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# JANUARY 2022



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# Current Affairs Pocket PDF – January 2022

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# NATIONAL AFFAIRS

## CABINET APPROVALS

### Cabinet approval on January 6, 2022

Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the following proposals which were detailed by Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).

- ✓ Cabinet approves Intra-State Transmission System – GEC Phase-II worth Rs 12,031.33cr in 7 states.
- ✓ Cabinet approves MoU between India and Turkmenistan on Cooperation in Disaster Management.
- ✓ Cabinet approves agreement between India and Spain on Cooperation in Customs Matters.
- ✓ Cabinet approves MoU between India and Nepal for construction of bridge over Mahakali River...[Click here for more detail](#).....

### Cabinet approval on January 19, 2022

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi approved the following proposals the details of which were briefed by Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).

- ✓ Cabinet approves Scheme for grant of ex-gratia payment of Rs 973.74cr to SBI for moratorium during COVID-19.
- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the PM approved the equity infusion of Rs 1500 crore in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA).
- ✓ The Cabinet has extended the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NSCK) by three years up to March 31, 2025 w.e.f. April 1, 2022...[Click here for more detail](#)...

## STATEWISE NATIONAL NEWS

### Andhra Pradesh

#### Andhra Pradesh Cabinet clears creation of 13 more Districts; takes total to 26

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh (AP) has given its approval to increase the number of districts in the state to 26 from the existing 13. The process for the creation of 13 new districts will be completed by Telugu New Year in April 2022. The last new district created in undivided AP was Vizianagram district in 1979.

### Assam

#### NHM launches project 'Niramay' in Assam

National Health Mission (NHM), Assam in collaboration with Piramal Swasthya, a non-profit organisation, and Cisco launched pilot project 'Niramay' to digitise the public healthcare delivery in Assam. The Project Niramay covers health and wellness centres, block primary health centres and district hospitals at three local districts – Baksa, Barpeta, and Darrang.

### Bihar

#### Amir Subhani named as new Chief Secretary of Bihar; Succeeds Tripurari Sharan

In accordance with the General Administration Department of Bihar's notification, the 1987 batch IAS (Indian Administrative Service) topper, Amir Subhani, appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Bihar w.e.f. January 1, 2022 succeeding Tripurari Sharan who retires on December 31, 2021.

- ✓ Prior to this, Amir Subhani was serving as Bihar's development commissioner. He will retire in April 2024.

- ✓ Meanwhile, Additional Chief Secretary of the social welfare department Atul Prasad, an IAS officer of the 1987 batch, has been appointed as new development commissioner.

## Delhi

### Reliance Jio & BP Opens EV Charging Hubs at Delhi; Delhi Govt Launches One-Stop e-vehicle website

Jio-BP, a joint venture of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and energy supermajor BP, named Reliance BP Mobility Limited (RBML) has opened one of India's largest Electronic Vehicle (EV) charging hubs in Dwarka, Delhi with BluSmart as its primary customer. The RBML aims to become a leading EV charging infrastructure player in India.

The Delhi government launched a dedicated one-stop website, "ev.delhi.gov.in" for the promotion and adoption of electric vehicles (EVs).

## Gujarat

### Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel Inaugurated 2-day ICAI-2022; Launched SSIP 2.0, Over 30 MoUs Signed in Education Sector

Gujarat Chief Minister (CM) Bhupendra Patel inaugurated a two-day International Conference of Academic Institutions 2022 (ICAI-2022), which was held at Gujarat Science City campus, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The conference was jointly organised by the Education Department, the Government of Gujarat, the Union Ministry of Education, and the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

## Jammu & Kashmir

### Jerri Settlement in Reasi District Declared as 1<sup>st</sup> Milk Village of J&K

The administration of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) has declared the Jerri settlement (Jerri hamlet) in Reasi district as the first 'Milk Village' of the Union Territory (UT). The administration has also sanctioned 57 additional dairy farms under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS) for the hamlet.

At present the Jerri, the Milk Village, which houses 73 individual dairy units with 370 cows, which provides financial security to the local farmers.

## Jharkhand

### Jharkhand Govt Partners with ISB to Boost Forest Economy

The Jharkhand Government partners with premier city-based B-school, Indian School of Business (ISB) to empower Jharkhand's forest economy and create jobs and wealth through a sustainable development model. Under the partnership, a MoU has been signed by the Department of Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare, the Department of Forests, Jharkhand, along with Bharti Institute of Public Policy (BIPP) at Indian School of Business (ISB).

## Karnataka

### Karnataka launches India's First AVGC CoE in Bengaluru

Dr C N Ashwath Narayan, Department of Electronics Information Technology Biotechnology and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka launched the **India's first AVGC Center of Excellence (CoE)** (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics) in Mahadevapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka. AVGC CoE was launched with pioneering high technology digital media hub under its Innovate Karnataka initiative. It is funded by Department of Electronics Information Technology Biotechnology and Science & Technology.

## Dear Aspirants,

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Course Name	No. of sets	No. of ques
CHL - Data Interpretation	410	2050
CHL - Puzzle & Seating	400	2000
CPL - Data Interpretation	330	1650
CPL - Puzzle & Seating	340	1700
CHL - Arithmetic	85	850
CPL - Arithmetic	195	1950
CHL - Quantitative Aptitude	90	900
CPL - Quantitative Aptitude	140	1400
CHL - Logical Reasoning	80	800
CPL - Logical Reasoning	185	1850
<b>Total</b>	<b>2255</b>	<b>15150</b>
CPL: Crack Prelims Level (Preliminary Exam Focused) CHL: Crack High Level (Mains Exam Focused)		

**Best wishes for your exams, keep working hard and you are sure to be successful.**

## **CM Basavaraj Bommai launches Grama One in 12 districts of Karnataka**

On the occasion of 73<sup>rd</sup> Republic Day i.e. January 26, 2022, the Chief Minister (CM) of Karnataka, Basavaraj Somappa Bommai, virtually launched 'Grama One' from Bengaluru (Karnataka) in 12 districts of Karnataka. It seeks to provide government services under one roof in rural areas. 100 government services are being offered under this.

## **Karnataka Launches 'Brain Health Initiative' 1<sup>st</sup> of its kind in India to Train Doctors in Mental Healthcare**

K Sudhakar, Minister of Medical Education and Health of Karnataka, virtually launched Brain Health Initiative a first-of-its-kind initiative in India, undertaken by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in association with the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog). The initiative aims to help people to cope with mental health issues. Under this initiative, doctors will be trained in screening and treating mental health patients.

## **Odisha**

### **Syntizen Partners with the Odisha Govt to Provide Life Certificates to Pensioners**

Syntizen, a Digital Identity Solutions provider, has partnered with the Odisha government to provide a Video KYC solution in offering life certificates to 5 lakh pension seekers. Odisha is the first State in India to implement a digital process which includes Aadhaar Validation for simplifying the process of obtaining a life certificate.

### **Ganjam Declared itself as Odisha's 1st Child Marriage Free District**

Ganjam district of Odisha has declared itself as the 1st child marriage free district of Odisha. The declaration has been made after collecting detailed information on all weddings that took place in 2020 and 2021. The best practice in the district has been to register each and every marriage.

### **Odisha Partners with WFP to Improve Food Security, Farmers' Resilience**

The Government of Odisha and the United Nations (UN) World Food Programme (WFP) have partnered to improve the food security of small and marginal farmers of India by enhancing their resilience to climate change. In a participatory pilot initiative, customised climate advisories will be made to enable the smallholder farmers to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

## **Telangana**

### **Telangana Cabinet Approved 'Mana Ooru-Mana Badi' Programme to Strengthen Government Schools**

Telangana government will launch 'Mana Ooru-Mana Badi' programme soon across Telangana with focus on improving the existing infrastructure and the quality of education in government schools. The State Cabinet approved the programme during a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister (CM) K Chandrashekhar Rao at Pragathi Bhavan with Rs 7,289 crore budget allocation which benefits 19.84 lakh children of 26065 schools.

## **LAUNCHES & INAUGURATION**

### **India, Israel launches Commemorative Logo marking 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Diplomatic Ties**

India and Israel launched a commemorative logo marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment to appreciate the diplomatic ties between two countries which were established on January 29, 1992. The logo was unveiled virtually during an online event in the presence of Indian envoy to Israel, Sanjeev Singla and Ambassador of Israel to India Naor Gilon.

- ✓ It features **Ashoka Chakra and Star of David** which represents National Flags of both countries.



### **Vaishnaw launched the India Semiconductor Mission**

Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) to attract large investments for setting up semiconductor wafer fabrication facilities in India. The companies that are interested are invited by the Centre for the development of the semiconductors and display manufacturing ecosystem in India. ISM is a specialised and independent business division within the Digital India Corporation.

### **Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a 100-day Reading Campaign 'Padhe Bharat'**

Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education, launched a 100-day reading campaign "Padhe Bharat" to encourage the reading habit among students and to improve the learning levels of the students with a focus on children studying in Balvatika to Grade 8. The 100 days (14 weeks) reading campaign will be organised from January 2022 to April 2022.

- ✓ The campaign is in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which promotes joyful reading culture among students.
- ✓ It is also aligned with the vision and goals of the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy mission.

### **MoE launches NEAT 3.0 and AICTE prescribed Technical Books in Regional Languages**

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Education (MoE) launched NEAT (National Educational Alliance for Technology) 3.0, a single platform to provide the best-developed ed-tech solutions and courses to students. He also launched AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) prescribed technical books in regional languages.

- ✓ Under NEAT 3.0, more than 12 lakh socially and economically disadvantaged students received free ed-tech course coupons worth over Rs 253 crore.

### **PM Modi Virtually Launched Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched the Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation during the occasion of the birth anniversary of legendary classical vocalist late Pandit Jasraj. The foundation aims to preserve India's rich heritage of arts and culture. PM Modi highlighted that similar to yoga, Indian music has the capacity to stir the depth of the human mind.

- ✓ Padma Awardee Pandit Jasraj was a legendary classical vocalist, who belonged to the Mewati Gharana (musical apprenticeship lineage).

### **Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh Launches the 75<sup>th</sup> Platinum Jubilee Year Of CSIR-NPL**

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology (S&T), Dr Jitendra Singh released a Special Postage Stamp commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Platinum Jubilee year of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi. It is one of the earliest CSIR laboratories that was set up during independence that the celebration coincides with 75th year of India's independence and also highlights the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### **MoHUA-NIUA & 15 Academic Institutes launches Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)**

As part of the nationwide Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations, the Smart Cities Mission (SCM), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and 15 leading Indian academic institutions has launched a 'Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)' programme. Firstly, there will be preparation of a compendium of 75 landmark urban projects under SCM.

- ✓ These 75 projects in the compendium cover 47 Smart Cities.
- ✓ The compendium will be launched in June 2022.

### Dr Jitendra Singh Launches Theme of National Science Day 2022

On 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) Dr Jitendra Singh launched the theme of National Science Day (NSD) 2022 in New Delhi raising public appreciation of the scientific issues. NSD is observed every year on 28<sup>th</sup> February to mark the discovery of the Raman effect.

- ✓ **Theme** – ‘Integrated Approach in Science and Technology (S&T) for Sustainable Future’.
- ✓ The Department of Science and Technology (DST) presents the National Awards for Science every year starting from 1987 and Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), that supports basic research in science and engineering presents SERB women excellence award.

### MoFPI Launches Six Food products of ODOP Brands

Union Minister for Ministry of Food Processing Industries (**MoFPI**) Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras and Minister of State, MoFPI Shri Prahlad Singh Patel and senior officials of NAFED launched six food products of One District One Product (**ODOP**) brands under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (**PMFME**) Scheme at Panchsheel Bhawan, New Delhi.

The six food brands are Amrit Phal, Cori Gold, Kashmiri Mantra, Madhu Mantra, Somdana, and Whole Wheat Cookies of Dilli Bakes.

### Dr Jitendra Singh Launches AI Driven Start-Up for Water Purification

Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology (**S&T**), Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space **Dr Jitendra Singh** launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven Start-Up by Indian Institute Technology (IIT) alumni for water purification through innovative technology with financial support from Technology Development Board (**TDB**)

- ✓ A MoU was also signed between TDB, a statutory body of the Department of S&T and Swajal Water Private Limited.

### Dr Mansukh Mandaviya Released Commemorative Stamp to Mark 1 year of COVID-19 Vaccination Drive

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, along with Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Minister of State(MoS) for Health & Family Welfare and Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State for Communications has released the Commemorative Postal Stamp on completion of one year of the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination program, which was launched on 16th January 2021. 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022 marks the 1st anniversary of the COVID-19 vaccination drive.

- ✓ The stamp of denomination 500 paise (Rs 5) features a health worker inoculating a senior citizen with Covaxin, a vaccine of Covid-19.

### KVIC launches India's 1<sup>st</sup> Mobile Honey Processing Van in Ghaziabad, UP

Vinai Kumar Saxena, Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), has launched India's first Mobile Honey Processing Van at Sirora village in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh (UP). This mobile honey processing unit can process up to 300 KG of honey in 8 hours. The mobile van is designed by KVIC at its Multi-disciplinary Training Centre, Panjokhra, UP at a cost of Rs 15 lakh.

### India's first Coal-to-Methanol plant launched at BHEL, Hyderabad

Union Minister for the Ministry of Heavy Industries, Mahendra Nath Pandey dedicated India's first 'Coal to Methanol' (CTM) pilot plant in the Hyderabad unit of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL). It is the first-of-its-kind technology demonstration in India, which converts high-ash contain Indian coal to methanol through the gasification route.

- ✓ The union minister also inaugurated an exhibition on Products Developed under 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' organised at BHEL Hyderabad unit in Telangana.

## IMD Foundation Day: Launches India's 1<sup>st</sup> Climate Hazard and Vulnerability Atlas; 4 New Weather Radars

India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of earth Sciences celebrated its 147<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on 14th January 2022. On the foundation day, the Minister of state (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science & Technology & Earth Sciences, Jitendra Singh, launched India's 1<sup>st</sup> Climate Hazard & Vulnerability Atlas based on the thirteen most hazardous meteorological events, which cause extensive damages and economic, human and animal losses.

- ✓ 4 new Doppler weather radars (DWR) were inaugurated by Jitendra Singh, to further improve the weather forecast system in those cities/regions.

## Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw unveils MeitY's vision document for \$300bn Electronics Production in India

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) released a 5-year roadmap and Vision Document 2.0 for the electronics sector namely '**\$300 billion Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026**'. Its first volume titled 'Increasing India's Electronics Exports and Share in GVCs' was released in November 2021'.

- ✓ It is prepared by MeitY and presented by India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA).
- ✓ The document has envisioned \$300 billion electronics production which aims to increase India's electronics export to \$120 billion (bn) by 2026 from the current \$15 bn.

## Dr Jitendra Singh Launches 1<sup>st</sup> of its Kind "Mobile Diagnostic Laboratory" for COVID-19 Testing for Northeast

Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology launched the first of its kind Mobile Covid-19 testing facility, "**Mobile Diagnostic Laboratory (I-LAB)**", which is capable of performing both RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction) and Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for Northeast.

The mobile facility was launched in Mizoram in the virtual presence of Pu Zoramthanga, Chief Minister (CM) of Mizoram.

The lab was developed by AMTZ (Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone) with support from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.

## Giriraj Singh Releases Revised Rural Area Development Plan Formulation and Implementation Guidelines

Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj has released the revised Rural Area Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (RADPFI) Guidelines prepared by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

He called upon the Panchayati Raj Institutions to take RADPFI Guidelines as "Sankalp Patra" by leveraging an active ownership approach.

- ✓ All Panchayat Raj Institutions have a vision for their respective panchayats for the next 25 years up to the Independence Century of India in 2047.

## PM Modi, Mauritian PM Jugnauth Virtually launched India-assisted Projects in Mauritius

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the PM of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth virtually inaugurated the India-assisted social housing units project in Mauritius. The projects are being implemented as part of the development partnership between India and Mauritius. Two bilateral pacts were exchanged during the ceremony which includes an agreement for the extension of **USD 190 million Line of Credit (LoC)** from the Indian to the Mauritian government for the Metro Express project and other infrastructure projects, and an MoU on the implementation of small development projects.

### PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of Major Dhyan Chand Sports University in UP

Prime Minister of India, Narendra Damodardas Modi laid the foundation stone of Rs 700 Crore Major Dhyan Chand Sports University in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh (UP). It will be established at Salawa and Kaili villages of Sardhana town in Meerut. The Governor of UP Anandiben Patel and its Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath were also present at the event.

- ✓ This initiative linked sports with employment along with initiatives like Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) which provide all support to top sportspersons to compete at the highest level; Khelo India Abhiyan recognizes talent at a very young age.

### Dr Jitendra Singh Inaugurates India's First 'Open Rock Museum' at Hyderabad

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's first & unique 'Open Rock Museum' at the campus of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research – National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI), Hyderabad, Telangana & later addressed the Hyderabad Scientists at CSIR-NGRI. The Open Rock Museum displays around 35 different types of rocks from different parts of India with ages ranging from 3.3 Billion years to around 55 Million years of the Earth's history.

### PM Modi Inaugurates the 2nd campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute in Kolkata

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Campus of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute (CNCI) in Rajarhat New Town area of Kolkata, West Bengal. The facility would assist in ensuring quality healthcare to the people of the poor and middle class.

### PM Modi Inaugurated MSME Technology Centre & Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Manimandapam in Puducherry

On the occasion of the National Youth Day 2022, the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated an 'MSME Technology Centre', which will function under the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), in Puducherry.

- ✓ The centre was inaugurated during the inauguration event of the 25th National youth Festival (12th & 13th January 2022) in Puducherry.

He also inaugurated the 'Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Manimandapam', a modern auditorium with an open-air theatre in Puducherry.

### Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates 'Madhavbaug's Power MAP' India's 1<sup>st</sup> Intelligent Chronic Disease Patients Habit Tracking System

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) inaugurated Madhavbaug's (Vaidya Sane Ayurved Labs Ltd), Power MAP, during a virtual ceremony. It is India's first Intelligent Chronic Disease Patients Habit Tracking System. It is a cost-effective medical analytics application for doctors which provides patient's clinical parameters to reverse their chronic diseases effectively.

### PM Inaugurates New Circuit House near Somnath Temple; Launches 'Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ki Ore'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Circuit House near Somnath Temple in Gujarat through video conferencing. The Circuit House has been built at a cost of over Rs.30 crore. PM emphasised Swachha Bharat Abhiyaan (cleanliness), convenience of the people, facilities and modern thinking to boost India's domestic tourism.

## NHEV Inaugurates India's largest EV charging station in Gurgaon, Haryana

National Highway for Electric Vehicle (NHEV) inaugurated India's largest Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station in Sector 52 of Gurgaon, Haryana, which has 100 charging points for four-wheelers. The station has been installed and operated by Alektrify Private Limited.

✓ Out of the 100 points, 72 units are AC slow chargers while 24 units consist of DC fast chargers. The station has opened with 96 chargers for technical inspection for various 'Certification Compliance' and 'Safety Standards'.

## FESTIVALS

### Ladakh Celebrates 'Losar Festival' the traditional new year of Tibetan Buddhist

The Losar Festival in Ladakh is celebrated at the onset of the New Year in the traditional schedule of Tibetan Buddhism. It is celebrated by the Buddhist Community in the Ladakh region. The Losar is a 15 days festival, from the start of the Tibetan Lunar calendar, marking the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 11 month in Tibetan Calendar. Losar is a Tibetan word which means 'New Year'.

### Sikkim Celebrated Losoong/Namsoong Festival

Losoong (Namsoong) is annually celebrated across the Indian State of Sikkim on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of the 10<sup>th</sup> month of the Tibetan Lunar Calendar, which also marks the beginning of the harvest season. The Namsoong festival begins on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the new moon phase Kurneet Lovo, as per the Lepcha lunisolar Calendar known as Dungkit Karchu.

The losoong festival is celebrated as Sonam Losoong, by the Sikkimese Bhutia and as Namsoong by the Lepchas.

✓ This year, the Losoong (Namsoong) kick starts on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022. The festival is also celebrated in Nepal and Bhutan.

### 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of North East Festival held in Guwahati

The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the North East Festival was held in Guwahati, Assam from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the North East Festival was inaugurated by Jagdish Mukhi, Governor of Assam on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The festival aimed to promote and highlight the commercial and tourism potential of the North East Region.

## OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

### Philippine's 1<sup>st</sup> country to purchase BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile System from India

Philippines became the first country to buy the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system**, boosting India's efforts to become a major exporter of defence hardware. The Philippines recently signed the '**notice of award**' or the acceptance of India's BrahMos Aerospace Private Ltd \$374.96 million (USD 374,962,800) proposal for supplying the missile system for the Philippine Navy's shore-based anti-ship missile acquisition project. The Notice of Award was signed by Philippine Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

✓ India has set a target of achieving defence exports of \$5 billion by 2024.

### Gurugram to Get India's 1<sup>st</sup> Heli-Hub with Many Aviation Facilities

The government of Haryana in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Aviation is set to establish India's first-ever Heli Hub in Gurugram. The first of its kind heli-hub in Gurugram is designed to all the facilities in one place for Helicopters. The hub will have several aviation facilities like Heliport, Hangars, repairs and other related services.



### India's 1st Graphene Innovation Centre to be established at Thrissur, Kerala

Digital University Kerala (**DUK**) has announced partnership with the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) in Thrissur, Kerala to establish **India's first Graphene Innovation Centre** in Kerala. The project will also receive a funding of Rs 86.41 crore from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, to set up India's first ever Graphene Research and Development (R&D) incubator.

### Kochi becomes India's First City with Water Metro Project

Kochi (Kerala) has become India's first city to have a Water Metro Project after the launch of its first boat in December 2021, namely 'Muziris,' among the 23 battery-powered electric boats being manufactured by Cochin Shipyard Limited. This project is operated by Kochi Water Metro Ltd (KWML) while its boats are called Water Metros. This launch is a part of Rs 747-crore project which is operated by Kochi Water Metro Ltd (KWML). The boats will be called Water Metros.

### DoT sets up Six Task Forces to Explore 6G Development

Department of Telecommunications (**DoT**) of the Ministry of Communication formed a task force under the Technology Innovation Group (**TIG**) on 6G (6th Generation) technology to explore technological innovations and various commercial uses. The task forces will enable research and development, manufacturing, prepare pre-standardisation and market readiness framework. Under the 6G TIG, the Six task forces will be set up to provide research and development support in the form of inputs.

### 73<sup>rd</sup> Republic Day 2022: Tableaux from 12 States, Flypast at Rajpath

India celebrated the **73<sup>rd</sup> Republic Day** on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 with the annual parade held at Rajpath, New Delhi showcasing the nation's cultural diversity with a series of tableaux and cultural performances. The Republic Day parade witnessed the biggest fly-past with 75 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF). The flypast is showcased by Advanced Light Helicopters developed by the Army Aviation Corps.

- ✓ The number of tableaux in 2022 was reduced to 21 with States and Union territories (UTs) presenting 12 while 9 were featured by Ministries and Departments including the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ✓ India's 1st woman Rafale fighter jet pilot Shivangi Singh took part in the IAF tableaux. She is the only second woman fighter jet pilot to be part of the IAF tableaux.

### Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Announces 27 Border Infrastructure Projects

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh listed the development of critical border infrastructure as a key priority to boost India's overall defence and security system. He announced 24 bridge projects and 3 road projects implemented and managed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in four states and two union territories.

### PGCIL Celebrates First anniversary of One Nation-One Grid-One Frequency

State-owned Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) celebrated the first anniversary of 'One Nation-One Grid-One Frequency' on 31st December, 2021. On behalf of the occasion, 70 Sub-stations across India along with Regional Headquarters have been lit up in tricolour to mark this momentous achievement.

### Azure Power Commissions 600 MW SECI Project in Rajasthan

Azure Power Global, a leading independent sustainable energy solutions provider in India, commissioned a 600 Megawatts (MWs) Interstate Transmission System (ISTS) connected solar project

allocated by Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) in Bikaner, Rajasthan. This is the largest solar power project in India, owned and operated at a single location by any developer.

### Govt Approved 19<sup>th</sup> Tranche of Electoral Bonds

Ahead of assembly elections in five states such as Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Goa, the government has approved the issuance of the 19th tranche of electoral bonds through State Bank of India (SBI) which is the only authorised bank to issue electoral bonds and it will be open for sale from January 1 to 10, 2022.

### 150 Indian villages to convert into 'Villages of Excellence' with technical help from Israel

The Central Government will convert 150 villages around Centres of Excellence (CoEs) into 'Villages of Excellence' in 12 states with technical assistance from Israel government. The information for the same was conveyed by Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) during a meeting with new Israeli Ambassador to India Naor Gilon at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

### Rajnath Singh flags-in India's 1st Multidimensional Adventure Sports Expedition in France

Union Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh flagged-in the first multi-dimensional adventure sports expedition of India, which was conducted by the **National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (NIMAS)** in France. The expedition was led by the Director of NIMAS Colonel Sarfaraz Singh along with 12 others which include 8 Army personnel and 4 youths of Arunachal Pradesh.

### Indian Railways renames 'Kevadiya Station' as 'Ekta Nagar Railway Station'

The Ministry of Railways approved the renaming of the Kevadiya railway station under the Vadodara division of Narmada district (Gujarat) as the Ekta Nagar railway station. The new station code of Ekta Nagar railway station will use the station code EKNR and the numerical code of the station will be 08224620.

### Indian Railways launched 'Operation Mission Amanat' for Passengers to track & Get Back Lost Luggage

The Indian Railways launched a new '**Operation Mission Amanat**' initiative to track lost luggage of the passengers. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Western Railway will help in getting back the lost luggage. It will ensure more safety and security of luggage and belongings of the passengers. Under the Operation Mission Amanat, the details of lost luggage and belongings along with photos are posted on the official website of the western railway.

**Web portal name** – <https://wr.indianrailways.gov.in/> in the tab of divisions under the link "Mission Amanat – RPF".

### DPIIT Organized the 1<sup>st</sup> - ever Startup India Innovation Week

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has virtually organised the 1<sup>st</sup> - ever '**Startup India Innovation Week**' from 10<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> of January 2022, to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> year of India's independence '**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**' and showcase the spread and depth of entrepreneurship across India. Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal launched the Startup India Innovation Week.

- ✓ As part of the Start-up India Innovation Week, Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode's (IIMK) business incubator, Laboratory for Innovation Venturing and Entrepreneurship (LIVE), and Indian Bank has signed an MoU to launch a start-up funding scheme '**IndSpring Board**' to support early-stage start-ups with loans up to Rs 50 crore.

### **Kumbalangi Village of Kerala Became India's 1<sup>st</sup> Sanitary Napkin-free Village**

Arif Mohammad Khan, Governor of Kerala, declared Kumbalangi village (India's first eco-friendly tourist village) in the Ernakulam district of Kerala as the first-ever sanitary napkin-free village in India. Under the Aavakayi (for her) initiative led by Hibi Eden, Member of Parliament (MP) (Ernakulam), around 5,000 menstrual cups have been distributed to women aged 18 and above, and volunteers will train the women on how to use the menstrual cup and the advantages of using it.

### **NeGD organizes 26<sup>th</sup> CISO Deep Dive Training Program under Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative**

National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is organizing a 6-day long **26<sup>th</sup> CISO Deep Dive Training program** under Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative on January 17-22, 2022. It is for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and frontline IT (Information Technology) officials from various Ministries & Departments, Government & Semi-Government organizations from Central and State Governments, PSUs (Public Sector Undertakings), banks, among others.

### **MeitY initiated 'Digital Government Mission' to speed up Citizen Services Delivery**

As a next phase of e-governance, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) initiated a new project namely '**Digital Government Mission**' to speed up citizen services delivery through the help of advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML). The reason behind this project is to offer government services to citizens without them having to apply or wait for it.

### **Department of Food & Public Distribution Develops Roadmap for OSM**

India's Department of Food and Public Distribution (**DoF&PD**) under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution with its principal agency, Food Corporation of India (FCI) has developed a roadmap for the development of Online Storage Management (**OSM**). The roadmap was presented in the meeting under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Food) and attended by Food Secretaries of all Decentralised Procurement (DCP) States, FCI.

### **Decommissioned INS Khukri Handed Over to Diu Administration; to be Developed as Museum**

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Khukri, the lead ship of Khukri class corvettes and an indigenous surface-to-surface missile fitted vessel of the Indian Navy which has been decommissioned on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021. It has been handed over to the Diu Administration on 26 January 2022, 73<sup>rd</sup> Republic Day in a ceremonial event held at the INS Khukri Memorial, Diu. INS Khukri is set to be developed as a full-scale museum in memory of the 1971 Indo-Pakistan War Heroes.

### **MoA&FW Announces Subsidy to Popularise Drone in Agriculture; MoCA Notifies DCS**

Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) has amended the guidelines of Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) to provide a 100 percent grant (up to Rs 10 lakh) to Agricultural Institutes for the purchase of drones for Farming and its allied activities.

- ✓ The financial assistance and grants would be available until March 31, 2023.
- ✓ The purpose of the amendment is to promote precision farming in India and to make drone technology affordable to the stakeholders of this sector.

## GOVT SCHEMES

### Himachal Pradesh becomes 1st LPG enabled & smoke free Indian state

Himachal Pradesh (HP) has become the first LPG (Liquefied petroleum gas) enabled and smoke free Indian state. This success is backed by the Central Government's Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme and HP Government's Mukhya Mantri Grihini Suvidha Yojana (GSY). While the PMUY scheme aims to get rid of the diseases caused by smoke and freeing women of the country from indoor pollution, the GSY objective is to cover those families which are not covered under PMUY.

### WFP & TAPF Partners to Enhance PM POSHAN Scheme

United Nations(UN)'s World Food Programme (WFP) in India, has partnered with The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF), a not-for-profit organisation, to enhance the effectiveness of the Pradhan Mantri – Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) scheme (earlier known as National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools).

The partnership aims to enhance food safety and hygiene projects, capacity building of cooks-cum-helpers and nutritional quality of school meals.

### UJALA Completes 7 years; Saves ~48 Bn kWh Energy Every Year

Power Ministry successfully completed 7 years of distributing and selling LED lights under its flagship Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) programme. UJALA initiative is the world's largest zero subsidy domestic lighting programme with more than 78 crore LEDs distributed across the country.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Shanghai Opened 2 Driverless Metro Lines; Becomes Longest Metro Line in the World

Shanghai, the biggest city in China, has opened 2 new driverless metro lines (Line 14 and Phase One of Line 18) and retained its title as the **World's longest Metro line**. With the inclusion of the 2 new driverless lines, the total length of Shanghai's metro network is extended to 831 km.

- ✓ Shanghai is followed by Beijing(China) and Delhi(India) in the 2nd and 3rd spot on the list of cities with the largest metro network.

### India Pays \$29.9 Million in UN Regular Budget Assessments for 2022

India has paid USD 29,990,679 in United Nations (UN) regular budget assessments for the year 2022. As of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022, 24 Member States of the UN have paid their regular budget assessments in full. India has signed up to the 2022 Honour Roll of 24 Member States out of 193 that have paid their UN Regular Budget Assessments in full.

- ✓ The 24 Member states have paid their budget assessment in full within 30 days due to the period specified in Financial Regulation 3.5.

### Antigua & Barbuda Becomes 102nd Member of International Solar Alliance

The Caribbean nation of Antigua and Barbuda joined the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** as the 102<sup>nd</sup> member by signing the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement, the India-led global green energy initiative. The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne signed the framework agreement in the presence of Indian High Commissioner Dr K. J. Srinivasa to catalyze global energy transition through a solar-led approach.

### New Coronavirus Variant Named IHU, Discovered in France

Scientists of France have discovered a new variant of the Coronavirus, named IHU – B.1.640.2 variant. The new variant named IHU was discovered by the academics at the institute IHU Mediterranee Infection, Marseille, France.

IHU variant contains 46 mutations (more than the Omicron) and 37 deletions resulting in 30 amino acid substitutions and 12 deletions.

- ✓ It is named for the **University Hospital Institute Mediterranean Infection, or IHU**, in the port city of Marseille in France.

### Sri Lanka, India Inks Deal to Redevelop Strategic Trincomalee Oil Tank Complex

Sri Lanka signed an agreement with India to jointly redevelop the strategic **World War II-era Trincomalee Oil Tank Complex**, commonly known as the Trinco Oil Tank Farm in Sri Lanka's eastern port district of Trincomalee for a lease period of 50 years.

- ✓ The 85 tanks out of the 99 tanks will now be under the Sri Lankan control which was previously under the control of India.

### Worlds' Five Powerful Nations Issue Pledge to Prevent Spread of nuclear weapons

In January 2022, the 5 most powerful nations of the world, viz China, France, Russia, the UK (United Kingdom) and the US (United States) have agreed and signed a pledge (a joint statement) to prevent atomic weapons from spreading and to ensure a nuclear war is never fought. The 5 nations were the nuclear weapons states recognized by the 1968 Treaty of the Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (**NPT**) and they were also the 5 permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. They are known as the P5 or the N5.

### Indonesia Replaces Sinking Jakarta with New Capital City Nusantara

Indonesian Parliament has passed a law to relocate its capital from Jakarta to East Kalimantan, situated to the east of Borneo island. The new capital city of the country will be called Nusantara, which is a symbol of the identity of the nation, and also a new centre of economic gravity. The new state capital law provides a legal framework for President Joko Widodo's ambitious approximately USD 32 billion megaproject. The initial capital relocation will start between 2022 and 2024.

### UNCTAD's Investment Trends Monitor: FDI Flows to India Slips 26% in 2021

As per the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) 'Investment Trends Monitor' published in January 19, 2022, the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows to India in 2021 had decreased by 26 percent mainly because large Mergers & Acquisition (M&A) offers recorded in 2020 were not repeated.

The world's overseas direct funding flows have rebounded in 2021, which rose at 77 percent to an estimated USD 1.65 trillion, from USD 929 billion in 2020.

### American Poet Maya Angelou Becomes 1<sup>st</sup> Black Woman to Appear on US Coin

The United States (US) Mints has started rolling out quarters featuring American poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou. She has become the first black woman to be featured on the US Currency. This is a part of the US's American Women Quarters Programme. Maya Angelou is known for her autobiography titled "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings".

### India to Surpass China as World's 3rd Largest Ethanol Consumer by 2026: IEA

As per the statement of the International Energy Agency (IEA), the India is on course to surpass China as the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest ethanol consumer by 2026. IEA stated that, ethanol demand in India tripled between 2017 and 2021 with consumption expected at 3 crore litres in 2021.



- ✓ In January 2021, India brought forward its 20 percent ethanol blending target with gasoline from 2030 to 2025, and is aiming to start selling 20 per cent blends in 2023.

## VISITS

### INDIAN VISIT

#### **PM Narendra Modi visited Manipur & Tripura; Inaugurated & laid Foundation Stone of Developmental Projects**

Prime Minister (PM) of India, Narendra Damodardas Modi, visited the states of Manipur and Tripura. He inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 22 Developmental Projects worth over Rs.4800 crores in Imphal, Manipur. After that, in Agartala, Tripura he inaugurated the New Integrated Terminal Building at Maharaja Bir Bikram Airport and will also launch two key development initiatives.

- ✓ In Manipur, the PM inaugurated 13 Projects worth Rs 1850 crores and laid the foundation stone of 9 projects worth ~Rs 2950 crore. These projects related to Road Infrastructure, Drinking Water Supply, Health, Urban Development, Housing, Information Technology, Skill Development, Art and Culture, among others.

## BANKING & FINANCE

### RBI IN NEWS

#### **RBI Approves Fino Payments Bank for Cross Border Remittances**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Fino Payments Bank for commencing international remittance business under the Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS). The approval will enable the customers of Fino Payments Bank to receive money sent from foreign countries. The money remitted by family members abroad can be directly withdrawn at the nearest micro-ATM or Aadhaar-Enabled Payment Services (AEPS) enabled Fino Bank's neighbourhood merchant point.

- ✓ The headquarters of Fino Payments Bank – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.

#### **RBI Releases Framework for Small-value Offline Digital Payments**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a framework for facilitating small-value digital payments in offline mode using cards, wallets, mobile devices, etc, to push digital transactions in rural and semi-urban areas. The upper limit of an offline payment transaction was fixed at Rs 200, with a total limit on a payment instrument be at Rs 2,000 at any point in time.

- ✓ **Note** – Offline digital payment is a transaction that does not require internet or telecom connectivity to take effect.

#### **RBI granted Scheduled Payment Bank Status to Airtel Payments Bank**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted a Scheduled Payment Bank status to Airtel Payments Bank by including it into the Second Schedule to the RBI Act, 1934. With this inclusion, it becomes the 4<sup>th</sup> payment bank to get this status. This status will help Airtel Payments Bank to explore new central and state government business opportunities, including participation in government-issued Request for Proposals (RFP), and primary auctions, along with participation in government-operated welfare schemes.

#### **RBI Introduces Market Making Scheme to Promote PDs to Trade in RD Scheme**

To provide liquidity in the secondary market, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced the market-making scheme to promote retail participation in Government Securities (G-Secs) by providing

prices/quotes to Retail Direct Gilt Account Holders (RDGAHs) enabling them to buy/sell securities under the RBI Retail Direct (RBI-RD) Scheme.

- ✓ Under the scheme, RBI allowed the Primary Dealers (PDs) to be present on the Negotiated Dealing System- Order Matching (NDS-OM) Platform (odd-lot and Request for Quotes (RFQ) segments) throughout market hours and respond to buy/sell requests from RDGAHs.

### **RBI Cancels Authorisation Certificates of Two Payment System Operators**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) of two Payment System Operators (PSOs) – Muthoot Vehicle & Asset Finance, and Eko India Financial Services for non-compliance with regulatory requirements. The CoA was cancelled by RBI on 31st December 2021, in the exercise of the powers conferred on it under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

### **RBI Releases Eligibility Criteria for Entities to Become ‘specified Users’ of CICs**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the eligibility criteria for entities to be categorised as ‘Specified User’ of Credit Information Companies (CICs). The eligible criteria are issued under clause (j) of Regulation 3 of the CICs (Amendment) Regulations, 2021. In November 2021, RBI notified CICs (Amendment) Regulations, 2021 to amend the CICs Regulations, 2006.

- ✓ A ‘specified user’ should be a company incorporated in India or a Statutory Corporation established in India.

### **RBI Increased Banks’ LCR maintenance on Funds Received from Non-Financial Small Business Customers to Rs 7.5 Crore**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the threshold limit for Banks to maintain the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) on deposits and other ‘extension of funds’ received from non-financial small business customers from Rs 5 crore to Rs 7.5 crore.

- ✓ **Objective:** To better align RBI’s guidelines with the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) standard and enable banks to manage liquidity risk more effectively.

### **RBI Sets up Separate Department for Fintech**

In January 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sets up a separate internal department for fintech (Financial technology) by subsuming the fintech division of DPSS (department of payment and settlement systems), Central Office (CO). to facilitate innovation, and help identify, address challenges and opportunities in the fintech sector.

- ✓ Ajay Kumar Choudhary, who was recently promoted as the Executive Director of RBI was appointed as head of the department.

The department will be administratively attached to the centralised administrative division (CAD) of RBI.

### **RBI extends its Directions for Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank till May 10, 2022**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the validity of its directions by 4 months for Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, Bengaluru (Karnataka) i.e., till May 10, 2022 from January 11, 2022. The directions have been issued under Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949.

RBI brought the bank under Directions in the interest of depositor protection on January 2, 2020, the validity of which was extended from time to time.

## RBI Releases Annual Report of Ombudsman Schemes, 2020-21; Complaints rose by 22.27% in 2021

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the **Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes for 2020-21**, which has been prepared for the 9-month period, i.e., July 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021, in alignment with the change in the Financial Year of RBI from 'July – June' to 'April – March' with effect from July 1, 2020. The Annual Report covers the activities under the Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006 (BOS), the Ombudsman Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies, 2018 (OSNBFC) and the Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions, 2019 (OSDT).

## RBI Released RBI-DPI for September 2021; Digital Payments Grew by 39.64%

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the RBI – Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) for September 2021, as per the index the digital payments increased by 39.64 percent to 304.06 as against 217.74 in September 2020. It is the index launched by RBI in January 2021 with March 2018 as the base period (ie. DPI score for March 2018 is set at 100) to identify the extent of digitisation of payments across the country. The index will be released semi-annually with a lag of 4 months.

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## Existing NBFC-ICCs with asset size of Rs 1,000cr & above allowed undertaking Factoring Business: RBI

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the following regulations after exercising its powers conferred under the Factoring Regulation Act, 2011.

- ✓ Registration of Factors (Reserve Bank) Regulations, 2022.
- ✓ Registration of Assignment of Receivables (Reserve Bank) Regulations, 2022.

It permits all existing non-deposit taking Non-Banking Finance Company-Investment and Credit Companies (NBFC-ICCs) with asset size of Rs 1,000 crore and above to undertake factoring business, subject to certain conditions.

## RBI holds Overnight VRRR Auction as GST outflow from Banks tightens Liquidity

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted an Overnight variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auction for Rs 50,000 crore under liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) to infuse liquidity, instead of its usual fixed-rate overnight reverse repo window, as Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection tightened liquidity this week.

- ✓ This auction was to stabilize overnight Call Money Market (CMM) rates which have been hardening due to outflows from banks on account of GST payments.
- ✓ The weighted average call money rate also touched 4.3587% showing liquidity stress. This is the first VRRR auction since March 2021.

## RBI conducts Overnight VRR auction of worth Rs. 75,000 crore

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) offered overnight liquidity to the banking system of India with Rs.75,000 crore against banks bid of around Rs 1.37 lakh crore through variable rate repo (VRR) auction under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 will be the date of reversal.

- ✓ The auction will be conducted on Core Banking Solutions (CBS) (e-Kuber) platform with Rs.1 crore as minimum bid amount for the auction and the allotment would be in multiples of Rs.1 crore.

## RBI Imposes Restrictions on Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank

Reserve Bank of India imposed several restrictions on **Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank Limited**, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh including a cap of Rs 1 lakh on withdrawals. RBI issued the directions in the exercise of powers vested in it under sub section (1) of Section 35 A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act (As Applicable to Cooperative Societies), 1949.

## BANKING TECHNOLOGY

### Bank of Maharashtra Partners with Lendingkart Technologies to Offer MSME Loans

On 24th January 2022 Lendingkart Technologies Private Limited, a subsidiary of Lendingkart Finance, partnered with Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) to co-lend business loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) at low rates.

The objective of the partnership is to make economical credit available to MSME borrowers which is powered by the 'zero touch' technology platform Lendingkart '2gthr'.

The Headquarters of Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) is Pune, Maharashtra.

## LOANS ISSUED BY BANKS

LOANS ISSUED BY	RECEIVED BY	AMOUNT	KEY NOTES
Reserve Bank of India	Sri Lanka	US\$ 900 million	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended over US\$ 900 million loan facilities to Sri Lanka, comprising Asian Clearing Union (ACU) settlement of over <b>USD 500 million</b> and currency Swap of USD 400 million. This funding will aid Sri Lanka to overcome forex crisis and shortage of almost all essential commodities due to a shortage of dollars to pay for the imports. It will be utilized to build up its depleted foreign reserves and for food imports.
World Bank	West Bengal	USD 125 million (around Rs 1,000 crore)	To support its effort towards social protection service access to the poor and vulnerable groups. The loan will be sanctioned under the 'WB Building State Capability for Inclusive Social Protection' operation which will strengthen the access to social assistance and targeted service for poor and vulnerable groups. The Headquarters of World Bank is Washington, D.C., United States.

## AGREEMENTS & MoUs SIGNED

BANKS	SIGNED WITH	KEY NOTES
HDFC Bank and Excelpoint Systems India Pvt. Ltd.	STPINEXT	AIC STPINEXT Initiatives (STPINEXT), a special purpose vehicle of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), has signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), one with HDFC Bank and the other with Excelpoint Systems India Pvt. Ltd. to enhance the tech startup ecosystem in India.

		Both HDFC Bank and Excelpoint Systems will support the startups through technical guidance and assistance, mentoring, pitching to investors, funding support, and market connect & access.
Karnataka Vikas Grameena(KVG) Bank (KVGB)	Mecwin Technologies(Tech) Ltd	<p>A Regional Rural Bank (<b>RRB</b>), Karnataka Vikas Grameena(KVG) Bank (<b>KVGB</b>), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based Mecwin Technologies(Tech) Ltd to introduce farmer-friendly solar-powered pump-sets using bank finance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Solar-powered pump-sets will replace diesel pump-sets resulting in reduced carbon emissions.</li> </ul> <p>The headquarters of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) is Dharwad, Karnataka</p>
Indian Bank	Edelweiss Financial Services and ECL Finance	<p>Edelweiss Financial Services and ECL Finance signed a co-lending agreement with Indian Bank to expand services under priority sector lending (PSL). The co-lending agreement will help in expanding the portfolio of lending products and will ultimately increase credit access.</p> <p>The Headquarters of Indian Bank is Chennai, Tamil Nadu.</p>
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	Arthimpart Digital Loans (ARTH)	Signed a partnership agreement to provide end-to-end fintech (financial technology) solutions to support self-help groups (SHGs). ARTH will provide credit, payments and insurance solutions support to micro-MSME enterprises.
ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company (AMC)	First Trust Advisors	ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company (AMC) signed an agreement with <b>First Trust Advisors</b> , an US-based company to launch a global Fund of Funds ( <b>FoF</b> ). Under the agreement, the ICICI Prudential AMC will launch a strategic metal & energy equity FoF. It invests in offshore funds of First Trust Advisors. The ICICI Prudential strategic metal & energy equity FoF will open for subscription on January 17 and will close on January 31, 2022.
Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL)	Gujarat International Finance Tec-city – Special Economic Zone (GIFT SEZ) Limited	<p>A wholly-owned subsidiary of GIFT-City, to improve customer's overall financial services offerings. KMBL and GIFT SEZ will jointly work on promoting the GIFT International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) jurisdiction for Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) structures, holding seminars and knowledge series, ease of doing business along with Global Custody Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The headquarters of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) is Mumbai, Maharashtra.</li> </ul>
NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)	TerraPay	NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), international arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TerraPay, the Netherlands-based global payments infrastructure company. This partnership will allow Indians with an active UPI (Unified Payments Interface) ID to receive real-time, international payments into their bank accounts via TerraPay's fully regulated, secure, scalable and efficient channel.



## OTHER BANKING NEWS

### SEBI reconstituted Market Data Advisory Committee Chaired by S Sahoo

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) reconstituted 20 members Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC) to recommend policy measures in areas like securities market data access and privacy. The MDAC will be chaired by S. Sahoo.

- ✓ S Sahoo is a Professor at National Law University, Delhi & former chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- ✓ The previous committee was headed by Madhabi Puri Buch, ex-whole-time member of SEBI.

### SEBI Amended Settlement Proceedings; cuts Timeline for Filing Settlement Applications to 60 Days

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) amended the **SEBI (Settlement Proceedings) Regulations, 2018**, called the SEBI (Settlement Proceedings) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022 and has reduced the timeline for filing settlement applications to just 60 days from the current 180 days to make the system more efficient.

- ✓ All payments under the settlement regulations will be accepted only through a dedicated payment gateway. To give this effect, the SEBI has amended Settlement Proceedings norms.
- ✓ SEBI has amended SEBI (Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI)) Regulations, 2019 called SEBI (FPI) (Amendment) Regulations, 2022 and stated that it could provide an exemption from strict enforcement of the regulations in other cases.

### NSE Received SEBI's nod to Launch Derivatives on Nifty Midcap Select Index

National Stock Exchange (NSE) has received approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch derivatives on Nifty Midcap Select Index. The index will be available for trading from 24 January, 2022. Nifty Midcap Select Index intends to track the performance of a focused portfolio of 25 stocks within the Nifty Midcap 150 index.

### CDSL Venture Ltd Receives SEBI Approval to Set up Accreditation Agency

Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL) Ventures Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of CDSL has received approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) for setting up Accreditation Agency for a period of 3 years with effect from 1st February 2022 for accreditation of eligible Investors. 'Accredited Investors' (AIs) may avail flexibility in minimum investment amount (lower ticket size) or concessions from specific regulatory requirements applicable to investment products with certain conditions for specific products or services.

### SIDBI sanctions financial assistance of ₹650 crore to AUSFB and JSFB

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) sanctioned financial assistance of around ₹650 crore to AU Small Finance Bank (AUSFB) and Jana Small Finance Bank (JSFB). The Small Finance Banks will use this assistance to support small-sized non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and micro finance institutions (MFIs) and micro entrepreneurs.

The headquarters of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

### Pencilton Launches India's 1<sup>st</sup> Debit Card with NCMC for Teens: PencilCard

Pencilton, a teen-focused fintech company in partnership with Transcorp has launched **PencilCard**, India's 1<sup>st</sup> debit card with National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) for teens. PencilCard is an NCMC – compliant RuPay debit card specially designed for the teenager which will serve as an all-in-one card (debit card, metrocard & bus card) for multiple needs for both online & offline payments.

### **SBI lists \$300 million via Taiwan's Formosa Bonds on India INX**

State Bank of India (SBI) listed its 1<sup>st</sup> USD 300 million Formosa bonds on India International Exchange IFSC (**India INX**). SBI became the first Indian entity to raise money through Formosa Bond. Through the issuance, India INX became the first Exchange in IFSC (International Financial Services Centre) to list Formosa Bonds issued by SBI.

- ✓ The headquarters of State Bank of India (SBI) is Mumbai, Maharashtra.

### **SBICPSL, Paytm join hands for Card Tokenization to Protect Cardholders' Data**

SBI (State Bank of India) Cards and Payment Services Limited (**SBICPSL**) has collaborated with Paytm to enable their cardholders to tokenize their cards on devices and make payments through Paytm. Currently, only cards issued in the Indian Territory are enabled on Paytm network but this partnership enables SBI Cardholders to transact through Paytm network in international locations. The card tokenization facility is available only on Android NFC (near field communication) devices.

### **Paisabazaar.com and Axis Bank Launches Pre-Qualified Program for Personal Loans**

On 30th December 2021 Paisabazaar.com, the digital marketplace for consumer credit partnered with Axis Bank to launch a pre-qualified program for unsecured loans on its platform. The pre-qualified program involves deep technology and analytics collaboration with banks and non-bank financiers, enabling customers to view customized and pre-qualified lending offers.

### **SBI, ICICI and HDFC Bank continue to be Domestic Systemically Important Banks**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that SBI (State Bank of India), ICICI (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India) and HDFC (Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited) banks will continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs). Therefore, they will have to maintain additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) capital ratios in the same manner prescribed in 2020.

### **SBI General Insurance launches '#BahaneChhodoTaxBachao' Campaign on Tax Saving**

SBI (State Bank of India) General Insurance Company Ltd launched a campaign titled '#BahaneChhodoTaxBachao' to increase awareness around the need to buy health insurance to save tax. It will also highlight the other benefits of opting for health insurance. The campaign is in a quirky Vox Pop format featuring anchor Rudraksh Singh aka Rudy.

### **AIIB Invests USD 150 million in Development of Data Centres Serving Asia**

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), a multilateral development bank has committed USD 150 million to invest in the development of data centres that mostly serve emerging Asia through the Keppel Data Centre Fund II (KDCF II), a closed-end private equity vehicle managed by Alpha Investment Partners Limited (Alpha).

- ✓ This project is being AIIB's 1st data centre project. India is a key founding member of AIIB. The headquarters of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is Beijing, China.

### **Airtel Payments Bank & Park+ partner on FASTag-based Parking Solutions**

Airtel Payments Bank and Park+ have collaborated to offer FASTag-based smart parking solutions to marquee commercial and residential properties across India. This partnership will utilize the reach of Airtel Payments Bank to digitise the parking ecosystem using FASTag associated with the vehicle. Park+ is backed by Sequoia Capital and Matrix Partners, and is engaged in automating parking spaces through FASTag.

### RBL Bank Collaborates with Google for Improving Customer Experience

RBL Bank and Google announced a strategic collaboration to improve the bank's customer experience strategy through the digital platform, Abacus 2.0. This collaboration will enable better customer data management and analytics.

- ✓ **Aim** – To provide a one-stop solution to its existing and new customers, to effortlessly deliver different product offerings.
- ✓ The headquarters of RBL Bank is Mumbai, Maharashtra.

### Axis Bank Collaborates with MinkasuPay for Biometric-Based Banking Payments

Axis Bank has partnered with MinkasuPay to offer a biometric authentication solution for net banking payments in merchant apps using Fingerprint or Face ID, without the need for usernames, passwords, and One-Time Passwords (OTPs). This Solution will reduce the time of payment from 50-60 seconds to just 2-3 seconds and also increase the transaction success rate.

### LazyPay Partners with SBM Bank India to Launch LazyCard for Easy Credit

On 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 LazyPay, a Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) solution by PayU Finance, announced its partnership with SBM Bank India to launch **LazyCard**, a prepaid payment instrument backed by a credit line that works on the Visa payment network.

- ✓ **Objective** – To empower financially underserved Indians with easy access to credit as their card has limited credit options.
- ✓ The headquarters of SBM Bank is Mumbai, Maharashtra.

### Axis Bank Issues 1st LC on Govt-backed Platform SLDE

Axis Bank issued industry's 1<sup>st</sup> **letter of credit (LC)** on the Secured Logistics Document Exchange (SLDE), a government-backed blockchain-enabled platform (launched in July 2021). The deal, which was executed digitally on the SLDE platform, involved ArcelorMittal Nippon and Lalit Pipes & Pipes Limited (LPPL) (Axis bank's client). The bank released an LC on behalf of LPPL.

### UCO Bank Launched RuPay Select Contactless Debit Card in partnership with NPCI

UCO Bank (formerly United Commercial Bank Ltd) in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched the '**UCO Bank RuPay Select Contactless Debit Card**' with a host of benefits for its premium/HNI (High Networth Individuals) customers. This launch was made on the occasion of the 79<sup>th</sup> Inauguration Day of the bank i.e. January 6, 2022.

- ✓ The card offers an ATM (Automated Teller Machine) withdrawal limit of Rs 50000 along with a purchase of up to Rs 2 lakh at POS (Point of Sale) or E-Commerce.

### Canara Bank Partners with Lendingkart to Offer Loans Online for MSMEs

Fintech company **Lendingkart** announced a co-lending partnership with **Canara Bank** to provide low-cost business loans of up to Rs. 10 lakh to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The aim of the partnership is to broaden the support provided to the MSME borrowers for enhancing financial inclusion under the Reserve Bank India's (RBIs) Priority Sector initiative.

- ✓ The loans will be originated and sanctioned through the digital platform '**Lendingkart 2gthr**' using '**zero touch**' technology.

### Federal Bank, Equirus Wealth Jointly Launches USD Offshore Fund

Federal Bank and Equirus Wealth in collaboration with SCUBE Capital, a global fund management company based out of Singapore, have launched a 'US dollar offshore fund' for their customers. Only the customers of Federal Bank (both NRI (Non-Resident Indian) and Resident) could invest in the fund. It offers a portfolio return (internal rate of return (IRR)) guidance of ~ USD 6.50 percent per annum with a fund tenor of 3 years from the date of fund closure with an option to extend by one year.

- ✓ The Headquarters of Federal Bank is Aluva, Kerala.

### Ujjivan SFB launches Platina Fixed Deposit scheme

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) launched '**Platina Fixed Deposit**' (FD), offering interest of 15 basis points (bps) higher than the regular term deposit rates provided by Ujjivan SFB. The Platina FD is a non-callable deposit, where partial & premature withdrawal is not applicable. While the interest amount can be received on monthly, quarterly or at the end of the maturity period.

The Headquarters of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (USFB) is Bangalore, Karnataka.

### CUB & GOQii Launches CUB Easy Pay Fitness Watch Debit Card

City Union Bank (CUB), the oldest Private Sector Bank in India, in association with smart-tech-enabled preventive healthcare platform GOQii has launched CUB Easy Pay Debit Card in a Fitness Watch, a wearable & contactless RuPay On-The-Go payment solution, powered by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). On 24th January 2022, V.R. Venkatachalam, chancellor of Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research received the 1st watch in Chennai.

The headquarters of City Union Bank (CUB) Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu.

### Government Approves PMC Bank Amalgamation Plan with USFBL

Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) announced the Government of India's approval for the amalgamation of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank (**PMC Bank**) with Unity Small Finance Bank limited (USFBL), the 12<sup>th</sup> SFB of India.

The amalgamation came into force from 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and on the same day all the branches of the PMC Bank were allowed to function as the branches of USFBL.

- ✓ RBI has also notified a Scheme for the amalgamation, which envisages takeover of the assets and liabilities of PMC Bank, including deposits, by the USFBL.

### SPMCIL sets up New Bank Note Printing Lines at CNP, Nashik & BNP, Dewas

The Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (**SPMCIL**) has set up new Bank Note Printing Lines at Currency Note Press (CNP), Nashik in Maharashtra; and Bank Note Press (BNP), Dewas in Madhya Pradesh as a part of its modernization initiatives. The bank note printing line at CNP Nashik was virtually inaugurated by Meera Swarup, Special Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Finance.

## FINANCE NEWS

### IRDAI – to Set up Hubs on Motor, Property Insurances and Sets Norms for Surety Cover

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) has decided to set up two hubs, one on motor insurance at 'Institute of Insurance and Risk Management (**IIRM**)', the other on property insurance at '**National Insurance Academy (NIA)**' to promote loss prevention measures in the general insurance industry. IRDAI also decided to form an advisory committee under the chairmanship of the NIA director to create a repository of past risk inspection reports and develop standard survey/inspection report formats.

- ✓ In exercise of the powers conferred under section 14 (2) (i) of IRDA Act, 1999, IRDAI has issued the following guidelines to regulate and develop Surety Insurance business named 'IRDAI (Surety Insurance Contracts) Guidelines, 2022'.

### LIC, GIC, New India Assurance Continue to be Identified as D-SIIs for 2021-22: IRDAI

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and New India Assurance continued to be identified by Insurance Regulator and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2021-22.

- ✓ They were also consequently subject to enhanced regulatory supervision and IRDAI has asked the three insurers to raise the level of corporate governance, identify all relevant risks and promote a sound risk management culture.

### **LIC Inaugurated “Digi Zone” To Enhance its Digital Footprint**

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has inaugurated “**Digi Zone**”, at Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai, Maharashtra, as part of its effort to enhance its digital footprint. LIC’s Digi Zone can be used by the customers to purchase policies online, pay the premium and avail of other services.

### **Government Retains the Interest Rate of Small Savings Schemes for Q4 of FY22**

Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs (Budget Division), has maintained the status quo and retained the Interest Rate of Small Savings Scheme unchanged for the 4th Quarter (Q4) for the Financial Year 2021-22 (FY22) (i.e. from January 2022 to March 2022) same as Q3 FY22, due to the rising cases of COVID-19 variant Omicron and elevated level of inflation.

The interest rates on various small savings instruments such as Public Provident Fund (PPF), National Savings Certificate (NSC), term deposits in post offices, etc remain unchanged from Q2 FY21 (around 7 quarters). Click here for [Interest Rates on Small Savings Instruments for Q4 FY22](#).

### **Fullerton India and One97 Communications tie up to Provide Lending Products**

Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Fullerton India and One97 Communications, parent company of Paytm, have joined hands to provide lending products to merchant partners and consumers. Under this partnership, Paytm Postpaid/buy-now-pay-later or innovative merchant loan products will be offered to consumers on the Paytm platform while utilising Fullerton’s risk assessment capabilities, and understanding of the segment.

### **India offers USD 500mn LOC to Sri Lanka for Purchase of Petroleum Products**

Indian Government offered a USD 500 million Line of Credit (**LOC**) to help Sri Lanka for purchase of petroleum products as it is struggling with fuel and energy crisis. This support is extended through a letter by Union Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, India’s Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Prof. Gamini Lakshman Peiris.

- ✓ Recently, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also extended over US\$ 900 million loan to Sri Lanka utilized that are being utilized by the latter to build up its depleted foreign reserves and for food imports.

### **Nippon India MF launches India’s first Auto Exchange Traded Fund**

In January 2022, Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited (NAM India), the asset manager of Nippon India Mutual Fund (NIMF) launched a New Fund Offer (NFO) for Nippon India Nifty Auto Exchange Traded Fund (ETF). It is India’s First Auto sector ETF.

- ✓ The scheme will provide exposure to top 15 companies of auto sectors such as automobiles 4 wheelers, automobiles 2 & 3 wheelers, auto ancillaries, and tyres.

### **NBBL Launches UPMS to Simplify Recurring Bill Payments**

NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (**NBBL**), the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), launched a Unified Presentment Management System (UPMS), which will enable users to set up standing instructions on their recurring bill payments across all modes of digital payments.

The bills will be automatically fetched from the billers and presented to customers for their action, in terms of auto-debit and bill payment management.



### Reliance Jio Introduces UPI Autopay in Collaboration with NPCI

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Reliance Jio collaborated to announce the introduction of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) Autopay for the telecom industry. Through this collaboration, Reliance Jio has become the 1<sup>st</sup> telecom company to launch a UPI autopay facility for both prepaid and postpaid subscribers.

- ✓ Jio customers can now autopay for their tariff plans on the MyJio app and avail touch-free auto-recharge and bill payments facility.

### NPCI sets standardized limits for cash withdrawals and mini statements on AePS transactions

In order to make Aadhaar enabled Payments Systems (AePS) more standardized, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has introduced limits for cash withdrawals and mini statements which needs to implement by the acquiring banks by January 15, 2022. As per the guidelines, the acquiring banks will have to implement a maximum limit of five approved cash withdrawal transactions per customer per terminal per day.

### SJVN Got Category I Licence for Inter State Power Trading

Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) got the Category I licence for inter-state trading in electricity in India, which was granted by the **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)**. SJVN has a portfolio of more than 16,000 megawatt (MW), out of which 2,016.5 MW is under operation. An entity or person applying for a Category 'I' trading licence should have net worth of Rs 50 crore and should have maintained minimum current ratio and liquidity ratio of 1:1.

### NBFC Shrinithi Capital Raises Rs 300 Crores Co-Lending Facility

Shrinithi Capital Private (Pvt) Limited (Ltd), a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) which primarily focuses on commercial vehicle & two-wheeler loans, tied-up with IndoStar Capital Finance Ltd to focus on co-lending facilities.

- ✓ Shrinithi Capital Pvt Ltd has raised Rs. 300 crores as co-lending facility from IndoStar Capital Finance Ltd.

### Yes Mutual Fund Renamed as White Oak Capital Mutual Fund

Yes Asset Management has been renamed as the **White Oak Capital Asset Management** with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022. In line with this, Yes Mutual Fund has been renamed as White Oak Capital Mutual Fund. In November 2021, the White Oak Capital group announced the completion of the transaction to acquire the mutual fund business of Yes Bank.

### Torus Kling Blockchain launches Bitcoin and Ethereum Futures ETF, India's first crypto backed futures ETF at GIFT City

The Torus Kling Blockchain IFSC, an equal joint venture between **Cosmea Financial Holdings** and **Kling Trading India** signed a MoU with India INX to launch the first Bitcoin and Ethereum Futures exchange traded funds (ETFs) in India.

These funds will become India's first crypto backed futures outside of the United States (US).

- ✓ Torus Kling Blockchain is targeting \$ 1 billion **Assets Under Management (AUM)** in the first two years from customers participating in blockchain backed products through ETFs and Discount certificates.
- ✓ Under the agreement, Torus Kling Blockchain IFSC also launched Metaverse US-listed large-cap discount certificates.

## Marwadi Financial Services partnered with NSDL Payments Bank to offer 3-in-1 Savings Account to Customers

Marwadi Financial Services has joined hands with NSDL Payments Bank to offer 3-in-1 savings bank account with features of savings, demat (Dematerialised Account) and trading accounts to boost its customer experience. This partnership will also allow NSDL Payments Bank to access Marwadi's clients and expand its customer base.

- ✓ NSDL Payments Bank is a subsidiary of NSDL (National Securities Depository Limited), the first and the largest depository in India. Marwadi Financial Services is a Rajkot, Gujarat based financial service group dealing in equities/commodities/currencies broking and portfolio management services.

## Indifi, GPay tie-up to offer Instant Digital Credit to Small Merchants

Indifi Technologies has joined hands with Alphabet's UPI (Unified Payments Interface)-based payment app, Google Pay (GPay), to offer instant loans to eligible small merchants on the GPay platform. The loans will be in the range of Rs 2.5 to Rs 3 lakh.

- ✓ The reason behind this partnership is to serve small Indian businesses that are facing problems in running seamless operations due to lack of access to formal credit.

## IIFL Securities Partners with Alphaniti for Stock Market Investors

Alphaniti, a Fintech company, partnered with IIFL Securities to allow investors to invest and trade in stock offerings.

The aim of the partnership is to allow direct investments by offering high-quality products at affordable costs through big data, deep domain expertise and technology for both India and the US markets across multiple asset classes.

## Paytm Money Launches Intelligent Messenger 'Pops' to invest and track markets

Paytm Money, a wholly owned subsidiary of the digital finance platform 'Paytm', has launched India's first intelligent messenger named "Pop" to provide instant updates to track users' investments in the stock market. "Pop" provides specific information related to their stock, portfolio analysis, market news, and important market movements all in one place and easily available to its users.

## Snapdeal, BOB Financial & NPCI Launches Contactless RuPay Credit Card

E-commerce platform Snapdeal has partnered with Bank of Baroda (BOB) Financial Solutions Limited, a subsidiary of BoB, and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch a co-branded contactless RuPay credit card.

- ✓ **Aim** – To popularise the adoption and usage of credit cards among the online buyers from India's smaller cities and towns.

## MobiKwik & Bharat BillPay launch ClickPay Services for Bill Payments

MobiKwik, a mobile wallet Fintech company, partnered with NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL) to launch 'ClickPay' service to its customers. With this, the customers of MobiKwik can pay recurring online bills, such as mobile, gas, water, electricity, DTH, insurance and loan EMIs using their mobile phone.

- ✓ **ClickPay** is a two-factor authentication payment feature wherein the billers generate a unique payment link within the bill-pay message and allow customers to make payments directly on the payment page.

## NSE Remains World's Largest Derivatives Market for 3rd Straight Year; NSE Indices launches Nifty India Defence Index

National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has emerged as the world's largest derivatives exchange for the third consecutive year in 2021 in terms of the number of contracts traded, based on the statistics

maintained by the Futures Industry Association (FIA). As per the statistics maintained by the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) for 2021, the NSE exchange was ranked 4th by the number of trades in cash equities.

### Indipaisa Partners with Hitachi Payment to Develop Fintech Platform for MSMEs

Hitachi Payment Services partnered with Indipaisa to develop a new Fintech platform for India's 63 million Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The objective of the partnership is to offer a high-quality digital platform for fintech services at affordable prices for the Indian MSME market.

- ✓ The partnership helps in financial inclusion for the marginalised MSMEs with technological know-how, centralised infrastructure and expansive network.

### Max Life, Policybazaar Partners to Offer Insurance Cover for Homemakers

Max Life Insurance Company Limited (Max Life) has partnered with Policybazaar.com to offer its '**Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan**' on Policybazaar platform as an independent Insurance cover to homemakers. At present homemakers in India are allowed for term insurance cover only as an add-on to their earning spouse's cover.

### FAARMS, RGICL Partners to Offer Insurance to Farmers

FAARMS, the Agri-tech start-up, partners with Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd. (RGICL) and introduced customized digital insurance solutions for the rural population especially the farmers. The partnership will enable the farmers and any individual from rural areas to easily access and choose from a range of health and cattle insurance on the FAARMS app through their smartphones.

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

### GDP & GROWTH RATE

ORGANIZATION	YEAR	RATE
Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)	Q2FY22	<b>1.3%</b> In accordance with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Balance of Payments ( <b>BoP</b> ) data for July-September 2021 (Q2FY22), India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) was USD 9.6 billion or 1.3% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product). India's current account surplus stood at USD 6.6 billion or 0.9% of GDP in the April-June 2021 quarter (Q1FY22). In the year-ago period the surplus had stood at USD 15.3 billion or 2.4% of the GDP.
National Statistical Office (NSO)	FY22	<b>9.2%</b> The First Advance Estimates (FAE) of National Income at both Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices, for the financial year 2021-22 (FY22) released by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of statistics and planning implementation (MOSPI). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In accordance with the estimates the growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or GDP at Constant Prices (2011-12) for FY22 stood at <b>9.2%</b> as compared to the contraction of 7.3% (-7.3%) in 2020-21. It is 1.3% over the pre-Covid levels of FY20.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This estimate is lower than the <b>9.5%</b> GDP growth projection of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in December 2021.</li> </ul>
SBI Ecowrap	FY22	<b>9.5%</b> As per the report of State Bank of India's ( <b>SBI</b> s) economic research team <b>Ecowrap</b> , India's Gross Domestic Product ( <b>GDP</b> ) growth in FY22 was estimated to be revised to around <b>9.5 percent</b> . <b>i.</b> The first advance estimate of GDP growth by the National Statistical Office ( <b>NSO</b> ) has stated India's FY22 GDP growth at <b>9.2 percent</b> . <b>ii.</b> The GDP growth calculated for H2 (Second Half) FY22 for construction was at <b>0.9 percent</b> and for financing, insurance, real estate & business services is at <b>2 percent</b> .
World Bank	2021	<b>8.3%</b> World Bank's (WB) Global Economic Prospects Report was released stating a sharp decline in global growth from 5.5% in 2021 to 4.1% in 2022 and 3.2% in 2023. On the Indian front, its annual growth is projected at 8.3% in 2021, 8.7% in 2022, and 6.8% in 2023. India's growth contracted 7.3% (-7.3%) in 2020. As per the report, the global economy is facing a 'pronounced slowdown' due to the new variants of Covid-19 like Omicron; a rise in inflation, debt and income inequality; the winding down of fiscal and monetary support; and the fading of pent-up demand.
UBS Securities	FY22	<b>9.1%</b> Switzerland based brokerage UBS Securities has revised India's growth forecast for the current financial year (FY22) downwards to 9.1 percent from 9.5 percent due to increased cases in Omicron infections, closely equal to the recent NSO forecast to 9.2 percent. UBS Securities also analyzed that the 3rd wave impact does not extend to FY23 as it has revised the real GDP forecast upwards to 8.2 percent from 7.7 percent.
India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra)	FY23	<b>7.6%</b> India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) estimated India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in FY23 at 7.6 percent, which will be 9.1 percent higher than the FY20 (pre-COVID-19) level. The size of the Indian economy was expected to be 10.2 percent lower than the FY23 GDP trend value. A continued weakness in private consumption and investment demand is estimated to contribute 43.4 percent and 21.0 percent, respectively to the shortfall in economy growth.
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	FY22	<b>9%</b> International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) of January 2022 has downgraded India's economic growth forecast to 9% for FY22 (ending on March 31, 2022) from 9.5% projected in October 2021.

		<p>This cut is triggered by spread of COVID-19's omicron variant affecting business activity and mobility, higher energy prices, increasing inflation and a deteriorating outlook for the world's two biggest economies i.e. the United States (US) and China.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ IMF also projected a GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth of India at 7.1% for FY23 (April 2022 to March 2023).</li> </ul> <p>Global Growth Projections: It is expected to moderate from 5.9% in 2021 to 4.4% in 2022.</p>
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## ECONOMY NEWS

### India's April-November 2021 Fiscal Deficit narrows to 46.2% of full FY22 target

In accordance with the official data by India's Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the Central Government's fiscal deficit at the end of November 2021 (April-November) decreased to 46.2% due to revenues and rise in tax collections. It was **135.1%** in November 2020. In actual terms, the deficit stood at Rs 6.95 lakh crore against the annual estimate of Rs 15.06 lakh crore for FY22 or 6.8% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

### India & UAE sets up \$150-million worth Venture Capital to boost Start-up Ecosystem

On 25th January, Chairman of Startup Committee of FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) & HCL founder, Dr Ajai Chowdhry launched the India-United Arab Emirates (UAE) Venture Capital (VC) Fund of worth \$150 million from the India Pavilion at EXPO2020 Dubai, UAE. The VC aims to promote growth and investment on startups in India & UAE.

### CryptoWire launches India's 1st Index of Cryptocurrencies 'IC15'

India's 1st index of cryptocurrencies named '**IC15**' was launched by CryptoWire, a global crypto super app, to empower knowledge on the cryptocurrency and blockchain ecosystem. IC15 Index which is a rule-based broad market index by market capitalization will measure the performance of 15 widely traded liquid cryptocurrencies listed on exchanges across the world.

### India Achieves Highest-Ever Export of USD 37.29 Billion in December 2021

As per the data of the Ministry of commerce and industry, India's merchandise export in December 2021 was about USD 37.29 billion, the highest ever monthly exports achievement. The export was increased by 37.0 percent in December 2021 on an annual basis over USD 27.22 billion in December 2020 and an increase of 37.55 percent over USD 27.11 billion in December 2019.

### Citigroup, Ind-Ra, ICICI lower India Growth Projections amid Covid-19 surge & FAE for FY22

Citigroup Inc., India Ratings & Research Private Limited (Ind-Ra), and ICICI (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India) Bank Ltd., have lowered India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates after the First Advance Estimates (FAE) of National Income at both Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices for FY22 released by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of statistics and planning implementation (MOSPI) on January 7, 2022.

### India's Retail Inflation in December 2021 Climbs to 5-month high of 5.59%: MoSPI

As per the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India's benchmark inflation rate, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) firmed up to 5.59 percent year-on-year in December 2021 (highest in 5 months) from 4.91 percent in November 2021. In December 2020, retail inflation stood at 4.59 percent. Thus, the CPI has remained within the RBI's tolerance level for the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive month.



- ✓ CPI Tolerance Level: In its 5th bi-monthly monetary policy statement for FY22, the government retained the inflation target at 4 percent with the lower and upper tolerance levels of 2 percent and 6 percent, i.e. within a band of +/- 2 percent.

### MoCI data on India's Trade in December 2021: Exports rise to USD 37.81 billion; Trade Deficit Increase to USD 21.68 billion

As per the data of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) India's merchandise exports in December 2021 increased to 38.91 percent on an annual basis to USD 37.81 billion, the highest-ever monthly figure. Imports in December 2021 also increased by 38.55 percent to USD 59.48 billion. The trade deficit was widened to USD 21.68 billion during December 2021.

### MoCI Confirms India's position to Achieve \$650 Billion Exports in FY 2021-22

Union Minister of Commerce & Industries (MoCI), **Piyush Goyal** chaired the review meeting of all major Export Promotion Councils (EPCs), where he informed that India is set to achieve the targeted Export level of \$650 Billion in the current financial year (FY) 2021-22. At present, Indian Merchandise exports have reached \$300 billion in the first nine months of FY 2021-22, out of the total targeted \$400 billion.

- ✓ Out of the targeted \$650 billion, \$400 billion will be merchandise exports and \$250 billion will be service exports.

Merchandise exports were \$37 billion and \$16 billion for December and first half of January respectively.

### India becomes World's Largest Exporter of 'Cucumber' & 'Gherkins'

Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced that India has exported \$114 million worth of Cucumber & Gherkins in April-October 2021 to become the World's largest exporter of Cucumber and Gherkins. In the financial year 2020-21 (FY21), India crossed the export of worth \$200 million of agricultural processed product, pickling gherkins, cucumber or cornichons.

- ✓ Gherkin is also known as pickled cucumber. It is made from younger cucumbers that are seasoned using vinegar or acetic acid.

## BUSINESS NEWS

### Apple Becomes First Company to Touch \$3 Trillion Market Cap

Apple Inc.'s stock market value raised above USD 3 trillion and became the first company to achieve this milestone. On the first day of trading in 2022 (i.e. On January 03, 2022), the company's shares hit an intraday record high of USD 182.88, putting Apple's market value just above USD 3 trillion. The stock ended the session up 2.5 percent at USD 182.01, with Apple's market capitalization at USD 2.99 trillion.

### Malaysia's AirAsia Renamed its Listed Holding Company to Capital A

AirAsia Group Berhad based in Malaysia has renamed its listed holding company as, Capital A Berhad (Capital A), to highlight the diversity of AirAsia's business portfolio and its aim to grow in the non-airline revenue. The new name "Capital A" reflects the group's core businesses and its future undertakings as rapid digital transformation takes shape. The airline retains the AirAsia brand name.

### Meta partners with FICCI to support 5 lakh women-led Small Business

Meta (formerly Facebook) has joined hands with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (**FICCI**) to support five lakh women-led small businesses across India under its #SheMeansBusiness programme during the Meta's 1st National Women Entrepreneurship Summit 2022.

### Airtel Partners with HCIPL to Offer Satellite Broadband Services

Bharti Airtel Limited and Hughes Communications India Private Limited (HCIPL), a majority-owned subsidiary of Hughes Network Systems, LLC (Hughes) announced joint venture (JV) to provide satellite broadband services in India. The JV is Operational as HCIPL. HCIPL will hold a 67 percent stake in the joint venture, while Airtel will hold a 33 percent.

### Reliance Launches India Inc's Biggest Bond Sale Abroad

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) launched a mega bond sale as it desired to raise USD 3 to 5 billion from offshore investors. The sale is claimed as the largest-ever foreign currency bond issuance from India and 2022's first fundraising by an Indian company. RIL received bids of about USD 11-12 billion, named as 'order book size' in the market.

### MEA Inks Pact with TCS for Second Phase of Passport Seva Program

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) selected Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) for implementing the second phase of the passport seva programme (PSP) – India's largest mission-critical e-governance programme. TCS has been involved as a service provider in the Passport Seva Project for over 10 years. In the second phase, TCS will refresh existing facilities and systems, and develop innovative new solutions for issuance of e-passports.

### Flipkart Launches 2 New Programmes: Flipkart Leap Ahead & Flipkart Leap Innovation Network

On the occasion of the National Startup Day 2022 (January 16), Flipkart, an online retail company, announced the evolution of Flipkart Leap, Flipkart's flagship startup accelerator programme, to identify wider and relevant market opportunities for its selected startups. The Flipkart Leap has evolved into 2 new programmes: Flipkart Leap Ahead (FLA) and Flipkart Leap Innovation Network (FLIN).

## MoU's & AGREEMENTS

### MoU's BETWEEN COUNTRY

COUNTRY	MoU's WITH	FIELD / PURPOSE
Japan	Australia	Signed a 'landmark' defence treaty named the Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) to counter China's expansionary military and economic policies. The treaty or RAA will enhance the interoperability and cooperation between the two countries. It is the second deal signed between Japan & Australia after Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD).
Nepal Power Exchange Ltd (NPEL)	India's Manikaran Power Ltd	Nepal Power Exchange Ltd (NPEL) signed an energy trading agreement with India's Manikaran Power Ltd to sell electricity produced by the domestic private sector to India through India's Manikaran Power. This is the first agreement between the private sectors of India and Nepal to facilitate power trading. The agreement was signed during Nepal Power Market Summit 2022, which was held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
India	United Kingdom (UK)	The government of the United Kingdom (UK) launched free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations with India. This negotiation was described as a "golden opportunity" to put British businesses at the "front of the queue" of the Indian economy. Under the negotiations, the UK wants an agreement to remove barriers and to cut tariffs on

		exports of British-made cars and Scotch whisky. The first round of negotiations was agreed to begin on 17 January 2022.
India	Denmark	Signed an agreement to work together in joint research and development on green fuels including green hydrogen during the Joint Science and Technology (S&T) Committee meeting held virtually. The Joint Committee discussed national strategic priorities and developments in Science, Technology, and Innovation of both countries with a special focus on green solutions of the future – strategy for investments in green research, technology, and innovation.
Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) (India)	Institut Pasteur (France)	Signed a MoU towards advancement in Global Human Health. The purpose of the agreement is to develop scientific & technological (S&T) cooperation and networking in advanced and emerging areas of Human Health between scientists and institutes/laboratories of CSIR and Institut Pasteur and its international network.
India	Philippines	Philippines signed a USD 374.96 Million deal with BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (India) for the supply of shore-based anti-ship variants of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, a joint product between India and Russia and it will be the 1 <sup>st</sup> export order for the missile. The contract was signed by Defence Secretary of National Defence of Philippines Delfin Lorenzana and Director General of BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited, Atul Dinkar Rane in a virtual ceremony.

## MoU's WITH STATES

STATE	MoU's WITH	FIELD / PURPOSE
Jammu and Kashmir	LuLu Group International	Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with LuLu Group International to establish the Food Processing and Logistics hub in Srinagar (Summer Capital of J&K). The LG inaugurated the Jammu and Kashmir promotion week at the LuLu Hypermarket in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The GI-tagged saffron of J&K was launched at LuLu Hypermarket.
Karnataka	Singapore based LNG Alliance	The government of Karnataka and the Singapore based LNG Alliance has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to set up Karnataka's 1st Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal in Mangaluru, Karnataka. The terminal will be developed in association with the New Mangalore Port Trust (NMPT) with an investment of Rs 2250 crore. This is a part of the Government of India's plan to strengthen the alternative fuel sector to reach net-zero carbon by 2070.
Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL)	GAIL India	On January 5, 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked between the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL) and GAIL India (Formerly known as Gas Authority Of India Ltd) in Bhubaneswar (Odisha) for the production of eco-friendly fuels in Odisha. Both entities will cooperate in the areas of green hydrogen, green ammonia and renewable energy (solar/wind).

		<b>NHPC, GEDCOL to form JV for setting up 500-MW floating Solar Power Projects</b> NHPC (erstwhile National Hydroelectric Power Corporation) Limited has signed a promoter's agreement with Green Energy Development Corporation of Odisha Ltd (GEDCOL) to form a JV for setting up a 500-megawatt (MW) floating solar power projects in Odisha.
Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)	Century Financial	The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) government signed a MoU with Dubai based Century Financial, which will invest <b>USD 100 million</b> in J&K. The event was presided over by the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of J&K – Manoj Sinha. Century Financial will invest in 3 hotels and 1 commercial-cum-residential complex in J&K.
Gujarat	Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)	On 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2022, the Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Gujarat of investment Rs 5.955 lakh crore in various projects as part of the Investment Promotion Activity (IPA) for Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2022. RIL will help in setting up 100 GW Renewable Energy Power Plant and Green Hydrogen Eco-System in Gujarat in a 10-15 years span.
Assam	National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)	For holistic dairy development to set up Joint venture (JV) worth Rs.2000 Crore which aims at processing 10 Lakh litres of milk through 6 new milk processing units in 7 years. The JV will be guided, monitored and mentored by NDDB.
Haryana	Himachal Pradesh	On 21st January 2022 the governments of Himachal Pradesh (HP) and Haryana signed a MoU for the construction of an Adi Badri dam on 77 acres in HP near the Adi Badri area of Yamunanagar, Haryana for the revival of the Saraswati river. The construction of Adi Badri dam is estimated to cost Rs 215.35 crore and will ensure continuous flow of 20 cubic second (cusec) water in Saraswati river throughout the year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL) would be the executing agency for the Adi Badri dam and its related infrastructure.</li> </ul> The entire funding of the Project would be arranged by the Haryana Government.

## MoU's BETWEEN ORGANIZATION

ORGANIZATION	MoU's WITH	FIELD / PURPOSE
India International Exchange (IFSC) Limited (India INX)	Sova Capital, an International Clearing Member of Moscow Exchange (MOEX)	Through its wholly owned subsidiary India INX Global Access IFSC, to allow Indian clients to access the Russian market. The partnership will provide connection to all India INX Members and their clients to access all instruments on MOEX (Russia's main trading venue for equities, bonds, derivatives, Foreign Exchange (FX) and money markets) and trade the global markets directly from India.
TRIFED	Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini	Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India ( <b>TRIFED</b> ) signed a MoU with Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini-

		<p>Nation First Policy Research Centre (<b>RMP-NFPRC</b>) to leverage knowledge, expertise and institutional strengths.</p> <p>✓ <b>Aim</b> - To assess and review several government schemes like Van Dhan Yojana. The Van Dhan programme is spearheading in 25 States and 307 Districts with the availability of Minor Forest Produces (MFP) and forest-dwelling tribal population.</p>
POWERGRID	Africa50	<p>Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has signed a Joint Development Agreement with Africa50, the pan-African infrastructure investment platform, to continue to develop Africa's 1st public-private partnership (PPP) mode transmission project in Kenya, "Kenya Transmission Project". The project involves the development, financing, construction, and operation of the 400kV Lessos – Loosuk and 220kV Kisumu – Musaga transmission lines under a PPP framework.</p>
Adani Group	POSCO	<p>Adani Group has signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with POSCO, a South Korean steel-making company, to explore business cooperation opportunities in sectors like Steel, Renewable energy and others.</p> <p>The investment under the MoU is estimated to be up to USD 5 billion (Rs 37000 crore).</p> <p>The collaboration also includes the establishment of an environment-friendly integrated steel mill in Mundra, Gujarat based on POSCO's technology and R&amp;D capability.</p>
NIRDPR	NCGG	<p>National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad has signed a MoU with the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), New Delhi to promote inclusive good governance, strengthen local institutions and effective implementation of government programmes.</p> <p>To focus on various collaborative activities by drawing upon the strengths of NIRDPR &amp; NCGG to bring better good governance mechanisms into practice across all programmes and schemes.</p>
Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)	IGNOU	<p>Ministry of Skill Development &amp; Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a 10-year long Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) to further strengthen the vocational and technical training framework. This MoU is on the lines of Sustainable Development Goal (<b>SDG</b>) 4.4 i.e. Increase the number of people with relevant skills for financial success; and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 for increasing Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education including vocational education to 50 % by 2035.</p>
Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)	Mauritius	<p>Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a contract with the Mauritius government to export one Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH Mk-III), for the Mauritius police force. The contract is in line with the vision of the Indian Government to boost the defence exports to friendly foreign countries. The</p>



		contract was signed by B K Tripathy, General Manager, Helicopter Division-HAL and O K Dabidin, Secretary of Home Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, Government of the Republic of Mauritius at the HAL's Transport Aircraft Division, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh(UP).
International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA)	Insurance Institute of India (III)	For capacity building of insurance professionals in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs). III will make changes to the academic curriculum as per the current needs of the insurance industry. III will promote subjects relating to working of IFSCA to the students enrolling for doctoral studies under its agreement with the University of Mumbai.
Amazon India	NIF	Amazon India signed a MoU with the NIF Incubation and Entrepreneurship Council (NIFentreC), a technology business incubator hosted by the National Innovation Foundation (NIF), for online distribution of products of grassroots innovations, student creativity-based innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge-based ready to market products.
Bharathi Group-backed OneWeb, a global communications company	Hughes Network Systems	Signed a <b>6-year</b> distribution agreement to provide satellite broadband services across India. The service will be provided by Hughes Communications India Private Ltd.(HCIPL) a joint venture of Hughes and Bharti Airtel.It will offer high-speed, low-latency satellite broadband solutions and contribute to the Digital India vision.
ReNew Power	United States (US) based Fluence	To form a 50:50 joint venture (JV) to provide BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) solutions to customers of Indian market, including engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) and asset management services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ It will provide a solution to ReNew, with 150 MWh (megawatt hour) BESS required for its 300 MW (Mega Watt) peak power project in Karnataka.</li> </ul> To be managed and operated by an independent management team and board, the JV is expected to start operations in the first half of 2022.
Jio Platforms (JPL)	University of Oulu, Finland	To accelerate research and standardisation in 6G technology.JPL and the University of Oulu will collaborate in Research and Development (R&D) of aerial and space communication, holographic beamforming, 3D-connected intelligence in cybersecurity, microelectronics, and photonics. The collaboration will develop competency with 6G enabled products in the defence, automotive, white goods, industrial machinery, consumer goods, efficient manufacturing, novel personal smart device environments, and experiences such as urban computing and autonomous traffic settings.
AgNext Technologies	National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)	To organize a virtual training and awareness programme for the FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations) of Maharashtra on pulse quality assessment,also to train the FPOs about the different market quality standards for toor dal (pigeon pea).

Indian Naval Placement Agency (INPA)	IIFL (formerly India Infoline Limited) Home Finance Limited (IIFL HFL)	To look into the opportunities for the recruitment of naval veterans. Through the MoU, the INPA will identify ex-servicemen/dependents candidates for relevant roles in IIFL HFL.
Bharti Airtel (Airtel)	Google	Bharti Airtel (Airtel) signed a long term, multi-year agreement with Google to enhance the growth of the digital ecosystem of India. Under this agreement, Google is set to invest up to <b>USD 1 billion</b> in Airtel. The agreement also includes an investment of USD 700 million to acquire 1.28% in Bharti Airtel at a price per share of Rs.734. This fund is a part of the Google for India Digitization Fund of USD 10 billion, announced by Sundar Pichai, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Alphabet and Google.

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

### APPOINTMENTS

#### NATIONAL

PERSON NAME	APPOINTED AS	ENTITY / PLACE	KEY NOTES
S Somanath	Chairman	Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)	<p>Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of rocket scientist S Somanath as the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and The Space Secretary, Department of Space (DoS). He will succeed K Sivan, who is set to retire on 14th January 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr Somanath, will be the 10th Chairman of ISRO.</li> <li>✓ Mr Somanath, the senior space scientist is also taking part in the Gaganyaan – India's 1st Human spaceflight mission.</li> </ul>
Urjit Patel	Vice President	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)	<p>Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), <b>Urjit Patel</b> is appointed as a Vice President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for a three-year tenure (2022-2025) starting from 1<sup>st</sup> February. Urjit Patel will succeed previous Vice President D J Pandian.</p> <p>He will be one of the five Vice Presidents of the AIIB, which is headed by the President and Chair of the Board of Directors Jin Lique (China).</p>
Dr V Anantha Nageswaran	Chief Economic Advisor (CEA)	Ministry of Finance (India)	<p>Union government appointed Dr V Anantha Nageswaran as the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) for the Ministry of Finance. He will</p>

			succeed K V Subramanian who resigned in December 2021 after completing his 3-year term. His appointment as CEA comes days ahead of the release of the 2022 Economic Survey on 31st January.
Deepak Kumar & Ajay Kumar Choudhary	Executive Directors (ED)	RBI	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Deepak Kumar, Chief General Manager, Department of Information Technology, RBI and Ajay Kumar Choudhary, Chief General Manager-in-Charge, Department of Supervision, RBI, as the new Executive Directors (ED) of RBI with effect from 3rd January 2022.
Alka Mittal	1st woman Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)	ONGC	Human Resources (HR) Director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Alka Mittal was appointed as the 1st woman Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of ONGC, on additional charge. Alka Mittal succeeded Subhash Kumar who retired on December 31 2021. <b>Note</b> – Previously, in January 2021, Soma Mondal became the 1st Women Chairperson of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).
Vijay Paul Sharma	Chairman	Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)	Central government has reappointed Vijay Paul Sharma as Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) after he resigned in May 2021 completing his five-year term (2016-2021). Vijay Paul Sharma also serves as a professor in the Agriculture department at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) Gujarat.
Vinay Kumar Tripathi	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Railway Board	The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Vinay Kumar Tripathi as a Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Railway Board, New Delhi. Tripathi is currently working as the General Manager of North-Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh and has been appointed in place of outgoing Chairman and CEO Suneet Sharma.
G Asok Kumar	Director General	National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)	The Additional Secretary under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, G Asok Kumar was appointed as the new Director General of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti. He succeeded Director General, Rajiv Ranjan Mishra. He is popularly known as 'the Rain

			Man of India' for his excellent work in rainwater harvesting under the "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign.
Shersingh B Khyalia	Chief Executive Officer(CEO)	Adani Power Limited(APL)	The Board of Directors of Adani Power Limited(APL), a subsidiary of Adani Group, approved the appointment of Shersingh B Khyalia as the Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Adani Powers with effect from 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2022. Shersingh B Khyalia is a Chartered Accountant, who has served as the Managing Director in Gujarat Power Corporation.
Narendra Kumar Goenka	Chairman	Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)	Narendra Kumar Goenka, Founder and Managing Director(MD) of Texport Industries Pvt Ltd took charge as the Chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), under the aegis of the Ministry of Textile, during its Executive Committee meeting held on 17th January 2022.AEPC is the official body of apparel exporters in India. ✓ He succeeds Padma Shri Dr A Sakthivel, who has served as the AEPC Chairman since January 2020. Dr A Sakthivel is the Chairman and MD of Poppys Knitwear Pvt. Ltd.
Vikram Dev Dutt	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)	Air India	Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of <b>Vikram Dev Dutt</b> , a 1993-batch IAS officer of AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Air India.He has been appointed in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary, in the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Vikram Dev Dutt will succeed Rajiv Bansal, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, who was holding the additional charge of Air India CMD.
Dileep Sanghani	Chairman	IFFCO	The board of Directors of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) Limited has elected <b>Dileep Sanghani</b> , the former cabinet Minister of Gujarat as the 17 <sup>th</sup> Chairman of IFFCO. He has been serving as the Vice-Chairman of IFFCO since 2019.The elections were held following the demise of incumbent Chairman Balvinder Singh Nakai. Dileep Sanghani has previously served as the minister of Agriculture, Co-operation Animal

			Husbandry, Fisheries, Cow-Breeding, Prison, Excise Law & Justice, Legislative & Parliamentary Affairs in the Cabinet of the Gujarat government.
Vinod Rai	Independent Chairman	Unity Small Finance Bank (Unity SFB)	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of former comptroller and auditor general (CAG) of India Vinod Rai as independent chairman of Unity Small Finance Bank (Unity SFB). Prior to the appointment as the independent chairman of Unity SFB, Vinod Rai, who is a former IAS officer has been the chairman of Banks Board Bureau, a body that advises the central government on top-level appointments at public sector banks and ways to address bad loans.
Raghuvendra Tanwar	Chairman	Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)	The government of India (GoI) has appointed Raghuvendra Tanwar, Professor emeritus of Kurukshetra University(KU), as the chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) for a period of 3 years from the day he assumes office or until further orders. He was awarded the UGC National Fellowship (Research Award) 2002-2005.
Vinodanand Jha	Chairperson	(PMLA) Adjudicating Authority	The Union Finance Ministry appointed Vinodanand Jha, a 1983-batch retired IRS officer as the chairperson of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) Adjudicating Authority, New Delhi, Delhi till the completion of his tenure i.e. upto 22nd June 2023. Vinodanand Jha was appointed as the chairperson after he retired from service as the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax in Pune, Maharashtra.
Arun Kumar Purwar	Chairman	IIFL Finance	IIFL Finance, a non-banking finance company (NBFC) backed by Fairfax and Capital Group appointed former Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI) <b>Arun Kumar Purwar</b> as its new Chairman with effect from April 1, 2022. He also worked as Chairman of Indian Bank Association (IBA) during 2005-2006. Currently he is working for Tadas Wind Energy Pvt and Eroute Technologies.
Pushp Kumar Joshi	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL)	Pushp Kumar Joshi was recommended by the PESB (Public Enterprises Selection Board) as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), third largest oil



			refining and fuel marketing company. He will succeed Mukesh Kumar Surana, who superannates on April 30 2022.
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## INTERNATIONAL

PERSON NAME	APPOINTED AS	ENTITY / PLACE	KEY NOTES
Daniel Ortega	President	Nicaragua	Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, leader of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), was sworn in for a new presidential term. This marks his 5th term and 4th consecutive term as the President of Nicaragua. He will remain in the office until January 2027. ✓ The swearing-in ceremony was held at the Plaza de la Revolucion, Managua, Nicaragua. He received the presidential sash from Gustavo Porras, head of the National Assembly.
Alikhan Smailov	Prime Minister	Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev nominated Alikhan Smailov, 49 years as the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan. Alikhan Smailov was appointed as the acting Prime Minister on 5 January 2022 following the resignation of the Askar Mamin Cabinet during the ongoing violent 2022 Kazakh protests. Alikhan Smailov has served as First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2019.
Dimitar Kovacevski	Prime Minister	North Macedonia	North Macedonian Parliament has voted for a new coalition government, with Dimitar Kovacevski, leader of the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM), elected as the new prime minister. The new coalition cabinet is composed of Kovacevski's Social Democrats and two ethnic Albanian parties as junior partners.
Roberta Metsola	President	European Union (EU) Parliament	Roberta Metsola from Malta was elected as the new President of the European Union (EU) Parliament, she is also the youngest-ever President & only the third woman to head the EU Parliament. She succeeded David Sassoli, who passed away at the age of 65. Roberta Metsola is a 43-year-old politician from the European Union's smallest nation 'Malta'. She was first elected as a Member of the European Parliament in 2013, representing Malta, and became the First Vice-President

			of the European Parliament in November 2020.
Mia Amor Mottley	Prime Minister	Barbados	Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Amor Mottley, was sworn in for a second term. She became Barbados' eighth and first female Prime Minister elected on May 25, 2018. She is also the first female PM of Barbados to lead a second term as the PM. She is the eighth person to hold the position of Prime Minister in Barbados and also Barbados' first prime minister under a republic system.
Maria Elisa Quinteros	President	Chile	The members of the Chilean constitutional assembly have elected epidemiologist Maria Elisa Quinteros as the new president of the assembly which is tasked to draft the new Constitution of the Republic of Chile. Maria Elisa Quinteros will replace Indigenous Mapuche professor and activist Elisa Loncon, the inaugural president of the constitutional assembly.
TS Tirumurti	Chair	United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee (UNCTC)	India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN), <b>TS Tirumurti</b> taken over the Chair of the United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee ( <b>UNCTC</b> ) for 2022. India will make efforts in strengthening the multilateral response to counter-terrorism. The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (UN CTC) consisted all 15 members (Permanent and Non-permanent) of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
Zhang Ming	secretary general (SG)	Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)	The senior Chinese diplomat, <b>Zhang Ming</b> was appointed as the new secretary general (SG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Zhang Ming succeeded the former diplomat from Uzbekistan, Vladimir Norov, who completed his term on 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021. Zhang Ming will hold the post of SG of the SCO for a term of 3 years. Prior to this appointment, Zhang Ming served for four years as the head of the Chinese mission to the European Union (EU).
Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas	Economic Counsellor and Head of Research Department	International Monetary Fund (IMF)	French-born University of California-Berkeley economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas has been appointed as the Economic Counsellor and Head of Research Department of the International Monetary

			Fund (IMF). He will succeed Gita Gopinath, who is set to join the IMF's management team as First Deputy Managing Director. He is also Program Director of International Finance and Macroeconomics at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER).
Haitham Al Ghais	Secretary General (SG)	OPEC	The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) appointed Kuwait's oil executive Haitham Al Ghais as the new Secretary General (SG). He will succeed Nigeria's Mohammad Barkindo. He is appointed for a three year tenure (2022-2025). Haitham Al Ghais, previously served as the Governor of OPEC between 2017 to June 2021, then as the Director of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPU).
Ayesha Malik	First female Supreme Court judge	Pakistan	Justice Ayesha Malik has been sworn in as Pakistan's first female Supreme Court judge in Islamabad, Pakistan. Pakistan's Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed administered the oath of office to Ayesha Malik. Justice Ayesha Malik has served as the judge at the Lahore High Court, the second-highest court in the judicial system for around 2 decades.

## BRAND & CAMPAIGN AMBASSADORS

PERSON NAME	BRAND / CAMPAIGN	KEY NOTES
RajKummar Rao	Brand Ambassador	RenewBuy, an online insurance platform, has appointed RajKummar Rao as the brand ambassador for its 1st 360-degree consumer advertisement campaign that highlights consumer's insurance needs. The campaign was designed and conceptualised by Havas Worldwide India. "Smart Tech, Right Advice" is the theme of the campaign.
Vijay Shekhar Sharma	UA Ambassador	Universal Acceptance Steering Group appointed Vijay Shekhar Sharma, founder of Paytm, as its UA Ambassador. Universal Acceptance Steering Group, is an international organization that works on developing and recommending standards for languages script which are not currently used for accessing the internet. The group is supported by the global internet body, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).
Shafali Verma	Brand Endorser	Bank of Baroda (BoB) appointed Indian Women's Cricketer Shafali Verma as the Brand Endorser of the bank. A contract was signed between the Bank and the Cricketer Shafali Verma to confirm their

		association. Shafali Verma is a 17-year-old young cricketer, hails from Rohtak, Haryana. She plays for the Indian women's national cricket team.
Jhulan Goswami	Ambassador	Legends League Cricket (LLC) appointed <b>Jhulan Goswami</b> as an Ambassador to its All Women Match Official Team to promote Women's Empowerment initiatives of the LLC and to increase participation of women in cricket. The LLC set up an All Women Match Official Team for the League. This is the first of its all women official teams that would officiate an entire men's league. ✓ In 2021, Indian film actor Amitabh Bachchan appointed the Brand Ambassador Legends League Cricket (LLC) and former head coach Ravi Shastri is officiating as Commissioner of the league.

## RESIGNATIONS

PERSON NAME	RESIGNED AS	ENTITY / PLACE
Abdalla Hamdok Al-Kinani	Prime Minister	Prime Minister of Sudan, Abdalla Hamdok Al-Kinani announced resignation due to political deadlock and protests in the capital city Khartoum, Sudan. This protest comes amid Sudan's political transition to democracy. Previously, Abdalla Hamdok was appointed as the Prime Minister of Sudan, after the overthrow of Dictator Omar al-Bashir who ruled the country for 30 years.
Armen Sarkissian	President	<b>The President of Armenia, Armen Sarkissian</b> has resigned from his presidential position because his office was unable to influence policy during times of national crisis. He became President in 2018. Armenia's political crisis followed the war between Armenia and its rival Azerbaijan for control of the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

## OTHER APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

### Somalia's President suspended Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble over Corruption Allegations

Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, President of Somalia, widely known as Farmaajo, has suspended Prime Minister (PM) Mohamed Hussein Roble over allegations of corruption, misuse of public land and trade allegations over the holding up of parliamentary elections. The president has also suspended Brigadier General Abdihamid Mohamed Dirir, the commander of the Somali Navy.

## GoI Extends Dr Navrang Saini's Term as Chairperson of IBBI for 3 Months

Government of India(GoI) has extended the additional charge of Dr Navrang Saini as Chairperson (additional charge) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) for 3 months till 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022 or till the joining of a new incumbent to the post or until further orders.

- ✓ He is the Wholetime member of IBBI, took the additional charge as the IBBI Chairperson in October 2021 for 3 months till 13th January 2022.

## Rakesh Anand Appointed Chef de Mission for CWG & Bhupender Singh Bajwa for Asian Games 2022

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced the appointment of Rakesh Anand as India's Chef de Mission for Commonwealth Games 2022 (CWG 2022) and Bhupender Singh Bajwa was appointed as the India's Chef de Mission for Asian Games 2022. The CWG 2022 games will be organized in Birmingham, United Kingdom (UK) from July 28 to August 8, 2022 and Asian Games 2022 will be organized in Hangzhou, China from September 10 to 25, 2022.

# AWARDS

## AWARDS IN THE FIELD OF ARTS & CULTURE FILMS

AWARD NAME	AWARD WINNER	FIELD	KEY NOTES
QS-Wharton Reimagine Education Award 2021	Rhapsody Music Foundation	Arts and Humanities	Chennai-based Rhapsody Music Foundation has won the QS-Wharton Reimagine Education Award 2021 (gold) under the Arts and Humanities. Reimagine Education Award is considered as the Oscar in the Education space. which is ranked number 1 in Asia and in the world. Rhapsody – Creative Intelligence Delivered receives two Gold Awards. It has won the Regional Award – Asia and the Discipline Award for Arts & Humanities.Rhapsody Music Foundation was founded by Anil Srinivasan, an acclaimed classical pianist, in 2013.
Annual Golden Globe Awards (2022)	-	Film	Hollywood Foreign Press Association(HFPA) announced the winners of the 79th edition of the Annual Golden Globe Awards (2022) in Beverly Hilton, Beverly Hills, California, United States of America(USA).The 2022 awards recognized and honoured the talents of film and television (American production or co-production between the USA and foreign partner) for 2021.The Golden Globe awards are annually presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association(HFPA).... <a href="#">Click here for more detail...</a>
Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award 2022	Harshaali Malhotra	Film	Hindi actress Harshaali Malhotra has been honoured with the <b>12<sup>th</sup> Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award 2022</b> for her performance as Munni, a mute girl from Pakistan, in the 2015 film Bajrangi Bhaijaan starring Salman Khan. She



			received the award from Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Governor of Maharashtra during the 12 <sup>th</sup> Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Awards 2022 ceremony organized in the memory of Dr Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, on the occasion of the upcoming 73 <sup>rd</sup> Republic Day.
Best Film Award (Asia) at 2022	Koozhangal	Film	<p>Indian movie titled Koozhangal(Tamil) directed by P S Vinothraj has won the best film award in the Asian Film Competition category at the 20th Dhaka International Film Festival(DIFF) 2022 in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 15th to 23rd January 2022.The 20th DIFF 2022 was organised by the Rainbow Film Society established in 1977.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Malayalam Actor Jayasurya won the Best Actor award in the Asian Film Competition Section for the film titled "Sunny" directed by Ranjith Sankar.</li> </ul> <p>Indian Film, Semkhor (Dimasa language), directed by Assamese actor Aimee Baruah, has won the Special Audience Award...<a href="#">Click here for more winners' detail...</a></p>

## AWARDS IN THE FIELD OF SPORTS

AWARD NAME	AWARD WINNER	FIELD	KEY NOTES
Knighthood	Clive Lloyd	Former West Indies Captain	The Former West Indies Captain Clive Lloyd received Knighthood from Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge at Windsor Castle, for his services towards the game of cricket.Clive Lloyd led the West Indies to victory over Australia at Lords in the final of the inaugural Cricket World Cup tournament in 1975. In 1979, he again led West Indies to the world title for the second time where they beat England at Lords.
Best Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Football Awards 2021	-	Football	The Best Fédération Internationale de Football Association ( <b>FIFA</b> ) Football Awards 2021 ceremony was held as a virtual TV show from the Home of FIFA in Zurich, Switzerland.It has crowned Bayern Munich's Polish striker Robert Lewandowski as <b>Best FIFA Men's Player 2021</b> and Barcelona's Spanish midfielder Alexia Putellas as Best FIFA Women's Player 2021. <a href="#">Click here</a>
2021 ICC (International Cricket Council) Women's T20I team of the year	Smriti Mandhana	Cricket	Indian cricketer Smriti Mandhana was named in 2021 ICC (International Cricket Council) Women's T20I team of the year.No Other Indian Player named in Men's as well Women's List. Smriti Mandhana is India's highest scorer who scored 255 runs at an average of 31.87 in 2021. <b>2021 ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year:</b> Smriti Mandhana (India), Tammy Beaumont

			(England), Danni Wyatt (England), Gaby Lewis (Ireland), Nat Sciver (c) (England), Amy Jones (England), Laura Wolvaardt (South Africa), Marizanne Kapp (South Africa), Sophie Ecclestone (England), Loryn Phiri (Zimbabwe), Shabnim Ismail (South Africa).
Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy	Shaheen Shah Afridi	ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2021	<p>International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the winners of the 2021 ICC Awards, which recognize and celebrate the achievement of players and teams over the year 2021. Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi has been awarded the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy is named after Sir Garfield Sobers, former captain of West Indies.</li> </ul> <p>The inaugural Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy was awarded to India's Rahul Dravid in 2004.</p>

## OTHER IMPORTANT AWARDS

AWARD NAME	AWARD WINNER	FIELD	KEY NOTES
Padma Awards 2022	-	Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri	<p>Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has announced the Padma Awards 2022. The Padma Awards, one of the highest civilian Awards of India are conferred under 3 categories namely, <b>Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri</b>. On the occasion of 73rd Republic Day (on January 26, 2022), the President (Ram Nath Kovind) has approved the conferment of 128 Padma Awards including 2 duo cases (in a duo case, the award is counted as one).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The list includes 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri Awards.</li> <li>✓ 34 of the awardees are women and also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI (Non-resident Indian)/PIO (Person of Indian Origin)/OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) and 13 Posthumous awardees.</li> </ul> <p>Kalyan Singh (the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister) and <b>General Bipin Rawat</b>, India's 1st Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of Indian Armed Force, who died in a helicopter crash in December 2021, were conferred with Padma</p>

			Vibhushan... <a href="#">Click here for more award winners...</a>
Netaji Award 2022	Shinzo Abe	-	On 23rd January 2022, on the occasion of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Netaji Research Bureau, has honoured Shinzo Abe, former Prime Minister(PM) of Japan, with the Netaji Award 2022. Nakamura Yutaka, the Consul General of Japan received the award on behalf of Shinzo Abe at the event held in Elgin Road residence of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
Global Private Banking Awards 2021	HDFC Bank	Best Private Bank in India	HDFC Bank was named as the 'Best Private Bank' in India at the 'Global Private Banking Awards 2021' which was organised by Professional Wealth Management (PWM) in a virtual ceremony. PWM is a wealth management Magazine, published by the Financial Times Group. The award was given for contributing to accelerate key trends, including digitalisation, communication and investment in environmental, social and governance (ESG) strategies.
SKOCH Award 2021	Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL)	Governance	Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) – Forensic Service, Delhi, has won the SKOCH Award 2021(Silver) in the Governance category for its work towards combating Crime and Violence against Children. The award was presented during the 78th SKOCH Summit held on 6th January 2022. The summit was organised with the theme <b>"State of Governance"</b> . Deepa Verma, Director of Rohini based FSL received the award on behalf of the FSL.
First-ever Guinness World Record	JC Chaudhry	Numerology	JC Chaudhry, India's one of the top numerologists, has achieved the first-ever Guinness World Record in Numerology and the first world record of 2022 by educating about ancient science to around 6000 participants, enthusiasts of numerology joined from the United States, the United Kingdom(UK), Middle East, and India. The Guinness World Record London office has opened a new category, "Numerology" for this achievement.

National Water Awards-2020	Uttar Pradesh	Best State category	<p>Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat announced 3rd National Water Awards-2020. Uttar Pradesh (UP) has been awarded first prize in the Best State category, followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu (TN). Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh received the best district award in the northern zone followed by Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar in Punjab.</p> <p>India's current water requirement is estimated to be around 1,100 billion cubic meters per year which are projected to rise up to 1,447 billion cubic meters by 2050. <a href="#">Click here</a></p>
International Craft Award for 2021	Kerala Arts and Crafts Village	Best Craft Village	<p>Kerala Arts and Crafts Village Organization (<b>KACV</b>) from Kovalam was awarded with the '<b>International Craft Award for 2021</b>' for the best craft village in the world by the World Crafts Council International. It is the only award India received in the non-individual category.</p> <p>The KACV was established by the Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society (UL CCS) for the State Tourism Department of Kerala.</p>
IBS Intelligence (IBSi) Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2021	Axis Bank & CRMNEXT Solution	Best CRM (Customer Relationship Management) System Implementation	<p>Axis Bank &amp; CRMNEXT Solution won the IBS Intelligence (IBSi) Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2021 for the "<b>Best CRM (Customer Relationship Management) System Implementation</b>". It is one of the most prominent awards for the global bankers and IT (Information Technology) consultants across the world.</p> <p>It identified and honoured technology players and banks for their excellence in banking technology implementations and innovations using emerging technologies.</p>
UiPath Automation Excellence Awards 2021	South Indian Bank (SIB)	Best Automation	<p>South Indian Bank (SIB) won the UiPath Automation Excellence Awards 2021 for Best Automation under 'Crisis for Business Continuity'. The 2021 edition of the award recognises contribution of the individuals and organizations across India and South Asia (Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal) for bringing change through transformative automation projects.</p>

TX2 award 2022	Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) & Nepal's Bardiya National Park	Doubling Their Tiger Populations	India's <b>Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) in Erode, Tamil Nadu</b> , and <b>Nepal's Bardiya National Park</b> had jointly won the <b>TX2 award 2022</b> for doubling their tiger populations since 2010. The awards are presented by the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA TS), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Global Tiger Forum (GTF), IUCN's (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP), Panthera, UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), The Lion's Share, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) Tigers Alive Initiative.
Dr Subhas Mukherjee Award for 2020	Satish Adiga	Professor in Clinical Embryology	Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has selected Satish Adiga, Professor in Clinical Embryology at Kasturba Medical College (KMC) under the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), for the Dr Subhas Mukherjee Award for 2020. He heads the fertility programme at KMC Manipal, Karnataka <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The award recognises his contribution to the field of In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF).</li> </ul> Subhas Mukherjee was the creator of India's first child using IVF. <a href="#">Click here to know about all the ICMR awards.</a>
Global Women's Health Tech Awards 2022	NIRAMAI Health Analytix Pvt. Ltd. (NIRAMAI) and InnAccel Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (InnAccel)	Department of Biotechnology	NIRAMAI Health Analytix Pvt. Ltd. ( <b>NIRAMAI</b> ) and InnAccel Technologies Pvt. Ltd. ( <b>InnAccel</b> ), startups supported by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), have received the World Bank Group (WBG), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Consumer Technology Association (CTA)'s Global Women's Health Tech Awards 2022. The winners were announced at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2022, held in Las Vegas, United States (US). It is the most influential tech event in the world, owned and produced by the CTA.



Mrs World 2022	Shaylyn Ford	-	Shaylyn Ford from the United States of America (USA) was chosen as the winner of Mrs World 2022. She was crowned by the 2020 Mrs World – Kate Schneider from Ireland. Mrs Jordan – Jaclyn Stapp & Mrs UAE – Debanjali Kamstra were named as the runners up of the competition. The event was organized in Las Vegas, Nevada, United States (US). Shaylyn Ford is a 37 years old contestant, represented America in the pageant and fought with 57 contestants. She became the 8th American woman to win the title of Mrs. World.
2022 Genesis Prize	Dr Albert Bourla	Efforts in leading the development of the COVID-19 vaccine	The Genesis Prize Foundation has named Dr Albert Bourla, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chairman of Pfizer as the 2022 Genesis Prize Laureate for his efforts in leading the development of the COVID-19 vaccine. The Genesis Prize, dubbed the “ <b>Jewish Nobel</b> ”, carries a cash prize of USD 1 Million. The prize is awarded to the winner for their professional achievements and contribution towards humanity and their commitment to Jewish Values.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS IN CONTENT FORMAT

### Sahitya Akademi Awards, Yuva Puraskar and Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021 announced

Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture, met in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Dr. Chandrashekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi. The awards recognized books first published during the five years immediately preceding the year of award i.e., books published between 2015 and 2019 are considered.

**Sahitya Akademi Award 2021:** Established in 1954, Sahitya Akademi is a literary honour in India for writers of the most outstanding books. These were announced in 20 languages. The winning books include 7 poetry, 2 novels, 5 short stories, 2 Plays, one each of Biography, Autobiography, Criticism and Epic Poetry.

**Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021:** Established in 2011, Yuva Puraskar recognises young writers of the age 35 years and below, with the aim to encourage and promote young writers. The Sahitya Akademi announces 22 winners in this category.

**Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021:** Established in 2010, this award acknowledges the outstanding children's book. The book is meant for the target readership of 9 to 16 years age group. The Sahitya Akademi announces 22 winners in this category. [Click here for winners list.](#)

### ICC Awards 2021: India's Smriti Mandhana grabs Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the 2021 edition of ICC awards where India's Smriti Mandhana (25) won **Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy** for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year. Pakistan's wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan (29) named ICC Men's T20I (Twenty 20 International) Cricketer of the Year 2021 while England's Tammy Beaumont (30) named the ICC Women's T20I

Cricketer of the Year. Shaheen Afridi (21) from Pakistan had won Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year.

### Captain Harpreet Chandi becomes 1st Woman of Colors to make solo trip to South Pole

The Indian-origin British Sikh Army officer, Captain Harpreet Chandi became the 1st woman of colour to make a solo unsupported trek to the earth's South Pole. Captain Harpreet Chandi is a 32 years old physiotherapist, who was popularly known as 'Polar Preet'.

### Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar launched SVP 2021 – 2022

Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar launched the **Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) 2021 – 2022**, underlining the importance of water, sanitation and hygiene. The schools will be assessed through an online portal & mobile app in 6 sub-categories: Water, Sanitation, Hand Washing with soap, Operation and Maintenance, Behaviour Change and Capacity Building. The 6 sub-categories will be awarded with a prize money of Rs. 20,000/- per school.

### Oxford University Press Declares "Anxiety" as Children's Word of the Year 2021

As a part of its annual "**Oxford Children's Language Report 2021: the language of wellbeing in the wake of a global pandemic**", the Oxford University Press (OUP), has declared 'Anxiety' as the Children's Word of the Year 2021.

- ✓ "Anxiety" (21%), "Challenging" (19%), "isolate" (14%) were the children's top 3 words.
- ✓ Previous OPU's Children's Word of the Year includes coronavirus (2020), Brexit (2019), plastic (2018), Trump (2017), and refugee (2016).
- ✓ **Anxiety** - Intense, excessive and persistent worry and fear about everyday situations.

### PM Modi Tops List of Most Popular World Leaders with 71% Rating

According to the global rating survey released by the Morning Consult Political Intelligence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has topped the list of Most Popular World Leaders. He topped the global rating amongst world leaders with an approval rating of 71%. Andrés Manuel López Obrador, President of Mexico has ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> with 66% rating, followed by Mario Draghi Prime Minister of Italy with a 60% rating.

- ✓ The list features 13 World Leaders including Joe Biden, President of United States, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada with 43% (ranked 6th) and Scott Morrison, Prime Minister of Australia with 41%.

### ICC Men's Test Team of the Year 2021: Rohit Sharma, Ravichandran Ashwin, Rishabh Pant Included

Indian opener Rohit Sharma, wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant, and off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin were included in the ICC Men's Test team of 2021 by the International Cricket Council (ICC). New Zealand's Kane Williamson, who led the side to victory in the inaugural World Test Championship, will be the captain of the team.

- ✓ The India players Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami were included in the ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year for 2021 by the International Cricket Council and England's Heather Knight is the captain of the team.

### Prajakta Koli named as UNDP India's 1<sup>st</sup> Youth Climate Champion

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India named famous Indian Youtuber and actor Prajakta Koli as India's first ever 'Youth Climate Champion'. The partnership will boost the youth participation in climate action and ensure a more sustainable future. Prajakta Koli is famously known for her YouTube channel – 'MostlySane'.

## Jahnavi Dangeti from AP becomes 1st Indian to complete NASA's International Air and Space Program

Jahnavi Dangeti (19 years old), an Engineering Student, from Palakollu, West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh (AP), has become the first Indian to undergo and complete the International Air and Space Program (**IASP**) at the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Launch Operations' Kennedy Space Centre in Alabama, in the United States of America (USA). The International Organization of Aspiring Astronauts (IOAA) has Dangeti as a member.

## Maharashtra NCC Directorate Won PM's Banner at the Republic Day Camp

Prime Minister Narendra Modi honoured the Maharashtra Directorate of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) with the Prime Minister's Banner at the Republic Day Camp (RDC). Major General Y P Khanduri, Additional Director General, NCC Directorate, Maharashtra received the PM Banner from PM Modi. Senior Under Officer Siddhesh Jadhav was the banner bearer and Cadet Captain Nikita Khot was the trophy bearer.

# SUMMITS, EVENTS & CONFERENCE

## SUMMITS

SUMMITS	VENUE	KEY POINTS
India Digital Summit (IDS), 2022	Video Conference	<p>Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce &amp; Industry, addressed the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of <b>India Digital Summit (IDS)</b>, 2022 through a video conference. The 16th IDS organised by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) was held from 11th to 12th January 2022 with the theme "Supercharging Startups". He also unveiled 'LEAP' ("Leverage, Encourage, Access &amp; Promote") as the way forward for Startups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The India Digital Summit (IDS), a flagship event of the IMAI, is one of the biggest conferences for the digital industry.</li> </ul> <p>Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology launched the report titled "Creating 10 million Digitally Enabled Microentrepreneurs" by IMAI-KPMG at the 16th edition of India Digital Summit 2022.</p>
Davos Agenda summit 2022	Virtual Mode	<p>World Economic Forum's (<b>WEF</b>) five-day online <b>Davos Agenda summit 2022</b> was held from 17 to 21 January 2022. The summit is being convened on the theme of '<b>The State of the World</b>'. The WEF has stated 'Davos Agenda 2022' to be the 1<sup>st</sup> global platform for key world leaders to share their visions for 2022. India is the world's 3rd largest pharma producer. \$26 billion worth of PLI (Production Linked Incentive) schemes have been implemented in 14 sectors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ PM Narendra Modi introduced the 'P3 (Pro-Planet People) movement' that underlines India's climate change commitments at WEF's Davos Agenda 2022.</li> </ul>

		<p>✓ India is on track to accomplishing only about two-thirds of its planned renewable target of 175 GW installation by 2022.</p> <p>WEF announced that it has rescheduled to hold its 2022 annual meeting from May 22 to 26, 2022 (which was originally scheduled for January 17-21) in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland under the theme, 'working Together, restoring Trust'...<a href="#">Click here for more detail...</a></p>
India-Central Asia Summit 2022	Virtual Mode	<p>Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi hosted the <b>1<sup>st</sup> India-Central Asia Summit 2022</b> in a virtual format with the Presidents of 5 Central Asian Nations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.</p> <p>This summit, also the first engagement of its kind between both sides at the level of leaders, coincided with the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between them. It highlights India's growing cooperation with Central Asian countries as a part of its 'Extended Neighbourhood'.</p>

## EVENTS

EVENTS	VENUE	KEY POINTS
India - Sri Lanka 5 <sup>th</sup> Joint Committee on S&T (Science & Technology) Cooperation	Virtual Mode	<p>Which was co-chaired by Sanjeev K Varshney, Advisor, and Head, International Cooperation, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology, India; and Mrs. Deepa Liyange, Secretary, State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research &amp; Innovations, Sri Lanka.</p> <p>During the meeting, India and Sri Lanka extended the existing Programme of Cooperation (POC) on S&amp;T for three more years.</p>

## CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE	VENUE	KEY POINTS
National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2020-21	Hyderabad, Telangana	<p>24<sup>th</sup> National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2020-21, which was organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms &amp; Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Electronics &amp; Information Technology (MeitY), in association with the State Government of Telangana, was held on 7 and 8 January 2022 at Hyderabad, Telangana.</p> <p>✓ <b>Theme</b> – The theme of this Conference is 'India's Techade: Digital Governance in a Post Pandemic World'.</p> <p>✓ The Conference was inaugurated by the Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State of Personnel, Public Grievances &amp; Pensions.</p>

		'Hyderabad Declaration' on e-Governance was adopted in the two-day conference for collaboration between the Government of India and State Governments.
Asia Ministerial Conference (AMC) on tiger conservation	-	The 4 <sup>th</sup> Asia Ministerial Conference ( <b>AMC</b> ) on tiger conservation held in hybrid mode which was organized by the Government of Malaysia and coordinated by the <b>Global Tiger Forum (GTF)</b> . India was represented by Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change ( <b>MoEFCC</b> ). The AMC adopted the Kuala Lumpur Joint Statement which listed 14 commitments.

## COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

### COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE NAME	COMMITTEE HEAD	KEY NOTES
Energy Transition Advisory Committee (ETAC)	Tarun Kapoor	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas ( <b>MoPNG</b> ) has set up the Energy Transition Advisory Committee ( <b>ETAC</b> ) headed by the former petroleum secretary Tarun Kapoor, who resigned from the office, to draft the strategy. The committee tasked to prepare a step-by-step plan for complete transitioning from fossil fuels to clean energy has been given 6 months (middle of 2022) time to prepare and submit the roadmap. ✓ The advisory committee will consist of Joint Secretary level officers from MoPNG and representatives of all public-sector oil and gas companies.

### MEETINGS

MEETING NAME	VENUE	KEY POINTS
Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)	-	19 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority ( <b>NTCA</b> ) was held under the chairmanship of the Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav. Currently, there are 51 Tiger Reserves in India and more than 35 rivers originate from those areas which are crucial for water security. As per the statement of the environment minister, Tiger continues to be an endangered species and the tiger population need to be managed actively.
Meeting of the BRICS Science Technology Innovation (STI) Steering Committee		15 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the BRICS Science Technology Innovation (STI) Steering Committee decides that India will host five events in 2022. During the



	-	<p>meeting, India handed over the chairmanship to China. China will be the Chair for 2022.</p> <p><b>Theme for BRICS 2022</b> - "Foster High-Quality BRICS Partnership Usher in a New Era for Global Development".</p> <p>Sanjeev Kumar Varshney, Advisor and Head International Cooperation, Department of Science and Technology led the Indian delegation in 15th meeting of BRICS STI Steering Committee.</p>
ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) Meeting	Virtual Mode	<p>2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers (<b>ADGMIN</b>) meeting took place virtually and it was co-chaired by Devusinh Chauhan, Indian Minister of State for Communications and H.E. Admiral Tin Aung San, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Myanmar.</p> <p>The India-ASEAN Digital work plan 2022 was approved by the Ministers during the meeting. The ADGMIN is an annual meeting of Telecom Ministers of 10 ASEAN and dialogue partner countries.</p>

## INDEX

### RANKING

INDEX / SURVEY NAME	RELEASED BY / CONDUCTED BY	KEY NOTES
Henley Passport Index: Q1 2022 Global Ranking	Henley & Partners	<p>As per the '<b>Henley Passport Index: Q1 2022 Global Ranking</b>', released by Henley &amp; Partners, India has been ranked as 84th Most Powerful Passport (with the visa-free score – 60). India's ranking has improved by 6 places from 90th in Q4 2021. The index has been topped by Japan and Singapore as they allow visa-free travel to 192 countries to their passport holders. Notably, this is the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that Japan has been in the top spot. India ranked 84 as it allows its passport holders to travel to 60 countries without the need of a prior visa.</p>
IHS Markit Ltd report	IHS	<p>In accordance with IHS Markit Ltd report, India will overtake Japan as Asia's second-largest economy by 2030. India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is also projected to surpass that of Germany and the United Kingdom (UK) to rank as world's No.3. Currently, India is the sixth-largest economy in the world, behind the United States (US), China, Japan, Germany and the UK.</p> <p>✓ India's nominal GDP measured in USD terms projected an increase from \$2.7 trillion in 2021 to \$8.4 trillion by 2030.</p>

Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2021	Berlin-based non-profit organisation Transparency International	India has ranked 85 <sup>th</sup> on the index (CPI score: 40) that ranks 180 countries and territories based on their perceived levels of public sector corruption on a scale of zero to 100 (where 0 implies highly corrupt and 100 implies very clean). India's rank has slipped from 80 <sup>th</sup> in 2019 to 86 in 2020. Denmark, Finland and New Zealand (Score: 88) have shared the 1st rank followed by Norway (Score: 85) in the 4th rank. <a href="#">Click here</a>
Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar	Ministry of Culture has partnered with the Common Services Centres (CSC)	Ministry of Culture has partnered with the Common Services Centres (CSC), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) to undertake India's first-ever cultural survey of its villages titled 'Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar' through a mobile application. It will document the cultural identity at village level. ✓ As per the agreement, CSC will develop a mobile application and train Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) in conducting the survey.
On-Time Performance Review 2021 Airlines and Airports	Cirium	As per the report released by Cirium titled 'the On-Time Performance Review 2021 Airlines and Airports', the Chennai International Airport has ranked globally 8 <sup>th</sup> under the large airports category, and is the only Indian Airport to enter the top 10 positions of the list. The first 3 positions have been acquired by United State's Itami Airport, Japan's Fukuoka Airport, and Haneda Airport. Cirium analysed about 70 international routes taken by flights at Chennai airport and the 'On-Time Departure' were about 89.32 percent.

## REPORTS

REPORT NAME	SUBMITTED BY	KEY NOTES
G20 People's Climate Vote 2021 report	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Which reveals that in India around 67 percent of the young population under the age of 18 years considers climate change a global emergency, compared to about 58 percent adults. The survey was jointly conducted by UNDP and University of Oxford. ✓ In countries like the UK (United Kingdom), Australia, Canada, Germany, and France, the popular policy of stopping burning fuels has been followed with majority support among under-18 youths and adults. UNDP India announced their partnership with the leading content creator and actress Prajakta Koli, and appointed her as UNDP

		India's 1st Youth Climate Champion to interact with young minds and spread awareness on Climate Change including global warming and biodiversity loss.
Code of Practice for Securing Consumer Internet of Things (IoT)	Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC)	A Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), under Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, has released a report ' <b>Code of Practice for Securing Consumer Internet of Things (IoT)</b> ' a baseline requirement aligned with global standards and best practices to secure Consumer IoT devices. It is released for the use by IoT device manufacturers, Service providers/ system integrators and application developers etc. As per the projections, there may be 26.4 billion IoT devices in service globally by 2026.
Second quarter (Q2FY22- July-September 2021) of Quarterly Employment Survey (QES)	Bhupender Yadav	Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Ministry of Labour & Employment ( <b>MoL&amp;E</b> ) virtually released the report of second quarter (Q2FY22- July-September 2021) of Quarterly Employment Survey (QES), a part of All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES). In accordance with the report, the estimated total employment in the nine non-farm sectors is 10 crores approximately, which is 2 lakhs higher than the estimated employment (3.08 crore) from the first round of QES (Q1FY22- April-June, 2021), released on September 27, 2021.
India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021	Forest Survey of India (FSI)	Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav released the <b>India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021</b> , the biennial report of the Forest Survey of India (FSI) which showed that the forest and tree cover in India has risen by 2,261 square Kilometers (sq km) in 2 years (compared to 2019). The total rise of 2,261 square Kilometers (sq km) includes an increase of 1,540 sq km of forest cover and 721 sq km of tree cover compared to the 2019 report. Andhra Pradesh has grown the maximum forest cover of 647 sq km. India's total forest and tree cover is now spread across 80.9 million hectares, which is 24.62 percent of India's geographical area.
The Global Risks Report 2022	World Economic Forum (WEF)	<b>17<sup>th</sup> Edition</b> ", prepared in partnership with Marsh McLennan, SK Group and Zurich Insurance Group. The 2022 report draws on the views of the 12,000 country-level leaders who identified critical short-term risks to their

		<p>124 countries gathered by the WEF's Executive Opinion Survey (EOS), conducted between May and September 2021.</p> <p>The report also features the results of the Global Risk Perception Survey (<b>GRPS</b>) 2021-2022, which has underpinned the report since 2006.</p>
World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2022 report	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)	<p>Which has lowered the global economic growth projections to 4% in 2022 and 3.5% in 2023 due to new waves of coronavirus infections, persistent labor market challenges, lingering supply chain issues, and rising inflationary pressures.</p> <p>Global trade in goods and services are forecasted at 5.7% in 2022 after an expansion of 11% in 2021. India's Growth of world output and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is projected 6.7% in 2022 and 6.1% in 2023 as compared to 9% in 2021.</p>
Banking on Electric Vehicles in India- A Blueprint for Inclusion of EVs in Priority Sector Lending Guidelines	NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog in collaboration with Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), and RMI India	<p>It has proposed the government to include Electric Vehicle (EVs) in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) priority-sector lending (<b>PSL</b>) guidelines to boost retail lending for EVs and to support the decarbonization of road transport.</p>
District Good Governance Index (DGGI)	Amit Shah	<p>Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) virtually released the India's First 'District Good Governance Index (DGGI)' in Jammu and Kashmir (J&amp;K), prepared by Department of Administrative Reforms &amp; Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with Government of J&amp;K. It is prepared for the 20 Districts of UT of J&amp;K.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The event was organized by DARPG, GOI and J&amp;K Institute of Management, Public Administration &amp; Rural Development in association with the Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad.</li> </ul> <p>With this, J&amp;K became the first Indian UT with a Good Governance Index.</p>
World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO) Trends 2022	International Labour Organization (ILO)	<p>Projecting global unemployment at 207 million in 2022, surpassing its 2019 level (186 million) by 21 million. This rise is due to slow economic recovery and the spread of new COVID-19 variants viz. Delta and Omicron.</p> <p>The global unemployment rate is projected to reach 5.9% in 2022. This figure shows an improvement from 6.2% in 2021 and 6.6% in</p>

		2020, but it is still above 5.4% in 2019 (pre-pandemic level).
Electricity Market Report	International Energy Agency (IEA)	As per the January 2022 ' <b>Electricity Market Report</b> ' of International Energy Agency (IEA), power demand in India is expected to grow at an annual rate of 6.5 percent between 2022 and 2024 backed by rising consumption from residential and industrial segments. India clocked the highest 10 percent Y-o-Y growth in power demand during the 2021 calendar year (CY). Global electricity demand grew by 6 percent in 2021. The majority of supply growth in 2021 to 2024 is expected in China, accounting for around half of the net total increase, followed by India (12%), Europe (7%) and the United States (4%).
Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022	World Economic Forum (WEF)	Which was released during the virtual Davos Agenda summit 2022 revealed that advances in digitalization and their growth due to the COVID-19 have led to increasingly frequent, costly, and damaging cyber incidents. The report addressed the gaps in cyber resilience between security-focused executives (e.g. a chief information security officer) and business executives (e.g. a chief executive officer).

## RANKING & REPORTS IN CONTENT FORMAT

### Brookings' Study: India is among the Top 10 Global AI Adopters

India is among the top 10 nations in the world in terms of technological advancements and funding in artificial intelligence (AI), according to findings from a study published by the Brookings Institution. India ranks 6th in terms of spending and investments on AI made by the public, governmental initiatives, as well as private institutions and organisations.

### Telangana Tops in Highest Number of ODF Villages under SBM Phase II

Telangana has stood first among other states in India in the list of the highest number of Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus villages under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II programme till December 31, 2021. Telangana is followed by Tamil Nadu with 4,432 villages, next by Karnataka with 1,511 villages and Gujarat took the 17th position with only 83 villages (0.45 percent).

- ✓ Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) – Grameen (G) Phase-II was approved in February 2020 by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to be implemented between 2020-21 and 2024-25 in a mission mode with an outlay of Rs 1,40,881 crores.



## ACQUISITION & MERGERS

### CCI Approves Acquisition of 96.42% Stake in JPL By Worldone Private Limited

**Acquisition b/w** – Worldone Private Ltd & Jindal Power Limited(JPL).

- ✓ Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of a 96.42% stake in Jindal Power Limited(JPL), a subsidiary of Jindal Steel & Power Limited(JSPL), by Worldone Private Limited.
- ✓ JSPL is a part of the OP Jindal Group that works in steel, power, mining and infrastructure sectors.

### Reliance New Energy Solar Acquires 100% Stake in Faradion

**Acquisition b/w** – Reliance New Energy Solar Limited (RNESL) & Faradion Ltd.

- ✓ **RNESL**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries, has signed a definitive agreement to acquire **100 percent** shareholding in Faradion Ltd. through secondary transactions for a total value of British Pound Sterling (GBP) 94.42 million based on an enterprise value of £100 million.

### SBI to Acquire Around 10% stake in IICC

State Bank of India (SBI) is set to acquire around 10% stake in the India International Clearing Corporation (**IICC**), the first international clearing corporation set up at GIFT-IFSC that acts as a central counterparty providing clearing and settlement and risk management services.

- ✓ SBI is expected to complete up to a 9.95% stake subject to a maximum investment of Rs 34.03 crore, in IICC by March 2022.

### Tech Mahindra acquires 100% stake in Allyis India & Green Investments LLC

Tech Mahindra announced that its subsidiary, Tech Mahindra (Americas) Inc. is set to acquire 100 % equity shares in Allyis India Private Ltd and Green Investments LLC, a holding company for United States (US) based Allyis Group. According to the proposal, Tech Mahindra will pay USD 125 million (~INR 900 crore) including employment and performance earnout.

### NTPC Limited to Acquire 5% Equity Stake in PXIL

NTPC Limited (formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited,) is set to acquire up to 5% of the equity stake in Power Exchange India Limited (PXIL). PXIL is India's first institutionally promoted power exchange, that provides electricity trading solutions and connects buyers as well as sellers.

- ✓ This acquisition is in line with the intention of the government to increase the share of the spot power market to 25% of the total electricity supply in India by 2023- 2024.

### Reliance Retail Picked up a 25.8% Stake in Dunzo for USD 200 Million

Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (**RRVL**), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has purchased a 25.8% stake in Bengaluru-based startup Dunzo (Dunzo Digital Private Limited), an Indian company, with an investment of USD 200 Million (~ Rs 1489 crore). Dunzo has raised USD 240 million in a round of funding where the investment was led by RRVL.

### GoI to hold 35.8% Stakes of Vodafone Idea in the form of Equity

India's third largest network Vi or Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) has approved the interest on spectrum and Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues into government equity. VIL accepted a four-year moratorium as well as accepted the equity conversion. Indian government will own almost 35.8% of VIL's stake followed by Vodafone Group which owns 28.5% and 17.8% by Aditya Birla Group.

The net present value (NPV) of interest is expected to be about Rs 16,000 crore, final confirmation made by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

### RIL Picks 54% stake in robotics startup Addverb Technologies for \$132 million

Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL), the retail unit of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has acquired a 54% stake (majority stake) in Addverb Technologies Private Limited, a Noida based robotics startup, for USD 132 million (~Rs 983 crore). With this investment, RIL has become a strategic partner of Addverb Technologies.

- ✓ This is in line with RIL's vision to automate its businesses.
- ✓ With this funding, Addverb technology plans to deploy robots across hospitals and airports.

### Indian Energy Exchange divests 4.93% equity stake in IGX to IOC

Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) divested 4.93% of its equity stake in Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) to Indian Oil Corporation (IOC). IGX is India's first natural gas exchange that has been set up to promote gas trading in the country. Its promoters are IEX and National Stock Exchange (NSE). GAIL (Gas Authority of India Limited), ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited), Torrent Gas Pvt Ltd and Adani Total Gas Ltd are its strategic investors. The Central Government has set a target of accelerating the share of gas in the energy sector to 15% by 2030.

### CCI Approves Acquisition by GSKCHOL and GSKCHUKTL by GSKAPL

The Competition Commission of India has approved the acquisition of a shareholding in GlaxoSmithKline Asia Private Limited (GSKAPL) by GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Overseas Limited (GSKCHOL) and GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare UK Trading Limited (GSKCHUKTL) under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. The proposed transaction involves the collective acquisition of 100% shares in GSKAPL by GSKCHOL and GSKCHUKTL.

- ✓ CCI has approved the acquisition of shares of Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Limited (FGLIC) by Generali Participations Netherlands N.V (GPN), this acquisition will increase its shareholding 49% to approximately 71%.

## DEFENCE

### EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Sea Dragon 22	Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, in the western Pacific	United States (US) Navy Seventh Fleet announced the beginning of the multilateral anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise, 'Sea Dragon 22' in Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, in the western Pacific. The six nations that are participating in the exercise are the US, Australia, Canada, India, Japan and South Korea. <b>Note</b> – India, Japan, Australia and America are also part of the Quad, and also participate in the Malabar exercise.
PASSEX (Passage Exercise)	Port of Cochin in the Arabian Sea, Indian Navy & Russian Federation Navy	Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided-missile destroyer, INS (Indian Navy Ship) Kochi, has undertaken the international <b>PASSEX (Passage Exercise)</b> with Russian

		<p>Federation Navy's destroyer Admiral Tributs at the port of Cochin in the Arabian Sea. Russian Federation Navy's ship, Admiral Tributs was accompanied by two other ships including missile cruiser Varyag and Russian tanker Boris Butoma for a two-day goodwill visit to India.</p> <p>PASSEX exercise showcased cohesiveness and interoperability between the two navies and included tactical manoeuvres, cross-deck helicopter operations and seamanship activities.</p>
Maritime Partnership Exercise	Bay of Bengal, Indian Navy (IN) and Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF)	<p>A Maritime Partnership Exercise was held between Indian Navy (IN) and Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (<b>JMSDF</b>) in the Bay of Bengal in a non-contact mode amid COVID-19. The Indian side was represented by Indian Naval Ships (INS) Shivalik and INS Kadmatt while JMSDF Ships Uruga and Hirado the participated from Japanese side.</p> <p>Strengthening bilateral relations, promoting defence cooperation, enhancing mutual understanding and interoperability, and sharing best practices between IN and JMSDF.</p>
Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Exercise Sea Dragon-22	Guam is an unincorporated territory of the United States (US)	<p>P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft of the Indian Navy has participated in the multinational Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Exercise Sea Dragon-22 held at Guam is an unincorporated territory of the United States (US). Sea Dragon is an annual multinational high-end exercise hosted by the US Navy.</p> <p>Quad countries, Canada and South Korea have participated in the 2-week exercise which began on 5th January and concluded on 20th January 2022.</p>
Paschim Lehar 2022 aka XPL-22	Arabian Sea	<p>The Indian Navy (IN) conducted a 20-day joint intra-theatre maritime exercise <b>Paschim Lehar 2022 aka XPL-22</b> at the Arabian Sea under the aegis of FOC-in-C (Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief), Western Naval Command (WNC) Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh. It was held to validate operational plans of WNC and enhance inter-service synergy among the IN, Indian Air Force (IAF), Indian Army and Coast Guard.</p>

## TESTING

MISSILES NAME	TESTING LOCATION	FEATURES
Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missiles	Frigate	Russia successfully test-fired around 10 new Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missiles from a frigate and other two missiles from a submarine. The Zircon missile would be capable of flying at nine times the speed of sound and have a range of 1,000 kilometres (620 miles). The deployment of the missiles will elevate the capability of Russia's military power.
BrahMos Supersonic Cruise missile	INS (Indian Navy Ship) Visakhapatnam warship off the west coast	India successfully test-fired an advanced sea to sea variant of <b>BrahMos Supersonic Cruise missile</b> from INS (Indian Navy Ship) Visakhapatnam warship off the west coast. The missile hit the designated target ship precisely at the maximum range. BrahMos missiles which has a combination of the names of Brahmaputra (India) and Moskva (Russia) rivers, are designed, developed and produced by BrahMos Aerospace, which is an India-Russian joint venture that produces supersonic cruise missiles that could be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or from land platforms.
Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)	Range in Southern India	Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the final deliverable configuration of the Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile ( <b>MPATGM</b> ) at a range in Southern India. It is indigenously developed anti-tank missile low weight (15kg), fire and forget missile and is launched from a man portable launcher, integrated with thermal sight. The test was held to demonstrate the consistent performance of the missile at its minimum range. It has a maximum range of 5 Km.
Arrow-3 ballistic missile	Israel	Israel & the United States (US) successfully conducted the flight test of the Arrow-3 ballistic missile interceptor outside the Earth's atmosphere. It was developed in a joint project between Israel's Missile Defense Organization and the American Missile Defense Agency.
BrahMos supersonic cruise missile	Chandipur, off Odisha coast	On January 20, 2022, India successfully test-fired a new version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile at Chandipur, off Odisha coast. The missile is equipped with new technological developments and precision. The launch was conducted by Brahmos Aerospace in close coordination with the teams of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The BrahMos is a universal long range supersonic cruise missile system developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyeniya.

## ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

### Indian Army Signs 1<sup>st</sup> Contract Under Make-II for Maneuverable Expendable Aerial Target

The Indian Army has signed its first contract with Anadron Systems Pvt Ltd under Make-II for Maneuverable Expendable Aerial Target, for Army Air Defence and Indian Air Force. The contract worth Rs.96 crore is the first contract with the private sector aimed at 'Atmanirbhar Defence'.

### Indian Armed Force Selected 'Saab' for Supply of Anti-Armour Weapon AT4

Swedish defence company 'Saab' had been selected by the Indian Armed Force through a competitive programme for the supply of single-shot anti-armour weapon AT4. AT4 will be used by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force. AT4 will be operated by a single soldier and its single-shot system has proven efficacy against structures landing craft helicopters armoured vehicles and personnel.

### ALH MK III Aircraft Inducted at INS Utkrosh at Port Blair to Boost Maritime Security

On 28th January 2022 the Indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III aircraft was formally inducted at INS Utkrosh by Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) Lieutenant General Ajai Singh at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar to boost maritime security. The ALH MK III aircraft is manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in order to boost the security of Andaman & Nicobar.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### SATELLITES LAUNCHES

SATELLITE NAME	COUNTRY	PURPOSE
Maritime Domain Awareness Satellite (MDASat)	South Africa	South Africa launched its first indigenously developed constellation of satellites called Maritime Domain Awareness Satellite (MDASat) constellation from Cape Canaveral in the United States (US) as part of SpaceX's Transporter-3 mission. The Maritime Domain Awareness Satellite (MDASat) constellation consists of three nanosatellites and is funded by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) of South Africa.
Solid-fuel satellite carrier rocket	Iran	Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched its first solid-fuel satellite carrier rocket into space that is made of a cost-efficient composite material instead of metal. The recent launches coincide with talks in Vienna, which was aimed at reviving Iran's nuclear agreement, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Western powers.

### OTHER SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY NEWS

#### NATIONAL

### ISRO Successfully Conducts Qualification Tests of Cryogenic Engine for 'Gaganyaan'

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the qualification test of Cryogenic Engine for Gaganyaan programme for a duration of 720 seconds at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. The Qualification test ensures the reliability and robustness of the cryogenic engine for induction into the human-rated launch vehicle for Gaganyaan. India's 1st human space mission 'Gaganyaan' will be launched in 2023.



- ✓ With this launch, India will become the 4<sup>th</sup> nation in the world to launch a Human Spaceflight Mission after the USA, Russia and China.

### ISRO Successfully Tested Liquid propellant-based Vikas Engine for Gaganyaan mission

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully tested its liquid propellant-based High Thrust Vikas engine which is to be used under the Gaganyaan mission. The test was conducted at the ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. On 20th January 2022, the high thrust Vikas Engine has successfully undergone a qualification test for a duration of 25 seconds.

### Astronomers Discovered Potato-shaped Exoplanet Named WASP-103b

Astronomers have announced that the potato shaped planet, initially discovered in 2014, named **WASP-103b** is located in the constellation "Hercules", at a distance of about 1,800 light-years from the solar system. WASP-103b is a close distance away from its star WASP-103, which is about 50 times closer to its sun than Earth is to its sun. The planet cycle takes 22 hours whereas the Earth's cycle takes 365 days.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Meta built World's Fastest AI Supercomputer 'RSC'

Meta's (erstwhile Facebook) CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Mark Zuckerberg has announced the development of an AI (Artificial Intelligence) supercomputer i.e AI Research SuperCluster (RSC) to train machine learning systems across company's businesses. It will be the world's fastest supercomputer once it is completed later in 2022.

### Chinese "Artificial Sun" Achieved Continuous High-Temperature Plasma Operation; Set New World Record

The **Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST)**, which is known as the Chinese '**Artificial Sun**' has achieved a continuous high-temperature plasma operation for 1056 seconds at a stunning 70 million degrees Celsius. This sets a new world record for the longest time of operation of its kind in the world.

- ✓ The EAST is located at the Institute of Plasma Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (ASIPP) in Hefei, Anhui Province, China.

### China's Chang'e 5 lunar probe finds 1st on-site Evidence of Water on Moon's Surface

In accordance with the peer-reviewed journal Science Advances, China's Chang'e 5 lunar lander has found the first-ever on-site evidence of water in rocks and soil of the surface of the moon. As per the journal, the lunar soil at the landing site contains less than 120 parts-per-million (ppm) water or 120 grams water per ton, and a light, vesicular rock carries 180 ppm, which are much drier than that on Earth.

- ✓ The Chang'e-5 spacecraft landed on one of the youngest mare basalts located at a mid-high latitude on the moon.

### Russia's first newly-built Tu-160M 'White Swan' Strategic Bomber performs Debut Flight

Russia's first newly-built Tupolev Tu-160M strategic missile-carrying bomber nicknamed 'White Swan' recently performed its debut flight from the aerodrome of the Kazan Aviation Enterprise, a subsidiary of the Tupolev Company (part of the United Aircraft Corporation within Rostec).

- ✓ It performed its flight at an altitude of 600 meters that lasted about 30 minutes.
- ✓ It is the world's heaviest supersonic military aircraft to date.

### Planet 'TOI-2180 b' spotted by NASA Citizen Scientist; PHA 1994 PC1 flies safely by Earth

Citizen scientist Tom Jacobs of Bellevue, Washington (United States-US) has discovered a new gaseous planet called '**TOI-2180 b**' from NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, or TESS. The finding was published in the Astronomical Journal.

- ✓ It is 379 light-years away. The planet is special because its 261-day year is long compared to many known gas giants outside our solar system.
- ✓ Its average temperature is about 170 Degrees Fahrenheit (°F) is warmer than room temperature on Earth.

### China Builds an 'Artificial Moon' for gravity experiment

Chinese scientists have built a research facility, "**artificial moon**", located in the city of Xuzhou, Jiangsu province, which will enable them to simulate low-gravity environments using magnetism. The research facility will also provide valuable research for the lunar exportation activities of China.

The facility will use powerful magnetic fields inside a 2-foot-diameter (60 centimeters) vacuum chamber to make gravity "disappear." It will be officially launched in 2022.

## SPORTS

### CRICKET

#### Cricket: Overview of India Tour of South Africa 2021-22

The Indian cricket team toured South Africa from 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022 to play 3 Tests and 3 One Day International (ODI) matches. In the test series, South Africa defeated India by winning the 3-match series by 2-1 and in the ODI series, South Africa defeated India by winning the 3-match series by 3-0.

- ✓ Rishabh Pant becomes fastest Indian keeper to reach 100 dismissals in Tests; breaks MS Dhoni's record.
- ✓ Jasprit Bumrah has become the fastest, Indian bowler, to take 100 overseas Test wickets for India.
- ✓ Mohammed Shami has become the 5th Indian pacer to take 200 Test wickets. He achieved the record in 55 Test matches and was the 3rd quickest Indian after Kapil Dev and Javagal Srinath

#### South African Cricketer Quinton de Kock Announced Retirement from Test Cricket

South African cricketer (wicketkeeper & Batsman) Quinton de Kock (29 years old) has announced his retirement from Test Cricket with immediate effect. He has committed to play international limited-overs cricket (white-ball cricket). Quinton de Kock hails from Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa. He has been twice named the South African Cricketer of the Year in 2017 and 2020.

#### Cricket – Himachal Pradesh Cricket Team won 2021-22 Vijay Hazare Trophy

Himachal Pradesh cricket team won its maiden **Vijay Hazare Trophy 2021-22** or 20<sup>th</sup> season of the Vijay Hazare Trophy title after defeating Tamil Nadu in the finals that was held at Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Shubham Arora of Himachal Pradesh was adjudged as the Player of the Match for his majestic hundred in the final.

- ✓ It is Himachal's first-ever domestic title. Himachal Pradesh team defeated Tamil Nadu team by 11 Runs and also used VJD method (V Jayadevan system) to win.

### **Pakistan all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez announces retirement from International Cricket**

Veteran Pakistan all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez (41), who captained his national team in every format of the game, has announced his retirement from international cricket. Currently he signed up with Lahore Qalandars for the upcoming edition of the Pakistan Super League and will be available for global franchise cricket.

### **Sri Lankan Cricketer Bhanuka Rajapaksa announces Retirement from International Cricket**

Sri Lankan Cricketer Bhanuka Rajapaksa proposed a letter of resignation to Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC). He announced his retirement from International cricket with immediate effect, due to personal reasons. Bhanuka Rajapaksa is a 30-year-old Sri Lankan cricket player, who has represented the country in 5 ODIs (One Day International) and 18 T20Is, scoring a total of 409 across formats which included three fifties.

### **Sri Lankan Cricketer Danushka Gunathilaka Announces Retirement from Test Cricket**

As per the announcement made from Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), a National Cricket Association, the country's opening batsman, Danushka Gunathilaka, announced retirement from Test cricket at the age of 30 to focus on white-ball formats. Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Sri Lankan batter also announced his retirement from international cricket.

### **South African Cricket all-rounder Chris Morris announces Retirement**

South African (Proteas) all-rounder Chris Morris announced retirement from all forms of cricket at the age of 34, he is set to take up coaching role for domestic cricket team – Titans in the CSA T20 Challenge. Morris made his international debut for Proteas in 2013 and played his last match in 2019. Morris is the most expensive buy in the history of IPL 2021 auction, bagging Rs 16.25 crores by Rajasthan Royal.

### **ACC U-19 Asia Cup 2021: India Won its 8th U-19 Asia Cup defeating Sri Lanka**

India under 19(U-19) cricket Team, led by Yash Dhull has won the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) U-19 Asia Cup 2021, a record eighth title, defeating Sri Lanka by 9 wickets at the match held at Dubai International Cricket Stadium, Dubai, United Arab Emirates(UAE). The ACC U-19 Asia Cup is organised by the Asian Cricket Council(ACC).

- ✓ The ACC U-19 Asia Cup 2021 is the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the ACC Under-19 Cup was held in Dubai and Sharjah, UAE from 23<sup>rd</sup> December to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.
- ✓ UAE hosted the 50 over tournament for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time after the 2013-2014 edition.

## **BADMINTON & TENNIS**

### **India Open 2022: Lakshya Sen Wins Mens Singles Title**

The Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2022 was held from 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at the K.D.Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi, India that had a total prize pool of USD 400,000. India's 20 year old Lakshya Sen secured his maiden Super 500 title by winning the India Open 2022 against world champion Loh Kean Yew (Singapore) in the men's singles final.

#### **India Open 2022 Winners:**

Championship	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Lakshya Sen (India)	Loh Kean Yew (Singapore)
Women's Singles	Busanan Ongbamrungphan (Thailand)	Supanida Katethong (Thailand)
Men's Doubles	Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (India) & Chirag Shetty (India)	Mohammad Ahsan (Indonesia) & Hendra Setiawan (Indonesia)
Women's Doubles	Nuntakarn Aimsaard (Thailand) & Benyapa Aimsaard (Thailand)	Anastasiia Akchurina (Russia) & Olga Alekseevna Morozova (Russia)

Mixed Doubles	Terry Hee Yong Kai (Singapore) & Jessica Tan Wei Han (Singapore)	Chen Tang Jie (Malaysia) & Peck Yen Wei (Malaysia)
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### Highlights of 2022 Adelaide International 1

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Adelaide International 2022 is being held at The Memorial Drive Tennis Centre, Adelaide, Australia as two events, from 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022 to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022. It is majorly sponsored by Adelaide South Australia & Government of South Australia. The 2022 Adelaide International's, first event, (Adelaide International 1) was hosted from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and featured a WTA 500 and ATP 250 combined tournament, followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adelaide International event, (Adelaide International 2) a WTA 250 and ATP 250 tournament from 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

#### Winners and Runners:

Category	Winners	Runners
Men's Singles	Gael Monfils (France)	Karen Khachanov (Russia)
Women's Singles	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)
Men's Doubles	Rohan Bopanna & Ramkumar Ramanathan (India)	Ivan Dodig (Croatia) and Marcelo Melo (Brazil)
Women's Doubles	Ashleigh Barty and Storm Sanders (Australia)	Darija Jurak (Croatia) and Andreja Klepac (Slovenia)

### Tennis-Rafael Nadal wins Melbourne Summer Set 1 trophy 2022

Rafael Nadal, World No.6 & the 20-time Grand Slam champion from Spain defeats American Maxime Cressy, (7-6), (6-3) in the Men's Singles final of the Melbourne Summer Set 2022 Set 1, ATP 250 in "Hard-Court" at Rod Laver Arena, Melbourne.

- ✓ 2022 Melbourne Summer Set was a series of two simultaneous tennis tournaments organized by Tennis Australia at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia.
- ✓ The Melbourne Summer Set 1 featured an ATP Tour 250 tournament and a WTA 250 tournament, both played on hard courts. The Melbourne Summer Set 2 was a WTA 250 tournament played on hard courts.

This is Nadal's 89<sup>th</sup> career singles title and first title in Australia since 2009.

### Tasnim Mir becomes the World No 1 in Badminton U-19 Girls Singles

Tasnim Mir became the first Indian to grab World no 1 in Under-19 (U-19) Girls Singles category with 10,810 points in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) Junior rankings. She is followed by **Mariia Golubeva** from Russia and Lucia Rodriguez from Spain. In 2021, she won 3 Junior International Tournaments held in Bulgaria, France and Belgium, which helped her climb up for No.1 position.

### Padma Awardee Sania Mirza Announced Retirement at the End of 2022 Season

Padma Awardee Sania Mirza (35-year-old), an Indian professional tennis player will be retired at the end of the 2022 season. She made the announcement following her defeat in the Australian Open Women's double first round with partner Nadiia Kichenok (Ukraine). Sania Mirza, currently ranked 68<sup>th</sup> (Doubles) in the world is a former World's No. 1 in Doubles and had a career-best ranking of 27 in Singles.

#### Awards and honours:

- ✓ 2004 Arjuna Award for Tennis.
- ✓ 2006 Padma Shri for sports.
- ✓ 2015 Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award (now Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award).
- ✓ 2016 Padma Bhushan for sports.

## Syed Modi International Badminton Championship 2022: India's PV Sindhu, Ishaan Bhatnagar & Tanisha Crasto Wins Title

Badminton World Federation (BWF) organised Syed Modi International Badminton Championship 2022 at the Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP) from 18th – 23rd January 2022.

### 2022 Syed Modi International Winners:

Event	Winners
Men's Singles	No Match
Women's Singles	PV Sindhu (India)
Men's Doubles	Man Wei Chong (Malaysia) & Kai Wun Tee (Malaysia)
Women's Doubles	Anna Ching Yik Cheong (Malaysia) and Teoh Mei Xing (Malaysia)
Mixed Doubles	Ishaan Bhatnagar (India) and Tanisha Crasto (India)

## Tennis: Russia's Aslan Karatsev Won the 2022 Sydney Tennis Classic

Aslan Karatsev (World Rank: 15), the Russian professional Tennis player, has defeated Andy Murray (runner) and won the Men's Single in the 2022 Sydney Tennis Classic (2022 Sydney International) held in Sydney, Australia. The event was held at the Sydney Olympic Park Tennis Center in Sydney Olympic Park. Aslan Karatsev has won the silver medal with Elena Vesnina in mixed doubles at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

### Other 2022 Winners:

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Aslan Karatsev (Russia)	Andy Murray (United Kingdom)
Women's Singles	Paula Badosa (Spain)	Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic)
Men's Doubles	John Peers (Australia) & Filip Polasek (Slovakia)	Simone Bolelli (Italy) & Fabio Fognini (Italy)
Women's Doubles	Anna Danilina (Kazakhstan) & Beatriz Haddad Maia (Brazil)	Vivian Heisen (Germany) & Panna Udvardy (Hungary)

## BOXING, WRESTLING & WEIGHTLIFTING

### India Withdraw from Asian Under-22 Boxing Championship Amid Pandemic Threat

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) pulled out of the Asian Under-22 Championships for men and women that is scheduled to be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, citing COVID-19 pandemic. The championship will be held from January 20 to 30, 2022 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan organised by Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC).

## OTHER SPORTS NEWS

### Hockey: Women's Asia Cup Muscat 2022: India won Bronze; Japan won Gold

Indian National Women's Hockey Team captained by Savita Punia has won the bronze medal in the **Women's Asia Cup Muscat 2022** defeating China in the bronze match held on 28th January 2022. India lost to South Korea in the semi-final. Women's Asia Cup Muscat 2022 hosted by Oman was held at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex, Muscat, Oman from 21st to 28th January 2022.

- ✓ Japan won the 10th edition of Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2022 defeating three-time champions South Korea. This marks the 3rd title of Japan which has previously won the title in 2007 and 2013.
- ✓ India had won the championship in 2004 and 2017.



### **Nodirbek Abdusattorov wins 2021 World Rapid Chess Champion**

Nodirbek Abdusattorov, from Uzbekistan, won the World Rapid Chess Champion of 2021 by defeating Ian Nepomniachtchi (Russia) in a tiebreaker and dethroning Magnus Carlsen, the current World Number 1. 2020 FIDE Champion was won by Magnus Carlsen.

### **ICSD gives approval to AISCD to hold 1<sup>st</sup> World Deaf T20 Cricket Championship at Kerala in 2023**

The International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (**ICSD**) gave the approval to All India Sports Council of the Deaf (**AISCD**) to host the 1<sup>st</sup> World Deaf T20 Cricket Championship in Kerala from January 10 to 20, 2023. The World Deaf T20 cricket championship will be organized in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, where it is expected to see participants from 8 countries.

### **Bharath Subramaniam becomes India's 73<sup>rd</sup> chess GM during Vergani Cup Open 2022 in Cattolica, Italy**

The Vergani Cup Open 2022, a 9-round Swiss tournament was held on January 2-9, 2022 in Cattolica, Italy. In this, a 14-year old Chess Player, Bharath Subramaniam from Chennai, Tamil Nadu became India's 73<sup>rd</sup> chess Grandmaster (GM) by securing the third and final GM norm of the tournament. He scored 6.5 points and ranked 7th overall.

Indian player Musunuri Rohit Lalith Babu (29) emerged winner in the tournament i.e. ranked 1st with seven points.

### **Karnataka to Host Khelo India Games in 2023**

Karnataka Minister for Youth Empowerment and Sports, K.C. Narayana Gowda announced that Karnataka will host the next Khelo India Games in 2023. He also announced that over 75 sports students are being trained in the State to take part in the next Olympics. Khelo India Games for 2021 is scheduled to be held in February 2022 at Panchkula, Haryana.

### **TCS becomes new Title Sponsor & Technology Partner of 'Toronto Waterfront Marathon'**

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) signed a partnership agreement with **Canada Running Series** to become the new title sponsor & official technology consulting partner of Toronto Waterfront Marathon and Virtual Race through November 2026. Under the agreement TCS and Canada Running Series (CRS) aim to modernise marathon running in Canada through a new official race app.

### **Ladakh women's team Won the 9<sup>th</sup> National Women's Ice Hockey Championship 2022**

The Ladakh women's ice hockey team has won the **9<sup>th</sup> National women's ice hockey championship in 2022**. The championship organised by the Ice Hockey Association of India was held in the Kaza in tribal districts Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022. Chandigarh has been adjudged as the runner of the 2022 championship.

## **BOOKS & AUTHORS**

BOOK NAME	AUTHOR	KEY NOTES
Mamata: Beyond 2021	political journalist Jayanta Ghosal	<b>Translated by</b> - Arunava Sinha <b>Published by</b> - HarperCollins Publishers India The book explores and examines why the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lost the 2021 West Bengal Election. The announcement about the release of the book was made on 5th January

		2022, the birthday of Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister (CM) of West Bengal and the leader of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) party.
Gandhi's Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India	Dhirendra K. Jha, a Delhi based journalist	<b>Published by</b> - Vintage Books. The book explores Godse's relationship with the organizations that influenced his view and gave him a sense of purpose and draws out the gradual hardening of Godse's resolve that led to Mahatma Gandhi's assassination.
Indomitable: A Working Woman's Notes on Life, Work and Leadership	Arundhati Bhattacharya, retired Indian banker and former Chairperson of the State Bank of India(SBI)	<b>Published by</b> - Harper Business, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. ✓ Indomitable features the story of Arundhati Bhattacharya's life as a banker and the difficulties she faced in the male-dominated sector. The book also details her life during early education, college in Kolkata and her tenure in SBI.
Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist	<b>Biography by</b> - Chandrachur Ghose	<b>Published by</b> - Penguin Random House India under its Viking imprint will be released in February 2022. ✓ The book contains thoughts and opinions of Subhas Chandra Bose about development of independent India, communalism, geopolitics and political ideology. It also marked the untold and unknown stories of Netaji (Subhas Chandra Bose). He led the Indian National Army (INA) to fight the British and liberate India with the help of Japanese soldiers and gave famous slogans 'Jai Hind' and 'Dilli Chalo'.
handbook on Sahakar Pragma Good Practices	Jointly released by Dr Chandra Pal Singh Yadav & Dileep Sanghani	A policy recommendation handbook on Sahakar Pragma Good Practices for Cooperatives was jointly released by Dr Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President of International Co-Operative Alliance Asia And Pacific (ICA AP); and Dileep Sanghani, President of National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) during an event at National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) headquarters in New Delhi. The handbook has been developed by Laxmanrao Inamdar National Academy for Cooperative Research and Development (LINAC) of NCDC in consultation with eminent experts and leading organizations in the domain of cooperatives.
The Legend of Birsa Munda	Tuhin A Sinha	Co-authored by - Ankita Verma Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari released a book titled ' <b>The Legend of Birsa Munda</b> ',. The Book is the story of a lesser-known

		tribal hero, Birsa Munda, who courageously fought against the oppressive British Raj for the rights of his tribal community.
A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence	Ruskin Bond	<b>Published by</b> - Penguin Random House India (PRHI) The book is the blend of “physical and spiritual” attributes of India and also highlights the last 75 years of India’s progress as a nation.
India’s Women Unsung Heroes	Prepared by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with Amar Chitra Katha	Minister of State (MoS) for Culture, Meenakshi Lekhi has launched the pictorial comic book titled ‘India’s Women Unsung Heroes’ in New Delhi. The book was prepared by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with Amar Chitra Katha. ✓ It highlights the tales of valour of forgotten Indian women who fought against colonial rule and immensely contributed to the freedom struggle of India. Chakali Iamma, Padmaja Naidu, and Durgabai Deshmukh are some of the notable women freedom fighters listed in the book.
Liberty After Freedom: A History of Article 21, Due Process and the Constitution of India	Rohan J. Alva, a counsel practicing in the Supreme Court of India	<b>Published by</b> - HarperCollins India The book features the origin of Article 21: Protection of Life and Personal Liberty, one of the important fundamental rights in the Indian Constitution.
Operation Khatma	Journalists RC Ganjoo and Ashwini Bhatnagar	<b>Published by</b> - Locksley Hall Publishing LLP The book is based upon the operation by Special Operations Group of Jammu & Kashmir Police which led to the killing of 22 terrorists of the Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).
The \$10 Trillion Dream	Subhash Chandra Garg, former finance secretary	<b>Publisher</b> - Penguin Random House India (PRHI) It is set to be launched in February 2022. The book explores the economic policy issues of India and suggests reformative ideas to make India a USD 10 trillion economy by the mid-2030s.

## OBITUARY

### NATIONAL

PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
Sree Harilal Sarma (SH Sarma)	Veteran Vice Admiral	Odisha	The Indian Navy’s 1971 Indo-Pak war veteran Vice Admiral Sree Harilal Sarma (SH Sarma), the senior-most living war veteran has passed away at his residence in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He was born in Orissa, British Raj (now Odisha). Vice Admiral SH Sarma, a Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM)

			awardee, has served as the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet (FOCEF) during the 1971 Indo Pakistan War.
Sindhutai Sapkal	Renowned social worker and Padma Shri recipient	Maharashtra	<p>Passed away at the age of 74 years in Pune, Maharashtra. She was popularly known as the '<b>mother of orphaned children</b>'. Sindhutai Sapkal was born on 14 November 1948 in Wardha, Maharashtra.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ She was also a social activist, fought against the exploitation of local women.</li> </ul> <p>A biographical movie was made on her in Marathi titled 'Mee Sindhutai Sapkal'.</p>
Neil Nongkynrih	founder of Shillong Chamber Choir (SCC)	Meghalaya	On 5 January 2022, the founder of Shillong Chamber Choir (SCC) and renowned Indian concert pianist Neil Nongkynrih, aka Uncle Neil, passed away at the age of 51 years in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Neil Nongkynrih was born on 9 July 1970 in Shillong, Meghalaya.
Birju Maharaj	Legendary Kathak dancer	Uttar Pradesh	<p>Popularly known as "<b>Maharaj-ji</b>" from Handia, Uttar Pradesh, died at the age of 83. Maharaj-ji was a lifelong Kathak guru as well as a talented Hindustani classical singer and percussionist. Maharaj-ji, was the pioneer for the initial Lucknow gharana dance styles.</p> <p>He was a recipient of the country's second highest civilian honour, Padma Vibhushan-1986 (under Art Category). He was also honoured with Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement award.</p>
Saoli Mitra	Padma Shri Awardee	-	<p>Saoli Mitra, a well-known theatre figure and daughter of famed performers <b>Sombhu Mitra and Tripti Mitra</b> passed away in South Kolkata, West Bengal. Mitra's solo performances as Draupadi in '<b>Naathvati Anathbat</b>' which she herself authored and directed and Sita in 'SitaKatha' or Bitata Bitangcol are some of the important plays.</p> <p>Saoli Mitra has received Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2003 and the Padma Shri in 2009 in arts.</p>

Shanti Devi	Padma Shri awardee and social activist	Odisha	<p>Passed away in Gunupur, Rayagada, Odisha.</p> <p>✓ <b>Birth Detail</b> - April 18, 1934, in Balasore, Odisha.</p> <p>Shanti Devi was inspired by the Gandhian follower Acharya Vinoba Bhave in 1955-56 for his ideology and started working for the development of tribals, destitute women and orphaned girls and took part in Bhoodan Movement.</p>
Major HPS Ahluwalia	Padma Shri recipient	-	<p>Founder of the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC) that was set up at Vasant Kunj, Delhi in 1993, a professional mountaineer, and Padma Shri recipient, Major HPS Ahluwalia (Retired) passed away at the age of 85.</p> <p>At the age of 26, Major Ahluwalia was part of the first Indian expedition to summit Mount Everest in 1965, and he climbed the summit on May 29, 1965. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan (2002) and Padma Shri (1965) for his contributions and received India's second-highest sporting honour, the Arjuna Award (1965).</p>
Narayan Debnath	Noted Bengali cartoonist	Howrah, Bengal Presidency, British India	<p>Noted Bengali cartoonist Padma Shri Narayan Debnath has passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal.</p> <p>✓ <b>Birth Detail</b> - 25<sup>th</sup> November 1925, in Howrah, Bengal Presidency, British India.</p> <p>✓ The Rabindranath Tagore University had honoured him with a D.Litt degree. He is the first and the only comic artist in India who has received a D.Litt degree. Narayan Debnath is a comics artist, writer and illustrator.</p> <p>He was honoured with Padma Shri, the 4th highest civilian honours of India in 2021 for arts.</p>
Subhas Bhowmick	Renowned Indian footballer and coach	West Bengal	<p>Who represented India at the Bronze medal winning 1970 Asian Games, passed away at the age of 71 due to prolonged illness.</p> <p>✓ <b>Birth Detail</b> - 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1950 in Malda, West Bengal.</p>



			He represented the two famous football clubs of Kolkata named football <b>East Bengal FC (Football Club)</b> and Mohun Bagan AC (Athletic Club).
R. Nagaswamy	Padma Bhushan awardee	-	On 23rd January 2022, an archaeologist, art historian and Padma Bhushan awardee R. Nagaswamy passed away. He was the 1st director of Tamil Nadu (TN) government's Department of Archaeology (1966 – 1988). He was a great scholar in Tamil and Sanskrit and was known as the ' <b>Father of Tamil Archaeology</b> '.
Charanjit Singh	Hockey Player	Himachal Pradesh	Padma Shri Charanjit Singh, who was the Captain of India's Hockey team that won the gold medal in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics has passed away in the Una District of Himachal Pradesh. ✓ <b>Birth Details</b> - 20 <sup>th</sup> November 1929 in Una, Himachal Pradesh. The Government of India honoured him with the Padma Shri in 1964 in Sports and Arjuna Award in 1963 for hockey.

## INTERNATIONAL

PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
Toshiki Kaifu	Former Prime Minister of Japan	Japan	Passed away at the age of 91 years in Japan. He served as the PM from 1989 to 1991. Toshiki Kaifu was a politician, born on 2 January 1931 in Nagoya, Aichi, Japan. He is known for sending the Maritime Self-Defense Force to the Persian Gulf in 1991.
Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta (IBK)	Former President	Mali	Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta (IBK), the former President of Mali died at the age of 76. IBK was in the office for 7 years from 2013-2020, until he was overthrown by Special forces Commander Assimi Goita. After his ousting, Military officers have extended the civil rule by five years.
David Sassoli	President of the European Parliament (since 2019)	Italy	<b>David Sassoli</b> the President of the European Parliament (since 2019), one of three legislative branches of the European Union, has passed away in Aviano, Italy. He was born on 30 <sup>th</sup> May 1956 in Florence, Italy. He was a member of the centre-left Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats.

			<p>✓ He has worked as a journalist and television anchor for around 3 decades.</p> <p>He became a member of the European Parliament in 2009 and later became the speaker in 2019.</p>
Sidney Poitier	Bahamian-American actor	United States of America	<p>Sidney Poitier is a Bahamian-American actor, the first black actor and the first Bahamian to win the Oscar Award for Best Actor Award, has passed away at his residence in Los Angeles, United States of America. He was born on 20<sup>th</sup> February in 1927 in Miami, Florida, United States of America. Until his death, he was the oldest surviving male Academy Award winner.</p> <p>✓ He published his autobiography titled "The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography" in 2000.</p> <p>He has authored several books including Montaro Caine; This life; and Life Beyond Measure.</p>
Ray Illingworth	Former England cricket captain	Pudsey, West Yorkshire, England	<p>Ray Illingworth, a former England cricket captain and the coach of the England Cricket team (1995-1996) has passed away at the age of 89. He was born on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1932 in Pudsey, West Yorkshire, England. He has also played for the Yorkshire County Cricket Club of England.</p>
Viktor Danilovich Saneyev	Olympic triple jump – 3 time gold medalist	Georgia	<p>The Olympic triple jump – <b>3 time gold medalist</b> and former world record holder, Viktor Danilovich Saneyev passed away in Australia at the age of 76 years. Viktor Saneyev was born on October 3, 1945, in Georgia. He was a triple long player who represented the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (<b>USSR</b>) in the Olympic games. Later he worked as a coach in Australia.</p>
Deon Lendore	Olympic athlete	Trinidad and Tobago	<p>who participated in the 400 meters race at the 2020 Olympics, passed away at the age 29 years due to a fatal car accident in Texas, United States (US). Deon Lendore was born on 28 October 1992 in Trinidad and Tobago (the Caribbean Islands, South America), was an expert of 400 meters championships.</p>
Marilyn Bergman	Oscar, Emmy and Grammy Awardee & Lyricist	USA	<p>Passed away at the age of 93. She was born in Brooklyn, USA. Marilyn and Alan Bergman (husband), were the life-long writing partners, winning <b>3 Oscars</b> for ('Way We Were – 1974,' 'Windmills – 1969' and the entire song score for 'Yentl – 1984'). The Bergmans was</p>

			<p>honoured with Emmy Awards and Grammy Award for the song of the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The Bergmans placed their names in the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1980.</li> </ul> <p>Marilyn was the first woman president and chairman of the board of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), from 1994 to 2009.</p>
Szilveszter Csollány	Hungarian Gymnast	Hungary	<p>Hungarian Gymnast Szilveszter Csollány (51 years) who won the gold in the Men's rings at the 2000 Olympics held in Sydney, has passed away due to a COVID-19 infection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Birth Place</b> - 13<sup>th</sup> April 1970, in Sopron, Hungary.</li> </ul> <p>He has won Hungary's Sportsman of the Year award in 2000 and 2002.</p>
Milena Salvini	Veteran Kathakali artist and Padma Shri awardee	Italy	<p>Veteran Kathakali artist and Padma Shri awardee Milena Salvini passed away in Paris at the age of 84 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Birth Details</b> - Born in 1938 at Milan in Italy.</li> <li>✓ In 1965, she reached India to learn Classical dance and got trained in Kathakali at Kerala Kalamandalam. She later became an ambassador of Indian dance forms in Europe.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award</b>- Padma Shri in 2019 in the field of performing arts.</p>

## IMPORTANT DAYS

OBSERVED DATE / WEEK	DAYS	KEY NOTES
December 26, 2022	Veer Baal Diwas	<p>Government of India (GoI) has decided to proclaim December 26<sup>th</sup> of every year from 2022 as the <b>Veer Baal Diwas</b> to honour the sacrifice of Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> sons of the <b>10<sup>th</sup> Sikh Guru, "Guru Gobind Singh"</b>, to defend the dignity and honour of Sikhism. Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the announcement regarding the observance of Veer Baal Diwas on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022, the 355<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary (Parkash Purab) of the 10<sup>th</sup> Sikh Guru, "Guru Gobind Singh".</p>
January 1, 2022	64 <sup>th</sup> Foundation Day or 64 <sup>th</sup> Raising Day	<p>Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Research and development (<b>R&amp;D</b>) wing of Ministry of Defence, celebrated its 64<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day or 64<sup>th</sup> Raising Day on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022. The</p>

		DRDO was established on 1st January 1958 by amalgamating the Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO).
January 3, 2022	Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) Day	Annually observed on 3 <sup>rd</sup> January to commemorate the day (3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2017) on which POSOCO stated its independent functioning under the Ministry of Power as one of the Power Public sector undertakings (PSUs). POSOCO was a wholly-owned subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) till 2 January 2017.
January 4, 2022	United Nations(UN)'s World Braille Day	Annually observed across the globe on 4 <sup>th</sup> January to create awareness about the importance of braille as a means of communication in the full realization of human rights for blind and partially sighted people across the globe. 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 marks the observance of the 4 <sup>th</sup> World Braille Day and the 213 <sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Louis Braille of 19 <sup>th</sup> -century French educator who invented Braille, a universally accepted system of reading and writing used by and for blind persons.
January 6, 2022	World Day of War Orphans	Annually observed across the globe on 6 <sup>th</sup> January to create awareness about the condition of the children who were orphaned as a result of war or other conflicts. The day also highlights the need to protect the human rights of orphaned children. The day offers a platform to address the plight of war orphans and to highlight the emotional, social, and physical challenges children face while growing up.
January 6, 2022	BIS Foundation Day	The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standard Body of India, annually celebrates the BIS Foundation Day on 6 <sup>th</sup> January. The BIS foundation day commemorates the day on which BIS came into existence as the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) (6 <sup>th</sup> January 1947). 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 marks the observance of the 75 <sup>th</sup> BIS Foundation Day. In December 2021, BIS launched a mobile app "BIS Care" for consumers.
January 9, 2022	Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD), also known as the	Annually celebrated on 9 <sup>th</sup> January to mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian

	“Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day”	<p>community to the development of India. This is 17<sup>th</sup> PBD.</p> <p>The first ever Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas was celebrated on 9 January 2003.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ On 9<sup>th</sup> January 1915, Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa and became the greatest ‘Pravasi’.</li> </ul> <p>Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs addressed the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas Conference 2022 focused on “Role of Diaspora Youth in Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav – Innovation and New Technologies”</p>
January 10, 2022	World Hindi Day, also known as Vishwa Hindi Diwas	<p>Annually observed across the globe on 10<sup>th</sup> January to promote the worldwide use of the Hindi language. The day also marks the anniversary of the World Hindi Conference, which was held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1975.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The first World Hindi Conference (in Hindi: Vishwa Hindi Sammelan) was held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1975 in Nagpur, Maharashtra.</li> </ul> <p>The conference was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister (PM) Indira Gandhi.</p>
January 12, 2022	National Youth Day, also known as Rashtriya Yuva Diwas	<p>Annually celebrated across India on 12<sup>th</sup> January to commemorate the birth anniversary of the social reformer, great thinker and philosopher, <b>Swami Vivekananda</b>. The day aims to highlight the teachings and philosophy of Swami Vivekananda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The theme of National Youth Day 2022 is “<b>It’s all in the mind.</b>”</li> </ul> <p>12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 marks the observance of the <b>159<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary</b> of Swami Vivekananda.</p>
January 14, 2022	Armed Forces Veterans Day	<p>6<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Veterans Day was observed to recognize the sacrifice of our veterans in serving the nation.</p> <p>It was called Armistice Day when initiated in 2017. The day honors the services rendered by Field Marshal Kodandera Madappa Cariappa OBE, the first Indian Commander-in-Chief (C-in-C) of the Indian Armed Forces. He led the Indian forces on the Western Front during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1947. He retired on January 14 in 1953.</p>
January 15, 2022	Indian Army Day	<p>Annually observed across India on January 15<sup>th</sup> to commemorate the day on which Field Marshal Kodandera M Cariappa (KM</p>




		<p>Cariappa) took charge as the first Indian Commander in Chief (C-in-C) of the Indian Army. 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022 marks the observance of the 74<sup>th</sup> Indian Army Day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The Indian Army's theme for the year 2022 is "In Stride with the Future."</li> <li>✓ On 16<sup>th</sup> January 1949, India got the first-ever Indian chief. Lt Gen KM Cariappa succeeded General Francis Butcher, the last British commander-in-chief of the Indian Army, as commander-in-chief of the Indian Armed Forces.</li> </ul> <p>The day on which the British handed over the authority to India is observed as Indian Army Day.</p>
January 16, 2022	First-ever National Startup Day	<p>India celebrated the first-ever National Startup Day on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022, with an aim to support the startup culture spread across India. 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022 also marks the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Startup India initiative. 16<sup>th</sup> January was chosen to mark the anniversary of the launch of the Startup India initiative. The Startup India initiative was launched on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016.</p>
January 17-21, 2022	Open Data Week	<p>The Open Data Week will be conducted during the third week of January, from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022, by the Smart Cities Mission (SCM), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to encourage the adoption of open data and promote innovation across India's urban ecosystem. The Open Data Week is undertaken by MoHUA to promote awareness and use of open data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Aim:</b> To highlight the benefits of open data: Increased efficiency, Transparency, a spur in innovation, and Economic growth.</li> </ul> <p>The Data Day will be observed with the engagement of people of various backgrounds including, Government agencies, private sector, enterprises, scientific and academic institutions, businesses, startups, civil society etc.</p>
January 19, 2022	NDRF Raising day	<p>National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) annually celebrates the NDRF Raising day on 19<sup>th</sup> January to mark the formation of NDRF, under the Ministry of Home Affairs on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2006. 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 marks the observance of the 17<sup>th</sup> NDRF Raising Day.</p>

		NDRF is a specialised force that is capable of responding to various types of disasters including building collapses, landslides, devastating floods, and cyclones in India and abroad.
January 19, 2022	Kokborok Day	Also known as the Tripuri Language Day is annually celebrated across the Indian State of Tripura on 19th January with an aim to develop the Kokborok Language. The day commemorates the initial recognition of Kokborok as the official language in 1979. 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 marks the observance of the 44th Kokborok Day. The Kokborok language, the official language of Tripura, is also known as Tripuri or Tiprakok. Kokborok is derived from 'Kok' means "verbal" and 'borok' means "people" or "human". It is one of the ancient languages of North East India.
January 10-17, 2022	Agri Nutri Garden Week	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission ( <b>DAY-NRLM</b> ) has celebrated the Agri Nutri Garden Week from 10 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2022. The week was observed to encourage the establishment of ' <b>Agri Nutri Gardens</b> ' in rural households. The observance of the week is in line with the Prime Minister (PM) vision to enhance the strength of the Rural Economy. <b>Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana</b> – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) works under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).
January 24, 2022	United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Education	Annually observed across the globe on 24 <sup>th</sup> January to celebrate the role of education for peace and development. The day highlights the importance of inclusive and equitable education and opportunities for all. ✓ 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 marks the observance of the 4 <sup>th</sup> International Day of Education. The theme of the 2022 International Day of Education is "Changing Course, Transforming Education".
January 24, 2022	National Girl Child Day (NGCD)	Annually observed across India on 24 <sup>th</sup> January to support and provide opportunities to the girls in India. The day aims towards promoting awareness about the rights of the girl child and to increase awareness on the importance of girls' education, and their health and nutrition.

		On the occasion of the National Girl Child Day, as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a virtual function was organised to recognise the exemplary achievements of children by facilitating Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar(PMRBP)-2022 awardees.
January 23, 2022	Parakram Diwas also known as Courage Day	<p>Annually observed across India on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to honour and remember the efforts and contribution of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.</p> <p>23rd January 2022 marks the observance of the 2nd Parakram Diwas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi unveiled a hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate.</li> </ul> <p>Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management(GIDM) and Professor Vinod Sharma of Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority has been honoured with the Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2022 for their excellent work in disaster management.</p>
January 25, 2022	National Tourism Day	<p>Annually observed across India on 25th January to create awareness of the importance of travelling and protecting nature. The day aims to highlight the role of the tourism sector in the overall economy of India.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The theme of National Tourism Day 2022 is '<b>Rural and Community Centric Tourism</b>'.</li> </ul> <p>G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Tourism has also digitally released a book on 75 lesser-known tourism destinations in India.</p>
January 25, 2022	National Voters' Day (NVD)	<p>Election Commission of India (ECI) celebrated the <b>12th edition of National Voters' Day (NVD)</b> across India, to spread awareness about the importance of voting, and participating in the electoral process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, the Chief Guest of the National level function on NVD, made his presence. Union Minister for Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju is the Guest of Honour for the function.</li> </ul> <p>Theme of 2022 NVD – 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative.'</p>
January 26, 2022	73rd Republic Day	India celebrated the 73rd Republic Day on 26th January 2022. The celebration of Republic

		<p>Day 2022 is observed during the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Independence, celebrated as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. On the occasion of Republic Day, President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, the first citizen of India unfurls the National flag. The tableaux of 12 States (Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand) were selected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Squadron Leader Suraj Nair has been honoured with the Vayu Sena Medal to recognise his courage and disregard to personal safety in a hostile combat zone.</li> </ul> <p>President also awarded the President's Tatrakshak Medals (PTM)/ Tatrakshak Medal (TM) to the Indian Coast Guard Personnel for their act of "conspicuous gallantry, exceptional devotion to duty" and distinguished or meritorious service.</p>
January 26, 2022	International Customs Day (ICD)	<p>Annually celebrated across the globe on 26<sup>th</sup> January to recognize the contributions and roles of the customs officials and agencies in maintaining border security. The aim of the day is to boost leadership, guidance and also increase support in working conditions and challenges that customs officers face in their jobs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Theme</b> – Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem'.</li> </ul> <p>The theme for 2022 was chosen by WCO.</p>
January 27, 2022	United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust	<p>Annually observed across the globe on 27<sup>th</sup> January as a tribute to the victims of the holocaust, also known as the Shoah, which was the genocide of European Jews during World War II. The day also marks the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau, Nazi German concentration and extermination camp. The theme of International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust 2022 is "Memory, Dignity and Justice".</p>

## APPS & WEB PORTAL

APP & WEB NAME	LAUNCHED BY	PURPOSE
www.pmawards.gov.in	Dr Jitendra Singh	Union Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge) Dr Jitendra Singh, Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, launched the Web Portal for PM's (Prime Minister's) Awards for Excellence in Public Administration for the year 2021-22 (www.pmawards.gov.in). The registration for the awards is initiated on January 3, 2022. The total number of Awards under this will be 18.
UNNATI portal	Jai Ram Thakur	Jai Ram Thakur, Chief Minister (CM) of Himachal Pradesh(HP) has launched the UNNATI portal and the mobile application(app) of the Himachal Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation Limited (HPSIDC). He also launched the website of the HPSIDC.The UNNATI portal will allow the user to work in collaboration with others and focus on individual projects.
federalinstaloans.com	Federal Bank	Federal Bank, a private sector lender, launched an online lending platform federalinstaloans.com, to ease credit approvals of up to Rs 50 lakh for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across India.The platform enables borrowers to avail loans in less than 30 minutes digitally by simply uploading their income tax (I-T) returns, bank account statement and online verification of Goods and Services Tax (GST) details.
Urban Forest Parks	Forest Department of Telangana	The Forest Department of Telangana launched 1st of its Kind mobile app namely 'Urban Forest Parks' that gives all information about theme based Urban Forest Parks and facilitates the visitors to plan their visits and journey. <div>  It was launched by the state's Forest Minister Allola Indrakaran Reddy. </div> It is developed by PamTen Software Solutions Private Limited.
Saa᳚᳚thi	SEBI	Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched a mobile app "Saa᳚᳚thi" based on investor education in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The Saa᳚᳚thi app aims to create awareness and provide education to investors about the basic concepts of the securities market. It will provide knowledge about KYC (Know Your Customer) process, trading and settlement, mutual funds (MF), market developments, investor grievances redressal mechanism, etc.



		The Headquarters of SEBI is Mumbai, Maharashtra.
Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal (Raksha पेंशन)	Defence Ministry	On the Occasion of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Veterans Day, 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2022, Defence Ministry has launched an online portal – <b>Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal (Raksha पेंशन)</b> – to resolve pension-related grievances of ex-servicemen (ESM) and their dependents. The portal will help existing and future military pensioners and enable the ESM to file grievances directly with the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW).
Spice Xchange India (spicexchangeindia.com)	Som Parkash,	India's first virtual platform for spices exports namely ' <b>Spice Xchange India (spicexchangeindia.com)</b> ' was launched by Minister of state (MoS) Som Parkash, Ministry of Commerce and Industry during a hybrid event held in Kochi, Kerala. Notably, India exports 225 different spices and spice products to more than 180 countries. Launched by Spices Board India, it is an artificial intelligence (AI)-based 3D virtual platform to connect spice buyers with exporters in India.
Koyla Darpan	Dr Anil Kumar Jain	Dr Anil Kumar Jain, Secretary, Ministry of Coal, has launched the ' <b>Koyla Darpan</b> ', a portal to share the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) related to the Coal Sector. To enable maximum public outreach, the portal can be assessed through the website of the Ministry of coal.
Yogyata	Common Services Centers (CSC)	Common Services Centers (CSC) launched the " <b>Yogyata</b> " mobile application, which will provide vocational education and skill enhancement opportunities to youth and citizens living in rural areas. The Yogyata app will reach the rural and remote areas of India to provide opportunities to access courses on skill development to increase employability of the youth.
Apna Kangra	Jai Ram Thakur	Chief Minister (CM) of Himachal Pradesh (HP), Jai Ram Thakur launched ' <b>Apna Kangra</b> ' app and hampers handcrafted by self-help groups (SHGs) at Dharamsala, HP. The app aims to provide a hassle-free experience for tourists and to boost sales of local handicrafts. The CM also virtually inaugurated Radhe Krishna Cow Sanctuary at Luthan in Jawalamukhi Vidhan Sabha area of Kangra.
MyCGHS & ( <a href="http://www.cghs.gov.in">www.cghs.gov.in</a> )	Mansukh Mandaviya	Union Minister for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya virtually launched the revamped version of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) website ( <a href="http://www.cghs.gov.in">www.cghs.gov.in</a> ) and mobile app, ' <b>MyCGHS</b> ' with multiple user friendly features. The launch also saw

		the presence of Minister of State for MoHFW, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar. The Website was developed in accordance with GIGW (Guidelines for Indian Government Websites), in compliance with 3Us -Usable, User-Centric and Universal Accessibility.
National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER)	Mansukh Mandaviya	Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers Mansukh Mandaviya launched National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Research Portal in New Delhi. The purpose of the portal is to spread information about all the NIPERs research activities, patents filed and Publication information at one place.
Digital Sansad	Lok Sabha Secretariat	The Lok Sabha secretariat has launched a new app, 'Digital Sansad', an initiative of Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla, to make the Parliament proceedings accessible to the public at large. The app helps in accessing services such as checking personal updates like status of their notices, House bulletins, and so on.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Two New Species of Rare Wasp Discovered: *Monoceromyia flavoscutata*, *M. nigra*

Researchers have discovered two new species of very rare wasp-like flower flies such as *Monoceromyia flavoscutata* and *M. nigra* from north-eastern India and the Western Ghats. Two new plant species *Fimbristylis sunilii* and *Neanotis prabhuii* have been discovered in Western Ghats regions of Thiruvananthapuram (Ponmudi hills), and Wayanad (Chembra Peak), Kerala.

### New Rain Frog Species Named *Pristimantis gretathunbergae*; Named After Greta Thunberg

The International team led by Abel Batista of Panama and Konrad Mebert of Switzerland has discovered a new species of rain frog, *Pristimantis gretathunbergae*, named after the Swedish Climate Activist, Greta Thunberg. The paper identifying the new species is published in ZooKeys. The researchers are associated with Rainforest Trust. The new species was found on the island in eastern Panama called Cerro Chucanti. It is popularly known as the Greta Thunberg Rain frog.

### Two new Species of Fungi – *Ganoderma keralense* & *G. pseudoapplanatum* Found

Researchers from Kerala have identified two new species of fungi from the genus *Ganoderma* that are associated with coconut stem rot disease, an irrecoverable disease for plants. The scientists have genotyped two fungi species, named *Ganoderma keralense* and *G. pseudoapplanatum* and identified genetic biomarkers.

### New lizard species discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

A team of researchers discovered a new gecko species named *Protoblepharus Apatani*, at Talle Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh. The new species is named after the Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh's Ziro valley.

- ✓ Notably, this is the 5th new species discovered by the research team from their month-long herpetological investigations in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ The research was also published in the Journal Mycologi0061

## GA Questions Asked in Exams

- [GA Questions asked RRB PO Mains Exam – Sept 25](#)
- [GA Questions asked IBPS Clerk Mains Exam – Feb 28](#)
- [GA Questions asked IBPS RRB Clerk Mains Exam – Feb 20](#)
- [GA Questions asked IBPS PO Mains Exam – Feb 4](#)
- [GA Questions asked in RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Jan 30](#)
- [GA Questions asked in SBI PO Mains 2021 – Jan 29](#)
- [SBI Clerk Mains 2020](#)
- [IBPS RRB Officer Scale II GBO Exam 2020](#)
- [RBI Assistant Mains 2020](#)
- [GA Questions Asked in IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2020 – 90% Questions Covered by AC](#)
- [GA Questions asked in SBI PO 2019 Main Exam](#)
- [GA Questions asked in SBI Clerk Main Exam 2019](#)
- [GA Questions asked in IBPS PO Main Exam 2019](#)
- [GA Questions asked in RBI Grade B Prelims Exam 2019](#)
- [GA Questions asked in IBPS RRB Clerk Mains Exam 2019](#)
- [GA Questions asked in IBPS RRB PO Mains Exam 2019](#)

**All The Best for Your Exams!!!**

**Suggestions & Feedback are welcomed**

**[Support@affairscloud.com](mailto:Support@affairscloud.com)**