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THE HINDU REVIEW MARCH 2022

- **Monthly**
Capsule
- **Current**
Affairs



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The Most Important Current Affairs March 2022

94th Oscars Awards 2022 announced: full list of winners

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.

Key points:

- The 94th Academy Awards are honouring 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.
- Netflix's **The Power of the Dog** leads the race with **12 nominations** followed by sci-fi epic *Dune*, with 10 nods. Indian documentary *Writing With Fire* is also nominated for Best Documentary (Feature).
- Awards will be presented across **23 categories**, which are determined based on voting by members of the Academy.
- This time, there are two new categories- Oscars Fan Favorite Award and Oscars Cheer Moment, which will be decided by fan voting, which was done online between February 14 and March 3, 2022.

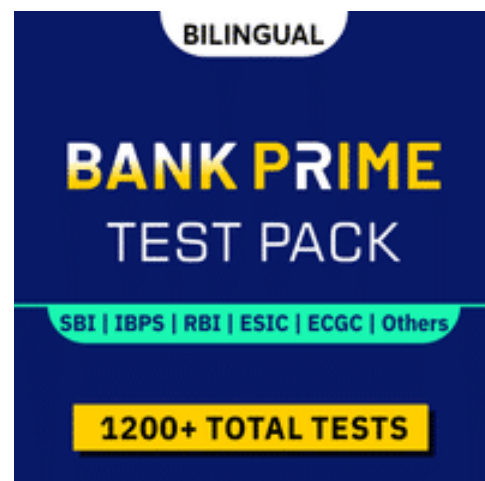
Check out the full list of winners

- Best Actor in a Leading Role: **Will Smith**, "King Richard"
- Best Actress in a Leading Role: **Jessica Chastain** (The Eyes of Tammy Faye)
- Best Picture: **CODA**
- Best International Feature Film: **Drive My Car**
- Documentary Short Subject: **The Queen of Basketball**
- Best Directing: **Jane Campion** (The Power of the Dog)
- Best Actress in a Supporting Role: **Ariana DeBose** (West Side Story)
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role: **Troy Kotsur** (CODA)
- Best Makeup & Hairstyling: **The Eyes of Tammy Faye**

- Best Cinematography: *Dune*
- Best Original Score: **Hans Zimmer** (*Dune*)
- Best Visual Effects: *Dune*
- Best Animated Feature Film: *Encanto*
- Best Animated Short Film: *The Windshield Wiper*
- Best Costume Design: *Cruella*
- Best Original Screenplay: **Kenneth Branagh** (Belfast)
- Best Adapted Screenplay: **Sian Heder** (Coda)
- Best Live Action Short Film: *The Long Goodbye*
- Best Sound: *Dune*
- Best Documentary Feature: "Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)"
- Best Original Song: "No Time To Die" from "No Time to Die," music and lyric by **Billie Eilish** and **Finneas O'Connell**
- Best Production Design: *Dune*
- Best Film Editing: *Dune*

75th BAFTA Award 2022 announced

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.



Here is the list of winners at the 2022 BAFTA awards:

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

History of the 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.

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 men's category:

Shreyas Iyer, the fast-rising India batter, has won the ICC 'Men's Player of the Month' for February 2022. Shreyas Iyer earned the ICC Player of the Month award on the back of his brilliant white-ball exploits during the home series against West Indies and Sri Lanka respectively last month.

Among the women category:

New Zealand all-rounder **Amelia Kerr** bagged the ICC 'Women's Player of the Month award for February 2022'. Amelia Kerr, the 21-year-old New Zealand all-rounder, was named the Women's POTM, following her supreme consistency with both bat and ball during the home white-ball series against India. Kerr was chosen ahead of fellow nominees, India captain Mithali Raj and all-rounder Deepti Sharma for the award.

Miss World 2021: Poland's Karolina Bielawska crowned

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.

Indian Contender

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.

Hurun Global Rich List 2022: Elon Musk Tops

SpaceX and Tesla founder **Elon Musk** has bagged the top position on the 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List, with a total net worth of **\$205 billion**. The 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List is published by research and luxury publishing group Hurun India in association with realty firm M3M.

Other persons in the list:

- Amazon.com Inc executive chairman **Jeff Bezos** ranked second with \$188 billion in net worth.
- With a net worth of \$153 billion, **Bernard Arnault**, the chief executive of LVMH Moët Hennessy – **Louis Vuitton SE**, the world’s largest luxury-goods company, ranked third.
- From India, **Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani** was the only Indian to feature in the top 10 list of 2022 Hurun Global Rich List’ to emerge as India’s as well as Asia’s richest man. Ambani occupied the **ninth rank globally with a net worth of \$103 billion.**

A key finding of 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List

- Overall 3,381 billionaires from 2,557 companies and 69 countries were ranked in 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List.
- 215 billionaires were from India, which included 58 new additions.
- India emerged as the third-largest billionaire producing nation in the world.

TOP 10 Billionaires:

Rank	Name	Company	Wealth Value
1	Elon Musk	Tesla	USD 205 billion(bn)
2	Jeff Bezos	Amazon	USD 188 bn
3	Bernard Arnault	LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton	USD 153 bn
4	Bill Gates	Microsoft	USD 124 bn
5	Warren Buffett	Berkshire Hathaway	USD 119 bn
6	Sergey Brin	Alphabet	USD 116 bn
6	Larry Page	Alphabet	USD 116 bn
8	Steve Ballmer	Microsoft	USD 107 bn
9.	Mukesh Ambani	Reliance Industries Limited	USD 103 bn
10	Bertrand Puech & Family	Hermes	USD 102 bn

Knight Frank: India ranks 3rd in billionaire population globally

India is ranked **3rd** in terms of most number of **billionaires’ population globally in 2021**, as per Knight Frank’s latest edition of **The Wealth Report 2022**. The number of ultra-high-net-worth-individuals (UHNWIs) in India increased by 11% YoY in 2021 to **145 billionaires**, the highest percentage growth in the Asia Pacific (APAC) region. UHNWIs are individuals with net assets of US\$ 30m or more (Rs 226 crore).

Globally:

- The list has been topped by the **United States (748) and China (554) respectively.**

Indian City-wise:

Bengaluru recorded the highest growth in the number of UHNWIs in 2021 at 17.1% to 352 billionaires. It was followed by **Delhi** (12.4% to 210) and **Mumbai** (9% to 1596) in 2021.

Top 5 countries with the most number of billionaires in 2021:

Billionaires	2021
United States	748
China	554
India	145
Germany	136
Russia	121

President Kovind Confers National Water Awards 2022

The President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind** has presented the **3rd National Water Awards** in New Delhi. National Water Awards is given for exemplary work in the field of water resource management. The first National Water Award was launched in 2018, by the Jal Shakti Ministry. A total of **57 National Water Awards for 2022** have been conferred to states, organizations and others in 11 different categories.

In the Best State category:

- **Uttar Pradesh** has been awarded first prize, followed by **Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.**

In the Best District category:

- The 'Best District' awards for the north zone was bagged by **Muzaffarnagar** (Uttar Pradesh) and **Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar** (Punjab);
- For the south zone, it was Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) and Kadapa (Andhra Pradesh);
- For the east zone, East Champaran (Bihar) and Godda (Jharkhand) won the award;

- Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Vadodara (Gujarat) and Banswara (Rajasthan) won the awards in the west zone.
- Goalpara (Assam) and Siang (Arunachal Pradesh) won the awards for the northeast zone.

In the “Best Village Panchayat” Category

North Zone

- Dhaspad, Almora, Uttarakhand
- Jamola, Rajouri, J&K
- Balua, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

South Zone

- Yelerampura Panchayat, Tumakuru District, Karnataka
- Vellaputhur Panchayat, Chengalpattu District, Tamil Nadu
- Elappully Grama Panchayat, Palakkad District, Kerala

East Zone

- Telari Panchayat, Gaya District, Bihar
- Chhindiya Panchayat, Surajpur District, Chhattisgarh
- Guni Panchayat, Khunti District, Jharkhand

West Zone

- Takhatgadh, Sabarkantha, Gujarat
- Kankapar, Kachchh, Gujarat
- Surdi, Solapur, Maharashtra

North-East Zone

- Sialsir, Sirchip, Mizoram
- Aminda Simsanggre, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya
- Chambagre, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya

In the “Best Urban Local Body” Category

- Vapi Urban Local Body, Gujarat
- Dapoli Nagar Panchayat, Maharashtra
- Madurai Municipal Corporation, Tamil Nadu

In the “Best Media (Print & Electronic)” Category

- Agrowon, Sakal Media Pvt. Ltd. (Adinath Dattatray Chavan)
- Sandesh Daily Bhuj Edition

In the “Best School” Category

- Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kaveripattinam in Tamil Nadu, Amalorpavam Lourds Academy, Thiruvallur, Puducherry and Amity International School, Noida, Uttar Pradesh won the awards in the Best School category.

In the “Best Institution/RWA/Religious organization for Campus usage” Category

- Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Jammu
- IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Indian Oil Corporation Limited Faridabad

In the “Best Industry” Category

- Trident (Textile) Ltd., Punjab
- Steel Authority of India Ltd., New Delhi

In the “Best NGO” Category

- Gramvikas Sanstha, Aurangabad
- Vivekananda Research and Training Institute, Bhavnagar

In the “Best Water User Association” Category

- Panchgachiya MDTW WUA, Hooghly, West Bengal
- Hatinada Champa Purulia, West Bengal
- Amtore Mini River Lift Irrigation WUA, Purulia, West Bengal

In the “Best Industry for Corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities” Category

- HAL, Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Dharampal Satyapal Ltd., Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Apart from this President Kovind launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan:

Catch the Rain campaign 2022, which is an expansion of the water campaign launched in 2021 March, to underline the importance of water in our daily life and on the planet Earth. The 2022 ‘Catch the Rain’ campaign will be implemented till November 30, 2022.

President Kovind Presents ‘Nari Shakti Puraskar’ for 2020 and 2021

The President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind** has conferred the ‘**Nari Shakti Puraskar**’ for the years 2020 and 2021, on the occasion of **International Women’s Day** on March 08, 2022, at **Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi**. Overall 29 women have been conferred the award for the years 2020 and 2021 in recognition of their outstanding and exceptional work towards the empowerment of women, especially the vulnerable and marginalised. There were a total of 28 awards which included 14 awards each for the years 2020 and 2021. The award ceremony for the year 2020 could not be held in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nari Shakti Puraskar 2020:

Sl. No	Name and Place	Description
1.	Anita Gupta (Bhojpur, Bihar)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is presented to her for outstanding contribution forempowering rural and underprivileged women
2.	Arti Rana (Kheri, Uttar Pradesh)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded in recognition of her exceptional work for underprivileged and tribal women.
3.	Dr. Ela Lodh (West Tripura, Tripura) (Posthumous)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded posthumously for her outstanding contribution towards women’s health particularly for the marginalised and underprivileged.
4.	Jaya Muthu and Tejamma (Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to them for their extraordinary contribution for preserving and promoting the age-old intricate Toda Embroidery of Nilgiris.
5.	Jodhaiya Bai Baiga (Umaria, Madhya Pradesh)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for resilience and brilliance in promoting the Tribal Baiga Art at the global level. By doing so, she is helping the art from becoming extinct.
6.	Meera Thakur (S.A.S Nagar, Punjab)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is being awarded to her for promoting the unique Sikki Grass Art and empowering the underprivileged women in Punjab.
7.	Nasira Akhter (Kulgam, Jammu and Kashmir)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is being awarded to her for exemplary grassroots innovation for environmental conservation.
8.	Nivruti Rai (Bengaluru Urban, Karnataka)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for excellence in the field of technology, truly representing the 21st Century Women and empowering students to build Artificial Intelligence enabled Hi-Tech future for India
9.	Padma Yangchan (Leh, Ladakh)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for preserving and reviving the lost cuisine and hand weaving techniques of Ladakh and promoting it at International Level.
10.	Sandhya Dhar (Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to recognise her exceptional contribution and indomitable spirit & dedication towards divyangjan rights.
11.	Saylee Nandkishor Agavane (Pune, Maharashtra)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her in recognition of her excellence in promoting Indian Classical Dance internationally despite facing hardship.
12.	Tiffany Brar (Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala)	Nari Shakti Puraskar is being awarded to her for exemplary work done for visually impaired rural women and motivating the masses despite being visually challenged.
13.	Ushaben Dineshbhai Vasava (Narmada, Gujarat)	Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for outstanding contribution in organic farming and assisting and educating the women farmers at ground level.
14.	Vanita Jagdeo Borade (Buldhana, Maharashtra)	Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded in recognition of her exemplary efforts in wildlife conservation particularly by rescuing Snakes and creating awareness on the subject

Nari Shakti Puruskar 2021:

Sl. No	Name and Place	Description
1.	Anshul Malhotra (Mandi, Himachal Pradesh)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her in recognition of her outstanding contribution for skilling the underprivileged rural women in learning handloom weaving and also for preserving and promoting Himachal Handloom.
2.	Batool Begam (Jaipur, Rajasthan)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for her outstanding contribution in promoting Indian folk music internationally and also being a source of inspiration for others.
3.	Kamal Kumbhar (Osamanabad, Maharashtra)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for contribution in promoting women's entrepreneurship in the field of animal husbandry
4.	Madhulika Ramteke (Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for remarkable efforts for upliftment of women and their economic empowerment.
5.	Neena Gupta (Kolkata, West Bengal)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for her excellence in the field of Mathematics
6.	Neerja Madhav (Uttar Pradesh)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her in recognition of her work for marginalised people through Hindi Sahitya.
7.	Niranjanaben Mukulbhai, (Kalarthi, Surat, Gujarat)	The Nari Shakti Puruskar is awarded to her for promoting Gujarati language and to promote the education of underprivileged tribal girls.
8.	Pooja Sharma (Gurugram, Haryana)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for her outstanding contribution in the field of skill development and empowerment of women and entrepreneurship.
9.	Radhika Menon (Dharwad, Karnataka)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for excellence in Indian Merchant Navy & exemplary courage.
10.	Sathupati Prasanna Sree (Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her exceptional contribution for preserving minority tribal languages.
11.	Shobha Gasti (Belagavi, Karnataka)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for remarkable efforts & exemplary contribution for the cause of empowerment of women and girls.
12.	Sruti Mohapatra (Bhubaneswar, Odisha)	The Nari Shakti Puruskar is awarded to her indomitable spirit and for outstanding contribution towards the upliftment and empowerment of Divyangjan.
13.	Tage Rita Takhe (Subansiri, Arunachal Pradesh)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is given to her for excellence in promoting women entrepreneurship and local product internationally.
14.	Thara Rangaswamy (Chennai, Tamil Nadu)	The Nari Shakti Puraskar is awarded to her for her innovative and relentless efforts to create awareness about and cure for mental disorders.

Freedom of the World 2022 report: India ranked 'partly free'

For the second consecutive year, **India** has been termed as '**partly free**' country in terms of democracy and free society, according to the annual report. The report titled "**Freedom in the World 2022 - The Global Expansion of Authoritarian Rule**" by Freedom House, a US-based NGO that 'assesses political rights and civil liberties. India scored 66 out of 100 in 2022. The country had scored 67 in 2021. India was a free country till 2020 when its score was 71.

In Internet freedom:

- **India** scored a mere **49**, the same score as that of Uganda. Here too, the score has come down. The reasons are - the increasing internet shutdowns by governments, low internet penetration and poor infrastructure.
- India's freedom scores are similar to that of **Bolivia, Hungary and Albania**. The countries that have scored the worst include **South Sudan, Syria, Tibet, Turkmenistan, Eritrea and North Korea**.
- Sixty-nine countries are currently not free worldwide. This makes the situation worse than in 1973 when only 63 countries were not free.
- Apart from the worst scorers, the list also includes **Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Thailand and Qatar**. This is an increase from the last year when only 54 countries were not free.
- At the same time, there is an increase in free countries from 82 to 85, compared to 2021. In this category, **Finland, Sweden and Norway** have achieved a perfect 100, besides **New Zealand, Canada, Uruguay, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Ireland and Denmark**.



Key points of the reports

- In 2022, 85 countries were termed as free, 56 as partly free and 69 as not free.
- The Freedom in the World 2022 evaluated the state of freedom in 195 countries and 15 territories during the calendar year 2021.

About the report: The report used 25 indicators, grouped into the categories of political rights and civil liberties to determine whether the country or territory has an overall status of Free, Partly Free, or Not Free. The report is published every year since 1973 to assess the political rights and civil liberties of a country through a series of surveys and analyses.

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**.

Six Indian Airports named the ACI World's ASQ Awards 2021

From India, **six airports** have found a place among the 'Best Airport by Size and Region', by the **Airports Council International (ACI)**, in its **Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey** for the year 2021. The airports have been adjudged among the Asia Pacific region in different categories based on annual passenger traffic. The ACI Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards takes into account 33 parameters related to passenger amenities to recognize airport excellence in customer experience.

The six Indian airports include:

Category - Over 40 million passengers per year

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), Mumbai (5th consecutive year)
- Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi (4th consecutive year)

Category - 15 to 25 million passengers per year

- Rajiv Gandhi International airport, Hyderabad

Category - 5 to 15 million passengers per year

- Cochin International Airport, Cochin
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad

Category - 2 to 5 million passengers per year

- Chandigarh Airport, Chandigarh

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Airports Council International Headquarters: Montreal, Canada;

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.

UN World Happiness Report 2022: India Ranks 136th

India has improved its rank by three spots to acquire **136th position** in the **United Nations' World Happiness Report** for the year 2022, which ranked 146 countries. In 2021, India's rank was **139**. **Finland** has topped the 2022 World Happiness Report, for the fifth continuous year. **Afghanistan** has been ranked as the unhappiest country in the world, at 146th position.

Top 10 countries of the 2022 World Happiness Report:

Rank	Country
1	Finland
2	Denmark
3	Iceland
4	Switzerland
5	The Netherlands
6	Luxembourg
7	Sweden
8	Norway
9	Israel
10	New Zealand

About the report:

- The 2022 World Happiness Report was released on March 18, 2022. It is the 10th edition of the report.
- The World Happiness Report is being published by United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, since 2012, to rank countries by how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be.
- The Report is based on two key ideas, (1) happiness or life evaluation measured through opinion surveys and (2) identifying key elements that determine well-being and life evaluation across countries.

Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day Observed On 23rd March

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**.

Why is Martyr's Day celebrated on 23rd March?

On March 23, three heroes of our nation were hanged to death, namely Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar by the British. No doubt, they also sacrificed their lives for the welfare of our nation. These heroes fought for the welfare of people and sacrificed their lives for the same cause. For many young Indians, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev have become a source of inspiration. Even during British rule, their sacrifice urged many people to come forth and fight for their freedom. Therefore, in order to homage to the three of these revolutionaries, India has commemorated March 23 as Shaheed Diwas.

The story behind their sacrifice

They were hanged to death for assassinating **John Saunders**, a British police officer in 1928. They had mistook him for British police superintendent **James Scott**. It was Scott who had ordered lathi-charge, which eventually led to the death of **Lala Lajpat Rai**.

Virat Kohli tops in Duff & Phelps Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 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 the 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**. **Alia Bhatt** has ranked 4th with a brand value of USD 68.1 million and has become the most valued female celebrity. She is the youngest celebrity among the top 10 and she is the most valued brand amongst female Bollywood actors.

Here is the list of the Top 10 most valued celebrities:

Rank	Name	Brand Value (In Millions)
1	Virat Kohli	USD 185.7
2	Ranveer Singh	USD 158.3
3	Akshay Kumar	USD 139.6
4	Alia Bhatt	USD 68.1
5	MS Dhoni	USD 61.2
6	Amitabh Bachchan	USD 54.2
7	Deepika Padukone	USD 51.6
8	Salman Khan	USD 51.6
9	Ayushmann Khurrana	USD 49.3
10	Hrithik Roshan	USD 48.5

Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- Public sector lender, **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has announced the launch of "Project Banksakhi" in **Odisha** in collaboration with **Mahagram & Sunivesh India Finance Services Pvt. Ltd.** for Online Bank Account opening. It will provide doorstep and hassle-free access to the people of Odisha for opening bank accounts. The people of Odisha using our innovative customer-friendly financial services and best in class customer experience across digital and physical touchpoints.
- Ambit Finvest** has announced the signing of a co-lending agreement with **Union Bank of India (UBI)** for financing to **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME)** customers. Ambit Finvest is the Ambit Group's non-deposit-taking **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)**. This collaboration will enable underwriting for businesses in 11 states now served by Ambit Finvest. Ambit Finvest and **Union Bank of India** hope to speed up credit disbursement across multiple geographies with this partnership, according to **Sanjay Dhoka, COO and CFO of Ambit Finvest**.
- Reserve Bank of India** has cancelled the license of **Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank, Sangli, Maharashtra**, as it did not have adequate capital and earning prospects. With the cancellation of the licence, Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank Ltd has ceased to carry on banking business with effect from the close of business hours on 2 March. The bank is not complying with various sections of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

- **Axis Bank and Bharti Airtel** have entered into a strategic partnership to strengthen the growth of the digital ecosystem in India, through a range of financial solutions. The partnership would enable access to credit and various digital financial offerings from **Axis Bank to Airtel's 340 million-plus customers**.
- **The Banks Board Bureau (BBB)** has launched a development programme for public sector bank management with the goal of boosting the quality of bank boards. The nine-month **Directors' Development Programme (DDP)** is made for directors of **Public Sector Banks and financial institutions** with the main objective of improving director effectiveness and increasing their impact on boards, according to the Banks Board Bureau.
- **Reserve Bank of India** has launched two initiatives related to digital payments. One is **UPI123pay** which provides a UPI payment facility on feature phones and the second is **"DigiSaathi"** which is a 24x7 Helpline for Digital Payments.
- **Reserve Bank of India** has launched a booklet named **"BE(A)WARE"** which features common modus operandi used by fraudsters and precautions to be taken while carrying out various financial transactions. The booklet aims to enhance public awareness about various types of financial frauds perpetrated on gullible customers while carrying out digital payments and other financial transactions.
- **Mastercard and Zeta**, a financial tech startup that provides **next-generation credit card** processing to **banks and fintechs**, established a **5-year worldwide agreement** today. As part of the deal, the companies will work together to **create credit cards** with issuers all around the world using **Zeta's modern, cloud-native, and API-ready credit processing stack**.
- **Axis Bank** has launched the **'HouseWorkIsWork'** project, which provides possibilities for those who want to return to the **workforce**. The intent behind this initiative is to give these women the confidence that they are **employable**, that they have **skills**, and that they can fit in various **job roles in a bank**, and it is about getting these women back to work."
- With the aim of expanding export shipments, the **Reserve Bank of India** extended the interest equalisation scheme for pre and post-shipment rupee loans for **MSME exporters** through March 2024. The 'Interest Equalisation Scheme for pre and post-shipment **Rupee Export Credit**' provides a subsidy to exporters. The scheme was first extended until the end of **June** last year, and then again until **September 2021**.
- **Reserve Bank of India** has announced that **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)** will be regulated and supervised by it as an **All India Financial Institution (AIFI) under the RBI Act, 1934**. NaBFID will be regulated and supervised by RBI as an AIFI under **Sections 45L and 45N** of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.
- **Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited (FGII)** has announced the launch of **FG Dog Health Cover**, comprehensive health insurance for pet dogs, along with industry-first 'Emergency Pet Minding' cover.
- **HDFC Mutual Fund** has launched a women-led financial empowerment initiative **'LaxmiForLaxmi'** which will connect women investors to a woman financial expert near them through a unique missed call service. The female financial expert will guide and address the queries of the woman investor.
- **ToneTag** has partnered with **NSDL Payments Bank and NPCI** to launch its **"VoiceSe UPI payments service"** for feature phone users. This comes after the Reserve Bank of India has launched the UPI 123Pay facility that enables UPI payments for feature phone users. ToneTag is a sound-based proximity communication and payments service provider based in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- **Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited**, a health insurance company launched **"Star Women Care Insurance Policy"**. It is a woman-centric comprehensive health cover specially designed to protect the healthcare needs of women at every stage of their lives. The policy can be purchased through premiums that can be paid in quarterly or half-yearly instalments, and this policy can also be taken for 1 year, 2 year or 3-year terms.

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has directed **Paytm Payments Bank Ltd** to stop the onboarding of new customers with immediate effect. The bank has also been directed to appoint an IT audit firm to conduct a comprehensive **System Audit of its IT system**. The RBI took the decision in exercise of its powers under section **35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- The **RBI** has stopped **Paytm Payments Bank** from accepting new customers because it broke the laws by allowing data to transit to servers in other countries and failing to properly authenticate its consumers. According to a report, annual inspections by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** discovered that the company's servers were sharing information with China-based organisations that indirectly held an interest in **Paytm Payments Bank**. Existing users' **PPBL** savings, fixed deposits with linked banks, and balances in their **Paytm Wallet, FASTag or Wallet Card, and UPI services** are all safe and working, according to the company.
- **LivQuik**, a **prepaid payment instrument (PPI)** issuer, announced that it has achieved full interoperability for its **Prepaid Payment Instruments**, as mandated by the **Reserve Bank of India**. According to the firm, it is also the first **PPI** issuer to achieve full interoperability. **PPI** issuers must enable **full-KYC** wallet interoperability by **March 31, 2022**, according to **RBI rules**.
- The **HSBC CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL Apr 2028 Index Fund (HGSEF)**, an open-ended **Target Maturity Index Fund** that tracks the **CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL Index - April 2028**, has been introduced by **HSBC Mutual Fund**. According to the fund house, the programme has a high interest rate risk and a low credit risk.
- 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. It will help the bank to develop a set of technologies, knowledge, and skills for the introduction of new products and services. It will act as a central body to govern and drive fin-tech partnerships and implement change across the bank.
- The digital payments network **Mahila Money, Visa, and Transcorp Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI)** have launched **Mahila Money Prepaid Card** to help women entrepreneurs easily collect payments, loans and get incentives for transactions. The prepaid card has been designed keeping in mind the needs of digital entrepreneurs, small business owners and women.
- **HDFC Bank** has announced to launch the "**SmartHub Vyapar programme**" & '**AutoFirst**' app the following two initiatives/application to give a digital push to small business loans. The financial institution has onboarded over 2.7 million retailers and is buying 100 thousand retailers each month. **HDFC Bank** has plans to onboard 20 million retailers in three years. More than half of the newly onboarded retailers solely function by means of the app platform.
- **The Reserve Bank of India** has instructed **regulated entities (REs)** lending to the **microfinance** sector to ensure that **loans are collateral-free and not secured by a lien on the borrower's deposit account**, that repayment obligations are capped, that interest rates are not usurious, and that there is no prepayment penalty. The central bank's harmonised regulatory framework for regulated lenders, which includes scheduled **commercial banks, small financing banks, NBFC-MFIs, and NBFC-Investment and Credit Companies**, includes these clauses.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the license of **People's Co-operative Bank Limited, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh**. The bank is found to lack adequate capital and earning prospects under the provisions of Section 11(1) and Section 22 (3) (d) - under Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 - '**Act to apply to co-operative societies subject to modifications**'.
- **DBS Bank India** has announced the launch of its **Green Deposit Programme** for corporate clients providing a simple way for companies to support environmentally-friendly projects or avenues. **DBS Bank** is one of the few banks globally to integrate Sustainable Development Goals by offering lending & trade credit solutions to sustainable and environmentally-friendly green sectors and now offering a Green Deposit product.
- **ICICI Bank** announced that it has **partnered with Chennai Super Kings (CSK)**, one of India's most successful cricket teams, to introduce a co-branded credit card. The card, dubbed the '**Chennai Super Kings ICICI Bank Credit Card**,' has been expressly developed with a range of exclusive perks for the iconic team's millions of cricket fans.

Economy Current Affairs

- **HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and Axis Bank** have each purchased a **7.84 percent stake** in **ONDC**, an open public digital infrastructure framework business. **HDFC Bank said it now owns 7.84 percent of ONDC's equity share capital after allotting 10 lakh equity shares for Rs 10 crore.**
- **Shaktikanta Das**, Governor of RBI has inaugurated the **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) on March 24, 2022 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.** RBI has set up the RBIH with an **initial capital contribution of Rs. 100 crore.** The objective of RBIH is to encourage and nurture financial innovation in a sustainable manner through an institutional set-up. It has been setup as a Section 8 company under Companies Act, 2013. Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) is one of the five wholly-owned subsidiaries of the RBI.
- **Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL)** has set up an Ink Manufacturing Unit named "**Varnika**" at **Mysuru, Karnataka**, with an annual ink manufacturing capacity of 1,500 MT to enhance the security of banknotes. **Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL)** a wholly-owned subsidiary of RBI.
- Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), **Shaktikanta Das** has laid the foundation stone for the establishment of a **Learning and Development Centre (LDC)** of the **Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL)** in **Mysuru, Karnataka.** **Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL)** is a wholly-owned subsidiary of RBI.
- The **Bank of India (BoI)** announced a Rs 109 crore investment in **National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. (NARCL).** As of March 21, 2022, the bank's stake in NARCL will be nine per cent.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released the framework for **geo-tagging of payment system touchpoints.** The framework is part of the central bank's focus for deepening digital payments and providing inclusive access to all citizens of the country. Geo-tagging of payment system touchpoints will enable proper monitoring of the availability of payment acceptance infrastructure like **Points of Sale (PoS) terminals, Quick Response (QR) codes, etc.**
- As per the sources, the **Cabinet** approved up to **20% FDI in the LIC's IPO-bound Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** via the automatic route on **Saturday, February 26.** The government hopes that by doing so, it will make it easier for India's largest insurer to be disinvested.
- **India** has become the **second country after China** to implement the **T+1 stock settlement mechanism** in a phased manner from 25 February. The system will be starting with select stocks and then gradually adding others to the fold. Instruction regarding this was issued by **SEBI on January 01, 2022.** Before this, the settlement period of stocks in India was T+2, i.e. two days after the actual buy/selling of stock.
- **National Statistical Office (NSO)** has released the second advance estimates of national accounts. The GDP growth rate projection as per NSO for 2021-22 (FY22) and 2020-21 (FY21) is given below: For 2021-22 (FY22)= **8.9%** (earlier it was 9.2% in first advance estimates); For 2020-21 (FY21)= **-6.6%** (earlier it was -7.3%).
- **On the 1st of March, 2022, the Central Depository Services (India)** announced that it now has more than six crores (i. e. equivalent to 60 million) active **Demat accounts.** The main purpose of a Demat account is to keep shares that have been bought or dematerialized (that means conversion from physical to electronic form of shares), making online share trading easier for users.
- **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** collection crossed the **Rs 1.30-lakh crores** mark for the fifth time in **February 2022.** The gross GST revenue collected in the month of February 2022 is **Rs 1,33,026 crore** of which CGST is Rs 24,435 crore, SGST is Rs 30,779 crore, IGST is Rs 67,471 crore (including Rs 33,837 crores collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 10,340 crore (including ₹638 crores collected on import of goods).
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has raised the investment limit for retail investors applying in public debt securities issuance via the **universal payments interface (UPI)** mechanism to **Rs 5 lakh** from **Rs 2 lakh** previously. The move comes after the National Payments Corporation of India NPCI decided to increase the per transaction limit for UPI-based applications supported by blocked amount **ASBA** initial public offering.

- Domestic rating agency **CRISIL** retained its real GDP growth forecast at **7.8%** for the fiscal year 2023, as compared with the **8.5%** projected in the Economic Survey.
- The retirement fund body, **Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has slashed the interest rate on provident fund deposits to **8.10%** for 2021-22. This rate is **0.4%** lower than the previous year. The interest rate on PF deposits was 8.5% in 2020-21 and 2019-20.
- Rating Agency **Morgan Stanley** has projected India's GDP growth forecast for 2022-23 (FY23) at **7.9%**. This is 50 bps less than its earlier projection due to the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on oil prices. Furthermore, Stanley raised the country's retail inflation estimate to **6%**, meanwhile, current account deficits are seen to widen by **3% of GDP**.
- **India's retail inflation rate** climbed to an **eight-month high**, maintaining above the central bank's comfort level of **6%** for the second month in a row, while wholesale price inflation continued to be in double digits for continuous eleventh month in a row. With mounting threats to growth in **Asia's third-largest economy**, this might make inflationary management difficult. The **consumer price index (CPI)-based inflation rate** increased to **6.07 percent** in February from **6.01 percent** the previous month.
- In the **Lok Sabha**, **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** proposed a **Rs 1.42 lakh crore budget** for the union territory of **Jammu and Kashmir** for the fiscal year **2022-23**, despite opposition pleas for more time to review the plans. **Sitharaman** also tabled the Union Territory's additional demands for the fiscal year **2021-22**, totaling **Rs 18,860.32 crore**, and moved a resolution to suspend certain norms to allow the House to take up the debate on the same day.
- 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 total world market cap stands at **USD 109.22 trillion**. The **US topped** 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**).
- Rating agency **Moody's** has revised downwards the economic growth forecast of India by 40 basis points to **9.1 per cent** in the Calendar Year 2022 (CY2022), due to adverse effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on the global economy. Earlier in February 2022, Moody's estimated India's GDP in CY2022 to **9.5 percent**. Moody's has projected India's GDP growth forecast for the Calendar Year (CY) 2023 at **5.4 percent**.
- **Fitch Ratings** has slashed India's GDP growth forecast for the fiscal **FY 2022-2023 to 8.5 per cent** in its Global economic **Outlook-March 2022**. Earlier this rate was estimated at **10.3%**. The Rating agency Fitch has revised upwards the GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal FY 2021-2022, by 0.6 percentage points to **8.7 percent**.
- The **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** has retained the outlook for India's real gross domestic product (GDP) at **5.5% in FY24**, lower than **8.1% in 2022-23**.
- **FinMapp**, a financial services firm, announced that it has been granted a licence under the **National Pension Scheme** by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**. It has also obtained a registration certificate as a corporate agent from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai)**.
- According to a news release from the **DPIIT**, the government has extended the deadline for companies to convert debt financing into **equity shares by up to 10 years**, a measure that is likely to provide comfort to emerging enterprises dealing with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Previously, convertible notes may be converted into equity shares for up to **five years** after the initial convertible note was issued. That time frame has now been **increased to ten years**.
- The **UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** has pegged India's economic growth rate for **2022 to 4.6 percent** due to the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict. Earlier this rate was projected at 6.7%. The UNCTAD has further projected the global economic growth for the year **2022 at 2.6 percent**. Earlier this rate was projected at 3.6 percent.
- Rating agency **ICRA** has lowered the growth forecast for India's **GDP in 2022-23 (FY23) to 7.2 per cent**. Earlier this rate was **8 per cent**. The ICRA Ltd. has projected the GDP growth forecast for 2021-22 (FY22) at **8.5%**, lower than the official advance estimate from the National Statistical Office of **8.9%**.

- **India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)** has revised downwards the GDP growth forecast for India in FY23 to **7-7.2 per cent**. Earlier in January, the rating agency Ind-Ra had forecast this rate at **7.6 per cent**.

Business Current Affairs

- **The MeitY Startup Hub**, an initiative of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, and **Google** have announced a cohort of 100 early to mid-stage Indian startups as a part of **Appscale Academy programme**. Appscale Academy is a new growth and development programme for startups launched by MeitY and Google to help and train early- to mid-stage startups across India on building high-quality apps and games for a global audience.
- **Adani Green Energy Ltd** stated that its subsidiary **Adani Renewable Energy Holding Fifteen Limited** has obtained a letter of award (LOA) to build a **150-megawatt solar power plant**. For a period of 25 years, the fixed rate for this project capacity is **\$2.34/kWh**.
- **Tata Motors** has launched a mobile showroom (showroom on wheels) named '**Anubhav**,' to target rural customers by increasing their reach in rural areas and providing them with a doorstep car buying experience. Tata Motors will deploy a total of 103 mobile showrooms across the country, to enhance the Tata Motors brand awareness in rural India.
- **Hero MotoCorp** has unveiled a new brand "**Vida**", (**Vida means life**) for its emerging mobility solutions and upcoming electric vehicles. Vida brand has been unveiled by **Dr Pawan Munjal, Chairman and CEO of Hero MotoCorp**, on March 3, 2022, in Dubai. He also announced a \$100 million Global Sustainability Fund that will help the company to nurture more than 10,000 entrepreneurs on ESG solutions.
- **Paytm**, a digital payments company, announced that it has expanded its partnership with the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** to provide consumers with digital ticketing services via **Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM)** installed at railway stations across the country. Passengers will be able to scan **QR codes** generated on the screens to purchase unreserved train ride tickets, platform tickets, renew their seasonal tickets, and recharge smart cards.
- **Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)** has announced the opening of the **Jio World Centre**, which will be India's largest and most prestigious multi-faceted destination. The Centre, which covers 18.5 acres in **Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex** and was envisioned by **Nita Ambani, Director Reliance Industries and Founder-Chairperson of Reliance Foundation**, and it is set to become a historical business, commerce, and culture destination, which will provide the people of India with a world-class landmark.
- **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** has established the **L&T-SuFin e-commerce platform**. It is the country's first complete e-commerce platform for industrial products and services sold to other businesses. The platform's transaction cost is roughly **1.5 per cent**. Through its **B2B e-commerce platform**, the company aimed to empower businesses, particularly micro, small, and medium enterprises, by allowing them to obtain industrial items digitally and cost-effectively across **India**.
- **IIFL Securities Limited (Formerly India Infoline Limited)** launched '**OneUp**', India's first primary markets investment platform. Through this platform, investment can be made in initial **public offerings (IPOs)**, **non-convertible debentures (NCDs)** and **sovereign gold bonds (SGBs)**, among others. On the OneUp platform, the IPO applications are accepted 24x7 and up to three days before the IPO bidding opens.
- The **Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)**, a subsidiary of **Coal India**, has announced that it has become the country's largest coal producer. In the financial year **2021-22**, the company reported it produced **157 million tonnes** of coal.



- **Razorpay**, a **fintech unicorn**, announced the purchase of **IZEaliant Technologies**, a renowned Fintech business that provides banks with payments technology solutions, for an undisclosed sum. **IZEaliant** is a Pune-based startup that offers banks and financial institutions **mobile-first, API-enabled**, and cloud-ready payment processing tools.
- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**, a 'Maharatna' and Fortune Global 500 company, has teamed up with **UltraCash Technologies Pvt. Ltd.** to provide **BharatGas customers with a voice-based digital payment option** for booking LPG cylinders. Customers who do not have access to a smartphone or the internet can use this feature to book cylinders and pay via the '**UPI 123PAY**' system.
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** designed the "**UPI Lite - On-Device wallet**" ("**UPI Lite**") functionality for UPI users for small value transactions. About 75% of the total volume of retail transactions (including cash) in India are below Rs 100 transaction value. Further, 50% of the total UPI transactions are having a transaction value of up to Rs 200/-. To easily process such small value transactions, NPCI has launched this facility of "**UPI Lite**".
- **PhonePe**, a **digital payments and financial services company**, has acquired **GigIndia**, a network for independent micro-entrepreneurs based in Pune. **PhonePe will be able to integrate 1.5 million entrepreneurs and over 100 businesses as customers**, in addition to its own employees, as a result of the acquisition. PhonePe will use GigIndia's network of freelancing microentrepreneurs to assist corporations and businesses in expanding their customer bases and distribution channels.
- Multiplex companies **INOX Leisure Ltd and PVR Ltd** have announced the merger of their two companies. Inox will have a **16.66% stake** in the new firm and PVR will have a **10.62% stake**. After the formalities of the merger, the company will be known as **PVR Inox Limited**. **Ajay Bijli** will be Managing Director of PVR Inox Limited, **Sanjeev Kumar** will be executive director and **Pavan Kumar Jain** will be non-executive chairman of the consolidated board.
- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, a financial institution for **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**, has announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of **Meghalaya's Meghalaya Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd. [MiDFC]** to develop the state's MSME ecosystem.
- **Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd** has announced the debut of the **Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan** via the **PhonePe app**, a non-linked non-participating individual pure risk premium life insurance plan aimed at digitally savvy customers.

International Current Affairs

- Russian invasion to Ukraine, **Russia** destroyed the largest plane in the world called "**Ukraine's Antonov-225 cargo plane**". The plane was destroyed outside Kyiv. According to weapons manufacturer Ukroboronprom, restoring "**AN-225 Mriya**" would cost over USD 3 billion and could take over five years. The aircraft was unique to the world.
- **New Development Bank (NDB)** will become the first multilateral agency to open an office in the **Gujarat International Finance Tech City (Gift)**. New Development Bank (NDB) has received the approval for the same and will open the office in May 2022 in GIFT City. The Indian office will help identify suitable projects and try to create a pipeline of potential financing for the bank.
- The **International Olympic Committee** has stripped Russian President **Vladimir Putin** of the Olympic Order award in response to the invasion of Ukraine. International Olympic Committee urged sports federations and organisers to exclude Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials from international events following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- **Japan and India** have renewed the **Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA)** the size of which is up to **USD 75 billion**. The BSA is a two-way arrangement where both authorities can swap their local currencies in exchange for the US Dollar. The interest rate charged in this case is fixed at the time of signing the agreement and hence it reduces the risk caused due to fluctuations in the exchange rate. The actual Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) was signed between the **Bank of Japan and the Reserve Bank of India** in 2018.

- **China's second Long March 8 rocket** launched carrying a domestic record **22 satellites** for a range of commercial Chinese space companies. The Long March 8 lifted off from Wenchang Satellite Launch Center at 10:06 p.m. Eastern Feb. 26, with the **China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC)** later confirming launch success.
- **Canada, U.S.A. and their European allies** have come to a conclusion to remove the key Russian banks from the **Interbank messaging system (IMS)** of **SWIFT**. This is a very big step that will cut off the country from much of the worldwide financial system.
- The **Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA)** has organised the **2022 Mobile World Congress (MWC)**, which took place in **Barcelona, Spain** from 28 February to 3 March. The focus on 5G and maximizing its potential for benefiting countries and economies is the centrepiece of MWC this year which is taking place amid an ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.
- The two-day-long **Study in India (SII) 2022** meeting was inaugurated in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**. The event organised by the High Commission of India was inaugurated by the Education Minister of Bangladesh **Dr Dipu Moni** and the High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh **Vikram Doraiswami**.
- The **United Nations Environment Assembly** was hosted by the **UN Environment Programme**. It brings together representatives from the UN's 193 member countries, corporations, civil society, and other stakeholders to agree on policies to address the world's most serious environmental concerns.
- 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.
- **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.
- **Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** successfully launched a military satellite, **Noor-2**, into orbit at an altitude of **500 kilometres (311 miles) from the earth**. This is the second military satellite launched by the **Islamic Republic**. The first military satellite, **Noor**, was launched in April 2020 at an orbit of 425km (265 miles) above the earth's surface. **Noor** means light in the Persian language.
- **Yoon Suk-yeol** has been declared as the winner of the **2022 South Korean** presidential election to be elected as the new President of the country. He is scheduled to assume office as president on May 10, 2022, for a fixed term of five years. **Yoon Suk-yeol** will succeed incumbent President **Moon Jae-in**.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has approved **\$1.4 billion** in emergency support for **Ukraine** to finance expenditures and shore up the balance of payments. Ukraine has turned to financing from allies and international institutions to support its economy after the Russian invasion began on February 24.
- The **Hungarian parliament** has elected **Katalin Novak**, a close ally of Prime Minister **Viktor Orban**, as the EU member's first-ever female president. **Novak**, who most recently served as a minister for family policy, portrayed her election as a victory for women.
- **Gabriel Boric Font** has been appointed as the new and **36th President of Chile**. The 36-year-old leftist is the youngest leader to hold the office in Chile's history. He succeeds **Sebastián Piñera**. **Boric** will hold the office for the period between 2022-2026.
- The Indian government has issued a **USD 1 billion line of credit (LoC)** for **Sri Lanka** to aid in the **import of food, necessary products, and medication**. On **March 15, 2022**, **Sri Lanka Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa** will visit India to finalise the agreement. **Sri Lanka** is currently experiencing a serious economic crisis. India is extending the **Line of Control** as part of its efforts to aid its neighbouring country in combating the **COVID-19 pandemic and mitigating** its negative impact on its development aspirations.
- **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.

- **Bangladesh** tops the list in **South Asia** in terms of women on board of listed companies, says a study conducted by **International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE)**. According to the latest figures, there was an increase in the percentage of women who are independent directors on listed companies from five per cent in 2020 to six per cent, despite the impact of COVID-19, which has disproportionately affected women, said a press release issued by the IFC.
- **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 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** has organised the massive military drill '**Cold Response 2022**' in **Norway** from March 14, 2022, and will continue till April 01, 2022.
- **The Russo-Ukrainian War** is an ongoing conflict between Russia (together with pro-Russian rebel groups) and Ukraine. It began in **February 2014**, following **Ukraine's Dignity Revolution**, and was initially focused on international recognition of **Crimea and parts of the Donbas as part of Ukraine**.
- **Serdar Berdimuhamedow** has been sworn in as the **President of Turkmenistan**. Berdimuhamedow succeeds his father and former president **Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov**, who became president in 2006 and served till 2022. It must be noted that the presidential elections in Turkmenistan are held every seven years. Serdar Berdimuhamedov, secured 72.97 per cent of the votes election to lead the gas-rich country.
- **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 **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 Prime Minister of Malta, **Robert Abela** has been sworn in for a second term after his ruling **Labour Party won the 2022 general election** in a landslide victory. He was administered the oath of office by President **George Vella**. Abela was first sworn in as prime minister in January 2020 after the former Labour Party leader and prime minister **Joseph Muscat** resigned.

National Current Affairs

- **The government of India** has launched an evacuation mission named **Operation Ganga** to evacuate Indian nationals from **Ukraine** due to the **Russia-Ukraine tension**. Due to the ongoing tension between Ukraine and Russia, Ukraine has been declared as a no-fly zone by the authorities for the safety and security of the nations.
- **The Ministry of Education** has launched a campaign titled '**Bhasha Certificate Selfie**'. The aim of this campaign is to promote the **Bhasha Sangam mobile app**, launched by the Ministry under the aegis of **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** to encourage cultural diversity and promote multilingualism. The app has been developed by the Ministry of Education and MyGov India and allows users to learn 100+ sentences of daily use in as many as 22 scheduled Indian languages.
- The President of India, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind** has inaugurated a newly developed '**Arogya Vanam**' at the **President's Estate, (Rashtrapati Bhavan) in New Delhi**. The objective of this Arogya Vanam is to promote the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on the human body. The concept of Arogya Vanam has been conceived with the aim of publicising the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on the human body.
- **The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)** and NIMHANS Bengaluru launched the '**Stree Manoraksha Project**' on Wednesday with the goal of improving women's mental health in India. The project would concentrate on increasing the ability of **OSC (One-Stop Center)** officials in terms of tools and procedures for dealing with women who come to **One-Stop Centers**, particularly those who have experienced violence and distress, with compassion and care.

- **Marine fisheries sector** wealth would be showcase by 'Sagar Parikrama' from **5th March**. Oceans, the world's largest ecosystem, covering nearly three-quarters of the earth's surface, are critical to the economies, security, and livelihoods of lakhs of people in India, which has a **8,118-kilometre coastline spanning nine states and four Union Territories**, according to an official statement.
- H-Jaigarh Energy's Terminal in Maharashtra has received India's first **floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU)**. On **April 12, 2021**, the **FSRU Höegh Giant** arrived at **Jaigarh Terminal in Maharashtra** after sailing from **Keppel Shipyard in Singapore**. This will be India's first **FSRU-based LNG** receiving terminal, as well as Maharashtra's first year-around LNG facility.
- The Prime Minister of India, **Narendra Modi** has 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**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has unveiled a tall statue of great Maratha warrior **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Pune, Maharashtra**. The Statue is made up of **1,850 kg** of gunmetal and is about **9.5-feet** tall.
- **Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Textiles** are organising a programme called "**Jharokha-Compendium of Indian handicraft/ handloom, art and culture**" to celebrate the traditional Indian handicrafts, handlooms, and art & culture. To begin with, the first event under this celebration has been organized in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh at Rani Kamlapati Railway Station, on **March 08, 2022**, which also marks **International Women's Day**.
- India's largest reclining statue of **Lord Buddha** is being built in **Bodh Gaya**. Built by Buddha International Welfare Mission, the statue will be **100 feet long and 30 feet high**. Lord Buddha is in the sleeping posture in the statue. The construction of the giant statue started in the year 2019.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved the establishment of a **World Health Organization Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM)** at **Jamnagar, Gujarat**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has dedicated to the nation a new campus building complex of the **Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)** at **Lavad village near Gandhinagar, Gujarat**. PM also addressed the first convocation of RRU Gandhinagar as a Chief Guest. The University, which is an Institution of National Importance, commenced its operations from **1st October 2020**.
- The **Asansol Division of Indian Railways** has successfully commissioned private siding of **Maithan Power Limited at Thaparnagar, Jharkhand**, in accordance with the Prime Minister's vision **Gati Shakti** and the Ministry of Railways' policy regarding the **Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal** or also known as **GCT**, informed the **Ministry of Railways**.
- The **state government of Maharashtra** has announced to set up the country's first medical city named as '**Indrayani Medicity**' in **Pune**, to provide all kinds of specialised treatment under one roof. 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**.
- **Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti** organisation established by Ambassador of Peace, Eminent Jainacharya **Dr Lokeshji** will establish India's first **World Peace Center in Gurugram, Haryana**. For this, the Haryana Government has allotted a plot to the organization in Sector 39 of Gurugram opposite Medanta Hospital and adjacent to Delhi-Jaipur Highway. 'World Peace Center' will work for the establishment of peace and harmony in the world.
- The country's first **Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK)** was launched in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**. It is promoted by a not-for-profit foundation set up by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, with a seed capital of **Rs. 230 crore** from the State and Central governments.
- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated the world's most advanced technology-developed **Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) Toyota Mirai** at New Delhi. Toyota Mirai is India's first Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV), which is completely powered by Hydrogen.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated **Biplobi Bharat Gallery** at **Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata** on the occasion of **Shaheed Diwas**. The inauguration was done virtually via video conferencing. The purpose of this new gallery is to provide a holistic view of the events that led up to 1947 and highlight the important role played by the revolutionaries.

- **Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** stated that the Government has set a target of building **220 new airports by 2025**, citing the Civil Aviation industry as a critical component of India's economy.
- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** in collaboration with the **Youth Services and Sports department of the Government of Himachal Pradesh** is set to build India's first-ever **SAI National Centre of Excellence** to train athletes in Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross in Shimla. This center is at an altitude of 2000 meters above sea level.
- 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**. 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.
- The **Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has designated the **5th of October** to be celebrated as **National Dolphin Day** every year as a historic step in creating awareness for the conservation of Dolphins, beginning from 2022.
- Union Minister of Women and Child Development, **Smriti Irani** has inaugurated the ten-day mega Red Fort Festival, **'Bharat Bhagya Vidhata'** at Red Fort in Delhi. The Red Fort festival has been organised by the Union Ministry of Culture, as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi **'Sumitra Gandhi Kulkarni'** has inaugurated the web portal **'Modi Story'**. The Modi story website is a volunteer-driven initiative which aims to bring together "inspiring" stories related to Prime Minister Narendra Modi from those who have interacted with him during his life journey over the decades. The portal can be accessed at **modistory.in**
- Union Minister for Culture, Tourism & DONER, **G Kishan Reddy** has inaugurated the three-day North-East festival called **'Ishan Manthan'** at the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in New Delhi**. 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 to know about the culture, art, music, folk dances, handicrafts and traditional cuisines of Northeast India.
- **Surat, Gujarat**, features a road created entirely of steel waste, which is one of the best instances of sustainable development. **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India** collaborated on the steel slag road with the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) India**, the **Central Road Research Institute (CRRI)**, and the government think tank **Niti Aayog**.
- The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, **Piyush Goyal** has inaugurated the **Indian Jewellery Exposition Centre (IJEX) building in Dubai, UAE**, during his visit to Dubai to participate in the **India Pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020**.
- 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 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.

States Current Affairs

- India's first **ambulance for street animals** has been launched in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**. It has been started by the **Blue Cross of India** in collaboration with the international animal welfare organization **"Four Paw"**. Madras High Court Justice **Dr Anitha Sumanth** launched the ambulance. The Stray Animal Care programme will be a "hospital on wheels" with an onboard veterinarian to provide on-site treatment to injured and sick street animals.
- The **Assam government** has extended the contentious **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA)** in the state for **six more months**. The notification came into effect from February 28. Initially, it was the **Assam Disturbed Area Act of 1955** during the agitation by Nagas in undivided Assam. This Act gave freehand to some extent to the Army that was repealed with the incorporation of the Armed Forces (Special Power) Act, 1958. AFSPA was imposed in **Assam in November 1990** and has been extended every six months since then after a review by the government.
- **Rajasthan**, the state government has announced a **'Camel Protection and Development Policy'** in its **budget 2022-23**. According to the government figures, less than two lakh camels are left in Rajasthan and in the entire country, the number of camels has reduced by 1.5 lakh since 2012. There were about 2.5 lakh camels left when counted last in 2019.

- **Telangana** became the top-performing state in India with a population over one crore in terms of the growth rate of **Per Capita Net State Domestic Product** at Current Prices by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**. It succeeded other states like **Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu**.
- Chief Minister of Sikkim, Prem Singh Tamang has announced that the State Government will soon implement 'Aama Yojana, a scheme for **helping non-working mothers & 'Bahini Scheme' benefitting girl students of the state**. The complete details of the Aama Yojna and Bahini Yojana are given below.
- **Haryana government** has announced **Matrushakti Udaymita Scheme** to provide support to women entrepreneurs, on **International Women's Day**. Under the scheme, the women whose family annual income is less than **5 lakh rupees** based on **Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP)** verified data, will be provided access to soft loans by financial institutions to the extent of 3 lakh rupees.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, **M K Stalin** has inaugurated India's largest **floating solar power plant** constructed at a cost of **Rs 150.4 crores**. The floating plant is established in **Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation Limited (SPIC)** factory at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu to provide clean energy. It aims to provide environmentally sustainable power generation and to reduce carbon footprint.
- The **government of Karnataka** has launched '**Women@Work**' program to provide five lakh jobs within 2026 to women with necessary employable skills. The program aims to focus on the efforts of corporate programs on attracting women workforce. It has been developed by **Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM)** in association with KTECH, Karnataka Skill Development Corporation.
- Haryana Chief Minister, **Manohar Lal Khattar**, while presenting the state budget, has announced a '**Sushma Swaraj Award**' for women for their significant achievements or contribution in different walks of life in the international and national spheres. The Sushma Swaraj Award will carry an award money of **Rs 5 lakh** along with a commendation.
- **Tripura Government** has announced a special scheme '**Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa**' for tea workers. A special scheme, allotting **Rs. 85 crores** for its implementation, as a step towards bringing the **7000 tea garden workers of Tripura** under the social security net.
- **TPL (Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd.)** is the world's first **linear alkylbenzene (LAB)** manufacturing company to be certified by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**. TPL's '**Superlab**' brand is one of the most well-known laboratory brands in the country. TPL's position as the market leader and the only authorised seller of the chemical in **India** will be bolstered by the certification. **LAB** can be used to make **biodegradable detergent**, making it a more sustainable option than **conventional detergent formulations**.
- The **Union minister for power** has inaugurated the **Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (Virtual SGKC)** and **Innovation Park** in yet another digitisation effort aimed at advancing smart grid technologies and building capacity in the power distribution sector. The Minister requested that all distribution and transmission firms come to the **SGKC**, both physically and virtually, to take **advantage of the technology**.
- According to the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5**, **Odisha** became the top state in the list of full immunizations in India with 90.5% 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.
- **Bhagwant Mann** was sworn in as the **18th chief minister of Punjab** at Khatkar Kalan, the ancestral village of **Bhagat Singh** in the presence of Governor **Banwarilal Purohit**.



- India's First Digital Water Bank, 'AQVERIUM' has been launched in **Bengaluru, Karnataka** which is an innovative initiative aimed at better water management. It is formed by **AquaKraft Group Ventures**. It is a very unique innovation combining sustainable & green technologies along with information technology, skill development & entrepreneurship.
- **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% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and 44% reduction by 2040.
- The **Survey Settlement and Land Records (SSLR)** unit of **Karnataka's revenue department** is ensuring easy availability of original land records through an app called **Dishaank**. The Dishaank app is developed under the **Geographical Information System (GIS)** program of the Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Center (KRSAC). The KRSAC provides satellite data to agencies such as the SSLR unit for innovative use. Dishaank leverages Karnataka's decision to digitize land records under the Bhoomi project.
- The Governor of Haryana, **Bandaru Dattatraya** and Chief Minister of Haryana, **Manohar Lal Khattar** formally inaugurated the **35th edition** of the world-famous **Surajkund International Crafts Mela at Surajkund in Faridabad district of Haryana**. In 2022, the 'Theme State' in **Jammu & Kashmir and Uzbekistan** is the partner nation.
- Senior BJP leader **N Biren Singh** took the oath as **Chief Minister of Manipur** for a second consecutive five-year term on March 21, 2022. The ruling BJP party contested all 60 seats in the Manipur Assembly election in 2022 and won **32 seats**. Nongthombam (N) Biren Singh started his career as a footballer, then turned to journalism, before joining politics.
- **West Bengal** celebrated the '**Dol Utsav**' or '**Dol Jatra**', the festival of colours, marking the onset of the spring season. The festival is dedicated to Lord Krishna and Radha and celebrated on full moon day. It also marks the last festival of the year as per the Bengali calendar. In the Eastern region of India, the festival of spring is celebrated as **Dol Jatra, Dol Purnima, Dol Utsav, and Basanta Utsav**.
- **Bihar Diwas 2022 marks the 110th anniversary of the state's founding**. The annual Bihar Diwas is no longer limited to festivities hosted by the state government; citizens from the state living throughout the country and overseas have begun to commemorate the occasion.
- **Pushkar Singh Dhami** has taken oath as **11th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand**. He will take over the reins of the state for the second time in a row. Governor Lieutenant **General Gurmit Singh** administered him the oath of office and secrecy at the Parade Ground in Dehradun.
- **Nagaland** has created history by becoming the **first State Assembly** in the country to implement the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme** to become completely paperless. The Nagaland Assembly Secretariat has attached a tablet or e-book on each table in the 60 members' assembly amid the ongoing Budget session.
- **Kerala** is set to become the first state in the country to introduce **carbon-neutral farming methods** in selected locations, for which the government has set aside **Rs 6 crore** in the 2022-23 Budget. In the first phase, carbon-neutral farming will be implemented in 13 farms under the Agriculture Department and tribal areas, and steps are on 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**.
- **Yogi Adityanath** takes oath as chief minister of **Uttar Pradesh** for his **second term** in office. Governor Anandiben Patel administered the oath of office and secrecy to Adityanath at **Lucknow's Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Stadium** in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and other central ministers. **Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak** also took oath as the Deputy Chief Ministers in the new government.
- **Pramod Sawant** took oath as the **Chief Minister of Goa** on March 28, 2022, for the second straight **five-year term**. Sawant led the BJP in the recently concluded 2022 Goa Assembly elections and won 20 seats in the 40-member Goa Assembly.

Schemes/Committees

- For **medical professionals, scientists, and technicians** in medical, dental, and paramedical institutes, the **Union health ministry** has launched the **ICMR/ DHR Policy on Biomedical Innovation and Entrepreneurship**. By promoting the **Government of India's Make-in-India, Start-Up-India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiatives, it would assure multidisciplinary collaboration, promote start-up culture, and establish an innovation-led ecosystem at medical institutes across the country."
- **Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises** has launched a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women named –**"SAMARTH"**. The drive was launched by Union Minister for MSME, Shri Narayan Rane along with Minister of State for MSME, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma in New Delhi. To provide Skill Development and Market Development Assistance to women and to train more than 7500 women candidates from rural and sub-urban areas in the FY 2022-23.
- Union Labour and Employment Minister, **Bhupender Yadav** has launched the '**Donate-a-Pension**' campaign under **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM)** scheme, on March 07, 2022, from his residence and donated the same to his gardener. Under the new initiative, citizens can contribute to the pension fund of their immediate support staff such as domestic workers, drivers, helpers etc, by donating the premium amount.
- In a state-level women's conference held at **BTI Ground in Raipur**, Chief Minister **Bhupesh Baghel** introduced the '**Kaushalya Matritva Yojana**' by handing out **Rs 5000 checks** to five beneficiaries for safe motherhood.
- Union Cabinet, led by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved the establishment of the **National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC)** as a wholly-owned Government of India corporation with an initial authorised share capital of **5000 crores** and a paid-up share capital of **150 crore**. The **National Land Management Corporation (NLMC)** would monetize surplus land and building assets owned by **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)** and other government organisations. The idea is in accordance with the **2021-22 Budget Announcement**.
- **NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission** announced a partnership with **Snap Inc.** to promote **Augmented Reality (AR) skill development** among **Indian youth**. **Snap Inc.** is a global camera firm whose camera plays a transformative role in how people view the world around them by merging what they see in the physical world with all that is available in the digital world.
- The **Supreme Court of India** has named Justice (ret'd) **AK Sikri** as **Chairperson of the High Powered Committee (HPC)**, of the **Chardham project**. The previous Chairperson Professor **Ravi Chopra** had resigned from his post in February 2022, after being appointed as the chairperson of the HPC on August 8, 2019.
- Under the Ministry's **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0**, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (**MoHUA**) and Petroleum and Natural Gas **Shri Hardeep Singh Puri** launched the '**India WaterPitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge**.' This comes after the Hon'ble Prime Minister's ceremonial launch of **AMRUT 2.0** on October 1, 2021, stakeholder discussions in Lucknow (during MoHUA's Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav festivities), and Cabinet approval of the Mission on October 12, 2021.
- Over 3000 State Mission employees and members of **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** from 34 states logged in to attend the third edition of '**Gender Samwaad**,' organised by the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**, Ministry of Rural Development.

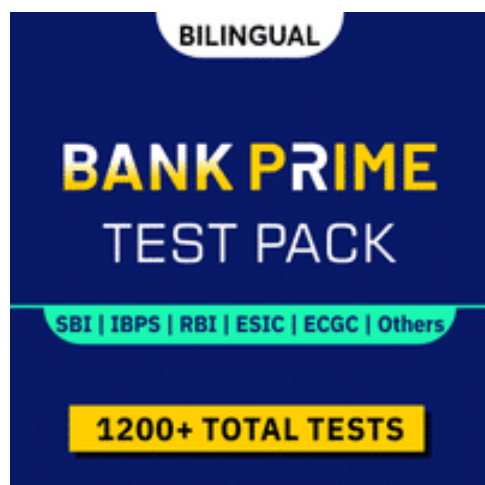


- **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD)** is extended upto **31.03.2023**. On the **13th of May, 2020**, the government announced the launch of the '**Distressed Assets Fund – Subordinate Debt for Stressed MSMEs**' as part of the **Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Package**. As a result, the Government approved the '**Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt**' on **June 1, 2020**, and the scheme was launched on **June 24, 2020**, to provide credit to the promoters of stressed **MSMEs viz. SMA-2 and NPA** accounts who are eligible for restructuring as per **RBI** guidelines on the books of the lending institutions through lending institutions. Initially, the plan was only valid until **March 31, 2021**.
- The government authorised a **World Bank**-backed programme costing **USD808 million** on Wednesday to aid and improve the functioning of the country's **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**. The loan from the **World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development** will be for 18.5 years, with a 5.5-year grace period.

Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed on February 24, 2022 in New Delhi between **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** and **Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI)** to accomplish green energy targets and the Government of India's efforts towards a **carbon-neutral economy**.
- '**Building AI Readiness among Young Innovators**', a program by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India, in partnership with Intel India, was launched by **Dr Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology (I/C). The program aims to build digital readiness among the students from classes 6 to 10, enrolled under DST's **INSPIRE-Awards MANAK** scheme.
- The **Government of India** has signed the **Host Country Agreement (HCA)** with **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** for the establishment of an **Area Office & Innovation Centre of ITU in New Delhi**. The Host Country Agreement provides the legal and financial framework for the establishment and operations of the Area Office. The Area Office and Innovation Centre of ITU at New Delhi will serve South Asian countries comprising of **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India**.
- **Flipkart** and **Google Cloud** have formed a **multi-year strategic agreement** to assist **Flipkart** accelerate its innovation and cloud strategy. **Flipkart's** next phase of expansion will be aided by this alliance, which will help it achieve its goal of enrolling **India's next 200 million buyers and lakhs of vendors**. The deal value was kept **opaque** by the companies.
- **IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC)** and **RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the **Reserve Bank of India**, inked a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to collaborate in establishing the ecosystem needed to support and expand fintech businesses in India. The two organisations will collaborate to give early-stage entrepreneurs with unique and disruptive ideas with incubation support and speed their scale-up journey.
- The ground-breaking ceremony for a new facility of **Helicopter Engines MRO Pvt Limited (HE-MRO)**, a joint venture of **HAL** and **Safran**, a French aerospace firm, was held at Sattari in Goa. **HE-MRO** aims to constantly improve serviceability and reduce cycle time to aid the operational preparedness of the armed forces.
- **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** signs MoU with **GRSE** for construction of 27 double-lane class 70 modular bridges in border areas. The MoU includes fabrication, supply, erection, and launching of 27 double-lane bridges of carriageway 7.5 meters of load class 70 along with the **Northern and North Eastern border states**. It has been inked by DG BRO Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry and Officiating Chairman and MD of **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd**. Commodore PR Hari IN (Retd) in New Delhi.
- The country's largest iron ore producer, **NMDC Ltd**, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for drone-based mineral research with **IIT Kharagpur**. The **National Mining and Development Corporation (NMDC)** is increasingly dependent on technical innovation and the digitisation of its exploration and mining database. The government has taken the first step in regulating and monitoring drone usage and operations in India, which are now employed in agriculture, urban planning, forestry, mining, disaster management, surveillance, and transportation, among other industries.

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras builds a new interdisciplinary water management and policy centre known as 'AquaMAP' to address India's water issues. The centre will build scalable models employing novel technology to provide smart solutions for water concerns. As proof of concept, these models will be installed in various areas across the country.
- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras has teamed up with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to offer a web-based, user-friendly programme on "Industrial AI," aimed at upskilling employees and incorporating AI applications to industrial concerns.
- The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Ahmedabad's Centre for Digital Transformation recently launched a retail tech consortium, with intentions to partner with a number of retail and technology companies in India. The consortium, according to the centre, will strive to improve collaboration among retail technology firms in the country.
- Mobility firm Ola has signed an agreement to acquire neo bank Avail Finance which provides financial services to the blue-collared workforce and has over 6 million users. The acquisition is a key step in Ola's broader push into the fintech space as it looks to build a mobility-focused financial services business under Ola Financial.
- In a major boost to Government's "Make in India" Initiative, the Airports Authority of India under its R & D initiative, has entered into an agreement with Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited for the joint, indigenous development of systems for air traffic management and surface movement of aircraft at airports in the country which were hitherto being imported.



- The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of India signed a memorandum of understanding to create the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Gujarat. According to a WHO statement, the onsite opening of the new WHO global centre for traditional medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat, India, will take place on April 21, 2022.
- Assam and Meghalaya agreed to resolve their five-decade-long border dispute in six of the 12 contested places that have frequently sparked tensions between the two states, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah hailing the decision as a "historic day for the Northeast." Chief Ministers of Assam and Meghalaya, Himanta Biswa Sarma and Conrad Sangma, respectively, inked the agreement in the presence of Shah. The agreement will end the long-running disagreement in six of the 12 points along the 884.9-kilometer boundary between the two States.

Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- Former ICICI Banker, Madhabi Puri Buch has been appointed as the new Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairman, replacing Ajay Tyagi. She is the first woman chief of SEBI and also the first non-IAS to head the regulatory body.
- Samiran Gupta will lead microblogging platform Twitter's public policy and philanthropy efforts in India and South Asia. Prior to joining Twitter, Gupta was the head of stakeholder engagement in South Asia for ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers).
- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has appointed educationist and research scientist Professor Bhushan Patwardhan as chairman, of the executive committee of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bengaluru. The position was vacant after Prof Jagadish Kumar was appointed as chairman of UGC.
- Ashneer Grover, co-founder and Managing Director (MD) of BharatPe, a leading Indian fintech company, has resigned as the MD and director of the board of BharatPe. Ashneer Grover, who owns a 9.5% stake worth Rs 1915 crore in BharatPe, will continue as the single largest individual shareholder of the company. BharatPe became the 19th Indian startup to become a unicorn in 2021.

- **Junaid Kamal Ahmad**, the **World Bank's India Director**, has been named a **Vice President of the international lending agency**. Ahmad, who will lead the **Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)** as **Vice President, Operations**, is only the second Bangladeshi to be chosen to such a high position in the bank's history.
- Film production and distribution company **Yash Raj Films (YRF)** has named **Akshaye Widhani** as chief executive officer. Widhani was serving as senior vice-president, finance and business Affairs and head of operations at YRF Studios. He used to head corporate and business development activities for YRF, including finance, business extensions, strategic alliances, joint ventures, co-productions.
- **LIC Mutual Fund** has announced the appointment of **TS Ramakrishnan** as its **Managing Director & CEO, effective**. Ramakrishnan, as the MD and CEO, LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management, will succeed **Dinesh Pangtey**, its former Wholtime Director and CEO.
- **Sanjiv Kapoor** has been appointed as the new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Jet Airways**. Prior to this, Kapoor was the president of Oberoi Hotels and has also worked as a chief operating officer at **SpiceJet** and chief strategy and commercial officer at **Vistara**. He has worked as the Chief Strategy and Commercial Officer of **Vistara Airlines** for three years, and Chief Operating Officer of **SpiceJet** for two years. The **Jalan Kalrock Consortium** is the new promoter of **Jet Airways**.
- **Bharti AXA Life Insurance** has appointed National Award-winning actress **VidyaBalan** as its **Brand Ambassador**. She as the brand ambassador will help in promoting the #DoTheSmartThing champion of **Bharti AXA Life Insurance**. **Bharti AXA Life Insurance** is a joint venture of **Bharti**, India's leading business group and **AXA**, one of the world's leading organizations in financial protection and wealth management.
- **Swiss International Air Lines AG (SWISS or Swiss Air Lines)** and its parent company, **Lufthansa Group** have partnered with Switzerland based solar fuels start-up, **Synhelion SA (Synhelion)** to use its solar aviation fuel. **Swiss International Airlines** will become the first airline to use solar aviation fuel ("sun-to-liquid" fuel) to help power its flights. **SWISS** will become the **first customer of solar kerosene in 2023**.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has appointed former **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank CEO, Nitin Chugh** as **Deputy Managing Director (DMD)** to drive digital banking operations. He has been appointed for an initial term of three years.
- The Central Government has appointed Justice **Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel**, Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, as the **Chairperson of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal(TDSAT)**. He was appointed as Chief Justice of Delhi High Court on June 7, 2019, and is now given the Chair of TDSAT, days before his retirement on March 12, 2022.
- **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**.
- Global pharma major **Lupin Limited (Lupin)** has announced that it has signed on six-time world boxing champion, **Mary Kom** as the brand ambassador for its **Shakti** campaign. The campaign is aimed at increasing awareness of heart diseases among women.
- The cabinet has appointed **Ashwani Bhatia**, managing director (MD) of the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, as a whole-time member (WTM) of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.
- **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.
- **Prabha Narasimhan** has been appointed as the **CEO and MD of Colgate-Palmolive (India) Limited**. She succeeded **Ram Raghavan**, who has been promoted to the role of President, Enterprise Oral Care, at **Colgate Palmolive Company**. Prior to this, she was working as executive director of **Hindustan Unilever (HUL)**.
- **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** has been appointed as the chairman of the **National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)** for a **period of 3 years**. Pandey, a 1984-batch Maharashtra cadre IAS officer, retired as revenue secretary in February last year.

- **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)**.
- 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.
- **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** has announced a **five-year extension** for its MD and CEO, **Tapan Singhel**. **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** said in a statement that the new term will begin on **April 1, 2022**. Under **Singhel's leadership**, the company has grown to become one of the country's largest and most profitable private general insurers, ensuring growth, profitability, and customer-centricity.
- Games24x7 Private Limited, India's leading digital skill games company, has appointed Indian cricketers **Shubman Gill and Rituraj Gaikwad** as its new brand ambassadors for its **My11Circle** fantasy gaming platform. Both of them will feature in the multimedia campaigns of Games24x7 across TV, digital and social media platforms.
- The board of IT major, **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has announced the re-appointment of **Rajesh Gopinathan** as the **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the company for five years. His second term will begin from February 21, 2022, to February 20, 2027. Rajesh Gopinathan was first appointed as the CEO and MD of TCS in 2017.
- **The Asian Cricket Council (ACC)** has unanimously extended the tenure of its incumbent President **Jay Shah** for a period of one year. The decision was taken during the annual general meeting of ACC on March 19, 2022. Jay Shah is the Secretary of the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** since 2019.
- 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 **Reserve Bank of India** has approved the appointment of **Pralay Mondal** as the interim **Managing Director and CEO of CSB Bank**. Presently he is the Managing Director at CSB Bank.
- **Hisashi Takeuchi (from Japan)** has been appointed as the **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Maruti Suzuki** for a period of three years with effect from April 1, 2022.
- **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.
- The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** has approved an extension in the tenure of its **Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg** by a year until **September 30, 2023**.
- **Lt. Gen. Vinod G. Khandare (retd.)** has been appointed as Adviser in the Ministry of Defence. He will work closely with the Defence Secretary.
- Former State Bank of India (SBI) chairman **Rajnish Kumar** has joined the international strategic advisory board of data and analytics firm **Dun & Bradstreet**. Kumar, a veteran banker, currently sits on the boards of HSBC Asia Pacific, L&T Infotech, Hero MotoCorp and BharatPe. Dun & Bradstreet has a legacy of more than 180 years.
- **Gilbert Hougbo** from Togo will be the next **Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO)**. Hougbo was elected by the UN agency's governing body, comprising representatives of governments, workers and employers during their meeting in Geneva.
- The board of **Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India** has elected **IPG Mediabrands India CEO Shashi Sinha** as the new chairman. He will take over from **Punit Goenka**, who served as chairman of the TV viewership measurement agency for the last three years.
- **Uday Kotak** has announced to step down as the Chairman of the board of **the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS)**, after his term ends on April 2, 2022. **CS Rajan**, Managing Director, IL&FS has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director for six months with effect from April 3 by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

- The incumbent president of the Badminton Association of India (BAI), **Himanta Biswa Sarma** has been re-elected unopposed for a second four years term, from **2022 to 2026**. He was elected during the General Body Meeting of BAI in Guwahati on **March 25, 2022**.
- The world's largest express transportation company **FedEx** has announced that its new **Chief Executive Officer** will be Indian American **Raj Subramaniam**. He has more than 30 years of global experience across strategy and operations and has led the company through a period of tremendous growth.
- **Dr Renu Singh** has been appointed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) as the next director of the **Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun**. She will be the institute's second woman director.

Ranks and Reports

- **NITI Aayog** is in the process to develop a **National Gender Index**. The objective of the National Gender Index is to measure the progress and identify the persisting gaps in gender equality to make informed policy decisions. It will serve as a tool to map the progress of **India's States and UTs** on defined gender metrics and build the foundation for positive change. The information was released in the **Annual Report 2021-22 of NITI Aayog**.
 - Extreme climatic conditions are threatening the food security in **South Asia** with escalated floods and droughts making India and Pakistan the most vulnerable to climate change, cautioned the latest **IPCC report released**. If **emissions** are not dramatically reduced, **'wet bulb'** temperatures in India, which measure both heat and humidity, will exceed **31 degrees Celsius**, which is fatal for humans, according to the paper. Despite the fact that India is one of the **South Asian** countries with the greatest urban adaptation measures, these plans are hampered by inequitable funding and "priority," with larger cities receiving more attention.
 - **India** has been ranked at **120th position** in the **Sustainable Development Report 2021** or **Sustainable Development Index 2021**. In this Index, countries are ranked by a score out of 100. India has a score of 60.07. Last year India's rank was 117. The Index measures the country's total progress towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Index has been topped by **Finland**.
- The latest edition of **Democracy Report** was released recently by the **V-Dem Institute at Sweden's University of Gothenburg**. The study was titled **'Democracy Report 2022: Autocratisation Changing Nature?'**. It classifies India as an electoral autocracy ranking it 93rd on the LDI, out of 179 countries. **Top 5 LDI Countries:** Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Costa Rica and New Zealand.
 - **Andhra Pradesh** has retained its number one spot in the **SKOCH State of Governance rankings** for the second consecutive year. According to a release, the State retained the first rank for the second consecutive year. The second rank was bagged by **West Bengal and Odisha** was ranked 3, **Gujarat** was ranked 4 and **Maharashtra** was ranked 5. **Neighbouring Telangana** was ranked 6.
 - According to the **London & Partners analysis of Dealroom. co-investment data**, **India** is the second-largest global venture capital investment hub for digital shopping companies, growing by a whopping 175% from \$8 billion in 2020 to \$22 billion in 2021. On a global scale, India came in second to the **US** last year, which attracted \$51 billion in investment, followed by **China** at third with \$14 billion and the **UK** at fourth with \$7 billion.
 - The **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** has released its latest report on Trends in **International Arms Transfer, 2021**. As per the report, India and Saudi Arabia emerged as the largest importers of arms between 2017-21. Both two countries accounted for 11% of all global arms sales. **Egypt (5.7%), Australia (5.4%) and China (4.8%)** were the next three largest importers respectively in the top 5.



- **RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RailTel)**, owned by the Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways, has ranked **124th** in the **8th Edition 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. It was ranked 197 in the 2021 list of top midsize companies operating in India.
- **Kerala** has yet again emerged on top when it comes to maternal and child health, with the State recording the lowest **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 30 (per one lakh live births)** in the country. According to the latest data, **India's maternal mortality ratio (MMR)** has improved to 103 for the period 2017-19. **Kerala, Telangana, and Maharashtra** are included in the top 3 states with the lowest MMR in India.
- According to the global consulting firm Deloitte's report titled "**Global Powers of Retailing 2022: Resilience Despite Challenges**", The Indian brand, **Reliance Retail**, ranked **56th** on the Top 250 list based on the retail revenue growth for FY2020. **Walmart Inc.**, an American multinational retail corporation, tops the list, followed by **Amazon, Inc., Costco Wholesale Corporation, Schwarz Group, and The Home Depot, Inc.**
- **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**. **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.
- **New Delhi** has been ranked the world's most polluted capital city for the second consecutive year as per **IQAir's 2021 World Air Quality Report**. New Delhi is followed by **Dhaka (Bangladesh), N'Djamena (Chad), Dushanbe (Tajikistan) and Muscat (Oman)** as the top five most polluted capital cities respectively. Meanwhile, **Bhiwadi** was the most polluted city in India, followed by Ghaziabad, Delhi and Jaunpur.
- **Gujarat** has retained the top position in the **second edition of NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2021**. The first edition was released in 2020. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are the other top 10 states in the 2021 index respectively. Across the **Union Territories, Delhi** has performed the best, followed by Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh and Puducherry. Among the **Himalayan states, Uttarakhand**, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Sikkim and Manipur were at the top respectively.
- **Dhaka**, the capital city of **Bangladesh**, has been ranked as the most noise polluted city globally, according to the recent '**Annual Frontier Report, 2022**' published by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**. As per the report, the city recorded noise pollution of **119 decibels at its highest (dB)** in 2021. **Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad** came second in the list with noise pollution of 114 decibels. **Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan is third**, with maximum noise pollution of 105 dB.
- **Hurun Research Institute** has released the **Hurun Global Forty and Under Self-Made Billionaires 2022**, which ranks the self-made billionaires in the world (in terms of US dollars) aged forty years and under. The **USA** leads the list with 37 self-made billionaires. **China** is second with 25 billionaires, followed by the **United Kingdom (8), India (6) and Sweden (3)** respectively in the top five. Meta CEO **Mark Zuckerberg** is the world's richest self-made billionaire aged 40 and under with a total wealth of \$76 billion. He is followed by ByteDance CEO **Zhang Yiming**, FTX CEO **Sam Bankman-Fried**, Airbnb CEO **Brian Chesky**, and Facebook co-founder **Dustin Moskovitz**, respectively.

Sports Current Affairs

- Indian Wushu player **Sadia Tariq** has won a **gold medal** in the junior tournament at the **Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022**. The 15-year-old Sadia Tariq hails from **Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir**.
- **India** concluded its campaign at the **Singapore Weightlifting International 2022** with **eight medals**, including **six golds and a silver and bronze each**. Each of the eight Indian lifters who registered for Singapore International won medals and secured their spots at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, scheduled to be held in July-August. India now has total of 12 weightlifters qualified for the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham.
- In tennis, **Rafael Nadal (Spain)** beat British number one **Cameron Norrie** 6-4 6-4 to win the singles title of **Mexican Open 2022 (also known as Acapulco title)**. This is the 91st ATP title of his career and the third title of the season. This is the fourth time that Rafael Nadal has won the Mexican Open title, after winning the previous ones in 2005, 2013 and 2020. Men's double title winners are **Feliciano Lopez (Spain) and Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece)**.
- **The finals of the 15th CEC Cup Men's Ice Hockey Championship, 2022** were played between the teams of **ITBP and Ladakh Scouts** at the **Ice Hockey Rink** which is at NDS Sports Complex in Leh. It was a very competitive game and full effort was put in by both the teams, but there's only one winner. **The Ladakh Scouts** won in the end and they lifted the **15th CEC Cup Men's Ice Hockey Championship 2022**.
- Para-archer, **Pooja Jatyan** has scripted history as she became the **first Indian to win a silver** in an individual section of the **Para World Championships in Dubai, UAE**. She lost to Italy's **Patrilli Vincenza** in the final to be content with the silver medal. India ended its campaign with two silver medals, a first for the country.
- The **31st Southeast Asian Games** will be held in **Vietnam** from May 12 to 23, 2022. It is the biggest sporting event of Southeast Asia and is a biennial event. The event was originally scheduled to take place in November 2021 however it was postponed due to the Covid pandemic. The Games will feature 40 sports with 526 events, attracting around 10,000 participants, organisers announced at a press conference here.
- **Dabang Delhi K C** defeated **Patna Pirates** by 36-37 in the final of the **Pro Kabaddi League Season 8** in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Dabang Delhi beat three-time champion Patna Pirates. **Pawan Sehrawat** was awarded with the Raider of the season award for his 304 raid points in 24 matches. The winner of the Pro Kabaddi League Season 8 got a cash prize of 3 crores.
- Indian shooter, **Saurabh Chaudhary** has won the gold medal in **Men's 10m Air Pistol** event at the ongoing **2022 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in Cairo, Egypt**. The silver medal has been won by Germany's Michael Schwald while Artem Chernousov of Russia claimed the bronze medal.
- Indian boxers **Nikhat Zareen (52kg) and Nitu (48kg)** has won gold medals at the **73rd Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament**, held in **Sofia, Bulgaria**. The Indian contingent ended their campaign at the tournament with three medals including two golds and one bronze.
- **India's Shri Nivetha, Esha Singh, and Ruchita Vinerkar** have won the gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol team event of the **ISSF World Cup in Cairo, Egypt**. With this win, India is leading the medal table with three medals, including two gold and silver. Andrea Katharina Heckner, Sandra Reitz and Carina Wimmer of Germany settled for the silver medal.
- The **ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022** has kicked off on March 04, 2022, in **New Zealand**. This is the **12 edition** of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, being held in New Zealand from **March 04 to April 03, 2022**. The opening match of the **ICC Women's World Cup 2022** was held at the Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui between West Indies and New Zealand, in which West Indies women beat New Zealand by 3 runs. **India** will open against **Pakistan** on the 6th of March.
- Indian women cricket captain, **Mithali Raj** has become the first woman to appear in six **World Cups**. She is the only third cricketer overall to play six world cup after Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miandad. She has played in the **ICC women's cricket world cup events in 2000, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017 and now in 2022**.
- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)'s, **Indian Premier League (IPL)** Governing Council has announced **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**'s flagship product RuPay as an official partner for the **Tata IPL 2022**.

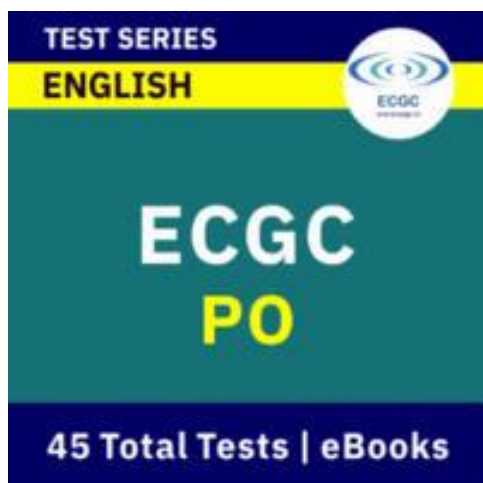
- 19-year-old **Priyanka Nutakki** has secured her final WGM-norm at MPL's forty-seventh National Women Chess Championship. She became India's **twenty-third Woman Grandmaster**.
- Sweden's Olympic pole vault champion **Armand Gustav "Mondo" Duplantis** cleared **6.19m** to smash his own world record by one centimetre at the World Indoor Tour Silver meeting in Belgrade. Duplantis set the record of 6.18 in February 2020 indoors in Glasgow.
- In Chess, Indian Grandmaster, **S L Narayanan** was declared the winner in the **Grandisacchi Cattolica International Open, held in Italy**.
- **International Paralympic Committee (IPC)** has banned the athlete's entries from the **Russian Paralympic Committee (RPC)** and **National Paralympic Committee (NPC) Belarus** for the **Beijing 2022 Winter Paralympics** due to the war in **Ukraine**. Beijing 2022 Winter Paralympics is scheduled to take place from 4th to 13th March 2022 & it marks the 13th Winter Paralympic Games.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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**.
- Indian Shuttler **Lakshya Sen** has settled for silver after losing to **Kunlavut Vitidsarn** of Thailand, 18-21, 15-21, in the men's singles final at the **German Open 2022**. The Thai player dominated from start to end, winning the match and the championship in just 57 minutes. German Open is an annual badminton tournament classified as BWF World Tour Super 300 event.
- **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**.
- 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**.
- **Charles Leclerc** (Ferrari- Monaco) has won the **Formula One Bahrain Grand Prix 2022** at the **Bahrain International Circuit**, a motor racing circuit in the west of Bahrain. **Carlos Sainz Jr.** (Ferrari - Spain) came second while **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain) came third. This was the first Formula One race of 2022.
- **Hyderabad FC** has clinched their maiden **Indian Super League title** after defeating Kerala Blasters in the penalty shoot-out in the summit clash. Goalkeeper Laxmikant Kattimani made three stunning saves. Hyderabad beat Kerala 3-1 in the shoot-out after the match ended 1-1 in the regulation and extra time.
- **Lakshya Sen, who won bronze at the World Championships**, placed second at the 2022 All England Open Badminton Championships after losing to world number one Viktor Axelsen in the men's singles final on Saturday.
- 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.
- **India's P.V. Sindhu** has defeated **Busanan Ongbamrunphan of Thailand** to win the women's singles title at the **Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament**.
- **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.
- **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull - Netherlands) has won the **Formula One 2022 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix** at Jeddah Corniche Circuit, Saudi Arabia. **Charles Leclerc** (Ferrari- Monaco) came second and **Carlos Sainz Jr.** (Ferrari - Spain) came third.

- **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.

Summits And Conferences

- **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**, New Delhi in partnership with the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, GoI hosted the 28th edition of the **DST - CII Technology Summit on 23rd and 24th of February 2022**. The Summit was held virtually. Singapore is the Partner Country for this year's Technology Summit. Technology Summit has been very crucial in providing significant opportunities to build and improve bilateral technology partnerships over a period of more than two decades. **Dr Jitendra Singh**, Hon'ble Union Minister of State, Ministry of Science and Technology, GoI.
- **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Chemicals & Fertilizers has inaugurated the seminar on "**Industry Connect 2022**": **Industry and Academia Synergy**. The stress is on the importance of innovation & technology for the progress of the country and it is for the greater industry-academia partnerships. The innovative zeal and manufacturing quality products at scale will help the Prime Minister's vision of Make in India and Make for the World.
- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** and **National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)**, Chennai, are jointly conducted **OCEANS 2022 Conference and Exposition**, the bi-annual event for global marine researchers, technologists and engineers, students, and policymakers. It is being in India for the first time and coordinated by the Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras, on behalf of the **Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Ocean Engineering Society (IEEE OES)** and **Marine Technology Society (MTS)**. The conference is being held in a hybrid model.
- **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** has partnered with governments on digital initiatives. We've constructed **state-of-the-art PAN-India ICT infrastructure**, digital platforms, and solutions for the government's exclusive usage over the years. We've helped the federal and state governments automate their procedures and deliver public services electronically.
- **India Global Forum's (IGF)** annual summit is being organized in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**. The summit will bring together eminent faces of tech-driven disruption and those who have joined the unicorn club along with Union ministers, policymakers, and global business leaders.
- The **German government** has stated that it will hold a virtual meeting of **G7 agriculture ministers** to explore the implications of the conflict between **Russia and Ukraine** on global food security. The meeting, according to **Cem zdemir, Germany's Minister of Agriculture and Food**, will also focus on ways to stabilise food markets.
- For **Election Management Bodies (EMBs)** from approximately 32 countries and four international organisations, the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** convened the virtual **International Election Visitors Programme (IEVP) 2022**. More than 150 EMB Delegates who were participating online were given an overview of the ongoing elections for Legislative Assemblies in **Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh**.
- The **3rd edition** of the **National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF)** has been 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.
- On a virtual platform, the **36th International Geological Congress (IGC)** will be placed here on March 20-22, 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**.
- **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA)** and **FICCI** are jointly organizing Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation (Commercial, General and Business Aviation), titled '**WINGS INDIA 2022**'. **WINGS INDIA AWARDS** will also be conferred during this event. The event focuses on new business acquisition, investments, policy formation, and regional connectivity. It is being held from **24th to 27th March 2022**, at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad. The theme of the event: **India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry**.

- Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha** has addressed the **Gulf Countries' Investment Summit** at **SKICC, Srinagar** which is aimed at providing a platform for the foreign business delegates to explore a host of investment opportunities in the **UT of Jammu & Kashmir**. The Lt Governor highlighted the scope for J&K and GCC companies' economic cooperation to make Jammu and Kashmir the most beautiful investment destination in the world.
- The **73rd Annual National Conference of Indian Psychiatric Society (ANCIPS)** has been organized in **Visakhapatnam** from today to the 26th of March. Experts from various parts of India and a few from abroad are participating in the three-day conference held at Vizag Conventions at Madhurawada. The last national conference was held 37 years ago in Visakhapatnam. The theme is chosen for ANCIPS – 2022 '**Bridging minds ... Connecting generations**' was very appropriate in view of the growing generation gap and its impact on society.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has participated in the **5th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit** through virtual mode. The Summit was hosted by the Government of **Sri Lanka**, which was the chair nation of BIMSTEC. At the conclusion of the Summit, **Thailand** took over as chair nation of BIMSTEC. The year 2022 marks the **25th year** of the establishment of BIMSTEC. The theme of the Summit was "**Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies, Healthy People**".



Awards & Recognition

- Physicist Professor, **Deepak Dhar** has become the first Indian to be awarded the **Boltzmann Medal**. The Commission on Statistical Physics of the **International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP)** presents this medal once in three years for contributions in the field of statistical physics. The medal presentation ceremony will be held during the **StatPhys28** conference scheduled to be held in Tokyo in August this year. He shares the medal with **John J Hoefield** of Princeton University.
- **Smt Annpurna Devi**, who is the union **MoS for Education** has given **National ICT Awards to 49 teachers** from all over the country. In her speech on this event, she told that the **NEP-2020** emphasizes on the efficient use of technology in the field of teaching, which will remove the language barriers and increase access for **DIVYANG** students.
- **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** has been awarded the '**Special Jury Award**' at the 7th India Industry Water Conclave and the 9th edition of the FICCI Water Awards. NMCG has been awarded for its effort in reviving River Ganga and bringing about a paradigm shift in water management. The 9th edition of the FICCI Water Awards were organised at the FICCI's 7th India Industry Water Conclave, held virtually on March 02 and 03, 2022.
- **National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd** Country's largest Iron Ore producer, a CPSE under Ministry of Steel received 1st prize in the **Ispat Rajbhasha Award for 2018-19 and 2020-21** and company also received the **Ispat Rajbhasha Prerna Award for 2019-20**.
- Bangladeshi environmental lawyer, **Rizwana Hasan** has been selected for the **International Women of Courage (IWOC) Award for 2022**. She is among the 12 women from around the world who will be honoured by the US Department of State with the award for showing exceptional courage and leadership to make a difference in their communities.
- **Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP), National Safety Awards (NSA)** for the performance year 2018 and **National Safety Awards (Mines)** for the contest years 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 were presented today by **Shri Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister of Labour and Employment, Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.

- 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.
- 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. This year, the bank has also won the ‘**Best DCM House in India**’ Award at the Finance Asia’s Country Awards.
- **Morgan Stanley** has been honoured with the **Bank of the year award** at the IFR Asia Award 2021 and the JSW Group has been awarded with the Issuer of the year award. The awards are organized by IFR Asia, a Hong Kong-based provider of capital markets intelligence.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** of the **NITI Aayog** organised the **5th** edition of the **Women Transforming India Awards (WTI)**. As part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, to celebrate 75 years of India’s independence, the WTI Awards have been conferred 75 women achievers for their contribution towards a ‘**Sashakt Aur Samarth Bharat**’.
- **The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters** has awarded the **Abel Prize for the year 2022** to American Mathematician **Dennis Parnell Sullivan**. The citation mentions that the award has been given, “For his groundbreaking contributions to **topology** in its broadest sense, and in particular its algebraic, geometric and dynamical aspects.”
- **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.
- **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.
- The **Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL)** has won the ‘**Covid champion**’ award at **Wings India 2022**. 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.
- Professor **Emeritus Wilfried Brutsaert** has been named as the **Stockholm Water Prize Laureate 2022**. He has been awarded for his groundbreaking work to quantify environmental evaporation. Wilfried Brutsaert is Professor in **Engineering Emeritus at Cornell University, USA**.
- Bollywood actress **Deepika Padukone** has been named as one of the awardees of the **TIME100 Impact Awards 2022**. The actress has got featured on the inaugural **TIME100 Impact Awards list** for her work in mental health struggles and raising awareness, through her **LiveLoveLaugh Foundation**.
- Olympic silver medallist weightlifter, **Mirabai Chanu** won the 3rd edition of the **BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year award 2021**. 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. 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.

Important Days

- The **Rare Disease Day (RDD)** is observed every year on the last day of February. This year in 2022 it falls on **February 28, 2022**. The Rare Disease Day theme 2022: **"Share Your Colors."**
- In 2022, the **Government of India** has organised the **Polio National Immunization Day 2022 (NID)** (also known as **"Polio Ravivar"**) on February 27, 2022, to give two drops of oral polio vaccine (OPV) to every child in the country under the age of five. Over 15 crore children will be covered under the drive across all 36 States and UTs in 735 districts. The National Polio Immunization Drive for 2022 was launched by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare **Dr Mansukh Mandavia** on February 26, 2022.
- **The Zero Discrimination Day** is held every year on the **1st of March**. The day aims to ensure right to equality, inclusion and protection of all people without any discrimination in their law and policies to live a full life with dignity regardless of any barriers. The theme of Zero Discrimination Day 2022: **"Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower"**, UNAIDS is highlighting the urgent need to take action against discriminatory laws.
- Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers will organize the **Janaushadhi Diwas** from **1st March to 7th March 2022**. On 7th March 2022, the **4th Jan Aushadhi Diwas** will be celebrated. The theme of 4th Janaushadhi Diwas: **"Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi"**. The Government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10,500 by the end of **March 2025**.
- The **Women and Child Development Ministry** celebrates the **International Women's Day week** from the **1st of March** as an Iconic Week as a part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**. As a part of the week-long celebration, the Ministry will organize various events and social media campaigns covering a variety of themes related to women's safety and empowerment.
- The **46th Civil Accounts Day** has celebrated on **2nd March 2022** at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi. Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman is the Chief Guest of the occasion.
- **World Civil Defence Day** is annually observed across the globe on **1st March** to honour the significance of Civil Defence and the personnel who have sacrificed their lives for it. The theme of World Civil Defence Day 2022 is **"Civil defence and management of displaced populations in face of disasters and crises; role of volunteers and the fight against pandemics"**.
- The **World Wildlife Day** is observed every year on **March 3** to raise awareness about the world's wild fauna and flora. World Wildlife Day will be celebrated in 2022 under the theme **"Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration"**.
- **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. The World Hearing Day 2022 with the theme **"To hear for life, listen with care"** will focus on the importance and means of hearing loss prevention through safe listening.
- The **National Safety Day (NSD)** is celebrated every year on the **4th of March** to commemorate the foundation of the **National Safety Council (NSC) of India**. The day aims to raise public awareness of all safety principles, including road safety, workplace safety, human health safety, and environmental safety. The year 2022 marks 51st NSD. Every year, this day is celebrated with a different theme. This year, the National Safety Council of India announced the theme to be **'Nurture young minds - Develop safety culture'**.
- In India, **March 4** is celebrated as **National Security Day (Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas)** every year, in the honor of the **Indian Security Forces**. The day aims to show gratitude to all the security forces, including policemen, para-military forces, commandos, guards, army officers, and other persons involved in security, who sacrifice their life in maintaining the peace and security of the people of the country. Apart from this, National Security Week 2022 is being celebrated from **March 4 to March 10, 2022**.
- **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**. The theme of World Obesity Day 2022 is **'Everybody Needs to Act'**. The campaign aims to improve the world's understanding, prevention and treatment of obesity.

- The **Jan Aushadhi Diwas** is celebrated on **7 March 2022** by the **Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI)**. The day is observed to spread awareness about the usages of generic medicines and the benefits of Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana. The theme of the 4 Janaushadhi Diwas is **"Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi"**.
- **International Women's Day (IWD)** is celebrated globally on **March 8** every year. The day recognises the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The theme of 2022 International Women's Day is **"gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow"**.
- **No Smoking Day** is celebrated on the **second Wednesday** in the month of March every year across the world. This year No Smoking Day will be celebrated on **9th March**. The day is celebrated to help those who wish to quit smoking as well as to raise awareness about the implications of smoking on an individual's health.
- **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. The theme for World Kidney day 2022 is **"Kidney Health for All"**. The 2022 campaign will focus on efforts to increase education and awareness about kidney health and on reducing the stubbornly high CKD knowledge gap at all levels of kidney care.
- In the year **1969**, the CISF was set up on **March 10** and three battalions were formed under the **CISF act 1968**, which was passed by the Parliament of India. Since then, the day is celebrated as CISF Raising Day every year.
- **March 10** marks the **International Day of Women Judges**. On this day, the United National reaffirms its commitment to develop and implement appropriate and effective strategies and plans for the advancement of women in the judicial system and institution at the managerial and leadership level.
- **International Day of Mathematics (IDM)** is observed globally on the **14th of March** every year. It is also known as the **Pi Day** because the mathematical constant π (**pi**) can be rounded down to **3.14**. It aims to educate people about the essential role of mathematics in science and technology, improve quality of life, empower women and girls, and contribute to sustainable development. This is a relatively new event that was created just a couple of years back. The theme for 2022 IDM is **"Mathematics Unites!"**.
- **World Rotaract Day** is celebrated on the **13th of March** every year to acknowledge the services provided by the rotaractors across the world. The theme of World Rotaract Day 2022 is **"Rotary Making a Difference"**. World Rotaract Week will be held from **11 March 2022 to 18 March 2022**.
- **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.
- The **International Day of Action for Rivers** is celebrated every year on the **14th of March**. The year **2022** marks the **25th anniversary** of the International Day of Action for Rivers. The day aims to raise awareness about the value and importance of rivers as well as bring together people from across the world to discuss and spread awareness about conserving rivers, river management, pollution, and equitable access to clean and flowing water. The theme in 2022 is **"The Importance of Rivers for Biodiversity"**.
- In India, the **National Vaccination Day** (also known as **National Immunisation Day (IMD)**) is observed on **16 March** every year, to convey the importance of vaccination to the entire nation. The day was first observed in the year **1995**. In 2022, the National Immunization Day is important since the Government of India has started the COVID-19 vaccination for children between 15 to 18 years of age and booster dose for senior citizens. The theme for National Vaccination Day or National Immunisation Day 2022 is **"Vaccines Work for all"**.
- The **U.N. General Assembly** approved a resolution to proclaim **March 15** as the **International Day to Combat Islamophobia** every year, starting from 2022. The resolution, adopted by the 193-member UN General Assembly, was introduced by Pakistan's ambassador Munir Akram on behalf of the **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**, on March 15, 2022. It marks the day when a gunman entered two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, killing 51 worshippers and wounding 40 others in the terror attack.

- **World Sleep Day** is observed on the **Friday before the March equinox** every year to highlight the importance of quality sleep. This year, it falls on **March 18**. World Sleep Day is a celebration of sleep and a call to action on important issues related to sleep, including medicine, education, social aspects and driving. **‘Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World’** is the theme for World Sleep Day this year to raise awareness about the impact of sleep on the mind and body.
- The **Global Recycling Day** is observed every year on the **18th of March** to recognise the importance of recycling as a resource, not waste. The day strives to urge world leaders that recycling must be a global issue and encourage people to think resourcefully and not waste when it comes to the goods around us. This year, the event’s focus will be on the **“recycling fraternity”** – those who put themselves on the frontline to collect waste and recycling during the multiple lockdowns.
- The **Ordnance Factories’ Day** is observed on the **18th** of March every year. The production of **India’s oldest Ordnance Factory**, which is at Cossipore of Kolkata, was started on the 18th of March, 1802. OFB is the **37th** largest defence equipment manufacturer in the world, 2nd largest in Asia, and the largest in India.
- **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 theme for Happiness Day 2022 is **Keep Calm, Stay Wise and Be Kind**.
- The **International Day of Forests (also known as World Forestry Day)** is celebrated every year on **March 21**. The theme for 2022 is “Forests and sustainable production and consumption.”
- **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** is observed annually on **21 March** to remind people about the negative consequences of racial discrimination. The 2022 edition of the International Day focuses on the theme **“VOICES FOR ACTION AGAINST RACISM”**.
- The **World Oral Health Day** is marked every year on **March 20**. The theme for World Oral Health Day 2021-2023 is: **Be Proud Of Your Mouth**.
- **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. The World Water Day theme 2022 is **“Groundwater, Making the Invisible Visible”**.
- **World Down Syndrome Day (WDS)** is observed every year on **21 March**. It is a global campaign that is observed annually to spread awareness about Down Syndrome. The theme of World Down Syndrome Day this year is **“Inclusion Means”**.
- 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.
- **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. This year World Meteorological Day is celebrated keeping the theme of **Early Warning and Early Action**.
- **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 theme of World TB Day 2022 – **‘Invest to End TB. Save Lives.’**



Defence Current Affairs

- **United Nations** has recognised **March 24** to be observed as the **International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims every year**. The day aims to pay tribute to those who have devoted their lives or lost their lives in, the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all.
- The United Nations observes the **International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members** on **25 March** every year. This is a day to mobilize action, demand justice and strengthen our resolve to protect UN staff and peacekeepers, as well as our colleagues in the non-governmental community and the press.
- **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade** is marked on **25 March** every year to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice. 2022 Theme: **“Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism”**.
- **World Theatre Day** is celebrated annually on **March 27**, promoted by the **International Theatre Institute (ITI)** through its centres, and supported by theatre communities all over the world. This year, the World Theatre Day celebration will focus on the young, the next generation, the emerging artists, who have been a strong special focus of ITI in the recent past.
- 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**.
- The **International Day of Drug Checking** takes place on **March 31** every year since 2017 to ensure people are educated on drugs and aware of their effects. The day aims to promote harm reduction initiatives of drugs and reduce drug-related risks.
- **World Backup Day** is marked every year on **March 31**. The day reminds us to protect our precious digital documents as we’ve become more reliant on technology.
- The **International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV)** occurs annually on **March 31** to raise awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, while also celebrating their contributions to society.

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has decided not to send its aircraft in the multilateral air exercise **‘Cobra Warrior-22’** in the **United Kingdom**, due to the deepening crisis in Ukraine, arising out of the Russian military attack in that country.
- **In April, 2022, General Manoj Mukund Naravane** will be retiring from the post of **27th chief of the Indian Army**. **General M M Naravane** will be leaving behind a strong legacy that would be clear only with time.
- **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.
- The 19th edition of the **India-US Military Cooperation Group (MCG)** meeting was conducted in **Agra, Uttar Pradesh**. The discussion was co-chaired by **Air Marshal BR Krishna**, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC), and **Lieutenant General Stephen D Sklenka**, Deputy Commander, US Indo-Pacific Command, represented the US side.
- **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.
- India’s first indigenously developed Flying Trainer, **‘HANSA-NG’**, successfully completed the sea-level trials at **Puducherry**. HANSA-NG was flown from **Bengaluru to Puducherry** on February 19, covering a distance of 140 nautical miles in 1.5 hours at a cruising speed of **155 km/hr**.
- The **9th edition of India - Sri Lanka Bilateral Maritime Exercise** named **SLINEX (Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise)** is held at **Visakhapatnam** from **07 Mar to 10 Mar 2022**. The aim of the exercise is to enhance interoperability and improve mutual understanding between the navies of the two neighbouring countries in the strategically significant Indian Ocean Region.
- **Air Marshal B Chandra Sekhar**, recipient of the **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM)**, has been named Commandant of the **Indian Air Force Academy**.

- On the eve of General **Bipin Rawat's** 65th birthday anniversary, the **Indian Army** has dedicated a chair of excellence in the late chief of defence staff (CDS)'s memory at the **United Service Institution of India (USI)**, the country's oldest think tank founded in **1870**. The Chair will be open to Veterans of three Services and civilians having expertise in the field of National Security.
- The **MV Ram Prasad Bismil** has become the **longest vessel ever to sail from Ganga to the Brahmaputra**. The 90 meters long and 26 meters wide flotilla, loaded with a draft of 2.1 meters, achieved the feat on March 15, 2022, when it successfully completed the pilot run of heavy cargo movement from **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Haldia, to Pandu port in Guwahati**.
- **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** has celebrated its **83rd Raising Day** with zeal and ceremonial fervour on **19 March 2022**. The 83rd Raising Day parade was organised at the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu. This was for the first time that the CRPF celebrated its Raising Day outside the national capital.
- 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 will be represented by the 2/3 GORKHA RIFLES group (PIRKANTHI Battalion).
- 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 **3rd** edition of the joint training exercise named **EX-DUSTLIK** between the **Indian army and Uzbekistan army** begins 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.
- **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.
- 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 **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.
- 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 Sambhal received the **President's Colour** on behalf of the unit, for its 80 years of exceptional service.
- 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.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has conducted two successful flight tests of the Indian Army version of **Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM)** against high-speed aerial targets at **Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha**. The Indian Army version of MRSAM is a Surface-to-Air Missile. It has been developed jointly by DRDO and **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel**.

- The **Indian Air Force** has unveiled a new initiative with the **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.** Under it, IAF's convoys will be refuelled at fuel stations of the state-run energy major. As per the Defence Ministry, 'Fleet Card-Fuel on Move' has been rolled out to facilitate the refuelling of convoys belonging to the Indian Air Force.
- The first edition of the **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22)** was held from March 26 to 30, 2022, in **Goa** and in the **Arabian Sea**. The objective of the exercise was to enhance the interoperability of the navies of member nations in **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations**.
- US space agency, **NASA**, successfully launched the third in a series of four next-generation weather satellites, **Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES)**, from **Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida**. The satellite is named as **GOES-T**. Once the satellite gets positioned in its geostationary orbit it will be renamed from **GOES-T to GOES-18**. GOES-T will be used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to forecast weather and hazardous environmental conditions in the Western Hemisphere.
- Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** have created a **biodegradable nanoparticle** that can be used as an alternative to chemical-based insecticides to protect crops from bacterial and fungal illnesses. Abhay Karandikar, who is the director of **IIT Kanpur** said that because farmers suffer a variety of issues, **IIT Kanpur** has worked tirelessly to improve the farming environment as a whole. **Nanoparticles** would reduce the risk of crop infection while also increasing agricultural productivity.

Science and Technology

- A team of scientists, for the first time in the country, from the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi** successfully demonstrated a **Quantum Key Distribution link** between **Prayagraj and Vindhyachal** in Uttar Pradesh, spanning over 100 kilometres.
- **Google** has announced the launch of '**Play Pass**' **subscription service in India** that will provide Android device users access to over 1,000 applications and games without ads, in-app purchases, and upfront payments. Play Pass, which is currently available in 90 countries, will offer a high-quality and curated collection of 1000+ titles across 41 categories from developers across 59 countries including many from India, Google said in a statement.
- On the occasion of **National Science Day 2022**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr Jitendra Singh**, launched the **International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO)** through a high-level virtual event. For the first five years, the **International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) will be housed at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, Pune, which is part of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Indian government.
- Tech giant, **Microsoft** has announced to set up its **fourth data centre in India in Hyderabad, Telangana**. Hyderabad Data centre will be one of the largest data centres in India and will be operational by **2025**. Microsoft already has a data centre in three Indian regions across Pune, Mumbai, and Chennai. The new data centre will add to the growing demand for Microsoft's cloud services from both the private enterprises as well as the government sector.
- The **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** has designed and installed a supercomputer named "**PARAM Ganga**", at **IIT Roorkee**, under Phase II of National Supercomputing Mission (NSM). **PARAM Ganga** has a supercomputing capacity of **1.66 Petaflops**.
- As part of the **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Program**, **Union Minister for Power R.K. Singh** launched the **Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (SGKC) and Innovation Park**. **Krishan Pal Gurjar, Minister of State for Power**, was also in attendance. **POWERGRID** established the **Smart Grid Knowledge Center (SGKC)** to demonstrate and advance cutting-edge smart grid technologies.

- 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)**.
- **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.
- The **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)**, a collaborative project of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and the Department of Science and Technology, has dedicated **PARAM Shakti**, a Petascale Supercomputer, to the country at **IIT Kharagpur (DST)**. The PARAM Shakti supercomputing facility is advancing research and development efforts in diverse disciplines of computational and data sciences.
- Former Indian Army Captain, **Deepam Chatterjee** has authored a new book titled “**The Millennial Yogi: A modern-day parable about reclaiming one’s life**”. This is a book that mixes mysticism and music that takes readers on a journey of awakening. The book talks about **Jayshankar Prasad, or Jay**, who has a shady-yet-mercurial rise in his journey as an entrepreneur and Vini, a mystic monk. The book is published by Ebury Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House.
- **Rafa: My Story** is the new book launched by **John Carlin** and **Rafael Nadal**. It is his an **autobiography** of his international tennis career, in which he remembers his early years and tells about the things that gave him the strength to reach this position in international tennis.
- Indian writer and journalist, **Amitava Kumar** has come out with a new book titled “**The Blue Book: A Writer’s Journal**”. The book has been published by HarperCollins India. The Blue Book is the outcome of the diary-keeping by the author during the time of lockdown due to pandemics.
- 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**.
- A book titled “**On Board: My Years in BCCI**”, an autobiographical account of Ratnakar Shetty’s experiences as an administrator. The book was released by **Sharad Pawar**, the former president of the MCA, BCCI and International Cricket Council.
- A new biography, titled “**Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times**” was announced, during the occasion of the 92nd birth anniversary of **Soli Sorabjee**. It is authored by advocate and legal scholar **Abhinav Chandrachud** and will be released in April 2022.
- Minister of Labour and Employment and MoEFCC, **Bhupender Yadav** has launched a book titled “**Role of Labour in India’s Development**”. **V V Giri National Labour Institute** has published the book. The publishing of the book is part of the ‘Iconic Week’ celebrations of the ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’.
- Author **Geetanjali Shree’s** translated Hindi novel “**Tomb of Sand**” is among 13 books long-listed for the **International Booker Prize**. It is the first Hindi language work of fiction to make it to the long list of the prestigious literary prize. The book was originally published as ‘**Ret Samadhi**’ and translated into English by Daisy Rockwell. It will compete for the GBP 50,000 prize, which is split evenly between the author and translator.

Books & Authors

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

- The **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** has announced to release a book on the life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi titled **Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery**. It is set to hit stands in April 2022. The book is a compilation of pieces written by intellectuals & experts and has been edited & compiled by **BlueKraft Digital Foundation**.
- Padma Awardee **Dr Tehemton Erach Udawadia** has authored a new book titled **"More than Just Surgery: Life Lessons Beyond the OT"**, a personal account of people, incidents, mentors, failures, and absurdities against the backdrop of surgery. The book maps the journey of Dr Tehemton Erach Udawadia from his student years through residency, research, surgical practice and surgical teaching as a means of sharing the lessons he learned.
- **Sportstar and The Hindu group** released a coffee-table book, **'Road to 1000'**, at the 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards at The Taj Mahal Palace hotel. The book is a 520-page, special collection with 1000 pictures to commemorate Indian cricket's journey. 'Road to 1000' was released by former India cricketers Sunil Gavaskar, Syed Kirmani, Dilip Vengsarkar, Mohammad Azharuddin, Chandrakant Pandit and Nilesh Kulkarni here.
- 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.
- A book titled **"Unfilled Barrels: India's oil story"** authored by **Richa Mishra** will be released soon. Richa Mishra is a journalist with The Hindu BusinessLine. 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.
- 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.
- Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu**, released a book titled **'Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya'** authored by **Syam Prasad**. The book is based on the life story of late Shri Somepalli Somaiah, a social worker from Andhra Pradesh. He inspired youth to dedicate their lives to social welfare.
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW), **Narendra Singh Tomar** has released a book titled **"Indian Agriculture towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers' Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems"**, at an event organized by NITI Aayog and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- The **Delhi Cabinet** has approved setting up India's first of its kind **electronic-waste eco-park**. It has also agreed to devise **'Delhi Film Policy 2022'**, as a thrust to promote tourism. The electronic waste eco-friendly park is to be built on **20 acres of land in Delhi**.
- A subsidiary of **Reliance Infrastructure, SES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL)** has commissioned India's first 'Smart Managed EV Charging Station' in the New Delhi. **BYPL** is backed by Bombay Suburban Electric Supply (**BSES**). It is executed by **Fortum Charge & Drive**, and it will be the first ever **BYPL managed Smart EV Charging Station**.
- **Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh** has created a **Guinness record** by lighting **11.71 lakh** clay lamps (diyas) in 10 minutes. The diyas were lighted as part of the **'Shiv Jyoti Arpanam Mahotsava'** on the occasion of Mahashivratri. With this they broke the earlier record of lighting 9.41 lakh diyas created in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh on 03 November 2021. Ujjain is also known as the 'Land of Mahakal'. The certificate was received by Madhya Pradesh chief minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.
- **Herath or the 'Night of Hara (Shiva)'**, generally known as **Maha Shivratri**, is the main festival celebrated by the Kashmiri Pandits across **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**. The festival marks the marriage anniversary of **Lord Shiva and Goddess Uma (Parvathi)**. 2022 Herath Festival was celebrated on 28th February 2022.

- A national-level shooter and an environmentalist hailing from Delhi, **Aarushi Verma** has been selected to represent India at the **2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition** which is set to be held in **March 2022**. She is a national-level shooter in Pistol and trap shooting and a State & Northern India Champion & National medalist, and an active environmentalist. She will be fully supported and sponsored by The Hans Foundation.
- The trial of the **'Kavach'** functioning system between **Gullaguda** and **Chitgidda Railway stations** was examined by **Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Minister of Railways, Communication, Electronics and Information Technology**. 2,000 km of railway network will be brought under **Kavach** for safety and capacity augmentation in 2022-23, as a part of Prime minister's **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- **India's first fully owned by women industrial park** opened its doors in **Hyderabad**. The park, that is promoted by the **FICCI Ladies Organization - FLO** in collaboration with the **State government**, consists of **25 units** which represent **16 different sectors of green category**, and all of them are owned and controlled completely by women.
- The Union Civil Aviation Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** jointly inaugurated the first drone school in **Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**. This drone school is one of the **five Drone Schools** planned to be opened in different cities of Madhya Pradesh. The other four cities are **Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Satna**.
- **The Delhi government** has launched an online **'My EV' (My Electric Vehicle) portal** for the purchase and registration of electric autos in Delhi. It is accessible to all users on the website of the transport department of Delhi.
- A documentary about the Dalit-led, all-woman newspaper **Khabar Lahariya**, **"Writing With Fire"** became the first Indian documentary to be nominated at the Oscars. 'Writing With Fire' had won Audience and Jury Awards at the Sundance Film Festival last year. It is produced by Ticket Films and directed by filmmakers **Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh**. 'Khabar Lahariya' is a newspaper founded in May 2002 in Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh.
- Under the **National Digital Health Mission, Puducherry** is creating a digital public health ecosystem. By the second week of **August**, four-building pieces of the **digital ecosystem** would have been established and implemented in the first phase. These include creating a health identity database for the entire population, similar to **Aadhaar**, the **'digi doctor'**, a listing of health professionals from various medical systems, the **National Health Infrastructure Registry**, and a personal health record for each individual that maps past and present data.
- The Government of **Jammu and Kashmir** has launched **quick response (QR) code for its GI-tagged Kashmiri carpet**, to preserve the authenticity and genuineness of the hand-knotted carpets. The main objective of this QR Code attached to the GI tag is to help in reviving the sheen and glory of the Kashmiri carpet industry.
- **Geographical Indication tag** has been awarded to the **Narasingapettai Nagaswaram** under the category of musical instruments of class 15. Narasinghapettai nagaswaram is a classical wind music instrument that is traditionally made in a village near **Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu**.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) was conferred with **"Best Tableaux" Trophy**. The award ceremony took place in Ministry itself with a small delegation of **Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** officials present for the same.
- Venezuela's **Yulimar Rojas** bettered her own women's triple jump world record with a leap of **15.74 metres** to win gold at the World Indoor Championships. The Olympic champion beat her previous outright best of **15.67 metres** set at the Tokyo Games last year, as well as her indoor record of 15.43 metres, set in 2020.
- The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** conducted **Yamunotsav at ASITA East River Front, ITO Bridge**, as part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** celebrations, in collaboration with a number of **NGOs**, to celebrate the splendour of **Yamuna** with a "pledge to keep it clean."
- **'Jingkieng Jri or Living Root Bridge'**, found in over 70 villages in **Meghalaya** highlighting the socio-cultural, social and botanical links between people and nature, has been included in the tentative list of **World Heritage Sites of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)**.

Obituaries

- West Indies spin legend, **Sonny Ramadhin** has passed away at the age of 92. He was a part of the side that won its first away series in England in 1950. He made his Test debut against England at Old Trafford in 1950.
- Film critic, writer **Jaiprakash Chouksey** has passed away due to cardiac arrest at the age of 82 years. He has penned scripts and dialogues for several films including 'Shayad' (1979), 'Qatl' (1986) and 'Bodyguard' (2011), and was also involved in writing for television serials.
- Legendary Australia spinner, **Shane Warne** has passed away at the age of 52. Shane Warne, one of the greatest-ever cricketers to have played the sport, picked up **708 wickets in 145 Tests**. His career spanned over 15 years from **1992 to 2007**. He was also a World Cup winner with Australia in **1999**. He is regarded as one of the greatest-ever bowlers in the history of the sport as he was an integral part of the dominant Australian sides in the 1990s and early 2000s.
- General **S F Rodrigues**, who had served as Chief of the Indian Army from 1990 to 1993 passes away at the age of 88 years. General **Sunith Francis Rodrigues** was also the Governor of Punjab from 2004 to 2010. He had served two terms on the **National Security Advisory Board**.
- The Oscar-winning producer, Former Executive at Twentieth Century Fox, who greenlit 'Star Wars' and 'Braveheart', **Alan Ladd Junior** has passed away at the age of 84 years. He was affectionately known as "Laddie". He won the **Academy Award (Oscar award)** for Best Picture 'Braveheart' directed by Mel Gibson in 1995. He was one of the founders of the Ladd Company, established in 1979.



- 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.
- 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.
- The former President of **Zambia, Rupiah Banda** has passed away after a two-year battle with cancer. He was 85. Banda had served as the fourth president of Zambia from 2008 and 2011. Banda had held senior diplomatic posts under first President Kenneth Kaunda before being eventually named as vice president in 2006 by then-President Levy Mwanawasa.
- 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 (WWE, 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.
- 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.
- American Astrophysicist **Eugene Newman Parker**, who contributed to solar physics, has passed away at the age of 94. Eugene Parker witnessed the launch of **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**'s Parker Solar Probe in 2018, the first NASA mission named after a living person, and became the first person to witness the launch of a spacecraft named after them.
- The former Prime Minister of Mali, **Soumeylou Boubèye Maïga** has passed away due to illness. Maïga served as prime minister of Mali from 2017 until 2019. He had been detained since August 2021 after the country was taken over by a military junta. He was appointed Keita's prime minister in 2017 but resigned in April 2019 over a massacre that left 160 people dead.

- **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.
- 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.
- **Stephen Wilhite**, the creator of the **Graphics Interchange Format (GIF) format** passed away at the age of 74 years due to Covid-19 related issues. Wilhite devised the Graphics Interchange Format, or GIF, in 1987 while working at Compuserve.
- Veteran Belgian footballer, **Miguel Van Damme** has passed away aged 28 after a long battle with leukaemia. Van Damme was diagnosed with leukaemia in 2016 and was undergoing treatment for cancer for over five years.
- The 3rd Chief Minister of Sikkim, **Bhim Bahadur Gurung** has passed away at his residence in **Lumsui in Gangtok, Sikkim**. Gurung started his political career with **Sikkim Rajya Congress Party in 1947** and was later appointed as the General Secretary in 1958. He served as the 3rd CM of Sikkim from 11 May to **24 May 1984**, the shortest term in the history of Sikkim. Between 2014 and 2015 he served as the political advisor to the CM of Sikkim.



Static Takeaways

- New Development Bank Headquarters Location: Shanghai, China;
- New Development Bank Founder: BRICS;
- New Development Bank Founded: 15 July 2014.
- International Olympic Committee Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland;
- International Olympic Committee Founded: 23 June 1894, Paris, France.
- Japan Capital: Tokyo;
- Japan Currency: Japanese Yen;
- Japan Emperor: Naruhito;
- Japan Prime minister: Fumio Kishida.
- China Capital: Beijing;
- China Currency: Renminbi;
- China President: Xi Jinping.
- Bank of Maharashtra Headquarters: Pune;
- Bank of Maharashtra Founded: 16 September 1935.
- DICGC Founded: 15 July 1978;
- DICGC Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Minister of Electronics and Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw;
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998;
- Google Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States.
- Tata Motors Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Tata Motors Founded: 1945, Mumbai.
- Twitter formed: 21 March 2006;
- Headquarters of Twitter: San Francisco, California, United States.
- Indian Airforce founded: 8 October 1932;
- Indian Airforce Headquarters: New Delhi;
- EURORDIS Founded: 1997.
- EURORDIS Headquarters location: Paris, France.
- United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- UNAIDS Founded: 26 July 1994.
- World Wildlife Fund Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland.
- World Wildlife Fund Founded: 29 April 1961, Morges, Switzerland.
- WHO Established: 7 April 1948;
- WHO Director General: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus;
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- National Security Council of India Founded: 19 November 1998;

- National Security Council of India head: Ajit Kumar Doval.
- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States;
- NASA Founded: 1 October 1958.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Founded: 3 October 1970.
- WHO Established: 7 April 1948;
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Global System for Mobile Communications Association Established: 1995;
- Global System for Mobile Communications Association Headquarters: London, United Kingdom;
- FATF Founded: 1989;
- FATF Members: 39;
- FATF Headquarters: Paris, France;
- (Singapore).
- Russia Capital: Moscow;
- Russia President: Vladimir Putin;
- Russia Currency: Russian Ruble.
- Iran Capital: Tehran;
- Iran President: Ebrahim Raisi;
- Iran Currency: Iranian rial.
- South Korea Capital: Seoul;
- South Korea Currency: South Korean won.
- Ukraine Capital: Kyiv;
- Ukraine Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia;
- Ukraine President: Volodymyr Zelenskyy;
- Ukraine Prime minister: Denys Shmyhal.
- Hungary Capital: Budapest;
- Hungary Currency: Hungarian forint.
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Axis Bank Founded: 1993, Ahmedabad.
- Bharti Airtel Founded: 7 July 1995.
- RBI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- RBI Founded: 1 April 1935;
- Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited Headquarters location: Mumbai;
- Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited Founded: 2000.
- HDFC Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- HDFC Bank Founded: August 1994;
- HDFC Bank Tagline: We understand your world.
- Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited Establishment: 2006;
- Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu;
- Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal Establishment: 2000;
- Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal Headquarter: New Delhi.
- National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd Headquarters: Hyderabad;
- National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd Founded: 15 November 1958.
- BCCI Founded: 1928;
- BCCI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India;
- BCCI Men's coach: Rahul Dravid;
- BCCI Women's coach: Ramesh Powar.
- International Paralympic Committee Founded: 22 September 1989;
- International Paralympic Committee CEO: Xavier Gonzalez;
- International Paralympic Committee President: Andrew Parsons (Brazil).
- United Nations founded: 24 October 1945.
- Headquarters of United Nations: New York, United States.
- Chile Capital: Santiago;
- Chile Currency: Chilean peso.
- Bangladesh Capital: Dhaka;
- Bangladesh President: Abdul Hamid;
- Bangladesh Currency: Bangladeshi taka;
- Bangladesh Prime minister: Sheikh Hasina.
- Madagascar Capital: Antananarivo;
- Madagascar Currency: Malagasy ariary;
- Madagascar President: Andry Rajoelina.
- Oil India Limited Headquarters: Noida;
- Oil India Limited Founded: 18 February 1959.
- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Founded: 2001;
- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra.
- RailTel Founded: September 2000;
- RailTel Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana;
- Zambia Capital: Lusaka; Currency: Zambian kwacha.
- Delhi Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal;
- Delhi Lieutenant Governor: Anil Bajjal.

- State Bank of India Founded: 1 July 1955;
- State Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Transcorp International Ltd Established: 1994;
- Transcorp International Ltd Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi;
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka;
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.
- NATO Founded: 4 April 1949, Washington, D.C., United States;
- NATO Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
- Turkmenistan Capital: Ashgabat;
- Turkmenistan Currency: Turkmenistani manat.
- Kuwait Capital: Kuwait City;
- Kuwait Currency: Kuwaiti dinar.
- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- World Bank Formation: July 1944.
- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.
- Tata Consultancy Services Founded: 1 April 1968;
- Tata Consultancy Services Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Asian Cricket Council Headquarters: Colombo, Sri Lanka;
- Asian Cricket Council Founded: 19 September 1983;
- Asian Cricket Council Membership: 25 associations;
- Asian Cricket Council Parent organization: ICC.
- Maruti Suzuki Founded: 1982, Gurugram;
- Maruti Suzuki Headquarters: New Delhi.
- NPCI Founded: 2008;
- NPCI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- Seychelles Capital: Victoria;
- Seychelles President: Wavel Ramkalawan;
- Seychelles Continent: Africa.
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Formed: August 18, 1978;
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Motto: Vayam Rakṣāmaḥ (We protect).
- Uzbekistan Capital: Tashkent;
- Uzbekistan President: Shavkat Mirziyoyev;
- Uzbekistan Currency: Uzbekistani so‘m.
- Malaysia Capital: Kuala Lumpur;
- Malaysia Currency: Malaysian ringgit;
- Malaysia Prime Minister: Ismail Sabri Yaakob.
- FICCI Founded: 1927;
- FICCI Headquarters: New Delhi;
- World Poetry Day Headquarters: Paris, France;
- World Poetry Day Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom.
- Mali Capital: Bamako;
- Mali Currency: West African CFA franc;
- Mali Continent: Africa.
- World Wide Fund Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland.
- World Wide Fund Founded: 29 April 1961, Morges, Switzerland.
- United Nations Environment Programme Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya.
- United Nations Environment Programme Founder: Maurice Strong.
- Stockholm Water Prize Laureate Headquarters location: Stockholm, Sweden;
- Stockholm Water Prize Laureate Founded: 1991.
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.
- Badminton Association of India Founded: 1934;
- Badminton Association of India Headquarters: New Delhi.



Heads of various organizations in News in month of March 2022

Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
1	New Development Bank President	Marcos Prado Troyjo
2	International Olympic Committee President	Thomas Bach
3	Bank of Maharashtra CEO	A. S. Rajeev
4	DICGC Chairperson	Michael Patra
5	Google CEO	Sundar Pichai
6	Tata Motors Founder	J. R. D. Tata
7	Twitter CEO	Parag Agrawal
8	Indian Airforce Chief of Air Staff	Vivek Ram Chaudhari
9	The chairman of the Technology Summit	Vipin Sondhi
10	President of Confederation of Indian Industry	Thachath Vishwanaath Narendran
11	Director-General of Confederation of Indian Industry	Chandrajit Baneerjee
12	UNAIDS Executive Director	Winnie Byanyima
13	President and CEO of World Wildlife Fund	Carter Roberts
14	NASA administrator	Bill Nelson
15	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Founder	Richard Nixon
16	WHO Director General	Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
17	Global System for Mobile Communications Association Chairperson	Stéphane Richard
18	FATF President	T Raja Kumar
19	Axis Bank CEO	Amitabh Chaudhry
20	Bharti Airtel CEO	Gopal Vittal
21	Bharti Airtel Founder	Sunil Bharti Mittal
22	RBI Governor	Shaktikanta Das
23	Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited CEO	Anup Rau
25	Chairman of NaBFID	KV Kamath
26	HDFC Bank CEO	Sashidhar Jagdishan
27	HDFC Bank Chairman	Atanu Chakraborty
28	Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited Wholetime Director & CEO	Jagannathan
29	BCCI President	Sourav Ganguly
30	BCCI Vice president	Rajeev Shukla
31	BCCI Secretary	Jay Shah
32	International Paralympic Committee Headquarters	Bonn, Germany
33	Secretary-General of United Nations	Antonio Guterres
34	Director-General of CISF	Sheel Vardhan Singh
35	RailTel CMD	Puneet Chawla
36	State Bank of India Chairman	Dinesh Kumar Khara
37	Transcorp International Ltd Managing Director	Gopal Sharma
38	Chairman and Space Secretary of ISRO	Dr S Somanath
39	NATO chief	Jens Stoltenberg

Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
40	World Bank President	David Malpass
41	ICICI Bank MD & CEO	Sandeep Bakhshi
42	Asian Cricket Council Chairman	Amitabh Choudhary
43	NPCI MD & CEO	Dilip Asbe
44	Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Director-General	Virender Singh Pathania
45	FICCI President	Sanjiv Mehta
46	FICCI Secretary General	Dilip Chenoy
47	FICCI Director-General	Arun Chawla
48	World Poetry Day Director-General	Audrey Azoulay
49	World Meteorological Organization Head	David Grimes
50	World Wide Fund President and CEO	Carter Roberts
51	United Nations Environment Programme Head	Inger Andersen
52	Stockholm Water Prize Laureate Executive Director	Torgny Holmgren

List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India:

S.No	Name of Sites	Year	Location
1	Ajanta Caves	1983	Maharashtra
2	Ellora Caves	1983	Maharashtra
3	Agra Fort	1983	Agra
4	Taj Mahal	1983	Agra
5	Sun Temple	1984	Orissa
6	Mahabalipuram Monuments	1984	Tamil Nadu
7	Kaziranga National Park	1985	Assam
8	Keoladeo National Park	1985	Rajasthan
9	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	1985	Assam
10	Churches and Convents of Goa	1986	Goa
11	Monuments of Khajuraho	1986	Madhya Pradesh
12	Monuments of Hampi	1986	Karnataka
13	Fatehpur Sikri	1986	Agra
14	Elephanta Caves	1987	Maharashtra
15	Great Living Chola Temples	1987	Tamil Nadu
16	Pattadakal Monuments	1987	Karnataka
17	Sundarbans National Park	1987	West Bengal
18	Nanda Devi & Valley of Flowers National Park	1988	Uttarakhand
19	Monuments of Buddha	1989	Sanchi, Madhya Pradesh
20	Humayun's Tomb	1993	Delhi
21	Qutub Minar and its Monuments	1993	Delhi
22	Mountain Railways of Darjeeling, Kalka Shimla & Nilgiri	1999	Darjeeling
23	Mahabodhi Temple	2002	Bihar

S.No	Name of Sites	Year	Location
24	Bhimbetka Rock Shelters	2003	Madhya Pradesh
25	Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus	2004	Maharashtra
26	Champaner Pavagadh Archaeological Park	2004	Gujarat
27	Red Fort	2007	Delhi
28	Jantar Mantar	2010	Delhi
29	Western Ghats	2012	Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra
30	Hill Forts	2013	Rajasthan
31	Rani Ki Vav (The Queen's Stepwell)	2014	Gujarat
32	Great Himalayan National Park	2014	Himachal Pradesh
33	Nalanda	2016	Bihar
34	Khangchendzonga National Park	2016	Sikkim
35	Architectural Work of Le Corbusier (Capitol Complex)	2016	Chandigarh
36	The Historic City	2017	Ahmedabad
37	Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles	2018	Mumbai
38	The Pink City	2019	Jaipur
39	Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple	2021	Telangana
40	Dholavira	2021	Gujarat

