

Legend Magazine

February 2022

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National News

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to unveil the world's second-largest statue in Hyderabad

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to unveil the world's second-largest **216-foot** tall statue of the eleventh-century social reformer and saint **Ramanujacharya** in **Hyderabad**.
- This outdoor 216 ft statue will be known as 'Statue of Equality'. It will be the world's second-tallest statue featuring a sitting posture. It is composed of 'panchaloha', a combination of five metals comprising gold, silver, copper, brass and zinc.

Union Government announces a 40 to 100 per cent subsidy to popularise drones in agriculture

- The **Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** has decided to provide a **40 to 100 per cent** subsidy until **March 2023** in purchasing drones by revising guidelines in the existing scheme on farm mechanisation.
- The guidelines of the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) have been changed to allow agricultural institutes to receive up to **100 per cent** of the cost of agriculture drones or **₹10 lakhs**, whichever is less as a grant for the purchase of drones by the Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes, ICAR institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and State Agriculture Universities for taking up large scale demonstrations of drone technology on the farmers' fields.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveils a hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at the India Gate

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a **hologram statue** of **Subhas Chandra Bose** at the India Gate in New Delhi on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- The 3D image of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has been projected on it to create the effect of a hologram. The size of the hologram statue is 28 ft in height and 6 ft in width.

Amit Shah launches the District Good Governance Index in twenty districts of Jammu and Kashmir

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the **District Good Governance Index (DGGI)** in **Jammu and Kashmir**, which is the first Union Territory to have such an index.
- Under this index, the policies, schemes and programmes of the central as well as the state governments have been monitored at the district level.

Union Government launches Koyla Darpan portal to share key performance indicators of the coal sector

- Union Government launched a portal, **Koyla Darpan**, to share key performance indicators related to the **coal sector**. This portal was launched by Union Coal Secretary Anil Kumar Jain.
- This portal has key performance indicators like coal/lignite production, coal/lignite offtake, exploration data, central sector schemes, the status of coal stock at thermal power plants, allocation of blocks and monitoring of major coal mines and coal price.

CSIR-CDRI scientists develop a RT-PCR kit for Omicron named 'Om'

- The **CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute's** (CDRI) scientists have developed an indigenous **RT-PCR kit** called '**Om**' for testing the Omicron.
- This Om indigenous kit is set to be launched in the second week of February, after it receives a nod from the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**.
- It is the first kit made by any government institution and the third to be made indigenously for specific testing of Omicron variant of coronavirus.
- This kit will cost around ₹150 and will provide test results in around two hours.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually hosts the first meeting of the virtually India-Central Asia Summit

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** virtually hosted the **first India-Central Asia Summit** to deliberate on steps to take forward relations to newer heights as well as the evolving regional security situation.
- This virtual summit will see the participation of five presidents of the Central Asian countries — **Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Kyrgyz Republic**.
- This will be the first engagement of its kind between India and the Central Asian countries at the level of leaders.
- This summit is a reflection of India's growing engagement with the Central Asian countries, which are a part of India's extended neighbourhood.

Kerala gets its first-ever scientific bird atlas

- The **Kerala Bird Atlas (KBA)** is the first-of-its-kind state-level bird atlas in India. This atlas has details of three lakh records of **361 species** which includes 94 very rare species, 103 rare species, 110 common species, 44 very common species and 10 most abundant species.
- Most of the endemic species were found in the **Western Ghats**, while the threatened species were mostly found along the coasts.

Indian Navy conducts a workshop on artificial intelligence in Jamnagar

- **Indian Navy** conducted a three-day-long virtual workshop at the **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Valsura** in Jamnagar of **Gujarat** on leveraging artificial intelligence. This workshop was conducted under the aegis of the Southern Naval Command.
- **Indian Navy** is focused on the incorporation of artificial intelligence and machine learning in critical mission areas.

Union Minister of State for Culture Meenakashi Lekhi releases a pictorial comic book named 'India's Women Unsung Heroes'

- Union Minister of State for Culture **Meenakashi Lekhi** has released the pictorial comic book '**India's Women Unsung Heroes**' in New Delhi. This book was prepared by Union Culture Ministry in partnership with **Amar Chitra Katha**.
- This book portrays the tales of valour of our forgotten **women freedom fighters**.

Karnataka launches the 'Brain Health Initiative' to help people beat COVID-19 stress

- **Karnataka** has launched the '**Brain Health Initiative**', a first-of-its-kind in India, undertaken by **NIMHANS** in association with **NITI Aayog**.
- Under this programme, the doctors will be trained in screening and treating **mental health patients**. The initiative is being rolled out in Bengaluru, Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts on a pilot basis.

South Maubuang becomes Mizoram's first ODF Plus village

- The village of **South Maubuang** in Aibawk block of the **Aizawl district** in Mizoram has been declared a model **ODF (Open-Defecation Free) Plus village**, having fulfilled all the criteria as per the **Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin Phase II** guidelines.
- This village, with a population of 649 individuals from 116 households, has emerged as the **first ODF Plus village** in Mizoram.

MeitY unveils a roadmap to achieve \$300 billion from electronics manufacturing and exports by 2026

- Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) **Ashwini Vaishnaw** released a five-year roadmap in association with the **India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA)** for the electronics sector to achieve **\$300 billion** sustainable electronics manufacturing & exports by **2026**.
- Mobile manufacturing is expected to cross **\$100 billion** annual production, up from the current **\$30 billion** and is expected to constitute nearly **40 per cent** of this ambitious growth.

Union Textile Ministry extends the timeline for submitting PLI scheme applications to 14 February 2022

- **Union Ministry of Textiles** extended the timeline for the submission of **Production Linked Investment (PLI) scheme applications** to **14 February 2022** from 31 January 2022.
- PLI scheme aims to increase the production of **man-made fibre (MMF)** and technical textiles in India, which together account for almost two-thirds of international trade in textiles.
- The PLI textiles scheme has a financial allocation of **₹10,683 crores** covers 40 MMF (man-made fibre) garments, 14 MMF fabric products and 10 technical textile items.
- This scheme is operational from 24 September 2021 to 31 March 2030.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the thirtieth National Commission for Women's foundation day programme

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the **thirtieth National Commission for Women (NCW)'s** foundation day programme via videoconferencing.
- The theme of this year's programme is '**She The Change Maker**', which is aimed at celebrating the achievements of women in different fields.

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched the NIPER research portal to facilitate research & innovation in the pharmaceutical sector

- Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemical and Fertilisers **Mansukh Mandaviya** has launched the Research Portal of the **National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER)**. India is the third-largest pharmaceutical manufacturing country and to make the research more purposeful and meaningful in the sector.
- This research portal was developed to disseminate information about all the **NIPERs** and their research **activities, patents filed** and **publication information** in one place.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat launches 'Digital Sansad' to make live proceedings accessible to citizens

- The Lok Sabha Secretariat has launched a new application, '**Digital Sansad**', that will make it easier for people to follow proceedings in the **Parliament** and also their **lawmakers**.
- This application will also help members of Parliament access services such as checking personal updates like the status of their **notices, House bulletins, etc.**

IREDA is set to provide consultancy to Goa Shipyard for a solar power project

- State-owned **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Goa Shipyard** to provide its techno-financial expertise to set up a rooftop solar power project.

- Under this MoU, **IREDA** will assist the **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)** to set up a rooftop solar power project at the headquarters of GSL in Vasco da Gama, Goa.
- IREDA will also extend its techno-commercial expertise to GSL for **Environmental & Social (E&S)** due diligence of **rooftop solar** and other **renewable energy projects** as per the internationally accepted E&S standards.

Indian Coast Guard celebrates its 46th Raising Day

- **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** celebrated its **46th Raising Day** on **01 February 2022**. ICG was established in **1977** and is the **fourth largest coast guard** in the world.
- The ICG's motto is '**Vayam Rakshamah**', which translates to '**We Protect**'.

Union Government sets up a National Land Monetisation Corporation to expedite the monetisation of land and non-core assets of public sector entities

- Union Government has set up a **National Land Monetisation Corporation** with an initial authorised share capital of **₹5000 crores** and subscribed share capital of **₹ 150 crores** to carry out the monetisation of the land and other non-core assets.
- The National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC) is being incorporated as a **100 per cent** owned entity of the Government of India.
- Union Government's main assets have a total monetisation potential of **₹6 lakh crores** over four years from 2021–22 to 2024–25.
- The leading five sectors include railways, roads, power, oil and gas pipelines and telecom and these estimate for approximately 83 per cent of the total value.

Union Government allocates ₹283.5 crores for Startup India Seed Fund Scheme

- Union Government has allocated **₹283.5 crores** for the **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme** in the Union Budget 2022–23, which is higher than the Revised Estimate of about ₹100 crores.
- The allocation for the Startup India initiative has been enhanced to **₹50 crores** for 2022–23 from the Revised Estimate of ₹32.83 crores in 2021–22, according to the Union Budget document.
- The **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)** was launched by the Union Government with the goal of providing financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialisation.
- The Fund of Funds for Startups received a budgetary allocation of ₹1000 crores. With a corpus of ₹10,000 crores, the Union Government has established a **Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS)**.

- The FFS is administered by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

Union Government approves the continuation of the scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federation

- **Union Government** has approved the continuance of the scheme of **Assistance to National Sports Federations**, with an expense of **₹1575 crores** for Fifteenth Finance Commission Cycle 2021–22 to 2025–26.
- It is the union sector's flagship scheme and the primary source of funding for national teams' preparation for all major national and international events. These include the Olympic Games, Para-Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and other major international tournaments.
- The National Sports Federation will use these funds provided by the Union Ministry through this scheme to hold national coaching camps, purchase sports equipment and provide international-standard training to athletes.

Union Ministry of Education and Union Ministry of Civil Aviation were declared joint winners in the category of Union Ministries/Departments at the Republic Day Parade 2022

- The **tableaux of the Union Ministry of Education and Union Ministry of Civil Aviation** have been declared as the joint winners in the category of Union Ministries/Departments at the Republic Day Parade 2022 among the nine tableaux of Union Ministries/Departments.
- It was the first time that the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation participated in the Republic Day Parade.
- The Union Ministry of Education and Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship's tableaux were themed '**National Education Policy**' while the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation's tableau was themed '**Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik**.'
- The tableau of the Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (CPWD), based on the theme 'Subhash @125' and the 'Vande Bharatam' dance group, have been selected for the special prize category.
- Based on public voting, the Union Ministry of Communication/Department of Posts' tableau was chosen as the finest among Union Ministries/Departments. The theme of this tableau is '**India Post: 75 Years @ Resolve - Women Empowerment**'.

IIT Hyderabad creates India's first AI-based job portal for persons with disabilities named 'Swarajability'

- India's first AI-based job portal for persons with disabilities named '**Swarajability**' was created by **IIT Hyderabad** to provide opportunities with tech applications.
- This portal assists job seekers with disabilities such as visual impairment, hearing impairment and motor diseases.

- It is developed with the help of **Visual Quest India** as a developer and Youth4Jobs platform. This project is funded by Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- It will be a one-stop-shop for organisations that want to hire persons with disabilities.

IIT Madras is set to establish interdisciplinary water management and policy centre named 'AquaMAP'

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras is set to establish a new inter-disciplinary water management and policy centre known as '**AquaMAP**' to solve water problems in India.
- This centre will provide smart solutions for challenging water problems by designing scalable models by leveraging innovative technologies.
- It is being established with support from IIT Madras alumni, who are providing a seed grant commitment of **₹3 crores**.

Union Minister of IT Ashwini Vaishnaw kicks off NITI Aayog's 'Fintech Open' Summit

- Union Minister for Railways, Communications and Electronics and IT, **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, has inaugurated a three-week-long virtual summit '**Fintech Open**'.
- This summit was organised by **NITI Aayog** in collaboration with **PhonePe**, Amazon Web Services (AWS) and **Ernst & Young (EY)**. NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman, Rajiv Kumar was also present at this summit.

Union Power Minister R. K. Singh launches a hackathon to deliver tech-driven solutions for quality power supply

- Union Power Minister **R. K. Singh** has launched a hackathon called **Powerthon 2022** to find tech-driven solutions to handle complicated power distribution issues and ensure a safe and reliable power supply.
- The technology solution providers (TSPs), educational institutions, research institutes, equipment manufacturers, state power utilities and other state/central power sector entities will be briefed on the current challenges/problem statements faced across the **power distribution sector** and invited to showcase their technology-driven solutions to solve these complex problems during this hackathon.
- The participants in this hackathon will be tasked with developing innovative solutions based on advanced emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, blockchain and the Internet of Things (IoT) based on nine themes that have been identified following discussions with 14 distribution companies (discoms) across nine states.
- The nine themes include demand/load forecasting, AT&C loss reduction, energy theft detection, DT (distribution transformer) failure prediction, asset inspection, vegetation management, consumer experience enhancement, renewable energy integration and power purchase optimisation.

- **R. K. Singh's Constituency** : Arrah (Bihar)

Railway Protection Force launches 'Operation AAHT' to curb human trafficking

- Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched a nationwide operation named '**Operation AAHT**' to curb human trafficking.
- Special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes as part of 'Operation AAHT', with the goal of rescuing victims, mainly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers.
- The RPF's infrastructure and intelligence network could be used as part of 'Operation AAHT' to collect, collate, and analyse clues on victims, source, route, destination, popular trains used by suspects, the identity of carriers/agents/kingpins and then shared with other law-enforcement agencies. The RPF might serve as a link between states, assisting local police in their efforts to combat the threat.

Railway Protection Force: Railway Protection Force (RPF) is a security force, established by the **Railway Protection Force Act, 1957**. It was enacted by the Indian Parliament for greater protection and security of railway property and passenger area.

Union Minister of Railways: **Ashwini Vaishnaw**

Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launches the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0

- Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya virtually launched the **Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0** that aims to prevent infants and pregnant women from life-threatening diseases.
- Under this mission, all vaccines under **Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)** are provided as per the national immunisation schedule.
- This mission will have three rounds and will be conducted in 416 districts across 33 states and union territories.

Mission Indradhanush: Mission Indradhanush is a health mission of the Government of India and was launched by the then Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda on 25 December 2014 with an aim to protect partly and unvaccinated pregnant women and children in low-immunisation pockets, high-risk and difficult to reach areas from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Union Ministry of Food Processing extends the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana till FY26

- Union Food Processing Ministry has extended its flagship scheme named **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)** till FY26 (2021–22 to 2025–26) with an allocation of **₹4600 crores**.

- This scheme will boost the growth of the food processing sector and also help in providing better prices to farmers thereby creating huge employment opportunities.
- PMKSY is an umbrella scheme that encompasses the Union Food Processing Ministry's ongoing initiatives such as integrated cold chain and value addition infrastructure, food safety and quality assurance infrastructure, infrastructure for agro-processing clusters and creation/expansion of food processing & preservation capabilities.

Union Government is set to launch the SMILE scheme for the welfare of marginalised individuals

- The Union Government is set to launch the Central Sector Scheme (CSS) named **Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE)** in New Delhi.
- This scheme is intended to provide assistance to the transgender community and people engaged in the act of begging.
- The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has allocated **₹365 crores** for this scheme for the period 2021–22 to 2025–26.
- It is divided into two sub- schemes — the **Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for the Welfare of Transgender Persons** and the **Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Involved in Begging**.
- Under the Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons scheme, there is a provision in this scheme to grant scholarships to transgender pupils. There is also a provision for the establishment of a Transgender Protection Cell to ensure that transgressions are promptly registered, investigated and prosecuted.
- The implementing agencies will conduct a survey and identify beneficiaries under the Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the Act of Begging scheme.

Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and UNDP India launches the Community Innovator Fellowship

- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and NITI Aayog, have collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India to launch the **Community Innovator Fellowship (CIF)**.
- This initiative will provide the young people with a chance to start their own social venture that focuses on sustainable development goals (SDGs) based solutions for community problems.
- This is going to be a one-year-long intensive fellowship programme, which has been designed for aspiring community innovators irrespective of their socio-economic background.

- The CIF programme would primarily focus on assisting the knowledge and capacity building of prospective community innovators, which is critical to their entrepreneurial path. This is one of the ways that the Atal Innovation Mission plans to engage young people in the mainstreaming of social enterprise as a culture in the Indian startup ecosystem.

FICCI CASCADE takes initiatives to launch the Anti-Smuggling Day 2022 on 11 February

- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)'s Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) has taken some initiatives to launch the **Anti-Smuggling Day 2022 on 11 February**.
- Anti-Smuggling Day was established with the goal of improving law enforcement coordination and collaboration, promoting a greater exchange of information and experiences and developing a strong network to find new solutions to battle the smuggling threat.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)

- FICCI is the primary port of call for Indian industry, policymakers and the foreign business community, providing a venue for networking and consensus building within and across sectors.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches the first colour souvenir coin on 'Panchtantra'

- The **Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL)** celebrated its **seventeenth** foundation day programme on 11 February 2022, where the Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman has launched the **first colour souvenir coin on 'Panchtantra'**.
- She stressed the importance of improving product quality and positioning SPMCIL as a leader in the production of currency and other sovereign products during this event.

Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL)

- SPMCIL is a government-owned printing and minting company. It is governed by the Government of India's Union Ministry of Finance. It was incorporated on 13 January 2006 with its registered office in New Delhi.

Union Government approves ₹26,275 crores for the continuation of police modernisation

- The Union Government has approved **₹26,275** for the continuation of the **mega police modernisation scheme** for five years till 2025–26 to improve the quality of forensics, policing and weapons.

- This scheme covers security-related expenditures in Jammu and Kashmir, the northeastern states and insurgency-affected areas, such as the formation of new battalions, the development of high-tech forensic laboratories and other investigation equipment.

Indian Railways plans to set up the biggest wrestling academy of India in Delhi

- The **Indian Railways** will build a world-class wrestling academy in Kishanganj, Delhi, at an approximate cost of ₹ **30.76 crores**.
- This wrestling academy would be the biggest in India, equipped with advanced training facilities.
- This sports facility being made in Delhi will be exclusively for wrestling and will provide opportunity for aspiring wrestlers to improve their talents and become world champions in the coming years.
- The Indian Railways is contributing to the promotion of sports in India through the Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB).

The eighth session of the India–Italy foreign office consultations was held in Rome

- The eighth session of the **India-Italy Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)** was held in **Rome**, where the two sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations.
- The two sides also discussed **India–EU relations** and agreed on the need to commence negotiations on the India–EU free trade and investment agreements at the earliest.
- Italy's interest in implementing the EU's Indo–Pacific guidelines and the India–EU connectivity partnership was welcomed by India.

Italy

- **Capital:** Rome
- **President:** Sergio Mattarella
- **Prime Minister:** Mario Draghi

Union Government banned 54 Chinese apps over security threat and privacy risks

- The Indian Government banned over **54 new Chinese mobile applications** citing concerns over privacy and national security.
- The banned apps were allegedly involved in activities that jeopardised India's sovereignty and integrity, as well as constituting a major threat to India's security and defence.
- The list of banned mobile apps includes Beauty Camera Sweet Selfie HD, Beauty Camera **Selfie Camera**, **Rise of Kingdoms Lost Crusade**, **Viva Video Editor**, **Tencent Xriver**, amongst others.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivers the inaugural address at TERI's World Sustainable Development Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually-delivered the inaugural address at the **World Sustainable Development Summit** of the **Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)**.
- This summit is TERI's annual flagship event and the theme of 2022 is '**Towards a resilient planet: Ensuring a sustainable and equitable future**'.
- President of the Dominican Republic Luis Abinader, President of Guyana Dr. Irfaan Ali, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Amina J. Mohammed, heads of various intergovernmental organisations, ministers and envoys from more than a dozen countries and delegates from over 120 countries are set to attend this three-day summit.

Union Government launches the Scheme for Economic Empowerment for DNTs

- The Union Government launched the **Scheme for Economic Empowerment for DNTs (SEED)** for the welfare of de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic communities in New Delhi.
- The De-notified Tribes (DNTs) are the most underserved, marginalised and economically and socially deprived communities. These people have traditionally had little access to private land or homeownership, relying instead on woods and grazing pastures for their livelihood and housing.
- This scheme includes free education, health insurance worth ₹5 lakhs under the **Ayushman Bharat**, improved livelihood opportunities and financial support for house construction, which will be game-changers in terms of empowering DNT communities.

Union Ministry of Culture organises a two-day global summit in Hyderabad on 'Reimagining Museums in India'

- The **Union Ministry of Culture** organised a two-day global summit on '**Reimagining Museums in India**' in Hyderabad from 15 February 2022 to 16 February 2022.
- This virtual event will see participation from Australia, France, Italy, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.
- This summit is being organised as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The summit will focus on four broad themes relating to **architecture, management, collections and education**.
- This summit serve as a forum for networking with nationally and internationally recognised museum professionals, sharing best practices in museology, promoting networks, stimulating strategic partnerships and developing a framework to guide institution expansion and rejuvenation.

Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy organises 'NEW FRONTIERS: A Programme on Renewable Energy'

- Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)'s programme '**New Frontiers: A programme on Renewable Energy**' to celebrate the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav commenced with the inaugural event "**India's Leadership in Energy Transition**" at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- In the past seven years, **India** has increased its installed capacity of **395,000 MW** whereas our peak demand is **200,000 MW**. India now has an integrated national grid.

Asia's largest tribal fair Medaram Jatara begins in Telangana

- Telangana's **Medaram Jatara**, considered to be **Asia's largest tribal fair** celebrated over four days every two years, began at Medaram village of **Mulugu district, Telangana**.
- Over 1.25 crore people are expected to congregate at the village to celebrate the valour of Adivasi icons **Sammakka** and **Sarakka**, who are considered to be protectors of the community.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman virtually participates in the first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting under G20 Indonesia Presidency

- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** virtually attended the **first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting**, which was held under **Indonesia's presidency of the G20**.

Union Government approves a new scheme of adult education for FY 2022–27 named the 'New India Literacy Programme'

- The Union Government approved a new scheme called the '**New India Literacy Programme**' to cover all elements of adult education and to align with the National Education Policy 2020.
- The aim of this literacy programme is to teach not only **core literacy and numeracy**, but also other abilities that a citizen of the twenty-first century needs, such as key life skills (including financial literacy, digital literacy, commercial skills, healthcare and awareness, child care, education and family welfare).
- It will cover non-literates of the age of **15 years** and **above** in all states/union territories in India.

Narcotics Control Bureau organises the Darkathon 2022' to find solutions to counter drug trafficking

- The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) organised the **Darkathon 2022** in New Delhi to identify ideas to combat **drug trafficking** on the darknet around the world.
- This initiative aims at involving students, youth and technical experts to find effective solutions to unravel the anonymity of darknet markets.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Asia's biggest bio-CNG plant in Madhya Pradesh's Indore

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** virtually inaugurated Asia's biggest bio-CNG plant at **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**.
- Nearly **400 buses** in Indore will soon run on the **bio-CNG** produced from waste at this plant situated in the Devguradia village, eight kilometres away from Indore.

India and the World Bank sign a loan agreement worth \$ 115 million for the implementation of the 'REWARD' project

- The Government of India, the state governments of **Karnataka** and **Odisha** and the **World Bank** have signed a **\$ 115 million (₹ 869 crores)** programme named '**Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD)**'.
- The Government of India has committed to restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by **2030** and doubling farmers' income by **2023**.

India and the UAE sign a comprehensive trade agreement

- **India** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** have signed a **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** covering goods, services and digital trade, among others, that will allow 90 per cent of the India's exports duty-free access to the **UAE**.

Union Steel Minister Ram Charan Prasad Singh lays the foundation stone for the coke oven plant in Mangaluru, Karnataka

- The Union Minister of Steel **Ram Chandra Prasad Singh** laid the foundation stone for **coke oven plant** in **Mangaluru, Karnataka**.
- This project is planned at a total cost of **₹ 836.90 crores** and would take 24 months to be complete. It also includes the setting up of **2.0 litre tonnes** per annum ductile iron spun plant.

Madhya Pradesh Government announces welfare schemes on Ravidas Jayanti

- **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** announced a slew of **welfare schemes** for **Dalits**, including one related to self-employment, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of **Guru Ravidas**.
- Madhya Pradesh Government also announced that the **Global Skill Park** in the name of **Guru Ravidas** is set to be built in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.

Himachal Pradesh gets its first biodiversity park at Mandi's Bhulah Valley

- The first biodiversity park of **Himachal Pradesh** was established at the cost of ₹ 1 crore at Bhulah in Janjehli Valley in **Mandi district, Himachal Pradesh**.
- This biodiversity park helps **researchers** to conduct in-depth research. The park will also prove as a special **attraction for tourists** from across the globe.

The forty-eighth Khajuraho Dance Festival begins in Madhya Pradesh

- The forty-eighth '**Khajuraho Dance Festival**' commenced in **Madhya Pradesh**. It is a week-long festival held till 26 February 2022. This festival is being organised in **Khajuraho** of the Chhatarpur district in **Madhya Pradesh**.

India's first biosafety level-3 mobile laboratory was launched in Maharashtra

- **India's first biosafety level-3** containment mobile laboratory was launched in **Nashik, Maharashtra**. This mobile laboratory was set up to investigate newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections that are highly infectious and of **lethal potential** to human beings.
- This mobile laboratory provides a public health solution as it can be simply driven around to **various locations**, just like a **normal bus**.

Union Government approves the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan till 31 March 2026

- The Union Government has approved the continuation of the **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)** scheme till 31 March 2026. The Union Government has envisaged supporting around **1,600 projects** under the new phase of this scheme.
- The expenditure of this scheme will be ₹ **12,929.16 crores**, of which the central share will be ₹ **8,120.97 crores** and the state share will be ₹ **4,808.19 crores**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Drone manufacturing facilities of Garuda Aerospace

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has virtually inaugurated the drone manufacturing facilities of **Garuda Aerospace** at **Gurugram, Haryana** and **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- The 100 drones commenced agriculture spraying operations in 16 states to celebrate **75 years of Indian Independence** as part of '**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**' celebrations.

State News

Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya observe their fiftieth statehood day on 21 January

- This year (2022) marks the **fiftieth statehood day** of Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya.
- **Tripura and Manipur** were granted the status of union territories while **Meghalaya** was a part of Assam.
- In 1969, Meghalaya received the recognition of an autonomous state through the Assam Reorganisation (Meghalaya) Act, 1969.
- On 21 January 1972, the **North East Reorganisation Act, 1971**, was implemented that provided statehood to the three North East states — Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur.

Union Shipping Minister inaugurates India's first water taxi service in Mumbai

- Union Shipping Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated India's first water taxi service connecting the twin cities of **Mumbai and Navi Mumbai**.
- This service will commence the Domestic Cruise Terminal (DCT) and will connect the nearby locations at Nerul, Belapur, Elephanta Island and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT).
- The **first railway service in India** was also started between **Mumbai and Thane**.

Jammu and Kashmir declares Jerri Hamlet as the first milk village

- **Jammu and Kashmir** administration has declared Jerri Hamlet in the **Reasi district** as the first '**milk village**' of Jammu and Kashmir and sanctioned 57 more dairy farms under the **Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS)** for this hamlet.
- This milk village houses 73 individual dairy units with 370 cows, which will give financial security to the local farmers.
- Under the IDDS, dairy units of five animals are provided with a 50 per cent subsidy.
- This scheme also has a provision for milking machine, bulk milk cooling unit at 50 per cent subsidy (maximum subsidy of ₹5 lakhs), paneer making machine, khoya making, Dahi making, cream separator, ice cream making machine, butter and ghee making machine (maximum subsidy of ₹3.5 lakhs), milk van (maximum subsidy of ₹2 lakhs and milk ATM subsidy of ₹5 lakhs).

Karnataka launches India's first Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics Centre of Excellence

- **Karnataka Government** has launched **India's first Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Centre of**

Excellence, promoting it as a cutting-edge high-tech digital media hub.

- Karnataka became the first state to bring an AVGC policy in 2012.
- Karnataka has also become India's first to set up such a Centre of Excellence (CoE), which is also believed to be the biggest in Asia.

Karnataka

- **Capital:** Bengaluru
- **Chief Minister:** Basavaraj Bommai
- **Governor:** Thawarchand Gehlot
- **National Parks:** Anshi National Park, Kudremukh National Park, Bandipur National Park, Bannerghatta National Park, Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarahole) National Park

Himachal Pradesh Statehood Day – 25 January

- **Himachal Pradesh** celebrated its Statehood Day on 25 January to commemorate its formation on **25 January 1971** under the **State of Himachal Pradesh Act**.
- The State of Himachal Pradesh Act was passed on 18 December 1970.
- It became a Union Territory of India in 1956 and was finally recognised as the eighteenth state in the Indian union in 1971.
- Himachal Pradesh is known as '**Dev Bhoomi**' or the '**Land of God**'.

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

Karnataka Government launches the Grama One programme

- **Karnataka** Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai launched the '**Grama One**' programme to offer various government departments services' in rural areas of 12 districts in Karnataka.
- The documents, such as income, caste, residency certificates, RTCs (Rights, Tenancy & Crops) and other documents, will now be issued at the Grama One centres.
- Grama One centre at the gram panchayat would be linked to **Tahsildar, Assistant Commissioner offices** and **Atal Seva Kendras** to provide these services.

- A separate cell is set up with equipment and data entry operators in the offices of Tahsildars to receive these applications.
- The E-Governance Department will be monitoring and reviewing this programme. This programme will prevent people in villages from going to the Taluk offices and reduce corruption.

Karnataka

- **Capital:** Bengaluru
- **Chief Minister:** Basavaraj Bommai
- **Governor:** Thawarchand Gehlot
- **National Parks:** Anshi National Park, Kudremukh National Park, Bandipur National Park, Bannerghatta National Park, Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarahole) National Park

Andhra Pradesh is set to get 13 new districts

- **Andhra Pradesh Government** issued draft notifications for carving out **13 new districts** out of the existing **13**, taking the total number of districts to **26** for better administration and development of these areas.
- According to a notification issued by the Andhra Pradesh Government, the reorganisation of the districts is being done under **Section 3** of the **Andhra Pradesh Districts (Formation) Act, 1974**.
- Andhra Pradesh has **25** Lok Sabha constituencies and each is supposed to be made into a revenue district.
- The Lok Sabha constituency of **Araku** is being split into two new districts as the size is too large and spread over many districts.
- The two new tribal districts will be: **Manyam** with headquarters in Parvathipuram and **Alluri Sitarama Raju** named after the legendary Telugu freedom fighter with its headquarters in Paderu.

Andhra Pradesh

- **Capital:** Amaravati
- **Chief Minister:** Y.S.Jagan Mohan Reddy
- **Governor:** Biswa Bhushan Harichandan
- **Folk Dances:** Kuchipudi, Vilasini Natyam, Bhamakalpan, Veeranatyam
- **National Parks:** Sri Venkateswara National Park, Rajiv Gandhi National Park, Papikonda National Park

Kerala is set to establish India's first graphene innovation centre

- India's first **innovation centre for graphene** will be set up in **Kerala** by the Digital University Kerala (DUK), along with the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) in **Thrissur**, for an investment of ₹86.41 crores (over \$11.5 million).

- **Tata Steel Limited** is set to be the industrial partner of the graphene innovation centre.
- Graphene is known for its extraordinary electrical and electronic properties and as per the latest research, it could replace indium and bring down the cost of organic light-emitting diode (OLED) screens in smartphones.

Kerala

- **Capital:** Thiruvananthapuram
- **Chief Minister:** Pinarayi Vijayan
- **Governor:** Arif Mohammed Khan
- **National Parks:** Anamudi Shola National Park, Eravikulam National Park, Mathikettan Shola National Park, Pambadum Shola National Park, Periyar National Park, Silent Valley National Park

Tamil Nadu Government plans to erect a statue of Colonel John Pennycuik in the United Kingdom

- Tamil Nadu Government has planned to erect a statue of British army engineer **Colonel John Pennycuik** at his birth place in **Camberley, the United Kingdom**.
- He was as a British engineer who built the Mullaperiyar Dam in 1895 in Kerala's Idukki, which provides water to Theni, Dindigul, Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai and Madurai districts of Tamil Nadu.
- Mullaiperiyar Dam is currently operated by the Tamil Nadu Government.

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

India's largest electric vehicle charging station was commissioned at Gurugram

- India's largest **electric vehicle (EV) charging station**, comprising 72 AC slow chargers and 24 DC fast chargers, has been commissioned at **Gurugram, Haryana**.
- This charging station, equipped with 100 charging points for four-wheelers, was commissioned in Sector 52 of Gurugram.
- This project is aimed at demonstrating the competitive advantage of owning a charging station business over petrol pumps in terms of ease in getting the necessary licensing, designing, commissioning, installation, electrification and safety certifications.

- Prior to this, India's largest EV charging station was located in **Navi Mumbai** that houses 16 AC and four DC chargers.

Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation starts its public awareness campaign 'SPARSH' against leprosy

- **Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)** started '**SPARSH**', a public awareness campaign, against **leprosy** under the **National Leprosy Eradication Programme**.
- BMC organised this exhibition in all its 24 administrative zones. It also carries out a door-to-door campaign to conduct a survey.

Maharashtra has the highest number of SC entrepreneurs in India: Office of the Development Commissioner

- According to the data furnished by the Office of the Development Commissioner in the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, **Maharashtra** topped the number of **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME)** owned by entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Castes covered under the Udyam system of registration in India with 96,805 enterprises.
- Maharashtra was followed by **Tamil Nadu** (42,997), **Rajasthan** (38,517), **Uttar Pradesh** (36,913), **Karnataka** (28,803) and **Punjab** (24,503).

Maharashtra

- **Capital:** Mumbai
- **Chief Minister:** Uddhav Thackeray
- **Governor:** Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- **National Parks:** Chandoli National Park, Gugamal National Park, Nawegaon National Park, Pench (Jawaharlal Nehru) National Park, Sanjay Gandhi (Borivilli) National Park, Tadoba National Park

Spitik Gustor Festival 2022 begins in Ladakh

- **Spitik Gustor**, the annual celebrations of **Ladakhi** culture and traditional heritage began in the Union territory of **Ladakh**.
- The main attraction of this festival is the **colourful mask dance** locally called Chams performed by the monks of the monastery in their best robes depicting different deities such as Mahakala (Gonbo), Paldan Lhamo (Shridevi) and White Mahakala (Protector Deity).

Ladakh

- **Capital:** Leh
- **Lieutenant Governor:** Radha Krishna Mathur

India's first geological park is set to come up at Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur

- **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** has approved the setting up of India's first geopark at **Lamheta village** on the banks of the **Narmada river** in the Jabalpur district of **Madhya Pradesh**.

- The estimated cost of this project is **₹35 crores**. This site is already present in the **UNESCO geo-heritage** tentative list for the conservation of the natural heritage.

Madhya Pradesh

- Capital: **Bhopal**
- Chief Minister: **Shivraj Singh Chauhan**
- Governor: **Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel**
- National Parks: **Bandhavgarh National Park, Dinosaur Fossils National Park, Fossil National Park, Pench National Park, Kanha National Park, Kuno National Park, Madhav National Park, Panna National Park, Sanjay National Park, Satpura National Park, Van Vihar National Park**

Three-day Torgya Festival of the Monpa community begins in Arunachal Pradesh

- The three-day traditional **Torgya Festival** of the **Monpa community** of **Arunachal Pradesh** began at the **Tawang Monastery**. This year (2022) marks a special occasion as it is '**Dungyur Torgya**', which comes after a three-year gap.
- This is a festival comprising **oral and dance performances** portraying the mythical events which are believed to have taken place in the past.

Arunachal Pradesh

- Capital: **Itanagar**
- Chief Minister: **Pema Khandu**
- Governor: **Brig. B. D. Mishra**

Punjab Chief Electoral Officer unveils Punjab's election Mascot 'Shera'

- Punjab Chief Electoral Officer **S. Karuna Raju** unveiled Punjab elections mascot named '**Shera**'. This mascot aims to increase **voter awareness** and participation in the elections to increase voter turnout and promote ethical voting in the upcoming **2022 Punjab Assembly polls**.
- This mascot is promoted under the **Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)** project.

Punjab

- Capital: **Chandigarh**
- Chief Minister: **Charanjit Singh Channi**
- Governor: **Banwarilal Purohit**

GAIL starts India's first project of mixing hydrogen into the natural gas system

- GAIL (India) Limited has commenced India's first-ever project of mixing **hydrogen** into the **natural gas** system at **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**.

- The hydrogen blended natural gas will be supplied to **Avantika Gas Limited**, one of GAIL's joint ventures with **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)**, for retailing of compressed natural gas (CNG) to automobiles and piped natural gas to households in Indore.

Madhya Pradesh

- Capital: **Bhopal**
- Chief Minister: **Shivraj Singh Chauhan**
- Governor: **Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel**
- National Parks: **Bandhavgarh National Park, Dinosaur Fossils National Park, Fossil National Park, Pench National Park, Kanha National Park, Kuno National Park, Madhav National Park, Panna National Park, Sanjay National Park, Satpura National Park, Van Vihar National Park**

Chhattisgarh becomes 35th state/UT to implement the One Nation One Ration Card scheme

- **Chhattisgarh** became the thirty-fifth state/union territory to implement the **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme** under the National Food Security Act enabling the people of the state to lift their foodgrains quota entitled under the food law from any ration shops across India.
- The ONORC scheme for nation-wide portability of the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)** ration cards has been enabled in Chhattisgarh from 2 February 2022.
- ONORC is a technology-driven distribution method that makes food security portable across India. By utilising their identical ration cards, people can obtain their entitled quota of foodgrains from any fair price shop of their choice anywhere in India.

Chhattisgarh

- Capital: **Raipur**
- Chief Minister: **Bhupesh Baghel**
- Governor: **Sushri Anusuiya Uikey**

Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh were listed as Ramsar sites

- The Ramsar Convention has designated the **Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary** near Jamnagar in **Gujarat** and the **Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Uttar Pradesh** as Wetlands of International Importance.
- Khijadiya, which is part of the Central Asian Flyway, is Gujarat's fourth Ramsar-designated wetland. Gujarat's other Ramsar sites are the **Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary, Thol Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Wadhvana Wetlands**.
- The total number of Ramsar sites in India went up to **48** with this addition.

Uttar Pradesh wins the Best State Tableau Award at the Republic Day Parade 2022

- **Uttar Pradesh** won the **Best State Tableau Award** at the Republic Day Parade 2022 among the 12 states/ union territories that participated in the Republic Day Parade 2022.
- The tableau of Uttar Pradesh was based on the theme of '**One District - One Product and Kashi Vishwanath Dham**'.
- Uttar Pradesh is followed by **Karnataka** for its tableau based on 'Cradle of Traditional Handicrafts' and **Meghalaya** for its tableau based on 'Meghalaya's 50 years of Statehood and its tribute to women-led cooperative societies & SHGs'.
- **Maharashtra** was voted as the best tableaux among the states/ union territories in the popular choice category based on the theme of '**Biodiversity and State Bio-symbols of Maharashtra**'.

Uttar Pradesh

- **Capital:** Lucknow
- **Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor:** Anandiben Patel
- **National Park:** Dudhwa National Park (Tiger Reserve)

Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram was declared as India's first Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM) site

- The **Aravalli Biodiversity Park** in Gurugram was declared as India's first **other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) site**. This was announced by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** awards the OECM tags to areas that are not protected but support rich biodiversity.
- The National Biodiversity Authority submitted a request to the IUCN in **December 2020** to declare the Aravalli Biodiversity Park an OECM site.
- The Aravalli Biodiversity Park contains 390 acres of semi-arid vegetation with 300 native plants, 1,01,000 trees, 43,000 shrubs and a variety of bird species.

Haryana

- **Capital:** Chandigarh
- **Chief Minister:** Manohar Lal Khattar
- **Governor:** Bandaru Dattatraya
- **National Parks:** Sultanpur National Park, Kalesar National Park
- **Dance:** Phag, Dhamal, Loor, Khoria

Gujarat launches new Information Technology and IT-enabled Services (IT/ITeS) policy to generate one lakh jobs in five years

- **Gujarat** Government has launched a new **Information Technology and IT-enabled Services (IT/ITeS) policy** to generate one lakh high-skilled jobs in the IT sector in the next five years till 2027.
- Over the next five years, the new IT/ITeS policy aims to increase Gujarat's IT/ITeS exports from ₹ **3000 crores** to ₹ **25,000 crores**.
- This new policy proposes a separate incentive structure for both capital expenditure (CAPEX) and operational expenditures (OPEX).
- Gujarat Government will provide a CAPEX support of **25 per cent**, in the limit of ₹ 50 crores, which can go up to ₹ 200 crores for a mega project and OPEX support will range between ₹ 20 crores and ₹ 40 crores per year, depending on the size of the project.
- Gujarat Government will pay a unique annual incentive of up to ₹ **50,000** for males and ₹ **60,000** for women employees under the Employment Generation Incentive (EGI) component of this policy.
- Similarly, employers will get a 100 per cent refund for EPF contribution for women employees, while the ratio will be 75 per cent for men.

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

Jammu and Kashmir Government becomes the first union territory in India to be integrated with the national single window system

- Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha** opened the **J&K single-window portal**, merging it with the national single-window system. This move made Jammu and Kashmir as the **first union territory** to be integrated with the **national single-window system**.
- While 130 industrial services have been made online on the single-window system, over 160 more services will be integrated in 2022.
- This integrated single-window system will facilitate new investments both locally and worldwide, either through the national single-window system or through the J&K single-window system with user-friendly interfaces and timely approvals.

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

Madhya Pradesh gets India's first biomass-based hydrogen plant

- India's first commercial-scale **biomass-based** hydrogen plant is set to come up in the Khandwa district of **Madhya Pradesh**.
- This plant will produce a tonne of hydrogen per day, from 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock and will also produce **biochar** and **methane**.
- Watomo Energies Limited and Biezel Green Energy have formed a joint venture to build this facility with a total investment of ₹ 24 crores.
- Biezel Green Energy is the technology partner for this project.

Madhya Pradesh

- **Capital:** Bhopal
- **Chief Minister:** Shivraj Singh Chauhan
- **Governor:** Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
- **National Parks:** Bandhavgarh National Park, Dinosaur Fossils National Park, Fossil National Park, Pench National Park, Kanha National Park, Kuno National Park, Madhav National Park, Panna National Park, Sanjay National Park, Satpura National Park, Van Vihar National Park

Jaisalmer Desert Festival 2022 begins in Rajasthan

- The **Jaisalmer Desert Festival 2022** is an annual event that began on 13 February in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- The world-famous Jaisalmer Desert Festival is also known as **Maru Mahotsav of the Golden City**.
- This four-day event from 13 February 2022 to 16 February 2022 began with a colourful grand procession, followed by competitions for Miss Pokhran and Mister Pokhran.

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

Indore Central Jail gets its own radio channel 'Jail Vaani FM 18.77'

- The **Central Jail of Indore** in Madhya Pradesh got its own radio channel named '**Jail Vaani FM 18.77**'
- The prisoners listen to the radio station in the hopes of finding entertainment while also learning about current events across the world. This radio station will also deliver health-related information to the inmates.

Madhya Pradesh

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Nepal becomes the first country to adopt India's UPI platform

- The international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), **NPCI International Payments**, is set to launch India's flagship payment platform, **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, in **Nepal** to support interoperable real-time person-to-person (P2P) and merchant payment transactions.
- The NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has joined hands with Gateway Payments Service (GPS) and Manam Infotech to provide UPI services in Nepal.

India flags off its first-ever shipment of steel from Haldia to Pandu through Bangladesh

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH **Sarbananda Sonowal** flagged off the maiden voyage of barges with a consignment of **1798 MT** of finished **steel products** of **Tata Steel Limited** from **Haldia (West Bengal)** to **Pandu** (in Assam) through the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBP Route).

International News

Armen Sarkissian resigns as the President of Armenia

- The President of **Armenia, Armen Sarkissian**, announced his resignation, citing his inability to influence the political life of Armenia.
- This resignation comes at a time when Armenia is embroiled in a political crisis as a result of a war its neighbour Azerbaijan over control of the Nagorno-Karabakh territory.

Armenia

- **Capital:** Yerevan
- **Currency:** Armenian Dram
- **Prime Minister:** Nikol Pashinyan

India and France sign an MoU with scope for cooperation in health research

- **India** and **France** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with scope for cooperation in **health research**. This MoU was signed between the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** and **Institut Pasteur of France**.
- CSIR and Institut Pasteur will collaborate to research and focus on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and inherited disorders, allowing for the implementation of effective and inexpensive healthcare solutions for the benefit of not only the people of India and France but the entire world.
- This MoU provides for developing potential scientific and technological cooperation and networking in advanced and emerging areas of human health.

India and Israel launch a commemorative logo to mark the thirtieth anniversary of their diplomatic ties

- **India** and **Israel** launched a commemorative logo to mark the thirtieth **anniversary** of the establishment of **diplomatic ties** between India and Israel.
- This logo features the **Star of David** and the **Ashoka Chakra**, the two symbols that adorn the national flags of both countries and form the numeral **30** depicting the thirtieth anniversary of their bilateral relations.
- This unique design represents the strong bonds of friendship, love and admiration that exist between Israelis and Indians and also depicts the growing strategic partnership between the two sides.
- This winning design of the commemorative logo was created by an Indian student, Nikhil Kumar Rai.

India pays \$29.9 million in the United Nations regular budget assessments for 2022

- **India** has paid **\$29.9 million** in the **United Nations regular budget assessments** for the year 2022. India is currently a non-permanent member of the fifteen-nation United Nations Security Council and its two-year term will end on **31 December 2022**.

The Philippines inks a deal worth \$375 million for BrahMos missiles

- **The Philippines** has signed a **\$375 million** deal with **BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited** for the supply of shore-based anti-ship variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles. This is the first export order for the BrahMos missile, which is a joint product between India and Russia.
- This contract includes the delivery of three batteries, training for operators and maintainers, as well as the necessary **Integrated Logistics Support (ILS)** package.

The Netherlands unveils the world's largest sea canal lock

- **Netherlands'** King Willem-Alexander opened the **Ijmuiden Sea Lock**, which is claimed to be the **largest sea canal lock in the world**.
- This **500-metre** long and **70-metre** wide sluice replaces a smaller, nearly 100-year-old one at Ijmuiden, a small port city connecting the North Sea canal to the port of Amsterdam.
- The Ijmuiden lock was designed to allow large, modern cargo ships to reach the port of Amsterdam.
- This new sea lock will greatly improve the accessibility of the port of Amsterdam and stimulate this region's economy by providing tide-independent space for the increasingly large seafaring vessels.

India and the ASEAN nations approve a digital work plan to combat the use of stolen mobile handsets

- **India** and the **ASEAN** nations have jointly approved a work plan under which they will develop a system to combat the use of stolen and counterfeit mobile handsets, among other things.
- This work plan was approved at the **second ASEAN Digital Ministers' (ADGMIN)** Meeting with India. This meeting was co-chaired by ministers from **India** and **Myanmar**.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- Headquarters: **Jakarta, Indonesia**
- Founded: **8 August 1967**
- Secretary-General: **Lim Jock Hoi**
- Chairman: **Nguyen Xuan Phuc**

Australia announces a billion-dollar package to protect the Great Barrier Reef

- **Australia** unveiled a billion-dollar package to protect the climate-ravaged **Great Barrier Reef** to prevent the vast network of corals from being removed from the **UNESCO World Heritage List**.
- **Australian** Prime Minister **Scott Morrison** announced the one-billion-Australian-dollar US\$ 700 million nine-year plan, months after narrowly avoiding the Great Barrier Reef being placed on the UNESCO in the **danger list**.

Australia

- Capital: **Canberra**
- Currency: **Australian Dollar**
- Prime Minister: **Scott Morrison**
- Deputy Prime Minister: **Barnaby Joyce**

Sergio Mattarella was re-elected as the Italian President for a second term

- **Sergio Mattarella** was re-elected as the President of **Italy** for a **second term**. He received **759** out of a possible **1009 votes** from the members of parliament and regional representatives.
- His re-election marks just the second time in history that an **Italian President** has served a second term. **Giorgio Napolitano** was the first to serve a second term in 2013 since Italy became a republic in 1946, but he resigned after two years in 2015.

Italy

- Capital: **Rome**
- President: **Sergio Mattarella**
- Prime Minister: **Mario Draghi**

India joins the global movement to raise awareness on neglected tropical diseases

- **India** has joined a global movement to illuminate 100 landmarks across the world to raise awareness on **Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)**.
- India observed the **third** World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day on 30 January and joined close to **40** other nations to illuminate the iconic **New Delhi Railway Station** in purple and orange hues to commemorate this day.

India and European Union hold second virtual maritime security dialogue virtually

- **India** and the **European Union (EU)** held their second **maritime security dialogue** in a virtual format. This meeting was co-chaired by the Joint Secretary for Disarmament and International Security Affairs at the Union Ministry of External Affairs **Sandeep Arya** and Director for Security and Defence

Policy at the European External Action Service **Joanneke Balfourt**.

- The consultations in this dialogue included developments in the maritime security Environment and **policy developments** covering the EU strategy for cooperation in the **Indo-Pacific**.

Saudi Arabia's first-ever Yoga festival was organised in Jeddah

- **Saudi Arabia** has organised its first-ever Yoga Festival on Bay La Sun Beach near **Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**.
- This festival was organised by the **Saudi Yoga Committee** (the new Saudi Yoga Federation), a body under the **Saudi Arabia Olympic Committee**. **Nouf Marwari** is the President of this committee, which was formed on 16 May 2021.

Saudi Arabia

- Capital: **Riyadh**
- Currency: **Saudi Arabian Riyal**
- Prime Minister: **Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud**

World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat named 'THE JET' is set to be launched in Dubai

- Swiss-based startup '**THE JET Zero Emission**' has signed an agreement with UAE-based **Zenith Marine Services LLC** and US-based **DWYN** to manufacture and operate '**The Jet**' — the first clean-energy, hydrogen-powered flying boat.
- This luxurious boat has a capacity of **8–12 passengers** and is equipped with two fuel cells and an air conditioner, as well as, other clean-tech, environmentally friendly technologies that help reduce **carbon emissions**.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

- Capital: **Abu Dhabi**
- Currency: **Dirham**
- President: **Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan**
- Prime Minister: **Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

Portugal Prime Minister Antonio Costa was re-elected with an absolute majority

- Portuguese Prime Minister **Antonio Costa** had an absolute majority in the recent election held in Portugal. He secured a majority by winning **117 seats** in the **230-seat** Portuguese parliament.
- His party received **42 per cent** of the votes out of the **99.13 per cent** of the votes counted.

Portugal

- Capital: **Lisbon**
- Currency: **Euro**
- Prime Minister: **Antonio Costa**
- President: **Marcelo Rebelo De Sousa**

The eleventh India–Oman Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC) Meeting on bilateral defence Cooperation was held in New Delhi

- The eleventh **India–Oman** Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC) meeting on bilateral defence cooperation was held in **New Delhi**. Both countries enhanced their defence industry cooperation to identify new avenues.
- The JMCC meeting was co-chaired by Union Defence Secretary **Ajay Kumar** and Oman's Secretary-General at the Ministry of Defence, **Mohammed Bin Nasser Bin Ali Al-Zaabi**.

Oman

- Capital: **Muscat**
- Currency: **Omani Rial**

Visa-free entry for Indian business travellers to the Maldives comes into force

- **The Maldives** has announced **visa-free entry** for **Indian business travellers** to the Maldives.
- It has commenced the process of granting **Indian nationals with visa-free** entry for business purposes for a period not exceeding the visa-free period of **90 days**.

The Maldives

- Capital: **Male**
- Currency: **Maldivian Rufiyaa**
- President: **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih**

India agrees to help Sri Lanka to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity Framework'

- India has agreed to provide **Sri Lanka** a grant to help them develop a '**Unitary Digital Identity Framework**,' which appears to be modelled after the Aadhaar card.
- It is expected that this proposed Unitary Digital Identity Framework will introduce a biometric-based personal identity verification device, a digital tool that can represent individual identities in cyberspace and the identification of individual identities that can be accurately verified in both digital and physical environments by combining the two devices.

Israel becomes the first country to permit unmanned aerial vehicles to fly in civilian airspace

- **Israel** became the first-ever country to allow **drones to fly in civilian airspace**.
- Israel's Ministry of Transport and Road Safety announced Israel's first certification of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for civilian airspace operations.
- **Elbit's StarLiner** drone is a modified version of its Hermes 900 drone, which is used by militaries around the world. It was modified to meet civil aviation requirements by adding sensors to identify other aircraft and avoid collisions with

them, an additional warning system to prevent it from approaching or crashing into the ground, autonomous takeoff and landing systems in low-visibility conditions and other changes.

Israel

- **Capital:** Jerusalem
- **Currency:** Israeli Shekel
- **Prime Minister:** Naftali Bennett
- **President:** Isaac Herzog

India, Australia and Singapore join hands to address marine pollution caused by plastic debris

- **India** in partnership with **Australia** and **Singapore** to conduct an international workshop on combating marine pollution focusing on marine plastic debris.
- This virtual workshop aimed to discuss research interventions toward **monitoring** and **assessing** marine litter and plausible sustainable solutions to address the global **marine plastic pollution** issue.

Australia

- Capital: **Canberra**
- Currency: **Australian Dollar**
- Prime Minister: **Scott Morrison**
- Deputy Prime Minister: **Barnaby Joyce**

Singapore

- Capital: **Singapore City**
- Currency: **Singapore Dollar**
- President: **Halimah Yacob**
- Prime Minister: **Lee Hsien Loong**
- Deputy Prime Minister: **Heng Swee Keat**

Union Cabinet approves setting up of G20 Secretariat, to be headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

- The Union Cabinet would be Chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** approved the setting up of a **G20 Secretariat** and its reporting structures, which will be responsible for the implementation of overall policy decisions and arrangements needed for steering India's forthcoming presidency of G20.
- **India** will hold the presidency of the **G20** from **01 December 2022** to **30 November 2023**, culminating with the G20 Summit in India in **2023**.

World Health Organization launches 'Quit Tobacco' app to help people to give up the use of tobacco

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has launched a '**Quit Tobacco App**' to help people kick the cigarette butt and give up tobacco in all forms, including smokeless and other newer products.

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- This app is the first such by WHO and the first that targets all forms of **tobacco**, helps users identify the triggers, set their targets, manage cravings and stay focused to **quit tobacco**.

World Health Organisation (WHO)

- Headquarters: **Geneva, Switzerland**
- Head: **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**
- Chief Scientist: **Soumya Swaminathan**
- Founded: **7 April 1948**

India to showcase its agriculture and food processing prowess at 'EXPO 2020' Dubai

- **India** will pitch to become the preferred sourcing partner for the global **food processing industry** during the fortnight at **EXPO2020 Dubai**. And also host various seminars and conferences to deliberate on ways to explore international collaborations and further strengthen its export potential.
- **India** will exhibit investment opportunities in **millets, organic farming, horticulture** and dairy to investors worldwide. **Millets Food Festival** will also be held as part of **Dubai EXPO**.

India and Australia sign a letter of intent on new and renewable energy technology

- **India** and **Australia** signed a **letter of intent (LoI)** for working towards bringing down the cost of **renewable energy (RE)** technologies. Both the countries will also focus on scaling up the manufacturing of **low-cost solar** and **clean hydrogen**.
- This LoI was signed during the **4th India – Australia Energy Dialogue**. The dialogue was co-chaired by Union Minister for

Power and New & Renewable Energy, **R. K. Singh** the Australian Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction, **Angus Taylor**.

Australia

- Capital: **Canberra**
- Currency: **Australian Dollar**
- Prime Minister: **Scott Morrison**
- Deputy Prime Minister: **Barnaby Joyce**

India and Germany sign work plan for collaboration to strengthen quality infrastructure

- **India** and **Germany** have signed a work plan for cooperation to strengthen **quality infrastructure**, reduce technical trade barriers, enhance product safety and strengthen consumer protection.
- The work plan 2022 was signed during the virtually held on the 8th annual meeting of the **Indo-German Working Group on Quality Infrastructure**, led by the Indian Ministry for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.

Germany

- Capital: **Berlin**
- Currency: **Euro**
- President: **Frank-Walter Stein**
- Chancellor: **Angela Merkel**

Appointments

Name	Designation	Key Points
Vinod Rai	Independent Director of Unity Small Finance Bank	He has been the Chairman of Banks Board Bureau (BBB) and was the Independent Director at IDFC for two terms.
Chanchal Kumar	Managing Director of National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL)	-
Mia Amar Mottley	Prime Minister of Barbados	-
Rama Bijapurkar	Independent Director of ICICI Bank	-
Vinodanand Jha	Chairperson to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Adjudicating Authority	-
MyungSik Sohn	Chief Sales Officer (CSO) of Kia India	He has been associated with Kia Corporation for 27 years and he also served as the General Manager in China.

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Xiomara Castro	first female President of Honduras	She is the 56th President of Honduras. She replaced Juan Orlando Hernandez
V. Anantha Nageswaran	Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) of the Indian Government	He succeeded Krishnamurthy Subramanian
Pushp Kumar Joshi	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	He will replace Mukesh Kumar Surana
M. R. Kumar	Chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) by one more year	-
Lt. Gen G. A. V. Reddy	Head of the Defence Intelligence Agency	He succeeded Lieutenant General K. J. S. Dhillon.
Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel	Resigned from the post of non-executive and independent director of Britannia Industries Limited	He was recently appointed as the Vice-President for investment operations in South Asia at the Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
G. Balasubramanian	High Commissioner of India to the Federal Republic of Nigeria	-
Lieutenant General Manoj Pande	Indian Army's Vice-Chief	He succeeds Lieutenant General Chandi Prasad Mohanty.
Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi	Director-General of the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT)	-
Ravi Mittal	Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)	He will succeed M. S. Sahoo
Tarun Kapoor	Chairman of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).	-
Jagadesh Kumar	Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC)	This post remained vacant since December 2021, after Professor D. P. Singh retired from the post
G. A. Srinivasa Murthy	Director of the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)	-
Sonali Singh	Charge of the Controller General of Accounts	-
Rahul Bhatia	Managing Director of IndiGo	-
Captain Binesh Kumar Tyagi	Chairman and Managing Director of the Shipping Corporation of India	He will succeed H. K. Joshi
Jens Stoltenberg	Chief of Norway's central bank, 'Norges Bank'	He will succeed Oystein Olsen
S. R. Narasimhan	additional charge as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO)	He is currently serving as the Director of System Operations of POSOCO
Sanjay Malhotra	Secretary of the Department of Financial Services in the Union Finance Ministry	He succeeded Debashish Panda
Anibal Torres	fourth Prime Minister of Peru	Anibal Torres succeeded Mirtha Vasquez
S. Kishore	Chairman of the Staff Selection Commission(SSC)	-
Manoj Kumar and Sunil Kumar	Executive Directors (ED) by SEBI	-
Dinesh Prasad Saklani	Director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training	He has replaced Hrushikesh Senapaty

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Natarajan Chandrasekaran	Chairman of Tata Sons	He joined the board of Tata Sons in October 2016 and was appointed its Chairman in January 2017
Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari	Chief Justice of the Madras High Court	He became the Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court after Justice Sanjib Banerjee was transferred to the Meghalaya High Court in November 2021
Debashis Mitra	President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for 2022-23	Aniket Sunil Talati was appointed as the Vice-President of ICAI
Lieutenant Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba	President of Burkina Faso	-
Alok Gupta	Director-General (DG) of National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO)	-
S. Unnikrishnan Nair	Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre	He will continue to also hold the position of Director of the Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) that is spearheading the Gaganyaan Programme.
Disha Patani	Brand ambassador of Bata India	-
Sukla Mistry	first woman director on the board of Indian Oil Corporation	She will also be holding the positions of director on the board of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)
Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit	New Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)	-
Pradip Shah	Chairman of Pfizer India	He succeeded R. A. Shah
Akshay Kumar	Uttarakhand's brand ambassador	-
Ilker Ayci	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Air India	He took over as the Chairman of Turkish Airlines in 2015
Kala Ramachandran	first woman Police Commissioner of Gurugram	She will take over the charge from outgoing Police Commissioner K. K. Rao
Frank-Walter Steinmeier	Germany's President	-
Vineet Joshi	Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education	-
G Ashok Kumar	first National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC)	He served as the Navigating Officer of Indian Naval ships, including Beas, Nilgiri, Ranvir and Vikrant.
Sanjay Malhotra	Director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	He is a 1990 batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre. He also worked as the Chairman and Managing Director of REC Limited.
A. S. Kumari	Chairperson of Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women	He has been appointed as the Deputy Managing Director of CSB Bank post-RBI's approval in terms of Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
Pralay Mondal	Deputy Managing Director of CSB Bank	
Manika Batra	Brand ambassador of Adidas	She joins Adidas's roster of Indian women athletes, consisting of names such as Mirabai Chanu, Lovlina Borgohain, Hima Das, Nikhat Zareen, among others.
Emmo Terho	Chair of International Olympic Committee	
Chetan Ghate	Director of the Institute of Economic Growth	He succeeded Ajit Mishra.
Takuya Tsumura	President and CEO of Honda Cars India	He succeeded Gaku Nakanishi

Ranks and Indices

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tops the list of most popular world leaders: Morning Consult Political Intelligence

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** continued to top the chart of global leaders with the **highest approval ratings**, ahead of the United States President Joe Biden and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.
- He remains the world's most popular leader with an approval rating of 71 per cent of India's adult population, according to the US-based global leader approval tracker, **Morning Consult**.
- Morning Consult conducted surveys based on real-time polling data about political elections, elected politicians and voting problems.
- This survey is currently tracking the approval ratings of government leaders of Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Spain, Britain and the United States.

Oxford University Press chooses 'anxiety' as the Children's Word of the Year 2021

- Children have chosen '**anxiety**' as their Word of the Year for 2021, according to new research from **Oxford University Press (OUP)**.
- While 'anxiety' was the top choice, chosen by 21 per cent of children, it was followed by challenging (19 per cent), isolate (14 per cent) and well-being (13 per cent).
- Teachers named '**resilience**' as their top choice, chosen by 31 per cent, followed by 'challenging' (19 per cent) and 'well-being' (18 per cent).

TCS becomes the second most valuable IT services brand globally

- According to **Brand Finance**, **Tata Consultancy Services** became the **world's second most valuable IT services brand**, while Infosys (3rd) and Wipro (7th), HCL (8th), Tech Mahindra (15th) and LTI (22nd) have solidified their positions among the top 25 IT services brands.
- **Accenture** has retained the title of the world's most valuable and strongest IT services brand in the Global 500 IT Services Ranking report for the fourth consecutive year.
- **Apple** has retained its top position in the annual Brand Finance Global 500 rankings, followed by Amazon and Google.

Virat Kohli retains the second spot in the ICC Men's ODI batting rankings

- **Virat Kohli** retained the second spot in the **ICC Men's ODI batting rankings** followed by Rohit Sharma at the third spot.

- Pakistan skipper **Babar Azam** topped this list and South Africa's Quinton De Kock jumped four spots to be ranked fifth, while his compatriot Rassie van der Dussen jumped 10 spots to break into the top 10.

India ranks 85th in the Corruption Perception Index of 2021: Transparency International

- India was ranked in the **85th spot** from the 86th rank in 2020 among 180 countries in the **Corruption Perception Index (CPI) of 2021**, according to a new report by **Transparency International**.
- **Denmark, Finland** and **New Zealand** topped the 2021 index.
- This index ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people. It uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.
- Among those with weak scores are some of the world's most populous countries such as China (45) and India (40) and other large economies such as Indonesia (38), Pakistan (28) and Bangladesh (26), according to a report by Transparency International.

India is among the top ten global adopters of artificial intelligence

- According to research published by **The Brookings Institution**, **India** is among the top ten countries in the **world** in terms of technological breakthroughs and funding in **artificial intelligence (AI)**.
- The United States, China, the United Kingdom, France, Japan and Germany are leading AI advances ahead of India. According to the research, India is followed by Canada, South Korea and Italy in the top ten AI adopters list.

Life Insurance Corporation of India is the tenth most valued insurance brand globally: Brand Finance

- According to a **brand valuation analysis**, **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** is India's strongest and largest brand with a worth of \$ 8.656 billion (about ₹64,722 crores), making it the third-strongest insurance brand globally.
- LIC ranks third in brand strength globally after Poste Italiane of Italy and Mapfre of Spain and is also the **tenth most valued insurance brand** globally.
- LIC became the only domestic insurer to rank in the top 10 list strongest brands and top 10 most valuable insurance brands.
- LIC's brand value climbed in overall global brand rankings by 32 places to become the world's **206th** most valuable brand in 2021, from 238th slot in 2020.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Founded:** 1 September 1956
- **Chairman:** M. R. Kumar
- **Managing Director:** Mini Ipe

India tops the Global Digital Skills Readiness Index: Salesforce

- India topped the **Global Digital Skills Readiness Index** among the 19 countries according to a report by the leading player in customer relationship management (CRM), Salesforce.
- This index is based on a survey of over 23,500 workers in 19 countries, with an average global readiness score of 33 out of 100.
- In India, digital marketing is the top workplace skill in India with only 39 per cent of respondents rating their digital marketing skills as 'advanced.'

Gautam Adani becomes Asia's richest person: Forbes Real-time Billionaire Calculation

- Indian businessman **Gautam Adani** became Asia's richest person and the tenth richest person in the world according to **Forbes' Real-time billionaire calculations**.
- He overtook Mukesh Ambani, who was previously the richest Asian billionaire.
- Elon Musk topped the Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2021 by Forbes.

Jammu & Kashmir has topped in the attacks on journalists in 2021

- **Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura** topped the list of **states and union territories** in India where journalists and media houses were targeted in 2021, according to the India Press Freedom Report 2021 released by the **Rights and Risks Analysis Group (RRAG)**.
- At least **six** journalists were killed, **108** were attacked and **13** media houses or newspapers were targeted across India.

World Book of Records certifies Atal Tunnel as the world's longest highway tunnel

- The **Atal Tunnel** was officially recognised as the **world's longest highway tunnel** above **10,000 ft** by the **World Book of Records**.
- The Atal Tunnel, which is **9.02 kilometres** long, was constructed to connect Manali to the Lahaul-Spiti Valley in Himachal Pradesh.
- The Atal Tunnel has been named after former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The Atal Tunnel was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 3 October 2020.

- The World Book of Records is a non-profit organisation that catalogues and authenticates extraordinary records around the world.

World Book of Records:

- **Headquarters:** London, The United Kingdom

India ranks third in the US Green Building Council's 2021 list for sustainable spaces

- **India** has ranked third in the world for LEED-certified green buildings in 2021 in the US Green Building Council (USGBC) annual list.
- **China** topped the 2021 USGBC annual list, followed by Canada.
- The United States is not included in the list but remains the world's largest market for LEED.
- The most extensively used green building rating system in the world is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). LEED is a framework for healthful, highly efficient and cost-effective green buildings that is applicable to practically all building types.

India ranks 46th in the Economic Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index 2021

- **India** ranked **46th** in the Economic Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Democracy Index 2021 with a score of 6.91.
- **Norway** topped the Democracy Index 2021 released by the Economist Intelligence Unit with a score of 9.75.
- **Afghanistan** has surpassed North Korea as the least democratic country with a score of 0.32.
- This report is based on five findings — electoral process and pluralism, functioning of the government, political participation, political culture and civil liberties.
- The top five countries in the Democracy Index 2021 are Norway, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden and Iceland, whereas the lowest five countries are the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, North Korea, Myanmar and Afghanistan.

Paytm has the highest penetration in digital payments: Comscore report

- **Paytm** topped the list of firms with the **highest penetration in digital payments** with over 45 per cent penetration in fintech, according to the report released by Comscore.
- Paytm was followed by Google Pay at 43 per cent penetration (reach as percentage of the total digital population).
- Paytm maintained a steady increase in the number of users on its platform while also maintaining higher levels of customer retention and engagement.

Mumbai ranks as the fifth congested city in the world in 2021 according to TomTom Traffic Index

- **Mumbai** and **Bengaluru** have emerged as the world's **fifth** and **tenth** most congested cities in 2021, according to TomTom's Traffic Index global top 25 list.
- **Istanbul** in Turkey topped this list followed by Moscow in Russia and Kyiv in Ukraine.

- Mumbai was ranked as the second-most congested city in the world in 2020.
- Delhi and Pune ranked eleventh and twenty-first among 404 cities across 58 countries, according to TomTom Traffic Index's global top 25 list.

Awards and Recognitions

Name of the Award	Winner	Key Points
Jahnvi Dangeti	first Indian to complete the prestigious NASA programme	She is a member of the International Organization of Aspiring Astronauts (IOAA).
Sushmita Sen	International Association of Working Women Award	-
Former Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo	Netaji Award 2022	-
Prajakta Koli	India's first United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) youth climate champion	-
Koozhangal	Best Film Award at the Dhaka International Film Festival	-
Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve – Tamil Nadu	TX2 award for doubling the tiger population	Nepal's Bardia National Park was also jointly conferred the award for doubling its population of wild tigers
P. R. Srejeesh	first Indian man to win the World Games Athlete of the Year Award 2021	Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal became the first Indian to win this award for her performances in 2019.
Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid and Somnathapura - Karnataka	India's nomination for the World Heritage List for the year 2022–2023	-
Karnataka Bank	Digital transformation award 2021 by the Confederation of Indian Industry	-
RailTel, under the Union Ministry of Railways	ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 2020-21 in Public Sector Entities category	-
Risabh Pant	Test Batting Award in the ESPNcricinfo Awards 2021	New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson was adjudged as the 'Captain of the Year' at the fifteenth Annual ESPNcricinfo Awards 2021

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Mangaluru International Airport	'Voice of the Customer' Award from the Airports Council International (ACI).	This airport was recognised for its unwavering commitment to obtaining passenger feedback on consumer demands and providing the best-in-class travel experience in 2021.
Dabur India Limited	first Indian plastic waste neutral FMCG company in India	-
Sandeep Bakshi	Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020–21	He has been with the ICICI Group since 1986 and handled assignments across the group in ICICI Ltd, ICICI Lombard General Insurance, ICICI Bank and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance.
Karnataka Bank	Three IBA's banking technology awards	The bank won the awards under the categories including 'Best Technology Bank of the Year', 'Best Fintech Adoption' and 'Best Use of AI/ML and Data Analytics' – all runner ups.

Padma Awards 2022 were announced

- The Union Government has announced the Padma Awards for 2022. This year (2022) the President of India has approved the conferment of **128 Padma Awards** — 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri awards.

The complete set of Padma Awardees for 2022:

Padma Vibhushan:

S.No	Name	Field	State/Country/Union Territory
1	Prabha Atre	Art	Maharashtra
2	Radheyshyam Khemka (Posthumous)	Literature and Education	Uttar Pradesh
3	General Bipin Rawat (Posthumous)	Civil Service	Uttarakhand
4	Kalyan Singh (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Uttar Pradesh

Padma Bhushan

S.No	Name	Field	State/Country/Union Territory
5	Ghulam Nabi Azad	Public Affairs	Jammu and Kashmir
6	Victor Banerjee	Art	West Bengal
7	Gurmeet Bawa (Posthumous)	Art	Punjab
8	Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee	Public Affairs	West Bengal
9	Natarajan Chandrasekaran	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
10	Krishna Ella and Suchitra Ella* (Duo)	Trade and Industry	Telangana
11	Madhur Jaffery	Others (Culinary)	The United States of America
12	Devendra Jhajharia	Sports	Rajasthan
13	Rashid Khan	Art	Uttar Pradesh

14	Rajiv Mehrishi	Civil Service	Rajasthan
15	Satya Narayana Nadella	Trade and Industry	The United States of America
16	Sundararajan Pichai	Trade and Industry	The United States of America
17	Cyrus Poonawalla	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
18	Sanjaya Rajaram (Posthumous)	Science and Engineering	Mexico
19	Pratibha Ray	Literature and Education	Odisha
20	Swami Sachidanand	Literature and Education	Gujarat
21	Vashishth Tripathi	Literature and Education	Uttar Pradesh

Padma Shri- 107 persons were awarded the Padma Shri for 2022.

Six Indian Army soldiers were conferred with Shaurya Chakra awards

- Six personnel were conferred the Shaurya Chakra posthumously — **Naib Subedar M. Sreejit, Sepoy Marupolu Jaswanth Kumar Reddy, Havildar Anil Kumar Tomar, Havildar Kashiray Bammanalli, Havildar Pinku Kumar and Rifleman Rakesh Sharma.**

South Indian Bank bags six IBA Awards including the Best Technology Bank of the Year

- The **South Indian Bank** bagged six awards at the seventeenth annual IBA Banking Technology awards including '**Best Technology Bank of the Year.**'
- The South Indian Bank has secured six out of seven coveted awards in the categories.

Award	Category
Winner	Best Technology Bank of the Year (Small Banks)
Winner	Best IT Risk Management and Cyber Security Initiatives (Small Banks)
Winner	Best Fintech Collaboration (Small Banks)
Joint-Winner	Best Use of AI/ML and Data Analytics (Small Banks)
Runner up	Best Cloud Adoption (Small Banks)
Joint Runner-up	Best Payments Initiatives (among all private banks)

Coal India Limited bags the ‘Most Dependable Public Sector in India’ Award

- Union Minister of Coal **Pralhad Joshi** has complimented **Coal India Limited (CIL)** under the Union Ministry of Coal for getting the '**Most Dependable Public Sector in India**' Award.
- This award was conferred on CIL by the **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSCHOM).**

Bill Gates was honoured with the second highest civilian honour of Pakistan ‘Hilal-e-Pakistan’

- Pakistan President **Arif Alvi** conferred the honour of '**Hilal-e-Pakistan**', **Pakistan’s** second-highest civilian award, to **Bill Gates** for his efforts to help eradicate polio.

Agreements & MoUs signed

ICICI Direct partners with Wealth Desk to offer portfolios providing holistic wealth management to users

- **WealthDesk** and **ICICI Direct** have entered into a partnership to offer readymade portfolios called **Wealth Baskets**, an internet-scale investing technology platform that is developing the **Unified Wealth Interface (UWI)**, which would allow retail clients to invest through their broking accounts across mobile applications and websites.
- The users of ICICI Direct can now invest in more than 40 Wealth Basket portfolios from a wide range of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)-registered professionals with investment sizes ranging from **₹1000** to over **₹10 lakhs**.

- These Wealth Basket portfolios can be long-term, short-term, balanced, asset allocation-based, thematic, sectoral and other portfolios providing holistic wealth management.

Union Ministry of Tourism signs an MoU with Alliance Air Aviation Limited to boost tourism in India

- **Union Ministry of Tourism** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Alliance Air Aviation Limited (AAAL)** to strengthen collaboration in the promotion and marketing of domestic tourism across India.

Twitter partners with Paytm to boost 'Tips' feature in India

- **Twitter** has partnered with **Paytm Payments Services Limited** to ramp up the support for its **'Tips'** feature in India.
- The users can use any Paytm payment instrument, such as Paytm UPI, Paytm wallet, Paytm Postpaid (buy-now-pay-later), debit and credit cards and net banking, to support their favourite creators or small business owners on Twitter through the 'Tips' feature.
- The Tips feature on Twitter is available in **Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi and Tamil**.

TransUnion CIBIL partners with FICCI on a unique nationwide MSME consumer education programme

- **TransUnion CIBIL** has partnered with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** to launch a unique nationwide MSME consumer education programme.
- This programme's objective is to support **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** in gaining awareness of **credit management, CIBIL rank and commercial credit information**.

Vedanta signs a pact with TERI to accelerate ESG goals

- **Vedanta** has signed a pact with **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** to accelerate its **environmental, social, and governance (ESG)** goals.
- Vedanta plans to invest around **₹ 200 crores** over the next five to **10 years** on R&D and sustainability initiatives to promote and build a sustainable ecosystem.

Mahindra Electric collaborates with CSC to promote electric vehicle adoption in rural India

- **Mahindra Electric Mobility Limited (MEML)** has partnered with **Common Service Centres (CSC)** to promote the adoption of **electric vehicles**.
- Under this partnership, MEML will offer its range of electric vehicles like the **Treo** and **Alfa** to aspiring customers in the rural markets.

Bharti Airtel is set to acquire a 25 per cent equity stake in technology startup Lavelle Networks

- **Bharti Airtel** would acquire a 25 per cent equity stake in Bengaluru-based technology startup, **Lavelle Networks**, which specialises in **Software-Defined Wide Area Network (SD-WAN)** solutions.
- As part of its **NaaS (Network as a Service)** portfolio, Bharati Airtel will offer software-defined connectivity solutions from Lavelle Networks and co-create a host of innovations as part of its NaaS platform.
- This acquisition also aims to bring **'Made in India'** products and solutions for enterprises by offering **cutting-edge technology** and cost efficiencies.

AgNext Technologies and NAFED collaborate to organise pulses' quality assessment training for Maharashtra's FPOs

- India's leading agri-tech company **AgNext Technologies** collaborated with the **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED)** to organise a virtual training and awareness programme for Maharashtra's biggest FPOs (Farmer Producer Organisations) on pulses' quality assessment.
- This training Programme's goal was to educate FPOs on the various market quality standards for toor dal. The commodity (toor dal) is graded and priced in the market based on this assessment.

Liberty General Insurance partners with National Insurance Academy to manage electric vehicle claims Effectively

- **Liberty General Insurance** has partnered with the **National Insurance Academy** to design an industry-first and certification course on **electric vehicles (EVs)** for its claims team.
- This course will cover topics such as anatomy of electric vehicles —private cars, commercial vehicles, two-wheelers; the present and future of EVs in Indian and understanding EVs from claims perspective.

Fullerton India partners with Paytm to expand lending products

- **Fullerton India** has partnered with **Paytm** to expand digital lending to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and consumers from smaller cities and towns.
- This programme will offer Paytm Postpaid (buy-now-pay-later) to millions of consumers on the Paytm platform while utilising Fullerton India's deep risk assessment capabilities and scale.
- Fullerton India and Paytm are expanding their product offerings to include instant personal loans that are digitally originated and distributed end-to-end, leveraging Paytm's technology and Fullerton's pan-India reach.

NITI Aayog, Rocky Mountain Institute and RMI India releases the report on 'Banking on Electric Vehicles in India'

- **NITI Aayog, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and RMI India** released a report titled '**Banking on Electric Vehicles in India**', which outlines the importance of priority-sector recognition for retail lending in electric mobility ecosystem.
- This report provides considerations and recommendations to inform the inclusion of electric vehicles in the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) priority-sector lending (PSL)** guidelines.
- Banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) in India have the potential to achieve an electric vehicle (EV) financing market size of **₹40,000 crores** by 2025 and **₹3.7 lakh crores** by 2030.
- Priority-sector lending in India strives to increase financial access and enhance job prospects. The RBI may assess various EV segments and use cases based on five characteristics, according to the report, socio-economic potential, livelihood generation potential, scalability, techno-economic viability and stakeholder acceptability.
- This report also recommended a clear sub-target and penalty mechanism for priority sector lending to renewable energy and EVs to maximise the impact of the inclusion of EVs.

Tata Consultancy Services and Microsoft Cloud join hands for retail partnership

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has joined hands with Microsoft for the newly-launched **Microsoft Cloud for Retail**.
- After this partnership, TCS will collaborate with leading retailers using its multi-horizon cloud transformation framework to enable retail clients to use **Microsoft Cloud for Retail** to accelerate their growth and transformation journeys.
- Microsoft Cloud for Retail is a secure industry-specific cloud that brings together various Microsoft technologies linked by a common data model to connect across the end-to-end shopper journey with integrated and intelligent capabilities.

Kotak General Insurance ties up with CARS24 to offer motor insurance

- **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited** has partnered with **CARS24 Financial Services Private Limited** to provide the buyers of used cars with motor insurance.
- CARS24 Financial Services is a subsidiary of CARS24, an online used car marketplace.
- CARS24, as a Kotak General Insurance corporate agent, will provide motor insurance services to its customers, completely insuring their vehicles with Kotak General Insurance's comprehensive motor insurance plans.

IIM Ahmedabad ties up with the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited to set up India's first ESG research chair

- The **Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad** has tied up with the **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIF)** to set up India's First-of-its-kind research chair in Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)
- This research chair functions as the **principal hub of knowledge** and insights that allow businesses and policymakers to incorporate ESG principles in their long-term business and governance decisions.
- The activities of the NIIF chair in ESG at IIMA would include conducting research on critical, globally relevant ESG issues, engaging with industry to develop long-term ESG oriented business strategies and practises, acting as a knowledge partner to governments in policy formulation and engaging with international think tanks and agencies to create knowledge and experience sharing opportunities and platforms.

Larsen and Toubro signs an MoU with Microsoft to develop a regulated sector cloud offering

- **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** and **Microsoft India** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to build a regulated sector-focused cloud offering that would provide customers with best-of-breed cloud computing and infrastructure services.
- Under this MoU, both the companies will set up a joint governance group to identify future platform designs, investments and commercial/business models to meet the increasing technology needs of the regulated sectors.

SIDBI signs an MoU with C-DAC to build cybersecurity capabilities

- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** under the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to investigate the utilisation of emerging technologies in the banking sector, including cyber security, artificial intelligence/machine learning, blockchain and related training and capacity building.

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

- **Headquarters:** Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD):** S. Ramann

Amazon India signs an MoU with the NIF incubator to fire up Indian innovators

- **Amazon India** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **NIF Incubation and Entrepreneurship Council** (NIFentreC) to accelerate grassroots innovation, local economy and livelihoods across rural India.
- **NIFentreC** is a technology business incubator hosted by the National Innovation Foundation (NIF), an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the Government of India.

RBL Bank partnered with Creditas Solutions to automate efficiency in collections

- Private sector lender **RBL Bank** has partnered with Creditas Solutions, a global technology company in the field of delinquency management, for its '**Neo Collections**' platform. This intuitive platform will guide customers with personalised and insights to improve their **credit scores**.
- RBL Bank will utilise this **SaaS**-based platform to accelerate efficiency in collections across the loan cycle.

RBL Bank

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- MD & CEO: **Rajeev Ahuja**

Amazon India signs an MoU to turn rural women into entrepreneurs in Karnataka

- **Amazon India** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society** (KSRLPS) to support the growth of women entrepreneurs.
- This MoU was signed and exchanged in the presence of Karnataka Chief Minister **Basavaraj Bommai** and Karnataka Minister of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood **C. N. Aswat Narayan**.

Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and USAID collaborate under the SAMRIDH initiative to accelerate health innovation and entrepreneurship in India

- The **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, **NITI Aayog** and the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** collaborated under the **Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH)** initiative to improve access to affordable and high-quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, as well as rural and tribal areas.

- This collaboration will focus on healthcare innovations with the unifying goal of mounting an effective response to the ongoing third wave of COVID-19 and strengthening health system readiness for future infectious disease outbreaks and health emergencies.

NITI Aayog : NITI Aayog actively monitors and evaluates the implementation of programmes and initiatives, including the identification of the needed resources so as to strengthen the probability of success and scope of delivery.

NITI Aayog Chairman: Narendra Modi

NITI Aayog CEO: Amitabh Kant

Jammu and Kashmir Government signs an MoU with New Zealand company G2G to transform the sheep farming sector

- The **Jammu and Kashmir Government** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with G2G, a New Zealand public sector firm to reform the sheep farming sector.
- This partnership aims to double production in the next three years, with a significant improvement in animal product quality, wool production and the introduction of processing facilities and value addition to increase income and benefits to Jammu & Kashmir.

Blackstone acquires a majority stake in ASK Investment Managers

- The world's largest alternative asset manager **Blackstone** has acquired a majority stake in asset and wealth management company, **ASK Investment Managers Limited**.
- ASK is one of India's first portfolio managers, with operations across Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe.
- Blackstone is a US-based company and has diversified investments in India pegged at over \$ 60 billion and is among the biggest investors in the commercial real estate space in India.

NITI Aayog and PhonePe launch the Fintech Open Hackathon

- **NITI Aayog**, in association with **PhonePe**, is set to host the first-ever open-to-all hackathon event for ideating and coming up with the most creative solutions for the fintech space.
- This hackathon will give innovators, digital producers and developers from throughout India the chance to think, ideate and code.
- It aims to showcase path-breaking solutions for the **fintech ecosystem**.
- The deadline to register for this event is 23 February 2022 and the deadline to submit final entries is 25 February 2022. The hackathon winners will be announced on 28 February 2022.

Karur Vysya Bank ties with Unanu Technologies for digital freight finance to fund transport contractors

- **Karur Vysya Bank (KVB)** has joined hands with Chennai-based **UNANU Technologies** for **digital freight finance** to fund transport contractors by using the end-to-end logistics technology platform 'U-Turbo'.
- The '**U-Turbo**' platform has visibility right from the time of material pick-up until it reaches the destination. It has built the **Freight Financing System** within its suite of software platforms.

NSDC collaborates with CSC for the delivery of services to accelerate skill development

- The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** and **Common Service Centres (CSC)** have collaborated for the delivery of services related to various **skill development** programmes to the youth in rural and remote areas of India.
- Under the partnership, the CSCs at the village level will act as a **skill desk**, creating awareness about the various available skill development programmes.

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- CEO: **Manish Kumar**

Jio Platforms to invest US\$200 million in Glance

- Reliance Industries announced its **Jio Platforms** had invested **\$200 million** in **Glance**, an AI-driven lock-screen platform. The transaction is subject to the satisfaction of customary closing conditions and regulatory approvals.
- **Jio Platforms (Jio)**, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries, has built a world-class all-IP data strong future proof network with the latest 4G LTE technology.

Defence News

India successfully test-fires a new version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

- India successfully test-fired a new version of the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** off the coast of Odisha in Balasore.
- This missile is a joint venture between India and Russia where the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) represents the Indian side and NPO Mashinostroyeniye from the Russian side.
- This missile derives its name from two rivers — the Brahmaputra in India and the Moskva of Russia.
- This BrahMos missile supersonic cruise missile can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft or land platforms.

- The BrahMos missile flies at a speed of **2.8 Mach** or almost three times the speed of sound.

Bangladesh and the United States air forces are set to conduct a joint exercise

- The air forces of **Bangladesh** and the **United States** is set to conduct a joint air exercise named '**Cope South 22**' from **20 February to 25 February**.

Iran, China and Russia hold joint naval drills in the North Indian Ocean

- **Iran, China** and **Russia** held their third joint naval drills in the North Indian Ocean.
- Iran, China and Russia started joint naval drills in **2019** in the Indian Ocean and the Sea of Oman.
- The goal of this Joint naval drill is to improve regional security and its foundations, as well as to expand multilateral cooperation between Iran, China and Russia to support world peace, maritime security and the creation of a maritime community with a shared destiny.
- These drills will include various tactical exercises such as rescuing a burning vessel, releasing a hijacked vessel and shooting air targets at night.

Indian Navy conducts a 20-day joint maritime exercise 'Paschim Lehar' at the Arabian Sea

- The Indian Navy conducted a 20-day joint maritime exercise **Paschim Lehar** at the **Arabian Sea** to **validate operational plans** of the **Western Naval Command** and enhance inter-service synergy among the Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Indian Army and Indian Coast Guard.
- This exercise is called **XPL-22** and this intra-theatre exercise included mobilisation and participation of over 40 ships and submarines of the Indian Navy.
- This exercise provided all participating forces an opportunity to operate together under realistic conditions, responding to contemporary maritime challenges, across the areas of the Western Command's responsibility.

Iran, China and Russia navies conduct the joint naval drill exercise named 'CHIRU-2Q22' in the Gulf of Oman

- **China** has sent its naval missile destroyer **Urumqi** to the **Gulf of Oman** as part of **CHIRU-2Q22** joint drills with the Russian and Iranian navies to practice actions on ensuring international shipping safety and combating sea pirates.
- This is the third joint naval drill involving Iran, Russia and China since 2019 that will cover some 17,000 square kilometres and aims at boosting marine security.

Science & Technology

Meta builds the world's fastest supercomputer named RSC

- **Meta** (formerly Facebook) has built the **world's fastest artificial intelligence (AI) supercomputer** named **RSC** as a part of its ambitious plan to build a **virtual metaverse** in order to boost its capacity to process data.
- RSC will assist Meta's AI researchers in developing new and improved AI models that can learn from trillions of examples, work across hundreds of languages, analyse text, photos and video in realtime and develop new augmented reality (AR) capabilities, among other things.

IISc Bangalore installs India's most powerful supercomputer named Param Pravega

- **Param Pravega**, one of India's most powerful supercomputers and the largest in an Indian academic institution, was installed and commissioned at the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** in **Bangalore**.
- This supercomputer is designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and has a total supercomputing capacity of 3.3 petaflops (1 petaflop equals a quadrillion or 10¹⁵ operations per second)
- The Param Pravega supercomputer at the IISc is a mix of heterogeneous nodes with Intel Xeon Cascade Lake processors for the CPU nodes and NVIDIA Tesla V100 cards on the GPU nodes.

SpaceX launches the National Reconnaissance Office Launch (NROL)-87 mission

- SpaceX has launched the **National Reconnaissance Office Launch (NROL)-87 mission** on their third dedicated mission for the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO).
- NROL-87 was launched on top of a brand-new SpaceX Falcon 9 from the Space Launch Complex-4 East (SLC-4E) at Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) in California.
- This mission was SpaceX's fifth overall launch of 2022 and the first one from Vandenberg. This flight utilised a brand-new booster, B1071, marking the first new booster to launch in 2022.

NASA plans to retire the International Space Station in 2031

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** announced that the International Space Station will continue its operation until **2030** and then crash into an uninhabited area in the **Pacific Ocean** known as Point Nemo in **January 2031**.
- It will be replaced with three free-flying space stations to continue the work after ISS's retirement.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

- Headquarters: **Washington DC, The United States**
- Administrator: **Jim Bridenstine**

ISRO is set to launch an earth observation satellite on PSLV-C52 on 14 February

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch an Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-04) on **PSLV-C52** on 14 February, which will be the first Indian launch of 2022.
- This launcher will deploy the **1710-kilogram satellite** into the sun-synchronous polar orbit at an altitude of 529 kilometres above the Earth.
- The EOS-04, also known as **Risat-1A**, is a radar imaging satellite that is designed to deliver high-quality images under all weather circumstances for applications like agriculture, forestry and plantations, soil moisture and hydrology and flood mapping.
- This mission will also carry two small satellites as co-passengers —**INSPIRESat-1**, a student satellite developed by the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) in collaboration with the University of Colorado Boulder's Laboratory of Atmospheric and Space Physics and **INS-2TD**, an ISRO technology demonstrator satellite.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

- **Headquarters:** Bengaluru
- **Founder:** Vikram Sarabhai
- **Chairman:** S. Somnath

Livspace turns unicorn with \$180 million Series-F round led by the global investment firm KKR

- Livspace, an omnichannel home interior and renovation platform, raised **\$180 million** in a Series-F funding round sponsored by a worldwide investment firm KKR.
- This home renovation platform is the eighty-eighth **unicorn** from India, according to Venture Intelligence unicorn tracker.
- This round of funding was led by KKR & Co. with participation from existing investors such as Ingka Group (Ikea), Jungle Ventures, Venturi Partners and Peugeot Investments.
- Livspace has become the fiftieth unicorn since January 2021 and seventh in 2022.

ElasticRun becomes unicorn with a \$ 300 million funding round led by Softbank Vision Fund

- Logistics and commerce startup **ElasticRun** became India's eighty-seventh unicorn, according to the Venture Intelligence unicorn tracker report.
- After raising **\$ 300 million** from Softbank and Goldman Sachs, ElasticRun's valuation has more than tripled to **\$ 1.5 billion**.

- ElasticRun enables businesses to reach Kirana stores and mom-and-pop shops, offering everyday necessities in deep rural parts of India by implementing a network of delivery services.

The Aardvark born in Chester Zoo for the first time in 90 years was named 'Dobby'

- An **aardvark** was born in **Chester Zoo** in the **United Kingdom** for the first time in **90 years**. It has been named after '**Dobby**', the house-elf in the **Harry Potter** series, for its close resemblance to the character. The calf was born with large droopy ears, hairless, wrinkled skin and giant claws.

Sports News

Indian tennis star Sania Mirza is set to retire after the 2022 season

- India's most celebrated tennis star and former Wimbledon doubles champion **Sania Mirza** and is set to retire after the 2022 season.
- She became the first Indian to win a Women's Tennis Association (WTA) **singles title** in 2005.
- She was ranked by the WTA as **India's No. 1 player**.
- She has won **six Grand Slam titles** in her career.
- She was named one of the '50 Heroes of Asia' by Time in October 2005.
- She was appointed as the UN Women's Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia during the event held to mark the International Day to End Violence Against Women on 25 November 2013.
- She was named in Time magazine's 2016 list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Smriti Mandhana was named in the ICC T20I Women's Team of the Year 2021

- India opener **Smriti Mandhana** was named in the **ICC T20 Women's Team of the Year 2021** for her superlative show in the T20 format in 2021.
- She was the Indian team's vice-captain in T20 format and was India's highest scorer in T20 in 2021.
- She was the only Indian on the team, which also included several English players, including **Nat Sciver** being named captain.
- ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year 2021: Smriti Mandhana, Tammy Beaumont, Danni Wyatt, Gaby Lewis, Nat Sciver (captain), Amy Jones (wicketkeeper), Laura Wolvaardt, Marizanne Kapp, Sophie Ecclestone, Loryn Phiri and Shabnim Ismail.

P. V. Sindhu wins the women's singles title at the Syed Modi International BWF Super 300 tournament

- P. V. Sindhu** won the women's singles title at the Syed Modi India International BWF Super 300 tournament held at Lucknow after defeating Malvika Bansod.
- Sindhu had not won a title since the Badminton World Championship at Basel, Switzerland, in August 2019.
- It took her 35 minutes to clinch her second title at the Syed Modi tournament, having previously won the same event in 2017.
- The Indian duo of **Ishan Bhatnagar** and **Tanisha Crasto** clinched the **mixed doubles title** at the tournament.

Ladakh women's team wins the ninth IHAI National Women's Ice Hockey Championship

- The **Ladakh women's team** has won the ninth **National Women's Ice Hockey Championship** organised by the **Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI)** held from 15–21 January in the Kaza area of Himachal Pradesh.
- Six teams from Delhi, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Telangana and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police have participated in this year's championship.

Chelsea wins its first FIFA Club World Cup trophy in 2021 against Brazil's Palmeiras

- Chelsea** has won the **FIFA Club World Cup 2021 trophy** for the first time after defeating **Palmeiras** of **Brazil** in extra time in the final in Abu Dhabi.

India is set to host the International Olympic Committee session in 2023 after 40 years

- India** won the right to host the **2023 International Olympic Committee's (IOC) session** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**, in an unopposed race, during the **139th** IOC session held in **Beijing, China**.

India becomes the number one team in the ICC Men's T20I Rankings for the first time in six years

- India** became the **number one** side in the **ICC Men's T20I Rankings** for the **first time** in six years after its 3-0 series win over West Indies in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.

Bihar batter Sakibul Gani scripts world record with a triple hundred on first-class debut in Ranji Trophy 2022

- Twenty-two-year-old **Bihar** batter **Sakibul Gani** created a new world record for the highest score by a batter on debut in first-class cricket. He scored **341 runs** for Bihar against **Mizoram** in their group opening match of Ranji Trophy 2022 at the Jadavpur University Campus, Kolkata.

Legend Magazine February 2022

Smriti Mandhana was named as the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2021

- Indian batter **Smriti Mandhana** was named the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2021.
- She has won the **Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Trophy** awarded to the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year for the second time after 2018.
- She also became the second woman cricketer after Australia's **Ellyse Perry** to win this honour more than one time.
- She was also named in the **ICC Women's T20 International Team of the Year 2021**.

Other ICC Awardess for 2021 are:

Name of the Player	Category	Country
Marais Erasmus	ICC Umpire of the Year 2021	South Africa
Mohammad Rizwan	ICC Men's T20I of the Year 2021	Pakistan
Tammy Beaumont	ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year 2021	England
Janneman Malan	ICC Emerging Men's Cricketer of the Year 2021	South Africa
Fatima Sana	ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year 2021	Pakistan
Zeeshan Maqsood	ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year 2021	Oman
Andrea-Mae Zepeda	ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year 2021	Austria
Babar Azam	ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2021	Pakistan
Lizelle Lee	ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2021	South Africa
Joe Root	ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2021	England
Shaheen Afridi	Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2021	Pakistan

India withdraws from the AFC Women's Asia Cup 2022 due to COVID-19 outbreak

- India women's football team** withdrew from the **AFC Women's Asia Cup 2022 tournament** due to the COVID-19 cases in the team.
- With the withdrawal of India women's football team, all their matches remain cancelled. The hopes of Indian women's football team qualifying for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand have also diminished due to this scenario.

Kristina Mladenovic and Ivan Dodig wins the Australian Open Mixed Doubles Championship 2022

- Kristina Mladenovic** of France and **Ivan Dodig** of Croatia won the **Australian Open Mixed Doubles Championship 2022** title at Melbourne Park, Australia.
- They were crowned the mixed doubles title after defeating **Jaimee Fourlis** and **Jason Kubler**.
- Kristina Mladenovic became the Australian Open mixed doubles champion for the second time in her career, having won the tournament in 2014 and has won two women's doubles titles in 2018 and 2020 in the Australia Open among her five major women's doubles titles.

Former Zimbabwe captain Brendan Taylor gets three-and-a-half year ban by the ICC

- The **International Cricket Council's (ICC)** anti-corruption unit has banned former Zimbabwe cricket captain **Brendan Taylor** from all forms of cricket for **three-and-a-half years** for failing to report an approach from alleged corruptors promptly.
- He admitted to one charge of breaking the doping rule, which stems from a failed dope test in his last international game in 2021.
- He tested positive for Benzoyllecognine, which is primarily a result of cocaine ingestion.

India beat **China** to bag the bronze medal in the Hockey Women's Asia Cup 2022

- Indian** women's hockey team defeated **China** (2-0) and won the bronze medal at the **2022 Asia Cup** held in **Muscat, Oman**. **Japan** won its third title after defeating **South Korea**.

Ashleigh Barty becomes the first Australian in 44 years to win the women's singles title at the Australian Open

- The 25-year-old **Ashleigh Barty** won the **women's singles title** by defeating **Danielle Collins** in the **Australian Open 2022**. She became the first Australian in 44 years to win the women's singles title at the Australian Open .
- She became the first Australian to win the Grand Slam event since **Chris O'Neil** captured the women's title in **1978**.

Rafael Nadal beats Daniil Medvedev in the Australian Open 2022 to win his record 21st Grand Slam title

- **Rafael Nadal** defeated **Daniil Medvedev** in the 2022 Australian Open men's singles final. It is his 21st Grand Slam title.
- **Rafael Nadel** became the first-ever male player to win more than 20 Grand Slam titles in singles. He was followed by **Roger Federer** (20 Grand Slam title) and **Novak Djokovic** (20 Grand Slam title).

CSK becomes the first Indian sports establishment to gain unicorn status

- **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** became the first Indian sports enterprise to gain **unicorn status** with its market capitalisation surpassing ₹7,600 crores and the share value in the market trading entering INR ₹ 210–225 price band.
- The franchise's market cap went past its parent entity, **India Cements**. India Cements' market cap was at ₹ 6,869 crores.

Magnus Carlsen beats Fabiano Caruana to clinch the 2022 Tata Steel Chess Masters title

- **Magnus Carlsen** defeated **Fabiano Caruana** to win a record **eighth Tata Steel Masters title**.
- Indian Grandmaster **Arjun Erigaisi** won the **Tata Steel Challengers** event after a draw with **Thai Dai Van Nguyen** of the Czech Republic.

Unnati Hooda and Kiran George win the 2022 Odisha Open titles

- **Unnati Hooda** became the youngest Indian to win an **Super 100 tournament** by defeating **Smit Toshniwal** in straight games to claim the women's singles title in the 2022 Odisha Open.
- **Kiran George** won the men's singles title by defeating **Priyanshu Rajawat** in the 2022 Odisha Open.

Netherlands cricketer Ben Cooper announces retirement from international cricket

- The Netherlands batsmen **Ben Cooper** announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 29. The left-hand batter has featured in **70 international matches** for the Netherlands. His debut was in **2013** against Canada in an ODI match.
- He was the **Netherlands' cricket team** top run-scorer in the T20I format. He has scored **1,239** runs from 58 T20I matches. His average in T20Is is **28.16** and has a strike rate of **124.77**.
- He featured in 13 ODI matches and scored **187 runs** with an average of 18.7 and a strike rate of 90.4.

Neeraj Chopra was nominated for the Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year 2022 Award

- India's Olympic gold-medal winning javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** was nominated for the Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year 2022 Award among the six nominees.
- He is the third Indian to fetch a Laureus nomination after **Sachin Tendulkar** and wrestler **Vinesh Phogat** in 2019.
- The other nominees of this year's award are Emma Raducanu, Daniil Medvedev, Pedri, Yulimar Rojas and Ariarne Titmus.
- **Neeraj Chopra** became only the second Indian to win an individual Olympic gold medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

New Zealand opener Daryl Mitchell wins the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award 2021

- New Zealand cricketer **Daryl Mitchell** won the **ICC Spirit of Cricket Award for 2021** after his gesture against England in the 2021 ICC Men's T20 World Cup semi-final in Abu Dhabi.
- He became the fourth New Zealand player to win this award after Daniel Vettori, Brendon McCullum and Kane Williamson.
- Former India skipper, M. S. Dhoni won the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade in 2020.

India clinches the ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2022

- **India** clinched the **International Cricket Council (ICC) U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2022** against England by four wickets at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua.
- India has now won the ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup for the **fifth time** since India's first triumph in 2000.
- India won the ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup titles in 2000 against Sri Lanka, 2008 against South Africa, 2012 against Australia, 2018 against Australia and 2022 against England.

Srilankan cricketer Suranga Lakmal announces retirement from international cricket

- Former Srilankan Test cricket **Suranga Lakmal** has announced his retirement from international cricket after the upcoming tour of India in 2022.
- He made his debut for Sri Lanka in **December 2009** and took 109 wickets in 86 One Day International (ODIs), eight wickets in 11 Twenty20 International (T20Is) and 168 wickets in 68 Test matches.
- He was chosen as **Galle's captain for the 2017–18 Super Four Provincial Tournament** in March 2018 and was also named in Galle's squad for the 2018 Super Provincial One Day Tournament.

China wins the twentieth edition of the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022

- China won the twentieth **edition** of the **Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Asian Cup 2022** against South Korea at the **D. Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai**, India.
- China is the most successful team at the AFC Women's Asian Cup with nine championship titles from 1986 to 1999, 2006 and 2022 while North Korea is in the second place with three titles in 2001, 2003 and 2008.
- China's captain **Wang Shanshan** was voted as the Most Valuable Player of the Tournament for her leadership and five goals during this tournament.

Senegal wins the first-ever Africa Cup of Nations 2021 title

- **Senegal** won its first-ever Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2021 title against Egypt at the Olembe Stadium in Yaounde, Cameroon.
- Senegal captain **Sadio Mane** was named as the Most Outstanding Player of the Africa Cup of Nations 2021.
- Egypt goalkeeper **Mohamed Abou Gabal** was named the Best Player of the Final.
- Cameroon captain **Vincent Aboubakar** claimed the Golden Boot award.
- Senegal goalkeeper **Edouard Mendy** was named as the Top Goalkeeper of the Africa Cup of Nations 2021.

International Olympic Committee approves the proposal to include surfing, skateboarding and sport climbing at the Olympic Games 2028 in Los Angeles

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has approved the proposal to include **surfing, skateboarding and sport climbing** at the Olympic Games 2029 in Los Angeles.
- All these three sports made their Olympic debut at the Tokyo Olympics 2020 in 2021 and were already a part of the programme for the Paris Olympics 2024.
- Boxing, modern pentathlon and weightlifting have not yet been included. They can be added next year by meeting targets set by the IOC board.

Mithali Raj maintains the second position and Smriti Mandhana ranks fifth in the ICC Women's ODI Rankings 2022

- India opener **Smriti Mandhana** has risen two places to the fifth position, while Indian captain **Mithali Raj** has maintained her second position in the ICC Women's ODI Rankings 2022.
- Australian star-batter **Alyssa Healy** topped the ICC Women's ODI Rankings 2022.
- Indian pacer **Jhulan Goswami** retained her second spot behind Jess Jonassen of Australia among the bowlers in the ICC Women's ODI Rankings 2022.

Indian cricket captain Rohit Sharma retains the third spot in the latest ICC Men's ODI Batting Rankings 2022

- Indian men's cricket team captain **Rohit Sharma** has retained the third spot in the latest ICC Men's ODI Batting Rankings 2022.
- Pakistan skipper **Babar Azam** topped the ICC Men's ODI Batting Rankings 2022 followed by **Virat Kohli**.
- Fakhar Zaman and Joe Root broke into the top 10 of the batting rankings.
- Indian bowler **Jasprit Bumrah** was ranked at the seventh spot in the bowler rankings.
- In the all-rounder's list, **Ravindra Jadeja** was placed at the eighth place.

Leh is set to host the World Cup Cycling event on 4 September 2022

- **Leh** is going to host the first-ever highest level of **World Cup Cycling event** in India on 4 September.
- This UCI World Cup Eliminator event is organised by the Union Territory of Ladakh police in association with City Mountainbike and Cycling Federation of India.
- Leh will be among world-famous cycling event destinations such as Abu Dhabi, Barcelona and Paris and India will be among Germany, France, Sweden, Indonesia, Brazil, Belgium and Turkey on the cycling chart.

India wins the third One-Day International defeating the West Indies

- **Indian** men's cricket team won the **third One-Day International match** against the West Indies team held at **Narendra Modi Stadium** in Ahmedabad.
- Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant staged India's recovery by scoring 80 and 56 runs, respectively. Fast bowler Jason Holder was the pick of the bowlers for West Indies, who took four wickets for 34 runs in eight overs.

Keegan Petersen of South Africa and Heather Knight of England were named the ICC Players of the Month for January 2022

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced **Heather Knight** of England and **Keegan Petersen** of South Africa as the **ICC Players of the Month for January 2022**.
- Keegan Petersen played a pivotal role in South Africa's 2-1 series win against India. He ended the series as the highest run-scorer for South Africa with 276 runs and was named the player of the series.

Books and Authors

Ruskin Bond's new book is titled 'A Little Book of India'

- A new book titled '**A Little Book of India**' was authored by **Ruskin Bond**. This book is an amalgamation of the physical and spiritual attributes of our Indian homeland and takes you on a journey filled with nostalgia and devotion.
- This book was published by **Penguin Random House India** (PRHI).

Former Indian Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg authors a new book titled 'The \$10 Trillion Dream'

- Former Finance Secretary of India **Subhash Chandra Garg** authored a new book titled '**The \$10 Trillion Dream**', which claims to explore the critical policy issues that India faces today and suggests reforms for it to become a **\$10 trillion** economy by the mid-2030s.
- The publisher of this book is **Penguin Random House India** and is set to be released in **February 2022**.
- Subhash Chandra Garg was a member of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) for over 36 years and has served in various key positions for both the Union Government and the Rajasthan Government. He was designated the Union Finance Secretary in March 2019.

Kiran Bedi's new book is titled 'Fearless government'

- Former Chairperson and CEO of PepsiCo, **Indra Nooyi** and Professor **Debashis Chatterjee** (Director, IIM Kozhikode) have launched a new book '**Fearless Governance**' was authored by Kiren Bedi, former Lieutenant Governor of **Puducherry**.
- This book was published by **Diamond Books**.

Johann Hari's new book is titled 'Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention'

- A new book titled '**Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention**' was authored by **Johann Hari**. This book was published by **Bloomsbury Publication**.

India's first-ever season style book 'The Class of 2006: Sneak Peek into the Misadventures of the Great Indian Engineering Life' released

- India's first-ever season style book '**The Class of 2006: Sneak Peek into the Misadventures of the Great Indian Engineering LIFE**' authored by **Akash Kansal** was released by Indian film actor, writer, director and producer **R. Madhavan**.
- This book was released on Amazon Kindle edition.

Sportswriter Navdeep Singh Gill releases his new book titled 'Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra'

- Sportswriter **Navdeep Singh Gill** released his new book titled '**Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra**', which is the short biography of Tokyo Olympics 2020 Indian gold medallist Neeraj Chopra.
- This book was released by the chairperson of Punjab Kala Parishad Surjit Patar and president of Punjabi Sahit Akademi Lakhwinder Singh Johal.
- It is the **seventh book** written by Navdeep Singh Gill and the sixth that places focus on the sports as well as the sportspersons.
- This book depicts Neeraj Chopra's life and achievements from his childhood until the Tokyo Olympics 2020. In various chapters, the book discusses Neeraj Chopra's accomplishments, sporting technique, his numerous awards and contemporaries.

The first look of M. S. Dhoni in graphic novel named 'Atharva: The Origin' was released

- The first look of M. S. Dhoni in the graphic novel '**Atharva: The Origin**' was released. This graphic novel is authored by **Ramesh Thamilmani**.
- In this upcoming mega-budget graphic novel, M. S. Dhoni will appear as a superhero and military leader.

Bill Gates is set to release his new book titled 'How To Prevent The Next Pandemic' on 3 May

- Microsoft co-founder and billionaire philanthropist **Bill Gates** is set to release his new book titled '**How To Prevent The Next Pandemic**' on 3 May.
- This book is set to be published by **Penguin Random House**.
- In this book, he sets out clearly and eloquently what the world should have learnt from COVID-19 and what we can all do to avoid another calamity like it.
- His last book, 'How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need', was released in February 2021.

A new book titled 'The Founders: The Story of Paypal and the Entrepreneurs Who Shaped Silicon Valley' authored by Jimmy Soni was released

- Award-winning author and biographer **Jimmy Soni's** new book titled '**The Founders: The Story of Paypal and the Entrepreneurs Who Shaped Silicon Valley**' was released.
- This book was published by **Simon & Schuster** Publication.

Obituary

Name of the Person	Profession
S. Ranganathan	Former Supreme Court judge
Major Hari Pal Singh	Veteran mountaineer and retired Indian Army officer
Meat Loaf	United States singer
Saturnino de la Fuente Garcia	world's oldest man
Dr. Ramachandran Nagaswamy	Eminent archaeologist, scholar, writer and epigraphist
Subhas Bhowmick	Former India footballer
D. N. Patodia	Former Lok Sabha member and businessman
Szilveszter Csollany	Olympic gymnastic gold medalist
Milena Salvini	Kathakali dancer
Charanjit Singh	Hockey legend, Padma Shri and Arjuna Awardee
Anil Awachat	Marathi author and social activist
Baba Iqbal Singh	Social worker
Rupinder Singh Suri	Additional Solicitor General (ASG)
Ramesh Deo	Hindi and Marathi actor and producer
Amitabh Dayal	Actor and filmmaker
Lata Mangeshkar	Legendary Indian Singer
Praveen Kumar Sobti	'Mahabharat's Bheem' actor
Luc Montagnier	Nobel Prize winner and French virologist
Rahul Bajaj	India's leading industrialist and Chairman of Bajaj Auto Limited
Raviraja Pandian	former high court judge of Madras
Bappi Lahiri	Legendary music director and 'Indian Cinema's Disco King'
Chennaveera Kanavi	Eminent Kannada poet
Sandhya Mukherjee	Veteran Bengali singer
Ravish Tiwari	Senior journalist

Important Days

Date	Day	Aim/Theme
23 January	Parakram Diwas	This year (2022) marks the 125 th birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose.
24 January	National Girl Child Day	To raise awareness about the rights of girl children and to promote the importance of their education, health and nutrition.
24 January	International Day of Education	Theme for International Day of Education 2022: 'Changing Course, Transforming Education'.
25 January	National Voter's Day	Theme for National Voters' Day 2022: 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'.
25 January	National Tourism Day	Theme for National 2022: 'Rural and Community Centric Tourism'.
26 January	Republic Day of India	This year (2022) marks the 73 rd Republic Day of India
26 January	International Customs Day (ICD)	The theme for International Customs Day 2022 is 'Scaling up Customs' Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem'.
27 January	International Holocaust Remembrance Day	The theme of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day for 2022 is 'Memory, Dignity and Justice'.
28 January	Data Privacy Day	-
28 January	Lala Lajpat Rai's 157th Birth Anniversary	-
30 January	Martyrs' Day or Shaheed Diwas	-
30 January	World Leprosy Day	The theme for World Leprosy Day 2022 is 'United for Dignity'.
2 February	World Wetlands Day	The theme of World Wetlands Day for 2022 is 'Wetlands Action for People and Nature'.
2 February	Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day	-
1-7 February	World Interfaith Harmony Week	The theme for World Interfaith Harmony Week 2022 is 'Faith and spiritual leadership to combat stigma and conflict during pandemic recovery'.
4 February	World Cancer Day	The theme for World Cancer Day 2022 is 'Close the care gap'
4 February	International Day of Human Fraternity	This day was first observed in 2021 by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC).
5-13 February	Kala Ghoda Arts Festival	-
6 February	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation	The theme of the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation 2022 is 'Accelerating investment to end female genital mutation'.

Legend Magazine February 2022

8 February	Safer Internet Day	The theme for Safer Internet Day 2022 is 'Together for a better internet'.
10 February	National Deworming Day	This day was first organised by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015.
10 February	World Pulses Day	The theme for World Pulses Day 2022 is 'Pulses to empower youth in achieving sustainable agrifood systems'.
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	The theme of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science for 2022 is 'Equity, diversity and inclusion: Water unites us'.
11 February	World Day of the Sick	The theme of the World Day of Sick 2022 is 'Be merciful, as your Father is merciful'.
11 February	World Unani Day	The theme of the international conference on Unani medicine for 2022 is 'Diet and nutrition in Unani medicine for good health and well-being'.
12 February	National Productivity Day (India)	The theme of the National Productivity Week for 2022 is 'Self-reliance through productivity'.
13 February	World Radio Day	The theme for World Radio Day 2022 is 'Radio and trust'.
13 February	Sarojini Naidu's Birth Anniversary	She was popularly known as the 'Nightingale of India'.
14 February	International Epilepsy Day	The theme of International Epilepsy Day 2022 is '50 million steps for epilepsy'.
15 February	International Childhood Cancer Day	The theme of International Childhood Cancer Day for 2022 is 'Better survival is achievable through your hands'.
14-18 February	RBI Financial Literacy Week	The theme for Financial Literacy Week 2022 is 'Go Digital, Go Secure'.
20 February	World Day of Social Justice	The theme for World Day of Social Justice 2022 is 'Achieving social justice through formal employment'.
21 February	International Mother Language Day	The theme for International Mother Language Day 2022 is 'Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities'.
22 February	World Thinking Day	The theme for World Thinking Day 2022 is 'Our World: Our Equal Future: The Environment and Gender Equality'.
23 February	World peace and understanding day	-
24 February	Central Excise Day in India	-
27 February	World NGO Day	-
28 February	National Science Day	-
28 February	Rare Disease Day	-

Banking & Economy

National Stock Exchange remains the world's largest derivatives exchange for the third consecutive year

- **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** is the world's largest derivatives exchange for the third consecutive year in 2021 in terms of the number of contracts traded, according to the **Futures Industry Association (FIA)**.
- The NSE was ranked **fourth** by the number of trades in cash equities, as per the statistics maintained by the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) for 2021.

National Stock Exchange (NSE)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **MD and CEO:** Vikram Limaye

Union Government notifies the new unit-linked insurance policies taxation rules

- The Union Government notified new rules to calculate capital gains tax on the proceeds of high-premium **unit-linked insurance policies (ULIPs)**, following the amendments to income tax and securities transaction tax rules.
- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** released a notification explaining the mechanism for determining whether ULIPs are tax-exempt as per Clause (10D) of Section 10 of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Union Budget 2021 had proposed to remove the tax-exempt status on the proceeds of ULIPs if the annual premium exceeded **₹2.5 lakhs**.
- ULIPs are insurance policies that offer the potential of wealth creation while providing the security of a life cover.

SIDBI launches 'Waste to Wealth Creation' programme in West Bengal

- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) launched the **Waste to Wealth Creation** programme in West Bengal in which women will make ornaments and showpieces out of fish scale.

Uniphore raises \$ 400 million Series E funding at \$ 2.5 billion valuation

- **Uniphore Technologies** became as the **ninth unicorn** of India in 2022 with a Series E Funding of **\$ 400 million** at a valuation of \$ 2.5 billion. Uniphore Technologies was founded by Ravi Saraogi and Umesh Sachdev in 2008 and has offices in **Chennai, Bengaluru, Singapore and Palo Alto**.

JusPay launches a software stack named OpenPPI for interoperability of prepaid instruments

- **JusPay Technologies** has launched a software stack named **OpenPPI** aimed at assisting Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI), such as digital wallets, in complying with the RBI's PPI interoperability regulation.
- With the launch of **Juspay's OpenPPI**, existing and potential PPI players can use an end-to-end secure cloud solution to comply with the new regulation.

RBI cancels the licence of Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the licence of **Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank** in **Jalna, Maharashtra** and consequently, the bank ceased to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on 16 February 2022.
- The Reserve Bank of India cancelled the licence as this bank as it did not have **adequate capital and earning prospects**.

BSE Ebix and LIC join hands for the distribution of insurance products

- **BSE Ebix Insurance Broking**, a joint venture of **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** and **Ebix Fincorp Exchange Pte Ltd** has announced the signing of an insurance broker agreement for the distribution of **Life Insurance Corporation's (LIC)** products on its platform.

Kotak Mahindra Bank partners with Ezetap for PoS solutions

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL)** has partnered with **Ezetap** to provide integrated point-of-sale (PoS) solutions across 4,000 locations in India.

CoinDCX partners with Solidus Labs to enhance anti-money laundering protection

- **CoinDCX**, India's first crypto unicorn, has partnered with **Solidus Labs** to protect its users from known forms of market abuse and a plethora of emerging crypto-specific risks.
- This partnership will enable **CoinDCX** to forge greater trust and transparency on its platform and cement its leadership as **India's number one** digital asset exchange.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launches a Platina fixed deposit scheme

- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** launched a **Platina fixed deposit scheme** that offers interest of 15 basis points (bps) in addition to the regular Ujjivan Small Finance Bank term deposit rates.
- The general fixed deposit (FD) for **990 days** tenure gives 6.9 per cent for general citizens and 7.65 per cent for senior citizens, but Platina FD offers 15 bps over and above these interest rates.
- The minimum FD amount is **₹20 lakhs** and the maximum amount is less than **₹2 crores**.

- The Platina FD is a non-callable deposit, where partial and premature withdrawal is not applicable.
- The deposit tenure ranges from 12 months to an utmost of five decades.

World Bank approves a ₹1000 crore loan to support the people of West Bengal

- The **World Bank** has approved a loan of about **₹1000 crores** to the **West Bengal Government** under the 'West Bengal Building State Capability for Inclusive Social Protection' operation, which will strengthen the capability of **West Bengal** to expand coverage and access to social assistance and targeted service for poor and vulnerable groups.
- This loan will assist the West Bengal administration in improving services such as telemedicine, support for the elderly and differently-abled, financial inclusion of residents through **digital payments** and benefit disbursement for government schemes.

World Bank

- **Headquarters:** Washington D.C., United States
- **President:** David Robert Malpass
- **Founded:** 1944

Ola Electric raises \$200 million at a valuation of \$5 billion

- **Ola Electric** has raised over **\$200 million** from Tekne Private Ventures, Alpine Opportunity Fund, Edelweiss and others in a funding round that pegged the mobility startup's valuation at **\$5 billion**.
- Over the past six months, Ola Electric has been focusing on accelerating the development of its electric scooters.
- Ola Electric had raised more than \$50 million in a financing round led by Temasek, which also saw participation from Edelweiss, IIFL, Vijay Shekhar Sharma's VSS Investco.

Swiggy becomes a decacorn after its valuation raises to \$10.7 billion after a \$700-million fundraise

- **Swiggy**, the Indian food-delivery firm, has raised **\$700 million** in additional capital led by Invesco, making the company a **decacorn** with a valuation of **\$10.7 billion**.
- A decacorn is a moniker for startups valued at over **\$10 billion**. Swiggy was valued at \$5.5 billion earlier.
- Swiggy's latest valuation is almost double that of Zomato, which was valued at \$5.4 billion before its Initial Public Offer (IPO).
- The fundraising will enable Swiggy to further accelerate growth on the core platform and make meaningful investments to grow its quick delivery business, Instamart.

SEBI introduces the framework for special situation funds

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has introduced the framework for **Special Situation Funds (SSFs)** that will invest only in **stressed assets**.
- SSFs will only invest in **stressed assets**, such as stressed loans, that are available for purchase in accordance with the **Reserve Bank of India's guidelines** or as part of a resolution plan approved under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code**.
- These funds will also invest in Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARC), security receipts, distressed company securities and any other assets or securities that the board may prescribe from time to time.
- SSFs will be exempted from investment concentration norm in a single investee company and there will also be no restriction on investing their investible funds in unlisted or listed securities of the investee company.
- The minimum investment by an investor can be **₹10 crores**, whereas it can be **₹5 crores** in the case of an accredited investor and that the minimum corpus will be **₹100 crores**.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- **Headquarter:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman:** Ajay Tyagi
- **Founded:** 12 April 1992

AIIB invests \$150 million in data centre development for emerging services across Asia

- **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** has committed to invest **\$150 million** in the **development of data centres** that mostly serve across Asia through the Keppel Data Centre Fund II (KDFC-II), a closed-end private equity vehicle managed by Alpha Investment Partners Limited (Alpha).
- AIIB's investment of **\$100 million** through a parallel fund structure and **\$50 million** through co-investments mark the final close of KDCF-II, a development fund making strategic investments in the fast-growing data centre sector with a focus on Asia-Pacific.

RBI conducts overnight Variable Rate Repo auction of ₹75,000 crores

- Reserve Bank of India conducted an overnight **Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction** under **liquidity adjustment facility (LAF)** for an amount of **₹75,000 crores** to augment the liquidity shortfall in the economy.

- The RBI had conducted an overnight VRR auction of **₹50,000 crores** on 20 January.
- The RBI will continue to rebalance liquidity conditions in a non-disruptive manner while maintaining adequate liquidity to meet the needs of the productive sectors of the Indian economy.
- For the unversed, the RBI borrows money from the banks at the Reverse Repo rate. It borrows money in two parts, one at a **fixed rate of interest** and the other at a **variable rate of interest**.
- The RBI would focus more on the variable rate of interest for a maturity of 14 days.

Union Government approves the merger of Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank with Unity Small Finance Bank Limited

- The **Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank** merges with **Unity Small Finance Bank Limited (USFBL)** under the approval of the Union Government with effect from **25 January 2022**.
- The branches of PMC Bank will operate as Unity Small Finance Bank branches.
- This scheme of amalgamation envisages the USFBL taking over the assets and liabilities of PMC Bank, including deposits in terms of the provisions of this scheme.
- As per the **Banking Regulation Act of 1949**, a draft scheme of amalgamation is required to be placed before the Union Government for its sanction and the government may sanction the scheme without any modifications or with such modifications as it may consider necessary.
- Unity Small Finance Bank is the twelfth **small finance bank in India** and opened its first branch in **Mumbai** on 1 November 2021 with over **₹1,100 crores** of equity capital.

Bank of Maharashtra and Lendingkart partner to offer co-lending MSME loans

- **Bank of Maharashtra** has partnered with **Lendingkart** to offer co-lend business loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME).
- Through this partnership, Lendingkart aims to make economical credit available to MSME borrowers at their doorstep powered by the 'zero touch' technology platform Lendingkart '2gthr'.
- Lendingkart's '2gthr' platform enables banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFC) to seamlessly onboard and disburse unsecured business loans up to **₹10 lakhs** to MSME borrowers.

- Under this arrangement, the Bank of Maharashtra will also leverage Lendingkart's origination platform 'xlr8' to distribute MSME loans sourced through multi-channel strategies supporting its vision of financial inclusion.

Hitachi Payment Services and Indipaisa introduce a new fintech platform

- **Hitachi Payment Services** has partnered with **Indipaisa** to develop a new fintech platform for India's micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- Under this partnership, Hitachi Payment Services will provide a superior technology framework for the new **fintech platform** for **India's MSMEs**.

Max Life partners with Policybazaar to offer independent term insurance cover for homemakers

- **Max Life Insurance** has joined hands with **Policybazaar** to offer its 'Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan' on the Policybazaar's platform as an independent cover to homemakers.
- This plan will be available to consumers where household income is a minimum of **₹5 lakhs** per annum. Different variants of the plan, with mortality and all rider benefits, will be available to homemakers in the age group of **18 to 50 years**.

Pencilton launches a debit card with NCMC for teens in partnership with Transcorp

- **Pencilton**, a teen-focused fintech company, has launched **PencilCard** debit card with **NCMC (National Common Mobility Card)** for teens in partnership with Transcorp.
- PencilCard is an NCMC-compliant **RuPay debit** card specially designed for the teenager segment.

Google is set to invest up to \$1 billion in a partnership with Airtel

- **Bharti Airtel** has partnered with **Google** on a long-term, multi-year agreement to accelerate the growth of India's digital ecosystem, under which Google intends to invest up to **\$1 billion**.
- The amount is part of the \$10 billion '**Google for India Digitisation Fund**', which was announced by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Google and Alphabet **Sundar Pichai** in 2020.

State Bank of India receives approval from the RBI to set up National Asset Reconstruction Company and India Debt Resolution Company

- State Bank of India (SBI) has received approvals for setting up the **National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)** and **India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL)** from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- The approval for NARCL was granted under **Section 3** of the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002**.
- As per the operational structure, NARCL will acquire and aggregate identified non-performing assets (NPA) accounts from banks, while IDRCL will handle the debt resolution process.

Paytm Money launches a messenger named 'Pops' to invest and track markets

- **Paytm Money**, the wholly-owned subsidiary of One97 Communications Limited, has launched **India's first intelligent messenger** named '**Pops**' to provide users with specific information related to their stocks, analysis about their portfolio, market news and important market movements all in one place.
- The updates through Pops will be delivered in real-time and in an engaging manner to make it easy for users to leverage the information.
- This messenger platform will also serve as a marketplace to offer stock recommendations, news insights and other services.

City Union Bank ties up with GOQii to launch the fitness watch debit card

- **City Union Bank** has tied up with smart-tech-enabled preventive healthcare platform **GOQii** launched a payment solution called **CUB fitness watch debit card** powered by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- Customers must hold this wristwatch in front of the Point of Sale (PoS) devices during payment, similar to how they would tap their card on a PoS device.
- Customers must tap and input their Personal Identification Number (PIN) for payments over **₹5000**. This smartwatch debit card costs ₹3499 for the first year, compared to the annual cost of ₹6499.
- This fitness watch enables the wearer to monitor their oxygen level (SpO₂), body temperature, heart rate, blood pressure and 18 exercise modes.

City Union Bank

- **Headquarters:** Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu
- **CEO:** N. Kamakoti

TerraPay partners with NPCI International Payments Limited to enable real-time and international payments

- The international payments arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)**, has partnered with Netherlands-based global payments infrastructure company **TerraPay**, which will allow Indian people with an **active Unified Payments Interface**

(UPI) ID to receive **real-time international payments** into their bank accounts through TerraPay's secure payments technology.

- NIPL's partnership with TerraPay is aimed at enabling a seamless and convenient cross-border remittances experience powered by the UPI platform's best-in-class real-time capabilities.

State Bank of India raises \$300 million Formosa bonds on India International Exchange Limited

- **State Bank of India** is the first Indian entity to raise **\$300 million Formosa bonds** on **India International Exchange Limited (India INX)**.
- This issuance of Formosa bonds is a testimony of the confidence reposed by the overseas investors in India's growth story.
- A Formosa bond is a bond that is issued in **Taiwan** but is not denominated in the New Taiwan Dollar. They are issued by Taiwan branches of publicly traded international financial institutions and must have a credit rating of BBB or better in order to be traded.
- This issuance is a step forward in the globalisation of the world, as it allows a bank to raise funds for markets that have been underserved for numerous years.
- SBI had dual-listed **\$650 million green bonds** on India INX and Luxembourg Stock Exchange in November 2021.

SBI collaborates with Tata Power to launch a dedicated centralised processing cell

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched a dedicated centralised processing cell named **Surya Shakti Cell** in collaboration with **Tata Power Solar Systems**.
- SBI aims to provide an end-to-end platform for a **digital** and hassle-free journey to the loan applicants for **financing solar projects**.
- The **Surya Shakti Cell** will process all the loan applications for solar projects (**capacity up to 1 MW**) sourced from across India for installation by business entities as well as households.

PNB launches a co-branded credit card with Patanjali in partnership with NPCI

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** and **Patanjali Ayurved Limited (PAL)** have launched co-branded credit cards in partnership with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
- These co-branded credit cards are offered on NPCI's RuPay Platform and are available in two variants — PNB RuPay Platinum and PNB RuPay Select.

- Both the co-branded cards offer a hassle-free credit service to purchase day-to-day **Patanjali products**, along with cashbacks, loyalty points, insurance cover, etc.

Punjab National Bank (PNB)

- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- CEO: **Atul Kumar Goel**
- Tagline: **'The Name You Can Bank Upon'**

GST collections in January 2022 cross the ₹1.3-lakh-crore mark for the fourth straight month

- Goods and Service Tax (GST) collections** crossed **₹1.38 lakh crores** in January 2022. Revenues for January 2022 is **15 per cent** higher than GST revenues in January 2021 and **25 per cent** higher than the GST revenues in January 2020.
- The total number of **GSTR-3B** returns filed up to 30 January 2022 is **₹1.05 crores**, that includes **₹36-lakh** quarterly returns.

Reserve Bank of India is set to unveil digital rupee using blockchain in FY23

- The digital rupee using blockchain and other technologies will be issued by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in FY23 (2022–23).
- The introduction of a **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** will provide the Indian digital economy with a significant boost. In addition, digital currency by RBI will result in a more efficient and cost-effective currency management system.
- The RBI has been working on a phased implementation of CBDC after carefully considering its impact on a variety of concerns, including how it could impede banks' deposit mobilisation capabilities and its possible impact on monetary policy conduct.
- A **CBDC** is a **digital form of legal money** to be issued by the RBI. It functions in the same way as fiat money and can be exchanged for fiat money in a one-to-one ratio. Its only difference is in its appearance. However, it is not comparable to the private virtual currencies such as Bitcoin or Ethereum that have mushroomed over the last decade.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Formation:** 1 April 1935
- Governor:** Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors:** M. K. Jain, M. D. Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao and T. Rabi Sankar
- Subsidiaries:** Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Limited (BRBNML)

Export-Import Bank of India extends a \$500 million loan agreement with Sri Lanka for petroleum products purchase

- The **Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM)** and the **Government of Sri Lanka** have agreed to a **\$ 500 million Short-Term Line of Credit (STLOC)** agreement for the purchase of petroleum products.
- On 13 January 2022, India offered Sri Lanka a **currency swap** worth **\$ 400 million**, while also deferring another **\$ 500 million** to the **Asian Clearing Union (ACU) settlement** to help Sri Lanka with its dollar shortfall.

Exim Bank (Export and Import Bank of India)

- Headquarters:** Mumbai
- Managing Director:** Harsha Bhupendra Bangari

Edelweiss General Insurance launches an AI voice bot for automated motor claim registrations

- Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI)** has launched an **artificial intelligence (AI) voice bot** to help clients communicate insurance motor claim registrations in a convenient and smooth manner.
- This end-to-end AI voice bot is the first of its kind in India's general insurance industry and is powered by Yellow.ai, the world's leading next-generation **Total Experience (TX) Automation Platform**, which was recently named to Gartner's Magic Quadrant for Enterprise Conversational AI Platforms for 2022.
- This AI voice bot is available in Hindi, English and Hinglish and it will enable real-time registration of claims 24x7.
- This bot will aid EGI's garage agents in registering claims in a more efficient, timely and hassle-free manner.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India extends the deadline for the implementation of the New Tariff Order to 1 June 2022

- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has extended the deadline for the implementation of the **New Tariff Order (NTO) 2.0** by three months to **1 June 2022** from 1 April 2022.
- The new consumer price for television (TV) channels and bouquets for customers will take effect on 1 June.
- NTO 2.0 is a revision of the previous new tariff order (NTO 1.0), which was issued in **January 2019**.
- Under the amended version, the maximum price of a TV channel will be capped at ₹12, down from ₹19 at present.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

- Headquarters:** New Delhi
- Founded:** 20 February 1997
- Chairman:** P. D. Vaghela

Life Insurance Corporation of India ties up with Policybazaar to offer term and investment products

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India** has tied up with **Policybazaar.com** to offer a wide range of term and investment products to consumers aimed at facilitating seamless digital distribution of life insurance products across India.
- This is the first time that Life Insurance Corporation of India has partnered with a private insurance aggregator to broaden its footprint.
- Policybazaar.com is the largest online insurance marketplace in India which distributes products of 51 insurance Companies (life, general and standalone health insurance companies).

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Founded:** 1 September 1956
- **Chairman:** M. R. Kumar
- **Managing Director:** Mini Ipe

Airtel Payments Bank and ICICI Lombard partner to offer cyber insurance

- **Airtel Payments Bank** has partnered with **ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company** to offer cyber insurance to the customers of Airtel Payments Bank.
- The customers can get financial protection from **ICICI Lombard's cyber insurance solution** against potential financial frauds, including banking, credit or debit cards, identity theft, phishing or email spoofing and more.
- This insurance has no waiting time and allows users to file several claims within the policy's term, as long as they stay within the limits of the insured amount opted for.
- This policy will give a 90-day discovery time followed by a seven-day reporting period. This means that if the insured discovers an unauthorised transaction on their card or account within 90 days from the transaction date, they can still report it to the issuing bank or mobile wallet operator within the next seven days.

Asian Development Bank lends \$4.6 billion loans to India in 2021

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has disbursed **\$4.6 billion** in loans to India for 17 loans, including \$ 1.8 billion for COVID-19 response in 2021.
- Out of the total COVID-19-related assistance of **\$ 1.8 billion**, \$ 1.5 billion was spent on vaccine procurement and \$ 300 million was spent on improving primary healthcare in urban areas and the India's future pandemic preparedness.

- The ADB extended **\$ 2.2 billion** in support for 12 state projects, committed to its geographically balanced programming.
- The Indian Government's focus on converting cities into economically dynamic and sustainable communities was reflected in the ADB's project portfolio in 2021.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- **Founded:** 19 December 1966
- **Headquarters:** Mandaluyong, The Philippines
- **President:** Masatsugu Asakawa

Razorpay acquires a majority stake in Malaysian fintech startup Curlec

- **Razorpay** has acquired a majority stake in Malaysian fintech startup **Curlec** at a valuation between **\$ 19 million to \$ 20 million**.
- This marks Razorpay's **fourth** acquisition overall and the first in the international markets.
- This acquisition will allow Razorpay to ramp up quickly and start scaling in Southeast Asia as a market.
- Curlec has been powering recurring payments for multiple companies in the Malaysian market.
- Prior to this acquisition, Razorpay acquired TERA Finlabs (an AI-based risk-tech SaaS platform) in 2021, Opfin (Payroll & HR management solution) in 2019 and Thirdwatch (Fraud analytics AI platform) in 2018.

Pine Labs acquires online payments startup Qfix for an undisclosed amount

- **Pine Labs** has acquired Mumbai-based online payments startup **Qfix** for an undisclosed amount.
- Qfix is a **cloud-based end-to-end platform** that provides numerous industries with **integrated online payments and billing services**.
- This acquisition will enable Qfix to meet the needs of multiple sectors that require curated and creative online payment and commerce solutions that are secure, easy and faster to implement.
- Qfix is focused on finding and forming communities with shared requirements, as well as, facilitating large-scale trade inside such communities on a single platform.

Bombay Stock Exchange gets SEBI's in-principal approval for trading in electronic gold receipts

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has given its in-principle approval to the **Bombay Stock Exchange** to begin trading in **electronic gold receipts (EGR)**, paving the way for the exchange to launch spot bullion exchange.

- Spot bullion will allow the general public, jewellers and anybody else interested in purchasing physical gold bars to purchase it on an exchange platform with the transparency of rate and purity, which is often a suspect in the over-the-counter retail outlets.
- SEBI has released a framework for operationalising the gold exchange, wherein the yellow metal (gold) will be traded in the form of EGRs in January 2022.
- This framework divides the transaction chain into three branches — the **creation of EGRs, trading on EGRs on exchanges** and **conversion of EGRs to physical gold**.

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman:** Vikramajit Sen
- **MD & CEO:** Ashishkumar Chauhan

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India, which is owned by the Union Ministry of Finance, is the regulating authority for India's securities and commodity markets. The SEBI Act of 1992 formed it on 12 April 1988 and gave it statutory powers on 30 January 1992.

- **Headquarter:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Chairman:** Ajay Tyagi

Indian logistics firm Xpressbees becomes a unicorn with a \$ 300 million funding

- Indian logistics firm **Xpressbees** became the **eighth Indian firm** to join the unicorn club in 2022 with \$ 300 million funding.
- This firm has raised \$ 300 million in a Series F round led by private equity funds Blackstone Growth, TPG Growth and Chrys Capital.
- The total amount of funds raised by Xpressbees crosses over **\$ 500 million**.
- Xpressbees began as the logistics arm of Pune-based baby products retailer FirstCry about ten years ago.
- In September 2015, the company was spun out from FirstCry and began operating independently.

RBI increases the NACH mandate limit for TReDS settlement to ₹ 3 crores

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the **National Automated Clearing House (NACH)** mandate limit for **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)** settlements to **₹ 3 crores** from ₹ 1 crore.

- TReDS is an electronic platform that allows **micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** to finance or reduce their trade receivables through a variety of lenders.
- These receivables can be due from corporates and other buyers, including Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
- TReDS transactions are settled using the NACH system. This was developed in response to stakeholder requests and in order to improve the ease of borrowing and the expanding liquidity requirements of MSMEs.

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- **Subsidiaries:** Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Limited (BRBNML)

Reserve Bank of India proposes to increase the limit on e-RUPI vouchers to ₹ 1 lakh

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to increase the limit on the **e-RUPI digital voucher** to **₹ 1 lakh** from the current cap of ₹ 10,000 and permit such e-RUPI vouchers to be used more than once (until the amount of the voucher is completely redeemed).
- e-RUPI is a **QR code or SMS string-based e-Voucher** that is sent to the beneficiaries' mobile phones. Users of this seamless one-time payment mechanism will be able to redeem this voucher at the service provider without the usage of a card, digital payments application or internet banking access.
- This e-RUPI digital voucher was developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and launched in **August 2021**.
- RBI has also extended the on-tap liquidity window for healthcare till 30 June 2022 and raised the voluntary retention route cap by ₹ 1 lakh crore to ₹ 2.5 lakh crores.

HDFC ERGO General Insurance launches a cyber sachet insurance policy

- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance** has launched the **cyber sachet insurance policy**, which is targeted at mitigating cyber-related digital hazards for individual clients and keeping them covered online.

- Customers can be insured through the internet with a pocket-sized insurance policy for less than ₹ 2 per day. The total insured amount extends from ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 5 crores for a variety of coverage options such as money loss, reputation loss, data loss and recovery and so on.
- This **cyber sachet insurance** also covers a wide range of liability claims stemming from various online activities, including claims arising from social media activities, malware assaults on third-party systems and legal fees incurred as a result of data breaches.

Reserve Bank of India left the key monetary policy rates unchanged for 2022

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) left the key policy rates unchanged for 2022 during the three days meeting from 8 February 2022 to 10 February 2022.
- This is the tenth time in a row that the MPC headed by RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das** has maintained the status quo.

Key Policy Rates 2022

Policy Rate	Rate
Repo Rate	4%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Bank Rate	4.25%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	4.25%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18%
Cash Reserve Ratio	4%

- On-tap liquidity window for healthcare was extended till 30 June 2022.
- The limit for inflows under the Voluntary Retention Scheme was hiked to ₹ 2.5 lakh crores from ₹ 1.5 lakh crores.

Tata AIA Life Insurance launches a flexible annuity solution

- Tata AIA Life Insurance** has introduced a **flexible annuity solution** that includes a variety of alternatives to help consumers bridge the gap between sufficient retirement planning and income.
- This is a 'fortune guarantee pension' that seeks to assist consumers in bridging the gap between proper retirement planning and income, gaining financial freedom and leading a carefree life by encouraging early saves for the customer and their spouse.

NABARD launches the JIVA programme to promote natural farming under its existing watershed and wadi programmes

- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has created the **JIVA agroecology-based programme**, which will encourage natural farming through its existing watershed and wadi projects in 11 states.
- JIVA is the result of various watershed-related programmes and will be implemented on our existing (or nearly completed) watersheds and wadis that cover five agro-ecological zones and are located in ecologically sensitive and rain-fed locations.
- JIVA intends to assure long-term sustainability by implementing agroecology principles, transforming pre-existing social and natural capital and nudging the farming community toward natural farming, as commercial farming is not viable in these areas.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

- Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Formation:** 12 July 1982
- Chairman:** Dr. G. R. Chintala

Reserve Bank of India reopens the allotment of investment limit under the Voluntary Retention Route for investments by foreign portfolio investors

- The Reserve Bank of India introduced the **Voluntary Retention Route (VRR)** for investments by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) on 1 March 2019.
- The investment limit under VRR has been increased to ₹ 2.5 crores.
- The minimum retention period shall be **three years**.
- Investment limits shall be available 'on tap' and allotted on a 'first come, first served' basis.
- FPIs may apply for investment limits online to the **Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL)** through their respective custodians.

Yes Bank launches Agri Infinity programme to develop financial solutions for the food and agriculture ecosystem

- Yes Bank has launched an annual startup enablement programme named '**Yes Bank Agri Infinity**', which is aimed at co-developing digital finance solutions for the food and agriculture ecosystem by mentoring entrepreneurial ventures in the industry.
- The early and growth-stage entrepreneurs interested in investigating tech-enabled financial innovations in the agri domain are invited to apply with their proposals as part of this agri-fintech enabler programme.

- This programme will last up to six months, based on the maturity and readiness of the solution.

Reliance Jio ties up with Luxembourg-based satellite solutions provider SES to deliver broadband services through satellite technology

- **Reliance Jio Platforms Limited (JPL)** and Luxembourg-based satellite solutions provider **SES** have tied up to form a new initiative of a joint venture named **Jio Space Technology Limited** to develop satellite-based broadband technology in India with up to **100 Gbps speed**.
- This joint venture aims to leverage satellite technology to create next-generation scalable and inexpensive internet services in India.
- Jio and SES will own **51 per cent** and **49 per cent** each in the equity stake.
- This technology will use multi-orbit space networks — a combination of **geostationary (GEO)** and **medium earth orbit (MEO)** satellite constellations capable of supplying multi-gigabit connectivity and capacity to businesses.

Union Government plans to sell a 5 per cent LIC stake in India's biggest-ever IPO

- The Union Government has planned to generate nearly **₹ 75,000 crores** by selling a **5 per cent** stake in the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** in India's largest-ever initial public offering (IPO), which is expected to test investor appetite in a volatile market.
- The Indian Government would sell 316.25 million shares through an **offer for sale (OFS)**, according to draft IPO paperwork filed with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- The LIC IPO documents were ranked fifth globally in terms of life insurance gross written premium and tenth worldwide in terms of total assets.
- The Union Government has appointed 10 merchant bankers, including Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited and Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited, to manage the mega IPO of India's largest insurer.

Offer for Sale

- An offer for sale (OFS) is a mechanism that allows promoters to reduce their holdings in listed companies transparently. These shares sold by the promoters are offered for sale directly to the public through a bidding process.

Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance launches Kotak Fortune Maximiser to help customers accumulate a corpus to fulfil their larger goals without financial burden

- **Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited** has launched a limited-pay participating endowment plan named

Kotak Fortune Maximiser that can be adapted to the needs of the customers to help them plan for their future.

- This life insurance plan will assist consumers in building a corpus that will allow them to achieve their greater ambitions without financial burden.
- Under this Kotak Fortune Maximiser plan, customers not only have the option to choose their premium amount but also can select their premium payment term from **6 to 15 years** and still reap life-long benefits.
- This plan also provides the flexibility to choose from three plan options — **Life Goal Maximiser**, **Bright Future Maximiser** and **Golden Years Maximiser**.

Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium empanels IndusInd Bank to facilitate digital transactions on the National Agriculture Market

- The Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (SFAC) has empaneled **IndusInd Bank** to improve digital collection and settlement services for transactions between farmers and traders across India on the **National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)** portal.
- IndusInd Bank has been directly integrated with the e-NAM platform to make secure and hassle-free payments and clearing and settlement services to the farmers and traders.
- The bank would provide a variety of transaction services to the buyer and seller of agricultural produce using digital channels like **multi-net banking**, **debit card**, **National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)**, **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)**, **Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)** and **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.

JPMorgan becomes the first bank to enter the metaverse

- US-based bank **JPMorgan** has ventured into metaverse with the opening of a lounge in the blockchain-technology-based virtual world Decentraland. JP Morgan became the **first bank** to launch itself in the **metaverse**.
- The bank has named the lounge '**Onyx**', which is the bank's suite of permissioned **Ethereum**-based services.

RBI allows NBFCs time till 30 September 2022 to comply with new NPA norms

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has extended the deadline for **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** till 30 September 2022 to comply with new asset classification norms issued. Non-bank lenders will now be allowed to move to the new rules for recognising bad loans.
- **RBI** norms stipulate that loan accounts classified as **NPA**s may be upgraded as '**standard**' assets only if entire arrears of interest and principal are paid by the borrower.

GDP Predictions

IMF forecasts India's GDP growth rate at 9 per cent for FY22

- **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has cut India's economic growth forecast to **9 per cent** for 2022–23 (FY22) from **9.5 per cent** estimated earlier.
- It also projected **7.1 per cent** as India's GDP growth for the fiscal year 2023–24 (FY23).

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- **Headquarters:** Washington D.C., The United States
- **Managing Director:** Kristalina Georgieva
- **Chief Economist:** Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas

CRISIL predicts India's GDP growth rate at 7.8 per cent for FY23

- **CRISIL** has predicted India's GDP growth rate at **7.8 per cent** for FY23 (2022–23) from 9.2 per cent in FY22.
- CRISIL expects the nominal growth to come at 12 per cent to 13 per cent, higher than the 11.1 per cent Budget Estimate and the headline inflation to average 5.2%.

CRISIL:

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **MD and CEO:** Amish Mehta

National Statistical Office lowers India's economy by 6.6 per cent in FY21

- **National Statistical Office (NSO)** lowered India's economy by **6.6 per cent** for FY21 (2020–21) against a contraction of 7.3 per cent that was shown in provisional estimates due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent national lockdown, which was imposed to contain the infection.
- It has also revised downward the real gross domestic product (GDP) growth number for 2019–20 to 3.7 per cent as against the earlier estimate of 4 per cent.

Reserve Bank of India predicts India's GDP growth rate at 7.8 per cent for FY23

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has predicted a conservative real GDP growth of **7.8 per cent** in FY23 against the Economic Survey's projection of 8 per cent to 8.5 per cent.
- RBI has retained the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation projection at **5.3 per cent** for FY22 and **4.5 per cent** for FY23.

State Bank of India revises India's GDP growth rate at 8.8 per cent for FY22

- The Economic Research Department (ERD) of the State Bank of India (SBI) has reduced India's GDP growth downwards to **8.8 per cent** from a previous estimate of 9.3 per cent for FY22.
- The real GDP will be around ₹ 2.35 lakh crores or 1.6 per cent more than the pre-pandemic FY20 real GDP of ₹ 145.69 lakh crores.

Banking Terminologies

- **Derivatives-** A derivative is a contract between two or more parties whose value is based on an agreed-upon underlying financial asset (like a security) or set of assets (like an index). Common underlying instruments include bonds, commodities, currencies, interest rates, market indexes and stocks.
- **Stressed assets-** Stressed assets are equal to non-performing assets plus written off assets plus restructured loans. When assets aren't performing, they're labelled as "doubtful" or "non-performing." Those assets will become bad loans if they do not recover. They are known as Stressed Assets before the 90-day period.
- **Cyber insurance-** Cyber liability insurance is an insurance policy that provides businesses with a combination of coverage options to help protect the company from data breaches and other cyber security issues.
- **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)-** Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) is an initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to facilitate MSME receivable payments from Corporates. The main objective of the TReDS platform is to address the critical needs of MSMEs i.e. the twin issues of promptly en-cashing receivables and eliminating credit risk.
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI)-** The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices paid by city residents for a market basket of goods and services over time.
- **Collateral-** Collateral is a term used to describe an asset that a lender accepts as security for a loan. If the borrower defaults on their loan payments, the lender can seize and sell the collateral to recoup some or all of their losses.
- **Pledge-** A pledge is a bailment that transfers possessory title to property possessed by a debtor (the pledgor) to a creditor (the pledgee) for the purpose of securing the repayment of a debt or obligation and to the joint benefit of both parties. This phrase is also applied to the property that makes up the security.

- **Hypothecation-** Hypothecation is the creation of charges on a movable property without delivering them to the lender. It is the transfer of an interest in specific immovable property as security against loans.
- **National Automated Clearing House (NACH)-** NACH Credit is an electronic payment service used by an institution to provide credits to a large number of beneficiaries in their bank accounts for dividend, interest, salary, pension and other payments by raising a single debit to the user institution's bank account (Corporate registered for NACH Services).
- **Bancassurance-** Bancassurance is a partnership between a bank and an insurance business that allows the insurer to offer its products to the bank's customers.
- **Moratorium** - A loan moratorium is a legally authorised period that delays the payment of money due on account of specific loan instalments.
- **Fiscal Deficit:** It is the difference between what a government earns and what it spends during a given year, expressed as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- **Capital Expenditure (CapEX):** These are funds used by a company to acquire, update and maintain tangible assets such as land, plants, buildings, technology or equipment. This type of financial outlay is made by companies to expand the scope of their activities or to add some economic benefit to the activity.
- **Surcharge:** A surcharge or checkout fee is an extra fee charged by a merchant when receiving payment by cheque, credit card or debit card. It is a fee, charge or tax added but may not be included in the stated price of a good or service.
- **Banking Consortium:** A banking consortium is a group of banks that pool their resources to lend money to a single borrower. Lead banks, member banks and the borrower are the three parties involved. Lead banks are those that begin or carry out the banking consortium, whereas member banks are those that agree to contribute a portion of the loan amount to be sanctioned to the borrower.
- **Unified Payments Interface**

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

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.

- **Prepaid Payment Instruments**

Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) are payment instruments that permit the purchase of goods and services, including the transfer of funds, financial services and remittances, against the value stored within or on the instrument, as specified by the Reserve Bank of India under the Payment and Settlement Act, 2005.

- **Unified Payments Interface**

A Unified Payment Interface (UPI) is a smartphone application which allows users to transfer money between bank accounts.

- **Gross Domestic Product**

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the monetary value of all finished goods and services made within a country during a specific period.

English Vocabulary

Q.(1-50)

1. Evincd

Meaning: to make something obvious or show something clearly

Synonyms: show; express

Antonyms: conceal

Usage: Germany and Japan have already evincd interest in importing green hydrogen from India.

2. Traction

Meaning: the quality or condition of sticking together (in the sense of grip)

Synonyms: grip; resistance

Antonyms: slipperiness

Usage: In deep snow, people should use snow tyres on their vehicles to give them better traction.

3. Mitigate

Meaning: to make something less harmful, unpleasant or bad

Synonyms: alleviate; reduce

Antonyms: aggravate; increase

Usage: Better planning and strategy, management of supply chain logistics and accelerated digitalisation helped firms mitigate pandemic risks.

4. Evasion

Meaning: the act of avoiding something or someone

Synonyms: avoidance; elusion

Antonyms: confrontation

Usage: Sources said that documents related to financial transactions at the company have been seized on suspicion of tax evasion.

5. Underway

Meaning: happening now

Synonyms: in progress

Antonyms: delayed; postponed

Usage: Searches were underway at the offices in many cities.

6. Infringements

Meaning: an action that breaks a rule, law, etc.

Synonyms: contravention; violation

Antonyms: respecting; upholding

Usage: Even minor infringements of the law will be severely punished.

7. Unearthed

Meaning: to discover proof or some other information, especially after careful searching

Synonyms: uncover; find

Antonyms: cover-up

Usage: The government had said that it had unearthed a variety of infringements.

8. Thrust

Meaning: a strong push

Synonyms: propel; impel

Antonyms: decline; dip

Usage: The government's continued thrust on infrastructure development augurs well for steel-making companies.

9. Augur

Meaning: to be a sign of especially good or bad things in the future

Synonyms: forecast; predict

Antonyms: perplexed; ignore

Usage: The company's sales figures for the first six months augur well for the rest of the year.

10. Onboard

Meaning: to become new effective members of an organisation

Synonyms: integrate; join

Antonyms: eject; evict

Usage: We have onboarded one more supplier while the second supplier is in the pipeline.

11. Grievance

Meaning: a complaint or a strong feeling that you have been treated unfairly

Synonyms: complaint; criticism

Antonyms: commendation

Usage: I would like to assure you that your grievances have not gone unnoticed.

12. Insight

Meaning: a clear, deep and sometimes sudden understanding of a complicated problem or situation

Synonyms: intuition; perception

Antonyms: ignorance

Usage: Understanding conversations and the data and insights derived from the market is essential to every business.

13. Reprieve

Meaning: an escape from a bad situation or experience

Synonyms: pardon; acquit

Antonyms: charge; punish

Usage: The company needs to recognise that it has won only a temporary reprieve on the issue.

14. Bureaucratic

Meaning: relating to a system of controlling or managing a country

Synonyms: administrative; official

Antonyms: nonmanagerial

Usage: The company was inefficient because it was highly bureaucratic.

15. Plethora

Meaning: a very large amount of something

Synonyms: excess; abundance

Antonyms: dearth; lack

Usage: The officials have a plethora of rules and requirements to fall back upon.

16. Onerous

Meaning: difficult to do or need a lot of effort

Synonyms: arduous; strenuous

Antonyms: easy; effortless

Usage: These onerous and cumbersome rules and regulations have increased the burden on legitimate businesses.

17. Cumbersome

Meaning: awkward because of being large, heavy or not effective

Synonyms: unmanageable; awkward; clumsy

Antonyms: manageable; convenient

Usage: Critics say that the process for amending the Constitution is cumbersome, but others defend it.

18. Drastic

Meaning: severe and sudden or having very noticeable effects

Synonyms: extreme; serious; forceful

Antonyms: mild; moderate

Usage: We certainly need a drastic overhaul of our rules and regulations.

19. Overhaul

Meaning: the act of completely changing a system so that it works more effectively

Synonyms: rebuild; renovate; revamp

Antonyms: damage

Usage: The government has recently overhauled the healthcare system.

20. Deterrent

Meaning: serving to discourage, prevent or inhibit

Synonyms: discouragement; dissuasion; damper

Antonyms: incentive; encouragement

Usage: We need to ensure that genuine fraud is treated harshly and deterrent punishment is meted out quickly.

21. mete (something) out

Meaning: to give or order a punishment or make someone receive cruel or unfair treatment

Synonyms: dispense; deal out

Antonyms: decline; disallow

Usage: The prison sentence is the toughest meted out to any of the seven athletes who have pleaded guilty.

22. Glistening

Meaning: shining with sparkling light

Synonyms: glittering; gleaming; sparkly

Antonyms: glazed; burnished

Usage: The calm sea glistened in the sunlight.

23. Astounding

Meaning: very surprising or shocking

Synonyms: amazing; astonishing

Antonyms: unsurprising

Usage: It is quite astounding to note that bank frauds are perpetuated repeatedly using traditional methods.

24. Perpetuated

Meaning: to cause something to continue

Synonyms: cause to continue; prolong

Antonyms: cease; prevent

Usage: Increasing the supply of weapons will only perpetuate the violence and anarchy.

25. Intriguing

Meaning: to interest someone a lot, especially by being strange, unusual or mysterious

Synonyms: interesting; fascinating

Antonyms: neglecting; boring

Usage: It is intriguing how several internal, external and RBI audits failed to detect this massive fraud.

26. Competence

Meaning: the ability to do something well

Synonyms: proficiency; skill

Antonyms: inability; incapability

Usage: Listed companies have trouble even in filling independent director positions on boards with persons of competence and integrity.

27. Whirring

Meaning: (of something rapidly rotating or moving to and fro) make a low, continuous and regular sound

Synonyms: stumbling; burring

Antonyms: quiet

Usage: Her voice was almost inaudible because of the rhythmic whirring of the rotors.

28. Albeit

Meaning: although

Synonyms: even though

Antonyms: thus, therefore

Usage: Albeit having an impact only in the medium to long term, the Budget should have encouraged the manufacturing of shipping containers locally.

29. Spike

Meaning: an abrupt sharp increase (as in prices or rates)

Synonyms: raise; jump

Antonyms: decline; decrease

Usage: Countries across Europe have been facing a spike in energy costs as a perfect storm of factors has sent natural gas prices soaring to record highs in recent months.

30. Soaring

Meaning: to rise very quickly to a high level

Synonyms: rise rapidly; escalate

Antonyms: plummet

Usage: The soaring price of natural gas is a serious concern since many power plants are fuelled by it.

31. Expertise

Meaning: a high level of knowledge or skill

Synonyms: skilfulness; expertness; prowess; proficiency

Antonyms: unfamiliarity; ignorance

Usage: The group has brands, relationships and deep category expertise across much broader spectrum categories.

32. Anticipating

Meaning: to imagine or expect that something will happen

Synonyms: expecting; foreseeing

Antonyms: doubting; neglecting

Usage: The high prices have forced farmers to hold back their produce anticipating further increase in prices.

33. Enmesh

Meaning: involve (someone) in a difficult situation from which it is hard to escape

Synonyms: embroil; ensnare; entangle

Antonyms: liberate; disentangle; release

Usage: A famous politician is thought to be enmeshed in the scandal.

34. Incorporation

Meaning: to include something as part of something larger

Synonyms: inclusion; consolidation

Antonyms: division; dissolution

Usage: The reform constitutes the incorporation of insights from partners from international communities.

35. Incitement

Meaning: to encourage someone to do or feel something unpleasant or violent

Synonyms: motivate; trigger

Antonym: subdue

Usage: The speech at the event crossed the line between hate speech and incitement to violence.

36. Retreating

Meaning: to go away from a place

Synonyms: withdraw; retire; draw back; pull back

Antonyms: advance

Usage: Some of the troops are retreating after completing the military exercises.

37. Evacuating

Meaning: to move people from a dangerous place to somewhere safe

Synonyms: leave; vacate; abandon

Antonyms: enter; occupy

Usage: Negotiations are underway to increase the number of flights to help in evacuating the Indian citizens.

38. Optimisation

Meaning: the process of making something as good or effective as possible

Synonyms: efficient

Antonyms: incapable; inoperative

Usage: The company said it has been focusing on cost optimisation and systematic efficiencies.

39. Dramatic

Meaning: sudden and showing a big change

Synonyms: considerable; substantial; sizeable

Antonyms: ordinary; undramatic

Usage: As of now, the company has not seen a dramatic shift or change.

40. Stimulus

Meaning: something that causes growth or activity

Synonyms: provocation; encouragement

Antonyms: hindrance; deterrent

Usage: There is a strong recovery in demand due to economic stimulus packages.

41. Substantial

Meaning: large in size, value or importance

Synonyms: considerable; real; material

Antonyms: insubstantial; worthless

Usage: All economic sectors saw a substantial increase in trade.

42. Ecstasy

Meaning: an overwhelming feeling of great happiness or joyful excitement

Synonyms: trance; stupor; delight

Antonyms: misery; melancholy; despair

Usage: Mahashivaratri gathering was the purest religious ecstasy for many spiritual seekers.

43. Naysayers

Meaning: someone who says something is not possible, is not good or will fail

Synonyms: pessimists, misanthrope

Antonyms: optimist

Usage: The IT sector has proved many naysayers wrong by adapting to technological change.

44. Enhance

Meaning: to improve the quality, amount, or strength of something

Synonyms: better; enrich; upgrade

Antonyms: worsen; diminish

Usage: The county took steps to enhance water quality

45. Transparency

Meaning: the characteristic of being easy to see through; the quality of being done in an open way without secrets

Synonyms: clarity; openness

Antonyms: obscurity

Usage: Using personal accounts to conduct city business reduces the transparency of the public process.

46. Hitherto

Meaning: until now or until a particular time

Synonyms: until now; yet

Antonyms: later; afterward

Usage: Competition from global IT giants and a workforce dominated by legacy engineers trained in old technology platforms was hitherto holding back Indian IT services firms.

47. Outpaced

Meaning: to move or develop faster than someone or something else

Synonyms: surpass; outshine; do better than

Antonyms: decelerate; crawl

Usage: IT services companies from India have outpaced their competitors from the United States in brand value growth

48. Stance

Meaning: the attitude of a person or organisation towards something; a standpoint

Synonyms: stand; point of view; viewpoint

Antonyms: unsteadiness

Usage: Budget has taken a digital-first stance with the adoption of emerging technologies like blockchain and AI in e-passports.

49. Stark

Meaning: completely clear

Synonyms: simple; straightforward

Antonyms: fuzzy; indefinite

Usage: If one compares the top executive pay with the median salary in the company, the difference is stark.

50. Remuneration

Meaning: money paid for work or a service

Synonyms: payment; pay; salary; wages

Antonyms: nonpayment

Usage: The structure of the remuneration in India is very different from that of global companies.

D.51–65) A sentence is divided into four parts. One among them may have an error. Choose the option that best represents the part(s) that have an error. If all the parts are correct, then choose option (e) as the answer.

51. The success of the launch was crucial for ISRO (A) / that had a very muted year with (B) / just two launches, one of which (C) / the GSLV- F10 failed after launch. (D) / No error (E)

- a) A
- b) B
- c) C
- d) D
- e) E

Ans: e

Exp: There is no error in the sentence.

52. With a mission life of 10 years, the EOS-4, a radar imaging satellite is design (A) / to provide high-quality images in all weather conditions (B) / for applications such as agriculture, forestry, plantation, (C) / flood mapping, soil moisture and hydrology. (D) / No error (E)

- a) A

- b) B
- c) C
- d) D
- e) E

Ans: d

Exp: There is an error in part (A). The supporting verb 'is' should be followed by the past participle 'designed'.

53. The INSPIRESat-1 is a student satellite from the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (A) / in association with the University of Colorado, USA and (B) / is aimed to improving the understanding of ionosphere (C) / dynamics and the Sun's coronal heating processes. (D) / No error (E)

- a) A
- b) B
- c) C
- d) D
- e) E

Ans: c

Exp: There is an error in the preposition in part (C). The part 'aimed at improving' should be used instead of 'aimed to improving' as the gerund 'improving' should be preceded with the preposition and 'at' is used to point out the area of interest, the device needed to explore into.

54. He needs to focus on his (A) / positives and try to use (B) / it wisely to gain mastery in the subject (C) / of his interest. (D) / No error (E)

- a) A
- b) B
- c) C
- d) D
- e) E

Ans: c

Exp: There is an error in part (C). As we are trying to refer to 'the positives' which he is in need to focus on and the word 'positives' is in the plural tone, 'it' should be replaced by the pronoun 'them' on the second usage.

55. As an aspirant of civil service, (A) / one needs ensure (B) / timely preparations at regular (C) / intervals for achieving it. (D) / No error (E)

- a) A
- b) B
- c) C
- d) D
- e) E

Ans: b

Exp: There is an error in part (B). The verb 'ensure' should be in 'to-infinitive' form, i.e. it should be preceded by 'to'.

56. Stories about morals (A) / are always in need (B) / for the young and the adolescents to lead (C) / a life of honesty. (D) / No error (E)

- a) A
- b) B
- c) C
- d) D
- e) E

Ans: e

Exp:

The above sentence is free of contextual and grammatical errors.

57. Scarlet went worn out (A) / spying those fighting (B) / for the liberation of (C) / France out of the anarchist regime. (D) / No error (E)

- a) A
- b) B
- c) C
- d) D
- e) E

Ans: d

Exp: There is an error in part (D). The noun 'liberation' is to be followed by the preposition 'from' as 'out of' is mainly used for choosing things or persons from its/their group and hence is not applicable in this case. Here we use 'from' to transfer of power from anarchists to those fighting for the liberation of France.

58. The thing she loves (A) / the most is get up (B) / early to attend (C) / her piano class. (D) / No error (E)

- a) A
- b) B
- c) C
- d) D
- e) E

Ans: b

Exp: There is an error in part (B) of the sentence. As the sentence is about her routine and is not in the tone of instruction, the present continuous 'getting up' should be used in the place of the simple present 'get up'.

59. The magic formula to (A) / overcome almost all (B) / sorts of problems (C) / is to persist with it till the end. (D) / No error (E)

- a) A
- b) B
- c) C
- d) D
- e) E

Ans: d

Exp: There is an error in part (D) of the sentence. Here the verb 'persist' has its subject '.....problems', hence we should refer to it with the pronoun 'them'. 'It' is used to refer to inanimate or intangible things.

60. One should always use words (A) / carefully as a word wrongly (B) / used at once (C) / need not be compensated with by any means. (D) / No error (E)

- a) A
- b) B
- c) C
- d) D
- e) E

Ans: d

Exp: There is an error in part (D). The sentence tries to justify the importance of the usage of the right words. Hence 'should not' should be used instead of 'need not' as its usage would act against the message it is trying to convey.

61. Though the purpose of each invention (A) / could be justified by someone (B) / or something, it should always be kept in (C) / mind regarding the downsides on its usage on a long-term basis. (D) / No error (E)

- a) A
- b) B
- c) C
- d) D
- e) E

Ans: e

Exp: There is no error in the sentence.

62. Finding a right guy to (A) / get a job done is the (B) / most hardest part of (C) / running a business. / No error (E)

- a) A
- b) B
- c) C
- d) D
- e) E

Ans: c

Exp: There is an error in part (C) of the sentence. The usage of the word 'most' with the superlative 'hardest' is not correct usage. The word 'hardest' is right.

63. Standing still at a (A) / same place for a long (B) / time is the main (C) / causation for varicose veins in humans. (D) / No error (E)

- a) A
- b) B
- c) C
- d) D
- e) E

Ans: e

Exp: There is no error in the sentence.

64. We make a few changes, but (A) / the results seldom never seem to come (B) / quickly and so we slide back (C) / into our previous routines. (D) / No error (E)

- a) A
- b) B
- c) C
- d) D
- e) E

Ans: b

Exp: Remove 'seldom' as 'seldom' and 'never' are redundant.

65. This morning, Riya went (A) / to college on her own (B) / as the father's scooter (C) / underwent an engine failure. (D) / No error (E)

- a) A
- b) B
- c) C
- d) D
- e) E

Ans: c

Exp: There is an error in part (C) of the sentence. The pronoun 'her' should be used instead of the article 'the' to refer to her father's scooter to make the sentence grammatically correct.

D.66–75) Fill in the blanks with the suitable pair of words.

66. Additionally, nuclear technology has _____ Bangladesh boost its rice _____ threefold in the last few decades.

- a) assisted, consumption
- b) guided, consumption
- c) helped, manufacturing
- d) helped, production
- e) none of the above

Ans: d

Exp:

Helped – to make it possible or easier for someone to do something

Production – the process of making or growing goods to be sold

67. Microsoft will not _____ developers if they choose to use other payment processing systems or if they _____ different terms and conditions in other app stores.

- a) discouraged, choose
- b) disadvantage, offer
- c) discard, pick
- d) withdraw, underwent
- e) none of the above

Ans: b

Disadvantage – put in an unfavourable position in relation to someone or something else

Choose – pick out (someone or something) as being the best or most appropriate of two or more alternatives.

68. Microsoft _____ new open app store principles in an effort to _____ regulatory concerns over its acquisition of Activision Blizzard.

- a) withheld, ward-off
- b) introduced, address
- c) released, outcast
- d) introduced, delay
- e) none of the above

Ans: b

Exp:

Introduced – bring (something, especially a product, measure or concept) into use or operation for the first time

Address – to give attention to or deal with a matter or problem

69. The _____ of two-wheelers is low in India in _____ with other developing countries.

- a) production, elements
- b) production, comparison
- c) level, higher
- d) degradation, impaired
- e) none of the above

Ans: b

Exp:

Production – the act or process of producing

Comparison – the process of comparing two or more people or things

Impaired – damaged in a way that makes something less effective

70. The tech company _____ to treat all apps equally in their app store without unreasonable _____ to their own or business partners' apps over other apps.

- a) abused, comparison
- b) abused, billing
- c) assured, subservience
- d) assured, preference
- e) none of the above

Ans: d

Exp:

Assured – protected against discontinuance or change

Preference – a greater liking for one alternative over another or others

Subservience – a willingness to do what other people want

71. Australia's high inoculation rates have been _____ for keeping its death rate low _____ an ongoing surge in cases.

- a) accorded, as
- b) done, for
- c) credited, despite
- d) credited, and
- e) none of the above

Ans: c

Exp:

Credited – publicly acknowledge a contributor's role in the production of (something published or broadcast)

Despite – without being affected by

72. It is our sole duty to not _____ to pollution in any form for the _____ of our future generations.

- a) give in, disservice
- b) contribute, welfare
- c) overwhelm, benefit
- d) succumb, welfare
- e) none of the above

Ans: b

Exp:

Contribute – give (something, especially money) to help achieve or provide something

Welfare – the health, happiness and fortunes of a person or group.

73. The Spaniard is locked with Federer and Djokovic on 20 Majors and can take sole _____ of the record _____ most Grand Slam men's singles titles with his second trophy down under.

- a) commitment, with
- b) response, to
- c) responsibility, of
- d) criteria, of
- e) none of the above

Ans: c

Exp:

Responsibility – the state or fact of having a duty to deal with something or of having control over someone

Of – expressing the relationship between a part and a whole

74. Acedia _____ a lack of heedfulness, spiritual apathy, a disconnect _____ oneself and with the world at large.

- a) imply, to
- b) imply, for
- c) implies, with
- d) state, with
- e) none of the above

Ans: c

Exp:

Implied – suggested but not directly expressed; implicit

With – accompanied by (another person or thing)

75. The game, which can be played once a day, every day, consists of _____ a five-letter word in six _____ on a crossword puzzle-style grid.

- a) guess, chances
- b) creating, attempting
- c) doubting, chances
- d) deducing, guesses
- e) none of the above

Ans: d

Exp:

Deducing – arrive at (a fact or a conclusion) by reasoning; draw as a logical conclusion

Guesses – an estimate or conclusion formed by guessing

Banking Quiz

1. Who was appointed as the Managing Director of the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL)?

- a) Pradeep Kumar
- b) Chanchal Kumar
- c) Sanjeev Kumar
- d) Charanjit Singh
- e) Pradeep Aggarwal

Ans: b

Exp:

Senior IAS officer Chanchal Kumar was appointed as the Managing Director of National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) under the Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.

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