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The Most Important Current Affairs February 2022

THE CONFLICT OF UKRAINE-RUSSIA EXPLAINED

The attack on **Ukraine by Russia** is potentially the onset of war in **Europe on top of Russia's behest** for an end to **NATO's** eastward expansion. The launch of the major invasion by **Russia on Ukraine**, that started with air and missile assaults on Ukrainian military targets before sending troops and tanks across the country's northern, eastern, and southern borders. On many fronts, the Ukrainian military fought back. In a video speech delivered early **Friday, February 25, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced that 137 people had been killed**, including troops and civilians, and that hundreds more had been injured.

Background:

Since the **invasion of Crimea in 2014**, Ukraine has been living in fear of war with Russia for nearly eight years. **Russia and Ukraine** have been at odds for a long time, with Russia claiming Ukraine as a part of its country and opposing Ukraine's developing ties to the West. **Russian President Vladimir Putin** wants to recapture the former Soviet Union Republic.

He requested that the **Ukrainian military** put down their weapons. Prior to its **cessation in 1991**, Russia and Ukraine were both members of the **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)**, which consisted of 15 republics.

Genesis of the Conflict:

- The heat between Russia and Ukraine, a former Soviet republic, have existed for a decent amount of time, they began to escalate out of control in early 2021. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukraine's President hinted the US President Joe Biden to allow Ukraine to join the NATO forces in January of last year.
- This Russia is highly infuriated, which began sending soldiers near the Ukrainian border for "training exercises" in the spring of last year and boosted the number in the fall. The US began to hype that there is a deployment of Russian troops, and Vice President Joe Biden had threatened Russia with heavy sanctions if Russia attacked Ukraine.
- Russia wants a legally enforceable promise from the US that NATO forces will not conduct any military operations in eastern Europe, especially in Ukraine. According to the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, Ukraine is merely a puppet of the US and was never a real sovereign country in the first place.

- This isn't the first time that conflicts between Russia and Ukraine have erupted. Russia had previously invaded Ukraine in 2014, it happened when pro-Putin separatists captured major swaths of eastern Ukraine, and they have been fighting the Ukrainian army since the invasion. Russia also annexed Crimea at that time.
- Ukraine has extensive social and cultural ties with Russia, and Russian is widely spoken there, but those ties have deteriorated since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014.
- When Ukraine's pro-Russian president lost in early 2014, Russia came to an offensive. It is estimated that more than 14,000 people have died as a result of the continuous war happening in the east.
- The Minsk peace agreement was signed by Russia and Ukraine to end the ongoing violent armed conflict which was going on in east Ukraine, including Donbas region. However, as the armed conflict continues, Russia said that it will be sending "peacekeepers" to the affected region. According to the, Moscow is using it as a cover to occupy sovereign Ukrainian country.
- The rising tension between Russia and Ukraine, which shares a border with the European Union, has ramifications for the European Union. This is why the European Union has joined the US in declaration of the penalties against Russian firms, the majority of which the NATO members.
- Just a few weeks back, French President Emmanuel Macron had travelled to Moscow to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in an effort to calm down the ongoing tensions.
- India is also suggesting for a diplomatic solution, through talks to the present Russian-Ukraine violent conflict.

Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022

The prestigious ceremony of **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022** was held on February 20. The event was held in **Mumbai** and the best performances from last year were honoured in the event this time. This year Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022 celebrated the opulence of Indian Cinema and also commemorated the **75 years of Independence or Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**.

Best Film, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Role, and Best Negative Role, were among the other titles that were given to the personalities of the Indian film fraternity.

Here is a complete list of winners of **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022**:

- Film of the Year Award: **Pushpa: The Rise**
- Best Film Award: **Shershaah**
- Best Actor Award: **Ranveer Singh for film 83**
- Best Actress Award: **Kriti Sanon for film Mimi**
- Outstanding Contribution to Films: **Asha Parekh**
- Critics Best Actor Award: **Sidharth Malhotra**
- Critics Best Actress Award: **Kiara Advani**
- Best Actor in Supporting Role Award: **Satish Kaushik for film Kaagaz**
- Best Actress in Supporting Role Award: **Lara Dutta for film Bell-Bottom**
- Best Actor in Negative Role Award: **Aayush Sharma for film Antim: The Final Truth**
- People's Choice Best Actor Award: **Abhimanyu Dasani**
- People's Choice Best Actress Award: **Radhika Madan**
- Best Debut Award: **Ahan Shetty for film Tadap**
- Best Playback Singer Male Award: **Vishal Mishra**
- Best Playback Singer Female Award: **Kanika Kapoor**
- Critics Best Film Award: **Sardar Udham Singh**
- Best Director Award: **Ken Ghosh for film State of Siege: Temple Attack**
- Best Cinematographer Award: **Jayakrishna Gummadi for film Haseena Dilruba**
- Best International Feature Film Award: **Another Round**
- Best Short Film Award: **Pauli**

- Best Actor in Web Series Award: **Manoj Bajpayee for The Family Man 2**
- Best Actress in Web Series Award: **Raveena Tandon for Aranyak**
- Best Web Series Award: **Candy**
- Best Actor in Television Series Award: **Shaheer Sheikh for Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi**
- Best Actress in Television Series Award: **Shraddha Arya for Kundali Bhagya**
- Television Series of the Year Award: **Anupama**
- Most Promising Actor in Television Series Award: **Dheeraj Dhoopar for Kundali Bhagya**
- Most Promising Actress in Television Series Award: **Rupali Ganguly for Anupama**

Winter Olympics Games 2022 in Beijing concludes

The closing ceremony of the **2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games** was held on February 20, 2022, at **National Stadium (known as the Bird's Nest) in Beijing**. The 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China, was held from 4 to 20 February 2022. The Games featured a record 109 events across 15 disciplines in 7 sports. The venues of the Games were distributed across three zones- Beijing, Yanqing and Zhangjiakou. The Presidency of the Games was formally handed over to **Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, in Italy**, to host the **2026 Winter Olympics**.

The top country in Winter Olympics 2022 in Beijing:

- **Norway** has topped the medal table for the second successive Winter Olympics, winning a total of **37 medals, including 16 golds**. This is a new record for the most amount of gold medals won at a single Winter Olympics.
 - **Germany** finished second with 27 medals overall, while the host nation **China** finished third with 15 medals.
- India at the 2022 Winter Olympics:**
- The Indian team at the game was represented by one **male alpine skier, Arif Khan**.
 - He was the country's flagbearer during the opening ceremony, meanwhile, a volunteer was the flagbearer during the closing ceremony. India could not win any medal at the games.

Uttar Pradesh wins best state tableau of Republic Day parade 2022

The tableau of **Uttar Pradesh** has been picked as the best tableau among the 12 States/UTs which participated in the **Republic Day parade on January 26, 2022**. The theme of the tableau of Uttar Pradesh was **'One District One Product and Kashi Vishwanath Dham'**. A total of 12 states and union territories had participated in the Republic Day parade on January 26. The second place went to **Karnataka** for its tableau based on **'cradle of traditional handicrafts'** while the third position went to **Meghalaya** for its tableau based on **'Meghalaya's 50 years of Statehood and its tribute to women-led cooperative societies & SHGs'**.

Other winners of Republic Day parade 2022:

- Best marching contingent among three Services: **Indian Navy**
- Best marching contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces: **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**
- The tableaux of the **ministry of education and the ministry of civil aviation** have been declared as joint winners in the category of central ministries and departments. The theme of the tableau of the ministry of education and the ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship was **'National Education Policy'**. The tableau of the ministry of civil aviation was based on the theme **'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik'**.

Popular Choice Awards

The popular choice category award was introduced for the first time in 2022, wherein the general public was invited to vote for the best marching contingents and best tableaux through the MyGov platform. The online poll was conducted between January 25-31, 2022.

List of winners:

1. Best state/UTs Tableau: **Maharashtra** (Theme 'Biodiversity and State Bio-symbols of Maharashtra'.);
2. Best marching contingent among three Services: **Indian Air Force**;
3. Best marching contingent among CAPF/other auxiliary forces: **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**;
4. Central Ministry: **Ministry of Communication/Department of Posts** (Theme 'India Post: 75 years @ Resolve - Women Empowerment'.)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled 'Statue of Equality'

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has dedicated to the nation 216-feet tall **'Statue of Equality'** in Hyderabad to commemorate the **11th-century Bhakti saint Ramanujacharya**. The statue has been conceptualised by Chinna Jeeyar Swami of Sri Ramanujacharya Ashram. The inauguration of the statue is a part of the 12-day Sri Ramanuja Sahasrabdi Samaroham, the ongoing **1000th birth anniversary** celebrations of the Bhakti saint. A 3D presentation on the life and teachings of the saint will also be showcased during the event.

Structure of the Statue:

- The statue is made of **'panchaloha'**, a combination of five metals- gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc. It is among one of the tallest metallic statues in sitting positions in the world.
- The **216-feet** tall 'Statue of Equality' statue is mounted on a **54-feet** high base building, called **'Bhadra Vedi'**.
- The floors of the building are dedicated to a Vedic digital library and research centre, ancient Indian texts, a theatre, an educational gallery detailing works of Sri Ramanujacharya.

About the Ramanujacharya:

Ramanuja or Ramanujacharya was an Indian philosopher, Hindu theologian, social reformer, and one of the most important exponents of the Sri Vaishnavism tradition within Hinduism. His philosophical foundations for devotionism were influential to the Bhakti movement. Ramanujacharya promoted the idea of equality in all aspects of life including faith, caste and creed.

RBI Monetary Policy: RBI keeps Repo Rate unchanged at 4.0 per cent

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das** kept the repo rate unchanged at **4 per cent** for the **10th** consecutive time while maintaining an 'accommodative stance' as long as necessary. The reverse repo rate will continue to be **3.35 per cent**. The central bank had last revised the policy rate on May 22, 2020, in an off-policy cycle to perk up demand by cutting the interest rate to a historic low. Reserve Bank of India conducted the 6th and the last Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting for 2021-22 between **February 8-10, 2022**. The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during **April 6-8, 2022**.

The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and bank rates remain unchanged:

- Policy Repo Rate: 4.00%
- Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 4.25%
- Bank Rate: 4.25%
- CRR: 4%
- SLR: 18.00%

RBI Monetary Policy Highlights & Key Decisions:

- The MPC decided to continue with the **accommodative stance**.
- RBI has projected the real **GDP growth for 2022-23 at 7.8 per cent**.
- For the current fiscal year, RBI projected real GDP growth of **9.2 per cent** and expects that it will take the economy above the pre-pandemic level.
- For the current fiscal year, RBI retained its retail inflation projection at **5.3 per cent**.
- MPC has been given the mandate to maintain annual inflation at 4 per cent until March 31, 2026, with an upper tolerance of 6 per cent and lower tolerance of 2 per cent.

U19 World Cup 2022: India beat England in final to win 5th title

India defeated **England** by four wickets to clinch a record-extending **fifth title** at the **Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua**. India added the fifth title to their collection, having previously won the trophy in **2000, 2008, 2012, 2018**. **Yash Dhull** becomes the fifth Indian captain to win the title after **Mohammad Kaif, Virat Kohli, Unmukt Chand and Prithvi Shaw**. Earlier, England opted to bat after winning the toss but they were shot out by India for **189 in 44.5 overs**. India chases down the target of 190 with 2.2 overs to spare.

Player of the Match:

India's **Raj Angad Bawa** was announced **Player of the Match of the ICC Under19 World Cup 2022** Final between India and England. The Indian all-rounder picked 5/31, the best bowling figures for any final in the history of the championship and also scored crucial 35 runs with the bat to help his team in its 4 wicket win.

Player of the series:

South Africa's **Dewald Brevis** who broke all records to score **506 runs** in only six innings, the most for any batter in any **Under19 World Cup ever**, was named Player of the Series for his record-breaking showing.

India U19 Playing XI:

Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Harnoor Singh, Shaik Rasheed, Yash Dhull (c), Nishant Sindhu, Raj Bawa, Kaushal Tambe, Dinesh Bana (wk), Rajvardhan Hangargekar, Vicky Ostwal, Ravi Kumar

National Women's Day of India 2022

Indian National Women's Day is observed every year on **13 February** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Sarojini Naidu**. This year Nation celebrates its 143rd Birth Anniversary. She was born on February 13, 1879. She was famous for her nickname '**Nightingale of India**' or '**Bharat Kokila**' because of her poems. Sarojini Naidu is well-known across the globe for her contributions to literature.

About Sarojini Naidu:

- Sarojini Naidu, born in Hyderabad and educated in Cambridge was the powerful face of Women in the Indian Independence struggle.
- Anti-imperialistic, Universal Suffragist, Women rights activist Mrs. Naidu paved the path for women's movements in India.
- Indian Nightangle Sarojini Naidu shines both as an activist and as a poet.
- In 1925 Sarojini Naidu became the **president of the Indian National Congress**.
- Sarojini Naidu was one of the forefront leaders who led the **Civil Disobedience Movement and the Quit India Movement**.
- When she graces the **United Provinces as Governor in 1947**, she rewrites the history by becoming the first woman to hold the office of Governor in the Dominion of India.
- For Women's Rights, suffrage and representation in organizations and assemblies she established the Women's India Association in 1917

Rishabh Pant won ESPNcricinfo 'Test Batting Award' 2021

In the 15th Edition of ESPNcricinfo Awards, India's wicketkeeper-batsman, **Rishabh Pant** wins the 'Test Batting' award by scoring 89 not out, helped India to win the Border Gavaskar Trophy 2021 by (2-1) and shattered Australia's unbeaten record at Gabba after 32 years. Rishabh Pant was the top scorer of the series for the Indian team, scoring (274 runs).

Other awardee's:

- New Zealand skipper **Kane Williamson** was adjudged '**Captain of the Year**'.
- The Test bowling award went to **Kyle Jamieson** (New Zealand) for his 5 wickets leaving just 31 runs, which helped New Zealand in becoming the first World Test champions (2019-2021).
- England fast bowler **Ollie Robinson** was named **Debutant of the Year**.
- Saqib Mahmood's 4 for 42 in a nine-wicket win over Pakistan got him the **top ODI bowling prize**.
- Jos Buttler won the **T20I batting award**.
- The ODI batting and T20I bowling awards went to Pakistan. Fakhar Zaman won the top batting prize. Shaheen Afridi won the T20I bowling award for his annihilation of India in the 10-wicket win for Pakistan at the T20 World Cup.

17th IBA's Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021 announced

Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has announced the IBA's **17th Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021**. In total South Indian Bank has won 6 awards in the event. This year's IBA Awards celebrating "Next Gen Banking" has recognized technologies and practices in the banking industry that have demonstrated a high degree of innovation over the past year.

The list of winners in different categories is given below:

Best Technology Bank of the Year

- In Large Banks segment: Bank of Baroda
- In Small Banks segment: The South Indian Bank
- In Foreign Banks segment: Citibank N.A.
- Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin

Best Digital Financial Inclusion Initiatives

- Large Banks: State Bank of India
- Small Banks: The Jammu & Kashmir Bank
- Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin

Best Payments Initiatives

- Public Banks: State Bank of India
- Private Banks: ICICI Bank

Best Fintech Adoption

- Large Banks: ICICI Bank
- Medium Banks: Federal Bank
- Small Banks: The South Indian Bank
- Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin

Best Use of AI/ ML T & Data

- Large Banks: ICICI Bank
- Small Banks: The South Indian Bank
- Regional Rural Banks: Telangana Grameena Bank

Best IT Risk & Cyber Security Initiatives

- Large Banks: Union Bank of India
- Medium Banks: Yes Bank
- Small Banks: The South Indian Bank
- Foreign Banks: The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd
- Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin
- Co-operative Banks: The Saraswat Coop bank
- Small Finance/Payments Banks: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

Cloud Adoption

- Large Banks: Union Bank of India
- Medium Banks: Yes Bank
- Small Banks: Karur Vysya Bank
- Foreign Banks: Citi bank N.A
- Regional Rural Bank: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin.

International IP Index 2022: India ranks 43rd

India has improved its overall IP score from 38.4 per cent to 38.6 per cent, and the country is ranked 43 out of 55 countries on the **International Intellectual Property Index 2022**. This index was released by the **Global Innovation Policy Center of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce**. In July 2021, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce released a Review of the Intellectual Property Rights Regime in India. This review is a welcome development and offers a comprehensive and detailed study of the strengths and weaknesses of India's national IP environment.

The top five countries in the ranking are:

- Rank 1- United States
- Rank 2- United Kingdom
- Rank 3- Germany
- Rank 4- Sweden
- Rank 5- France

Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has issued **\$300 million Formosa bonds** and listed the issuance on **India INX GIFT IFSC**. The lender is the first Indian entity to raise money through Formosa Bond, which is a bond issued in Taiwan. SBI was the first issuer whose Green bonds were dually listed in November 2021 on Luxembourg Stock Exchange through an MOU that has been entered into by both Exchanges.
- **Reserve Bank of India** has imposed several restrictions on **Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd, Lucknow**, including a cap of **Rs 1 lakh on withdrawals**. The restrictions came into force from the closure of business hours on January 28, 2022.
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** and **Patanjali Ayurved Limited (PAL)** have launched co-branded contactless credit cards in partnership with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**. The co-branded credit cards are offered on NPCI's RuPay Platform and are available in two variants – **PNB RuPay Platinum and PNB RuPay Select**.
- As per SBI Chairman **Dinesh Kumar Khara**, **National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL)** or bad bank and **IndiaDebt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL)** are ready to commence operations. A total of **38 Non-Performing Asset (NPA)** accounts worth **Rs 82,845 crore** have been identified to be transferred to NARCL initially.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has cancelled the license of **Independence Co-operative Bank Ltd., Nashik, Maharashtra** w.e.f February 03, 2022. The major reason for the cancellation of the license by RBI is that bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. This means that it does not comply with the provisions of **Section 11(1) and Section 22 (3) (d) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- **Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)** on behalf of the government of India, extended a line of credit of **\$500 million** to the government of the socialist republic of **Sri Lanka** for financing the purchase of petroleum products. The fund will be used by the Island nation for the purchase of petroleum products.
- **The Reserve Bank of India** will observe **February 14-18, 2022** as **Financial Literacy week 2022**. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been conducting Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme across the country.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** had introduced the **Voluntary Retention Route (VRR)** for investments by **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** in debts in 2019 with an investment limit of **Rs 1,50,000 crore**. Out of this, around **Rs, 1,49,995 crore** have been availed so far in three tranches. Now RBI has increased this investment limit in VRR from **Rs. 1,50,000 crore to Rs. 2,50,000 crore**.
- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has announced a partnership with **NSE Academy** to launch five online courses that promote financial literacy as a necessary life skill. The courses curated by SBI are a good blend of theory and operational aspects which will enable learners to have a deeper understanding of the fundamentals of banking, compliance, lending norms and a host of other topics.
- As per the data official released by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, it provided a record **USD 4.6 billion** in sovereign lending to India in 2021. This included **USD 1.8 billion** towards coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic response. The ADB's regular funding programme to India is made to support transport, urban development, finance, agriculture, and skills building.
- **RBL Bank** has partnered with **Creditas Solutions** for its '**Neo Collections**' platform. The bank will utilise the SaaS-based platform to accelerate efficiency in collections across the loan cycle. The platform is built to automate strategies for reaching out to customers individually in an empathetic manner and motivate them to repay loans.
- **Bank of Baroda** will acquire **Union Bank of India's 21% stake** in **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company**. It is a joint venture between the **Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, and Carmel Point Investments**.
- Finance Minister, **Nirmala Sitharaman** has launched the first **colour souvenir coin** on '**Panchtantra**' on the occasion of the 17th foundation day of **Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL)**. The finance minister in her address stressed on upskilling and acquiring new skills, and up-gradation to meet the technology-driven economy.
- Private sector lender, **Yes Bank** has launched an '**Agri Infinity**' programme for digital financing solutions in the food and agriculture sector ecosystem by mentoring entrepreneurial ventures in this field. Agri-fintech start-ups working on financial innovations across the food and agriculture value chain are eligible to apply under this programme and can work with Yes Bank for digital solutions.

- **JPMorgan** has become the world's first bank to set up shop in the metaverse. The largest bank in the US has opened a lounge in the blockchain-based world **Decentraland**. Users can create their virtual avatars, build virtual spaces and roam in the lounge christened '**Onyx Lounge**' after its suit of Ethereum-based services. The lounge also features a digital image of the bank's CEO **Jamie Dimon**.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has extended the deadline for **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** to comply with new **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)** classification norms (the norms are issued by RBI in November 2021) to **September 2022** from the earlier deadline of **March 2022**.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** Research Report, **Ecwrap**, has revised downwards the gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of India for FY22 (2021-22) to **8.8 percent**. Earlier this was estimated at **9.3 per cent**. The report projects the GDP to grow at **5.8 per cent** in the third quarter (Q3) of FY2021-2022 (October-December).
- The largest buyer, the **Central Bank of Thailand**, **bought 90 metric tonnes of gold** while RBI bought 77.5 metric tonnes taking its total gold reserve to 754.1 tonnes at the end of December 2021. When it comes to gold buying, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) emerged as the second-largest buyer of yellow metal among the world's Central Banks in 2021.
- **Ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI)** has projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) deflator for FY23 at **3 to 3.5%**. The Government's own projection on real GDP growth for FY23 is at **7.6-8.1%** and the union budget projected nominal GDP growth rate to be 11.1% for FY23. GDP Projection in the Budget is based on advance estimates of the '**National Statistical Office**' (NSO).
- **India's retail inflation**, as measured by the **consumer price index (CPI)**, accelerated to **6.01%** in the month of January, breaching the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** tolerance band of 6%, albeit marginally. The surge in inflation print was driven by higher consumer goods and telecom prices along with a comparatively low rate a year ago.
- With a view to provide further relief to consumers and to keep in check any further rise in the prices of domestic edible oils, the Centre has reduced the **agri-cess for Crude Palm Oil from 7.5 per cent to 5 per cent**. The current basic rate of import duty of zero per cent on **Crude Palm Oil, Crude Soyabean oil, and Crude Sunflower Oil** up to the 30th of September this year. This will give relief to consumers and prevent a further rise in the price of domestic edible oils.

Economy Current Affairs

- **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.
- Domestic rating agency **CRISIL** has estimated FY23 real GDP growth at **7.8 per cent** as compared with the **8.5 per cent** projected in the Economic Survey. Estimating the growth to slow to **7.8 per cent in FY23** from the **9.2 per cent in FY22**.
- The National Statistical Office recently released the first revised GDP estimates for the fiscal year 2021. According to the estimates, the **GDP contracted by 6.6%**. Earlier, the GDP had contracted by **7.3%**. The contraction is mainly due to the COVID pandemic and the lockdown imposed.
- The **Government of India** has done a conversion switch transaction of its securities with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for an amount of **1,19,701 crores (face value)**. The transaction involved buying back securities that are being matured in **FY 2022-23, FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25** from the RBI and also issuing fresh securities for equivalent market value, to make the transaction cash neutral.

- **India's wholesale inflation** has eased to **12.96 %** in January from **13.56 %** in the previous month. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation has declined consistently in recent months. It fell from **14.87 %** in November 2021 to **13.56 %** in December 2021 and further to **12.96 %** in January 2022. However, inflation still remains at an elevated level and is a matter of concern for economic policymakers.

Business Current Affairs

- **Tata Group** has chosen **State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank** as preferred bankers for **Air India**. Recently Tata Group has taken over Air India from the government. Air India is the largest international carrier out of India with an **18.6%** market share. Tata Sons have availed of a **Rs 10,000-crore loan** from SBI and a **Rs 5,000-crore loan** from BoB. The loan from HDFC Bank is not known yet. The loans are unrated, unsecured, and pegged at **4.25%** [interest rate] annually.
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and the **UPI ecosystem** (comprising of leading banks and fintechs) have announced the UPI Safety and Awareness initiative, to create awareness amongst consumers. Under this initiative, NPCI and the UPI ecosystem will observe **February 1-7** as '**UPI Safety and Awareness Week**' and the whole of February as '**UPI Safety and Awareness Month**'.
- **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL)** has marked its foray into the non-fuel retailing sector by inaugurating its Retail Store under the brand name **HaPpyShop**, to make available the products of daily need to its customers at their convenience. The first retail store was launched by HPCL in September 2021 in Mumbai at Company's Retail Outlet located at Nepean Sea Road.
- **Sony Group Corp.** is purchasing **Bungie Inc.**, the U.S. video game developer behind the popular Destiny and Halo franchises, for **\$3.6 billion** to bolster its stable of game-making studios. The deal announced by Sony Interactive Entertainment is the third significant video-game acquisition this month, following **Microsoft Corp.'s purchase of Activision Blizzard Inc.** for **\$69 billion** two weeks ago and Take-Two Interactive Corp. snagging mobile game leader Zynga Inc. on Jan. 10.
- **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** has partnered with **Airtel Payments Bank** to offer cyber insurance to customers of the bank. This Cyber Insurance policy provides financial protection to customers against potential financial fraud relating to banking, credit or debit card; identity theft; phishing or email spoofing etc. Airtel Payments Bank customers can purchase this cyber insurance policy within minutes using the Airtel Thanks app.
- **Razorpay** has expanded into South-East Asia with the acquisition of a majority stake in a Malaysian fintech firm **Curlec**, valuing the company between **\$19-20 million**. Razorpay expects to complete the full acquisition in the next one-and-a-half years. The Kuala Lumpur-based, Curlec builds solutions for recurring payments for businesses. This marks Razorpay's fourth acquisition overall and its first in the international markets.
- **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** has booked **ABG Shipyard** for an alleged **Rs 22,842-crore financial fraud**. ABG Shipyard is the flagship entity of ABG Group. It has cheated a consortium of 28 banks and financial institutions of Rs. 22,842 crore. This is the biggest bank fraud case ever registered by the CBI. The case pertained to funds gotten and misused during the 2012-17 period. **Rishi Agarwal**, the then CMD of ABG Shipyard has been named in the FIR.
- **Paisabazaar.com**, a digital platform for consumer credit, has partnered with **RBL Bank Limited** to offer '**Paisa on Demand**' (PoD), a credit card that will be exclusively available on the Paisabazaar platform. To build products that offer integrated services for the large under-served segments across India.
- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has launched the '**Waste to Wealth Creation**' programme for women in the Sundarbans in **West Bengal**. In this, the women will make ornaments and showpieces from the fish scales. SIDBI will extend benefits to 50 women indirectly generating revenues from alternate livelihoods.
- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** board has decided to make provision for separation of the roles of **chairperson and MD/CEO** as '**voluntary**' against '**mandatory**' earlier. The market regulator had in June 2017 set up a committee on corporate governance under Uday Kotak with a view to seek recommendations to further enhance corporate governance norms for listed companies.

- **Jio Platforms** has picked up a **25% stake** in US-based deep-tech startup company **TWO Platforms** for **\$15 million**. Two Platforms is an artificial reality company that focuses on building interactive and immersive AI experiences. The two companies have joined hands to fast track the adoption of new technologies and build disruptive technologies such as AI, metaverse and mixed realities.

International Current Affairs

- In Honduras, the Freedom and Refoundation Party (Libre) member **Xiomara Castro** has been sworn in as the **first female President of the country**. The 62-year-old Castro replaces President Juan Orlando Hernández, as 56th President of Honduras. Hernández has held the position for eight years from 27 January 2014 to 27 January 2022.
- **North Korea** successfully tested its **Hwasong-12** intermediate-range ballistic missile from the **Jagang Province area**. This was the first nuclear-capable missile testing undertaken by the country since 2017. The Hwasong-12 has an estimated range of **4,500 km (2,800 miles)**.
- The Prime Minister of Portugal, **Antonio Costa** has been re-elected after his centre-left Socialist Party secured a landslide victory in the **2022 Portuguese legislative election**. Socialist Party bagged 117 seats in the 230 seats Parliament.
- Dubai firm, **THE JET ZeroEmission** announced the launch of the World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat **'THE JET'** in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. **'THE JET'** features cutting-edge characteristics and technologies, making it capable of flying in silence over the waters at a cruising speed of **40 knots** and also has a capacity of carrying **8-12 passengers**.
- **China** is celebrating the Spring Festival, it's the most important annual festival as it entered the Lunar new **"Year of the Tiger"**. Last year was celebrated as the **Lunar Year of the Ox**. According to the Chinese Zodiac calendar, the Year of the Ox has ended and the Year of the Tiger has begun from February 1, 2022, and will end on January 21, 2023.
- **The United Kingdom** has marked the **70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's rule**, the queen looked to the future of the monarchy. She surpassed **Louis XIV of France** as the longest-reigning monarch of a sovereign state. She became the longest-lived British monarch on 21 December 2007.
- **Instagram** has announced the launch of **'Take a Break'** in all countries, including India, to empower people to make informed decisions about the way they are spending their time. This feature will be promoted in India through a campaign, in partnership with **'We The Young'**, called **'Break Zaroori Hai'**. **'Take a Break'** was first launched in the US, UK, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, and it is now available for everyone globally.
- **India** has agreed to provide a grant to **Sri Lanka** to implement a **'Unitary Digital Identity framework'**, apparently modelled on the **Aadhaar card**. The Rajapaksa government will "prioritise" the implementation of the Framework as a national-level programme.
- In **Burkina Faso**, the military junta has appointed lieutenant colonel **Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba** as the interim President of the country following the military coup. The 2022 Burkina Faso military coup took place on January 24, 2022, which was led by Damiba.
- German President, **Frank-Walter Steinmeier** has been re-elected for a second term of five years by a special parliamentary assembly. This is also the final term for Steinmeier, which he won with **71% of the vote**.
- **Israel** becomes the first-ever country to allow **drone flights in civilian airspace**. The certification was issued to the Hermes Starliner unmanned system by the **Israeli Civil Aviation Authority** and was manufactured and developed by **Elbit Systems**, an Israeli defence electronics company.
- Canadian Prime Minister, **Justin Trudeau** has invoked never-before-used emergency powers to support provinces in ending the blockades and public disorder that have gripped Ottawa for 18 days at the hands of participants in the so-called **"Freedom Convoy."** The demonstrations shut a main economic corridor between Canada and the United States for six days before it was reopened on the **13th Feb**.
- **World Health Organization (WHO)** South-East Asia Region (SEAR) has launched a **'Quit Tobacco App'**. This application helps people to give up the use of tobacco in all forms, including smokeless and other newer products. The App was launched by Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director, WHO-SEAR, during WHO's year-long **'Commit to quit' campaign**, is the latest tobacco control initiative by the WHO South-East Asia Region.

National Current Affairs

- The air forces of **Bangladesh and the United States** will conduct a joint tactical airlift exercise '**Cope South 22**'. The six days exercise has been sponsored by **Pacific Air Forces (PACAF)**. The bilateral exercise will be held at Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) Kurmitola Cantonment, Dhaka; and Operating Location-Alpha, Sylhet, Bangladesh.
- **Nepal** will be the first country to adopt **India's UPI system**, which will play a pivotal role in transforming the digital economy of the neighbouring country, the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**. NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI, has joined hands with Gateway Payments Service (GPS) & Manam Infotech to provide the services. **GPS is the authorized payment system operator in Nepal. Manam Infotech** will deploy Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Nepal.
- French president, **Emmanuel Macron** has announced that **France** and its **European** partners will start the military withdrawal from **Mali** after more than nine years fighting a jihadist insurgency.
- **Israel** successfully tested a new naval air defence system "**C-Dome**," to be used on the **Israeli Navy's Sa'ar 6-class corvettes**. C-Dome is the naval version of the Iron Dome, an all-weather air defence system of Israel to intercept and destroy short-range rockets and missiles, from the Gaza Strip.
- Russian President, **Vladimir Putin** has recognised the independence of separatist regions in eastern Ukraine - **Donetsk and Luhansk**. Putin's announcement paved the way for Russia to openly send troops and weapons to the long-running conflict pitting Ukrainian forces against Moscow-backed rebels. Russian-backed rebels have been fighting Ukrainian troops in Donetsk and Luhansk since 2014, with regular violence despite a ceasefire agreement.
- **Canada** became the **first country in the world** that has authorized the use of a plant-based **COVID-19 vaccine**. The two-dose vaccine of **Medicago Inc. (a biopharma company owned by Mitsubishi Chemical and Philip Morris)**, can be given to adults who are aged between **18 to 64**, but little data is available on the shots received by people aged 65 and above.
- **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.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched the **Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation** on the occasion of the **92nd birth anniversary** of the Indian classical vocalist. Prime Minister Modi said that the World is entitled to benefit from Indian music like they have from Yoga.
- According to Economic Survey, the government is setting up the **National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC)** to carry out the monetization of the land and other non-core assets. The initial authorized share capital of NLMC will be **Rs 5000 crores** and subscribed share capital of ₹150 crores. So far, CPSEs have referred **3,400 acres of land** and other non-core assets for monetization from CPSEs including MTNL, BSNL, BPCL, B&R, BEML, HMT Ltd, Instrumentation Ltd.
- The **United States** was India's top trading partner in the calendar year **2021** with a trade of **\$112.3 billion**. The US is followed by China on second. The value of trade between India and China was **\$110.4 billion**. In 2020, China was India's top trading partner and the US was in the second rank. In 2019 USA was India's top trading partner and China was on second.
- The **2022 Winter Olympics** has kicked off on **February 04, 2022, in Beijing, China** and will continue till **February 20, 2022**. The Opening Ceremony was held at Beijing's National Stadium, also known as the Bird's Nest. However, **India** had announced the diplomatic level boycott of the **Beijing Winter Olympics opening and closing ceremony**. This means that no Indian officials will attend the opening and closing ceremony. However, the country has sent one of its athletes, **Arif Khan (skier)**, to attend the event.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **50th Anniversary celebrations** of the **International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)** in Patancheru, Hyderabad. During the occasion, PM also inaugurated two research facilities of ICRISAT, which were Climate Change Research Facility on Plant Protection and Rapid Generation Advancement Facility.
- **India** has become the first country in the world to administer a **DNA vaccine against COVID-19**. The **ZyCoV-D** which is the World's first plasmid DNA vaccine has been produced by Ahmedabad-based vaccine manufacturer **Zyventus Cadila** and it was administered for the first time in Patna.

- **Indian Railway Protection Force** has launched a nationwide operation to curb human trafficking. As part of “**Operation AAHT**”, special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes with a focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers.
- India’s first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant will come up at the **Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh**. Every day this plant will produce one tonne of hydrogen, from 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock. The plant is being put up by a joint venture of **Watomo Energies Ltd and Biezel Green Energy** with an investment of **Rs 24 crore**.
- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has launched the ‘**JIVA programme**’ to promote natural farming under its existing watershed and wadi programmes in 11 states. To effectively implement the principles of agroecology long-term sustainability and transform the pre-existing social and natural capital towards efficient farming.
- President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind** has inaugurated the **Durbar Hall at Raj Bhavan**, situated at **Malabar Hill, Mumbai**. While retaining the heritage features of the old court hall, the new hall has been given additional features such as a balcony and a sea view gallery.
- **Ministry of Railways** has approved to set up a state-of-art wrestling academy in Indian Railways, at **Kishanganj, Delhi**. The wrestling academy will be the biggest in India and equipped with advanced training facilities to promote the sports of wrestling in the country. The project will be set up at an estimated cost of **Rs 30.76 crores**.
- Union Power Minister **R K Singh** has announced that **India** will achieve **zero-diesel use in agriculture and replace fossil fuel** with renewable energy by **2024**. For this, states should develop action plans to achieve the assigned targets and specific agencies dedicated to energy efficiency and conservation. This initiative is a part of the government’s commitment to increase the share of non-fossil fuels by 2030 and become a net-zero emitter by 2070.
- The **government of India** has banned **54 apps of Chinese** origin citing security concerns. The apps include Sea Ltd.’s marquee game **Free Fire** and other apps related to tech firms like Tencent, Alibaba and NetEase. Under **Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000** provides government power to issue directions for blocking public access of any information through any computer resource. This section allows the government to block websites.
- **Ministry of Education** has approved a new scheme named “**New India Literacy Programme**” for the period FYs 2022-2027 to cover all the aspects of **Adult Education**. The scheme aims to align Adult Education will all aspects of National Education Policy 2020 and Budget Announcements 2021-22. The government has now replaced the term “Adult Education” as ‘Education for All’ in the country.
- **Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH)** has released the **FAITH 2035 vision document** containing goals and an execution path for making Indian tourism preferred and loved by the world by the year 2035. The vision document has been launched commemorating the 75th year of Indian independence. It aims to position tourism as a ‘Social-Economic Job and Infrastructure creator for India’ as well as ‘to be a role model for creating Sustainable and Inclusive Ecosystem’.
- Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs, **Arjun Ram Meghwal** has launched ‘**Pramarsh 2022**’, a mega career counselling workshop, for the students of the **Bikaner District region in Rajasthan**. More than one lakh students from thousands of private & government schools of Bikaner district and mainly from rural areas participated in this workshop. It is the first such incidence in India that more than 1 lakh students participated in Career Counselling in one Workshop.

- The **Government of India**, the **State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha** and the **World Bank** have signed a \$115 million (INR 869 crore) **Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD) Programme**. This programme will help national and state institutions adopt improved watershed management practices to help increase farmers' resilience to climate change, promote higher productivity and better incomes.
- The **government of India** will be promoting the **'Heal by India' initiative** to improve India's educational institutions in the health sector. 'Heal by India' initiative is meant to generate job opportunities abroad for India's trained professionals in the health sector and enhance education to churn out quality human resources in health, thus helping them become eligible to work anywhere in the world.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated a 550-tonne capacity **"Gobar-Dhan (Bio-CNG) Plant" in Indore, Madhya Pradesh**, through video conferencing. This is the biggest Bio-CNG plant in Asia. It has been set up at a cost of **Rs 150 crore**. The gobardhan plant is based on the concept of waste-to-wealth innovation. Wet urban household waste and waste from cattle and farm is Gobar Dhan.
- Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, **Bharati Pravin Pawar** has inaugurated India's first **Biosafety level-3 containment mobile laboratory** in **Nashik, Maharashtra**. The mobile laboratory will help to investigate newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections, by specially trained scientists from ICMR.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **'Kisan Drone Yatra'**, an initiative by **Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd** and flagged off **100 'Kisan Drones'** in various cities and towns across India to spray pesticides in farms across the states of India. The 100 Kisan Drones were set off in 100 villages in 16 states across India which includes **Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Goa**.
- **Giriraj Singh**, who is the Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, has released the **Rural Connectivity GIS Data in Public Domain**. This data includes the GIS data for more than **8 lakh** rural facilities which have been collected and digitised using the GIS platform developed for the PM-GSY scheme.
- The **Indian Institute of Technology** will establish its first branch outside India in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** as part of the **India-UAE trade deal** signed. The **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** signed between the UAE and India will usher in a new phase of joint strategic cooperation in all sectors.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission** has achieved the significant milestone of providing tap water to every home of 100 districts across the country. **Chamba, in Himachal Pradesh**, has become the **100th 'Har Ghar Jal' district**, the fifth aspirational district to be covered under the initiative. The other four Har Ghar Jal Aspirational districts are **Bhadradi Kothgudem, Jayashankar Bhupalpalli, Komram Bheem Asifabad (all in Telangana) and Mewat in Haryana**.
- **Sarbananda Sonowal** who is India's union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH has inaugurated **Nikarshan Sadan" - The Dredging Museum at DCI campus in Vishakhapatnam**. This museum displays models of different types of **dredgers, vintage photos & historical milestones** from the Eastern Port City of Vizag.
- Minister of State for Culture & External Affairs, **Meenakshi Lekhi** has released a signature tune for **'Vande Bharatam'**. The tune is composed by Grammy Award winner **Ricky Kej** and Oscar contender **Bickram Ghosh**. It was produced for **Vande Bharatam, Nritya Utsav of Ministry of Culture** presented at Rajpath, New Delhi for Republic Day event 2022. It was followed by the fascinating live performance by composers of Vande Bharatam song Ricky Kej and Bikram Ghosh.
- Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, **Giriraj Singh** has launched **Ombudsperson App** for **Mahatma Gandhi NREGA**. Ministry of Rural Development has developed an Ombudsperson App for smooth reporting and categorization of grievances by Ombudsperson based on complaints he received from various sources viz. physical, digital and mass media, related to the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Scheme in the States/UTs.

- Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), **Narayan Rane** has announced the establishment of **MSME-Technology Centre** with an outlay of **Rs. 200 Crore**, in **Sindhudurg, Maharashtra**. The MSME-Technology Centre will provide the best of technology, incubation as well as advisory support to the industry, especially MSMEs, to enhance their competitiveness and provide skilling services for the employed and unemployed youth of the area to enhance their employability.
- **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 'Bhasha Certificate Selfie' initiative is encouraging people to upload their selfie with the certificate using the hashtag #BhashaCertificateSelfie.
- **The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL)** is set to commission a **12 MWp solar power plant** on March 6 near Payyannur in Kannur district of Kerala. With the commissioning of the new solar power plant, CIAL will get the status as a power positive airport, from its current status of being a power-neutral airport. In 2015, CIAL became the world's first airport to be fully powered by solar energy.

States Current Affairs

- The **first geological park of India** will be built in **Lamheta, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh**. Approval for the park was given by the Geological Survey of India, under the ministry of mining. Park will be constructed with an investment of **Rs 35 crores**, over five-acre land.
- **Chief Electoral Officer's office of Punjab** unveiled its election mascot, "**Shera**" (**Lion**). It aims to increase voter awareness, participation and promote ethical voting in the Punjab Assembly polls that is scheduled on 20 February 2022. The mascot "Shera", depicting a lion. It represents the rich cultural heritage of Punjab.
- Social activists have built a temple for **Mahatma Gandhi and freedom fighters' Smrithi Vanam** at the **Municipal Park in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh** to inculcate patriotism among the youth by remembering the sacrifices of freedom fighters. Statues of freedom fighters and social activists were erected in the park with the help of donors.
- The three days long **Torgya Festival** of the **Monpa tribal community of Arunachal Pradesh** is celebrated at **Tawang Monastery, Arunachal Pradesh**. The main attraction of the festival is the '**Sha-na Cham**', the ritual dance performed by monks to showcase the **Choe-Gyal Yap & Yum Tsa-Munde deity**.
- **The government of India (GoI)** has approved the renaming of 3 places in Madhya Pradesh, **Hoshangabad Nagar** as "**Narmadapuram**", **Shivpuri** as "**Kundeshwar Dham**" and **Babai** as "**Makhan Nagar**".
- **West Bengal government** has launched an open-air classroom programme **Paray Shikshalaya** (Neighbourhood Schools) for primary and pre-primary students. Under the 'Paray Shikshalaya' project, primary and pre-primary students of government schools will be taught in open spaces.
- **Kerala Government** has signed an MoU with the **Social Alpha's Energy Lab - "Clean Energy International Incubation Centre (CEIIC)"** to support innovative and clean energy technology programmes in Kerala. The Government of Kerala signed this agreement through **Kerala Development & Innovation Strategy Council (KDISC)** and **Energy Management Centre (EMC)**.

- Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, **Pushkar Singh Dhami** has appointed Bollywood actor **Akshay Kumar** as the brand ambassador of **Uttarakhand ahead of the 2022 Assembly Elections**. In 2017, Akshay Kumar was appointed as Uttarakhand's brand ambassador for '**Swachhata Abhiyan**'.
- Chief Minister of Gujarat, **Bhupendra Patel** has announced a new **II/ITeS policy** for the next five years. This policy will provide financial incentives up to **Rs 200 crore** to the entities willing to incur capital expenditures. It will also generate employment of about **1 lakh youths**.
- The **Government of Telangana** and the **British Council**, an international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural exchange, have signed a 3-year MoU to renew the partnership in **education, English and arts**. To facilitate research between institutions and assist to expand higher education globally, to offer global opportunities for the youth of Telangana.
- The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari** and Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** jointly inaugurated the 14.5-kilometre long '**Rail-cum-Road-Bridge**' in Bihar. The much-awaited bridge is constructed over the River Ganga on **NH 333B** in Bihar's Munger region. The cost of the '**Rail-cum-Road-Bridge**' project is **Rs 696 crore**.
- Maharashtra's Health Minister, **Rajesh Tope** has announced that "**Hope Express**" will be launched in the state to prevent cancer. This is the first such machine in India. He was speaking at the launch of a state-of-the-art **Mosaic-3D radiation machine** at a private hospital in Kolhapur.
- In **Madhya Pradesh**, the **Central Jail of Indore** has started its own radio channel '**Jail Vaani-FM 18.77**'. Through this radio channel, the jail inmates will get to know about the happening in the world. The radio channel will also provide the jail inmates with information on health and social issues.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, has sanctioned **Rs. 2.26 Crores** for **Medaram Jatara 2022 Festival** in Telangana. In 2022, the festival is being held from February 16 to 19, 2022. Medaram Jatara is the second-largest fair in India, after the **Kumbh Mela**. Medaram Jatara is conducted in honour of the Goddesses **Sammakka and Saralamma**. It was declared a State Festival in 1998.
- The renowned **Jaisalmer Desert Festival**, also known as **Maru Mahotsav of the Golden City** started from 13 to 16 February 2022 at **Pokaran village in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**. It is a four-day-long annual event started with a colorful grand procession followed by Miss Pokaran and Mister Pokran competitions. Regional folk dances such as Kalbelia, Kachhi Ghodi, Gair will be performed.
- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways & AYUSH, **Sarbananda Sonowal** virtually flagged off the '**Most Awaited**' **Water Taxi for citizens of Mumbai, Maharashtra**. The Water Taxi services will commence from the Domestic Cruise Terminal (DCT) and will also connect nearby locations at Nerul, Belapur, Elephanta island and JNPT. The service promises a comfortable, stress-free journey, is time-saving and promotes eco-friendly transport."
- **Kerala's first Caravan park** is all set to come up in **Vagamon**, a scenic hill station located in the **Idukki district**. The park, as part of the state governments new Caravan Tourism policy, would be thrown open to travellers. Caravan Tourism was introduced by the state Tourism department as a safe means for holidaying at a time when people are unable to step out or travel due to the outbreak of COVID-19.
- Northern States **Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh** celebrate their Foundation Day on **February 20, since 1987**. Arunachal Pradesh is the extreme northern part of the country, which is also known as the '**land of the rising sun**'. The state at the edge of the Himalayas is proud to be called the land of dawn and lit mountains. Arunachal Pradesh became the 24th state of India.
- Madhya Pradesh Governor, **Mangu Bhai Patel** has inaugurated the **48th 'Khajuraho Dance Festival-2022'** at world-famous tourist destination Khajuraho on the occasion of '**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**'. The event will be organized till **26 February**. This year a 5-km '**Dil Khel Ke Ghoomo**' **marathon** was also organized under the banner of '**Safe Tourism Project for Women**' at the event. It aims to create a sense of security among women in tourist destinations with the slogan '**Hindustan Ke Dil Mein Aap Safe Hain**'.

- **Himachal Pradesh** gets the **first biodiversity park** to make its contribution towards the conservation of endangered **Himalayan herbs**. This park is set to come up at **Mandi's Bhulah valley**. With the cost of Rs 1 crore, the biodiversity park is set up under the **National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)** by HP's forest department.
- International Chess Player woman FIDE Masters, **Tanishka Kotia** and her sister **Riddhika Kotia** are appointed as Brand Ambassadors of '**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**' scheme for the **Gurugram District of Haryana**. Tanishka Kotia won the Limca Book of Records for being the youngest chess player in 2008. They belong to the Haryana state.
- Chief Minister of Assam, **Himanta Biswa Sarma** has launched **India's first Night Navigation mobile application** for ferry services on the **Brahmaputra River in Guwahati, Assam**. It was developed by the State Transport Department in association with K Raju, the principal scientist of **IIT Madras**. The first night journey of the IWT (Inland Water Transport) ferry between Guwahati and North Guwahati was started on 19 February 2022.
- **Nagaland** is all set to host the **South Asian Athletic Federation (SAAF)** cross country championship and **56th National Cross-Country athletics championships** from 26th of next month in **Kohima**. Meanwhile, the official mascot of the South Asian Cross Country Championships and 56th National Cross Country is a joyous happy running '**Hornbill**'. The name of the Mascot is **Akimji** - a connotation of the word **AMBITION** derived from Sumi dialect of Naga tribe which exemplifies the ambition of the new generation of **Naga youth**.
- The total corpus under the **PM CARES Funds** in 2020-21 was **Rs 10,990.17 crore**. While **Rs 3,976.17 crore** was spent from the fund in 2020-21, according to the latest audited statement of PM CARES Funds. As on March 31, 2021, the Fund had an unspent balance of **Rs 7,013.99 crore**. The government has used a part of the money to buy medical equipment, including ventilators, to boost the battle against the COVID-19 and has also provided relief to migrants.
- The '**Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)**' has been extended till **March 2026** with an allocation of **Rs 4,600 crore**. The scheme is administered by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. The scheme aims for the overall growth and development of the food processing sector. In May 2017, the Central Government had launched **SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters)** with an allocation of **Rs 6,000 crore**. The scheme was renamed as PMKSY in August 2017.
- **Securities and Exchange Board of India** has restructured its advisory committee on **Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF)**, under the chairmanship of **G Mahalingam**. The committee is mandated to recommend investor education and protection activities for the utilization of the SEBI Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF).
- The Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, **Dr Virendra Kumar** has launched the Central Sector scheme titled "**SMILE**". SMILE stands for **Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise**. The new umbrella scheme aims to provide welfare measures to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging. The scheme will give the necessary legal protection, social security and a promise to a secured life to the targeted group. The Ministry has allocated **Rs. 365 crore** for the scheme for five years from **2021-22 to 2025-26**.
- Under the Saubhagya scheme, **Rajasthan** has the maximum number of households electrified through the solar-based standalone system. In hill states of **Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim** and the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir** had nil beneficiaries under the initiative. Under the Saubhagya Scheme, **2.817 crore households** were electrified up to March 31 last year, including 4.16 lakh through solar-based standalone systems.

Schemes/Committees

- The **Central Government of India** has decided to continue the scheme of "**Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK)**" for another **5 years** from 2021 -22 to 2025-26 with an outlay of **Rs. 2,710.65 crore**. To develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation-building activities. Beneficiaries of this scheme are the youth in the age group of 15 to 29 years (according to the definition of 'youth' in the National Youth Policy, 2014).

Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, **Dr Virendra Kumar** has launched a central sector scheme named the **Scheme for Economic Empowerment for DNTs, (SEED)** at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The total financial outlay for SEED Scheme is approximately Rs 200 crore to be spent over a period of 5 years starting Financial Year 2021-22 to 2025-26.
 - **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** will launch '**Meri Policy Mere Hath**' which is a doorstep distribution drive to deliver crop insurance policies to farmers under the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**. The campaign aims to ensure all farmers are aware with all information on their policies, land records, the process of claim and grievance redressal under PMFBY.
 - **The Ministry of Education** has approved the continuation of the **Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) scheme till 31st March 2026** with an expenditure of **12,929.16 crores**. The new phase of the scheme would support around 1,600 projects. Out of Rs 12,929.16 crores of expenditure, the centre will share Rs 8,120.97 crores, and the state will share Rs 4,808.19 crores.
 - **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** has reconstituted its alternative investment **policy advisory committee**, which advises the capital markets regulator on a range of issues that impact further development of the (**Alternative Investment Fund) AIF space**. The committee has now 20 members. The panel, which was constituted by Sebi in March 2015, earlier had 22 members. Till now, the committee has submitted three reports on the AIF industry.
 - **The PM Cares for Children Scheme** has been extended by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** of the Government of India till **February 28, 2022**. Previously, the scheme was applicable till December 31, 2021. A letter has been written in this respect to all Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries, Women and Child Development, Social Justice & Empowerment Departments of all States and UTs, with a copy to all District Magistrates/District Collectors.
 - **About 11.78 crore farmers** as of February 22, 2022, have been benefitted under the **PM Kisan scheme**. The amount worth **Rs1.82 lakh crore** have been disbursed to eligible beneficiaries across India in various intervals. During the current Covid 19 epidemic period, **Rs. 1.29 lakh crore** has been released.
- Social media giant **Meta** has partnered with industry body the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)** to support five lakh women-led small businesses across India. Meta will undertake this initiative under its **#SheMeansBusiness** programme, in partnership with FICCI's '**Empowering the Greater 50%**' initiative. The initiative will create a supportive ecosystem for women and inspire them to become contributors to the overall development of the country.
 - **The Government of India** has joined hands with the **Government of Israel** to create 150 '**Villages of Excellence**' in 12 States of the country, to help farmers to adopt the latest technology in the farm sector. Israel would provide Technical assistance and other expertise to make agriculture a more profitable business.
 - **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched a dedicated centralized processing cell named '**Surya Shakti Cell**' with the objective of strengthening the existing financing arrangement for solar power projects. SBI has collaborated with **Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd. (a Tata Power Company)** for financing solar power projects.
 - **Vedanta Ltd** has tied up a facility of **Rs 8,000 crores (replacement facility)** with **Union Bank of India** at 7.75% to take over the majority of the syndicated facility after discussions with lenders. During 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Vedanta Ltd had tied up a syndicated facility of ₹10K crores with the State Bank of India as the lead bank at a running cost of **10.5 per cent**.
 - The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has signed a tripartite **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)** and **National Culture Fund (NCF)** of the Ministry of Culture, for Development of **Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design (ABCD)** at L1 Barrack, Red Fort, in Delhi. The main objective of Project ABCD is to highlight, promote and celebrate the products that have the Geographical Indication sign to give a boost to Economic Value Addition to GI products from India.

- **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company** has signed an agreement with **Cars24 Financial Services Private Limited (CARS24 Financial Services)** to provide motor insurance services to used car buyers. Under the partnership, used car buyers from Cars24 will be directly provided with Kotak General Insurance's comprehensive motor insurance plans.
- **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has tied up with **Policybazaar** to digitally offer a wide range of Life Insurance and investment products to its customers across India. This is LIC's first association with a private insurance aggregator, which has mainly relied on its 1.33 million agents for distributing products. To facilitate seamless digital distribution of life insurance products and boost financial inclusion across India.
- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)** have announced a new partnership under the **Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH)** initiative.
- A global IT Services, and Technology Solutions Company, **Sonata Software** has announced its partnership with **Microsoft** for its launch of '**Microsoft Cloud for Retail**'. The company has been a partner with Microsoft for over three decades. The 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail' collaboration is expected to further strengthen the relationship.
- **Amazon India** signed an MoU with **Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS)** to support the growth of women entrepreneurs. Amazon India will launch 'Sanjeevini-KSRLPS' in its platform and extend benefits of the '**Saheli**' Programme to train and empower thousands of rural women entrepreneurs and also provide online access to a wider market for their products. The Saheli Programme offers training and skill development workshops to help women entrepreneurs.
- **Reliance Jio** has tied up with Luxembourg-based satellite and telecom services provider **SES** to provide satellite-based broadband communication services in India. Under the agreement, Jio Platforms has formed a joint venture with SES, named as **Jio Space Technology Ltd.**
- **Twitter Inc** has partnered with **Paytm's payment gateway** to improve the support for its '**Tips**' feature in India. With this partnership, Twitter users will be able to use the payments facility of Paytm, including its Paytm digital wallet, Paytm Postpaid (buy-now-pay-later service), debit and credit cards, and net banking. The feature was announced last year and is one of the company's many efforts to introduce monetisation on the platform.
- **TransUnion CIBIL** has partnered with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)** to launch a unique nationwide MSME consumer education program to support MSME. This program will kick off with MSME clusters in **Maharashtra, Assam and Tripura** and aims to reach thousands of MSMEs across key MSME clusters in India.
- **India and France** have inked a roadmap to enhance their bilateral exchanges on the **blue economy and ocean governance**. **Dr S Jaishankar** is on a three-day visit to France, from February 20 to 22, 2022, to attend EU Ministerial Forum for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific scheduled for February 22. The agreement on 'Roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance' was signed between India's External Affairs Minister **Dr. S Jaishankar's** and his French counterpart **Jean-Yves Le Drian**.
- During the '**Huddle Global 2022**', the **Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)** has entered into a collaboration with technology major **Google** that will enable start-ups in the State to join a wider global network that provides mentorship and training. This wider network enables local startups to leverage Google's programme comprising mentorship and training of startup teams to help scale up their solutions.
- **World Economic Forum (WEF)** and the **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to collaborate on a jointly designed '**Sustainable Cities India program**'. The program aims to create an enabling environment for cities to generate decarbonization solutions across the energy, transport, and built environment sectors.

Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- Lieutenant General **GAV Reddy** has been appointed as the new head of the **Defence Intelligence Agency**. General Reddy would be succeeding **Lt Gen KJS Dhillon**. Lieutenant General KJS Dhillon retired after serving in various strategic positions during his 39-year career in the Indian Army.
- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor, **Urjit Patel** has resigned from the post of non-executive and independent director of **Britannia Industries Limited**, citing a full-time work assignment starting next month. He was a part of the Board of the Company. The former governor also confirmed that there was no other reason other than his new project for the resignation.
- **Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi** has joined as Director-General of the **National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT)**. Before joining NIELIT, Dr Madan Mohan Tripathi was working as Professor at Delhi Technological University (DTU), New Delhi. In DTU he also worked as Director Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and Coordinator of Intellectual Property Rights Cell.
- The former secretary, Department of Sports, **Ravi Mittal** has been appointed as the **Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**, as per the notification issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. He is a 1986 batch IAS officer from Bihar cadre. He will serve as the Chairman of IBBI for a term of five years or till he attains 65 years of age, whichever is early.
- Senior scientist **GA Srinivasa Murthy** has been appointed director of **Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)** of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Hyderabad. He joined DRDL in the year 1987 and made significant contributions in the area of structural dynamics, ground resonance testing, electrical integration and checkout for various projects of the missile complex.
- The government of India has appointed JNU (Jawaharlal Nehru University) Vice-Chancellor, **M Jagadesh Kumar** as the new **Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC)**.
- The Government of India has appointed **Sonali Singh** to hold the additional charge of the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**, under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, with effect from February 01, 2022. She has been appointed in place of **Dipak Dash**, who superannuated on January 31, 2022.
- The low-cost Indian airline, **IndiGo** has appointed its co-founder and promoter **Rahul Bhatia** as the **Managing Director (MD) of the company** with immediate effect. He is the first-ever MD of Indigo, because before this the company never had a managing director. Ronojoy Dutta is the CEO of the Indigo.
- Professor **Dinesh Prasad Saklani** has been appointed as the new **Director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**. He has replaced **Hrushikesh Senapaty**, who finished his term a year ago.
- The **Ministry of Education (MoE)** has appointed **Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit** as the new **Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)**. She is the first women Vice-Chancellor of JNU.
- **S. R. Narasimhan**, Director (System Operation) has assumed the additional charge of the post of **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO)** w.e.f. 1st February 2022 at New Delhi.
- Scientist and launch vehicle specialist, **Dr S Unnikrishnan Nair** took charge as the director of **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**. VSSC is a key space research centre of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro)** and specialises in rocket and space vehicles for satellite programs.

- **MediBuddy**, one of India's largest digital healthcare platforms, has signed legendary Bollywood star **Amitabh Bachchan** as the official brand ambassador. As part of the deal, Bachchan will be seen endorsing various services available on the platform, while highlighting the need to prioritise one's health.
- **Bata India Limited** has appointed Bollywood actress, **Disha Patani** as its Brand Ambassador. She will promote the brand and strengthen the youth connection to enhance footwear fashion among them.
- **Pfizer India** has appointed **Pradip Shah** as the chairman of its board following the resignation of **RA Shah**. He is the ex-managing director and a founding member of **Crisil**. Prior to founding Crisil, he assisted in founding HDFC in 1977. He has also served as a consultant to USAID, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank.
- **Sanjay Malhotra** has been named as **Secretary in the Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance**. He is a 1990 batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre. Before this, Sanjay Malhotra was Chairman and Managing Director of REC Ltd. He has succeeded **Debashish Panda**, who completed his term as DFS Secretary on January 31, 2022.
- Senior bureaucrat **S. Kishore** has been appointed as Chairman, **Staff Selection Commission (SSC)**. Presently, he is serving as **Special Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- According to the Law Ministry, Justice **Munishwar Nath Bhandari** has been appointed Chief Justice of the **Madras High Court**. Justice Bhandari had taken over as the Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court after the transfer of Justice **Sanjib Banerjee** to the Meghalaya High Court in November last year.
- The board of **Tata Sons Pvt Ltd** has approved the re-appointment of **N Chandrasekaran** as the Executive Chairman of the company for the **second five years term**.
- Veteran environmentalist **Ravi Chopra** has resigned as chairman of the **Supreme Court's High Powered Committee (HPC)** on the **Char Dham project**. His belief that the HPC could protect this fragile (Himalayan) ecology has been shattered. The Supreme Court on December 14 allowed double-lane widening of roads for the project in view of "security concerns."
- **Cultino Agrotech Pvt Ltd**, which runs agritech app **Krishi Network** has roped in film actor **Pankaj Tripathi** as a brand ambassador, with a view to reaching out to farmers to its app.
- **Debashis Mitra** has been elected as the **President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** for the year 2022-23. Mitra, who is serving his third term in ICAI Council, has been in the accounting profession for more than 34 years.
- **Ilker Ayci** has been appointed as the new **CEO and MD of Air India**. He will assume his responsibilities on or before 1st April 2022. Ilker Ayci is a former chairman of Turkish Airlines. Ilker is an aviation industry leader who led Turkish Airlines to its current success during his tenure there.
- The Delhi High Court has appointed former Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, **Gita Mittal** as the **Chairperson of the Committee of Administrators** which will run the **Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)**.
- IAS **Vineet Joshi** has been appointed as the new Chairman of the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**. He replaces IAS Manoj Ahuja, who has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- Bhojpuri singer and BJP MP, **Manoj Tiwari** will be the brand ambassador of **Khadi and other handicrafts of Bihar**. He will be the "brand ambassador" for Khadi and other handicrafts of Bihar, state minister Syed Shahnawaz Hussain announced.
- **A23**, the gaming application owned by **Head Digital Works**, an online skill gaming company, has named in Bollywood actor **Shah Rukh Khan** as its brand ambassador. Shahrukh Khan will feature in A23's '**Chalo Saath Khele**' campaign, along with a first of its kind responsible gaming campaign, which showcases all the multi-gaming platforms of A23 such as carom, fantasy sports, pool and rummy, among others.
- Retired Vice Admiral, **G Ashok Kumar** has been appointed as **India's first national maritime security coordinator** by the government. The government of India has taken the decisive move to ensure reliability on security and its objective to strengthen the country's maritime security.

- The **Institute of Economic Growth** has appointed **Chetan Ghate** as the **new director** succeeding **Ajit Mishra**. He was a member of the Reserve Bank of India's first monetary policy committee between 2016-2020, is the winner of the 2014 Mahalanobis Memorial gold medal for the best research economist in the country under the age of 45.
- Table Tennis player, **Manika Batra** was named as the brand ambassador of **Adidas**. The partnership focuses on empowering women to realize their dreams, cheering for women to break barriers and boosting participation in sports.
- **International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission** re-elected ice hockey player **Emma Terho** of Finland as its Chair and table tennis player **Seung Min Ryu** of the Republic of Korea as its First Vice-Chair. The commission also elected cyclist **Sarah Walker** of New Zealand as the second VC of the Commission.
- Japanese auto major **Honda Motor Co. Ltd.** has announced the appointment of **Takuya Tsumura** as the new **President & CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL)** with effect from 1 April 2022. The appointment comes as part of the management changes announced annually by the company.
- The Centre government has nominated **Sanjay Malhotra**, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, as a Director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The nomination of Malhotra, a 1990 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre, is effective from February 16, 2022, and until further orders.
- Executive Director of the Indian Rubber Board, **K.N. Raghavan** has been elected the new **Chairman** of the **International Rubber Study Group (IRSG)**. He will officiate as Chairman of the group for the next two years. He will preside over the meeting of the heads of delegation scheduled for March 31 at Singapore.
- Finance Ministry's Principal Economic Advisor, **Sanjeev Sanyal** has been inducted as a full-time member of the **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)**, the panel's chairman **Bibek Debroy** announced. The appointment is for a tenure of **two years**.
- **Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL)** has announced the separation of the position of Chairman of the Board and the CEO & Managing Director of the company. **Nitin Paranjpe** has been appointed as the Non-Executive Chairman of the company with effect from March 31, 2022. He is currently serving as Chief Operating Officer of Unilever, the parent company of HUL. **Sanjiv Mehta** will continue to be the Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director (CEO & MD) of the company.
- Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI Bank) has informed the stock exchanges that its board has approved the reappointment of **Rakesh Sharma** as the **managing director and chief executive officer** of the bank for a period of three years, effective March 19, 2022. Sharma's reappointment as the MD&CEO of the bank has received the banking regulator, Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) nod.
- **Dish TV India**, has announced the appointment of Indian cricketer **Rishabh Pant** as brand ambassador. Pant will feature in the brand's 360-degree communication for the next two years.
- 1995-batch IAS officers and Digital India Corporation CEO, **Abhishek Singh** as new **National e-Governance Division chief**. The 1995-batch IAS officer from Nagaland cadre will hold the position in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary.
- **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).
- 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. She has over three decades of experience in the financial markets and was SEBI whole-time member (WTM) between **April 5, 2017, and October 4, 2021**.

Ranks and Reports

- As per a brand valuation report released by Brand Finance, **Life Insurance Corporation** has been ranked at **10th** in the list of insurance brands globally. LIC is the only Indian insurance company in the top 10 list. LIC has a valuation of **USD 8.656 billion (around Rs 64,722 crore)**. Of the top 10, as many as 5 are Chinese insurance companies, with by **Ping An Insurance** emerging as the world's most valuable insurance brand, despite recording a 26 per cent drop in brand value. The US has two companies in the top 10, while France, Germany, and India have one each in the list.
- The **unemployment rate in India** in January 2022 fell sharply to **6.57%**, according to the data from the economic think-tank, the **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)**. This is the lowest rate witnessed since March 2021. In December 2021, the unemployment rate rose to a four-month high of **7.91%**, compared to **6.97% in November**. Telangana recorded the lowest unemployment rate in January at 0.7%. This was followed by **Gujarat** at 1.2%, **Meghalaya** at 1.5%, **Odisha** at 1.8% and **Karnataka** at 2.9%. Haryana witnessed the highest unemployment rate of 23.4% in January 2022. It was followed by **Rajasthan (18.9%)**, **Tripura (17.1%)**, **Jammu & Kashmir (15%)** and **Delhi (14.1%)**.
- The **India Press Freedom Report 2021** was recently released by the **Rights and Risks Analysis Group**. According to the report, 13 media houses and newspapers were targeted in the country, 108 journalists were attacked, and 6 journalists were killed. **Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura** topped the list of States and Union Territories where journalists and media houses were targeted in 2021.
- **Salesforce**, a leading player in **Customer Relationship Management (CRM)**, published the **Global Digital Skills Index 2022** which highlights the growing global digital skills crisis and the need for action. **India** has scored **63 out of 100**, leads the digital skills readiness, and has the highest readiness index among the 19 countries. The average global readiness score was 33 out of 100.
- In accordance with the **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**, **Gautam Adani** net worth reached **\$88.5 billion** overtaking **Mukesh Ambani's \$87.9 billion** becoming Asia's richest person as on 8th February 2022. With a nearly \$12 billion jump in his personal wealth, he has become the 10th richest person in the world. Globally **Elon Musk** was named as the world's richest person with a total net worth of **\$235 Billion**. He was followed by **Jeff Bezos** with a total net worth of **\$183 Billion & Bernard Arnault** with a total net worth of **\$168 Billion**.
- As per the **TomTom Traffic Index Ranking 2021**, **Mumbai** has been ranked at 5th, **Bengaluru** at 10th in terms of the most congested cities in the world in 2021. Delhi and Pune ranked 11th and 21st among 404 cities across 58 countries, according to TomTom Traffic Index's global top 25 lists. **Istanbul, Turkey** has been declared as the most congested city in the world as per the ranking. while Moscow came in second.
- The **Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2021/2022 report**, unveiled at the **Dubai Expo**, India is among the **top five easiest places** to start a new business. The survey of Indian respondents, who answered questions on their entrepreneurial activity, attitudes to enterprise and view of their local entrepreneurial ecosystem, found that 82% think it is easy to start a business, placing **India fourth** globally. It was topped by **Saudi Arabia** and followed by **Netherlands & Sweden**.
- The **US Green Building Council (USGBC)** has released the **9th** annual ranking of top 10 countries outside of the **United States (US) for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)** in 2021 in which India ranked **3rd** with 146 projects. It has been topped by **China** with 1,077 LEED projects certified in 2021, which is followed by **Canada** at 2nd position with 205 projects. The ranking highlights countries and regions outside the US that are doing good in healthy, sustainable, and resilient building design, construction, and operations.
- According to the latest **Hurun India Wealth Report 2021**, the number of dollar-millionaire households in India increased by **11 per cent to 4,58,000 households in 2021**, as compared to 2020. A household having a net worth of at least INR 7 crore (\$1 million), is referred to as a dollar-millionaire household. Meanwhile, in the list of cities with the most millionaires, **Mumbai** has topped with 20,300 millionaires households. Mumbai is followed by **Delhi** with 17,400 and **Kolkata** with 10,500 millionaire households, respectively.

- As per the 'Deloitte 2022 CxO Sustainability Report: The Disconnect Between Ambition and Impact', Indian businesses rank 5th in their concern for climate change. According to the report, 80 per cent of Indian executives see the world at a tipping point for responding to climate change compared with just 53 per cent eight months ago.

Sports Current Affairs

- Indian men's hockey player **PR Sreejesh** has won the **World Games Athlete of the Year award for 2021**. He is the second Indian after **Rani Rampal** to win this award. In 2020, Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal became the first Indian to win the honour for her performances in 2019.
- **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)**, has become the country's first sports Unicorn with its market cap having touched a high of **Rs 7,600 crores** and its share in the grey market trading in the **Rs 210-225 price band**.
- Indian teenager **Unnati Hooda** beat compatriot **Smit Toshniwal**, 21-18, 21-11, to claim the women's singles title at the **2022 Odisha Open badminton tournament**. The 14-year old Unnati is the youngest Indian to win the tournament. In men's singles, India's 21-year-old **Kiran George** beat **Priyanshu Rajawat** 21-15, 14-21, 21-18 to emerge as the winner. The 2022 Odisha Open is a BWF Super 100 tournament, organized at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Cuttack, Odisha**.
- World Champion Grand Master **Magnus Carlsen** has secured his victory in Wijk Aan Zee (Netherlands) with a round to spare. The world champion defeated **GM Fabiano Caruana** and now leads the **2022 Tata Steel Chess Tournament** by a full point. It was his 8th win, a unique achievement.
- The Government has decided to continue the scheme of '**Khelo India - National Programme for Development of Sports**' over the **15th Finance Commission Cycle - 2021-22 to 2025-26** - at an outlay of Rs 3165.50 crore. Khelo India Scheme Allocation increases by **48 per cent** in Budget 2022 and includes it in the **Prime Minister's Award Scheme.**"
- Rajasthan Chief Minister, **Ashok Gehlot** and BCCI President **Sourav Ganguly** laid the foundation stone of the world's third-largest cricket stadium in **Jaipur**. The International Cricket Stadium in Jaipur will be the second-largest cricket stadium in India and the third-largest in the world. Currently, **Narendra Modi Stadium (former Motera Stadium)** in Ahmedabad is the world's largest stadium with a capacity of 132,000 spectators. The second-largest stadium is **Australia's Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)** which has a capacity of 1,00,024 spectators.
- **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has approved a proposal to include **Surfing, Skateboarding and Sport Climbing** for the **2028 Summer Olympics Games** that will be organized in **Los Angeles, United States**. The 2028 Summer Olympics are officially known as the Games of the XXXIV Olympiad, or Los Angeles 2028 is a forthcoming event scheduled to take place from July 21 - August 6, 2028, in Los Angeles, California, US.
- **China PR (People's Republic)** defeated **South Korea** (Korea Republic), 3-2, to win the **AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 final title** at the D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai. This is the record-extending 9th AFC Women's Asian Cup title won by China.
- Veteran **Sri Lankan** fast bowler **Suranga Lakmal** has announced to retire from international cricket, after Sri Lanka's upcoming tour of India. The 34-year-old right-arm fast bowler and right-handed batsman aim to join the **English county club Derbyshire** after retirement.
- **Senegal** has defeated **Egypt** in the **Africa Cup of Nations championship** winning the continental championship for the first time on penalty kicks at **Olembe Stadium in Yaoundé, Cameroon**.
- **Gujarat Titans** is the official name of the new **Ahmedabad franchise** owned by CVC Capital as **Hardik Pandya** is all set to lead the franchise in the **Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022**. The naming of the Ahmedabad franchise comes days after Lucknow, owned by RPSG Group, announced its official name as **Lucknow Super Giants**. The Lucknow team will be led by **KL Rahul**.

- South Africa's Test sensation **Keegan Petersen** and England women's team captain **Heather Knight** were voted **ICC Players of the Month for January 2022**. In the men's category, South African batter **Keegan Petersen** was a sensation during the home Test series against India. He ended the series as the highest run-scorer with 276 runs and was named the Player of the Series.
- English club, **Chelsea** has defeated Brazilian club **Palmeiras, 2-1**, to win the 2021 FIFA Club World Cup final. Chelsea has won the FIFA Club World Cup for the first time. The decisive goal was scored by Kai Havertz with 3 minutes of extra time to go. **Kai Havertz'** nerveless 117th-minute penalty settled a gruelling Club World Cup final. The final was held at Mohammed bin Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi.
- **Haryana** team defeated the **Indian Railway 3-0**, to win the **Men's title in Senior National Volleyball Championship 2021-22**. Similarly, in the women's category, the **Kerala team** defeated the **Indian Railway 3-1**, to lift the trophy. The 70th Senior National Volleyball (Men & Women) Championship 2021-22 was held at the Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium, KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar.
- **Mumbai, India** will host the **International Olympic Committee session in 2023**. The IOC Session for 2023 will be held at **Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai**. The last such session was hosted by India in the year 1983 in New Delhi. In 2022, the IOC session was held in **Beijing, China**.
- Bihar's **Sakibul Gani** become the first player in the history of the game to score a triple century on his **first-class debut**. He scored **341 off 405 balls**, hitting 56 fours and two sixes, in the Plate Group Ranji Trophy fixture against **Mizoram** at the **Jadavpur University Campus ground, Jadavpur, Bengal**.
- India's teen chess Grandmaster, **Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa** has created history as he defeated world number one chess champion, **Magnus Carlsen**, of Norway in an online chess tournament. The Airthings Masters is the first of the nine events of the 2022 Meltwater Champions Chess Tour, being held from February to November 2022.
- The 18-year-old Spaniard **Carlos Alcaraz** has clinched the **Rio Open tennis title** after defeating **Diego Schwartzman** in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**. The seventh-seeded Alcaraz defeated third-seeded Schwartzman 6-4, 6-2 to become the **youngest ATP 500 champion** since the category was created in 2009.
- Indian weightlifter and 2020 Tokyo Olympics silver-medallist, **Mirabai Chanu** has won the **gold medal** in the 55kg weight category at the **Singapore Weightlifting International 2022** on February 25, 2022. Chanu lifted **191kg (86kg+105kg)** to stand on top of the podium.
- 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**.
- 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)**.

Summits And Conferences

- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** has addressed **30th National Commission for Women Foundation Day programme** on January 31, 2022, via video conference. The event was organised to celebrate the achievements of women in different fields. The theme of the programme was **'She The Change Maker'**.
- **NITI Aayog**, in collaboration with **PhonePe, AWS and EY**, has organized a three-week-long virtual summit, **'Fintech Open'**, from **7-28 February**. The summit was inaugurated by Union Minister for Railways, Communications, and Electronics and IT, **Ashwini Vaishnaw** in the presence of NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar.
- The Union Ministry of Culture will organize a first-of-its-kind **Global Summit on 'Reimagining Museums in India'** on February 15-16, 2022. The summit will be inaugurated by Union Culture Minister **G. Kishan Reddy**. The Global Summit is being organised in partnership with **Bloomberg**. The virtual summit will be conducted with four broad themes: **Architecture and Functional Needs, Management, Collections Curation & Conservation practices**) and **Education and Audience Engagement**.

- Union Minister of Power, **R K Singh** has launched **Powerthon-2022**, a hackathon competition to find technology-driven solutions to solve the complex problems in power distribution and to ensure quality and reliable power supply. The competition will bring together qualified mentors with TSPs, innovators, and other participants to create teams for efficient electricity networks.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has addressed the high-level segment of the **One Ocean Summit**. The high-level segment of the summit will also be addressed by several other heads of states and governments including **Germany, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan and Canada**.
- The **4th India-Australia Energy Dialogue** was co-chaired by Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, **RK Singh** and Australian Energy and Emissions Reduction Minister **Angus Taylor**. Energy Transition was a major area of discussion in the dialogue and both the Energy Ministers. Energy Transition activities in their respective countries with a focus on renewables, energy efficiency, storage, EVs, critical minerals, mining etc.
- **India** will hold the **Presidency of the G20** from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023 and the G20 Summit will be held in **India in 2023 (18th edition)**. For its preparation, the government has approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat and its reporting structures. The G20 Secretariat will be guided by an Apex Committee headed by Prime Minister and it will have the following members: Finance Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman, Home Minister: Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister: S. Jaishankar, and G20 Sherpa: Piyush Goyal
- The **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** is organising a **"Darkathon-2022"** to find solutions to counter drug trafficking through the **darknet**. The initiative aims at involving students, youth and technical experts to find effective solutions to unravel the anonymity of darknet markets. The agency recently smashed three groups of drug peddlers that were operating on the network that is accessed through encryption software which enables anonymity of users.
- The Prime Minister, **Narendra Modi** has delivered the inaugural address at **The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit**. The theme for this year's summit is **Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future**.

- **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) of Ministry of Culture, Government of India** is organizing a two-day international conference **'Devayatanam - An odyssey of Indian temple architecture** on 25th - 26th February 2022 at **Hampi, Karnataka**. The Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER, G Kishan Reddy inaugurates the conference. The conference aims to deliberate upon the philosophical, religious, social, economic, technical, scientific, art and architectural aspects of the temple. It also intends to initiate a dialogue on the evolution and development of the various styles of temple architecture such as the Nagara, Vesara, Dravida, Kalinga and others.

Awards & Recognition

- New Zealand cricketer, **Daryl Mitchell** has been named the winner of the **International Cricket Council (ICC) Spirit of Cricket Award 2021**. This award is given to him for his gesture of refusing to take a single in the high-pressure 2021 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Semi-Finals against England as he felt he had "obstructed" the way of bowler **Adil Rashid** at the **Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi**.
- Tokyo Olympics gold medallist, **Neeraj Chopra** has been nominated for the **prestigious 2022 Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award**.
- A Telugu short film **'Street Student'** by **Akula Sandeep** depicting the story of a street urchin with a strong message on right to education has bagged the first prize in a competition organised by the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**.
- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari** will be facilitated for the first time with the **18th late Madhavrao Limaye award** in the category of Karyakram Khaasdar (Efficient Member of Parliament) for the year 2020-21. This award will be facilitated by Nashik Public Library, **Sarvajanik Vachanalay**. Earlier, the award was given to **Karyaksham Aamdaar**, an efficient Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Maharashtra.
- **Sandeep Bakhshi** has been named the **Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21**. He is the **managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank**. The winner was chosen by a jury of 5 members chaired by former Reserve Bank of India deputy governor **S S Mundra**. For 2020-21, ICICI Bank reported a net profit of Rs 16,193 crore against Rs 7,931 crore during the previous financial year.

- **RailTel** has bagged the **ICAI award** for excellence in **financial reporting for the year 2020-21** in Public Sector Entities Category. The company was adjudged as the winner in the category **“plaque”**. Financial Reporting includes the preparation and presentation of financial information. Effective Financial Reporting plays a significant role in accelerating the economic growth of a country as the information provided through annual reports enables the management and other relevant stakeholders in taking various effective business, investment, regulatory decisions.
- **Microsoft** founder and philanthropist, **Bill Gates** has been conferred with **Hilal-e-Pakistan**, the second-highest civilian honour in the country, for his efforts to **help eradicate polio in Pakistan**. Gates is on a day-long visit to Pakistan and has met with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. He also visited the National Command and Control Centre (NCOC) that oversees efforts to curb Covid-19.
- Maharatna company of the Government of India, **Coal India Limited** has been awarded the **‘India’s Most Trusted Public Sector Company’ award**. Coal India received this honour at the **“Energy Meet and Excellence Award”** function organized by **Industry Chamber “ASSOCHAM”** in Kolkata. The company has got this honour at a time when Coal India has not allowed the situation of power crisis in the country by significantly increasing coal production and supply in the last few months to meet the increased demand for coal for the power sector.

Important Days

- **Indian Coast Guard** is celebrating its **46th Raising Day** on **01 Feb 2022**. As the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world, the Indian Coast Guard has played a significant role in securing the Indian Coasts and enforcing regulations in the Maritime Zones of India. The ICG was formally established on **February 1, 1977**, by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India. It operates under the Ministry of Defence.
- **World Wetlands Day** is observed every year on **February 2** all over the world. 2022 marks **51 years** of the Convention on Wetlands. The international theme for World Wetlands Day 2022 is **‘Wetlands Action for People and Nature’**. The day aims to raise awareness about the crucial role played by wetlands for people and our planet.
- **World Interfaith Harmony Week** is an annual event observed during the **first week of February (1-7 February)**, after **General Assembly designation in 2010**. World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW), was conceived to promote cultural peace and nonviolence. The World Interfaith Harmony Week is based on the pioneering work of **The Common Word initiative**.
- The **‘International Day of Human Fraternity’** is celebrated across the world on **4th February**. The day aims to raise awareness about different cultures and religions, or beliefs, and the promotion of tolerance; and to educate people that tolerance, pluralistic tradition, mutual respect, and the diversity of religions and beliefs promote human fraternity.
- **World Cancer Day** is observed every year globally on **4th February** by the **Union for International Cancer Control**. By raising worldwide **awareness**, improving **education** and catalysing personal, collective and government **action**, we are all working together to reimagine a world where millions of preventable cancer deaths are saved and access to life-saving cancer treatment and care is equitable for all – no matter who you are or where you live. So this year’s World Cancer Day’s theme, **“Close the Care Gap”**.
- **International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female** is observed on **6th February** globally. This day is sponsored by the United Nations for their efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation. It was first introduced in 2003. This year theme of International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female: **Accelerating Investment to End Female Genital Mutilation**.

- **Safer Internet Day** is observed every year on the **second day of the second week** of February with the aim of providing a safer and better internet, where every user gets to use the internet responsibly and without getting their data leaked. This year **February 8** is being celebrated as Safer Internet Day across the world. This year marks the **19th edition** of Safer Internet Day with actions taking place right across the globe. This year, the occasion is being marked under the theme **'Together for a better internet'**, calling upon all stakeholders to join together to make the internet a safer and better place for all, and especially for children and young people.
- The United Nations designated **World Pulses Day** is observed every year on **10 February**. The day has been established by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations to recognize the importance of pulses (dry beans, lentils, dry peas, chickpeas, lupins) as a global food. This year World Pulses Day's theme: **"Pulses to empower youth in achieving sustainable agrifood systems"**.
- **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** is observed globally on **11 February**. The **7th International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly**, taking place on **11 February 2022**, aims to recognize the role of women and girls in science, not only as beneficiaries but also as agents of change, including in view of accelerating progress towards the achievement of SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). The 2022 theme of the Day is **"Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Water Unites Us"**.
- **World Unani Day** is observed on **February 11** every year to mark the birth anniversary of **"Hakim Ajmal Khan"**, an eminent Indian Unani physician. The first Unani Day was celebrated in **2017** at the **Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine (CRIUM), Hyderabad**.
- **National Deworming Day** is observed on **February 10**, to make people aware of the importance of deworming, particularly for children **from 1 to 19 years of age**, who are the most vulnerable. The Day was launched by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** in 2015.
- **National Productivity Day** is observed every year in India on **February 12**. The objective of the National Productivity Council is to stimulate and promote productivity and quality consciousness across all sectors in the country. The main observance of the day is to encourage all stakeholders in the implementation of productivity tools and techniques with contemporary relevant themes.
- **World Radio Day** is celebrated on **13 February** each year to recognize radio as a powerful medium, which brings people together from every corner of the globe, to promote diversity and help build a more peaceful and inclusive world.
- **International Epilepsy Day** is observed every year on the **Second Monday of February** across the world. In 2022, International Epilepsy Day falls on **February 14, 2022**. International Epilepsy Day seeks to raise awareness and educate the general public on the true facts about epilepsy and the urgent need for improved treatment, better care, and greater investment in research.
- The FICCI's **Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE)** has taken the initiative to launch **Anti-Smuggling Day**, which will be marked on **11 February** every year. The inaugural Anti-Smuggling Day is being observed on February 11, 2022.
- Every year, **February 15** is observed as **International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD)** to raise awareness about the evil that entails this issue and the ways to deal with the same. The day is a global collaborative campaign to raise awareness about childhood cancer and to express support for children and adolescents with cancer, the survivors and their families.
- **World Pangolin Day** is celebrated on the **"Third Saturday of February"** every year. In 2022, the annual World Pangolin Day is being celebrated on **19 February 2022**. It marks the **11th** edition of the event. The day aims to raise awareness about these unique mammals and speed up conservation efforts. Pangolin numbers are rapidly declining in Asia and Africa.
- **World Day of Social Justice** is celebrated annually all over the world on **20 February**. The International Labour Organization unanimously adopted the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization on **10 June 2008**. Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. World Day of Social Justice 2022 Theme: **Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment**.

- Every year India observes the **Soil Health Card Day on 19 February** to commemorate the launch of the **Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme**, and create awareness about the benefits of the scheme. 2022 marks the seventh year of the launch of the SHC Scheme.
- The **International Mother Language Day (IMLD)** is observed annually on the **21st of February**. The day aims to raise awareness regarding linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. The 2022 theme is **“Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities”**. The UN mentioned in its statement that this year’s theme raises the potential role of technology to advance multilingual education and support the development of quality teaching and learning for all.
- **World Thinking Day**, originally known as **Thinking Day**, is celebrated annually on **22 February** by all Girl Scouts, Girl Guides and other girl groups worldwide. The day is observed to think about fellow brothers and sisters around the world, address their concerns and understand the true meaning of guiding. The theme for World Thinking Day 2022 is **Our World, Our Equal Future**.
- **Central Excise Day**, which is observed on **February 24** commemorates the **Central Excise and Salt Act** which was enacted on **24th February 1944**. This annual event is celebrated to highlight the essential role played by the Central Excise Department in the industrial development of the country.
- **World NGO Day** is celebrated every year on **27th February** globally. World NGO Day aims to inspire people to become more actively involved within NGOs (Charities, NPOs, CSOs) and encourage a greater symbiosis between NGOs and both the public and private sector.
- **World Sustainable energy day 2022** is observed on **27th February** across the world. It hosts events centered on sustainable energy production and use, which covers energy efficiency and renewable energy sources for buildings, industry, and transport.
- 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.”**
- The **National Science Day** is celebrated on **28 February** each year in India to spread the message about the importance of science in the daily life of the people. On this day, **Sir CV Raman** had announced the discovery of the **Raman Effect** for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930. The National Science Day theme for 2022: **‘Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future’**.
- 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.

Defence Current Affairs

- The **Indian Navy’s** brand-new submarine, the **fifth** of the six French-designed Scorpene-class submarines named **“Vagir”**, sailed out on its first sea sortie and will now undergo rigorous trials before it is delivered to the **Navy later this year**. The submarine-designated **“Yard 11879”** during its construction by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** in collaboration with the Naval Group of France will be named **“Vagir”** after it is commissioned into service.
- **Ministry of Defence** had launched the **Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation (SeHAT)** medical teleconsultation service for all entitled armed forces personnel and their families in May 2021. To add further to this initiative, the Home Delivery or Self Pickup of Medicines to patients seeking consultation on SeHAT will be started w.e.f **February 01, 2022**.
- **India and Philippines** signed a 375 million dollar deal for the sale of **BrahMos supersonic anti-ship cruise missiles** to the Philippines Navy. Defence Secretary of Philippines Delfin Lorenzana and Indian Envoy to Philippines Shambhu Kumaran signed the contract in Manila. The development is a major shot in the arm for India’s efforts to become an exporter of defence hardware.
- **India’s Goa Shipyard Ltd** delivered the 5th and final vessel of the **5 Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vehicle (CGOPV) Project** ahead of contractual schedule. The vessel was named **ICGS ‘Saksham’**. The point to be underlined- all 5 vessels have been delivered before time to the Indian Coast Guard. The contract for 5 CGOPVs was signed by GSL with the Ministry of Defence on 26 August 2016.

- The 44-member contingents of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has reached the **Changi International Airport in Singapore** on February 12, 2022, to participate in the '**Singapore Air Show-2022**', which is scheduled to be held from February 15 to 18, 2022. Singapore Air Show is a biennial event that provides a platform for the Global Aviation Industry to showcase its products.
- Indian army has conducted a first-of-its-kind **Hackathon** named "**Sainya Ranakshetram**". The hackathon was conducted in the **Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE)**, Mhow under the overall guidance of the Shimla-based **Army Training Command (ARTRAC)**, one of the seven commands of the Indian Army.
- The Government has approved the continuation of the **Scheme of Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF Scheme)** for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26. Total Central financial outlay for five years is **Rs. 26,275 crores**. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) since 1969-70.
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** has launched the '**Smart Card Arms License**' and '**Shastra App**' of the **Delhi Police**, on the occasion of the **75th anniversary of the Delhi Police**. In order to provide techno-friendly digital services to the citizens of the national capital. According to Delhi Police, the smart card, with inherent security features, is easy to carry and handle. The card will be printed in-house after verification of data of the arms license holders. The card is also integrated with the 'e-Beat book' of Delhi Police through the 'Shastra mobile app' for effective policing.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO)** have organised a bilateral air exercise named **Eastern Bridge-VI** from February 21 to 25, 2022 at Air Force Station Jodhpur in Rajasthan. Eastern Bridge-VI is the sixth edition of the exercise. The exercise will provide an opportunity to enhance operational capability and interoperability between the two Air Forces.
- **The Indian Navy** has received the **12th anti-submarine warfare aircraft P-8I** from the US-based aerospace company Boeing. This is the fourth of four additional aircraft, for which the contract was signed in 2016. The Ministry of Defence had signed a contract for eight P-8I aircraft in 2009. However, later in 2016, it signed a contract for four additional P-8I aircraft.
- Three more **Rafale fighter aircraft** landed in **India from France**, with Indian specific enhancements. With this new arrival of the three jets, the total Rafale fleet with Indian Air Force (IAF) has reached **35**. The 36th and final aircraft will arrive in India from France by March- April 2022, and will be a trainer aircraft.
- The latest edition of the Indian Navy's multilateral exercise **MILAN 2022** is commencing from 25 Feb 22 in the '**City of Destiny**', **Visakhapatnam**. MILAN 22 is being conducted over a duration of 9 days in two phases with the harbour phase scheduled from 25 to 28 February and Sea Phase from 01 to 04 March.
- Chief of Army Staff General **MM Naravane** has presented **Presidential Colours** to four parachute battalions at **Parachute Regiment Training Centre in Bengaluru**. The four battalions are the **11 Para (Special Forces), 21 Para (Special Forces), 23 Para, and 29 Para battalions**. The award of President's Colours or the '**Nishan**' is one of the highest honours bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of its exceptional service to the nation, both during the war and in peace.
- The **third edition** of the joint military exercise "**EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022**" between **India and Japan** will be conducted from 27 February to 10 March 2022, at **Belagavi (Belgaum), Karnataka**. The 15th Battalion the **Maratha Light Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army** and 30th Infantry Regiment of **Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF)** are participating in this 12 days long joint exercise.

- 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. The exercise is scheduled to take place from March 6 to 27, 2022, at Waddington in the United Kingdom. The announcement by the IAF comes just three days after it confirmed its participation in the drills.

Science and Technology

- South Korean electronics manufacturing giant, **Samsung Electronics** surpassed U.S chipmaker **Intel** to become the **world's leading chipmaker by revenue in 2021**, according to a report released by research firm **Counterpoint Technology Market Research**.
- The **Global Center of Excellence in Affordable and Clean energy** was recently launched at **IIT Dharwad**. The center will enhance the research in affordable and clean energy. The center will create, incubate technologies, physical infrastructure. Also, it will create clean energy solutions. The solutions will target on livelihoods of rural communities.
- The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**, has installed and commissioned **Param Pravega**, one of the most powerful supercomputers in India. It is also the largest supercomputer in an Indian academic institution. Param Pravega has a total supercomputing capacity of **3.3 petaflops (1 petaflop equals a quadrillion or 10¹⁵ operations per second)**. The supercomputer has been designed by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**. It has been developed under the **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)**.
- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Hyderabad)** has launched the beta version of '**Swarajability**', a job portal powered by artificial intelligence that helps people with disabilities acquire relevant skills and find jobs. The platform will analyse the profiles of the job seekers and suggest the skills they would require to become eligible. A platform that addressed this challenge would help this vulnerable section of the population.
- According to **NASA**, the **International Space Station** will continue its operation until **2031** and then crash into an uninhabited area in the Pacific Ocean known as Point Nemo. It will be replaced with three free-flying space stations to continue the work after ISS's retirement. NASA also selected Houston-based Axiom Space to provide the ISS's first commercial module.
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has decommissioned the **INSAT-4B**, an Indian communications satellite that forms part of the **Indian National Satellite System**. The INSAT-4B underwent **Post Mission Disposal (PMD)** at the end of its service, followed by decommissioning on January 24. INSAT-4B is the 21st Indian Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO) satellite to undergo post-mission disposal, the required propellant for such re-orbiting was included in the initial fuel budget as a part of standard practice followed in ISRO's GEO mission planning.
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully launched an **Earth Observation Satellite, EOS-04** and two small satellites into the intended orbit. This was the first launch mission of **ISRO in the year 2022**. The satellites were launched onboard the launch vehicle PSLV-C52 rocket from the First Launch Pad of **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- The Indian mining major **Vedanta** has tied up with Taiwanese electronics manufacturing company, **Hon Hai Technology Group** (better known as **Foxconn**) to form a joint venture (JV) for **manufacturing semiconductors in India**. **Anil Agarwal**, the non-executive Chairman of Vedanta, will be the Chairman of the JV company.
- The **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** has approved the **Corona Vaccine Biologicals E Ltd's Corbevax** for children in the age group of **12 to 18 years**. Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company Biological E Ltd said its coronavirus vaccine Corbevax, is also India's third homegrown vaccine. Bharat Biotech's Covaxin is being given to children aged 15 to 18 years from January 3.
- The **Government of India** has organised a week-long science exhibition titled '**Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate**' from February 22 to 28, 2022, as part of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav commemoration**. It will be conducted simultaneously at 75 locations across the country through a hybrid model. The inaugural programme was held at **Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on the 22nd of February**.

- India's largest 4G mobile broadband and digital service provider, **Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.** will land the next generation multi-terabit **India-Asia-Xpress (IAX)** undersea cable system in Hulhumale, **Maldives**. The high capacity and high-speed IAX system will connect Hulhumale directly with World's major internet hubs in **India and Singapore**.
- The **Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee** has organized a regional farmers' awareness programme as part of the '**Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa**' (GKMS) project and launched **KISAN mobile application for the farmers**. The app will provide agro-meteorological services to the farmers. Farmers from **Haridwar, Dehradun, and Pauri Garhwal** districts participated in the program.
- **International Business Machines Corp. (IBM)** has launched a **cybersecurity hub** in **Bengaluru** to address the concerns of its clients across the **Asia Pacific (APAC) region**. The multi-million dollar IBM Security Command Center will be located at the IBM office in Bengaluru in Karnataka. It is the first of its kind facility in the region. The IBM global analysis report for 2022 states that Asia emerged as the top-most targeted region for cyberattacks, representing 26% of attacks analyzed in 2021.
- A short biography of Indian athlete **Neeraj Chopra** has titled '**Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra**' authored by sports author **Navdeep Singh Gill** has been released. Neeraj Chopra won a Gold medal in **Javelin Throw** at the **2020 Tokyo Olympics**.
- **Virzu Studios** in association with **MIDAS Deals Pvt Ltd** has released the motion poster of its upcoming graphic novel, **Atharva - The Origin**. Cricketer **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** has been portrayed as the superhero Atharva in this graphic novel. The motion poster features a rugged looking Dhoni, giving fans a glimpse into the world of Atharva and also a sneak peek into the first look of him as a superhero.
- A book titled "**Atal Bihari Vajpayee**" authored by **Sagarika Ghose** has been launched. It is a biography of the former Prime Minister of India. Sagarika Ghose is a journalist. She has also authored a book titled "**Indira: India's Most Powerful Prime Minister**".
- Ambassador **Rajiv Kumar Bhatia**, a Distinguished Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies Programme at Gateway House, has authored a new book (his 3rd book) titled "**India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons**" which explores the emergence and assertion of Africa as a significant actor and stakeholder in global affairs and the transformation of the relationship between India and Africa.

Books & Authors

- A book titled '**Operation Khatma**' has been released which is authored by journalists **RC Ganjoo and Ashwini Bhatnagar**. The book is based upon the operation by the Special Operations Group of Jammu & Kashmir Police which led to the killing of 22 terrorists of the Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).
- India's first-ever season style book titled '**The Class of 2006: Sneak Peek into the Misadventures of the Great Indian Engineering Life**', written by **Akash Kansal** a management professional. The book was virtually launched at one of the biggest book launch ceremonies at IIT Kanpur, & Delhi Technological University.
- A Trilogy book series titled, '**India, That is Bharat: Coloniality, Civilisation, Constitution**' is authored by **J Sai Deepak** and published by **Bloomsbury India**. The 1st part was released on 15th August 2021, is set to launch the 2nd part in June 2022. Whereas, the 3rd and last parts will be released in June 2023.
- A book titled '**How to Prevent the Next Pandemic**' has authored by **Bill Gates** will be published this year in **May 2022**. In the book Bill Gates has written about specific steps that can only stop future pandemics but, in the process, provide better health care for everyone around the world.
- A new book titled "**Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War**" authored by **Samuel Moyn** was released. Samuel Moyn is the Professor of Jurisprudence at Yale Law School and a professor of History at Yale University.
- A new book titled "**Dignity in a Digital Age: Making Tech Work for All of Us**" has authored by **Ro Khanna** released. The book highlights the effects of changing lifestyle patterns of Americans due to technological progress. It also mentioned about the digital divide i.e., unequal access to technology and revenue, as it is one of the most pressing issues faced by the United States.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- The book titled **"A Nation To Protect"** authored by **Priyam Gandhi Mody** was launched by Union Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya**. The book highlights the role of **PM Narendra Modi** during the Covid crisis in the past two years. The book documents the Centre's leadership in this unprecedented time and how it tided the nation through the crisis.
- The book titled **"A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore's Pioneering Work in Rural Construction"** was authored by **Uma Das Gupta** and published under Niyogi Books 'Paper Missile' released. The book contains Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's work in 'village reconstruction' by setting up 'Sriniketan', a wing of his Visva Bharati International University at Santiniketan in 1922, which is also popularly known as a university town. It is situated in West Bengal.
- A new book titled **"The Founders: The Story of Paypal and the Entrepreneurs Who Shaped Silicon Valley"**, authored by **Jimmy Soni** and published by Simon & Schuster released soon. It highlights the story of multinational digital-payments company **PayPal** and how it covered the journey of a start-up that turned into one of the most successful companies of all time, worth over USD 70 billion today.
- Indian author, **Anirudh Suri** has come out with his new book titled **"The Great Tech Game: Shaping Geopolitics and the Destinies of Nations."** It has been published by HarperCollins India. In this book, the author lays out a roadmap for how any country must develop its own strategic plan to succeed in this technology-dominant era.
- **Tata Sky** has dropped the 'sky' brand name after 15 years and has rechristened itself as **Tata Play**. The DTH company has joined hands with Netflix to offer new OTT (over the top) content-centric channel packs as well. The new name of the company will be visible to the viewers. **Tata Play Binge** will hosts content from **13 leading OTT apps** through a single User Interface while offering the flexibility of a single subscription and payment.
- **Spituk Gustor Festival**, a two-day annual celebration of Ladakhi culture and traditional heritage celebrated on **30th & 31st January 2022 in Leh and Ladakh Union Territory**. To witness the colourful festivities, devotees arrive at the Spituk Monastery every year and attend the colourful mask dance locally called **"Chams"**.
- The **Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary** near **Jamnagar in Gujarat** and **Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Uttar Pradesh** have been listed as **Wetlands of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention**. With this, the total number of Ramsar sites in India goes up to 49. **Khijadiya** has become the fourth wetland of Gujarat to get the Ramsar tag. **Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary, Thol Wildlife Sanctuary and Wadhvana wetland** are the other Ramsar sites in the state. The last two were included in April last year.
- **The Aravalli Biodiversity Park** in **Gurugram, Haryana**, has been declared as India's first **"other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECM)** site. This was informed by the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change on the occasion of World Wetlands Day. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) gives OECM tag to those areas that are not protected but support rich biodiversity. The tag designates the area as a biodiversity hotspot on the international map.
- **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** has cancelled the **"Khadi Certification"** of its oldest Khadi Institution named **Mumbai Khadi & Village Industries Association (MKVIA)**. This MKVIA was running the popular **"Khadi Emporium"** at Metropolitan Insurance House, Mumbai since 1954.
- The ancient **festival of Kanchoth** is annually celebrated, mainly by the Nag followers, during the **Shukla Paksha of Magh** month which usually falls in January or February. The festival is celebrated with religious fervour across the Chenab valley region of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

- The **Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project** will be India's first bullet train route. While **Surat** city will get **India's first bullet train station**. National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) will be constructing this project that is scheduled to be completed by December 2024. The cost of the project is estimated to be more than Rs 1 lakh crore of which Rs 88,000 crores will be funded by the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**.
- **Jammu & Kashmir** has become the **first Union Territory** to integrate with the **National Single Window System (NSWS)** which marks a major leap in **Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)** in the UT. Lieutenant Governor of J&K **Manoj Sinha** launched the J&K Single Window Clearance System integrated with NSWS. NSWS is linked with the **India Industrial Land Bank (IILB)** which hosts 45 industrial parks of J&K that will help Investors to discover available land parcels in J&K.
- **Atal Tunnel** has been officially certified as '**World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 Feet**' by the **World Book of Records**. Atal tunnel is a Highway tunnel built under Rohtang Pass in eastern **Pir Panjal Himalayan range on Leh-Manali Highway**.
- The 17th edition of the **Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation films (MIFF-2022)** is scheduled to take place from **29 May to 4 June, 2022** at the Films Division complex, Mumbai. Those films which were completed between September 1, 2019, and December 31, 2021, are eligible. The best documentary of the festival will receive a Golden Conch and **10 lakh in a cash award**. As India is celebrating Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the current edition has instituted a special award for the best short film on the theme **India@75**.
- **Jammu and Kashmir** lieutenant governor, **Manoj Sinha** has launched a **QR code-based mechanism** for certification and labelling of handmade carpets of the union territory. With the QR-based application, which is the first of its kind in the country, customers can check and verify the authenticity and other requisite details of carpets produced in Jammu and Kashmir, read an official statement from the administration.
- **Dabur India** has become the **first Indian consumer goods company** to become completely plastic waste neutral. It has done this by collecting, processing and recycling around **27,000 metric tonnes** of post-consumer plastic waste during FY21-22. Dabur has achieved the landmark of surpassing its plastic packaging usage with recycling. Dabur's Plastic Waste Management initiative was launched in 2017-18 as part of the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rule.
- **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh** has launched **Kunsnyoms scheme** for differently-abled persons. Kunsnyoms meant **Equal for All, Fair for All**, aims inclusive and accessible Ladakh. Under the new scheme, Leh Hill council is providing assistive devices, technologies to needy people at **90 per cent subsidy**.
- The **Indian Railways** has shared new images of the country's first cable-stayed bridge on the **Anji river in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district**. The under-construction Anji Khad bridge, part of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project**, will connect Katra and Reasi areas through rail links. The bridge will stand at a height of 331 metres above the river bed - higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris. The total length of the bridge is 473.25 metres and it is supported by 96 cables.
- The Union Minister of Science & Technology, **Dr Jitendra Singh**, chaired the **District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee (DISHA)** meetings of several districts in Jammu & Kashmir recently. A key decision taken during the meeting was to designate Lavender as a Doda brand product, to promote lavender under the 'One District, One Product' initiative of the Modi Government.
- The Central Government launched the "**Janbhagidari Empowerment**" portal in the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir**, in line with the government's digital mission. The portal was hosted on a different server with higher bandwidth, in order to provide easy and ready accessibility to the general public.
- **Home Ministry** has declared Delhi headquarters of **Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL)** as a '**prohibited place**' under Section 2 of the **Official Secrets Act, 1923**. This prevents the entry of unauthorized persons into it. It is the only currency and banknotes manufacturer of India, that printed new series of notes of denomination Rs 2,000 and Rs 500 in 2016.
- 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**.

Obituaries

- Senior advocate and Additional Solicitor General (ASG), **Rupinder Singh Suri** has passed away. He was appointed the ASG in June 2020. He was designated as a senior advocate in 2009 and also served as the **President of the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association**. He served as standing counsel in the Supreme Court for Punjab for about 15 years.
- Actor and filmmaker **Amitabh Dayal** has passed away after suffering a heart attack at the age of 51. Dayal has worked in films like Kagaar: Life on the Edge (2003) with Om Puri, Bhojpuri film Rangdari (2012) and Raj Babbar's Dhuaan (2013), Amitabh Bachchan's Virrudh (2005).
- Prominent film personality **Ramesh Deo**, known for playing a diverse range of roles, in Marathi and Hindi movies, passed away due to a heart attack. During his career spanning several decades, the multi-faceted film personality has acted in over **450 Hindi and Marathi** feature films, apart from working in several television shows and commercials.
- Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, **Chandupatla Janga Reddy** has passed away in Hyderabad following health issues. He was a native of Warangal and a former MLA in Andhra Pradesh. He is best known for his time as a Member of Parliament in the **8th Lok Sabha in 1984**, which also marked the BJP's debut in the Lok Sabha, following Indira Gandhi's assassination.
- Former Greek President **Christos Sartzetakis** has passed away at the age of 92 years due to respiratory failure in Athens, Greece. He was a Greek jurist and a judge of the Supreme Court, who resisted against the militants during the **1967-1974 Rule of the Colonels**.
- Professor **R Rajamohan**, who was an astronomer at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, for decades, passed away. He is best known for his **Kalki Project**, which aimed to discover asteroids using the 48-cm Schmidt telescope in Kavalur VBO and discovered a new asteroid, number 4130, from India. This was the first asteroid discovered in **India in 104 years**.
- Padma Shri awardee and social worker, **Ibrahim Sutar** has passed away in Karnataka following a cardiac arrest. Fondly referred to as the "**Kabir of Kannada**", Sutar was known for his work towards spreading social and communal harmony.
- Actor-athlete **Praveen Kumar Sobti**, best known for playing **Bheem** in the TV series "**Mahabharat**" and for winning an Asian Games gold medal, passed away. He represented the country across various athletic events in hammer and discus throw and even won four medals at the Asian Games, including two gold medals in 1966 and 1970.
- Legendary singer **Lata Mangeshkar** has passed away at the age of 92 after suffering a multi-organ failure. The Bharat Ratna awardee was admitted to the hospital after being diagnosed with pneumonia and tested positive for the coronavirus disease in January. She is survived by her 3 sisters - **Usha Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Meena Khadikar and brother Hridaynath Mangeshkar**.
- Noted industrialist and former chairman of **Bajaj Auto, Rahul Bajaj**, has passed away, due to pneumonia and a heart problem. He was awarded the third-highest civilian award Padma Bhushan in 2001.
- Veteran singer and composer, **Bappi Lahiri** has passed away at the age of 69. He was lovingly called **Bappi Da** in the industry is known for delivering iconic songs in several films of the late 1970s-80s like **Chalte Chalte, Disco Dancer, and Sharaabi**. His last Bollywood song was Bhankas for the 2020 film Baaghi 3.
- Legendary Bengali singer, **Sandhya Mukherjee** has passed away at the age of 90 years due to cardiac arrest. Her full name was **Geetashree Sandhya Mukhopadhyay**. She had recently refused to accept the Padma award from the central government that was awarded in January 2022.
- **Channaveera Kanavi**, an iconic poet and writer in the Kannada language, has passed away. He was 93. He was often referred to as '**Samanvaya Kavi**' (**Poet of Reconciliation**). Kanavi received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1981 for his work Jeeva Dhvani (Poetry).
- The former India footballer **Surajit Sengupta**, who played as a midfielder, has passed away due to COVID-19 complications.

- Senior journalist, **Ravish Tiwari** has passed away. He was the national bureau chief of Indian Express. He was popular for his political news reporting. Before this, he had also served as **Senior Assistant Editor at Economic Times, Associate Editor at India Today and Senior Assistant Editor at the Indian Express**.
- Noted freedom fighter and Gandhian social worker, **Shakuntala Choudhary** has passed away. She was 102-year-old. She was popularly known as '**Shakuntala Baideo**'. She was felicitated with the **Padma Shri award** in 2022 by the Government of India.
- Andhra Pradesh Industries Minister **Mekapati Goutham Reddy** has passed away. The 50 years old Minister returned to India from Dubai Expo. Reddy, was a two-time MLA from the Atmakur Assembly constituency in the Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh. He was the Minister for Industries, Commerce, and Information Technology in Andhra Pradesh Government.
- Veteran Malayalam film and stage actress, **KPAC Lalitha** has passed away at 74. In a career spanning five decades, she starred in over 550 films in Malayalam and Tamil. Born as Maheswari Amma in Kayamkulam of Alappuzha, the actress had joined K.P.A.C (Kerala People's Arts Club), a prominent drama troop in Kerala.
- Odisha's first tribal chief minister as well as last Congress chief minister of the state, **Hemananda Biswal** passed away. He was 82. Biswal, a Bhuyan tribal from Jharsuguda district, served as the chief minister twice from 1989 to 1990 and 1999 to 2000.

Static Takeaways

- Honduras Capital: Tegucigalpa
- Honduras Currency: Honduran lempira
- Honduras Continent: North America
- North Korea Capital: Pyongyang;
- North Korea Supreme leader: Kim Jong-un;
- North Korea Currency: North Korean won.
- Portugal President: Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa;
- Portugal Capital: Lisbon;
- Portugal Currency: Euro.
- UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi;
- UAE Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham;
- UAE President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- China Capital: Beijing;
- China Currency: Renminbi;
- China President: Xi Jinping.
- Meta Headquarters: California, United States;
- FICCI Founded: 1927;
- FICCI Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Israel President: Isaac Herzog;
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem;
- Israel Prime minister: Naftali Bennett;
- Israel Currency: Israeli Shekel.
- Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd. Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd. Founded: 1989.
- Union Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Union Bank of India Founded: 11 November 1919, Mumbai.
- Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited Founded: 10 February 2006.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955;
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Punjab National Bank Founded: 1894;
- Punjab National Bank Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Punjab National Bank Tagline: The Name You Can Bank Upon.
- Patanjali Ayurved Limited Founded: January 2006;
- Patanjali Ayurved Limited Headquarters: Haridwar;
- Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Founded: 15 July 1978;
- Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Export-Import Bank of India Founded: 1982;
- Export-Import Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai.

- HPCL Headquarters: Mumbai;
- NPCI Founded: 2008;
- NPCI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- Tata Steel Founded: 25 August 1907, Jamshedpur;
- Tata Steel Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Paytm Money Headquarters location: Bengaluru;
- Paytm Money Founded: 20 September 2017.
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India Founded: 1 October 2016.
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.
- ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates;
- ICC Founded: 15 June 1909.
- LIC Headquarters: Mumbai;
- LIC Founded: 1 September 1956.
- Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports: Anurag Singh Thakur.
- Indian Coast Guard Founded: 1 February 1977;
- Indian Coast Guard Headquarters: Ministry of Defence, New Delhi.
- Ladakh (UT) Lieutenant Governor: Radha Krishna Mathur.
- ICRISAT Headquarters: Patancheruvu, Hyderabad;
- ICRISAT Founded: 1972;
- Indian Railway Founded: 16 April 1853, India;
- Indian Railway Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Minister of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnav.
- Prime minister of United Kingdom: Boris Johnson.
- Capital of the United Kingdom: London.
- Instagram launched: 6 October 2010;
- Instagram Owner: Meta;
- Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- Sonata Software Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- Sonata Software Founded: 1986;
- Microsoft CEO and Chairman: Satya Nadella;
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.
- Amazon Founded: 5 July 1994;
- Karnataka Capital: Bengaluru;
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikanta Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955;
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai;
- World Gold Council Headquarters: London, United Kingdom;

- World Gold Council Founded: 1987;
- Asian Development Bank Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines;
- (from 17 January 2020);
- Asian Development Bank Membership: 68 countries;
- Asian Development Bank Founded: 19 December 1966.
- Airtel Payments Bank Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Airtel Payments Bank Founded: January 2017;
- ICICI Lombard General Insurance Headquarter: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- Razorpay Founded: 2013;
- in 2018.
- NCERT Headquarters: New Delhi;
- NCERT Founder: Government of India;
- NCERT Founded: 1961.
- POSOCO Founded: March 2010;
- POSOCO Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre Founded: 21 November 1963;
- Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre Parent organization: ISRO;
- Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Bata India Limited Founded: 1931;
- Bata India Limited Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana;
- Staff Selection Commission Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Staff Selection Commission Formation: 4 November 1975.
- International Olympic Committee Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland;
- International Olympic Committee Founded: 23 June 1894, Paris, France.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters: Rome, Italy.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Established: 16 October 1945.
- KVIC Founded: 1956;
- KVIC Headquarters: Mumbai;
- KVIC Parent agency: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- NASA administrator: Bill Nelson;
- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States;
- NASA Founded: 1 October 1958.

- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka;
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.
- National Productivity Council of India established: 1958;
- National Productivity Council of India HQ: New Delhi.
- NABARD Formation: July 12, 1982;
- NABARD Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Founded: 12 April 1992.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Minister of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- Nakul Anand is the chairman of Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality.
- Burkina Faso Capital: Ouagadougou;
- Burkina Faso President: Roch Marc Christian Kaboré;
- Burkina Faso Currency: West African CFA franc.
- Germany Chancellor: Olaf Scholz;
- Germany Capital: Berlin;
- Germany Currency: Euro.
- Canada Capital: Ottawa; Currency: Canadian dollar.
- World Health Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- World Health Organization Founded: 7 April 1948;
- Russia Capital: Moscow;
- Russia Currency: Rouble;
- Russia President: Vladimir Putin;
- Ukraine President: Volodymyr Zelensky;
- Ukraine Capital: Kyiv;
- Ukraine Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia.
- Reliance Jio Founded: 2007, Ahmedabad.

- Twitter formed: 21 March 2006;
- Headquarters of Twitter: San Francisco, California, United States.
- RBL Bank Founded: 1943;
- RBL Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- RBL Bank Tagline: Apno Ka Bank.
- ABG Shipyard Headquarters: Mumbai;
- ABG Shipyard Founded: 1985.
- Bank of Baroda Founded: 20 July 1908;
- Bank of Baroda Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat;
- Bank of Baroda Tagline: India's International Bank;
- Bank of Baroda Amalgamated Banks: Dena Bank & Vijaya Bank in 2019.
- Yes Bank Founded: 2004;
- Yes Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- Yes Bank Tagline: Experience Our Expertise.
- JPMorgan CEO: Jamie Dimon (31 Dec 2005–);
- JPMorgan Founded: 1 December 2000.
- Paisabazaar.com Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana;
- SIDBI Founded: 2 April 1990;
- SIDBI Headquarters: Lucknow;
- SEBI Founded: 12 April 1992;
- SEBI Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Tata Group Founded: 1868, Mumbai;
- Tata Group Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Table Tennis Federation of India Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Table Tennis Federation of India Founded: 1926.
- CBSE Head Office: Delhi;
- CBSE Founded: 3 November 1962.
- Narcotics Control Bureau Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Narcotics Control Bureau Founded: 1986.
- US Green Building Council Headquarter: Washington, D.C., US.
- International Bureau for Epilepsy established: 1961.
- Dabur India Headquarters: Ghaziabad;
- Dabur India Founded: 1884.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka;
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.
- Foxconn Founded: 20 February 1974;
- Foxconn Headquarters: Tucheng District, Taipei, Taiwan.
- Indian Banks' Association Established: 1946;

- Indian Banks' Association currently has 247 banking companies as members;
- (MD & CEO of Union Bank of India).
- Nepal Capital: Kathmandu;
- Nepal Currency: Nepalese rupee;
- Nepal President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari;
- Nepal Prime Minister: Sher Bahadur Deuba.
- Institute of Economic Growth Founded: 1952.
- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- World Bank Formation: July 1944.
- Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd Founder and CEO: Agnishwar Jayaprakash;
- Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd Headquarter: Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Mali Capital: Bamako; Currency: CFA Franc;
- Niger Capital: Niamey; Currency: West African CFA franc.
- TransUnion CIBIL Founded: 2000;
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998;
- Google Headquarters: California, United States;
- Mastercard Founded: 16 December 1966, United States;
- Mastercard Headquarters: New York, United States;
- Tata Power Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- International Olympic Committee Founded: 1894;
- International Olympic Committee Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland;
- International Rubber Study Group Formed: 1944;
- International Rubber Study Group Headquarters: Singapore.
- Hindustan Unilever Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Hindustan Unilever Ltd Founded: 17 October 1933.
- IDBI Bank Owner: Life Insurance Corporation;
- IDBI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Oman Capital: Muscat;
- Oman Currency: Omani rial.
- Microsoft Founded: 4 April 1975, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States;
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States;
- Headquarters of Central Board of Excise and Custom: New Delhi.
- Central Board of Excise and Custom Founded: 1 January 1964.
- Maldives Capital: Male;
- Maldives Currency: Rufiyaa;
- Maldives President: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.
- IBM Headquarters: New York, United States;
- IBM Founded: 16 June 1911.
- (10 Jun 2015-);
- Standard Chartered Founded: 1969, London, United Kingdom.
- International Air Transport Association Headquarters: Montreal, Canada;
- International Air Transport Association Founded: 19 April 1945, Havana, Cuba.
- Canada Capital: Ottawa;
- Canada Currency: Canadian dollar;
- Canada Prime minister: Justin Trudeau.
- New Development Bank Headquarters Location: Shanghai, China;
- New Development Bank Founder: BRICS;
- New Development Bank Founded: 15 July 2014.
- Twitter formed: 21 March 2006;
- Headquarters of Twitter: San Francisco, California, United States.
- EURORDIS Founded: 1997.
- EURORDIS Headquarters location: Paris, France.

- The following table provides you with a list of important Indian bilateral army exercises:

Exercise Name	Participant Nations
Sampriti	India & Bangladesh
Mitra Shakti	India & Sri Lanka
Maitree Exercise	India & Thailand
Vajra Prahar	India & US
Yudh Abhyas	India & US
Nomadic Elephant	India & Mongolia
Garuda Shakti	India & Indonesia
Shakti Exercise	India & France
Dharma Guardian	India & Japan
Surya Kiran	India & Nepal
Hand in Hand Exercise	India & China
SIMBEX	India & Singapore
Shakti Exercise	India & France
CORPAT	India & Thailand
Eastern Bridge Exercise	India & Oman

- Heads of various organizations in News in month of February 2022

Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
1	Meta CEO	Mark Zuckerberg;
2	FICCI President	Sanjiv Mehta
3	FICCI Secretary-General	Dilip Chenoy
4	Union Bank of India CEO	Rajkiran Rai G
5	Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited Chairman and Managing Director	Tripti Patra Ghosh
6	SBI Chairman	Dinesh Kumar Khara
7	Punjab National Bank MD & CEO	Atul Kumar Goel
8	Patanjali Ayurved Limited Founders	Ramdev, Balkrishna
9	Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Chairperson	Michael Patra
10	HPCL CEO and Chairperson	Mukesh Kumar Surana
11	NPCI MD & CEO	Dilip Asbe
12	Tata Steel CEO	T. V. Narendran
13	Paytm Money CEO	Varun Sridhar
14	Chief of Naval Staff	Admiral R Hari Kumar
15	ICC Chairman	Greg Barclay
16	ICC CEO	Geoff Allardice
17	LIC Chairperson	M R Kumar

Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
18	Indian Coast Guard Director-General	Virender Singh Pathania
19	ICRISAT Founders	M. S. Swaminathan, C. Fred Bentley, Ralph Cummings
20	Instagram Founder	Kevin Systrom
21	Kotak Mahindra General Insurance MD & CEO	Suresh Agarwal
22	Sonata Software MD & CEO	P. Srikar Reddy
23	Amazon CEO	Andrew R. Jassy
25	SBI Chairman	Dinesh Kumar Khara
26	World Gold Council CEO	David Tait
27	World Gold Council President	Kelvin Dushnisky
28	Asian Development Bank President	Masatsugu Asakawa
29	Airtel Payments Bank's MD and CEO	Anubrata Biswas
30	ICICI Lombard General Insurance MD & CEO	Bhargav Dasgupta
31	Razorpay CEO	Harshil Mathur
32	Curlec was founded by	Zac Liew and Steve Kucia
33	Bata India Limited CEO	Gunjan Shah
34	International Olympic Committee President	Thomas Bach
35	Food and Agriculture Organization Head	Qu Dongyu
36	KVIC Chairperson	Vinai Kumar Saxena
37	Chairman and Space Secretary of ISRO	Dr S Somanath
38	Director-General of National Productivity Council	Arun Kumar Jha
39	NABARD Chairman	Govinda Rajulu Chintala
40	Twitter CEO	Parag Agrawal
41	World Health Organization Director-General	Tedros Adhanom
42	Reliance Jio Founder	Mukesh Ambani
43	Twitter CEO	Parag Agrawal
44	RBL Bank CEO & MD	Rajeev Ahuja
45	Bank of Baroda Managing Director & CEO	Sanjiv Chadha
46	Yes Bank CEO	Prashant Kumar
47	Paisabazaar.com CEO & Co-founder	Naveen Kukreja
48	SIDBI Chairman & MD	Sivasubramanian Ramann
49	SEBI Chairperson	Madhabi Puri Buch
50	Tata Group Founder	Jamsetji Tata
51	Table Tennis Federation of India President	Dushyant Chautala
52	Narcotics Control Bureau Director-General	Satya Narayan Pradhan
53	US Green Building Council President and CEO	Peter Templeton
54	International Bureau for Epilepsy President	Francesca Sofia
55	Dabur India CEO	Mohit Malhotra
56	Dabur India Founder	S.K. Burman
57	Chairman and Space Secretary of ISRO	Dr S Somanath
58	Foxconn Founder	Terry Gou

Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
59	Indian Banks' Association Chairman	Rajkiran Rai
60	Institute of Economic Growth Chairperson	Tarun Das
61	Institute of Economic Growth Founder	V. K. R. V. Rao
62	World Bank President	David Malpass
63	TransUnion CIBIL Managing Director	Rajesh Kumar
64	TransUnion CIBIL Chairman	M.V.Nair
65	Google CEO	Sundar Pichai
66	Google Founders	Larry Page, Sergey Brin
67	Mastercard CEO	Michael Miebach
68	Mastercard Executive Chairman	Ajay Banga
69	Bharti Airtel CEO	Gopal Vittal
70	Bharti Airtel Founder	Sunil Bharti Mittal
71	Tata Power CEO	Praveer Sinha
72	International Olympic Committee President	Thomas Bach
73	International Rubber Study Group Secretary-General	Salvatore Pinizzotto
74	Microsoft CEO	Satya Nadella
75	Microsoft Chairperson	John W. Thompson
76	Chairman of Central Board of Excise and Custom	Vivek Johri
77	IBM CEO	Arvind Krishna
78	IBM Founder	Charles Ranlett Flint
79	Standard Chartered CEO	Bill Winters
80	International Air Transport Association DG	Willie Walsh
81	Bharti Airtel CEO	Gopal Vittal
82	New Development Bank President	Marcos Prado Troyjo

- Operations launched by India:**

Operation Sukoon	Launched by the Indian Navy to evacuate Indian and other nationals during 2006 Lebanon war
Operation Safe	Homecoming Launched in 2011 to bring Indian nationals from Libya
Operation Raahat	Launched in 2015 to evacuate Indian citizens and foreign nationals from Yemen
Operation Sankat Mochan	Launched in 2016 for evacuation of Indian citizens from South Sudan
Vande Bharat Mission	Massive evacuation program launched in May 2020 in wake of Covid-19 pandemic
Operation Devi Shakti	Launched in 2021 for evacuation of Indian nationals, embassy staff and eligible Afghans
Operation Ganga	The government of India has launched an evacuation mission to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine due to the Russia-Ukraine tension in 2022.