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English Medium

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## Current Affairs



**Oscars Awards 2022**

Will Smith has won the best actor in a leading role for his performance in "King Richard"



**SDG Index 2021**

India ranks 120 in the Index, Finland topped



**Exercise 'VARUNA -2022'**

The 20th edition of the Bilateral Naval Exercise 'VARUNA' between the Indian Navy and French Navy conducted in the Arabian Sea from March 30 to April 03, 2022.



LivQuik becomes the first fintech to achieve RBI's PPI interoperability guidelines



**ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022**

Australia defeated England by 71 runs in the final to win a record-extending seventh ICC Women's World Cup trophy



**Miss World 2021**

Poland's Karolina Bielawska crowned Miss World 2021



**Ashleigh Barty**

World No.1 tennis player Ashleigh Barty from Australia has announced retirement at the age of 25 years.



**Yogi Adityanath & Bhagwant Mann**

Yogi Adityanath takes oath as CM of Uttar Pradesh for his second term and Bhagwant Mann sworn in as new chief minister of Punjab.



**Justice Ramesh Chandra Lahoti**

Former Chief Justice of India Ramesh Chandra Lahoti passed away at the age of 81 years. He served as the 35<sup>th</sup> chief justice of India.

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CURRENT  
AFFAIRS  
**DIGEST**  
April -2022

**IACE**



The 94th Academy Awards returned to the Dolby Theater in Hollywood as the top films from the last year were honoured by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The show was hosted by Regina Hall, Amy Schumer and Wanda Sykes, the first time the award ceremony has had multiple hosts since Anne Hathaway and James Franco co-hosted the 83rd instalment in 2011. The 94th Academy Awards honoured the films released between January 1 and December 31, 2021. The nominations were announced on February 8, by actors Tracee Ellis Ross and Leslie Jordan.

#### Highlights of 2022 Oscars

- 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 (Original Score); Production Design; Sound and Visual Effects.
- “CODA”, directed by Sian Heder, became the 1st film produced by a streaming service, Apple TV+, to win Best Picture. CODA has won the Oscars 2022 under 3 categories: Best Picture; Actor In A Supporting Role and Writing (Adapted Screenplay).
- Will Smith has won the Best Actor In A Leading Role for his performance in “King Richard” and

Jessica Chastain has won the Best Actress In A Leading Role for her role in “The Eyes Of Tammy Faye”.

- Jane Campion has won the Best Director award at Oscars 2022 for her film, “Power of the Dog”. She is the 3rd Female director to win the Best Director Oscar following Chloe Zhao for “Nomadland” (2020) and Kathryn Bigelow for “The Hurt Locker” (2009).
- Troy Kotsur won the Oscars for Best Actor In A Supporting Role and become the 2nd deaf actor to win an academy award. Marlee Matlin was the first Deaf actor to win an Oscar in 1987 for Children of a Lesser God.
- Ariana DeBose won the Best Supporting Actress award for West Side Story. She became the first openly queer woman of colour to win the acting Oscar. She is only the 2nd Latina actor to win an Oscar, Rita Moreno, who also won the best supporting actress Oscar for the same role in 1962.
- Samuel Jackson, Elaine May, and Liv Ullmann were honoured with the Honorary Academy Awards for 2022. The Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award was given to Danny Glover.



## Full List Of Winners

Category	Winners
Best Picture	CODA Philippe Rousselet, Fabrice Gianfermi And Patrick Wachsberger, Producers
Actor In A Leading Role	Will Smith for King Richard
Actor In A Supporting Role	Troy Kotsur for CODA
Actress In A Leading Role	Jessica Chastain for The Eyes Of Tammy Faye
Actress In A Supporting Role	Ariana Debose for West Side Story
Animated Feature Film	Encanto
Cinematography	Greig Fraser for Dune
Costume Design	Jenny Beavan for Cruella
Directing	Jane Campion for The Power Of The Dog
Documentary (Feature)	Summer Of Soul (...Or, When The Revolution Could Not Be Televised)
Documentary (Short Subject)	The Queen Of Basketball by Ben Proudfoot
Film Editing	Joe Walker for Dune
International Feature Film	Drive My Car(Japan)
Makeup And Hairstyling	Linda Dowds, Stephanie Ingram And Justin Raleigh for The Eyes Of Tammy Faye
Music (Original Score)	Hans Zimmer for Dune
Music (Original Song)	No Time To Die From No Time To Die Music And Lyric By Billie Eilish And Finneas O'connell
Production Design	Dune Production Design: Patrice Vermette; Set Decoration: Zsuzsanna Sipos
Short Film (Animated)	The Windshield Wiper Alberto Mielgo And Leo Sanchez
Short Film (Live Action)	The Long Goodbye Aneil Karia And Riz Ahmed
Sound	Dune Mac Ruth, Mark Mangini, Theo Green, Doug Hemphill And Ron Bartlett
Visual Effects	Dune Paul Lambert, Tristan Myles, Brian Connor And Gerd Nefzer
Writing (Adapted Screenplay)	CODA Screenplay By Siân Heder
Writing (Original Screenplay)	Belfast Written By Kenneth Branagh



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# INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL

## Economic crisis in Sri Lanka

- Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis since the country's financial crisis of 1948. The last time the country was in such distress was right after independence from the British. The prices of essential commodities are rising to the skies and many Lankans are fleeing their country to find refuge in India.
- The prices of milk, rice, food grains, vegetables are skyrocketing and petrol and diesel are not available in the country. There is also news that the schools are unable to print papers due to its shortage which is why exams are not being conducted in the country.
- The reason for Sri Lanka's crumbling economy is the shortage of foreign currency. This has led to a huge reduction in imports of essential goods the country used to easily get.
- As one knows, Sri Lanka relies on imports heavily. It imports petrol, diesel, food, sugar, lentils, paper, medicines etc. The country now has no money in its forex accounts to buy all this for its citizens.
- Sri Lanka's FDI has also plummeted recently leaving the country with lesser foreign reserves. It decreased from \$548 million in 2020 to 793 million in 2019 and 1.6 billion in 2018.
- The inflation in Sri Lanka hit 15.1% last month. The data released by the Government show that now the inflation has reached 25.7%.
- Citizens of the country are on roads in protest. The cooking gas cylinders are also being sold at a higher price than before. There is a hike of 1359 Rs on each cylinder within a week.
- India helps all its neighbours and has stepped in here as well. Sri Lanka amidst all this has refused to take help from IMF (International Monetary Fund).
- **Sri Lanka President:** Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- **PM:** Mahinda Rajapaksa



- **Capitals:** Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- **Currency:** Sri Lankan rupee

## World's Biggest Electric Cruise Ship made its maiden voyage in China

- The largest electric cruise ship in the world has returned back to port in Yichang in central Hubei province, China after travelling up and down the Yangtze River for its maiden voyage. This cruise ship has been powered by a 7,500-kilowatt-hour massive-sized marine battery. This battery has been provided by Contemporary Amperex Technology, the No. 1 battery manufacturer for electric cars in the world.

## Kuwait becomes hottest place on earth, records 53.2 degree Celsius

- Kuwait reached a scorching temperature of 53.2 degrees Celsius (127.7 degrees Fahrenheit), making it among the hottest places on earth. It was so hot in Kuwait last summer that birds dropped dead from the sky. Sea horses boiled to death in the bay. Dead clams coated the rocks, their shells popped open like they'd been steamed.
- The country continues to burn oil for electricity and ranks among the top global carbon emitters per capita, according to the World Resources Institute. As asphalt melts on highways, Kuwaitis bundle up for bone-chilling air-conditioning in malls. Renewable energy accounts for less than 1 per cent of demand – far below Kuwait's target of 15 per cent by 2030.

## First wildlife bond issued by World Bank to save Africa's black rhino

- The World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, IBRD) has issued the Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB) to support of South Africa's efforts to conserve endangered species of Black Rhino. Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB) is also known as "Rhino Bond". It is a five-year \$150 million Sustainable Development Bond. It includes a

potential performance payment from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

- The bond will contribute to protecting and increasing black rhino populations in two protected areas in South Africa namely the Addo Elephant National Park (AENP) and the Great Fish River Nature Reserve (GFRNR).

### Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle' Unveiled In Madagascar

- Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle' has been unveiled in Madagascar to mark Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. Ambassador of India to Madagascar, Abhay Kumar celebrated the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav by inaugurating a Green Triangle, along with Mayor of Antananarivo Naina Andriantsitohaina. The word green in the plaque signifies their commitment to sustainable development and saving the environment. The naming of this park as Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle is an apt tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.

### U.S. revokes Russia's 'Favored Nation' trade status

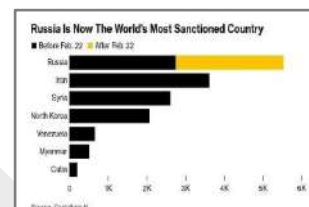
- President Biden announced that the United States—along with the G7, the European Union, and NATO—will revoke Russia's Most Favored Nation (MFN) trade status. Revoking Russia's PNTR status will allow the United States to increase and impose new tariffs on all Russian imports. In the US, the "most favoured nation" status is also known as permanent normal trade relations (PNTR). Only North Korea and Cuba do not enjoy the "most favoured nation" status from the US.
- The main aim of this step is to punish the Russian government for its invasion of Ukraine. The United States will also not export luxury goods to Russia. Earlier, the United States has banned the import of Oil and energy from Russia. This action will cause economic harm to Russia by damaging its ability to export to wealthier Western markets; it will also raise costs for Americans and our trading partners that may rely on affected Russian products.
- A most favoured nation status designation means two countries have agreed to trade with each other

under the best possible terms — low tariffs, few barriers to trade and the highest possible imports allowed.

### Russia is now world's most sanctioned country 2022

- Russia has become the most sanctioned country in the world, due to its invasion on Ukraine, according to a New York-based sanctions watchlist site Castellum.AI.

Russia faced 2,778 new sanctions since



February 22, 2022, led by the US and European nations, bringing the total sanctions to 5,530. The country already had 2,754 sanctions in place before February 22.

- Countries across the world are putting sanctions on Russia to stop its invasion of Ukraine. Russia has now surpassed countries like Iran and North Korea in terms of a number of sanctions. Before this, Iran was the most sanctioned country, facing 3,616 sanctions against it over the last decade, while Syria and North Korea have 2,608 and 2,077 sanctions, respectively.

### Pakistan again placed on FATF's grey list

- The global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, Financial Action Task Force (FATF), retained Pakistan in the grey list and asked the country to work on money laundering investigations and prosecutions. FATF also added the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to its grey watchlist.



- The decision has been taken after the conclusion of the four-day FATF Plenary from March 1-4, 2022. The event took place in hybrid mode from Paris, France. Pakistan has been on the grey list of FATF since June 2018 for failing to check money laundering and terror financing. It was given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019 but it fails to comply with the FATF mandates.

# NATIONAL

## Union cabinet approves amendment in Mega Power Policy 2009 for provisional mega power projects

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) extended the time limit for 10 power projects by 36 months to 156 months instead of 120 months from the date of import. This will enable the power projects to furnish documents required to become certified 'mega' projects in order to competitively bid for future PPAs (Power Purchase Agreements) and get tax exemptions as per policy terms.
- This has been done by amending the Mega Power Policy 2009.
- During this extended period, bids for firm power (combination of intermittent renewable energy, storage and conventional power) will be invited in co-ordination with Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) and these Mega projects will be expected to participate in such bids to secure PPAs.

## Museum of all former Prime Ministers of India to be inaugurated in Delhi

- A museum of all former Prime Ministers, Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya (the Museum of Prime Ministers), has been built at Teen Murti Estate, in Delhi. The Rs. 270 crore project will be inaugurated on April 14, 2022 at Teen Murti Bhavan complex which was residence of ex-PM Jawaharlal Nehru.
- The Museum will showcase the life, times and contribution of all 14 Prime Ministers of India so far, except for the collections and works on Jawaharlal Nehru, who has a separate Nehru Memorial Museum, which was also his residence.
- The PMs Museum project was approved in 2018, and deadline for its completion was October 2020, but faced delays due to pandemic-related

lockdowns, as well as civil works and content-curation issues.

## India's first 'steel road' built in Diamond City of India 'Surat'

- India's first-of-its kind road made out of steel waste has come up in Surat city of Gujarat at the Hazira Industrial Area.
- The road has been built by Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India in collaboration with CSIR India (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research), CRRI (Central Road Research Institute) and NITI Aayog.
- The new experimental road project is 6-lane and 1-kilometre in length. It consists of 100 percent processed steel slag.
- Slag is a by-product separated from metals during the smelting or refining of ore.
- The initiative may help to solve the steel waste material issue, produced by different plants around the country each year, amounting to around nineteen million tonnes, that usually go to landfills.

## Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana extended for 6 months till September 2022

- The Government of India has announced an extension in the free ration scheme Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for another six months till September 2022. Earlier the scheme was valid till March 2022.
- The PMGKAY scheme was launched in March 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic so that the vulnerable households do not suffer due to the non-availability of adequate foodgrains.
- The extension would incur an additional cost of Rs 80,000 crore to the exchequer. So far about Rs 2.6 trillion has been spent on the scheme.
- Under the PM-GKAY each beneficiary gets 5 kg free ration per person per month in addition to his



normal quota of foodgrain under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

- PM-GKAY is the largest food security program in the world.

### **‘Ishan Manthan’ Festival organised in New Delhi to showcase culture, crafts and cuisines of Northeast**

- Union Minister for Culture, Tourism & DONER Shri G Kishan Reddy inaugurated the three-day North-East festival called ‘Ishan Manthan’ at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in New Delhi on March 25, 2022.
- The three-day Ishan Manthan programme will celebrate the rich ethnicity and colours of North East India, from March 25 to 27, 2022.
- The event will give an opportunity know about the culture, art, music, folk dances, handicrafts and traditional cuisines of Northeast India.

### **Union Minister Smriti Irani inaugurates 10-day mega Red Fort Festival ‘Bharat Bhagya Vidhata’ of Ministry of Culture**

- Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani inaugurated the ten-day mega Red Fort Festival, ‘Bharat Bhagya Vidhata’ at Red Fort in Delhi on March 25, 2022.
- The Red Fort festival has been organised by the Union Ministry of Culture, as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The ministry has collaborated with the Dalmia Bharat Group (DBG) to organise the event as DBG has adopted the Red Fort as its Monument Mitra.
- The festival will commemorate the heritage, culture and diversity of every part of India.

### **Ministry of Jal Shakti launches Sujalam 2.0 Campaign**

- Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched the Sujalam 2.0 campaign for greywater management on the occasion of World Water Day, 2022 (22 March 2022). It was launched by Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

- **Theme:** The theme for this year for Sujalam 2.0 campaign is ‘Groundwater: making the invisible visible’.
- **Objective of Sujalam 2.0:** to manage greywater through people’s participation. Under the campaign, we plan to mobilize communities, our institutions like panchayats, schools, anganwadi to undertake greywater management.
- **What is Grey Water:** Greywater refers to domestic wastewater generated in households or office buildings from streams without fecal contamination, i.e., all streams except for the wastewater from toilets.
- A Joint Advisory was also signed by 9 Ministries on how greywater management will be taken up at their level based on convergence model with all those who are directly associated in programme implementation.

### **Ministry of Heavy Industries extends Phase-II of FAME India Scheme for two years till 2024**

- Ministry of Heavy Industries had notified Phase-II of FAME India Scheme for three years from April 2019 to March 2022.
- However, the government has extended the FAME II scheme for 2 years. So now this scheme will be applicable till March 2024.
- Total budgetary support to Phase-II of FAME India Scheme for a period of five years is Rs. 10,000 crore, from financial year 2019-20 to 2023-24.
- Focus area of Phase II will be mainly on supporting electrification of public & shared transportation through demand incentive and creation of a network of charging infrastructure.
- Objective of FAME India Scheme is to promote adoption of electric/ hybrid vehicles (xEVs) in India.
- Phase I of the FAME India Scheme was formulated in 2015, with total budget outlay of Rs 895 crore upto March 31, 2019.
- The main focus of this phase was on four areas i.e. technological development, demand generation,



pilot project and charging infrastructure components.

### **Nitin Gadkari inaugurates India's first Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) Toyota Mirai**

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the world's most advanced technology-developed Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) Toyota Mirai at New Delhi on March 16, 2022.
- Toyota Mirai is India's first Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV), which is completely powered by Hydrogen.
- Toyota Mirai has been launched by Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd and International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT) under a pilot project, to study and evaluate the performance of Toyota Mirai on Indian roads and climatic conditions.
- This is a first of its kind project in India which will create a Green Hydrogen based ecosystem in the country and help India to become 'Energy Self-reliant' by 2047.

### **Indian Railways' First Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal commissioned in Asansol Division of Eastern Railway**

- The Indian Railways has commissioned the first 'Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal' (GCT) in Asansol Division of Eastern Railways, under the PM GATI-SHAKTI programme.
- This private siding of Maithan Power Limited was commissioned by the Asansol division at Thaparnagar in Jharkhand.
- This is the first Gati Shakti Multi Modal Cargo Terminal (GCT) commissioned in the Indian Railways network since the launch of the GCT policy in December 2021.
- The commissioning of this terminal will enhance the earnings of Indian Railways by around Rs. 11 crores per month.

- Indian Railways will set up around 500 multi-modal cargo terminals under the PM GATI-SHAKTI programme within 4-5 years, in line with PM Narendra Modi's vision of "Gati Shakti" and the Railway Ministry's Policy regarding GCT.

### **India's first-of-its kind 'World Peace Center' to be established in Gurugram**

- India's first World Peace Center is soon to come up in Gurugram, Haryana, for the establishment of peace and harmony in the world by mental, emotional and character development of the people...
- The new Centre will be set up by the New Delhi-based Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti Organisation, established by eminent Jainacharya and Ambassador of Peace, Dr Lokeshji
- The new World Peace Center will come up in Sector 39 of Gurugram opposite Medanta Hospital and adjacent to Delhi-Jaipur Highway.

### **India's first medical city 'Indrayani Medicity' to come up in Pune**

- The state government of Maharashtra has announced to set up country's first medical city named as 'Indrayani Medicity' in Pune, to provide all kinds of specialised treatment under one roof.
- It will come up in 300-acre of land area in Khed taluka of Pune.
- The project is estimated to attract investment worth over Rs. 10,000 crore.
- Indrayani Medicity will have hospitals, centres for medical research, pharmaceutical manufacturing, wellness and physiotherapy, and will be first-of-its-kind city in the country to have all the treatments available at one place.

### **Cabinet approves establishment of WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

- This would be the first and only global Centre for traditional medicine across the globe, set up by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The WHO GCTM will be established under the Ministry of AYUSH.

### **Cabinet approves setting up of National Land Monetization Corporation as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for monetization of surplus land**

- The Union Cabinet has approved to set up a new company called National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC), as a special purpose vehicle (SPV).
- NLMC will hold and monetise surplus land and building assets, of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and other Government agencies, that are being privatised or being shut down.
- NLMC shall be a wholly-owned Government of India company. It will be set up under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance.
- The initial authorized share capital of NLMC will be Rs. 5000 crore and paid-up share capital will be Rs. 150 crore.

### **India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha being built at Bodh Gaya**

- India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being built in Bodh Gaya in Bihar.
- The statue of Lord Buddha is in the sleeping posture. It is being made using fiberglass. The statue will be 100 feet long and 30 feet high.
- The giant statue is being built by Buddha International Welfare Mission, one of the top Buddhist Temples in West Bengal (also known as Kolkata Temple).
- Its construction started in the year 2019.
- Bodh Gaya is the place of enlightenment of Lord Buddha, and famous pilgrimage site for Buddhism, visited by devotees from all over the world.

### **PM Modi inaugurates Rs 11,400 crore Pune Metro Rail Project**

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Pune Metro Rail Project on March 06, 2022, and also interacted with differently-abled, visually impaired students present inside the metro coach, during his 10-minute ride in the Pune Metro.
- Pune Metro Rail Project has been built at a total cost of INR 11,420 Crore. It has a total length of 33.2 km and 30 stations.
- Pune Metro is the first metro project in the country to have Aluminum body coaches, indigenously manufactured under Make in India policy of GoI.
- PM Modi also unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at the premises of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and laid the foundation stone and inaugurated multiple developmental projects in Pune.

### **UNESCO includes Meghalaya's natural root bridges on tentative list of world heritage sites**

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) includes Meghalaya's "Living Root Bridges or Jingkieng Jri" on a tentative list of World heritage sites. At present there are about 100 living root bridges around 70 villages of Meghalaya's subtropical terrain region.
- Villagers, (especially Khasi and Jaintia tribal communities) build and maintain these bridges from the past for more than 600 years.
- Purpose Of The Root Bridge: Villagers of Meghalaya grow these living root bridges to cross the water bodies, they do it by training the Indian rubber fig tree (ficus elastica) on both sides of water bodies over a period of about 10 to 15 years where the roots form the bridge.

### **India plans to start building 10 Nuclear Power Plant in 'Fleet Mode'**

- India is set to put in motion construction of 10 'fleet mode' nuclear reactors over the next three years. The First Pour of Concrete (FPC) for a 700

MegaWatts (MW) Kaiga Atomic Power Plant, Karnataka units 5 & 6 are scheduled by 2023.

- The centre had approved the construction of 10 indigenously developed Pressurised Heavy-Water Reactors (PHWRs) of 700 MegaWatts (MW) each in June 2017 with a total cost of Rs 1.05 Lakh crore

### **Gol sets an ambitious target of creating 220 new airports by 2025**

- Jyotiraditya Scindia, the Union Civil Aviation Minister, announced that the Government of India (GoI) planned to develop as many as 220 new airports by 2025, citing the aviation industry as a major component of India's economy.
- India has progressed in both domestic and international travel since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In the following years, cargo flights for perishable food items will be boosted by 30%, with 133 new flights.
- The government also intends to build 33 new domestic cargo terminals, 15 new pilot training schools, more jobs, and a greater focus on the drone sector.

### **Union cabinet approves continuation of National AIDS and STD control programme till 2026**

- Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the continuation of National AIDS (Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome) and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) Control Programme (NACP) for 5 years from 1 April, 2021 to 31 March, 2026 with an outlay of Rs. 15,471.94 crore by approving phase-V of the programme.
- The Phase-IV (Extension) of National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NACP) was concluded on 31 March, 2021.
- The NACP Phase-V will work towards the attainment of United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 3.3 of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 through

acomprehensive package of prevention, detection and treatment services.

### **Union cabinet approves MSP of raw jute for 2022-23**

- The CCEA also approved an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of raw jute by Rs 250 to Rs 4,750 per quintal for the 2022-23 season to ensure a return of 60.53% over all India weighted average cost of production.
- The approval is based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, and also on the lines of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times all India weighted average cost of production as announced by the Government in the Budget 2018-19. This assures a minimum of 50% as margin of profit.

### **Union MoS Jitendra Singh releases India's Arctic Policy in Delhi**

- Union Minister of State (MoS) for Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh released India's Arctic policy titled 'India and the Arctic: building a partnership for sustainable development' in New Delhi. India is one of 13 nations holding Observer status in the Arctic Council.



- Thirteen Non-arctic States have been approved as Observers to the Arctic Council. They are France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, China, Poland, India, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Singapore.
- India's Arctic Policy is based on six pillars
  - Strengthening India's scientific research and cooperation,
  - Climate and environmental protection,
  - Economic and human development,
  - Transportation and connectivity,
  - Governance and international cooperation,
  - National capacity building in the Arctic region.



## Indian Railways prepared National Rail Plan (NRP) for India- 2030

- For the development of a futuristic railway system by 2030, the Indian Railways has come up with 'National Rail Plan (NRP) for India-2030'. The information for the same was provided by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Railways in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.
- Objectives behind NRP:
- i. To formulate strategies based on both operational capacities and commercial policy initiatives to increase modal share of the Railways in freight to 45%.
- ii. To create capacity ahead of demand, which in turn would also cater to future growth in demand right up to 2050.
- For the achievement of objectives, all financial models including Public Private Partnership (PPP) will be considered.

## FSSAI To Start 'Health Star Rating System' for Packaged Foods

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is set to introduce a new star rating system, the "Health Star Rating System", for packaged foods. Under this, the packaged foods will display the number of stars on the Front Of Pack Label (FOPL), which indicates how healthy or unhealthy they are depending upon the amount of salt, sugar, and fat they have.
- The Health Star Rating rates the overall nutritional profile of packaged food and assigns it a rating from ½ a star to 5 stars. 5 Star means the food is healthy & the least (½) star means the food is unhealthy.
- The Health Star rating system is one of five types of labels that were considered, including Nutriscore, Warning Label, Multiple Traffic Lights (MTL) and Monochrome GDA.



## Mumbai Becomes 1st South Asian City to Detail Net-Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050

- Mumbai, Maharashtra announced its detailed framework to 'zero out carbon emissions by 2050' and became the first city in South Asia to set such a target.
- Mumbai's target is 20 years ahead of India's target to reach net zero emissions by 2070.
- Targets also include a 30 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and 44 per cent reduction by 2040.
- Mumbai set several short-term goals for decarbonisation measures such as electrifying public transport, it plans to adopt 2,100 electric buses by 2023 at a cost of 130 billion rupees (USD \$1.7 billion).
- In 2019, Mumbai emitted an estimated 23.42 million tons of greenhouse gas or 1.8 tons per capita.

## Mission Indradhanush: Odisha tops in full immunization with 90.5% coverage

- According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, Odisha became top state in the list of full immunisation in India with 90.5 per cent coverage under Mission Indradhanush.
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0 (IMI) was rolled out on 7 March 2022, in Odisha to provide
- preventive health care for mothers and children and for boosting full immunization coverage.
- 20 districts of Odisha were found above 90 percent in full immunization and remaining 10 districts were less than 90 percent.
- The diseases included in full immunization are tuberculosis, polio, diphtheria, jaundice, tetanus, whooping cough, brain fever, HIV, measles, pneumonia, diarrhoea, rubella, Japanese fever, and others.
- Mission Indradhanush is a healthcare initiative of Government of India, launched on December 25, 2014.

## STATES

### Assam and Meghalaya signed a pact to resolve 5 decade old border dispute in six places

- On March 29, 2022, the Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma and the Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad Sangma in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah had signed a pact to resolve the protracted border dispute in six out of twelve places along the 884.9 Kilometre border between the two states.
- The First Phase of settlement covers 36 villages situated in six places (Hahim, Gizang, Tarabari, Boklapara, Khanapara-Pilingkata, Ratacherra) out of twelve covering an area of 36.79 square kilometres.
- According to which a joint final set of recommendations were made – out of 36.79 square kilometres of disputed area taken up for settlement, Assam will get full control of 18.51 square kilometres and Meghalaya would get 18.28 square kilometres.
- The next step will involve delineation and demarcation of the boundary by Survey of India in the presence of representatives from both governments. It will then proceed for Parliamentary approval.
- Assam shares a 2743 kilometre boundary with Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and West Bengal.
- Assam has border disputes with Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.

### Maharashtra launches scheme to offer personal loans for prisoners

- The Maharashtra government has introduced a scheme that allows prisoners to obtain personal loans from banks of up to Rs. 50,000 to help their families improve their living conditions and meet expenses related to their legal matters. It will be a first of its kind initiative in our country.

- The Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank would provide loans up to 50,000 under the scheme at a 7% interest rate. The scheme would be implemented in Yerawada Central Jail in Pune, Maharashtra, on a pilot basis.
- It is the first innovative scheme in India that offers prisoners a loan based on the income earned while working in a prison. It needs no guarantor and will be disbursed on a personal bond.
- This type of loan is called a “khavti” loan, and benefits approximately 1,055 prisoners.

### Pramod Sawant takes Oath as Goa's CM for 2nd consecutive term

- Pramod Sawant took oath as the Chief Minister (CM) of Goa, for a second consecutive term (2022-2027) at the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee stadium in Taleigao, Goa.
- The Governor of Goa, P S Sreedharan Pillai administered the oath of office and secrecy to Pramod Sawant.
- In state Assembly elections 2022, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged as the single largest party in Goa by winning 20 of the 40 seats in Goa.



### Yogi Adityanath takes oath as Uttar Pradesh CM

- Yogi Adityanath took oath as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh (UP) for the second term in office.



Governor of UP, Anandiben Patel administered the oath of office and secrecy to Yogi Adityanath along with 52 ministers in the ceremony organized at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

- The Yogi Adityanath-led BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) government created history with its second tenure as no other CM has been able to repeat a government in the state in 37 years.
- He has become the first such BJP leader to become the CM for the second consecutive term.
- The party secured more than 250 seats out of 403 in the state assembly elections 2022, and become the first party in over three decades to form a government for a second consecutive time in the state.
- Only five CMs, including Adityanath, have won a second consecutive term in UP ever. The four CMs before him to do so were Sampurnananda in 1957, Chandrabhanu Gupta in 1962, Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna in 1974 and Narayan Dutt Tiwari in 1985.

### **Kerala Tourism Dept. Launches 24/7 WhatsApp Chatbot 'Maya'**

- The Tourism Minister of Kerala, P A Mohamed Rias launched 'Maya', a 24x7 working WhatsApp chatbot to provide information and updates related to the tourism ecosystem in Kerala.
- Billed as the first such service in the country, Maya shares all information on destinations, experiences, stay, travel and a whole lot of details that will keep them updated about the places they travel through or stay in the State.

### **SIDBI accredits Odisha with Rs. 837 Crore for MSME Clusters**

- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has approved a Rs. 837 crore grant to the Government of Odisha under its SIDBI Cluster Development Fund (SCDF) to promote and develop 18 micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) infrastructure projects in Odisha.
- The projects include the development of five new MSME parks, the construction of 11 worker's hostels and two projects to support MSME infrastructure and will be implemented by the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO).

- It has also inked an agreement with the state to set up Project Management Unit (PMU) to design schemes and programmes that strengthens the MSME ecosystem. So far, SIDBI has signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with around 15 states to set up PMUs.

### **Pushkar Singh Dhami sworn in as 11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand**

- On 23, March 2022, Pushkar Singh Dhami, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and son of an ex-serviceman took oath as 11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand for his second consecutive term in Dehradun's Parade Ground administered by the Governor Lt Gen (retd) Gurmit Singh.



- Dhami lost the election to Congress's Bhuwan Kapri by 6,932 votes in Khatima constituency.
- He has to get re-elected from any of the constituencies of Uttarakhand within a period of six months post which he ceases to be a Minister (Article 164(4) of Indian Constitution).

### **Bihar became first state to implement dynamic map for villages to track land ownership**

- Bihar as a part of its land reforms initiative, has introduced the concept of dynamic map for villages, which will get updated every time land ownership changes hands. The move is mainly aimed to curb the legal disputes regarding land.
- According to the Bihar government, the state has seen almost 37,000 cases of some land dispute since February 2021.
- The initiative is also in line with the mandate of Bihar Land Mutation Amendment Bill, 2021 which makes mutation of maps mandatory.
- The mutation process will now pass through three stages – first, a change in the text; second, a change in the land parcel; and third, a modification of the survey map.



## Nagaland became first state to go paperless assembly proceeding under NeVA

- The North Eastern state of Nagaland became the first legislative state assembly in India to implement paperless proceedings under National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA).
- The NeVA initiative encourages paperless operations and reflects the government's commitment towards Ashta Lakshmi.
- The Nagaland Assembly Secretariat has attached a tablet or e-book for all the 60 members of the State Assembly.
- The NeVA is used to handle diverse House Business smartly by enumerating details regarding member contact details, rules of procedure, list of business, notices, bulletins, bills, starred/unstarred questions and answers, papers laid, committee reports etc. in their handheld devices/ tablets.
- National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) Is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme by Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs with the funding ratio of 90 : 10 by Centre and State respectively



## Narasingapettai Nagaswaram a Music Instrument of Tamil Nadu gets GI tag

- The Narasingapettai Nagaswaram, a classical wind music instrument, hand crafted in Narasingapettai
- Village in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu(TN) got the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag under the category of musical instruments of class 15 from Geographical Indications Registry.
- On behalf of Thanjavur Musical Instruments Workers Co-operative Cottage Industrial Society Limited, the application for receiving the GI tag for Narasingapettai Nagaswaram Dating back to the 13th century was filed by Tamil Nadu's Nodal Officer.

## Kerala becomes first state to introduce carbon-neutral farming

- Kerala became the first state in India to introduce carbon-neutral agricultural practices in select locations for better soil health.
- The Kerala Government in its Budget 2022-23, allocated ₹6 crore for introducing Carbon-neutral farming methods in the state.
- In the first phase, the Agriculture Department will implement the carbon-neutral farming in 13 farms including in tribal areas and steps were also taken to convert the State Seed Farm at Aluva to a carbon-neutral farm.
- In the second phase, model carbon-neutral farms will be developed in all the 140 Assembly constituencies.
- Carbon-neutral farming is the technique of decreasing carbon emissions and aid carbon storage in the soil, through techniques such as Integrated farming methods, Crop rotation, Fertigation, Precision Farming methods, Shifting how the soil is irrigated, and restricting the haphazard use of Fertiliser application.

## N Biren Singh sworn in as Manipur CM for Second Term

- On March 21, 2022, Nongthombam (N) Biren Singh, sworn in as the Chief Minister of Manipur for the second consecutive term. The oath of office was administered by Manipur Governor La Ganesan at the Raj Bhawan in Imphal, Manipur. He is the 12th CM of Manipur (Excluding Repetition).
- N Biren Singh was elected from the Heingang seat for the record fifth time, in the recently concluded 12th Manipur assembly elections. BJP won 32 seats in the 60-member house.



## Telangana becomes first state in India to implement Crop Diversification Index

- Telangana turned out to be the first state in India to adopt the Crop Diversification Index (CDI) by way of recording their crop diversification pattern in the form of an index.
- According to the CDI, Telangana grows 77 varieties of crops, out of which only 10 crops (mostly grains) are chosen for crop diversification.
- The districts of Nirmal, Vikarabad, and Sangareddy emerge as the most diverse, ranking in the top 3 in the state.
- The least diversified districts (bottom 3) in the state in terms of crop diversification would be Peddapalli, Karimnagar, and Suryapet, where paddy is the most cultivated crop, showing a decrease in the cropping areas of maize and an increase in the cropping areas of cotton.



### About Crop Diversification Index (CDI):

- All the areas under the 77 different crops, which include food, non-food, and cash crops, as well as the areas under floriculture practices, have been considered to calculate the index.
- The index has a starting value of ONE representing the percentage of total cultivated area devoted to a single crop.
- Many districts in the state have index values ranging from 0 to 5, and the higher the value, the greater the agricultural diversification.
- The index would serve as the baseline for future crop diversification in the state.
- Next to paddy and maize, which are the traditionally grown crops in the state, pulses were the most preferred crops by the farmers.

## West Bengal Celebrates 'Dol Utsav' Welcoming Spring Season

- On 18 March 2022, West Bengal celebrated the 'Dol Utsav' or 'Dol Jatra', the festival of colors, marking the onset of spring season.
- The festival is dedicated to Lord Krishna and Radha and celebrated on the full moon day.
- It also marks the last festival of the year as per the Bengali calendar.
- The majestic festival is celebrated by throwing 'gulaal' or 'aabir' on others and by singing and dancing in cultural programs.
- In Eastern region of India, the festival of spring is celebrated as Dol Jatra, Dol Purnima, Dol Utsav and Basanta Utsav.

### Popular spring festival of India:

- Rongali Bihu – the spring festival of Assam, It signifies the onset of the Assamese New Year.
- Sarhul – the spring festival of Jharkhand

## Nirmala Sitharaman presents ~Rs 1.42 lakh crore J&K budget in Lok Sabha; 7.5%GSDP growth projected

- On March 14, 2022, the Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance presented Rs 14215009.87 crore (~1.42 Lakh Crore) Budget for the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in Lok Sabha, New Delhi (Delhi). She also presented supplementary Demands for Grants, and Demands for Excess Grants totaling Rs 18,860.32 crore for J&K.
- The budget projected 7.5% Growth in GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) of J&K.
- J&K government will be spending Rs 112950 crore in fiscal 2022-23 i.e. Revenue Expenditure: Rs 71615 crore, and Capital Expenditure: Rs 41335 crore (22 % of GSDP).
  - Revenue Receipts: Rs 102322 crore
  - Capital Receipts: Rs 10628 crore



## Bhagwant Mann takes oath as CM of Punjab

- On 16 March 2022 the Leader of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Bhagwant Singh Mann, was sworn in as the Punjab Chief Minister (CM). The oath of office and secrecy was administered by Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit to Bhagwant Mann.
- The swearing-in ceremony took place at Khatkar Kalan, the ancestral village of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh in Shaheed Bhagat Singh (SBS) Nagar district, Punjab.
- The oath taking ceremony was attended by Delhi CM and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal, deputy CM Manish Sisodia, and others.
- The AAP in Punjab won 92 seats out of 117 seats in the Punjab Assembly elections 2022.
- Bhagwant Singh Mann was a former actor, comedian and satirist.



## Karnataka launches India's 1st ever Digital Water Databank 'AQVERIUM'

- The Information Technology (IT) Minister of Karnataka, Chikkakalya Narayanappa (CN) Ashwath Narayan launched India's first ever digital water databank 'AQVERIUM' in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- AQVERIUM is an initiative of the Bengaluru-headquartered Digital Startup – AquaKraft Digital Ventures Pvt Ltd, a newly formed subsidiary of AquaKraft Projects Private Limited, the flagship company of AquaKraft Group Ventures.

## AP's FM Buggana Rajendranath Presented Rs 2.56 lakh cr State Budget for 2022-23

- On March 11, 2022, the Finance Minister (FM) of Andhra Pradesh (AP), Buggana Rajendranath, presented AP's Budget for 2022-23 with a proposed expenditure of Rs 2.56 lakh crore and a projected revenue deficit of Rs 17,036 crore.

- After that, Kurasala Kannababu, AP's Agriculture Minister presented the State's Agriculture Budget for 2022-23 with an outlay of Rs 43,052.78 crore.

### Financial Parameters:

- i. The projected revenue deficit is Rs 17,036 crore i.e. 1.27% of GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product)
- ii. The fiscal deficit in FY23 is expected to be Rs 48,724 crore i.e. 3.64% of the GSDP.
- iii. The total public debt of the state is projected to increase up to Rs 4,39,394.35 crore in 2022-23.
- iv. A sum of Rs 21,805 crore has been earmarked for debt servicing in FY23.

## Tripura Govt. announces Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa for tea workers

- As a step towards bringing the 7000 tea garden workers of Tripura under social security net, the Tripura Government has announced a special scheme 'Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa', allotting Rs. 85 crores for its implementation.
- 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. The tea production is mainly distributed in North Tripura, Sepahijala, Unakoti and West Tripura districts.
- This special scheme would ensure housing, rations and financial support to the tea garden workers by integrating the facilities that are entitled to them, by the state government and the central government.

## Karnataka Govt. Introduces W@W Programme to Integrate Women into Workforce

- The Government of Karnataka launched Women@Work (W@W) Programme, as an attempt to create an equitable, inclusive and equal world for women in workplaces at an even organized jointly by the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), KTECH and the Karnataka Skill Development Corporation.



## ECONOMY AND BANKING

### Cabinet approves USD 808 million for Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance

- The Union Cabinet approved USD 808 million (Rs 6,062.45 crore) for a new World Bank (WB) assisted scheme 'Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP)' which will probably be initiated in FY23 to directly or indirectly benefit all 63 million MSMEs. .
- Out of the total amount, Rs 3,750 crore (\$ 500 million) will be a loan from WB, and the rest Rs 2,312.45 crore (\$ 308 million) will be funded by the government of India.
- RAMP was formulated on the lines of the recommendations made by Upendra Kumar (UK) Sinha
- Committee, Kundapur Vaman (KV) Kamath Committee and Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (PMEAC).
- It is premised upon two areas viz. strengthening institutions and governance of the MSME programme, and support to market access, firm capabilities and access to finance.

### Cabinet approves release of an additional instalment of DA due from Jan 01, 2022

- To compensate for the price rise, the Union Cabinet also gave its approval to release an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioner's w.e.f. January 1, 2022 representing an increase of 3% to 34% from the existing rate of 31% of the Basic Pay/Pension.
- This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.
- The combined cost on account of both DA and DR will be Rs.9,544.50 crore per annum for the Central Government.

- This will benefit about 47.68 lakh Central Government employees and 68.62 lakh pensioners.
- In October 2021, the Cabinet had hiked the two allowances by 3% to 31% w.e.f. July 1, 2021.

### Govt. of India Extends Scope of ECLGS for MSMEs for 1 Year till March 31, 2023

- The National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) has extended the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for 1 year from March 2022, to March 31, 2023, in response to Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement in the Union Budget 2022-23.
- It has also increased the total amount to be sanctioned under the scheme from Rs 4.5 lakh crores to Rs 5 lakh crores.
- The NCGTC has issued modifications to the operational guidelines for ECLGS 3.0, following the suggestions received in the post Budget consultations held by the Finance Minister and extended relief to hospitality, civil aviation and related enterprises under the scheme.

### Rs 40,009 crore released under Jal Jeevan Mission in 2021-22; Rs. 60,000 crore budget allocated for 2022-23

- As per the government data, Rs. 40,009 crore grant was released to States/ UTs under Jal Jeevan Mission in the financial year 2021-22. The total allocation under the scheme in FY2021-22 was Rs 50,000 crore.
- Further, the Central Government has enhanced the budget under Jal Jeevan Mission for financial year 2022-23 to Rs. 60,000 Crore.
- Since the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission on August 15, 2019, more than 6 Crore households have been provided with tap water connections, so far.

- The Jal Jeevan Mission was launched to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India.

### Government keeps interest rates on small savings schemes unchanged for Q1 of 2022-23 (April-June 2022)

- The Ministry of Finance has decided to keep the interest rates unchanged on small savings schemes or post office schemes for the Quarter -1 of FY2022-23 (April-June 2022).
- The interest rates on the various instruments for April-June 2022 range from 4.0 percent to 7.6 percent.
- It must be noted that the Government notifies the Interest rates for small savings schemes on a quarterly basis.
- This is the eighth consecutive quarter when the interest rates on small savings instruments remained unchanged.
- Various Interest Rates for Quarter-1 (April-June) of 2022-23 are listed below:

Small Savings Instruments	Interest Rate For April-June 2022	Compounding frequency
Savings deposit	4.0%	Annually
One-year time deposit	5.5%	Quarterly
Two-year time deposit	5.5%	Quarterly
Three-year time deposit	5.5%	Quarterly
Five-year time deposit	6.7%	Quarterly

Five-year recurring deposit	5.8%	Quarterly
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	7.4%	Quarterly and Paid
Monthly Income Account	6.6%	Monthly and Paid
National Savings Certificate	6.8%	Annually
Public Provident Fund Scheme	7.1%	Annually

### Google Pay collaborates with Pine Labs to offer 'Tap to Pay' for UPI

- Tech giant Google Pay has launched 'Tap to Pay for UPI', a new functionality to bring the seamless convenience of Tap to Pay to Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- The initiative has been launched in collaboration with Pine Labs. So far, Tap to Pay facility was only available for cards.

### CBDT signed 62 Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) in FY 2021-22

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) signed 62 Advance Pricing Agreements (APA) with Indian taxpayers in FY 2021-22.
- This included 13 Bilateral APAs (consequent to Mutual Agreement between India and its treaty partners) and 49 Unilateral APAs.
- With this, the total number of APAs has gone up to 421, since inception of the APA program.
- In the previous two years, total APAs signed included 31 APAs in FY 2020-21 and 57 APAs in FY 2019-20.

- An advance pricing agreement (APA) is a multilateral or bilateral agreement between a tax authority and a taxpayer on transfer pricing methodology (TPM), for a set of international transactions issued for multiple years.

### ADB and HSBC India partners to establish \$100 million Partial Guarantee Program for Microfinance in India

- Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed an agreement with HSBC India to establish a USD 100 million partial guarantee programme to support micro-borrowers with special weightage to women-run micro-enterprises across India.
- Under the deal, HSBC will expand its lending to microfinance institutions (MFIs) and non-bank finance companies, while multilateral funding agency, ADB will provide partial guarantee to the loans.
- The initiative will support more than 4 lakh borrowers.
- It has also been decided that an aggregated financing equivalent to \$30 million will be disbursed to three MFIs across India by April 2022.

### Microsoft launches 'Startups Founders Hub' platform to empower startups in India

- Tech giant Microsoft launched a new digital and inclusive platform for startup founders in India on March 31, 2022.
- The platform called as 'Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub' in India, will support startup founders in India at every stage of their startup journey.
- This platform will offer over USD 300,000 worth of benefits and credits to startups, including free access to the technology, tools, and resources from the tech giant and partners.
- The initiative will help the Startups to gain mentorship and skilling opportunities with industry experts and Microsoft Learn.

### Mortgage lender HDFC to merge with HDFC Bank

- Mortgage lender HDFC has announced merger with HDFC Bank. The merger of two financial behemoths - HDFC Ltd and HDFC Bank comes following speculation around the same and has set the stage for one of the biggest deals in the Indian financial sector.
- As per the deal, HDFC Ltd with AUM of Rs 5.26 trillion will merge with HDFC Bank with market cap of Rs 8.35 trillion.
- All shareholders of HDFC Limited will receive 42 shares of HDFC Bank for every 25 shares of HDFC Ltd.
- Following the execution of the transaction, any shareholding of HDFC Ltd in HDFC Bank will be dissolved and the Bank will become a 100% publicly owned entity. Existing share holders of HDFC Ltd will own 41% stake / shares of HDFC Bank.



### Central govt sets Rs 1-trillion infrastructure lending target for NaBFID

- Central Government has set a target of Rs 1-trillion for the new Development Finance Institution (DFI) namely 'National Bank for Financial Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)' for sanctioning loans to the infrastructure sector in FY23. NaBFID will get a 10-year tax concession so that it can provide long-term funds at an affordable cost to the infrastructure sector.
- In October 2021, the government had appointed Kundapur Vaman Kamath as the chairman of NaBFID



## Central Bank of India ties up with Kwik.ID to digitize customer onboarding

- Central Bank of India (CBI) partnered with Kwik.ID to implement digital Know Your Customer (KYC), video KYC and eKYC for its network across India.
- The partnership will support the implementation of its digital transformation agenda and also help in digital finance initiatives.
- Kwik.ID is India's fastest and first ever AI-based fully compliant Video KYC solution and a flagship product by Think360.ai. It has the target to digitize 10 million customers' onboarding annually and streamline their end-to-end processes.
- Earlier, it collaborated with Bank of Baroda, RBL Bank, Bajaj Finserv and Spice Money, among others.

## Central Govt's total liabilities rise to Rs 128.41 lakh cr in Q3FY22

- In accordance with the latest public debt management report by the Ministry of Finance, the Central Government's total liabilities rose to Rs 128.41 lakh crore in December quarter (Q3FY22) from Rs 125.71 lakh crore in Q2FY22. This increase reflects a quarter-on-quarter increase of 2.15%.
- In absolute terms, the total liabilities, including liabilities under the 'Public Account' of the government, jumped to Rs 1,28,41,996 crore in Q3FY22 as compared to Rs 1,25,71,747 crore in Q2FY22.
- Public debt accounted for 91.60% of the total outstanding liabilities in Q3FY22. Nearly 25% of the outstanding dated securities had a residual maturity of less than 5 years.
- The yields on the 10-year benchmark security increased from 6.22% in Q2FY22 to 6.45% in Q3FY22.
- The ownership pattern of the central government securities indicates that the share of commercial banks stood at 35.40% in Q3FY22, lower than 37.82% in Q2FY22.

## India's 2022 GDP Growth Downgraded to 4.6% amid Ukraine-Russia War: UNCTAD Report

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in an update to its Trade and Development report published March 24, 2022 titled 'Tapering in a time of conflict' has downgraded India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for 2022 by -2.1% to 4.6% from 6.7% amid ongoing Ukraine-Russia War.
- On the global front, it also declined the economic growth projection for 2022 by -1% to 2.6% from 3.6%.

## Bank of India invests Rs 108.81 crore in NARCL

- The Bank of India (BoI) has invested around Rs 108.81 crore in National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL), under the preferential share issue. Following this, BoI's shareholding in NARCL is set to become 9% as of 21st March 2022.
- NARCL is an asset reconstruction company backed by the government, Incorporated in July 2021.

## HDFC Mutual Fund to launch HDFC Defence Fund, India's first Defence Fund

- HDFC Mutual Fund has filed a scheme information document (SID) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch HDFC Defence Fund, India's first Defence Fund.
- This open-ended equity scheme will be investing in defence & allied sector companies (aerospace, explosives, shipbuilding, industries /stocks present on the SIDM (Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers) list).
- This will offer Units for Sale / Switch-in and Redemption / Switch-out on every Business Day at NAV based prices when the Scheme re-opens for ongoing transactions (after the NFO).
- This fund will be benchmarked to the recently introduced Nifty India Defence Index TRI (Total Returns Index).



## SIDBI Inks MoU with Meghalaya to Develop MSME Ecosystem

- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Meghalaya Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Limited (MiDFC), Government of Meghalaya.
- Under the MoU, SIDBI and the Government of Meghalaya will work in tandem to facilitate the development of the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) ecosystem in Meghalaya.
- SIDBI also encourages the Government of Meghalaya to make use of the low-cost financing available for the development of the MSME infrastructure in the state under the SIDBI Cluster Development Fund (SCDF).

## SBI signs co-lending pact with 5 HFCs for affordable housing

- State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest lender, has entered into a co-lending partnership with five Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) to provide affordable housing loans to the underserved and unserved sections of society as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines.
- The five HFCs are: PNB Housing Finance, IIFL Home Finance, Shriram Housing Finance, Edelweiss Housing Finance, and Capri Global Housing Finance.
- This tie-up will help to accelerate effective and affordable credit to economically weaker sections (EWS) and the informal sector & contribute to the Government of India's vision of 'Housing for All by 2024'.

## Airtel Payments Bank partners with ICICI Lombard for smartphone insurance

- Airtel Payments Bank signed an agreement with ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company (ICICI Lombard) to provide smartphone insurance which offers financial protection against damages. It will boost the mobile insurance industry in India.

- 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 Rs 10,000 to Rs 1,00,000 will be considered. The customers have to pay a monthly premium of Rs 1,299 through the Airtel Thanks App and they will get the insurance on their own within 10 days of making the purchase.

## India's merchandise exports touched new peak of \$400 billion in FY22

- The merchandise exports sector of India successfully met the \$400 billion target which was set for 2021-22 (FY22), nine days ahead of schedule, which translated into a 37% increase over exports worth \$292 billion in FY21.
- The exports in India contracted almost 7% in FY21 from a year before to \$292 billion, due to Covid outbreak. Later with the drastic increase in demand and advanced economies the export sector recovered itself.
- The highest merchandise export of \$330 billion was achieved in FY19. It witnessed the fluctuations between \$250 billion and \$330 billion a year since FY11.
- The services exports are also estimated to exceed the target of \$250 billion.
- The target for Services exports was to achieve \$206 billion in FY21 and \$225 billion for FY22.
- The significant increase is witnessed in the various sectors such as engineering goods, petroleum products, garments and textiles, and chemicals.

## NABARD allocates Rs. 4,013 crore financial assistance to Odisha

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned a financial assistance of Rs. 4,013 crores to Odisha under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for the financial year 2021-2022, and Odisha has got a major share of NABARD's infrastructure funds, the highest in India.

- With this the total sanction has crossed Rs 32,100 crore for Odisha since the inception of the RIDF.
- The RIDF is classified under three broad categories: Agriculture and related sector; Social sector; and Rural connectivity.
- Out of the total fund allocated under the RIDF, about Rs 2,568 crore is allotted for construction of rural roads and bridges.
- It involves the creation or upgrading of roads for 2000 km and bridges for a length of 17.13 km, which would benefit around 10 lakh people.
- The implementation of nine mega piped water supply projects worth Rs. 840 crores will bring clean, treated, and safe drinking water to almost 17 lakh rural inhabitants in Odisha.
- A total of Rs 605 crore has been allocated for the development of infrastructure in the agriculture, related, and irrigation sectors. It includes the Kusumi irrigation project; livestock vaccine production unit, cluster lift irrigation and flood protection projects.

### **Rupeek, NAPS Partners to launch of 'Rupeek Academy' to build gold appraisers**

- Rupeek (Rupeek Fintech Pvt Ltd.), India's leading asset-backed digital lending platform announced the launch of 'Rupeek Academy' in collaboration with the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), an initiative by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). This aims to attract young talent who are looking for a career opportunity in the gold loan industry of India.
- The Rupeek Academy programme developed with NSDC is a first of its kind upskilling programme in the industry.
- 1-year comprehensive programme aims to create a centre for excellence in developing and managing talent for gold appraisers, to balance the demand against the availability of talent issues.
- India has USD 2 trillion worth of gold assets and the programme aims to monetize them by employing gold appraisers.

### **Fitch declines India's Growth Forecast for FY23 to 8.5% from 10.3%**

- On March 22, 2022, Rating agency Fitch in its 'Global economic Outlook-March 2022' declined India's growth forecast for FY23 (2022-2023) by 1.8 percentage points (pp) to 8.5% from 10.3% due to high energy prices amid Russia-Ukraine war.
- On the other hand, for FY22, the agency has increased the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth by 0.6 pp to 8.7% from 8.1%.
- For 2023-24, it is estimated at 7 per cent.
- Global Scenario: For FY22, the agency declined the world GDP growth forecast by 0.7 pp to 3.5% from 4.2%.
- For FY23, it also revised down world growth by 0.2pp to 2.8% from 3%.

### **NPCI to launch 'On-Device Wallet- UPI Lite for small value transactions' in offline mode**

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) will launch On-Device Wallet i.e. 'UPI Lite' for UPI users which will enable small value transactions in an offline mode. UPI stands for (Unified Payments Interface).
- This functionality enables transactions without additional factor authentication (AFA) or a UPI PIN (Personal Identification Number).

#### Limits in UPI Lite:

- Upper Limit of payment transaction- Rs 200
- Total limit of balance for an On-Device Wallet- Rs 2,000 at any point of time
- Reasons behind this launch: As per various studies, about half the UPI transactions have a transaction value of up to Rs 200, and about 75% of the total volume of retail transactions (including cash) in India are below Rs 100. Also, in January 2022, Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) notified a framework for facilitating small value digital payments in offline mode. So, catering to both scenarios, this development has been made.

### **SBI to Grant USD 1 billion credit line to Sri Lanka to recover from economic crisis**

- In light of the country's deteriorating economic circumstances, 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.
- An agreement extending the LOC was signed between SBI and Government of Sri Lanka for the procurement of food, medicine, and other essential items.
- Previously, the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) had extended an LOC of USD 500 million to Sri Lanka, which is in the midst of a financial crisis, to finance the purchase of petroleum goods.

### **Kotak Mahindra Bank becomes 1st Indian Bank to sign MoU with Business France**

- On 16 March, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd (KMBL) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Business France, a French National agency involved in exports and international investments in France, to provide support to companies in the Indo-French corridor.
- The KMBL became the first Indian bank to sign a MoU with Business France.
- The agreement ceremony held in France was chaired by Eric Fajole, Regional Director, French Embassy in India and Sudha Balakrishnan, Business Head, MNC Banking Group, Kotak Mahindra Bank.

### **SBI to set up Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre at Hyderabad, Telangana**

- The State Bank of India (SBI) will set up an Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre (IIAC) at
- Hyderabad, Telangana which will be operational in six to nine months of on-boarding a consultant.
- This Centre will be the bank's in-house capability to enhance its current performance and drive higher top-line growth through innovation.

- It will help the bank to develop a set of technologies, knowledge, and skills for the introduction of new products and services.

### **India Ranks 5th in Terms of Market Cap, Enters World's Top 5 Club for the 1st Time**

- As per Bloomberg's recent data on Market capitalization, for the 1st time, India's equities market has entered the world's top 5 in terms of market capitalization. India is ranked 5th with an overall market capitalization of USD 3.21 trillion.
- The US tops the ranking with an overall market cap of USD 47.32 trillion, followed by China (USD 11.52 trillion), Japan (USD 6 trillion) and Hong Kong (USD 5.55 trillion). The total world market cap stands at USD 109.22 trillion.
- India has climbed two positions, despite a 7.4% drop in its market cap.
- India's market cap has surpassed the United Kingdom (UK) ranked 6th with M-Cap of USD 3.19 trillion, Saudi Arabia ranked 7th with M-Cap of USD 3.18 trillion, Canada ranked 8th with M-Cap of USD 3.18 trillion, France ranked 9th with M-Cap of USD 2.89 trillion and Germany ranked 10th with M-Cap of USD 2.29 trillion.

### **NSE, IBSA partner to set up 1st Domestic Bullion Spot Exchange under SEBI**

- National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) and India Bullion and Jewellers Association Ltd (IBJA) have joined hands to launch the Domestic Bullion Spot Exchange in line with SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) guidelines. This will be for the first time that a domestic bullion spot exchange is being set up under the aegis of SEBI.
- This exchange is conceptualized taking into consideration the industry requirements and shall integrate transactions of bullion dealers, jewelers, retailers and consumers on one single platform.
- India is the second-largest consumer of gold.

## EPFO sets its interest rates on PF for 2021-22 at the lowest level

- The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has set the interest rate on Provident Fund Deposits for 2021-22 at 8.1%, up from 8.5% in the previous fiscal year 2020-21
- This decision was taken by the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), the apex decision-making body of the EPFO, and will be sent to the Ministry of Finance for consensus. The EPFO provides the rate of interest only after it has been ratified by the government through the Finance Ministry.
- The EPF interest rate stood at 8 per cent in 1977-78, and this 8.1% is the lowest it has been in more than four decades. This interest rate was set by the retirement fund body for its approximately 50 million subscribers for the current fiscal year ending March 31.
- The possible reason behind this decision is the low earnings of EPFO due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It delayed its payments for 2019-20 and paid the interest in two instalments, deriving from two sources of its investments—8.15% from debt investments and 0.35% from the equity portfolio.

## IIFL Securities launches India's 1st primary markets investment platform, OneUp

- On March 11, 2022, the IIFL Securities Limited (Formerly India Infoline Limited) launched India's first primary markets investment platform, 'OneUp' for investing in initial public offerings (IPOs), non-convertible debentures (NCDs) and sovereign gold bonds (SGBs), among others.
- It enables buyers to analyse, transact and handle new investment alternatives, all on one single platform. The benefits of the platforms can be utilized by IIFL Securities and non-IIFL Securities clients with none signup necessities.

## CRISIL Retains India's GDP Growth at 7.8% in FY23

- CRISIL Ratings Limited, a domestic rating agency and a subsidiary of CRISIL Limited has reiterated its december 2021 forecast of India's Gross

Domestic Product (GDP) at 7.8% for FY23 despite the Russia-Ukraine war.

- The war is pushing the oil and commodity prices upwards which affects global growth and also India's growth. The Brent crude has been traded as high as USD 139 per barrel and as low as USD 105 per barrel recently.
- CRISIL also highlighted that the average Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation will be at 5.4% in FY23 if the price of crude oil averages USD 85-90 per barrel.

## LivQuik becomes 1st PPI issuer to achieve RBI's PPI interoperability guidelines

- LivQuik becomes the first Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuer to have achieved full interoperability as mandated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for their PPIs.
- RBI, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 18 read with Section 10(2) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act) mandated all PPI Issuers to facilitate interoperability for full-KYC (Know Your Customers) wallets by March 31, 2022.
- LivQuik has partnered with Chennai (Tamil Nadu) headquartered M2P Fintech to enable UPI on PPI.

## RBI bars Paytm Payments Bank from Onboarding New Customers

- On March 11, 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in exercise of its powers under section 35A of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949 bars Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) from onboarding new customers with immediate effect due to material supervisory concerns.
- PPBL was also directed by the apex bank to appoint an IT audit firm to conduct a comprehensive audit of its IT (Information Technology) system.
- PPBL will be allowed to make new customers subject to specific permission from the RBI after reviewing the IT auditor's report.
- In 2021, PPBL received RBI's approval to function as a scheduled payments bank.



## RBI UPDATES

### RBI established Varnika Ink Manufacturing Facility in Mysuru, Karnataka

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has dedicated the Varnika ink manufacturing facility at Mysuru in Karnataka. The facility is a unit of Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of the RBI.
- As a push towards the “Make in India” strategy, “Varnika” is established with a 1,500 Metric Ton(MT) annual ink manufacturing capacity to improve bank note security and ensure that all banknote printing inks are manufactured indigenously.
- He has also placed the foundation stone for for BRBNMPL’s Learning and Development Centre (LDC) in Mysuru, which would help India’s currency production eco-system strengthen human resource capability and become a global centre of excellence.

### RBI extends timeline for banks to use lockable cassettes in ATMs by a year to March 31, 2023

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had advised banks to consider using lockable cassettes in their ATMs, which shall be swapped at the time of cash replenishment.
- Banks were directed to implement the lockable cassette swap in a phased manner, such that at least one-third ATMs operated by them is covered every year, while all ATMs achieve cassette swap by March 31, 2021.
- However, this deadline was later extended to March 31, 2022.
- Further, upon receiving representations from various banks for facing difficulties in meeting the timeline, RBI has further extended the timeline for implementation of cassette swap in all ATMs by a year till March 31, 2023.

### RBI set WMA Limit for Govt. of India for the first half of the FY2022-23 at Rs 1,50,000 crore

- The Reserve Bank of India has set the limit for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for Central Government for the first half of the financial year 2022-23 (April 2022 to September 2022) at Rs. 1,50,000 crore.
- The Reserve Bank may trigger fresh floatation of market loans when the Government of India utilises 75 per cent of the WMA limit.
- The interest rate on WMA/Overdraft will be:
- WMA: Repo Rate**
- Overdraft: Two percent above the Repo Rate**

### RBI releases framework for geotagging payment system touchpoints

- On March 25, 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a framework for geo-tagging of payment system touch points/acceptance infrastructure under Section 10 (2) read with Section 18 of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (Act 51 of 2007).
  - This system will be deployed by banks / non-bank Payment System Operators (PSOs) to ensure proper monitoring of the availability of payment acceptance infrastructure.
  - The framework was issued on the lines of the Monetary Policy Statement 2020-21 of October 08, 2021.
- Key Features of Framework:
- All banks / Non-bank PSOs will maintain a registry with accurate location of all payment touch points across the country, including Merchant-related information and Payment acceptance infrastructure details.
  - Geo-tagging information in respect to PoS terminals and Paper-based/Soft QR (Quick

Response) Codes should be submitted to the Reserve Bank.

- All banks / Non-bank PSOs should report information on payment touch points to the RBI through its' Centralised Information Management System (CIMS) in .txt / CSV file format.

### **RBIH launched in Bengaluru; Kris Gopalakrishnan is 1st Chairman of RBIH**

- On March 24, 2022, the Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Shaktikanta Das, inaugurated the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) in Bengaluru, Karnataka. It has been set up as a Section 8 company under Companies Act, 2013, with an initial capital contribution of Rs 100 crore; and wholly owned subsidiary of the RBI.
- Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan, co-founder and former co-Chairman, Infosys, was earlier appointed as RBIH 1st Chairman.
- It will encourage financial innovation through an institutional set-up. The hub aims to promote innovation across the financial sector by leveraging technology
- The RBIH will be guided and managed by a Governing Council (GC) led by a Chairman. There will be 9 other eminent persons from industry and academia as its members. [Click Here to Read](#)
- It promotes access to financial services and products for the low-income population in the country.

### **RBI unveils framework for microfinance lenders**

- On March 14, 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued 'RBI (Regulatory Framework for Microfinance Loans) Directions, 2022' which will be effective from April 01, 2022. These directions are issued by the apex bank by exercising its powers conferred by Section 21, Section 35A and Section 56 of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949; Chapter IIIB of the RBI Act, 1934; and Sections 30A and Section 32 of the National Housing Bank (NHB) Act, 1987.

- Under the directions all collateral-free loans, irrespective of end use and mode of application/ processing/ disbursal (either through physical or digital channels), provided to households having annual income up to Rs 3 lakh is to be considered micro finance loans.

### **RBI issues guidelines for extended interest equalisation scheme for export credit**

- On March 8, 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued modified norms on 'Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES) on Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit-Extension' after the extension of the scheme till March 31, 2024 by the Central Government w.e.f. October 1, 2021.
- The extended scheme will not be applicable to the ones availing benefit under any Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme of the Central Government.
- The telecom instrument sector having six HS (Harmonised System) lines will not be included, except for MSME (Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) manufacturer exporters.
- Revised interest equalisation rates under the scheme will now be 3% for MSME manufacturer exporters exporting under any HS lines and 2% for manufacturer exporters and merchant exporters exporting under 410 HS lines (after excluding 6 HS lines of the telecom sector).
- To ensure transparency, banks while issuing approval to the exporter will furnish the prevailing interest rate.
- From October 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022, banks will identify the eligible exporters as per the scheme, credit their accounts with the eligible amount of interest equalisation and submit a sector-wise consolidated reimbursement claim to the RBI by April 30, 2022.
- With effect from April 1, 2022, banks will reduce the interest rate charged to the eligible exporters as per the guidelines and submit the claims in original within 15 days from the end of the respective month, with the bank's seal, and signed by the authorised person, in the prescribed format.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### WB Governor Inaugurates Petascale Supercomputer PARAM Shakti

- WB Governor Inaugurates Petascale Supercomputer PARAM Shakti Jagdeep Dhankhar, Governor of West Bengal(WB), inaugurated the Petascale Supercomputer PARAM Shakti under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) – a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) at Indian Institute of Technology(IIT) Kharagpur in West Bengal.
- Petascale computing refers to computing systems capable of calculating at least  $10^{15}$  floating-point operations per second (1 petaFLOPS).

### India successfully tests fired the surface to surface BrahMos Supersonic Cruise missile

- India successfully tests fired a surface-to-surface 'BrahMos' supersonic cruise missile from Andaman and Nicobar Island. It is an extended range missile that has a 290 km missile range and a top speed of Mach 2.8, nearly three times the speed of sound.
- It is jointly developed by Russia's Federal State Unitary Enterprise NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

### DRDO successfully test fires two medium range surface to air missile

- DRDO successfully test fired two Indian Army versions of Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (MRSAMs) from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, off Odisha coast. Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) tests were carried out as part of live firing trials against high-speed aerial targets which were successfully intercepted and destroyed at long range.

### HAL introduces a 19-seater civil aircraft to be deployed under UDAN Scheme

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company, introduced a 19-seater aircraft 'Hindustan 228' in a first of its kind attempt to develop small civil transport aircraft under the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) Scheme.
- The design of Hindustan 228 is based on the Germany based Dornier GmbH Aircraft. In 1983, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) acquired a production licence for the Dornier 228 and manufactured the aircraft for the Asian market.

### NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory confirms 5,000 exoplanets beyond our solar system

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) has confirmed the existence of 5,000 plus exoplanets beyond our solar system.
- It includes 30% Gas giant (many times larger than Jupiter or Saturn, and even hotter than some stars), 31% Super earth (Large rocky sized earth), 35% Neptune like (similar in size of Neptune or Uranus), 4% terrestrial (small rocky planet similar to earth).

### North Korea's 'monster missile': ICBM Hwasong – 17

- North Korea has test fired its biggest Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), Hwasong-17 at the command of its Supreme leader, Kim Jong-un.
- The missile flew 1,090 km (681 miles) at a maximum altitude of 6,248.5 km (3,905 miles) and hit a target in the Sea of Japan after travelling 67.5 minutes in air.
- Its predecessor, the Hwasong-15, tested in November 2017 reached an altitude of about 4,475 km and covered 950 km over 53 minutes.

## ISRO successfully tested solid fuel-based booster stage of SSLV

- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully completed the ground test of the solid fuel-based booster stage (SS1) of its new Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota at Andhra Pradesh. It completes the ground testing of all three stages of the launch vehicle. The vehicle is now ready for its first development flight, which is scheduled for May 2022.
- Other stages of SSLV like SS2 & SS3 have successfully undergone necessary ground tests and are ready for integration. At present, the launch of small satellites has been dependent on 'piggy-bank' rides with big satellite launches on the PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) of ISRO, which has completed around 50 successful launches.

## ISRO organized Young Scientist Programme "YUVIKA" for students

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is organizing a special programme for school children called "YUva Vigyani KARYakram" (YUVIKA) or "Young Scientist Programme". Aimed at creating awareness about emerging trends in science and technology, this programme is expected to encourage more students to pursue research and a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
- The ISRO Young Scientist Programme is a residential programme and will span over two weeks during the summer vacations from May 16, 2022, to May 28, 2022.
- This program includes invited talks, experience sharing by eminent scientists, experimental demonstrations, facility and lab visits, exclusive sessions for discussions with experts, practical and feedback sessions.
- A total of 150 class 9 students across the country will be selected for the programme.
- The programme is planned at five centres of ISRO i.e. Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, U.R. Rao Satellite Centre, Space Application Centre, National

Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad and North-East Space Application Centre.

- Students will be taken to visit Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, towards the end of the project.

## India's first-of-its kind Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park launched in Bengaluru

- India's first Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) for creating a better world through an inclusive Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Robotics revolution has been inaugurated at Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, Karnataka. It was launched by the Government of Karnataka's Minister for Information, Biotechnology, and Science and Technology, Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan.
- It is a joint initiative of IISc Bengaluru and AIFoundry, Bengaluru in a public-private collaborative model to promote technology innovations in the field of AI & Robotics

## India – Singapore MoU on cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation

- During the inaugural event of India – Singapore Technology Summit 2022, a MoU on cooperation in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovation was signed between the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India and Ministry of Trade & Industry, Government of Singapore.
- This Memorandum will remain in effect for a period of 5 years and will be automatically extended for a successive period of 5 years.
- This MoU will also encourage, develop and facilitate cooperation between India and Singapore in other fields like Agriculture, Food Science & Technology, Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering, Green Economy, Energy, Water, Climate & Natural Resources, Data Science, Emerging Technologies, Advanced Materials, And Health & Biotechnology



## Defence Minister inaugurates DRDO's Flight Control System Integration complex in Bengaluru

- The Union Defence minister, Rajnath Singh inaugurated a new Flight Control System (FCS) integration complex at the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru, Karnataka. The seven storey FCS Integration building was constructed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) with the help of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) in an area of 1.3 lakh square feet with the record of 45 days in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- It will be used as the research and development (R&D) activities to develop the avionics for fighter aircraft and FCS for the fifth generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).

## NASA Rolls Out Integrated SLS Rocket & Orion spacecraft of Artemis-1 Moon Mission for the 1st Time

- On 17th March 2022, for the first time, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) rolled out the integrated Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and Orion spacecraft (crew capsule) of Artemis 1, the first mission of NASA's Artemis Program at NASA's Kennedy Space Center (KSC), Florida, United States of America (USA).
- The SLS rocket and Orion capsule were hauled out from the KSC Vehicle Assembly Building to Pad 39B on NASA's giant crawler transporter 2 (CT-2).

## Axiom Mission 1

- : The first all-private astronaut mission to the International Space Station is scheduled for launch from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida on April 6, 2022. The historic mission is a joint collaboration between Axiom Space, SpaceX and NASA.
- The four-member Ax-1 crew will become the first all-private astronaut team ever flown to the space station. The crew will travel to the space station on the SpaceX dragon endeavour spacecraft. SpaceX's

Falcon 9 rocket will be used for the launch of the spacecraft.

- The Axiom Mission 1 will spend 8 days on the International Space Station, conducting scientific research, outreach and commercial activities. The total duration of the mission will be 10 days.
- The Axiom Mission 1 will carry a former NASA astronaut and three US crew members.
- The mission will be commanded by retired NASA astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegria, who will be making his 5th visit to space and third visit to the space station.
- The other crew members include mission pilot Larry Connor and Mission Specialists Eytan Stibbe and Mark Pathy.
- NASA has concluded the flight readiness review for the Ax-1 mission and the teams are proceeding toward the launch of the first private astronaut mission to the ISS.
- The purpose of the review was to assess the readiness of the ISS to execute the AX-1 mission including arrival, docking and in-orbit operations and undocking.
- The Axiom Mission 1 crew will be sharing workspace with seven regular crew members of the ISS, including three US astronauts, three Russian astronauts and one German astronaut.

## ESA Introduced a New One-of-a-Kind Mission: ESA Vigil, Earth's Solar Defender

- On 10th February 2022, The European Space Agency (ESA) introduced its new one-of-a-kind mission named "Vigil", which is meant to protect the Earth from its nearest star (sun). 'Vigil' is derived from the Latin word 'vigilia' meaning wakefulness, while 'vigilis exceptus' means sentry, or guard.
- The mission was previously named "Lagrange" after the location the mission spacecraft will be sent but later the name has been changed to 'Vigil'.
- The Vigil spacecraft will be launched to the fifth Lagrange (L5) point which is 150 million kilometres from both Earth and the sun.

## DEFENCE

### Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) held at Goa

- The First edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) was held in the Arabian sea and Goa port from 26 March to 30 March 2022. The exercise aimed to provide interoperability in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations among member navies.
- IMEX-22 consists of two phases, Harbour Phase and Sea Phase
- Harbour phase – the harbour Phase was held at Mormugao port in Goa from 26 to 27 March 22.
- Sea Phase – the sea phase was held in the Arabian Sea from 28 to 30 March 22.
- Navies of Bangladesh, France, India and Iran participated in IMEX-22 with warships, Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft, Amphibious Assault Ship, Frigates, Fleet Support Ship, Destroyer and helicopters.
- Apart from that, 22 Observers from 15 IONS member navies, namely Australia, Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UAE and UK also participated in the exercise.
- IONS Members and Observers – 25 Member Nations and 8 Observers (Qatar was included as 25th nation in July 2021).

### Indian Navy Commissions Second P-8I squadron INAS 316 'Condors' at INS Hansa, Goa

- Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Radhakrishnan Hari Kumar commissioned a second P-8I aircraft squadron of four aircraft named 'Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 316' at the INS (Indian Naval Ship) Hansa Naval air base in Goa. INAS 316 has been christened 'The Condors', one of the world's

largest flying birds with a large wingspan. It will operate four P-8I aircraft procured as part of the optional clause in 2016 in a deal worth over USD1 bn.

- The new air squadron will be commanded by Cdr Amit Mohapatra, an accomplished Boeing P-8I pilot.
- United States (US)-based aerospace company Boeing has developed 10-year Communication, Navigation and Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) modernisation roadmap' for the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to modernise its air traffic management

### Amit Shah attended CRPF's 83rd Raising Day Parade in Jammu

- Amit Shah, Union Minister for Home Affairs attended the 83rd Raising Day parade of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) held at Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) as Chief Guest.
- The 83rd CRPF Raising Day was observed on 27th July 2021. This is the first time that CRPF Raising Day celebrations is conducted outside Delhi.

### Ministry of Defence Signs a Rs. 887 Crore Contract with L & T for MPVs

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with Larsen and Toubro (L & T) Limited to purchase two Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs) for the Indian Navy at a total cost of Rs.887 Crore under the "Buy-Indian" Category.
- The MPVs will be the first of their kind and will be built at L & T shipyard in Kattupally (Chennai), with deliveries starting in May 2025.

### Chief of the Army Staff presents 'President's Colours' to two battalions of Dogra regiment

- General Manoj Mukund Naravane, Chief of the Army staff presented the prestigious 'President's Colours' also known as 'Nishaan' to two battalions

of the Dogra Regiments namely 20 DOGRA and 21 DOGRA during a colour presentation parade held at the Dogra Regiment Centre, Faizabad Uttar Pradesh.

- General Nirmal Chander Vij (retd) former Chief of the Army Staff & Honorary Colonel of The Dogra Regiment was also attended the Colour Presentation Parade.

## 20th India-France Bilateral Naval Exercise 'VARUNA -2022

- The 20th edition of the Bilateral Naval Exercise between the Indian Navy and French Navy named 'VARUNA' is being conducted in the Arabian Sea from March 30 to April 03, 2022. The Bilateral Naval Exercises between the two Navies is being held since 1993 and the exercise was christened as 'VARUNA' in 2001. Various ships, submarines, maritime patrol aircraft, fighter aircraft and helicopters of the two navies will be participating in the VARUNA-2022 exercise.

## President Kovind presents President's Colour to INS Valsura

- President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has presented the prestigious President's Colour to Indian Naval Ship (INS) Valsura at Jamnagar in Gujarat. The 'Nishan Adhikari' Lt Arun Singh Sambyal received the President's Colour on behalf of the unit, for its 80 years of exceptional service. INS Valsura is a premier training facility of the Indian Navy established on December 05, 1942, in Jamnagar of Gujarat, to provide training in the domain of Torpedo handling (Underwater missile) and operations.
- The President's Colour is bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the Nation, both in peace and in war. The Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed Force, to get President Colour by then President Dr Rajendra Prasad on 27 May 1951.

## US, Philippines kick off 'Balikatan 2022' largest-ever military drills

- The United States military and the military of the Philippines kicked off the military drill Balikatan

2022. The Philippine-led annual exercise will take place across Luzon in the Philippines region near Taiwan, from March 28 to April 8, 2022. Around 8,900 Filipino and American troops are participating in the military drill, making it the largest Balikatan military exercise ever.

- According to the military, the drills will focus on "maritime security, amphibious operations, live-fire training, urban operations, aviation operations, counterterrorism, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief". The Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) gives US troops a legal basis to be in the Southeast Asian country for bilateral exercises and governs the conduct of American armed force personnel.

## Western Naval Command conducts security exercise 'Prasthan' in Mumbai Offshore

- The Western Naval Command of the Indian Navy organised an offshore security exercise, 'Prasthan' in the Offshore Development Area (ODA) off Mumbai. This exercise is conducted after every six months, to ensure offshore security. Apart from the Naval forces, the exercise saw participation from the Indian Air Force, Coast Guard, ONGC, Mumbai Port Trust, Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust, Customs, state fisheries department, Mercantile Marine Department and the Marine Police.
- The day-long exercise resulted in improving standard operating procedures (SOPs) and response-actions to a number of contingencies in the Offshore Defence Area off Mumbai.

## Malaysia to host 4 nations for Bersama Shield 2022 military exercise

- Malaysia will host armed forces from 4 nations namely, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom in the annual Bersama Shield 2022 training exercise. The exercise, referred to as BS22, is conducted within the framework of the Five Power Defense Arrangements (FPDA) – a series of bilateral and multilateral defence agreements established in 1971. Bersama means together in Malay.

- The exercise will involve sea and air drills, mostly in international waters but also in part of Malaysia's exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea. The exercise, referred to as BS22, is conducted within the framework of the Five Power Defense Arrangements (FPDA). The FPDA is the oldest defense arrangement in the region and includes counter-piracy operations as well as disaster relief and humanitarian assistance.

### **Indian Army with Maharashtra Police conducted "Suraksha Kavach 2" Exercise**

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

### **5th in the series of Offshore Patrol Vessels "ICGS Saksham" commissioned**

- Defence Secretary of India, Dr Ajay Kumar has commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Saksham. The fifth in the series of 105-metre Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) class, at Goa. The first four of the five ICGS which have already been commissioned in 2020 are ICGS Sachet (1st); ICGS Sujeet (2nd); ICGS Sarthak (3rd); and ICGS Sajag (4th) in 2021.
- The Indigenous Offshore Patrol Vessel Project was launched by the Prime Minister of India in 2016 under which five Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) were planned to be launched.

#### About the Ship

- Goa Shipyard Limited designed and built the 105-meter OPV, which is equipped with advanced

technology, navigation and communication systems, sensors, and machinery.

- The ship will be based in Kochi once it joins the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) force. Ship will be used extensively for surveillance in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and other missions mandated by the Coast Guard charter.

### **EX-DUSTLIK between Indian and Uzbekistan armies held at Yangiariq, Uzbekistan**

- The 3rd edition of the joint training exercise named EX-DUSTLIK between the Indian army and Uzbekistan army held at Yangiariq, Uzbekistan from 22 to 31 March 2022. The last edition of DUSTLIK was conducted in Ranikhet (Uttarakhand) in March 2021. The Indian contingent will be represented by the Grenadiers Regiment and will join the Uzbekistan Army contingent represented by troops of the North-Western Military District.

### **9th India-Seychelles Joint Military Exercise 'LAMITIYE-2022'**

- The 9th edition of the Joint Military Exercise 'LAMITIYE-2022' between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) was held from March 22 to 31, 2022 at Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA), Seychelles. The Indian Army contingent were represented by the 2/3 GORKHA RIFLES group (PIRKANTHI Battalion).

### **Indian Air Force to conduct Exercise Vayu Shakti at Pokharan range, Rajasthan**

- Indian Air Force (IAF) will conduct the Exercise Vayu Shakti that will take place at Pokharan range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on March 7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the Chief Guest of this event. A total of 148 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in this exercise. Rafale aircraft will participate for the first time in this exercise. Exercise Vayu Shakti is organised by Indian Air Force once in every three years. The last Vayu Shakti Exercise took place in 2019.



## AWARDS AND HONOURS

### Prof Wilfried Brutsaert bags Stockholm Water Prize 2022

- On the occasion of World Water Day 2022 (22nd March), Professor Emeritus Wilfried Brutsaert was named Stockholm Water Prize Laureate 2022 for his work to quantify environmental evaporation. He is a Professor in Engineering Emeritus at Cornell University, United States of America.
- The Stockholm Water Prize instituted in 1991 is often described as the Nobel Prize, which is awarded to people and organizations for extraordinary water-related achievements. It is the world's most prestigious water award.



### Cochin International Airport bagged 'Covid champion' award at Wings India 2022

- The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has won the 'Covid champion' award at Wings India 2022. The Covid champion award was received by CIAL Managing Director S Suhas IAS from Civil Aviation Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia. CIAL has been awarded for the successful implementation of a meticulous project named 'Mission Safeguarding' during the pandemic time to ensure safe travel at Kochi Airport.

#### Other awardees

- The Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru won two the 'Best Airport' under the General Category and the 'Aviation Innovation' Award at the event.
- Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) won the 'Aviation Sustainability & Environment' award by Wings India Awards 2022 for its efficient green practices. The accolade comes as a recognition of CSMIA's commitment and relentless efforts towards implementing sustainable initiatives as well as

inching closer to being one of the country's most eco-friendly airports.

#### About the Wings India

- Wings India is Asia's largest event on civil aviation, including Commercial, General and Business Aviation. The programme has been organised jointly by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and FICCI in collaboration with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) at the Begumpet airport in Hyderabad from March 24 to 27, 2022.

### Mario Marcel wins the Governor of the year award 2022

- Mario Marcel, the Governor of the Central Bank of Chile, has won the Governor of the year award at the Central Banking Awards 2022. Banco Central de Chile is the name of the central bank of Chile.



- When Mario Marcel was named governor of the Central Bank of Chile (BCCh) in October 2016, he took over the leadership of an institution that had secured a reputation as one of the most independent and well-run central banks in Latin America. Marcel took steps to further improve the institution. He changed its internal management structure, reducing the number of monetary policy meetings from 12 to eight. The BCCh also improved the quality of its communications in both English and Spanish. But the BCCh's reputation, as well as Marcel's own, would be put to a severe test from 2019.

### Devendra Jhajharia became 1st para-athlete to receive Padma Bhushan

- Devendra Jhajharia became the first para-athlete to receive the Padma Bhushan award. He has won many Paralympic medals, including gold at the 2004 Paralympics in Athens and 2016 Rio Games, and a silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

### The 64th annual Grammy Awards

- The 64th annual Grammy Awards are being held for the first time at the MGM Grand Garden Arena with Trevor Noah as host. The 64th GRAMMY Awards recognizes recordings (including musical artists, compositions and albums) released between September 01, 2020 to September 30, 2021. Jon Batiste received the most nominations with eleven and Batiste also received the most awards with five.
- The Grammy Award is an award presented by the Recording Academy to recognize achievements in the music industry. The first Grammy Awards ceremony was held on May 4, 1959, to honour and respect the musical accomplishments of performers for the year 1958. The trophy represents a gilded gramophone.

#### Full list of winners

S.No	Category	Winners
1.	Album Of The Year	'We Are' by Jon Batiste
2.	Record Of The Year	'Leave the door open' by Bruno Mars and Anderson Paak
3.	Best New Artist	Olivia Rodrigo
4.	Best Rap Album	"Call Me If You Get Lost," Tyler, the Creator
5.	Best R&B Album Winner	"Heaux Tales," Jazmine Sullivan.
6.	Best Rap Song	"Jail," Kanye West featuring Jay-Z
7.	Best Country Album	"Starting Over," Chris Stapleton
8.	Song Of The Year	"Leave the Door Open," Silk Sonic (Brandon Anderson, Christopher Brody Brown, Dernst Emile II and Bruno Mars)
9.	Best Rock Album	"Medicine at Midnight," Foo Fighters
10.	Best Rock Song	"Waiting On a War," Foo Fighters
11.	Best Dance/Electronic Album	"Subconsciously," Black Coffee
12.	Producer of the Year, non-classical:	Jack Antonoff
13.	Best Music Video	"Freedom," Jon Batiste
14.	Best Country Song	"Cold," Chris Stapleton
15.	Best Folk Album	"They're Calling Me Home," Rhiannon Giddens with Francesco Turrisi
16.	Best Comedy Album	"Sincerely Louis CK," Louis C.K.
17.	Best rap performance:	"Family Ties," Baby Keem featuring Kendrick Lamar
18.	Best rock performance:	"Making a Fire," Foo Fighters

19.	Best music film:	"Summer of Soul"
20.	Best musical theater album:	"The Unofficial Bridgerton Musical"
21.	Best global music:	"Mohabbat," Arooj Aftab
22.	Best global music album:	"Mother Nature," Angélique Kidjo
23.	Best historical album: "Joni Mitchell Archives, Vol. 1:	The Early Years (1963-1967)
24.	Best Pop Duo / Group Performance:	Doja Cat and SZA for "Kiss Me More"
25.	Best American roots performance:	"Cry," Jon Batiste

### Francis Kéré becomes first African to win Pritzker Prize 2022

- Architect, educator and social activist Francis Kéré has been announced as the 2022 laureate of the Pritzker architecture prize 2022, the award often referred to as architecture's highest honour. He was born in the small village of Gando in Burkina Faso, Kéré is the first black architect to win the coveted award.



- Established by the Hyatt Foundation in 1979, the Pritzker architecture prize is bestowed on architects whose built work demonstrates a combination of talent, vision, and commitment. In 2021, the award went to French architects Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal while in 2020 saw Shelley McNamara and Yvonne Farrell of Grafton architects were honoured.

### Narayan Pradhan named for 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. He has provided his expertise in crystal modulations to help design new shapes of these tiny lighting materials.



- Pradhan's research work focused on understanding the chemistry and physics of light-emitting semiconductor nanocrystals. His research group has significantly contributed to the surface construction of the newly emerged light-emitting halide perovskite nanocrystals, which are expected to be the next-generation lighting materials for photovoltaics and making LEDs. He has provided his expertise in crystal modulations to help design new shapes of these tiny lighting materials.

### Axis Bank won 'Asian Bank of the Year' at IFR Asia Awards 2021

- India's third-largest private sector bank, Axis Bank has been awarded IFR Asia's Asian Bank of the Year, for its breadth of coverage and depth of expertise in the Asian investment banking space. The award acknowledges the bank's outstanding performance in equity and debt issuance, across all major products and segments. Axis Bank was the only local house to serve as a global coordinator for the record Rs. 183 Bn Paytm IPO, and was also the global coordinator for Macrotech Developers' Rs. 25 Bn IPO.
- This year, the bank has also won the 'Best DCM House in India' Award at the Finance Asia's Country Awards.
- Globally Morgan Stanley has been honoured with the Bank of the year award at the IFR Asia Award 2021.



## 75th BAFTA Award 2022



- The 75th edition of the British Academy Film Awards, also known as the BAFTA Award, was held at the Royal Albert Hall in London. The awards, presented by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA), honours the best national and foreign films of 2021. The ceremony was hosted by actress and comedian Rebel Wilson. The film that received maximum nominations was Dune, with 11 nominations. The film that received the maximum number of awards was Dune as well with 5 awards.
- British Academy Television Awards are presented annually to recognize the outstanding work in British Television. It is being given annually since 1955. It is mainly given to British programs.

### Full list of winners

Category	Winners
Best Film	The Power of the Dog
Best Director	Jane Campion, The Power of the Dog
Best Actress in Leading Role	Joanna Scanlan, After Love
Best Actor in Leading Role	Will Smith, King Richard
Best Supporting Actress	Ariana DeBose, West Side Story
Best Supporting Actor	Troy Kotsur, CODA
EE Rising Star Award	Lashana Lynch
Outstanding British Film	Belfast

Outstanding Debut By A British Writer, Director, Or Producer	The Harder They Fall
Best Film Not In The English Language	Drive My Car
Best Documentary	Summer of Soul (Or, When The Revolution Could Not Be Televised)
Best Animated Film	Encanto
Best Short Animation	Do Not Feed the Pigeons, Vladimir Krasilnikov, Jordi Morera and Antonin Niclass
Best Short Film	The Black Cop, Cherish Oleka
Original Screenplay	Licorice Pizza, Paul Thomas Anderson
Adapted Screenplay	CODA, Sian Heder
Original Score	Dune, Hans Zimmer
Casting	West Side Story, Cindy Tolan

## J&K Bank bagged National Award for SHG Bank Linkage 2022

- Union Minister of Rural Development, Giriraj Singh honoured the Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank) with the “National Award for Outstanding Performance for FY 2020-21” in recognition of its best performance in Self-Help Group Bank Linkage. Kirti Sharma, Zonal Head, Delhi, J & K Bank, accepted the award on the bank’s behalf from Union Minister Giriraj Singh.
- The award was presented during the event organized as a part of International Women’s Day (8th March 2022) at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, Delhi. In line with the Bank’s commitment to extend banking facilities and financial services into the under-banked areas of Jammu and Kashmir, J&K Bank has commissioned 4 Business Units (BUs) in the region.





# SPORTS

## Max Verstappen Wins Saudi Arabian Grand Prix 2022

- The 2021 Formula 1 World Championship winner Max Emilian Verstappen wins the first race in the 2022 season of Formula 1 in Saudi Arabian Grand Prix 2022 which took place in Jeddah Corniche Circuit, Saudi Arabia. Charles Leclerc represents the Ferrari racing team, finishing second with 15 points.



- The Belgian-Dutch racing driver Verstappen represents Red Bull Racing Honda.

## Mirabai Chanu bagged 'BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year' award 2021

- Olympic silver medallist weightlifter, Mirabai Chanu won the 3rd edition of the BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year award 2021. Chanu created history last year when she became the first Indian weightlifter to clinch a silver medal at the Summer Olympics. Chanu won the gold medal in the 48kg division at the 2017 World Championships in Anaheim and followed up with Commonwealth Games gold in 2018.



Other awardees:

- The BBC Emerging Player award was presented to 18-year-old cricketer Shafali Verma, who has recently been playing at the Women's World Cup in New Zealand. In 2021, Verma became the youngest Indian cricketer, male or female, to play in all three formats for the national team.
- The first Indian woman to have won a medal at the Olympics in 2000, former weightlifter Karnam Malleswari was presented the 'BBC Lifetime Achievement' award. Olympians and the

Paralympians from the Tokyo Games were also honoured in this edition of BBC ISWOTY.

## Neeraj Chopra wins Sportsman of the Year award: Sportstar Aces 2022

- Tokyo Olympic gold medallist, Neeraj Chopra claimed the coveted 'Sportstar of the Year (Male)' award at the 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards. Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, who claimed the silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics, received the 'Sportstar of the Year (Female)' award. The Aces Awards celebrate the spirit of excellence in sport and hope to inspire our athletes and sportspersons to continue to strive to break new records and reach new pinnacles of glory.



### Other awardee's in the list

- Lovlina Borgohain (Sportswoman of the Year, Individual Sports),
- Avani Lekhara (Parathlete of the Year, Female),
- Pramod Bhagat (Special Recognition award),
- Savita (Sportswoman of the Year, Team Sports), and Rupinder Pal Singh (Sportsman of the Year, Team Sports).
- Arif Khan wins Special Recognition Award at Sportstar Aces 2022.
- Former Indian hockey team captain Ajit Pal Singh was conferred the 'Lifetime Achievement award'. Ajit was part of two Olympic bronze-winning teams, including one at the 1972 Munich Games.

## Suresh Raina felicitated with 'Sports Icon' award by Maldives government

- Former India cricketer Suresh Raina has been awarded the prestigious 'Sports Icon' award at the Maldives Sports Awards 2022. The Maldives

government felicitated Raina for his various achievements throughout his career. Raina was nominated alongside 16 international sportspersons, including former Real Madrid player Roberto Carlos, Jamaican Sprinter Asafa Powell, former Sri Lankan captain and cricketer Sanath Jayasuriya and Dutch football legend Edgar Davids among others.



## Miami Open Tennis Tournament 2022

- The 2022 Miami Open tennis tournament was the 37th edition of the men's and women's event, held from March 22 to April 3, 2022, in Miami Gardens, Florida. Miami Open is classified as an ATP Masters 1000 event on the 2022 ATP Tour and a WTA 1000 event on the 2022 WTA Tour.



### List of winners

Award	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Single	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)	Casper Ruud (Norway)
Women's Single	Iga Świątek (Poland)	Naomi Osaka (Japan)
Men's Double	Hubert Hurkacz / John Isner	Wesley Koolhof / Neal Skupski
Women's Double	Laura Siegemund / Vera Zvonareva	Veronika Kudermetova / Elise Mertens

## Australia wins ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022

- Australia beat England by 71 runs in the finals to claim their seventh Women's World Cup on April 03, 2022, at Hagley Oval in Christchurch, New Zealand. Australia posted a record of 356 on the board. In reply, Nat Sciver waged a lone battle and

remained unbeaten on 148 but it was not enough as England was bowled out for 285 in 43.4 overs.



- Alyssa Healy of Australia scored 170 runs in the match, the highest individual score made by any cricketer, male or female, in the World Cup Final. She was also the leading run-scorer in the tournament with 509 runs.
- The Player of the Tournament went to Alyssa Healy. Sophie Ecclestone of England was the leading wicket-taker in the tournament, with 21 dismissals. The 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup was the 12th edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup. The tournament was held in New Zealand from 4 March to 3 April 2022.

### Key points of Women's World Cup

- Most Successful team Australian (7th)
- Player of the Match (Finals) 2022: Alyssa Healy
- Player of the tournament 2022: Alyssa Healy
- Most runs (All time): Debbie Hockley (1,505), New Zealand
- Leading wicket-taker in the tournament: Sophie Ecclestone (England, 21 dismissals)
- Most wickets (All time): Jhulan Goswami (45), India

## Meghalaya would be hosting 83rd National Table Tennis Championship 2022

- Meghalaya is geared up to host the 83rd National Table Tennis Championship 2022, which will take place at the SAI Indoor Training Centre, NEHU in Shillong from April 18 to 25. This is the second time the Northeast has hosted the world's largest table tennis tournament.

## Canada reaches Football World Cup for first time since 1986

- Canada has qualified for the Qatar 2022 football World Cup for the first time in 36 years, after thoroughly beating Jamaica 4-0 in Toronto. The North American nation have booked their place at the finals for the first time since Mexico in 1986. Canada is top of the CONCACAF qualifying group and has now secured its place at a World Cup finals tournament for the first time since 1986.
- Canada becomes the 20th team to qualify for the 2022 FIFA World Cup which will feature 32 nations vying for the ultimate prize in Qatar from November 21 to December 18. The remaining 12 teams will be decided in the coming days before the draw on April 1 to determine the eight groups.



## SAFF U-18 Women's Championship title 2022 won by Indian women's team

- India has been declared the winner of the 3rd edition of the SAFF U-18 Women's Football Championship. The 2022 edition of the international football competition for women's under-18 national teams was held in Jharkhand at JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur. The valuable player of the tournament and the highest goal scorer was Lynda Kom who scored five goals in total.
- 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.



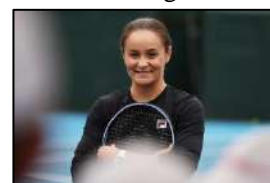
## Swiss Open Badminton title 2022: PV Sindhu wins women's singles title

- India's P.V. Sindhu has defeated Busanan Ongbamrungphan of Thailand to win the women's singles title at the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament. Playing her second successive final in the tournament, Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist, took 49 minutes to get the better of the fourth-seeded Busanan 21-16, 21-8 at the St. Jakobshalle.
- In the men's singles title of the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament, Indian badminton player HS Prannoy lost to Jonatan Christie (Indonesia). However, Prannoy suffered a 12-21, 18-21 defeat against Asian Games gold medallist and fourth seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia in a 48-minute summit clash to finish runner-up.



## World tennis No.1 Ashleigh Barty announces retirement

- Australian female tennis player Ashleigh Barty has announced retirement from tennis at the age of 25 years. She has won three Grand Slam singles titles — the French Open in 2019, Wimbledon in 2021 and the Australian Open in 2022. Apart from playing tennis, she has also played semi-professional cricket during her break from tennis between 2014-2016.
- Barty is retiring after winning three major singles titles on three different surfaces – the 2019 French Open, the 2021 Wimbledon and, back in January, the Australian Open.
- In the video interview with her former doubles partner Casey Dellacqua, Barty explained that the decision to retire came after achieving her "true dream" of winning the Wimbledon Championships in July 2021 and taking the top prize at the Australian Open in January.





## BNP Paribas Open Tournament 2022

- The 2022 BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, also known as the 2022 Indian Wells Masters, was held from March 07 to 20, 2022 at Indian Wells, California, US. The BNP Paribas Open is the largest two-week combined event outside of the four Grand Slams and the most-attended WTA 1000 and ATP World Tour Masters 1000 tennis tournament in the world.

### List of winners

Award	Winner
Men's Single	Taylor Fritz (United States)
Women's Single	Iga Świątek (Poland)
Men's Double	John Isner / Jack Sock
Women's Double	Xu Yifan / Yang Zhaoxuan

## Pankaj Advani Won Asian Billiards title for 8th time

- Indian cueist Pankaj Advani has defeated Dhruv Sitwala to win his eighth title at the 19th Asian 100 UP Billiards Championship 2022. It was held in Doha, Qatar. Overall this is Advani's 24th international title and 8th Asian crown. Earlier, Advani had held off the stiff challenge of Pauk Sa of Myanmar to secure a spot in the final. He managed a 5-4 win after his opponent fought back strongly to level the match at four frames each.



## FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022 will be held in Chennai

- India has been picked as the host nation for the FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022. The 44th edition of the Olympiad is scheduled to be held in Chennai, from 26th July 2022 to 8th August 2022. This is the first time that India will host the FIDE Chess Olympiad since its inception in 1927. The event was originally scheduled to be held in Russia, but

FIDE pulled out from there following the Ukraine invasion.

## Shreyas Iyer and Amelia Kerr named ICC Players of the Month for February 2022

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced India's star all-format batter Shreyas Iyer and White Ferns all-rounder Amelia Kerr were voted ICC Players of the Month for February 2022.



Fans can continue to vote every month for their favourite male and female cricketers across all formats of international cricket as part of the ICC Player of the Month initiative.

## In Ahmedabad, PM inaugurates the 11th Khel Mahakumbh

- The 11th edition of the Khel Mahakumbh was started on Saturday at Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. PM Modi claimed that he appointed Khel Mahakumbh as Gujarat's Chief Minister in 2010. Khel Mahakumbh, which began in Gujarat in 2010 with 16 sports and 13 lakh participants, now includes 36 general sports and 26 para-sports. The 11th Khel Mahakumbh has received over 45 lakh registrations.

## Famous Golfer Tiger Woods inducted into World Golf Hall of Fame

- Famous Golfer, Tiger Woods was formally inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame. The 46-year-old Woods entered the storied hall as part of the Class of 2022 along with retired PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem, U.S. Women's Open champion Susie Maxwell Berning and Marion Hollins, a U.S. Women's Amateur champion and golf course architect who was recognised posthumously.



## India finishes at the top in 2022 ISSF World Cup

- India has taken first place in the medal standings at the ISSF World Cup 2022 in Cairo, organised by the International Shooting Sport Federation. By winning a total of seven medals, the Indian team took first place in the medals tally, with four gold, two silver, and one bronze. Norway took second place in the medals tally with six medals (three gold, one silver, and two bronze). France came in third place with three gold medals out of a total of twenty.



### Key Points

- On the final day of the ISSF World Cup 2022 in Cairo, Egypt, Indian shooters took home two medals.
- Rhythm Sangwan and Anish Bhanwala won the 25m rapid fire pistol mixed team gold medal match against Thailand 17-7 in the tournament's final event.
- Earlier in the day, India's Gurpreet Singh, Anish Bhanwala, and Bhavesh Shekhawat were defeated 7-17 by Germany in the gold medal match of the men's 25m rapid fire pistol team competition.
- India won their third World Cup gold on Sunday, defeating Singapore 17-13 in the women's 25m pistol team event final. In the gold medal match, Rahi Sarnobat, Esha Singh, and Rhythm Sangwan defeated the Singaporean trio of Xiu Hong, Shun Xie, and Ling Chiao Nicole Tan.
- Esha Singh had won the women's 10m air pistol team event in addition to the silver she had earned in the women's 10m air pistol individual event, making this her second gold and third medal of the World Cup.
- Saurabh Chaudhary won India's first gold medal in Cairo last week. In the gold medal match of the Men's 10m Air Pistol event, the 19-year-old Indian defeated Michael Schwald of Germany 16-6.

## S Sreesanth quits from all forms of first-class cricket

- India pacer S Sreesanth has announced his retirement from all forms of domestic cricket. Sreesanth played 27 Tests and 53 ODIs for India, taking 87 and 75 wickets respectively. He has also taken seven wickets in 10 T20 Internationals. The temperamental pacer was also popular for his exuberant celebrations after taking wickets but his life and career went downhill after the spot-fixing scandal.



## Priyanka Nutakki becomes the 23rd Woman Grandmaster of India

- 19-year-old Priyanka Nutakki has secured her final WGM-norm at MPL's forty-seventh National Women Chess Championship. She became India's twenty-third Woman Grandmaster. She is from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. Priyanka Nutakki scored her first WGM-norm in January 2019 and crossed the 2300 rating criteria in the next two months. However, much like a lot of players, the Covid-19 pandemic delayed her title hopes.



## India's S L Narayanan wins Grandisacchi Cattolica International Open Chess Tournament

- In Chess, Indian Grandmaster, S L Narayanan was declared the winner in the Grandisacchi Cattolica International Open, held in Italy. Meanwhile, his compatriot R Praggnanandhaa came second. Though Narayanan and six others, including Praggnanandhaa, finished equal first with 6.5 points after nine rounds. But, Narayanan took the top spot on the basis of a better tie-break score. The 24-year old S L Narayanan from Thiruvananthapuram earned the title of Grandmaster in 2015 and is the 41st Grandmaster from India.

## PERSONS IN NEWS

### Poland's Karolina Bielawska crowned Miss World 2021

- Karolina Bielawska from Poland has won the title of Miss World 2021. She was crowned by 2019 Miss World Toni-Ann Singh of Jamaica. She beat the USA, Indonesia, Mexico, Northern Ireland and Cote d'Ivoire to clinch the coveted title. Indian-American Shree Saini from the United States bagged the first runner-up title, followed by Olivia Yace from Cote d'Ivoire.



- The 70th edition of the Miss World international beauty pageant was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Miss World 2019 Toni-Ann Singh performed 'The Prayer' during the 70th Miss World pageant to express solidarity with Ukraine amid the Russia-Ukraine crisis.
- Femina Miss India World 2020 Manasa Varanasi represented India at the Miss World 2021. Manasa Varanasi reached the Top 13 contestants but could not make it to the Top 6 finalists.

### India's Namit Malhotra on Oscars win for Dune

- This year's Oscars was named to Dune as the Timothee Chalamet and Zendaya starrer sci-fi thriller bagged six wins. Dune was nominated in 10 categories and it won in 6 of them. This win was a proud moment for India as Namit Malhotra, the CEO and Chairman of Double Negative (DNEG), the studio that did the VFX for the film, brought home this honour.
- DNEG won the Academy Award for Best Visual Effects, beating Free Guy, Shang-Chi, Spider-Man:



No Way Home and No Time to Die. Interestingly, this is DNEG's seventh win at the Academy Awards, with the studio winning big for Inception (2011), Ex Machina (2016), First Man (2019), Tenet (2021), Interstellar (2015) and Blade Runner 2049 (2018).

- Namit is the son of Bollywood producer Naresh Malhotra and the grandson of cinematographer MN Malhotra and his company was behind the mind-blowing VFX.

### Pulitzer Prize winning American poet Richard Howard passes away

- Pulitzer Prize awardee American poet, Richard Howard passed away at age of 92. Richard Joseph Howard was born on 13 October 1929 in Cleveland, Ohio, United States (US). He was an American poet, literary critic, essayist, teacher, and translator.
- Howard won the Pulitzer Prize in 1970 for "Untitled Subjects" and was a National Book Award Finalist in 2008 for "Without Saying". His translation of Charles Baudelaire's "Les Fleurs du Mal" won the National Book Award (then called the American Book Award) in 1983.



### Former CM of Sikkim B.B. Gurung passes away

- The 3rd Chief Minister of Sikkim, Bhim Bahadur Gurung has passed away at his residence in Lumsui in Gangtok, Sikkim. B. Gurung served as a teacher and a staff reporter in a Calcutta (Kolkata)-based newspaper the Amrita Bazar Patrika and he also edited the first news-based Nepali Journal of Sikkim, called Kanchenjunga.



## Former Chief Justice of India R C Lahoti passes away

- Former Chief Justice of India Ramesh Chandra Lahoti passed away at the age of 81 years. Justice Lahoti was appointed as the 35th chief justice of India on June 1, 2004. He retired on November 1, 2005. He was appointed as an arbitrator by the Government of India in the ₹20,000-crore high-profile tax dispute case with telecom major Vodafone.



## Bangladesh's former president Shahabuddin Ahmed passes away

- Shahabuddin Ahmed, the former President of Bangladesh has passed away at the age of 92 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He was the interim head of state as the consensus nominee of all parties amid a mass upsurge in 1990 to topple ex-military dictator HM Ershad. Shahabuddin Ahmed also served as the President of Bangladesh from 1996 to 2001. He was responsible for holding a "free and credible" election in the country in February 1991.



## Former Andhra Pradesh Governor 'Ms Kumudben Joshi' passes away

- The former Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Kumudben Manishankar Joshi has passed away. She was 88. Ms Joshi served as 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. Joshi had been a member of the Rajya Sabha thrice.
- Kumudben Manishankar Joshi also became Deputy Minister of Information and Broadcasting (October



1980 – January 1982) and Deputy Minister of Health and Family Welfare (January 1982 – December 1984).

## WWE legend Razor Ramon passes away

- The two-time WWE Hall of Famer, Scott Hall has passed away, due to heart attack. He was 63. His tenure with World Wrestling Federation (WWF, now WWE) began in May 1992. With WWE, he was famously known by his ring name as 'Razor Ramon'. He went on to become a four-time WWE Intercontinental champion.
- In 2014, Scott Hall was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame as an individual wrestler and then again in 2020 as part of NWO. Scott Hall is a two-time world champ with WWC Universal Heavyweight Championship and the USWA Unified World Heavyweight Championship.



## Former Pakistani President Rafiq Tarar passes away

- Veteran politician, former Supreme Court judge, and President of Pakistan, Rafiq Tarar passed away at the age of 92 years. Muhammad Rafiq Tarar was born on 2 November 1929 in Peer Kot, Pakistan. He served as a Supreme Court judge from 1991 to 1994. He also served as the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court from 1989 to 1991. Later, he became Pakistan's President for the period of 1997 to 2001.

## Former Australian cricketer Rod Marsh passes away

- Former Australia cricketer (wicketkeeper), Rodney William Marsh has passed away in Adelaide Australia. He was the 1st Australian wicketkeeper to score a century in test cricket and finished his career with 3 centuries. He held a test record of 355 dismissals by a wicketkeeper, including 95 off the bowling of pace bowler Dennis Lillee.



## REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKINGS

### UP overtakes West Bengal as leading producer of vegetables, AP maintains dominance in fruits

- Uttar Pradesh has become the top producer of vegetables, getting back its first position by demoting West Bengal to the second position, with a difference of a million tonnes in production in 2021–22 Crop Year (July–June), after two years since 2020. On the other hand, Andhra Pradesh remains the top fruit producer.

Fruits production (mt)			Vegetables production (mt)		
	2020-21	2021-22		2020-21	2021-22
Andhra Pradesh	17.70	18.01	Uttar Pradesh	29.16	29.58
Maharashtra	11.74	12.30	West Bengal	30.33	28.23
Uttar Pradesh	11.23	11.26	Madhya Pradesh	21.33	20.59
Karnataka	7.99	8.55	Bihar	17.84	17.77
Gujarat	8.24	8.24	Maharashtra	14.21	16.78
All India	102.48	102.52	All India	206.45	199.88

- India's horticulture output is likely to drop marginally by 0.4% to 333.25mt in 2021–22 from the previous year (2020–21) as production of vegetables, spices, and plantation crops is set to decline.
- Among the key essential items, while potato and tomato production are expected to decline, onion production is expected to increase.
- Vegetable Production:** Vegetable production in Uttar Pradesh is estimated to be 29.58 million tonnes (mt) in the 2021–22 crop year (July–June), down from 29.16 mt in 2020–21, while West Bengal output is expected to dip to 28.23 mt in 2021–22 from 30.33 mt in 2020–21.
- Other top producers of vegetables as per the data in the current year 2021–22 include Madhya Pradesh at 20.59 mt, Bihar at 17.77 mt and Maharashtra at 16.78 mt.
- Fruit Production:** In 2021–22, Andhra Pradesh is expected to produce 18.01 million tonnes of fruit, up from 17.7 million tonnes in 2020–21.
- Maharashtra is anticipated to produce 12.3 million tonnes of fruit, up from 11.74 million tonnes in 2020–21.

- Other top producers of fruits are Uttar Pradesh at 11.26 mt, Karnataka at 8.55 mt, and Gujarat at 8.24 mt. Incidentally, Gujarat's production has remained unchanged from 2020–2021.

### India TB cases up 19%: India TB Report 2022; Delhi tops in TB Prevalence: National TB Prevalence Survey in India 2019-2021

- According to the 'India TB Report 2022 – Coming Together to End TB Altogether', India has recorded a 19% increase in Tuberculosis (TB) cases in 2021 over 2020 & as per 'National TB Prevalence Survey in India



- 2019-2021' Report, Delhi has topped the TB Prevalence in India (among the population aged above 15 years and among all age groups) with 534 cases per 1 lakh population and 747 per 1 Lakh population (highest in India) respectively.
- The report was released by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya during the "STEP Up to End TB 2022" Summit organised on the occasion of World TB Day 2022.
- Highlights of India TB Report 2022:
- More than 19.3 lakh new and relapsed TB patients were notified in 2021 against the 16.3 lakh in 2020. In 2020, deaths due to TB have increased to 4.93 lakh (excluding the HIV patients who died due to TB). In 2020, deaths due to TB have increased by 13%, compared to 2019.
- Between 2019 and 2020, the mortality due to all forms of TB has increased by 11%.
- India aims to eliminate TB by 2025 according to the National Strategic Plan for Elimination of Tuberculosis (NSP 2017- 25) and 18 States have committed to Ending TB by 2025 by formally implementing State-specific Strategic Plans.



## Duff & Phelps Report: Cricketer Virat Kohli ranked India's Most Valued Celebrity 2021

- According to the Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2021 (7th Edition) titled "Digital Acceleration 2.0." released by Duff & Phelps (Now Kroll), Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli was ranked as India's most valued celebrity for the 5th consecutive time in 2021. The brand value of Virat Kohli has dropped from USD 237.7 million in 2020 to USD 185.7 million in 2021.
- Former Indian cricket team captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (MS Dhoni) is ranked 5th with a brand value of USD 61.2 million. His brand value has increased from USD 36.3 million in 2020 to USD 61.2 million in 2021.

**Top celebrities**

Rank	Celebrity	Brand rank	2021	2020	Brand value (USD m)
1	Virat Kohli	1	1	1	\$185.7m
2	Ranveer Singh	2	2	2	\$158.3m
3	Akshay Kumar	3	3	3	\$139.6m
4	Alia Bhatt	4	4	4	\$68.1m
5	MS Dhoni	5	5	5	\$61.2m
6	Amitabh Bachchan	6	6	6	\$54.2m
7	Deepika Padukone	7	7	7	\$51.6m
8	Salman Khan	8	8	8	\$51.6m
9	Ayushmann Khurrana	9	9	9	\$49.3m
10	Hrithik Roshan	10	10	10	\$48.5m

Source: Celebrity Brand Valuation Study 2021 by Duff & Phelps, A Kroll Business

## UNEP's Annual Frontier Report ranks Moradabad 2nd most polluted city globally

- According to the recent Annual Frontier Report 2022, titled 'Noise, Blazes and Mismatches' published by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh is the second most noise polluted city with a maximum recorded noise pollution level of 114 decibels (dB).
- As per the report, the Most polluted city is Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital records the noise pollution level of 119 decibels, Pakistan's capital city Islamabad ranked Third.
- 3 Indian cities are among the top 15 most noise polluted cities in the world. They are



Moradabad(UttarPradesh),Kolkata(West Bengal),and Asansol(West Bengal).

- The UNEP report found that Irbid (Jordan) at 60 dB is the world's quietest city, followed by Lyon (France) ,
- Madrid (Spain), Stockholm (Sweden), and Belgrade (Serbia).
- Among the 61 cities in the report, 13 cities were from South Asian region, out of which five cities (Moradabad, Asansol, Kolkata, Jaipur, & Delhi) are from India.
- The report is prepared based on three chapters:-
  - Listening to Cities: From Noisy Environments to Positive Soundscapes
  - Wildfires Under Climate Change: A Burning Issue
  - Phenology: Climate Change Is Shifting the Rhythm of Nature
- The noise pollution figures given in the report are drawn during daytime traffic or vehicles, the World Health Organisation's (WHO) prescribed limit for the noise pollution on the road is at 53 decibels in 2018. As per the Guidelines for community Noise 1999, the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends 55 decibel standard for residential areas and 70 decibels for traffic and business sectors.

## NITI Aayog releases 2nd Edition of Export Preparedness Index 2021; Gujarat tops overall ranking

- National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness, released the 2nd edition of the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2021. Gujarat has retained the top position in the overall ranking with its total share in exports accounting for 20.83% as of 2020-2021.
- The index was released by Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog in the presence of



Amitabh Kant, CEO of NITI Aayog and BVR Subrahmanyam, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI).

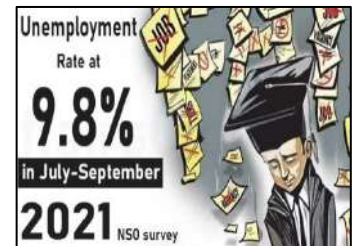
- The top six states in India – Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Haryana contribute 75% of India's overall exports.
- Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have become the flag bearer of export lead growth. Gujarat has been leading the export contribution in India, with its total share accounting for 20.83% as of 2020-2021.
- Gujarat has emerged as the top-performing state in the 'Coastal States' category, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka. Most of the coastal states are among the best performers.
- In the category of Landlocked States, Haryana was the best-performing state, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Telangana.
- Among the Himalayan States and UT, Uttarakhand and Delhi are the top-performing states respectively.
- EPI 2021 brings out 3 major challenges to export promotion of India, they are,
  - Intra- and inter-regional differences in export infrastructure;
  - Weak trade support and growth orientation across states;
  - Lack of Research and development (R&D) infrastructure to promote complex and unique exports.
- The Economic Survey 2022 stated that India has already attained more than 75 % of its ambitious export target of USD 400 billion set for 2021-22.

### UR for Persons of 15 years and above in Urban Areas declined to 9.8% in Q2-2021: 12th PLFS by NSO

- In accordance with the 12th Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Unemployment Rate (UR) for persons of age 15 years and above in urban areas dipped to 9.8% in July-September (Q2) 2021 from 13.2% in Q2-2020. It was 12.6% in April-June 2021.

- UR is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force.
- UR among females also declined to 11.6% in July-September 2021 from 15.8% a year ago. It was 14.3% in April-June 2021.

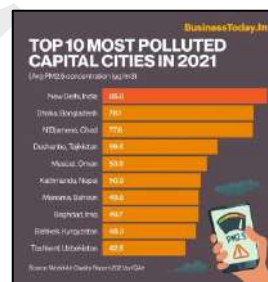
Among males, the UR also declined to 9.3% in July-September 2021 compared to 12.6% a year ago. It was 12.2% in April-June 2021.



- Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in CWS (Current Weekly Status) was 46.9% in the July-September 2021, down from 47.2% in the same period a year ago. It was 46.8% in April-June 2021.
- Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in CWS stood at 42.3% in July-September 2021, up from 40.9% in the same period a year ago. It was 40.9% in April-June, 2021.

### Delhi becomes most polluted capital in world: 2021 World Air Quality Report

- The 2021 World Air Quality Report released by the Swiss organization IQAir reveals that the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, India, is the most polluted capital in the world for the fourth consecutive year in 2021.



- The report finds that only 3% of cities and no single country met the

latest World Health Organization's (WHO) Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 annual air quality guidelines. The new guideline was released in September 2021 and cut the existing annual PM2.5 guideline value from 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> to 5 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

- Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh was second on the list of capital cities in terms of annual average PM2.5 concentrations, while N'Djamena, the capital of Chad, was third.

- Previously, Delhi topped a list in 2020, 2019, and 2018.
- India was placed 5th in the Most Polluted countries in the world whereas Bangladesh was placed in 1st followed by Chad and Pakistan.
- No country met the latest WHO air quality guideline for PM<sub>2.5</sub> in 2021.
- India houses 11 of the 15 most polluted cities in Central and South Asia in 2021.
- Delhi saw a 14.6% increase in PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations in 2021 with levels rising to 96.4 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (micrograms per cubic meter) from 84 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2020. No cities in India met the WHO air quality guideline of 5 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

### India is on the rise with 222% growth in open access solar installations: Mercom India Report

- According to Mercom India Research's newly released report titled "Mercom India Solar Open Access Market Report Q4 & Annual 2021," India has added 1.2 Giga Watts (GW) of new solar open access capacity in the calendar year (CY) 2021, marking a growth of 222% during the year.
- As of December 2021, the cumulative installed solar capacity in the open access market was over 5 GW, whereas in the year 2020, India had an installed open access solar capacity of 383 Mega Watts (MW), which shows that there is a growth in the demand for open access solar installations.
- The top 3 states in installation of open access solar capacities of the CY 2021 are Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra respectively. India added 298 MW of solar operations capacity in Q4 2021 and installations were 75% more compared to 2020.
- Uttar Pradesh had the maximum installations with 113 MW and accounted for 38% of the total capacity additions in Q4 2021.

### Progressive Reduction of MMR in India: Kerala outperforms India's achievement in reducing MMR

- The Registrar General of India has released a Sample Registration System (SRS) special bulletin

on Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) for 2017–2019. India's MMR has reduced to 103, a decrease of 10 points, when compared to the previous data of 113 in 2016–2018, a decline of about 8.8%

- Since India is showing a persistent decline in MMR from 130 in 2014–2016, 122 in 2015–17, 113 in 2016–18, and 103 in 2017–19, it will soon achieve below
    - National Health Policy (NHP) target for MMR of 100/lakh live births by 2020.
    - United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target for MMR of 70/lakh live births by 2030.
  - Kerala had recorded the lowest MMR of 30/lakh live births when compared to India's MMR of 103, putting it far ahead of the nation.
  - Seven states have achieved SDG's MMR target (70/lakh live births by 2030): Kerala (30), Maharashtra (38), Telangana (56), Tamil Nadu (58), Andhra Pradesh (58), Jharkhand (61), and Gujarat (70).
  - Nine states have achieved NHP's MMR target (100/lakh live births by 2020): the above seven and the states of Karnataka (83) and Haryana (96).
  - Five states have MMR in between 100-150: Uttarakhand (101), West Bengal (109), Punjab (114), Bihar (130), Odisha (136) and Rajasthan (141).
  - Four states have MMR above 150: Chhattisgarh (160), Madhya Pradesh (163), Uttar Pradesh (167), also showed an encouraging decline of 30 points and Assam (205).
  - Three states such as Kerala, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have shown a remarkable decline of more than 15% in their MMR.
  - Six states namely, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Bihar, Punjab, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh have shown a decline between 10-15% in their MMR.
  - Besides, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha and Karnataka showcased a decline between 5-10% in their MMR.
- Four states namely West Bengal, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh have shown an increase in MMR.



## UN World Happiness Report 2022: India Ranks 136 out of 146; Finland Tops

- As per the 10th United Nations' World Happiness Report 2022, India's rank has been improved by 3 spots to 136 out of 146 countries from 139 in 2021 with a score of 3.777
- For the 5th year in a row, Finland continues to occupy the top spot being the happiest country in the world.
- Afghanistan was ranked as the unhappiest nation, followed by Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Botswana.
- Bhutan was not included in the world happiness report 2022

World Happiness Report 2022

Rank	Country	Average Life Evaluation Score
136	India	3.777
Top 3	1 Finland	7.821
	2 Denmark	7.636
	3 Iceland	7.557
Bottom 3	144 Zimbabwe	2.995
	145 Lebanon	2.955
	146 Afghanistan	2.404

## 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List: Mukesh Ambani Claims 'Richest Indian & Asian' title; Tesla's Elon Musk tops the billionaires list

- On 17th March 2022, Hurun India released a report titled "2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List", a ranking of United States(US) dollar billionaires in the world. According to the report, Mukesh Ambani, Chairman & Managing Director(CMD) of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has emerged as the Richest Indian and Richest Asian & Ranked 9th Globally.



- Mukesh Ambani is the only Indian to feature in the world's top 10 billionaires list. He has also earned the 'Richest Telecom Entrepreneur' title.
- Elon Musk co-founder and Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Tesla has topped the Billionaires list as the World's richest person for the 2nd consecutive year with USD 205 billion(bn).
- The 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List ranks 3381 billionaires from 2558 companies and 69 countries.
- At present India has 249 billionaires which include 215 billionaires living in India and 34 billionaires of Indian origin living outside India.
- India secured 3rd spot with 215 billionaires, which is 38 more than 2021 and Healthcare, Consumer Goods and Chemicals sectors tops the list with 46, 29 and 23 billionaires each.

## SIPRI Report: India Largest Importer of Major Arms in 2017-21

- According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute(SIPRI) Fact Sheet March 2022 – "Trends In International Arms Transfers, 2021", India remained the largest importer globally even though Indian arms imports have decreased by 21% between 2012-2016 and 2017-2021.
- India has accounted for 11% of global arms imports in 2017-2021, which was around 14% in 2012-2016.
- The Main suppliers of India in 2017-2021 are Russia(46%), France(27%), and the United States of America (USA)(12%).
- The total volume of the international transfer of major arms in 2017-2021 was 4.6% lower than 2012-2016 but higher than 2007-2011.
- The 5 largest arms imports in 2017-2021 are India, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Australia and China. These countries account for around 38% of the total imports in 2017-2021.





- The 5 largest arms exporters in 2017–21 are the USA, Russia, France, China and Germany. These countries account for around 77% of the total arms exports in 2017-2021.
- The arms exports of France increased 59% between 2012-2016 and 2017-2021. It accounts for 11% of the global total.

### Investment in care services can generate 234 million jobs for women by 2035: ILO

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) report “Care at Work: Investing in Care Leave and Services for a More Gender Equal World of Work” was released on March 7, 2022, ahead of International Women’s Day, and was based on an ILO legal survey of 185 countries. The report highlights eight key messages.
- This report stipulates a global overview of national laws and practices regarding care policies, such as maternity protection, paternity, parental and other care-related leave policies, in addition to childcare and long-term care services.
- It exposed that persistent and significant gaps in care services and policies have left hundreds of millions of workers with family responsibilities without adequate protection and support.
- By investing in universal childcare and long-term care services, about 299 million jobs can be generated by 2035. Women will receive 234 million (78%) of these funds.



### RailTel Ranks 124 in 2022 Fortune India the Next 500 list

- RailTel Corporation of India Limited(RailTel), owned by the Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways, has ranked 124th in the Fortune India The Next 500 (2022 edition) of top midsize companies operating in India. It is the only Telecom

Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) of the Government of India(GoI) on the list.

- RailTel has made improvements and jumped 67 positions up compared to its 2021 ranking (197) as a recognition of its improved and consistent performance.
- Apart from RailTel, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation(IRCTC) (ranked 309) is the only Railway PSU featuring on the list.

### Knight Frank: India Placed 51st in Global House Price Index Q4 2021

- India has improved its rank by five spots to be placed at 51st position in the ‘Global House Price Index Q4 2021’ released by property consultant Knight Frank. India was placed at 56th position in Q4 of 2020. India witnessed a 2.1 per cent annual appreciation in housing price rates during the October-December quarter of 2021 against Q4 of 2020.
- Globally, Turkey saw the highest annual price growth rate by 59.6 per cent in Q4 2021.
- New Zealand (22.6 per cent), Czech Republic (22.1 per cent), Slovakia (22.1 per cent) and Australia (21.8 per cent) are among the top 5 countries respectively in the latest research report.
- Malaysia, Malta and Morocco markets recorded a decline in housing prices by 0.7 per cent, 3.1 per cent and 6.3 per cent, respectively, in the year 2021.

**KNIGHT FRANK GLOBAL HOUSE PRICE INDEX Q4 2021**

Rank	Country/Territory	Nominal Price Growth
1	Turkey	59.6%
2	New Zealand	22.6%
3	Czech Republic	22.1%
4	Slovakia	22.1%
5	Australia	21.8%
6	Netherlands	20.3%
7	United States	18.8%
8	South Korea	18.4%
9	Jersey	18.4%
10	Estonia	17.3%
51	India	2.1%
52	Indonesia	1.5%
53	Cyprus	1.2%
54	Malaysia	-0.7%
55	Malta	-3.1%
56	Morocco	-6.3%

Source: Knight Frank Research

## Skoch State of Governance Ranking in 2021: Andhra Pradesh retains top rank for the 2nd consecutive year

- On 10th March 2022 The SKOCH Group, a delhi-based think tank 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 has retained its top position for the 2nd consecutive year and secured 1st in star state category whereas Telangana has showed good improvement by securing 6th position and entered into performer state category.
- According to the ranking, the states are divided in 4 categories, namely, Star states, Performer states, Catching-up states and Other States.
- Top five best ranked states are categorised as Star states:** 1. Andhra pradesh, 2. West Bengal, 3. Odisha, 4. Gujarat, 5. Maharashtra
- The next five best ranked states are categorised as Performer states:** 6. Telangana, 7. Uttar Pradesh, 8. Madhya Pradesh, 8. Assam, 10. Himachal Pradesh
- The report has estimated that the number of dollar-millionaire households in the country shall increase by 30% over the next five years to reach 6,00,000 households in 2026.
- Top five states that are below the rank of Performers are categorised as CATCHING-UP:** 11. Bihar, 12. Haryana, 13. Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), 14. Chhattisgarh, 15. Rajasthan

## India adds record 1,700 MW Rooftop Solar Capacity in 2021: Mercom India Report

- According to a Mercom India Research report titled "Mercom India Rooftop Solar Market Report Q4 and Annual 2021", India set a new record of installed 1,700 megawatt (MW) of rooftop solar capacity in 2021, registering a 138 % rise annual basis compared to 719 MW of rooftop solar capacity in 2020.
- The record 1.7 GW of rooftop solar capacity in 2021 is the highest ever in a year.

- In 2021, the residential and commercial segments accounted for 35% and 33 % of installed rooftop solar capacity, respectively.
- Industrial rooftop solar installations constituted 26 %, and the remaining 6% was from the government segment.
- Gujarat with 27% share was the leading state for cumulative rooftop solar installations followed by Maharashtra (14%) and Rajasthan (10%).

## V-Dem's Democracy Report 2022: India ranked 93rd & Sweden tops

- According to the Swedish based V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute report titled, 'Democracy Report 2022: Autocratisation Changing Nature', India has been ranked among the top ten autocratic countries in the world and has been ranked 93rd on the Liberal Democracy Index (LDI) out of 179 countries
- Top 5 LDI Countries – Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Costa Rica and New Zealand
- Most autocratic countries – Afghanistan, Belarus, China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Venezuela are among the most autocratic in the world.
- India is one of the top ten 'autocratisers' in the world, which indicates that India is autocratic rather than a democracy that it can more suitably be indicated as electoral autocracy.
- India is in the bottom 40% to 50% of countries on V-Dem's Liberal Democracy Index (LDI).
- In South Asia, India is ranked below Sri Lanka (88), Nepal (71), and Bhutan (65) and above Pakistan (117) in the LDI.
- The world has 89 democracies and 90 autocracies, electoral autocracy remains the most common regime type, accounting for 60 countries and 44% of the world population or 3.4 billion people.



## India Ranks 2nd for Global Investment in Digital Shopping in 2021, US Tops: Bengaluru tops among cities

- According to the London & Partners (the Mayor of London's international trade and investment agency) analysis of Dealroom.co investment data, India secured the 2nd largest global venture capital investment hub for digital shopping companies, growing up to 175 percent from USD 8 billion in 2020 to USD 22 billion in 2021.
- The analysis relating to investment into digital shopping companies is based on Dealroom.Co's definition of online marketplaces, which supplied the Venture Capital investment data as of 15th February 2022.
- Within India, Bengaluru, Karnataka topped with USD 14 billion worth of Venture Capital (VC) investments in digital shopping in 2021.
- Bengaluru almost tripled its investments from USD 5 billion in 2020 to attain the top position, ahead of other leading cities in the world – New York City (2nd), San Francisco (3rd), London (4th) and Berlin (5th).
- Within India Gurugram, Haryana placed at seventh position with USD 4 billion and Mumbai, Maharashtra at tenth position with USD 3 billion.

## India slips 3 spots to 120 on 17 SDG Goals: DTE's 9th State of India's Environment Report 2022

- On March 1, 2022, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) released the 9th edition of Down To Earth's annual 'State of India's Environment Report 2022' at the 4-day long Anil Agarwal Dialogue (AAD) organised by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) at CSE's state-



of-the-art residential environmental training facility, the Anil Agarwal Environment Training Institute (AAETI), in Nimli, Alwar district, Rajasthan.

- As per the report, India has slipped three spots to 120 from 117 in 2021 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 192 United Nations member states in 2015.
- India's overall SDG score was 66 out of 100.
- CSE is a not-for-profit public interest research and advocacy organisation.
- The report focuses on climate change, migration, health systems, forest & wildlife, energy, industry, habitat, pollution, waste, agriculture & rural development.
- AAD is an annual conclave of journalists. AAD 2022 saw the participation of over 60 journalists across India.
- As per report, on the state-wise preparedness to meet the SDGs by the target year 2030, Kerala ranked 1st, followed by Tamil Nadu (TN) and Himachal Pradesh (HP) in the 2nd position.
- The 3rd position was shared by Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- Jharkhand and Bihar are the least prepared to meet the SDGs by the target year 2030.
- Among the Union Territories (UTs), Chandigarh was ranked 1st, followed by Delhi, Lakshadweep and Puducherry in the 2nd place and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the 3rd.
- With the latest rankings, India is now behind all south Asian nations except Pakistan, which stands at 129.
- The south Asian countries ahead of India are Bhutan ranked 75, Sri Lanka (87), Nepal (96) and Bangladesh (109).
- The key reason behind a drop in India's ranking major challenges in 11 SDGs including zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, gender equality and sustainable cities and communities.
- India also performed poorly in dealing with quality education and life on land aspects.

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

### PM Modi virtually attends 5th BIMSTEC Summit Chaired by Sri Lanka

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 5th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit on March 30, 2022 through virtual mode.
- The Summit was hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka, which was the chair nation of BIMSTEC.
- The theme of the Summit was “Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies, Healthy People”
- At the conclusion of the Summit, Thailand took over as chair nation of BIMSTEC.
- 2022 marks the 25th year of the establishment of BIMSTEC.
- During the Summit, leaders witnessed the signing of three BIMSTEC agreements
  1. BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters
  2. BIMSTEC Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Cooperation in the field of Diplomatic Training
  3. Memorandum of Association on Establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility
- Adoption and signing of the BIMSTEC Charter, which would lead to putting in place a set of rules, a framework and long-term goals. This will help to streamline the operations of BIMSTEC and allow the organisation to enhance its potential.
- Adoption of the ‘Master Plan for Transport Connectivity’ which lays out a guidance framework for connectivity related activities in the region in the future.
- Modi announced that India will provide USD 1 million to the BIMSTEC secretariat to increase its operational budget.



### 5th UN Environment Assembly concludes in Nairobi with 14 resolutions

- The 5th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) was held on a hybrid format in Nairobi from 28 February to 02 March 2022.
- The theme for UNEA-5 was “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”.
- The assembly concluded with 14 resolutions to strengthen international action for climate, nature and a pollution-free planet to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The biennial UNES is hosted by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to bring together representatives of the 193 Member States of the UN, businesses, civil society and other stakeholders to address the world’s most pressing environmental challenges.

### 2nd India Australia Virtual Summit 2022

- On March 21, 2022, the 2nd India-Australia Virtual Summit was held between the Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi, and Australian PM Scott John Morrison where both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP).
- The first virtual summit was held between India and Australia, both members of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or Quad, on June 4, 2020.

### 14th India-Japan annual summit 2022

- The Prime Minister of Japan, Fumio Kishida, was on a two-day visit to India to attend 14th India-Japan summit 2022 on March 19-20, 2022 in New Delhi. He was invited by the Indian PM Narendra Modi.
- This was Fumio Kishida’s first visit to the country since he took charge of the office last year, and also his first meeting with Prime Minister Narendra



Modi. The last India-Japan summit took place in 2018 in Tokyo.

- During the summit, Japan has raised its investment target in India to 5 trillion yen which is around USD 42 billion (Rs 3.20 lakh crore) over the next five years.
- The investment target of 3.5 trillion Japanese yen (\$29 billion) announced in 2014 has been achieved in 2014-2019.

## 2nd India-Indonesia Security Dialogue held in Jakarta, Indonesia

- On 17th March 2022, the second India-Indonesia Security Dialogue (IISD) was held in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- The 2nd IISD was co-chaired by Ajit Doval, National Security Adviser (NSA) of India and Mohammad Mahfud, Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs of Indonesia.
- Both have signed a MoU for Security Dialogue between the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs of Indonesia and the National Security Council Secretariat of India.
- The first IISD, held in 2018 in New Delhi, Delhi, was led by Ajit Doval, NSA of India and H Wiranto Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs of Indonesia.

## DefExpo 2022 Postponed Due to Logistics Problems

- The 12th edition of DefExpo-2022, Naval & Homeland Security Systems Exhibition, India's flagship defence exhibition, which was proposed to be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 10th to 14th March 2022, has been postponed. The reason for the postpone is the logistics problems experienced by participants, and the new dates will be announced later.
- The Defence Exhibition Organisation (DEO), under the Ministry of Defence, is the organiser of the exhibition.
- The theme of DefExpo 2022 is "India-The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub".

## 36th edition of the International Geological Congress was held in New Delhi

- On a virtual platform, the 36th International Geological Congress (IGC) was held in New Delhi from March 20 to 22, 2022, with the topic Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future. The 36th International Geophysical Congress is a collaboration between the Ministries of Mines and Earth Sciences, the Indian National Science Academy, and the Science Academies of Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
- Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi and Minister of State Science & Technology; Minister of State Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space Dr Jitendra Singh are expected to inaugurate the Congress.
- On the occasion of the 36th IGC, three commemorative Postage Stamps will be issued, as well as a First Day Cover. India held the 22nd session of the IGC, which was the first IGC on Asian land, 58 years ago.

## 3rd National Youth Parliament Festival

- The 3rd edition of the National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) was organised jointly by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on March 10 and 11, 2022, in the Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi. Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur will address the inaugural session of NYPF on March 10, while the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will address the valedictory function on March 11.
- The objective of the NYPF is to hear the voice of the youth, between 18 and less than 25 years of age, who will join various careers in the coming years, including public services. The top three National level youth winners will get an opportunity to speak before the Lok Sabha Speaker during the valedictory function.

## APPOINTMENTS

### NATO extends Jens Stoltenberg's term as Secretary-General until 2023.

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) extended the term of its Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg by one year until 30 September, 2023.
- After the NATO summit in Brussels, Belgium the United States of America (USA) President Joe Biden and other NATO leaders decided to extend the tenure of Jens Stoltenberg.
- Jens Stoltenberg, a former Prime Minister of Norway, took the office of Secretary General in October 2014. In September 2021, his term was set to end.



### Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Re-elected as President of BAI

- Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister of Assam was re-elected as the President of the Badminton Association of India (BAI) for a period of 4 years from 2022 to 2026 during the General Body Meeting held Guwahati, Assam.
- He has been serving as the President of BAI since 2017 and he is also the Vice President of Badminton Asia and a member of the Executive Council of Badminton World Federation (BWF).



### ILO elected Gilbert Houngbo as its 11th Director-General

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) elected Gilbert Fossoun Houngbo from Togo as its next Director-General (DG). He will take office on 1st October 2022 for five years. He will succeed Guy Ryder from the United Kingdom (UK), who has held the office since 2012.
- ILO Headquarters-Geneva, Switzerland

### Rajesh Gopinathan Re-appointed as MD & CEO of TCS for 5 years

- Rajesh Gopinathan has been reappointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a global leader in information technology (IT) services and a subsidiary of the Tata Group, for 5 years, from 21st February 2022 to 20th February 2027.
- TCS has also reappointed N Ganapathy Subramaniam as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Executive Director from 21st February 2022, to 19th May 2024, as per the retirement age policy of the company.



### Indian Economist Jayati Ghosh named as member of UN's Advisory Board

- United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres has announced the appointment of Indian development economist Jayati Ghosh as a member of the UN's newly established Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism. The 12-member high-level advisory board on effective multilateralism will be co-chaired by former Liberian president and Nobel laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and former Swedish prime minister Stefan Lofven.
- Jayati Ghosh is a Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She was previously a 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.



## Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw named for Fellow of Royal Society of Edinburgh

- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, the executive chairperson of Biocon and Biocon Biologics, has been elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) in Scotland. She will be joining RSE's current fellowship of around 1,700 fellows who are recognised as being some of the greatest researchers and practitioners working in or with Scotland.



- RSE is one of the world's oldest and most respected academic societies. Fellows are elected to join the RSE from across the fields of science, arts, education, business and public life in recognition of their impact in improving the world around them. The Biocon chief is among the 80 luminaries to be appointed to the RSE's Fellowship this year.

## N Chandrasekaran named as chairman of Air India

- The chairman of Tata Sons, N Chandrasekaran has been appointed as the chairman of Air India. In February 2022, N Chandrasekaran was reappointed as chairman of Tata Sons for a second term of five years. Tata Sons will soon announce a new MD and CEO for Air India to replace Ilker Ayci who was to take charge next month but resigned in the wake of controversies regarding his appointment.
- Chandrasekaran also serves as the non-executive chairman of several other Tata Group companies, including Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Tata Chemicals and Tata Consumer Products. He was reappointed Tata Sons' executive chairman last month for another five years.



## Ranjit Rath named as chairman & MD of Oil India Ltd

- Ranjit Rath has been named as the next Chairman and Managing Director of Oil India Limited (OIL).

He will replace current chairman and managing director Sushil Chandra Mishra, who will superannuate on June 30, 2022. Presently Rath is the chairman and managing director of Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL). Oil India Limited is the Indian-government owned second-largest crude oil and natural gas producing company, under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

## T Raja Kumar named President of the Financial Action Task Force

- T Raja Kumar, a Singaporean, has been named president of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the world's anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism financing agency. His appointment is for a set two-year term, which begins on July 1. During the FATF plenary, he was chosen to succeed Dr Marcus Pleyer of Germany.
- The FATF is an intergovernmental organisation set up by the G7 in 1989 to prevent and combat money laundering, terrorism, and proliferation finance.

## Debasish Panda named as Chairman of IRDAI

- Debasish Panda has been appointed as the chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). He is a former financial services secretary. The post of Chairman of IRDAI was lying vacant since May 2021 when Subhash Chandra Khuntia completed his term. Panda, a 1987-batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, retired as financial services secretary in January this year after a two-year stint.

## Jay Shah's term extended by one year as a President of Asian Cricket Council

- The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has unanimously extended the tenure of its incumbent President Jay Shah for a period of one year. Jay Shah is the Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) since 2019. Shah was first appointed as the President of ACC in January 2021, replacing Nazmul Hassan, the President of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

## IMPORTANT DAYS AND THEMES

### International Transgender Day of Visibility – March 31

- International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) is annually observed across the globe on 31st March to celebrate the accomplishments and perseverance of transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals. The day also aims to create awareness about the need to achieve equity and justice for trans individuals.
- Flag: Transgender flag is a light blue, pink and white pentacolor pride flag representing the transgender community.

### Earth Hour 2022 – March 26

- Every year, the Earth Hour is celebrated worldwide on the last Saturday of March month to show support for the fight against climate change and commitment towards a better planet. Earth Hour 2022 is being marked on March 26, 2022. The Earth Hour 2022 theme will focus on 'Shape Our Future'.

### World Tuberculosis Day - March 24

- World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on 24 March to create awareness among the public about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease. The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.
- The theme of World TB Day 2022 – 'Invest to End TB. Save Lives.'

### Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day – March 23

- Every year, the Nation was observed on March 23rd as Martyrs Day (Shaheed Diwas or Sarvodaya Day). The day was observed to pay tribute to the death anniversary of the freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru, who laid their lives for the freedom of India. Also,

30 January is observed as Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

- On March 23, three heroes of our nation were hanged to death, namely Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar by the British. Therefore, in order to homage to the three of these revolutionaries, India has commemorated March 23 as Shaheed Diwas.

### World Meteorological Day– March 23

- World Meteorological Day is celebrated globally on March 23rd every year. The day is celebrated as the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and it concentrates on the behaviour of Earth's atmosphere. The day also helps people be aware of their role in protecting Earth's atmosphere. World Meteorological Day is a significant day as it focuses on the global acknowledgement of different issues of planet earth. The day is conducted by raising awareness about multiple concerns of the Earth around the globe.
- Theme of World Meteorological Day 2022: Early Warning and Early Action.

### World Water Day- March 22

- World Water Day is celebrated globally on 22nd March every year. The day aims to highlight the importance of freshwater. It is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. This 2022, the focus is groundwater, an invisible resource with an impact visible everywhere. Relevant issues include water scarcity, water pollution, inadequate water supply, lack of sanitation, and the impacts of climate change that are looked upon on this day.
- The World Water Day theme 2022 is "Groundwater, Making the Invisible Visible".

### World Poetry Day – March 21

- On 21st March, World Poetry Day is celebrated every year to recognise the unique ability of poetry to capture the creative spirit of the human mind. World Poetry Day celebrates one of



humanity's most treasured forms of cultural and linguistic expression and identity. Some countries also celebrate World Poetry Day on October 15 to mark the birthday of Virgil, a Roman poet who is famous for his epic Aeneid.

### World Forestry Day- March21

- The International Day of Forests (also known as World Forestry Day) is celebrated every year on March 21. The main aim of the day is to raise awareness of the significance of all types of forests. The day is to celebrate to raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests, and trees outside forests, for the benefit of current and future generations as well as to increase the public awareness among communities about the values, significance and contributions of the forests to balance the life cycle on the earth.
- The theme for 2022 is **"Forests and sustainable production and consumption."**

### World Oral Health Day- March20

- The World Oral Health Day is marked every year on March 20. The day aims to raise global awareness of the issues around oral health and the importance of oral hygiene so that governments, health associations and the general public can work together to achieve healthier mouths and happier lives.
- The theme for World Oral Health Day 2021-2023 is: **Be Proud Of Your Mouth.**

### International Day of Happiness- March20

- International Day of happiness is observed every year around the world on March 20. The United Nations started celebrating this day in 2013, but the resolution for the same was passed on July 12, 2012. The resolution was initiated by Bhutan which shed the light on the importance of National Happiness.
- The theme for Happiness Day 2022 is **Keep Calm, Stay Wise and Be Kind.**

### World Consumer Rights Day- March15

- World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on March 15 every year. The day marks an opportunity to urge that all consumers' rights be recognised and safeguarded, as well as to protest market abuses and social injustices that jeopardise those rights. The day highlights the power of consumers and their rights for a fair, safe and sustainable marketplace for everyone.
- Theme: **"Fair Digital Finance."**

### World Kidney Day- March10

- World Kidney day is celebrated on the second Thursday of March every year. This year, it is being observed on March 10. World Kidney Day is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness of the importance of our kidneys. World Kidney Day aims to raise awareness of the importance of our kidneys to our overall health and to reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide.
- Theme: **"Kidney Health for All"**

### World Obesity Day- March 4

- World Obesity Day is observed every year on March 04. It is observed to spread awareness about obesity and encourage action towards its elimination. The day is organised by the World Obesity Federation, a non-profit body that is in official relations with the World Health Organisation.
- Theme **Everybody Needs to Act'**

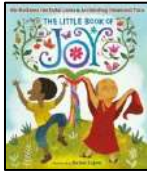
### World Hearing Day- March3

- World Hearing Day is held on 3rd March each year by World Health Organisation (WHO). The day aims to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world. On World Hearing Day 2022, WHO will focus on the importance of safe listening as a means of maintaining good hearing across the life course.
- The theme for World Hearing Day 2022 is: **"To hear for life, listen with care"**

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

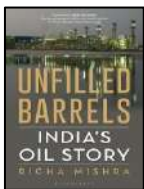
### Book Title - 'The Little Book of Joy'

- **Author**– Dalai Lama & Desmond Tutu
- **Subject:** A picture book edition co-authored by Nobel Peace Prize winners 14th Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) & Archbishop Desmond Tutu, titled “The Little Book of Joy” will be released in September 2022. The illustrations provided by artist Rafael López and Rachel Neumann & Douglas Abrams collaborated on the text. This book focuses on the meaning of true happiness, which is not in the materialistic world but lies in the nature of human beings.



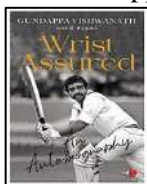
### Book Title – Unfilled Barrels India's oil story

- **Author**– Richa Mishra.
- **Subject:** The book highlights the key role played by Keshav Dev Malaviya, who was the petroleum minister in the 1970s with a degree in oil technology, and the emergence of other stakeholders from public sector enterprises, including ONGC, to the fiercely competitive private players like Cairn Energy, and Mukesh Ambani's RIL.



### Book Title - "Wrist Assured: An Autobiography"

- **Author** – An Autobiography of former cricketer G.R. Viswanath
- **Subject:** Former Indian cricket captain Gundappa Ranganatha Vishwanath has penned his autobiography titled “Wrist Assured: An Autobiography”, co-authored by senior journalist R Kaushik. The book traces the cricketing journey of Gundappa Vishwanath who played Test Cricket for India between 1969 and 1986, making 91 appearances and scoring more than 6000 runs.



### Book Title - “The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup

- **Author** – The book was originally written in Hindi titled “Ullas Ki Naav” by author Vikas Kumar Jha.
- **Subject:** The biography of pop icon Usha Uthup titled “The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup” was released. The book was originally written in Hindi titled “Ullas Ki Naav” by author Vikas Kumar Jha. “The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup” is the English translation of the book, translated by the writer's daughter Srishti Jha. The book is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).



### Book Title - Ungalil Oruvan (One Among You)

- **Author**– Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin's autobiography
- **Subject:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched the first volume of Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin's autobiography Ungalil Oruvan (One Among You) in Chennai. The first part of the autobiography contains his early life experiences. In it, he traces his school and college days, adolescence, early political contributions, marital life and the MISA struggle, recalling 23 years up to 1976..

### Book Title - The Great Tech Game

- **Author**– Anirudh Suri
- **Subject:** In this book, the author provides a coherent framework outlining the key drivers that will determine the ability of a nation to succeed in this technology-dominant era. He lays out a roadmap for how any country must develop its own strategic plan for success. Leaders must develop a new set of capabilities to understand and take advantage of these trends and create enabling environments for their nations to not be left behind.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. According to data released in Lok Sabha (in March'22), \_\_\_\_\_ has become the top producer of vegetables in 2021–22 Crop Year and Andhra Pradesh remains in the top position in fruit production.
  - a) Uttar Pradesh
  - b) West Bengal
  - c) Madhya Pradesh
  - d) Maharashtra
  - e) Punjab
2. Where was the Harbour phase of 1st edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 “(IMEX-22)” held in March 2022?
  - a) Cochin Port, Kerala
  - b) Visakhapatnam Port, Andhra Pradesh
  - c) Kandla Port, Gujarat
  - d) Mormugao port, Goa
  - e) Chennai Port, Tamil Nadu
3. In March 2022, National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) extended the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for MSMEs to \_\_\_\_\_ from March 2022.
  - a) 30th September, 2023
  - b) 31st March, 2024
  - c) 30th June, 2024
  - d) 31st March, 2023
  - e) 30th April, 2023
4. In which place RBI recently (in March'22) dedicated the "Varnika ink manufacturing facility", a unit of Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL)?
  - a) Noida, Uttar Pradesh
  - b) Mysuru, Karnataka
  - c) Pune, Maharashtra
  - d) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
  - e) Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
5. Name the company that recently (in March'22) launched Industry's 1st End-to-End Online Auto Finance Platform, e-Pay.
  - a) Eicher Motors
  - b) Hindustan Motors
  - c) MG Motor India
  - d) Honda Motor India
  - e) Toyota Motor India
6. According to India Ratings and Research (in March'22), India's GDP growth for FY23 is expected to be \_\_\_\_\_, down from an earlier projection of 7.6%.
  - a) 7- 7.2%
  - b) 7.3- 7.5%
  - c) 6.8- 7.0%
  - d) 6.9- 7.1%
  - e) 7- 7.1%
7. Who was recently (in March'22) appointed as the Prime Minister of Malta for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term?
  - a) Robert Abela
  - b) Joseph Muscat
  - c) Lawrence Gonzi
  - d) Alfred Sant
  - e) Dom Mintoff
8. Who recently (in March'22) won Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (GP) 2022 held in Jeddah Corniche Circuit, Saudi Arabia?
  - a) Sergio Pérez (Red Bull Driver)
  - b) Charles Leclerc (Ferrari Driver)
  - c) Max Verstappen (Red Bull Driver)
  - d) Valtteri Bottas (Ferrari Driver)
  - e) Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes driver)
9. In the 94th Academy Awards (Oscars 2022), who won the “Best Supporting Actor” for a fisherman role in a movie CODA and also became the 2nd deaf actor to win the award?
  - a) Marlee Matlin
  - b) Joe Walker
  - c) Greig Fraser
  - d) Troy Kotsur
  - e) Justin Raleigh
10. Which state recently (in March'22) signed a pact with Assam to resolve the border dispute in six places?
  - a) Mizoram
  - b) Nagaland
  - c) Arunachal Pradesh
  - d) West Bengal
  - e) Meghalaya
11. Name the second P-8I aircraft squadron that was recently (in March'22) commissioned by the Indian Navy at the INS Hansa, Goa.
  - a) INAS 316
  - b) INAS 552
  - c) INAS 308
  - d) INAS 342
  - e) INAS 561

12. As per the National TB Prevalence Survey in India 2019-2021' Report, \_\_\_\_\_ topped the TB prevalence in India among the population aged above 15 years and among all age groups.
- Chhattisgarh
  - Gujarat
  - Delhi
  - Kerala
  - Rajasthan
13. Which country recently (in March'22) signed an MoU with India to jointly explore Lithium and Cobalt mineral resources?
- Australia
  - New Zealand
  - Germany
  - Indonesia
  - Singapore
14. Which company that recently (in March'22) partnered with Pine Labs to launch Tap to Pay for UPI?
- MobiKwik
  - Google Pay
  - Paytm
  - BharatPe
  - PhonePe
15. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) recently (in March'22) extended the term of its Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg till \_\_\_\_\_.
- November, 2023
  - July, 2023
  - August, 2023
  - June, 2023
  - September, 2023
16. At what percentage the central government recently (in March'22) sold its stake in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) through an Offer for Sale (OFS) to raise Rs 3,000 crore?
- 1.0%
  - 2.0%
  - 3.2%
  - 4.2%
  - 1.5%
17. The Ministry of Civil Aviation recently (in March'22) announced that the Indian Government planned to develop 220 new airports by \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2028
  - 2023
  - 2024
  - 2025
  - 2026
18. In March 2022, ICICI Bank & HDFC Bank signed an investment agreement for a \_\_\_\_\_ stake in India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL).
- 30%
  - 15%
  - 25%
  - 10%
  - 20%
19. In which institute the Petascale Supercomputer "PARAM Shakti" was recently (in March'22) inaugurated under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)?
- IIT- Kharagpur
  - IIT- Kanpur
  - IIT- Madras
  - IIT- Roorkee
  - IIT- Delhi
20. In March 2022, India secured 8th position with 14 medals in The 13th Fazza International Para Athletics Championships of World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2022. Which city hosted the "World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2022" in March 2022?
- Tokyo, Japan
  - Dubai, UAE
  - Doha, Qatar
  - London, UK
  - Paris, France
21. What is the current (as of March'22) doctor-population ratio in India?
- 1:926
  - 1:1000
  - 1:532
  - 1:834
  - 1:632
22. The Union government recently (in March'22) launched SLNP and AJAY to install smart, energy efficient LED street lights and solar street lights across the country. What does SLNP stand for?
- Street Light National Program
  - Solar Lamp National Program
  - Street Lamp National Program
  - Street Light New Program
  - Solar Lamp new New Program
23. The Union Cabinet recently (in March'22) extended the "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY)" till \_\_\_\_\_ with an outlay of Rs 80,000 crore.
- December, 2022
  - September, 2022
  - November, 2022
  - June, 2022
  - July, 2022
24. In March 2022, \_\_\_\_\_ became India's first city to get "Steel Slag" road.
- Indore, Madhya Pradesh
  - Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
  - Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
  - Pune, Maharashtra
  - Surat, Gujarat



25. As per UNEP's recent (in March'22) Annual Frontier Report 2022, titled 'Noise, Blazes and Mismatches', \_\_\_\_\_ records the most noise polluted city while Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh (India) secured \_\_\_\_\_ rank in the list.
- Islamabad, Pakistan; 4th
  - Dhaka, Bangladesh; 2nd
  - Belgrade, Serbia; 3rd
  - Islamabad, Pakistan; 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Dhaka, Bangladesh; 3<sup>rd</sup>
26. In March 2022, RBI issued a framework for Geo-tagging of Payment System Touch Points/acceptance infrastructure under Section 10 (2) read with \_\_\_\_\_ of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- Section 12
  - Section 18
  - Section 15
  - Section 16
  - Section 25
27. Name the badminton player who recently (in March'22) won the gold medal in the women's singles at the YONEX Swiss Open 2022 badminton tournament held in Basel, Switzerland.
- P V Sindhu (India)
  - Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand)
  - Saina Nehwal (India)
  - Carolina Marin (Spain)
  - Busanan Ongbamrungphan (Thailand)
28. Who recently (in March'22) became the World's Youngest & Fastest Female Swimmer to Swim Across the Palk Strait for 13 hours and 10 minutes?
- Shikha Tandon
  - Jiya Rai
  - Shivani Kataria
  - Maana Patel
  - Bhula Chowdhary
29. In March 2022, M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India released a book, 'Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya' on late Shri Somepalli Somaiah. Who authored the book, 'Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya'?
- R. Kaushik
  - R. Giridharan
  - K. Syam Prasad
  - Anant Vijay
  - Jeet Thayil
30. What is the theme of the 15th Earth Hour that was observed across the globe on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022?
- Biodiversity
  - climate action
  - Reduce, Reuse, Change the Way We Live
  - Shape Our Future
  - Climate Change to Save Earth
31. Name the security exercise that was conducted by Western Naval Command in western Offshore Development Area (ODA) off Mumbai.
- Ekatah
  - Maiden
  - Prasthan
  - La Perouse
  - Paschim Lehar
32. Which mutual fund company recently (in March'22) launched India's 1st Defence Fund?
- Axis Mutual Fund
  - Edelweiss Mutual Fund
  - HDFC Mutual Fund
  - IDBI Mutual Fund
  - HSBC Mutual Fund
33. Name the Indian Naval Ship (INS) that was recently (in March'22) awarded the President's Colour by the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.
- INS Vikrant
  - INS Vikramaditya
  - INS Chilka
  - INS Shivaji
  - INS Valsura
34. Bank of India (BoI) has recently (in March'22) invested \_\_\_\_\_ in National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL).
- Rs 467.43 crore
  - Rs 523.21 crore
  - Rs 307.67 crore
  - Rs 208.21 crore
  - Rs 108.81 crore
35. In March 2022, which company became the official sponsor of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 that will take place from November to December 2022?
- Reliance Jio
  - Paytm
  - Vedantu
  - BYJU'S
  - Unacademy
36. On which date the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change plans to observe National Dolphin Day every year from 2022?
- 5th October
  - 5th November
  - 5th June
  - 5th August
  - 5th September
37. In March 2022, India1 Payments received a perpetual licence to set-up White Label ATMs (WLAs) in India from the RBI. Where is the Headquarters of India1 Payments Limited?
- Patna
  - Mumbai
  - Kolkata
  - Bengaluru
  - Chennai

38. In March 2022, the central government extended the timeline to \_\_\_\_\_ from 5 years for startups to convert debt investment into equity.
- 7 years
  - 9 years
  - 6 years
  - 10 years
  - 8 years
39. In March 2022, the Central Government has set target of \_\_\_\_\_ for the 'National Bank for Financial Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)' for sanctioning loans to the infrastructure sector in FY23.
- Rs 1 billion
  - Rs 4 million
  - Rs 3 billion
  - Rs 1 trillion
  - Rs 4 billion
40. In March 2022, Governor of RBI Shaktikanta Das, inaugurated the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Who was appointed as the 1st chairman of RBIH?
- Vishal Sikka
  - Narayana Murthy
  - Kris Gopalakrishnan
  - Nandan Nilekani
  - S. D. Shibulal
41. In which place India recently (in March'22) test fired a surface-to-surface 'BrahMos' supersonic cruise missile extended range?
- Karnataka
  - Andhra Pradesh
  - Andaman and Nicobar Island
  - West Bengal
  - Odisha
42. Ramesh Chandra Lahoti recently (in March'22) passed away. He is the Former \_\_\_\_\_ of India.
- Chief of the Air Staff
  - Chief of the Naval Staff
  - Chief of the Army Staff
  - Governor
  - Chief Justice of India
43. What is the theme of World Tuberculosis (TB) Day 2022 that was observed across the globe on 24th March 2022?
- The Clock is Ticking
  - It's Time
  - Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world
  - Unite to end TB
  - Invest to End TB. Save Lives
44. In March 2022, \_\_\_\_\_ became the First State to go Paperless assembly proceeding under National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA).
- Arunachal Pradesh
  - Nagaland
  - Manipur
  - Mizoram
  - Assam
45. Which state's police recently (in March'22) conducted a joint exercise "Suraksha Kavach 2" with the Indian Army?
- Jharkhand
  - Andhra Pradesh
  - Odisha
  - Maharashtra
  - Madhya Pradesh
46. As per the 12th Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) by the National Statistical Office (NSO) Unemployment Rate for persons of age 15 years & above in urban areas declined to \_\_\_\_\_ in July-September (Q2) 2021 from 13.2% in Q2-2020.
- 7.9%
  - 9.8%
  - 8.2%
  - 11.5%
  - 10.6%
47. In March'22, India's merchandise exports sector of India touched New Peak of \_\_\_\_\_ in FY22.
- \$300 billion
  - \$100 billion
  - \$400 billion
  - \$200 billion
  - \$500 billion
48. Ashleigh Barty, a professional tennis player, recently (in March'22) announced her retirement from tennis. She belongs to which country?
- Germany
  - Belgium
  - Russia
  - US
  - Australia
49. Who co-authored the book, 'The Little Book of Joy' along with Archbishop Desmond Tutu?
- Nadia Murad
  - Dalai Lama
  - Abiy Ahmed
  - Denis Mukwege
  - Maria Ressa
50. Which country recently (in March'22) signed an MoU with the Indian Potash limited (IPL) for Fertilizers Supply for 5 years?
- Israel
  - UAE
  - Germany
  - Oman
  - Singapore
51. In March 2022, the Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the continuation of the National AIDS & STDs Control Programme (NACP) from 1st April, 2021 to \_\_\_\_\_ with an outlay of Rs. 15,471.94 crore.
- 31st March, 2024
  - 30th June, 2023
  - 31st March, 2026
  - 30th August, 2025
  - 30th April, 2026

52. The Narasingapettai Nagaswaram, a classical wind music instrument, recently (in March'22) got the GI Tag under the category of musical instruments. "Narasingapettai Nagaswaram" belongs to which state?
- Telangana
  - Tamil Nadu
  - Kerala
  - Karnataka
  - Andhra Pradesh
53. \_\_\_\_\_ has become the 1st state in India to introduce carbon-neutral framing methods for better soil health.
- Jharkhand
  - Andhra Pradesh
  - Punjab
  - Tamil Nadu
  - Kerala
54. In which country the Multilateral Military exercise Cold Response 2022 was being conducted by North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)?
- Finland
  - Norway
  - Iceland
  - Sweden
  - Canada
55. Which organisation recently (in March'22) sanctioned a financial assistance of Rs.4,013 crores to Odisha under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for the financial year 2021-2022?
- IRDAI
  - SIDBI
  - SEBI
  - NABARD
  - Reserve Bank of India
56. In March 2022, Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the coffee table book titled "The Shield: Covishield". Who authored the book, "The Shield: Covishield"?
- Krishna Saksena
  - Ashis Ray
  - Bibek Debroy
  - Prakash Kumar Singh
  - Dalai Lama
57. What is the theme of World Water Day 2022 that was observed across the globe by the United nation on 22nd March, 2022?
- Nature for Water
  - Water and Climate Change
  - Groundwater: Making the invisible visible
  - Valuing Water
  - Leaving No One Behind
58. In March 2022, the National Capital Regional Transport Corporation (NCRTC) launched India's 1st Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train for Delhi to \_\_\_\_\_ corridor.
- Ahmedabad
  - Varanasi
  - Kolkata
  - Amritsar
  - Meerut
59. Who was recently (in March) named as a member of the UN's Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism?
- Deepak Nayyar
  - Jayati Ghosh
  - Arvind Panagariya
  - Kalpana Kochhar
  - Kaushik Basu
60. Who recently (in March'22) won the 19th Asian 100 UP Billiards Championship 2022 for the 8th time?
- Dhruv Sitwala
  - Sourav Kothari
  - Geet Sethi
  - Pankaj Advani
  - Aditya Mehta
61. Name the tennis player who recently (in March'22) won the Men's singles in ATP Indian Wells Masters in California, USA by defeating Rafael Nadal.
- Sebastian Korda
  - Jack Sock
  - Taylor Harry Fritz
  - John Isner
  - Andy Roddick
62. When was World Sparrow Day (WSD) 2022 observed across the globe with the theme of "I LOVE Sparrows"?
- 20th March, 2022
  - 19th March, 2022
  - 21st March, 2022
  - 19th March, 2022
  - 17th March, 2022
63. The Public sector bank will share \_\_\_\_\_ ownership (as of March'22) in National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL).
- 15%
  - 25%
  - 35%
  - 51%
  - 49%
64. In March 2022, the \_\_\_\_\_ edition of the India Indonesia Security Dialogue (IISD) was held in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- 5th
  - 4th
  - 2nd
  - 1st
  - 3rd
65. As per the 10th United Nations' World Happiness Report 2022, India secured the \_\_\_\_\_ rank, while \_\_\_\_\_ tops the index as the happiest country in the world for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.
- 124; Denmark
  - 136; Finland
  - 124; Iceland
  - 139; Denmark
  - 136; Iceland
66. Who recently (in March'22) won the 70th edition of Miss World 2021 pageant held in San Juan, Puerto Rico?
- Karolina Bielawska (Poland)
  - Carla Yules (Indonesia)
  - Emmy Pena (Dominican Republic)
  - Toni-Ann Singh (Jamaica)
  - Shree Saini (USA)

67. In March 2022, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first African to win the 51st Pritzker Architecture Prize-2022.
  - a) Frei Otto
  - b) Arata Isozaki
  - c) Diebedo Francis Kere
  - d) Alejandro Aravena
  - e) Jean-Philippe Vassal
68. Which golfer was recently (in March'22) inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame 2022 in the United States?
  - a) Justin Thomas
  - b) Tiger Woods
  - c) Keegan Bradley
  - d) Lee Trevino
  - e) Jordan Spieth
69. In March 2022, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first state in India to implement the Crop Diversification Index.
  - a) Telangana
  - b) Odisha
  - c) Andhra Pradesh
  - d) Karnataka
  - e) Tamil Nadu
70. Which railway station became the 1st station in the East Coast to implement "One Nation, One Product"?
  - a) Kharagpur Railway Station
  - b) Cuttack Railway Station
  - c) Rayagada Railway Station
  - d) Howrah Railway Station
  - e) Visakhapatnam Railway Station
71. As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in March 2022, India's urban unemployment rate is projected to \_\_\_\_\_ in the April-June quarter of 2021.
  - a) 11.5%
  - b) 14.3%
  - c) 12.6%
  - d) 10.2%
  - e) 9.3%
72. NPCI is set to launch 'On-Device Wallet-UPI Lite for Small Value Transactions' in OfflineMode.What is the Upper Limit of payment transactions in UPI Lite?
  - a) Rs 100
  - b) Rs 400
  - c) Rs 500
  - d) Rs 300
  - e) Rs 200
73. In March 2022, Indian Railways prepared the National Rail Plan (NRP) for India for the development of a futuristic railway system by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) 2025
  - b) 2030
  - c) 2024
  - d) 2028
  - e) 2026
74. Match the following MD & CEO of certain Public sector undertakings Banks that was recommended by Banks Board Bureau (BBB) in March 2022.

- Who became the 1st ever female President of Hungary?
- a) Magdalena Andersson
  - b) Sandra Mason
  - c) Xiomara Castro
  - d) Najla Bouden
  - e) Katalin Novak

# Answers

1	a	16	d	31	c	46	b	61	c
2	d	17	b	32	c	47	c	62	a
3	d	18	c	33	e	48	e	63	d
4	b	19	a	34	e	49	b	64	c
5	c	20	b	35	d	50	a	65	b
6	a	21	d	36	a	51	c	66	a
7	a	22	a	37	d	52	b	67	c
8	c	23	b	38	d	53	e	68	b
9	d	24	e	39	d	54	b	69	a
10	e	25	b	40	c	55	d	70	e
11	a	26	b	41	c	56	d	71	c
12	c	27	a	42	e	57	c	72	e
13	a	28	b	43	e	58	e	73	b
14	b	29	c	44	b	59	b	74	a
15	e	30	d	45	d	60	d	75	e



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