

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

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MARCH 2022

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# PREFACE

This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for various Central & State level Competitive Examinations, covering content from the month of March 2022.

The Magazine is divided into three sections:

## **Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short**

The first section is dedicated to Topic Wise Current Affairs with a short description to provide information about all major happenings this month.

## **Section 2: Practice Questions with Answers**

The Second Section contains 150 Multiple Choice Questions based on daily current affairs.

## **Section 3: Detailed Analysis of important Events**

The Third Section covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. The content has been covered from various online & offline sources including reputed newspapers like The Hindu, Indian Express etc. All the news topics have been explained keeping in mind their underlying issues. Every issue has been covered comprehensively. Some of the information provided may not be directly relevant for the examination. As the content is very wide, we have only covered a limited set of issues. You can utilize it smartly along with the Daily Study of News Papers as well as your other sources.





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# SECTION 1



# Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short

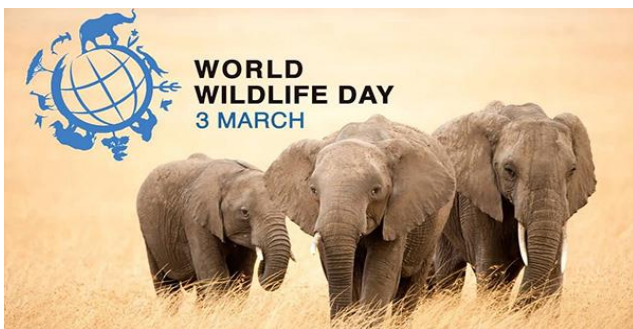


## 1: Important Days



### World Civil Defence Day : 01 March :-

World Civil Defence Day is celebrated every year on 1st March to bring the attention of the world public about the importance of Civil protection and to pay tributes to the efforts, sacrifices, and accomplishments of all the services responsible to fight against disasters. International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) decided to celebrate this day in 1990. The theme of World Civil Defence Day 2022 is “Civil Defence and the first aider in every home.”



### World Wildlife Day : 03 March :-

World Wildlife Day is celebrated annually on the 3rd of March in support of animals and plants across the world. The event was proposed by Thailand and was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly during its 68th meeting. World Wildlife Day is an important event to raise awareness of the extraordinary diversity of wildlife

and marine life that we have today. With increasing numbers of endangered and extinct species, it's extremely important to educate people on how we can help conserve the planet to continue to provide for future generations. The theme for 2022 World Wildlife Day is 'Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration.'



### World Hearing Day : 03 March :-

World Hearing Day is an annual awareness day every March 3 that the World Health Organization (WHO) created to promote hearing health globally. World Hearing Day is a campaign held each year by Office of Prevention of Blindness and Deafness of the World Health Organization. Activities take place across the globe and an event is hosted at the World Health Organization on March 3. The theme for this year's World Hearing Day is: “To hear for life, listen with care!”



**National Safety Day: 04 March :-**

National Safety Day is observed on March 04 each year to commemorate the foundation of the National Safety Council, which objectives to elevate awareness about protection measures that need to be undertaken to prevent injuries and mishaps. The goal of the day is to renew the dedication of employees and the general public to work safely and make sure the integration of a secure and sound work culture and lifestyle. National Safety Day was observed for the first time in 1972, on the foundation day of the National Safety Council. The theme National Safety Day 2022 is 'Nurture young minds – Develop safety culture'.

**No Smoking Day : 09 March :-**

No Smoking Day is observed every year on the second Wednesday of March, to encourage people to quit smoking. This year, No Smoking Day, will be celebrated on March 09, 2022. The day is about to help family and friends suffering from nicotine addiction. Smoking or chewing tobacco is one of the worst habits one can adopt. The health risks are known to all but still thousands of youths, between 12 to 17 years of age, start smoking each day.

**International Women's Day : 08 March :-**

International Women's Day, which is observed on March 8 every year, is a global day to celebrate the achievements of the women and to support the fight against gender discrimination. Across the world, less than 15 per cent of the world's countries have a female leader. Only 24 per cent of senior managers are women and 25 per cent of companies have no female senior managers at all. Women do the lowest-paid jobs and earn less money for the same work. This difference in pay is called the gender pay gap. This year's International Women's Day theme is "gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow".

**CISF Raising Day : 10 March :-**

The CISF was set up under the act of the Parliament of India on March 10, 1969. Since then, CISF Raising Day is being celebrated on March 10 each year. CISF is currently providing security cover to nuclear installations, space establishments, airports, seaports, power plants, sensitive Government buildings and even heritage monuments. Among the important responsibilities recently entrusted to the CISF are the Delhi Metro Rail



Corporation, VIP Security etc. The CISF is the central armed police force of the country and is one of the seven paramilitary forces of India. It functions under the Union Home Ministry and guards 65 civil airports in the country at present, apart from securing a number of vital infrastructure in the government and private domain.



## International Day of Action for Rivers : 14 March :-

Every year on March 14, the International Day of Action for Rivers is observed. The International Day of Action for Rivers is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. It is a day dedicated to saving, celebrating, and raising awareness about our life-giving source of water. If rivers are to be protected and used for economic purposes, people must be committed to river management across borders. Communities around the world that rely on rivers for a living must band together to tell decision-makers that rivers matter.



## World Consumer Rights Day : 15 March :-

Since 1983, World Consumer Rights Day has been observed on March 15 to raise global awareness about

consumer rights and needs. Consumer rights imply that every consumer or buyer on the globe has the right to obtain information about the quality, purity, price, and standard of various products, goods, and services. Former US President John F. Kennedy inspired the day when he spoke to the US Congress on March 15, 1962, and delivered a message about consumer rights. This year the theme of World Consumer Rights Day is "Fair Digital Finance."



## National Vaccination Day : 16 March :-

Every year on March 16, the National Vaccination Day, also known as National Immunization Day, is observed to emphasise the importance of vaccination to the entire nation. The day was first observed in 1995, the year India launched the Pulse Polio Programme. The National Vaccination Day campaign began with the goal of reducing the global polio outbreak. The day was set aside to raise awareness about the disease and how it can be eliminated from the planet. The theme for National Vaccination Day 2022 is "Vaccines Work for all".



## World Oral Health Day : 20 March :-

The goal of World Oral Health Day, which takes place on March 20, is to raise awareness about oral hygiene and health. Everything we consciously or unconsciously consume enters our body through our mouth. In order to stay healthy, it is critical to pay close attention to oral hygiene. Oral disease affects a large percentage of the population. As a result, the FDI World Dental Federation hosts this annual event to raise global awareness. In 2013, the first World Oral Health Day was observed. In 2021, the three-year campaign was launched with the theme, 'Be Proud of Your Mouth'.



## International Day of Forests : 21 March :-

The International Day of Forests is observed every year on March 21. The goal of the day is to raise public awareness about the value, significance, and contributions of forests in balancing the earth's life cycle. On this day, various private and government organisations collaborate to educate people not only about forests in general, but also about trees and vegetation found outside of forested areas. The day is commemorated to raise public awareness about the value of green space for not only today's but also future generations. The International Day of Forests is celebrated with a particular theme every year. The theme for 2022 is 'Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption'.



## International Day of Happiness : 20 March :-

On March 20th, the International Day of Happiness is observed all over the world. On June 28, 2012, the United Nations General Assembly established it. The International Day of Happiness aims to raise awareness of the importance of happiness in people's lives all over the world. The United Nations launched 17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 in order to improve people's lives. Its primary development objectives are to eliminate poverty, reduce inequality, and protect the environment. "Build Back Happier" is the theme for 2022, and is aimed at achieving global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.



## World Water Day : 22 March :-

Every year on March 22nd, World Water Day is commemorated to raise awareness about the



importance of water to the entire world. The day also emphasises the need for all countries to improve access to water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities. Every year, people and organisations commemorate World Water Day by taking various actions to address the water crisis. The celebration aims to raise awareness about the importance of water and its resources for the survival of all living things on the planet. The theme for World Water Day 2022 is 'Groundwater, making the invisible visible'.



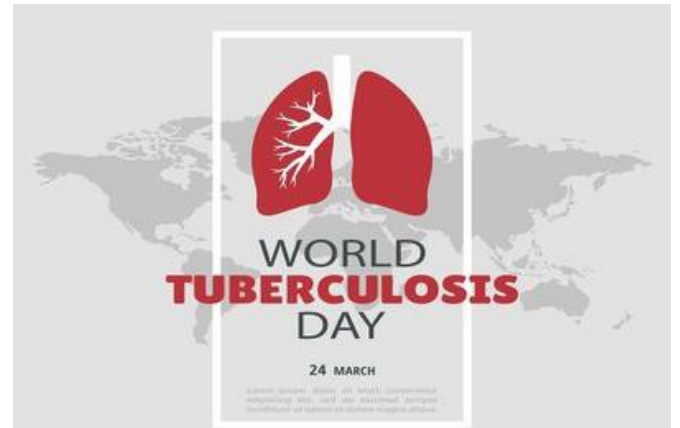
### **World Meteorological Day : 23 March :-**

Every year on March 23, World Meteorological Day commemorates the founding of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on March 23, 1950. The day celebrates the contributions of national meteorological and hydrological services and is marked by a variety of activities all over the world. Special exhibits on climate change and related topics are held all over the world on this day. Research in the fields of meteorology is also recognised with awards. The theme of World Meteorological Day 2022 is "Early Warning and Early Action".



### **Shaheed Diwas : 23rd March :-**

Every year on March 23, India commemorates valiant soldiers who gave their lives for the country with Shaheed Diwas. The day commemorates the deaths of three brave freedom fighters: Sukhdev Thapar, Bhagat Singh, and Shivaram Rajguru. Every year on January 30th, India also commemorates Shaheed Diwas in memory of Mahatma Gandhi, who was assassinated on the same day. On this day, three freedom fighters are remembered in particular: Sukhdev Thapar, Bhagat Singh, and Shivaram Rajguru. After bombing the Central Legislative Assembly in 1929, the three bravehearts were imprisoned. All three were sentenced to death and were hanged in the Lahore Jail on March 23, 1931.



### **World Tuberculosis (TB) Day : 24 March :-**

Every year on March 24, World Tuberculosis Day is commemorated to increase efforts to end the global tuberculosis epidemic and raise public awareness about the disease's health, social, and economic consequences (TB). On this date in 1882, Dr. Robert Koch announced the discovery of the bacterium that causes tuberculosis. Despite significant progress in recent decades, tuberculosis remains the world's ninth leading cause of death. In 2016, an estimated 10.4 million people developed tuberculosis (TB) and 1.7 million died as a result of the disease worldwide. Nearly half of all tuberculosis cases (45.6%) are reported in the World



Health Organization's South-East Asia region (WHO). One-fourth of the global TB burden is carried by India. The theme of World TB Day 2022 is 'Invest to End TB. Save Lives.'



### **GoI Designates October 5 As National Dolphin Day :-**

The Union Environment Ministry has declared October 5th as National Dolphin Day, which will be observed annually beginning this year. According to a statement from the environment ministry, the decision to designate a National Dolphin Day was made by the standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL). The environment minister, Bhupender Yadav, stated that raising awareness and encouraging community participation are critical to the conservation of dolphins, including the Gangetic Dolphin. Environmental experts say the ministry should focus on improving the flow and water quality of the Ganga and its tributaries in order to save the Gangetic dolphin.

## **2: Agreements**



### **Mastercard Tieup With SBI Payments To Boost Digital Payments Infrastructure :-**

As an extension of its flagship "Team Cashless India" campaign, Mastercard organized three on-ground engagements in Guwahati, Lucknow and Varanasi to promote awareness and understanding of digital payments. Mastercard Team Cashless India volunteers partnered with the Auto Rickshaw Association in Lucknow, All Assam's Restaurant Association (AARA) in Guwahati, local shopkeepers, and Boat Union in Varanasi

to bolster the digital payments infrastructure in their respective cities. During these engagements, Mastercard Team Cashless India volunteers and SBI Payments spoke to micro-merchants about the convenience, safety, and other benefits of accepting digital payments.



### **Paytm Payments Bank Is Now Official Acquiring Partner For E-RUPI Vouchers :-**

Paytm Payments Bank announced that it had become an official acquiring partner for the government's e-RUPI

service. The bank has partnered with Paytm parent One97 Communications Ltd (OCL) to hold the latter's merchant base. With this, Paytm's merchants will now collect payments through e-RUPI. e-RUPI is a cashless prepaid voucher that beneficiaries can present through SMS or QR Code. Paytm's merchant partners can scan, enter the amount to be paid and receive the payment directly into their bank accounts.



### **India's NIUA And WEF To Collaborate On Sustainable Cities Development Programme :-**

The World Economic Forum (WEF) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) on February 24 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India programme', which will aim to create an enabling environment for cities to generate decarbonization solutions across the energy, transport, and the built environment sectors. The 'Sustainable Cities India program' intends to enable cities to decarbonize in a systematic and sustainable way that will reduce emissions and deliver resilient and equitable urban ecosystems, a ministry statement said.



### **Standard Chartered Tie Up With IATA For Payment Platform For Airline Industry :-**

Standard Chartered in partnership with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) has launched IATA Pay in India. Already available in several European markets, IATA Pay is an airline industry payment platform that brings optionality, convenience and an enhanced experience to consumers when purchasing tickets directly from participating airlines. The service leverages the Unified Payment Interface (UPI), a domestic real-time payments scheme in India, thereby enabling consumers to instantly pay for airline tickets from their bank accounts.



### **HPCL Signed MoU With Solar Energy Corporation Of India :-**

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd has inked a pact for cooperation and collaboration in the field of renewable energy, electric mobility, and alternative fuels including the development of ESG Projects. "In order to realize green energy objectives and the GOI's efforts towards carbon-neutral economy, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) on 24th February 2022 in New Delhi," a Ministry of New and Renewable Energy statement said.





## Paytm To Offer Digital Ticketing Services By Partnering With IRCTC :-

Paytm, a digital payments company, has announced that, in collaboration with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation, it will offer digital ticketing services to consumers via Automatic Ticket Vending Machines at all Indian railway stations (IRCTC). The Indian Railways is allowing digital payments for ticketing services via UPI on ATVMs in an effort to promote cashless commuting among railway passengers. ATVMs are ticketing kiosks with touch screens that now allow passengers to pay digitally. This service is now available on all ATVM machines at Indian railway stations.



## Axis Bank And Airtel Tie-Up To Boost India's Digital Ecosystem :-

As part of a "strategic partnership to strengthen the growth of India's digital ecosystem through a range of financial solutions," Bharti Airtel and Axis Bank have announced the launch of the Airtel Axis Bank Credit Card.

Airtel and Axis Bank will launch a range of innovative financial offerings and digital services exclusively for Airtel's 340 million plus customers in the coming months, in an effort to accelerate the country's adoption of digital payments. A co-branded credit card with industry-leading benefits, pre-approved instant loans, 'Buy Now Pay Later' options, and more will be available.



## Madras IIT And RBI Innovation Hub Make Ties To Boost Fintech Startups :-

IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC) and RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate in the development of the ecosystem required to support and scale fintech startups in India. The two organisations will collaborate to provide early-stage startups with innovative and disruptive solutions with incubation support and accelerate their scale-up journey.





**NMDC Sign MoU With IIT Kharagpur For Drone-Based Mineral Exploration:-**

For drone-based mineral exploration the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), the country's largest iron ore producer, announced a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur. According to the

agreement, NMDC and IIT Kharagpur will collaborate to develop spectral products, methods, and algorithms for exploration using the Drone (UAV) for mining. The collaboration between NMDC and IIT Kharagpur will also result in the development of software spectral tools for mineral excavation and mining technology capacity-building programmes.

### 3: Appointments

**HUL Named Nitin Paranjpe As Non-Executive Chairman :-**

Hindustan Unilever on January 24 announced the appointment of Nitin Paranjpe as the non-executive chairman and non-executive director of the company, effective from March 31, 2022. Sanjiv Mehta, the CEO and MD of the company, said HUL in a stock exchange filing, will continue in his current role. The company also announced the re-appointment of Dev Bajpai as a whole-time director for a period of five years starting from 23rd January, 2022 to 22nd January, 2027. Nitin Paranjpe commenting on his appointment as the Non-Executive Chairman said, "It's an honour and a privilege to be appointed as the non-executive Chairman of HUL; one of the most respected companies in the country."

**Rakesh Sharma Re-Appointed As MD & CEO Of IDBI Bank :-**

IDBI Bank's Board of Directors has approved the re-appointment of Rakesh Sharma as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank for a period of three years with effect from March 19, 2022. This re-appointment is as per approval of the Reserve Bank of India received in this regard, the Bank said in a regulatory filing. This comes at a time when the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) is expected to soon kickstart a roadshow, whereby both the Government and the Life Insurance Corporation of India plan to sell their stake in the bank to an investor/investors.



### **Sanjeev Sanyal Named Full-Time Member Of Economic Advisory Council To PM :-**

The Finance Ministry's Chief Economic Adviser Sanjeev Sanyal has been appointed as a full-time member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EACPM), EACPM Chairman Bibek Debroy announced. The appointment is for two years. Sanjeev Sanyal had advised the Ministry of Finance to shape economic policy during the pandemic. The veteran economist has worked with the financial markets since the 1990s and his addition to the EACPM is likely to help the leading economic advisory body.



### **Digital India CEO Abhishek Singh Appoints National E-Governance Division Chief :-**

In a top level administrative realignment the Union government announced to elevate senior IAS officers and Digital India Corporation CEO Abhishek Singh as new National e-Governance Division (NeGD) CEO. The 1995-batch IAS officer from Nagaland cadre will hold the position in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary.

Uttarakhand cadre IAS officer Ramesh Kumar Sudhanshu named new MyGov chief. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet elevated 16 senior IAS officers at joint secretary level.



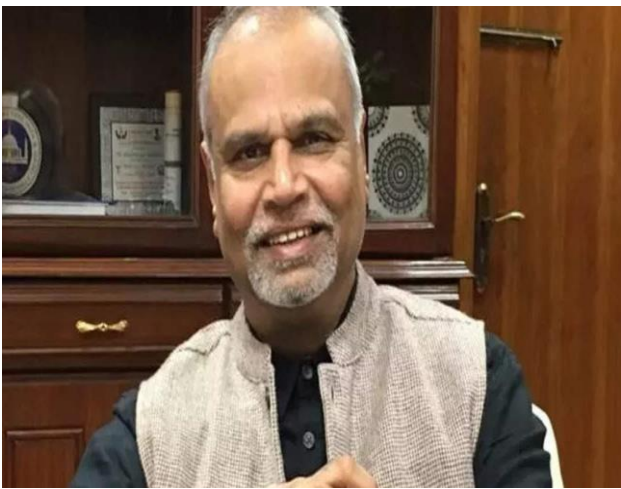
### **Madhabi Puri Buch Named As First Woman Chief Of SEBI :-**

Former banker Madhabi Puri Buch has been appointed as the new chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) - the first-ever woman to head the capital markets regulator. Ms. Buch (57), who was not only the first woman whole-time member of SEBI but also the first person from the private sector working at the regulator, has been appointed for a three-year term, Finance Ministry sources said. She replaces bureaucrat Ajay Tyagi whose tenure as SEBI chairman ends in February 2022. A graduate from Delhi's prestigious St Stephen's College and an MBA from IIM Ahmedabad, Ms. Buch has three decades of financial market experience.



### **Samiran Gupta To Head Public Policy For Twitter In India :-**

Samiran Gupta has been named the new head of policy for microblogging platform Twitter in India. He will lead the company's public policy and philanthropy efforts in India and South Asia. Gupta, a public policy veteran was head of Public policy, South Asia for The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) prior to this. In recent months, Twitter has been at the receiving end of the Indian government over the issue of blocking and unblocking certain handles tweeting about farmer protests.



### **Prof Bhushan Patwardhan Named As Chairman Of NAAC :-**

Pune-based leading academician and former vice-chairman of the University Grants Commission Dr Bhushan Patwardhan has been nominated as the new chairperson of the executive committee of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Currently the chairman of the interdisciplinary AYUSH R&D task force on Covid-19, Dr Patwardhan has been a distinguished academician for nearly 40 years and has been a member of several academic research and policy committees including the NITI Aayog, Planning Commission, Lancet Citizen's Commission, National Board of Examination and with the United Nations and World Health Organization Geneva.



### **World Bank's India Director Junaid Kamal Ahmed has been named as the vice president of the agency :-**

The World Bank's India head Junaid Kamal Ahmad has been appointed as a Vice President of the international lending institution. Ahmad, who as Vice President, Operations would head the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), is only the second Bangladeshi national to be appointed to such a high position in the history of the bank. Ahmad will assume his new role from April 16, an official release said. In this role, Ahmad will work to advance and enhance MIGA's brand partnering across the World Bank Group and with financial institutions, private investors.



### **Akshaye Widhani Named As Chief Executive Officer Of Yash Raj Films :-**

India's leading film production house, Yash Raj Films (YRF), announced that Akshaye Widhani has been named the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective immediately. Akshaye Widhani most recently served as the Senior VP-



Finance and Business Affairs and the Head of Operations, YRF Studios. Akshaye joined YRF at the age of 22 and has been associated with YRF for 17 years. He has been responsible for setting up and running several business verticals for YRF. Akshaye started his career at YRF as a studio manager, in charge of setting up operations for YRF Studios in 2005. Thereafter, he has gradually taken up leadership roles in corporate finance, strategy and operations.



### **T S Ramakrishnan named as new MD and CEO of LIC Mutual Fund :-**

LIC Mutual Fund on has announced the appointment of TS Ramakrishnan as its managing director and chief executive officer. Ramakrishnan, who succeeds Dinesh Pangtey, has spent more than 34 years at LIC, its subsidiaries and associate companies. He has served in various positions including, those of regional manager pension group and Scheme in the South Central Zone (Hyderabad) and senior division manager in charge at Delhi 1 & 2.



### **Jet Airways Named Sanjiv Kapoor As CEO :-**

Going in advance with their plans of restarting operations through summer time season , Jet Airways has selected Sanjiv Kapoor, who has headed revenue and strategy departments at SpiceJet and Vistara, to steer the airline. The airline corporation announced that Kapoor will be the CEO of the corporation and will join on April 4, 2022. Kapoor, who has been chief operating officer at SpiceJet and Chief Strategy and commercial officer at Vistara, resigned as president of Oberoi Hotels recently. Kapoor, who had joined SpiceJet from Bangladesh-based GMG Airlines in November 2013, helmed the airline at a time oil prices were at record high.



### **SBI Named Ex-Ujjivan Small Finance Bank CEO Nitin Chugh As DMD :-**

State Bank of India (SBI) India's largest public sector bank has announced that it has appointed Nitin Chugh as the Deputy Managing Director (DMD) and Head of Digital Banking. In this role Nitin would be responsible for driving growth of customer acquisition through digital channels, along with defining and implementing digital strategies, SBI said in a statement. Nitin Chugh is a seasoned banker and a digital banking expert with an experience of nearly 3 decades. Prior to joining SBI he was serving Ujjivan Small Finance Bank as MD & CEO. He also had a long and impactful stint of 18 years at HDFC

Bank where he managed several leadership roles in retail banking.



### **DN Patel Named As Chairperson Of TDSAT :-**

The central government has appointed Delhi High Court Justice DN Patel as chairperson of the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) for a four-year term. On June 7, 2019, Patel was appointed Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court. According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice in this regard, "As approved by the appointments committee of the cabinet, the central government hereby appoints Justice D.N. Patel, chief justice of Delhi high court to the post of chairperson, Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal, for a period of 04 years from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or till attaining the age of 70 years, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest."



### **Air Marshal B C Sekhar Named As New Commandant Of IAFA :-**

Air Marshal B Chandra Sekhar has been appointed Commandant of the Indian Air Force Academy. The Air Marshal is from Telangana and attended school in Hyderabad before enrolling at the National Defence Academy in Khadakwasla. He attended Defence Services Staff College Wellington, Flying Instructors' School, the College of Defence Management, and the National Defence College in New Delhi. On December 21, 1984, Air Marshal B Chandra Sekhar was commissioned into the Indian Air Force. The Air Marshal has over 5400 hours of incident-free flight time on various aircraft. He also has the distinction of having landed the first MLH class helicopter in the Siachen Glacier, and he is a Qualified Flying Instructor.



### **Ashwani Bhatia (SBI MD) Appointed As SEBI Member :-**

The government has appointed Ashwani Bhatia, managing director of State Bank of India (SBI), as a whole-time member (WTM) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). According to sources, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Bhatia's appointment as a member for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge. Bhatia, who is set to retire in May of this year, was promoted to SBI's managing director in August 2020. He was previously the managing director and chief executive officer of SBI Mutual Fund.



### **Katalin Novak : First-Ever Female President Of Hungary :-**

Katalin Novak, a close ally of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, has been elected by the Hungarian parliament as Hungary's first female president. Novak, who was most recently a minister for family policy, portrayed her election as a victory for women. She was elected to the mostly ceremonial role by 137 votes to 51 in the parliament dominated by Orbán's right-wing Fidesz party ahead of opposition challenger Peter Róna, an economist.



### **Justice AK Sikri Named As Chairperson Of Chardham Project Committee :-**

The Supreme Court has asked former Justice AK Sikri to chair a high-powered committee formed to "consider the cumulative and independent impact of the Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana (Char Dham Highway Development Project) on the entire Himalayan valley." A Bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant asked

Justice Sikri to accept the assignment after Ravi Chopra, the current Chairman of the committee, chose to resign. The project calls for the construction of 900 kilometres of roads in Uttarakhand to provide all-weather access to four holy towns: Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath.



### **Debasish Panda Named As Chairman Of IRDAI :-**

Debasish Panda, a retired IAS officer and former financial services secretary, has been appointed chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) by the government. Mr Panda's appointment as chairperson of the insurance regulator was approved by the Cabinet Appointments Committee (ACC) for a three-year term beginning with the assumption of charge. Mr Panda, an IAS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, retired as financial services secretary in January this year after a two-year tenure.



### **Prabha Narasimhan Named As CEO Of Colgate-Palmolive India :-**



The leading oral care products manufacturer announced the appointment of Prabha Narasimhan, a former HUL executive director, as its managing director and CEO. Ram Raghavan, the current managing director and CEO, has been promoted to the parent company's global enterprise oral care role. The maker of Colgate toothpaste announced the appointment of Prabha Narasimhan as managing director and chief executive officer of Colgate-Palmolive (India) effective September 1, 2022 in a statement. The board of directors will consider the aforesaid matters at its forthcoming board meeting.



### **Ranjit Rath Named As Chairman & MD Of Oil India Ltd :-**

Ranjit Rath, a non-upstream executive, has been appointed to lead India's second largest state oil and gas producer, Oil India Ltd, by government headhunter PESB. The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) announced on March 9 that Rath, 50, who is currently chairman and managing director of Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL), had been chosen after interviews with five applicants. He was chosen ahead of two Oil India board directors and another executive director for the position of chairman and managing director. Sushil Chandra Mishra, the current chairman and managing director of Oil India, will retire on June 30.



### **Ajay Bhushan Pandey Appointed As Chairman Of The NFRA :-**

Former finance secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey has been named chairman of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) for a three-year term by the government. In February of last year, Pandey, a 1984-batch Maharashtra cadre IAS officer, retired as revenue secretary. According to sources, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of former revenue secretary ABP Pandey as chairperson of the NFRA for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge or until the incumbent reaches the age of 65.



### **N Chandrasekaran Named As Chairman Of Air India :-**

N Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons, was named Chairman of Air India at the airline's board meeting. Three executive directors appointed by the government when the airline was under its control continue to serve on Air India's board of directors. The Tata Group purchased the airline on January 27 of this year, but has yet to name a new board of directors. Chandrasekaran is also the non-executive chairman of Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Tata Chemicals, and Tata Consumer Products, among other Tata Group companies. Last month (February), he was reappointed as Tata Sons' executive chairman for another five years.



### **Bhagwant Mann Sworn In As New Chief Minister Of Punjab :-**

Bhagwant Mann, the leader of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), was sworn in as Punjab's 17th Chief Minister on March 16 at Khatkar Kalan, the birthplace of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh. Since the border state's map was last redrawn in 1966, the 48-year-old comedian-turned-politician has become the first non-Congress and non-Akali leader to reach the chief minister's office. The party won 92 seats in the 117-seat Punjab Assembly in a landslide victory. Mann was elected to the Dhuri Assembly constituency in Sangrur district by a margin of 58,206 votes. He has resigned as a Member of Parliament from the Sangrur constituency in the Lok Sabha.



### **Flipkart Health + appoints Prashant Javeri as CEO:-**

Flipkart Health+, the healthcare division of ecommerce giant Flipkart, announced the appointment of Prashant Javeri as its CEO. Javeri was previously the chief business officer of Apollo Health and Lifestyle Limited, where he was in charge of growth and partnerships. In previous roles, he was CEO of MediBuddy and CBO of the Medi Assist Group. Flipkart began its healthcare business in November 2021, and in the same month, it purchased SastaSundar for an undisclosed sum.



### **Rajesh Gopinathan Re-Appoints As MD And CEO Of TCS For Five Years :-**

Tata Consultancy Services announced that its board of directors has reappointed Rajesh Gopinathan as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for a five-year term beginning February 21, 2022 and ending February 20, 2027. The company has also re-appointed N Ganapathy Subramaniam as Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director from February 21, 2022, to May 19, 2024, in accordance with the company's retirement age policy. Rajesh Gopinathan has been the CEO and MD of TCS since 2017, and under his leadership the company



has strengthened its position with the revenues increasing from \$17.6 billion in the financial year ended

March 31, 2017, to \$22.2 billion in the financial year ended March 31, 2021.

## 4: Awards



### Prof Deepak Dhar Became The First Indian Selected For Boltzmann Medal :-

Deepak Dhar, professor emeritus for physics at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune has become the first Indian to receive the coveted Boltzmann medal for 2022. The medal is presented by the C3 Commission on Statistical Physics of the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics every three years at the Statphys Conference. He shares the award that carries a gold medal with John J. Hopfield from the US. Dhar completed his BSc from Allahabad University, MSc in IIT Kanpur, and his Ph.D from California Institute of Technology.



### NMCG Awarded 'Special Jury Award' For Ganga Rejuvenation :-

National Mission for Clean Ganga was awarded the Special Jury Award at the 7th India Industry Water Conclave and the 9th edition of the FICCI Water Awards that was held on a virtual platform from March 2-3. The citation underlined the complexity of the task of rejuvenation of the entire Ganga basin and the importance of engaging with diverse stakeholders particularly the people river connect which forms the basis of NMCG's approach to the challenging task.



### NMDC Receives 1st Prize In Ispat Rajbhasha Award For 2018-19 And 2020-21 :-

National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC), the country's largest iron ore producer and a CPSE under the Ministry of Steel, received first prize in the Ispat Rajbhasha Award for 2018-19 and 2020-21, as well as the Ispat Rajbhasha Prerna Award for 2019-20, at a meeting of the Ministry of Steel's Hindi Salahakar Committee held in Madurai on March 3, 2022. Shri Ram Chandra Prasad



Singh, Union Minister of Steel, presented the awards to Shri Sumit Deb, Chairman and Managing Director of NMDC. He praised the efforts of all Steel PSEs in putting the official language of India into practise and congratulated NMDC on winning the awards.



### **President Ram Nath Kovind Presents 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' For 2020 And 2021 :-**

On International Women's Day, President Ram Nath Kovind bestowed the Nari Shakti Puraskars on 29 deserving individuals for the years 2020 and 2021. Twenty-eight awards were given to women, 14 for 2020 and 14 for 2021, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to women's empowerment, particularly among the vulnerable and marginalised. The Nari Shakti Puraskar is a women and child development ministry initiative that recognises and celebrates women as game changers and catalysts of positive change in society.



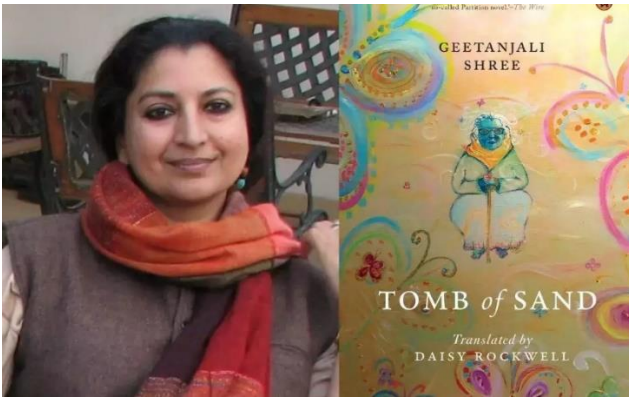
### **Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav presented Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar :-**

Shri Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister of Labour and Employment, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, presented Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP), National Safety Awards (NSA), and National Safety Awards (Mines) for the contest years 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020. In the case of VRP, for the performance year 2018, a total of 96 awards was given whereas, in the case of NSA, a total 141 number of (80 winners & 61 runners-up) awards were presented. In the case of NSA (Mines), a total of 144 awards was presented (72 Winner prizes and 72 Runner-up prizes) for the contest year 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020.'



### **Six Indian Airports Named The ACI World's ASQ Awards 2021 :-**

The Airports Council International (ACI) named six Indian airports as the 'best airport by size' in various categories (annual passenger traffic) in its Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey for the Asia Pacific region last year. While Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) and Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport have been named among the best in the category of airports with an annual passenger traffic of more than 40 million passengers, the Chandigarh airport has been named among the best in the category of airports with an annual passenger traffic of 2 to 5 million passengers.



### Geetanjali Shree's Translation 'Tomb Of Sand' Nominated For International Booker Prize :-

Tomb of Sand, by author Geetanjali Shree, is one of 13 books from around the world that have been longlisted for the International Booker Prize. It is the first Hindi language work of fiction to make the cut for the prestigious literary prize, which was announced in London. Shree's book, which has been translated into English by Daisy Rockwell and has been described as "loud and irresistible" by the judges, will compete for the GBP 50,000 prize, which will be split equally between the author and translator. Furthermore, for the first time in 2022, each of the shortlisted authors and translators will receive GBP 2,500, increased from GBP 1,000 in previous years, bringing the total prize value to GBP 80,000.



### J&K Bank Bagged National Award For SHG Bank Linkage 2022 :-

The Ministry of Rural Development (GoI) has given J&K Bank the 'National Award for Outstanding Performance for FY 2020-21' in recognition of its best performance in Self Help Group Bank Linkage. During an event organised by the Ministry of Rural Development (GoI) to celebrate

Women's Day at Vigyan Bhawan Delhi, Delhi's Zonal Head Kirti Sharma accepted the national award on behalf of the Bank from Union Minister for Rural Development, Giriraj Singh. Various women self-help groups attended the event, sharing their success stories and thanking the Bank for assisting them in achieving not only self-sufficiency but also earning livelihoods for others.



### Shreyas Iyer And Amelia Kerr Named ICC Players Of The Month For February 2022 :-

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named Shreyas Iyer, India's star all-rounder, and Amelia Kerr, New Zealand's all-rounder, as the ICC Players of the Month for February 2022. Shreyas Iyer won the ICC Player of the Month award for his outstanding white-ball performances in the home series against the West Indies and Sri Lanka last month. Following her supreme consistency with both bat and ball during the home white-ball series against India, Amelia Kerr, a 21-year-old New Zealand all-rounder, was named the Women's Player of the Month.





## Narayan Pradhan Named For GD Birla Award For Scientific Research :-

Professor Narayan Pradhan has been chosen for the 31st GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for his outstanding contribution to material sciences, according to the KK Birla Foundation. The award, which was established in 1991, honours eminent Indian scientists under the age of 50 who have made original and outstanding contributions to any branch of science. It has a cash prize of 5 lakh rupees. A selection board, led by professor Chandrima Shaha, president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), selects the recipient.



## Wings India 2022 : Cochin International Airport Won 'Covid Champion' Award :-

Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) won the 'Covid champion' award at Wings India 2022, Asia's largest civil aviation event co-hosted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and FICCI at Hyderabad's Begumpet airport. Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia presented the 'Covid champions' trophy to CIAL Managing Director S Suhas IAS. CIAL said in a release that the airport operator was chosen for the successful implementation of a meticulous project called 'Mission Safeguarding' during the pandemic period to ensure safe travel at Kochi Airport.



## Suresh Raina Felicitated With 'Sports Icon' Award By Maldives Government :-

The Maldives government honoured former India cricketer Suresh Raina with the prestigious 'Sports Icon' award at the Maldives Sports Awards 2022. He was nominated with 16 other international athletes, including former Real Madrid player Roberto Carlos, Jamaican sprinter Asafa Powell, former Sri Lankan captain and cricketer Sanath Jayasuriya, and Dutch football legend Edgar Davids. Raina received the award for his numerous accomplishments throughout his career. The event was presided over by Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, sports ministers, world-renowned athletes, and Maldivian athletes.



## President Kovind Presents President's Colour To INS Valsura :-

The President of India presented the President's Colour to the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Valsura in recognition of its services. "The President's Colour is bestowed upon a



military unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the Nation, both in peace and in war. The Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed Force to be awarded the President Colour by Dr Rajendra Prasad on 27 May 1951." Said the Indian Navy. The legacy of INS

Valsura dates back to 1942, when an operational necessity mandated the establishment of an advanced Torpedo Training Facility to boost the Royal Indian Navy's firepower during World War II.

## 5: Banking



### Union Bank Launched 'Union MSMERuPay Credit Card' :-

The 'Union MSME RuPay Credit Card' was announced by Union Bank of India in association with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It has been launched with an aim to provide digital delivery of Finance to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the current phase of progression towards a digital economy. The card for MSMEs is available to eligible borrowers of Union Bank of India and will provide a simplified payment mechanism to MSMEs to meet their business-related operational expenses, the Bank said in a statement.



### Bank Of Maharashtra Launches "Project Banksakhi" In Odisha :-

Bank of Maharashtra has tied up with Mahagram, a leading fintech company to roll out the 'Banksakhi' project in the state of Odisha to provide financial technology and infrastructure support to the project. Over the years Mahagram has carved a niche for itself as a tech-driven company focusing on innovative banking & financial technologies to help digitize villages. As part of the tie-up, the company has onboarded more than 11000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform to help the rural citizens avail basic banking services at their doorstep or the next door Kirana stores, thereby driving rural financial inclusion.



### Union Bank of India, Ambit Finvest tie-up for co-lending to MSMEs :-

Union Bank of India has announced signing of a co-lending agreement with Ambit Finvest Private Limited, a Non-Deposit taking Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) of the Ambit Group lending to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) customers. In a statement, Lal Singh, CGM, MSME, Union Bank of India said "The

partnership with Ambit Finvest Pvt Ltd is part of Bank's strategy to serve the most deserving and under-served businesses. This initiative is also part of Union Bank's commitment to support the MSMEs by providing tailor-made financial solutions and accelerating the growth of MSMEs to contribute to the country's economic development."



### Vidya Balan Named As Brand Ambassador Of Bharti AXA Life Insurance :-

Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises and AXA, has announced that it has roped in National Award-winning actress Vidya Balan as its brand ambassador. Parag Raja, MD and CEO, Bharti AXA Life Insurance, said, "Vidya Balan has excelled in bringing compelling and unique narratives to life on screen and is self-made, reliant, and audacious- values that strongly resonate with Bharti AXA Life as a brand. We believe in long-term relationships and are excited to bring Vidya on board to further our goal of broadening life insurance penetration across India."



### Future Generali India Insurance Launches 'FG Dog Health Cover' Insurance :-

Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited (FGII) has announced the launch of FG Dog Health Cover, a comprehensive health insurance for pet dogs, along with industry-first 'Emergency Pet Minding' cover. This comprehensive cover will protect owners against the cost of their dogs' surgery and hospitalisation, terminal illness, mortality, and funeral expenses. With add-on covers, pet owners will, also, be able to insure their dogs against third-party liability, theft or loss, emergency pet minding, veterinary consultation, and doctor on call.



### HDFC Mutual Fund Launches #LaxmiForLaxmi :-

HDFC Mutual Fund has announced an end-to-end women-led financial empowerment initiative #LaxmiForLaxmi. The #LaxmiForLaxmi initiative is a financial empowerment campaign created by women for women. HDFC Mutual Fund's initiative aims to assist women investors in their journey to financial independence by making mutual fund investments available to them. According to a press release, the initiative is based on the fact that it is very easy for a person to understand a concept when it is taught by someone who understands them and is like-minded.



### Star Health And Allied Insurance Launched 'Star Women Care Insurance Policy' :-

Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd, a stand-alone health insurer, has launched its new 'Star Women Care Insurance Policy' for women aged 18 to 75. According to a statement, this is a women-centric comprehensive health plan that is specially designed to protect their healthcare needs at every stage of their lives. The new policy is available as an individual or as a floater. This policy does not require women to undergo any pre-medical tests in order to be eligible for it. They can purchase the policy by paying premiums in quarterly or semi-annual instalments, and the policy can be purchased for one, two, or three years.



### IIFL Securities Launched "OneUp" Primary Markets Investment Platform :-

'OneUp' has been launched by IIFL Securities, one of the country's largest broking and advisory firms. The company's in-house IIFL Securities Innovation Lab created India's first primary markets investment platform. The platform is designed to invest in Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), Non Convertible Debentures (NCDs), and Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs), among other

things. IPO applications on the OneUp platform are accepted up to 3 days prior to the opening of IPO bids and applications are accepted 24 hours a day. Another unique feature of the OneUp platform is that it allows investors to bid for others as well, be it a friend or family member, and thus further increase their chances of allotment in an IPO. The platform is available to the clients of IIFL Securities as well as those who are not clients of IIFL Securities.



### Paytm Payments Bank Punished By RBI For Data Breaching To Chinese Firms :-

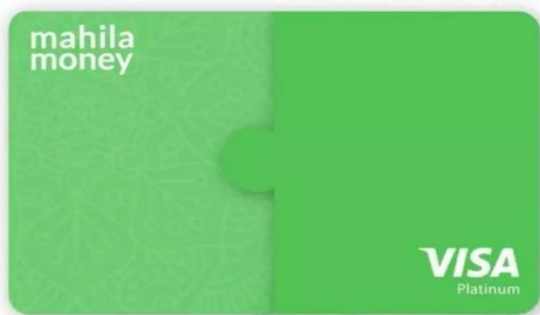
Because it broke the law by allowing data to transit to servers in other countries and failing to properly authenticate its customers, the RBI has barred Paytm Payments Bank from accepting new customers. Annual inspections by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revealed that the company's servers were sharing information with China-based organisations that had an indirect interest in Paytm Payments Bank, according to a report.





## Axis Bank Won 'Asian Bank Of The Year' At IFR Asia Awards 2021 :-

For its breadth of coverage and depth of expertise in the Asian investment banking space, Axis Bank, India's third-largest private sector bank, has been named IFR Asia's Asian Bank of The Year. The award recognises the bank's exceptional achievement in equity and debt issuance across all major products and segments. Axis Bank was the only local bank to serve as a global coordinator for Paytm's record-breaking Rs. 183 billion IPO, as well as Macrotech Developers' Rs. 25 billion IPO. According to Refinitiv data, Axis Bank is the market leader in DCM in India, with a market share of 17.1%, more than twice that of its nearest challenger.



## Mahila Money, Visa, And Transcorp Launched Prepaid Card For Women Entrepreneurs :-

Mahila Money, Visa, and Transcorp have teamed up to launch Mahila Money Prepaid Card to make it easier for women entrepreneurs to receive payments, loans, and transaction incentives. Mahila Money said in a statement that the prepaid card will make it easier for women entrepreneurs to use digital payments. According to the latest survey by the All-India Debt and Investment

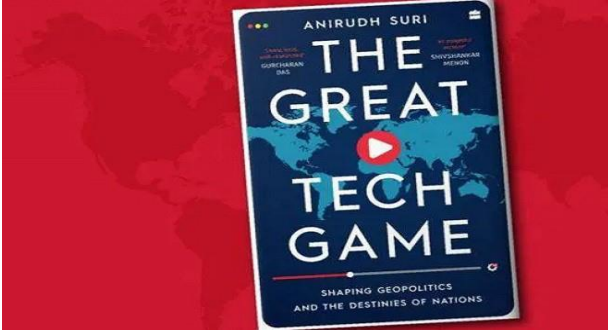
Survey, despite the fact that 80.7 percent of women in rural areas and 81 percent of women in urban areas have bank accounts, 55 percent of women do not actively use their bank accounts (AIDIS). According to a YouGov poll, nearly two-thirds of urban Indian women use digital payment methods, but less than one-third use internet banking.



## BPCL Becomes The First To Offer Digital Payment To Non-Internet Users :-

To offer a voice-based digital payment facility for BharatGas consumers for booking their LPG cylinders, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a 'Maharatna' and a Fortune Global 500 Company has partnered with UltraCash Technologies Pvt. Ltd. Customers who do not have smartphones or internet access can use this feature to book their cylinders and pay using 'UPI 123PA.' With the introduction of this facility, approximately 4 crore BharatGas consumers in rural India will benefit.

## 6: Books and Author



### **A Book Title 'The Great Tech Game' Authored By Anirudh Suri :-**

Tech entrepreneur and venture capitalist Anirudh Suri's "The Great Tech Game" has been launched as arguably the first book with limited edition NFT (non-fungible tokens) collectible cards. The innovative and exciting initiative is aimed at promoting tech inclusion with the proceeds from the NFT collection. The proceeds will go to groups that are disadvantaged in their access or use of tech, which is a key pillar and recommendation of the book. Ten per cent of profits will be donated to a range of charities promoting tech education for young girls and women, and an equal quantity will be used to donate books and other digital items to public libraries and community centres in small towns and cities in India. It has been published by HarperCollins India.



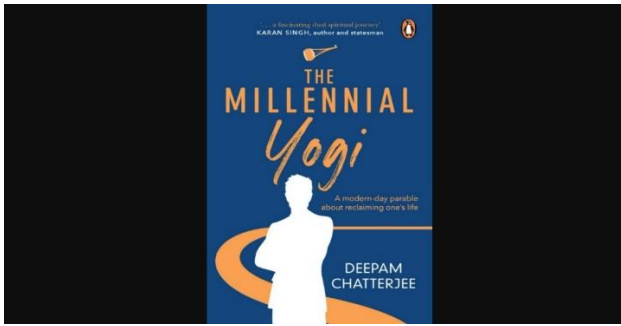
### **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin's Autobiography "Ungalil Oruvan" Launched :-**

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched the first volume of Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin's autobiography Ungalil Oruvan (One Among You) in Chennai. Gandhi released the book in the presence of Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan and Leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah. The first part of the autobiography contains his early life experiences. In it, he traces his school and college days, adolescence, early political contributions, marital life and the MISA struggle, recalling 23 years up to 1976. Gandhi also visited the Congress office in Sathyamurthy Bhavan, where he met newly elected Congress members of civic bodies.



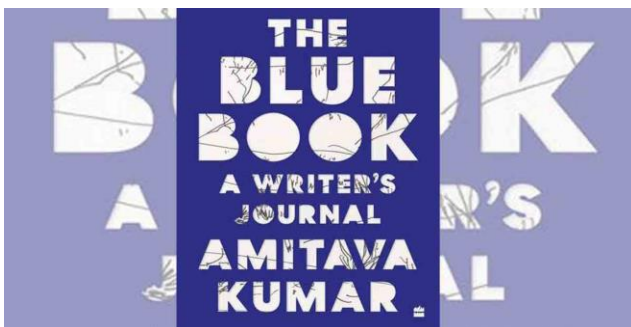
### **Anup Jalota Released Book "Udaan Ek Majdoor Bachhe Ki" Authored By Mithilesh Tiwari :-**

Bhajan Samrat Anup Jalota released the book "Udaan Ek Majdoor Bachhe Ki" by Captain AD Manek in a glittering program organized by Shailesh B Tiwari of P Club Education Pvt Ltd in Mumbai. The author of this book is Mithilesh Tiwari. This book is about the life journey of Captain AD Manek, how he traveled from zero to pinnacle in his career graph.



### Ex-Soldier Captain Deepam Chatterjee Authored A New Book “The Millennial Yogi” :-

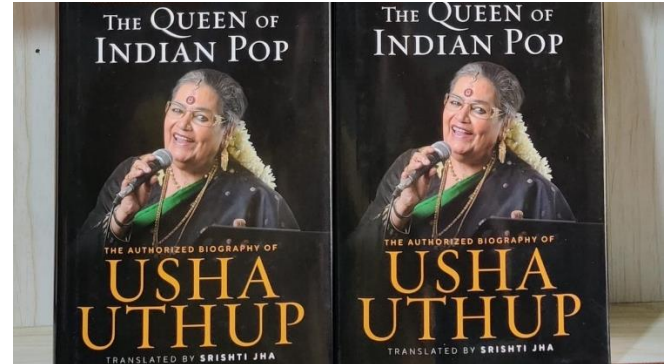
Deepam Chatterjee is a retired Indian Army captain. He took up film-making after a debilitating spinal injury compelled him to leave the army. It was during this period that he spent time with various spiritual teachers, including the Dalai Lama. Later, he trained under Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and taught the Art of Living courses before embarking on a journey of self-exploration. “The Millennial Yogi” is billed as a modern-day parable about reclaiming one’s life. Published by Penguin Random House imprint Ebury Press, it crafts a tale of loss, redemption, and the fight for one’s soul in an increasingly materialistic world.



### A Book Titled ‘The Blue Book’ Authored By Journalist Amitava Kumar :-

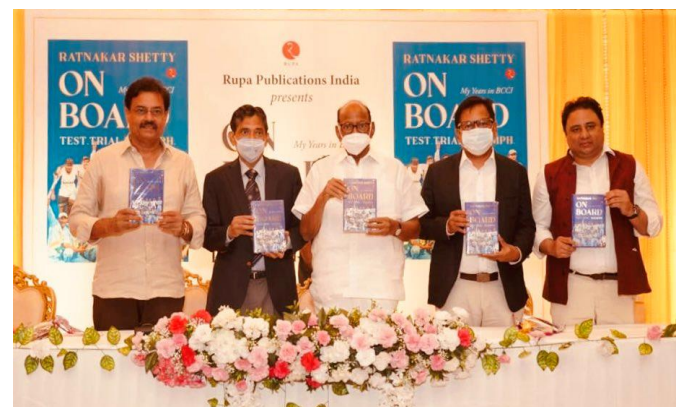
Amitava Kumar authored a new book titled ‘The Blue Book’. The book has been published by HarperCollins India. Amitava Kumar is the author of several books of non-fiction and three novels. His work has appeared in Granta, the New York Times, Harper’s, and several other

publications. He has been awarded a Guggenheim fellowship and residencies from Yaddo, MacDowell and the Lannan Foundation.



### The Queen Of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography Of Usha Uthup :-

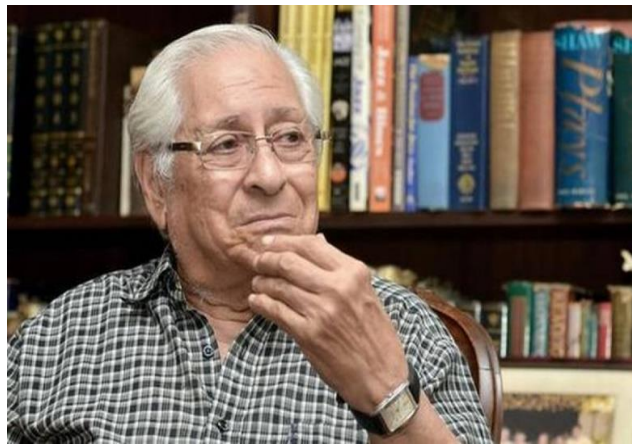
Biography of Usha Uthup has been launched named "The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorized Biography of Usha Uthup." Originally written in Hindi by Vikas Kumar Jha and titled "Ullas Ki Naav", the book is translated by the author's daughter Srishti Jha. Uthup has sung for some of the biggest stalwarts of the world. She shared a deep relationship with the likes of Mother Teresa, singing at her canonisation at the Vatican. she has worked with the likes of Nelson Mandela, Shah Rukh Khan, Jane Fonda, Asha Bhosle, Raj Kapoor etc. In a musical career spanning five decades, she has sung songs in over 22 languages and her evergreen classics include Hari om, Rambha ho and Jeete hai shaan se.





## Sharad Pawar Unveiled Ratnakar Shetty's Autobiography "On Board: My Years In BCCI" :-

"On Board: My Years in BCCI," an autobiographical account of Ratnakar Shetty's experiences as an administrator, has been published. Shetty, a chemistry professor by profession, became the BCCI's first Chief Administrative Officer after serving in various capacities with the Mumbai Cricket Association. Sharad Pawar, the former president of the MCA, BCCI, and International Cricket Council, published the book.

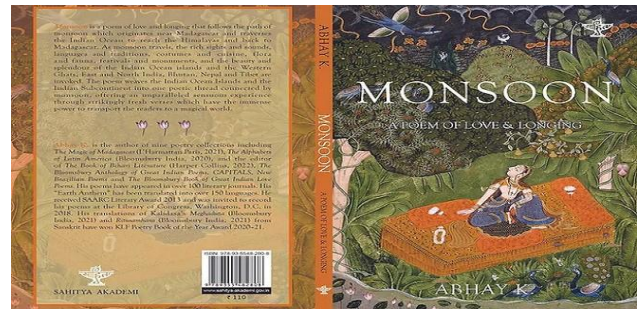


## Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav Unveiled The Book Titled "Role Of Labour In India's Development" :-

On March 9, 2022, Union Minister for Labour and Employment & Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav released a book titled 'Role of Labour in India's Development' in New Delhi. The book includes 12 articles written by eminent academics and practitioners on the role of labour in India's development journey. The V V Giri National Labour Institute published this book as part of the 'Iconic Week' of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav,' which commemorated the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

## A Book Titled "Soli Sorabjee: Life And Times" Authored By Abhinav Chandrachud :-

The publisher of the book, Penguin Random House India (PRHI), has announced that a new book about the life and times of Soli Sorabjee, the former Attorney General of India, will be released next month. Abhinav Chandrachud, an advocate and legal scholar, wrote the authorised biography, "Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times." The legal luminary celebrates his 92nd birthday on March 9. It claims to reveal personal details about Sorabjee's life, including his family background, his path from practising law to becoming a UN human rights rapporteur, and his repeated defence of the fundamental right to free speech and expression in the Supreme Court.



## A Poem 'Monsoon' Published By Sahitya Akademi :-

On the occasion of its 68th anniversary, India's National Academy of Letters published a book-length poem titled "Monsoon" by Indian poet-diplomat Abhay K. The Sahitya Akademi was founded on March 12th, 1954.

Satyajit Ray designed the logo, and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru served as the organization's first President. D.D. Koshambi's Bhagwan Buddha was the Academy's first

book, published in 1956. It was a Hindi translation from Marathi.

## 7: Defence



### US Boeing Delivers 12th P-8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft To India :-

Aircraft manufacturer Boeing has delivered the 12th P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft to the Indian Navy. This completes the follow-on clause for four additional P-8I aircraft contracted in 2016. In May 2021, the U.S. State Department approved the possible sale of six additional P-8I aircraft and related equipment, a deal estimated to cost \$2.42 billion. Earlier, in November 2019, the Defence Acquisition Council approved the procurement of the six aircraft. The number was cut down from 10 to six due to budgetary constraints as also the Navy undertaking fleet rationalisation and deciding to go for long-endurance unmanned platforms.



### India Receives Three More Rafale Fighter Jets From France :-

Three more Rafale fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) reached India from France. The aircraft took off from a French airbase and were provided mid-air refuelling by the Air Force of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). With the arrival of the latest three aircraft, India has now received a total of 35 of the 36 Rafale jets for which it signed a contract with France in September 2016. According to government officials, the final aircraft will arrive in India from France in a few weeks. Over 30 of these aircraft had been ferried by the IAF, flying directly without any halts.



### Indian Navy's Multilateral Exercise Milan 2022 :-

The latest edition of Indian Navy's multilateral exercise MILAN 2022 was started from 25 Feb 22 in the 'City of Destiny', Visakhapatnam. MILAN 22 is being conducted over a duration of 9 days in two phases with the harbour phase scheduled from 25 to 28 February and Sea Phase from 01 to 04 March. India is celebrating the 75th year of its independence in 2022, and MILAN 22 provides an opportunity to commemorate this milestone with our



friends and partners. The aim of the exercise is to hone operational skills, imbibe best practices and procedures, and enable doctrinal learning in the maritime domain, through professional interaction between friendly navies.



### Third India-Japan Joint Exercise 'EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022' :-

From 27 February 2022 to 10 March 2022A joint military exercise, "EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022", between India and Japan has been conducting at Foreign Training Node, Belagavi (Belgaum, Karnataka). Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022 is an annual training event which is being conducted in India since 2018. The scope of this exercise covers platoon level joint training on operations in jungle and semi urban/urban terrain. Notably, in the series of military training exercises undertaken by India with various countries, Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN with Japan is crucial and significant in terms of security challenges faced by both nations in the backdrop of current global situation.



### IAF Pulls Out Of Multilateral Air Exercise 'Cobra Warrior 22' In UK Amid Ukraine Crisis :-

The Indian Air Force has decided not to deploy its combat jets in a multilateral air exercise in the UK March 2022 in view of the situation arising out of the crisis in Ukraine. The announcement by the IAF to not send its aircraft for the 'Cobra Warrior' exercise came just three days after it confirmed its participation in the drills from March 6 to 27 at Waddington in the United Kingdom. "In light of the recent events, #IAF has decided not to deploy its aircraft for Exercise Cobra Warrior 2022 in UK," the IAF tweeted.



### Indian Air Force Postponed Exercise Vayu Shakti :-

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has postponed Exercise Vayu Shakti that was scheduled to take place near Bikaner in Rajasthan on March 7, government officials said. However, they did not share the reason for deferring the exercise. The IAF was to conduct a firepower demonstration and full spectrum operations and showcase their fighterjets, helicopters, several kinds of missiles, and other capabilities with 148 aircraft and some air defence assets.





## India's First Indigenous Flying Trainer HANSA-NG Completes Sea Level Trials :-

Designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore country's first indigenous Flying Trainer HANSA-NG, has successfully completed the sea level trials at Puducherry from 19th February to 5th March. The aircraft was flown to Puducherry covering 140 nautical miles in one and half hours at a cruising speed of 155 km per hour on 19th February. CSIR-NAL sources said that all the objectives of the sea level trials are met and aircraft has been ferried back to Bangalore after completing 18 hours flying at Puducherry.



## 9th India-Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise SLINEX :-

From 07 Mar to 10 Mar 2022 The 9th Edition of India - Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise SLINEX (Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise) was started at Visakhapatnam. The exercise was conducted in two phases; the Harbour Phase at Visakhapatnam on 07-08 Mar 22 followed by the Sea Phase on 09-10 Mar 22 in the Bay of Bengal. SLINEX aims to enhance inter-operability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies. The Harbour Phase has include professional, cultural, sporting and social exchanges. Exercises during Sea Phase has include surface and anti-air weapon firing exercises, seamanship evolutions,

aviation operations including cross deck flying, advanced tactical manoeuvres and special forces operations at sea.



## Iran successfully placed Iran's second military satellite, Noor 2, into orbit :-

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has successfully put a second military satellite, the Noor 2, into orbit. The announcement came as talks held in Vienna to revive an agreement restraining Iran's nuclear program have reached a critical stage. Noor 2 is orbiting at an altitude of 500 kilometres (311 miles). The first military satellite, launched by the Islamic Republic in April 2020, placed the Noor, or "light" in Persian, at an orbit of 425km (265 miles) above the earth's surface. Putting a second satellite in space would be a major advance for Iran's military, raising concerns about the country's nuclear and missile programs.



## NATO Military Exercise 'Cold Response 2022' Begins In Norway :-

Cold Response 22 is the largest planned exercise conducted within NATO in 2022. The Cold Response exercise series are held every other year, with invited international participants. Exercise Cold Response 2022 (CR22) is a national Norwegian exercise. A significant part of exercise Cold Response 22 will take place in international waters adjacent to Norwegian territory with a large maritime and air presence. The Field Training Exercise will take place between 23 March- 30 March.



## Security Exercise 'Prasthan' Conducted By Western Naval Command:-

On March 23, 2022, an offshore security exercise called 'Prasthan' was held in the Offshore Development Area (ODA) off the coast of Mumbai under the auspices of Headquarters, Western Naval Command. This exercise, which is held every six months, is an important part of ensuring offshore security and aims to integrate the efforts of all maritime stakeholders involved in offshore defence. The Indian Air Force, Coast Guard, ONGC, Mumbai Port Trust, Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust, Customs, state fisheries department, Mercantile Marine Department, and the Marine Police all took part in the exercise, which was led by the Navy. The day-long exercise resulted in the refinement of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and response actions to a variety of contingencies in the Offshore Defence Area off the coast of Mumbai.

## 8: Economy



### RBI Cautions Public Against Using Car Pooling App sRide :-

Reserve Bank of India has alerted citizens that a car-pooling application by the name 'sRide' is being run without the required permissions. In a press release, the RBI said, the Gurgaon-based sRide Tech Private Limited is operating a semi-closed wallet without obtaining the requisite authorisation under the provisions of the

Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. As such, any person dealing with sRide Tech Private Limited will be doing so at their own risk.



Google Play Pass

### Google Starts 'Play Pass' Subscription In India :-

Tech giant Google has made its Google Play Pass, a subscription service which provides access to apps and games without ads, in-app purchases, and upfront payments, available in India. Already operational in 90

countries, Google Play Pass will be rolled out to Android devices in the country this week, the company said. Users can get started with a one-month trial and subscribe for Rs 99 per month or Rs. 889 for a year. Users can also avail a prepaid one-month subscription for Rs 109.



## 20% FDI In LIC Via Automatic Route Approved By The Government :-

Ahead of the planned public issue, the government has allowed 20% foreign direct investment (FDI) in Life Insurance Corporation via the automatic route. While the government allows 74% FDI in the insurance sector, overseas investment was not allowed in LIC, which is governed by a special statute. Now the government has sought to bring parity in terms of allowing foreign flows before the IPO but has aligned the rules for those applicable to public sector banks. The government is keen to complete the listing of LIC by the end of March as part of its efforts to bolster revenues and close the year with a fiscal deficit of 6.9% of GDP.



## Tata Motors launches 'Anubhav'- showroom on wheels :-

Indian automotive brand Tata Motors has launched mobile showrooms namely 'Anubhav,' a doorstep car buying experience for rural customers, the company statement said. The automaker is all set to go hyperlocal for its passenger vehicle buyers with its showroom on wheels. According to the company, a total of 103 mobile showrooms will be deployed across the country to increase its reach in Tehsils and Talukas and other rural areas. These mobile showrooms will help existing dealerships to offer a doorstep sales experience to customers.



## Microsoft Will Set Up India's Largest Data Center Region In Hyderabad :-

Microsoft announced plans to build its largest data centre region in India in Hyderabad, as the tech giant seeks to shine a spotlight on a growing digital market in which more businesses are turning to new-age technologies like the cloud and artificial intelligence to fuel their growth. A data centre region is essentially a collection of data centres spread out over a large area of land. According to reports, the company has purchased three land parcels in the Hyderabad data centre region.





## RIL Opens India's Biggest Business And Cultural Hub In Mumbai :-

Reliance Industries (RIL) announced the opening of the country's largest business, commerce and cultural destination — the Jio World Centre — spread across 18.5 acres at Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai. The initial launches are the Dhirubhai Ambani Square, the musical Fountain of Joy and The Jio World Convention Centre. The Jio World Centre will have a phase-wise opening over the course of the current and the next year, RIL said in a release. The Jio World Centre will include a cultural centre, a musical fountain, an upscale retail experience, a curated selection of cafés and fine dining restaurants, serviced apartments and offices, and the convention facility.



## RBI Extends Interest Subsidy Scheme For Exporters :-

:-

With the goal of increasing outbound shipments, the Reserve Bank extended the interest equalisation scheme for pre and post shipment rupee credit for MSME exporters until March 2024. The 'Interest Equalisation Scheme for Pre and Post-shipment Rupee Export Credit' provides subsidies to exporters. The scheme was first extended until the end of June last year, and then until September 2021. The interest equalisation rates under the scheme have been reduced to 2% and 3% for specific categories of MSME manufacturer exporters, according to the RBI.



## RBI Directs Paytm Payments Bank Ltd To Stop Onboarding Of New Customers :-

The Reserve Bank of India has directed Paytm Payments Bank to halt new customer onboarding immediately. "The bank has also been directed to appoint an IT audit firm to conduct a comprehensive System Audit of its IT system," the RBI stated, adding that the action was taken in response to "certain material supervisory concerns observed in the bank." Paytm Payments Bank's onboarding of new customers will be subject to specific permission being granted by the RBI after reviewing the report of the IT auditors, it added. The RBI's action was taken in accordance with Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act of 1949.



### **EPFO Lowers The Interest Rate On PF Deposits To 8.1% For 2021-22 :-**

The interest rate on employees' provident fund deposits has been reduced to a four-decade low of 8.1 percent for the fiscal year 2021-22, down from 8.5 percent the previous year. This is the lowest interest rate on employee deposits to their retirement fund since 1977-78. The interest rate on employees' provident funds that year was 8%. The Central Board of Trustees (CBT) recommended the 8.1 percent interest rate following its meeting in Guwahati, which was presided over by Union Labour and Employment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, according to a labour ministry statement.



### **First Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal Of Indian Railways Commissioned :-**

According to the Ministry of Railways, the Asansol division of Indian Railways has successfully commissioned a private siding of Maithan Power Limited at Thaparnagar, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Gati Shakti" vision and the Ministry of Railways' policy regarding the "Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo

Terminal" (GCT). This is the first GCT to be commissioned in Indian Railways since the GCT policy was published in December 2021. The Maithan Power Project began construction in 2009, and power generation began in 2011. Until now, coal was delivered to the power plant through a road, which is scheduled to be converted into 120 inward coal rakes every month. Also 02 to 04 outward rakes of Fly Ash are projected to be handled from the siding.



### **Mahanadi Coalfields Limited Is Now The Biggest Coal-Producing Firm Of India :-**

According to a press release, the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of the CIL, produced 157 million tonne (MT) of coal in the fiscal year 2021-22, making it the country's leading coal producer. The company produced 7.62 lakh tonne of dry fuel on March 12, 2022, the highest in a single day during the current financial year, reaching 157.7 MT, an increase of around 16 percent over the previous financial year, according to a company release..





**Retail Inflation In February At 6.07% :-**

In February, India's retail inflation rate climbed to an eight-month high, remaining above the central bank's comfort level of 6% for the second month in a row, while wholesale price inflation remained in double digits for the eleventh month in a row. With rising risks to growth in Asia's third-largest economy, this could make inflationary management difficult. The consumer price index (CPI)-based inflation rate increased to 6.07 percent in February from 6.01 percent the previous month, according to data released by the statistics department, with food and beverages, clothing and footwear, and fuel and light groups driving the increase.

**SBI To Set Up Innovation, Incubation, And Acceleration Centre At Hyderabad :-**

In a bid to build in-house capability to bolster its current performance and drive higher top-line growth through

innovation State Bank of India (SBI) plans to set up an Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre (IIAC) at Hyderabad. The centre will be operational in six to nine months of on-boarding a consultant.

**Govt. Increased Timeline To 10 Years For Startups For Converting Debt Investment Into Equity :-**

According to a press release from the DPIIT, the government has extended the timeline for startups to convert debt investments made in the company into equity shares by up to ten years, a decision that is likely to provide relief to budding entrepreneurs dealing with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Previously, the option to convert convertible notes into equity shares was available for up to five years from the date of the initial convertible note's issuance. That timeline has now extended to ten years.

## 9: International

**India To Set Up Its First IIT Outside The Country In UAE :-**

The first Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) outside of India is to come up in the United Arab Emirates and will be open to the Indian diaspora, foreign students and Emiratis. The plan was discussed by the two countries under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership

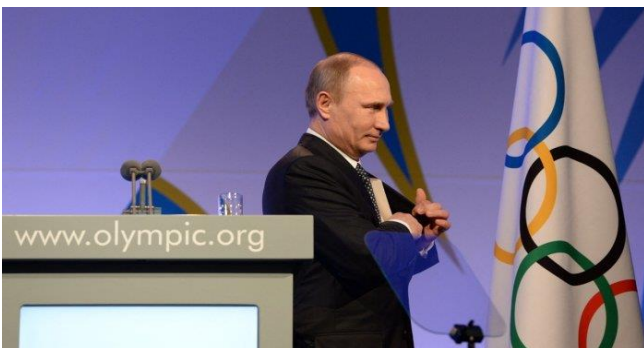


Agreement (CEPA), which is aimed at boosting trade between the two countries. A statement from the Ministry of External Affairs read, "Confirming the historical relations existing between the two countries and realising the need to establish world-class institutions that encourage and support innovation and technological progress, the leaders agreed to establish an Indian Institute of Technology in the United Arab Emirates."



## Russia Destroyed The Largest Plane In The World 'Mriya' :-

Ukraine's state-owned Ukroboronprom group said that The largest cargo plane in the world — Ukraine's Antonov-225 — was destroyed by Russian strikes outside Kyiv on the fourth day of Moscow's invasion. At 276 feet long, it could transport up to 551,000 pounds of cargo at a speed of up to 528 mph. The aircraft was unique to the world. It had been named "Mriya," which means "dream" in Ukrainian. "This was the world's largest aircraft, AN-225 'Mriya'" Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba tweeted.



## IOC Withdraws Top Olympic Honour From Vladimir Putin :-

The International Olympic Committee has stripped Russian President Vladimir Putin of the Olympic Order award in response to the invasion of Ukraine. "The IOC EB (executive board) has, based on the exceptional circumstances of the situation and considering the extremely grave violation of the Olympic Truce and other violations of the Olympic Charter by the Russian government in the past, taken the decision to withdraw the Olympic Order from all persons who currently have an important function in the government of the Russian Federation," according to a statement.



## US, EU, UK Decided To Eliminate Selected Russian Banks From SWIFT :-

The United States, European Union and United Kingdom has agreed to block "selected" Russian banks from the SWIFT global financial messaging system and to impose "restrictive measures" on its central bank in retaliation for its invasion of Ukraine. The measures were announced jointly as part of a new round of financial sanctions meant to "hold Russia to account and collectively ensure that this war is a strategic failure for (Russian President Vladimir) Putin." The central bank sanctions restrictions target \$600 billion in reserves that the Kremlin has at its disposal.



## Russia Is Now World's Most Sanctioned Country :-

Following the invasion of Ukraine, Russia has become the most-sanctioned country, according to a global sanctions-tracking database. Castellum.ai is a managed search algorithm and workflow and record keeping suite that supports users through an online platform, API, and bulk data. According to the report, Russia has faced an increase in sanctions imposed by the US and its European allies beginning on February 22, just days before the Ukraine invasion began. According to Castellum.ai, Russia has been designated as the target of 2,778 new sanctions, bringing the total to over 5,530.



## IMF Board Approves \$1.4 Billion Emergency Support For Ukraine :-

The International Monetary Fund has approved USD 1.4 billion in emergency financing for Ukraine in the midst of its ongoing conflict with Russia, according to a statement from the fund. On March 7, the World Bank approved a USD 723 million loan and grant package for Ukraine,

providing government budget support in the midst of an all-out conflict with Russia. The international lender approved a USD 489 million supplemental budget support package for Ukraine called Financing of Recovery from Economic Emergency in Ukraine - or FREE Ukraine - in a statement.



## Gabriel Boric Font Becomes Youngest President Of Chile :-

Gabriel Boric Font, who was sworn in as Chile's new President, is the country's youngest president to date. Boric is a left-wing former student leader who says he is determined to improve the lives of all Chileans and to address the root causes of the massive protests. Boric rose to prominence as the president of the University of Chile Student Federation as a law student from 2011 to 2012. As a student representative, Boric became one of the leading figures of the 2011–2013 Chilean student protests.





## Sri Lanka Receives A US\$1 Billion Line Of Credit From India To Assist Pay For Crucial Imports :-

Sri Lanka has been granted a \$1 billion (Rs 7,592 crore) line of credit by India to assist the cash-strapped island nation in purchasing food, medicines, and other necessities. The credit facility was extended to Colombo just one day after the Indian Navy dispatched five sailing vessels to Sri Lanka, where India has recently clawed back much of the strategic space it had lost to China in recent years. The Indian Navy ships are on their way to provide ocean sailing training to Sri Lankan Navy personnel.

curbing Islamophobia,” and to observe the new International Day to Combat Islamophobia.



## 'Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle' Unveiled In Madagascar :-

A "Green Triangle" named after Mahatma Gandhi was jointly inaugurated in Madagascar's capital Antananarivo as part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate India's 75th year of independence. At a special ceremony in Madagascar's capital, Antananarivo, Mayor Naina Andriantsitohaina and India's Ambassador to Madagascar Abhay Kumar inaugurated the green space. Gandhi, according to Kumar, was the "greatest Pravasi" who returned to India from South Africa, led India's freedom struggle, and forever changed Indians' lives.



## UN Declares March 15 As The International Day To Combat Islamophobia :-

The United Nations General Assembly has declared March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. The resolution emphasises the right to freedom of religion and belief and recalls a 1981 resolution calling for "the elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief," which was adopted by consensus by the 193-member world body and cosponsored by 55 mostly Muslim countries. The resolution asks all countries, U.N. bodies, international and regional organizations, civil society, private sector and faith-based organizations "to organize and support various high-visibility events aimed at effectively increasing awareness of all levels about



## Miss World 2021: Poland's Karolina Bielawska Crowned :-



Karolina Bielawska of Poland has been crowned Miss World 2021. The event took place in San Juan, Puerto Rico, at the Coca-Cola Music Hall. The highly anticipated Miss World final was broadcast in over 100 countries around the world. After the December Final was

postponed due to an outbreak of Covid-19, 40 semi-finalists returned to Puerto Rico. This is Poland's second Miss World title. In 1989, Aneta Krglicka won the coveted pageant for the country.

## 10: Miscellaneous



### **Dish TV's Ropes Rishabh Pant As Its Brand Ambassador :-**

Dish TV India's direct-to-home brand D2H has roped in cricketer Rishabh Pant as the new brand ambassador. Pant will feature in 360-degree brand communication for the next two years. Anil Dua, executive director and group chief executive officer, Dish TV India Ltd, said, "We are delighted to have Rishabh Pant as brand ambassador for our D2H brand. Our brands are our biggest strength. This investment in the D2H brand is going to make it even stronger."



### **Ashneer Grover Resigned From BharatPe As MD & Director :-**

BharatPe India's Fintech platform has removed co-founder and managing director (MD) Ashneer Grover from all positions in the company. The fintech firm accused Grover's family and relatives of engaging in extensive misappropriation of company funds. In its statement, BharatPe said that it reserves the right to take further legal action against Grover and his family but remained silent on his resignation. The company further said that its board remains highly focused on supporting the growth and continued success of BharatPe.



### **Ujjain Creates Guinness Record By Lighting 11.71 Lakh Diyas :-**

The temple town of Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh set a new Guinness World Record by lighting 11.71 lakh earthen lamps to mark the Shiv Jyoti Arpanam festival. By doing so, Ujjain beat the earlier record set in Ayodhya, where

9.41 earthen lamps were lit. This was made possible by children and elders who participated in the 'Shiv Jyoti Arpanam Mahotsav'. Guinness World Records sent a five-member team to Ujjain to judge the world record bid.



## Hero MotoCorp Named It's New EV Brand 'Vida' :-

India's largest two-wheeler manufacturer Hero Motocorp has launched a new brand for its electric vehicle segment. Vida, powered by Hero, is a new identity for Hero Motocorp's emerging mobility solutions, including upcoming Electric Vehicles (EV). The new brand launch comes as the manufacturer is getting ready to unveil its first EV on July 1, 2022. The production of the new Vida model will take place at Hero MotoCorp's manufacturing facility in Chittoor. Dispatches to customers will begin later in 2022.



## Lupin Named Mary Kom As Brand Ambassador For His Shakti Initiative :-

Lupin Ltd, a domestic pharmaceutical company, announced the signing of 6 world boxing champion and

Olympic bronze medalist Mary Kom as a brand ambassador for its Shakti campaign. The company said in a statement that the campaign aims to raise awareness about heart diseases among women through interactive social media sessions, sharing informative videos from doctors, and in-clinic awareness activities for patients. According to Lupin, coronary heart disease is the leading cause of death for women in India, despite the fact that awareness of the issue is at an all-time low.



## S Sreesanth Quits From All Forms Of First-Class Cricket :-

S Sreesanth, an India pacer, has announced his retirement from all forms of domestic cricket. Sreesanth announced his retirement from all domestic formats of the game on Twitter. Sreesanth appeared in 27 Tests and 53 One-Day Internationals for India, taking 87 and 75 wickets respectively. In addition, he has seven wickets in ten T20 Internationals. Last year, BCCI Ombudsman DK Jain reduced Sreesanth's life ban for alleged spot-fixing in the 2013 IPL to seven years.





## Yoon Suk Yeol Elected As New South Korean President :-

Yoon Suk-yeol, a conservative former prosecutor, is set to become South Korea's next president following his election victory. The 61-year-old won by a slim margin, edging out Lee Jae-myung. The final vote count was separated by less than 1%, making the results the closest in the country's democratic history. Yoon served as South Korea's prosecutor general from 2019 to 2021, under President Moon Jae-in. As South Korea's chief prosecutor, he also played a key role in the conviction of former President Park Geun-hye.



## India's First 'World Peace Center' Will Be Established In Gurugram :-

Ambassador of Peace, Eminent Jainacharya Dr Lokeshji's Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti organisation will open India's first World Peace Center in Gurugram, Haryana. The Haryana government has provided the organisation with a plot in Gurugram's Sector 39, adjacent to the Delhi-Jaipur Highway and opposite Medanta Hospital. The Founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, Acharya Dr Lokeshji, stated that the organisation would soon begin construction on the World Peace Center (WPC) on this plot.



## Tamilnadu Petroproducts Became World's First LAB Manufacturing Company To Get BIS Certification :-

The Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India, has awarded Chennai-based petrochemicals manufacturer Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd (TPL) with IS12795:2020 certification for its product linear alkylbenzene (LAB) in a significant development. TPL is a part of the petrochemicals division of AM International, the Singapore-headquartered diversified, multinational group of companies with a federated operating architecture. The company is India's leading manufacturer of LAB and the only producer in South India.



## Oscars 22: India's 'Writing With Fire' Nominated In Best Documentary Feature Category :-

'Writing with Fire,' a documentary by Delhi-based filmmakers Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh, has been nominated for an Academy Award. It has advanced to



the final five in the Best Documentary Feature category of the 94th Academy Awards. 'Writing with Fire' is possibly the first all-India independent film to reach the final round of nominations in this category. It was one of 15 films chosen from a pool of 138 for the Oscars shortlist in December. The Academy Award ceremony will return to its long-time home at Los Angeles' Dolby Theatre on March 27 after being shifted last year due to Covid-19.



**Shubman Gill & Ruturaj Gaikwad Named As Brand Ambassadors For My11Circle :-**

Shubman Gill and Ruturaj Gaikwad have been named the new faces of My11Circle by online skill gaming company Games24x7. Both cricketers will appear in the fantasy platform's multimedia campaigns, which will include television, digital, and social media platforms. Shubman Gill and Ruturaj Gaikwad's on-field success mirrors My11Circle's off-field success, with the brand carving out a niche in fantasy sports in a short period of time, according to Bhavin Pandya, co-founder and CEO of Games24x7. "One of the reasons for our success has been our ability to engage and connect with the enthusiastic Indian cricket fans by valuing and rewarding their skill and passion," he added.

## 11: National



**Vande Bharatam's Signature Tune Released By Minister Of State For Culture :-**

In a celebration under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the event on International Mother Language Day named "Ekam Bharatam" along with a cultural evening was hosted by the Ministry of Culture at IGNCA, Delhi on 22nd February 2022. The signature tune for "Vande Bharatam" composed by Grammy Award winner Ricky Kej and Oscar contender Bickram Ghosh was released by Minister of State for Culture & External Affairs Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi followed by a musical concert by these

artists. The 'Vande Bharatam' song was produced for Vande Bharatam, Nriitya Utsav of Ministry of Culture presented at Rajpath, New Delhi for the national Republic Day event 2022.



**SPMCIL Delhi Headquarters Declared A Prohibited Place :-**

The Delhi headquarters of the country's only currency and bank notes manufacturer, that printed the new series of notes of denomination ₹2,000 and ₹500 in 2016, has been declared a "prohibited place" under the British-era Official Secrets Act (OSA) by the Ministry of

Home Affairs. The office of the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL), located on the 16 th floor of Jawahar Bhavan, Janpath in central Delhi, has been declared a prohibited place “to prevent the entry of unauthorised persons,” said an MHA notification published in the Gazette of India.



## Army Chief MM Naravane Presents President's Colours To Four Parachute Battalions :-

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General MM Naravane presented the 'President's Colours', popularly called Nishan in Army parlance, to four parachute battalions – 11 PARA (Special Forces), 21 PARA (Special Forces), 23 PARA and 29 PARA – during a Colour Presentation Parade held at the Parachute Regiment Training Centre in Bengaluru on February 23. The President's Colours is the highest honour bestowed on a military unit in recognition of exceptional service. During his address, the COAS said that the Indian Army is committed to maintain peace and stability at the borders but it also has to be ready to meet future challenges.



## MSME Technology Centre To Be Set Up In Sindhudurg :-

Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Shri Narayan Rane announced the establishment of MSME-Technology Centre with an outlay of Rs. 200 Crore, in Sindhudurg. The MSME-Technology Centre will provide the best of technology, incubation as well as advisory support to the industry, especially MSMEs, to enhance their competitiveness and provide skilling services for the employed and unemployed youth of the area to enhance their employability.



## Prime Minister Narendra Modi Unveils The Statue Of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj :-

In the premises of the Pune Municipal Corporation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The statue is approximately 9.5 feet tall and made of 1,850 kg of gunmetal. Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Maharashtra Assembly Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis and Pune Mayor Murlidhar Mohol were also present at the event.





## Govt gives nod for WHO global centre for traditional medicine:-

The Union Cabinet, presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the establishment of a WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat. In this regard, the Government of India signed an agreement with the world body. According to an official statement, the agreement will help position AYUSH systems around the world and provide leadership on global health issues pertaining to traditional medicine. It will ensure the quality, safety, efficacy, accessibility, and rational use of traditional medicine, as well as develop norms, standards, and guidelines in relevant technical areas, tools, and methodologies for data collection, analytics, and impact assessment.



## PM Narendra Modi Dedicates Rashtriya Raksha University In Gandhinagar, Gujarat :-

The new complex building of Rashtriya Raksha University-RRU Gandhinagar has been dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The new campus building complex of Rashtriya Raksha University, a national institution, is located in Lavad village, Gujarat, near Gandhinagar. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking as a Chief Guest at Rashtriya Raksha University-RRU Gandhinagar, said, "We need scientific education and training with a human approach for the modernization of police." He expressed the hope that Rashtriya Raksha University would emerge in the field of

national security and defence, changing the country's security picture.



## Unique Kind Of Digital School Health Platform Launched In Puducherry :-

The Union Territory's Digital School Health Platform was launched by the Puducherry Health Department in collaboration with Axis Bank. In the presence of Chief Minister N Rangaswamy and Education Minister A Namassivayam, Lt.Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan inaugurated it at the Raj Nivas. The Lt Governor, speaking on the occasion, stated that the Digital School Health Platform has been launched in Puducherry for the first time in the country. She added that the dream project of uploading the health status of all students in the Union Territory has been realised, and that anaemia and malnutrition can lead to a variety of diseases, which can be avoided by identifying the students' health status at an early stage.





## **'Gender Samwaad' Organised By The Ministry Of Rural Development :-**

The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development, hosted the 3rd edition of 'Gender Samwaad' on March 11th, 2022. It's a national virtual initiative run by the DAY-NRLM to raise awareness about the mission's interventions across the country through the lens of gender. 'Promotion of food and nutrition security through women's collectives' was the theme for this edition. The event was held as part of the Amrit Mahotsava's Iconic Week celebration theme of 'Naye Bharat ki Naari.'



## **Mission Indradhanush: Odisha Topped In Full Immunization With 90.5% Coverage :-**

Apart from successful Covid-19 vaccination, Odisha has topped the list of full immunisation coverage in the country, with 90.5 percent coverage, according to a senior health department official. This was stated by RK Sharma, additional chief secretary for health, during a review meeting on the intensified 'Mission Indradhanush 4.0' that was launched in the state on March 7. "As per the reports of National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, Odisha topped the list at national level in full immunisation coverage with 90.5 per cent of full immunization," Sharma said.



## **Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates Toyota "Mirai" India's First Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell EV :-**

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari unveiled the Toyota Mirai, a green hydrogen-based advanced fuel cell electric vehicle (FCEV) that he claims is India's first-of-its-kind project aimed at creating an ecosystem for such vehicles. Gadkari stated at the event that hydrogen-powered FCEVs are one of the best zero-emission solutions. According to the road transport and highways minister, it is completely environmentally friendly, with no tailpipe emissions other than water. He went on to say that green hydrogen can be produced using renewable energy and readily available biomass.



## **NCRTC Unveiled The First Coach Of Rapid Rail Of India For The Delhi-Meerut Corridor :-**

The National Capital Regional Transport Corporation (NCRTC) unveiled India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train for the Delhi-Meerut corridor. The Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train will travel 82 kilometres in 55 minutes on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor. It will also be the first in the country to have a

business or "premium" coach on a regional corridor. The new RRTS train is a completely new design of train that is intended to provide passengers with a pleasant travelling experience.



### **Smriti Irani Inaugurates 'Bharat Bhagya Vidhata' Mega Red Fort Festival :-**

At Delhi's iconic 17th-century monument Red Fort the ten-day mega Red Fort Festival -Bharat Bhagya Vidhata has begun . The festival was inaugurated by Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani. According to the Minister, the Red Fort is more than a monument; it is a living example that every year reminds the nation of its resolve, promise, and responsibility to the Constitution. She also stated that this event has brought India's diverse cultures together under one roof. The Ministry of Culture is organising the Red Fort mega festival-Bharat Bhagya Vidhata as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

## **12: Obituaries**



### **Renowned Malayalam Actress KPAC Lalitha Passes Away :-**

Renowned KPAC-Malayalam stage and film actress Lalitha has died at the age of 74 in a hospital in Kochi, Kerala. In a career that spanned five decades, she acted in more than 550 Malayalam and Tamil films. She won two National Film Awards for Best Supporting Actress and four Kerala State Film awards. She received national awards for her role in Amaram in 1999 and Shantham in 2000. She was also President of the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy for five years. Born as Maheswari

Amma in Kayamkulam of Alappuzha, the actress had joined the K.P.A.C (Kerala People's Arts Club), a well-known theater company in Kerala.

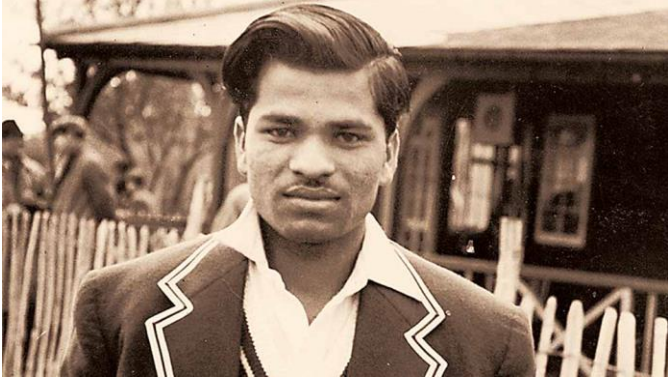


### **Odisha's First Tribal CM Hemananda Biswal Passes Away :-**

Odisha's first tribal chief minister as well as last Congress chief minister of the state, Hemananda Biswal passed away at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar after a brief illness. He was 82. Biswal, a Bhuyan tribal from Jharsuguda district, served as the chief minister twice from 1989 to 1990 and 1999 to 2000. In December 1989,

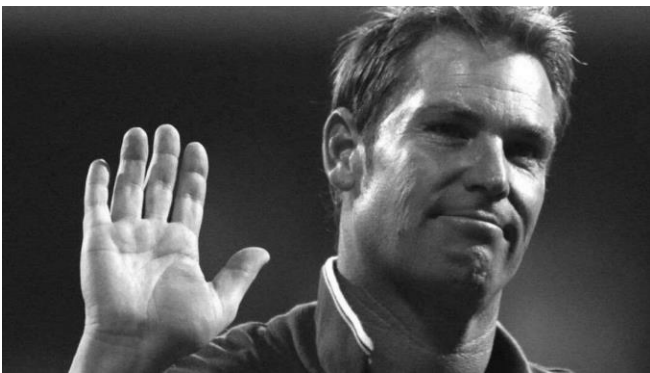


he replaced the then chief minister JB Patnaik, after the Congress(I) was routed in the Lok Sabha elections. In December 1999, he was again made chief minister after erstwhile chief minister Giridhari Gamang was replaced over his failure in relief and rehabilitation measures in the aftermath of 1999 super cyclone that ripped through Odisha coast.



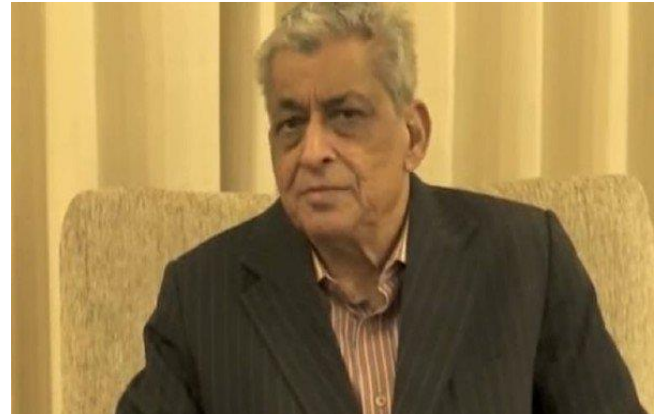
### **Legendary West Indies Spinner Sonny Ramadhin Passes Away :-**

The country's cricket board said, Legendary West Indies spinner Sonny Ramadhin, who was a part of the side that won its first away series in England in 1950, has died at the age of 92. Having had made his Test debut against England at Old Trafford in 1950, Ramadhin ended up playing 43 Tests and taking 158 wickets at an average of 28.98. His record included match figures of 11-152 when West Indies claimed a first-ever Test victory in England at Lord's 72 years ago.



### **Australian spinner, Shane Warne passes away :-**

Shane Warne, Australian cricket legend who helped his nation win the World Cup in 1999 and was part of five Ashes-winning teams during his career, died aged 52 on 04 March. For Australian cricket, this is the second devastating news in 24 hours with fellow great, Rod Marsh, also dying on 04 March having suffered a major heart attack last week. Shane Warne made his Test debut at the SCG in 1992 against India and gained international fame when he delivered the ball of the century in 1993, one to remember for ages for cricket fans around the world.



### **Noted film critic, writer Jaiprakash Chouksey passes away :-**

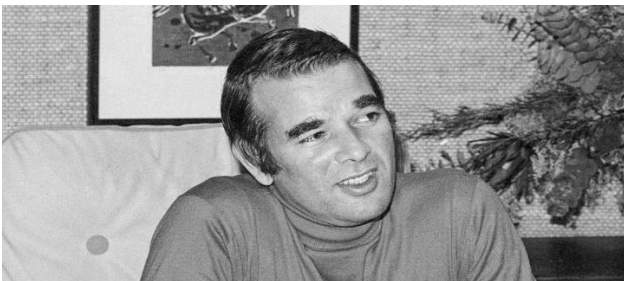
Jai Prakash Chouksey, a well-known film critic in the entertainment industry, died in Indore at the age of 83. For the last few days, Jai Prakash was in a serious condition as he was ill. Just four days ago, he had written the last installment of his popular column, Behind The Scenes. Chouksey, 82, had been suffering from lung cancer for the last seven years and his condition had deteriorated over the last three months, the film writer's son Raju Chouksey said. Chouksey has penned scripts and dialogues for several films including 'Shayad' (1979), 'Qatl' (1986) and 'Bodyguard' (2011), and was also involved in writing for television serials.





### Former Indian Army Chief General S F Rodrigues passes away :-

General (retd) Sunith Francis Rodrigues, who headed the Indian Army between 1990 and 1993, and served as the governor of Punjab between 2004 and 2010, passed away on March 04, an official statement said. He was 88. "Since his retirement, he has been engaged in social and literary pursuits and has also delivered numerous talks on strategic issues," the army said. The nation and the Indian Army will always be indebted to his invaluable contribution and service to the nation, it said.



### Oscar-Winning Producer Alan Walbridge Ladd Jr Passes Away :-

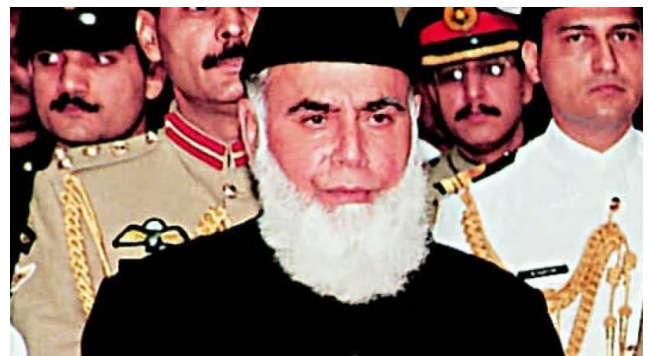
Alan Ladd Jr. who headed production at Fox, Pathe Entertainment and MGM (in two stints) and ran his own outfit, The Ladd Co., with great success, died on March 02 at his home in Los Angeles. He was 84. Before it was fashionable, Ladd supported films with strong female-centric themes, including Robert Altman's 3 Women (1977); Julia (1977), starring Oscar winner Vanessa Redgrave; 11-time Academy Award nominee The Turning

Point (1977); Paul Mazursky's An Unmarried Woman (1978), starring Jill Clayburgh.



### Former Australian Cricketer Rod Marsh Passes Away :-

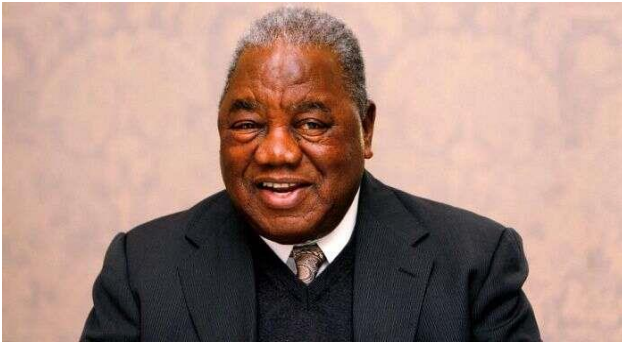
Australian cricket great Rod Marsh, widely regarded as one of the finest wicketkeepers to ever play the game, has died after suffering a heart attack at a charity event. The 74-year-old, who played 96 Tests and was later a long-time national selector, had been in an induced coma and passed away at a hospital in Adelaide. Marsh made his debut in 1970 before retiring in 1984 with what was then a world-record 355 Test dismissals, many off the bowling of legendary paceman Dennis Lillee. He was the first Australian wicketkeeper to score a Test century.



### Former Pakistani President Rafiq Tarar Passes Away :-

Rafiq Tarar, a veteran Pakistani politician and former Supreme Court judge who served as President of

Pakistan from 1997 to 2001, died on March 7 after a long illness. He was 92 years old. "My grandfather Mohammad Rafiq Tarar has passed away," his grandson Ataullah Tarar, a Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader tweeted. Tarar was elected President of Pakistan between 1997 and 2001 after being nominated by then-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Tarar was a Supreme Court judge from 1991 to 1994 before entering politics with the PML-N.



### **Former Zambian President Rupiah Banda Passes Away :-**

Rupiah Banda, Zambia's president from 2008 to 2011, died at the age of 85 in the capital Lusaka after a two-year battle with cancer. Banda was the country's vice president when President Levy Mwanawasa died unexpectedly in 2008, propelling him to the presidency and making him the country's fourth leader since independence from the United Kingdom in 1964. In October 2008, Banda was narrowly elected on a ruling party ticket and served three years in office.



### **Former Andhra Pradesh Governor 'Ms Kumudben Joshi' Passes Away :-**

Kumudben Manishankar Joshi, the former Governor of Andhra Pradesh, has died. She was 88 years old at the time. From November 26, 1985, to February 7, 1990, Ms. Joshi was the Governor of Andhra Pradesh. She succeeded Sharda Mukherjee as the state's second female governor. Joshi had served in the Rajya Sabha three times. Kumudben Manishankar Joshi was also the Deputy Minister of Information and Broadcasting from October 1980 to January 1982, as well as the Deputy Minister of Health and Family Welfare from January 1982 to December 1984.



### **American Astrophysicist Eugene Parker Passes Away :-**

Eugene Parker, a pioneering astrophysicist whose name is commemorated by NASA's Parker Solar Probe mission, died on March 15th at the age of 94. Parker's research was centred on gaining a better understanding of the sun. He proposed that the sun produces solar wind, a steady stream of charged particles that flows off the sun and across the solar system, in a major contribution to the field. The mission named after him aims to learn more about the solar wind's origins. Parker's death was announced by NASA and the University of Chicago, where he had worked for decades.



## 13: Ranks & Reports



### Moody's Revised India's Growth Estimates To 9.5% In CY2022 :-

Rating agency Moody's has revised India's economic growth estimates in CY2022 upwards to 9.5 per cent from 7 per cent on stronger than expected recovery after lockdown in 2020 and Covid-19's Delta wave in 2021. It maintained a forecast for 5.5 per cent growth in CY2023. In its update on Global Macro Outlook 2022-23, Moody's said sales tax collection, retail activity and Purchasing Managers Index suggest solid momentum. However, high oil prices and supply distortions remain a drag on growth for India.



### International IP Index 2022: India Ranks 43rd :-

According to an annual report compiled by the influential US Chambers of Commerce, India has improved its overall IP score from 38.4 per cent to 38.6 per cent, and

the country is ranked 43 out of 55 countries on the International Intellectual Property Index. India's overall score has increased from 38.40 percent (19.20 out of 50) in the 9th edition to 38.64 percent (19.32 out of 50) in the 10th edition. This reflects a score increase on indicator 32, said the report Global Innovation Policy Center of the US Chambers of Commerce.



### Brickworks Ratings Lowers India's GDP To 8.3% In FY22 :-

Brickwork Ratings said that the impact of third Covid wave on economic momentum is expected to lower India's FY22 GDP growth to 8.3 per cent,. The ratings agency had earlier given a forecast of 8.5 to 9 per cent for FY22. "The latest growth indicators suggest a loss of economic momentum in recent months. The rapid spread of Covid in January 2022 led to renewed restrictions on economic activities, dampening the revival process, particularly in contact-intensive sectors," the agency said.





### **NSO projects GDP growth for India in 2021-22 at 8.9% :-**

The National Statistical Office (NSO) in its second advance estimates of national accounts released on 28 February pegged the country's growth for 2021-22 at 8.9 per cent, a tad lower than 9.2 per cent estimated in its first advance estimates released in January. According to this report India's economic growth slowed to 5.4 per cent in the third quarter of 2021-22 but higher than China's GDP expansion of 4 per cent during the same period and the country retained its position as the world's fastest growing major economy. In the current fiscal, GDP growth stood at 20.3 per cent in April-June quarter and 8.5 per cent in July-September period.



### **Knight Frank: India Ranks 3rd In Billionaire Population Globally :-**

The number of ultra-high-net-worth-individuals (UHNWIs) has globally increased by 9.3% in 2021. Over 51,000 people have seen their net assets increased to US\$30m or more. In India, the number of UHNWIs (net assets with US\$ 30m or more) has grown by 11% YoY in 2021, the highest percentage growth in APAC, according to Knight Frank's latest edition of The Wealth Report 2022. As per the report, equity markets and digital adoption have been key factors driving growth in the super rich category of India.



### **Niti Aayog Is Developing National Gender Index :-**

Niti Aayog is in the process of developing a National Gender Index to measure the progress and identify the persisting gaps in gender equality to make informed policy decisions. In its latest annual report, Niti Aayog said the index will serve as a tool to map the progress of states and Union Territories (UTs) on defined gender metrics and build the foundation for positive change. The index will support policy action and advocacy around gender and will be aligned to the framework of Sustainable Development Goals.



### **India, Pakistan: Most Vulnerable To Climate Change :-**

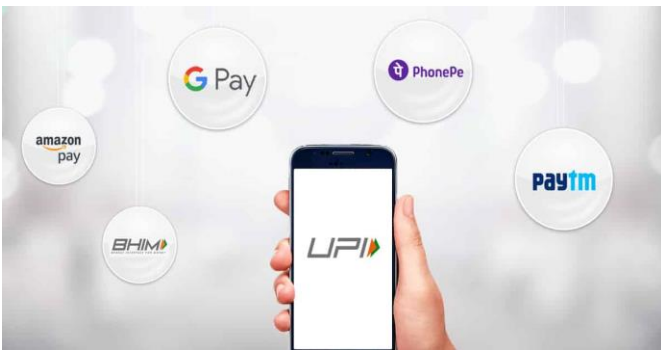
Extreme climatic conditions are threatening the food security in South Asia with escalated floods and droughts making India and Pakistan the most vulnerable to climate change, cautioned the latest IPCC report released. The second installment of the Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II's report, titled "Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability", said climate-related risks to agriculture and food systems in Asia will progressively intensify with the changing climate, with differentiated impacts across the region.



### **GST Collections In Feb Stand At Rs 1.3L Cr :-**

Goods and services tax collections dipped marginally to Rs 1.3 lakh crore during February, compared to Rs 1.4 lakh crore in the previous month, indicating that the Omicron-induced lockdowns had a marginal impact on economic activity. The latest data released by the finance ministry showed that the mop up was 18% higher than a year ago. "This high growth during February 2022 should also be seen in the context of partial lockdowns, weekend and night curfews and various restrictions that were put in place by various states due to the omicron wave, which peaked around 20th January," an official statement said



### **UPI Transactions Value Dips in February 2022 :-**

Data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) showed that India's cashless retail transactions on UPI platform were worth Rs 8.27 lakh crore in February, slightly lower than the amount recorded in the previous month. There were a total of 452 crore (4.52 billion) transactions in February 2022. In January, the value of cashless retail transactions on the BHIM UPI platform stood at Rs 8.32 lakh crore while the total number of transactions was at 461 crore (4.61 billion). However, on a year-on-year basis, UPI transactions for February 2022 were up 97 per cent in volume terms and 94 per cent in value terms.



### **Telangana Topped The Country In Terms Of Per Capita Net State 2022 :-**

Telangana has surpassed Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to become top-performing state in the country in terms of growth rate of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices. Telangana state began its journey in 2014 with the spirit of a "startup state". The resolve was to remain nimble, open to growth, and committed to creating a unique model of good governance. Today, under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao evidence shows that it has grown to be not only to be a startup state but a unicorn at that.





### **Pakistan Again Placed On FATF's Grey List :-**

The FATF, the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, has kept Pakistan on its "grey list" for failing to meet some of its targets under the additional criteria. Pakistan has been on the grey list of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) since June 2018 for failing to prevent money laundering, which leads to terrorist financing, and has been given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019. Since then, the country has remained on the list as a result of its failure to comply with FATF mandates. In response to FATF's decision, Energy Minister Hammad Azhar stated that Pakistan will complete the remaining FATF action plans as soon as possible.



### **Freedom Of The World 2022 Report: India Ranked 'Partly Free' :-**

According to the annual report of Freedom House, a US-based NGO that 'evaluates political rights and civil liberties,' India has been labelled as 'partly free' in terms of democracy and free society for the second year in a

row. This year, India received a score of 66 out of 100. It received a score of 67 in 2021 and 71 in 2020, both of which are classified as 'free.' The government introduced new rules in February that made it easier for authorities to compel social media platforms to remove illegal content. Among other things, Twitter was ordered to remove posts that criticised the government's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.



### **CRISIL Projected GDP Growth Forecast At 7.8% For 2022-23 :-**

According to the ratings agency Crisil, India's GDP growth in fiscal 2023 is expected to be 7.8 percent. Any potential upside from the early end of a mild third wave of Covid-19 infections, according to the ratings agency, will be offset by the ongoing geopolitical strife caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Currently, the geopolitical crisis is dampening global growth and driving up oil and commodity prices. The agency said that risks to growth are tilted to the downside.





**V-Dem's Democracy Report 2022: India Ranked 93rd :-**

The level of democracy enjoyed by the average global citizen in 2021 is down to 1989 levels, with the democratic gains of the post-Cold War period eroding rapidly in the last few years according to the latest report from the V-Dem Institute at Sweden's University of Gothenburg. The study, titled 'Democracy Report 2022: Autocratisation Changing Nature?' states that more than twice as many countries (32) are undergoing autocratisation as are witnessing democratisation (15). Noting that India is one of the top ten 'autocratisers' in the world, the V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) report classifies India as an autocracy ('electoral autocracy') rather than a democracy, ranking it 93rd on the liberal democracy index, out of 179 countries.

**Morgan Stanley Projects India's GDP For FY23 At 7.9% :-**

As higher oil prices undermine global economic recovery, Morgan Stanley has reduced India's GDP forecast for the fiscal year beginning 1 April by 50 basis points to 7.9%, raised retail inflation to 6%, and expects the current account deficit to widen to 3% of GDP. "Even as we expect the cyclical recovery trend to continue, we expect it to be softer than we previously projected," the bank stated in a report. India relies on imports for 85 percent of its oil needs, and the recent surge in international oil prices, which pushed rates to a 14-year high of \$140 per barrel before reversing, will result in the country paying more for the commodity.

**Global Investment In Digital Shopping 2021: India Ranked 2nd :-**

According to the London & Partners analysis of Dealroom. co-investment data India is the second-largest global venture capital investment hub for digital shopping companies, growing by a whopping 175 per cent from USD 8 billion in 2020 to USD 22 billion in 2021. Last year, India came in second to the United States, which attracted USD 51 billion in investment, followed by China, which received USD 14 billion, and the United Kingdom, which received USD 7 billion. Within India, Bengaluru comes out on top globally with USD 14 billion worth of Venture Capital (VC) investments in digital shopping in 2021, followed by Gurugram at No. 7 with USD 4 billion and Mumbai at No. 10 with USD 3 billion.

**SIPRI Report: India Emerges As Largest Importer Of Arms :-**

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) latest report on Trends in

International Arms Transfer, 2021, released in March 2022, India and Saudi Arabia were the largest arms importers between 2017 and 2021, accounting for 11% of all global arms sales. According to the report, India is at the top of the list. With respective shares of 5.7 percent, 5.4 percent, and 4.8 percent, Egypt, Australia, and China were the next three largest importers. Surprisingly, India was the only one of the top five countries whose imports fell during the period. The 21% decline in India's imports in 2017-21 compared with 2012-16 were possibly because of the growing emphasis on the indigenous design and manufacture of defence equipment by state-owned and private sector companies.



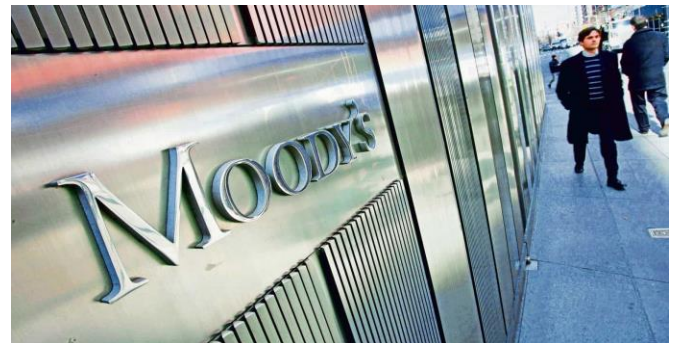
### **India Entered Into World's Top Five Club In Terms Of Market Capitalisation :-**

For the first time, India's equity market has entered the world's top five in terms of market capitalization. The country's total market capitalization is \$3.21 trillion, higher than the United Kingdom's (\$3.19 trillion), Saudi Arabia's (\$3.18 trillion), and Canada's (\$3.18 trillion). Despite a 7.4% drop in its market capitalization, India has climbed two positions this year. With a market capitalization of \$3.7 trillion and \$3.5 trillion, respectively, the United Kingdom and France were ranked fifth and sixth at the start of the year.



### **Elon Musk Tops Hurun Global Rich List 2022 :-**

On March 16, the Hurun Global Rich List for 2022 was released, which included 3,381 billionaires from 2,557 companies in 69 countries. While Musk remained in first place, Ambani was the only Indian to make the top ten. Elon Musk of Tesla Inc., who owns 18% of Tesla stock, is the richest person in the world in 2022, with a net worth of \$224 billion. Since Tesla stock prices soared by nearly 32% in 2021, his fortune has exploded. Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, is ranked second on the list with a net worth of \$178 billion.



### **Moody's Lowers India's GDP Forecast For CY22 To 9.1% :-**

Due to the negative effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on the global economy, Moody's has lowered India's economic growth forecast by 40 basis points to 9.1% in CY2022. It raised India's economic growth estimates for CY2022 from 7% to 9.5 percent in February, citing a



stronger-than-expected recovery following the lockdowns in 2020 and the Delta wave in 2021. In a statement, Moody's said that as a large importer of crude oil, India is particularly vulnerable to high oil prices. Because the country is a grain surplus producer, agricultural exports will benefit from the current high prices in the short term.



### **UN World Happiness Report 2022: India Ranks 136th :-**

India may be one of the world's fastest growing economies, but it is also one of the unhappiest. The World Happiness Report 2022, released ahead of the UN International Day of Happiness on March 20, ranked India 136th, tenth from the bottom of the list, while Finland topped the charts for the fifth year in a row. Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Sweden, Norway, Israel, and New Zealand are among the top ten countries on the list of 146.



### **UNEP Report: Moradabad Is World's Second-Most Noise Polluted City :-**

According to the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) recent 'Annual Frontier Report, 2022,' Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh is the world's second-most noise polluted city. According to the report, the area experienced ear-splitting noise pollution of 114 decibels (dB) at its peak in 2021. The report ranks 61 cities worldwide, with Dhaka topping the list with a noise pollution level of 119 decibels. Islamabad ranks third, with a maximum noise pollution level of 105 decibels. Thirteen South Asian cities are included on the list. Five of them are Indians. The other four are Kolkata (89 decibels), Asansol (89 decibels), Jaipur (84 decibels), and Delhi (83 decibels).

## **14: Schemes & Committees**



### **PM CARE For Children Scheme Extended By The Centre Till 28th Feb 2022 :-**

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has extended the PM CARES for Children Scheme till February 28, 2022. Earlier, the scheme was valid till December 31, 2021. The ministry said that a letter in this regard has been sent to all Principal Secretaries,



Secretaries, Women and Child Development, Social Justice & Empowerment Department of all states and UTs with a copy to all District Magistrates for necessary action. The scheme covers all children who have lost both parents, surviving parent, legal guardian, adoptive parents or single adoptive parent due to COVID 19 pandemic, starting from March 11, 2020.



### **Ministry Of Education Launches Bhasha Certificate Selfie Campaign :-**

Ministry of Education launched a campaign 'Bhasha Certificate Selfie to encourage cultural diversity and promote multilingualism and to foster the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. Bhasha Certificate Selfie initiative aims to promote Bhasha Sangam mobile app, developed by Ministry of Education and MyGov India. Using the app, people can learn 100+ sentences of daily use in as many as 22 scheduled Indian languages. The initiative, under the aegis of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat will aim to ensure that people acquire basic conversational skills in Indian languages. To achieve this, a target of 75 lakh people acquiring basic conversational skills has been set.



### **Janaushadhi Diwas Week Observed From 1st March To 7th March :-**

Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), under the aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals is celebrating their 4th Jan Aushadhi Diwas by organizing weeklong celebrations at different locations across the country covering all States/UTs. This will generate awareness about the usages of generic medicines and benefits of Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana. The events have been planned in different cities starting from 1st of March 2022 to 7th March 2022, which will focus on awareness about the Jan Aushadhi Scheme, Seminars, participation of children, women and NGO's, Heritage walks and Health walks and many other activities.



### **IITM, Pune Launched International Monsoons Project Office:-**

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) through a high-level virtual event on the occasion of National Science Day 2022. The IMPO will be hosted at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, an institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt of India, initially for five years. Setting up the IMPO reiterates the importance of monsoons for the national economy. It would encompass activities and connections related to international monsoon research that would be identified and fostered under the leadership of the World Climate Research Programme and the World Weather Research Programme.



### PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates Rs 11,400 Crore Pune Metro Rail Project :-

Pune Metro line worth Rs 11,400 crore was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A statement said that the entire project is being built at a total cost of more than Rs 11,400 crore. The Rs 11,420-crore-31.25 km Pune Metro Phase 1 comprises a 16.58-km Corridor-1 from Pimpri Chinchwad to Swargate with 14 stations and a 14.66-km Corridor-2 from Vanaz to Ramwadi with 16 stations. A Joint Venture between Centre and the Maharashtra government, the work in the Pune metro project started in December 2016 and was scheduled to be completed by 2021 but the Covid-19 pandemic delayed the project.



### Ministry of Women and Child Development Government of India

#### MoWCD Launches 'Stree Manoraksha' Project :-

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) has launched the 'Stree Manoraksha Project' in collaboration with NIMHANS Bengaluru with an aim to improve the mental health of women in India. The project would focus on building on capacity building of OSC (One-Stop Center) functionaries on the tools and techniques as to how to handle the cases of women approaching the One-Stop Centres, particularly the women who have suffered violence and distress with due sensitivity and care. Dr. Prabha, Head of NIMHANS said that the One-Stop Center has done an excellent job during the COVID period. At present, more than 700 One-Stop Centers are being run in the country.



### 2000 Km Network To Be Brought By Indian Railways Under 'KAVACH' In 2022-23 :-

Railways will develop new products and efficient logistics services for small farmers and Small and Medium Enterprises, according to Finance Minister Nirmala



Sitharaman, as well as lead the integration of postal and railway networks to provide seamless parcel movement solutions. The FM said the 'One Station-One Product' concept will be popularized to help local businesses & supply chains. As a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat, 2,000 km of the network will be brought under Kavach, the indigenous world-class technology for safety and capacity augmentation in 2022-23.



### **MSME Ministry Launches "SAMARTH" Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive For Women :-**

SAMARTH -- a special entrepreneurship promotion drive for women was launched by MSME Ministry. Addressing the launch event, Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Narayan Rane said the MSME sector offers a plethora of opportunities for women. Under SAMARTH, 20 per cent seats in free skill development programmes, organised under skill development schemes of the ministry, will be allocated for aspiring and existing women entrepreneurs.



### **Ministry Of Labour Launches 'Donate-A-Pension' Initiative :-**

Union Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav rolled out the 'Donate-a-Pension' program under Pradhan Mantri Shram scheme. "Launched 'Donate-a-Pension' programme at my residence by donating to the gardener. It is an initiative under (PM-SYM) pension scheme where citizens can donate the premium contribution of their immediate support staff such as domestic workers, drivers, helpers etc," tweeted Yadav. Under the scheme, a donor can pay the contribution for a minimum of one year with the amount ranging from Rs 660 to Rs 2,400 depending on the age of the beneficiary.



### **'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana' Launched By Chhattisgarh Government :-**

At a state-level conference, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched the 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana' and distributed Rs 5,000 cheques to five women beneficiaries for safe motherhood. An official said that under this scheme, women will receive Rs 5000 in financial assistance upon the birth of their second girl child. Speaking on the occasion, Baghel stated that women lag behind men in terms of economic participation, adding that his government had launched initiatives such as 'Mahila Madai' to assist women in preparing various items at gauthans.





### Haryana Govt Announced 'Sushma Swaraj Award'

:-

Haryana's government, led by Manohar Lal Khattar, proposed a Rs 1.77-lakh-crore budget for 2022-23. Keeping women in mind, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced the Haryana Matrushakti Scheme, Sahbhagita Scheme, and Sushma Swaraj Award. The 'Sushma Swaraj Award' will be given to women who have made significant contributions or achieved great things in various fields.



### National Land Monetization Corp Approved By Cabinet :-

The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) to monetize surplus land and building assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and other government-linked agencies. NLMC will be wholly owned by the Centre and will be administered by the Finance Ministry.

It will have an initial authorised share capital of Rs 5,000 crore and a paid-up share capital of Rs 150 crore. According to sources, railways, telecommunications, and defence are among the key ministries with the most surplus land, while parcels of several CPSEs are in prime areas with high potential.



### Atal Innovation Mission Expanded To To Encourage AR Skills In Youth :-

To train over 12,000 teachers in Augmented Reality (AR) over the next two years in order to drive AR adoption among the country's youth Snap, the parent company of the popular instant messaging platform Snapchat, has partnered with the Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog. Snap also announced a partnership with the Atal Incubation Centers (AICs) to provide AR advertising bootcamps, ad credits, and other opportunities to the Indian start-up ecosystem. Snap will host special workshops to introduce young women in India to augmented reality and the skills required to navigate the digital economy of the future.



## Tripura Govt Announced "Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa" Scheme :-

The Tripura state government has announced a special scheme called "Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa" in an effort to ensure the social security of over 7,000 tea garden workers of Tripura. According to Tripura cabinet spokesman and Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Sushanta Chowdhury, the scheme ensures housing, rations, and financial support to tea garden workers by combining state and central government entitlements. A sum of Rs 85 crore would be spent from the government's exchequer for the implementation of the scheme.



## Delhi Govt Launched 'My EV' Portal For Registering And Purchasing E-Autos :-

For the purchase and registration of electric vehicles in Delhi, the Delhi government has launched an online portal called "My EV." According to an official statement, the government will also provide a 5% interest subsidy on the purchase of electric vehicles on loans under the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy, making Delhi the first state to do so. The website was developed in collaboration with Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) by the Delhi government. The interest rate subsidy on electric vehicles will provide an additional Rs 25,000 incentive on top of the Rs 30,000 purchase incentive, according to the statement.



## India's 1st Digital Water Bank 'AQVERIUM' Launched In Bengaluru :-

In Bengaluru, the country's first digital water bank, AQVERIUM, was launched. AquaKraft Group Ventures, a next-generation sustainability and impact enterprise focused on providing clean drinking water and sanitation, is the driving force behind it. Dr.C.N.Ashwatha Narayana, Minister for IT/BT and Science and Technology, said at the launch of the Bengaluru-based digital startup AQVERIUM, "This is a very unique innovation combining sustainable and green technologies with information technology, skill development, and entrepreneurship."



Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD) extended upto 31.03.2023

## CGSSD Extended Upto March, 31st, 2023 :-

The Ministry of MSME has announced that the Rs 20,000-crore Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt

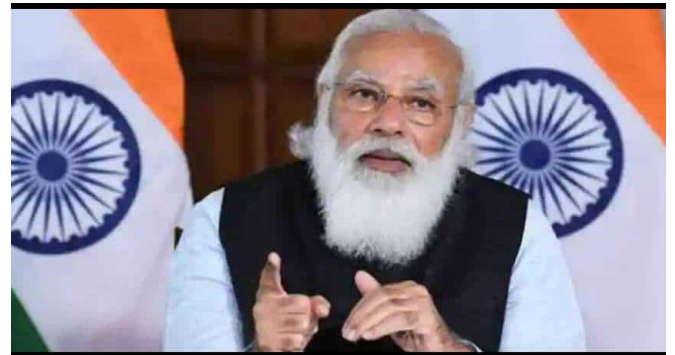
(CGSSD) will be extended for another year. The scheme was launched in June 2020 and was initially valid until March 31, 2021, but it was later extended until March 31, 2022 to "keep the avenues of assistance to stressed MSME units open," according to a statement from the ministry. The latest extension was "on the basis of the requests received from the stakeholders of the scheme," the ministry added.



### **CAMS Launched By Central Record Keeping Agency Under NPS :-**

To manage the National Pension System (NPS) Computer Age Management Services (CAMS) has started operations as a Central Record Keeping Agency (CRA). The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) will now oversee NPS through three CRAs namely KFin Technologies, NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure, and CAMS. Anuj Kumar, Managing

Director of CAMS said, "Today as a part of CAMs CRA launch, we are introducing eNPS for direct subscribers of CAMS, this will be followed by a POP platform that would help POP to expand the market. Soon we will also enter the government and Atal Pension Yojana segments as well."



### **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana Extended By Six Months :-**

The Union Cabinet, presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a six-month extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) until September 2022. The fifth phase of the PMGKAY scheme was set to end in March 2022. The government has spent approximately Rs 2.60 lakh crore on the scheme so far, with an additional Rs 80,000 crore set to be spent over the next six months until September 2022, bringing the total expenditure under PMGKAY to nearly Rs 3.40 lakh crore.

## **15: Science & Technology**



### **Reliance Jio's New Subsea Cable 'India-Asia-Xpress' To Connect Maldives :-**

Reliance Jio will land the next generation multi-terabit India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea cable system in the Maldives. Jio, country's mobile broadband digital service provider said that new subsea cable system will connect the Maldives, Hulhumale directly with world's major



internet hubs in India and Singapore. Jio's IAX project to land in the Maldives in collaboration with Ocean Connect Maldives.



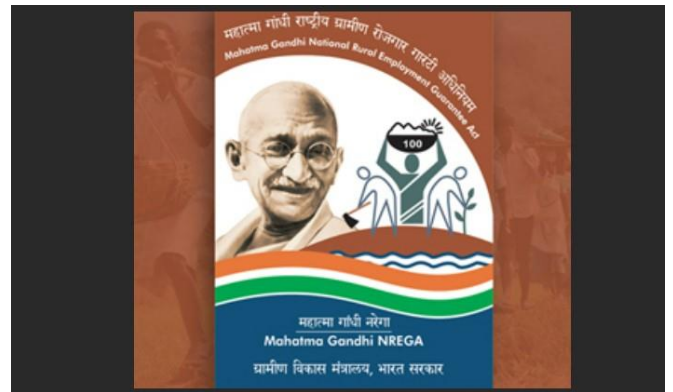
## IIT Roorkee Launched 'KISAN' Mobile App In Uttarakhand :-

Dr K K Singh, Additional Director General Meteorology, IMD, New Delhi apprised that the block-level weather forecast and weather based Agromet Advisory Bulletins are being provided to the farmers for all six blocks of Haridwar district by the AMFU Roorkee every Tuesday and Friday regularly. Farmers can now easily access these bulletins on their mobile phones through the 'Kisan' App. He said that the special feature of the 'KISAN' App is that the weather forecast and advisory bulletin will be displayed only for the block selected by the farmer.



## IBM Unveiled New Cybersecurity Hub In Bengaluru To Address Cyberattack :-

IBM has announced a multi-million dollar investment in its cybersecurity operations with the opening of a new IBM Security Command Center in Bengaluru. The company said that the new facility will be the first of its kind across the Asia Pacific (APAC) region for training cybersecurity response techniques through highly realistic, simulated cyber attack – designed to prepare everyone from C-Suite through technical staff. The investment also includes a new Security Operation Center (SOC) which is part of IBM's vast network of existing global SOCs - providing 24X7 security response services to clients around the world, as per an official statement.



## Ministry of Rural Development Developed Ombudsperson App For Mahatma Gandhi NREGA :-

Ministry of Rural Development has developed an Ombudsperson App for smooth reporting and categorization of grievances by Ombudsperson based on complaints he received from various sources viz. physical, digital and mass media, related to the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Scheme in the States/UTs. At present, the reporting of complaints, passing awards and disposal of complaints are in physical form. For the smooth reporting of complaints, passing awards and quick disposal of complaints Ombudsperson App is developed. This will

strengthen Ombudsperson in the discharge of her/his duty in a hassle-free manner.



### **Cochin Airport To Become Power-Positive With New Solar Plant :-**

Cochin International Airport which is the world's first airport to be powered by solar energy will now become power positive through the commissioning of their new solar power plant near Payyanur, Kannur district, Kerala. CIAL Managing Director S Suhas said that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will inaugurate the solar power plant of 12 MWp on March 6. With the new project, CIAL takes a step forward from the current status of a power-neutral airport to being a power-positive airport.



### **Canada Approved World's 1st Plant-Derived COVID-19 Vaccine:-**

The world's first plant-derived Covid-19 vaccine jointly developed by Medicago Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline PLC has been cleared for use in Canada for adults aged 18 to 64.

The vaccine has been cleared for people aged 18 to 64 since its safety and effectiveness, according to Health Canada, have not been established in people younger than 18 or older than 64 years of age. The approval of the plant-derived Covid-19 vaccine could help overcome vaccine hesitancy among many as countries are struggling to raise vaccination rates after a certain threshold.



### **First 'Smart Managed EV Charging Station' Commissioned By BSES :-**

An official statement said The BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) has commissioned India's first Smart Managed EV Charging Station' at Mayur Vihar in east Delhi. The EV charging station, which can charge five e-vehicles simultaneously, is located at BYPL's 11 kV sub-station building in Mayur Vihar Extension Phase-I, it stated. The carefully selected site is a gateway to Noida and can be easily accessed by EV users and EV fleet operators. Depending on the response, more such smart EV charging stations will be rolled-out in south, west, east and central Delhi, it said.





## China's Long March-8 Rocket Launches 22 Satellites Into Space :-

China's new Long March-8 rocket placed 22 satellites in space, setting a domestic record for the most spacecraft launched by a single rocket. The rocket blasted off at 11:06 am (Beijing Time) at the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in the southern Hainan Province before sending the satellites into pre-set orbits, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. These satellites will be mainly used for commercial remote sensing services, marine environment monitoring, forest fire prevention and disaster mitigation. The mission marked the 409th flight of the Long March carrier.



## Google And MeitY To Train 100 Indian Startups Under Appscale Academy Programme :-

MeitY Startup Hub, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and Google have announced to cohort 100 Indian early to mid-stage startups and help them to build high-quality global apps and games. The 35% of the cohort come from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities; 58% have a woman in a leadership role. The cohort's main sectors are: Education, Health, Finance, Social, Ecommerce, and Gaming. The initiative is part of Google's Appscale Academy. The goal of Appscale Academy is said to be to identify and support promising Indian startups and help them grow into successful global businesses.



## Biodegradable Nanoparticle Developed By IIT Kanpur :-

IIT Kanpur researchers have developed a novel nanoparticle-based biodegradable carbonid-metabolite (BioDCM) that is capable of protecting agricultural crops from fungal and bacterial infections. This was created by a team led by Santosh K Mishra and Piyush Kumar from the department of biological sciences and bioengineering, in collaboration with researchers C Kannan and Divya Mishra from ICAR- Indian Institute of Rice Research, and R Balamurugan and Mou Mandal from the School of Chemistry, University of Hyderabad. The technology is essentially a protective biological alternative that is useful in enhancing crop protection against various diseases, especially rice crops.



## SWISS To Become World's First Airlines To Use Solar Aviation Fuel :-



Swiss and its parent company, the Lufthansa Group, have partnered with synthetic fuel group Synhelion to use its solar fuel. This will make Swiss the first airline in the world to use “sun-to-liquid” fuel. Swiss-based Synhelion, which is a spinoff from the Swiss Institute of Technology, has developed a technology for manufacturing sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) from renewable energy sources. The process uses concentrated solar heat to manufacture syngas (synthesis gas) which can then be turned into kerosene. According to a statement by the airline, when combusted the solar fuel will only produce as much carbon dioxide as went into its manufacture, helping to cut aviation emissions.



### **C-DAC installed “PARAM Ganga” Supercomputer at IIT Roorkee:-**

On March 7, 2022, the 'PARAM Ganga' supercomputer, built in India, was installed at IIT Roorkee. The supercomputer was installed by B.V.R. Mohan Reddy, Chairman of IIT Roorkee. The Petascale Supercomputer was built in India as part of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM). The primary goal is to provide computational power to the IIT Roorkee user community and neighbouring academic institutions. Speaking on the occasion, IIT Roorkee Chairman said, “IIT Roorkee will carry out advanced research and capacity building using this supercomputing infrastructure developed under NSM. “



### **Nation’s First AI & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) Launched In Bengaluru :-**

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru has launched an Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) with a seed fund of Rs 230 crore. According to Karnataka Minister for IT-BT CN Ashwath Narayan, the Centre will pay Rs 170 crore and the Karnataka government will pay the rest. Following the opening of the ARTPARK office, Narayan stated that the organisation would work to create a globally leading Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics Innovation ecosystem in the country, with the goal of connecting the unconnected.



### **ISRO Successfully Tested Solid Fuel-Based Booster Stage Of SSLV :-**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has completed the ground testing of its new Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) solid-fuel based booster stage

(SS1), completing the ground testing of all three stages of the launch vehicle. The new launch vehicle is now ready for its first test flight, which is set to take place in May of this year. "The successful test of solid booster

stage has given sufficient confidence to proceed with the first developmental flight of SSLV (SSLV-D1), which is scheduled in May 2022." the space agency said in a statement.

## 16: Sports



### SAAF & National Cross Country Athletics Championship To Be Held In Nagaland :-

The 2nd South Asian Athletic Federation (SAAF) Cross-Country championship and the 56th National Cross Country Athletics Championship will be held in Kohima on March 26, a top official of the Nagaland Athletic Association (NAA) said. NAA president Abu Metha said the tournament was initially scheduled to be held on January 15 but the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) postponed it due to rapid spread of Omicron variant of coronavirus.



### Mirabai Chanu Won Gold At Singapore Weightlifting International :-

Star Indian lifter Mirabai Chanu has been qualified for the 2022 Commonwealth Games in the 55kg weight category by clinching the gold in the Singapore Weightlifting International here. Competing in the 55kg weight class for the first time, Chanu lifted 191kg (86kg 105kg) to stand on top of the podium in an uncompetitive field. The second placed lifter -- Australia's Jessica Sewastenko's best effort was 167kg (77kg 90kg), a whopping 24kg less than Chanu's. Elly Cassandra Englebert of Malaysia finished third with a best effort of 165kg (75kg 90kg).



### Rafael Nadal wins Mexican Open 2022 :-

The 35-year-old Spaniard defeated Cameron Norrie 6-4, 6-4 to win the Mexican Open and extend his career-best start for a season to 15-0 as he won his 91st ATP title. Nadal, who won his third title in 2022, including the Australian Open for his record 21st Grand Slam singles title, is three victories from tying Ivan Lendl's total of 94



for third place for most championships in the Open Era. The Spaniard won for the fourth time in Acapulco (2005, 2013 and 2020).



### The 2nd LG Cup Ice Hockey Championship 2022 won by the Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre :-

Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre (LSRC) has lifted the Second LG Cup Ice Hockey Championship-2022. In finals played in NDS Ice Hockey rink in Leh, LSRC defeated arch-rivals ITBP by Three Nil to win a consecutively second title in the season. Ladakh Scouts have shown total dominance on the ice rink in the finals. ITBP could not capitalize on a couple of opportunities they got from beautiful dribbling and passes. Much coordinated Ladakh Scouts have used their experience and seasoned players for better and scored three goals in the first two periods. The third period has seen several attacks on goal posts but both the goalies have shown exemplary skills in saving them.



### Pooja Jatyan Became 1st Indian To Win A Silver In Para Archery World Championships :-

Para archer Pooja Jatyan scripted history as she became the first Indian to win a silver in an individual section of the Para World Championships. Pooja lost to Italian Petrilli Vincenza in the summit clash to end her World Para Championships dream run with a silver medal. Eyeing to become the first woman archery world champion at the senior level, the 24-year-old from Gurugram was up against Tokyo Paralympics silver medalist from Italy in the final.



### 31st Southeast Asian Games To Be Held In Vietnam :-

The organisers said that the 31st Southeast Asian Games, the region's biggest sporting event, will be held in Vietnam from May 12 to 23 this year. The Games will feature 40 sports with 526 events, attracting around 10,000 participants, organisers announced at a press conference here. Originally scheduled to take place in November 2021, the biennial event was postponed due to the Covid pandemic in Vietnam. The Vietnamese capital Hanoi will be the main venue alongside 11 neighbouring localities including Quang Ninh, Phu Tho and Bac Ninh, Xinhua news agency reported.





## Indian Shooter Saurabh Chaudhary Wins 10m Air Pistol Gold At ISSF World Cup :-

Indian shooting has been a dominant and top sport of the world for most of the time. In the year's first ISSF World Cup (rifle/pistol), a 19-year old Indian olympian Saurabh Chaudhary clinched the gold medal by beating Michael Schwald of Germany 16-6. Chaudhary has a Youth Olympic gold medal to his name, as well as, he is the third in the men's 10m air pistol qualification stage with a total of 584 points.



## Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament: Nikhat Zareen & Nitu wins gold for India :-

Indian boxers Nikhat Zareen and Nitu clinched gold medals at the 73rd Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament as the Indian contingent finished the campaign with three medals including one bronze. Nikhat bagged her second gold medal at Europe's oldest international boxing tournament with a 4-1 win in the women's 52kg final. She had previously won the Strandja Memorial title in 2019. Nitu outpunched the reigning

Youth World Championships bronze medallist Italy's Erika Prisciandro 5-0 without any trouble in the women's 48 kg final.



## Mithali Raj Becomes First Woman Cricketer To Appear At Six Cricket World Cups :-

Indian women's cricket team skipper Mithali Raj has become the first woman, and only the third cricketer ever, to appear at six ICC Women's Cricket World Cups. As skipper the records keep coming, the right-hander now equals Australian legend Belinda Clark by captaining at her fourth ICC Women's World Cup — Clark's tenure spanning from 1993 to 2005, according to ICC. Clark and Mithali stand as the only two players to have captained their country at more than two World Cups.



## BCCI Named RuPay As The Official Partner For Tata IPL 2022 :-

The IPL Governing Council has announced RuPay as an official partner for Tata Indian Premier League beginning March 26. This will be a multi-year partnership, said a joint statement. Brijesh Patel, Chairman, IPL said, "This

association of IPL and RuPay, the flagship product of NPCI, brings together two of India's best homegrown brands and is set to create a huge impact on millions of Indians across the globe, encouraging digital payments adoption in a faster and seamless manner."



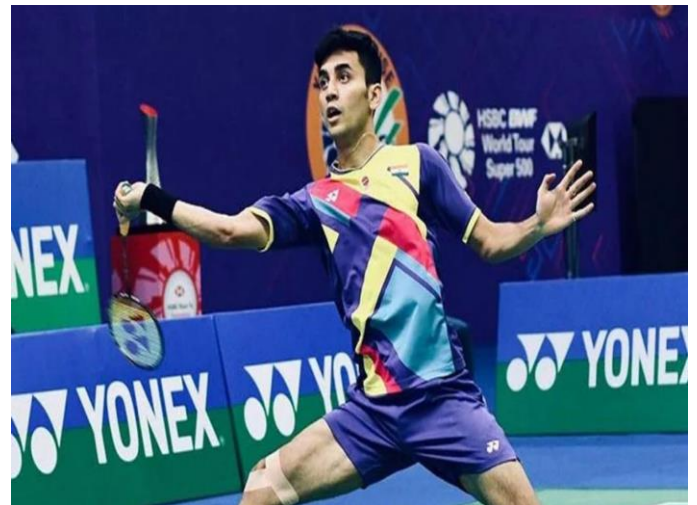
## IPC Banned Russian, Belarusian Athletes From Beijing Winter Paralympics :-

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has announced that Russian and Belarusian athletes will be unable to compete at the Winter Paralympics in Beijing due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, for which Belarus has served as a key staging area. "This means that para athletes from these respective countries will no longer be allowed to participate in the Games which open on 4 March 2022. What is clear is that the rapidly escalating situation has now put us in a unique and impossible position so close to the start of the Games" the IPC said in a statement.



## Famous Golfer Tiger Woods Inducted Into World Golf Hall Of Fame :-

Tiger Woods has been formally inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame. Tiger Woods has won a record-tying 82 PGA TOUR events in his career, as well as 15 major championships. He also is a two-time winner of THE PLAYERS Championship and became the first two-time winner of the FedExCup. Outside the ropes, Woods' TGR Foundation has supported more than two million students around the world.



## German Open Badminton 2022: Lakshya Sen Won Silver Medal :-

Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand leashed and screeched Lakshya Sen's nine-match winning streak after the Indian lost 21-18, 21-15 in the final of the German Open Super 300. In the last three months, Sen has become a pivot around which Indian performances on the international stage have revolved. Though Kidambi Srikanth won the highest men's singles medal won by an Indian at the Worlds, a silver, it's been Sen's breakout season – a Worlds medal, a maiden Super 500 title, two wins over Top 5 players in four days: there's been a frenzied swirl surrounding the rapidly-improved shuttler from Almora.





### Jay Shah's Term Extended By One Year As A President Of Asian Cricket Council :-

Jay Shah's term as president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has been unanimously extended by a year to 2024. BCCI secretary Jay Shah took over as president of the ACC from Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan in January last year, making him the ACC's youngest administrator to be re-appointed. Addressing the AGM, Shah said the ACC's key focus would be to carry forward the development of the sport in the region.



### PV Sindhu Won The Swiss Open Badminton Title 2022 :-

Two times Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu won the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament in Basel, defeating Busanan Ongbamrungphan. Sindhu defeated Thailand's Ongbamrungphan in straight games, with a scoreline of 21-16, 21-8. PV Sindhu has won her second World Championships title in Basel, where she also won her first in 2019. This is Sindhu's second title of the 2022 season, following her victory in the Syed Modi India International in January.



### India Won SAFF U-18 Women's Championship Title 2022 :-

The India U-18 girls won the SAFF U-18 Women's Championship 2022 at Jamshedpur's JRD TATA Sports Complex. Lynda Kom, who scored five goals in the tournament, was named the tournament's most valuable player and top goal scorer. India had a better goal difference of +11 than Bangladesh, which had a goal difference of +3. Martina and Sunita were replaced by Naketa and Amisha, respectively, after a couple of substitutions. With time running out for Bangladesh, they launched an all-out attack, and Priyanka scored with a shot from outside the box in the 74th minute.



## 17: State



### **Chamba District Of Himachal Pradesh Becomes 100th 'Har Ghar Jal' District :-**

After touching the milestone of providing tap water supply to more than 9 Crore homes on 16th February, 2022, Jal Jeevan Mission achieved another milestone of providing tap water to every home of 100 districts in the country. Chamba, an Aspirational District of Himachal Pradesh has become the 100th 'Har Ghar Jal' District. Chamba is the fifth aspirational district to become 'Har Ghar Jal'. Other four Har Ghar Jal Aspirational districts are: Bhadradri Kothgudem, Jayashankar Bhupalpalli, Komram Bheem Asifabad (all in Telangana) and Mewat in Haryana.



Government Of Jammu and Kashmir

### **Gov Launches The "Janbhagidari Empowerment" Portal In J&K :-**

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, continuing with its overarching digital push, the Government has hosted the 'Janbhagidari Empowerment' portal on a different server with higher bandwidth for its easy and ready accessibility to the general public. It is a one stop interactive and user-friendly digital platform giving detailed insights to the people into the nature, status and the number of developmental works being executed in their areas. The works could be searched with respect to their location in each district, block/municipality and village.



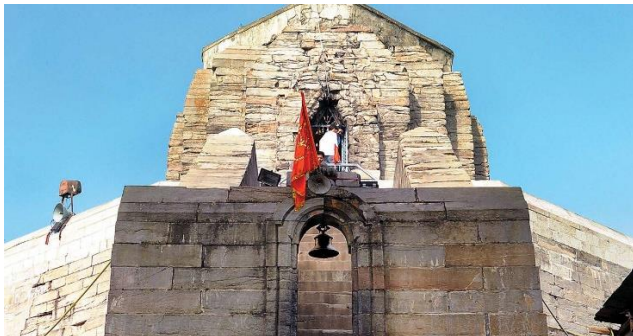
### **Delhi Cabinet Approved India's First' E-Waste Eco-Park :-**

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has announced that Delhi will get India's first e-waste eco-park. The Delhi government has announced the setting up of the 'country's first' electronic-waste eco-friendly park in the national capital to handle the increasing e-waste. Sisodia informed that the park will be built on 20 acres of land. At present, Delhi produces 2 lakh tonnes of e-waste every year. The Delhi government will set up the country's first e-waste eco-park, where recycling and re-manufacturing work will be done in a safe and scientific manner.



### India's First Ambulance For Street Animals Launched In Tamil Nadu :-

The Blue Cross of India, an animal welfare charity, has launched a “first-of-its-kind” ambulance for street animals in Chennai in collaboration with the international animal welfare organisation Four Paw. Launched by Justice Dr Anitha Sumanth of the Madras High Court, the Stray Animal Care programme will be a “hospital on wheels” with a veterinarian on board to provide on-site treatment for sick and injured street animals. According to a press release, the Chennai-based charity gets about 500 requests for animal care every day but can treat only around 60 animals because it has to pick up and transport them for treatment first.



### Herath Festival Celebrated In Jammu And Kashmir :-

The great festival of Maha Shivaratri locally known as “Herath” in Kashmir is celebrated every year by the Kashmiri Pandit community with religious fervour and offers “Watak Nath Pooja”. This festival of “Herath”

assumes colossal importance among the Kashmiri Pandit community in particular who celebrate it to mark the wedding of Lord Shiva with Goddess Parvati and is being generally celebrated for three days. “Herath” is also considered as a festival of preserving the intrinsic and positive values of Kashmiri culture. This year the holy festival of “Herath” was celebrated from 28th February to 3rd March.



### Rajasthan Govt Announces 'Camel Protection And Development Policy' :-

Faced with a declining number of camels in Rajasthan, the state government has announced a 'Camel Protection and Development Policy' in its budget 2022-23. Camel is the state animal of Rajasthan and their number is continuously decreasing. The demand for camel protection in the state has been rising for a long time. Considering this, chief minister Ashok Gehlot proposed a budget of Rs 10 crore in the next financial year under the new policy for rearing, protection, and overall development of the state animal.





## India's Largest Reclining Statue Of Lord Buddha Being Built At Bodh Gaya :-

The Buddhist pilgrimage circuit in India is being actively revitalised, and Bodh Gaya is a key component of it. In this pursuit, the site of Gautam Buddha's enlightenment will soon house his largest reclining statue, measuring 100 feet long and 30 feet high. The idol is being created by the Buddha International Welfare Mission. The statue depicts Lord Buddha in a sleeping posture. The statue's construction started in 2019. The fibreglass statue is being built by sculptors from Bengal. Bhante Aryapal Bhikshu, founder secretary of Buddha International Welfare mission informed media that the idol of Lord Buddha in Mahaparinirvana Mudra holds great importance for the Buddhist as he reached to his disciples in this posture. Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar also has an idol of Lord Buddha in this posture where he attained Mahaparinirvana, he said.



## Tamil Nadu Govt Inaugurated India's Largest Floating Solar Power Project :-

M K Stalin, the chief minister of Tamil Nadu, has inaugurated what is said to be India's largest floating solar park, with a capacity of 42 million units of electricity per year. The park, which cost Rs 150.40 crore to build, is part of SPIC's Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) Progress toward a commitment to producing renewable

energy. The floating solar park, according to the chief minister, will produce more power than traditional land-based solar parks because water cools the panels while they generate power. It also keeps water from evaporating. It saves 60% of water and eliminates pollution from the environment.



## India's First Fully Owned By Women Industrial Park In Hyderabad :-

In Hyderabad, India's first 100 percent female-owned industrial park opened its doors. The park, which was promoted by the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) in collaboration with the State government, has 25 units representing 16 diverse green category industries, all of which are owned and operated by women. The FLO industrial park, the country's first of its kind, was built on 50 acres in Sultanpur, near Patancheru, with a Rs 250 crore investment. The park has already piqued the interest of many female entrepreneurs looking for a place to run and operate their businesses.





## Jyotiraditya Scindia Inaugurates First Drone School At Gwalior In Madhya Pradesh :-

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the first drone school in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, with the goal of creating an ecosystem for drone operations in the country. According to the Chief Minister, drone technology opens up a plethora of technological opportunities for young people. He went on to say that this is the state's first drone school and that it will lead to more job opportunities in the industry because drones can be used for a variety of purposes.



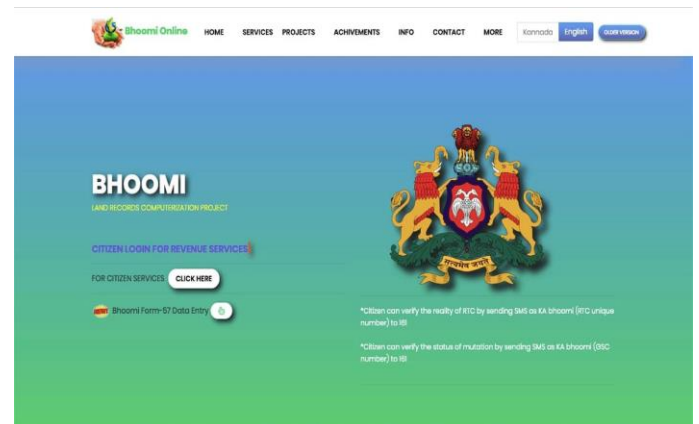
## India's First Medical City 'Indrayani Medicity' To Set Up In Maharashtra :-

During his budget speech, Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Ajit Pawar announced that the country's first medical city would be built in the Pune district's rural area. It will be known as 'Indrayani Medicity,' and it will provide not only medical education and research, but also all types of specialty treatment under one roof. The state government is hoping to raise more than ₹10,000 crore for the project. For the purpose, a 300-acre land parcel in Pune's Khed taluka has been identified.



## India's 1st Ever GI-Tagged Kashmir Carpets Flagged Off To Germany :-

The government of Jammu and Kashmir has finally launched a Geographical Indication (GI) registry for the famous Kashmiri carpet, complete with a QR code and information on the artisans and materials used. From New Delhi, the first consignment of GI-tagged carpets was shipped to Germany. The Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) held a seminar in New Delhi in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom to raise awareness about the GI registration of authentic Kashmir carpets.



## Karnataka Govt Developed Dishaank App To Ensure Easy Access To Land Records :-

To make land records more accessible to the public the Karnataka government has launched the 'Dishank App'. This app could be useful in the government of

Karnataka's ambitious Bhoomi Project, which aims to digitise "all land records." It was created as part of the 'Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Center's Geographic Information System (GIS) programme (KRSRAC). All relevant information about the land will be made available, including the name of the landowner, land ownership and type, the extent and category of the land, the status of any legal dispute or active transaction (loan), and so on.



### 35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela Begins In Haryana :-

The 35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela was inaugurated by Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatraya and Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. During the inaugural session, Dattatraya emphasised the importance of art and crafts in the advancement of civilization and culture in his address. The 35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2022 features Jammu and

Kashmir as the 'Theme State,' showcasing the state's unique culture and rich heritage through various art forms and handicrafts. Jammu and Kashmiri artists will perform a variety of folk arts and dances.



### 'Ishan Manthan' Festival Organised In New Delhi :-

G Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Culture, has inaugurated the three-day mega cultural event 'Ishan Manthan' in Delhi, which celebrates the culture and arts of the north-eastern region. Concerning the development of north-east India, the minister stated that the Union government is spearheading a number of development projects in the region. In addition to spending Rs 1 lakh crore on the rail network and Rs 55 lakh crore on the road network in the northeast, Prime Minister Narendra Modi established a "political network" with regional parties to ensure smooth governance and development of the states.

## 18: Summits & Conferences



### G Kishan Reddy inaugurate a conference on Indian temple architecture 'Devayatanam' :-

The Union Minister for Culture, Tourism Shri G Kishan Reddy inaugurated the conference on Indian temple architecture 'Devayatanam'. Speaking at the event, the Union minister Shri G. K Reddy said that temples are the symbol of India's culture and way of life. He said that the



country's rich tangible and intangible cultural heritage needs to be celebrated and protected and the conference provides a platform to discuss, deliberate and disseminate to the world the grandeur of Indian temples, art and architecture.



### **“Industry Connect 2022” Inaugurated By Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya :-**

Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated a seminar-Industry Connect 2022, Industry and Academia Synergy in New Delhi. The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals in association with Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has organized this seminar. During the seminar, two technical sessions was organised on various issues.



### **Japan And India Renews The Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) :-**

India and Japan have renewed bilateral swap arrangement under which the two countries can swap their local currencies in exchange for the US Dollar, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said. "Japan and India renewed the Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) effective today (Feb. 28, 2022)," RBI said in a statement. The Bank of Japan, acting as agent for the Minister of Finance of Japan, and the Reserve Bank of India signed the Amendment and Restatement Agreement of the BSA, it said. The BSA is a two-way arrangement where both authorities can swap their local currencies in exchange for the US Dollar. The size of the BSA remains unchanged, that is, up to 75 billion US Dollars.



### **19th Military Cooperation Meet Of India & US Held In Agra :-**

The two-day meeting of 19th edition of India-US Military Cooperation Group MCG concluded in Agra, Uttar Pradesh on 01 March. The meeting was co-chaired by Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee CISC Air Marshal BR Krishna from the Indian side and Deputy Commander, US Indo-Pacific Command Lieutenant General Stephen D Sklenka from the US side. A Defence Ministry statement said, the discussions focussed on strengthening the ongoing defence engagements between the two sides and mulled



on new initiatives under the ambit of existing cooperation mechanism.



### **IIT Madras And NIOT Conduct OCEANS 2022 For The First Time :-**

Indian Institute of Technology Madras and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, has organized the OCEANS 2022 Conference and Exposition, the Bi-annual event for Global Marine Researchers, technologists and engineers, students, and policymakers, from February 21-24, 2022. This conference was organized in India for the first time and coordinated by the Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras. They organized the event on behalf of the Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Ocean Engineering Society (IEEE OES) and Marine Technology Society (MTS). The Conference was held in Hybrid Mode.



### **MEA Unveils Special Logo For 75 Years Of Indo-Dutch Diplomatic Relation :-**

This year India and the Netherlands are commemorating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. To mark the occasion, Shri Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs and Mr Marten van den Berg, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to India released a joint logo on 2 March 2022. The logo features a lotus and a tulip – the national flowers of both countries. The chakra in the middle of the logo depicts the bond of our friendship and the flag colours enhance the connections that exist between the people of India and people of the Netherlands. To celebrate the 75th anniversary, a large number of events and activities are planned during the year in a wide range of areas of cooperation including water, agriculture, innovation, energy, climate and culture.



### **India & International Telecommunication Union Sign Host Country Agreement :-**

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Communications and H.E. Houlin Zhao, Secretary General of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) signed the Host Country Agreement (HCA) for the establishment of an Area Office & Innovation Centre of ITU in New Delhi on 3rd March 2022. International Telecommunication Union is the United Nations specialised agency for information and communication technologies – ICTs. ITU currently has a membership of 193 countries and over 900 private-sector entities and

academic institutions. The Area Office and Innovation Centre of ITU at New Delhi is expected to serve South Asian countries namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India.



### Minister Of Electronics & IT Inaugurates Tech Conclave 2022 :-

A two-day event 3rd edition of 'NIC Tech Conclave 2022' that was organized by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 3rd & 4th March 2022 was inaugurated by Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Railways and Communications, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw. National Informatics Centre (NIC) organized the #TechConclave2022 focused on Emerging Technologies applicable especially in e-Governance, with the theme – "Next Gen Technologies for Digital Government".



### Mobile World Congress 2022 Held In Barcelona :-

Mobile World Congress 2022 the largest mobile technology event of the year was held in Barcelona. The MWC 2022 began Monday, February 28 and concluded

on Thursday, March 3, 2022. At the event, leading smartphone brands in the world such as Samsung, OnePlus and Google has showcase their upcoming devices and new technologies. MWC Barcelona is the world's most influential event for the connectivity industry. It's where world-leading companies and trailblazers share the latest thought leadership about the progression and future of connectivity.



### Study In India Meet 2022 Inaugurated In Dhaka :-

On March 4, Dhaka hosted the two-day Study in India (SII) 2022 meeting. Dr Dipu Moni, Bangladesh's Education Minister, and Vikram Doraiswami, India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, both inaugurated at the event, which was organised by the High Commission of India. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Dipu Moni stated that educational exchanges between the two countries will help to strengthen the two countries' friendly relations. She stated that it is the responsibility of today's students to find solutions to common issues such as poverty that South Asian countries face.





## India Global Forum Annual Summit Held In Bengaluru :-

India Global Forum's (IGF) annual summit themed 'The New India Inc.' has brought together eminent faces of tech-driven disruption and those who have joined the unicorn club along with Union ministers, policymakers and global business leaders. The two-day event was hosted on March 7 and 8 in the city. This comes as the first-of-its-kind confluence, particularly after the incentives announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the budget. The IGF sessions are designed to form new goals and address critical global issues as well as act as an unmatched networking platform for young entrepreneurs, making the experience one of its kind.



Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises,  
Government of India

## MSME IDEA HACKATHON 2022 :-

Shri Narayan Rane, Union Minister for MSME, has launched the MSME Innovative Scheme (Incubation, Design, and IPR) as well as the MSME IDEA HACKATHON 2022. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Rane stated that MSMEs play an important role in Atmanirbhar Bharat. He claims that these programmes will assist entrepreneurs in launching new businesses. According to the ministry, the primary goal of the incubation scheme is to promote and support untapped creativity as well as the adoption of cutting-edge technologies in MSMEs seeking validation of their ideas at the proof-of-concept level.



## In Ahmedabad, PM Inaugurates The 11th Khel Mahakumbh :-

The 11th Khel Mahakumbh was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Sardar Patel stadium in Ahmedabad. Addressing the players in the stadium, PM Modi said, "Due to Corona, the Khel Mahakumbh was banned for two years. But the grandeur with which chief minister Bhupendrabhai Patel started this event filled the young players with renewed vigor." "From 'Startup India' to 'Stand Up India', from 'Make in India' to 'Vocal for Local', the youth of India have taken responsibility for every campaign of New India. Our young generation has proved India's potential, the PM said.



## ISRO Organized Young Scientist Programme "YUVIKA" For Students :-

Indian Space Research Organisation is organising a special programme for School Children called "Young Scientist Programme" "YUva Vigyani KARYAKRAM" , YUVIKA, to impart basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger students with a preference to rural areas. The programme is aimed at creating awareness about the



emerging trends in science and technology amongst the youngsters, who are the future building blocks of our nation. The programme aims to select 150 students across the country, who are studying in class IX as on March 01, 2022 in a school located within the territory of India. The programme is also expected to encourage more students to pursue in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) based research /career.



### **36th Edition Of The International Geological Congress Held In New Delhi :-**

"Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future" is the theme of the 36th International Geological Congress. The Indian National Science Academy, the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of Earth Sciences, and the Science Academies of Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka collaborated on the IGC. The IGCs, dubbed the "Olympics of Geosciences," are held every four years under the auspices of the International Union of Geological Congress (IUGS), the IGCs' Scientific Sponsor. 5000–7000 delegates from all over the world are expected to attend the three-day event.

# SECTION 2



# Practice Questions with Answers



**PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

**1. The 'New Frontiers' programme on renewable energy was organized by which of the following Ministry?**

- A) Union Ministry of Rural and Development
- B) Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- C) Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- D) Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare

**2. \_\_\_\_\_ countries joined hands to address marine pollution caused by plastic debris.**

- A) Singapore
- B) India
- C) Australia
- D) All of the above

**3. Which of the following country will host the G20 Summit in 2023?**

- A) Australia
- B) Canada
- C) India
- D) Saudi Arabia

**4. To help people to give up the use of tobacco the 'Quit Tobacco' application was launched by which of the following organisation?**

- A) World Health Organization
- B) United Nations Development Programme
- C) Tobacco Control Organization
- D) International Tobacco Organization

**5. India signed a Letter of Intent with which of the following country on new and renewable energy technology?**

- A) Australia
- B) France
- C) Germany
- D) The Maldives

**6. Which of the following Platforms invested \$200 million in the AI-driven lock-screen platform 'Glance'?**

- A) Paytm
- B) TATA
- C) Airtel
- D) Jio

**7. \_\_\_\_\_ was appointed as the first National Maritime Security Coordinator in the National Security Council Secretariat.**

- A) G Ashok Kumar
- B) Dinesh Sharma
- C) Karan Sing
- D) Satish Dhawan

**8. Who among the following was appointed as the Director on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?**

- A) Vinoth Kumar
- B) Sanjay Malhotra
- C) Manish Sharma
- D) Karambir Singh



**9. At the 17th Annual Banking Technology Conference and Awards which bank has bagged three awards?**

- A) Karnataka Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) Canara Bank
- D) Bank of Baroda

**10. To identify ideas to combat drug trafficking on the darknet around the world which initiative was launched by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)?**

- A) Darkathon 2022
- B) Decathlon 2022
- C) Deckathon 2022
- D) Hackathon 2022

**11. According to the State Bank of India (SBI) what is the GDP growth projection of India for FY22?**

- A) 8.5%
- B) 8.2%
- C) 8.8%
- D) 7.8%

**12. At the 17th annual IBA Banking Technology Awards which bank bagged six awards including the 'Best Technology Bank of the Year'?**

- A) Federal Bank
- B) IndusInd Bank
- C) Karur Vysya Bank
- D) South Indian Bank

**13. \_\_\_\_\_ countries air forces conducted a joint air exercise named 'Cope South 22'.**

- A) USA

- B) China
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Both (A) and (C)

**14. To ramp up the support for 'Tips' feature in India which payment platform has partnered with Twitter?**

- A) BharatPe
- B) PayPal
- C) Paytm
- D) PhonePe

**15. \_\_\_\_\_ was appointed as the Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women.**

- A) A. S. Kumari
- B) K. S. Lakshmi
- C) Santha Kumari
- D) Santhana Lakshmi

**16. To launch a unique nationwide MSME consumer education programme which organisation has partnered with TransUnion CIBIL?**

- A) Union Ministry of MSME
- B) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- C) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)
- D) Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)

**17. To accelerate environmental, social and governance (ESG) goals which company has partnered with TERI?**

- A) Vedanta
- B) Tata Power
- C) Reliance Retails

D) L&T

**18. Pralay Mondal was appointed by which of the following bank its Deputy Managing Director?**

- A) CSB Bank
- B) Federal Bank
- C) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- D) RBL Bank

**19. In February 2022 renowned \_\_\_\_\_ Sandhya Mukherjee passed away at the age of 90.**

- A) Actress
- B) Director
- C) Politician
- D) Singer

**20. When the World Day of Social Justice was observed?**

- A) 21 February
- B) 20 February
- C) 18 February
- D) 16 February

**21. To enhance anti-money laundering protection which company has partnered with Solidus Labs?**

- A) CoinDCX
- B) Huobi
- C) Paytm
- D) WazirX

**22. To promote electric vehicle adoption in rural India which company has collaborated with CSC?**

- A) Ashok Leyland
- B) Ather Energy

C) Mahindra Electric

D) Tata Motors

**23. Manika Batra was appointed as the brand ambassador of which of the following company?**

- A) Jio
- B) Airtel
- C) Adidas
- D) TATA

**24. Emmo Terho of which country was re-elected as the Chair of the International Olympic Committee's Athletes' Commission?**

- A) The Republic of Korea
- B) Russia
- C) France
- D) Finland

**25. Who among the following was appointed as the Director of the Institute of Economic Growth?**

- A) Arun Sinha
- B) Chetan Ghate
- C) Ramesh Kumar
- D) Vinay Singh

**26. 'Janbhagidari Empowerment' portal with higher bandwidth was hosted by which of the following States/UTs?**

- A) Andaman and Nicobar
- B) Himachal Pradesh
- C) Jammu & Kashmir
- D) West Bengal

**27. India will hold the joint seminars on attracting Hydrogen investments with which of the following country?**

- A) Canada
- B) France
- C) Germany
- D) Japan

**28. A \$68 million loan agreement for IIFL Home Finance was approved by which of the following organisation?**

- A) Asian Development Bank
- B) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- C) International Monetary Fund
- D) World Bank

**29. In Jodhpur, Rajasthan which of the following bilateral air force exercise was held between India and Oman begins?**

- A) Dharma Guardian-IV
- B) Eastern Bridge-VI
- C) Garuda Shakti -III
- D) Nomadic Elephant-II

**30. \_\_\_\_\_payments bank became the official acquiring partner for the Union government's e-RUPI services.**

- A) Paytm Payments Bank
- B) India Post Payment Bank
- C) Fino Payments Bank
- D) Airtel Payment Bank

**31. Who among the following was appointed as the new ombudsman of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC)?**

- A) Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- B) Pardeep Kumar Bhardwaj
- C) Mukesh Kumar Surana
- D) Dinesh Kumar Khara

**32. Who among the following won the 'Best Actor' award in the 2022 Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards?**

- A) Akshay Kumar
- B) Rajkummar Rao
- C) Ranveer Singh
- D) Sidharth Malhotra

**33. Who among the following won the 'Best Actress' award in the 2022 Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards?**

- A) Alia Bhatt
- B) Anushka Sharma
- C) Deepika Padukone
- D) Kriti Sanon

**34. Under the Jal Jeevan mission which state's Chamba district became the 100th district covered by the 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme?**

- A) Odisha
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Himachal Pradesh
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

**35. Naval air defence system named 'C-Dome' was successfully test-fired by which of the following country?**

- A) Russia
- B) Japan



- C) Israel
- D) Iran

**36. For easy access to get services for farmers on their mobile phones which IIT has launched the 'KISAN' mobile application?**

- A) IIT Guwahati
- B) IIT Kanpur
- C) IIT Madras
- D) IIT Roorkee

**37. \_\_\_\_\_ was appointed as the Chairman of the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG).**

- A) Saleem Badar
- B) K. N. Raghavan
- C) B. C. Cooray
- D) Asad Rauf

**38. Who among the following was appointed as the brand ambassador of Online Gaming app A23?**

- A) Siddharth Malhotra
- B) Shah Rukh Khan
- C) Rishabh Pant
- D) K. L. Rahul

**39. To boost digital payments acceptance infrastructure in Guwahati, Lucknow and Varanasi which company has partnered with SBI Payments?**

- A) American Express
- B) Mastercard
- C) Rupay
- D) VISA

**40. Kerala-based startup Agrima Infotech was acquired by which of the following company?**

- A) Reliance Retail
- B) JioMart
- C) BigBasket
- D) Big Bazaar

**41. Who among the following became the first women CEO of IKEA India?**

- A) Susanne Pulverer
- B) Ellyse Perry
- C) Beth Mooney
- D) Alyssa Healy

**42. Rakesh Sharma was re-appointed by which of the following bank as its MD and CEO for 3 years?**

- A) Bandhan Bank
- B) Federal Bank
- C) IDBI Bank
- D) RBL Bank

**43. A new book titled 'A Nation To Protect' was written by which of the following author?**

- A) Amitav Ghosh
- B) Jeet Thayil
- C) Priyam Gandhi Mody
- D) Shashi Tharoor

**44. India's first e-waste eco-park is set to be built in which of the following state?**

- A) Assam
- B) Gujarat
- C) Delhi

D) Maharashtra

**45. 'Bhasha Certificate Selfie' campaign was launched by which of the following union ministry?**

- A) Union Ministry of Culture
- B) Union Ministry of Education
- C) Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- D) Union Ministry of Tourism

**46. To develop hydropower projects India has agreed to form a Joint Hydro Development Committee with which of the following country?**

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Bhutan
- C) Myanmar
- D) Nepal

**47. Who among the following was appointed as the Vice President of operations at Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)?**

- A) Smita Sabharwal
- B) Muslehuddin Ahmad
- C) Junaid Kamal Ahmad
- D) Jayant Deshmukh

**48. \_\_\_\_\_ was elected as the Chairman of the National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India (NCDFI) board.**

- A) Sudhaker Shukla
- B) Navrang Saini
- C) Mukulita Vijayawargiya
- D) K. S. Mani

**49. Former Vice-Chairman of \_\_\_\_\_ Bhushan Patwardhan was appointed as the Chairperson of the NAAC executive committee.**

- A) University Grants Commission
- B) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- C) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority
- D) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

**50. Tan Kim Her of the which country was appointed as India's badminton doubles coach till the 2026 Asian Games.**

- A) Australia
- B) China
- C) Malaysian
- D) Japan

**51. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone of 46 National Highway Projects at which of the following states?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Kerala
- D) Karnataka

**52. To save Indian citizens from Ukraine which mega mission was launched by the Indian Government?**

- A) Operation Tridev
- B) Operation Vayu
- C) Operation Ganga
- D) Operation Yamuna

**53. To fulfill the government's ambitions of a carbon-neutral economy which company has signed an MoU with HPCL?**

- A) Solar Energy Corporation of India
- B) Power Grid Corporation of India
- C) NLC India Limited
- D) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited

**54. World's first plant-based COVID-19 Vaccine 'Covifenz' was approved by which of the following country?**

- A) Switzerland
- B) Canada
- C) Germany
- D) France

**55. \_\_\_\_\_ will host the International Monsoons Project Office.**

- A) IIT Kanpur
- B) IIT Madras
- C) IIT Mandi
- D) IITM Pune

**56. Legendary cricket player Sonny Ramadhin of which country has passed away in March 2022?**

- A) Australia
- B) New Zealand
- C) South Africa
- D) West Indies

**57. In the 2022 Mexican Open Championship held in Acapulco, Mexico who won the men's singles title?**

- A) Cameron Norrie
- B) Daniil Medvedev
- C) Matteo Berrettini

- D) Rafael Nadal

**58. When the World Civil Defence Day was observed?**

- A) 03 March
- B) 01 March
- C) 28 February
- D) 27 February

**59. At the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi Who among the following has inaugurated the 'Arogya Vanam'?**

- A) Venkaiah Naidu
- B) Ram Nath Kovind
- C) Nirmala Sitharaman
- D) Narendra Modi

**60. \_\_\_\_\_ international airport became power-positive with a 12 MW solar plant.**

- A) Cochin International Airport
- B) Indira Gandhi International Airport
- C) Kempegowda International Airport
- D) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport

**61. Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of Skoda Auto Volkswagen India?**

- A) Piyush Arora
- B) Gurpratap Boparai
- C) Christian Schenk
- D) Christian Cahn von

**62. Saurabh Chaudhary won the gold medal in \_\_\_\_\_ event in the 2022 ISSF World Cup held in Cairo.**

- A) 50 m air pistol
- B) 45 m air pistol



- C) 25 m air pistol
- D) 10 m air pistol

**63. Which country will host the 31st Southeast Asian Games in 2022?**

- A) Brunei
- B) Singapore
- C) Thailand
- D) Vietnam

**64. At the Para World Championships \_\_\_\_\_ become the first Indian to win a silver medal in the recurve individual event.**

- A) Avani Lekhara
- B) Pooja Jatyan
- C) Rubina Francis
- D) Singhraj

**65. Sadia Tariq of which Indian state/union territory has won the gold medal at the Moscow Wushu Stars Championship?**

- A) Lakshadweep
- B) Jammu and Kashmir
- C) Himachal Pradesh
- D) Haryana

**66. To provide loans over four lakh village-level entrepreneurs which finance company has partnered with CSC?**

- A) Edelweiss Housing Finance
- B) IIFL Finance
- C) LIC Housing Finance Limited
- D) Muthoot Financial Services

**67. To launch a co-branded contactless credit card on the RuPay network which of the following bank has partnered with Yatra and NPCI?**

- A) IndusInd Bank
- B) Master Card
- C) RBL Bank
- D) SBI Card

**68. \_\_\_\_\_ was appointed as the MD and CEO of LIC Mutual Funds.**

- A) Vineet Chopra
- B) T. S. Ramakrishnan
- C) Sanjay Gupta
- D) M. Manoj Ahuja

**69. Who among the following was appointed as the brand ambassador of the edtech platform UpGrad?**

- A) Alia Bhatt
- B) Amitabh Bachchan
- C) Shah Rukh Khan
- D) Siddharth Malhotra

**70. 'Stree Manoraksha' project was launched by which of the following union minister?**

- A) Union Minister for Women and Child Development
- B) Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment
- C) Union Minister for MSME
- D) Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare

**71. \_\_\_\_\_ became the first depository in India with 60 million active demat accounts.**

- A) Bombay Stock Exchange
- B) Central Depository Services Limited

- C) Multi Commodity Exchange
- D) National Securities Depository Limited

**72. To launch co-branded credit card which of the following bank has partnered with Indian Oil?**

- A) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) Axis Bank

**73. \_\_\_\_\_ was appointed as the brand ambassador of Bharti Axa Life Insurance.**

- A) Alia Bhatt
- B) Amitabh Bachchan
- C) Siddharth Malhotra
- D) Vidya Balan

**74. Who among the following was appointed as the CEO of Jet Airways?**

- A) Bhushan Patwardhan
- B) Rakesh Sharma
- C) Sanjiv Kapoor
- D) T. N. Manoharan

**75. Who among the following bags the National Women's Chess Championship 2022?**

- A) Divya Deshmukh
- B) Harika Dronavalli
- C) Koneru Humpy
- D) Soumya Swaminathan

**76. To jointly promote solar rooftop panels in rural India which company has partnered with Smart Power India?**

- A) Adani Solar

- B) L&T
- C) Solar Energy Corporation of India
- D) Tata Power

**77. For digital transformation business strategies which of the following companies has partnered with Google Cloud?**

- A) Vedanta Group
- B) Tata Group
- C) Tata Consultancy Services
- D) Mahindra Group

**78. For improving Indian healthcare infrastructure which of the following banks has signed an MoU with IPE Global?**

- A) ICICI Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) Federal Bank
- D) Axis Bank

**79. Who among the following was appointed as the new CEO of Navi Mutual Fund?**

- A) Hari Shyamsunder
- B) Rakesh Sharma
- C) Sanjeev Sanyal
- D) Saurabh Jain

**80. Legendary, cricketer Rod Marsh of which country has passed away in March 2022?**

- A) Australia
- B) England
- C) South Africa
- D) Zimbabwe

**81. What is the name of India's first indigenous flying trainer which has successfully completed sea-level trials this year?**

- A) BrahMos
- B) HANSA-NG
- C) Prithvi
- D) SSBN-NG

**82. Who among the following was appointed as the new Chairperson of the TDSAT?**

- A) Sanjay Malhotra
- B) Manish Sharma
- C) Karambir Singh
- D) D. N. Patel

**83. Which bank's former CEO Nitin Chugh was appointed by State Bank of India as its Deputy Managing Director?**

- A) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- B) ESAF Small Finance Bank
- C) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- D) AU Small Finance Bank

**84. \_\_\_\_\_ was appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.**

- A) Justice N. V. Ramana
- B) Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava
- C) Justice Dipak Misra
- D) Justice Akil Abdulhamid Kureshi

**85. A new book titled 'The Blue Book: A Writer's Journal' was authored by which of the following author?**

- A) Anita Desai

- B) Anirudh Suri
- C) Amitava Kumar
- D) Amish Tripathi

**86. 'Donate a Pension' scheme for the unorganised workers was launched by the Union Ministry of Labour Under which of the following scheme?**

- A) Deendayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojna
- B) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana
- C) Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Scheme
- D) Pradhan Mantri Sukanya Samridhi Yojana

**87. 'Aama Yojna' and 'Bahini' schemes was launched by which of the following state government?**

- A) Assam
- B) Bihar
- C) Odisha
- D) Sikkim

**88. Where did the 09th edition of Sri Lanka and India Naval Exercise 'SLINEX' was held?**

- A) Cuttack, Odisha
- B) Hyderabad, Telangana
- C) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- D) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

**89. To launch a co-branded credit card for subscribers of Airtel which bank has partnered with Bharathi Airtel?**

- A) Axis Bank
- B) Bank of Baroda
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) YES Bank



**90. At the 2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition who among the following was selected to represent India?**

- A) Aarushie Verma
- B) Bhavani Devi
- C) D. N. Patel
- D) Sanjay Malhotra

**91. Which among the following country recently became the world's most-sanctioned country?**

- A) Ukraine
- B) Russia
- C) Iraq
- D) Iran

**92. To bring educated women to the workforce the 'House Work Is Work' initiative was launched by which of the following bank?**

- A) State Bank of India
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) Bank of Baroda
- D) Axis Bank

**93. Former President of \_\_\_\_\_, Rafiq Tarar has passed away in March 2022 at the age of 92.**

- A) Bhutan
- B) India
- C) Nepal
- D) Pakistan

**94. 'Laxmi For Laxmi' an exclusive financial empowerment initiative was launched by which of the following mutual fund?**

- A) ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund

- B) HDFC Mutual Fund
- C) Baroda Mutual Fund
- D) Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund

**95. Syeda Rizwana Hasan of which country bags the 2022 US International Women of Courage Award?**

- A) Afghanistan
- B) Bangladesh
- C) India
- D) Pakistan

**96. India's first 100 per cent women-owned 'industrial park' was inaugurated at \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Hyderabad, Telangana
- B) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- C) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- D) Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu

**97. \_\_\_\_\_ country's police force has planned to adopt Yoga for stress management of its personnel.**

- A) Argentina
- B) Belgrade
- C) Canada
- D) Indonesia

**98. A virtual meeting of G7 Agriculture Ministers on food security was hosted by which of the following country?**

- A) Canada
- B) France
- C) Germany
- D) Italy

**99. For cooperation in science, technology and innovation India has signed an MoU with which of the following country?**

- A) Norway
- B) Singapore
- C) The Maldives
- D) Vietnam

**100. For bancassurance which insurance has partnered with Bharat Co-operative Bank?**

- A) United India Insurance Company
- B) Max Life Insurance Company
- C) Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company
- D) Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance

**101. \_\_\_\_\_ was appointed as the whole-time member of the SEBI?**

- A) Ashwani Bhatia
- B) Chetan Ghatge
- C) Manoj Gupta
- D) Vineet Joshi

**102. Who among the following bags the Grandisacchi Cattolica International Open chess tournament?**

- A) S. L. Narayanan
- B) R. Praggnanandhaa
- C) Magnus Carlsen
- D) Garry Kasparov

**103. Indian Railways' first 'Gati Shakti' cargo terminal was commissioned by which division of Eastern Railway?**

- A) Asansol Division

- B) Howrah Division
- C) Malda Division
- D) Sealdah Division

**104. 'Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa' scheme for tea workers was launched by which of the following state?**

- A) Assam
- B) Bihar
- C) Meghalaya
- D) Tripura

**105. India has held its 5th Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment with which of the following country?**

- A) Kenya
- B) France
- C) Canada
- D) Argentina

**106. Colgate-Palmolive India has appointed who among the following as its CEO?**

- A) A. S. Kumari
- B) Manish Sharma
- C) Prabha Narasimhan
- D) Ram Raghavan

**107. According to the V-Dem's Democracy Report 2022 what is the rank of India?**

- A) 101
- B) 93
- C) 88
- D) 78

**108. According to the London & Partners analysis of Dealroom.co investment data what is the rank of India for global investment in digital shopping?**

- A) First
- B) Second
- C) Third
- D) Fourth

**109. A new book titled 'Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times' was authored by which of the following author?**

- A) Abhinav Chandrachud
- B) Anirudh Suri
- C) George Bernard
- D) Preeti Shenoy

**110. A new book titled 'Role of Labour in India's Development' was launched by\_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Bhupendra Yadav
- B) Narayan Rane
- C) Narendra Modi
- D) Ramnath Kovind

**111. According to the latest CRISIL report what is the GDP growth projection of India for FY23?**

- A) 9.2%
- B) 8.5%
- C) 8.4%
- D) 7.8%

**112. 5% stake in National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) was acquired by which of the following bank?**

- A) Axis Bank

- B) Bank of Baroda
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) ICICI Bank

**113. \_\_\_\_\_ was appointed as the chairperson of the High-Powered Committee on the Chardham project?**

- A) Arjan Kumar Sikri
- B) Pralay Mondal
- C) Ravi Chopra
- D) Sandhya Mukherjee

**114. According to the latest Fitch report what is the GDP growth projection of India for FY23?**

- A) 8.4%
- B) 7.9%
- C) 7.7%
- D) 10.3%

**115. Rakesh Joshi was appointed by which of the following organisation as its Whole-Time Member?**

- A) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
- B) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
- C) National Securities Depository Limited
- D) Securities and Exchange Board of India

**116. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 11th Khel Mahakumbh at \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Ahmedabad
- B) Indore
- C) Lucknow
- D) Surat



**117. India's first medical city named 'Indrayani Medicity' is planned to be set up at \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Mumbai
- D) Pune

**118. To build a solar power plant India has signed an agreement with which of the following country?**

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Bhutan
- C) Nepal
- D) Sri Lanka

**119. For the solarisation of CIPET academic campuses which organisation has signed an MoU with CIPET?**

- A) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- B) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)
- C) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)
- D) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

**120. In India Debt Resolution Company Limited (IDRCL) a 3% per cent stake was acquired by which of the following bank?**

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) State Bank of India
- D) UCO Bank

**121. India's first Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) was inaugurated at \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- B) Hyderabad, Telangana
- C) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- D) Bengaluru, Karnataka

**122. To work together in the 'aerospace domain' which organisation has signed an MoU with Sasmos?**

- A) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)
- B) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- C) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- D) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

**123. Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of Air India?**

- A) Vineet Joshi
- B) S. L. Narayanan
- C) N. Chandrasekaran
- D) A. S. Kumari

**124. Banshidhar Bhagat was appointed by which state as the Protem Speaker of its State Legislative Assembly?**

- A) Tripura
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Uttarakhand

**125. Who among the following was re-appointed as the MD and CEO of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance?**

- A) Nitin Paranjpe
- B) Ranjit Rath
- C) Shersingh Khyalia

D) Tapan Singhel

**126. Which state's former governor, Kumudben Joshi passed away at the age of 88?**

- A) Kerala
- B) Karnataka
- C) Arunachal Pradesh
- D) Andhra Pradesh

**127. In which sport, Pramod Bhagat won two silver medals and one bronze medal?**

- A) Archery
- B) Badminton
- C) Discuss Throw
- D) Table Tennis

**128. Who among the following was named as the ICC Women's Player of the Month for February 2022?**

- A) Alyssa Healy
- B) Amelia Kerr
- C) Kathryn Bryce
- D) Smriti Mandhana

**129. Who among the following was named as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for February 2022?**

- A) Suryakumar Yadav
- B) Shreyas Iyer
- C) Rishabh Pant
- D) Mushfiqur Rahim

**130. When the National Vaccination Day was observed in India?**

- A) 17 March
- B) 16 March

C) 15 March

D) 12 March

**131. Payments technology startup IZealiant Technologies was acquired by which of the following company?**

- A) Mobikwik
- B) Paytm
- C) PayU
- D) Razorpay

**132. The newly developed solid booster stage SS1 was successfully tested by which of the following space agency?**

- A) European Space Agency (ESA)
- B) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
- C) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- D) SpaceX

**133. Who among the following was appointed as the CEO of Flipkart Health+?**

- A) T. N. Manoharan
- B) Sanjeev Sanyal
- C) Rakesh Sharma
- D) Prashant Jhaveri

**134. IFR Asia's Asian Bank of the Year and India Bond House Award bags by which of the following bank?**

- A) ICICI Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) Bank of Baroda
- D) Axis Bank

**135. According to the latest report of Bloomberg what is the rank of India in terms of market capitalisation?**

- A) 6th
- B) 5th
- C) 4th
- D) 3<sup>rd</sup>

**136. Karolina Bielawska of which country was crowned Miss World 2021?**

- A) Poland
- B) Norway
- C) Hungary
- D) Finland

**137. To boost fintech startups which of the following IIT has partnered with RBI Innovation Hub?**

- A) IIT Kanpur
- B) IIT Madras
- C) IIT Mandi
- D) IIT Roorkee

**138. To use agricultural waste as biomass which company has signed an MoU with Punjab Renewable Energy Systems?**

- A) Dalmia Cement
- B) India Cements
- C) JSW Cement
- D) Ramco Cements

**139. For women entrepreneurs Mahila Money and Transcorp jointly launched the 'Mahila Money Prepaid Card' with which of the following company?**

- A) American Express

- B) Mastercard
- C) Rupay
- D) VISA

**140. 51% equity in Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu power DISCOMs was acquired by which of the following company?**

- A) Adani Group
- B) Mahadiscom
- C) Power Grid Corporation of India
- D) Torrent Power

**141. \_\_\_\_\_ become the first South Asian city to detail a net-zero carbon emission roadmap.**

- A) Pune
- B) New Delhi
- C) Mumbai
- D) Lucknow

**142. Mahatma Gandhi's 'Green Triangle' was inaugurated at\_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) Antananarivo, Madagascar
- B) London, The United Kingdom
- C) Nairobi, Kenya
- D) Sydney, Australia

**143. What is the upper limit of UPI Lite payment transaction launched by NPCI?**

- A) ₹ 1,000
- B) ₹ 500
- C) ₹ 200
- D) ₹ 100



**144. An Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre in Hyderabad, Telangana will set up by which of the following bank?**

- A) Bank of Baroda
- B) DBS Bank
- C) State Bank of India
- D) Union Bank of India

**145. According to the latest Moody's report what is the GDP growth projection of India for CY22?**

- A) 9.1%
- B) 8.5%
- C) 8.4%
- D) 7.8%

**146. A \$ 1 billion credit facility to Sri Lanka was announced by which of the following bank?**

- A) Axis Bank
- B) SBI
- C) Karnataka Bank
- D) RBL Bank

**147. To support companies in the Indo–French corridor which bank has signed an MoU with Business France?**

- A) Union Bank of India
- B) State Bank of India

- C) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- D) HDFC Bank

**148. To foster digital empowerment of women in India which company has partnered with the US Agency for International Development (USAID)?**

- A) American Express
- B) Mastercard
- C) Microsoft
- D) VISA

**149. In Goa Union Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar has commissioned 5th Offshore Patrol Vessel named Saksham.**

- A) ICGS Shoor
- B) ICGS Sarathi
- C) ICGS Samarth
- D) ICGS Saksham

**150. Artemis I Moon mission was launched by which of the following space agency?**

- A) European Space Agency (ESA)
- B) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- C) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- D) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

**ANSWERS****1. Correct Answer: B**

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has organized a program on renewable energy (RE) called New Frontiers.

**2. Correct Answer: D**

India, Australia, Singapore joined hands to address marine pollution caused by plastic debris.

**3. Correct Answer: C**

India will assume the G20 Presidency on December 1, 2022, from Indonesia and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in India in 2023.

**4. Correct Answer: A**

The World Health Organization has launched 'Quit Tobacco App' to help people to give up the use of tobacco.

**5. Correct Answer: A**

India and Australia has signed a Letter of Intent on New and Renewable Energy Technology.

**6. Correct Answer: D**

Glance, a leading AI-driven lock-screen platform, announced that it has agreed to raise US\$200 million from Jio Platforms (Jio).

**7. Correct Answer: A**

India has appointed Vice Admiral (retd) G Ashok Kumar as India's first national maritime security coordinator

**8. Correct Answer: B**

The Centre government has nominated Sanjay Malhotra as a Director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

**9. Correct Answer: A**

Karnataka Bank has bagged three awards at the 17th Annual Banking Technology Conference and Awards: 2020-21.

**10. Correct Answer: A**

Narcotics Control Bureau, NCB, is organising in New Delhi the Darkathon -2022 to find solutions to counter drug trafficking through darknet across the globe.

**11. Correct Answer: C**

State Bank of India (SBI) Research Report, Ecowrap, has revised downwards the gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of India for FY22 (2021-22) to 8.8 percent. Earlier this was estimated at 9.3 per cent.

**12. Correct Answer: D**

At IBA's 17th Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021 South Indian Bank has won 6 awards Including Best Technology Bank of the Year.

**13. Correct Answer: D**

The air forces of Bangladesh and the United States conducted a joint tactical airlift exercise 'Cope South 22'.

**14. Correct Answer: C**

Twitter Inc said that it partnered with Paytm's payment gateway to ramp up the support for its 'Tips' feature in India.

**15. Correct Answer: A**

A.S. Kumari has been named the Chairperson of the recently reconstituted Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women.

**16. Correct Answer: C**

TransUnion CIBIL has partnered with FICCI to launch a unique nationwide MSME consumer education programme for spreading awareness about credit management.

**17. Correct Answer: A**

Vedanta said it has signed a pact with TERI to accelerate its Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals.

**18. Correct Answer: A**

CSB Bank said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Pralay Mondal as the bank's deputy managing director for three years.

**19. Correct Answer: D**

Legendary Bengali singer, Sandhya Mukherjee has passed away at the age of 90 years due to cardiac arrest.

**20. Correct Answer: B**

The United Nations' (UN) World Day of Social Justice is annually observed on February 20 to encourage people to look at how social justice affects poverty eradication.

**21. Correct Answer: A**

CoinDCX has partnered with Solidus Labs to enhance anti-money laundering protection.

**22. Correct Answer: C**

Mahindra Electric Mobility Ltd (MEML) has collaborated with a government organisation called Common Service Centres (CSC) in order to promote the adoption of electric vehicles in rural India.

**23. Correct Answer: C**

Table Tennis player, Manika Batra was named as the brand ambassador of Adidas.

**24. Correct Answer: D**

International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission re-elected ice hockey player Emma Terho of Finland as its Chair.

**25. Correct Answer: B**

The Institute of Economic Growth has appointed Chetan Ghate as its new director.

**26. Correct Answer: C**

Jammu and Kashmir: Govt hosted 'Janbhagidari Empowerment' portal with higher bandwidth for its easy, ready accessibility to public.

**27. Correct Answer: D**

India and Japan will hold joint seminars on attracting Hydrogen investments.

**28. Correct Answer: A**

IIFL Home Finance has signed a USD 68 million loan with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve funding for affordable green housing for low-income groups in India.

**29. Correct Answer: B**

The Indo-Oman exercise, Eastern Bridge-VI (2022) was successfully conducted at Air Force Station Jodhpur from 21 to 25 February 2022.

**30. Correct Answer: A**

Paytm Payments Bank said that it had become an official acquiring partner for the government's e-RUPI vouchers initiative.



**31. Correct Answer: B**

Delhi's power regulator DERC has appointed Delhi Police's former Special Commissioner Pardeep Kumar Bhardwaj as its ombudsman.

**32. Correct Answer: C**

Ranveer Singh bags 'Best Actor' award in the 2022 Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards.

**33. Correct Answer: D**

Kriti Sanon bags 'Best Actress' award in the 2022 Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards for film Mimi.

**34. Correct Answer: C**

Chamba, an Aspirational District of Himachal Pradesh has become the 100th 'Har Ghar Jal' District.

**35. Correct Answer: C**

C-Dome is the naval version of the Iron Dome, an all-weather air defence system of Israel to intercept and destroy short-range rockets and missiles, from the Gaza Strip.

**36. Correct Answer: D**

A mobile application 'KISAN' has been launched by IIT Roorkee for easy access to services for farmers on their mobile phones.

**37. Correct Answer: B**

Executive Director of the Indian Rubber Board, K.N. Raghavan has been elected the new Chairman of the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG).

**38. Correct Answer: B**

Online skill gaming company Head Digital Works has announced Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan as the brand ambassador of its Online Gaming app A23.

**39. Correct Answer: B**

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

**40. Correct Answer: C**

Tata Group-owned BigBasket has announced that it has acquired the enterprise business unit of a deep-tech company Agrima Infotech in a bid to revolutionize offline retail.

**41. Correct Answer: A**

IKEA has announced appointment of Susanne Pulverer as the new CEO of IKEA India.

**42. Correct Answer: C**

Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has given approval to re-appoint Rakesh Sharma as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of its bank.

**43. Correct Answer: C**

Priyam Gandhi Mody has authored a new book titled 'A Nation To Protect'.

**44. Correct Answer: C**

The Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia has stated that Delhi will soon have the first e-waste eco park in India.

**45. Correct Answer: B**

Union Ministry of Education has launched a campaign titled 'Bhasha Certificate Selfie'. The aim of this campaign is to promote the Bhasha Sangam mobile app.

**46. Correct Answer: D**

Nepal and India have agreed to form a Joint Hydro Development Committee to further explore the development of viable hydropower projects in the Himalayan nation.

**47. Correct Answer: C**

Junaid Kamal Ahmad was appointed as the Vice President of operations at Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

**48. Correct Answer: D**

K S Mani, chairman, Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (KCMMF), has been elected to the board of directors of the National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India (NCDFI).

**49. Correct Answer: A**

Pune-based leading academician and former vice-chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Dr Bhushan Patwardhan has been appointed as the Chairperson of the NAAC executive committee.

**50. Correct Answer: C**

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has approved the appointment of ace Malaysian badminton coach, Tan Kim Her, as India's Doubles Coach till the Asian Games in 2026.

**51. Correct Answer: D**

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated and laid foundation stone of 46 National Highway (NH) projects in the state of Karnataka.

**52. Correct Answer: C**

'Operation Ganga' is the initiative launched by the government of India to bring back Indians stranded in Ukraine.

**53. Correct Answer: A**

In order to realize green energy objectives and the government's efforts towards a carbon-neutral economy, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI).

**54. Correct Answer: B**

Canada has approved the use of Covifenz, the world's first plant-derived Covid-19 vaccine.

**55. Correct Answer: D**

The International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) will be hosted at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune.

**56. Correct Answer: D**

Legendary West Indies spinner Sonny Ramadhin, who was a part of the team that won its first away series in England in 1950, has died at the age of 92.

**57. Correct Answer: D**

Rafael Nadal defeated Cameron Norrie in the final, 6–4, 6–4 to win the singles title at the 2022 Mexican Open.

**58. Correct Answer: B**

World Civil Defence Day is observed on March 1 annually, across the world.

**59. Correct Answer: B**

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated a newly developed 'Arogya Vanam' at the President's Estate, (Rashtrapati Bhavan) in New Delhi.

**60. Correct Answer: A**

The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) is set to commission a 12 MWp solar power plant near Payyannur in Kannur district of Kerala. With the commissioning of the new solar power plant, CIAL will get the status as a power positive airport, from its current status of being a power-neutral airport.

**61. Correct Answer: C**

Skoda Auto Volkswagen India has appointed Christian Schenk as the new Chairman.

**62. Correct Answer: D**

India ace shooter Saurabh Chaudhary beat German's Micheal Schwald in the gold medal match of the 10m air pistol event to win India's first medal at the ISSF World Cup in Cairo.

**63. Correct Answer: D**

The 31st Southeast Asian Games will be held in Vietnam from May 12 to 23, 2022.

**64. Correct Answer: B**

Pooja Jatyan became the first Indian para-archer to win a silver medal in an individual event at the World Championships in Dubai, UAE on 27 February 2022.

**65. Correct Answer: B**

Indian Wushu player Sadia Tariq from Jammu and Kashmir has won a gold medal in the junior tournament at the Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022.

**66. Correct Answer: C**

LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LICHFL) and CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd (CSC) have entered in a strategic partnership to provide loans to citizens through CSC's network of over four lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs).

**67. Correct Answer: D**

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said that it has partnered with Yatra.com and SBI Card to launch a co-branded 'Yatra SBI Card' on the RuPay network, especially for travel enthusiasts.

**68. Correct Answer: B**

LIC Mutual Fund has announced the appointment of TS Ramakrishnan as its Managing Director & CEO.

**69. Correct Answer: B**

Amitabh Bachchan has been named as the official brand ambassador for edtech business UpGrad.

**70. Correct Answer: A**

Union Minister for Women & Child Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani has Launched "Stree Manoraksha Project".

**71. Correct Answer: B**

Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL) has become first depository to open 6 crore active demat accounts.

**72. Correct Answer: A**

Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited has announced a strategic partnership to launch the Indian Oil Kotak co-branded fuel credit card.

**73. Correct Answer: D**

Bharti Axa Life Insurance has announced the appointment of National Award-winning actress Vidya Balan as it's brand ambassador.

**74. Correct Answer: C**

Sanjiv Kapoor has been appointed as the CEO of Jet Airways.

**75. Correct Answer: A**



Divya Deshmukh has won the National Women's Chess Championship 2022.

**76. Correct Answer: A**

Smart Power India (SPI), the Indian subsidiary of Rockefeller Foundation, and Adani Solar have signed a non-financial and non-commercial memorandum of understanding (MoU) to encourage energy transition in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha.

**77. Correct Answer: D**

Mahindra group and tech giant Google Cloud has announced collaboration for digital transformation business strategies.

**78. Correct Answer: D**

Axis Bank said it has committed a \$150 million (about Rs 1,140 crore) loan for strengthening the healthcare infrastructure in the country in association with IPE Global, in the aftermath of the pandemic.

**79. Correct Answer: A**

Hari Shyamsunder has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Navi Mutual Fund.

**80. Correct Answer: A**

Legendary Australian wicketkeeper and former selector Rod Marsh passed away in March 2022.

**81. Correct Answer: B**

India's first indigenously developed Flying Trainer, 'HANSA-NG' has successfully completed the sea-level trials at Puducherry.

**82. Correct Answer: D**

The Central Government has appointed Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel, Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, as the

Chairperson of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

**83. Correct Answer: A**

State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed former Ujjivan Small Finance Bank CEO Nitin Chugh as its Deputy Managing Director (DMD).

**84. Correct Answer: B**

Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava was appointed as Acting Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court.

**85. Correct Answer: C**

Indian writer and journalist, Amitava Kumar has authored a new book titled 'The Blue Book: A Writer's Journal'.

**86. Correct Answer: C**

Recently, the Union Labour and Employment Ministry launched the 'Donate a Pension' scheme allowing any citizen to pay the premium amount on behalf of an unorganised worker under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Scheme.

**87. Correct Answer: D**

Sikkim CM Prem Singh Tamang announced that the state government will implement the 'Aama Yojna' for non-working mothers and Bahini scheme for girl students.

**88. Correct Answer: D**

The 9th edition of India – Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise named SLINEX (Sri Lanka–India Naval Exercise) was held at Visakhapatnam from 07 Mar to 10 Mar 2022.

**89. Correct Answer: A**

Bharti Airtel and Axis Bank has announced a collaboration for offering financial services, starting with

a co-branded credit card for subscribers of the telecom services company.

**90. Correct Answer: A**

Aarushie Verma, a national level shooter & National medalist, and an active environmentalist, has been selected to represent India at the 2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition to be held in March 2022.

**91. Correct Answer: B**

Russia has officially become the most sanctioned country in the world, surpassing Iran, Syria and North Korea.

**92. Correct Answer: D**

Axis Bank has launched 'House Work Is Work' initiative; to bring educated women to workforce.

**93. Correct Answer: D**

Rafiq Tarar, a veteran Pakistani politician and former Supreme Court judge who served as the country's President, passed away at the age of 92.

**94. Correct Answer: B**

HDFC Mutual Fund has launched a women-led financial empowerment initiative 'LaxmiForLaxmi' which will connect women investors to a woman financial expert near them through a unique missed call service.

**95. Correct Answer: B**

Bangladeshi environmental lawyer, Rizwana Hasan has been selected for the International Women of Courage (IWOC) Award for 2022.

**96. Correct Answer: A**

India's first 100% women-owned FLO industrial park was inaugurated in Hyderabad, Telangana.

**97. Correct Answer: A**

Argentina federal police will now effectively use technique of Yoga for stress management of its personnel.

**98. Correct Answer: C**

To discuss Russia-Ukraine conflict on Food Security a virtual meeting of G7 agriculture ministers was hosted by Germany.

**99. Correct Answer: B**

India has signed an MoU with Singapore for cooperation in science, technology and innovation.

**100. Correct Answer: D**

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI), the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), and Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd. has announced their bancassurance partnership.

**101. Correct Answer: A**

The government has appointed veteran banker Ashwani Bhatia as the whole-time member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

**102. Correct Answer: A**

Indian Grandmaster S.L. Narayanan has won Grandiscacchi Cattolica International Open Chess Tournament.

**103. Correct Answer: A**

Asansol Division of Eastern Railway has successfully commissioned Indian Railways' first 'Gati Shakti' cargo terminal.

**104. Correct Answer: D**

Tripura Government has announced a special scheme 'Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa' for tea workers.

**105. Correct Answer: C**

India and Canada held the 5th Ministerial Dialogue on Trade & Investment in New Delhi on March 11, 2022.

**106. Correct Answer: C**

Prabha Narasimhan has been appointed as the CEO and MD of Colgate-Palmolive (India) Limited.

**107. Correct Answer: B**

India ranked 93rd in the V-Dem's Democracy Report 2022.

**108. Correct Answer: B**

According to the London & Partners analysis of Dealroom.co investment data, India is the second-largest global venture capital investment hub for digital shopping companies, growing by a whopping 175 per cent from USD 8 billion in 2020 to USD 22 billion in 2021.

**109. Correct Answer: A**

A new biography, titled "Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times" was announced, during the occasion of the 92nd birth anniversary of Soli Sorabjee. It is authored by advocate Abhinav Chandrachud.

**110. Correct Answer: A**

Minister of Labour and Employment, Bhupender Yadav has launched a book titled "Role of Labour in India's Development".

**111. Correct Answer: D**

Research firm CRISIL has reiterated its December 2021 forecast of India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 7.8% for fiscal year 2022-2023.

**112. Correct Answer: D**

ICICI Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank have signed agreements to pick up stakes in National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL). While ICICI Bank will be investing Rs 137.5 crore to acquire a 5% stake, Punjab & Sind Bank will put in Rs 55 crore for a 2% stake.

**113. Correct Answer: A**

Former judge AK Sikri has been appointed by the Supreme Court to lead the High-Powered Committee for determining the effects of the Chardham project on the entire Himalayan valley.

**114. Correct Answer: D**

Fitch projects India's real GDP growth at a robust 8.4% in 2021-22 and 10.3% in the next fiscal year (FY23).

**115. Correct Answer: B**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Rakesh Joshi, former Executive Vice President and Group Head (Debt Capital Markets), State Bank of India Capital Markets, as Whole Time Member (Finance & Investment) in the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

**116. Correct Answer: A**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 11th Khel Mahakumbh at Sardar Patel stadium in Ahmedabad.

**117. Correct Answer: D**

The state government of Maharashtra has announced to set up the country's first medical city named as 'Indrayani Medicity' in Pune, to provide all kinds of specialised treatment under one roof.

**118. Correct Answer: D**

India and Sri Lanka have signed an agreement for developing a 100 megawatt solar power plant in the island nation's eastern port district of Trincomalee.



**119. Correct Answer: C**

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET), to provide its techno-financial expertise for solarization of CIPET campuses.

**120. Correct Answer: D**

UCO Bank has entered into an agreement to acquire 3% stake in India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL).

**121. Correct Answer: D**

The country's first Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) was launched in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

**122. Correct Answer: C**

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed an MoU with Bengaluru-based company SASMOS to work together in the 'aerospace domain'.

**123. Correct Answer: C**

Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran has been appointed the Chairman of Air India.

**124. Correct Answer: D**

Senior BJP MLA Banshidhar Bhagat was appointed as the protem speaker of the Uttarakhand Assembly.

**125. Correct Answer: D**

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has announced a five-year extension for its MD and CEO, Tapan Singhel.

**126. Correct Answer: D**

The former Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Kumudben Manishankar Joshi has passed away. She was 88.

**127. Correct Answer: B**

World No 1 Pramod Bhagat has won two silver and a bronze medal at the recently concluded Iberdrola Spanish Para-Badminton International 2022.

**128. Correct Answer: B**

New Zealand all-rounder Amelia Kerr bagged the ICC 'Women's Player of the Month' award for February 2022.

**129. Correct Answer: B**

Shreyas Iyer, the star India batter, has won the ICC 'Men's Player of the Month' for February 2022.

**130. Correct Answer: B**

The Government of India observes 16 March as National Vaccination Day to acknowledge and appreciate the hard work of frontline health care workers to ensure the vaccination of every child.

**131. Correct Answer: D**

Fintech unicorn, Razorpay has announced its 5th acquisition with the buyout of a startup, Izealiant Technologies, that provides payments technology solutions for banks.

**132. Correct Answer: B**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on 14th March 2022 successfully carried out the ground testing of the newly developed solid booster stage (SS1) for its new launch vehicle Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.

**133. Correct Answer: D**

Flipkart Health+ announced the appointment of Prashant Jhaveri as its new CEO.

**134. Correct Answer: D**

Axis Bank, India's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest private sector bank has been awarded IFR Asia's Asian Bank of the Year and India Bond House Award.

**135. Correct Answer: B**

As per Bloomberg's recent data on Market capitalization, for the 1st time, India's equities market has entered the world's top 5 in terms of market capitalization. India is ranked 5th with an overall market capitalization of USD 3.21 trillion.

**136. Correct Answer: A**

Karolina Bielawska from Poland has won the 70th edition of the Miss World pageant that took place in Puerto Rico.

**137. Correct Answer: B**

IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC) and RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost fintech startups.

**138. Correct Answer: C**

JSW Cement has signed an MoU with Punjab Renewable Energy Systems to use agricultural waste as biomass.

**139. Correct Answer: D**

To help women entrepreneurs easily collect payments, loans and get incentives for transactions, Mahila Money, Visa and Transcorp have teamed up to launch 'Mahila Money Prepaid Card'.

**140. Correct Answer: D**

Torrent Power has acquired 51% equity in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman, and Diu DISCOMs.

**141. Correct Answer: C**

Mumbai, India's largest city and financial centre, has set an ambitious goal and detailed plans to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

**142. Correct Answer: A**

Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle' has been unveiled in Antananarivo, Madagascar to mark Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

**143. Correct Answer: C**

₹ 200 is the upper limit of UPI Lite payment transaction launched by NPCI.

**144. Correct Answer: C**

The State Bank of India (SBI) will set up an Innovation, Incubation, and Acceleration Centre (IIAC) at Hyderabad, Telangana.

**145. Correct Answer: A**

Rating agency Moody's has revised downwards the economic growth forecast of India by 40 basis points to 9.1 per cent in the Calendar Year 2022 (CY22), due to adverse effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on the global economy.

**146. Correct Answer: B**

In an announcement on Twitter, the Ministry of Finance said: "Agreement was signed between SBI and Government of Sri Lanka for \$1 billion credit facility for procurement of food, medicine and other essential items to Sri Lanka."

**147. Correct Answer: C**

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd said it has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Business France, the French national agency in charge of the development of exports and international investments in

France, to support companies in the Indo-French corridor.

**148. Correct Answer: B**

US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Mastercard have partnered to foster digital empowerment of women in India.

**149. Correct Answer: D**

The fifth and final vessel of the 5 Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vehicle 'Saksham' was commissioned by Union Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar in Goa.

**150. Correct Answer: D**

Artemis I Moon mission was launched by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).



# SECTION 3



# Detailed Analysis of Important Events



## Economics

### Land protests over Deocha Pachami Coal Block



The West Bengal government's ambitious Deocha Pachami coal block mining project in Birbhum district has run into hurdles over land acquisition and other issues.

### Deocha Pachami Coal Block

- The state administration intends to begin mining at the Deocha Pachami coal block, which is the country's largest, with estimated reserves of 1,198 million tonnes of coal.
- It covers a total area of 12.31 square kilometres, or approximately 3,400 acres.
- In the project area, there are around 12 villages with a population of over 21,000 people, including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

### Why are locals upset?

- Protests have erupted over the project's land purchase, which includes a considerable amount of forest area.
- Locals, primarily Santhal tribals, have a strong connection to the land, forests, and waterways, and rely on them for their survival.
- The tribals were hounded and detained for demonstrating on bogus and serious charges.

- Furthermore, the project details have not yet been made public, and environmental approval is still pending.

### 'Stagflation' in India



Reports suggest that crude oil prices soared and touched almost \$140 per barrel mark amid Russian invasion of Ukraine. This has posed a risk of causing Stagflation in India.

### What is Stagflation?

- Stagflation is defined as a period of low growth with persistently high inflation. As a result, it defines a pretty unusual and unusual economic state.
- The phrase is said to have been created by Iain Macleod, a Conservative Party MP in the United Kingdom, during a speech on the UK economy in November 1965.
- In most cases, growing inflation occurs when an economy is booming: people are earning a lot of money, demanding a lot of products and services, and prices continue to rise as a result.
- Prices tend to stall when demand is low and the economy is in the doldrums, according to the contrary reasoning (or even fall).

- Stagflation, on the other hand, is a scenario in which an economy has the worst of both worlds: growth is mainly stagnate (along with rising unemployment), and inflation is not only high, but consistently so.

#### **How does one get into Stagflation?**

- The most well-known instance of stagflation occurred in the early and mid-1970s.
- The cartel-like OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) has resolved to reduce crude oil supply.
- Oil prices shot up by about 70% around the world as a result of this.
- This unexpected increase in oil prices not only increased inflation worldwide, particularly in Western economies, but also hampered their ability to produce, stifling their economic progress.
- Stagflation was caused by high inflation and stopped growth (along with the consequent unemployment).

#### **Is India facing stagflation?**

- This subject has gotten a lot of attention recently, especially since late 2019, when retail inflation soared due to unseasonal rainfall, which caused a spike in food inflation.
- In December 2019, the administration found it increasingly difficult to deny that India's growth rate was slowing over time.
- India's GDP growth rate has slowed from over 8% in 2016-17 to just 3.7 percent in 2019-20, according to updated estimates given in January.
- However, in December 2019, the answer to this question was a resounding no.

- For one thing, India's GDP was still increasing in absolute terms, albeit at a slower pace.

#### **Why this is a cause of concern?**

- Russia is the world's second-largest oil producer, and if its oil is kept out of the market due to sanctions, prices would not only spike, but will also stay that way for a long time.
- Although India is not directly involved in the conflict, it will be negatively impacted if oil prices continue to rise.
- More than 84 percent of India's entire oil needs is imported. At one level, this puts all the rhetoric about being Atmanirbhar into context (or self-reliant).
- India's economy would grind to a standstill without these imports, both symbolically and literally.

#### **Expected impact on Indian Economy**

- Increased inflation would deprive Indians of their purchasing power, lowering overall demand.
- To put it another way, individuals do not demand enough for the economy to grow quickly.
- India's largest growth engine is private consumer demand.
- The monetary sum of all the soaps, phones, automobiles, refrigerators, vacations, and other personal purchases that we all make makes for more than 55 percent of India's overall GDP.
- Increased prices will limit demand, which is already battling to return to pre-Covid levels.
- As a result of fewer goods and services being sought, firms will be less likely to invest in new capacity, exacerbating the unemployment issue and leading to further lower salaries.



## National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC)

**National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC)**

**Benefits:**

- NLMC will **undertake monetization of surplus land and building** assets of CPSEs and other Government agencies
- Will help generate substantial revenues by **monetizing unused and under-used assets**

The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of a new government-owned firm National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC) for pooling and monetizing sovereign and public sector land assets.

### What is NLMC?

- The National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC) would be established with a paid-up capital of 150 crore and an initial authorised share capital of 5,000 crore.
- The government will engage private sector experts and nominate a chairman to lead the NLMC through a "merit-based selection procedure."
- The National Land Management Corporation (NLMC) would monetize surplus land and building assets owned by Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and government organisations.

### How will it function?

- Surplus land and building assets of CPSEs undergoing closure, as well as surplus non-core land assets of Government-owned CPSEs undergoing strategic disinvestment, shall be owned, held, managed, and monetised by NLMC.
- The closure of CPSEs will be accelerated, and the strategic disinvestment of Government-owned CPSEs will be smoother, according to the statement.
- Surplus land asset monetisation will be an agency function for NLMC, and it will assist and provide technical assistance to the Centre in this regard.
- The NLMC board would be made up of top government officials and distinguished experts, with a merit-based selection process for the chairman and non-government directors, according to the announcement.
- The Corporation will employ a small number of full-time employees who will be hired on a contract basis from the market.

### Stipulated tasks

- Around 3,400 acres of land and other non-core assets have been referred for monetisation by CPSEs to the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).
- According to the latest statistics in the Economic Survey 2021-22, MTNL, BSNL, BPCL, BEML, and HMT are all in the process of monetizing non-core assets.

### Significance of NLMC

- By monetizing underused and under-utilized assets, the government would be able to gain significant cash.
- The new business will also assist in the monetization of assets belonging to public-

sector companies that have closed or are in the process of being sold strategically.

## Retail Inflation climbs to 6.07%



India's retail inflation inched up to an eight-month high of 6.07% in February from 6.01% in January, with rural India experiencing a sharper price rise at 6.38%.

### What is Retail Inflation?

- When we talk about retail inflation, we usually mean the rate of inflation calculated using the consumer price index (CPI).
- The CPI measures changes in the retail prices of goods and services that households buy on a daily basis.
- The CPI tracks retail prices at a specific level for a specific product, as well as price movement in rural, urban, and all-India areas.
- CPI-based inflation, often known as retail inflation, is the change in the price index over time.

### What is Consumer Price Index (CPI)?

- It is an index measuring retail inflation in the economy by collecting the change in prices of most common goods and services used by consumers.
- In India, there are four consumer price index numbers, which are calculated, and these are as follows:

- 1. CPI for Industrial Workers (IW)
  2. CPI for Agricultural Labourers (AL)
  3. CPI for Rural Labourers (RL) and
  4. CPI for Urban Non-Manual Employees (UNME).
- The Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation gathers and compiles CPI (UNME) data, while the Labour Bureau of the Ministry of Labour collects the other three.
- The CPI's base year is 2012.
- To compute CPI, divide the fraction of the current period's cost price by the base period's cost price.

### Significance of CPI

- CPI is commonly used as a macroeconomic measure of inflation, as a tool by the central bank and government for inflation targeting and price stability inspection, and as a deflator in national accounts.
- CPI also aids in determining the true worth of earnings, wages, and pensions, as well as the purchasing power of a country's currency and rate regulation.
- The CPI, which is one of the most essential statistics for determining economic health, is based on a weighted average of commodity prices.
- It essentially provides an estimate of the cost of living.

**Patent Rights on COVID-19 jabs may be waived.**



The World Trade Organization chief has hailed a breakthrough between the EU, the United States, India and South Africa on waiving intellectual property rights on Covid-19 vaccines.

**What is a Patent?**

- An invention is protected by a patent, which is an exclusive right awarded to the inventor.
- In other terms, a patent is an exclusive right to a product or a process that offers a novel technical solution to a problem or a new way of doing something.
- Technical information concerning the innovation must be given to the public in a patent application in order to get a patent.
- Other parties may be granted permission or granted a licence to exploit the innovation on mutually agreed terms by the patent owner.
- The owner of the patent may potentially sell the right to the invention to someone else, who will then become the patent's new owner.
- When a patent expires, the innovation enters the public domain, which means that anybody can economically utilise it without infringing on the patent.

**Terms of Patent**

- Patents can be granted for everything from a common kitchen utensil to a nanotechnology chip.

- A product – such as a chemical compound or a method – or a process for creating a specific chemical compound can constitute an innovation.
- Patent protection is provided for a set period of time, usually 20 years from the application's filing date.
- Patents are property rights that are limited to a certain geographical area. In general, exclusive rights are only valid in the nation or region where a patent has been filed and granted, and only in compliance with that country's or region's laws.

**Back in news: Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)**



The Union Home Ministry has placed a US based NGO on its watchlist following an investigation that foreign contributions it sent were being used for climate awareness campaigns, an activity not permissible under the FCRA [Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act].

**About Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)**

- The Foreign Contribution Control Act (FCRA) monitors foreign donations and ensures that they do not jeopardise national security.
- It was first implemented in 1976, but it was updated in 2010 with a plethora of new regulations governing foreign donations.



- The FCRA applies to all associations, groups, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) who want to receive foreign donations.
- The FCRA requires all such NGOs to register with the government.
- The registration is valid for five years at first, and it can be renewed if all requirements are met.

**Why was FCRA enacted?**

- The FCRA aimed to standardise the acceptance and use of foreign contributions and hospitality by individuals, associations, and businesses.
- It aimed to prevent such funds from being utilised for activities that were harmful to the national interest.

**What was the recent Amendment?**

- In September 2020, the FCRA was updated to add certain new restrictions.
- According to the government, it did so because it discovered that many recipients were failing to comply with regulations relating to annual returns and account management.
- Many of the monies received were not used for the stated purposes.
- Between 2010 and 2019, the yearly influx of foreign contributions nearly doubled, according to the report.
- 19,000 organisations had their FCRA registrations revoked, and in certain cases, criminal charges were filed.

**How has the law changed?**

There are at least three major changes that NGOs find too restrictive.

- Fund transfer prohibition: A change to Section 7 of the Act makes it illegal for an organisation to transfer foreign monies it receives to any other person or organisation.
- Another change specifies that anyone (or any association) who has been granted a certificate or previous approval to receive abroad monies must open an FCRA bank account in a designated SBI branch in New Delhi.
- Implementation of funds: Fund All international funds should be deposited into this account and nowhere else. The receivers, on the other hand, are free to open another FCRA bank account in any of the participating banks.
- Shared information: Any international remittance will be reported to authorities by the designated bank, together with information about its source and how it was received.
- The government is also authorised to collect the Aadhaar numbers of all key functionaries of any organisation that asks for FCRA registration or prior approval to receive foreign donations.
- Another change is that the amount of money that can be spent on administrative expenses has been decreased from 50 percent to 20 percent of total earnings.

**What is the criticism against these changes?**

- : NGOs questioning the law believe the prohibition on transfer is arbitrary and imposes an excessive burden.
- Non-funding of other organisations: One of the repercussions of this is that recipients are unable to fund other organisations. It is impossible to share foreign aid when it is received as material.
- Designated bank accounts are irrational: There is no rational link between designating a specific

branch of a bank and the goal of safeguarding national interest.

- It is also inconvenient because the NGOs may be functioning elsewhere due to the Delhi-based bank account.
- As the Supreme Court noted in the Pegasus Case, "national security" cannot be cited as a motive without enough grounds.

#### What does the Government say?

- The revisions were necessary to prevent foreign state and non-state entities from interfering with the politics and internal affairs of the country.
- Misconduct by NGOs and diversion of foreign funding: Changes are also required to prevent misbehaviour by NGOs and diversion of foreign donations.
- Fund flow monitoring: Having a single designated bank for receiving foreign cash makes it easier to keep track of the money flow.
- Ease of use: The government stated that no one needs to travel to Delhi to open an account because it can be done remotely.

#### BARC resumes ratings of news channels



The BARC India had temporarily suspended the viewership ratings of news channels in October 2020, amid the allegations of a Television Rating Point (TRP) scam. Now it has resumed the ratings.

#### What is TRP?

- Anyone who watches television for more than a minute is referred to be a viewer.
- The TRP, or Target Rating Point, is a measure that marketing and advertising organisations use to assess viewership.
- The Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) in India uses Bar-O-Meters implanted in televisions in chosen households to measure TRP.
- The BARC has put these metres in 44,000 homes across the country as of now. Prior to broadcast, audio watermarks are encoded in video material.
- These watermarks aren't audible to the human ear, but they're easy to spot and decode with the right apparatus and software.
- The watermarks are captured by the Bar-O-Meters in the same way that viewing details are.

#### What is BARC?

- The Indian Society of Advertisers, the Indian Broadcasting Foundation, and the Advertising Agencies Association of India represent the industry group, which is equally owned by advertisers, ad agencies, and broadcasting businesses.
- Despite the fact that it was founded in 2010, the I&B Ministry issued Policy Guidelines for Television Rating Agencies in India on January 10, 2014, and BARC was registered under these guidelines in July 2015 to conduct television ratings in India.

#### How are the households selected?

- A two-stage method is used to choose which families will have Bar-O-Meters installed.

- The Establishment Survey, a large-scale face-to-face survey of around 3 lakh families from the target demographic, is the first step. This is done once a year.
- The houses that will get Bar-O-Meters, or what the BARC refers to as the Recruitment Sample, are chosen at random from this group. BARC does not conduct fieldwork to recruit households directly.
- According to the BARC's website, the viewing habits of panel houses are reported to BARC India on a daily basis. Coincidental checks are carried out on a regular basis, either physically or over the phone.

**Vigilance activities by BARC**

- BARC India checks worrisome outliers on a case-by-case basis.
- BARC India also employs a special vigilance agency to investigate outliers it regards to be very suspicious.
- These homes rotate every year, according to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting standards.
- The panel is rotated in such a way that older panel homes are removed first while retaining the panel's representativeness.
- The Ministry's instructions further provide that the panel homes' secret and privacy must be preserved, and the BARC must adhere to a voluntary code of conduct.

**What are the loopholes in the process?**

- On numerous instances, questions concerning the TRP's operation have been raised.
- According to numerous statistics, advertising accounts for over 70% of television channel

revenue, while subscriptions account for only 30%.

- Households are said to have been paid to alter the TRP.

**Par Tapi Narmada River-Linking Project**



The tribals in Gujarat held a public meeting in Kaprada in Valsad district to protest against the Centre's Par Tapi Narmada (PTN) river-linking project.

**Par Tapi Narmada river-linking project**

- Under the old Union Ministry of Irrigation and the Central Water Commission, the PTN connection project was envisioned in the 1980 National Perspective Plan (CWC).
- The project intends to move river water from the Western Ghats' surplus regions to Saurashtra and Kutch's deficiency areas.
- It proposes to connect three rivers: the Par, which originates in Maharashtra and flows through Valsad; the Tapi, which originates in Saputara and flows through Maharashtra and



Surat in Gujarat; and the Narmada, which originates in Madhya Pradesh and flows through Maharashtra and Gujarat's Bharuch and Narmada districts.

### Components of the project

- Seven dams (Jheri, Mohankavchali, Paikhed, Chasmandva, Chikkar, Dabdar, and Kelwan), three diversion weirs, and two tunnels were built as part of the link.
- The Jheri dam is located in Nashik, while the other dams are located in the Valsad and Dang districts of South Gujarat.

### Centre's role

- On May 3, 2010, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and the federal government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- Gujarat would profit from the Par Tapi Narmada link project through en-route irrigation from the link canal and through substitution in the drought-prone Saurashtra Kutch region.

### Issues with the Project

- The projected reservoirs will drown around 6065 hectares of land.
- A total of 61 communities will be impacted, with one entirely drowned and the other 60 partially underwater.
- The overall number of families affected will be 2,509, with 98 families affected as a result of the construction of the Jheri reservoir, Maharashtra's only one, which is distributed across six villages.
- When the reservoirs are built, the affected families may lose their lands, residences, or both as a result of the submergence.

- Tribals who are afraid of displacement dominate the districts where the project will be implemented.

### Startup India Initiative and its Success



A research, reviewing India's entrepreneurial policy Startup India, affirmed its positive impact in reducing regional entrepreneurial disparities.

### Startup India Initiative

- The Startup India campaign was first announced by PM Modi during his speech on 15 August 2015 address from the Red Fort.
- The action plan for this initiative is focusing on three areas:
  1. Simplification and Handholding.
  2. Funding Support and Incentives.
  3. Industry-Academia Partnership and Incubation.
- Another aspect of this programme is the elimination of restrictive state government laws in this sector, including as the License Raj, Land Permissions, Foreign Investment Proposals, and Environmental Clearances.
- It was organised by the Department of Industry and Internal Trade Promotion (DPI&IT).

### Success of the scheme

- The Minister of Commerce and Industry told the Lok Sabha that over 65,000 startups have registered on the entrepreneurial portal.
- In the last twelve months, 40 of them have achieved 'unicorn' status, increasing the total to 90.
- India is now ranked third in the world for startup ecosystems.
- Startup India's networking, training, and mentorship services, as well as entrepreneurship outreach efforts in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, helped to solve India's regional entrepreneurial gaps.

## Limitations to its success

### (1) Heavy concentration in megacities

- Three megacities, namely Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Delhi NCR, continue to be "extremely concentrated" in terms of entrepreneurship.
- In and around these three locations, India's venture capital business is also concentrated.
- Such concentrations can exacerbate economic inequity and impede the emergence of entrepreneurs from industries outside of the clusters.

### (2) Narrow Representation

- The Startup India Action Plan document has no mention of the words 'caste', 'tribe', 'marginalised', 'indigenous' or 'social group'.
- Additionally, the policy's reliance on technology does not take into consideration India's digital

divide, especially with respect to urban and rural areas.

### (3) Few Women in the industry

- There is an under-representation of women and marginalized caste groups in the national startup ecosystem.

### Dedicated measures to support Women

- Women-led companies have been allocated 10% of the fund in the Small Industries Development Bank of India's (SIDBI) Fund of Funds.
- Furthermore, all alternative investment funds in which the SIDBI has a stake have been required to invest 20% of their capital in women-led businesses.
- On the portal, there is a capacity-building programme for women as well as a special webpage for them.

### Way ahead

- Government policies and progressive tactics to stimulate entrepreneurs and give access and assistance in critical areas such as tax clarity, incubation, affordability, and licencing are needed.
- In any event, governments should be well-prepared and committed to fostering a startup culture in order to have a positive impact on the entrepreneurial ecosystem in their cities, countries, and citizens.

## Environment & Diversity

International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO)





relationship, which puts the Sunderbans' carrying capacity "at roughly 4 tigers" per 100 sq km.

- After surveying eight blocks covering 2,913 sq km across international boundaries in the Sunderbans, a joint Indo-Bangla study in 2015 estimated the tiger density to be 2.85 per 100 sq km.

**Conflict: cause or effect**

- As a result, according to traditional ideas, tigers disperse more frequently, resulting in increased levels of human-wildlife conflict in the reserve's periphery.
- The carrying capacity of tigers in a reserve is clearly influenced by physical (space) and biological (forest productivity) factors.
- The way people tolerate wildlife dispersal — from the locals who live nearby to policymakers who decide on management measures — is also important.
- This is especially true where diverse land uses intersect and a large number of people rely on forest resources for their livelihood.

**Why tiger corridors are not a solution?**

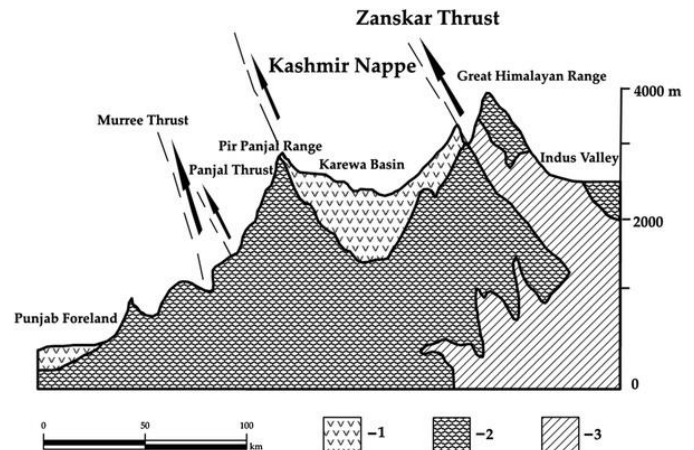
- Wildlife corridors may not be the one-stop answer to conflict, despite their importance in allowing genes to flow and avoiding a population bottleneck.
- For starters, not all dispersing tigers will come across corridors since many may encounter territories of other tigers in the space between them and such openings.
- Even individuals who are fortunate enough to be able to travel those paths are likely to wander to the forest borders along the way.

- Worse, in reserves like the Sunderbans, which are surrounded by the sea and villages, the corridors may not lead to viable woods.

**Way ahead**

- Artificially increasing the prey base in a reserve may seem like a good idea, but it might backfire.
- It is more beneficial to enhance the areas occupied by tigers in order to harness the umbrella effect of tigers for biodiversity conservation.
- The solution, according to many, is to build safe connections between forests and allow tigers to disseminate freely to other places.

**What are Karewas?**



Kashmir’s highly fertile alluvial soil deposits called ‘karewas’ are being destroyed in the name of development, much to the peril of local people

**What are Karewas?**

- The Kashmir valley is a 140-kilometer-long and 40-kilometer-wide circular basin with a NNW–SSE trend.
- It's an unconsolidated gravel and mud-based intermountain valley fill.

- The Plains of Jhelum and its tributaries are surrounded by a series of plateaus.
- In the native language, these plateau-like terraces are known as 'Karewas' or 'Vudr.'
- These plateaus are made up of alluvial soil and sediments such as sandstone and mudstone that are 13,000-18,000 metres thick.
- As a result, they're great for growing saffron, almonds, apples, and a variety of other income crops.

**Significance of Karewas**

- The karewa sediments are now not just the most fertile locations in the valley, but also preserve fossils and traces of several human civilisations and habitations.
- On these karewas, Kashmir saffron is farmed, which obtained a Geographical Indication (GI) marking in 2020 for its longer and thicker stigmas, deep-red colour, intense scent, and bitter flavour.

**How are they formed?**

- The long history of creation of these patches is thought to be the source of their fertility.
- The Pir Panjal mountain prevented natural drainage in the region and generated a 5,000-square-kilometer lake during the Pleistocene period (2.6 million to 11,700 years ago).
- The water retreated during the next few centuries, allowing for the creation of the valley and the karewas between the mountains.

**Threats to Karewas**

- Despite its agricultural and archaeological significance, karewas are currently being dug for construction purposes.

- Massive karewas in Pulwama, Budgam, and Baramulla districts were burnt to the ground for clay for the 125-kilometer Qazigund-Baramulla train route between 1995 and 2005.
- The Srinagar airport is located in Budgam, on the Damodar karewa.

**What is a Heatwave?**

**WHAT CAUSES A HEATWAVE**

Heatwaves are generally the result of trapped air

- Heat waves form when high pressure aloft (3,000–7,600 metres) strengthens and remains over a region for several days up to several weeks
- High-pressure systems force air downward
- This force prevents air near the ground from rising
- The sinking air acts like a cap. It traps warm ground air in place
- This high concentration of pressure makes it difficult for other weather systems to move into the area, which is why a heatwave can last for several days or weeks
- The high-pressure inhibits winds. It also prevents clouds from entering the region
- The end result is a continual build-up of heat at the surface that people experience as a heat wave

The Konkan region, including Mumbai, has been experiencing sweltering heat in recent days, with the maximum temperatures touching the 40 degrees mark.

**What is a Heatwave and when is it declared?**

- Heatwaves occur over India between March and June.

- IMD declares a heatwave event when the maximum (day) temperature for a **location in the plains crosses 40 degrees Celsius.**
- Over the **hills**, the threshold temperature is **30 degrees Celsius.**

### Following criteria are used to declare heatwave:

To declare heatwave, the below criteria should be met at least in 2 stations in a Meteorological subdivision for at least two consecutive days and it will be declared on the second day.

#### a) Based on Departure from Normal

- **Heat Wave:** Departure from normal is 4.5°C to 6.4°C
- **Severe Heat Wave:** Departure from normal is >6.4°C

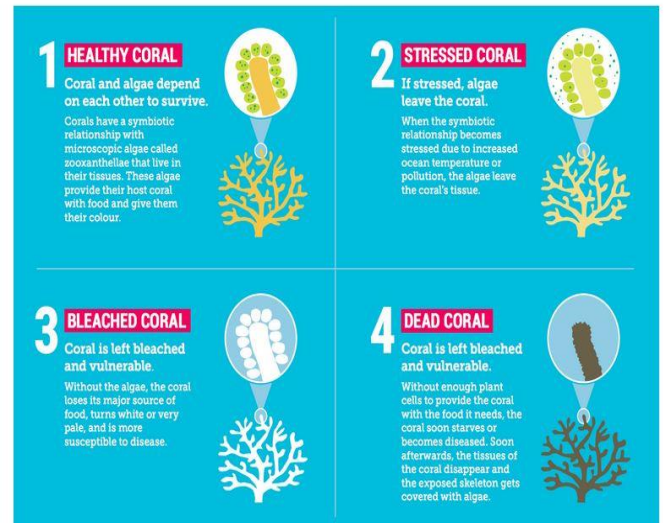
#### b) Based on Actual Maximum Temperature (for plains only)

- **Heat Wave:** When actual maximum temperature  $\geq 45^\circ\text{C}$
- **Severe Heat Wave:** When actual maximum temperature  $\geq 47^\circ\text{C}$

#### How long can a heatwave spell last?

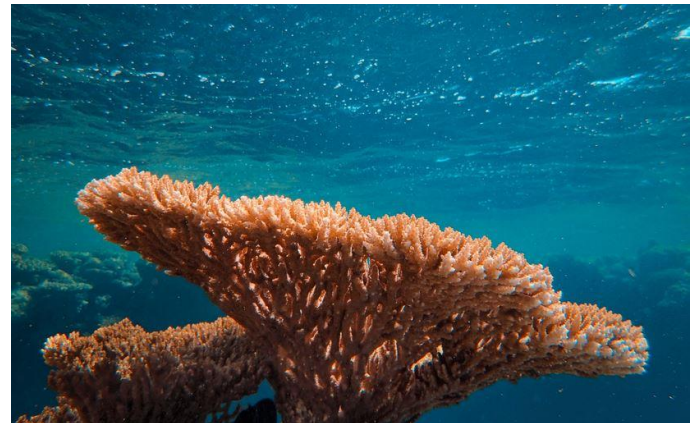
- A heatwave spell generally lasts for a **minimum of four days**. On some occasions, it can **extend up to seven or ten days**.
- The longest recorded heatwave spell, in recent years, was between 18 – 31 May 2015.

### The phenomenon of Coral Bleaching



The management authority of the world's largest coral reef system, Australia's Great Barrier Reef, confirmed on March 25 that the reef is experiencing a mass coral bleaching event.

#### What are Coral Reefs?



- Corals are invertebrates or animals without a spine that live in the sea.
- A polyp is a single coral, while a colony is made up of hundreds of them. Polyps proliferate to generate duplicates of themselves, and the colony increases.



- The Great Barrier Reef in Australia is the world's largest reef system, covering over 2,300 kilometres.
- It is home to 400 different types of coral, 1,500 different fish species, and 4,000 different mollusk species.
- Corals are of two types — hard coral and soft coral:
  1. Hard corals, also known as hermatypic or 'reef building' corals, create hard, white coral exoskeletons by extracting calcium carbonate (also present in limestone) from the saltwater.
  2. Soft coral polyps, on the other hand, take on the appearance of plants and attach themselves to such skeletons as well as older skeletons created by their forefathers. Over time, soft corals add their own skeletons to the hard structure, and these multiplying structures eventually create coral reefs. They are the world's largest living constructions.

#### How do the feed themselves?

- Corals have a symbiotic association with zooxanthellae, which are single-celled algae.
- The algae feed the coral with food and nutrients, which they produce using the sun's light in a process called photosynthesis.
- As a result, the corals provide a home for the algae as well as essential nutrients.
- Corals get their vibrant colour from zooxanthellae.

#### What is Coral Bleaching?

- When corals are stressed in their environment, such as by changes in temperature, pollution, or excessive levels of ocean acidity, they bleach.
- When coral polyps are agitated, the zooxanthellae, or food-producing algae, inside

them begin to produce reactive oxygen species, which are harmful to the corals.

- As a result, corals eject the color-producing zooxanthellae from their polyps, revealing their pale white exoskeleton and giving them a bleached appearance.
- This also puts an end to the symbiotic interaction that allows corals to thrive and survive.
- Coral death can occur as a result of severe bleaching and persistent heat stress in the external environment.

#### Impact of climate change

- Seas have become warmer than usual as a result of climate change and increased global warming caused by rising carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases in recent decades.
- Sea temperatures are expected to rise by 1.5°C to 2°C by the end of the century, notwithstanding all good outlooks and projections in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- When the El Nio weather pattern caused sea surfaces in the Pacific Ocean to heat up, the first widespread bleaching event occurred in 1998, killing 8% of the world's coral.
- In 2002, the second event took place.
- However, mass bleaching events have been more closely spaced in time over the last decade, with the longest and most devastating bleaching event occurring from 2014 to 2017.

#### Significance of Corals

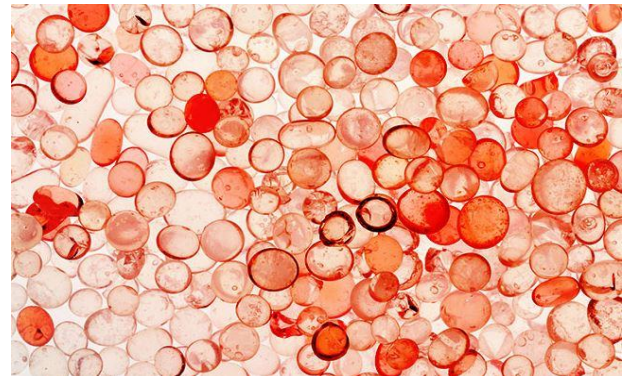
- Even while coral reefs only cover 1% of the bottom, they support approximately 25% of marine species, including fish, turtles, and lobsters.

- Reef-supported marine life feeds the world's fishing businesses. Even whales and huge clams rely on the reefs to survive.
- Furthermore, coral reef ecosystems provide \$2.7 trillion in yearly economic value through commerce in goods and services, as well as tourism.
- In pre-COVID Australia, the Barrier Reef earned \$4.6 billion in yearly tourism revenue and employed over 60,000 people, including divers and tour guides.
- Coral reefs provide protection from storm waves in addition to adding economic value and supporting aquatic life.
- Dead reefs can resurrect over time if there are enough fish species to graze on the weeds that settle on the dead corals, but it takes nearly a decade for the reef to repopulate.

### Current condition of the Great Barrier Reef

- This month, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a study warning that the Great Barrier Reef's existence is in severe jeopardy.
- According to the paper, if temperatures continue to rise, bleaching events will become more often, and a major amount of Australia's remaining reef cover will be gone.
- The Barrier Reef Authority confirmed a major bleaching event affecting all parts of the reef system within a few weeks after this warning.

### Detecting Microplastics in Human Blood



A study by researchers from The Netherlands has found Microplastics in blood samples. About half of these were PET (polyethylene tetrathalate) plastics, which is used to make food grade bottles.

### What are Microplastics?

- Microplastics are microscopic fragments of several forms of plastic that are present in the environment.
- The term "microplastics" is used to distinguish them from "macroplastics" such as plastic bottles and bags.
- The size of microplastics is a topic on which there is no uniform agreement. Microplastic is defined as anything with a length of less than 5mm.
- However, the scientists were interested in quantifying the amounts of plastic that can cross membranes and diffuse into the body via the bloodstream for the objectives of this study.
- As a result, they agreed on a particle size upper limit of 0.0007 millimetres.

### What were the plastics that the study looked for in the blood samples?

- The research focused on the most widely used plastic polymers.
- PET, polyethylene (used to make plastic carry bags), polymers of styrene (used in food

packaging), poly (methyl methacrylate), and poly propylene were among them.

- The presence of the first four types was discovered.

### Significance of the study

- Due to a dearth of data on human exposure to plastics, making a human health risk assessment in connection to plastic particles is difficult, if not impossible.
- It is critical to have studies like this one in this regard.
- The paper's authors also point out that there are no established methods for detecting microscopic (trace) levels of extremely small (less than 10 micrometre) plastic particles.
- As a result, this research, which develops techniques to verify the same, is critical.

### Health hazard of microplastics

- It's unclear if these microplastics can transcend the blood-brain barrier and deposit in organs, causing illnesses.
- The human placenta has been demonstrated to be permeable to microscopic polystyrene particles, according to the paper ( 50, 80 and 24 nanometre beads).
- Experiments on rats with polystyrene spheres (20 nanometer) in their lungs resulted in nanoparticle translocation to placental and foetal tissue.
- Microplastics accumulated in the liver, kidney, and stomach when rats were given them orally.
- To truly measure the impact of plastics on humans, more research is required.

### Places in news: Sariska Tiger Reserve



A massive fire has broken out in the Sariska Tiger Reserve and Air Force helicopters equipped with water sprays are battling to bring it under control.

### Sariska Tiger Reserve

- Sariska Tiger Reserve is a tiger reserve in Alwar district, Rajasthan.
- It stretches over an area of 881 sq km comprising scrub-thorn arid forests, dry deciduous forests, grasslands, and rocky hills.
- This area was a hunting preserve of the Alwar state and was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1958.
- It was given the status of a tiger reserve making it a part of India's Project Tiger in 1978.
- It is the first reserve in the world with successfully relocated tigers.



- It is a part of the Aravalli Range and the Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forests eco-region.

### Existential threats

- It is rich in mineral resources, such as copper.
- In spite of the Supreme Court's 1991 ban on mining in the area, marble mining continues to threaten the environment.

## History

### Back in news: Visva-Bharati University



The stalemate continues in Visva-Bharati University as students demand the reopening of hostels and conducting of online examinations.

### Visva-Bharati

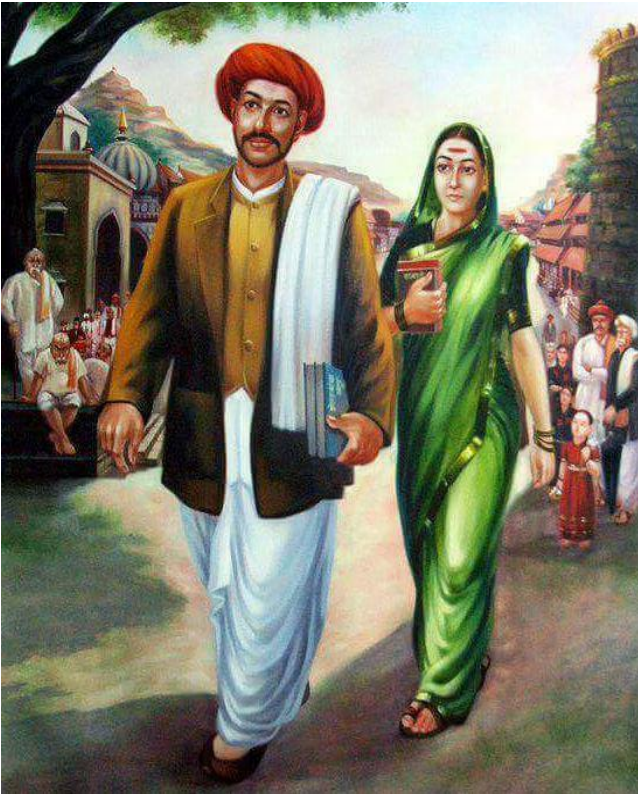
- Visva-Bharati University is a central research university and a Nationally Important Institution in Shantiniketan, West Bengal, India.
- Rabindranath Tagore formed it and named it Visva-Bharati, which means "global connection with India."
- It was a college until the country gained independence.

- In 1951, the institution was accorded the status of a central university by an act of Parliament, shortly after independence.

### Its establishment

- The institution began in 1863, when the zamindar of Raipur, zamindar of Kirnahar, presented Debendranath Tagore with a plot of land.
- He established an ashram in the town's centre, which has since become known as chatim tala.
- Brahmacharya Ashram was the original name of the ashram, which was later changed to Brahmacharya Vidyalaya.
- It was built with the intention of attracting individuals from all walks of life to come to the location and meditate.
- Rabindranath Tagore, his youngest son, founded a co-educational school on the ashram grounds in 1901.
- Tagore utilised the ashram to organise the Hindu Mela from 1901 onwards, which quickly became a hub of nationalist movement.

### Legacy of Savitribai and Jyotirao Phule



Maharashtra Governor has recently received flak for his remarks on the social reformist couple Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule.

#### Who were the Phules?

- In India's social and educational history, Mahatma Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule stand out as an outstanding couple.
- They pioneered groundbreaking work in the areas of female education and empowerment, as well as the elimination of caste and gender inequality.
- Savitri married Jyotirao, who was thirteen years old at the time, when she was 10 years old, in 1840, during a time when child marriages were widespread.
- Later in life, the couple worked to prevent child marriage and to organise widow remarriages.

#### The Phules' endeavors and legacy

- **Education:** As a revolutionary, Jyotirao witnessed the absence of educational possibilities for young girls and women.
- **Leaders of the masses:** He began to educate and train his wife at home to become a teacher. By 1848, the Phules had established a school at Poona for females, Shudras, and Ati-Shudras.
- Jyotirao began his historic job as a widow refuge when he was just 21 years old, with the help of his 18-year-old wife. Jyotirao-Savitribai established a care centre for pregnant widows in 1853 in order to ensure safe deliveries and put an end to the practise of infanticide based on social standards.
- **Infanticide prevention:** The Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha (Home for the Prevention of Infanticide) began at their own home at 395 Ganj Peth in Pune.

#### The Satyashodhak Samaj:

- Jyotirao-Savitribai and other like-minded people founded the Truth-Society Seeker's on September 24, 1873, literally meaning "The Truth-Society." Seeker's
- The Samaj advocated for social changes that went against established customs, such as low-cost weddings, inter-caste marriages, the abolition of child marriages, and widow remarriage.
- The Phules also had long-term aims in mind, such as popularising female education, developing an institutional structure of schools in India, and creating a society in which men and women collaborated.

**In news: Pal-Dadhvav Massacre**



The Gujarat government has marked 100 years of the Pal-Dadhvav killings, calling it a massacre “bigger than the Jallianwala Bagh”.

### Pal-Dadhvav Massacre

- The massacre took occurred on March 7, 1922, in the Sabarkantha district of Idar state, in the Pal-Chitariya and Dadhvaav villages.
- Amalki Ekadashi, which falls immediately before Holi, a major tribal holiday, was the day.
- The 'Eki movement,' led by Motilal Tejawat, had collected villagers from Pal, Dadhvav, and Chitariya on the banks of the river Heir.
- The protest was in response to the British and feudal landowners imposing a land revenue tax (lagaan) on peasants.
- Tejawat, from Koliyari village in Rajasthan's Mewad district, had also enlisted the help of Bhils from Kotda Chhavni, Sirohi, and Danta.

### The fateful day

- Tejawat had been declared a criminal by the state of Udaipur, which had offered a Rs. 500 reward for his capture.
- The Mewad Bhil Corps (MBC), a British-created paramilitary organisation on the watch for Tejawat, heard about the gathering and arrived.

- Nearly 2000 Bhils hoisted their bows and arrows and screamed in unison, "We will not pay the tax," in response to Tejawat's instruction.
- HG Sutton, the commanding officer of the MBC, ordered his troops to open fire on them, causing a massive stampede.
- Almost 1,000 tribals (Bhils) were killed by bullets. The British claimed that 22 people were slain, but the Bhils estimate that 1,200-1,500 people were slaughtered.

### Back in news: Malabar Rebellion



The Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR) has deferred its decision on a recommendation to remove the 1921 Malabar Rebellion martyrs, including Variamkunnaathu Kunhahamad Haji and Ali Musliyar, from the list of India's freedom fighters.

### Malabar Rebellion

- In 1921, the Malabar Rebellion began as a protest against British colonial control and the feudal system in southern Malabar, but it ended in sectarian violence between Hindus and Muslims.
- Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, there were a series of battles between Mappila peasantry and their landowners, who were backed by the British.



- It originated as a response to the British authorities' harsh treatment of the Khilafat Movement, a campaign in Malabar's Eranad and Valluvanad taluks to defend the Ottoman Caliphate.
- Police stations, British government buildings, courts, and government treasuries were all attacked and taken over by the Mappilas.

### Who was Variyankunna Kunjahammed Haji?

- He was one among the Malabar Rebellion's commanders in 1921.

- He raised 75,000 indigenous, wrested control of vast swaths of land from British rule, and established a parallel government.
- The British deceived Haji through his close friend Unyan Musaliyar in January 1922, arresting him from his hiding and bringing him before a British judge under the pretence of a treaty.
- Along with his fellow countrymen, he was sentenced to death.

## International Relations

### What is the International Court of Justice?



Ukraine has filed an application before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), instituting proceedings against the Russian Federation for committing Genocide.

### International Court of Justice

- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the UN's main judicial body (UN).
- The United Nations Charter established it in June 1945, and it began functioning in April 1946.
- The Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ), which was established through and by the League of Nations, is the court's successor.
- In February 1922, it convened for the first time at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands.

### Its establishment

- Following WWII, the League of Nations and the PCIJ were superseded by the United Nations and the International Court of Justice, respectively.
- The PCIJ was legally dissolved in April 1946, and its last president, El Salvador's Judge José

Gustavo Guerrero, became the ICJ's first president.

- The first action was taken by the United Kingdom against Albania over incidents in the Corfu channel, a tiny strait in the Ionian Sea that connects the Greek island of Corfu and Albania.

#### **Seat and role**

- Like the PCIJ, the ICJ is based at the Peace Palace in The Hague.
- It is the only one of the six principal organs of the UN that is not located in New York City.
- The other five organs are:
  1. General Assembly
  2. Security Council
  3. Economic and Social Council
  4. Trusteeship Council
  5. Secretariat
- The court as a whole must represent the main forms of civilization and the principal legal systems of the world.
- The judges of the court are assisted by a Registry, the administrative organ of the ICJ. English and French are the ICJ's official languages.

#### **Jurisdiction of ICJ**

- All UN members are automatically parties to the ICJ statute, but this does not mean that the ICJ has jurisdiction over their issues.
- Only if both parties agree does the ICJ have jurisdiction.
- The ICJ's decision is final and technically binds the parties in a dispute.

- There is no right of appeal; it may only be interpreted or revised in the event of the revelation of new information.
- The ICJ, on the other hand, has no mechanism of ensuring that its orders be followed, and its authority is based on countries' desire to do so.

#### **Judges of the court**

- The UN General Assembly and Security Council, which vote simultaneously but separately, elect 15 judges to the ICJ for nine-year mandates.
- A candidate must earn a majority of votes in both bodies to be chosen, a criterion that occasionally involves many voting rounds.
- During the annual UNGA summit in New York, elections are held.
- Every three years, a third of the court is chosen.
- The judges who are chosen at the triennial election take office on February 6 of the following year.
- The court's president and vice-president are chosen by secret ballot for three-year periods. Judges can run for re-election.

#### **India in ICJ**

- So far, four Indians have served on the International Court of Justice.
- Justice Dalveer Bhandari, a former Supreme Court justice, has been a member of the International Court of Justice since 2012.
- R S Pathak, the former Chief Justice of India, served from 1989 to 1991, while Nagendra Singh, the former Chief Election Commissioner of India, served from 1973 to 1988.
- From 1985 to 1988, Singh served as president of the Supreme Court, and from 1976 to 1979, he served as vice-president.

- Sir Benegal Rau, who served as an advisor to the Constituent Assembly, was a member of the International Court of Justice from 1952 to 1953.

**Indian cases at the ICJ**

- India has been a party to a case at the ICJ on six occasions, four of which have involved Pakistan.
- They are:
  1. Right of Passage over Indian Territory (Portugal v. India, culminated 1960);
  2. Appeal Relating to the Jurisdiction of the ICAO Council (India v. Pakistan, culminated 1972);

3. Trial of Pakistani Prisoners of War (Pakistan v. India, culminated 1973);
4. Aerial Incident of 10 August 1999 (Pakistan v. India, culminated 2000);
5. Obligations concerning Negotiations relating to Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race and to Nuclear Disarmament (Marshall Islands v. India, culminated 2016); and
6. (Kulbhushan) Jadhav (India v. Pakistan, culminated 2019).

## Science, Technology, Art & Culture

**Antonov AN-225: World's largest aircraft**

Amid Moscow's assault on Ukraine, the world's largest cargo aircraft, the Antonov AN-225 or 'Mriya', was destroyed by Russian troops during an attack on an airport near Kyiv.

**Antonov AN-225**

- The remarkable Antonov AN-225, with a wingspan of nearly 290 feet, was designed in the 1980s in what was then the Ukrainian USSR, during a tense race to space between the US and the Soviet Union.
- The jet is known in aviation circles as 'Mriya,' which means 'dream' in Ukrainian, and is known to draw large throngs of fans at air shows across the world.
- It was created as part of the Soviet aviation programme to transport the Buran, the Soviet equivalent of the Space Shuttle.
- When the Soviet Union fell apart in 1991, the Buran programme was cancelled, and the planes were instead employed to haul enormous cargo loads.

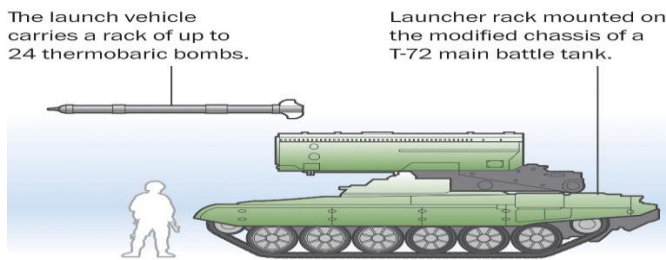


## Its manufacturing

- Only one Antonov AN-225 was ever built by the Kyiv-based Antonov Company, the original designers of the plane.
- It's essentially a larger version of the Antonov Company's four-engine An-124 'Condor,' which is now in service with the Russian Air Force.
- The plane first flew in 1988 and has been in service ever since.
- It has recently been utilised to convey humanitarian goods during natural disasters in neighbouring countries.

## What are Cluster Bombs and Thermobaric Weapons?

**Thermobaric weapons:** The TOS-1A launch system



A thermobaric missile is fired toward the enemy.

It explodes, scattering a thin, highly explosive mist.



A secondary explosion then ignites this spreading cloud of oxygen and chemicals, generating heat and blast waves that can penetrate buildings and shelters.

Human rights group Amnesty International has accused Russia of using cluster bombs and vacuum bombs in the ongoing war.

## What are Cluster Munitions?

- A cluster munition is defined as a "conventional munition that is designed to scatter or discharge explosive submunitions each weighing less than 20 kilogrammes, and includes those explosive

submunitions," according to the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions.

- Cluster munitions are non-precision weapons that are meant to indiscriminately damage or kill human beings across a vast region.
- They're frequently designed to harm vehicles and infrastructure including runways, railways, and electricity transmission cables.
- Many of these bomblets fail to explode and remain on the ground, often partially or completely hidden and difficult to identify and remove, posing a threat to civilians.
- "Cluster munition remains," as defined by the Convention on Cluster Munitions, include "failed cluster munitions, abandoned cluster munitions, unexploded submunitions, and unexploded bomblets."

## And what is a Thermobaric Weapon?

- Thermobaric weapons, also known as aerosol bombs, fuel air explosives, or vacuum bombs, produce a massive, high-temperature burst by using oxygen from the air.
- A thermobaric weapon inflicts far more destruction than a conventional bomb of equivalent size.
- The weapons, which have two stages, can be launched as rockets from tank launchers or dropped from aeroplanes.
- A initial explosion tears open the bomb's fuel container as they hit their target, creating a cloud of fuel and metal fragments that spreads over a vast region.
- A second explosion follows, burning the aerosol cloud into a massive ball of fire and unleashing powerful blast waves capable of destroying even reinforced structures or equipment, as well as vaporising people.

## Is it legal to use these weapons?

- Cluster bombs are illegal in countries that have ratified the Cluster Munitions Convention.
- The convention now has 110 state parties, with 13 more nations having signed but not yet ratified it.
- Russia and Ukraine are not signatories.
- These bombs are not prohibited by any international law or convention, but their use against civilians in crowded areas, such as schools or hospitals, could result in legal action under the 1899 and 1907 Hague Conventions.
- Cluster munitions, for example, are prohibited under international humanitarian law because they are inherently indiscriminate.
- It is a war crime to launch indiscriminate assaults that kill or hurt civilians.

## What is Perini Dance?



A Perini dance performance by artistes in Hyderabad has left the audience awestruck.

## Perini Dance

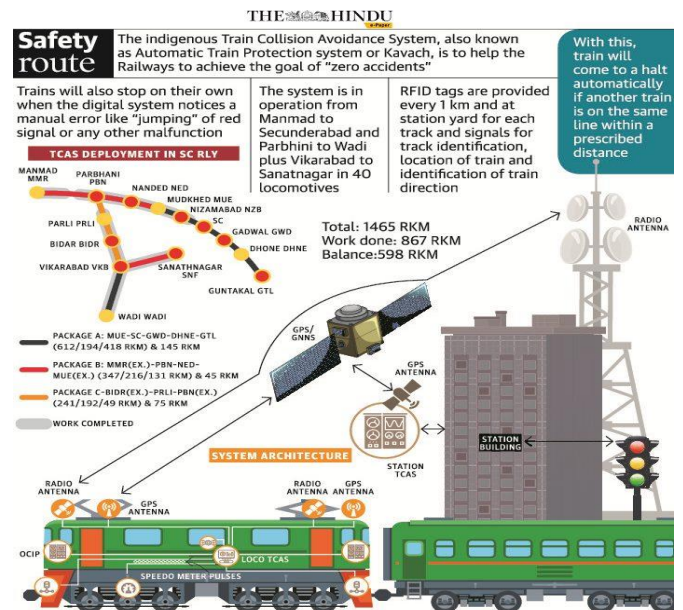
- Perini Sivathandavam is an old Telangana dance genre that has just been revived.
- During the Kakatiya kingdom in Telangana, it arose and flourished.
- It is thought that in ancient times.

- It was conducted in honour of Lord Siva, the hindu god of destruction.
- It was performed before the men went to fight.
- The sculptures near the Garbha Gudi (Sanctum Sanctorum) of the Ramappa Temple in Warangal provide witness to this dance.

## Performance details

- Males commonly execute the Perini siva Thandavam dance form.
- 'Warrior Dance' is the name of the piece. Before going to the battlefield, warriors perform this dance in front of Lord Iva's idol (Siva).
- Perini was at its peak under the reign of the 'Kakatiyas,' who formed their dynasty at Warangal and ruled for about two centuries.
- This dance genre is said to invoke 'Prerana' (inspiration) and is devoted to Lord Siva, the supreme dancer.

## Kavach: The Indian technology that can prevent collision of Trains



Kavach, this indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection System is earmarked for aggressive rollout on 2,000 km in 2022-23, according to the Budget proposals.

### What is Kavach?

- It is India's own automatic protection system, which has been under development since 2012 under the name Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) and has now been renamed Kavach, which means "armour."
- Simply described, it's a collection of electronic and radio frequency identification devices installed in locomotives, signalling systems, and railroad lines.
- They communicate with one another via ultra-high radio frequencies to operate train brakes and notify drivers, all depending on logic built into them.

### Key features of Kavach

- One of its benefits is that it can send out triggers when a loco pilot jumps a signal called Signal Passed at Danger by continuously refreshing the train's movement information (SPAD).
- The gadgets also continuously broadcast signals to the locomotive, which is beneficial to loco pilots in low visibility, particularly during dense fog.
- It incorporates major components from existing, well-proven systems such as the European Train Protection and Warning System and the indigenous Anti Collision Device.
- In the future, it will include capabilities from the high-tech European Train Control System Level-2.
- The current version of Kavach corresponds to the Safety Integrity Level 4 standard, which is the maximum level of safety and reliability.

### What is the upgrade?

- India now aims to market Kavach as an exportable system, a less expensive alternative to the European systems that are popular around the world.
- While Kavach now employs Ultra High Frequency (UHF), work is underway to make it compatible with 4G Long Term Evolution (LTE) technology and to commercialise the product globally.
- Work is underway to make the system interoperable with other systems already in use around the world.

### How far is the rollout?

- Kavach has been used in the South Central Railway's ongoing construction for around 1,098 kilometres and 65 locomotives.
- It will be implemented on 3000 kilometres of the Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah lines in the future, when the tracks and systems will be modernised to allow for a high speed of 160 kilometres per hour.
- Furthermore, it has sanctioned plans for approximately 34,000 kilometres of the Golden Quadrilateral's High Density Network (HDN) and Highly Utilized Network (HUN).

### Art-form in news: Santhali Sohrai Murals



Santhali communities of Odisha and Jharkhand are changing their ways of painting traditional Sohrai murals to modernity.



**What is Sohrai?**

- Sohrai is a harvest festival of the Indian states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and West Bengal.
- It also called cattle festival. It is celebrated after harvest and coincide with festival of Diwali.

**What are Sohrai Murals?**

- The women of Santhal Community practise Sohrai Mural, a traditional painting genre.
- On mud walls, ritualistic art is created to welcome the crop and commemorate the animals.
- The women clean their homes and hang Sohrai art murals on their walls.
- Since 10,000-4,000 BC, this art form has been practised. It started in caverns and then spread to dwellings with mud walls.

**Features of this art**

- This type of Sohrai art can be monochrome or multicoloured.
- The people apply a coating of white mud on the wall then sketch on it with their fingertips while it is still wet.
- Flowers and fruits, as well as other nature-inspired patterns, are featured in their designs.
- Cow dung, which was previously used to coat the house's walls, is now used to add colour.
- Because of the previously applied contrasting white mud coat, the black outline is obvious.
- The painters draw on the spur of the moment. The designs are frequently sketched from memory by the artist.
- The artist's personal experience and interactions with nature have the greatest influence.

**Functioning of the ISS after US sanctions**

Western sanctions against Russia could cause the International Space Station (ISS) to crash, the head of Russian space agency Roscosmos has warned.

**What is the ISS?**

- The International Space Station (ISS) was launched in 1998 as a result of collaboration between the United States, Russia, Japan, Canada, and Europe.
- Former US President Ronald Reagan proposed the notion of a space station in his State of the Union address in 1984.
- The space station has been in operation in low-earth orbit for many years.
- It has operated as a suspended laboratory in space since its creation, assisting several scientific and technical advancements.
- The International Space Station was designed to last 15 years.

**Why was ISS launched?**

- A space station permits quantum leaps in research in science, communications, and in

metals and lifesaving medicines which could be manufactured only in space.

- ISS has consistently maintained human presence for the past 21 years, providing astronauts with sophisticated technologies for scientific research.

#### **What is Russia's role in maintaining the ISS?**

- The Multinational Space Station (ISS) is being developed with the help of scientists from five international space agencies: NASA, Roscosmos, JAXA, the Canadian Space Agency, and the European Space Agency.
- Every agency has a role to play and a stake in the ISS's upkeep.
- It is not a task that a single country can support in terms of both cost and effort.
- The module responsible for performing course corrections to the ISS's orbit is part of Russia's contribution to the partnership.
- They also transport astronauts to and from the International Space Station.
- Russian spacecraft were the sole option to reach the ISS and return until SpaceX's dragon spacecraft entered the picture.

#### **Why does the orbit of the ISS need to be corrected?**

- The ISS sinks from its orbit at a height of around 250 miles above the Earth due to its massive weight and resulting drag.
- Every now and then, it needs to be pulled up to its original line of motion.
- Even for smaller satellites, this is rather common.
- This attempt should be made about once a month.

- Another reason for changing the ISS's direction is to prevent colliding with space junk, which could cause damage to the station.

#### **What is the extent of effort and expense involved in this?**

- It costs a lot of money to manoeuvre the ISS.
- A year's worth of gasoline may be used in 7-8 tonnes, with each manoeuvre costing nearly a tonne.
- The ISS may sink a little more if a movement is postponed, and the delayed operation will cost more because a larger correction would be required.

#### **Risks of crashing**

- Most of the time, the ISS orbit does not pass over Russian territory.
- Closer to the equator, the likelihood of it slipping into their realm is greater.
- Because the orbit is around 50 degrees, the ISS will most likely fall to that level.
- However, because it can shift or dissolve, this is simply a possibility.
- However, if this happens, astronauts on the ISS will be taken back, and modules can be detached, reducing the size of the space station and ensuring that it disintegrates before it reaches the ground.

#### **What are Man-Portable Air-Defence Systems (MANPADS)?**



The United States has approved a \$200-million arms package for Ukraine, which would include US made Stinger Missiles, which are a type of shoulder-fired Man-Portable Air-Defence Systems (MANPADS).

### What are MANPADS?

- Short-range, lightweight, and portable surface-to-air missiles that may be fired by people or small groups to kill aeroplanes or helicopters are known as Man-Portable Air-Defense Systems.
- They aid in the protection of troops from aerial attacks and are particularly efficient against low-flying aircraft.
- Man-Portable Anti-Tank Systems, or MANPATs, are similar to MANPADs but are used to destroy or disable military tanks.

### Uniqueness of MANPADS

- Shoulder-fired, launched from atop a ground vehicle, fired from a tripod or stand, and launched from a helicopter or boat, MANPADS can be used in a variety of ways.
- They weigh between 10 and 20 kilogrammes and are no more than 1.8 metres long.
- They are quite light in comparison to other complex weapon systems, making them simple to use by individual soldiers.
- MANPADS require far less training to operate.

- MANPADS have an 8-kilometer range and can engage targets at heights of 4.5 kilometres.

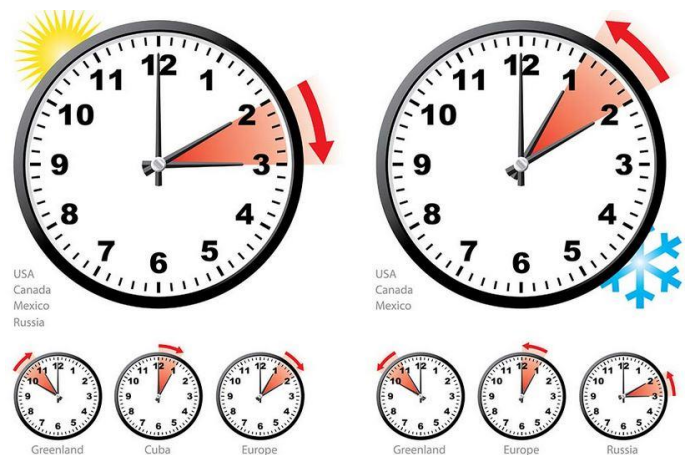
### Stealth features

- They use passive or 'fire and forget' guidance systems, which eliminate the need for the operator to guide the missile to its intended target, allowing them to run and relocate immediately after shooting.
- The missile maintains its lock on the target, requiring no active direction from the soldier.
- The missiles are equipped with infrared (IR) seekers that use heat radiation emitted by the airborne vehicle to detect and target it.

### What is Daylight Saving Time (DST)?



The United States Senate unanimously passed a law making daylight saving time (DST) permanent, scrapping the biannual practice of putting clocks forward and back coinciding with the arrival and departure of winter.





**What does this imply?**

- The time difference between New York and India will grow from nine and a half hours to ten and a half hours as clocks in the United States are set back one hour.
- The converse has occurred in the Southern Hemisphere, with countries "springing forward" and the time difference with India shrinking.

**What is DST?**

- DST is the practise of moving clocks forward an hour in the spring and backward an hour in the autumn (or fall).
- Countries that use this system gain an extra hour of daylight in the evening during these months.
- DST lasts from March to October/November in Europe and the United States, and from September/October to April in New Zealand and Australia, because the spring and fall cycles are reversed in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.
- The dates for this transition, which occurs twice a year (in the spring and fall), are set in advance.
- The EU's 28 member nations are required by law to turn clocks forward on the last Sunday in March and backward on the last Sunday in October.
- On the first Sunday in November, the clocks in the United States are set back one hour.

**How many countries use DST?**

- DST is used in more than 70 nations, including the European Union.
- Because countries near the Equator do not experience large fluctuations in daytime hours across seasons, India does not observe DST.

- However, there is a separate dispute about the rationality of having only one time zone in a country the size of India.

**What does this system mean to achieve?**

- The main reason is that Daylight Saving Time is supposed to save energy.
- Setting clocks ahead of standard time, usually by one hour in the spring, ensures that the clocks show a later sunrise and later sunset, resulting in a longer evening daytime.
- People will get up an hour earlier than usual, finish their daily work routines an hour earlier, and get an extra hour of daylight at the end of the day.

**Kinzhal Advanced Hypersonic Missile**

Russia said that it had unleashed hypersonic missiles against an arms depot in Ukraine, the first use of the next-generation weapons in combat.

**Kinzhal Missile**

- It's a nuclear-capable air-launched ballistic missile that travels at 10 times the speed of sound and is capable of defeating air defence systems. Kinzhal is a word that means 'dagger.'
- The missile has a range of 1,500-2,000 kilometres and can carry a nuclear or conventional payload of 480 kg.



On March 17, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) rolled out its Artemis I moon mission to the launchpad for testing at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, United States.

### **What is the Artemis I Mission?**

- The Artemis expedition, named after Apollo's twin sister in Greek mythology, is hailed as the next generation of lunar exploration.
- Artemis is the goddess of the moon as well.
- NASA's deep space exploration system Artemis I is the first of its kind.
- It is an unmanned space mission that will launch aboard SLS — the world's most powerful rocket — and travel 2,80,000 miles beyond Earth for four to six weeks.
- The Orion spacecraft will spend more time in orbit than any other ship for astronauts has ever done previously, without docking to a space station.
- The SLS rocket was created for missions beyond low-earth orbit, and it can transport people and cargo to the moon and beyond.

### **Key objectives of the mission**

- NASA's Artemis Mission seeks to place humans on the moon by 2024, with the first woman and person of colour landing on the moon as well.
- NASA hopes to contribute to scientific discovery and economic rewards with this project, as well as inspire a new generation of explorers.
- NASA plans to build an Artemis Base Camp on the surface and a gateway in lunar orbit to assist robot and astronaut exploration.
- The gateway will function as a multi-purpose outpost orbiting the moon and is an important part of NASA's long-term lunar activities.

### **Other agencies involved**

- The Artemis programme also involves other space agencies.
- For the gateway, the Canadian Space Agency has committed to providing advanced robotics.
- The International Habitat and the ESPRIT module, which will give extra communications capabilities among other things, will be provided by the European Space Agency.
- The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency intends to provide dwelling components as well as logistics replenishment.

### **What is the mission trajectory?**

- In the summer of 2022, the SLS and Orion under Artemis I will be launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, United States.
- The spaceship will deploy the intermediate cryogenic propulsion stage (ICPS), a liquid oxygen/liquid hydrogen-based propulsion system that will provide Orion with enough thrust to depart Earth's orbit and travel to the moon.
- Orion will be propelled to the moon by a service module provided by the European Space Agency (ESA).
- Through the deep-space network, the spacecraft will connect with the control centre on Earth.
- It will travel around 100 kilometres over the moon's surface and utilise the moon's gravitational pull to send Orion into an opposite deep orbit around 70,000 kilometres away, where it will dwell for around six days.

### **What are the future missions in the Artemis programme?**



- The program's second mission will include crew and will test Orion's essential systems with humans onboard.
- The Artemis program's findings will eventually be used to transport the first astronauts to Mars.
- NASA intends to use lunar orbit to obtain the experience needed to expand human space exploration further into the solar system.

### **GSAT 7B and India's other Military Satellites**



The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh cleared the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for procurement of a GSAT 7B satellite.

#### **What are the GSAT 7 series satellites?**

- The ISRO constructed the GSAT 7 satellites to satisfy the communication needs of the defence services.
- The satellite was placed in a geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO) with a perigee of 249 kilometres, an apogee of 35,929 kilometres, and an inclination of 3.5 degrees with regard to the equator.
- The GSAT 7 satellite was launched in August 2013 from Kourou, French Guiana, by an Ariane 5 ECA rocket.
- It's a 2,650-kilogram satellite with a nearly 2,000-nautical-mile footprint in the Indian Ocean.

#### **Utility of this satellite**

- The Indian Navy primarily uses this satellite for communication purposes.
- The GSAT 7 offers a wide range of services for military communications, from low-bit-rate voice to high-bit-rate data, as well as multi-band communications.
- Rukmini is a UHF, C-band, and Ku-band satellite that aids the Navy in maintaining a secure, real-time communication link between its land bases, surface ships, submarines, and aircraft.

#### **What will be the role of the GSAT 7B satellite?**

- The GSAT 7B will primarily serve the Army's communication needs.
- Currently, the Army is utilising 30% of the GSAT 7A satellite's communication capabilities, which were meant for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- The GSAT 7B will also aid the Army in improving border surveillance.
- While many details about this satellite are still being kept under wraps, it is thought that the state-of-the-art, multi-band, military-grade satellite would provide a boost to the Army's communication and surveillance demands.

#### **What is the role of the GSAT 7A satellite, which is already operational?**

- The GSAT 7A was launched in 2018 from Sriharikota's Satish Dhawan Space Centre.
- It has made a significant contribution to improving communication between ground radar stations, airbases, and the IAF's airborne early warning and control aircraft (AEW&C).
- It also aids satellite-controlled unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) operations, which provide far

greater operational reliability than ground-controlled operations.

- This satellite contains ten Ku band channels with switchable frequencies for mobile users, as well as one fixed Gregorian or parabolic antenna and four steerable antennae.

### Future plans

- The IAF is planning to launch a GSAT 7C satellite, and a proposal to that effect was approved by the DAC in 2021.
- The IAF's software defined radio communication sets would be able to communicate in real time with this satellite.
- It will improve the IAF's capacity to communicate in a secure manner beyond line of sight.

### What other kinds of military satellites does India have?

- ISRO's Electromagnetic Intelligence Gathering Satellite (EMISAT) was launched by a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle in April 2020. (PSLV-C45).
- It contains a Kautilya Electronic Intelligence (ELINT) package that allows ground-based radar to be intercepted and conducts electronic surveillance across India.
- The ELINT package includes the capacity to locate radars and determine their direction of travel.
- It is believed to be based on the Israeli satellite technology and is in a 748-km orbit.
- This satellite orbits the globe from pole to pole, collecting data from radars in nations that share a border with India.
- In addition, India has a RISAT 2BR1 synthetic aperture radar imaging satellite, which was launched from Sriharikota in December 2019.


- It can operate in a variety of modes, including very high-resolution imaging modes with 10.5 metre resolution and 0.50.3 metre resolution with a swath of 5-10 kilometres.

### What is T-Cell Immunity?

#### Protective effect of T cell immunity

T cell immunity protects against progression of disease

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Neutralising antibodies were detectable even 12 months after infection in most individuals</li> <li>■ Neutralising antibodies remained stable 6-12 months after initial infection in people younger than 60 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Neutralising antibody titres declined in older people and in people with critical disease</li> <li>■ The magnitude of T cell responses did not vary immaterial of how severe the disease was</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Memory T cell responses to the original strain were not disrupted by new variants</li> <li>■ Durable and robust T cell responses seen against variants, including Delta, even after one year of infection</li> </ul>
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A new study from Wuhan has studied the role of T-Cell Immunity against prolonged and severe COVID-19.

### What are T-Cells?

- T cells, like B cells that make antibodies, play an important role in the immunological response to viral infection.
- A type of white blood cell called a B cell, which produces antibodies, and a similar-looking white blood cell called a T cell are required for your immune system to fight off any type of invader, such as a virus.
- T cells can take on a variety of roles.
- They can either act as "killing cells," attacking cells infected with a virus or another disease, or they can act as "helper cells," assisting B cells in the production of antibodies.

### How do they function?

- The immune system also creates a battalion of T cells that may attack viruses in addition to antibodies.
- Killer T cells (or CD8+ T cells) are a subset of these cells that seek out and destroy virus-infected cells.
- Others, known as helper T cells (or CD4+ T cells), play a role in the immune system by promoting the creation of antibodies and killer T cells, among other things.
- Because T cells only activate once a virus has penetrated the body, they cannot prevent infection. However, they are critical in the treatment of an infection that has already begun.
- Killer T cells could represent the difference between a minor infection and one that requires hospital treatment in the case of COVID-19.

#### What did the latest research find?

- Neutralizing antibodies were detected in "most individuals" even 12 months after infection, according to the study.
- In persons under the age of 60, it remained steady 6-12 months after infection.
- "Multifunctional T cell responses were reported for all SARS-CoV-2 viral proteins examined," the researchers discovered.
- Most notably, regardless of the severity of the disease, the size of T cell responses did not alter.
- Antibodies' capacity to neutralise the Beta variation was almost non-existent, while it was diminished in the case of the Delta variant.

#### Neutralizing antibodies

- 12 months after infection, SARS-CoV-2-specific neutralising antibodies and T cell responses were still present.

- When compared to the original strain, neutralising antibodies to the D614G, Beta, and Delta were reduced, as were neutralising antibodies in general.
- New variations had no effect on memory T cell responses to the original strain.
- The findings reveal that 12 months after a moderate-to-critical infection, the majority of recovered patients have robust antibody and T cell immunity against SARS-CoV-2.

#### Robustness of antibodies

- The findings shows that T cell responses to variations, including Delta, are durable and robust even after a year of infection.
- Most notably, persons who had not been reinfected or immunised showed powerful and long-lasting T cell responses.
- This means that a person who was infected with the virus even a year ago will have strong immune responses even if they were not vaccinated.
- It would protect against the condition escalating to a severe stage that would necessitate hospitalisation.

#### DRDO's Corner-Shot Weapon System





A corner-shot weapon system (CSWS), designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), is at an advanced stage of being inducted by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Jammu and Kashmir police.

## What is CSWS?

- The Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) in Pune developed the CSWS as a special purpose weapon.
- It is ideally suited for urban, close quarter scenarios since it can engage targets situated behind corners while the system bends and gathers video feed, saving soldiers from any surprise counter-attack.
- In the front, it has a weapon, camera, laser, infrared illuminator, and torch, while the back

has a display, electronics, battery, and swivelling mechanism.

- To make it lighter and more robust, the body is built of a high-grade aluminium alloy.

## Key features

- Its day-night firing capability, colour display, digital zoom, zeroing facility, hot buttons, high-capacity battery, status display, and JSS 5855 compliance make it a very powerful system for security personnel.
- Counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism (CI/CT) operations benefit greatly from it.
- This indigenously created system outperforms contemporary international systems in many ways and is available in 9 mm GLOCK 17/19 and 1A1 Auto Pistol variants.

## Security Issues

### Ex Vayu Shakti 2022



The Indian Air Force (IAF) has decided to postpone its firepower demonstration, Ex Vayu Shakti, scheduled in the Pokhran ranges in Rajasthan.

### Exercise Vayu Shakti

- It takes place every three years and includes fighters, helicopters, force enablers, and support systems.

- In day, dusk, and night capability demonstrations, the goal is to detect and identify targets and neutralise them.
- In this exercise, the Indian Air Force demonstrates the repowering potential of indigenously manufactured aircraft as well as its missile arsenal.
- The exercise features fighter aircraft such as the Jaguar, Rafale, Sukhoi-30, MIG-29, and light combat aircraft such as the Tejas, MIG-21 Bison, Hawk 32, and M200.

### Indian missile misfires into Pakistan

India has acknowledged a malfunction led to accidental firing of a missile, which Pakistan says landed in its territory.

## Conducting Missile Tests: NOTAM and NAVAREA Warnings

- Under the 2005 pre-notification of ballistic missile flight testing agreement, each country must provide the other advance notice of any flight tests it plans to conduct for any land or sea-launched surface-to-surface ballistic missile.
- To inform aviation pilots and sailors, the country must issue Notice to Air Missions (NOTAM) or Navigational Warning (NAVAREA) prior to the test.
- The testing country must also guarantee that the launch site is not within 40 kilometres of the International Boundary (IB) or the Line of Control, and that the projected impact area is not within 75 kilometres of either (LoC).
- The intended route must not cross the IB or the LoC, and it must stay at least 40 kilometres away from the border.

## Pre-notifications to the neighbours

- The testing country must notify the other country "no later than three days before the start of a five-day launch window during which it plans to conduct flight tests."
- According to the format appended to this Agreement, the pre-notification must be sent through the appropriate Foreign Offices and High Commissions.

## What is the recent case of misfire?

- Pakistan has only labelled it a "supersonic" missile, and neither country has said exactly what it is.
- Some experts believe it was a test of one of India's most advanced missiles, the BrahMos, which was developed in collaboration with Russia.

- Their conclusion is based on the fact that it flew 200 kilometres, manoeuvred in mid-air, and went at 2.5 to 3 times the speed of sound at a height of 40,000 feet.

## Exercise LAMITIYE 2022



The 9<sup>th</sup> Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2022 between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) is being conducted at Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA), Seychelles.

## Exercise LAMITIYE

- Lamitiye, which means friendship in Creole, is a biennial training event that has been held in the Seychelles since 2001.
- Officials say this year's event would include a variety of intricate military manoeuvres, demonstrations, and talks.
- The joint training exercise's goal is to strengthen and enhance bilateral military ties while also exchanging skills, experiences, and best practises between the two forces.
- Both sides will train, organise, and execute a series of well-developed tactical simulations aimed at neutralising threats that could be encountered in a semi-urban setting.
- New-generation equipment and technologies for performing joint operations will also be demonstrated during the exercise.

## Significance of the exercise

- LAMITIYE is crucial and significant in terms of security challenges faced by both nations in the backdrop of the current global situation and growing security concerns in the Indian Ocean region.

### What are Articulated All-Terrain Vehicles?



The Indian Army has issued a Request For Information (RFI) for the supply of Articulated All-Terrain Vehicles to be deployed in Ladakh and Kutch.

### What are Articulated All-Terrain Vehicles?

- The Articulated ATV is a tracked, amphibious transporter with twin cabins for off-road mobility.
- The equipment's unique design reduces ground pressure on the soil, and a pull-push locomotion mode between two cabins allows for mobility in a variety of terrains, including snow, desert, and slush.
- The cabin body has ballistic protection to protect troops travelling in it from small weapons fire.
- They can go where wheeled vehicles can't because of deep snow, mud, or marshy terrain, and they're great for patrols and quick deployment in emergency situations.

### Utility of these vehicles

- In snow-covered terrains and marshy/sandy conditions, these vehicles are extremely valuable for moving soldiers and supplies.
- The Indian Army wants to utilise these vehicles in Ladakh's snow-covered areas and the Rann of Kutch's marshy environment.

## Trivia

### What is Agni Kandakarnan Theyyam?



Ritual dance Agni Kandakarnan Theyyam performing at the Kaliyattam festival has begun in Kannur, Kerala.

### What is Theyyam?

- In Kerala and Karnataka, India, Theyyam is a prominent thousand-year-old ritual style of dance worship.
- The people of these districts regard Theyyam as a conduit to a god, and they pray to It for favours.
- There are around 456 different varieties of Theyyam.



- Males conduct Theyyam, with the exception of the Devakoothu Theyyam, which is the only Theyyam rite done by women.
- It can only be seen at the Thekkumbad Kulom temple.

### Major types of performances

- The most prominent Vaishnava Theyyam is Vishnumoorthi. The storey of Hiranyakashipu's death by Lord Vishnu in his avatar of Narasimham is told and performed in this theyyam.
- Theyyam Sree Muthappan Sree Muthappan Sree Muthappan Sree Muthappan It is supposed to be the personification of two divine figures: Thiruvappana or Valiya Muttapan (Vishnu) and Vellatom or Cheriya Muttapan (Vishnu) (Shiva).
- Padikutti Amma is Muthapan's mother, according to legend. The Padikutti Amma Theyyam is conducted in the Palaprath Temple in Kodallur, Meenam, near Parassini Kadavu (a Malayalam month)

### Abel Prize awarded to American Mathematician



The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has awarded the Abel prize for the year 2022 to American Mathematician Dennis Parnell Sullivan, for his contributions to topology in its broadest sense, and in particular its algebraic, geometric and dynamical aspects.

### Abel Prize

- The King of Norway awards the Abel Prize to one or more outstanding mathematicians each year.
- It is named after Niels Henrik Abel (1802–1829), a Norwegian mathematician, and is modelled after the Nobel Prizes.
- It comes with a 7.5 million Norwegian kroner (NOK) monetary award (increased from 6 million NOK in 2019).
- When the Norwegian mathematician Sophus Lie realised that Alfred Nobel's plans for annual prizes did not include a prize in mathematics, he recommended its creation.
- The Abel Committee, whose members are appointed by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, selects the laureates.

### Has any Indian won this prestigious prize?

- R. Srinivasa Varadhan, an Indian-American citizen won the Abel Prize in the year 2007 for his valuable contribution in “probability theory and in particular for creating a unified theory of large deviation”.



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