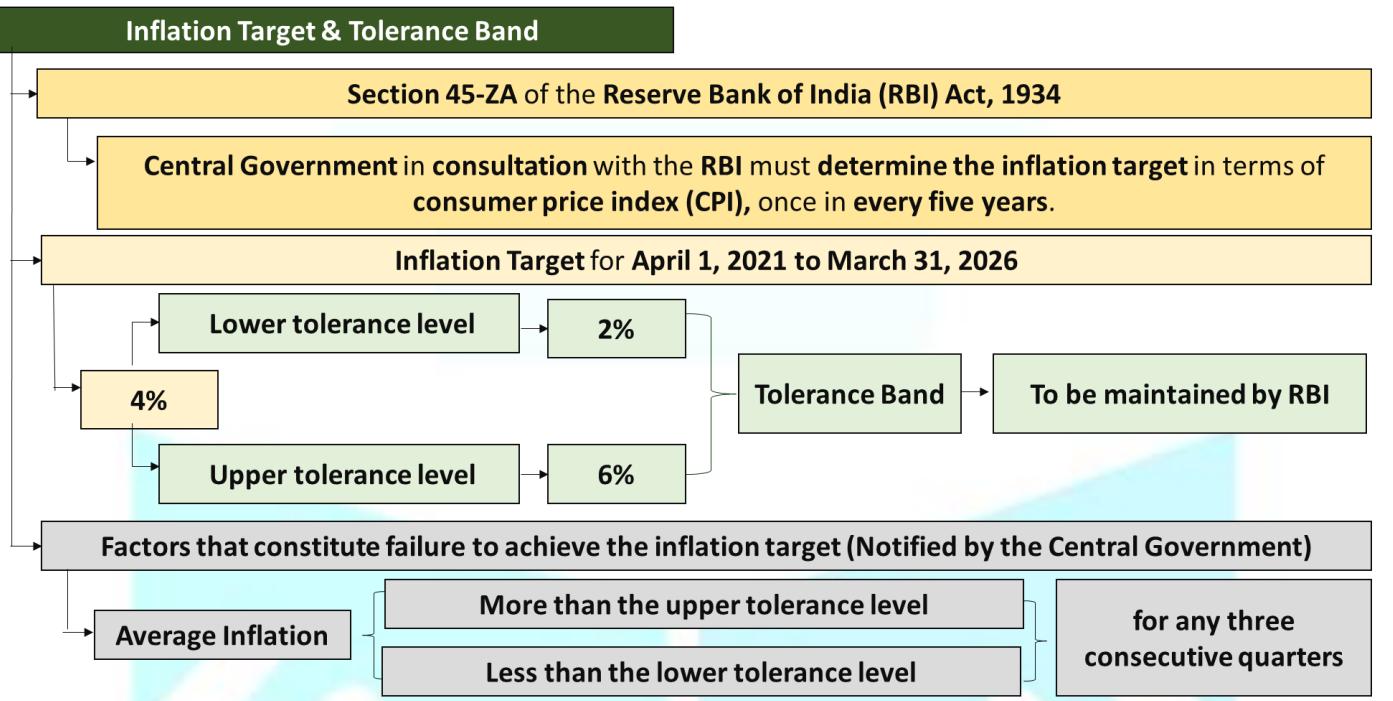
- Recently, the **World Trade Organisation** has projected that **global trade will slow down to 1% in 2023** due to global uncertainties like Ukraine war, high energy prices, inflation, and monetary tightening.
 - According to earlier estimate, it was expected to grow at **3.4% in 2023**.
- WTO has also projected a growth of **3.5% in global trade this year (2022)**, as against the 3% estimated in April.
- It also estimated that **world GDP at market exchange rates will grow by 2.8% in 2022 and 2.3% in 2023**.

Inflation

2.92 Retail Inflation [CPI Inflation]

Why in News?

- Recently, the National Statistical Office (**NSO**), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**) has released the **All India Consumer Price Index (CPI)** on **Base 2012=100** for **September 2022**.
- Retail Inflation** has touched **7.41% in September 2022**.
- Retail Inflation has **breached the upper tolerance limit** of the RBI for the **ninth consecutive month**
- It is the **highest level since April 2022**
 - In **April 2022**, Retail Inflation touched an **eight-year high of 7.79%**



CPI- Measures retail inflation in an economy by tracking the changes in the prices of goods & services used by the consumers.

Export-Import Policy

2.93 Positive Indigenisation List (PIL)

Why in News

- Recently, **72 items out of total of 214 items** mentioned in **1st and 2nd Positive Indigenisation List (PIL)** have been **indigenised by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)** before their original indigenisation timelines of **December 2023, December 2024 and December 2025**.

Background

- To **minimise imports** by DPSUs under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan', **Department of Defence Production (DDP)**, Ministry of Defence had notified **three Positive Indigenisation Lists** in December 2021, March 2022 and August 2022.
- These PIL are **different** from the **three PILs** announced for the armed forces by **department of Military affairs**.
- These PIL includes important **Line Replacement Units (LRUs)/Sub-systems/Components**.
- Indigenisation of these items is being taken up through different routes under '**Make**' category.
 - It aims to achieve **self-reliance** by involving greater participation of the Indian industry.
 - Projects involving **design and development** of equipment, systems, major platforms or upgrades thereof by the industry can be taken up under this category.
- The 1st PIL contains **351 items**, 2nd PIL has **107 items** and 3rd PIL has **780 items** for **indigenisation**.
- The **1st list** released in **December 2021**, contains **2,500 imported items** which have already been **indigenised** and **351 imported items** which will be indigenised in next three year, till Dec 2024.
 - Of these 351 items, **172 items are planned** to be indigenized upto December, 2022.

Additional Information

- A comprehensive user-friendly 'Dashboard' on its **SRIJAN Portal** has been developed earlier this year, to monitor the status of **progress of indigenization**.

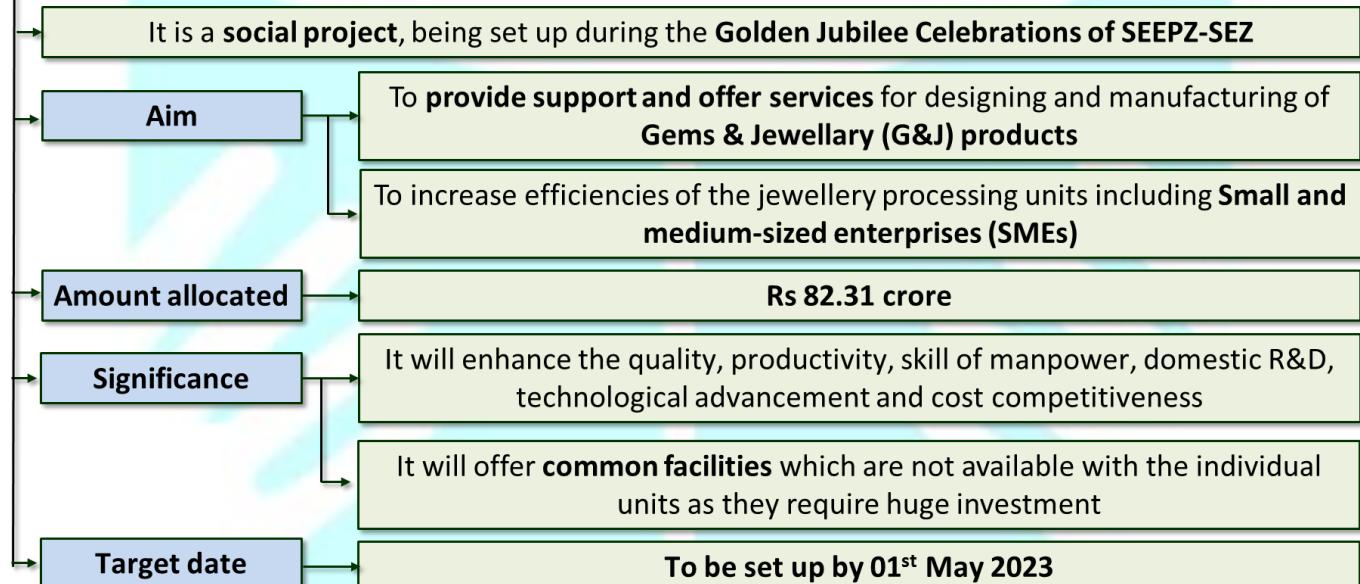
- SRIJAN Portal was launched by Ministry of Defence in August 2020 to promote indigenization of the industry.

2.94 Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone-Special Economic Zone (SEEPZ-SEZ)

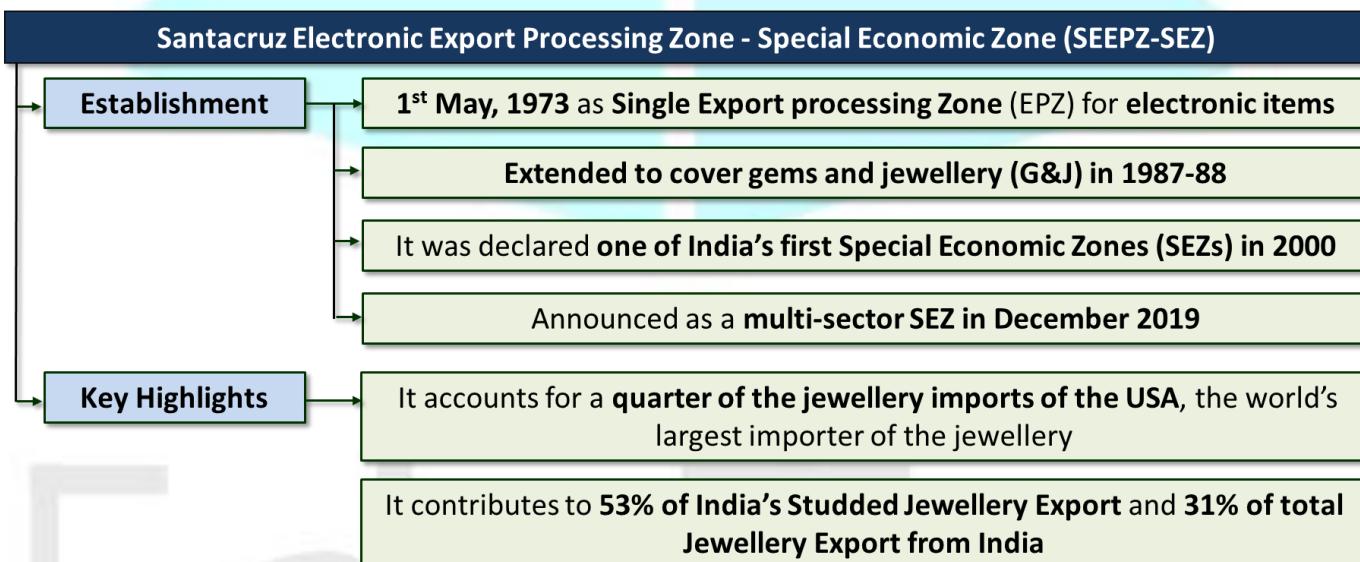
Why in News

- Recently, the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry has reviewed the progress of various initiatives being undertaken during SEEPZ-SEZ Golden Jubilee Year celebrations.
- This review was primarily focused on the Mega Common Facilities Centre (CFC), which is being set up in SEEPZ-SEZ.

Mega Common Facilities Centre (CFC) at SEEPZ-SEZ



About Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone-Special Economic Zone (SEEPZ-SEZ)



About SEEPZ-SEZ Version 2.0 Rebooted

- It is a Rs. 200 crore makeover project for SEEPZ-SEZ.
- **Objective:** To position SEEPZ-SEZ as “Golden Gateway to Global Markets” with infrastructure benchmarked to international best standards, cutting edge technology and Ease of doing business.
- Two new SDFs (Standard Design Factories) are proposed to be constructed in SEEPZ-SEZ along with one Mega Common Facilities Centre (CFC).

- Key Focus Areas under this rejuvenation:** Optimizing the cost of operations and energy usage, reducing the carbon footprint and harnessing renewable energy sources etc.
- It shall also ensure **near zero waste** with integrated waste management, sewage treatment, grey water recycling and rain water harvesting system.

2.95 India Russia Trade

Why in News

- Recently, Russia became the **7th largest trading partner (25th last year)** of India with **total bilateral trade of USD 18.2 Billion** in April to August period of FY 2022-23.
- Reason: **Surge in the import of oil and fertilizers** as a result of the **War in Ukraine**.

Key Details Shared

| Particulars | Figures |
|--|--|
| Share of Export and Import in total bilateral trade (USD 18.2 Billion) | Exports to Russia: USD 992.73 Million. Imports from Russia: USD 17,236.29 Million |
| Share of fertilizers and fuel in 2022 | 91% |
| Second largest crude oil Supplier to India | Russia |
| Russia's share in India's oil imports. | 1% in February to 21% by September 2022. |
| Top 6 Trading Partners (At present) | 1. United States of America (USA), 2. China, 3. United Arab Emirates (UAE), 4. Saudi Arabia, 5. Iraq and 6. Indonesia. |
| Rank of India in oil importing and consuming | 3rd |
| India's dependence on imports to meet its Petroleum needs | 85% |

2.96 India's Export Destinations

- Recently, the Netherlands has emerged as the India's **third-largest export destination**.
- It has moved up **two spots** in the list of **India's top ten export destinations** since FY-22.

Key details

- Only two European nations (the Netherlands and the United Kingdom) are among India's top ten markets, against 4 in FY22 (Germany and Belgium are out from top 10).

| Country | Current rank in FY 23 (April to August) | Remarks |
|-------------|--|---|
| USA | 1 | • Export to USA has climbed 18.3% until August to USD 35.2 billion. |
| UAE | 2 | • Export to UAE has climbed 27.3% to USD 13.8 Billion. |
| Netherlands | 3 | • Export to Netherlands has climbed 106% to USD 7.5 Billion |

Additional Information

- Brazil is now India's 8th biggest export market (It was at 21st position in FY-22).

International Economic Institutions (IMF and World Bank – WTO) (Regional Economic Cooperation)

2.97 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

Why in News?

- Recently, the **77th Session** of the United Nations General Assembly (**UNGA**) was held at **New York, USA**.
- Theme:** "A Watershed Moment: Transformative Solutions to Interlocking Challenges".

Important Side events organized during the 77th Session of UNGA

| Particulars | Key Details |
|---|--|
| A Special event titled "India@75 Showcasing the India-UN Partnership in Action" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized by: Government of India and United Nations |
| A high-level meeting of members of the L.69 group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme: "Reinvigorating Multilateralism and Achieving Comprehensive Reform of the UN Security Council". Meeting Chair: Ralph Gonsalves (St. Vincent and Grenadines) Co-Host: Dr. S. Jaishankar (India) |
| 10 th India, Brazil, South Africa Forum (IBSA) Trilateral Ministerial Commission (TMC) Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Chair: Dr. S. Jaishankar |
| India-CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Quartet Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presidency: Argentina |
| Ministerial Meeting of G4 Countries | -- |

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Establishment | 1945 |
| Headquarters | New York, United States |
| Total Members | 193 |
| President | Csaba Korosi (77 th session of UNGA) |

India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA)

| | |
|---|-------|
| Establishment | 2003 |
| Present Chair | India |
| India to host 6th IBSA Summit in November 2022. | |

L 69 Group

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Establishment | 2007 |
| Total Members | 42 developing countries from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific regions |
| Present Chair | St. Vincent and Grenadines |

Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Establishment | 2010 |
| Total Members | 33 countries from Latin America & Caribbean Region |
| Pro Tempore Presidency | Argentina |

G4 Nations

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Establishment | 2005 |
| Members | Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan |
| Objective | To support each others bid for permanent membership at the UN Security Council |

2.98 Global Food Security Platform

Why in News

- Recently, the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** has launched its '**Global Food Security Platform**' to respond to the food security crisis.
- This Platform is part of the **World Bank Group's ongoing USD 30 billion initiative** to reduce food insecurity.

Key Details

- It will be a **USD 6 billion financing facility**, which will be used in the followings:
 - To strengthen the **private sector's ability** to respond to the crisis.
 - To improve the **resilience of the global food system** and lessen its **climate and ecological footprint** by focusing on long term actions.
 - To increase **crop production**, improve access to fertilizers, **Fertilizer production** and use.
 - To improve **supply chain efficiency**, and mitigating infrastructure bottlenecks.

About IFC

- It was established in **1956** as the World Bank's **private sector investment arm**.
- It is also a **member of the World Bank Group**.
- It is the **largest global development institution** focused on the **private sector** in developing countries.

2.99 LoC (Line of Credit) to Maldives

Why in News

- Recently, **EXIM (Export Import) Bank** has extended a line of credit (LoC) of **USD 100 million** to the **Maldives** for financing developmental projects.

Key Details

- Exim Bank's overall commitment to this island nation: **6 LoC totaling USD 1.43 billion.**
- **Project under this LoC includes:** Greater Male' Connectivity Project, Water and Sewerage Projects, Addu Development Project, International Cricket Stadium Project, Defence projects, **Gulhifalhu Port Project**, **Hanimadhoo Airport Project**, **Gan Airport Project**, Fisheries Project, Road Construction Project and Sports Infrastructure.

About EXIM Bank

- It was established by the Government of India, under the **Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981** and started its operation in **March 1982. (Headquarter: Mumbai)**
- It is the principal export credit agency for India.

2.100 India-Norway Joint Working Group on Science and Technology

Why in News

- Recently, the India-Norway Joint Working Group (JWG) on Science and Technology held a meeting to expand Science & Technology cooperation in new areas of development.

Key Details

- **Existing Areas of Cooperation for further strengthening:** Polar sciences, bio-economy, renewable energy, Nano-science and technology and anti-microbial resistance.
- **Areas to include for Cooperation:** Quantum science and technology, electric mobility, green hydrogen, ocean science, cyber-physical system, blue economy, information and communication technology.
- It has been decided to focus on areas, which has **more relevance or impact to society** as well as **industrial Research & Development programmes.**
- Director General, Ministry of Education and research, Norway underlined that **India is among the 9 priority countries** outside Europe in S&T co-operation for Norway.

About Indo-Norwegian S&T Cooperation

- It was formalized through an **Inter-governmental agreement** signed in **Tromso, Norway in 2006** and was activated through a **Programme of Cooperation (POC)** signed in **Oslo, Norway in May 2009.**

2.101 United Nations Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC)

Why in News

- Recently, for the **first time**, India hosted a meeting of the United Nations Security Council's (UNSC's) Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) in **New Delhi and Mumbai.**

Key Details

- Chairperson: **Permanent Representative of India to the UN.**
- It has specifically focused on three significant areas: **1. The internet and Social Media, 2. Terrorism Financing, and 3. Unmanned Aerial System (UAS).**
- **Outcome: Delhi declaration** on countering the use of emerging technologies for terrorist purposes was adopted.
 - Declaration aim: To cover the main concerns surrounding the abuse of drones, social media platforms, and crowdfunding, and create guidelines to tackle terrorism.

About United Nations Security Council

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

It is one of the six principal organs of United Nations established under UN charter in 1945

It has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security

Members → 15 Members (5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members)

China, France, Russia, UK, and US are permanent members.

Presidency → Rotates and changes every month (In October it was held by Gabon)

It will be held by India in the month of December 2022

About UNSC CTC

- It was established in 2001 by **UNSC resolution 1373 (2001)** after the 9/11 attacks in the United States.
- The CTC is assisted by an **Executive Directorate (CTED)**, which carries out its policy decisions and conducts expert assessments of the 193 United Nations Member States.

2.102 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

Why in News

- Recently, the **SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) National Coordinator Meet** has been organised in New Delhi.
- It was the **first** such national coordinator meet under the **Indian presidency**.
- **Objective:** To decide on the issues and agenda that will be taken up in the grouping under the Indian presidency.

About SCO

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

→ It is a transcontinental political, economic, security, and military alliance

→ **Establishment** → 15th June 2001 at Beijing, China (Headquarter)

→ **9 Member States** → China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Iran (latest member)

→ **Two Permanent Bodies** → SCO Secretariat at Beijing, China

→ Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

→ **Chair/Host** → Uzbekistan (2022), India (2023)

→ **Key Facts** → Its member countries contribute about 30% of global GDP

→ It also represents 40% of World population

Additional information

- India's national coordinator for SCO is **Yojna Patel**.
- **India, along with Pakistan** became a member of the grouping in **2017**.

2.103 G20 (Group of twenty) meetings

Why in News

- Recently, the **Second G20 Health Ministers Meet** has been organised in Bali, Indonesia.
- Union Minister encouraged all G20 members to contribute their public keys to the proposed **Global Federated Public Trust Directory** for ensuring seamless worldwide mobility of people and goods.

About Global Federated Public Trust Directory

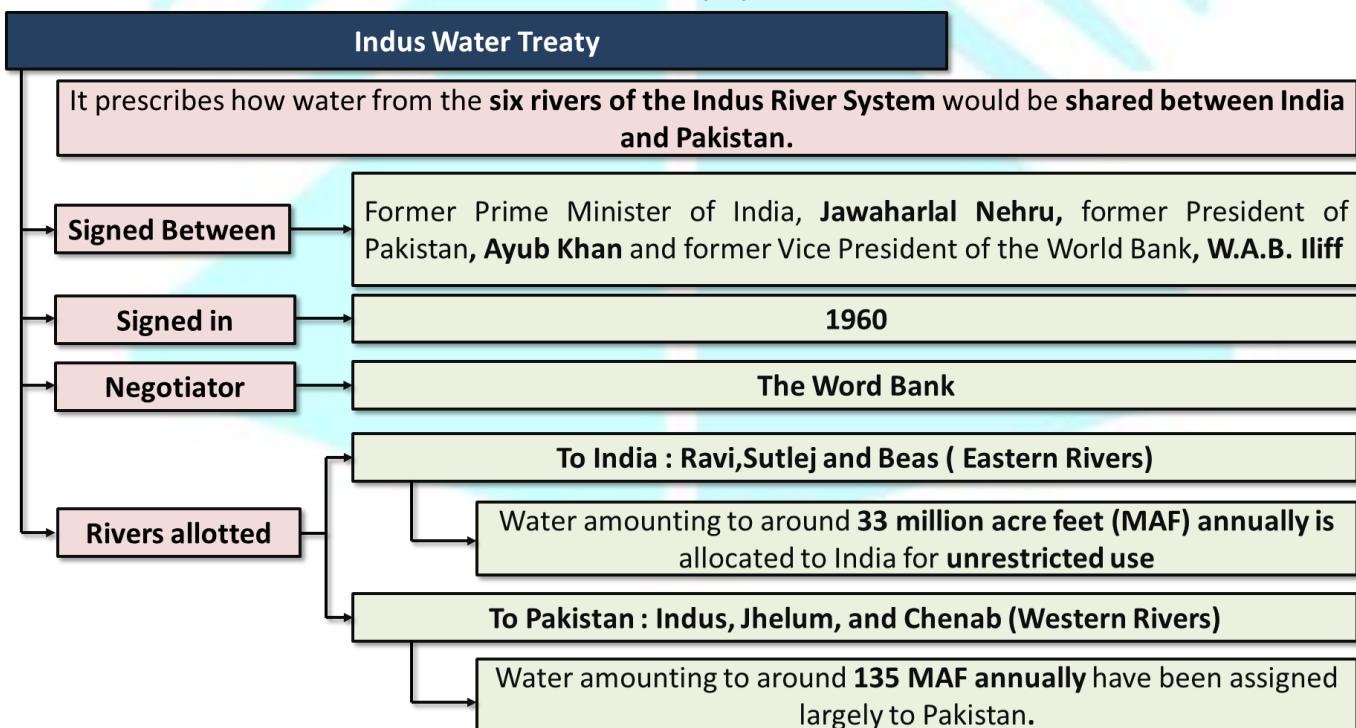
- The **Indonesian government** introduced the **Federated Public Trust Directory** initiative.
- Aim:** To facilitate the verification of Covid-19 vaccine certificates at entry gates worldwide.
- It is a **global framework** that **unifies digital infrastructure** to verify **authentic documents** across a trusted global network.

Note: G20 is covered in September CA Magazine in article 2.51

2.104 Indus Water Treaty

Why in News

- Recently, the World Bank has appointed a "neutral expert" and a chairman of the Court of Arbitration regarding the **Kishenganga** and **Ratle hydroelectric power plants** in Jammu & Kashmir.
- It has been done in view of **disagreements and differences** between **India and Pakistan** over the **1960 Indus Water Treaty**.
- Neutral Expert: **Michel Lino**.
- Chairman of the Court of Arbitration: **Sean Murphy**.



Indian Agriculture

2.105 International year of millets: 2023

Why in News

- Recently, the **department of agriculture, farmer's welfare** and the **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to **promote millets** to celebrate the **international year of millets 2023**.

Key details of MoU

- They will collaborate to **facilitate advisory support** to manufacturers and processors of millet-based products to develop **value-added millet-based commodities**.

- It includes **start-ups**, inclusive of **startups empanelled with Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad, Telangana.**
- They will promote **formation of FPOs** (Farmer Producer Organizations) specifically for developing millet-based products.
- They will also promote millet-based products through the network of **NAFED Bazaar stores**, as well as the installation of **millet based vending machines** at various locations across Delhi-NCR.

Additional Information

- Earlier, the government of India had declared **2018 as the national year of millets**.
- In the same year (2018), the government also **notified millets as nutri-cereals** and included them under the **POSHAN Mission Abhiyan**.
- **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).

2.106 SAFAL

Why in News

- Recently, the Chief Minister of **Odisha** has launched a **common credit portal SAFAL (Simplified Application for Agricultural Loans)** for the **welfare of farmers**.

Key Details

SAFAL (Simplified Application for Agricultural Loans)

| | |
|---|--|
| → It is a one-stop solution for farmers and agri-entrepreneurs to avail formal sector credit from public and private sector banks, Regional Rural Banks, Odisha Cooperative Banks, and Small Finance Banks. | |
| → Launched by | Odisha |
| → Key Highlights | <p>It will send the real-time notifications to the farmers at every stage of their loan application</p> <p>It will also provide the government with complete visibility of demand and disbursal of formal credit across states.</p> <p>It has also been integrated with 'Krushak Odisha' (a farmers' database of the state government).</p> <p>It will help farmers in creating quality DPRs (Detailed Project Reports) by referring to model DPRs available on the portal.</p> |
| | |
| | |

Industrial Developments in India

2.107 Drone Certification

Why in News

- Recently, the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** has issued **India's first micro category drone type certification** to **Asteria Aerospace Limited** for its locally developed **A200 drone**.
- It was provided in accordance with the **Drone Rules 2021**.

Key Details

- This drone has been developed for **surveying and mapping applications** in GIS, agriculture, construction, mining and other industries.
- It has **advanced features** like automated take-off and landing, multiple fail-safes, single pilot operation, tool-less assembly and disassembly.
- It has a flight time of up to **40 minutes** and weighs **less than two kg**.

- Drones with weighing from **250 gramm to 2 kg** fall under the **micro category** of drones.

Note: Drone Certification Scheme is covered in SchemesTap Document.

2.108 Global Lighthouse Network (GLN)

Why in News?

- Recently, the World Economic Forum (**WEF**) has recognized **Dr. Reddy's Laboratories' largest manufacturing facility in Bachupally, Hyderabad, and Telangana** as part of its **Global Lighthouse Network (GLN)**.
- Cipla's Oral Solid Dosage (**OSD**) plant at **Indore, Madhya Pradesh** have also been recognized as '**Advanced Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Lighthouse**' by WEF under GLN.

About Global Lighthouse Network (GLN)

- Initiative:** World Economic Forum (WEF) & McKinsey & Company
- A community of over 100 manufacturers** that are showing leadership in **applying 4IR technologies**
- Objective:** to drive impact in productivity, workforce engagement, sustainability, and supply chain resilience.

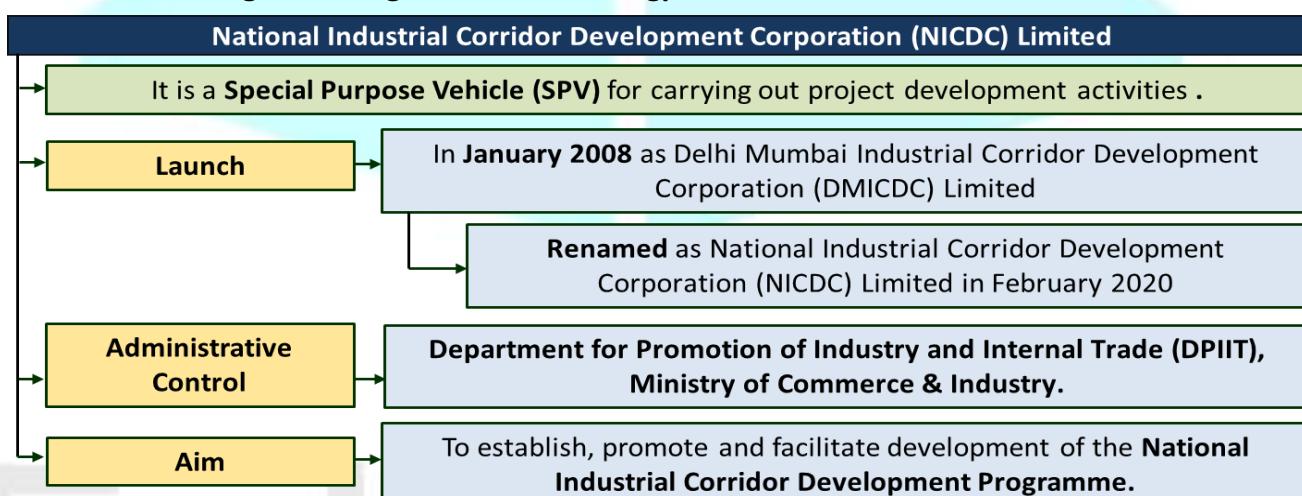
2.109 4th NICDC Investors' Roundtable Conference

Why in News

- Recently, it was organised by **Maharashtra Industrial Township Limited (MITL)** in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Objective: To showcase the development of **upcoming Greenfield industrial cities** across India, which have been planned by National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (**NICDC**) Limited.

Key Details

- Currently, **four such Greenfield smart industrial cities** are being developed in Maharashtra in the districts of **Aurangabad, Raigad, Satara and Nagpur**.



About MITL

- MITL, formerly known as **Aurangabad Industrial Township Limited**, is a **joint venture** between **Government of India** and **Government of Maharashtra**.
- MITL's flagship industrial area, **the Aurangabad Industrial City (AURIC)**, is one of the well-developed Industrial Smart Cities in the world with an investment of **Rs.7000 Cr.**
- AURIC has planned to develop a **MITRA Textile Park** with the support of **Ministry of Textiles** under the **PM MITRA Scheme**, a **Mega Food Park** and an **International Convention Centre**.

About National Industrial Corridor Programme

- It is India's most ambitious infrastructure programme aiming to develop **new industrial cities** as "Smart Cities" and converging next generation technologies across infrastructure sectors.
- Under this programme, NICDC is developing **11 Industrial corridors** comprising **32 nodes/projects** to be developed in **04 Phases**.

Additional Information

- Maharashtra has been a recipient of almost **28%** of the cumulative FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) in the last decade.
- **National Single Window System:** It is a digital platform for guidance of investors to identify and to apply for approvals as per their business requirements.

2.110 National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)

Why in News

- Recently, Ministry of Mines has issued **General Instructions** to **Notified Exploration Agencies (NEA)** for submission of project proposals to **National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)**.
- **Aim:** To **expedite mineral exploration** in the country and help in achieving self-reliance in minerals and promoting economic growth and employment.

Background

- NMET has issued General Instructions in **February, 2021** to NEAs for submission of proposals along with detailed **cost estimates** based on the **Schedule of Charges (SoC)** of NMET for mineral exploration through NMET funds.
- It has to be submitted along **with a certificate of actual status of proposed block area/land** (whether free hold/ lease hold/ reserved by the State).
- But due to **delay in providing the certificate of actual status** from state authority concerned, there is unnecessary delay in mineral exploration in country.

Key Details of the recently issued General Instructions

- The **Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL)** and other notified CPSUs (Central Public Sector Undertakings) shall send the **request letter to State Government** for **certificate** regarding the actual status of proposed block from the State authority.
- The **State Government shall provide the certificate** regarding the actual status of proposed block area/ land (about free hold/lease hold) **within 60 days**.
- In case of **non-receipt of certificate** from State Government, the project proposal may be submitted to **NMET Secretariat** for technical and financial evaluation in **technical cum cost committee (TCC)**.
- The **Director, Directorate/Department of Mines and Geology, State Government** will be invited to attend the TCC meeting to clarify about the status of proposed block area.
- Based on **techno-economic suitability**, approval will be accorded for carrying out exploration work for the project proposal.
- Before starting the exploration work, MECL and other notified CPSUs **shall confirm** that the **block area is not under any lease hold** and that any other State/Central/Private exploration agencies.

About NMET

- It was set up in **2015** as per the section **9C** of the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act 1957**.
- The act was amended in **March 2021** and now the **amended Act** mandates NMET as a **non-profit autonomous body**.
- Objective: To boost the **mineral exploration** activities in the country.

- It has been **funding various NEAs** to carry out exploration projects across the country.

About MECL

- It is carved out of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in 1972.
- It is a **Miniratna I CPSE** under the aegis of **Ministry of Mines**.
- It is a **notified mineral exploration agency** as per section **4(1) of MMDR Amendment Act 2015**.
- The **authorised share capital** and **paid up equity** of the company are **Rs. 125.00 crore** and **Rs. 119.55 crore**, respectively.

2.111 Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)

Why in News

- Recently, it became the **first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** to achieve the major milestone of procurement value of **Rs 10,000 Crore** through the **Government-e-Marketplace (GeM)**.
- SAIL was the largest CPSE procurer on GeM in the previous Financial Year (FY 22) with a value of Rs. **4,614 Crore**.

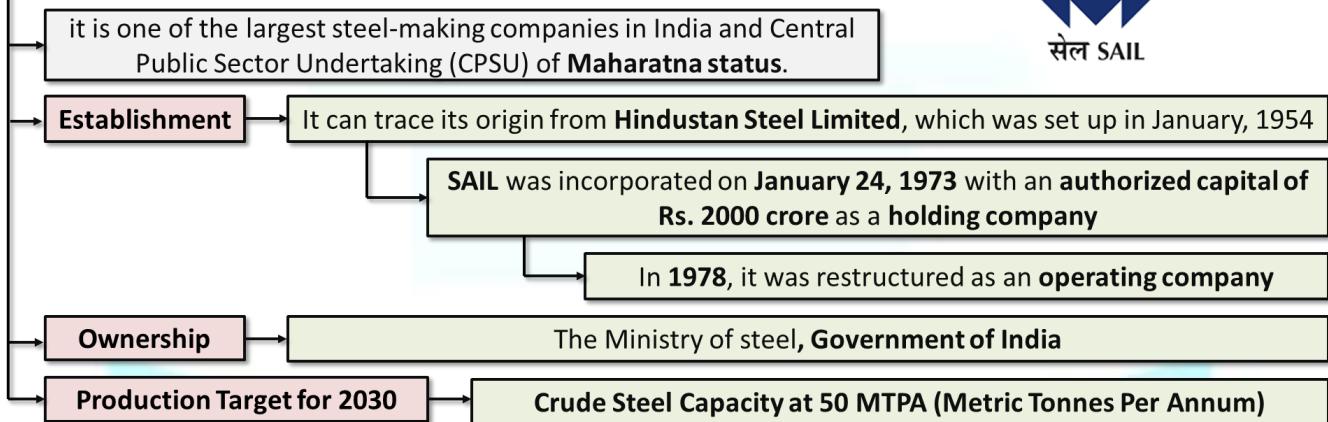
About GeM

| GeM (Government e Marketplace) Portal | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| → | It is a National Public Procurement Portal . |
| → | It is an online marketplace for the procurement of goods and services . |
| → Launched | In 2016 by Ministry of commerce and Industry |
| → Aim | To enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement. |
| → Three 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) |



GeM
Government
e Marketplace

About SAIL (Steel Authority of India Limited)



Additional information

- It has **five integrated plants** (Bhilai, Rourkela, Durgapur, Bokaro and Burnpur (Asansol)) and **three special steel plants** (**Salem, Durgapur and Bhadravathi**).
- It also owns a Ferro Alloy plant at **Chandrapur, Maharashtra**.
- **Subsidiary:** NTPC SAIL Power Company Limited (NSPCL) (A 50:50 Joint venture Between SAIL and NTPC)

Social Structure in India

2.112 Indian Heritage Textiles Crafts

Why in News

- Recently, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) has released a list of **50 exclusive and iconic heritage textile crafts of the India**.
- Name: "**Handmade for the 21st Century: Safeguarding Traditional Indian Textile**".
- Author: **Ritu Sethi**.

Key Details

- It provides the history of the textiles, secret processes behind their making along with the causes for their diminishing popularity, and provides strategies for their preservation.
- According to UNESCO, **one of the major challenges** to the safeguarding of **Intangible Cultural Heritage** in the South Asia is **lack of proper inventory and documentation**.

| States/UTs | Handmade textile crafts |
|-------------------------|--|
| Haryana | Khes Weaving and Tapestry Weaving. |
| Himachal Pradesh | Chamba Rumal. |
| Ladakh | Thigma or Wool tie-die. |
| Rajasthan | Danka embroidery and Split-ply Braid Weaving. |
| Uttar Pradesh | Awadh Jamdani, Baluchari Weaving, Badla embroidery, Gysar Weaving and hand block printing. |
| Goa | Kunbi Weaving. |
| Gujarat | Ashavali Sari Weaving, Kusti Weaving, Mashru Weaving, Mata-ni-Pachedi, Patola Weaving, Rogan textile painting, Sujani Weaving and Tangaliya Weaving. |
| Madhya Pradesh | Nandana hand block printing. |
| Maharashtra | Himroo Weaving. |
| Andhra Pradesh | Himroo Weaving, Siddipet Gollabama Weaving and Gongadi sheep wool blankets. |
| Telangana | Himroo Weaving and Gongadi sheep wool blankets. |

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Karnataka | Guledgudd khana, Ilkal Weaving, Lambadi/ Banjara embroidery and Molakalmuru Silk Weaving. |
| Kerala | Ayurvedic Textiles. |
| Tamil Nadu | Sikalnayakanpet kalamkari, Sungadi or Chungadi and Toda embroidery. |
| Bihar | Bavanbutti Weaving and Kheta embroidery |
| Odisha | Bandha tie-dye Weaving, Berhampur pata or Phoda Kumbha, Dhalapathar Parda, Dongaria kondh textiles and Kenduli Pata Calligraphic Weaving. |
| West Bengal | Fragrant Textiles, Garad- Korial Weaving and Satagoan quilts. |
| Manipur | Lasing Phee and Saphee lanphee. |
| Sikkim | Lepcha Weaving |
| Tripura | Risha Textile Weaving. |

2.113 Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav

Why in News?

- Recently, the University Grants Commission (**UGC**) has instructed all Higher Educational institutions (**HEIs**) & their affiliated colleges to observe **December 11** as **Bharatiya Bhasha Diwas** or **Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav**.
 - December 11 is the **birth anniversary of Tamil Poet Subramania Bharati**
- Recommended by:** Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti (High Powered Committee for Promotion of Indian Languages).
- Objective:** to celebrate language harmony and promote Indian languages.

About Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti

- Constituted by:** Ministry of Education; **Constituted in:** November 2021
- Chairperson:** Chamu Krishna Shastray
- Mandate:** to explore and recommend pathways of the holistic and multi-disciplinary growth of Indian languages as envisaged in the National Education Policy-2020.

Additional Information

- The **Government of India** will be setting up **Bhasha Kendras (Language Centres)** for each of the **22 languages** in the **8th schedule** of the Constitution of India.

2.114 Migration Monitoring System

Why in News?

- Recently, **India's first Migration Monitoring System** has been launched at **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- Initiative of:** Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Maharashtra.
- Aim:** to provide updated information about migrant pregnant women, lactating mothers and children instantly on a single system.

Social Movements

2.115 Gram Seva Program

Why in News

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** announced that it will adopt **30 remote villages** across **6 states** on Gandhi Jayanti (2nd October) under the **4th phase** of the '**SBI Gram Seva program**'.
- The inauguration event was conducted at **Shimurali Gram Panchayat**, Nadia district, West Bengal.

Key Details

- It is the flagship scheme of the **SBI Foundation** launched in **2017 (Completed 5 year)**.

- Under this, it will adopt remote villages across **Aspirational Districts** in Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.
- It emphasises on **comprehensive development of villages** by active intervention in areas like **education, healthcare, livelihoods, and infrastructure**.
- As of now, the program has **adopted 100 villages** across **16 States** in **3 phases**.
- With this launch, the program's outreach has been expanded to a total of **130 villages**, of which **75 villages** are from **Aspirational Districts** notified by the NITI Aayog.

Changes in Industrial and Labour Policy, since reforms of 1991

2.116 IDBI Disinvestment

Why in News?

- Recently, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (**DIPAM**), Ministry of Finance, has started the **process for strategic disinvestment of IDBI Bank**.
- It is considered the **biggest sale of the Government of India's stake in a bank in decades**.
- In this regard, DIPAM has invited **expressions of interest (EoI)** from bidders.

Key details of IDBI Disinvestment

| Features | Key Details |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Present shareholders of IDBI Bank | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LIC (Promoter of IDBI Bank)- 49.24% stake • Government of India (GOI) - 45.48% stake <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GOI & LIC own nearly 94% stake in IDBI Bank • Public shareholders- 5.28%. |
| Proposed Disinvestment Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall Minimum Disinvestment by GOI & LIC - 60.72% stake <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GOI's Disinvestment- 30.48% stake ○ LIC's Disinvestment- 30.24% stake • The stake sale also includes the transfer of management control. |
| Eligibility of Potential Investor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entities allowed to bid: private and foreign banks, RBI-regulated Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), entities registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) & investment vehicles incorporated outside India. • Minimum Networth: Rs 22,500 crore • Net Profit Requirement: must report net profit in 3 out of the past 5 years • Number of Investors: A firm can bid individually or through a consortium • Maximum members of the consortium: four entities with a lead member holding at least 40% stake. |
| Expected Valuation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rs 64,000 crore (nearly USD 7.7 billion) (as stated in a Bloomberg report) |

Indian Money and Financial Markets: Linkages with the economy

2.117 India's Forex Reserves

Why in News

- According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's forex reserves decline to over **two-year low** to **USD 532.66 Billion (Since July 2020)**.

Key Details

- Reason:** As per RBI, it can be attributed to a **fall in the Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)**, which is a major component of the overall reserves.
- In this financial year (started from April 2022), **forex reserves** has declined about **67%**.

Public Finance - Political Economy - Services sector in India

2.118 Aadhar enrolment of newborns

Why in News

- Government is expected to expand the scope of **Aadhar enrolment of newborns** to all the states in the country in the next few months.
- Currently, 16 states in India have **Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration** and are offering the facility of the enrollment of newborns.

Key Details

- Whenever a **birth certificate is issued**, a message reaches the UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India) systems and the Aadhar enrollment ID number is generated. Later, with the photo and address of the child, Aadhar Card is also issued.
- UID (Unique Identification number) for **new born baby or children below 5 years** processed on the basis of **demographic information** and **facial photograph** linked with the **UID of their parents**.
- These children will need to update their biometrics of **ten fingers, iris and facial photograph**, when they turn **5 and 15**.
- One can apply both **online and offline** for Aadhaar card of the newly born baby.
- UIDAI is also working with the **Registrar General of India** with an aim to issue an Aadhar card of a person **at the time of birth** along with the **birth certificate**.

Additional information

- Aadhaar card number is a unique **12-digit random number** issued by the UIDAI.

Note: Refer Article 2.74 in September 2022 CA Magazine for UIDAI.

International Economic Issues

2.119 Global Foreign Currency Reserves

Why in News

- Recently, the **global foreign currency reserves** have been declined **by about USD 1 trillion** (7.8%), this year to **USD 12 trillion**, the biggest drop since Bloomberg (global leader in business and financial data) started to compile the data in 2003.
- Reasons:
 - The **US dollar** jumped to **two-decade highs** against other reserve currencies.
 - Steps taken by the **central bank of different countries** to control inflation and depreciation of their currency.

3 GA + Finance in News

Primary and Secondary Markets

3.1 Securities & Exchange Board of India [SEBI]

Why in News?

- The Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has approved various proposals at its recent board meeting.

Key Proposals Approved by SEBI

- Minimum holding requirement of Real Estate Investment Trusts (**REITs**) units by **sponsors** reduced to **15%** from **25%**
- Credit Rating Agencies can monitor the utilisation of issue proceeds from **preferential issues** and Qualified Institutional Placement (**QIP**) for issue size exceeding **Rs 100 crore**.
- Alternative Investment Funds (**AIF**) Regulations 2012 altered to ensure asset managers specify the date of closure of the scheme
- Net-settlement can be made between **equity cash and derivatives segments**
- Mutual fund (**MF**) units brought under the ambit of **prohibition of insider trading (PIT) Regulations, 2015**
- Schemes of arrangement for listed debt to require **SEBI approval**

Relaxation of open offer pricing formula

- Going Forward, 60-day volume weighted average price (**VWAP**) requirement for **open offers** will be applicable only to private sector firms
- Objective: To boost the public sector undertaking (PSU) disinvestment process

New optional framework to appoint/remove independent directors

- Present Requirement: a special resolution with 75% of 'yes' votes to appoint or remove an independent director from a company's board.
- Going forward, companies can adopt '**majority of minority**' vote method

Winding Down Process for Clearing Corporations

- Clearing Corporations should register as stock brokers under the **debt segment** with **SEBI** or be run by **SEBI-registered brokers**.
- Purpose: to facilitate online bond platforms.

| S.No. | Key Terms | Key Information |
|-------|-----------|---|
| 1 | QIP | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduced by SEBI in India in 2006A fund raising tool used by companies to issue equity shares, fully and partly convertible debentures, or any other securities other than warrants which are convertible to equity shares to a Qualified Institutional Buyer (QIB). |
| 2 | VWAP | <ul style="list-style-type: none">The average price of a stock over a period of time, adjusted for the volume of stock traded during any given point in a day.Formula: (Cumulative (Price * Volume) ÷ (Cumulative Volume)) = VWAP |

3.2 Mutual Funds

News 1

- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has extended the **two-factor authentication (2FA)** for **subscription transactions** in the **units of mutual funds**.
- The framework will come into effect from **April 1, 2023**.

Key Guidelines

- **2FA (online transactions) and signature method (offline transactions)** will be used for **authentication** by Asset Management Companies (**AMCs**) for subscription of units
- A one-time password will be sent to the unit holder to **authenticate non-demat transactions**
- For demat transactions, the process of **2FA** as laid down by the **depositaries** will be followed
- For systematic transactions, authentication will be applicable only at the time of registration

Background

- At present, All **AMCs** follow the **2FA authentication process for redemption of mutual fund units.**
- **2FA for redemption of mutual fund units** implemented with effect from **1 June 2022** for transactions outside stock exchange platforms and from **1 July 2022** for transactions on stock exchange platforms.

News 2

- Recently, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has **reduced the timeline of the payout of redemption and dividends to mutual fund unit holders.**
- **Timeline for redemption payout:** reduced to 3 working days from 10 working days.
- **Timeline for dividends payout:** reduced to 7 working days from 15 working days.

Additional Information

- The number of Systematic Investment Plan (**SIP**) accounts stood at an **all-time high at 5.71 crore.**
- The second highest was recorded at June 2022 (5.61 crore).

3.3 Portfolio Managers

Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has **tightened the norms for portfolio managers** to ensure **effective fund management.**
- The new norms will come into effect from **April 1, 2023.**
- The guidelines will be **implemented by Association of Portfolio Managers in India.**

Guidelines for Portfolio Managers

- **Portfolio Managers** with Assets Under Management (**AUM**) of **Rs 1000 crores or more** under **discretionary and non-discretionary services**, must have an **automated system** with **minimal manual intervention.**
- An **Audit trail** of all the **activities related to fund management** viz, order placement, trade execution and allocation should be maintained.
- **Specific Policies** with respect to the **management of client funds** including the **order placement, execution of orders, trade allocation amongst clients and other related matters** should be framed
- **Portfolio Managers** must place certain **margins/ collaterals** in executing certain transactions.
- The details of **segregation of margin** amongst clients will be provided by the **Portfolio Management Services (PMS) provider.**
- **Portfolio Managers** should ensure that the '**dealing team**' responsible for order placement and execution has restricted access to mobile phones, computers and other devices.

3.4 BSE SME platform

Why in News?

- Recently, **eight new companies** have been **listed** on the **BSE SME (Small & Medium Enterprises) platform.**
- With this, the **BSE SME platform** has achieved the **milestone of 400 Listed Companies.**
- The **listing ceremony** of the 400th company was held in **Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

- Established in March 2012
- It enables the listing of SMEs from the unorganized sector into a regulated and organized sector.
- It enables SMEs listed on the platform to migrate into the Main Board of BSE

3.5 Demat Debit and Pledge Instruction (DDPI) System

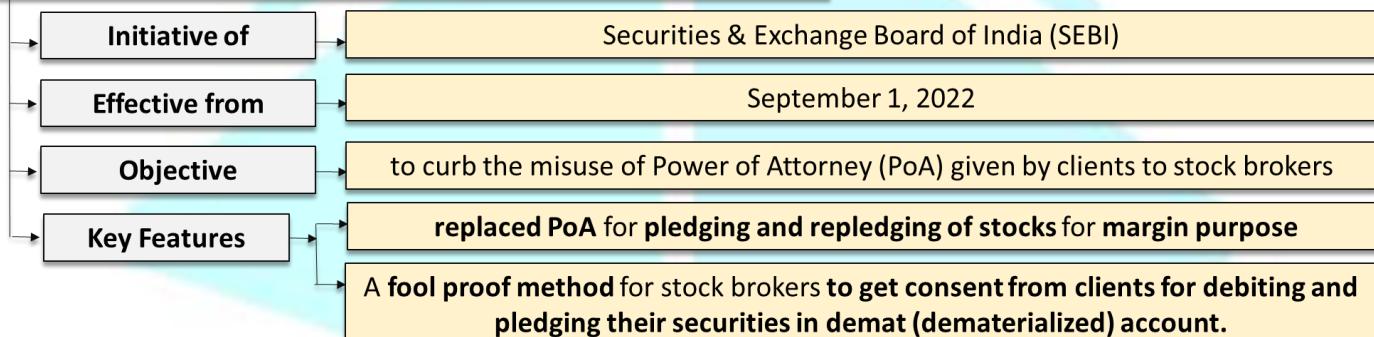
Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has widened the scope of the Demat Debit and Pledge Instruction (DDPI) for pledging and repledging of securities for margin purposes.
- **Objective:** to curb the misuse of Power of Attorney (PoA) given by clients to stock brokers.
- The new guidelines would come into effect from November 18, 2022.

Key Guidelines

| Particulars | Key Information |
|-------------|--|
| Scope | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DDPI now includes the following transactions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mutual fund transactions executed on stock exchange order entry platforms ○ Tendering of shares in open offers through stock exchange platforms |

Demat Debit and Pledge Instruction (DDPI) System



Key Guidelines

- A client can use DDPI system to authorize the stock broker and depository participant to access their beneficiary ownership account (BOA)
- Such authorization will be provided only for limited purposes viz, meeting pay-in obligations for settlement of trade executed by stock broker & depository participant

Two Purposes of DDPI System

- For the transfer of securities held in the BoA of the client towards stock exchange related deliveries or settlement obligations
- For pledging/re-pledging of securities in favor of the broker to meet margin calls
- DDPI can be executed only if the client provides explicit consent, including for internet-based trading
- A client can use the DDPI or opt to complete the settlement by issuing physical Delivery Instruction Slip (DIS) or electronic Delivery Instruction Slip (eDIS) themselves
- The existing PoAs will continue to remain valid till the time the client revokes the same

3.6 Commodity Derivatives Advisory Committee (CDAC)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has **reconstituted** the **Commodity Derivatives Advisory Committee (CDAC)**.
- Committee Chairperson:** Dr. Ashok Dalwai (IAS Retd.); **Total Members:** 16 (previously 17).
- Key Terms of Reference of the Committee**
 - To review the developments in Commodity Derivatives market
 - To examine issues related to contract designs and new products in Commodity Derivatives
 - To advise on matters related to Delivery mechanism and Warehouses.

3.7 Alternative Investment Policy Advisory Committee (AIPAC)

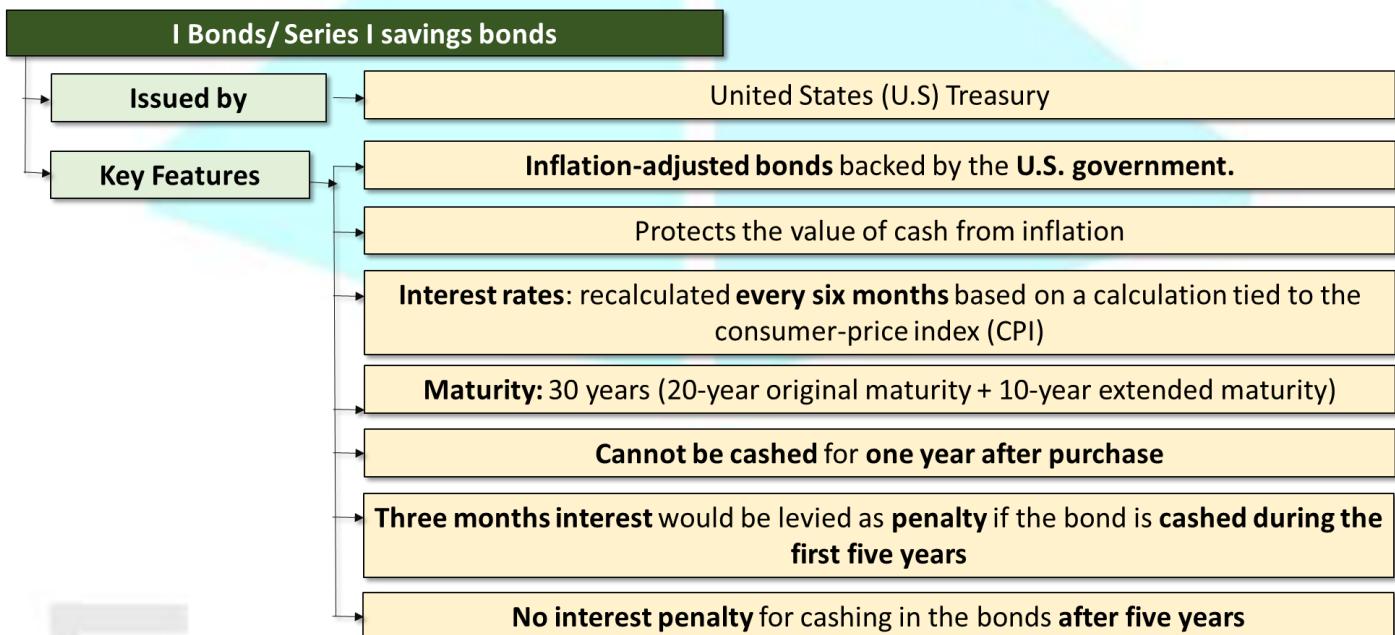
Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has **reconstituted** the **Alternative Investment Policy Advisory Committee (AIPAC)**.
- Committee Chairperson:** N.R. Narayana Murthy, Founder, Infosys Limited; **Total Members:** 20
- Key Terms of Reference of the Committee:** To advise SEBI on the issues related to further development of the alternative investment and startup ecosystem in India.

3.8 I Bonds

Why in News?

- More than USD 22.3 billion worth of I Bonds have been bought in 2022 through September on the United States (US) Treasury Department website.



3.9 Government Securities (G-Secs)

Why in News?

- According to a statement by ICRA, **14 state governments** have recently **raised Rs 25,200 crore** through **state government securities (SGS)**.
- It is the **2nd largest auction so far in FY23**.
- Breakup of the auction in terms of tenor:**
 - Longer Tenor:** 13,000 crore (52% of the total auction)
 - 10 year bucket:** Rs 6,900 crore (27%)

- **Shorter tenor:** Rs 5,300 crore (21%)

Government Securities(G-Secs)

➤ A tradeable instrument issued by the **Central Government or the State Governments**

➤ Also known as **risk-free gilt-edged instruments** as they carry **no risk of default**

Types of G-Secs based on tenor

➤ **Short Term (Treasury Bills):** original maturity of **less than one year.**

➤ **Long Term (Government bonds or dated securities):** original maturity of **one year or more**

➤ **Central Government issues both,** treasury bills and bonds or dated securities

➤ **State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities,** known as **State Development Loans (SDLs)**

3.10 Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Bombay Stock Exchange (**BSE**) has launched Electronic Gold Receipt (**EGR**) on its platform.
- BSE has introduced **two new products of 995 and 999 purity** during the **Muhurat trading on Diwali.**
- With this, BSE has completed **India's first successful EGR transaction.**

Key Features of EGR Market

| Features | Key Details |
|-------------------------|---|
| Trading Quantity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiples of 1 gram |
| Deliveries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiples of 10 gram and 100 gram |
| Market Timings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am to 9.30 pm |
| Settlement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T+1 (transaction date plus one day) settlement. |

Background

- India is the **second largest consumer of Gold** in the World **after China.**
 - **India's annual gold demand:** approximately 800-900 tonnes.
- Despite being the second largest consumer, India has remained only as a price-taker in the global markets.
- To address this issue, **Government of India** have **authorized the introduction of a gold exchange** where **Gold will be traded in Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR)** form on Indian exchanges.

Note: EGR discussed in September 2022 CA Magazine (News 3.7)

3.11 KYC Registration Agency (KRA)

Why in News?

- Recently, **BSE Technologies**, a subsidiary of BSE, has launched **KYC Registration Agency (KRA)**.
- **A SEBI-regulated intermediary**
- **Maintains Know Your Customer (KYC) records of investors in an electronic form**
- **Grants the market participants authorisation for investors' KYC**

- Issued by **SEBI** in April 2022
- KRAs must **independently validate the KYC records** of all clients whose KYC has been completed using **Aadhaar** as an **Officially Valid Document (OVD)**.
- The records of clients who have completed KYC using non-Aadhaar OVD will be **validated only upon receiving the Aadhaar number**.
- The Guidelines came into effect from **1st July 2022**

3.12 Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Securities & Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has extended the **deadline** for the second time to implement the **Rs 25 crore-threshold rule** for **direct ETF transactions** with Asset Management Companies (**AMCs**).
- The rule would **come into effect from May 1, 2023.**

Background

- SEBI had earlier decided that **direct transactions with AMCs** will be facilitated for investors only when the **transaction amount is greater than Rs 25 crore**.
- **Objective:** to enhance liquidity in units of ETFs on stock exchange platforms.

Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)

- A basket of securities (indices)
- ETFs are traded on a stock exchanges
- It is similar to a close-ended mutual funds listed on stock exchanges.

3.13 Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (**IEPFA**) has organised an **Investor Education, Awareness and Protection Conference** at **Kashmir International Conference** at Srinagar.

Initiatives launched during the event

| Initiatives | Key Details |
|---|---|
| IEPFA Mascot | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mascot Name: Fundoo • Finalized through a contest on MyGov platform |
| Niveshak Didi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative of: IEPFA, India Post Payment Bank (IPPB) • Investor Education will be promoted in “By the women, for the women” concept. |
| Niveshak Sarathi (investor awareness van) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative of: IEPFA • Aim: to promote financial literacy among people in far-flung areas |

75 dedicated Investor Awareness Programmes (IAPs) in Jammu & Kashmir

- Initiative of: IEPFA

Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Established in | September, 2016 |
| Established under | Section 125(5) of Companies Act, 2013 |
| Ministry | Ministry of Corporate Affairs |
| Objectives | To promote Investor Education, Awareness and Protection and administer the IEPF fund. |

- IEPF fund is primarily used to refund shares, unclaimed dividends, matured deposits/debentures etc

Banking System in India

3.14 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Government of India has issued **draft guidelines for RRBs to raise funds via Initial Public Offerings (IPOs)**.

Eligibility Criteria for RRBs to raise capital via IPO

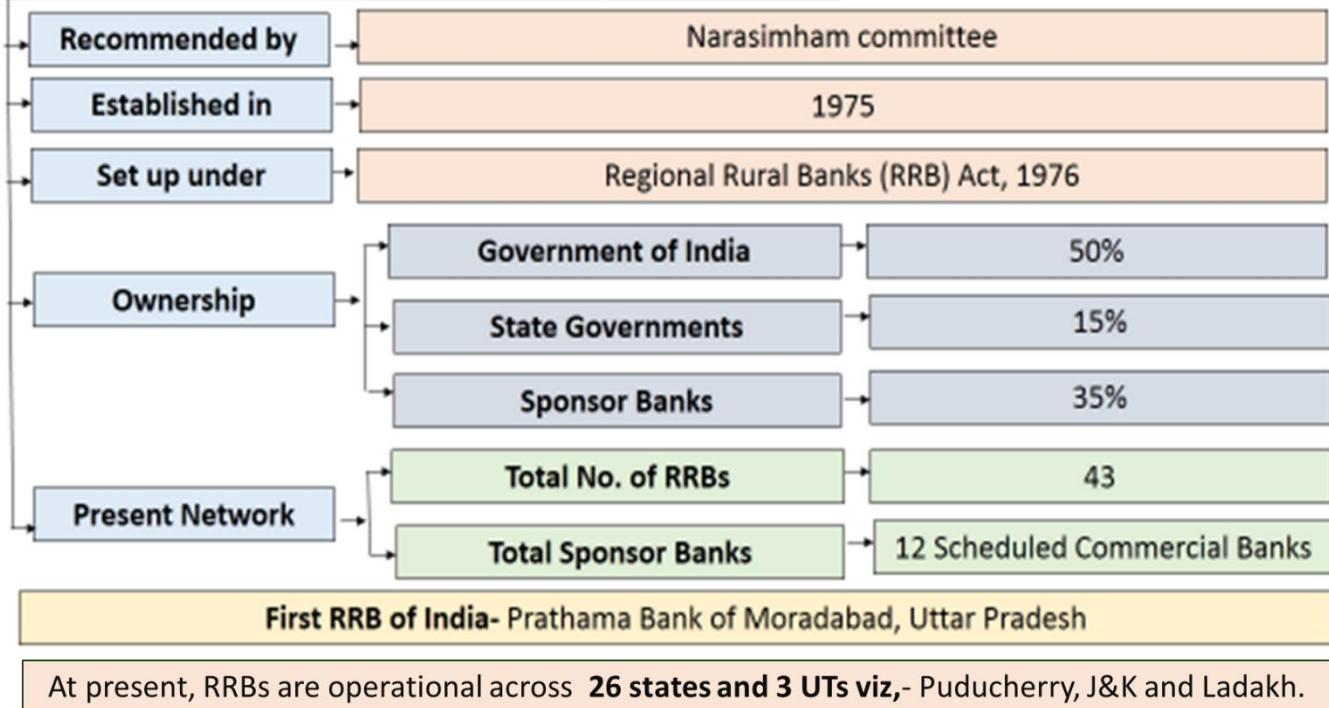
| Parameter | Criteria |
|---|---|
| Minimum Networth | Rs 300 crore in each of the preceding 3 years |
| Minimum Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio | Above the regulatory requirement of 9% in each of the preceding 3 years |
| Minimum Profit | Rs 15 crore for at least 3 out of previous 5 years. |
| Minimum Return on Equity | 10% in 3 out of preceding 5 years |
| Minimum Return on Assets | 0.5% in 3 out of preceding 5 years. |
| Accumulated losses | RRBs should not have any accumulated losses |

- The sponsor banks will identify suitable lenders for IPO of an RRB if it satisfies all the criteria

Background

- In 2015, RRB Act was amended to permit RRBs to raise capital from sources other than the Centre, states and sponsor banks.
- Till now, RRBs had the option to issue perpetual debt instruments as another way to obtain regulatory capital.
- Such instruments are eligible for inclusion as extra tier-1 capital, subject to certain restrictions.

Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)



3.15 Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

Why in News?

- Recently, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has celebrated its **6th Annual Day** on **1st October, 2022**.
- An annual publication titled '**IBC: Idea, Impressions and Implementation**' was released to mark the occasion.

Note: IBBI discussed in September 2022 CA Magazine (News 3.24)

3.16 Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has amended the **Regulatory Framework for Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)** to strengthen the securitisation sector.
- Amendment recommended by:** Committee on functioning of ARCs.
- Effective from:** October 11, 2022

Key Amendments

| Particulars | Key Details |
|--|---|
| Net Owned Fund (NOF)/ Capital Requirement to set up an ARC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Minimum NOF: Rs 300 crore Previous Minimum NOF: Rs 100 crore |
| Glide Path for existing ARCs to meet the minimum NOF requirement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs 200 crore by March 31, 2024 Rs 300 crore by March 31, 2026 |
| Constitution of an audit committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The audit committee of the board of an ARC should comprise non-executive directors only |
| Settlement of dues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dues can be settled with the borrower only after being examined by an Independent Advisory Committee (IAC). |
| Management fee/ incentives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management fee/ incentives levied towards the asset reconstruction or Securitisation activity should be only |

from the recovery effected from the underlying financial assets.

Asset Reconstruction Company

- A specialized financial institution that buys non-performing assets (NPAs) & bad loans from banks
- Registered under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Regulated under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002)

About Committee on functioning of ARCs

- Constituted in: April 2021; Committee Head: Sudarshan Sen; Total Members: Six

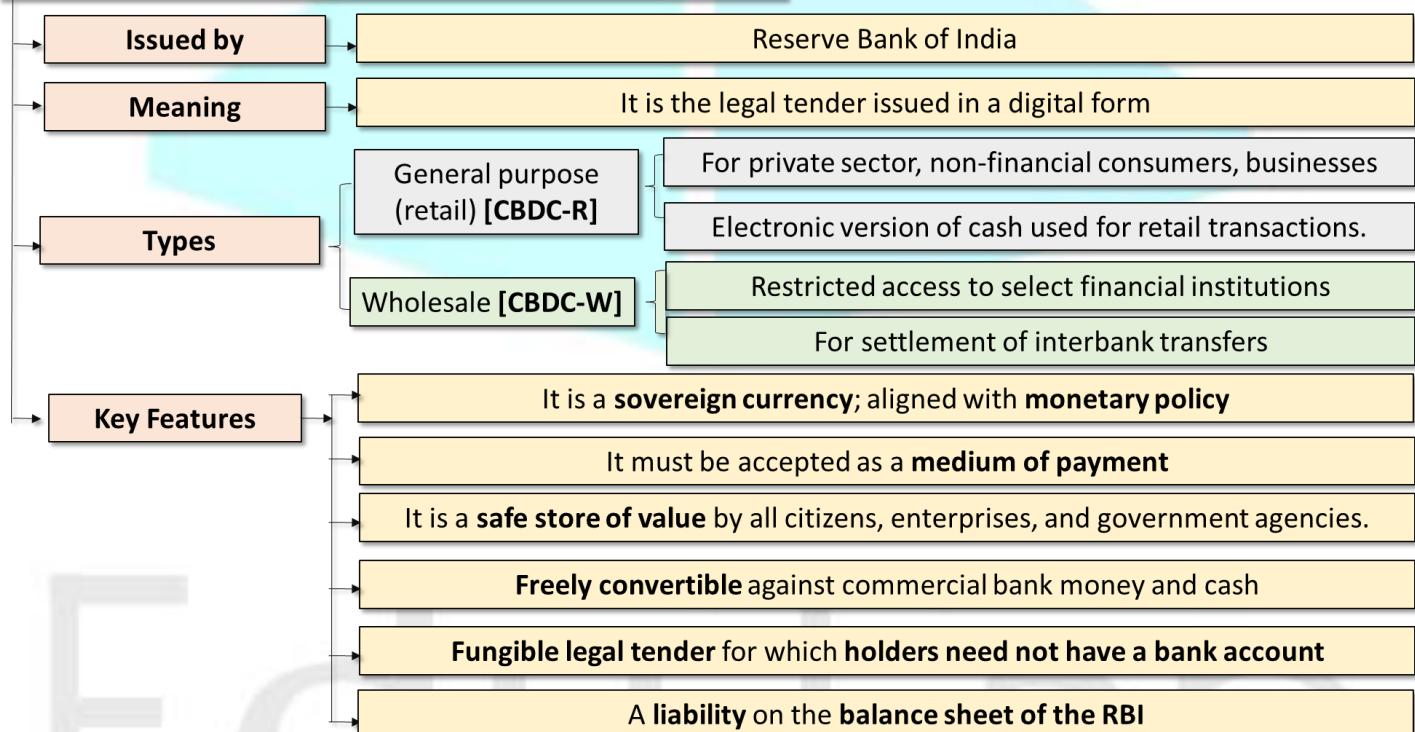
FinTech

3.17 Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)/ Digital Rupee (eRs)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has confirmed the commencement of limited pilot launches of the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or Digital Rupee (eRs).
- In this regard, RBI has released a concept note on the CBDC.
 - **Objective:** to create awareness about CBDCs in general and the planned features of the digital Rupee, in particular.

Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)/ Digital Rupee (eRs)



3.18 RuPay Credit Cards

Why in News?

- Recently, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has informed that no Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) or charges will be levied for RuPay credit card use on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for transactions up to Rs 2,000.

- The decision is in line with Reserve Bank of India's approval to link RuPay credit cards with UPI.

About MDR

- It is the cost paid by a merchant to a bank for accepting payments via credit or debit cards every time a card is used for payments.

Note: NPCI & UPI via RuPay Credit cards discussed in September 2022 CA Magazine (News 3.17 & News 3.14 respectively).

3.19 Reserve Bank Innovation Hub

Why in News?

- Recently, IDBI Bank, on its **59th Foundation Day**, has launched the following initiatives-
 - DigiKCC platform for digitization of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC)**
 - Initially launched in **Maharashtra**
 - Warehouse Receipt Processing System or WPS**
 - Upgradation of mobile app GO Mobile+** for the benefit of its senior citizen customers.

Additional Information

- In **September 2022**, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had launched **pilot projects** developed by **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)**.
 - Objective:** to digitise KCC in select districts of Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
 - Partner Institutions:** Union Bank of India (Madhya Pradesh) & Federal Bank (Tamil Nadu).
- Union Bank of India** announced **digitalization of KCC** as part of its **digital transformation project – 'Sambhav'**

| Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Launched in | March 2022 |
| Initiative of | RBI |
| Aim | to create an ecosystem that focuses on promoting access to financial services and products for the low-income population in India |
| Location | Bengaluru, Karnataka |
| Chairman | Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan |
| Initial Capital | Rs 100 crore |

3.20 Inter-operable Regulatory Sandbox (IoRS)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) & Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) have separately issued the standard operating procedures (**SOPs**) for **Inter-Operable Regulatory Sandbox**.

What is IoRS ?

- A mechanism to facilitate testing of innovative hybrid financial products / services falling within the regulatory ambit of more than one financial sector regulator

SOPs for Inter-Operable Regulatory Sandbox

| Particulars | Key Details |
|-------------|--|
| Prepared by | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-Regulatory Technical Group (IRTG) on fin-tech |

| | |
|---|--|
| IoRS Participants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The financial regulators that are members of the IRTG on FinTech have consented to participate in the IoRS arrangement under the aegis of IRTG on FinTech. |
| Eligibility to get admitted in IoRS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial products / service providers whose business models /activities / features fall within the remit of more than one financial sector regulator viz, RBI, SEBI, IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India), PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority) and IFSCA (International Financial Services Centres Authority) |
| FinTech Department of RBI | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nodal point for receiving applications under IoRS The 'Coordination Group (CG)' for IoRS It would provide secretarial support |
| Application for IoRS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be 'on tap basis' in a prescribed application form. |
| Principal Regulator (PR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RS framework of the regulator under whose remit the dominant feature of the product falls, shall govern it as Principal Regulator (PR). |
| Associate Regulator (AR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regulator/s under whose remit the other features apart from the dominant feature of the product fall shall be the Associate Regulator (AR). |
| Two set of factors for deciding dominant feature | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The type of enhancement to the existing products like loans, deposits, capital market instruments, insurance, G-sec instruments, pension products, etc., The number of relaxations sought by the entity for undertaking the test under the IoRS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dominant feature shall be decided with greater weightage to the number of relaxations sought. The relaxation, if warranted, shall be considered by PR / AR on case-to-case basis and decision to that effect shall be binding and final. |
| Eligibility and networth criteria for the applicant entity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the dominant features of the product, the eligibility criteria and networth criteria as applicable for the RS of the concerned regulator (PR) shall be applicable to the applicant entity to participate in the IoRS. |
| Preliminary Scrutiny of the Application | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will be carried out by the Coordination Group (CG) on the basis of minimum eligibility criteria of the regulator under whose remit the dominant feature of the product falls. CG would forward the same to the concerned PR and AR(s) under whose purview the innovation falls. |
| Detailed scrutiny of the application | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be done by the PR based on its own framework. PR must co-ordinate with AR(s), regarding the features of the product, which falls under their remit. |

| | |
|--|--|
| Procedure if SEBI is the AR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If SEBI is the AR, the unregistered applicant may get into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or any other arrangement with a SEBI registered entity to participate in IoRS. This is because SEBI Act allows only SEBI registered entities to participate in their RS. |
| Application Referrals to IFSCA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFSCA will be the PR for applications from Indian FinTechs with global ambition and foreign FinTechs seeking entry to India. Such applications shall be referred to IFSCA |
| Role of PR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PR shall reserve the right of admissibility of the hybrid product / solution / innovation as per its RS framework and communicate to the applicant. The decision to that effect shall also be communicated to CG / IRTG on FinTech, for information. |
| Role of AR (s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AR(s) shall provide specific inputs, stipulate condition regarding aspects falling under its remit for parameters to be tested, boundary condition, risks to be monitored, etc. The inputs must be provided within 30 days from receipt of reference from the PR. |
| Finalization of Test design | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to be finalized by PR in consultation with the AR. |
| Sorting of coordination issues between PR and AR(s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The issues related to common views on the regulatory treatment of innovative products, services and business models must be discussed and sorted out in the IRTG on FinTech before initiation of the live testing under IoRS. |
| Progress of the products being tested under IoRS. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be monitored in subsequent meetings by IRTG on FinTech |
| Product Evaluation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be done as per the framework of the PR |
| Exit from IoRS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After exiting IoRS, an entity must approach PR and AR(s) to seek authorization & regulatory dispensation before launching the product. The decision of respective regulator shall be binding on the entity. The product being admitted and successfully exiting the IoRS shall be published by the regulator concerned, specifically indicating that, it is under IoRS of IRTG on FinTech |

Inter-Regulatory Technical Group on FinTech (IRTG on FinTech)

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Constituted under | Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC-SC) |
| Chairperson | Chief General Manager of the FinTech Department, RBI |
| Other Members | Representation from SEBI, IRDAI, IFSCA and PFRDA one representative each from Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). |
| Objective | To promote Inter-regulatory co-ordination among the financial sector regulators on FinTech-related issues including IoRS |
| Key Mandates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to suggest models on IoRS mechanism for hybrid products / services falling within the remit of more than one regulator to facilitate framing Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for IoRS. |

Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC-SC)

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Head | The Governor of the RBI |
| Other Members | All members of the FSDC, All four Deputy Governors (DG) of the RBI, Additional Secretary in DEA. |
| Member Secretary | Executive Director (ED), RBI (in-charge-of Financial Stability) |
| Secretariat | Financial Stability Unit (FSU) of RBI |

Note: FSDC discussed in September CA Magazine (News 2.76)

3.21 Decentralized Finance (DeFi)

Decentralized Finance (DeFi)

- An umbrella term for peer-to-peer financial services on public blockchains.
- Operates without a central authority or intermediaries viz, banks, brokerages, credit card companies
- Users can directly access the financial services through decentralized networks built on blockchain
- Powered by decentralized apps called **dapps**, or other programs called **protocols**.

Recent Development in Financial Sector

3.22 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) guidelines for 2022-23 (FY23)

Why in News?

- Recently, the **Department of Public Enterprises**, under the Ministry of Finance, has released **revised memorandum of understanding (MoU) guidelines for 2022-23 (FY23)**.

Revised Guidelines

- Listed central public sector undertakings (**CPSEs**) no longer required to increase their share price over the BSE Sectoral Index.
- It has been replaced by a new criteria -total return to shareholder (**TRS**)
- **TRS Parameters:** appreciation in stock value, dividends paid, redemption of bonus preference shares, bonus debentures, and interest on bonus debentures.

- CPSE's to be **benchmarked** on the basis of the **performance** of the **top/bottom 25 companies** on the **S&P BSE 500 Index** in order of **market capitalisation (m-cap)**.
- Acceptance/rejection of goods & respective bills/invoices through the Trade Receivables Discounting System (**TReDS**) portal must be done within **15 days** of delivery of goods/rendering of services.

REVISED PARAMETERS

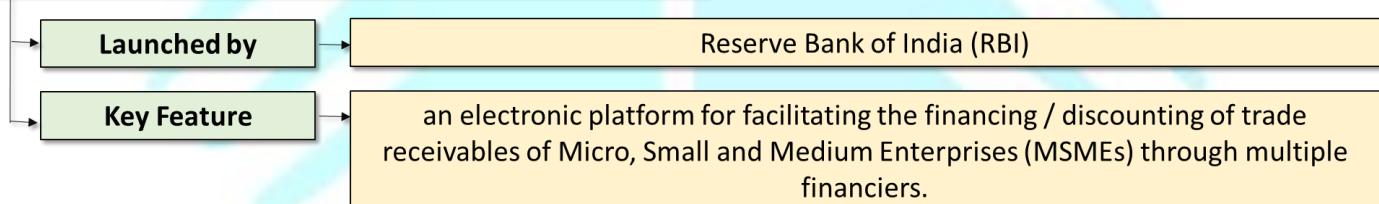
| | Earlier | New |
|--|---------|-----|
| Exports as % of revenue from operations | 5 | 4 |
| Imports as % of revenue from operations | 5 | 4 |
| 90% capex till the end of Q3 | 3 | 0 |
| Procurement from GeM portal | -2 | 2 |
| Acceptance/rejection of goods via TReDS portal | 0 | 5 |

Source: Department of Public Enterprises

Key Information

| Particulars | Key Information |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Procurement target through GeM Portal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of India has set 100% procurement target through Government e-Marketplace (GeM) by the end of 2022-23. |

Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) portal



Note: GeM discussed in September 2022 CA Magazine (News 2.67)

Financial Inclusion

3.23 Digital Banking Units (DBUs)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India has virtually launched **75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs)** across **75 districts of India** to **deepen financial inclusion & enhance banking experience**

Key Information Shared

| Particulars | Key Details |
|---|--|
| Government of India's two focus areas to improve banking services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reforming, strengthening, and making the banking system transparent Financial Inclusion |

75 Digital Banking Units (DBU) across 75 districts

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| → Objective | to ensure benefits of digital banking reach every nook and corner of the country |
| → Participants | 11 Public Sector Banks, 12 Private Sector Banks and 1 Small Finance Bank |
| → Scope | Covers all States/UTs |
| → Key Features | <ul style="list-style-type: none">DBUs are brick-and-mortar outlets that provides various digital banking facilities viz, opening of savings account, funds transfer, etc.DBUs will spread digital financial literacySpecial emphasis would be provided to customer education on cyber security awareness and safeguards. |

Background

- The idea to setup 75 DBUs in 75 districts was proposed in the **Union Budget 2022-23** to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence (**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**).

Reserve Bank of India – Functions

3.24 DAKSH Initiative

Why in News?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has launched a **new 'SupTech' initiative** called **DAKSH**.

DAKSH

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| → Initiative of | Reserve Bank of India |
| → Objective | to further increase the compliance culture in Supervised Entities(SEs) |
| → Key Features | <ul style="list-style-type: none">An Advanced Supervisory Monitoring Systema web-based end-to-end workflow application |
| → Key Benefit | The portal will enable RBI to monitor compliance requirements with more focus |

4 Static

4.1 List of Important Organizations with Headquarters

| S.No. | Organization Name | Headquarters | Establishment Date/Year | Head |
|-------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1. | NAFED | New Delhi | 1958 | Dr. Bijendra Singh (Chairman) |
| 2. | NABARD | Mumbai | 1982 | Shri Suchindra Misra (Chairman) |
| 3. | EXIM Bank | Mumbai | 1982 | Harsa Bangari (MD) |
| 4. | Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | 1964 | Dr Javad Mottaghi (Secretary General) |

| | | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| 5. | UNHCR | Geneva, Switzerland | 1950 | Filippo Grandi (High Commissioner for Refugees) |
| 6. | SIDBI | Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh | 1990 | Sivasubramanian Ramann (Chairman & MD) |
| 7. | Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) | New Delhi | March 11, 1987 | Pradip Kumar Das (Chairman & Managing Director) |
| 8. | European Union (EU) | Brussels, Belgium and Luxembourg | November 1, 1993 | Current President: Charles Michel |
| 9. | UN | New York, USA | October 24, 1945 | Antonio Guterres (Secretary-General) |
| 10. | UNEP | Nairobi, Kenya | June 5, 1972 | Inger Andersen (Executive-Director) |
| 11. | UNICEF | New York | December 11, 1946 | Catherine M. Russell |
| 12. | NHRC | New Delhi | October 12, 1993 | Justice Arun Kumar Mishra (Chairperson) |
| 13. | IUCN | Gland, Switzerland | October 5, 1948 | Razan Al Mubarak (President) |
| 14. | Interpol | Lyon, France | September 7, 1923 | Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi (President) |
| 15. | NGT | New Delhi, India | 2010 | Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel |
| 16. | World Bank | Washington DC | 1944 | David Malpass (President) |
| 17. | UIDAI | New Delhi | 2009 | Dr. Saurabh Garg (CEO) |
| 18. | WEF | Cologny, Geneva Switzerland | 1971 | Klaus Schwab (Executive Chairman) |
| 19. | IMF | Washington DC | 1944 | Kritalina Georgieva (CMD) |
| 20. | International Solar Alliance (ISA) | Gurugram, Haryana | November 30, 2015 | Ajay Mathur (Director General) |
| 21. | FIFA | Zurich, Switzerland | 1904 | Gianni Infantino (President) |
| 22. | FIBA | Mies, Switzerland | 1932 | Hamane Niang (President) |
| 23. | FIH | Lausanne, Switzerland | 1924 | Thierry Weil (CEO) |

| | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| 24. | IOA | New Delhi | 1927 | Anil Khanna (Acting President) |
| 25. | Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) | Geneva, Switzerland | 1889 | Duarte Pacheco (President) |
| 26. | ISSF | Munich, Germany | 1907 | Vladimir Lisin (President) |
| 27. | World Athletics (WA) | Monaco | 1912 | Sebastian Coe (President) |
| 28. | World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) | Montreal, Canada | 1999 | Witold Bańka (President) |
| 29. | ITPO | New Delhi | 1992 | Pradeep Singh Kharola (Chairman & Managing Director) |
| 30. | IUGS | Beijing, China | 1961 | Prof. Dr. Stanley C. Finney (Secretary General) |
| 31. | UNESCO | Paris, France | 1945 | Audrey Azoulay (Director General) |
| 32. | ECI | New Delhi | 25 th January 1950 | Rajiv Kumar |
| 33. | BCCI | Mumbai | 1928 | Roger Binny (President) |
| 34. | Twitter | San Francisco, California, United States | 2006 | Elon Musk (CEO) |
| 35. | ICAR- Sugarcane Breeding Institute | Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu | 1912 | Dr. G. Hemaprabha (Director) |
| 36. | ICAO | Montreal, Canada | 1944 | Juan Carlos Salazar (Secretary General) |

4.2 Countries in News

| S.No | Country | Currency | Capital |
|------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Maldives | Rufiya | Male |
| 2. | Argentina | Argentine peso | Buenos Aires |
| 3. | Mexico | Mexican peso | Mexico City |
| 4. | Saudi Arabia | Saudi Riyal | Riyadh |
| 5. | Ukraine | Hryvnia | Kyiv |
| 6. | Spain | Euro | Madrid |
| 7. | Iran | Iranian Rial | Tehran |
| 8. | Oman | Omani Rial | Muscat |
| 9. | New Zealand | New Zealand Dollar | Wellington |

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 10. | Armenia | Dram | Yerevan |
| 11. | Azerbaijan | Manat | Baku |
| 12. | Malaysia | Ringgit | Kuala Lumpur |
| 13. | Japan | Yen | Tokyo |
| 14. | United States of America | U.S. Dollar | Washington D.C. |
| 15. | Sri Lanka | Sri Lankan Rupee | Colombo |
| 16. | Bangladesh | Taka | Dhaka |
| 17. | Kenya | Shilling | Nairobi |
| 18. | Norway | Krone | Oslo |
| 19. | Uganda | Shilling | Kampala |
| 20. | Brazil | Real | Brasilia |
| 21. | South Africa | Rand | Cape Town, Pretoria and Bloemfontein |
| 22. | Serbia | Serbian Dinar | Belgrade |
| 23. | United Kingdom | Pound Sterling | London |
| 24. | France | Franc, Euro | Paris |
| 25. | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Bosnia-Herzegovina Convertible Marka | Sarajevo |
| 26. | Burkina Faso | West African CFA franc | Ouagadougou |
| 27. | Kuwait | Kuwaiti dinar | Kuwait City |
| 28. | Guinea | Guinean franc | Conakry |
| 29. | Slovakia | Euro | Bratislava |
| 30. | Israel | Israeli New Shekel | Jerusalem |
| 31. | Lebanon | Lebanese pound | Beirut |
| 32. | Indonesia | Indonesia Rupiah | Jakarta |
| 33. | Sweden | Swedish Krona | Stockholm |
| 34. | Pakistan | Pakistani rupee | Islamabad |
| 35. | China | Beijing | Renminbi |
| 36. | USA | US dollar | Washington DC |
| 37. | Russia | Russian ruble | Moscow |
| 38. | UK | Pound Stirling | London |
| 39. | Netherlands | Euro | Amsterdam |
| 40. | UAE | UAE Dirham | Abu Dhabi |
| 41. | Greece | Euro | Athens |
| 42. | Mauritius | Mauritian Rupee | Port Louis |

4.3 Banks in News

| S.No | Bank | Headquarters | Managing Director (MD)/Chief Executive Officer (CEO) | Tagline |
|------|---------------------|---------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 1. | HDFC Bank | Mumbai, Maharashtra | Sashidhar Jagdishan | We Understand Your World |
| 2. | State Bank of India | Mumbai, Maharashtra | Dinesh Kumar Khara (Chairman) | Pure Banking, Nothing Else |

| | | | | |
|----|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 3. | IDBI Bank | Mumbai | Rakesh Sharma (CEO) | Aao Sochein Bada |
| 4. | RBL Bank | Mumbai | R. Subramaniakumar | Apno Ka Bank |
| 5. | IndusInd Bank | Mumbai, Maharashtra | Sumant Kathpalia (CEO) | We Care Dil Se |
| 6. | Kotak Mahindra Bank | Mumbai, Maharashtra | Uday Kotak (CEO) | Let's Make Money Simple |
| 7. | Karnataka Bank | Mangaluru, Karnataka | Mahabaleshwara M.S. (CEO) | Your Family Bank Across India |
| 8. | ICICI Bank | Vadodara, Gujarat | Sandeep Bakshi | Khayal Aapka |
| 9. | Indian Bank | Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Shanti Lal Jain | Your Own Bank, Banking That's Twice As Good |





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Mr. Amol Darade



Mr. Ankith



Mr. Deepak Kumar



Mr. Gowtham



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Mr. Vinayak Langote



Ms. Arti Shukla



Mr. Nimish



Mr. Nithin



Mr. Prajakt Dhawale



Mr. Pravin



Ms. Dharana



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Mr. Aman Choudhary



Mr. Arun Sharma



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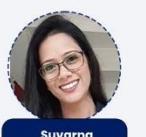
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