


DECODED

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

MARCH 2022

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- Acquisitions & Mergers
- Appointments & Resignations
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NATIONAL NEWS

High-Level Meeting on Ukraine Crisis

- ★ On 28 February 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting to review the ongoing efforts under Operation Ganga to bring back Indians stranded in Ukraine.
- ★ Operation Ganga was launched to evacuate Indians from Ukraine.
- ★ Ukraine has been declared as a no-fly zone by the authorities for the security and safety of the nations and due to this many Indians were left stranded in Ukraine.
- ★ He also mentioned that, guided by India's motto of the world being one family, India will help people from neighboring countries and developing countries who are stranded in Ukraine.

International Monsoons Project Office Launched

- ★ India's Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) virtually on the occasion of National Science Day 2022.
- ★ The launch of IMPO is aligned with this year's theme of the National Science Day – 'Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future'.
- ★ The International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) will be hosted at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune for 5 years.
- ★ The IMPO is a step towards making India a global hub for monsoon research and coordination in a seamless manner for addressing common and region-specific aspects of the monsoons around the world.
- ★ He also urged that setting up the IMPO will give huge support to global monsoon research yielding mutual benefits to both the international and Indian research fraternity.
- ★ It also precedes the 7th WMO International Workshop on Monsoons which is being organised in India jointly by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the World Climate Research Programme, and the World Weather Research Programme in March 2022.

Cochin Airport to become Power-Positive

- ★ The Cochin International Airport Limited is set to become power-positive from its current status power-neutral with the commissioning of its new solar power plant near Payyannur in Kannur district of Kerala.
- ★ The power plant boasts of 12-megawatt capacity on a 35-acre land where CIAL introduced a concept of terrain-based installation where the geographical characteristics of the area are retained.
- ★ CIAL became the World's first airport to be fully powered by solar energy in 2015.
- ★ CIAL's solar plants together generate two lakh units of power a day whereas the daily consumption of power in the airport is 1.6 lakh units.

IIT Madras and NIOT Conduct OCEANS 2022

- ★ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, conducted OCEANS 2022 Conference for the first time in India.
- ★ The conference is being held in hybrid mode. It is a bi-annual event of global marine researchers from 21-24 February 2022.
- ★ This event is for global maritime professionals to learn, innovate, and lead in the protection and utilization of the world's largest natural resource.
- ★ The theme of the conference is 'Inspire-Innovate-Sustain'.
- ★ The conference will also highlight how 'UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development' is attempting to reduce the impact of climate change through renewable energies.

NCPCR Celebrates its 17th Foundation Day

- ★ On 01 March, 2022 the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (**NCPCR**) **celebrated its 17th Foundation Day** at Red Fort, New Delhi.
- ★ **Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani** launched the new motto of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.
- ★ It was organized by the Chairperson of NCPCR, Shri Priyank Kanoongo.
- ★ On the occasion, exhibition based on freedom fighters' stories was organised by Border Security Forces (BSF) in collaboration with NCPCR to know the sacrifices of freedom fighters to the next generation.

BEE Observes its 20th Foundation Day

- ★ Under the Ministry of Power, **The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**, commemorated **its 20th Foundation Day on 01 March 2022**, by organizing the National Innovation Conclave on Low Carbon Technologies.
- ★ Shri R.K. Singh emphasized that there is a need to establish a strong ecosystem for innovation showing benefits of energy savings and greenhouse gas emission reduction potential when deployed at a large scale in industrial and commercial sectors.
- ★ Facility for Low Carbon Technology Deployment (FLCTD) is a project financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in collaboration with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- ★ More than 35 innovators participated in the exposition organised under the event.

National Conclave on 'Social Enterprises for Garbage Free Cities'

- ★ On 03 March 2022, **The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** will organize a national conclave on 'Social Enterprises for Garbage Free Cities: Encouraging Women Entrepreneurs in Waste management' in collaboration with **the Government of Chhattisgarh in Raipur**.

- ★ The day-long event will serve as a platform for learning on various centralised and decentralized waste management practices, as part of the Mission's capacity building initiatives for States and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- ★ The event will also release the "National Capacity Building Framework for Garbage Free Cities" under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 which was launched by Prime Minister with vision of "waste from wealth".
- ★ It will help build capabilities of relevant stakeholders to strengthen the urban sanitation sector in the country.
- ★ Chhattisgarh has been adjudged the Cleanest State in India in the category of 'more than 100 ULBs' for 3 years under Swachh Survekshan and the Best State in the SafaiMitra Suraksha Challenge run by MoHUA.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman to Launch Major e-Governance Initiative

- ★ **The 46th Civil Accounts Day** is celebrated on **2nd March 2022** at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi.
- ★ During the occasion Finance Minister Sitharaman launched a major e-governance initiative - the Electronic Bill processing system as part of **ease of doing business and Digital India ecosystem**.
- ★ The e-Bill system will be implemented across all Central Ministries and Departments to enhance transparency, efficiency, and a faceless- paperless payment system.
- ★ With this initiative, suppliers and contractors will now be able to submit their claim online which will be trackable in real-time basis.
- ★ The finance minister had announced e-governance initiative in the Union Budget 2022-2023.

Bilateral Swap Arrangement Between India and Japan

- ★ On 28 February 2022, **Japan and India** renewed the Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA).
- ★ The Bank of Japan, acting as agent for the Minister of Finance of Japan, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signed the Amendment and Restatement Agreement of the BSA.
- ★ 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 75 billion USD**.
- ★ BSA aims to strengthen financial cooperation between the two countries and contribute to regional and global financial stability.
- ★ The first BSA was signed between RBI and Bank of Japan in 2018.

FSSAI to Issue Health Star Rating for Packaged Food

- ★ **The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has announced that it will introduce star rating for packaged food to educate consumers about the nutrition profile of the food they are consuming.
- ★ Packaged foods will display a number of stars on the Front of Pack Label (FOPL) to indicate whether the item is healthy or unhealthy.

- ★ The system will be similar to the one that is being used by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency for assessing the energy efficiency in electrical devices.
- ★ The star rating will be determined by the amount of fats, sugar, and salt in the food item.
- ★ The display of star ratings was recommended by a study conducted by **IIM Ahmedabad and Dexter Consultancy Pvt Ltd.**

Inland Water Transport (IWT) of Northeast

- ★ Under the vision of Prime Minister to energise the Northeast region as the new engine of growth in India, **Mizoram** plays an important role in the development of the inland water transport of Northeast.
- ★ Union Minister of Ports Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal reviewed the ongoing projects to develop the inland water transport (IWT) in Aizwal.
- ★ The inland water transport at Khawthilangtuipui (Karnaphuli)-Tuichawng River stretching up to 23 kms is to be developed at a total cost of Rs 22.93 crore.
- ★ For this project the PSW Ministry has sanctioned a total of Rs 6.17 crore under Central Sector Scheme.

'Roorkee Water Conclave 2022'

- ★ On 02 March 2022, the union minister for Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat virtually inaugurated the **2nd edition of the 'Roorkee Water Conclave 2022' at IIT, Roorkee.**
- ★ The Conclave is organized from 2nd March to 4th March 2022 by Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee and National Institute of Hydrology.
- ★ It would focus on the theme 'Water Security for Sustainable Development'.
- ★ It will also help find solutions to the issues of water scarcity, sanitation and sustainable use of water.
- ★ During the Conclave National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has set up an exhibition till 7th March 2022, in which various aspects related to River Ganga and its conservation and rejuvenation efforts will be delivered.

NIC Tech Conclave

- ★ On 03 March 2022, Communications and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the **3rd edition of NIC Tech Conclave in New Delhi.**
- ★ The two-day event is organized by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- ★ It focuses on Emerging Technologies applicable especially in e-Governance.
- ★ The Theme of this year 2022 is "Next-Gen Technologies for Digital Government".
- ★ The discussions in various areas like Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics, Next Gen Database Solutions, Cyber Security, Future of Cloud, and various e-Governance Solutions will also be held during the conclave.

‘Arogya Vanam’ at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- ★ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated a hub of medicinal herbs and plants **‘Arogya Vanam’ at Rashtrapati Bhavan** in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and First Lady Savita Kovind.
- ★ It is constructed over 6.6 acres, has been developed in the shape of a human sitting in the Yoga Mudra.
- ★ It is developed with the focus of explaining the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on the human body.
- ★ It has 215 types of medicinal plants and will be open for public view.

India’s First Ambulance for Street Animals

- ★ India’s first ambulance for street animals launched by Madras High Court Justice Dr Anitha Sumanth in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- ★ It has been started by the Blue Cross of India in collaboration with the international animal welfare Organization “Four Paw”.
- ★ The Stray Animal Care programme will be a “hospital on wheels” with an on-board veterinarian to provide on-site treatment to injured and sick street animal.

Host Country Agreement

- ★ On 03 March 2022, **The International Telecommunications Union (ITU)** signed a **‘Host Country Agreement’** with **the Indian government** to establish an ITU Area Office and an Innovation Centre at New Delhi. It will come into operation in the middle of 2022.
- ★ The Centre is established to explore research and development in **telecoms technologies in South Asian countries**.
- ★ The Area Office and Innovation Centre of ITU at New Delhi is expected to serve South Asian countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and India.
- ★ The agreement was jointly signed by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Communications, and Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General of the ITU.

Greenfield Airport in Arunachal Pradesh

- ★ The **Airport Authority of India (AAI)** has approved the construction of a **Greenfield Airport in Hollongi, Arunachal Pradesh** which is 15 kilometres from Itanagar.
- ★ It is to be operational from 15 August 2022.
- ★ The estimated cost of the project is ₹645 crore which includes development work such as airport pavement construction, airside work, terminal building construction, and city side work.
- ★ The proposed airport is designed to accommodate A-320 aircraft.
- ★ Airport will have a capacity to handle 200 passengers during peak hours.

Stree Manoraksha Project

- ★ Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani launches 'Stree Manoraksha Project', to help women who are facing violence.
- ★ It was launched in collaboration with National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) in Bangaluru, Karnataka with an aim to improve the mental health of women in India.
- ★ It was launched as a part of nationwide celebrations of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav".
- ★ During the event, an insurance cover of ₹5 lakh was announced for the workers of One Stop Centres which was established in 2015 and helped over five lakh women in the country.

Financial Action Task Force

- ★ The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) assembly was conducted from March 01 – March 04, 2022 under the German Presidency of Dr Marcus Pleyer.
- ★ Over 200 members from the Global Network and observer organisations, including the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units were participated.
- ★ Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has once again retained **Pakistan** on the increased monitoring list, also known as **the "grey list"**.
- ★ This grey listing has adversely impacted its imports, exports, remittances, and limited access to international lending.
- ★ Pakistan has been on the FATF's grey list since June 2018.

'Kavach' to Avoid Rail Accidents

- ★ On 04 March 2022, **Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** successfully tested anti-collision system '**Kavach**'.
- ★ The indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system, Kavach, was designed to help the Railways achieve - zero accidents.
- ★ 'Kavach' automatically stopped the train before 380 metres of another Locomotive at the front.
- ★ The Kavach will be the world's cheapest automatic train collision protection system.
- ★ It would cost ₹50 lakh per kilometer.

DST & Intel India to Boost AI Readiness

- ★ **The Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India, launched the program '**Building AI Readiness among Young Innovators**' in partnership with **Intel India**, on the occasion of National Science Day on 28th February.
- ★ The program aims to build digital readiness among the students from classes 6 to 10, enrolled under DST's INSPIRE-Awards MANAK scheme.
- ★ The flagship program of DST reaches out to students pan India with an aim to create a culture of creativity and innovative thinking.

- ★ It will bring both these together and seek to build an AI-ready generation by empowering the students with the knowledge and skills to leverage AI in an inclusive way.

IHCL partners with UNESCO

- ★ The Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), India's largest hospitality company, has announced to collaborate with The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) to help safeguard and promote the intangible cultural heritage of India as part of a new initiative to transform the landscape of travel in the post pandemic world.
- ★ It will offer experiential tours for travellers at various IHCL hotels, so that they can experience better the living heritage of the country.
- ★ The first phase includes visits to local communities practicing art forms like Patachitra - a traditional scroll painting technique in West Bengal, Ganga Aarti – the prayer ceremony at Dasashwamedh Ghat at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, as well as Kalbelia performances, Blue Pottery making, Bagru Hand Block printing, and the Terracota art of Molela.

53rd Raising Day celebrations of Central Industrial Security Force

- ★ **The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** is celebrating its **53rd Raising Day** at the 5th Reserve Battalion, Indirapuram on **06 March**.
- ★ Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah attended the meeting.
- ★ Medals were presented to Officers and Jawans of CISF for gallantry and outstanding services and also released the Force's magazine 'Sentinel-2022'
- ★ Amit Shah encouraged a hybrid security model and mentioned that CISF and the private sector to come together to provide effective security to various private industrial and manufacturing sector units.

PM to Inaugurate Multiple Projects in Pune

- ★ The Prime Minister will inaugurate a 12 km stretch of the total 32.2 km Pune Metro Rail Project.
- ★ The entire project is being built at a total cost of approximately ₹11,400 crore.
- ★ This project is an attempt to provide world-class infrastructure for urban mobility in Pune.
- ★ During his visit he will also inaugurate and inspect the Exhibition at Garware Metro Station and will undertake a metro ride from there to Anandnagar Metro Station.
- ★ Prime Minister will unveil the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on the premises of Pune Municipal Corporation. The statue is made up of 1,850 kg gunmetal and is about 9.5 feet tall.
- ★ He also laid the foundation stone of rejuvenation and pollution abatement of the Mula-Mutha River projects on the concept of "One City One Operator" at a cost of over ₹ 1,470 crore.

Indian Navy Successfully Test-Fires BrahMos Missile

- ★ The Indian Navy successfully demonstrated the accuracy of an extended-range land-attack Brahmos supersonic cruise missile from the **stealth destroyer INS Chennai**.
- ★ Both Brahmos missile and INS Chennai are indigenously built.

- ★ INS Chennai is constructed by the Mazagon Dock Limited at Mumbai.
- ★ BrahMos is a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation of India (DRDO) and the NPOM of Russia.
- ★ It flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or three times the speed of sound. It has a range of 290 km and can carry a 200 kg warhead.

NSE Joins Hand with Telangana Government

- ★ Leading stock exchange **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** has collaborated with the **Telangana government** to encourage and support the MSMEs (micro, small & medium enterprises) of the state for listing.
- ★ NSE with the support of the Telangana government will conduct awareness drive through seminars, camps, knowledge sessions, road shows and workshops to guide corporates across the state in fund raising on NSE Emerge platform.
- ★ The state will also set up a government-sponsored equity participation fund to invest in the fast-growing SMEs on the exchange platform.

GoI Approves Modernisation Plan-IV

- ★ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved the Modernisation Plan-IV for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) scheme, in continuation of the scheme Modernisation Plan-III for CAPFs.
- ★ It is approved in order to improve the overall operational efficiency with a financial outlay of ₹1, 523 crore.
- ★ The scheme will be implemented from 1 February 2022 to 31 March 2026.
- ★ Under this project the CAPFs will be equipped with modern state-of-the-art equipment and weapons as per the operational requirements while keeping in view their deployment pattern in various theatres.
- ★ CAPFs will also be provided with improved IT solutions.

Jio World Centre

- ★ Reliance Industries Ltd. announced that it had opened the country's largest and most prestigious multi-faceted destination, the Jio World Centre in Bandra Kurla Complex, **Mumbai, Maharashtra.**
- ★ A first-of-its-kind destination in India, the Jio World Centre includes 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 state-of-the-art convention facility.
- ★ It has hybrid and digital experiences enabled by the 5G network.
- ★ RIL also dedicated Dhirubhai Ambani Square.
- ★ The Dhirubhai Ambani Square is centered around the Fountain of Joy, a series of spectacular fountain shows of water, lights & music.

'Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav' Campaign

- ★ On 07 March 2022, **the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)**, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF), launched a campaign **'Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav'**.
- ★ It is an initiative to bring back out of school adolescent girls in India to the formal education or skilling system.
- ★ The campaign has been launched with the objective of enhancing enrolment and existence of girls between 11-14 years of age in school.
- ★ The initiative intends to build on the existing schemes and programmes like Schemes for Adolescent Girls (SAG), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and National Education Policy (NEP) to work on a comprehensive system for out of school girls.
- ★ It is celebrated as a part International Women's Day, which is on 08 March 2022.

NIESBUD Signs an MoU with Ministry of Rural Development

- ★ **National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD)**, an autonomous organisation under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)**.
- ★ It is an agreement to develop a sustainable model for promoting entrepreneurship at the grass roots by initiating the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP).
- ★ SVEP is a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- ★ It aims to support entrepreneurs in rural areas to set-up enterprises at the village-level in non-agricultural sectors.
- ★ This will support creating an innovative ecosystem, accelerating economic and social gains at the community level.
- ★ Under the partnership rural entrepreneurs will be able to access banking systems for receiving financial support for starting their enterprises, including support from MUDRA bank.
- ★ The beneficiaries of the project are from the Self-Help Group (SHG) ecosystem of DAY-NRLM and the scheme supports both existing enterprises and new enterprises.

Donate-a-Pension Programme

- ★ On 07 March 2022, the government of India launched the **Donate-a-Pension programme**.
- ★ **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoL&E)**, has launched the programme for people to contribute to the pension fund to their support staff.
- ★ It is an initiative under the **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM)** pension scheme where citizens can donate the premium contribution of their immediate support staff including domestic workers, drivers and helpers.
- ★ Under the programme, workers in the unorganised sector with the age group of 18 to 40 years can register themselves and donation amount for a year is minimum of ₹660 and maximum up to ₹2400 depending on their age.

- ★ The minimum donation period is one year.
- ★ PM-SYM was launched in 2019, a voluntary and contributory pension scheme to ensure protection for unorganized workers, whose monthly income is below ₹15,000.

Sagar Parikrama

- ★ The **Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**, Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the '**Sagar Parikrama**' to know the problems of Coastal Fishermen community in Gujarat.
- ★ It will focus on sustainable balance between the utilization of marine fisheries resources for food security of the nation and livelihoods of coastal fisher communities and protection of marine ecosystems.
- ★ The initiative looks at the scope of seafood exports as the country has a coastline of 8118 kms.
- ★ It covers 9 maritime states and 4 union territories.
- ★ The first leg of 'Sagar Parikrama' shall begin from Gujarat.

HANSA-NG - India's First Indigenous Flying Trainer

- ★ India's first indigenous flying trainer '**HANSA-NG**', has successfully completed the sea-level trials at Puducherry from February 19 to March 5, 2022.
- ★ It was designed and developed by **CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)**.
- ★ The aircraft was flown from Bengaluru to Puducherry covering a distance of 140 nautical miles in 1.5 hours at a cruising speed of 155 km/hr.
- ★ According to NAL, HANSA-NG is one of the most advanced flying trainers powered by Rotax Digital Control Engine and it is designed to meet the Indian flying club needs.
- ★ It is an ideal aircraft for Commercial Pilot Licensing (CPL) due to its low cost and low fuel consumption.

BSE Joins Hands with Tamil Nadu's M-TIPB

- ★ Indian Stock exchange **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** has announced to collaborate with the MSME Trade and Investment Promotion Bureau (M-TIPB), Government of **Tamil Nadu** to promote awareness among micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) of the state about the benefits of listing.
- ★ BSE will provide the capacity building and soft support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Tamil Nadu for fulfilling listing requirements.
- ★ Through the collaboration, Tamil Nadu SMEs will get an opportunity to raise funds through Initial Public Offerings (IPO) by listing in the BSE SME platform.
- ★ The BSE will also appoint a nodal person as single point contact in Tamil Nadu for providing end-to-end solution.

Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY)

- ★ On 08 March 2022, the government of India has approved the continuation of the **Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY) till 2025-26.**
- ★ The scheme aims to provide a monthly Samman (Pension) and other financial benefits to freedom fighters and their eligible dependents, as an honour for their contribution in the national freedom struggle.
- ★ The total outlay of the scheme SSSY is ₹3274.87 crore.
- ★ **Ministry of Home Affairs is the Nodal Ministry** of the scheme and the proposal for continuation of the SSSY was received from the Union Minister Amit Shah.

Chhattisgarh Government Launches 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana'

- ★ **Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel** launched the '**Kaushalya Matritva Yojana**' for **safe motherhood** at a state-level conference.
- ★ Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs 5000 will be given to women on the birth of second girl child.
- ★ It aims to help women financially for the nutrition of themselves and their child after pregnancy.
- ★ On the occasion, the chief minister honoured Anganwadi workers, officials who do excellent work in the direction of women protection under 'Sakhi One Stop Center' and 'Nava Bihan Yojana'.
- ★ He also released 'Kanya Vivah Yojana' Coffee Table Book, Sakhi One Stop Center Telephone Directory, and brochures of schemes related to women empowerment.

Floating Solar Power Station in Thoothukudi

- ★ Chief Minister **MK Stalin** inaugurated India's first and largest **floating solar power plant at Thoothukudi, TamilNadu.**
- ★ The plant is estimated at a cost of ₹150.4 crore.
- ★ The plant will generate 42 million units of electricity per year.
- ★ It is established in Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation Limited (SPIC) which is owned by Greenam Energy, a wholly owned subsidiary of AM International.

India's Largest Datacenter Region in Hyderabad

- ★ Tech giant **Microsoft** has announced, that the company will set up its fourth data centre in **Hyderabad, Telangana.**
- ★ It will be one of the largest data centers in India and will be operational by 2025.
- ★ The company and Telangana state government signed a definitive agreement with a total investment of ₹15,000 crore.
- ★ The new data centre will add to the growing demand for Microsoft cloud services.
- ★ This will indirectly support local business growth and facilitate job creation across IT operations, facilities management, data and network security, network engineering.

Nine-Month Directors' Development Programme

- ★ The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) has implemented a nine-month Directors' development programme (DDP) for the management of public sector banks with a view to improve the quality of bank board.
- ★ The DDP is designed for the directors of the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and financial institutions with the key objective of enhancing director effectiveness to increase their impact on the board.
- ★ This programme helps the directors to think business's future and upgrade themselves to be a source of wisdom and counsel for management and stakeholders in order to improve PSB's performance levels in the world scenario.
- ★ The BBB, the headhunter for state-owned banks and financial institutions, formed in 2016. It was also entrusted with the task of engaging with the board of directors of all PSBs to formulate appropriate strategies for their growth and development.

India's 1st Women-Owned Industrial Park

- ★ On 09 March 2022, **India's first 100% women-owned industrial park** called FLO Industrial Park launched (FIP) in **Sultanpur, Hyderabad**.
- ★ The park is promoted by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Ladies Organization (FLO) in partnership with Telangana government to propagate and encourage sustainable development and growth.
- ★ The park has been set up in 50 acres with an investment of ₹250 crore.
- ★ The park has 25 units, representing 16 diverse green category industries, all owned and operated by women.
- ★ The FIP began operations with **25 Green Projects in Hyderabad**.
- ★ This paves way for female entrepreneurs to run and operate their business from this park.

Bodh Gaya to Have India's Largest Statue of Lord Buddha

- ★ India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being built in **Bodh Gaya, Bihar**.
- ★ It is being constructed by **Buddha International Welfare Mission**.
- ★ The 100 feet long and 30 feet high statue depicts Lord Buddha in a sleeping posture.
- ★ The construction of the giant statue started in the year 2019. It is being made with fiberglass and built by sculptors from Kolkata.
- ★ The giant statue of Lord Buddha will be open for devotees from February 2023 and Bodh Gaya is an important pilgrimage centre for Buddhism.

NITI Aayog Join Hands with Snap Inc

- ★ Atal Innovation Mission, **NITI Aayog and Snap Inc**, announced their partnership to drive **Augmented Reality (AR)** skilling among the Indian youth.
- ★ It is announced on the celebration of International Women's Day.
- ★ It focuses on increasing the participation of girls and young women in AR.

- ★ Snap Inc is expected to train over 12,000 teachers affiliated with the Atal Tinkering Labs on Augmented Reality and enabling the reach of the program to millions of students affiliated with ATL's network of schools over 2-year time period.
- ★ Snap Inc also announced its partnership with the Atal Incubation Centers (AICs) to support the Indian start-up ecosystem with AR advertising boot camps, Ad credits and other opportunities.

India & Singapore to Jointly Develop Products

- ★ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the fields Science, Technology and Innovation signed between the Department of Science & Technology, **Government of India**, and Ministry of Trade & Industry, **Government of Singapore**.
- ★ It will encourage, develop and facilitate cooperation between India and Singapore in areas like Agriculture and food science and technology, advanced manufacturing and engineering, green economy, energy, water, climate.
- ★ This Memorandum will remain in effect for a **period of 5 years** and will be automatically extended for a successive period of 5 years.
- ★ The cooperative activities will include sharing experiences on the national research, development, and innovation policies and programmes of each country, exchanging and sharing of scientific and technological information.

'PARAM Ganga' Installed at IIT Roorkee

- ★ The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) has deployed '**PARAM Ganga**', a supercomputer at **IIT Roorkee, Uttarakhand** with a supercomputing capacity of 1.66 Petaflops.
- ★ Petaflops – Peta Floating -Point Operations Per Second.
- ★ NSM is a joint initiative by MeITY and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), and implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc).
- ★ The system is designed and commissioned by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) under Phase 2 of the build approach of the NSM, which is a step towards the 'Make in India' initiative of the government.
- ★ This National Supercomputing facility was inaugurated by chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Roorkee B.V.R. Mohan Reddy.

Establishment of 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor

- ★ On 10th March 2022, **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **IIT Roorkee (IITR)** for establishment of '**BIS Standardization Chair Professor**' at **IIT Roorkee**.
- ★ This would be the first Standardization Chair established by BIS in an Institute for activities on Standardization and Conformity Assessment.
- ★ The MoU will focus on the areas of civil, electrical, mechanical, chemical, earthquake engineering, development and management of water resources and renewable energy projects, infrastructure development, medical biotechnology and nanotechnology, biotechnology, biomaterials, etc.

- ★ This will also help in sensitizing students on how standards can encourage and facilitate innovation and will help in grooming students making them better prepared for their future professional challenges.
- ★ Shri Pramod Kumar Tiwari, Director General of BIS, provide all the necessary support towards this initiative.

WHO's Global Centre for Traditional Medicine at Jamnagar

- ★ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the proposal to establish a WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) in **Jamnagar, Gujarat**.
- ★ The WHO GCTM will be established under the Ministry of Ayush.
- ★ It would be the first and only global centre for traditional medicine across the globe.
- ★ It would help develop norm, standards, and guidelines in relevant technical areas, tools and methodologies for collecting data undertaking analytics and assessing impact.

Tripura Government Announces Special Scheme for Tea Workers

- ★ **Tripura state government** has announced a special scheme named “**Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa**” to ensure social security of over 7,000 tea garden workers.
- ★ The scheme assures housing, rations and financial support to the tea garden workers providing them with facilities of state and central government entitlements.
- ★ The total outlay for the scheme costs ₹85 crore.
- ★ Primary aspects of the scheme are to provide land or home to the farmers, allot land of defunct tea garden on lease basis through Cooperative, to provide drinking water, electricity, shelter, education and healthcare amenities to each and every family.
- ★ About 75% of the 7000 tea garden workers are women and they produce nearly 90 lakh kilograms of tea through 54 tea estates & 21 tea processing factories across the state.

Vice President on 2-day visit to Sikkim

- ★ **Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu** is on a 2-day visit to **Gangtok, Sikkim**.
- ★ He is scheduled to lay the foundation stone of Kanchendzonga State University at Tarku in South Sikkim from Samman Bhavan virtually.
- ★ During his visit he will interact with students from Sikkim who were evacuated from Ukraine and unveil statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at the Governor's residence.

National Youth Parliament Festival

- ★ On 10 March 2022, **Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Anurag Thakur** addressed the inaugural meeting of **National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) in New Delhi**.
- ★ This year marks the **3rd edition**.
- ★ Theme of this year National Youth Parliament Festival is ‘**be the voice of New India and find solutions and contribute to Policy**’.

- ★ Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla will address the valedictory function of NYPF on 11th March, 2022.
- ★ The aim of the NYPF is to hear the voice of the youth between 18 and less than 25 years of age.

India's Digital Economy to See Growth of 800 billion Dollars By 2030

- ★ Finance Minister, **Nirmala Sitharaman** announced that India's digital economy is expected to witness exponential growth to **800 billion dollars by 2030** on the back of rising internet penetration and increasing income.
- ★ She said India has over 6,300 fintechs, of which 28% are into investment technology, 27% into payments, 16% into lending, and 9% into banking infrastructure, while over 20% are into other fields.
- ★ The combined valuation of India's fintech industry is set to surge to **150 billion dollars in the next three years**.

Indian Railways' 1st Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal commissioned

- ★ The Asansol division of **Indian Railways** has successfully commissioned a private siding of **Maithan Power Limited at Thaparnagar, Jharkhand** in- line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision "Gati Shakti" and the Ministry of Railways policy on the "Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal" (GCT).
- ★ Since the publication of the GCT policy in December of 2021, this is the **FIRST** such GCT to be commissioned in Indian Railways.
- ★ The Maithan Power Project began construction in 2009, and power generation began in 2011.
- ★ The power generation will increase earnings of Indian Railways around ₹11 crores.
- ★ Coal was delivered to the power plant through a road which is converted into 120 inward coal rakes every month.

Young Scientist Programme

- ★ The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** organized a special programme for school children called "**Yuva Vigyani Karyakram**" (**YUVIKA**) or "**Young Scientist Programme**".
- ★ The aim of this initiative is to provide basic knowledge on space technology, space science and space applications to young students, especially for those from rural areas.
- ★ The programme aims to select 150 students who are studying in Class IX as on March 1, 2022 across the country. ISRO named the programme "catch them young".
- ★ The programme is also expected to encourage more students to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) based careers and research work.
- ★ The programme is planned to be held at **five ISRO centres** - Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram; U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), Bengaluru; Space Application Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad; National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad and North-East Space Application Centre (NE-SAC), Shillong.

The Festival of Letters of Sahitya Akademi

- ★ On 10th March 2022, Sahityotsav, the Festival of Letters of Sahitya Akademi, India's most inclusive literature festival began in New Delhi.
- ★ Festival of Letters 2022 is being celebrated to commemorate 75th anniversary of India's Independence.
- ★ The prestigious Sahitya Akademi Awards were presented to the **24 Award winners**.
- ★ Dr. Chandrashekhra Kambar, President of Sahitya Akademi presented the awards to awardees.

First Drone School Established

- ★ Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia along with Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated **the first drone school in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**.
- ★ The aim is to create an ecosystem for drone operations in the country and to open employment opportunities in this industry as drones are used for various purposes.
- ★ Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced that five Drone Schools will be opened in different cities of Madhya Pradesh including Gwalior, Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Satna.

Vintage Car and Bike Exhibition Held at NMIC

- ★ On 13 March 2022, an exhibition of vintage cars and bikes has been held at the National Museum of Indian Cinema premises in the Films Division complex, **Mumbai**.
- ★ The exhibition has been organized by the National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) in collaboration with The Vintage and Classic Car Club of India (VCCCI) as part of the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ★ Neerja Sekhar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting announced that is a symbolism that helps us to remind the current generation about the struggles and sacrifice rendered by our earlier generations.

Ministry of Rural Development Organizes 'Gender Samwaad'

- ★ On 11 March 2022, the third edition of 'Gender Samwaad' organised by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), **Ministry of Rural Development was launched**.
- ★ It is a national virtual initiative under the DAY-NRLM to create awareness on the mission's interventions across the country with a gender lens.
- ★ The theme for this edition was 'Promotion of food and nutrition security through women's collectives'.
- ★ The event was organized as a part of Ministry's Iconic Week celebration theme 'Naye Bharat ki Naari' under Amrit Mahotsava.
- ★ Over 3000 State Mission staff and Self-Help Group (SHG) attended the event.

Creation of Record for Road Construction In 100 Hours

- ★ India Book of Records have awarded certificates in creation of record for Highest Quantity of Bituminous Mix laid for road construction in 100 Hours.
- ★ It was awarded to PNC Infratech Ltd for the longest Length of Flexible Pavement (DBM Course) road construction in 100 Hours.
- ★ **Union Minister for Road Transport and highways Shri Nitin Gadkari** announced that incredible feat was achieved by PNC Infratech Ltd at the Construction of 8-Lane access-controlled expressway starting from junction NH-47 near Bhamiya village and ending at junction SH-175 in Baletiya village in Panchmahal district, Gujarat.

Daily Flight Between Indore-Gondia-Hyderabad Route

- ★ **Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** flagged-off daily flight between the Indore-Gondia-Hyderabad route virtually under Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik, UDAN.
- ★ UDAN scheme is in line with the Prime Minister's dream of providing air services to the common man.
- ★ Under UDAN scheme, 405 routes have already been made operational.
- ★ The Indore-Gondia-Hyderabad route will connect Indore with the two states Maharashtra and Telangana.
- ★ In the last one year, the aircraft operation from Indore has doubled while in Bhopal it has increased by 40 percent.
- ★ The central government announced to bring Small Aircraft Scheme, which will strengthen connectivity in tier 2 and 3 cities.

Portal for Purchasing and Registering Electric Autos – My EV

- ★ The **Delhi Government** launched an online portal My EV (My Electric Vehicle) to the purchase and registration of electric autos in the city, Delhi.
- ★ The government will also provide five per cent interest subvention on the purchase of e-autos on loans under the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy.
- ★ Delhi has now become the first state to provide such a facility.
- ★ The portal was developed by Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL).
- ★ The 'My EV Portal' will enable the Letter of Intent (LoI) holders to purchase e-autos and claim the incentives provided by the Delhi government.
- ★ Under this partnership, CESL has empanelled six Financial Institutions (FIs) Mahindra Finance, Akasa Finance, Mannapuram Finance, RevFin and Prest Loans through an open and transparent process to provide loans to electric vehicles at attractive terms.

Land Records in Own Language

- ★ On 14 March 2022, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh released an e-book on Land Governance Reforms in New Delhi.

- ★ During the meeting, he announced that the people of the country will be able to get their land records in their own language.
- ★ The land records will be available in 22 languages.
- ★ The Department of Land Resources will plan to roll out the multilingual software from next month.

Country's First Digital Water Bank 'AQVERIUM'

- ★ The country's **first Digital Water Bank 'AQVERIUM' was launched in Bengaluru, Karnataka.**
- ★ It is formed by AquaKraft Group Ventures, focused on providing clean drinking water and sanitation.
- ★ C.N.Ashwatha Narayana, Minister for IT/BT and Science and Technology announced it as a very unique innovation combining sustainable and green technologies along with information technology, skill development and entrepreneurship.
- ★ Water security is the key for India to become a USD 5 trillion economy.

India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Startup Challenge

- ★ **Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri** launched the 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Startup Challenge' under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0.
- ★ The Ministry organised the event to encourage the solution providers to come up with various solutions to solve water problems in urban India.
- ★ JanaJal, a company working to make safe drinking water available, accessible, and affordable to the common man in a sustainable manner, also participated and showcased its innovative solutions to mitigate problems related to water.
- ★ At India Habitat Centre, MoHUA hosted the India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Startup Conclave for entrepreneurs, young innovators and industry partners.
- ★ Ministry of HUA announced a startup challenge on the MyGov platform.

Mumbai to aim for carbon neutrality by 2050

- ★ According to the report by Bloomberg, **Mumbai** has announced many measures in its Climate Action Plan (MCAP) to achieve carbon neutrality or **net zero emissions by 2050.**
- ★ This makes it the first city in South Asia to set the target.
- ★ India has committed to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- ★ Mumbai's target is 20 years ahead of India's target.
- ★ Target also include a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHC) emissions by 2030 and 44% reduction by 2040.
- ★ The MCAP has been devised by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) as part of its commitment towards building a climate-resilient city.

- ★ The plan has proposed some significant changes to the way Mumbai manages energy, water, air, waste, green spaces and transport for its 19 million residents.

India's first 'World Peace Center'

- ★ Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti organisation established by Ambassador of Peace, Jainacharya Dr Lokeshji will establish India's first **World Peace Center in Gurugram, Haryana**.
- ★ The programs of Peace Education, prepared with the coordination of ancient knowledge and modern science, would be conducted for everyone such as students, teachers, youth, women, doctors, engineers, lawyers, traders, farmers etc.
- ★ The land for the construction of the World Peace Centre (WPC) was allocated by the Haryana Government to the organization. It will be completed in two years.

Consumer Empowerment Week

- ★ **Department of Consumers Affairs under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution** organized "Consumer Empowerment Week" from March 14 to March 20, 2022.
- ★ It is celebrated to honour 75 years of progressive India and the history of its people, culture, and achievements as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ★ It is celebrated in line with the World Consumer Rights Day on 15 March 2022.
- ★ Under Consumer Empowerment Week, the Department of Consumer Affairs will host a number of events across the country.
- ★ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Indian Institute of Legal Metrology (IILM) Ranchi, National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF), National Test House (NTH), and Regional Reference Standards Laboratories (RRSLs) will conduct rural outreach programmes in 75 villages on the first day of the celebration.

CCI Approves Acquisition of Equity Stake

- ★ **The Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves acquisition of equity stake in Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited by Generali Participations Netherlands N.V.
- ★ Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited (**FGIIC**) is a general insurance company engaged in the provision of non-life or general insurance services in India.
- ★ Generali Participations Netherlands N.V. (**GPN**) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Assicurazioni Generali, the ultimate parent entity of the Generali group of companies.
- ★ The Generali Group is a global insurance provider and is present in the general insurance industry in India through FGIIC.
- ★ GPN proposes to acquire 25% of the equity share capital of FGIIC held by Future Enterprises Limited, pursuant to which GPN's aggregate (direct and indirect) shareholding in FGIIC will stand increased from 49% to 74%.

Govt Extends Subordinate Debt Scheme for MSMEs

- ★ **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** announced the extension of the Rs 20,000-crore Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD) for stressed MSMEs by another 1 year till **March 31, 2023**.
- ★ The extension was based on the requests received from the stakeholders of the scheme.
- ★ Initially, the scheme was up to March 31, 2022.
- ★ The scheme provides credit facility via banks to the promoters of stressed MSMEs including special mention accounts (SMA)-2 and non-perform asset (NPA) accounts that are eligible for restructuring as per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines.
- ★ Subordinate Debt for Stressed MSMEs was created on May 13, 2020 under AatmaNirbhar Bharat economic package. It was launched on June 24, 2020.

HAL with SASMOS

- ★ **Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL)** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bengaluru-based company SASMOS to work together on advanced electronics, electrical and fibre optic interconnections in the aerospace domain.
- ★ **Naini Aerospace Limited (NAeL)**, a subsidiary of HAL was also signed an agreement.
- ★ The MoU is intended to explore business cooperation, especially in the northern India, through utilization of capacity and capabilities of NAeL.
- ★ HAL is an Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company under the Ministry of Defence.

BRO and GRSE to Construct 27 Double-Lane Modular Bridges

- ★ Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and state-owned warship building firm Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for constructing 27 carriageway double lane galvanized modular bridges of 7.5 meters with Indian Road Congress (IRC) Load Class 70.
- ★ The two-year contract will include the fabrication, supply, erection, and launching of these 27 modular bridges.
- ★ It is constructed with an outlay of ₹60 crore.
- ★ The bridge was constructed on “Flag Hill-Dokala” road in Sikkim at an altitude of 11,000 feet under Project Swastik of BRO.

Nation's first AI & Robotics Technology Park- ARTPARK

- ★ The country's first Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (**ARTPARK**) was launched in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- ★ It is promoted by a not-for-profit foundation set up by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, with a seed capital of ₹230 crore from the State and Central governments.
- ★ ARTPARK intends to use futuristic technologies to connect the unconnected will work with a focus on creating a globally leading Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Innovation ecosystem in India.

- ★ ARTPARK and AI Foundry is going to launch a USD 100 million venture fund to support AI and Robotics innovations in India.

Largest Coal Producing Company in India

- ★ The **Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)** has crossed 157 million tonne (MT) in coal production in the financial year of 2021-22, to become the leading coal producing company in the country.
- ★ It announced that it has become the largest coal producer in the country.
- ★ On March 12, 2022, the company produced 7.62 lakh tonne of dry fuel which is the highest in a day during the current financial year.
- ★ Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the company, OP Singh congratulated all officers, staff, employees of contracted companies and other stakeholders for their contribution in making MCL the leading coal producing company in the country.

Foundation Course at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the Valedictory Function of 96th Common Foundation Course at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussorie virtually.
- ★ He will also inaugurate the new sports complex and dedicate revamped Happy Valley Complex to the Nation.
- ★ The 96th Foundation Course is the first Common Foundation Course at LBSNAA based on the principles of Mission Karmayogi with new pedagogy and course design.
- ★ The batch comprises 488 Officer Trainees from 16 services and three Royal Bhutan Services Administrative, Police and Forest.
- ★ It focuses on first-level training in Krav Maga and in various other sports and Officer Trainees also visited villages in remote or border areas to understand the challenges faced by people living in these areas.

WOLP and Haryana to set up Warehouses

- ★ **Welspun One Logistics Parks (WOLP)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of **Haryana** to develop large scale warehousing facilities.
- ★ WOLP will invest ₹1500 crore for this project.
- ★ Welspun One Logistics Parks (WOLP) is an integrated fund, development, and asset management organization, designed to deliver large format, institutional Grade-A logistics parks across India.
- ★ It aims to explore the available government land parcels for building Grade A warehousing facilities across key warehousing micro-markets.
- ★ The project will cover 5 million square feet to be built over a 3-to-4-year period which will help generate more than 4,500 jobs.
- ★ The development cost of ₹180 crore will be executed under WOLP first Alternate Investment Fund.

India Restores e-tourist Visas

- ★ **Ministry of Home Affairs** has restored all valid five-year e-tourist visas to nationals of **156 countries** with immediate effect which was suspended since March 2020 because of the Covid pandemic.
- ★ Nationals of these countries will also be eligible to issue of fresh e-Tourist visas. The government took the step keeping in view the improvement in the COVID-19 situation in the country and considering the need for further relaxation of visa and travel restrictions.
- ★ The Ministry has also restored valid long-duration - 10 years tourist visas for US and Japanese nationals and permit issue of fresh visas to citizens of both countries.

India's First Hydrogen Fuel Cell EV

- ★ **Toyota** has launched India's first hydrogen fuel cell-powered Electric Vehicle named **Toyota Mirai at New Delhi**.
- ★ It is the world's most advanced technology inaugurated by the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari.
- ★ It is a part of a pilot project that is being conducted by International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT) along with Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd. to study and evaluate the performance of Toyota Mirai on Indian roads and climatic conditions.
- ★ The vehicle is capable of providing a range up to 650km in a single charge with a refueling time of 5 minutes.
- ★ It will help India to achieve 'Energy Self-reliant' by 2047.

Goa Declaration

- ★ The "**Goa Declaration**" is a first-of-its-kind academic declaration towards achieving the UN's sustainable development goals.
- ★ Over 20 Indian private universities and higher educational institutions (HEIs) signed a Goa Declaration at the conclusion of the three-day **PACT2030 conclave held in Goa**.
- ★ It is signed to plan "better and improved" actions to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in their institutions and cities to strengthen India's net zero commitment.
- ★ The PACT2030 (Pledge, Act, Change & Transform), a carbon-neutral conclave was organised by QS I-GAUGE which is a renowned agency for ranking of Indian educational institutions, from the UK-based QS Quacquarelli Symonds Group.

DRDO Constructs Multi-Storey Building

- ★ India's premier defence research institute, **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** has built a multi-storey facility for flight control system at Aeronautical Development Establishment in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- ★ They will have facilities for developing equipment for fighter aircraft and flight control system (FCS) for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project. It was constructed in record of 45 days at an estimated cost of ₹15, 000 crore.

- ★ The building features, the design check and technical support was provided by teams from IIT Madras and IIT Roorkee.

Longest Vessel Sailing on Brahmaputra

- ★ The MV Ram Prasad Bismil has become the longest vessel to sail from Ganga to the Brahmaputra.
- ★ The 90-metre-long and 20-metre-wide cargo vessel along with two barges - DB Kalpana Chawla and DB APJ Abdul Kalam was flagged off from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Haldia by the Minister for Shipping, Ports and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal.
- ★ It carried 1793 metric tonnes of steel rods from Haldia in West Bengal to Pandu in Assam covering the distance through Bangladesh on the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBPR).
- ★ The Inland Water Transport Authority of Bangladesh and India who worked together to achieve this feat.

35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2022

- ★ Surajkund International Crafts Mela -2022 will be held in **Faridabad** from 19 March to 4 April, 2022.
- ★ It is jointly hosted by the Surajkund Mela Authority in collaboration with the Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture, External Affairs and Department of Tourism, Government of Haryana and Haryana Tourism Corporation.
- ★ The Surajkund Mela is unique as it showcases the richness and diversity of the handicrafts, handlooms and cultural fabric of India and is one of the largest crafts fairs in the world.
- ★ **Jammu and Kashmir is the theme state and Uzbekistan is the partner nation.**

'One Nation, One Product' Concept

- ★ **Visakhapatnam railway station, Andhra Pradesh** is the first station in the East Coast railway to implement the 'One Nation, One Product' concept of the Government of India on a pilot basis for 15 days.
- ★ The Railway Board of the Indian Railways identified one station on each zonal railway for the implementation of the concept.
- ★ The objective is to support local businesses and entrepreneurs using railways.
- ★ One Nation, One product concept is based on the One District, One product scheme by GoI.
- ★ The Etikoppaka toys and handicraft products from the village will be showcased and sold at the Visakhapatnam station.

India's Largest Dredger

- ★ **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** has signed an agreement with the **Dredging Corporation of India (DCI)** to build India's largest Dredger.
- ★ It is India's First Make in India dredger in collaboration with the Industriële Handels Combinatie (IHC) Holland.

- ★ The project costs ₹920 crore and will be delivered in 34 months.
- ★ Dredger in India is a big step forward in our push for Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- ★ The objective is to fulfil the Maritime India Vision 2030.
- ★ The 127-metre-long and 28-metre-wide dredger has the capacity of 12,000 cubic metre.
- ★ This will also be a big boost to the Port led development plan of the GoI.

Memorial Chair of Excellence Instituted at USI

- ★ Indian Army Chief Gen MM Naravane announced to set up a 'Chair of Excellence' in memory of India's first Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat at the United Service Institution of India (USI), a leading military think tank.
- ★ The objective is to conduct research on strategic issues related to the armed forces and will focus on the field of jointness and integration among the armed forces.
- ★ It will be open to Veterans of three Services and Civilians with knowledge of National Security.

36th International Geological Congress

- ★ The 36th International Geological Congress will be held in New Delhi from 20 March to 22 March, 2022 virtually.
- ★ The theme of the event is **Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future**.
- ★ The three-day event will provide a unique platform for knowledge and experience sharing in the field of geosciences and professional networking.
- ★ It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Earth Sciences, National Science Academy and Science Academies of Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- ★ It will give first-hand information on latest technologies in mining, mineral exploration and management of water, mineral resource and the environment.
- ★ It is also known as the Olympics of Geosciences.

ICGS Saksham

- ★ Defence Secretary **Dr Ajay Kumar** commissioned **Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Saksham**, the fifth in the series Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) class, at Goa.
- ★ The 105-meter OPV has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited and fitted with advance technology, navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machinery.
- ★ ICGS Saksham has enhanced the ICG Operational capability to discharge the multiple maritime tasks. The induction of this Vessel will give boost to the maritime protection of our vast coastline of Western seaboard.
- ★ The ship can displace approximately 2,350 tonnes.
- ★ This ship will be in Kochi after it joins Indian Coast Guard (ICG). It will be used extensively for surveillance in Exclusive Economic Zones.

NeVA Programme

- ★ **Nagaland** became the first State Assembly in the country to implement the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)** programme to become completely paperless.
- ★ Members of the Assembly can use electronic devices to participate in House proceedings.
- ★ NeVA is a Unicode compliant software having provision for easy access to various documents.

Drone-Based Mineral Exploration

- ★ The Country's largest iron ore producer **National Mineral Development Corporation limited (NMDC)** company under the Ministry of Steel signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **IIT Kharagpur** for drone-based mineral exploration.
- ★ This would be the first Central Public Sector Enterprise in the Country to conduct Drone-based geophysical surveys and hyperspectral studies for mineral exploration.
- ★ The collaboration would develop spectral products, methods, and algorithms for exploration using the Drone for mining.
- ★ It aims to develop software spectral tools for mineral excavation and capacity-building programs on mining technology.

India's Arctic Policy

- ★ India's Arctic Policy, titled "India and the Arctic: building a partnership for sustainable development" was unveiled by Earth Sciences Minister Jitendra Singh in New Delhi.
- ★ It lays down six pillars to strengthen scientific research and cooperation, climate and environmental protection, economic and human development, transportation and connectivity, governance and international cooperation, and national capacity building in the Arctic region.
- ★ India is one of the 13 countries holding the observer status in the Arctic Council.
- ★ It also aims to enhance the understanding of the impact of climate change in the Arctic region on India's climate, economic and energy security.
- ★ Thirteen Non-arctic States have been approved as Observers to the Arctic Council.

HSL Signs MoU with Eker Group, Vaanmoto

- ★ **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)** has entered into a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Eker Group of Norway and Vaanmoto of Kerala** to explore opportunities in the field of manufacturing speed boats.
- ★ The main objective of the boat is that, it can easily adapt to the roles of search and rescue, surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, mine countermeasures, ambulances, firefighters and harbour control and close protection.
- ★ This is an initiative under AtmaNirbhar Bharat to make the country self-sufficient.
- ★ These boats are high-end boats with smart, flexible solutions with easy motion, which can be operated from the shore up to a maximum speed of 75 knots.

- ★ The boats with a complement of four crew members and four passengers are equipped with navigation and communication equipment.

Dishaank App

- ★ The Government of Karnataka has launched '**Dishank App**' to ensure easy access of land records to the people.
- ★ This app can be useful in **digitizing 'all land records'** under the ambitious Bhoomi Project of the Government of Karnataka.
- ★ It has been developed under the Geographic Information System (GIS) program of 'Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Center' (KSRSAC).
- ★ Under this, **all the details related to the land, such as the name of the land** owner, land ownership and type of land, the extent and category of the land, the status of any legal dispute or active transaction (loan) etc. will be made available.

AI-Powered Algorithm to Enhance 3D Effects

- ★ Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras and the US-based Northwestern University** have developed deep learning algorithms.
- ★ It can enhance the depth perception and 3D effects in videos captured using smartphone cameras.
- ★ such algorithms will prevent mobile phone images from being "flat" and impart a realistic 3D feel.
- ★ Artificial Intelligence and machine learning techniques are used for such image manipulation.
- ★ The research has been published in the Proceedings of International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV), 2021.

Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2022

- ★ The Joint **Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2022 between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF)** will be conducted from 22 March to 31 March, 2022.
- ★ This year marks 9th edition.
- ★ It is being conducted at Seychelles Defence Academy, Seychelles.
- ★ The objective of the joint training exercise is to build and promote bilateral military relations in addition to exchanging skills, experiences and good practices between both the armies.
- ★ Exercise Lamitiye with Seychelles is crucial and significant in terms of security challenges faced by both the nations in the backdrop of current global situation and growing security concerns in the Indian Ocean Region.

OneWeb with SpaceX

- ★ **OneWeb**, the low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite communications company, and American Space operator **SpaceX** entered into an agreement to resume satellite launches.

- ★ The company is building a constellation of 648 low Earth Orbit satellites, of which 428 satellites or two-thirds of the satellites have been deployed into orbit using Russian rocket Soyuz.
- ★ The first launch with SpaceX is expected to take place in 2022.
- ★ OneWeb plans to offer low latency, high-speed satellite broadband services to people across the globe.

Prasar Bharati Signs MoU with Australia's Public Service Broadcaster

- ★ **India's public broadcaster Prasar Bharati** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with **Australia's public service broadcaster Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)** to boost co-operation in the field of broadcasting.
- ★ This will expand the reach of DD News, DD India and multiple language services of DD News amongst the Indian Diaspora in Australia.
- ★ They will also exchange programmes of Radio and Television content in the fields of culture, education, science, entertainment, sports, news, travel, music and arts.

M Tech Programme in Industrial AI

- ★ **Tata Consultancy Services** has partnered with **IIT Madras** to launch an M Tech program in Industrial Artificial Intelligence for working professionals.
- ★ The 18-month-long course designed in consultation with TCS, will be offered by IIT M in a completely online live teaching mode through virtual classrooms.
- ★ The new M Tech in Industrial AI program is expected to help scale up capability across the Indian workforce in this important area, expand the knowledge ecosystem in AI and machine learning, drive innovation using these technologies, and position India as a global innovation powerhouse.

Indian Potash Limited with Israel Chemicals

- ★ Indian Potash Limited signed an agreement with Israel Chemicals Limited (ICL) for the supply of Muriate of Potash (MOP) for the next five years from 2022 to 2027.
- ★ **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoC&F)**, Mansukh Mandaviya signed the agreement in Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ★ Israel Chemicals Limited has agreed to supply 6 to 6.5 LMT of Muriate of Potash annually to India.

Narasingapettai Nagaswaram Gets GI Tag

- ★ The **nadaswaram or nagaswaram** is a wind instrument made of wood and metal that is found in both classical and folk traditions hand crafted in **Narasingapettai Village in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu** got the Geographical Indications (GI) Tag.
- ★ A major portion of Narasinghapettai Nagaswaram is made from the traditional wood "acha" which is at least 100 years old. It has a length of 2.5 feet.
- ★ The application for the GI tag for the Narasinghapettai Nagaswaram was filed on behalf of the Thanjavur Musical Instruments Workers Cooperative Cottage Industrial society.

- ★ The nagaswaram being used by artists is called “pari nagaswaram”.
- ★ Geographical Indications Registry granted the tag under the category musical instruments of class 15.

India’s First Green Hydrogen Microgrid

- ★ The **NTPC-Simhadri plant in Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh** region will develop a project of standalone fuel cell based 50 kW microgrid pilot project with green hydrogen production using electrolyser.
- ★ The project will be India’s first green hydrogen-based energy storage project.
- ★ Through the project, NTPC will further strengthen its footprint in green and clean fuel.
- ★ The hydrogen would be produced using the advanced 240kW solid oxide electrolyser by taking input power from the nearby floating solar project.
- ★ The hydrogen produced during sunshine hours would be stored at high pressure and would be electrified using a 50kW solid oxide fuel cell.
- ★ The system would work in a standalone mode.

INS Shivaji Recognised as Centre of Excellence in Marine Engineering

- ★ Under **the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, the Centre of Excellence (Marine Engineering), **INS Shivaji** has been recognised as a Centre of Excellence in the field of Marine Engineering.
- ★ INS Shivaji is an Indian Naval Station in **Lonavala, Maharashtra**.
- ★ The recognition certificate was handed over by the Secretary MSDE, Shri Rajesh Aggarwal to Commodore Arvind Rawal, Commanding Officer at INS Shivaji at the Ministry Headquarters, Shram Shakti Bhavan, New Delhi.
- ★ Recognition as Centre of Excellence by MSDE is first of its kind for any military organisation and an indication of establishment’s sustained efforts towards skill and technology development.
- ★ The training is being imparted towards enhancing the skills of personnel of Indian Navy, Friendly Foreign Navies and the entire ecosystem.

WINGSINDIA 2022

- ★ ‘WINGS INDIA 2022’, **Asia's largest Civil Aviation event** will be conducted from 24 March to 27 March 2022, **at Begumpet airport in Hyderabad**.
- ★ This year marks the 5th edition of the biennial event
- ★ The theme of the event is “India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry” in line with the Azadi Ka Amith Mahotsav.
- ★ The four-day show is being organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and FICCI.
- ★ Wings India 2022 emphasizes the Government of India’s commitment to transform India into the world’s top civil aviation hub. Wings India will serve to synchronise policy formation and address concerns of the stakeholders in the civil aviation sector.

Exercise Suraksha Kavach 2

- ★ **Indian Army's "Agnibaaz Division"** organized a joint exercise named 'Suraksha Kavach 2' between Indian Army and Maharashtra Police at **Lullanagar, Pune**.
- ★ The aim of the exercise was to harmonize the drills and procedures undertaken by Army and Police against any terrorist actions in Pune.
- ★ The exercise involved participation of Counter Terrorism Task Force (CTTF) of Indian Army, Anti-Terrorism Squad of Maharashtra Police and Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs), Dog Squads and Bomb Disposal Teams of both agencies.

ArcelorMittal Partners with Greenko

- ★ **ArcelorMittal**, the world's biggest steel maker has announced its partnership with **Greenko**, one of the largest home-grown renewable companies to use cleaner energy alternatives instead of fossil fuels like coal or natural gas to fire its critical infrastructure like blast furnace and smelters.
- ★ It will invest USD 600 million in the first phase to own.
- ★ It will also fund to a 975 MW solar and wind farm renewable energy projects in Andhra Pradesh.
- ★ The project will leverage Hydro Pumped Storage Plant (PSP) to provide continuous green energy to ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India. It is to use cheap green power during off-peak hours to raise water to a height and then release it into a lower reservoir to generate power when there is more demand.

Chatbot 'Maya'

- ★ **Kerala** Tourism launched 24x7 WhatsApp **chatbot 'Maya'** to enable tourists get information and updates on tourism eco system in the State.
- ★ It was launched by the Tourism Minister of Kerala, P A Mohamed Riyas.
- ★ The Chatbot Maya will work as a virtual travel assistant for tourist and provide complete information for hassle-free travel experience.
- ★ To access Chatbot, one can send a 'Hi' to the WhatsApp no: 7510512345 or by scanning the QR code to get the service.

Dynamic Map for Villages

- ★ **Bihar** has become the first state in the country to introduce the concept of a dynamic map for villages which will get updated every time land ownership changes hands.
- ★ The move is aimed to reduce legal disputes.
- ★ According to the Bihar government, the state has seen almost 37,000 cases of some land dispute or the other.
- ★ The move towards dynamic maps is part of a series of steps taken by the state government to implement long-pending land reforms.

IIT Madras - AquaMAP Water Management

- ★ To solve India's water concerns, **the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** is constructing a new interdisciplinary water management and policy center known as '**AquaMAP**.'
- ★ Aqua Map is administered by a board of directors led by the director of IIT Madras and an advisory board comprising water technology, management, and policy specialists.
- ★ Mr. Krishnan Narayanan, President, Itihaasa Research and Digital, and Parasuram Balasubramanian, CEO, Theme Work Analytics, are both IIT Madras graduates who have contributed a seed grant Rs 3 crore for two years and assisted in the drafting of the five-year plan.
- ★ AquaMAP will collaborate with IIT Madras' other water research institutes, such as Sutram, the International Centre for Clean Water (ICCW), the PCoE on Water and Sustainability, and other partners.

Prime Minister to Inaugurate Biplobi Bharat Gallery

- ★ PM **Narendra Modi** Inaugurated Biplobi Bharat Gallery at Victoria Memorial Hall, **Kolkata**.
- ★ The gallery displays the contribution of the revolutionaries in the freedom struggle and their armed resistance to British colonial rule.
- ★ It is to provide a historic view of the events that held till 1947 and to highlight the important role played by the revolutionaries.

Himachal Pradesh with NIPER

- ★ Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram signed agreement with the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali as the knowledge partner for the upcoming Medical Devices Park in Nalagarh, Solan district.
- ★ Board members of the Indian government's Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers approved the MoU.
- ★ The HP government sanctioned ₹74.95 crore to the HPSIDC for the development of the Medical Park.
- ★ The first instalment amounting Rs 30 crores of grant-in aid will be released by the government of India's Department of Pharmaceuticals.

AAI and BEL tie up to develop Air Traffic Management system

- ★ Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Airports Authority of India (AAI), under its R&D initiative at Wings India- 2022, has entered into an agreement for the joint, indigenous development of systems for air traffic management and surface movement of aircraft at airports in the country.
- ★ It is a major boost to its own diversification drive into non-defence and the Government's 'Make in India' programme.
- ★ BEL and AAI will jointly develop Civil Air Traffic Management System (ATMS) with Advanced-Surface Movement Guidance and Control System (ASMGCS), a complex ground surveillance

system that manages air traffic at airports and in Indian Civil Airspace for safe operation of flights from take-off to landing.

Yak Dairy Enterprise

- ★ A tripartite agreement was signed between the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Surketham Dairy Cooperative Limited (SDCL) and Nepal Dairy Pvt. Ltd (NDPL).
- ★ It will promote yak dairy enterprise to sustain the age-old yak herding culture in the highlands of Eastern Nepal.
- ★ They will collaborate in processing, product diversification and market linkage for yak products.
- ★ To save yaks and yak farming culture from extinction, the Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative under ICIMOD approached NDPL for this partnership.

President's Colour to INS Valsura

- ★ On March 25 March 2022, President Ram Nath Kovind awarded the prestigious President's colour to Indian Naval Ship (INS) Valsura in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- ★ INS Valsura is a premier training establishment of the Indian Navy that came into force on 1942.
- ★ The President colour is bestowed on a military unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation both in peace and in war.

"The Space Economy of India" Report Released

- ★ The results of the paper "The Space Economy of India: its size and structure" were jointly released by Centre for Development Studies (CDS) and the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST).
- ★ This is the first ever attempt to do scientific research on measuring the size of the space economy in the country.
- ★ According to the report, the expenditure on space related activities estimated for ₹36,794 crore (approximately \$5 billion) for the financial year 2020-21.
- ★ The Three constituents and their proportional weightage of this annual budget are:
 - Space Manufacturing - 4.12% (₹1,515.59 crore)
 - Space Operations - 22.31% (₹8,218.82 crore)
 - Space Application - 73.57% (₹27,061 crore)
- ★ An average of 0.23% of GDP accounts for space budget over 2011-12 to 2020-21 while there is a significant reduction in the budget allocation for space related activities. The budget outlay in 2020-21 was ₹9,500 crore, shrinking from ₹13,033.2 crore in the previous fiscal.
- ★ The estimated size of the space economy shrunk from ₹43,397 crore in 2018-19 to ₹39,802 crore in 2019-20 and ₹36,794 crore in 2020-21.

One Station One Product Initiative

- ★ Tirupati station in Guntakal division becomes the first station over South Central Railway for the implementation of “One Station One Product” concept.
- ★ The initiative was first announced in Union Budget 2022-23 to make each railway station a promotional and sales hub for local products.
- ★ The Tirupati station promotes the kalamkari saree, wood carvings and textiles of the region.
- ★ The initiative is being implemented on a pilot project for a duration of 15 days starting from March 25, 2022.
- ★ The initiative aims to boost livelihood and welfare of local artisans, potter, weavers/ handloom weavers and tribals among others.

1st Muslim Municipal Chairperson in Odhisa

- ★ In the recently concluded civic body polls in Odhisa, a Woman from a Minority Muslim Community of Odhisa in Bhadrak Municipality has been elected directly by the voters as the Chairperson of the Municipality.
- ★ Gulmaki Dalawzi Habib, 31, an independent candidate, won the election by defeating Samita Mishra, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) candidate, by 3,256 votes.
- ★ The post was reserved for women, while Ms. Habib, an MBA graduate, elected as a unanimous choice.
- ★ The Muslim community constitutes less than 3% of Odisha’s population.

TEJAS Project Launched in Dubai

- ★ The “Training for Emirates Jobs And Skills (Tejas)” project was launched in Dubai by the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting on March 27, 2022.
- ★ The aim of the project is to provide skilling, certification and overseas employment of Indians.
- ★ The project is expected to create a strong Indian workforce of 10000 in United Arab Emirates in the first phase.

Exercise ‘Prasthan’

- ★ The Western Naval Command of the Indian Navy organized an offshore security exercise, Prasthan within the Offshore Development Area (ODA) in Mumbai.
- ★ The exercise was conducted on the B-193 platform of ONGC located about 38 nm west of Mumbai.
- ★ This exercise is conducted every six months to make sure offshore security.
- ★ The Indian Air Force, Coast Guard, ONGC, Mumbai Port Trust, Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust, Customs, state fisheries department, Mercantile Marine Department, and also the Marine Police participated in the exercise.
- ★ The exercise provided all stakeholders a practical experience to assess their readiness to respond and combat contingencies within the Western ODA and also to work together during a coordinated manner.

India's First 'Steel Road'

- ★ India's first-ever 'steel slag road' was built and inaugurated in Hazira industrial area Surat, Gujarat.
- ★ India's first-ever 'steel slag 'road has been built by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) India, the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) and NITI Aayog.
- ★ It is under the initiative of the Waste to Wealth and Clean India Campaign. The road is 1 kilometer long and has six lanes.
- ★ This steel slag road is built with 100 per cent processed steel slag.

Aadi Bazaar

- ★ A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture and Cuisine was started from 26 March to 05 April, 2022 in Ekta Nagar, Kevadia Statue of Unity in Gujarat's Narmada district.
- ★ The 11-day exhibition, was inaugurated by Smt. Nimishaben Suthar, Minister of State for Tribal Development, Health, Family Welfare, and Medical Education, Government of Gujarat.
- ★ It will showcase organic tribal goods and handcrafted wares at the landmark monument, Statue of Unity.

National Dolphin Day

- ★ On 25 March 2022, during the 67th meeting of the commission of the National Board for Wild Life in New Delhi, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and global climate change, Bhupendra Yadav has designated 5 October as National Dolphin Day each year.
- ★ It is to create awareness for the conservation of Dolphins, beginning from 2022.
- ★ The government through the National Water Development Agency and Jal Shakti Ministry has started a programme.
- ★ Dolphins act as ideal ecological indicators of a healthy aquatic ecosystem.
- ★ Therefore, the conservation of the dolphins will benefit the survival of the species.

INS Hansa

- ★ Second Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 316 was commissioned at INS Hansa in Goa.
- ★ INAS-316 is the Indian Navy's second Boeing P-8I aircraft.
- ★ It was commissioned in the presence of Admiral R Hari Kumar.
- ★ In 2013, The first batch of eight P-8I aircraft was commissioned at INS Rajali in Arakkonam.
- ★ It is to enhance the country's surveillance in the Indian Ocean.
- ★ The P-8I is a military derivative of Boeing's 737-800 commercial aircraft.

LuLu Group to Invest in Tamil Nadu

- ★ The UAE-based LuLu Group signed a memorandum of understanding with Tamil Nadu government to invest ₹3,500 crore.
- ★ The MoU is to set up shopping malls, hypermarkets and a food processing and logistics centre to create job opportunities.
- ★ The MoU was signed in the presence of chief minister M K Stalin on a visit to Dubai Expo and LuLu Group chairman MA Yusuff Ali in Abu Dhabi.
- ★ the first hypermarket is expected to open in Coimbatore by 2022 and the first shopping mall will come up in Chennai by 2024.

Natural Root Bridge under World Heritage Site

- ★ Meghalaya's living root bridges have been included in the list of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s World Heritage Sites.
- ★ Found in over 70 villages in Meghalaya, the root bridges highlight the socio-cultural and botanical links between people and nature. There are about 100 living root bridges.
- ★ They help stabilise the soil and prevent landslides on riverbanks.
- ★ Villagers build and maintain these bridges from the past more than 600 years and grow these living root bridges to cross the water bodies.
- ★ There are total 40 heritage sites in India as of 2022.

Konkan Railway completes 100 percent electrification

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi applauded the Konkan Railway for completing 100 per cent electrification and it set new benchmarks for sustainable development.
- ★ The Konkan Railway Corporation has completed electrification on its entire 741-kilometre route between Roha in Maharashtra and Thokur in Karnataka.
- ★ Electrification will bring about savings of Rs 150 crore on fuel, reducing dependence on diesel, besides ensuring seamless and pollution-free operations.

BEL signs deal with MoD

- ★ The Indian Air Force, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and state-owned aerospace and defence electronics company Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) Bengaluru, Karnataka and BEL Hyderabad, Telangana signed an agreement.
- ★ The aim of this agreement is to supply Advanced Electronic Warfare (EW) suite for fighter aircraft of Indian Air Force.
- ★ The overall cost of the contract is estimated to be Rs 1,993 crore.
- ★ The EW suite is indigenously designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

- ★ The defence Ministry and BEL, Hyderabad, signed a Contract for Instrumented for the procurement of Electronic Warfare Range (IEWR) for the Indian Air Force at a cost of Rs 1,109 crore is a significant step towards enhancing the capabilities of IAF to prepare for future warfare.

Different Film Media Units with National Film Development Corporation

- ★ The Information and Broadcasting Minister, Smriti Zubin Irani has announced the merging of production of documentaries and short films, organization of film festivals and preservation of films with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), a public sector undertaking working under the Ministry.
- ★ The merging of all these activities under a single management is to ensure better utilization of public resources.
- ★ It will give a strong support to the production of films of all genres including feature films, documentaries, children films and animation films, organizing various domestic festivals and preservation of the filmic content.
- ★ The ownership of the assets available with these units will be undertaken by the government.

Statehood Day of Rajasthan

- ★ Rajasthan Foundation Day or Rajasthan Diwas or Rajasthan Statehood Day is observed every year on 30 March to commemorate the formation of the state.
- ★ Rajasthan Day 2022 celebrates the 73rd foundation day of the state.
- ★ Rajasthan was formed on 30 March, 1949 when Rajputana merged into the Indian Union.
- ★ Rajasthan is the largest state in India by area.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Canada Approves World's First Plant-Based COVID-19 Vaccine

- ★ The Canadian government approved the use of the world's first plant-based COVID-19 vaccine Covifenz, jointly developed by Medicago Inc., a biopharma company owned by Mitsubishi Chemical and Philip Morris, situated in Quebec City, and GlaxoSmithKline Plc.
- ★ It is authorized as a two-dose regimen.
- ★ The vaccine has been tested for people aged 18 to 64.
- ★ By doing this Canada became the first country in the World to use plant-based vaccine.
- ★ The decision to authorize the vaccine was based on the study conducted on 24,000 adults.

Bangladesh Signs Agreement With ADB

- ★ The Government of Bangladesh signed two separate agreements for loans worth USD 292 million with Asian Development Bank.

- ★ This is to finance different development projects on tackling river erosion across the country and to supply clean water in Dhaka.
- ★ The first agreement of worth USD 157 million will help mitigate flood and riverbank erosion risks, strengthen climate resilience, and promote knowledge-based solutions along the Jamuna, Padma, and Ganges Rivers.
- ★ The second agreement of worth USD 135 million is expected to improve access and quality of inclusive water supply services, while promoting environmentally sustainable surface water supply in Dhaka.
- ★ In addition to this, the Government of Netherlands will provide USD 17.89 million in technical assistance grant, to be administered by ADB, to help finance the second tranche of the program, and promote innovations, and capacity building.

India and Nepal Signs MoU

- ★ **Nepal and India** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a long-term supply of **Urea and DAP fertilizers** from India to Nepal under a Government to Government (G2G) arrangement.
- ★ Shri Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi, Secretary (Chemical and Fertilizers), from India and Govinda Prasad Sharma, Secretary (Agriculture and Livestock Development) from Nepal signed the agreement.
- ★ The MoU will further boost bilateral cooperation in the agriculture sector by supporting Nepal's economy and food security.
- ★ It is expected to help address the recurring fertilizer shortages in Nepal and enable improved agricultural productivity for the direct benefit of Nepali farmers.

SWISS to Become First Airlines to Use Solar Aviation Fuel

- ★ Swiss International Air Lines AG is to become the first airline to use solar aviation fuel to help power its flights.
- ★ It is part of the Lufthansa Group signed with Switzerland-based solar fuels start-up, **Synhelion** to use 'sun-to-liquid' solar kerosene which is a part of its policy to promote sustainable aviation fuels.
- ★ The production facility of the commercial fuel will be set up in Spain.
- ★ SWISS will become the first customer of solar kerosene in 2023.
- ★ This fuel will contribute to effectively decarbonizing air transport.

Military Cooperation Meeting of India & US

- ★ On March 1st- 2nd 2022, India-US Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting was conducted in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.
- ★ This India-US MCG marks the **19th edition**.
- ★ It was co-chaired by Air Marshal BR Krishna, Chief of Integrated Defense Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) from India and Deputy Commander, US Indo-Pacific Command Lieutenant General Stephen D Sklenka from US.
- ★ The India-US MCG is a forum set up to advance defense cooperation between the two nations.

- ★ The discussions focused on improving the two countries' ongoing defense engagements and considering new initiatives within the framework of the existing cooperation mechanism.

Study in India Meet 2022

- ★ On 04 March 2022, the two-day long **Study in India (SII) 2022** meet was inaugurated in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**.
- ★ The Education Minister of Bangladesh Dr. Dipu Moni inaugurated the meeting which was organized by High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami.
- ★ The Study in India programme is a flagship project launched by the Ministry of Education in 2018.
- ★ The programme is designed to encourage the global student community to pursue higher education and experience the best of academic learning from the top institutions in India.
- ★ Study In India has drawn in students from more than 150 countries spanning across SAARC, Africa, South-East Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle-East.
- ★ Bangladeshi students were the 3rd largest foreign student community in India.

Naval Exercise SLINEX

- ★ On 07 March 2022, Naval Exercise between **India and Sri Lanka** named **SLINEX** will be conducted at **Visakhapatnam**.
- ★ This year marks the 9th edition.
- ★ The exercise will be conducted in two phases
- ★ The first phase is the **harbour phase** which is conducted at **Visakhapatnam** on March 07 and March 08 2022, followed by the **sea phase** on March 9 and March 10 2022, in the **Bay of Bengal**.
- ★ Sri Lankan Navy will be represented by **SLNS Sayurala**, an advanced offshore patrol vessel and the Indian Navy by **INS Kirch**, a guided missile corvette.
- ★ SLINEX aims to enhance inter-operability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies.
- ★ It is conducted to strengthen mutual cooperation, in line with India's policy of 'Neighbourhood First' and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)'.

Iran Launches Second Military Satellite Noor-2

- ★ **Iran's military** successfully launched their Qased rocket placing the Noor-2 satellite into orbit from the Shahroud spaceport.
- ★ Noor-2 is the second in a series of small satellites operated by **Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)**. It was launched into orbit at an altitude of 500 kilometers (311 miles) from the Earth.
- ★ Noor means light in the Persian language.
- ★ The Noor-1 spacecraft was launched in 2020, which was Iran's first dedicated military satellite.

- ★ This launch would be a major advance for Iran's military, raising concerns about country's nuclear and missile programs.

5th India - Canada Ministerial Dialogue

- ★ Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development of **Canada**, Mary Ng will arrive on a four-day visit to India.
- ★ Mary Ng and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will co-chair the **5th India - Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment (MDTI)**.
- ★ Bilateral trade and investment issues will be discussed during the meeting in order to further strengthen the bilateral ties and economic partnership including India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement CEPA.
- ★ Indian exports to Canada include drugs and pharmaceutical products, iron and steel products, marine products, cotton fabrics and readymade garments and chemicals.
- ★ In current financial year during April 2021 to January 2022, Indian exports to Canada have increased to approximately 3 billion dollars registering a growth of almost 25 per cent over the previous year.

BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement

- ★ **India, Bangladesh and Nepal** held a meeting in New Delhi and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of **Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicle Agreement (BBIN MVA)**.
- ★ It will focus to boost trade and people-to-people connectivity between the BBIN countries by fostering greater sub-regional cooperation.
- ★ Bhutan participated in the meeting as an observer and the pending ratification of the MVA by Bhutan was finalized.
- ★ **Asian Development Bank** provided technical and knowledge support to the meeting.

AARC Ties up with CLAWS

- ★ **Australian Army Research Centre (AARC)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS)** to establish academic cooperation and engagement.
- ★ Australia's Army Chief Lt Gen Richard Maxwell Burr visited India for 3 days from March 8 to March 11, 2022.
- ★ During his visit, he paid visit to the CLAWS, an Indian Army think tank in New Delhi.
- ★ India's Chief of Army Staff, Chief of Naval Staff, Chief of Air Staff along with other senior military officers and Australia's Army Chief exchanged views on the present global situation and the situation in the Indo-Pacific.
- ★ CLAWS is a membership-based organisation and is governed by a Board of Governors and an Executive Council, registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

India Sign Agreement with Sri Lanka

- ★ **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.
- ★ It is constructed as part of the efforts to strengthen bilateral economic partnership.
- ★ The Joint Venture and Shareholders' Agreement (JVSHA) was joined for the Trincomalee Power Company Limited (TPCL) — a joint venture between National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited from India and the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) for developing the 100-megawatt solar power plant at Sampur, Trincomalee.
- ★ India signed to offer **USD 100 million Line of Credit** to Sri Lanka for development of solar power projects.

Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle

- ★ **Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle** named after Mahatma Gandhi has been unveiled in **Madagascar** to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ★ Ambassador of India to Madagascar, Abhay Kumar and Mayor of Antananarivo Naina Andriantsitohaina inaugurated a Green Triangle.
- ★ The word green in the plaque signifies their commitment to sustainable development and saving the environment.
- ★ it will bring the Indian Diaspora in Madagascar closer to India and will raise awareness among the people about Mahatma Gandhi and the values of peace and non-violence.
- ★ The event was attended by members of the local government, diplomatic corps, heads of international organisations, and members of the Indian Diaspora in Madagascar.

Sany India Partners with Nepal

- ★ **Sany India, a leading manufacturer of construction equipments**, heavy machinery and renewable energy solutions recently partnered with Federation of Contractors Association of Nepal (FCAN) to host its 23rd Annual General Meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ★ Sany machines are designed to help customers to earn a high return on their investment by enabling them to use it in multi-utility works.
- ★ Sany India offers a wide range of Construction Machinery in India and South Asia.

Japan and India

- ★ Japan announced an investment target of five trillion yen (₹3,20,000 crore) in India in the next five years.
- ★ The two sides inked six agreements for the expansion of bilateral cooperation in a range of areas and clean energy partnership.
- ★ India-Japan ties will not only benefit the two countries but will also help in encouraging peace, prosperity and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ★ The agreement was signed between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida.

India-Australia Virtual Summit

- ★ On 21 March 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison will hold the second India-Australia Virtual Summit.
- ★ External Affairs Ministry announced that the Summit follows the historic first virtual summit which was held on 4th of June in 2020 when India-Australia bilateral relationship was enhanced to a comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- ★ This Summit highlights the importance of various sectors like trade, minerals, mobility and education.

India - Indonesia security dialogue

- ★ The second India-Indonesia Security Dialogue was held in Jakarta, Indonesia. This year marks the 2nd edition.
- ★ It was co-chaired by National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs of Indonesia, Mohammad Mahfud.
- ★ They signed the Memorandum of Understanding for Security Dialogue between the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs of Indonesia and the National Security Council Secretariat of the India.
- ★ It aims to strengthen the cooperation between them to overcome common challenges and identified opportunities for further close collaboration in the field of political and security issues.

Relativistic Klystron Amplifier

- ★ The Researchers in **China** have developed a microwave machine “**Relativistic Klystron Amplifier (RKA)**”.
- ★ It will destroy or jam satellites in space. It will function as a high-powered laser weapon.
- ★ The device can generate a wave burst measuring 5-megawatts in the Ka-band. This band is a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum increasingly used for both civil and military purposes.
- ★ RKA can be mounted onto satellites for attacking enemy assets in space.
- ★ It can generate beams strong enough to go through metallic objects moving at high speeds.

Cold Response 2022

- ★ **Cold Response 2022** is planned to conduct a **Multilateral Military exercise** combining Army, Navy and Air Force from 14 March to 01 April, 2022.
- ★ It is conducted by **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) at Norway**.
- ★ It is a bi-annual exercise aimed to test how Norway would manage allied reinforcements on its soil, in line with Article 5 of NATO charter which requires member state to come to the aid of another member state under attack.
- ★ NATO is an international military alliance between 30 European and North American countries.
- ★ Cold Response would allow participation of around 30,000 troops, 220 aircraft and 50 vessels.

EX-DUSTLIK

- ★ The 3rd edition of the joint training **EX-DUSTLIK** between the **Indian and Uzbekistan armies begins on 22 March.**
- ★ It is conducted at Yangiariq, Uzbekistan from 22 March to 31 March, 2022.
- ★ The exercise focuses on enhancing understanding, cooperation, and interoperability between two armies.
- ★ The Indian contingent is represented by the Grenadiers Regiment and will join the Uzbekistan Army contingent represented by troops of the North-Western Military District.
- ★ The joint exercise would concentrate on Counter-Terrorism operations in semi-urban terrain under a United Nations Mandate.
- ★ The last edition of DUSTLIK was conducted in Ranikhet (Uttarakhand) in March 2021.

Kuwaiti Becomes Hottest Place on Earth

- ★ Kuwait reached a temperature of 53.2 degrees Celsius (127.7 degrees Fahrenheit), making it one of the world's hottest places on Earth.
- ★ According to the World Resources Institute, the country continues to use oil for electricity and is among the top worldwide carbon emitters per capita.
- ★ Renewable energy accounts for less than 1 percent of demand – far below Kuwait's target of 15 percent by 2030.
- ★ Last summer in Kuwait, it was so hot that birds dropped death from sky. In the bay, sea horses boiled to death. The rocks were covered in dead clams, whose shells had popped up like they'd been cooked.

Hwasong-17 North Korea Monster missile

- ★ Hwasong-17 Is an Intercontinental ballistic missile being test fired by North Korea.
- ★ It was launched directly from a Transporter Erector Launcher (TEL) vehicle, with 11 Axles.
- ★ The missile flew 1, 090 km at a maximum altitude of 6, 248.5 km and hit a target in the Sea of Japan after travelling 67.5 minites in air.
- ★ The Hwasong-17 is the biggest ICBM has ever developed and is potentially able to deliver a nuclear warhead to anywhere.

BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting

- ★ External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar participated in the (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Ministerial Meeting which was held in Colombo.
- ★ He emphasized the grouping's commitment to intensify and expand areas of cooperation in connectivity, energy and maritime cooperation.
- ★ BIMSTEC Nations must also collectively combat terrorism, violent extremism, transnational crime, cyber-attacks and narco-trafficking.

- ★ BIMSTEC is a regional multilateral organization includes 7 member nations.
- ★ They are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.
- ★ This is the 25th year of the establishment of BIMSTEC.
- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced India will provide financial assistance of 1 million dollars to increase operational budget of Secretariat.

Prime Minister of Malta

- ★ Prime Minister of Malta Robert Abela took the oath of office after his Labour Party won general election.
- ★ He has been Sworn in as the Prime Minister for a second term.
- ★ He was administered the oath of office by President George Vella.
- ★ The Labour Party won the general election with 55.1 percent of the vote against the Nationalist Party (PN) with 41.7 percent.

Russian Foreign Minister-Two-day Visit to India

- ★ Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov will arrive in New Delhi on 31 March, 2022 on a two-day visit to India.
- ★ It will be the highest-level visit from Russia to India after Moscow launched its military operations in Ukraine on February 24
- ★ The key focus is expected to be on a payment system for New Delhi's procurement of oil and military hardware from Moscow.
- ★ Mr Lavrov will arrive in India after completing a two-day visit to China.

Dean R Thompson as next ambassador to Nepal

- ★ US President Joe Biden has announced Dean R. Thompson as its new Ambassador to Nepal. Thompson will replace present US envoy Randy Berry.
- ★ Thompson currently serves as the State Department's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs.
- ★ Prior to this, Thompson was the Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

India Signs MoU for Lithium and Cobalt

- ★ India has signed an agreement to invest \$6 million jointly with the Australian government to explore lithium and cobalt mines in Australia for the next six months.
- ★ The MoU was signed by the Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO), and the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER) along with India's Ministry of Mines joint venture company Khanij Bidesh India (KABIL).
- ★ It was signed between the Government of India and Government of Australia for cooperation in the field of mining and processing of Critical and Strategic Minerals.

- ★ KABIL is mandated to identify and acquire overseas mineral assets of critical and strategic nature such as lithium and cobalt.
- ★ Lithium is a key component used in the battery used in Electric Vehicles (EV). India, through its ₹18,100 crore PLI scheme is offering incentives for companies to build battery cells locally for EVs.

BANKING, FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

RBI Proposes to Assess Impact of Its Financial Literacy Campaigns

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to assess the impact of the multi-media awareness campaigns launched by it to promote financial literacy and also safe banking practices.
- ★ It has invited the Request for Proposal (RFP) from certain shortlisted entities, that will be required to undertake outcome and impact assessment of its multilingual, pan-India public awareness campaigns.
- ★ The RBI runs the 'RBI Kehta Hai' campaign to educate and empower the public about banking regulations.
- ★ The RBI campaigns are in 14 languages -- Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu with more focus on regional languages.

About RBI

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ Governor: Shaktikanta Das.

Bank Of Maharashtra Launches Project “Bank Sakhi”

- ★ Bank of Maharashtra has tied up with Mahagram & Sunivesh India Finance Services Pvt Ltd to launch 'Bank Sakhi' project in Odisha.
- ★ It would provide financial technology and infrastructure support to increase rural financial inclusion to the people of Odisha.
- ★ As part of the tie-up, the company appointed more than 11,000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform to help the rural citizens avail basic banking services at their doorstep.
- ★ It offers account opening, Aadhar enabled payment services, and various banking services at places where there are no banks within accessible limits.

About BoM:

- ★ HQ: Pune, Maharashtra.
- ★ MD & CEO: A S Rajeev.

About Mahagram:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- ★ CEO: Ram Shriram.

Union Bank of India with Ambit Finvest

- ★ Union Bank of India has announced 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.
- ★ It facilitates credit of MSMEs in 11 states that are currently covered by Ambit Finvest.
- ★ Through this innovative, MSMEs will enjoy a lower rate of interest, translating into a lower cost of funds, helping them deploy more capital effectively in their business.
- ★ 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.

About Union Bank of India:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ MD & CEO: Rajkiran Rai G.

About Ambit Finvest:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ CEO: Sanjay Agarwal.

Pre-Apply LIC PRO App for Demat Account Opening

- ★ **Religare Broking limited (RBL)** has announced the launch of Religare '**Pre-Apply LIC IPO**' app, which will be a one-stop app for investors to open demat account and share intent to pre-apply for the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) **Initial Public Offering (IPO)**.
- ★ The investors can register their interest by filling up their name, email ID and mobile number in the upcoming LIC IPO and get instant mobile notification, SMS and e-mail communication as soon as it opens up for public subscription.
- ★ Religare is also offering exclusive welcome benefits for its app users, such as free brokerage for the first 30 days, 1 paisa brokerage across all segments, discount vouchers worth Rs 10,000 from retail partner websites.
- ★ Users can also opt for the 'Elite' plan for premium brokerage services.

UCO Bank Extends Partnership with Fisdom

- ★ State-owned **UCO Bank** has extended the fintech partnership **with Fisdom** to include demat account and stockbroking services, pension funds and tax filing, with an objective to offer customers a three-in-one personal banking experience.
- ★ It will be offered through UCO bank's mobile banking application UCO mBanking Plus and accessed through its internet banking.
- ★ This new initiative with Fisdom will help the bank to provide new-age digital wealth products to customers.

- ★ Customers will now be able to learn about, invest in, track the performance of and redeem from a variety of instruments.

About UCO Bank:

- ★ HQ: Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ★ MD & CEO: Soma Sankara Prasad.

About Fisdom:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ CEO: Subramanya S V.

Edelweiss Housing Finance Partners with StanChart

- ★ **Edelweiss Housing Finance Limited** has announced a strategic co-lending partnership with **Standard Chartered Bank** for extending loans against property to customers especially to Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- ★ Under this partnership, EHFL will originate, process, service the loans and retain 20% of the loan on its books, while the remaining 80 % will be on the books of Standard Chartered Bank.
- ★ The customers will get the benefit of cost-effective interest rates property loans.

About Standard Chartered Bank:

- ★ HQ: London, UK.
- ★ Chief Executive: Bill Winters.

About Edelweiss Housing Finance Limited:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ MD & CEO: Rajat Avasthi.

Paytm Partners with IRCTC

- ★ **Digital payments company Paytm** announced that it has expanded its partnership with **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** to provide digital ticketing services to consumers through Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM) installed at railway stations across the country.
- ★ This is in line with Paytm's efforts to promote cashless transactions and digital payments across India.
- ★ Passengers will be able to purchase unreserved train journey tickets, platform tickets, renew their seasonal tickets and recharge smart cards by scanning QR codes generated on the screens.
- ★ Paytm offers passengers the flexibility of paying through a variety of payment options such as Paytm UPI, Paytm Wallet, Paytm Postpaid (Buy Now, Pay Later), Net Banking, Credit Card and Debit Card.

About Paytm

- ★ HQ: Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

- ★ MD & CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma.

LoanTap Announces Partnership with Arka and MAS Financial Services

- ★ A leading fintech digital lending platform, LoanTap has announced collaborations with Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) - ArkaFincap Ltd. (Arka) and RBI registered NBFC, MAS Financial Services Ltd. (MAS) in a co-lending model for the salaried and MSME segment.
- ★ The collaboration will allow LoanTap to utilize its technology and quick processes to tap into a larger customer base and enable loan disbursals through these partnerships.
- ★ "LoanTap's technology platform 'LT-Flow' enables lenders to source, share risk (co-lend), underwrite, plug-in capital, and manage loans.
- ★ LoanTap will have six Co-lending partnerships along with its own NBFC platform.

About LoanTap:

- ★ HQ: Pune, Maharashtra,
- ★ CEO: Satyam Kumar.

About Arka:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ CEO: Vimal Bhandari.

About MAS Financial Services:

- ★ HQ: Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ★ MD: Kamlesh Gandhi.

IIFL Finance Partners with NIRA To Provide Personal Loans

- ★ **IIFL Finance Limited**, a non-banking financial company announced that its has partnered with **fintech NIRA** to provide personal loan of up to ₹1 lakh.
- ★ It aims to provide credit to largely unbanked and underbanked borrowers and small entrepreneurs.
- ★ Salaried clients can get a personal loan of up to ₹1 lakh from IIFL Finance by downloading the NIRA application from Google's Play store.
- ★ It will also boast a small -ticket short- term digital lending portfolio.

About IIFL Finance Ltd

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ Chairman: Nirmal Jain.

About NIRA:

- ★ HQ: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ★ CEO: Rohit Sen.

Axis Bank Commits USD 150 Mn Loan to Healthcare Sector

- ★ Axis Bank in association with IPE Global, has signed a USD 150 million (Rs 1,140 crore) loan for strengthening the healthcare infrastructure in the country for the SAMRIDH Healthcare Blended Finance Facility.
- ★ The ability to access loans will help them increase production and provide advanced health solutions to address COVID-19 along with other health emergencies, across the vulnerable communities of India from tier 2 and 3 cities.
- ★ SAMRIDH is an initiative supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
- ★ It will help supplement the manufacturing and distribution of pharmaceuticals, facility expansion of public and private hospitals, nursing homes, small clinics, laboratories, and warehouses.

About IPE:

- ★ HQ: New Delhi, Delhi.
- ★ MD: Ashwajit Singh.

PayU Partners VTEX

- ★ India-based fintech PayU has partnered with digital commerce platform VTEX to provide multiple local payment solutions to VTEX merchants.
- ★ The integration will allow merchants to accept a range of local payment methods in the country, including credit cards, debit cards, UPI, wallets, and net banking among others.
- ★ This allows international brands to enter the Indian market and reduce the go-live tie because of quicker payment methods.

About VTEX:

- ★ HQ: London, UK.
- ★ CEO: Geraldo Thomaz.

Indian Oil Partners with Kotak Mahindra Bank

- ★ **Kotak Mahindra Bank** and **Indian Oil Corporation** announced a strategic partnership to launch the **Indian Oil Kotak co-branded fuel credit card**.
- ★ The collaboration will offer more value to customers in the form of an enhanced rewards programme.
- ★ This partnership will give customers value on fuel spends and on special non-fuel and frequent-spend categories, such as dining and groceries.
- ★ New co-branded credit card will be another initiative to promote the government's vision of a Digital India.

About KMBL:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ MD & CEO: Uday Kotak.

About IOC:

- ★ HQ: New Delhi, Delhi.
- ★ Chairman: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya.

Airtel Partners with Axis Bank

- ★ **Bharti Airtel** and **Axis Bank** partnered to launch 'Airtel Axis Bank Credit Card' to offer benefits such as cashbacks, special discounts, digital vouchers.
- ★ Under the partnership, the companies will provide pre-approved instant loans, 'buy now pay later' offerings and other services.
- ★ The collaboration will provide Axis Bank support to penetrate deeper into tier 2 and 3 markets.
- ★ This partnership will also cover future collaboration on cyber security, data and cloud centres.
- ★ The credit card will be available for eligible Airtel customers through the Airtel Thanks app.

About Axis Bank:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry.

Insolvency regulator IBBI Signs MoU with IBA

- ★ **Insolvency regulator Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** and **Indian Banks Association (IBA)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on capacity building for financial creditors on topics related to insolvency, bankruptcy and related subjects.
- ★ It is signed to improve how creditors, key players in turning around distressed businesses, perform their functions during bankruptcy proceedings.
- ★ The MoU was signed at an event focusing on 'committee of creditors: An Institution of Public Faith' organized by IBBI, State Bank of India and IBA at New Delhi.

About IBBI:

- ★ HQ: New Delhi, Delhi.
- ★ Chairman: Ravi Mital.

RBI Chooses Intellect Design Arena

- ★ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, announced to choose **Intellect Design Arena Ltd**, a cloud-native, multi-product FinTech company to implement the upgraded version of the Cloud-Native Intellect Quantum Core Banking solution to power the next stage of their digital transformation agenda.
- ★ Intellect continues to be the trusted partner for the Central Banking Transformation at Reserve Bank of India.
- ★ The entire central banking operation of RBI is currently supported by Intellect's Quantum Central Banking Solution, popularly called as e-Kuber in RBI, Government of India and in the Indian Financial Systems.
- ★ The next generation Intellect Quantum solution is built on API first, cloud-native and cloud agnostic microservices architecture supported by a rich set of packaged business components.

About Intellect Design Arena:

- ★ HQ: Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ★ MD: Arun Jain.

UPI123PAY and DigiSaathi

- ★ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** launched a **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) UPI123Pay for feature phones and a 24X7 helpline for digital payments platform DigiSaathi.**
- ★ RBI with National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) together launched the new facility.
- ★ UPI123PAY for feature phone will have all of the necessary smartphone features. This initiative will improve the way for a cashless economy.
- ★ DigiSaathi is a helpline for digital payments with facilities to educate and create awareness and will help customers to solve queries in the digital payments.

HouseWorkIsWork Initiative

- ★ **Axis Bank has started the initiative 'HouseWorkIsWork'** that provides opportunities to those women who want to rejoin the professional space as the urban educated women's participation in the workforce is still not at desired levels.
- ★ The aim of this initiative is to give confidence to these women that they are employable, they have skills and they can fit in various job roles in a bank.
- ★ GIG-A-Opportunities is Axis Bank's new platform for alternative work models to attract the finest talent, with a promise of growth with flexibility, diversity and inclusivity.

About Axis Bank:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry

Zeta Partners with Mastercard

- ★ **Zeta**, a banking tech unicorn and **Mastercard** announced a 5-year global partnership.
- ★ Mastercard made a financial investment in Zeta.
- ★ Zeta is the provider of next-generation credit card processing to banks and Fintechs.
- ★ With this partnership, it aims to provide issuing banks and fintech innovators with modern credit card processing capabilities, that will maximize the safety, security and convenience of e-commerce, online banking, and contactless transactions
- ★ As part of the agreement, the firms will jointly launch credit cards with issuers worldwide using Zeta's modern, cloud-native, and API-ready credit processing stack.
- ★ Zeta aims to take the credit card processing industry from fragmented, multi-vendor systems to nimble, composable, single-vendor systems.

About Zeta:

- ★ HQ: Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- ★ CEO: Bhavin Turakhia.

SEBI Raises Public Debt Investment Limit

- ★ On 09 March 2022, **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** raised the public debt investment limit for transactions through the UPI system **to 5 lakh from 2 lakh** which will be effective on or after May 1, 2022.
- ★ The move comes following the decision made by NPCI in December 2021. NPCI has enhanced the single transaction limit in UPI from 2 lakh to 5 lakh for UPI-based Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) Initial Public Offerings (IPO).
- ★ The increased limit will be applicable on issue and listing of Non-convertible Securities, securitized Debt Instruments, Security Receipts, Municipal Debt Securities and Commercial Paper.

About SEBI:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch.

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance and Bharat Co-operative Bank

- ★ On 09 March 2022, **Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI)**, the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), and **Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd.** have signed a bancassurance partnership agreement.
- ★ They combine to enhance the reach of life insurance products to more than 5 lakh customers of the bank.
- ★ This partnership enables ABSLI to directly reach out to these customers through Bharat Co-operative Bank's (Mumbai) 103 branches and fulfil their life insurance and investment planning needs.
- ★ This will further strengthen ABSLI's reach across the urban and semi-urban areas of Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat.

About ABSLI:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ MD & CEO: Kamlesh Rao.

About Bharat Co-Operative Bank:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ MD & CEO: Vidyanand S Karkera.

ToneTag Partners with NSDL Payments Bank

- ★ **ToneTag with NSDL Payments Bank and NPCI** launched its **VoiceSe UPI digital payments** for feature phone users.
- ★ ToneTag is a sound-based proximity communication and payments service provider.

- ★ The announcement comes after the Reserve Bank of India launched its UPI 123Pay facility that enables UPI payments for feature phone users.
- ★ ToneTag, in association with NSDL Payments Bank, has launched its Interactive Voice Response (IVR) '6366 200 200' to connect the gap in accessibility of digital payments, especially in rural India
- ★ Every user can proceed with the financial transaction through UPI PIN, to make it safe and digitally secure to which an IVR guides the financial transaction.

About ToneTag:

- ★ HQ: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ★ CEO: Kumar Abhishek.

About NSDL:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ MD & CEO: Abhijit Kamalapurkar.

NaBFID as All India Financial Institution

- ★ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) to be regulated and supervised as an All-India Financial Institution (AIFI) under Sections 45L and 45N of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- ★ It will be the **fifth AIFI** after EXIM Bank, NABARD, NHB and SIDBI.
- ★ NaBFID has been set up as a Development Financial Institution (DFI) to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing in India.

BOB Financial and CreditAI

- ★ **BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB), and **creditAI Fintech Pvt Ltd (CAI)**, a **Singapore** and Bengaluru-based farmer digitization and credit scoring company have launched Unnati, a co-branded credit card exclusively for farmers.
- ★ The card is contactless powered by Visa network.
- ★ The card can be used for purchasing agricultural inputs from Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO).
- ★ The Unnati Credit Card will work in a 'closed-loop system' with an 'end-use monitoring' feature to both enable and trace agricultural credit to its last mile.
- ★ Unnati Credit Card was first launched in Karnataka and later scaled across Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and other states in India.

About BFSL:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ MD & CEO: Shailendra Singh.

Karnataka Bank with SELCO Solar

- ★ **Karnataka Bank** Ltd has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **SELCO Solar Light Pvt Ltd** to provide energy access to the underserved population.
- ★ Under this initiative, Karnataka Bank provides financial support to purchase the solar energy products of SELCO Solar Light.
- ★ The partnership also promotes the use of renewable energy products which in turn increase the usage of solar energy by reducing carbon emissions.
- ★ Customers can take loans from the bank with a competitive interest rate for installing SELCO Solar energy products for both household and commercial use.

About Karnataka Bank:

- ★ HQ: Mangalore, Karnataka.
- ★ MD & CEO: Mahabaleshwara M S.

About SELCO Solar:

- ★ HQ: Bangalore, Karnataka.
- ★ CEO: Mohan Bhaskar Hegde.

First PPI to Achieve RBI's PPI Interoperability Guidelines

- ★ Mumbai-based Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) Issuer **LivQuik** announced to have achieved full Interoperability as mandated by the Reserve Bank of India for their **Prepaid payments Instruments (PPI)**.
- ★ It is also the first PPI Issuer to have achieved full interoperability thereby allowing its customers the choice of issuing a prepaid payment instrument that can be leveraged by a card, wallet or (Unified Payments Interface) UPI.
- ★ RBI, mandated all PPI Issuers to facilitate interoperability for full-KYC (Know Your Customer) wallets by 31 March, 2022.
- ★ It is conferred under Section 18 read with Section 10(2) of the Payment and Settlement Act, 2007.
- ★ With interoperability, customers of LivQuik can able to optimise their payments and spending across wallets by attaching a card on Visa and RuPay networks and can also enable UPI.

About LivQuik:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ CEO: Mohit Lalvani.

Primary Markets Investment Platform OneUp

- ★ IIFL (India Infoline Limited) Securities launched 'OneUp,' India's first primary markets investment platform for Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), non-convertible debentures (NCDs), and sovereign gold bonds (SGBs), among other things.
- ★ Customers of IIFL Securities and non-IIFL Securities can use the platform without signing up.

- ★ Investors can analyze, research, transact and manage new investment opportunities, all on one single platform.
- ★ The IPO functions 24 ×7 and as much as three days earlier than the IPO bidding opens.
- ★ Users can view live subscription of IPO, application status and payment status of bidding.
- ★ Online orders are not restricted to amounts of up to ₹2 lakh only.
- ★ Online IPO bidding for more than ₹2 lakh can be done in real-time.

About IIFL:

- ★ Founder: Nirmal Jain.

Odisha and NABARD Signs Agreement

- ★ The **Odisha government and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** signed an agreement for the development of fisheries infrastructure to boost fish production in the state.
- ★ Principal Secretary Finance, Vishal Dev and NABARD chief general manager C Udayabhaskar signed an agreement.
- ★ The Fisheries Department aims to boost fish production capacity of India to around 20 million tonnes by 2022-23.
- ★ The Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) will help in creation of infrastructure facilities in marine and inland sectors of Odisha.
- ★ For the development in the sector ₹119.8 crore has been sanctioned.

About NABARD:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ Chairperson: Govinda Rajulu Chintala.

NSE Partners with IBJA

- ★ The National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. (NSE) has tied up with the India Bullion and Jewelers Association Ltd. (IBJA) to start a domestic bullion spot exchange as per Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) guidelines.
- ★ It is first time that a domestic bullion spot exchange is being set up under the aegis of SEBI.
- ★ It will offer a platform to the industry players for conducting spot market bullion transactions and the joint initiative would also provide an opportunity to investors and consumers to directly participate on the exchange.
- ★ The shareholders will include NSE, IBJA and industry participants like refiners, bullion dealers, jewelers, banks and overseas suppliers.

About NSE:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ MD & CEO: Vikram Limaye.

EPFO Lowers Interest Rate

- ★ The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) announced to decrease the interest on provident fund (PF) deposits for 2021-22 to **8.10%, the lowest in 44 years.**
- ★ This rate is **0.4% lower than the previous year.**
- ★ The interest rate of 8.10% has been declared based on EPFO estimated income for the year ₹76,768 crore.
- ★ EPFO interest rate stood at 8% in 1977-1978. Since then, it has been either 8.25 or more.
- ★ The interest rate on PF deposits was 8.5% in 2020-2021.

Industry First Digital On-boarding for its Micro banking Customer

- ★ **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** launched Industry's first digital onboarding facility for its micro banking customers.
- ★ **Ujjivan SFB Assisted App** is now designed to enable Mobile Number updation on real time.
- ★ It allows over 60 lakh customers and microfinance women borrowers to update their mobile number for their individual banking transactions, through a new Paperless, Real time and Secured OTP based authentication followed by Biometric Authentication process through Ujjivan SFB Assisted App.
- ★ The customers can update the mobile number once every six months through this assisted platform.
- ★ It is to meet the public shareholding norms of **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).**

About Ujjivan SFB:

- ★ HQ: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ★ MD & CEO: Ittira Davis.

ICICI Bank with Emirates Skywards

- ★ **ICICI Bank partnered with Emirates Skywards**, the award-winning loyalty programme of Emirates and flydubai to launch a range of co-branded credit cards named 'Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Credit Card'.
- ★ The Bank is the first Indian bank to partner with Emirates Skywards, to offer the exclusive range of credit cards in the country.
- ★ The co-branded credit cards are powered by Visa as the network partner.
- ★ The card is available in three variants :
 - Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Emerald Credit Card.
 - Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Sapphire Credit Card.
 - Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Ruby Credit Card.
- ★ It enables customers to earn reward points called Skywards Miles on travel, lifestyle and everyday spends. The cards award up to 2.5 Skywards Miles per ₹100 spend.

About ICICI Bank:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi.

RBI Stops Paytm Payments Bank from Onboarding New Customers

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed **Paytm Payments Bank** to stop accepting new customers with immediate effect as it broke the laws by allowing data to transit to servers in other countries.
- ★ The RBI has directed the Paytm Payments Bank to appoint an audit firm to conduct a comprehensive audit of its IT system.
- ★ Annual inspection by RBI discovered that the Company's servers were sharing information with China based organization.
- ★ Onboarding of new customers by Paytm Payments Bank Ltd will be subject to specific permission to be granted by RBI after reviewing the report of the IT auditors. This action is based on certain material supervisory concerns observed in the bank.

About Paytm Payment Bank:

- ★ HQ: Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- ★ CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma.

Razorpay Acquires Izealiant Technologies

- ★ Fintech Unicorn **Razorpay** acquired a leading fintech startup that provides payment technology solutions for banks, **Izealiant Technologies**.
- ★ This is the Razorpay's **fifth acquisition in four years**.
- ★ It will strengthen Razorpay's banking solutions arm to build innovative payment banking technologies for partner bank.

SBI to set up Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre

- ★ **State Bank of India (SBI)** plans to set up an Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre (IIAC) at **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- ★ It is built in-house to boost its current performance and drive higher top-line growth through innovation.
- ★ It will be operational in six to nine months.
- ★ The IIAC would help the bank develop a set of technologies, knowledge, and skills to develop new products and services, think and work like fin-techs.
- ★ The main objective is to understand and explore how emerging innovations, market shifts or technologies could impact the bank's current status.

About SBI:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara.

IIT-M Incubation Cell Joins with RBI Innovation Hub

- ★ India's leading deep-tech start-up hub established by **Indian Institute of Technology Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC)** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India, have) to work together in developing the ecosystem necessary to support and scale fintech startups in India.
- ★ The two organisations will jointly provide incubation support and support early-stage startups with innovative and disruptive solutions and accelerate their scale-up journey.
- ★ RBIH aims to foster and evangelize innovation across the financial ecosystem. The startup ecosystem in India makes a significant contribution to the economic prosperity of the nation.

About IITMIC:

- ★ HQ: Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ★ Chairman: Dr. Bhaskar Ramamurthi.

About RBIH:

- ★ HQ: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ★ CEO: Rajesh Bansal.

Prepaid Card for Women Entrepreneurs

- ★ **Mahila Money, Visa and Transcorp partnered** to help women entrepreneurs easily collect payments, loans and get incentives for transactions, by launching **Mahila Money Prepaid Card**.
- ★ The Mahila Money Prepaid Card would bridge the gap for community members of a bank account with added flexibility, safety and convenience.
- ★ The prepaid card is designed in such a way that it caters to the needs of digital entrepreneurs, small business owners and women.
- ★ It also offers its users incentives, rewards and cashback.
- ★ A survey by YouGov has revealed that nearly two-thirds of urban Indian women use digital modes of payments, but less than one-third use internet banking to the greater extent.

About Transcorp:

- ★ HQ: New Delhi, Delhi.
- ★ MD: Gopal Sharma.

UPI Lite for Small Value Offline Transactions

- ★ **The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** will launch On-Device Wallet named '**UPI Lite**'.
- ★ UPI Lite will help UPI users to enable small value transactions in an offline mode.
- ★ It will be launched as a pilot with multiple banks and app providers in next few days.

- ★ users will be able to allocate funds from their bank account to UPI Lite. These funds will be available in a designated account on-device on the common library of the users' UPI app for making transactions offline.
- ★ It enables transactions without Additional factor authentication or UPI Personal Identification Number (PIN).
- ★ **Upper Limit of payment transaction is ₹200.**

About NPCI:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ CEO & MD: Dilip Asbe.

SBI to Grant USD 1 billion to Sri Lanka

- ★ India announced a USD 1 billion Line of Credit (LOC) to **Sri Lanka** as part of its financial assistance to deal with its economic crisis.
- ★ The finance ministry announced State Bank of India (SBI) will provide USD 1 billion credit facility to Sri Lanka for procurement of food, medicines and other essential items.
- ★ China's debt-trap diplomacy had succeeded in making Sri Lanka to give the Hambantota Port and 15, 000 acres of land around it on lease for 99 years to China.
- ★ In addition to the USD 1 billion LOC India has also offered a series of economic package announcements like currency swap arrangements of USD 400 million and a debt of USD 515 million for two months to Sri Lanka to clear its immediate problems.

About SBI:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara.

Kotak Mahindra Bank with Business France

- ★ **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd (KMBL)** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Business France**, the French national agency for the development of exports and international investments in France, to support companies in the Indo-French corridor.
- ★ The MoU will try to promote business and start-up ecosystem cooperation and identify business and investment opportunities in India and France.
- ★ KMBL became the first Indian bank to sign this agreement.
- ★ Business France will accompany KMBL Indian clients in their entry in France to boost investment.

About KMBL:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ CEO: Uday Kotak.

Financial Assistance to Odisha

- ★ The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has sanctioned financial assistance of **Rs 4,013 crore to Odisha**.
- ★ It is the highest in the country for critical rural infrastructure development under the **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund** during 2021-22.
- ★ The RIDF is classified under three broad categories namely Agriculture, Social and Rural connectivity.
- ★ About ₹2568 crore is allocated for construction of rural roads and bridges.
- ★ The drinking water sector has also been given importance through financial assistance of Rs 840 crore for nine Mega Piped Water Supply Projects aimed at providing clean, treated and safe drinking water at doorstep to approximately 17 lakh rural population in the state.
- ★ Financial assistance of Rs 605 crore has been extended for various infrastructure development in agri allied and irrigation sector.
- ★ With this sanction the total has crossed ₹32, 100 crore for Odisha since the inception of the RIDF.

Equitas Small Finance Bank and Equitas Holdings

- ★ The board of Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB) has approved a new scheme of amalgamation between Equitas SFB and Equitas Holdings Ltd.
- ★ The structure was voluntarily created to meet the RBI's norms regarding promoter holdings in ESFB.
- ★ The Reserve Bank of India had also given promoters an option to exit after completing the five-year lock-in period post incorporation as small finance bank (SFB).

SBI Card Partners with Nature's Basket

- ★ **SBI Card**, India's second largest pure-play credit card issuer partnered with **Nature's Basket**, India's leading premium grocery store brand to launch first of its kind credit card '**Nature's Basket SBI Card**'.
- ★ Nature's Basket SBI Card will be available to customers by first fortnight of April 2022.
- ★ The card will be introduced in two variants - 'Nature's Basket SBI Card' and 'Nature's Basket SBI Card Elite'.
- ★ It is powered Visa platform.
- ★ 'Nature's Basket SBI Card' variants will allow cardholders to earn up to 20 Reward Points on every ₹100 spent at Nature's Basket stores and up to 10 Reward Points on every ₹100 spent on dining, movies, and international travel.

About SBI Cards:

- ★ HQ: Gurugram, Haryana.
- ★ MD & CEO: Rama Mohan Rao Amara.

Airtel Payment Bank with ICICI Lombard

- ★ Airtel Payments Bank has tied up with ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company to grant Smartphone Insurance in India.
- ★ This facility is available on the Airtel Thanks app.
- ★ This solution provides financial protection against damage to the phone and its screen resulting from accidents or liquid spills.
- ★ Under the agreement the mobile insurance amount equal to the purchase price of the smartphones will be provided.
- ★ The smartphone price under the range of ₹10, 000 to ₹1, 00, 000 will be considered.

About Airtel Payments Bank:

- ★ HQ: New Delhi, Delhi.
- ★ MD & CEO: Anubrata Biswas.

EbixCash Partners with Axis Securities

- ★ EbixCash Limited announced a strategic agreement with Axis Securities, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Axis Bank, to provide end-to-end trading services to customers of EbixCash.
- ★ EbixCash is a technology enabled provider of digital products and services in the Business-2-Customer (B2C), Business-2-Business (B2B) and financial technology arena, through an integrated business model.
- ★ The association offers a 3-in-1 account to the customers of EbixCash, which allows them to integrate savings, Demat and trading accounts.
- ★ With this partnership, EbixCash customers now have access to the seamless online platform of Axis Securities, empowering them to buy and sell stocks and other investment products.
- ★ The customers can go for various investment instruments, including mutual funds, SIPs, investment advisory, portfolio management services, along with the option of opening a trading or demat account.

About EbixCash:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ Chairman: Robin Raina.

AU Small Finance Bank and Tata Motors

- ★ **Tata Motors** has signed an agreement with **AU Small Finance Bank** to offer finance options to customers on the company's range of passenger cars.
- ★ The institution is offering a repayment tenure of up to **seven years**.
- ★ AU Small Finance Bank will offer exclusive solutions in rural, urban, and metro regions.
- ★ The scheme will offer maximum financing on the vehicle as per each individual's requirements. Customers can also enjoy the benefit of EMI options with a repayment tenure.
- ★ Customers can also apply for a car loan using AU 0101 App to avail pre-approved offers.

About AU Small Finance Bank:

- ★ HQ: Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ★ MD & CEO: Sanjay Agarwal.

Max Life Insurance Partners with PhonePe

- ★ Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd has announced the launch of Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan, on the PhonePe app to enhance financial protection for digitally-savvy customers.
- ★ It is a non-linked non-participating individual pure risk premium life insurance plan.
- ★ Customers have the flexibility to choose a sum assured up to ₹10 crore and can have their policies renewed on the PhonePe app.
- ★ PhonePe, a digital payments platform has been granted a direct broking licence by IRDAI that allows the selling of insurance on their app.

SBI Signs Co-Lending Pact with 5 HFCs for affordable Housing

- ★ SBI has signed a co-lending pact with five Housing Finance Companies to further its reach to underserved sectors.
- ★ SBI has signed a co-lending pact with PNB Housing Finance Ltd, IIFL Home Finance Ltd, Shriram Housing Finance Ltd, Edelweiss Housing Finance Ltd, and Capri Global Housing Finance Ltd.
- ★ It is to sanction loans to unserved and underserved sectors and accelerate effective and affordable credit to small home buyers in India and contribute to the vision of “Housing for All by 2024.
- ★ Th bank’s overall home loan portfolio is estimated to be around ₹5.5 trillion with a goal of reaching ₹7 trillion by 2024.

Digital Financial Inclusion for Women

- ★ The Federal Bank, Bank of Baroda, Axis Bank and Avanti Finance teamed up with Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to promote financial Inclusion of womem through technology.
- ★ They work together to scale up for the 2nd phase of Swanari TechSprint programme.
- ★ Swanari is ‘Swanirbhar Nari’ meaning self-reliant lady.
- ★ It would focus on developing digital solutions to help women achieve financial security and independence.

India-UAE Economic Partnership

- ★ Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textiles released the Comprehensive Economic Partnership between India and UAE on 28th March, 2022.
- ★ India-UAE CEPA was signed on 18 February 2022 in New Delhi during the India-UAE Virtual Summit held between Prime Minister of India and the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and Chairman of the Executive Council.

- ★ The India-UAE CEPA is the first deep and full free trade Agreement to be signed by India with any country in the past decade.
- ★ The Agreement is a comprehensive agreement, which will cover Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Trade in Services, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement, Movement of Natural Persons, Telecom, Customs Procedures, Pharmaceutical products, Government Procurement, IPR, Investment, Digital Trade and Cooperation in other Areas.
- ★ The Agreement is expected to enter into force on 01 May 2022.

DBS Bank India Partners with EaseMyTrip

- ★ DBS Bank India and EaseMyTrip has announced to launch an environment-friendly international debit card made using 99 percent recycled polyvinyl chloride (PVC) material.
- ★ The Digi bank EaseMyTrip Green Debit Card provides exclusive travel-related offers to customers and rewards them for adopting eco-friendly practices.
- ★ It offers a 10 percent discount up to Rs 2,000 on flight ticket bookings and up to 17 percent discount on stays at eco-friendly hotels and resorts.
- ★ This card allows withdrawal up to Rs 1,50,000 per day from any bank's ATM in India and overseas and allows purchases worth up to Rs 1,50,000 in India and up to Rs 1,00,000 across merchant outlets globally.

Klarify Life

- ★ HDFC Life, one of India's leading life insurers has launched 'KlarifyLife', a digital education and awareness initiative to simplify life insurance.
- ★ It focuses on simplifying complex topics, clarifying doubts, and addressing life insurance-related questions in an engaging and with accurate information.
- ★ 'KlarifyLife' is available on social media platforms like Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook.
- ★ HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited is a joint venture between HDFC Ltd., India's leading housing finance institution and abrdn 2006 (Mauritius Holdings) Limited, a global investment company.

VAULT Program

- ★ HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company, a leading private general insurer launched the VAULT program, an industry-first digital customer engagement and rewards program.
- ★ HDFC ERGO is committed towards enhancing customer experience.
- ★ This is an experiment to test a new technology under the Regulatory Sandbox of IRDAI.
- ★ Under this program, the insurer will incentivize its Optima Restore health insurance customers by way of reward points for performing certain activities.
- ★ The activities include staying insured under the policy for more than two years, holding two active HDFC ERGO retail policies, interacting digitally, using the cashless network of healthcare providers, etc.

- ★ These reward points, equivalent to cash, can be redeemed against a wide range of wellness offers like pharmacy vouchers, doctor consultations, etc.

India-China Bilateral Trade in Year of 2021

- ★ According to Indian Embassy, in its annual commercial report on trade with China in 2021 announced India was the 14th largest trade partner of China, the 8th largest export destination for Chinese products.
- ★ India-China bilateral trade in the year of 2021 increased by 43.31% year on year to reach US\$ 125.62 billion.
- ★ India's exports to China increased by 34.28% year on year to reach US\$28.03 billion.
- ★ India's imports from China emerged an increase by 46.14% to reach US\$97.59 billion.
- ★ The trade deficit came at US\$ 69.56 billion, increasing by 51.53% year on year.
- ★ India was the second largest exporter of diamonds and fifth largest exporter of iron ores to China.

BUSINESS NEWS

Flipkart In Strategic Alliance with Google Cloud

- ★ **Google Cloud and Flipkart** have entered into a multi-year strategic alliance to help the e-commerce company's innovation and cloud strategy.
- ★ The partnership will drive Flipkart into its next phase of growth and advance its vision on India's next 200 million shoppers and lakhs of vendors.
- ★ Flipkart will use Google Cloud's secure and scalable global infrastructure and powerful networking technologies to provide strong app access even during peak purchasing seasons.
- ★ It also accelerates the creation of new products and boost its expansion into India's Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets.

CCI Approves 100% Acquisition of L&T's Mutual Fund

- ★ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition of **100% share capital of L&T Investment Management Limited by HSBC Asset Management Private Limited.**
- ★ L&T Finance Holdings had announced that it will divest its mutual fund business to HSBC AMC for **USD 425 million.**
- ★ There will be a change in the sponsorship, trusteeship, management and administration of L&T Mutual Fund schemes managed by L&T AMC.
- ★ The L&T MF schemes will be managed and operated by HSBC AMC and HSBC Trustee will be appointed as the trustee of L&T MF.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

PhonePe Acquired GigIndia

- ★ **PhonePe**, a digital payment company has acquired **100% Stack in GigIndia**, the country's leading network for freelance micro-entrepreneurs.
- ★ As a part of the acquisition, GigIndia which has 1.5 Mn entrepreneurs, and over 100 enterprises as customers, will integrate with PhonePe.
- ★ The acquisition is aimed to strengthen its offering to corporate and enterprise partners.
- ★ PhonePe has a network of over 27 million merchant outlets across India and 365 million registered users.

PVR-INOX Merger

- ★ The PVR Ltd and the INOX Leisure Ltd announced their merger deal on 27th March, 2022.
- ★ The merger of the two leading Film exhibition players will create the largest multiplex chain in the country.
- ★ Post merger, to be known as PVR INOX Ltd, will consist of 1500 screens all over the country.
- ★ The merger in shares will be of swap ratio of three shares of PVR for every ten shares of INOX.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

First Woman Chief of SEBI

- ★ On 28 February 2022, the government appointed Madhabi Puri Buch as the new chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for a period of three years.
- ★ She succeeds Ajay Tyagi and she is the first woman chief of SEBI and non-IAS to head financial regulatory body.
- ★ She was a member of SEBI for nearly five years. Prior to this she worked as an Executive member of ICICI Bank.

Samiran Gupta to head public policy for Twitter

- ★ 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.
- ★ Prior to this he worked in the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) organization.

Chairman of NAAC

- ★ Former vice-chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC), Professor **Bhushan Patwardhan** has been appointed as chairperson of the executive committee of the **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)**.
- ★ Patwardhan is currently a member of an advisory committee constituted by the Ministry of AYUSH. He has over 40 years of experience in higher education, scientific research, and institutional governance.
- ★ He served as the vice-chairman of UGC until March 2021.
- ★ He succeeds Jagadish Kumar who was appointed as the chairman of UGC.

MD & CEO of LIC MF

- ★ Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) Mutual Fund has appointed **TS Ramakrishnan** as its **Managing Director and CEO**.
- ★ He will succeed Dinesh Pangtey, its former Wholetime Director and CEO.
- ★ Prior to this appointment, he was the Regional Manager, Western Region at LIC Housing Finance Ltd. (LICHFL) and promoted as the General Manager.
- ★ Ramakrishnan has over 34 years of experience at LIC and its subsidiaries companies.

Ashneer Grover Resigned as MD & Director of the Board

- ★ A leading Indian Fintech company, **BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover**, resigned as the MD and Director of the board of BharatPe.
- ★ BharatPe became the 19th Indian Startup to become a unicorn company in 2021.
- ★ Ashneer Grover owns a 9.5% stake worth ₹1915 Crore in BharatPe, will continue as the single largest individual shareholder of the company.

Junaid appointed MIGA's Vice President

- ★ The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), a part of the World Bank Group, has appointed Bangladeshi national **Junaid Kamal Ahmad** as its vice-president for operations.
- ★ He will take his charge from April 16, 2022.
- ★ MIGA offers political risk insurance, credit enhancement guarantees to help developing countries.
- ★ He became the second Bangladeshi national to be appointed in such a high position.

CEO of Yash Raj Films

- ★ India's biggest film production house, Yash Raj Films (YRF), appointed **Akshaye Widhani** as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- ★ Prior to this, he served as the Senior Vice President- 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.

Bharti AXA Life Insurance Appoints Vidya Balan as Its Brand Ambassador

- ★ Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises, one of India's leading business groups, and AXA, one of the world's largest insurance companies, announced that it has appointed the National Award-winning **actress Vidya Balan** as its brand ambassador.
- ★ She will help in promoting the #DoTheSmartThing champion.

CEO of Jet Airways

- ★ **Sanjiv Kapoor** has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of Jet Airways.
- ★ His appointment will be effective from April 4, 2022.
- ★ Jet Airways ceased its operation on April 17, 2019 has planned to resume the operation of flights in the first quarter of 2022.
- ★ Sanjiv Kapoor has over 20 years of experience in the airline industry. He had done his MBA from Wharton University in Pennsylvania.

Chairperson of TDSAT

- ★ The Central government appointed Justice **DN Patel**, Chief Justice of High Court to the post of chairperson, Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).
- ★ He will serve for a period of 4 years from the date of assumption of charge of the post or till attaining the age of 70 years.
- ★ The conditions of service shall be governed by the provisions of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021 and the Tribunal (Conditions of Service) Rules, 2021.

ex-Ujjivan Small Finance Bank CEO Nitin Chugh as DMD

- ★ State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed former Ujjivan Small Finance Bank CEO **Nitin Chugh as Deputy Managing Director (DMD)** to drive digital banking operations.
- ★ He has been appointed for a period of three years term.
- ★ Nitin Chugh would be responsible for envisioning, developing, and executing of bank's digital banking strategy and business plan for imparting digital knowledge in a constructive, empowering, and collaborative way according to the public notice by SBI.

President of the Financial Action Task Force

- ★ T Raja Kumar from Singapore has been appointed as the president of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- ★ He is appointed for a period of two-year term, which begins on July 1, 2022.
- ★ He succeeds Dr Marcus Pleyer of Germany.
- ★ The FATF is an inter-governmental body established by the G7 in 1989 to prevent and combat money laundering, terrorism and proliferation financing.

Aarushi Verma to Represent India

- ★ Aarushie Verma, an active environmentalist, has been selected to represent India at the 2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition to be held in March 2022.
- ★ She is a national level shooter in Pistol and trap shooting, a multi-time State & Northern India Champion & National medalist.
- ★ She is sponsored by The Hans Foundation.
- ★ The expedition aims to raise awareness and work for the preservation of Antarctica through the promotion of recycling, renewable energy and sustainability solutions to combat the effects of climate change.
- ★ 2041 Climate Force is a global initiative to train and develop the next generation of sustainability champions and to help corporations with their sustainability solutions.

Brand Ambassador of Shakti Campaign

- ★ Homegrown pharma major Lupin Limited (Lupin) announced, Mary Kom (boxing champion) as the brand ambassador for its Shakti campaign.
- ★ Shakti Campaign is Women's Cardiovascular Health Awareness Initiative.
- ★ The campaign is aimed to increase awareness on heart diseases among women and coronary heart diseases are the leading cause of death for women in India yet awareness levels on the issue remains low.

New Commandant of IAFA

- ★ Air Marshal **B Chandra Sekhar** from Telangana, has been named Commandant of the **Indian Air Force Academy**.
- ★ He is a recipient of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) in 2020 for his service. It is an Presidential Award presented by the President of India.
- ★ Air Marshal B Chandra Sekhar was commissioned in the Indian Air Force on December 21, 1984, after attending Defence Services Staff College Wellington, Flying Instructors' School, College of Defence Management, and National Defence College New Delhi.
- ★ He is also a Qualified Flying Instructor and has the distinction of landing the first MLH class helicopter in the Siachen Glacier.

President of South Korea

- ★ The leader of People Power Party, **Yoon Suk-yeol** won the presidential election 2022 of South Korea.
- ★ He succeeds Moon Jae-in.
- ★ Yoon Suk-yeol is a South Korean politician, former public prosecutor and lawyer.
- ★ Mr Yoon is to take office as a president on 10 May 2022 for a period of five-year term.

SBI MD as SEBI Member

- ★ The government has appointed veteran banker **Ashwani Bhatia** as the whole-time member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).
- ★ Bhatia is currently working as the managing director — stressed assets and information technology at State Bank of India.
- ★ He has been appointed for a period of three years.
- ★ Prior to his elevation as MD of SBI, Bhatia was the chief executive of SBI Mutual Fund.

First Female President of Hungary

- ★ **Katalin Novák** has been elected as first female president of Hungary.
- ★ She recently served as a minister for family policy, portrayed her election as a victory for women.
- ★ Novak will succeed Janos Ader, a co-founder of Orban's governing right - wing Fidesz party who has held the job since 2012.
- ★ She will take oath after Ader's term completes in May.

Chairperson of NFRA

- ★ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed former Finance & Revenue Secretary **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** as the Chairperson of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), independent audit regulator.
- ★ He was appointed for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge or till he attains the age of 65 years.
- ★ The ACC has also appointed two full-time members of NFRA.
- ★ Praveen Kumar Tiwari, a retired Indian Audit and Accounts Service official, and Smita Jhingran, an Indian Revenue Service officer, appointed to the post of full-time members of NFRA.
- ★ Prior to becoming the Finance & Revenue Secretary of India, he was acting as the Chief Executive Officer of Unique Identification Authority of India.

Chairperson of Chardham Project Committee

- ★ The Supreme Court of India has named Justice **AK Sikri** as Chairperson of the Chardham project's High-Powered Committee (HPC).
- ★ He succeeds Professor Ravi Chopra.
- ★ The HPC would take care of the environmental concerns and other issues associated with the Chardham project as the cumulative and independent impact of the Chardham project on the whole Himalayan valley.

Chairman of IRDAI

- ★ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed former DFS Secretary **Debasish Panda**, a retired IAS officer, as the Chairperson of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), which is the insurance regulator.

- ★ He succeeds Subhash Chandra Khuntia.
- ★ Panda was 1987 batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre.

President of Chile

- ★ 36-year-old leftist **Gabriel Boric Font** has been elected as the new and 36th President of Chile.
- ★ He succeeds Sebastian Pinera.
- ★ Boric became one of the leading figures of the 2011–2013 Chilean student protests.
- ★ Boric is elected for the period between 2022-2026.
- ★ He is the youngest leader to carry the office in Chile's history.

MD & CEO of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

- ★ Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, the second largest private sector general insurer, has extended the tenure of **Tapan Singhel**, by another five years who is the current managing director & chief executive officer (MD&CEO) of the company.
- ★ It is effective from 01 April, 2022.
- ★ Singhel has already completed 10 years as the MD & CEO of the company since 2012.
- ★ He started his career as a direct officer in New India Assurance Company in 1991.
- ★ Under Singhel, the company has achieved a cumulative underwriting profit of over Rs 350 crore.

India's New Ambassador to China

- ★ **Pradeep Kumar Rawat** was appointed India's new ambassador to China.
- ★ He succeeds Vikram Misri, who was appointed as Deputy National Security Advisor.
- ★ Mr. Rawat, a 1990 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer and a fluent speaker of Mandarin.
- ★ Prior to this, he was India's ambassador to the Netherlands.

Chief Minister of Punjab

- ★ Aam Aadmi Party leader **Bhagwant Mann** will be sworn-in as the chief minister of Punjab.
- ★ The oath-taking ceremony will be held in Khatkar Kalan village in Nawanshahr district, the ancestral village of iconic freedom fighter Bhagat Singh.
- ★ Mr Mann, who contested from Dhuri assembly constituency in Sangrur district, won by a margin of 58,206 votes over Congress' Dalvir Singh Goldy.

Chairman and MD of Oil India Limited

- ★ Oil India Limited has selected **Ranjit Rath** as its new Chairman and Managing Director (OIL).
- ★ He will succeed Sushil Chandra Mishra, who is the current chairman and managing director of Oil India will retire on June 30, 2022.

- ★ Rath is working currently as the chairman and CEO of Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL).
- ★ Oil India is the second largest crude oil and natural gas producing company, under the ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Chairman of Air India

- ★ **N Chandrasekaran**, the chairman of Tata Sons, has been officially appointed as the chairman of Air India.
- ★ He was reappointed as the chairman of Tata Sons on February 2022, for a second five-year term.
- ★ He was joined the Board of Tata Sons in October 2016 and as Chairman in 2017.
- ★ Tata Group took over the airline on 27 January 2022.

CEO of Flipkart Health plus

- ★ Ecommerce major Flipkart's healthcare business Flipkart Health + appointed **Prashant Jhaveri** as its chief executive officer.
- ★ Jhaveri previously worked with Apollo Health and Lifestyle Limited as its chief business officer and was responsible for growth and partnership. He also served as CEO of MediBuddy and CBO for the Medi Assist Group in previous stints.
- ★ He is appointed, as Flipkart is scaling up many of its new businesses this financial year.

Chairperson of CII

- ★ **Suchitra K Ella**, Co-Founder and Joint Managing Director, Bharat Biotech International has been elected as Chairperson of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Southern Region for the year 2022-23.
- ★ She was serving as deputy chairman of CII for the year 2021-2022
- ★ CII also appointed **Kamal Bali as the deputy Chairman.**

President of Nissan India

- ★ **Frank Torres** who is the Senior executive of Nissan has been appointed as the President of Nissan India which is effective from 01 April 2022.
- ★ He succeeds Sinan Ozkok.
- ★ He joined Nissan in 2007 in Spain as a production Engineering Analyst and became Managing Director for Nissan Motor Iberica in 2011.

Interim CEO of RBL Bank

- ★ RBI has approved a three-month extension for RBL Bank Interim chief executive officer **Rajeev Ahuja** from 25 March 2022 or till the appointment of a regular CEO.

- ★ RBL Bank is being headed by the interim CEO whose appointment was earlier approved by the regulator for three months from 25 December 2021.

CM of Manipur

- ★ **N Biren Singh** was appointed as Chief Minister of Manipur for the **second term**.
- ★ He has been serving as the Chief Minister of the state since 2017.
- ★ BJP won majority with 32 seats out of 60 seats.
- ★ The BJP had formed government in the state with the support of the Naga People's Front (NPF) and the National People's Party (NPP) with Biren Singh as chief minister.

MD & CEO of TCS

- ★ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) announced that its board of directors has reappointed **Rajesh Gopinathan** as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the company for five years.
- ★ Ajesh Gopinathan has served as the CEO and Managing Director of Tata Consultancy Services since 2017.
- ★ TCS had strengthened its position under his leadership, with revenues increasing from \$17.6 billion in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017 to \$22.2 billion in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021.
- ★ The company's market capitalisation increased to Rs 14.19 trillion (equivalent to \$190 billion) during the above-mentioned period, according to the company.

UN's Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism

- ★ Indian development economist **Jayati Ghosh** has been appointed by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to a new high-level advisory board on effective multilateralism.
- ★ The advisory board consists of 12-members, which is co-chaired by former Liberian President and Nobel laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and former Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven.
- ★ The new advisory board will be asked to build on the ideas in 'Our Common Agenda'.
- ★ The 'Our Common Agenda' is a set of actions designed to strengthen and accelerate multilateral agreements - particularly the 2030 Agenda.
- ★ She is a Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Prior to this she was professor of economics and chairperson of the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She is also a member of the UN's high-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs.

President of Asian Cricket Council

- ★ The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has extended the tenure of its President **Jay Shah** for a period of one year.
- ★ Shah was first appointed as the President of ACC in January 2021. The decision was taken during the annual general meeting of ACC in Colombo.

- ★ He succeeds Nazmul Hassan.
- ★ Shah is the Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) from 2019.
- ★ Shah's extension was proposed by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) president Shammi Silva.

President of Turkmenistan

- ★ **Serdar Berdimuhamedov** was sworn in as Turkmenistan's new **president of Turkmenistan**.
- ★ He succeeds Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, who is the father of Serdar. Gurbanguly is the former president of Turkmenistan who became president in 2006 and served till 2022.
- ★ Presidential elections in Turkmenistan are held every seven years.

Chief Minister of Uttarakhand

- ★ Pushkar Singh Dhama will take oath as the 11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.
- ★ Dhama will be sworn in as CM for a second consecutive term.
- ★ Governor Lieutenant General Gurmit Singh administered him the oath of office and secrecy at the Parade Ground in Dehradun.
- ★ Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP president JP Nadda are also scheduled to attend.
- ★ Dhama secured 47 seats in the 70-member House.

Rajnish Kumar Joins Dun & Bradstreet's Advisory Board

- ★ Former State Bank of India (SBI) chairman **Rajnish Kumar** has joined the international strategic advisory board of data and analytics firm Dun & Bradstreet.
- ★ Kumar, a veteran banker, currently works on the boards of HSBC Asia Pacific, L&T Infotech, Hero MotoCorp and BharatPe.
- ★ Prior to this, he was appointed non-executive director of HSBC's Asia unit.
- ★ Dun & Bradstreet is contributing to empower MSMEs through technology-based finance, risk, compliance, data and marketing solutions in India.

Adviser in Defence Ministry

- ★ Lt. Gen. **Vinod G. Khandare** has been appointed as Adviser in the Ministry of Defence. He will work closely with the Defence Secretary.
- ★ He served as the Military Adviser in the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) under the Prime Minister's Office from 2018 to 2021.
- ★ He was commissioned into 14 Garhwal Rifles in September 1979 and served for nearly four decades.

MD & CEO of Maruti Suzuki

- ★ Maruti Suzuki India Limited's board members have appointed Hisashi Takeuchi as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
- ★ He will take charge from 01 April. He was appointed for a period of three-year term.
- ★ He will succeed Kenichi Ayukawa, who is now designated as Executive Vice-Chairman for a period of six months.
- ★ Takeuchi joined Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC) in 1986 and has vast experience in international operations at SMC.
- ★ He has also been on the Board of Maruti Suzuki since July 2019 and as Joint Managing Director (Commercial) since April 2021.

Interim MD & CEO of CSB Bank

- ★ Pralay Mondal has been appointed interim Managing Director and CEO of CSB Bank by the Reserve Bank of India for a period of three months from 01 April.
- ★ He is currently working as the Managing Director of CSB Bank.
- ★ The position of MD and CEO at CSB Bank was left vacant, after C V R Rajendran announced his early retirement due to health reasons.

Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh

- ★ Yogi Adityanath took oath as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh for the second term in a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top BJP leaders at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana stadium, Lucknow.
- ★ The BJP-led NDA secured 274 seats of 403, becoming the first party in three decades to form a government for a second consecutive time in the state.
- ★ Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak also sworn in as deputy Chief Ministers.

Chief Minister of Goa

- ★ BJP leader Pramod Sawant took oath as chief minister of Goa for the second consecutive term at the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee stadium in Taleigao, Goa.
- ★ Goa governor P S Sreedharan Pillai administered the oath of office.
- ★ Eight other cabinet ministers also took oath of office.
- ★ In the second tenure the government will focus on employment generation, tourism and restarting mining activities in Goa.

CEO of FedEx

- ★ Indian American Raj Subramanian has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- ★ Raj Subramanian will replace Frederick W Smith as the new Chief Executive Officer of the delivery giant FedEx.

- ★ Frederick W Smith will step down from this position on 01 June, 2022.
- ★ Prior to this, Raj Subramaniam was president and CEO of FedEx Express, the world's largest express transportation company (FedEx).
- ★ Subramaniam was elected to the FedEx Board of Directors in 2020. He is a graduate in Chemical Engineering from IIT Mumbai.

New Managing Director of SSI Schaefer

- ★ SSI Schaefer is the world's leading provider of modular warehousing and logistics solutions.
- ★ It has appointed Carsten Spiegelberg as new Managing Director of its India business.
- ★ The new managing director, Carsten Spiegelberg will take up the role with immediate effect and will focus on further developing and expanding SSI Schaefer in Indian Markets.
- ★ Following a new office opening in Thane, Maharashtra in 2022, the material handling system expert continues to provide the most reliable and accessible warehouse logistics solutions to the market.

Director of ONGC Videsh Ltd

- ★ State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Videsh Ltd (OVL) appointed O.N. Gyani as the director (operations) on the board of the company.
- ★ Prior to joining OVL, he was the asset manager of the onshore asset – Mehsana.
- ★ He was also involved in evaluation of carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) project for implementation in western India.
- ★ Gyani started his career in 1987 as petroleum engineer from Indian School of Mines.

President of Badminton Association of India

- ★ Himanta Biswa Sarma was re-elected as the president of Badminton Association of India (BAI) for a second term of four years from 2022 to 2026 during its General Body Meeting held in Guwahati.
- ★ Sarma, who is also the current Chief Minister of Assam, was elected as BAI chief for the first time in 2017.
- ★ He is also a Badminton Asia vice president and a member of the Badminton World Federation Executive Council.
- ★ Former junior national coach Sanjay Mishra will be the new general secretary of BAI.

REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKS

Telangana Tops the Country in Terms of Per Capita

- ★ **Telangana** became the top performing state in India with a population over 1 crore in terms of growth rate of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices.

- ★ It was released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- ★ The Gross State Domestic Price of Telangana was reported as ₹1, 15, 860 in 2021-2022.
- ★ It succeeds other states like Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- ★ Telangana provided more support to policies to transform the agricultural sector and boost the growth for the IT and the Pharma sector.

The Wealth Report 2022

- ★ **Knight Frank** released 16th edition **of the Wealth Report 2022** to provide an annual assessment of wealth creation is shaping investment markets and to highlight opportunities and risks.
- ★ According to the report, the number of ultra-high-net-worth-individuals (UHNWI) globally increased by 9.3% in 2021.
- ★ **India ranked 3rd** in billionaire population globally in 2021 with equity markets and digital adaption as the key factors driving the growth in India.
- ★ In India, the number of UHNWIs has grown by 11% year-on-year (YoY) in 2021.
- ★ The **United States topped the list** with increase of 12.2% in UHNWIs.
- ★ Africa secured the last position where UHNWIs declined by 0.8%.

Freedom of the world 2022 Report

- ★ The report titled “**Freedom in the World 2022 – The Global Expansion of Authoritarian Rule**” released by Freedom House, a US-based NGO that ‘assesses political rights and civil liberties.
- ★ For the Second consecutive year, India has been termed as ‘Partly free’country. India has scored 66 out of 100 in 2022.
- ★ It is termed ‘partly free’ in terms of democracy and free society.
- ★ In 2022, 85 countries were termed as free, 56 countries were termed as partly free and 69 countries were termed as not free.
- ★ The report used 25 indicators.
- ★ India was a free country with score 71 in 2020.
- ★ India’s freedom scores are similar to that of **Bolivia, Hungary and Albania.**
- ★ **Finland, Sweden and Norway** have achieved a score 100.

India Ranks 2nd for Global Investment in Digital Shopping

- ★ 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 USD 22 billion in 2021.
- ★ This shows an increase of 175 percent from USD 8 million in 2020.
- ★ **The United States topped** the list with investment of USD 51 billion.
- ★ The analysis relating to investment into digital shopping companies is based on Dealroom. Co’s definition of online market places, which supplied the Venture Capital investment data.

- ★ Within India, **Bengaluru topped the investments** in digital shopping in 2021 with USD 14 billion.

Skoch State of Governance Ranking 2021

- ★ The **SKOCH Group** released the **SKOCH Governance Report Card for 2021**, in New Delhi ranking the states according to their performance in various projects at state, district and municipal level.
- ★ **Andhra Pradesh** secured first place for the second consecutive year.
- ★ Top 5 states are Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Gujarat, Maharashtra.
- ★ Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha are doing remarkable work in a fields like Agriculture, Transport, eGovernance and Ease of Doing Business.
- ★ Telangana has showed good improvement and secured 6th position by entering into performer state category.

SIPRI Report

- ★ **The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** has released its import on **Trends in International Arms Transfer, 2021**.
- ★ According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India is amongst the world's largest arms importers.
- ★ Along with India Saudi Arabia also emerged as the largest importers of arms. Both the countries, accounting for 11 per cent of global imports between 2017-2021.
- ★ Egypt, Australia and china were the next three largest importers respectively.
- ★ The report placed India at the top of the list.

2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List

- ★ On 17 March 2022, Hurun India released 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List.
- ★ It is a ranking of United States (US) dollar Billionaires in the world.
- ★ **Elon Musk** co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Tesla **topped the list** for the second consecutive year with USD 205 billion.
- ★ **Mukesh Ambani has emerged as the Richest Indian and Richest Asian.**
- ★ He is the Chairman & Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited has secured 9th rank globally with USD 103 billion.
- ★ Mukesh Ambani is the only Indian to come in the World's top 10 billionaires list.
- ★ He also earned the 'Richest Telecom Entrepreneur' title.

Deloitte Global Power of Retailing 2022

- ★ Deloitte's Global Powers of Retailing 2022 report reviews the global economic scenario and its impact on the retailing industry.

- ★ **Walmart Inc.**, an American Multinational retail corporation has topped the list of top 250 global retailers.
- ★ **Reliance Retail Limited (RRL) from India** has secured **56th position on the list.**
- ★ Reliance Retail was the second fastest growing retailer, with a five- year Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) in revenue of 49.4% in FY2015-FY2020.
- ★ Amazon secured second place followed by Costco Wholesale Corporation.

World's Happiest Nation

- ★ **Finland** secured top position as the World's Happiest Nation in an annual United Nations (UN) sponsored World Happiness Report.
- ★ Finland has been named happiest country for the five consecutive years with score of 7.821.
- ★ India ranked 136th among 146 countries with a score of 3.777.
- ★ Afghanistan ranked as the unhappiest nation by the report with score of 2.404.
- ★ The index assigns a happiness score on a scale of 0 – 10, based on an average of data over 3-year period.
- ★ The top five rankings were occupied by Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

Global House Price Index 2021

- ★ Property consultant '**Knight Frank**' released the report 'Global House Price Index 2021'.
- ★ **India is placed at 51st position.** It has improved its rank by five spots as it was placed at 56th position in 2020.
- ★ India witnessed a 2.1 percent annual appreciation in housing price rates during the October-November (Q4) of 2021 against (Q4) of 2020.
- ★ **Turkey was placed at the top** position with highest annual price growth rate by 59.6 percent in Q4 2021.
- ★ Malaysia, Malta and Morocco were placed at the bottom as they show decline in prices.
- ★ The Index tracks nominal and real price growth in local currencies. The ranking on the price movement have been accounted based on the nominal price growth change.

World Air Quality Report 2021

- ★ World Air Quality Report 2021 was released by Swiss organization IQAir.
- ★ The 2021 IQAir report ranked India among the countries with the worst air quality.
- ★ New Delhi has been ranked the world's most polluted capital city for the fourth consecutive year with the highest average annual PM 2.5 concentration followed by Dhaka (Bangladesh), N'Djamena (Chad), Dushanbe (Tajikistan) and Muscat (Oman).
- ★ According to the 2021 World Air Quality Report, 35 of the top 50 most polluted cities were found to be in India.

- ★ Of the 15 most polluted cities in Central and South Asia in 2021, 12 were in India.
- ★ Bhiwadi was the most polluted city in India followed by Ghaziabad, Delhi and Jaunpur.
- ★ Bangladesh was the most polluted country followed by Chad, Pakistan, Tajikistan and India. India ranked fifth as the most polluted country.

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Report

- ★ United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) published a report titled 'Annual Frontier Report-2022'.
- ★ Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh has been ranked as the most noise-polluted city globally.
- ★ As per the report, the city recorded sound pollution of 119 decibels at its highest (dB) in 2021.
- ★ Moradabad from Uttar Pradesh came second on the list with sound pollution of 114 decibels.
- ★ Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan is third with maximum sound pollution of 105 dB.
- ★ The quietest cities in the world are Irbrid at 60 dB, Lyon at 69 dB, Madrid at 69 dB, Stockholm at 70 dB, and Belgrade at 70 dB.
- ★ A total of 61 cities around the world are ranked within the report, out of which 13 cities are from South Asia, while 5 among them are from India.
- ★ For residential areas, the sound limit of 55-dB is standard, while for traffic and business sectors, this limit is 70-dB.

SPORTS

Ice Hockey Championship 2022

- ★ **Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre, LSRC** has won the Second LG Cup Ice Hockey Championship-2022.
- ★ Men's Ice Hockey Championship, 2022 were played between the teams of ITBP and Ladakh Scouts at the Ice Hockey Rink which is at NDS Sports Complex in Leh.
- ★ It was organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports in Leh in collaboration with Ladakh Winter Sports Club.

Saurabh Chaudhary Bags Gold Medal in 10m Air Pistol

- ★ The 19-year-old Indian shooter, **Saurabh Chaudhary** won India's first **gold medal at the International Sports Federation World Cup** conducted in Cairo, Egypt.
- ★ He has clinched gold medal in the category of **Men's 10m Air Pistol**.
- ★ He defeated German player Michael Schwald by shot 16-6.

Para Archery World Championships

- ★ **Indian, para-archer Pooja Jatyan** became the first Indian to win a **silver** in an individual section of the **Para Archery World Championships 2022 in Dubai**.
- ★ Pooja Jatyan lost to Italian Petrilli Vincenza.
- ★ Earlier, in the compound mixed pair Shyam Sundar Swami and Jyoti Baliyan won a silver medal, the country's first medal in the World Archery Para Championships
- ★ India has won 2 Silver medals for the first time in the Para Archery World Championship.

31st Southeast Asian Games (SAG)

- ★ The **31st edition of Southeast Asian Games** will be held in Vietnam from May 12 to May 23, 2022. The Vietnamese capital Hanoi will be the main venue.
- ★ The Games will feature 40 sports with 526 events, attracting around 10,000 participants.
- ★ It is the biggest sporting event of Southeast Asia held and is a biennial event.
- ★ Competitions will be held with limited or no spectators.
- ★ It was scheduled to take place in November 2021, but was postponed due to the Covid pandemic in Vietnam and the wider region.
- ★ Moto of the event is **“For a Stronger South East Asia”**.
- ★ In 2023, the Southeast Asian Games will be held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Gold Medal in ISSF World Cup

- ★ Indian women's team of **Rahi Sarnobat, Esha Singh and Rhythm Sangwan** won the gold medal in the category of **25m pistol** event in International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World cup in Cairo, Egypt.
- ★ They defeated Singapore with the shot of 17-13.
- ★ It is the 5th medal for India in the tournament.

Mithali Raj at Six Cricket World Cups

- ★ India captain, **Mithali Raj** became only the third cricketer and the first woman to appear in six World Cups.
- ★ She has played in the ICC women's cricket world cup events in 2000, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017 and now in 2022.
- ★ The ICC women's cricket world cup 2022 is being held in New Zealand.
- ★ In the women's game, the Indian batter surpassed former New Zealand cricketer Debbie Hockley and Charlotte Edwards of England.
- ★ Fast bowler Jhulan Goswami, stands second on the list with five World Cup appearance.

Mohali Test: India beat Sri Lanka

- ★ **India** defeated Sri Lanka in the first test match at Mohali by an innings and 222 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the 2 match test series.

- ★ **Ravindra Jadeja** was announced man of the match for his all-round performance.
- ★ He scored 175 runs and took nine wickets across both innings.

23rd Woman Grandmaster of India

- ★ 19-year-old Priyanka Nutakki from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh becomes the 23rd Woman Grandmaster of India.
- ★ She secured her final WGM-norm at MPL's Forty-seventh National Women Chess Championship. She scored 7.0/9.
- ★ Priyanka Nutakki scored her first WGM-norm in January 2019 and crossed the 2300 rating criteria in the next two months but the Covid-19 pandemic delayed her title.

ISSF WC 2022- India is Top in medal tally

- ★ International Shooting Sport Federation, ISSF World Cup 2022 was held in Cairo, Egypt.
- ★ The Indian team finished on the top of the medals tally with a total of seven medals comprising of four gold, two silver and one bronze.
- ★ Norway won six medals- three gold, one silver and two bronze claimed second spot on the medals tally.

List of Winners:

Gold

- ★ Women's 25m pistol team – Rahi Sarnobat, Esha Singh and Rhythm Sangwan
- ★ Men's 10m air pistol - Saurabh Chaudhary
- ★ Women's 10m air pistol team - Esha Singh, Nivetha Paramanantham, Ruchira Vinerkar
- ★ 25m rapid fire pistol mixed team - Rhythm Sangwan and Anish Bhanwala

Silver

- ★ Women's 10m air pistol event - Esha Singh
- ★ Men's 25m rapid fire pistol team - Gurpreet Singh, Anish Bhanwala and Bhavesh Shekhawat

Bronze

- ★ 50m rifle 3 positions mixed team event - Shriyanka Sadangi and Akhil Sheoran.

S Sreesanth Quits from All Forms of First-Class Cricket

- ★ On 09 March 2022, Indian fast bowler **S Sreesanth** announced his retirement from all forms of domestic cricket, which includes the first-class and the format-based tournaments including the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- ★ Sreesanth played 27 Tests, 53 ODIs and 10 T20s for India.
- ★ The 39-year-old was part of 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 ODI World Cup.
- ★ Sreesanth's best performances came in India's maiden Test win in South Africa in 2006.

FIH Pro League

- ★ **Germany defeated India**, in the match of the double-leg FIH Pro League at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- ★ Indian Women's Hockey team lost 1-2 to Germany in a shoot.
- ★ Germans secured two points, including a bonus.
- ★ India is placed third in the standings with 10 points from five games while the Germans are in sixth place with two points from three matches.

Women's World Cup

- ★ In the ICC Women's World Cup, **India defeated West Indies** by 155 runs at Seddon Park in Hamilton.
- ★ West Indies were all out at 162 runs in 40.3 overs.
- ★ Smriti Mandhana, India's opening batter, scored 123 runs and Harmanpreet Kaur scored 109.

Pole Vaulters Duplantis Sets World Record

- ★ The American Swedish Pole Vaulters **Armand Gustav Mondo Duplantis** break his own pole Vault World record by clearing 6.19 meters at Belgrade Indoor Meeting 2022 in Belgrade, Serbia.
- ★ At the Muller Indoor Grand Prix 2020 in Glasgow, Duplantis set the World Record by clearing 6.18 meters.
- ★ He will return to the same Stark Arena in the Serbian capital for the world indoor championships starting on March 18.

FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022

- ★ India to host the FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022 in **Chennai, TamilNadu**.
- ★ The FIDE Chess Olympiad are scheduled to be held from 26th July 2022 to 8th August 2022.
- ★ It is the first time India hosts the FIDE Chess Olympiad since its inception in 1927.
- ★ After the announcement, Tamil Nadu government and the All-India Chess Federation made a joint bid to host the prestigious tournament.

German Open Badminton 2022

- ★ **The 2022 German Open** also known as the **Yonex Gainward German Open 2022** was a badminton tournament took place at the Westenergie Sporthalle in Mulheim, Germany from 8 to 13 March 2022.
- ★ Indian Shuttler Lakshya Sen won silver after losing to Thailand shuttler Kunlavut Vitidsarn, in the men's singles final tournament.
- ★ The score was 18-21 and 15-21.
- ★ The tournament was organized by the German Badminton Association with sanction from the Badminton World Federation.

- ★ The 2022 German Open was the fourth tournament of the 2022 BWF World Tour.

Asian Billiards Championship

- ★ Ace Indian palyer **Pankaj Advani** won his eighth title at the **19th Asian Billiards Championship 2022 in Doha, Qatar.**
- ★ He defeated Indian compatriot Dhruv Sitwala with score 6-2.
- ★ By winning this championship Advani has lifted 24th international title and 8th Asian crown.

Golf Hall of Fame 2022

- ★ **American Golfer, Tiger Woods** was inducted into the **World Golf Hall of Fame 2022.**
- ★ He won 82 all-time Professional Golfers Association (PGA) and 15- time major PRO champions.
- ★ He also is a two-time winner of THE PLAYERS Championship (2001, 2013) and became the first two-time winner of the FedExCup (2007, 2009).
- ★ Additionally, The World Golf Hall of Fame presented two new distinguished service awards for the first time.

F1 Bahrain Grand Prix 2022

- ★ Formula One Bahrain Grand Prix 2022 was held at Bahrain International Circuit in the west of Bahrain. This was the first Formula One race of 2022.
- ★ **Charles Leclerc (Ferrari)** from Monaco won the Bahrain Grand Prix.
- ★ Carlos Sainz Jr (Ferrari) from Spain came second and Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) from Great Britain came third.
- ★ The Bahrain Grand Prix is also called the Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix.

Indian Wells Masters 2022

- ★ American Tennis player, **Taylor Harry Fritz** defeated Rafael Nadal to win the Indian Wells Masters 2022 which was held in California, United States.
- ★ It is also known as the Indian Wells Open or BNP Paribas open.
- ★ He is now ranked 8th in Singles for Men Category by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP).
- ★ Fritz, who became the first American to win the title in Indian Wells since Andre Agassi in 2001.
- ★ Iga Swiatek from Poland won Women's Singles Category.

Youngest Female Swimmer to Cross Palk Strait

- ★ A 13-year-old Jiya Rai, **Maharashtra** girl has set a new record by swimming across the **Palk Strait** from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanuskodi in Tamil Nadu.
- ★ She covered a distance of 29 km in 13 hours and 10 minutes.
- ★ Jiya Rai is the daughter of a senior sailor of the Indian Navy, Madan Rai

- ★ She has become the youngest and fastest female swimmer in the world to swim across the Palk Strait.
- ★ The event was conducted by the Para-Swimming Federation of India (PSFI) with cooperation from many agencies including the Swimming Federation of India, Sports Development Authority, Tamil Nadu and the Autism Society of India.
- ★ The Goa Shipyard Ltd. provided the swimmer financial sponsorship for the event.
- ★ She is the recipient of “Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Purashkar (PMRBP) - 2022 the highest honour given to citizens below 18 years.

All England Badminton Championship

- ★ **Lakshya Sen** lost at the All-England Championships against world number one and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen in the Men’s singles category.
- ★ The score was 10-21 and 15-21.
- ★ The 20-year-old Sen had become only the fifth Indian after Prakash Nath (1947), Prakash Padukone (1980, 1981), Pullela Gopichand (2001) and Saina Nehwal (2015) to reach the final of the prestigious tournament.
- ★ Sen has broken into the top 10 of the men’s singles badminton world rankings for the first time. He climbed two spots to reach 9th in the latest standings released.

Ashleigh Barty Announces Retirement

- ★ Australian tennis player and Cricketer **Ashleigh Barty** announced her retirement from tennis. She announced her retirement at the age of 25.
- ★ She is currently ranked World No.1 in Women’s singles ranking.
- ★ She unveiled the announcement just weeks after she became the first Australian to win Australian Open in 44 years.
- ★ She is the 7th on the list of women tennis players with longest consecutive weeks at world NO.1 position.
- ★ She was the one who won singles major championships on three different surfaces that is 2019 French Open (on clay), 2021 Wimbledon (on grass) and 2022 Melbourne Park (on hard courts).

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

- ★ BYJU’S, a world-leading EdTech company, has been announced as an Official Sponsor of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.
- ★ As an Official FIFA World Cup 2022 Sponsor, BYJU’S will gain access to a global platform to further champion the integration of learning and sport.
- ★ Through this partnership, BYJU’S will leverage its rights to the FIFA World Cup 2022 marks, emblem and assets and run unique promotions to connect with passionate football fans around the world.
- ★ It will also create engaging and creative content with educational messages as part of a multifaceted activation plan.

Swiss Open 2022

- ★ PV Sindhu won her 2nd title of Swiss Open under Women's Singles category.
- ★ She secured the title by defeating Busanan Ongbamrunphan of Thailand by 21-16 and 21-8 score sets.
- ★ In the same tournament, HS Prannoy came out as the runner against Jonatan Christie of Indonesia

Obaidullah Khan Heritage Hockey Cup

- ★ Indian Railways' men Hockey team won the prestigious Obaidullah Khan Heritage Hockey Cup held at Bhopal (MP)
- ★ The prestigious hockey tournament was played at Major Dhyanchand Stadium, Bhopal
- ★ Started in year 1931 as Obaidullah Gold Cup, the prestigious tournament was last played in year 2016 and was organized after a gap of six years this year.
- ★ In the year 2016, the tournament was won by BPCL and Railways team was runners up.

National Para Athletics Championships

- ★ The 20th National Para Athletics Championships is set to commence at the Kalinga Stadium and KIIT University in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ★ The three-day event is scheduled to take place between March 28 to March 31, 2022.
- ★ A total of 982 para-athletes including 758 athletes with physical disabilities, 153 visually impaired athletes will participate.
- ★ The championships will help to identify potential medal winners who will represent India at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and Asian Para Games scheduled to take place in 2022.

SAFF U-18 Women's Championship

- ★ India emerged as winners of the SAFF U-18 Women's Football Championship held at Jamshedpur in Jharkhand.
- ★ Although India lost to Bangladesh, 0-1 in the final league match but still emerged champions of the tournament on account of better goal difference.
- ★ India enjoyed a better goal difference of 11 in comparison to 3 of Bangladesh.
- ★ Lynda Kom, who scored five goal goals in the tournament was emerged valuable player and the highest goal scorer of the tournament.

National Para Swimming Championship 2022

- ★ Narayan Seva Sansthan in Association with Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) Organized the 21st National Para Swimming Championship 2021-2022.
- ★ It has been organized from March 25 to March 27, 2022 at the Swimming Pool Complex, Maharana Pratap Khel Gaon, Udaipur.

- ★ Maharashtra has won the 21st National Para Swimming championship.
- ★ Narayan Seva Sansthan is a non-governmental organization that works in the areas of education, health, and community development for the underprivileged and differently-abled people.
- ★ The championship was based on standard international swimming rules that use Automatic Officiating Equipment for standard measurement of accurate time and distance.

AWARDS & PRIZES

Deepak Dhar First Indian to Get Boltzmann medal

- ★ Indian Physicist Deepak Dhar, professor for physics at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune has become the first Indian to be conferred with the prestigious Boltzmann Medal 2022 for contribution in the field of statistical physics.
- ★ He will share the medal with John J Hopfield of Princeton University, US.
- ★ The medal presentation ceremony will be held during the StatPhys28 conference scheduled to be held in Tokyo in August 2022.
- ★ Boltzmann Medal is given once in three years by the C3 Commission on Statistical Physics of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP).

NATIONAL ICT AWARDS

- ★ The Central Institute of Educational Technology under the National Council of Educational Research and Training (CIET-NCERT) organized the National ICT Award 2022 For School Teachers.
- ★ **Minister of State for Education, Annapurna Devi** has given National ICT Awards to **49 teachers** from all over the country.
- ★ On the occasion, Annpurna Devi delivered that the National Education Policy 2020 emphasises the extensive use of technology in teaching and learning processes, removing language barriers and increasing access for DIVYANG students with educational planning and management.
- ★ The ICT awardees are also being conferred with a responsibility to function as ICT ambassadors in spreading the outreach of ICT in Education.

CtrlS receives Prestigious ASSOCHAM Award

- ★ On 04 March 2022, CtrlS, Asia's largest Data Center company, has been awarded the most prestigious ASSOCHAM Award for Sustainability Excellence in Energy Management.
- ★ CtrlS is located in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ★ CtrlS made a positive impact during the Covid-19 pandemic from March 2020 through their innovative and sustainability initiatives in their data centre operations.
- ★ The award is generally presented to those companies that make efforts to integrate economic, environmental and social objectives alongside its operations and growth.

Special Jury Award

- ★ **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** was awarded the “**Special Jury Award**” at the 7th India Industry Water Conclave and the 9th edition of the FICCI Water Awards.
- ★ The award was given to recognize an important work of NMCG that is engaged in to bring about a paradigm shift in water management.
- ★ It also emphasized 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.

Ispat Rajbhasha Award & Ispat Rajbhasha Prerna Award

- ★ Ispat Rajbhasha Award for 2018-19 and 2020-21 and Ispat Rajbhasha Prerna Award for 2019-20 was presented in the meeting of the Hindi Advisory (Salahakar) Committee of the Ministry of Steel held in Madurai
- ★ **National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC)**, Country's largest Iron Ore producer, a CPSE under Ministry of Steel received 1st prize in the **Ispat Rajbhasha Award for 2018-19 and 2020-21 and the Ispat Rajbhasha Prerna Award for 2019-20.**
- ★ Sumit Deb, Chairman and Managing Director, NMDC received the award from Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, Union Minister of Steel.
- ★ **MOIL Limited**, a Mini Ratna state owned manganese ore mining company received the **Ispat Rajbhasha Samman Award for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20.**
- ★ Mukund Choudhary, Chairman and Managing Director of MOIL, received the award.

Nari Shakti Puraskar Award for 2020 and 2021

- ★ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has conferred the Nari Shakti Puraskar' award for the years 2020 and 2021
- ★ Nari Shakti Puraskar are conferred every year on the occasion of International Women's Day on 08 March 2022.
- ★ It is conferred for recognizing the exceptional work done by individuals in the area of empowering the women.
- ★ Overall, 29 women have been conferred the award for the year 2020 and 2021 for their outstanding work in empowering women.
- ★ There were a total of 28 awards which include 14 awards each for the year 2020 and 2021.

US International Women of Courage Award for 2022

- ★ **Bangladeshi environmental lawyer Rizwana Hasan** has been selected for the **International Women of Courage (IWOC) Award for 2022.**
- ★ Rizwana Hasan is a lawyer who showcased exceptional courage and leadership in her mission to protect the environment and defend the dignity and rights of the marginalised Bangladeshis.
- ★ Rizwana Hasan is the Chief Executive of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association.
- ★ She is the recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2012 for her activism.

- ★ The International Women of Courage (IWOC) award is the honour of the US Department and was established in 2007 to praise the women of exceptional courage, strength and leadership who work to bring change to their communities.
- ★ On 14 March 2022, US Secretary of State Antony J Blinken will host the International Women of Courage (IWOC) Award ceremony for the year 2022.
- ★ 170 women from 80 countries have been honoured with IWOC award.

National Award for Outstanding Performance

- ★ Ministry of Rural Development (GoI), Giriraj Singh honoured the **Jammu & Kashmir Bank** with the '**National Award for Outstanding Performance for FY 2020-21**' in recognition of its best performance in Self Help Group Bank Linkage.
- ★ Zonal Head Delhi Kirti Sharma received the national award on behalf of Bank.
- ★ The event was organized by the Ministry of Rural Development (GoI) to celebrate Women's Day at Vigyan Bhawan Delhi.
- ★ J&K Bank has expanded its footprint by commissioning four Business Units (BUs) to extend banking facilities and financial services into the under-banked areas of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ★ Baldev Prakash, MD & CEO of the bank inaugurated the Business Unit Pattan Village in Baramulla.

Airports Council International (ACI) World- ASQ Award 2021

- ★ **Airports Council International (ACI) World** in partnership with **Amadeus**, Global travel technology company has announced the **Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards 2021**.
- ★ The awards are the result of data collected in 2021 from more than 370,000 surveys.
- ★ The airports were declared as the Best Airports by **Size (passengers per year) and Region**.
- ★ ASQ is the world's leading airport passenger satisfaction program with 400 participating airports in 95 countries.
- ★ ACI has honoured **Six Indian Airports** by Size and Region under Asia-Pacific Category based on data from ASQ's Departures and Arrivals Surveys.
- ★ **2 to 5 million passengers per year** –
 - Chandigarh Airport - Chandigarh, India
- ★ **5 to 15 million passengers per year**
 - Cochin International Airport - Cochin, India
 - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport - Ahmedabad, India
- ★ **Over 40 million passengers per year**
 - Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport - Mumbai, India
 - Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport - Mumbai, India
 - Indira Gandhi International Airport - Delhi, India
- ★ The **Chandigarh Airport – Chandigarh**, India has been adjudged as the Best Hygiene.

Asian Bank of the Year and India Bond House Award

- ★ **Axis Bank, India's Third largest private sector bank** was declared as the Asian Bank of the Year and India Bond House at the IFR Asia Awards 2021.
- ★ IFR Asia is a Hong Kong based provider of capital markets intelligence.
- ★ The award is given to acknowledge the bank's performance in equity and debt issuance to all major products and segments.
- ★ Axis bank has sold India's first sustainable Additional Tier 1 bond issue and was the only local house to serve as a global coordinator for the record ₹183 billion Paytm Initial Public Offering (IPO).
- ★ Bank of the year award at the IFR Asia Award 2021 was given to Morgan Stanley.

BAFTA Award 2022

- ★ **The British Academy Film Awards**, also known as the BAFAs (or BAFTAs), was held on 13 March 2022 at the Royal Albert Hall in London, honouring the best national and foreign films of 2021.
- ★ This year marks the **75th edition**.
- ★ The ceremony was hosted by actress and comedian Rebel Wilson.

List of winners:

- ★ Best film- The Power of the Dog.
- ★ Best Director- Jane Campion for the film The Power of the Dog.
- ★ Best Supporting Actress- Ariana DeBose for the film West Side Story.
- ★ Best Supporting Actor- Troy Kotsur for the film CODA.
- ★ Best Animated Film- Encanto.
- ★ Best Documentary- Summer of Soul.
- ★ Best Short Animation- Do not feed the Pigeons.

GD Birla Award for Scientific Research

- ★ Professor **Narayan Pradhan** has been selected for the 31st GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for his outstanding contribution **in the field of material sciences**.
- ★ The award recognises eminent Indian scientists below the age of 50 for their original and outstanding contributions to any branch of science. It is instituted in 1991.
- ★ Pradhan's research work focused on understanding the chemistry and physics of light-emitting semiconductor nanocrystals.
- ★ He is also a recipient of the LNJ Bhilwara Nanoscience award, the DST Swarnajayanti Fellowship award, the DST Nanoscience Young Career award, and the Oxford Nanoscientist award.

UK Children's Book Award

- ★ Indian-origin author **Manjeet Mann** has been shortlisted for her children's book '**The Crossing**' for the prestigious Yoto Carnegie Medal.
- ★ The UK's children's book awards are sponsored by Yoto, a screen-free audio platform for children.
- ★ Mann's novel is a poignant story of shared humanity, with the stories of two teenagers – one a refugee and the other grief-stricken – cleverly entwined.
- ★ Mann is a multi-award-winning children's author, actress, playwright, and screenwriter.
- ★ There are 7 more books shortlisted for the award.

Miss World 2021

- ★ **Karolina Bielawska from Poland** has been crowned Miss Universe for the year 2021.
- ★ This marks the 70th edition of the event and was held at the Coca-Cola Music Hall in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- ★ Miss USA Shree Saini, an Indian – American was the first runner-up.
- ★ Olivia Yace from Cote D'Ivoire emerged as the second runner-up.
- ★ This is the second Miss World Title for Poland. Aneta Kreglicka won the crown in 1989 for the country.

5th Edition of Women Transforming India Awards

- ★ Women Transforming India Awards is organized by NITI Aayog. This marks the 5th edition.
- ★ As part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate 75 years of India's independence, the Awards will be conferred on seventy-five women achievers to recognize their contribution towards a Sashakt Aur Samarth Bharat.
- ★ The Women Transforming India Awards is NITI Aayog's annual initiative to highlight the commendable and ground-breaking achievers of India's women leaders and change-makers.

Pritzker Architecture Prize 2022

- ★ The **51st Pritzker Architecture Prize 2022**, is given to **Diebedo Francis Kere** from **Burkina Faso, West Africa**.
- ★ He became the first African to win the most prestigious honour in the field of architecture.
- ★ He is known for his sustainable designs of schools, health facilities, housing, civic buildings and public places in Africa.
- ★ He is a recipient of Aga Khan Award for Architecture and Global Award for Sustainable Architecture.
- ★ Pritzker Architecture Prize is also known as "**Architecture's Nobel**".

ASSOCHAM's Excellence Awards

- ★ The 8th edition of the MSMEs Excellence Awards Ceremony and Summit organized by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) at New Delhi.
- ★ **Karnataka Bank** has bagged “**Best MSME Bank of the year**” award among private sector Banks.
- ★ Gopalakrishna Samaga B, DGM, Credit Marketing Department on behalf of Karnataka Bank Ltd received the award in the presence of Narayan T Rane, Union Minister of MSME, Government of India.
- ★ The theme of the summit is “Enabling India MSMEs to Go Global”.
- ★ Best MSME Bank of the Year under PSU category – Punjab National Bank.
- ★ Best Technology Enabler of the Year – Karur Vysya Bank.
- ★ Excellent Services of the Year – Satya MicroCapital Ltd.

Greenstorm Photography Award

- ★ The 13th edition of Greenstorm Global Photography Award was organized in association with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Greenstorm Foundation.
- ★ **Mohamad Reza** from Iran won the award.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is “Restore Green Lineage”.
- ★ Jophel Botero Ybioso from Philippines was the first runner up.

Sports Icon Award by Maldives Government

- ★ Indian Cricket Player, **Suresh Raina** was felicitated with the ‘**Sports Icon**’ award at the Maldives Awards 2022 by **Government of Maldives**.
- ★ He is the first Indian Player to score 6000 as well as 8000 runs in a T20 matches and the first cricketer to score 5000 runs in IPL.
- ★ In the Champions League T20, he also holds the record for most fifty-sixes score.
- ★ Raina was one of 16 international athletes nominated for the award.

Sportstar Aces Award 2022

- ★ Indian Olympian **Neeraj Chopra**, who won the gold medal (Javelin) at Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics was awarded the Sportstar of the Year Award in the Male Category at the 2022 Sportstar Aces Award held at the Taj Mahal hotel in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ **Mirabai Chanu**, who won the silver medal (Weightlifting) at Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics was awarded Sportstar of the Year in the Female Category.
- ★ Legendary Indian Cricketer Sunil Gavaskar headed the jury panel of the award.
- ★ During the event the Sportstar and The Hindu released the coffee table book ‘Road to 1000’.
- ★ Sportsman of the year (Track and Field) was given to Neeraj Chopra.
- ★ Sportswomen of the year (Track and Field) was given to Kamalpreet Kaur (Discus throw).

Abel Prize 2022

- ★ Abel Prize is organized by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, Government of Norway.
- ★ The award for the year 2022 is given to **American Mathematician Dennis Parnell Sullivan** for his groundbreaking contributions to topology in its broadest sense and in particular algebraic, geometric and dynamical aspects.
- ★ He is also a fellow of the American Mathematical Society.
- ★ He is also a recipient of the 2010 Wolf Prize for Mathematics and the 2014 Balzan Prize for Mathematics.

Governor of the Year Award 2022

- ★ Mario Marcel, the Governor of the Central bank of Chile won the Governor of the year award 2022.
- ★ Banco Central de Chile is the central bank of Chile.
- ★ After he was named as Governor of the bank in October 2016, he took over the leadership of an institution that had secured a reputation as one of the most independent banks in Latin America.
- ★ He changed its Internal Management Structure.
- ★ He also improved its Quality of Communication both in English and Spanish.

Oscars Awards 2022

- ★ The 94th Academy Awards were held in Los Angeles, California to honour the best in cinema.
- ★ It was held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles and were hosted by Regina Hall, Amy Schumer and Wanda Sykes.
- ★ It is honoured by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.
- ★ Awards will be presented in 23 categories, which are determined based on voting by members of the academy.
- ★ Dune directed by Denis Villeneuve leads the awards total with 6 wins. The film which was nominated under 10 categories has bagged 6 awards for Cinematography, Film Editing, Music, Production Design, Sound and Visual Effects.

List of the winners:

- ★ Best Actor in a leading role: Will Smith, for the film 'KingRichard'.
- ★ Best Actress in a leading role: Jessica Chastain, for the film The Eyes of Tammy Faye.
- ★ Best Picture: CODA.
- ★ Best Director: Jane Campion.
- ★ Best Actor in a supporting role: Troy Kotsur.
- ★ Best Actress in a supporting role: Ariana DeBose.

3rd National Water Awards

- ★ President Ram Nath Kovind will felicitate the winners of the 3rd National Water Awards at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- ★ Ministry of Jal Shakti presents 57 awards to States, Organizations and Individuals in 11 different categories including Best State, Best District, Best Village Panchayat and Best Urban Local Body.
- ★ The award winners in different categories will be given a citation, trophy and cash prize.
- ★ Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu will get the first, second and third prize in the Best State category.
- ★ The National Water Award focuses on the good work and efforts made by individuals and organisations across the country in attaining the government's vision of a Jal Samridh Bharat.
- ★ The first National Water Award was launched by the Jal Shakti Ministry in 2018.
- ★ During the event, the President will also launch the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign 2022 which will continue to be implemented this year till 30th of November.

2022 Stockholm Water Prize

- ★ Belgian hydrologist Wilfried Brutsaert has been awarded the 2022 Stockholm Water Prize.
- ★ The Stockholm Water Foundation awarded it to Professor Brutsaert for his groundbreaking work to quantify environmental evaporation.
- ★ His innovative approach has helped improve climate modelling and tools that assess how much water that is available.
- ★ The Stockholm Water Prize is the World's most prestigious water award and is often described as the Nobel Prize of water and has been awarded from 1991.

Outstanding Leadership Award 2022

- ★ Seema Rekha, Managing Director at Antarmanh Consulting has been emerged as the winner of the "Outstanding Leadership Award 2022".
- ★ The award ceremony was held at Health 2.0 Conference in Dubai.
- ★ Seema Rekha is a successful female entrepreneur who has taken Antarmanh's services to 13 countries in a span of 2 years.
- ★ She is credited for delivering mental health services in diverse socio-cultural communities.

Padma Shri Award in Dhaka

- ★ Renowned musicologist and cultural personality of Bangladesh Dr. Sanjida Khatun was presented the Padma Shri Award for 2021 by High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami in Dhaka.
- ★ Dr. Sanjida Khatun has been awarded the Padma Shri for her distinguished contribution to Arts.
- ★ The eminent musicologist is the principal founder of Mukti Sangrami Shilpi Sangstha which played a prominent role in organising artists of the East Pakistan during the liberation war of 1971.

- ★ She is also one of the founders of the Chhayanaut which is a renowned institute promoting Bengali culture, classical music and dance.

Inaugural TIME 100 Impact Award

- ★ Bollywood Actress Deepika Padukone has emerged as one of the awardees of the inaugural Time100 Impact Awards presented in the Museum of the Future in Dubai.
- ★ She received this award for her contribution in mental health struggles and raising awareness through LiveLoveEnough Foundation.
- ★ Apart from Deepika Padukone, six other global leaders have been honoured with this award.

'BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year' award

- ★ The BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) Indian Sportswoman of the Year Award is an initiative to honour sportswomen from India who have excelled in their respective fields.
- ★ This year 2022 marks the 3rd edition.
- ★ Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu (weightlifter) won the BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year award. She became the first Indian weightlifter to clinch a silver medal at the Summer Olympics.
- ★ Young India opener Shafali Verma (Cricketer) was awarded the 'BBC Emerging Player' award. She is the youngest female cricketer to have played for India. She played in all three formats for the national team.
- ★ The first Indian woman to have won a medal at the Olympics Games in Sydney 2000, former weightlifter Karnam Malleswari was awarded the 'BBC Lifetime Achievement' award.

'Most Trusted Brands of India' Award

- ★ India's leading UPS manufacturer and supplier, Numeric UPS won the 'Most Trusted Brands of India' 2022 award at an event in Mumbai.
- ★ Satpal Singh, CEO of Numeric received the award.
- ★ The award was announced by Team Marksmen.
- ★ Numeric was shortlisted on the following 7 parameters. They are Corporate Citizenship, Trust Quotient, Business Resilience, Innovative Thinking, Digital Transformation, Stakeholder Capitalism and Sustainability Measures.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

A New Book by Deepam Chatterjee

- ★ Former Indian Army Captain, **Deepam Chatterjee** authored a new book titled **“The Millennial Yogi: A modern-day parable about reclaiming one’s life”**.
- ★ The book is published by Ebury Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House.

- ★ It is about Jayshankar Prasad, or Jay, has had a shady-yet-mercurial rise in his journey as an entrepreneur and Vini, a mystic monk.

An Autobiography of TamilNadu Chief Minister

- ★ Congress leader **Rahul Gandhi** released Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin's **autobiography Ungalil Oruvan (One Among You)** at Chennai Trade Centre.
- ★ The first volume of the book describes the first 23 years of Stalin's life, till he was arrested in 1976.

A new book by Mithilesh Tiwari

- ★ Bhajan Samrat Anup Jalota released a new book titled **“Udaan Ek Majdoor Bachhe Ki”** authored by Mithilesh Tiwari.
- ★ This book is about the life journey of **Captain AD Manek**, how he travelled from zero to pinnacle in his career graph.
- ★ It was released in the event organized by Shailesh B Tiwari of P Club Education Pvt Ltd in Mumbai.

A New Book by Amitava Kumar

- ★ Journalist **Amitava Kumar** authored a new book titled **“The Blue Book: A Writer’s Journal”**.
- ★ The book has been published by HarperCollins India.
- ★ The Blue Book is a journal of the pandemic. The author has used watercolour drawings and words to depict the experience of the pandemic both individual and collective.

The Biography of Pop Icon Usha Uthup

- ★ The biography of pop icon Usha Uthup titled **“The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup”** was released.
- ★ “The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup” is the English translation of the Hindi book “Ullas Ki Naav” translated by **Srishti Jha**.
- ★ Srishti Jha is an independent journalist, writer and translator.
- ★ The book was written in Hindi by author Vikas Kumar Jha.
- ★ The book is published by Penguin Random House India.
- ★ The book describes the the career of Usha Uthup and she is widely known for evergreen hits such as “Hari Om Hari”, “Rambha Ho” and “Jeete Hain Shaan Se”.
- ★ The Government of India honoured her with Padma Shri Award in 2011.

Autobiography of Cricket Administrator Ratnakar Shetty

- ★ Ratnakar Shetty, a Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) veteran has released a book titled **‘On Board: My Years with the BCCI’**.
- ★ He is one of India’s long served cricket administrators.

- ★ The book was released by Sharad Pawar, the former president of the MCA, BCCI and International Cricket Council.
- ★ The book is an autobiography of Shetty, narrating his experience as an administrator in BCCI. He was a chemistry professor by profession. He began his journey as a cricket administrator in 1975.

A Biography of Late Soli Sorabjee

- ★ Advocate and legal scholar **Abhinav Chandrachud** authored a biography of Soli Sorabjee titled **“Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times”**.
- ★ It was announced by the Penguin Random House India on the occasion of the 92nd birth anniversary of Soli Sorabjee.
- ★ The book will be released in April 2022.
- ★ The book highlights the personal details of life of Soli Sorabjee.
- ★ He was the former Attorney General of India for two times.

Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery

- ★ The book, **‘Modi @ 20: Dreams Meet Delivery’**, is a compilation of chapters authored by eminent intellectuals and domain experts.
- ★ It is published by Rupa Publications.
- ★ It is released by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- ★ The book narrates the political life of PM Narendra Modi’s past 20 years, his tenure as Gujarat CM to Prime Minister of India.

Biography of Rahul Bajaj

- ★ **Gita Piramal** authored a new book titled **“Rahul Bajaj: An Extraordinary Life”** first authorized biography of Rahul Bajaj.
- ★ It is published by Penguin Random House (PRHI).
- ★ The book is based on the life of the late iconic industrialist Rahul Bajaj and highlights his life journey and struggle in becoming one of the most well business personalities.
- ★ It will be released on 21 March 2022.

New Book by Dr Tehemton Erach Udwadia

- ★ Padma Awardee **Dr Tehemton Erach Udwadia** has authored a new book titled **“More Than Just Surgery: Life lessons beyond the O.T”**.
- ★ The book describes the journey of the author from his student years through residency, research, surgical practice and teaching as means of sharing the lessons he learnt.
- ★ It is published by Penguin eBury Press.
- ★ Dr Tehemton is widely known as the **‘Father of laparoscopy in India’**.

A new Book by Richa Mishra

- ★ Indian journalist and reporter Richa Mishra authored a new book titled **“Unfilled Barrels: India’s oil story”**.
- ★ The book was published by Bloomsbury Publishing India Pvt. Limited.
- ★ This book highlights the need of producing own oil and gas and also the book reminds the story of India’s upstream (Oil and Gas) sector.

A New Book by Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu

- ★ Nobel Peace Prize winners **Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu** co-authored a book titled **‘The Little Book of Joy’ for children.**
- ★ The book will be published by Random House Children’s Book and will be released in September 2022.
- ★ This book focuses on the meaning of true happiness, which is not in the materialistic world but lies in the nature of human beings.
- ★ In 2016, they also co-authored the book titled “The book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a changing world’.

A New Book by Pranay Patil

- ★ Social Activist and author, Pranay Patil has launched a book titled, ‘Burgundy Winters in Europe’.
- ★ The book is published by Crystal Peake, English-based publishing house.
- ★ The book narrates the story of American Rockstar Jace Tanner as he deals with the consequences of his party lifestyle.

Book titled ‘Indian Agriculture towards 2030’

- ★ Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare (MoA&FW) Shri Narendra Singh Tomar released a book titled Indian Agriculture towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers’ Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems.
- ★ It was launched at an event organized by NITI Aayog and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.
- ★ The areas that need special attention in agriculture were identified through a collaborative process between NITI Aayog, MoA&FW, and FAO under the overall guidance of a steering committee comprising agricultural experts.

DEFENCE

Exercise Vayu Shakti 2022

- ★ On 07 March 2022, The Indian Air Force (IAF) will conduct Exercise Vayu Shakti 2022 at the Pokhran range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

- ★ Rafale, LCA Tejas, Sukhoi-30 and other fighter jets will participate.
- ★ A total of 148 IAF aircrafts will showcase their combative skills. Of the total participating IAF aircraft, 109 will be fighter jets. Rafael Aircraft will participate for the first time in this exercise.
- ★ It is organized by IAF once in three years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the Chief Guest.

Successful Test Fire of MRSAMs by India

- ★ Two Medium Range Surface to Air Missiles were test fired successfully by India on 27th of March, 2022.
- ★ The missile system consists of multi-function radar, mobile launcher system and other vehicles.
- ★ This version of MRSAMs were jointly developed by DRDO of India and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for the Army.

Corner-Shot Weapon System (CSWS)



- ★ The CSWS is a special purpose weapon designed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune under DRDO.
- ★ The CSWS is equipped with weapon, camera, laser, infrared illuminator and torch in front portion, while display, electronics, battery and swivelling mechanism are located at rear portion.
- ★ This indigenously developed system has many superior features compared to its contemporary international systems with features like day-night firing capability, colour display, digital zoom, zeroing facility, hot keys, high power battery.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA Launches Next-Generation GOES-T Satellite

- ★ NASA has successfully launched the third in a series of next-generation weather satellites for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

- ★ The newest Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite, GOES-T, was launched on a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, located at Florida.
- ★ Once the satellite gets positioned in its geostationary orbit it will be renamed from GOES -T to GOES-18.
- ★ It will be used by NOAA to forecast weather and hazardous environmental conditions in the Western Hemisphere.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Women's Day Week

- ★ The Ministry of Women and Child Development will celebrate the **International Women's Day week** from **1st to 8th March 2022**.
- ★ It is observed as an 'Iconic Week' as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- ★ The Ministry will organize various events and social media campaigns covering a variety of themes related to women's safety and empowerment.
- ★ The events are being organised in partnership with national and international organisations and experts, with active participation planned with women and children.

Rare Disease Day

- ★ **Rare Disease Day** is celebrated every year **on the last day of February**. This year marks **28 February** as the Rare Disease Day.
- ★ Rare Disease Day raises awareness amongst the general public and decision-makers about rare diseases and their impact on patients' lives and medical representation for individuals with rare disease.
- ★ It was launched by European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS).

World Civil Defence Day 2022

- ★ World Civil Defence is observed every year on **01 March**.
- ★ The theme of the day is "**Civil Defence and the first aider in every home**".
- ★ It is celebrated to raise awareness and bring the attention of the world public to the vital importance of civil protection.
- ★ The day was created to pay tribute to the efforts of national services responsible for the fight against disasters
- ★ It also creates awareness of the need for self-protection and preventative measures in the event of accidents or disasters.

Zero Discrimination Day

- ★ The Zero Discrimination Day is observed every year on **1st March**.
- ★ The theme of the day is **“Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower”**.
- ★ The day was first observed on March 1, 2014 and was launched by UNAIDS released its Zero Discrimination Campaign on World AIDS Day.
- ★ It is celebrated to honour everyone’s right to a productive and dignified life.
- ★ Inclusion, compassion, and peace are promoted on Zero Discrimination Day.

Janaushadhi Diwas Week

- ★ Janaushadhi Diwas week is observed from **1st March to 7th March, 2022**. This year marks the 4th edition.
- ★ Theme of Janaushadhi Diwas is **“Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi”**.
- ★ This will generate awareness about the usages of generic medicines and benefits of Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana.
- ★ It was organized by Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizer.
- ★ The Government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10,500 by the end of March 2025.

World Wildlife Day

- ★ The World Wildlife Day is observed every year on **03 March**.
- ★ The theme of this year 2022 is “Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration”.
- ★ It is celebrated to raise awareness of the world’s wild animals and plants.
- ★ This year they focus to the conservation of some of the most critically endangered species of wild fauna and flora, and to drive discussions towards imagining and implementing solutions to conserve them.

World Hearing Day

- ★ World Hearing Day is celebrated on **03 March** by World Health Organization (WHO).
- ★ The theme of this year 2022 is “To hear for life, listen with care”.
- ★ It is celebrated to raise awareness on ways of preventing deafness and hearing loss and promoting ear and hearing care across the world.

National Security Day

- ★ National Security Day or Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas is observed every year on 04 March.
- ★ The day aims to show gratitude to our security forces which include military, para-military, commandos, police officials, guards, and India’s security forces and to those who maintain peace and security of our country.
- ★ National Security Day was celebrated for the first time in 1972 by the Ministry of Labour under the Government of India.

National Safety Day

- ★ National Safety Day is celebrated every year on 04 March.
- ★ It is celebrated to commemorate the foundation of the National Safety Council of India. This year Marks the 51st edition.
- ★ The theme of this year 2022 is “Nurture young minds – Develop safety culture”.
- ★ The main objective of this day is to promote the Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) movement in the country.

World Obesity Day

- ★ World Obesity Day is annually observed on 04 March.
- ★ It is organized by the World Obesity Federation, a non-profit organization in collaboration with its global members.
- ★ The theme of this year 2022 is “Everybody Needs to Act”.
- ★ It is celebrated to promote solutions to end the global obesity crisis.

International Women’s Day

- ★ **International Women’s Day** is celebrated every year on **08 March**.
- ★ The theme of this year 2022 is “**Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow**”.
- ★ It is celebrated to commemorate the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women.
- ★ The day was first observed in the year 1911. The United Nations began celebrating the day in the International Women’s Year 1975.

World Kidney Day

- ★ World Kidney Day is observed every year on **the Second Thursday of March**.
- ★ This year the day will be celebrated on **March 10**.
- ★ The theme of the year 2022 is “**Kidney Health for All**”.
- ★ The theme was declared by the World Kidney Day (WKD) Joint Steering Committee.
- ★ People across the globe celebrate World Kidney Day to raise awareness regarding kidney diseases.
- ★ On this day, people across the world organise conferences and seminars to help people aware of the diseases related to Kidney.
- ★ The day was first celebrated in 2006. The day was started by the International Society of Nephrology and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations.

No Smoking Day

- ★ No Smoking Day is celebrated on **the Second Wednesday of March** every year.
- ★ This year the day will be celebrated on **March 09**.

- ★ The day is celebrated to reach out to friends or family members who suffer from nicotine addiction and to spread awareness and educate people the adverse impacts of tobacco on their health through cigarettes.
- ★ No Smoking Day was observed for the first time in the year 1984.

International Day of Women Judges

- ★ International Day of Women Judges will be celebrated on **March 10**.
- ★ The day will be **celebrated and observed for the first time by the UN General Assembly**.
- ★ Starting from 2022, March 10 will be annually celebrated across the globe as International Day of Women Judges.
- ★ The International Day of Women Judges aims to recognise the efforts and contributions being made by women judges.
- ★ The Supreme Court of India commemorated the first ever International Day of Women Judges.

World Glaucoma Day

- ★ World Glaucoma Day is observed every year on **12 March**.
- ★ It is celebrated to create awareness about Glaucoma, the one of the most common causes of irreversible blindness.
- ★ World Glaucoma Association (WGA) and World Glaucoma Patient Association Observed **World Glaucoma Week (WGW)**, a global initiative to create awareness.
- ★ WGW is celebrated from **March 06 to March 12, 2022**.
- ★ The theme of the WGW 2022 is **“The World is bright, save your sight”**.

World Rotaract Day

- ★ World Rotaract Day is celebrated every year on **13 March**.
- ★ It is celebrated to appreciate the services provided by the rotractors across the globe.
- ★ The theme of this year 2022 is **“Rotary Making a Difference”**.
- ★ Roctract means rotary in action.
- ★ Rotary International youth program began in 1968 at North Carolina, USA.

International Mathematics Day

- ★ International Day of Mathematics is celebrated every year on **14 March**.
- ★ It is celebrated worldwide to acknowledge and appreciate the wonders of mathematics.
- ★ It aims to educate people about the essential role of mathematics in science and technology, day-to-day life, improve quality of life, empower women and girls, and contribute to sustainable development.
- ★ The theme of this year 2022 is **“Mathematics Unites”**. The theme was proposed by the graduate student from the University of Ottawa in Canada, Yuliya Nesterova.

- ★ The world celebrated its First International Day of Mathematics on March 14, 2020.
- ★ It is also known as the Pi Day. The date March 14 is written as 3/14 in some countries.
- ★ The value of mathematical constant, Pi, is approximately 3.14.

International Day of Action for Rivers

- ★ International Day of Action for Rivers is observed every year on **14 March**.
- ★ It is celebrated to create awareness about the importance and value of rivers.
- ★ This year marks the celebration of the **25th Anniversary of the day**.
- ★ It also highlights the importance of Rivers to Biodiversity.

World Consumer Rights Day

- ★ **World Consumer Rights Day** is celebrated every year on **15 March**.
- ★ It is a global event that aims to raise awareness about consumer rights and needs. The day highlights the power of consumers and their rights for a fair, safe and sustainable marketplace for everyone.
- ★ The theme of the year 2022 is **“Fair Digital Finance”**.
- ★ The Department of Consumer Affairs will commemorate this day with multiple events to be held in New Delhi.

National Vaccination Day 2022

- ★ National Vaccination Day or National Immunisation Day is celebrated every year on **16 March**.
- ★ It is celebrated to increase the awareness of vaccinations among Indian citizens.
- ★ The theme for this year 2022 is **“vaccine works for all”**.
- ★ The day was first observed in the year 1995.
- ★ vaccination or immunization is the most effective way of preventing highly infectious diseases. Vaccination day was celebrated with the aim of making everyone aware of getting vaccinated against polio.

International Day to Combat Islamophobia

- ★ The Un General Assembly has adopted **15 March** as International Day to Combat Islamophobia, **starting from 2022**.
- ★ It was introduced by **Pakistan’s Ambassador Munir Akram** on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
- ★ The main objective of the day is to end hate speech and discrimination against Muslims and respect for religious symbols and practices.
- ★ The day was adopted by 193 member countries of UN nations.

Global Recycling Day

- ★ Global Recycling Day is celebrated every year on **18 March**.
- ★ It is observed to help recognize the importance of recycling in securing the future of our planet.
- ★ The theme of the day 2022 is **“Recycling Fraternity”**.
- ★ The first ever Recycling Day was celebrated on 2018.
- ★ It is an initiative of the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR), which focus on the sustainable and inclusive development of recycling.

World Oral Health Day

- ★ World Oral Health Day (WOHD) is celebrated every year on **20 March**.
- ★ Oral Hygiene is described as the practice of keeping one's mouth clean and free of diseases and other health problems.
- ★ The day is aimed to promote awareness around healthy mouth and oral hygiene.
- ★ The theme for this day 2022 is **'Say Aah: Think Mouth, Think Health'**.
- ★ The World Dental Federation launched World Oral Health Day in 2013.

World Sparrow Day

- ★ World Sparrow Day is observed every year on **20 March**.
- ★ It is celebrated to raise awareness and protect sparrows.
- ★ The theme for this day 2022 is **“I Love Sparrows”**.
- ★ The first World Sparrow Day was celebrated in 2010.
- ★ The Nature Forever Society of India and Eco-Sys Action Foundation of France launched the day.

International Day of Happiness

- ★ International Day of Happiness is celebrated every year on **20 March**.
- ★ It was established by the United Nations General Assembly on 28 June 2012.
- ★ The International Day of Happiness aims to make people around the world realize the importance of happiness within their lives.
- ★ The day was initiated by Bhutan.
- ★ Bhutan initially prioritized the value of National Happiness over National Income.

World Down Syndrome Day

- ★ World Down Syndrome Day (WDS) is observed every year on **21 March**.
- ★ The theme for the day 2022 is **“InclusionMeans”**.
- ★ It is a global campaign which is observed annually to spread awareness about Down Syndrome.
- ★ First World Down Syndrome Day was celebrated in 2012.

- ★ Down Syndrome, a genetic condition was first described by British physician John Langdon Haydon Down in 1862.

World Forest Day

- ★ World Forest Day or International Day of Forest is celebrated every year on **21 March**.
- ★ The theme for the day 2022 is '**Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption**'.
- ★ The aim is to increase awareness about the role forests play in sustaining lives on this planet.
- ★ The United Nations General Assembly declared March 21 as International Day of Forests in 2012 to honour and promote awareness about the value of all types of forests.

World Poetry Day

- ★ World Poetry Day is celebrated every year on **21 March**.
- ★ The day was declared by UNESCO in 1999.
- ★ The aim is to support linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increasing the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard.
- ★ Its purpose is to promote the reading, writing, publishing and teaching of poetry throughout the world.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

- ★ International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is celebrated every year on **21 March**.
- ★ The theme for the day 2022 is "**VOICES FOR ACTION AGAINST RACISM**".
- ★ It is celebrated to create awareness about the need for the elimination of racial discrimination.
- ★ The importance this day is to strengthen meaningful and safe public participation and representation in all areas of decision-making to prevent and combat racial discrimination.
- ★ It recognizes and contributes individuals and organizations that stand up against racial discrimination and the challenges they face.
- ★ It was first celebrated on 21 November 1967.

World Water Day

- ★ World Water Day is celebrated every year on **22 March**.
- ★ It is celebrated to highlight the significance of water.
- ★ The theme of the day 2022 is "**Groundwater, Making the Invisible Visible**".
- ★ This year, the focus is on groundwater, an unseen resource with a visible influence everywhere.
- ★ World water day aims to ensure safe water supplies for all of the world's people.
- ★ The day was first celebrated in the year 1993 by the United Nations General Assembly.

World Puppetry Day

- ★ World Puppetry Day was celebrated every year on **21 March**.
- ★ On this day, Sangeet Natak Akademi is organizing a puppet festival “**Putul Utsav**” in five cities in India under the Ministry of Culture.
- ★ Theme of the festival is “**Azadi ke Rang, Putul Ke Sang**”.
- ★ It was first celebrated in the year 2003 by the Union International de la Marionnette also known as International Puppetry Association.

World Meteorological Day

- ★ World Meteorological Day is celebrated every year on **23 March**.
- ★ It is celebrated to create awareness among people to know their role in protecting Earth’s atmosphere.
- ★ The theme of the day 2022 is “**Early Warning and Early Action**”.
- ★ It is celebrated as the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). It was established on 23 March 1950.
- ★ It is a significant day as it focuses on the global acknowledgement of different issues of planet earth.

Martyr’s Day or Shaheed Diwas

- ★ Martyr’s Day also known as Shaheed Diwas is celebrated every year on **23 March**.
- ★ The day honours the freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar.
- ★ Their cremation took place along the banks of the Sutlej River.

International Day for the Right to the Truth

- ★ International Day for the Right to the Truth is celebrated on **24 March**.
- ★ It is observed by United Nations concerning Gross human rights violations and for the dignity of victims every year.
- ★ It also aims to contribute to those who have devoted their lives in the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all.

World Tuberculosis Day

- ★ World Tuberculosis Day is celebrated every year on **24 March**.
- ★ It is celebrated to create awareness among the public to eliminate the disease.
- ★ It was first celebrated in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB.
- ★ The theme for the day 2022 is ‘**Invest to End TB. Save Lives**’.

International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing staff Members

- ★ International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing staff Members is observed every year on 25 March.
- ★ It is celebrated by United Nations to mobilize action, demand justice and strengthen our resolve to protect UN staff in the non-governmental community and press.
- ★ It is observed every year to commemorate the abduction of Alec Collett, a former journalist who was working for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade 2022

- ★ International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is celebrated every year 25 March.
- ★ It is marked to raise awareness about dangers of racism and prejudice.
- ★ The theme for the day 2022 is ‘Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism’.
- ★ The day was first observed in 2008. The day is celebrated with ceremonies and activities at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

World Piano Day

- ★ World Piano Day is celebrated every year 88th day of the year.
- ★ This year the day marks on 29 March, 2022.
- ★ The first ever World Piano Day was celebrated on 29 March, 2015.
- ★ German pianist Nils Frahm initiated to celebrate the day.

OBITUARY NEWS

West Indies Legendary Spinner Sonny Ramadhin

- ★ West Indies' legendary spinner **Sonny Ramadhin**, passed away. He was at age of 92.
- ★ He was born in Trinidad and Tobago, in 1929.
- ★ He had made his Test debut against England at Old Trafford in 1950. He played 43 Tests and took 158 wickets at an average of 28.98.
- ★ He was the first of many West Indian cricketers of Indian origin, to play for the West Indies.

Oscar-winning Producer Alan Ladd Junior

- ★ The Oscar winning “Braveheart” **producer, Alan Ladd Junior** passed away. He was 84 years old.
- ★ He was also known as “Laddie”.

- ★ He was born on 22 October 1937 in Los Angeles, California, US.
- ★ He was one of the founders of the Ladd Company, established in 1979.

Former Army Chief General SF Rodrigues

- ★ Former Army Chief General SF Rodrigues passed away in Panjim, Goa. He was 88.
- ★ He was the Chief of the Indian Army from 1990 to 1993.
- ★ He was also served as the 26th Governor of Punjab and 13th Administrator of Chandigarh.
- ★ He was born in Bombay in 1933.

Australia's Legendary Cricketer Shane Warne

- ★ **Australian cricketer Shane Warne** has died due to cardiac arrest in Koh Samui, Thailand. He was 52.
- ★ Warne is one of the best players in history, who has taken 708 wickets in 145 Test matches.
- ★ He appeared in a total of 339 international matches for the country Australia during his 15-year-long illustrious career.
- ★ He was born in 1969.

Film critic Jai Prakash Chouksey

- ★ Noted film critic and writer **Jai Prakash Chouksey** passed away due to cardiac arrest. He was 83.
- ★ Jai Prakash 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.
- ★ He was born on 01 September 1939 in Burhanpur, **Madhya Pradesh**.

Former Australian Cricketer Rodney William Marsh

- ★ **Rodney William** was an **Australian** professional **cricketer** passed away in Adelaide Australia due to cardiac arrest. He was 74.
- ★ He played as a wicketkeeper for the Australian national team.
- ★ Perth-born Marsh made his international debut in 1970 against England. He held a world-record of 355 Test dismissals, 95 off the bowling of legendary paceman Dennis Lillee.

Former Pakistani President Rafiq Tarar

- ★ Pakistani politician and a jurist Rafiq Tarar, died in the eastern city of Lahore after a prolonged illness. He died at the age of 92.
- ★ He served as the ninth President of Pakistan from 1997 to 2001.
- ★ Tarar was born in Mandi Bahauddin, and graduated with LLB from University of the Punjab in 1951.
- ★ He served as the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court from 1989 to 1991.

Five-time MLA Anil Joshiyara

- ★ **Anil Joshiyara**, a senior Congress MLA from Bhiloda constituency in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat, passed away due to complications of Covid – 19.
- ★ He was 69-year-old.
- ★ Anil Joshiyara had served as state health minister from 1995 to 1997.
- ★ He had served as Gujarat state congress committee chief from 1998 to 2000.

Former Zambian President Rupiah Banda

- ★ Former Zambian President **Rupiah Bwezani Banda** passed away at his home in capital Lusaka due to cancer.
- ★ He was at the age of 85.
- ★ Rupiah Banda served as the fourth president of Zambia from 2008 to 2011.

Former Andhra Pradesh Governor MS Kumudben Joshi

- ★ Former Andhra Pradesh Governor '**Ms Kumudben Joshi**' passed away. She was 88.
- ★ Kumudben Manishankar Joshi was born on 31 January 1934, in Gujarat.
- ★ She was the Governor of Andhra Pradesh from 26 November 1985 to 7 February 1990.
- ★ She was the second female Governor of the state after Sharda Mukherjee.
- ★ Her contribution in the field of women empowerment and public service will always be remembered, said PM Narendra Modi.

WWE Legend Scott Hall Known as 'Razor Ramon'

- ★ Legendary wrestler **Scott Hall** passed away due to heart attack. He was 63.
- ★ He was famously known as 'Razor Ramon'.
- ★ Scott Hall inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame two-time in 2014 as an individual wrestler and then again in 2020 as NWO.

US Astrophysicist Eugene Newman Parker

- ★ American Astrophysicist **Eugene Parker** passed away at retirement community in Chicago. He was at the age of 94.
- ★ He is a visionary in the field of heliophysics, which is the study of the sun and other stars.
- ★ He was born on 10 June 1927 in Houghton, USA.
- ★ In 2018, he became the first person to witness the launch of a spacecraft bearing his name, NASA's Parker Solar Probe.

Former president of Bangladesh Shahabuddin Ahmed

- ★ Former president of Bangladesh and chief justice **Shahabuddin Ahmed** passed away. He was at the age of 92.
- ★ He was born on 01 February 1930 at Netrokona, Bangladesh.
- ★ He became the head of the government as acting president of Bangladesh and also served as the President of Bangladesh from 1996 to 2001.
- ★ He was responsible for holding a holding a “free and credible” election in the country in February 1991.

Ex-Prime Minister of Mali Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga

- ★ Former Prime Minister of Mali, **Maiga** passed away in Bamako, Mali. He was at the age of 67.
- ★ He served as the PM of Mali for the tenure of 2 years.
- ★ He was born on 08 June 1954 in Gao, Mali.
- ★ He was a journalist and also, he served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defense.
- ★ He was the leader of the Alliance for Solidarity party in Mali.

Former Chief Justice of India RC Lahoti

- ★ Former Chief Justice of India **Ramesh Chandra Lahoti** passed away at New Delhi. He was at the age of 81.
- ★ He was born on 01 November 1940 in Guna, Madhya Pradesh.
- ★ Justice Lahoti was appointed as the 35th chief justice of India on June 1, 2004 and He retired on November 1, 2005
- ★ He was also a former independent director on the board of directors of the Press Trust of India (PTI).
- ★ Preamble: The spirit and Backbone of the Constitution of India and Canons of Judicial Ethics are the famous books authored by RC Lahoti.

First Female Secretary of US Madeleine Albright

- ★ **Madeleine Albright**, the first female U.S secretary of the state has died of cancer. She was at the age of 84.
- ★ She was serving as US ambassador to the United Nations before joining the Nation top diplomat.
- ★ In 2012 she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama.

Creator of the GIF Format Stephen Wilhite

- ★ Stephen Wilhite, the creator of the Graphics Interchange Format (GIF) or the moving image file format that transformed the way people communicate on the web died. He was at the age 74.
- ★ He devised the GIF in 1987 while working at CompuServe.

- ★ GIF was named word of the year in 2012 by the Oxford American Dictionary.
- ★ He was recipient of a Webby Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013.

Bengali Actor Abhishek Chatterjee

- ★ Bengali actor Abhishek Chatterjee passed away. He was at the age of 57.
- ★ Abhishek was talented and versatile in his performances. He was one of the leading figures of the Bengali film industry in the late 1980s and 1990s.
- ★ He started his career with the film 'Path Bhola' directed by Tarun Majumdar.

Belgian footballer, Miguel van Damme

- ★ Belgian footballer, Miguel van Damme has tragically passed away due to Leukaemia. He was at the age of 28.
- ★ He was associated with Cercle Brugge Club.
- ★ He won the Belgian second division award during the Season 2017-2018.