Veranda RACE

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NATIONAL NEWS

Lok Sabha passes a Bill to link the voter ID with Aadhaar

• The Lok Sabha passed **The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021,** to link **voter identity card** with **Aadhaar** to allow electoral registration officers to seek the Aadhaar number of people who want to register as voters for the purpose of establishing their identities.

• This Bill seeks to amend certain sections of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and Representation of the People Act, 1951.

• The statement of objects and reasons of this Bill states that **Section 23 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950,** will be amended to allow linking of electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem to curb the menace of multiple enrolments of the same person in different places.

• Amendment to **Section 14 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950,** will allow having four qualifying dates for eligible people to register as voters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced ₹1,000 crores to bank accounts of self-help groups

• Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced **₹1,000 crores** to bank accounts of **self-help groups (SHGs)** to benefit around 16 lakh women. This amount was transferred under the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission** (DAY-NRLM).

• This mission aims to provide women, especially those at the grassroots, with the necessary skills, incentives and resources.

• He also released over **₹20 crores** to more than one lakh beneficiaries under the **'Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Scheme'**, which provides conditional cash transfer to girl children at different stages of their life.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays the foundation stone for projects worth ₹2095 crores in Varanasi

• Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched multiple projects and schemes worth over **₹2,095 crores** in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.

• He also mentioned that the **white revolution** can play an important role in increasing the income of farmers.

Karnataka gets an additional $150 million from World Bank to provide continuous piped water supply in three cities

• The **World Bank's** Board of Executive Directors has approved an additional financing of **$150 million** to **Karnataka** Urban Water Supply Modernisation Project to accelerate the state of Karnataka's efforts to bring continuous piped water supply to the entire population in **three** of its cities.

• This was one of the first such pilot projects to bring **uninterrupted water supply** where water shortages and poor water quality have long been the norm.

Karnataka

• **Capital:** Bengaluru

• **Chief Minister:** Basavaraj Bommai

• **Governor:** Thaawarchand Gehlot

• **National Park:** Anshi National Park, Kudremukh National Park, Bandipur National Park, Bannerghatta National Park, Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarahole) National Park

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches hydropower projects worth over ₹11,000 crores in Himachal Pradesh

• Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of hydropower projects worth over ₹11,000 crores in **Mandi, Himachal Pradesh**.

• This **40 MW project** will be built at a cost of around ₹7,000 crores. It will prove to be immensely beneficial for Delhi, which will be able to receive around **500 million cubic metre** water supply per year.

Himachal Pradesh

• **Capital:** Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)

• **Chief Minister:** Jai Ram Thakur

• **Governor:** Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

• **National Parks:** Inderkila National Park, Simbalbara National Park, Great Himalayan National Park, Pin Valley National Park, Khirganga National Park

Subhas Sarkar releases the Hindi translation of *Tolkāppiyam*

• Union Minister of State for Education **Dr. Subhas Sarkar** released the Hindi translation of *Tolkāppiyam* and the Kannada translations of nine books of classical Tamil literature and culture.

- *Tolkappiyam* is the most ancient extant Tamil grammar text and the oldest extant long work of Tamil literature. Some in the Tamil tradition place the text in the mythical second Sangam, variously in the first millennium BCE or earlier.

India and European Investment Bank sign a finance contract of €250 million for Agra Metro Rail project

- **India** and **European Investment Bank (EIB)** signed a finance contract for the first tranche loan of **€250 million** for the **Agra Metro Rail Project**.

- This project aims to provide a safe, reliable, affordable and environment-friendly public **Mass Rapid Transit System** for Agra city, which will improve mobility and support endeavour for planned urban development in **Agra**.

HOP Electric signs a pact with Rajasthan to set up an electric vehicle manufacturing unit in Jaipur

- Electric vehicle maker **HOP Electric** has signed a pact with the **Rajasthan Government** to set up an electric vehicle manufacturing plant in **Jaipur** with a capacity to produce **1.8 lakh** vehicles per annum. It will generate over 3,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities.

- This Memorandum of Understanding will work as a catalyst for the society's combined growth as we aim to strengthen our non-polluting transportation system (e-mobility) by leveraging futuristic technology and meticulous R&D (research and development).

Rajasthan

- **Capital:** Jaipur

- **Chief Minister:** Ashok Gehlot

- **Governor:** Kalraj Mishra

- **National Parks:** Desert National Park, Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Mukundra Hills National Park, Ranthambhore National Park, Sariska National Park

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates national highway projects worth ₹9,119 crores in Uttar Pradesh

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated national highway projects worth **₹9,119 crores** in the **Meerut** and **Muzaffarnagar** districts of **Uttar Pradesh**. This national highway project will cover **240 kilometres** in Meerut and Muzaffarnagar.

- He also launched the first **Intelligent Transport System (ITS)** on the 6-Lane Eastern Peripheral Expressway at Dasna, **Ghaziabad**.

Uttar Pradesh

- **Capital:** Lucknow

- **Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath

- **Governor:** Anandiben Patel

- **National Park:** Dudhwa National Park (Tiger Reserve)

- **Zoological Parks:** Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan Prani Udyan (Gorakhpur), Kanpur Zoological Park, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Garden

SIDBI inks a pact with West Bengal to boost MSME sector

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **West Bengal** Government to develop its **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) ecosystem**.

- This MoU will be to study the existing framework and guide stakeholders for cluster/sector-specific products/interventions for **MSMEs**.

- **SIDBI** is India's principal financial institution engaged in the promotion, financing and development of MSME.

India is set to chair the Counter-Terrorism Committee at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in January 2022

- **India** will be chairing the Counter-Terrorism Committee in January 2022 at **the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** after 10 years, as India last chaired this committee in 2012.

- This (UNSC) committee is tasked with monitoring the implementation of resolution 1373, which requested countries to implement a number of measures aimed at enhancing their legal and institutional ability to counter terrorist activities at home and around the world.

- India will chair three important communities at the UNSC in 2022, including the **Taliban Sanctions Committee**, **Libya Sanctions Committee** and the **Counter-Terrorism Committee.**

Gangtok to Indo–China Border named as Narendra Modi Marg by Sikkim Governor

- Governor of Sikkim **Ganga Prasad** has named a new road as **Narendra Modi Marg**. The older route was called **Jawaharlal Nehru Road**.

- The National Monument at National Highway 310 was built by **Border Roads Organisation** (BRO). It will be easier for Indian tourists to reach Nathula Border through this road.

Telangana tops in the implementation of the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission

- **Telangana** stood first in the implementation of the **Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)** that was launched four years ago to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services and create well-planned clusters.

- **Sangareddy** and **Kamareddy** districts stood in the first two positions among the 300 clusters across India where the programme was being implemented.

- **Tamil Nadu** and **Gujarat** took the second and third positions, respectively.

Lulu Group decides to set up ₹500 crore food processing plant in Greater Noida

- Middle East-based retail company **Lulu Group** has announced the setting-up of its export-oriented food and agriculture-produce processing park in **Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh**. This park is planned with an initial investment of **₹500 crores**.

- Lulu Group will procure and export an estimated **20,000 tons** (annually) of local fruits and vegetables from Uttar Pradesh for the company's hypermarkets around the world.

Union Government approves the sale of the 19th tranche of electoral bonds

- Union Government has approved the sale of the **19th tranche of electoral bonds** from 1–10 January 2022.

- Electoral bonds have been promoted as an alternative to cash donations to political parties as a part of efforts to introduce openness to political fundraising.

- The sale of the first batch of electoral bonds took place from 1–10 **March 2018**. The 18th tranche of bond sales took place from 1–10 September 2021.

- The State Bank of India (SBI) is the only authorised bank to issue electoral bonds.

- An electoral bond will be valid for **15 days** from the date of issue. No payment will be made to any payee political party if the bond is deposited after the expiry of the validity period.

Union Education and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launches NEAT 3.0

- Union Education and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched NEAT 3.0, a single platform to provide the best-developed ed-tech solutions and courses to students of India. He also launched technical books prescribed by All India Council for Technical Educatio (AICTE)in regional languages.

- **National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT)** is an initiative to provide the use of best-developed technological solutions in the education sector to enhance the employability of the youth on a single platform for learners' convenience.

- NEAT has **58 education technology companies** with 100 products that help to develop employable skills, capacity building and bridge learning gaps.

Narendra Modi lays the foundation stone for Major Dhyan Chand Sports University at Meerut in Uttar Pradesh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for Major Dhyan Chand Sports University in **the Meerut** district of Uttar Pradesh. This university will be established at Salawa and Kaili villages on the outskirts of the Sardhana town of the district at an estimated cost of about **₹700 crores.**

- It will be equipped with modern and state-of-the-art sports infrastructure, including synthetic hockey ground, besides those of football, basketball, volleyball, handball and kabaddi.

Sushmita Dev becomes the only woman in the 31-member parliamentary panel examining a bill to raise the marriage age of women

- **Sushmita Dev** became the only woman in the **31-member** parliamentary panel led by Vinay Sahasrabuddhe.

- This panel is tasked with examining the **Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021**, which seeks to raise the legal age of women to marry from 18 years to 21 years.

- The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill has wider influence over society, especially females. This Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session and referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports.

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Smart Cities Mission launches the Smart Cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR) programme

• **Smart Cities Mission** has launched the **Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)** programme. It is a joint initiative of the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the National Institute of Urban Affairs and leading Indian academic institutions of India.

• Under this programme, 15 premier architecture and planning institutes of India will be working with Smart Cities to document landmark projects undertaken by the Smart Cities Mission.

• It will provide opportunities to students for engagement on urban development projects and enable real-time information flow between urban practitioners and academia.

• The Smart Cities Mission was launched in **2015** under the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Union Cabinet approves ₹12,000 crores for the second phase of Green Energy Corridor

• The second phase of the **Green Energy Corridor** of the intra-state transmission system was approved at a cost of **₹12,000 crores** by the Union Cabinet.

• This corridor will see 10,750 kilometre-long circuit transmission lines being constructed across India and help in the Generation of 20 GW of power. Seven states, including Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh, are expected to benefit from this corridor, which is set to run for five years till 2025–2026.

• This corridor is a crucial component of India's plans to generate 500 GW of renewable energy by **2030**.

Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurates India's first open rock museum

• Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated **India's first open rock museum** in **Hyderabad**.

• This open rock museum was set up with the aim of educating and enlightening the masses about several lesser-known facts, displays around 35 different types of rocks from different parts of India with ages ranging from 3.3 billion years to around 55 million years of the Earth's history.

• These rocks also represent the deepest part of the Earth up to 175 km of distance from the surface of the Earth.

Union Cabinet approves an MoU with Nepal for the construction of a bridge over the Mahakali river

• The Union Cabinet approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Nepal** to build a bridge over the **Mahakali river** at **Dharchula** in Uttarakhand.

• The construction of this bridge will help people living in Dharchula in Uttarakhand and in the territory of Nepal.

• The signing of this MoU will further improve diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the second campus of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute in Kolkata

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **second campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute (CNCI)** in **Kolkata, West Bengal,** in a virtual event to help in ensuring quality healthcare to the poor and the middle class.

• The second campus of CNCI will offer great convenience, especially to the poor and middle-class families who have someone coping with cancer.

• It is a **400-bed** comprehensive cancer centre unit for cancer diagnosis, staging, treatment and care. Modern facilities such as nuclear medicine (PET), 3.0 Tesla MRI, endoscopy suite and radionuclide therapy unit, among others, are present at the new campus of CNCI.

ICMR approves Indian-made kit named 'OmiSure' to detect Omicron variant of coronavirus

• The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has approved a testing kit named **'OmiSure'** for detecting the Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus.

• This kit is manufactured by **Tata Medical and Diagnostics**.

• This testing kit will be an enhancement for the detection of the Omicron variant of coronavirus.

• This kit, currently in use to detect Omicron in India, has been developed by the US-based scientific instrumentation company Thermo Fisher.

Union Government organises the first-ever Startup India Innovation Week from 10–16 January 2022

• The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** organised the first-ever **Startup India**

Innovation Week from 10–16 January 2022to commemorate the 75th year of India's independence 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. This week is designed to showcase the spread and depth of entrepreneurship across India.

• This week-long event was launched by the **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry**.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates India's first multi-dimensional adventure sports expedition in France

• Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off **India's first multi-dimensional adventure sports expedition** conducted by the National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (NIMAS) in **France**.

• The expedition team carried out over 250 kilometres of winter trekking in the Alps Mountain Ranges, which included Tour De Mont Blanc trek covering the French, Swiss and Italian Alps.

• This multi-dimensional expedition culminated with 12 deep scuba dives in the Mediterranean Sea.

• This expedition was organised as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

Union Government is set to hold a 35.8 per cent stake in Vodafone India

• The Union Government is set to become the largest shareholder of **Vodafone Idea** as it owns a 35.8 per cent stake in Vodafone Idea to convert interest on the deferred spectrum and adjusted gross revenue dues into equity.

• The Net Present Value (NPV) of this interest is expected to be about ₹16,000 crores as per Vodafone India's estimates.

• The promoter shareholders would hold 28.5 per cent (Vodafone Group) and around 17.8 per cent (Aditya Birla Group) stake.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates eleven new government medical colleges across Tamil Nadu

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **eleven** new **government medical colleges** across **Tamil Nadu** and the new campus of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil in Chennai.

• The new medical colleges will be established in Virudhunagar, Namakkal, The Nilgiris, Tiruppur, Thiruvallur, Nagapattinam, Dindigul, Kallakurichi, Ariyalur, Ramanathapuram and Krishnagiri districts of Tamil Nadu.

• These medical colleges are being established at an estimated cost of about **₹4,000 crores,** out of which around **₹2145 crores** has been provided by the Union Government and the rest by the Tamil Nadu Government.

• The new medical colleges will have a total capacity of **1450 seats** and will be built under the centrally supported initiative 'Establishing of New Medical Colleges connected with Existing District/Referral Hospitals'.

Indian Railways launches Mission Amanat to track the lost belongings of passengers

• The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of the Western Railways zone of Indian Railways has launched a new initiative called **'Mission Amanat'** to make it easier for railway passengers to get back their lost luggage.

• Under this initiative, the details of lost luggage and belongings along with their photos are posted on the official website of the zonal railway.

Union Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar launches the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2021–22

• Union Minister of State for Education **Subhas Sarkar** launched the **Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP)** for 2021–22, which is open to all categories of schools, i.e. government, government-aided and private schools in both rural and urban areas.

• The Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar honours, inspires and awards the schools that have excelled in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as providing a baseline and path for schools to develop in the future.

• The schools will be assessed through an online portal and mobile application in six sub-categories — water, sanitation, hand washing with soap, operation and maintenance, behaviour change and capacity building and the newly added category on COVID-19 preparedness and response and the system will generate the overall score and rating automatically.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates an MSME Technology Centre at Puducherry

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated an **MSME Technology Centre** and **Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Manimandapam** (an auditorium with open-air theatre) at **Puducherry**.

• This world-class technology centre is spread over 10 acres with an investment of about **₹122 crores** and will train 20,000 youngsters, help 2000 MSMEs and incubate 200 start-ups, boosting the local economy to new heights.

- The technology centres across India are developed under the flagship Technology Centre Systems Programme to serve existing and prospective MSMEs by developing manufacturing facilities, staff, providing consulting and developing a competitive edge through the adoption of best practices.

Supreme Court appoints a five-member committee headed by ex-judge Indu Malhotra to probe Prime Minister's security lapse

- The Supreme Court has appointed a **five-member committee** headed by former Supreme Court judge **Indu Malhotra** to probe the alleged **security breach** during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Punjab.

- This committee will investigate the circumstances surrounding the security breach that stranded Prime Minister's convoy for **15–20 minutes** while on its route to the National Martyrs Memorial in Hussainiwala, just a few kilometres from the international border.

- The other members of this committee include the Director-General of the National Investigation Agency, Director-General of Police Chandigarh, Additional Director-General of Police (Security) for Punjab, and registrar-general of Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Union Government inaugurates India's first coal-to-methanol plant built by BHEL

- Union Minister for Heavy Industries Mahendra Nath Pandey dedicated **India's first coal-to-methanol (CTM)** pilot plant built by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) to the nation as a part of the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations.

- The 0.25 TPD (tonnes per day) capacity CTM pilot plant that has been indigenously designed, developed and installed by BHEL is currently producing methanol with a purity of more than 99 per cent from high-ash Indian coal.

- He also inaugurated an exhibition on 'Products Developed under Aatmanirbhar Bharat' organised at BHEL's Hyderabad unit.

India grants financial assistance of $900 million to Sri Lanka to overcome a the forex crisis

- **India** has granted a **$900 million** loan to **Sri Lanka** to replenish its depleted foreign reserves and for food imports in the face of a shortage of practically all critical commodities in Sri Lanka.

- Sri Lanka is facing its all-time worst foreign exchange crisis after COVID-19 pandemic hit Sri Lanka's earnings from its tourism and remittances.

- India's strong support to Sri Lanka in the wake of the Reserve Bank of India extending over US $900 million facilities, which comprises deferment of Asian Clearing Union settlement of over $509 million and currency swap of $400 million.

India is set to export Brahmos missiles to the Philippines under a $374 million deal

- The **Philippines** accepted India's **BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited** supply of Shore- Based Anti-Ship Missile System Acquisition Project for the Philppines Navy. This proposal is worth **$374.9 million**.

- The Philippines has become the first foreign nation to place an order for the purchase of Brahmos-shore based supersonic cruise missile systems for its navy.

- BrahMos is the main weapon system of the Indian Navy warships and has been deployed on almost all of its surface platforms. BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.

Union Ministry of Defence launches Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran portal to resolve pension-related grievances

- The **Union Defence Ministry** has set up an online portal named **Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran** to resolve pension-related grievances of ex-servicemen (ESM) and their dependents.

- This portal will allow them to lodge their grievances directly with the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addresses the WEF's Davos Agenda 2022 Summit

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has virtually addressed the **World Economic Forum's (WEF) Davos Agenda Summit 2022** held from 17 to 21 January 2022.

- The theme of this World Economic Forum's (WEF) Davos Agenda Summit 2022 is **'The State of the World'**.

India and the United Kingdom launch free trade agreement negotiations

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles **Piyush Goyal** launched the free trade agreement negotiations with the United Kingdom.

- The bilateral trade connection between India and the United Kingdom is already strong and the two countries have committed to expanding it by 2030.

- India–UK Free Trade Agreement will provide substantial benefits for both the countries and expand the overall bilateral trade to €28 billion by 2035.

India extends a $500 million Line of Credit to Sri Lanka for emergency fuel imports

- **India** extended a **$500 million** Line of Credit (LOC) to **Sri Lanka** for emergency **fuel imports,** days after providing $900 million in relief to the island nation undergoing one of its worst economic downturns.

- This announcement was made after a virtual meeting between Union External Affairs Minister Jaishankar and Sri Lanka's Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa, when they reviewed a $1.5 billion credit facility to help Sri Lanka augment its fast-draining foreign reserves, crucial to importing essential food items, medicines and fuel.

Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs announces 'Open Data Week' from 17 to 21 January 2022

- The **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has announced **Open Data Week** from **17 to 21 January 2022** on the third week of January to encourage the adoption of open data and promote innovation across India's urban ecosystem.

- This Open Data Week is part of a series of pre-event initiatives being undertaken by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to promote awareness and the use of open data.

Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology launches 'Digital Government Mission' to deliver various citizen services

- The **Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity)** has started working on a new project named **Digital Government Mission**, which is expected to speed up the delivery of various citizen services through the help of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML).

- This project has several already-running initiatives like the Aadhaar Enabled Payment System, BPO Scheme, Digidhan Abhiyaan, National Mission on Education using ICT and others.

- This project would also allow citizens to reap the benefits that the Union Government is presenting without the hassles of traditional bureaucracy like automatic renewals and reminders of government-issued documents like passports, driver licenses and others.

Union Cabinet approves the extension of tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for three years

- The Union Cabinet approved the extension of the tenure of the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)** for **three years** with effect from 1 April 2022 and it will remain till **31 March 2025**.

- This commission is responsible for giving recommendations to the Union Government regarding specific programmes for the welfare of Safai Karamcharis, studying and evaluating the existing welfare programmes for Safai Karamcharis and investigating cases of specific grievances.

- The major beneficiaries will be the Safai Karamcharis and identified manual scavengers in India.

- NCSK was founded in 1993, initially for the period of 31 March 1997, under the requirements of the NCSK Act. The Act's legality was later extended for five years and again for two years, bringing it up to 29 February 2004.

- The present tenure is valid up to **31 March 2022**.

- The total implication of the extension for three years will be approximately **₹43.68 crores**.

State News

Nagaland establishes three new districts named Niuland, Tseminyu and Chumukedima

- The **Nagaland** Government established three new districts named **Nuiland, Tseminyu** and **Chumukedima,** raising Nagaland's total number of districts to **15**.

- Tseminyu district was formed by dividing **Kohima**, whereas Nuiland and Chumukedima were created from the **Dimapur** district.

- Tseminyu became the 13th district, followed by Nuiland and Chumukedima as 14th and 15th district, respectively.

Nagaland

- **Capital:** Kohima

- **Chief Minister:** Neiphiu Rio

- **Governor:** Jagdish Mukhi

Punjab Chief Minister declares the Shri Krishna Balram Rath Yatra as a state festival

• Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi declared the **Shri Krishna Balram Rath Yatra** as a state festival.

• Every year, thousands of devotees attend this Rath Yatra, which is organised by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON).

• This yatra is considered the second largest congregation of Lord Jagannath devotees in India after the historic Jagannath Yatra of Puri in Odisha.

Punjab

• **Capital:** Chandigarh

• **Chief Minister:** Charanjit Singh Channi

• **Governor:** Banwarilal Purohit

Naveen Patnaik inaugurates Odisha's longest bridge 'T-Setu' over Mahanadi

• Chief Minister of Odisha **Naveen Patnaik** inaugurated **'T-Setu'**, Odisha's longest bridge over Mahanadi in the **Cuttack district**. The **3.4 km long bridge** connecting Gopinathpur in Badamba, Baideswar in Banki to Singhanath Pitha, located in the middle of the river, has been built in the shape of the English alphabet 'T' at a cost of **₹111 crores**.

• The bridge, which has a footpath of **1.5 metres** width on both sides, will benefit the people of Cuttack and **Khurda** and reduce the distance between Badamba and Baideswar in Banki by 45 km.

Karnataka Government partners with the National Payments Corporation of India and the State Bank of India for enabling and implementing e-RUPI

• **Karnataka Government's e-Governance Department** partnered with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and the **State Bank of India (SBI)** for enabling and implementing a cashless and contactless payment solution to students under its scholarship programme **'e-RUPI'.**

• Karnataka Government will make use of **e-RUPI** to provide a leak-proof delivery of education fees to qualified students by paying online to the college or institute.

• E-vouchers will be sent to qualified students' mobile phones by the Karnataka Government. Students will be able to redeem their e-RUPI at the designated colleges/institutes for the purpose of paying their fees.

• This process will remove the requirement of any physical token delivery for students to avail the scholarship.

Karnataka

• **Capital:** Bengaluru

• **Chief Minister:** Basavaraj Bommai

• **Governor:** Thaawarchand Gehlot

• **National Parks:** Anshi National Park, Kudremukh National Park, Bandipur National Park, Bannerghatta National Park, Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarahole) National Park

Jhansi Railway Station is set to be renamed as Veerangana Lakshmibai Railway Station

• The Uttar Pradesh Government is set to rename **Jhansi Railway Station** named after Rani Lakshmibai as **Veerangana Lakshmibai Railway Station**.

• Several places have been renamed after Yogi Adityanath over as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh — Faizabad Junction is now Ayodhya, Allahabad is now Prayagraj and Mughalsarai Railway Station is now Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction.

Uttar Pradesh

• **Capital:** Lucknow

• **Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath

• **Governor:** Anandiben Patel

• **National Park:** Dudhwa National Park (Tiger Reserve)

• **Zoological Parks:** Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan Prani Udyan (Gorakhpur), Kanpur Zoological Park, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Garden

Sikkim Government renames Jawaharlal Nehru Road as Narendra Modi Marg

• Sikkim Government has renamed a second road linking Tsomgo lake and Nathula border pass with Gangtok as **'Narendra Modi Marg',** which was inaugurated by Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad.

• The older name of this link route is called **Jawaharlal Nehru Road.**

Sikkim

• **Capital:** Gangtok

• **Chief Minister:** Prem Singh Tamang

• **Governor:** Ganga Prasad

Telangana tops in the highest number of open defecation free villages

- Telangana stood first in India in the list of the highest number of **open defecation free** (ODF Plus) villages under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II programme till 31 December 2021.

- As many as 13,737 out of 14,200 villages in Telangana are on the ODF Plus list, which is 96.74 per cent. Telangana was followed by Tamil Nadu with 4,432 villages (35.39%) and Karnataka with 1,511 villages (5.59%). Gujarat took the 17th position with only 83 villages (0.45%).

- Swachh Bharat Mission was launched in **2014**.

Telangana

- **Capital:** Hyderabad

- **Chief Minister:** K. Chandrashekar Rao

- **Governor:** Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan

Jammu and Kashmir is set to become the first Union Territory to have a district-level good governance index

- **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)** would soon become the first Union Territory in India to have a **district-level good governance index**.

- The good governance index at the district level would enable each of the **20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir** to rise to the level of some of the best-administered districts of India, with time-bound disposal of office files and other matters, increased transparency, increased accountability and increased citizen participation.

- The District Good Governance Index (DGGI) framework has **58 indicators** drawn from different aspects of development and district administration distributed in an all-encompassing 10 sectors such as agriculture and allied sector, commerce and industry, human resource development, public health, public infrastructure and utilities, economic governance, welfare and development, public safety and judiciary and citizen-centric governance.

Jammu and Kashmir

- **Capital:** Srinagar (Summer), Jammu (Winter)

- **Lt. Governor:** Manoj Sinha

- **National Parks:** Hemis National Park, City Forest (Salim Ali) National Park, Dachigam National Park, Kishtwar National Park

- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary, Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary, Baltal-Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary, Karakoram (Nubra Shyok) Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Lakes:** Mansar Lake, Nagin Lake, Wular Lake, Surinsar Lake, Dal Lake

Gujarat Chief Minister inaugurates the second edition of the Student Start-ups and Innovation Policy

- Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel kicked off a two-day **international academic conference** as a warm-up for the Tenth Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, which will take place from 10–12 January.

- He also launched **the Student Start-ups and Innovation Policy (SSIP) 2.0,** which is aimed at financially supporting school students in innovation.

- This new policy aims to establish an innovation and incubation centre in each of the 90-odd universities in Gujarat.

- Other objectives of this policy include providing financial assistance to school and college students to build prototypes and proof-of-consents, financial assistance for filing at least 1000 intellectual properties and building a pre-incubation support system in 500 institutions and universities.

Gujarat

- **Capital:** Gandhinagar

- **Chief Minister:** Bhupendrabhai Patel

- **Governor:** Acharya Devvrat

- **National Parks:** Blackbuck National Park, Vansda National Park, Gir Forest National Park, Marine (Gulf of Kachchh) National Park

Himachal Pradesh becomes India's first LPG-enabled and smoke-free state

- **Himachal Pradesh** became the **first LPG-enabled and smoke-free state in India** due to the Ujjwala scheme of the Union Government and Grihini Suvidha Yojana of the Himachal Pradesh Government.

- Mukhya Mantri Grihini Suvidha Yojana was launched on **26 May 2018.** The objective of launching the this scheme was to provide free gas connections to those families who were not covered under the Union Government's Ujjwala scheme.

Himachal Pradesh

- **Capital:** Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)

- **Chief Minister:** Jai Ram Thakur

- **Governor:** Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

- **National Parks:** Inderkila National Park, Simbalbara National Park, Great Himalayan National Park, Pin Valley National Park, Khirganga National Park

Odisha's Ganjam district is now free of child marriages

- Odisha's **Ganjam district** has declared itself a child marriage-free district.

- Ganjam is the first district in Odisha that has been declared child marriage-free.

- The district administration has increased the reward for people informing about the occurrence of child marriage to ₹50,000 from ₹5000.

- This district administration launched **Nirbhaya Kadhi**, an innovative awareness campaign for the empowerment of adolescents and to prevent child marriage, in September 2019.

ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute launches a tribal intervention project in Anamalai Tiger Reserve

- The ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute (ICAR-SBI) in Coimbatore collaborated with Anamalai Tiger Reserve and conducted a campaign on **'knowledge empowerment of tribals'**. It also launched its STC (Scheduled Tribe Component) project at Attagatti in Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR).

- During the 'knowledge empowerment of tribals' campaign, the tribal population in these settlements would be instructed on how to set up and maintain a nutrition garden and would be supplied kitchen garden seed kits.

Andhra Pradesh Government increases the retirement age of Andhra Pradesh government employees from 60 to 62 years

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy has raised the retirement age for Andhra Pradesh state government employees from **60 to 62 years** old and outlined a schedule for the **Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS).**

- He also announced a fitment of **23 per cent**, where the new pay scales will come into force from **January 2022.**

- This decision will put an additional burden of **₹10,247 crores** on the Andhra Pradesh treasury.

Andhra Pradesh

- **Capital:** Amaravati

- **Chief Minister:** Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy

- **Governor:** Biswa Bhushan Harichandan

- **Folk dances:** Kuchipudi, Vilasini Natyam, Bhamakalpam, Veeranatyam

- **National Parks:** Sri Venkateswara National Park, Rajiv Gandhi National Park, Papikonda National Park

KVIC launches India's first mobile honey processing van in Uttar Pradesh

- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched **India's first mobile honey processing van** at the Sirora village in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

- The mobile van has been designed in-house by KVIC at its multi-disciplinary training centre in Panjokehra at the cost of **₹15 lakhs.**

- This mobile honey processing unit can process up to **300 kg** of honey in 8 hours. This van is also equipped with a testing laboratory that would instantly examine the quality of honey.

Uttar Pradesh

- **Capital:** Lucknow

- **Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath

- **Governor:** Anandiben Patel

- **National Park:** Dudhwa National Park (Tiger Reserve)

Kochi becomes India's first city with a 'water metro' project

- **Kochi** has become India's first city to have a **water metro project** operated by Kochi Metro Rail Limited.

- This project envisions the creation of an integrated water transportation system with the development of 15 identified routes connecting 10 islands, along a 76-kilometer network of routes, with a fleet of 78 fast, electrically propelled hybrid ferries serving 38 jetties.

- The aim of this project was to improve ridership by introducing contemporary, energy-efficient, environmentally friendly and safe boats with low wake and draught characteristics at a high frequency.

- Kochi Metro Rail Limited plans to operate 23 boats, each having a capacity to carry 100 passengers on **15 routes**. The headways would vary between **10 to 20 minutes** across various routes at peak hours.

Odisha increases the upper age limit for state civil services exams to 38

- The **Odisha Government** has increased the upper age limit for entry to state government service to **38 years** from the existing 32 years.

- The Odisha Government has made an amendment to the State (Odisha) Civil Services Rules, 1989 Act and this rule is only applicable to advertisements made from 2021 to 2023.

Odisha

- **Capital:** Bhubaneswar

- **Chief Minister:** Naveen Patnaik

- **Governor:** Ganeshi Lal

- **Lakes:** Kanjia Lake, Chilika Lake, Ansupa Lake, Pata Lake

- **Dams:** Hirakud dam, Indravati dam, Rengali dam, Jalaput dam, Mandira dam, Patora dam

- **National Parks:** Bhitarkanika National Park, Simlipal National Park, Nandankanan Zoological Park

Indian Railways renames Kevadiya station in Gujarat as Ekta Nagar railway station

- Indian Railways has renamed **Kevadiya station** in Gujarat as **Ekta Nagar railway station.**

- The Indian Railways have approved the renaming of Kevadiya railway station, which is located near the Statue of Unity. The 'Ekta Nagar' railway station will be placed in the Vadodara division and will be designated as Kevadiya station.

- The station code of Ekta Nagar railway station will be EKNR and the numerical code of the station will be 08224620.

Kachai Lemon Festival begins in Manipur's Ukhrul

- The eighteenth **edition** of the two-day-long **Kachai Lemon Festival** began in **Manipur** on 13 January at the local ground of Kachai village in the Ukhrul district.

- Kachai lemon of Manipur has been accorded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag and is widely grown in the Kachai village of the Ukhrul district.

- The Kachai Lemon Festival is organised annually to promote this unique kind of lemon fruit and to encourage lemon farmers of Manipur.

- This year (2022) the festival is organised under the theme **'Organic Kachai Lemon for Safe Environment and Rural Transformation'.**

Manipur

- **Capital:** Imphal

- **Chief Minister:** N. Biren Singh

- **Governor:** Najma Heptulla

International News

OECD releases Pillar-II model rules for domestic implementation of 15% minimum global tax rate

- The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** has released **Pillar-II model rules** to aid in the implementation of a new international tax system that would require multinational enterprises (MNEs) to pay a minimum tax rate of **15%** from 2023.

- The **Pillar-II** model rules provide governments a precise template for taking forward the two-pillar solution to address the tax challenges arising from digitalisation and globalisation of the economy agreed by **137** countries and jurisdictions under the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS.

- The new Pillar-II model rules will assist countries in bringing the **Global Anti-Base Erosion (GloBE) rules** into domestic legislation in 2022. They provide for a coordinated system of interlocking rules that:

- define the MNEs within the scope of the minimum tax;

- set out a mechanism for calculating an MNE's effective tax rate on a jurisdictional basis and for determining the amount of top-up tax payable under the rules.

- impose the top-up tax on a member of the MNE group in accordance with an agreed rule order.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

- **Headquarters:** Paris, France

- **Secretary-General:** Mathias Cormann

- **Founded:** 30 September 1961

Union Cabinet approves the signing of the MoU between ICAI and Polish Chamber of Statutory Auditors

• Union Cabinet has approved the first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** and the **Polish Chamber of Statutory Auditors (PIBR).**

• This MoU is to establish **mutual cooperation** in the areas of member management, professional ethics, technical research, CPD, professional accountancy training, audit quality monitoring, advancement of accounting knowledge, professional and intellectual development.

Union Cabinet clears an MoU between India and Mauritius' competition regulators

• The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a pact between the Competition Commission of **India** (CCI) and the Competition Commission of **Mauritius** (CCM).

• This Memorandum of Understanding between the two regulators is aimed at promoting and strengthening cooperation in **competition law and policy** through the exchange of information, sharing of best practices and capacity building initiatives.

India welcomes Egypt as a new member of BRICS' New Development Bank

• India welcomed **Egypt** as the fourth new member of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB).

• **Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates (UAE)** and **Uruguay** were added as the new member countries of the BRICS New Development Bank in September 2021.

• **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa** established the NDB in 2014 to mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in the BRICS nations and other emerging economies and developing countries, complementing existing multilateral and regional financial institutions' efforts for global growth and development.

New Development Bank (NDB):

• **Headquarters:** Shanghai, China

• **President:** Marcos Troyjo

• **Founded:** 15 July 2014

Japan introduces the world's first dual-mode vehicle that can run on roads as well as tracks

• **Japan** introduced the **world's first dual-mode vehicle** that equally runs on railway track and road. It has started its commercial operations in Tokushima Prefecture.

• This vehicle can carry up to **21 passengers** and can switch between road and railway modes in less than 15 seconds.

• It runs at a speed of 60 km/hr on the rail track while it can go as fast as 100km/hr on main roads.

Japan

• **Capital:** Tokyo

• **Currency:** Japanese Yen

• **Prime minister:** Fumio Kishida

World's longest metro line opens in Shanghai, China

• China opened the world's largest metro line in **Shanghai** with two new metro lines — **Line 14** and **Phase One of Line 18**.

• The opening of the two new lines will bring the total number of fully automatic metro lines in Shanghai to five, with an operating length of 167 km, ranking first in the world for the first time.

• The new Line14, with an operating length of 38 km, is the first fully automatic metro line for eight-car trains in Shanghai.

China

• **Capital:** Beijing

• **President:** Xi Jinping

• **Currency:** Renminbi

India and Pakistan exchange a list of a nuclear installations and facilities through diplomatic channels

• **India** and **Pakistan** exchanged a list of their nuclear installations that cannot be attacked in case of an escalation in hostilities as part of an annual ritual that has been in practice between the two neighbouring countries for more than three decades.

• This list was exchanged under the **Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities** between India and Pakistan, which was signed on 31 December 1988.

- This agreement entered into force on 27 January 1991.

- This was the 31st consecutive exchange of such lists, with the first one taking place on 1 January 1992.

- The term 'nuclear installation or facility' includes nuclear power and research reactors, fuel fabrication, uranium enrichment, isotopes separation and reprocessing facilities, as well as any other installations with fresh or irradiated nuclear fuel and materials in any form and establishments storing significant quantities of radioactive materials.

Antigua and Barbuda joins the International Solar Alliance as the 102nd country

- **Antigua and Barbuda** became the **102nd country** to join International Solar Alliance (ISA).

- Antigua and Barbuda joined the International Solar Framework in the presence of the Indian High Commissioner to Guyana Dr. K. J. Srinivasa.

- The United States of America (USA) became the 101st member country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

International Solar Alliance (ISA):

- **Director-General:** Ajay Mathur

- **Headquarters:** Gurugram, Haryana

Nine-day long Dhaka International Film Festival was inaugurated

- The nine -day long twentieth **edition of the Dhaka International Film Festival** (DIFF) from 15 to 23 January was inaugurated at the National Museum premises in Dhaka by the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen.

- There are 225 films in ten categories on display at this film festival. During this festival, films from 70 nations will be presented in a variety of settings. This festival is attended by around 50 foreign delegates, many of them are from India.

- The Lebanese–German film **'The Anger'** directed by Maria Ivanova was the inaugural movie of this festival.

- The DIFF is organised by the Rainbow Film Society established in 1977. The DIFF was started in 1992.

Poet and activist Maya Angelou becomes the first Black woman to feature on the US coin

- Poet and activist **Maya Angelou** became the first Black woman to appear on the United States (US) quarter, in a new version of the coin unveiled by the US Mint.

- The other figures set to appear on the coin in 2022 are Sally Ride (the first American woman in space), Wilma Mankiller (first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation), Nina Otero-Warren (a suffrage leader) and Anna May Wong (a Chinese-American film star).

Indonesia names Nusantara as its new capital

- Indonesian lawmakers approved the shift of its capital from Jakarta to Kalimantan, a jungle-covered area on the east of Borneo island.

- The new capital will be known as Nusantara.

- The new name 'Nusantara' translates to **'archipelago'** in the Indonesian language.

- Nusantara will replace Jakarta, which has been dropping into the Java Sea at an alarming rate due to the over-extraction of groundwater.

Indonesia

- **Capital:** Nusantara

- **Currency:** Indonesian Rupiah

- **President:** Joko Widodo

Appointments

Name	Designation	Key Points
Pradeep Kumar Rawat	India's Ambassador to China	He will succeed Vikram Misri.
Uzra Zeya	Special Coordinator of the United States for Tibetan Issues	-
Atul Dinkar Rane	Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of BrahMos Aerospace Limited	-
Rishabh Pant	Brand ambassador of Uttarakhand	-

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P. V. Sindhu	Member of the Badminton World Federation's (BWF) Athletes' Commission	Member of the Badminton World Federation's (BWF) Athletes' Commission till 2025, along with Iris Wang, Robin Tabeling, Greysia Polii, Kim Soyeong and Zheng Si Wei.
Mohit Jain	President of the Indian Newspaper Society	He Succeeds Lakshmipathy Adimoolam
Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla	Eastern Fleet Commander of the Indian Navy	-
Harjinder Singh	India's Chef de Mission for Beijing Winter Olympics	He was the Chef de Mission of the Indian contingent for the 23rd Winter Olympic Games too, which was held in Pyeongchang, South Korea, in 2018.
H. O. Suri	MD and CEO of IFFCO Tokio General Insurance	-
Vandita Kaul	part-time member of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)	She replaced Madnesh Kumar Mishra
Kamlesh Gandhi	Co-Chairman of Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC)	-
Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra	Acting Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court	He will be the Acting Chief Justice after the retirement of Chief Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan.
Yogesh Dayal	Additional director on the RBL board	-
Vikram Misri	Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA)	Vikram Misri will succeed Pankaj Saran
Puneet K. Bahl	Commandant of Indian Naval Academy (INA)	-
Atul Kumar Goel	MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank	He will replace Mallikarjuna Rao
Rajeev Ahuja	Interim Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of RBL Bank	-
Rohit Kumar Singh	secretary of Union Consumer Affairs Ministry	He replaced Leena Nandan
P. N. Vasudevan	MD & CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank- reappointment	He is currently serving as the MD of Equitas Small Finance Bank
Ramesh Abhishek (former DPIIT Secretary), Manju Agarwal and Shinjini Kumar (banker)	new independent directors to the board of Paytm Payments Bank	-
Harun Rashid Khan	non-executive independent director of AU Small Finance Bank board	-
Suneel Kumar Mehta	Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Coal India Limited (CIL)	He succeeds S. Ghatak Choudhry
Durga Shankar Mishra	Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh	He will replace Rajendra Kumar Tiwari
Radhika Jha	Chief Executive Officer of Energy Efficiency Services Limited	-
Pankaj Sharma	Ambassador of India to Mexico	-

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Anupam Ray	India's new Permanent Representative at the UN Conference on Disarmament	-
Vinay Kumar Tripathi	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Railway Board	He belongs to the 1983 batch of Indian Railway Service of electrical engineers.
Baldev Prakash	Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Jammu and Kashmir Bank for a period of three years.	He succeeds Rajesh Kumar Chhibber
Sivarajah Ramanathan	Chief Executive Officer of Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission	-
Rupa Gurunath	steps down as the President of Tamil Nadu Cricket Association	She became the first woman to head a state cricket association in India. She took over as the TNCA President in September 2019.
Amir Subhani	Chief Secretary of Bihar	He replaced Tripurari Sharan
Vijay Paul Sharma	Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices	-
Asok Kumar	Director-General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga	-
Alka Mittal	first woman Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation	She replaced Subhash Kumar
Sanjeev Churiwala	Chief Financial Officer of Tata Power	He succeeds Ramesh Subramanyam
Ajay Kumar Choudhary and Deepak Kumar	Executive Directors (ED) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	-
Atul Keshap	President of the US–India Business Council (USIBC)	He succeeds Nisha Desai Biswal
Shafali Verma	Brand endorser of Bank of Baroda	-
Abdalla Hamdok	Resigned as Sudan Prime Minister	-
Vinod Kannan	Chief Executive Officer of Vistara Airlines	He replaced Leslie Thng
Zhang Ming	Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)	He has succeeded the former Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Vladimir Norov.
Ayesha Malik	Pakistan's first woman Supreme Court Judge	-
T. S. Tirumurti	Chair of Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2022	
Anup Bagchi	Executive Director of ICICI Bank	ICICI Bank has two more executive directors — Sandeep Batra and Vishakha Mulye.
Haitham Al Ghais	Secretary-General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)	-
Navrang Saini	extended the tenure as the Chairperson of IBBI	-
Urjit Patel	Vice-President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank	He Succeeded D. J. Pandian.

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Nikos Christodoulides	Cyprus Foreign Minister resigned	-
C. V. Rajendran	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD &CEO) of CSB Bank- Retired	-
V. Kamakoti	Director of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras	He succeeds Professor Bhaskar Ramamurthi
Umashankar	Independent director to the EbixCash board	She had retired from the RBI in 2019 as an Executive Director after 37 years of service.
Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas	Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)	He replaces Gita Gopinath
Alikhan Smailov	Prime Minister of Kazakhstan.	-
Benny P. Thomas	Non-Executive Director of South Indian Bank	-
S. Somnath	Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)	He replaces K. Sivan
Ittira Davis	MD & CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	-
Raghuvendra Tanwar	Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research	-
Daniel Ortega	President of Nicaragua	-
G. V. L. Narasimha Rao	Director of the Tobacco Board	-
Shersingh Khyalia	Chief Executive Officer of Adani Power	-
Narendra Kumar Goenka	Chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)	He replaced Dr. A. Sakthivel
Shashank Goel	Additional Secretary in the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment	-
Roberta Metsola	President of the European Union Parliament	She succeeds David Sassoli.
Vikram Dev Dutt	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Air India Limited	He previously served as the Principal Secretary for the Health and Family Welfare Department of the Delhi Government in June 2020
Ramesh Narasimhan	Chief Executive Officer of Worldline India	He Succeeds Deepak Chandnani
Dimitar Kovacevski	Prime Minister of North Macedonia	He Succeeds Zoran Zaev
Dileep Sanghani	Chairman of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative	He earlier served as the IFFCO Vice-Chairman elected in 2019.
Vijay Shekhar Sharma	Ambassador of Universal Acceptance Steering Group	-

Ranks and Indices

India becomes the third top country hosting unicorns by displacing the United Kingdom

• **India** has displaced the **United Kingdom (UK)** by adding 33 unicorns in a year to bag the **third spot** in the list of countries hosting unicorns, according to the report released by **Hurun Research Institute**.

• The **United States** topped the report, followed by China.

Kerala tops in the NITI Aayog's fourth Health Index 2019–2020

• According to the fourth **Health Index report** from the think tank NITI Aayog, **Kerala** is the state with the **best overall health performance** for the fourth year in a row, while India's most populated state, **Uttar Pradesh,** is at the **bottom** of the index.

• Tamil Nadu and Telangana have emerged as the second and third states in the NITI Aayog's fourth Health Index.

• **Mizoram** emerged as the best performer in the overall performance among the smaller states.

Gujarat tops the Good Governance Index 2021 released by the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

• **Gujarat** has topped the Good Governance Index 2021 report released by the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation.

• Gujarat is followed by **Maharashtra** and **Goa** in the Good Governance Index 2021.

Air New Zealand ranks as the world's safest airline for 2022: AirlineRatings.com

• **Air New Zealand** was ranked the **safest airline in the world** for **2022** by AirlineRatings.com, which monitors 385 carriers globally.

• Air New Zealand was also the first in the world to mandate COVID-19 vaccination and testing requirements for all passengers on their domestic services, with the rule also being extended to their international services from 1 February.

• **Qantas** was at the top position in the safest airlines in the world last year but slipped to the third position due to an incident at Perth Airport in 2018.

IIT Madras tops in the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)

• The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** was ranked the most innovative educational institute in India as per the third edition of the **Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)** launched by the Union Ministry of Education.

• IIT Madras has bagged the first rank for the **third consecutive year**.

• **IIT Bombay** was ranked as the second most innovative educational institute in India as per ARIIA.

India ranks 83rd in the Henley Passport Index 2022

• India's passport power was ranked **in the 83rd** position in the **Henley Passport Index 2022** with a visa-free score of 60, climbing seven places from its 90th rank in 2021.

• **Japan and Singapore** topped the index.

• In 2020, India ranked at the 84th position while in 2016, India was ranked 85th along with Mali and Uzbekistan.

• London-based global citizenship and residence advisory firm Henley & Partners has released the Henley Passport Index for the year 2022, based on exclusive data provided by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Chennai International Airport ranks eighth on the global list for on-time performance by Cirium

• The **Chennai International Airport** was ranked **eighth** for on-time performance among large international airports globally for 2021 by Cirium. It is the only Indian airport ranked in the top 10.

• The top three are Miami Airport in the United States, Fukuoka Airport and Haneda Airport from Japan.

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Defence News

Indian Army launches contemporary messaging app 'ASIGMA'

- **Indian Army** has launched a contemporary messaging application named **'ASIGMA'** (Army Secure IndiGeneous Messaging Application).

- It is a new generation, state-of-the-art, **web-based application** developed entirely in-house by a team of officers of the Corps of Signals of the **Indian Army**.

India joins the Quad members along with Japan and South Korea for Exercise Sea Dragon 22

- The navies of **India, the US, Australia, Japan, Canada and the Republic of Korea** are participating in a mega anti-submarine warfare exercise **'Sea Dragon 22'** in Guam in the Western Pacific.

- India, Japan, Australia and the US are also part of The Quad nations that carried out the Malabar exercise.

- The Quad nations comprising of India, the US, Australia and Japan is aimed at ensuring a free and open Indo –Pacific.

Iran launches a solid-fuel satellite carrier rocket into space

- **Iran's** paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched a **solid-fuel satellite carrier rocket** into space.

- Satellite carriers usually use liquid fuel, but solid-fuel rockets can be adapted for mobile launchers that can be driven anywhere on a major road or rail system.

Iran

- **Capital:** Tehran

- **Currency:** Iranian Rial

- **President:** Ebrahim Raisi

Awards and Recognitions

Name of the Award	Winner	Key Points
Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)	Golden Peacock Environment Management Award for 2021	-
Emma Raducanu	BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2021	She won the US Open 2021 and became the first British woman to win a Grand Slam singles title since Virginia Wade in 1977
GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL)	Certificate of Merit in the prestigious 'National Energy Conservation Awards 2021' (NECA 2021).	It was the only airport in the airport sector that received this distinct recognition.
IIT Roorkee	Most innovative Research Institutions category by CII	IIT Madras and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad (INCOIS) bagged the second and third positions
Reliance Industries	India's most-visible corporate in the media in the Wizikey News Score Ranking 2021	The State Bank of India ranked second, followed by Bharti Airtel, Infosys and Tata Motors, according to the Wizikey's News Score Ranking.
O. P. Jindal Global University (JGU)	Digital Innovation of the year award 2021	This was the only Indian university to be shortlisted for the Digital Innovation of the Year award.
Anukrti Upadhyay's Kintsugi	Sushila Devi Award 2021 for the Best Book of Fiction	-
HDFC Bank	'Most Innovative Best Practice' in CII Digital Transformation Award 2021.	-

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Dr.Pothineni Ramesh Babu	Dr. K. Sharan Award	Awarded by the Indian Medical Association (IMA)
Alia Bhatt	People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India's Person of the Year 2021	Actor John Abraham was named the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India's Person of the Year 2020
Danish Siddiqui	posthumously awarded with the Mumbai Press Club's RedInk Award	Senior Journalist Prem Shankar Jha was awarded the Lifetime Achievement award for his long and distinguished career of inclusive and analytical writing
Kerala Veterinary and Animal Science University (KVASU)	national award for breed conservation for 2021	-
D. S. Nagabhushan	Kendra Sahitya Akademi award for 2021	-
South Indian Bank (SIB)	UiPath Automation Excellence Awards 2021	-
J. C. Chaudhry	set the first-ever Guinness world record in numerology	-
Uttar Pradesh	best state award in the Third National Water Awards 2020 for management of water resources	Uttar Pradesh is followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu
Forensic Science Laboratory	SKOCH Award in the 'Silver' category	-
Harshaali Malhotra	12th Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award for 2022	She featured in Bajrangi Bhaijaan released in 2015 and directed by Kabir Khan.
HDFC Bank	'Best Private Bank in India' at the Global Private Banking Awards 2021	-
NIRAMAI Health Analytix Private Limited and InnAccel Technologies Private Limited	World Bank and Consumer Technology Association's Global Women's Health Tech Awards	-
Clive Lloyd- Former West Indies cricket captain	knighthood honour by the Duke of Cambridge Prince William	-
Shaylyn Ford (also Mrs.America)	Mrs. World 2022 title	Shaylyn Ford was followed by Debanjali Kamstra from the UAE and Jaclyn Stapp from Jordan
Axis Bank and CRMNEXT	IBS Intelligence Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2021	-
Sumit Bhale	gold medal at the International Folk Art Festival in Dubai	-
Robert Lewandowski	Best FIFA Men's Player of the Year 2021	-
Alexia Putellas	Best FIFA Women's Player 2021	-
Cristiano Ronaldo	FIFA Special Best Men's award	-
Edouard Mendy	Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper 2021 award.	-
Erik Lamela	FIFA Puskas award for 2021	-
Thomas Tuchel	Best FIFA Men's Coach 2021	-
Pfizer Inc. Chairman Albert Bourla	$1 million Genesis Prize	-

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021 were announced for 20 languages

- The Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 was awarded for 20 Indian languages.

Some of the Sahitya Akademi Award winners are:

Name of the Person	Language
Daya Prakash Sinha	Hindi
D. S. Nagabhushana	Kannada
Sanjiv Verenkar	Konkani
George Onakkoor	Malayalam
Ambai	Tamil
Gorati Venkanna	Telugu
Namita Gokhale	English
Bratya Basu	Bengali

- Author Namita Gokhale won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 in English for her novel **'Things to Leave Behind'**.

- Tamil writer Ambai (C. S. Lakshmi) has won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 for Tamil for her short story collection *'Sivappu Kazhuthudan Oru Pachai Paravai (A Green Bird With Red Neck).*

- Megha Majumdar won the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021 for her debut book 'A Burning', published in 2020.

Golden Globe Awards 2022 were announced by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association

Category	Winner
Best Motion Picture (Drama)	The Power of the Dog
Best Actor in a Motion Picture (Drama)	Will Smith for 'King Richard'
Best Actress in a Motion Picture (Drama)	Nicole Kidman for 'Being the Ricardos'
Best Motion Picture (Musical/Comedy)	West Side Story
Best Actor in a Motion Picture (Musical/Comedy)	Andrew Garfield for 'Tick, Tick...Boom!'
Best Actress in a Motion Picture (Musical/Comedy)	Rachel Zegler for 'West Side Story'
Best Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture	Kodi Smit-McPhee for 'The Power of the Dog'
Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture	Ariana DeBose for 'West Side Story'
Best Director (Motion Picture)	Jane Campion for 'The Power of the Dog'
Best Screenplay (Motion Picture)	Belfast
Best Motion Picture (Foreign Language)	Drive My Car
Best Motion Picture (Animated)	Encanto
Best Original Score (Motion Picture)	Hans Zimmer for 'Dune'
Best Original Song (Motion Picture)	'No Time to Die' from 'No Time to Die'
Best Television Series (Drama)	Succession
Best Actor in a Television Series (Drama)	Jeremy Strong for 'Succession'
Best Actress in a Television Series (Drama)	Michaela Jae Rodriguez for 'Pose' (She is the first transgender actress to win a Golden Globe Award)
Best Television Series (Musical or Comedy)	Hacks
Best Actor in a Television Series (Musical/Comedy)	Jason Sudeikis for 'Ted Lasso'
Best Limited Series, Anthology Series or Motion Picture Made for Television	The Underground Railroad
Best Actor in a Limited Series, Anthology Series or Motion Picture Made for Television	Michael Keaton for 'Dopesick'
Best Actress in a Limited Series, Anthology Series or Motion Picture Made for Television	Kate Winslet for 'Mare of Easttown'
Best Supporting Actor (Television)	O Yeong-Su for 'Squid Game'
Best Supporting Actress (Television)	Sarah Snook for 'Succession'

Agreements and MoUs Signed

Prasar Bharati signs an MoU with Indian Council for Cultural Relations to promote Indian culture

- Public broadcaster **Prasar Bharati** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** to promote Indian culture, which will be telecasted on the national and international channels of Doordarshan.

- This MoU will be in operation for a period of three years, from December **2021** till December **2024.**

- It intends to bring the best of Indian culture to national and international audiences, as well as provide performing artists with television and internet platforms.

NITI Aayog signs a Statement of Intent with the United Nations World Food Programme

- The **NITI Aayog** and the **United Nations World Food Program (UNWFP)** have signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to encourage and promote millet production and help India lead the world in knowledge exchange.

Paytm Payments Bank ties up with MoneyGram to offer international fund transfer directly to Paytm Wallet

- **Paytm Payments Bank** has entered into a partnership with a peer-to-peer remittance company **MoneyGram** to enable international fund transfer directly to Paytm wallet.

- MoneyGram users outside of India may now transfer money to full **KYC Paytm wallet users** in India from the comfort of their homes.

India Post Payments Bank partners with HDFC Bank to deliver banking services in semi-urban and rural areas

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** partnered with **HDFC Bank** to offer its banking services to the unbanked and underserved segments in semi-urban and rural areas.

- This partnership will enable IPPB to deliver affordable and diverse offerings to its consumers, including easy access to loans through its innovative doorstep banking service.

Paytm collaborates with SBI Cards for tokenising cards

- **SBI Cards and Payment Services** has collaborated with **Paytm** to enable cardholders to **tokenise their cards** on devices and make payments through Paytm.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended storing of Card on File Tokenisation (CoFT) by six months to 30 June 2022.

SBI acquires 9.95% stake in India International Clearing Corporation

- India's biggest public sector lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** has acquired a 9.95 per cent stake in India International Clearing Corporation (IFCC) Limited for a maximum amount of ₹**34.03 crores**.

Tech Mahindra acquires 100% stake in Allyis India and Green Investments LLC

- IT major **Tech Mahindra** acquired **100 per cent** equity shares in **Allyis India Private Limited** and **Green Investments LLC**, the holding company for Allyis Group, respectively.

- Tech Mahindra will pay total consideration of up to **$125 million**, including employment-related and performance-related earnouts.

State Bank of India acquires a minority stake of JSW Cement for ₹100 crores

- The **State Bank of India** (SBI) acquired a minority stake in **JSW Cement Limited** with a ₹**100 crores** investment in compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS).

- This capital infusion by SBI will support JSW Cement's capacity expansion from the current 14 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) to 25 MTPA over the next 24 months.

Jammu and Kashmir Government signs an MoU with LuLu Group to set up food processing units in Srinagar

- The **Jammu and Kashmir** Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with hypermarket and retail giant **LuLu Group** to set up a food processing and logistics hub in **Srinagar**.

- In India, Jammu & Kashmir is the leading producer of saffron, apple, walnut and almond. This MoU with the LuLu Group will help the J&K Union Territory reach out to shoppers at 190 LuLu hypermarkets.

- This MoU will further expand the Jammu Kashmir–Dubai collaboration and Jammu Kashmir–Lulu Group partnership.

United Nations World Food Programme partners with Akshaya Patra Foundation to enhance the effectiveness of the mid-day meal scheme

- The **Akshaya Patra Foundation** (TAPF) and the **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)** in India have entered into a partnership to enhance the effectiveness of the **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman** (formerly mid-day meal scheme).

- This scheme plays a significant role in the retention of children in school while providing nutritional security.

- WFP and the TAFP will work together to improve food safety and hygiene projects, cooks or helper capabilities and the nutritional quality of school meals.

Assam Government signs an MoU with the National Dairy Development Board to set up a ₹2000 crore dairy joint venture

- The **Assam Government** and **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** signed an agreement to create a **₹2000 crore** joint venture for holistic development of the dairy sector in Assam with the target of processing ten lakh litres of milk at six new milk processing units over seven years.

- Two cow feed and organic manure manufacturing units will be established as part of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), as well as the import of high-yielding cattle breeds and artificial insemination.

BSE's arm India INX ties up with Sova Capital to provide investors with access to the Russian market

- BSE's international arm, **India INX,** has partnered with **Sova Capital** to provide direct access to the **Russian securities market** through its wholly-owned subsidiary **India INX Global Access IFSC**.

- This partnership will create a bridge for Indian investors to access trading on **Moscow Exchange (MOEX),** Russia's main trading venue for equities, bonds, derivatives, foreign exchange and money markets.

- This partnership with Sova Capital, an international clearing member of the Moscow Exchange, comes against the backdrop of a rapid increase in interest in international markets among Indians.

- This partnership will further increase the international proposition and attract greater participation on the India INX platform.

Edelweiss Group partners with the Indian Bank for co-lending to priority segment

- **Edelweiss Housing Finance Limited (EHFL) and ECL Finance Limited (ECLF)** have entered into a co-lending partnership with **the Indian Bank** for lending to priority sector areas.

- Agriculture, microenterprises and advances to the weakest sectors of society are some of the categories that form the priority sector in the lending space.

- This partnership will expand the reach to underserved markets, enabling priority sector borrowers to get credit at lower costs, given the blended rate of interest.

Google Pay partners with Indifi to offer instant digital credit to MSMEs

- **Google Pay** has joined hands with **Indifi Technologies** to provide instant digital loans to medium, small and micro enterprises (MSMEs) on the Google Pay platform.

- These loans will be in the range of **₹2.5 lakhs** to **₹3 lakhs**.

- Indifi has already partnered with many companies, including Amazon, Zomato and Swiggy.

- Indifi has been effective in bridging the credit gap for these disadvantaged enterprises by combining data and technology to mitigate the underwriting issues associated with MSMEs.

POWERGRID ties up with Africa50 to develop a transmission project in Kenya

- **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited** has signed a joint development agreement with **Africa50** to develop the **Kenya Transmission Project** on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis.

- The 400 kV Lessos–Loosuk and 220 kV Kisumu–Musaga transmission lines will be developed, financed, built and operated as part of this PPP project.

- This project will be Kenya's first **Independent Power Transmission (IPT)** and will serve as a benchmark in Africa as the first PPP-based financing of transmission lines, once it gets completed.

- This project will also increase power transmission supply and reliability in Western Kenya, as well as serve as a model for private sector investment in Africa's power transmission networks, which is crucial for closing Africa's electricity access gap.

Reliance Industries is set to acquire a 73.37 per cent stake in Mandarin Oriental Hotel in New York

- **Reliance Industrial Investments and Holdings Limited (RIL)** will acquire a **73.37 per cent stake** held indirectly by Cayman Island-based Columbus Centre Corporation in **Mandarin Oriental Hotel**, New York, for an equity consideration of $98.15 million (₹735 crores).

- In April 2021, RIL acquired Stoke Park Ltd, a luxury hotel, spa and country club in the United Kingdom for $79 million.

Canara Bank ties up with Lendingkart to offer online loans to MSMEs

- **Canara Bank** has tied up with **Lendingkart** to provide low-cost business loans of up to **₹10 lakhs** to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across India.

- These loans will be provided with a fast turnaround time for approvals powered by **'Lendingkart 2gthr'** platform using **'zero touch'** technology.

- This partnership aims to broaden Canara Bank's reach to support MSME borrowers to enhance financial inclusion under the Reserve Bank's Priority Sector initiative.

Federal Bank and Equirus Wealth launch an exclusive US Dollar Fixed Maturity Fund

- **Federal Bank,** in association with Equirus Wealth, has launched a **'US Dollar offshore fund'** exclusively for their customers.

- This is in collaboration with a Singapore-based global fund management company, SCUBE Capital.

- Both Non-Resident Indian (NRI) and resident customers of Federal Bank will be able to invest in this fund.

- This fund has a portfolio return target of roughly 6.50 per cent per year and a tenor of **three years** from the date of fund closure with the option to extend by one year.

International Financial Services Cenres Authority signs an MoU with the Insurance Institute of India for capacity building in the insurance sector

- The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Insurance Institute of India (III)** for capacity building in the insurance sector.

- According to this agreement, the III will conduct research to modify the academic curriculum to meet the current needs of IFSCA members in the insurance business with the view to introducing certificate courses and professional examinations.

- The III functions under the Union Ministry of Finance and is responsible for developing and updating curriculums as well as providing training to professionals in the insurance sector in India and overseas.

India and Denmark agree to initiate joint research on green hydrogen

- **India** and **Denmark** have agreed to initiate joint research and development on green fuels, including green hydrogen, during the Joint S&T Committee meeting.

- This virtual meeting put a special focus on green solutions for the future, such as strategy for investments in green research, technology and innovation.

- They agreed to organise 3 to 4 webinars for partnership development and stressed promoting the call for proposals in green fuels, including green hydrogen.

One Web partners with Hughes Communications India Private Limited to provide low-earth orbit connectivity

- **Hughes Network Systems LLC (Hughes)** has signed a six-year distribution agreement with Bharti Enterprises and UK-Government-owned **OneWeb** to provide **low-earth orbit (LEO) connectivity** services across India.

- Hughes Communications India Private Limited will deliver services to enterprises and government with One Web capacity, especially in areas outside the reach of fiber connectivity.

Science and Technology

Docprime launches India's first Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) integrated health locker

- PB Fintech's **Docprime Technologies** has launched India's first **health locker** integrated with **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** to provide consumers with a free digital and self-consented health data management system.

- This health locker enables users to create **digital health IDs** for themselves and their family members and activates their ABDM integrated health locker where they can securely upload, store and manage all their health records electronically as well as share them with their doctors.

IIT Guwahati team develops efficient perovskite solar cells to produce electricity from sunlight

- Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati** have developed hybrid **perovksite solar** or **photovoltaic devices** to produce electricity from sunlight, which are highly efficient, cost-effective, easy to manufacture and easily recyclable.

DRDO successfully conducts the flight test of indigenously developed High-speed Expendable Aerial the Target 'Abhyas'

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully conducted the flight test of indigenously developed **High-speed Expendable Aerial Target** (HEAT) **'Abhyas'** from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur off the coast of **Odisha**.

OneWeb launches 36 satellites into orbit to deliver global high-speed internet access

- The Orbit (LEO) has launched **36 communication satellites** into space from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome** in Kazakhstan.

- This launch brought the total in-orbit constellation by OneWeb to 394 satellites.

- This is the company's **twelfth overall** and **ninth** launch since December 2020.

North Korea launches its second hypersonic missile

- **North Korea** has successfully launched a **second hypersonic missile** as part of its efforts to modernise its strategic weapons systems to build powerful, sophisticated missiles rather than returning to disarmament talks.

- Hypersonic weapons usually fly towards targets at lower altitudes than ballistic missiles and can achieve more than five times the speed of sound or about 6200 km/hr (3850 m/h).

North Korea:

- **Capital:** Pyongyang

- **Currency:** North Korean won

- **President:** Kim Jong-un

Reliance Jio rolls out the UPI Autopay for both prepaid and postpaid users

- **Reliance Jio** has become the first telecom major in the industry to roll out the **UPI Autopay facility** for both prepaid and postpaid users in partnership with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

- Jio customers can now use the MyJio application to automatically for their tariff plans and use the touch-free auto-recharge and bill payment feature.

- Jio users will no longer need to remember their recharge renewal date or bill payment date and perform manual payments. This will enable an always-on service experience for every Jio prepaid user.

- Jio customers can now set standing instructions on the MyJio application using the UPI Autopay feature for their tariff plans and avail hassle-free mobile recharging experience.

New variant of coronavirus named 'IHU' was identified in France

- A new variant of coronavirus named **'IHU'** was identified in France, which is said to be a more mutated strain than Omicron.

- The **B.1.640.2 or IHU** variant was first identified by the academics at the institute IHU Mediterranee Infection and contained **46 mutations**, which is more than Omicron.

- This strain has the **E484K mutation**, which makes it more vaccine-resistant. It also has the N501Y mutation, which was initially detected in the Alpha variant and is thought to make it more transmissible, according to experts.

Japan launches Inmarsat-6 F1 communications satellite into orbit

- Global satellite communications company **Inmarsat** has launched its first next-generation satellite into orbit known as the **I-6** from **Japan's** Tanegashima Space Centre.

- Inmarsat has expanded its 14-geostationary satellite fleet with the launch of the first of seven dual-band communications spacecraft planned for liftoff through **2024**.

India tests the advanced sea-to-sea variant of BrahMos missile from INS Visakhapatnam

- India successfully tested an extended range **sea-to-sea** variant of the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** from the Indian Navy's newly commissioned **INS Visakhapatnam**.

- BrahMos was originally deployed on naval warships in 2005 and has the potential to hit sea-based targets beyond the radar horizon.

- This naval variant was originally tested in October and December 2020 from the Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai and Rajput-class destroyer INS Ranvijay.

- This version of the missile has been designed to launch either in a vertical or a horizontal mode from moving/stationary assets to target both land and sea targets. The missiles fired at a speed of 2.8 Mach or nearly three times the speed of sound and significantly increase the capability of the ships in engaging long-range targets.

Books & Authors

Sanju Verma authors a new book titled 'The Modi Gambit: Decoding Modi 2.0'

- The book titled **'The Modi Gambit: Decoding Modi 2.0'** was authored by **Sanju Verma**. The publisher of this book is Gaurav Book Centre Private Limited.

Chandrachur Ghose authors a new book titled 'Bose: The Untold Story of an Inconvenient Nationalist'

- Chandrachur Ghose has authored a new book titled **'Bose: The Untold Story of an Inconvenient Nationalist'**, which is a biography of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

- The publisher of this book is **Penguin Viking**.

Obituary

Name of the Person	Profession
K. P. Geethakrishnan	Former Union Finance Secretary
P. T. Thomas	Senior Political leader
Richard Rogers	Pritzker Prize-winning architect
K. S. Sethumadhavan	Malayalam filmmaker
Sanath Sett	Former Indian goalkeeper
Desmond Tutu	Anti-apartheid leader
Jean-Marc Vallee	Film director and Producer
Jammalamadaka Pichaiah	Ball Badminton legend
Ray Illingworth	Former England cricket captain
Harry Reid	Former US Senate majority leader
Edward O. Wilson	'Father of Biodiversity'
Karolos Papoulias	Former Greek President
Stephen J. Lawrence	American music composer
K. Ayyappan Pillai	Freedom fighter and India's oldest lawyer
Sindhutai Sapkal	Social worker and Padma Shri awardee
Viktor Saneyev	Three-time Olympic triple jump champion and former world record-holder
Neil Nongkynrih	Pianist and founder of Shillong Chamber Choir
Sidney Poitier	First Black Actor to win the Best Actor Academy Award
Chandrashekhar Patil	Kannada writer, activist and public intellectual
Marilyn Bergman	Oscar, Emmy and Grammy award-winning lyricist
David Sassoli	President of the European Parliament, an Italian socialist and former journalist
Deon Lendore	Three-time Olympic sprinter from Trinidad and Tobago
Toshiki Kaifu	Former Japanese Prime Minister

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Birju Maharaj	Kathak dancer
Sam Rajappa	Journalist
Ibrahim Boubacar Keita	Mali's former President
Shanti Devi	well-known Gandhian and social worker from Odisha
Narayan Debnath	Veteran cartoonist and the creator of Bengali comic characters 'Bantul The Great', 'Handa Bhonda' and 'Nonte Phonte'
Professor M. K. Prasad	Environmentalist and crusader for a sustainable environment
Gaspard Ulliel	French Actor

Important Days

Date	Day	Aim/Theme
22 December	National Mathematics Day	144th birth anniversary of ace mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan
23 December	National Farmers' Day or Kisan Diwas	The first Kisan Diwas was celebrated in 2001
24 December	National Consumer Rights Day or Bharatiya Grahak Diwas	The theme of National Consumer Day for 2021 is 'Tackling Plastic Pollution'
25 December	Good Governance Day (India)	birth anniversary of India's tenth Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee
27 December	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness	This day was first observed on 27 December 2020
1 January	Global Family Day	The first Global Family Day was observed on 1 January 2000
1 January	64th DRDO Foundation Day	-
4 January	World Braille Day	-
6 January	World Day of War Orphans	-
8 January	National Vision Board Day	Kellan Lutz and Ryan Daly founded the National Vision Board Day in June 2015
9 January	NRI Day (Non-Resident Indian Day) or Pravasi Bharatiya Divas	The first Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was observed on 9 January 2003
10 January	World Hindi Day	This day is observed in India from 2003
11 January	National Human Trafficking Awareness Day	-
12 January	National Youth Day or 'Yuva Diwas'	The theme for National Youth Day 2022 is 'It's all in the mind'.
15 January	Army Day (India)	This year (2022) marks the 74th Army Day (India).
15 January	Thiruvalluvar Day	-
16 January	National Startup Day	-
19 January	National Disaster Response Force Raising Day	This year (2022) marks the celebration of the seventeenth NDRF Raising Day.

Sports News

Australia's Marnus Labuschagne tops the ICC Test Batsman Rankings 2021

• Australia's **Marnus Labuschagne** has topped the ICC Rankings for batsman in Tests 2021, surpassing England's Joe Root.

• Indian captain **Virat Kohli** slipped a notch to be placed seventh from the sixth position in the latest ICC rankings for Test batsman.

• Among bowlers, **Ravichandran Ashwin** is still in **the second** place behind Australian skipper Pat Cummins.

Bangladesh lifts the U-19 SAAF Championship trophy against India

• **Bangladesh** U-19 women's team defeated **India** and lifted the **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U-19 Women's Championship 2021** held at Birshrestha Shaheed

Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

- Shaheda Akter Ripa of Bangladesh finished the tournament with the most goals (five goals). She was also given the Most Valuable Players award.

Anahat Singh becomes the first Indian girl to win the Junior Squash Open in the United States

- A 13-year-old Delhi girl, **Anahat Singh** became the first Indian to win the prestigious **US Junior Squash Open** at the Arlen Spectre Centre in **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**. She defeated **Jayda Marei** of Egypt.

India wins the bronze medal by defeating Pakistan in the 2021 Men's Hockey Asian Champions trophy

- **India** defeated **Pakistan** (4-3) to secure the bronze medal in the 2021 Men's Hockey **Asian Champions trophy** held in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**.

- **South Korea** emerged as the champions after beating **Japan** (4-2) in a shootout following a (3-3) stalemate at the end of the regulation 60 minutes of the title clash.

India spinner Harbhajan Singh announces his retirement from all forms of cricket

- Veteran Indian off-spinner **Harbhajan Singh** announced his retirement from all forms of **cricket**. He is the first Indian to take a **Test hat-trick** in the historic 2001 Border–Gavaskar series against Australia.

Indian skier Aanchal Thakur wins the bronze medal at the FIS Alpine Skiing Competition

- Indian skier **Aanchal Thakur** has bagged a bronze medal at the FIS Alpine Skiing Competition in **Montenegro**. She finished third with an overall timing of 1:54:30. **Georgia Epiphaniou**, who won the silver medal, was just two seconds ahead of Anchal.

Uttar Pradesh crowned 11th Hockey India Junior National Men's Hockey Championship

- **Uttar Pradesh** won the **11th Junior National Men's Hockey Championship** by defeating **Chandigarh** in the finals at **Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu**.

- **Odisha** defeated **Haryana** (3-2) to clinch the third place in the competition.

Pankaj Advani wins the 2021 National Billiards title

- **Pankaj Advani** won the **2021 National Billiards title** after he defeated his teammate **Dhruv Sitwala** (5-2) in a best of nine games final. It is his **11th** National Billiards title.

Mohammed Shami becomes the fifth Indian fast bowler to claim 200 wickets in test cricket

- **Mohammed Shami** became the 11th Indian bowler to pick up 200 or more wickets and only the fifth fast bowler to reach this milestone.

- He is behind Kapil Dev (434), Ishant Sharma (311), Zaheer Khan (311) and Javagal Srinath (236) at the moment.

New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor is set to retire from international cricket

- Veteran New Zealand batsman **Ross Taylor** has announced his decision to retire from international cricket.

- He will retire from test cricket after the two-match series against Bangladesh and play his last limited-overs internationals against Australia and the Netherlands.

South African cricketer Quinton de Kock announces retirement from test cricket

- South Africa's wicketkeeper-batter **Quinton de Kock** announced his retirement from test cricket after **South Africa's** 113-run defeat to **India** in the first test of the three-match series.

India lifts the eighth U-19 Asia Cup title

- **India** lifted the eighth **U-19 Asia Cup title** against Sri Lanka by nine wickets at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

- In eight editions of the U-19 Asia Cup, India has now won it eight times, which includes a shared trophy in 2012.

Pakistani all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez announces his retirement from international cricket

- Pakistan all-rounder **Mohammad Hafeez** has announced his retirement from international cricket.

- He played in **three 50-over World Cups** (2007, 2011 and 2019), **six 20-over World Cups** (2007, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2021) and **three ICC Champions Trophies** (2006, 2013 and 2017).

- He represented Pakistan in 392 international matches and captained Pakistan in 32 international matches, including 29 T20Is.

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Bharath Subramaniyam becomes India's 73rd Chess Grandmaster

- Fourteen-year-old **Bharath Subramaniyam** became **India's 73rd Chess Grandmaster** after completing his third and final GrandMaster norm at Vergani Cup Open in Italy.

- He achieved his first Grandmaster norm after securing the 11th place at the Aeroflot Open in Moscow in February 2020.

- He had become an International Master at the age of 11 years and 8 months in 2019.

- **Mitrabha Guha** had become India's 72nd Grandmaster and **Sankalp Gupta** became the 71st Grandmaster of India.

Sri Lanka's Danushka Gunathilaka announces retirement from Test cricket

- Sri Lankan batsman **Danushka Gunathilaka** announced his retirement from Test cricket.

- He played his last Test game in 2018, with his eight Test cricket appearances bringing him 299 runs.

Rafael Nadal lifts the Melbourne Summer Set ATP 250 event

- The 20-time Grand Slam champion **Rafael Nadal** clinched the trophy in the Men's singles final of the **Melbourne Summer Set ATP 250 event** at the Rod Laver Arena.

- He clinched the title against American **Maxime Cressy** in the finals.

Ashleigh Barty and Gael Monfils wins the 2022 Adelaide International tennis tournament

- **Ashleigh Barty** of Australia won the **Women's singles championship** trophy after defeating Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan at the **2022 Adelaide International** in Adelaide, Australia.

- This is her second Adelaide International title in three years.

- **Gael Monfils** of France won the **Men's singles championship trophy** after beating Karen Khachanov of Russia at the 2022 Adelaide International in Adelaide, Australia.

Tata Group becomes the title sponsor of 2022 and 2023 editions of IPL

- The **Tata Group** has replaced Vivo as the title sponsor for the **Indian Premier League 2022** and **2023 editions.**

- For two years of title sponsorship, the Tata Group will pay about ₹670 crores while Vivo would pay a total of ₹454 crores to terminate the contract.

South African cricketer Chris Morris announces his retirement from all forms of cricket

- South Africa all-rounder **Chris Morris** announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

- He made his international debut in December 2012 against New Zealand and played his first one-day international (ODI) in 2013.

- He represented South Africa in four Tests, 42 ODIs and 23 T20 Internationals.

New Zealand spinner Ajaz Patel wins the ICC Player of December Award 2021

- New Zealand spinner **Ajaz Patel** won the **ICC Player of the Month** Award for **December 2021.**

- He was nominated for this award alongside India opener Mayank Agarwal and Australian pacer Mitchell Star.

- In the Mumbai Test against India in early December, he took 14 wickets, including all ten in the first innings, to become only the third player in Test cricket history to achieve this remarkable milestone following Jim Laker and Anil Kumble.

Virat Kohli steps down as India's Test captain after seven years of his captainship

- **Virat Kohli** stepped down from **Test captaincy** of the Indian cricket team after losing a Test series in South Africa.

- He led the Indian Test cricket team for 68 matches and won 40 of them, making him India's most successful Test captain for the past seven years.

- He has played 99 Test matches and scored 7,962 runs at an average of 50.39.

- He became a Test captain of the Indian cricket team in **2014** after replacing Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Tasnim Mir from Gujarat becomes the first Indian to clinch number one spot in U-19 girls' singles badminton

- **Tasnim Mir** from Gujarat became the first Indian to grab the number one spot in Under-19 (U-19) girls' singles badminton.

- She has won four junior international tournaments, with three of them Bulgarian Junior Championship, Alpes International and Belgian Junior in 2021.

- She has also won the under-15 and under-17 titles in the Asian Junior Championships.

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty win the men's doubles title at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2022

- India's **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty** became the first Indian team to win the men's doubles title at the **Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2022** after defeating three-time world champions Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan.

- They had won the Thailand Open Super 500 title in 2019, besides reaching the finals at the French Open Super 750 in 2019.

- They also played a crucial role for India to earn the historic mixed team gold medal in the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Lakshaya Sen wins the men's singles title at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2022

- **Lakshya Sen** became the first Indian to win an **Indian Open men's singles title** on his debut at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2022 tournament after defeating the world champion **Loh Kean Yew**.

- This is his first Super 500 title on the Badminton World Federation's (BWF) tour and third overall. He had earlier won the bronze medal in the 2021 World Championships after losing to Srikanth in the semi-final.

India is set to host the AFC Women's Asia Cup 2022

- **India** is all set to host the twentieth **edition of AFC Women's Asia Cup 2022** from 20 January 2022.

- This tournament will be held in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Pune. It will witness 12 teams competing for the AFC Women's Asia Cup trophy.

- The AFC Women's Asia Cup will also be the final stage of Asian qualification for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup to be held in **Australia and New Zealand.**

- The 12 teams at the twentieth edition of the AFC Women's Asia Cup 2022 have been divided into three groups. Group A includes India, China PR, Chinese Taipei, and IR Iran, while Group B includes Australia, Thailand, Philippines, and Indonesia. Japan, Korea Republic, Vietnam, and Myanmar have been slotted in Group C.

Savita Punia was named the captain of the Indian women's hockey team for Asia Cup in Muscat

- Indian goalkeeper **Savita Punia** was named as the captain of the 18-membered **Indian women's hockey team** for the **Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2022** to be held in Muscat, Oman, from 21 to 28 January 2022.

- China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand are the seven other teams competing at the Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2022.

Banking & Economy

Asian Development Bank approves a $150 million loan to build houses for the urban poor in Tamil Nadu

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a **$150 million loan** for a housing project for the urban poor in **Tamil Nadu**.

- This initiative would build houses in nine places and move roughly 6,000 households that are exposed to natural disasters through the **Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board**.

- This project will also assist the Directorate of Town and Country Planning in Tamil Nadu in developing regional plans to map Tamil Nadu's economic and infrastructure development, including affordable housing, environmental protection, disaster risk management and gender.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- **Founded:** 19 December 1966

- **Headquarters:** Mandaluyong, Philippines

- **President:** Masatsugu Asakawa

Tamil Nadu

- **Capital:** Chennai

- **Chief Minister:** M. K. Stalin

- **Governor:** R. N. Ravi

- **National Parks:** Mukurthi National Park, Guindy National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Indira Gandhi (Annamalai) National Park, Mudumalai National Park

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) bans derivatives trade in seven agricultural commodities

• The **Securities and Exchange Board of India** (SEBI) has banned the derivatives trade of seven agriculture commodities on the future's platform of **the National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX)** for one year.

• The agricultural commodities include **chana, mustard seed, crude palm oil, moong, paddy (Basmati), wheat** and **soya bean** and its derivatives.

• This current suspension will unsettle the entire commodity derivatives ecosystem, including that of broking firms that will now be left only with metal and energy contracts to trade.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

• **Headquarter:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

• **Chairman:** Ajay Tyagi

• **Founded:** 12 April 1992

Mastercard partners with Google Pay on tokenisation for card-based transactions

• **Mastercard** has joined hands with **Google** to roll out tokenisation on **Google Pay** that will enable its users to transact through a secured digital token without having to share their credit or debit card details with merchants.

India and the German Development Bank (KFW) sign a €442.26 million loan pact for Surat Metro Rail Project

• The **Union Government of India** and the **German Development Bank (KFW)** have signed a **€442.26 million** loan pact for **Surat Metro Rail Project** to improve and expand the Surat urban agglomeration's transportation infrastructure through transit-oriented development alleviate traffic congestion and enable integrated town and land use planning.

Axis Direct launches DIY ITR filing platform named 'Digitax' for filing tax returns

• **Axis Direct** has launched a Do-it-Yourself (DIY) platform named **'Digitax'** for hassle-free income tax filing.

• This platform is powered by **Quicko Infosoft Pvt Limited**.

• It offers **multi-broker support**, allowing investors to understand tax calculations by importing trades (Equity, Intraday, and F&O) from their brokers and paying taxes on time.

National Stock Exchange launches a new corporate governance initiative 'NSE Prime'

• The **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** launched a new corporate governance initiative named **'NSE Prime'**.

• All the NSE-listed companies can adopt NSE Prime voluntarily. Those listed companies that voluntarily choose to be part of NSE Prime will need to comply with pre-defined norms on an ongoing basis, which will be monitored by NSE.

Oriental Insurance Company was categorised as a public shareholder in Axis Bank

• The **Oriental Insurance Company** was categorised as a **public shareholder** from a promoter category **shareholder in Axis Bank**.

• The new Oriental Insurance Company applied to the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE) in October to be reclassified from the promoter category to the public category.

Aadhaar authentication is mandatory for filing GST refund application from 1 January 2022

• The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)** has issued a notification that **Aadhaar authentication** is mandatory for Goods and Services Tax (GST) refund and revocation applications. These Aadhaar authentication provisions will take effect from **1 January 2022**.

Bank of Baroda achieves the top position in digital payments for 2020–21

• According to the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), **Bank of Baroda** has won the top position in overall **digital transactions** amongst large banks for FY21 (2020–21).

RBI imposes monetary penalty on One Mobikwik Systems and Spice Money

• The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary penalty of **₹1 crore** each on **One Mobikwik Systems** and **Spice Money**.

• This penalty was observed that both entities had not complied with the directions issued by the RBI on the net worth requirement for **Bharat Bill Payment operating units**.

PNB enters into a co-lending arrangement with Lendingkart

• **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has entered into a co-lending arrangement with **Lendingkart Finance Limited** as part of its efforts to improve the flow of credit to the unserved and underserved sector of the economy.

IndusInd Bank partners with NPCI to offer cross-border payments through UPI

• **IndusInd Bank** has partnered with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to offer real-time cross-border remittances to India using **UPI** (Unified Payments Interface) IDs for its **Money Transfer Operator (MTO)** partners.

Axis Bank emerges as the highest bidder for Citi Bank's consumer business

• Private sector **Axis Bank** has emerged as the highest bidder to buy Citibank's consumer banking business. American banking major **Citibank** announced its plan in April to exit from the consumer banking business in India as part of a global strategy.

BOB Financial and Indian Navy unveil a co-branded credit card

• **BOB Financial Solutions Ltd. (BFSL),** a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Bank of Baroda (BoB),** and the **Indian Navy** have introduced a co-branded **credit card** for the personnel of the Indian Navy.

• This card will be equipped with contactless features and offered on the **RuPay platform.** These uniquely designed credit cards will offer uninterrupted payment convenience and comfort to the personnel of the Indian Navy.

HDFC Life Insurance signs a bancassurance deal with South Indian Bank

• **HDFC Life Insurance** signed a **bancassurance** deal **with South Indian Bank (SIB)** to enable SIB customers to avail of HDFC Life's life insurance products, including solutions for protection, savings and investment, retirement and critical illness.

IndusInd Bank launches the 'Green Fixed Deposits'

• The **'Green Fixed Deposits'** were launched by **IndusInd Bank** and the deposit revenues will be utilised to fund projects and businesses that support the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

• These 'Green Fixed Deposits' will be offered to both **retail and corporate customers**.

Credit rating agency ICRA projects India's GDP growth rate at 9% in FY22 and FY23

• The Credit rating agency **ICRA Limited** (formerly Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited) has projected India's GDP growth forecast at **9%** each in FY22 and FY23.

Central Bank of India ties up with the NPCI to launch RuPay debit card for corporates

• **Central Bank of India** tied up with the NPCI to launch **'RuPay Business Platinum Debit Card'** for firms/corporates.

• This debit card allows users to withdraw up to **₹1 lakh** from ATMs and make purchases up to **₹3 lakhs at point-of-sale (POS)** or e-commerce.

• Users of this card can withdraw up to ₹75,000 from ATMs across the world and make purchases costing up to ₹3 lakhs at POS and international online merchants.

• Customers who use this card will receive accidental death and air accident coverage worth **₹10 lakhs** and **₹20 lakh**, respectively along with purchase protection coverage of ₹2 lakhs. Cardholders will also be able to earn reward points on every purchase.

India is set to become the third-largest economy in 2031: Centre for Economics and Business Research

• According to the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) in the United Kingdom, India's economy would grow to become the world's **third-largest economy** by **2031**. According to the CEBR, India will reclaim its sixth place in the World Economic League Table (WELT) from France in 2022.

Securities and Exchange Board of India extends the lock-in period for anchor investors to 90 days from 30 days

• The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has extended the **lock-in period** for anchor investors to **90 days** from the existing 30 days.

• The existing lock-in of 30 days shall continue for 50% of the portion allocated to the anchor investor and for the remaining portion, a lock-in of 90 days from the date of allotment shall be applicable for all issues opening on or after 1 April 2022.

Union Government extends the GST annual returns filing deadline for FY21 till 28 February 2022

• The Union Government has extended the **GST annual returns filing deadline** for 2020–21 fiscal that ended on March 2021 by two months till **28 February 2022** from 31 December 2021.

Non-Resident Indians and Overseas Citizens of India do not require prior approval to buy or sell immovable property in India

• The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) clarified that **Non-resident Indians (NRIs)** and **Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs)** do not need permission to acquire or sell immovable assets in India.

• At present, NRIs and OCIs are governed by provisions of the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999** and do not require prior approval of the RBI for acquisition and transfer of immovable property in India, other than agricultural land, farmhouse and plantation property.

Reserve Bank of India extends the deadline for periodic KYC updates by three months till 31 March 2022

• The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the relaxation it gave for the operation of client accounts of regulated firms whose **periodic KYC (Know Your Customer) updates** are required and pending as on date from 31 December 2021 till **31 March 2022**.

• A regulated entity is required to undertake KYC compliance from its customers due to the **Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002** and the **Prevention of Money-Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005.**

IRDAI retains LIC, GIC Re and New India as D-SIIs

• **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** retains the state-owned **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)** and **New India Assurance (NIA)** to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for **2021–22**.

Life Insurance Corporation of India inaugurates Digi Zone to sell policies online

• Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has inaugurated **'Digi Zone'** as part of its effort to enhance its digital footprint.

• The customers can use LIC's Digi Zone to buy policies online, pay the premium and avail other services.

• LIC intends to embark on the next wave of digital transformation in order to reap the benefits of increased growth, increased client happiness and increased intermediary productivity and loyalty.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)

• **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

• **Founded:** 1 September 1956

• **Chairman:** M. R. Kumar

Securities and Exchange Board of India restructures a Market Data Advisory Committee headed by S. Sahoo

• The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has restructured its Market Data Advisory Committee headed by **S. Sahoo,** which recommends policy measures in areas such as access to securities market data and privacy.

• This committee's responsibilities include defining segment-specific data perimeters, data demands and gaps, as well as recommending data privacy and data access policies for market data. It is in charge of suggesting acceptable securities market data access policies.

• This committee also recommends the standardisation of data definitions, data identification logic (usage of uniform codes for identifying and storing data — raw data and derived data) and data validation techniques (single source of truth, validation).

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

• **Headquarter:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

• **Chairman:** Ajay Tyagi

• **Founded:** 12 April 1992

Nippon India Mutual Fund launches India's first auto exchange traded fund

• Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited (NAM India), the asset manager of Nippon India Mutual Fund (NIMF), has launched the **Nippon India Nifty Auto ET,** India's first auto sector exchange traded fund (ETF).

• This auto ETF is an open-ended scheme replicating/tracking the Nifty Auto Index.

• The New Fund Offer (NFO) will open on 5 January 2022 and close on 14 January 2022 and the minimum investment amount required is ₹**1000**. Investors can add in multiples of ₹1 thereafter.

- This fund will invest in stocks comprising of Nifty Auto Index in the same manner as the index adding that it will provide exposure to the Top 15 (as per Nifty Auto Index methodology) representing auto-related sectors like 4 wheelers, 2 and 3 wheelers, ancillary units and tyre making companies.

Paisabazaar.com and Axis Bank launches a pre-qualified programme for personal loans

- Paisabazaar.com has partnered with Axis Bank and launched a **pre-qualified programme** for **unsecured loans** on its platform.

- Paisabazaar.com's pre-qualified programme comprises a deep technology and analytics partnership with banks and non-bank financiers, allowing select consumers to access personalised and pre-qualified lending offers on the fintech's platform.

- This integration would lead to instant access to credit for these select customers through an end-to-end digital process, which can be completed through the click of a few buttons on Paisabazaar.

Fino Payments Bank gets RBI nod to start international remittance business

- Fino Payments Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval for commencing international remittance business under the **Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS).**

- Fino Payments Bank will be undertaking inward cross-border money transfer activities in association with an overseas principal.

- MTSS is a way of transferring personal remittances from abroad to beneficiaries in India. Only **inward personal remittances into India,** such as remittances towards family maintenance and remittances favouring foreign tourists visiting India, are permissible. The parties involved in an MTSS are overseas principals and Indian agents.

- A cap of $**2,500**has been placed on individual remittances under the MTSS.

- Amounts up to ₹**50,000**may be paid in cash to a beneficiary in India under the MTSS.

- Only **12 remittances** can be received by a single individual during a year.

Fino Payments Bank:

- **Headquarters:** Navi Mumbai

- **Founded:** 2017

RBI releases a framework on offline digital payments

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a framework allowing offline payments up to ₹**200** per transaction and an overall limit of ₹**2,000** for all transactions until the balance in the account is replenished in order to push digital transactions in rural and semi-urban areas. Balance replenishment can only occur in an online mode. An offline digital payment means a transaction that does not require internet or telecom connectivity.

- Under the offline mode, payments can be carried out face-to-face (proximity mode) using any channel or instrument like cards, wallets, and mobile devices.

- These transactions will not require an **additional factor of authentication (AFA).**

Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**):

- **Founded: 1935**

- **Governor: Shaktikanta Das**

- **Headquarters: Mumbai**

CryptoWire launches India's first index to measure the performance of top cryptocurrencies

- Cryptocurrency app CryptoWire launched India's first index for cryptocurrencies named IC15.

- IC15 is a rule-based broad market index by market capitalisation, which tracks and measures the performance of the top 15 widely traded cryptocurrencies listed on leading crypto exchanges of the world.

- The 15 cryptocurrencies include Bitcoin, Ethereum, Binance coin, Solana, Cardano, Ripple, Terra, Dogecoin and Shiba Inu, among others. The base value of the index is set at **10,000** and the base date is **1 April 2018**.

- This index will enables crypto enthusiasts, investors and investment managers to monitor the performance of cryptocurrencies in the global markets.

Apple becomes the first company to hit $3-trillion market value

- Apple became the first company to hit a $3-trillion (roughly ₹2,23,75,950 crores) stock market value, as it keeps launching best-selling products and exploring new markets such as **automated cars** and **virtual reality**.

- Apple shared the $2-trillion market value club with Microsoft, which is now worth about $2.5 trillion. Alphabet, Amazon and Tesla have market values above $1 trillion.

• Under Tim Cook, who in **2011** became the Chief Executive of Apple following Steve Jobs'death, Apple has sharply increased its revenue from services like video streaming and music. These have helped Apple reduce its reliance on the iPhone to about 52 per cent of total revenue in 2021 fiscal from over 60 per cent in 2018.

NPCI Bharat BillPay introduces the Unified Presentment Management System for recurring bill payments

• NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL), the wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India, introduced **the 'Unified Presentment Management System' (UPMS)** for recurring bill payments.

• UPMS will enable the customers to set up standing instructions from any channel and for any mode on their recurring bill payments.

• Under the system, bills will be automatically fetched from the billers and presented to customers to take action in terms of auto-debit and bill payment management.

• For billers, UPMS eases the operational management of collections while reducing the infrastructure overheads on their systems that come during billing cycles.

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI):

• **Founded: 2008**

• **Headquarters: Mumbai**

Airtel Payments Bank receives Scheduled Bank status from the Reserve Bank of India

• **Airtel Payments Bank** has received the status of a **Scheduled Bank** from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

• The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) included the Airtel Payments Bank in the **Second Schedule** of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.

• Airtel Payments Bank can now apply for government-issued requests for proposals (RFPs) and primary auctions now that it has been designated as a scheduled Bank. It can also remove take up central and state government-level businesses, besides participating in government-operated welfare schemes.

Airtel Payments Bank

• **Headquarters:** New Delhi

• **CEO:** Anubrata Biswas

• **Founded:** January 2017

State Bank of India increases the IMPS transaction limit

• The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has increased the limit on **Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)** transactions from ₹**2 lakhs** to ₹**5 lakhs** as per the directions of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

• This will be effective from 1 February 2022.

• The charges for sending money via IMPS for amounts between ₹2 lakhs and ₹5 lakhs will be ₹**20 plus GST**.

• IMPS provides robust and real-time fund transfer, which offers an instant, 24X7, interbank electronic fund transfer service that could be accessed on multiple channels like mobile, internet, ATM, SMS.

State Bank of India (SBI)

• **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

• **Chairman:** Dinesh Kumar Khara

• **Tagline:** "The Banker to Every Indian"

State Bank of India, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank remain as Domestic Systemically Important Banks

• The **State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank** and **HDFC Bank** continue to be identified as **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)** or entities that are 'too big to fail' under the same bucketing structure as in the 2020 list of D-SIBs.

• SBI and ICICI Bank were first named as D-SIBs in **2015 and 2016**. HDFC Bank was also classified as a D-SIB, along with the SBI and ICICI Bank in 2017.

• D-SIB means that the bank is too big to fail. According to the Reserve Bank of India, some banks become systemically important due to their size, cross-jurisdictional activities, complexity and lack of substitute and interconnection. Banks whose assets exceed 2 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are considered part of this group.

Reserve Bank of India cancels the authorisation certificates of two payment system operators

• The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the **Certificate of Authorisation (CoA)** of **Muthoot Vehicle and Asset Finance Limited** and **Eko India Finance Services Private Limited** for non-compliance with regulatory requirements under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.**

• These companies cannot transact the business of issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments.

ICICI Bank facilitates the payment of customs duty online

• **ICICI Bank** announced the launch of a facility for **the payment of customs duty online** which is available for both retail and corporate customers.

• Corporate customers can pay customs duty through the bank's **Corporate Internet Banking (CIB)** and mobile banking application **InstaBIZ**, while retail customers can pay through the bank's retail internet banking platform.

• Customers can make online payments by selecting ICICI Bank from the list of banks on the website of Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE).

ICICI (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India)

• **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

• **MD and CEO:** Sandeep Bakhshi

• **Tagline:** Hum Hai Na, Khyal Apka

Union Bank of India offers alternative reference rates-based loans replacing LIBOR

• The **Union Bank of India (UBI)** has changed its systems and processes to accommodate the transition from **London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)** to **Alternative Reference Rates (ARRs).**

• The bank is offering ARR-based trade finance loans, bilateral, syndication, export credit, foreign currency and multiple banking loans.

Union Bank of India

• **Headquarters:** Mumbai

• **MD & CEO:** G. Rajkiran Rai

• **Tagline:** Good People to Bank With

RBI notifies market-making plan to promote retail participation in government securities

• The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notified the **Market-making scheme** to promote retail participation in **government securities** by providing prices/quotes to **retail direct gilt (RDG) account holders** enabling them to buy and sell securities under the **RBI Retail Direct Scheme**.

• The RBI Retail Direct Scheme was launched on **12 November 2021** to provide one-stop access to facilitate investment in government securities by retail investors.

• According to the market-making scheme, primary dealers will rely on the **Know Your Customer (KYC) verification** of the RDG account holders done under the Retail Direct Scheme.

• Under the RBI Retail Direct Scheme, retail investors (individuals) have the facility to open an online Retail Direct Gilt Account (RDG Account) with the RBI. These accounts can be linked to their savings bank accounts.

Paytm enables users to make payments by tapping a phone on PoS devices to make offline payments

• **Paytm** launched the **'Tap to Pay' service,** which enables users to make instant payments through their Paytm registered card by just tapping their phone on a Point-of-Sale (PoS) machine.

• This will be possible even if the phone is locked or there is no mobile data or internet connection.

• Paytm's Tap to Pay service is available for both **Android and iOS users** paying through PoS devices.

• Paytm's latest Tap to Pay service employs its technology to convert the 16-digit primary account number (PAN) of the chosen card into a secure transaction code or 'digital identifier.'

• This digital identifier ensures that a user's credit card information is private and is never shared with a third-party payment processor. When a customer enters a store, they may simply tap and pay on the PoS device without having to give their credit card information.

Kotak Mutual Fund launches an Exchange Traded Fund named 'Kotak Midcap 50 ETF'

• Kotak Mutual Fund launched an **Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)** named **Kotak Midcap 50 ETF**, an open-ended scheme that will track the Nifty Midcap 50 Index.

• The new fund offering (NFO) is benchmarked against the Nifty Midcap 50 Index (TRI), which captures the movement of the mid-cap segment of the market.

• This scheme opens for subscription from 6 January 2022 and closes on 20 January 2022. Investors can invest a minimum amount ₹5000 during the new fund offering period.

• The Kotak Midcap 50 ETF will replicate the Nifty Midcap 50 Index, which includes the top 50 companies based on full market capitalisation from Nifty Midcap 150 Index with preference given to those stocks on which derivative contracts are available on the National Stock Exchange.

SBI General Insurance launches #Bahane ChhodoTaxBachao campaign on tax savings

- SBI General Insurance has launched a **#BahaneChhodoTaxBachao** campaign to increase awareness of how people can save tax by buying health insurance.

- This campaign aims to increase awareness on how buying health insurance can help people save tax which is crucial and seasonal in the last quarter of the financial year for all Indians and will also underline the other benefits of opting for health insurance.

NPCI sets standardised limits for cash withdrawals and mini statements on AePS transactions

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has introduced limits for cash withdrawals and mini statements through **Aadhaar enabled Payments Systems (AePS).**

- Acquiring banks will be required to adopt a maximum limit of **five approved cash withdrawal transactions** per customer per terminal per day, according to the new guidelines.

- The issuers will also implement a standardised limit of a minimum of **five mini statement transactions** per customer per month.

- The acquirers must implement **two-factor authentication** for login of business correspondents, agents and merchants at least once a day with one of the factors as Aadhaar-based biometric authentication.

- Cash withdrawals from micro ATMs of AePS has a limit of ₹**10,000** per transaction.

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

- **MD & CEO:** Dilip Asbe

- **Founded:** 2008

Airtel Payments Bank collaborates with Park+ to offer FASTag-based smart parking solutions

- **Airtel Payments Bank** has collaborated with **Park+** to offer FASTag-based smart parking solutions to marquee commercial and residential properties across India.

- This collaboration aims to leverage the deep distribution reach and digital payments stack of Airtel Payments Bank to digitise the parking ecosystem using FASTags associated with vehicles.

- **Airtel Payments Bank** is among the top five issuers of FASTags in India.

Airtel Payments Bank

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

- **CEO:** Anubrata Biswas

- **Founded:** January 2017

Jammu and Kashmir Bank launches the Special One Time Settlement Scheme 2021 for non-performing assets

- **Jammu and Kashmir Bank** launched the **Special One Time Settlement Scheme 2021** for non-performing assets, which provides a golden opportunity to all the eligible account holders to settle their accounts and avail the best possible concessions that can be offered.

- This scheme is valid for **30 working days,** for which the sanction or otherwise will be conveyed within seven working days of the receipt of application with a maximum repayment period of six months.

Reserve Bank of India sets up a separate department for fintech to focus on the dynamically growing sector

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has set up a **fintech department** to facilitate innovation, help identify and address challenges & opportunities in the dynamically growing new sector.

- This department will not only promote innovation in this sector but also identify the challenges and opportunities associated with it and address them in a timely manner.

- All matters related to inter-regulatory and international coordination on fintech shall also be dealt with by this department.

- According to the RBI, the fintech department will be administratively attached to the **centralised administrative division (CAD)** of the central office.

RBL Bank collaborates with Google to enhance its customer experience

- **RBL Bank** has partnered with **Google** to improve its customer experience strategy and enhance its value proposition through its digital platform named **Abacus 2.0** to better serve its fast-growing customer base.

- This collaboration will enable RBL Bank to better manage customer data and analytics, as well as enable

successful cross-selling, thereby lowering the cost of client acquisition significantly.

- RBL Bank aims to give a superior and holistic one-stop solution to its existing and new customers through **Abacus 2.0** and distribute its various product offerings across channels in a seamless manner.

- RBL Bank will leverage **Google Cloud's** secure and scalable infrastructure for seamless customer onboarding.

- It will also serve as the technological foundation for a product-agnostic client acquisition engine that would provide more comprehensive access to a variety of goods, including payments, deposits, insurance, credit cards, investments and secured loans.

UCO Bank launches RuPay Select contactless debit card

- **UCO Bank** in association with the **National Payments Corporation of india (NPCI),** has launched a **RuPay Select contactless debit card** for its premium customer segment.

- This card will offer an ATM withdrawal limit of **₹50,000** along with a purchase of up to **₹2 lakhs** at point-of-sales (POS) or e-commerce.

- All RuPay Select contactless debit cardholders are eligible for an insurance cover of up to **₹10 lakhs** (Death due to personal accident and permanent disability).

UCO Bank

- **Headquarters:** Kolkata

- **MD & CEO:** Soma Sankara Prasad

- **Tagline:** 'Honours your Trust'

CRISIL launches a new maturity index named 'CRISIL IBX 70:30 CPSE Plus SDL Index – April 2025'

- CRISIL has launched a new target maturity index named **'CRISIL IBX 70:30 CPSE Plus SDL Index – April 2025'**.

- This index will track the performance of **AAA CPSEs (Central Public Sector Enterprises) and State Development Loans (SDL)** securities maturing between **1 November 2024 and 30 April 2025**. It will mature on **30 April 2025**.

- This is the third such index launched by CRISIL on target maturity funds. The earlier two indexes track the gilt market in 2027 and 2028 maturities.

- Some of the new indices launched by CRISIL include CRISIL Broad-Based Long Term Gilt Index, CRISIL Broad-Based Medium Term Gilt Index, CRISIL Broad-Based Short Term Gilt Index, CRISIL Broad-Based Gilt Index and CRISIL Money Market Index-Insurance.

Axis Bank ties up with MinkasuPay for smoother biometric-based net banking payments

- **Axis Bank** has partnered with **MinkasuPay** to offer the smoothest net banking payment experience for its customers through **biometric authentication solutions.**

- This partnership will enable Axis Bank customers to make net banking payments in merchant apps using fingerprint fingerprint or face ID, without the need for usernames, passwords and one-time password (OTPs).

- This will help enhance user experience and also bolster security and reduce cyber-frauds.

Axis Bank

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

- **MD & CEO:** Amitabh Chaudhry

- **Tagline :** Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

Federal Bank unveils an instant 30-minutes loan approval portal for MSMEs

- **Federal Bank** has launched an online lending platform, **federalinstaloans.com,** to facilitate quick and hassle-free credit approvals of up to **₹50 lakhs** for **micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs)** across India.

- This platform helps MSME borrowers in availing loans in less than **30 minutes** digitally by uploading their income tax returns, bank account statements and online verification of GST details.

- The clients can avail themselves of business loan approvals from the comfort of their homes without visiting the bank's branches.

Federal Bank

- **Headquarters:** Aluva, Kerala

- **MD & CEO:** Shyam Srinivasan

- **Tagline:** Your Perfect Banking Partner

Paytm Payments Bank leads the Unified Payment Interface Beneficiary Chart in December 2021

- **Paytm Payments Bank** has emerged as the **biggest receiver** of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) amount with 926.17 million transactions in December 2021.

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** topped this chart for being the **biggest remitter** in December 2021, according to the data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

- According to the NPCI data, **Standard Chartered Bank** had the highest approval rate of 96.74 per cent in remittance of UPI transactions, while **Citi Bank** registered the highest approval rate of 99.84 per cent among UPI beneficiaries.

Paytm Payments Bank

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India

- **MD & CEO:** Satish Kumar Gupta

YES Mutual Fund was renamed as White Oak Capital Mutual Fund

- **Yes Mutual Fund** was renamed as **White Oak Capital Mutual Fund.**

- White Oak was granted a mutual fund licence. White Oak Capital Group provides investment management and advisory services for over ₹42,000 crores in equity assets.

- In September 2021, GPL Finance and Investments, a subsidiary of the White Oak Capital Group, gained authorisation from the capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to acquire Yes Asset Management from Yes Bank.

Reserve Bank of India authorises South Indian Bank to collect direct and indirect taxes

- The Reserve Bank of India has authorised **South Indian Bank** to collect **direct and indirect taxes** on behalf of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC).

South Indian Bank

- **Headquarters:** Thrissur, Kerala

- **MD & CEO:** Murali Ramakrishnan

Reserve Bank of India releases the Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes 2020–21

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the **Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes for 2020 −21** for nine months (1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021).

- As per this report, the volume of complaints received was increased by 22.27 per cent on an annualised basis. The overall disposal rate improved from 92.52 per cent to 96.59 per cent, despite the higher volume of complaints received.

- Major areas of complaints under the plan include **ATM or debit cards**, **mobile or electronic banking** and credit cards. This category accounted for 42.74 per cent of all complaints received. The reporting period was altered to April–March 2021-22 by the RBI.

- **Chandigarh** received the maximum number of complaints, followed by Kanpur and New Delhi.

SIDBI sanctions ₹650 crores to AU and Jana Small Finance Banks for co-lending

- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has sanctioned funds aggregating **₹650 crores** to two small finance banks (SFBs), **AU Small Finance Bank and Jana Small Finance Bank,** to aid small non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and microfinance institutions (MFIs) in providing financial assistance to small businesses and micro-entrepreneurs.

- This financial assistance has been extended out of the **special liquidity facility (SLF)** of **₹16,000 crores** sanctioned by the Reserve Bank of India to SIDBI to meet the challenges being faced by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

- **Headquarters:** Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

- **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD):** S. Ramann

MobiKwik launches 'ClickPay' in collaboration with India the NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited

- MobiKwik has launched **'ClickPay'** in collaboration with the NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL).

- MobiKwik customers can use this feature to pay regular online bills (such as mobile, gas, water, electricity, DTH, insurance and loan EMIs) without having to remember individual bill details and due dates.

- ClickPay is a two-step payment feature that allows consumers to make payments directly on the payment page once billers provide a unique payment link within the bill-pay message.

SEBI reduces the timeline for filing settlement applications to 60 days

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has cut the timeline for filing settlement applications to just **60 days** from the current **180 days**, aimed at rationalising norms on settlement proceedings.

- A settlement application can currently be filed within 60 days of receiving the show-cause notice. However, if the applicants pay an additional 25 per cent over the settlement charges, they will be given an additional 120 days.

- All payments under the settlement regulations will be accepted only through a **dedicated payment gateway**.

- Under this settlement mechanism, an alleged wrongdoer can settle a pending case with the regulator without admission or denial of guilt by paying a settlement fee.

- This settlement mechanism is a tool for ensuring speedy and efficient resolution of disputes.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- **Headquarter:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

- **Chairman:** Ajay Tyagi

- **Founded:** 12 April 1992

NSE Indexes launches Nifty India Defence Index

- A subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange index services, **NSE Indexes** has launched the **Nifty India Defence Index** aimed to track the performance of a stock portfolio that reflects the defence theme in general.

- This index is expected to act as a benchmark for asset managers and a reference index for passive funds such as Exchange Trading Funds (ETFs), index funds and structured products.

- The original date for the index is **2 April 2018** and the base value is **1000**.

- This index reconstitution will be done on a semi-annual basis.

National Stock Exchange (NSE)

- **Headquarter:** Mumbai

- **MD and CEO:** Vikram Limaye

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company launches three new business verticals for consumers & SME loans

- The **Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company** has launched three new business divisions for consumers & SME loans and partnered with leading fintech companies like BankBazaar, KreditBee and Paytail.

- The three new business divisions to drive the next wave of growth are **Consumer & Small Enterprise Loan (CSEL),**

Secured Business & Personal Loan (SBPL) and SME Loan (SME).

- The CSEL business will focus on three areas such as personal & professional loans (PPL), micro & small enterprise loans and strategic digital partnerships.

SEBI launches Saa₹thi mobile application on investor education

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has launched **Saa₹thi** mobile application on **investor education** to create awareness among investors about the basic concepts of the securities market.

- This application application will create awareness among the investors about the basic concepts of the securities market, KYC (Know Your Customer) process, trading and settlement, mutual funds, recent market developments and investor grievances redressal mechanism.

- This mobile application is available both in **Hindi and English**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- **Headquarter:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

- **Chairman:** Ajay Tyagi

- **Founded:** 12 April 1992

Banking Terms:

- **Card Tokenisation-** Card tokenisation is the process of completely removing sensitive data from a company's internal network by replacing it with a randomly generated, unique placeholder called a token. This token is used to access, retrieve, and maintain a customer's credit card information to ensure a higher level of security for both the customer and your business.

- **Unified Payments Interface-** Unified Payments Interface is a real-time payment system that allows sending or requesting money from one bank account to another.

- **National Payments Corporation of India** - National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India, is an initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India.

- **Bancassurance-** Bancassurance is a partnership between a bank and an insurance company, whereby the insurance company is allowed to sell its products to the bank's clients.

- **Know Your Customer-** KYC or KYC check is the mandatory process of identifying and verifying the client's identity when opening an account and periodically over time.

- **Mutual Fund-** A mutual fund is a professionally managed investment fund that pools money from many investors to purchase securities.

- **Domestic Systemically Important Banks-** D-SIB means that the bank is too big to fail. According to the Reserve Bank of India, some banks become systemically important due to their size, cross-jurisdictional activities, complexity and lack of substitute and interconnection. Banks whose assets exceed 2 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are considered part of this group.

- **Non-performing assets-** A nonperforming asset (NPA) is a debt instrument where the borrower has not made any previously agreed upon interest and principal repayments to the designated lender for an extended period of time.

GDP Projections

Ind-Ra lowers India's GDP growth forecast to 9.3 per cent in FY22

- The ratings agency India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has downgraded the GDP forecast of India to **9.3 per cent** from 9.4 per cent for the current fiscal FY 2021–22.

- India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) estimated that the spread of Omicron will lead to a reduction of GDP growth by 10 basis points (bps) in FY22.

India Ratings and Research:

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, India

NSO estimates India's GDP growth at 9.2 per cent in FY22

- **National Statistical Office (NSO)** estimated India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at **9.2 per cent** in FY22.

- According to the first advance estimates released by the NSO, India's nominal GDP may expand to ₹232.1 trillion in FY22 from ₹203.5 trillion in FY20.

SBI Ecowrap projects India's GDP growth at 9.5 per cent in FY22

- The State Bank of India's economic research team expects the GDP growth of India for 2021–22 (FY22) to be revised upwards to around **9.5 per cent.**

World Bank retains India's GDP growth rate at 8.3 per cent for FY22

- World Bank has retained India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth forecast at **8.3 per cent** for 2021–22 (FY22).

- World Bank has upgraded India's GDP growth forecast at **8.7 per cent** for 2022–23 (FY23) from 7.5 per cent estimated earlier and has projected **6.8 per cent** for 2023–24 (FY24).

World Bank

- **Headquarters:** Washington DC, United States

- **President:** David Malpass

- **Founded:** 1944

Oxford Economics projects India's GDP growth forecast at 7.9 per cent for FY22

- **Oxford Economics** has projected India's GDP growth forecast to **7.9 per cent** from 7.8 per cent previously for the current fiscal year 2021–22 (FY22).

UBS Securities projects India's GDP growth forecast at 9.1 per cent

- Swiss brokerage **UBS Securities** has revised its growth forecast for India downwards for the current financial year to **9.1 per cent** from 9.5 per cent earlier.

India Ratings and Research predicts India's GDP growth rate at 7.6 per cent for FY23

- **India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra)** predicted India's GDP growth forecast at **7.6 per cent** for 2022–23 (FY23).

- According to Ind-Ra, the size of the Indian economy in FY23 will be 10.2 per cent lower than the FY23 GDP trend value.

English Vocabulary

1. Burgeon

Meaning: begin to grow or increase rapidly; flourish

Synonyms: mushroom, proliferate, multiply

Antonyms: shrink, dwindle, lessen

Usage: The best decisions will allow a person to **burgeon** and increase his wealth.

2. Lurk

Meaning: be or remain hidden so as to wait in ambush for someone or something

Synonyms: hide, loiter, prowl

Antonyms: show, rise

Usage: Hidden fees and high-interest rates often **lurk** behind these offers.

3. Scrupulous

Meaning: (of a person or process) careful, thorough, and extremely attentive to details

Synonyms: careful, meticulous, painstaking

Antonyms: careless, uncaring, thoughtless

Usage: The director was very **scrupulous** in narrating his script.

4. Bewilder

Meaning: cause (someone) to become perplexed and confused
Synonyms: baffle, mystify

Antonyms: enlighten, clarify

Usage: The puzzle is quite **bewildering**.

5. Minuscule

Meaning: extremely small; tiny

Synonyms: diminutive, miniature

Antonyms: huge, gigantic

Usage: Compared to its adult size, a newborn kangaroo is **minuscule.**

6. Dampen

Meaning: make less strong or intense
Synonyms: decrease, diminish, reduce

Antonyms: heighten, enhance, intensify

Usage: Nothing seems to be able to **dampen** his unwavering excitement.

7. Adulate

Meaning: praise (someone) excessively

Synonyms: flatter, praise, lionise

Antonyms: disparage, despise, condemn

Usage: He was **adulated** in the press meeting.

8. Serendipity

Meaning: the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way

Synonyms: fluke, chance, luck

Antonyms: misfortune

Usage: Certain things won't happen out of **serendipity**, we need to work hard to earn it.

9. Proclivity

Meaning: a tendency to choose or do something regularly; an inclination or predisposition towards a particular thing

Synonyms: fondness, preference, liking

Antonyms: antipathy, disinclination, dislike, hates

Usage: Hari has a **proclivity** to spend more money than he saves.

10. Splurge

Meaning: to spend extravagantly or ostentatiously

Synonyms: squander, fling, dissipate, disburse

Antonyms: accumulate, hoard, conserve, preserve

Usage: I feel like **splurging** on a new dress.

11. Omnipresent

Meaning: widely or constantly encountered; widespread

Synonyms: ubiquitous, universal, pervasive

Antonyms: limited, rare, uncommon

Usage: The obsessive thoughts became so **omnipresent** that her memory was affected.

12. Earmark

Meaning: designate (funds or resources) for a particular purpose
Synonyms: reserve, entitle, assign

Antonyms (near antonym)**:** free

Usage: We have savings, but they should be **earmarked** for her studies.

13. Audacious

Meaning: showing a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks; showing an impudent lack of respect

Synonyms: daring, impudent, overconfident

Antonyms: timid, polite

Usage: The move was **audacious** and well planned, but as it turned out, involved little physical risk.

14. Aggrandize
Meaning: increase the power, status or wealth of
Synonyms: enhance, overstated, boost

Antonyms: deprecate, demean

Usage: The minister intended to **aggrandize** his sector.

15. Ameliorated
Meaning: make (something bad or unsatisfactory) better

Synonyms: upgrade, refine, enhance, revamp

Antonyms: worsen, aggravate, degrade

Usage: Buddha did much to **ameliorate** the poor minds of the people.

16. Frivolous
Meaning: not having any serious purpose or value

Synonyms: flippant, glib, waggish

Antonyms: serious, practical, important

Usage: Isabelle was a **frivolous** little fool, vain and flighty.

17. Plausible
Meaning: (of an argument or statement) seeming reasonable or probable

Synonyms: credible, acceptable, reasonable

Antonyms: unlikely, improbable, doubtful

Usage: Give me a **plausible** scenario.

18. Spur
Meaning: promote the development of; stimulate
Synonyms: prompt, motivate

Antonyms: discourage, disincentive

Usage: A rise in procurement prices will **spur** development of farming sector.

19. Charade
Meaning: an absurd pretence intended to create a pleasant or respectable appearance
Synonyms: fake, imitation, pretense

Antonyms: candidness, truthful

Usage: He could end this **charade** with one wave of the pen but chooses not to.

20. Semblance
Meaning: resemblance; similarity; the outward appearance or apparent form of something, especially when the reality is different

Synonyms: likeness, alikeness, similitude

Antonyms: dissimilarity, distinction

Usage: The distorted **semblances** of the trees on the other side were vaguely visible.

21. Pervasive
Meaning: (especially of an unwelcome influence or physical effect) spreading widely throughout an area or a group of people

Synonyms: prevalent, widespread, universal

Antonyms: uncommon, rare

Usage: These days crimes are **pervasive**.

22. Ardent
Meaning: characterised by strong enthusiasm

Synonyms: Passionate, enthusiastic, zealous

Antonyms: apathetic, dull, calm

Usage: One should be an **ardent** supporter of the right cause

23. Inflict
Meaning: impose something unwelcome on

Synonyms: impose, compel, enforce

Antonyms: remove, alleviate, suspend

Usage: She wanted to **inflict** pain.

24. Culpable
Meaning: deserving blame

Synonyms: blameworthy, censurable, guilty

Antonyms: innocent, guiltless

Usage: He is **culpable** of a crime.

25. Supersede
Meaning: take the place of (a person or thing previously in authority or use); supplant

Synonyms: replace, overthrow, succeed

Antonyms (near antonym): retain

Usage: New designs are made and they will **supersede** the existing ones.

26. Hedge
Meaning: limit or qualify (something) by conditions or exceptions

Synonyms: confine, restrict, limit, hinder, obstruct

Antonyms: absolute, certainty

Example: She was **hedged** in by her imperfect education.

27. Brag
Meaning: of the very best kind

Synonyms: fabulous, divine

Antonyms: awful, atrocious

Usage: He did a really **brag** job on restoring that classic car.

28. Presume

Meaning: suppose that something is the case on the basis of probability

Synonyms: assume, suppose, speculate, deduce

Antonyms: establish, prove (near antonyms)

Usage: He was **presumed** to be dead as he was found missing for more than a month.

29. Scuttle

Meaning: deliberately cause (a scheme) to fail

Synonyms: destroy

Antonyms (near antonyms)**:** support, ebb

Usage: The officers scuttled the scheme.

30. Tussle

Meaning: engage in a vigorous struggle or scuffle

Synonyms: struggle, wrangle, brawl

Antonyms: truce, peace

Usage: He grabbed my microphone and we **tussled** over that.

31. Quirk

Meaning: a strange habit

Synonyms: oddity, fluke

Antonyms: normality, familiarity

Usage: His biggest **quirk** is his love for old marbles.

32. Tantamount

Meaning: equivalent in seriousness to; virtually the same as

Synonyms: equivalent, synonymous, identical

Antonyms: different, dissimilar

Usage: A relationship **tantamount** to marriage.

33. Preside

Meaning: be in the position of authority in a meeting or other gathering

Synonyms: guide, chair, lead

Antonyms: mismanage, abandon
Usage: The minister **presides** over cabinet meetings.

34. Intervene

Meaning: take part in something so as to prevent or alter a result or course of events

Synonyms: mediate, intrude, interfere

Antonyms: ignore, disregard (near antonyms)

Usage: The United Nations refused to **intervene** in the civil war, apart from some troop convoys for humanitarian aid.

35. Proliferation

Meaning: rapid increase in the number or amount of something

Synonyms: generation, propagation

Antonyms: reduction, deduction

Usage: The **proliferation** of technology over the last 100 years has happened so quickly and caused many societal changes.

36. Extrapolate

Meaning: extend the application of (a method or conclusion) to an unknown situation by assuming that existing trends will continue or similar methods will be applicable

Synonyms: infer, deduce, generalise

Antonyms: doubt, interpolate

Usage: You can't just **extrapolate** that kind of data from the previous results.

37. Gleam

Meaning: (of an emotion or quality) be expressed through the brightness of a person's eyes; shine brightly, especially with reflected light

Synonyms: glisten, sparkle, glitter

Antonyms: blackness, dark, darkness (near antonyms)

Usage: His eyes **gleamed** with mischief.

38. Enfeeble

Meaning: make weak or feeble

Synonyms: debilitate, immobilise, cripple

Antonyms: strengthen, reinforce

Usage: My old brain is **enfeebled** to work it out.

39. Spate

Meaning: a large number of similar things or events appearing or occurring in quick succession

Synonyms: deluge, flood, flurry, outpouring, string, succession

Antonyms: dribble, drip, trickle

Usage: A **spate** of words has been published on this controversial topic.

40. Enthuse

Meaning: express eager enjoyment, interest or approval regarding something

Synonyms: rave, motivate, inspire, stimulate

Antonyms: casual, nonchalant, uninterested

Usage: They both are **enthused** over my arrival.

41. Acquainted
Meaning: make someone aware of or familiar with

Synonyms: aware, accustomed, familiar

Antonyms: unfamiliar, ignorant

Usage: I had an opportunity to become **acquainted** with their habits.

42. Profound
Meaning: (of a state, quality, or emotion) very great or intense

Synonyms: intense, overwhelming, extensive

Antonyms: superficial, mild

Usage: He has a **profound** knowledge in his field.

43. Denigrate
Meaning: criticise unfairly; disparage

Synonyms: belittle, calumniate, malign

Antonyms: extol, praise, worship

Usage: People should not be **denigrated** simply because they hold different opinions than you.

44. Condemn
Meaning: express complete disapproval of; censure

Synonyms: denounce, disapproval

Antonyms: praise

Usage: Don't **condemn** him before you hear the evidence.

45. Fervour
Meaning: great warmth and earnestness of feeling

Synonyms: ardour, passion, zeal

Antonyms: impassiveness, impassivity, insensibility

Usage: She got surprised by the **fervour** that her parents' old love letters contained when she discovered them in the attic.

46. Perplex
Meaning: make (someone) feel completely baffled

Synonyms: puzzle, confuse, mystify

Antonyms: simplify

Usage: It **perplexed** him because he was tackling it the wrong way.

47. Stately
Meaning: impressive or grand in size, appearance, or manner; dignified

Synonyms: majestic, imperial

Antonyms: undignified, unimposing, commonplace

Usage: That was a **stately** building in the city.

48. Jittery
Meaning: nervous or unable to relax

Synonyms: nervous, skittish, panicky

Antonyms: cool, calm, peaceful

Usage: He looked increasingly **jittery** as the series went on.

49. Clamour
Meaning: (of a group of people) shout loudly and insistently

Synonyms: outcry, uproar

Antonyms: silence, peace

Usage: The country's billion people clamour for more and more human rights.

50. Meagre
Meaning: (of something provided or available) lacking in quantity or quality

Synonyms: inadequate, scanty, insubstantial, skimpy

Antonyms: abundant, plentiful, copious

Usage: The poor eat their **meagre** ration of bread.

D.51–60) Read the passage carefully and fill the blanks with appropriate words.

A new set of future satellites called hyperspectral imaging satellites is set to add teeth to the way India is _____ **(51)** _____ from about 600 km in space. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) says it plans to launch a full-fledged niche Earth observation (EO) satellite — called the Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite or HySIS — using a critical chip it has developed. There is no specific time-frame yet for its launch, an ISRO spokesman said, adding that meanwhile, the new chip, technically called an "optical imaging detector array," that they have created and it would be tested and _____ **(52)** _____. "ISRO is _____ **(53)** ___ to enter the domain of operational hyperspectral imaging from earth orbit" with a satellite that can see in 55 spectral or colour bands from 630 km above ground," the space organisation has said. It said it decided to develop the chip that _____ **(54)** _____ Indian requirements. Hyperspectral or hyspex imaging is said to be an EO trend that is being _____ **(55)** _____ globally. Adding a new dimension to plain-vanilla optical imagers, it can be used for a range of activities from monitoring the environment, crops, looking for oil and minerals all the way up to military surveillance — all of which need images that show a high level of _____ **(56)** _____ of the object or scene. About a decade ago, ISRO added another EO niche with microwave or radar imaging satellites RISAT-1 and 2 that could 'see' through clouds and the dark — an important feature useful for the military and security agencies. 'Hyspex' imaging is said to _____ **(57)** _____ distinct identification of objects, materials or processes on Earth by reading the spectrum for each pixel of a scene from space. Another official ___ **(58)** _____ it as "another important development by ISRO in its quest for better and diverse

Earth observation technologies." ISRO first tried it out in an 83-kg IMS-1 experimental satellite in May 2008. The same year, a hyperspectral camera was put on Chandrayaan-1 and used to map lunar mineral resources. Very few space agencies have such a satellite; a German environmental satellite called EnMAP is due to be launched on an Indian booster in 2018. The payloads development centre, Space Applications Centre in Ahmedabad, designed the architecture of the chip, which was made at ISRO's electronics arm, the Semi-Conductor Laboratory, Chandigarh. The result was a detector array that could read 1000 x 66 pixels. According to an EO expert who called it the 'CATSCAN' equivalent of Earth from space, hyspex technology was still a/an ___ **(59)** ____ science. It came with many challenges and, as such, space agencies were still ___ **(60)** ____ out its issues after many years.

51.

a) willing   b) gleaned   c) harvested
d) framed   e) dispersed
Ans: b
Exp: Gleaned – collect gradually

52.

a) cleared   b) maintained   c) perfected
d) manufactured   e) dismissed
Ans: c
Exp: Perfected – make (something) completely free from faults or defects; make as good as possible

53.

a) endeavouring   b) attempting   c) holding
d) performed   e) processed
Ans: a
Exp: Endeavour – try hard to do or achieve something

54.

a) reflected   b) affected   c) asserted
d) unfitted   e) suited
Ans: e
Exp: Suited – right or appropriate for a particular person, purpose or situation

55.

a) investigated   b) analysed   c) experimented
d) searched   e) checked
Ans: c
Exp: Experimented – perform a scientific procedure, especially in a laboratory; to determine something

56.

a) discrimination   b) production   c) creation
d) differentiation   e) completion
Ans: d
Exp: Differentiation – the process of becoming or making something different

57.

a) operate   b) enable   c) entrust
d) sanction   e) obey
Ans: b
Exp: Enable – make (something) possible

58.

a) prescribed   b) announced   c) planned
d) exclaimed   e) described
Ans: e

Exp: Described – to say or write what someone or something is like

59.

a) elaborate   b) ripening   c) unfolding
d) evolving   e) enhancing
Ans: d
Exp: Evolving – to develop gradually or to cause something or someone to develop gradually

60.

a) turn   b) ironing   c) find
d) phase   e) wipe
Ans: b
Exp: Ironing (out) – to put something into a finished state by solving problems, removing differences or taking care of details

D.61–70) A sentence is divided into four parts. One of the parts may have an error. Identify the part that has the error and choose from the given options. If there is no error in the given sentence, then choose option (e) as the answer.

61.

a) Unlike in the dairy sector,
b) cooperative societies are yet to
c) make its presence
d) felt in the fisheries segment
e) No error
Ans: Exp: Replace 'its' with 'their', as cooperative societies takes up the pronoun 'their'.

62.

a) The owner of the property had
b) put up barbed wire fences to prevent
c) the animal from enter and preying
d) on the dogs he was raising
e) No error
Ans: c
Exp: Replace 'enter' with 'entering' because parallelism structure is followed here.

63.

a) We must find ways
b) to make peace with viruses
c) so we cannot
d) outnumber or outmatch them
e) No error
Ans: c
Exp: Replace 'so' with 'because'.
We use 'because' to introduce a word or phrase that stands for a clause expressing an explanation or reason.

64.

a) Apart from oil spills and plastic pollution,
b) many of the drugs that humans consume end up
c) in water bodies as effluent treatment is current
d) not equipped to deal with them
e) No error
Ans: c
Exp: Replace 'current' with 'currently' as an adverb is required here.

65.

a) About the past five years
b) the business bribery risk environment

---

c) in the United States worsened significantly

d) when compared with global trends

e) No error

Ans: a

Exp:

Replace 'about' with 'over' or 'during', because time duration is referred here.

66.

a) I climbed out of the car into the midday heat,

b) I noticed that the front yard was festooned

c) with various bit of brightly colored

d) extruded plastic-like children's toys

e) No error

Ans: c

Exp:

Replace 'bit' with 'bits' as various is generally followed by a plural noun except for some mass nouns.

67.

a) Ever since the first outbreak

b) of the virus that caused

c) the COVID-19 pandemic, scientists

d) had been probing its origins

e) No error

Ans: d

Exp:

Replace 'had' with 'have', as the sentence is in the present perfect continuous tense. (Hint - since)

68.

a) The concept of the second chance is

b) build into our religions based

c) on the undeniable fact that

d) as human beings, we make mistakes

e) No error

Ans: b

Exp:

Replace 'build' with 'built'.

The sentence is passive and 'is' is followed by the participle form of the verb.

69.

a) Pochampally is about 50 km from Hyderabad

b) and is often referred to as the silk city

c) of India for the exquisite sarees that are

d) woven through a unique style called Ikat.

e) No error

Ans: e

Exp:

There is no error in the given statement.

70.

a) BRO has constructed the highest

b) attitude road in the world and has been

c) constantly engaged in bettering

d) connections through new roads

e) No error

Ans: b

Exp:

Replace 'attitude' with 'altitude' as 'attitude' is inappropriate here.

Attitude – the position of the body or way of carrying oneself

Altitude – the absolute height of a location, usually measured from sea level

D.71–75) Rearrange the following sentences to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph and answer the questions given below.

A. They see a deep sense of purpose in pursuing careers that allow them to nurture, grow and express their creativity through products and services that connect emotionally with tens of millions of people.

B. The aspirations of our younger generation are the key driver of music education in India today.

C. A career in music is now viewed well beyond the singer, whose voice only resonated in the cinemas we watched and later in All India Radio.

D. Considering these, Indian educational institutions have now stepped in to provide a bouquet of internationally recognised professional degrees in music, which were only available to those who could afford a foreign education until recently.

E. Our young learners are now better informed, goal-oriented and are ready to take on the challenge of charting their path to success as creative professionals.

71. What is the FIFTH sentence after rearrangement?

a) B   b) D   c) A

d) C   e) E

Ans: b

Exp:

The correct sequence is BCEAD.

The passage is about music education in India. Sentence B initiates the passage and sentence C explains the scope of the passage.So sentence B follows sentence C. 'Better informed' in sentence E indicates that it's a comparison. Sentence E compares today's scenario with the old scenario mentioned in sentence C. So sentence E follows sentence C. 'They' in sentence A refers to the 'young learners' in sentence E and sentence A follows sentence E. Sentence D explains the measures taken by Indian educational institutions and 'these' refers to the outcomes of music as a career. So sentence D follows sentence A.

72. What is the SECOND sentence after rearrangement?

a) B   b) A   c) D

d) E   e) C

Ans: e

Exp:

The correct sequence is BCEAD.

The passage is about music education in India. Sentence B initiates the passage and sentence C explains the scope of the passage.So sentence B follows sentence C. 'Better informed' in sentence E indicates that it's a comparison. Sentence E compares today's scenario with the old scenario mentioned in sentence C. So sentence E follows sentence C. 'They' in sentence A refers to the 'young learners' in sentence E and sentence A follows sentence E. Sentence D explains the measures taken by Indian educational institutions and 'these' refers to the outcomes of music as a career. So sentence D follows sentence A.

73. What is the FOURTH sentence after rearrangement?

a) E   b) C   c) A

d) E   e) B

Ans: c

Exp:

The correct sequence is BCEAD.

The passage is about music education in India. Sentence B initiates the passage and sentence C explains the scope of the passage.So sentence B follows sentence C. 'Better informed' in sentence E indicates that it's a comparison. Sentence E compares today's scenario with the old scenario mentioned in sentence C. So sentence E follows sentence C. 'They' in sentence A refers to the 'young learners' in sentence E and sentence A follows sentence E. Sentence D explains the measures taken by Indian educational institutions and 'these' refers to the outcomes of music as a career. So sentence D follows sentence A.

74. What is the THIRD sentence after rearrangement?

a) B   b) C   c) E

d) A   e) D

Ans: c

Exp:

The correct sequence is BCEAD.

The passage is about music education in India. Sentence B initiates the passage and sentence C explains the scope of the passage.So sentence B follows sentence C. 'Better informed' in sentence E indicates that it's a comparison. Sentence E compares today's scenario with the old scenario mentioned in sentence C. So sentence E follows sentence C. 'They' in sentence A refers to the 'young learners' in sentence E and sentence A follows sentence E. Sentence D explains the measures taken by Indian educational institutions and 'these' refers to the outcomes of music as a career. So sentence D follows sentence A.

75. What is the FIRST sentence after rearrangement?

a) A   b) E   c) B

d) C   e) D

Ans: c

Exp:

The correct sequence is BCEAD.

The passage is about music education in India. Sentence B initiates the passage and sentence C explains the scope of the passage. So sentence B follows sentence C. 'Better informed' in sentence E indicates that it's a comparison. Sentence E compares today's scenario with the old scenario mentioned in sentence C. So sentence E follows sentence C. 'They' in sentence A refers to the 'young learners' in sentence E and sentence A follows sentence E. Sentence D explains the measures taken by Indian educational institutions and 'these' refers to the outcomes of music as a career. So sentence D follows sentence A.

Banking Quiz

1. When was National Farmers' Day or Kisan Diwas celebrated across India?

a) 18 December   b) 19 December

c) 21 December   d) 22 December

e) 23 December

2. What is the name of the platform launched by Axis Direct for Do-It-Yourself income tax filing returns?

a) Direct Tax   b) Digitax

c) Tax Digital   d) DIY Tax

e) Income Tax Direct

Scan to QR Codes for more CA questions:

December 4th Week Quiz.

January 1st Week Quiz.

January 2nd Week Quiz.

January 3rd Week Quiz.