

**December 2022**

# **BOLT**

***Monthly Current Affairs***



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## Table of Contents

<b>Banking &amp; Finance</b> .....	3
<b>Economy</b> .....	7
<b>National</b> .....	9
<b>International</b> .....	14
<b>Sports</b> .....	15
<b>Agreements &amp; MoUs</b> .....	17
<b>Schemes</b> .....	20
<b>Appointments &amp; Resignations</b> .....	22
<b>Awards</b> .....	25
<b>Ranks &amp; Reports</b> .....	28
<b>Important Days</b> .....	31
<b>Summit &amp; Conferences</b> .....	34
<b>Science &amp; Technology</b> .....	35
<b>Defence</b> .....	37
<b>Books &amp; Authors</b> .....	39
<b>Miscellaneous</b> .....	40
<b>Obituary</b> .....	41
<b>Person in news</b> .....	42
<b>Insurance</b> .....	44
<b>India &amp; World</b> .....	45
<b>Apps &amp; Portals</b> .....	46
<b>Acquisitions &amp; Mergers</b> .....	47
<b>Legal</b> .....	49
<b>PSUs</b> .....	50
<b>State/UTs</b> .....	51
<b>Committees</b> .....	55
<b>Imp CA</b> .....	56

## Banking & Finance

### 1. RBI imposes Rs 1.25 crore penalty on Zoroastrian Co-operative Bank

RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.25 crore on Zoroastrian Co-operative Bank, Mumbai for non-compliance with certain directions, including one related to discounting of bills. The bank had failed to comply with its directions on 'Discounting of Bills by UCBs - Restricted Letters of Credit (LC)' and the provisions of the Rules, as it discounted accommodation bills under LCs.

### 2. SEBI hikes debt funds' limit to 12% in single issuer securities

In order to protect the interest of investors in securities and promote the development of market, SEBI has increased the investment limit of mutual funds (MFs) in debt instruments issued by a single issuer to 12% of the net asset value from 10%.

However, fund houses have to seek prior approval of boards of Trustees & Directors of the AMC before hitting the enhanced limit.

### 3. SBM Bank India has announced a Strategic Partnership with OPEN to launch Asia's First End-To-End Embedded Finance Platform

SBM Bank India and Open Financial Technologies announced a strategic partnership for launching Asia's first end-to-end Embedded Finance platform- Zwitch- to offer a no-code, low-code and full-stack API solution that enables fintechs to build their own financial products using Zwitch's tech stack, comprising of a drag-drop dashboard, low code plugins along with 300+ APIs.

### 4. Yes Bank, Turtlefin launch 'EasyNsure' online insurance services platform

TurtleFin, India's top insurtech platform, has collaborated with YES BANK, one of India's major private sector banks, to develop EasyNsure, a complete technological platform. Turtlefin's innovative API will enable the platform to provide a slew of holistic insurance solutions at the push of a button.

### 5. RBI imposes monetary penalty on Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank

The RBI imposed a monetary penalty of '42.00 lakh (Rupees Forty-two lakh only) on Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank (the bank), for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on 'Strengthening of Prudential Norms- Provisioning Asset Classification and Exposure Limit' and 'Regional Rural Banks- Income Recognition, Asset Classification, and Provisioning Norms- NPAs. Deepak Kumar Gupta, Chairperson: Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank.

### 6. Reserve Bank of India issues framework for Indian banks' foreign biz

RBI has put in place a framework to allow overseas subsidiaries and branches of Indian banks and financial institutions to undertake activities not specifically permitted in the Indian domestic market.

The framework also specifies the applicability of these instructions to International Financial Services Centres in India, including Gujarat International Finance Tec-City.

### 7. Edelweiss Mutual Fund launches fourth tranche of 'BHARAT Bond ETF'

Edelweiss Mutual Fund has announced the launch of the fourth tranche of BHARAT Bond ETF - India's first corporate bond ETF (exchange-traded fund). A central government initiative, Bharat Bond ETF invests only in 'AAA'-rated bonds of public sector companies. Edelweiss Asset Management is the fund manager of the scheme.

### 8. RBI imposes monetary penalty on The Bharat Co-operative Bank Limited, Bengaluru, Karnataka

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of '5.00 lakh (Rupees Five lakh only) on The Bharat Co-operative Bank Limited, Bengaluru, Karnataka (the bank) for non-adherence / violation of directions issued under Exposure Norms and Statutory / Other Restrictions ' UCBs.

### 9. SBI's personal loans portfolio crosses '5 lakh cr mark

SBI announced that its personal banking advances excluding high value home loans have crossed the ' 5 lakh-crore mark. The largest lender in the country took a year to book the last ' 1 lakh crore of advances, as against over 15 months for the previous ' 1 lakh crore and over 30 months for the previous ' 1 lakh crore

### 10. RBI announces extension on HTM bond books dispensation till March 2024

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it has extended the dispensation of an enhanced limit of the held-to-maturity (HTM) portfolio for government bonds till March 31 next year, enabling banks to better manage their investment portfolios. It permitted banks to include securities purchased between September 1, 2020 and March 31, 2024 in the increased limit for HTM portfolios.

### 11. ASK Capital gets Central Bank of Ireland nod to launch India-based fund

ASK Capital has received approval from the Central Bank of Ireland to launch an India-based fund ASK Indian Entrepreneur Fund through the UCITS route. ASK is the fourth asset/wealth management firm in

India to receive approval for an UCITS (Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities) fund. Kotak AMC, Whiteoak Capital and UTI AMC already have such fund

### **12. ICICI Bank raises Rs 5,000 cr via infrastructure bonds for funding projects**

ICICI Bank has raised Rs 5,000 crore through infrastructure bonds for funding projects in segments like power and roads, etc. The coupon for seven-year paper was fixed at 7.63 per cent, about 25 basis points above yield on government benchmark bonds with similar maturity. The base issue size for ICICI Bank's infra bonds was Rs 1,000 cr with greenshoe option of Rs 4,000 cr. ICICI Bank's infrastructure bonds carry 'AAA' credit rating from CRISIL.

### **13. UPI to now allow blocking money for multiple debits, paves way for ASBA**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) enhanced the capabilities of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) by introducing a 'single-block-and-multiple debits' functionality, which allows a customer to enable a payment mandate against a merchant by blocking funds for specific purposes in his/her bank account which can be debited, whenever needed.

### **14. Spice Money partners with Axis Bank to push financial inclusion in rural India**

Fintech player Spice Money has partnered with private sector lender Axis Bank to facilitate opening of instant, zero balance savings or current accounts for rural citizens through its Adhikari network. Through this association, Spice Money aims to bridge the rural-urban divide & bring financial inclusivity by providing access to banking products to the last mile.

### **15. YES Bank gets RBI nod to raise capital from Carlyle, Verventa Holdings**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued two letters to YES Bank as the final go-ahead for its proposed capital raise plan from the Carlyle Group and Verventa Holdings, the bank said in a statement while informing the exchanges. YES Bank will now engage with the investors for completion of the proposed capital raise, subject to various regulatory compliances.

### **16. Tamilnad Mercantile Bank, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance ink bancassurance pact**

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank, an old private sector bank, and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, a private life insurer, have entered into a bancassurance partnership. Through this partnership, new and existing customers of the Bank can now choose from Bajaj Allianz Life's retail products, including term, savings, retirement, and investment products. Tarun Chugh, MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance S Krishnan, MD & CEO, TMB

### **17. Performance of Private Corporate Business Sector during Q2:2022-23 | RBI**

Sales of listed private non-financial companies recorded 22.6 per cent growth (y-o-y) in Q2:2022-23 as compared to 41.0 per cent in the previous quarter and 31.8 per cent in Q2 of the previous year. Information technology (IT) companies continued with their consistently good performance and recorded robust sales growth of 21.4 per cent (y-o-y) during the quarter.

### **18. Sikar Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Sikar, Rajasthan- Extension of Validity**

RBI in the exercise of powers vested in it under sub-section (1) of Section 35A of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (AACS) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, hereby directs that the Directive dated Oct 26, 2018, issued to the above bank, the validity of which was last extended up to Dec 9, 2022, shall continue to apply to the bank for a further 3 months. A further period of three months means: from December 10, 2022, to March 09, 2023.

### **19. RBI shortlists 7 global consultancy firms to use AI, ML to improve regulatory supervision**

7 firms are Accenture Solutions Private Limited; Boston Consulting Group (India) Pvt Ltd; Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP; Ernst and Young LLP; KPMG Assurance and Consulting Services LLP; McKinsey and Company; and Pricewaterhouse Coopers Pvt Ltd.

The Department of Supervision has been developing and using linear & a few machine-learned models for supervisory examinations.

### **20. SEBI gives nod to AIFs to raise money from FPIs**

Alternative Investment Funds in India will now be able to raise money from Foreign Portfolio Investors. While onboarding investors, the manager of an AIF will have to ensure that FPIs are residents of a country, the securities market regulator of which is a signatory to the International Organisation of Securities Commission's MoU or signatory of bilateral MoU with SEBI.

### **21. NBFC-MFIs outpace banks to grab a dominant share in microfinance market**

According to the latest quarterly report compiled by Sa-Dhan, the association of inclusive finance institutions and SRO, NBFC-MFIs has outpaced banks for the first time in years and picked up a dominating share in the microfinance sector accounting for nearly 38 per cent of the industry while banks have slipped to the second position with close to 36 per cent market share.

## **22. SBI board approves raising of Rs 10,000 crore capital via bonds**

State Bank of India (SBI) said its board has approved Rs 10,000 crore capital raising plan through Tier I bonds. The fund raising through Additional Tier 1 (AT1) capital up to an amount of Rs 10,000 crore is subject to Government of India concurrence, the bank said in a regulatory filing. The fund would help the bank grow its loan book.

## **23. RBI asks Razorpay, Cashfree to pause onboarding of new customers**

Payment companies Razorpay and Cashfree Payments have received notices from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to withhold onboarding any new online merchants to their platforms, pending their audit for the payment aggregator/payment gateway licenses (PA/PG).

These restrictions are not likely to have any material effect on the companies, and are part of the audit process.

## **24. Bank of Baroda to bring in strategic partner in subsidiary Nainital Bank**

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has decided to bring in a strategic partner in its subsidiary Nainital Bank Ltd. (NBL) With this, the public sector bank is planning to divest its majority stake and relinquish its control of the subsidiary.

NBL was originally promoted by Late Bharat Ratna Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant and few prominent personalities of Nainital in 1922. At present, BoB holds 98.57 per cent stake in the Nainital Bank.

## **25. YES Bank assigns '48,000 cr stressed loans to JC Flowers ARC**

Yes Bank has concluded assignment of the Rs 48,000-crore stressed asset loan portfolio of the bank to JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction company. The bank had earlier declared JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Private Limited (JC Flowers ARC) as the winner of the Swiss Challenge process for sale of its identified portfolio of stressed assets.

## **26. 599th Meeting of Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India**

The 599th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India was held in Kolkata under the Chairmanship of Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor.

The Board in its meeting reviewed the current economic situation, global and domestic challenges including geopolitical developments, finance and trade.

## **27. SEBI issues guidelines for performance benchmarking, reporting for portfolio managers**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has mandated the way performance benchmarking and reporting of performance by portfolio managers should be done. The provisions will come into effect from April 1, 2023. Portfolio managers document their investment philosophy in the investment approach ('IA'), in order to achieve the client's investment objectives.

## **28. Bank of Maharashtra raises '880 crore via Additional Tier-1 bonds**

The public sector lender Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) said that it has raised Rs. 880 crore through Additional Tier 1 (AT1) bonds that complied with Basel III. The AT1 instrument is perpetual in nature; with call option after 5 years. The Bank has credit ratings of AA (Stable) for AT1 Bonds.

## **29. RBL Bank in partnership with BUSINESSNEXT wins IBSi Global FinTech Innovation Award**

RBL Bank, one of India's leading private sector banks won IBSi Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2022 in the Best CRM System Implementation and Most Impactful Project categories along with BUSINESSNEXT. BUSINESSNEXT is a composable suite of deep tech platforms 'CRMNEXT, CUSTOMERNEXT & DATANEXT and pre-assembled products for the BFSI industry.

## **30. Sri Lanka, Russia In Talks To Utilise Indian Rupee In Foreign Trade**

Sri Lanka has agreed to use the Indian rupee for foreign trade after the Indian government said that it is looking for ways to bring countries into the ambit of the Indian rupee trade settlement mechanism that has a shortage of dollars. Reportedly, Sri Lankan banks have opened special rupee trading accounts called ' Special Vostro rupee accounts, or SVRA ' for trading.

## **31. HDFC Securities launches Google Search-driven education platform 'Roots'**

Stock brokerage firm HDFC Securities has launched Roots, a dedicated platform providing comprehensive investor education and market analysis. The site offers multiple forms of valuable information, including articles, bite-sized tips, podcasts by experts, video tutorials and explainers, and live social media feed on the Indian financial markets.

## **32. IFSCA comes out with new framework to boost distribution of capital market products from Gift City**

IFSCA registered distributors can now out of the IFSCs distribute their capital market products and services globally in various jurisdictions Registered distributors of IFSCA can now sell products globally in various jurisdictions now undertake global distribution of capital market products and services out of Gift City

### **33. Worldline ePayments India gets RBI's nod to act as payment Aggregator**

Digital payments services platform Worldline ePayments India said it has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India to act as a payment aggregator (PA). The authorisation by the RBI was under the provisions of the Guidelines on Regulation of Payment dated March 17, 2020.

### **34. Financial literacy poor across urban, rural population in country: RBI survey**

According to a pan-India "Financial Literacy and Inclusion survey" conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), digital banking awareness and knowledge among the rural and urban population across the country is at par with each other, with the average being 11.7 for both segments on a score of 21.

### **35. Infibeam Avenues receives RBI nod for Bharat Bill Payment license**

Infibeam Avenues Ltd., the country's first listed payments infrastructure firm, has received Perpetual Licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for its bill payments business, BillAvenue. The licence will allow BillAvenue to function as a Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) under Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).

### **36. NPAs recovered by banks via various channels improved in FY22: RBI report**

Non-performing assets (NPAs) recovered by scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) improved to 18.4 per cent of the amount involved in FY22 against 14 per cent in FY21, according to RBI. These banks had recovered '64,229 crore in FY21 against '4,56,274 crore involved, RBI said in its latest report on 'Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2021-22'.

### **37. Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corp. (DICGC) Settles Claims Worth Rs 8,516 Crore In FY22: RBI Report**

DICGC settled claims of Rs 8,516.6 crore in the last financial year and the bulk of them were from customers of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank.

An amount of Rs 3,791.6 crore was provided to Unity Small Finance Bank for making payment to the depositors of the erstwhile PMC Bank, the RBI in Trends and Progress in Banking Report for FY22.

Chairman OF DICGC: Dr. M.D. Patra (Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India)

### **38. Reserve Bank of India imposes Monetary Penalty on Mynd Solutions Private Limited**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of '13,90,000 on Mynd Solutions Private Limited (the entity) for not complying with the Guidelines on Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) updated as on July 02, 2018. The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under Section 30 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act).

### **39. CAD doubles to all-time high of \$36.4 billion in Q2, up nearly 4 times on year**

India's current account deficit (CAD) doubled sequentially to an all-time high of \$36.4 billion in Q2 FY23 from \$18.2 billion in the previous quarter, and was nearly four times higher than the \$9.7 billion posted a year ago. CAD for FY22 was at \$38.77 billion. The Q2 CAD was equivalent to 4.4 per cent of the country's GDP as against 2.2 per cent in the previous quarter.

### **40. RBI releases "Statistical Tables relating to Banks in India: 2021-22"**

The publication presents entity-wise information on major items of liabilities and assets along with their maturity profile; income and expenses; select financial ratios, number of employees, and details of priority sector advances for scheduled commercial banks (excluding regional rural banks).

### **41. Bank frauds from card, net-based transactions rise, shows RBI report**

The average amount of fraud 'defined as the total amount involved in frauds divided by number of frauds ' decreased substantially during 2021-22, data from Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) Trend and Progress Report shows. In terms of the number of frauds, the modus operandi seems to have shifted to card or internet-based transactions.

## Economy

### 1. NSE launches new Nifty Bharat Bond Index

The National Stock Exchange's subsidiary NSE Indices has said it has launched one more index under the Nifty Bharat Bond Index series. The Bharat Bond Index series follows a target maturity date structure wherein each index in the series measures the performance of a portfolio of 'AAA' rated bonds issued by government owned entities maturing in a specific year.

### 2. GST collection grows 11 per cent to Rs 1.46 lakh crore in November

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections grew by 11 per cent to about Rs 1.46 lakh crore in November on increased consumer spending and better compliance, according to government data. This is the ninth month in a row that the revenues have remained above the Rs 1.4 lakh crore mark. In October, GST collections had touched the second-highest level of Rs 1.52 lakh crore.

### 3. ESIC approves proposal to invest surplus funds in stock market through ETFs

Government's social security body Employees' State Insurance Corporation approved a proposal to invest its surplus funds in the stock market through exchange traded funds. Due to relatively low returns on investments in various debt instruments coupled with the need to diversify investment, ESIC gave its approval for investments of surplus funds in equities restricted to ETF.

### 4. Russia remains India's top oil supplier for second month in a row in Nov

Russia has for the second month in a row remained India's top oil supplier in November, surpassing traditional sellers Iraq and Saudi Arabia, according to data from energy cargo tracker Vortexa. Russia, which made up for just 0.2 per cent of all oil imported by India in the year to March 31, 2022, supplied 9,09,403 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil to India in November.

### 5. ADB keeps India's GDP growth unchanged at 7%

The Indian economy is set to grow at 7 per cent, said the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as it kept its outlook for India's economic growth unchanged for the ongoing fiscal year. For 2023-24, the GDP growth has been kept unchanged at 7.2 per cent. ADB sees Asia expanding at 4.2 per cent this year before accelerating to 4.6 per cent in 2023.

These projections compare to the previously estimated expansion of 4.3 per cent and 4.9%

### 6. Centre to set borrowing limit for states at 3.5% of GSDP in FY24

Centre will set the borrowing limit for states in FY24 at 3.5% of gross state domestic product (GSDP), including 50 basis points linked to power sector reforms. This is in sync with the fiscal path recommended by the 15th Finance Commission (FC).

For states, the FC had recommended a fiscal deficit limit of 4% for FY22, 3.5% in FY23 and 3% during FY24-26.

### 7. YouTube's creator ecosystem contributed over Rs 10,000 crore to India's GDP in 2021: Report

YouTube's creative ecosystem contributed over Rs 10,000 crore & supported more than 7,50,000 full-time equivalent jobs in the Indian economy in 2021, citing a report by the consulting firm Oxford Economics unveiled. In 2020, the YouTube creator ecosystem contributed Rs 6,800 crore to India's GDP equivalent to 6,83,900 full-time jobs.

### 8. IFC lends \$400 m to HDFC to boost green housing in affordable segment.

International Finance Corporation (IFC) has given a \$400 million loan to HDFC to boost green affordable housing finance in India.

IFC's funding will support the country's shift toward a more sustainable growth path, creating jobs and ensuring long-term business growth. IFC (International Finance Corporation) is a member of the World Bank Group.

### 9. NCLAT to get three new members

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), which adjudicates on appeals in opposition to tribunal orders, is ready to get three new members.

The authorities has initiated the recruitment process to hire one judicial member and two technical members for NCLAT.

### 10. India growth may moderate to 6.1% in FY24, IMF says

India's economic growth is expected to moderate to 6.1% in FY24 from 6.8% estimated for the current fiscal because of high oil prices, weaker external demand, and tighter financial conditions, the International Monetary Fund said in its report. It expects inflation in India to ease gradually over the next two years. IMF projected India's inflation at 6.9% in 2022-23.

### 11. India's agri, allied commodities export up 12% in Apr-Oct to \$30 billion

India's export of agriculture and allied commodities rose 11.97 per cent to USD 30.21 billion during April-October period of current fiscal year, the agriculture ministry said. The exports stood at USD 26.98 billion in the same period of 2021-22. Wheat, basmati rice, raw cotton, castor oil, coffee, and fresh fruits were major commodities exported from India.

### 12. Punjab ranks 2nd in average monthly income per agricultural household: Govt

As per information, Meghalaya tops across the country with average monthly income per agricultural household (Rs 29,348). Punjab ranks second in the country in average monthly income per agricultural household. This fact came to light in a data provided by Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar.



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## National

### **1. GeM platform crosses 1 lakh crore rupees Gross Merchandise value**

The Government e-Marketplace, GeM platform has crossed one lakh crore rupees Gross Merchandise value till 29 Nov for the financial year 2022-2023.

GeM is an online platform for public procurement in India which was launched in August 2016 with the objective of creating an open and transparent procurement platform for government buyers. GeM is a 100 percent Government owned & National Public Procurement Portal.

### **2. DPIIT ropes in 5 social sector ministries for infra development**

The commerce and industry ministry has been engaged with five social sector departments, including health and panchayati raj, for integrated and efficient infrastructure development by them through the PM GatiShakti initiative. PM Narendra Modi launched the Gati Shakti- National Master Plan aimed at developing integrated infrastructure to reduce logistic costs.

### **3. Govt revises scheme for Intellectual Property protection to upgrade professional charges of facilitators**

Government has revised the scheme for facilitating Start-Ups Intellectual Property Protection (SIPP) to upgrade the professional charges of the facilitators. The facilitation fees has been increased by at least 100 percent. The revised scheme is applicable from 02 December 2022.

### **4. DigiYatra launched in Delhi, Bengaluru and Varanasi airports**

Facial recognition system DigiYatra has been launched at three airports across the country ' Delhi, Bengaluru and Varanasi for a seamless and hassle-free air travel experience. This is only available for domestic flight passengers. Digi Yatra is conceived to achieve contactless and seamless processing of passengers at airports based on Facial Recognition Technology (FRT).

### **5. Centre approves formation of Advisory Group for streamlining development of Bamboo sector**

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has approved the formation of an Advisory Group for streamlining the development of the Bamboo sector. The Advisory Group has a representation of various stakeholders including academicians, researchers, innovators, progressive entrepreneurs, designers, farmer leaders, marketing specialists, and policymakers.

### **6. 100 percent FDI allowed for commercial mining, says Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi**

The Government today said it has taken several steps to ramp up domestic coal production in the country. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi said 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment is allowed for commercial mining. The major initiatives taken to increase domestic production of coal include Single Window Clearance.

### **7. Centre's reforms result in consistent increase of FDI inflow; FDI grows from US \$ 45.15 billion in 2014-2015 to US\$ 84.84 billion**

The reforms taken by Government have resulted in increased Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in the country. FDI inflows in India stood at US \$ 45.15 billion in 2014-2015 and have continuously increased since then, and India registered its highest ever annual FDI inflow of US\$ 84.84 billion (provisional figures) in the financial year 2021-22.

### **8. Govt exempts phone IMEI registration requirement for exports**

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has notified that the requirement for registering the International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) of mobile phones for exports has been suspended. IMEI is a unique 15-digit code assigned to every mobile phone to identify the device connected to a mobile network. A dual SIM phone will have two unique IMEI numbers.

### **9. Rs 2.44-trn plan for 500-Gw renewable energy transmission launched**

In order to support the 500 Gw renewable energy (RE) capacity by the end of this decade, the Union ministry of power launched a plan 'Transmission System for Integration of over 500 Gw RE Capacity by 2030.' The plan ' which entails connecting mega solar parks and wind power zones with the national grid ' will see an investment of Rs 2.44 trillion in transmission projects.

### **10. Under UDAN, 453 routes have commenced, operationalizing 70 Airports including 2 Water Aerodrome & 9 Heliports**

Ministry of Civil Aviation launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21.10.2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses. As on 29.11.2022, after four rounds of bidding under UDAN, 453 routes have commenced, operationalizing 70 Airports including 2 Water Aerodrome & 9 Heliports.

### **11. NTT India to invest \$2 bn in data centres, submarine cable, renewables**

NTT India has earmarked around USD 2 billion to boost information and communications technology infrastructure in the country over the next three-four years, aiming to tap the rise in data consumption. New data centres, cloud computing, submarine cable landing stations and solar parks are key areas where NTT India's capex is planned.

### **12. Parliament passes Energy Conservation (Amendment) bill to promote non-fossil energy sources**

Parliament has passed the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 with Rajya Sabha approving it. Lok Sabha has already passed the Bill. The Bill seeks to amend the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. It promotes energy efficiency and conservation. The Bill empowers the Centre to specify a carbon credit trading scheme.

### **13. Ministry of Culture has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centers for the development Of Arts, Culture and Craft across the country**

For conservation and development of art, culture and crafts across the country, the Ministry of Culture, Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities & programmes on regular basis in their member States throughout the years ZCCs are provided regular annual grant-in-aid by the Government.

### **14. Over 172 gigawatt capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources installed in the country: Govt**

More than 172 gigawatt capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources has been installed in the country. This includes more than 119 gigawatts of renewable energy, 46.85 gigawatts of large hydro, and 6.78 gigawatts of nuclear power capacity. This was stated by the New and Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh.

### **15. India unveils \$30 billion plan to upgrade grid for clean power**

India unveiled a Rs 2.44 lakh crore (\$29.6 billion) plan to build transmission lines to connect renewable generation, as it aims to nearly triple its clean-power capacity by 2030. The project will connect solar plants in the sun-drenched deserts of Rajasthan and Gujarat and wind farms in Tamil Nadu to the national network, power ministry said in a statement.

### **16. Centre accords 'in-principle' approval for 21 greenfield airports**

The Central government has accorded 'in-principle' approval for setting up of 21 greenfield airports across the country. Development of a Greenfield airport is governed under the Greenfield Airports Policy, 2008. As per the Policy, a State Government or an Airport Developer, willing to establish an airport, is required to send a proposal to the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

### **17. Parliament passes New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (Amendment) Bill, 2022**

Parliament has passed the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (Amendment) Bill, 2022 with Rajya Sabha approving it unanimously. Lok Sabha has already passed the Bill. The Bill amends the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019. The Bill renames the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre as the India International Arbitration Centre.

### **18. India to commission 20 new nuclear power plants by 2031**

India plans to commission 20 nuclear power plants by 2031, adding nearly 15,000 MW in power generating capacity. The first of these 20 nuclear power plants, a 700 MW unit, is expected to be commissioned in 2023 at Kakrapar in Gujarat, which already has three atomic power generating units operational.

### **19. Reliance launches FMCG brand 'Independence' in Gujarat; plans national rollout**

Reliance Consumer Products Limited, the FMCG arm of Reliance Retail Ventures Limited, launched its indigenous made-in-India consumer packaged goods brand, Independence, in Gujarat.

Independence was introduced to consumers and kirana partners on the occasion of Pramukh Swami Maharaj's centenary celebrations at Akshardham in Ahmedabad. Isha Ambani, Director, Reliance Retail Ventures Limited.

### **20. Atal Innovation Mission and UNDP India launch 5th edition of Youth Co:Lab for Young Entrepreneurs**

The 5th edition of Youth Co:Lab, Asia Pacific's largest youth innovation movement was jointly launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and UNDP India in December 2022. Youth Co:Lab is an initiative launched in 2019 by UNDP India in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog.

### **21. JSPL will invest Rs 7,930 crore under PLI scheme for specialty steel, says MD Bimlendra Jha**

Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) Managing Director Bimlendra Jha said the company will spend Rs 7,930 crore under the PLI scheme for specialty steel. The amount will be used to manufacture eight types of high-end alloy in India.

On December 9, the government announced the selection of 67 entries with an investment potential of Rs 42,500 crore under the scheme.

### **22. Adani group to invest Rs 10,700 crore to expand Lucknow airport**

The Adani group will invest Rs 10,700 crore into Lucknow airport's expansion so that its annual passenger handling capacity zooms from 4 million passengers per annum to 39 MPPA. According to earlier reports, the Adani group would invest about Rs 10,000 crore in the Ahmedabad airport between 2023 and 2027 to triple its passenger handling capacity, making it a regional hub.

### **23. PM Modi Lays Foundation Stone, Unveils Multiple Projects Worth Over Rs. 2450 Cr In Shillong, Meghalaya**

The multiple projects include the inauguration of 320 completed and 890 under construction 4G mobile towers, the new campus of IIM Shillong, at Umsawli, the Shillong ' Diengpasoh Road which will provide better connectivity to new Shillong satellite township and four other roads projects across the three states viz. Meghalaya, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

### **24. Govt approves Rs 4500 crore for revival of existing unserved, underserved airports, AAI, and PSUs: Civil Aviation Minister**

The Government has approved a budget of 4500 crore rupees for revival of existing unserved, underserved airports, airstrips of the State Governments, Airports Authority of India, PSUs and Civil Enclaves. The government is working on reviving and developing 100 unserved and underserved airports, heliports, and water aerodromes by 2023.

### **25. NITI Aayog approves incentives for Foxconn India & Padget Electronics for mobile manufacturing**

The Empowered Committee headed by CEO, NITI Aayog approved incentives for two companies Foxconn India and Padget Electronics for mobile manufacturing. These incentives have been approved under Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for the Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing sector. NITI Aayog CEO -Parameswaran Iyer

### **26. Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs launches programme to create Impact Leaders in areas of ESG**

Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs has launched a programme to create Impact Leaders in the areas of Environmental-Social-Governance (ESG). IICA is an autonomous institution under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. The event was attended by 50 budding ESG Professionals who are senior corporate officials enrolled in the programme across the globe.

### **27. Parliament passes Maritime Anti Piracy Bill 2022 with Rajya Sabha's approval**

Parliament has passed the Maritime Anti Piracy Bill 2022 with Rajya Sabha approving. It was already passed by Lok Sabha. The Bill enables Indian authorities to take action against piracy on the high seas. It applies to the sea beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone, which is beyond 200 nautical miles from India's coastline.

### **28. Viacom18 gets Olympic Games Paris 2024 broadcast rights for India, subcontinent**

Viacom18 Media has secured exclusive media rights to broadcast the next Olympic Games, which will be held in Paris in 2024, in India and the subcontinent region. It has also received non-exclusive rights to the Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024, said a joint statement issued by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Viacom18 Media. Viacom 18 is a joint venture of Viacom and Network18 Group.

### **29. IPL crosses \$10 billion valuation to become a decacorn: D and P Advisory**

The world's most popular and richest cricket league, Indian Premiere League(IPL) which was started in 2008 has turned into a decacorn with a valuation at \$10.9 billion as per the estimates by D and P Advisory. The report by by D and P Advisory stated that the renewed media rights deal was the major contributor towards this substantial jump in value of Indian Premier League.

### **30. Vadnagar town, Modhera Sun Temple, Unakoti sculptures added to UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites**

Three new cultural sites in India, including iconic Sun Temple at Modhera, historic Vadnagar town in Gujarat and rock-cut relief sculptures of Unakoti in Tripura, have been added to the tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites. The UNESCO website describes a tentative list as an "inventory of those properties which each State Party intends to consider for nomination".

### **31. 10th Edition of North East Festival**

The 10th Edition of the North East Festival began at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on December 23. The festival aims to promote the North East region's diverse life, culture, traditions, and tourism.

Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Narayan Rane inaugurated the MSME Exhibition at the North East Festival.

### **32. IEX forms subsidiary to explore business opportunities in carbon market**

Indian Energy Exchange is setting up a wholly-owned subsidiary, International Carbon Exchange Private Ltd, to explore business opportunity in the voluntary carbon market. The ICX will enable participants to buy and sell voluntary carbon credits at competitive prices through its transparent & reliable platform and facilitate reduction of global GHG emission by 45% by 2030. S N Goel, Chairman & Managing Director, IEX

### **33. Centre appoints MeitY as the nodal ministry for gaming, to set rules soon**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology would be the nodal ministry for matters relating to online gaming with monetary risks, said a gazette notification. This move clears the way for a policy on such online gaming, which is expected in two-three weeks. India's gaming market is currently estimated at \$2.6 billion expected to be worth \$8.6 billion by 2027.

### **34. IISc Bengaluru is secretariat for G20 working group on science**

The Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, will function as the secretariat for Science 20, a working group set up as part of the G20 which will be presided over by India in 2023. S20 has been set up as part of efforts by G20, the intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries & EU to address global challenges including climate change mitigation & Sustainable Development. The theme of S20 for 2023 'Disruptive Science for Innovative and Sustainable Development'

### **35. 15 Start-ups selected in first cohort of NIRMAN accelerator will work towards solutions in healthcare and agriculture**

Fifteen Start-ups selected in the first-of-its-kind product accelerator program for innovators developing sustainable solutions will soon start working towards solutions in the healthcare and agriculture domains. This is the first cohort of the NIRMAN Accelerator Program launched by Start-ups Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) IIT Kanpur.

### **36. Centre Recognises E-Sports As Part Of 'Multi-Sport' Event, To Come Under Department Of Sports**

Centre has officially recognized e-sports as part of the 'Multi-sport' event. It would fall under the purview of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Droupadi Murmu, the President of India, changed the rules governing e-sports and asked the Sports Ministry & the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to include e-sports in multi-sport competition.

### **37. Centre launches City Finance Rankings 2022, City Beauty Competition**

City Finance Rankings aim to motivate city and state officials and decision makers, to implement municipal finance reforms. The participating urban local bodies will be evaluated on 15 indicators across three key municipal finance assessment parameters like resource mobilization, expenditure performance, and fiscal governance.

### **38. Election Commission proposes remote voting for inter-state migrants**

Election Commission has proposed introduction of 'remote voting' for domestic migrants, using a multi-constituency electronic voting machine (EVM) that will retain all security features of the EVMs currently in use. This modified form of EVM can handle up to 72 multiple constituencies from a single remote polling booth.

### **39. 35.5 lakh route km of OFC laid across India to provide better bandwidth and high volume connectivity: Govt**

As on September 30, 2022, a total of 35.5 lakh route kms optical fiber cable (OFC) has been laid in the country, which will facilitate the increasing demand for better bandwidth, resilient and high volume connectivity. The optical fiber cable has enormous capacity to handle the 5G connectivity.

### **40. Railways picks Siemens for Rs 26,000-crore contract for manufacturing and maintenance of 1200 locomotives**

Siemens India has been awarded the tender for Manufacturing and Maintenance of 1,200 electric locomotives (train engines) for the Indian Railways. An official statement said these 9,000 horsepower (HP) Electric Freight Locomotives will be supplied over an 11 year period and maintained for 35 years.

#### 41. Shriram Finance secures \$100 million loan from Asian Development Bank

Indian shadow lender Shriram Finance Ltd said it had secured a five-year loan worth \$100 million from the Asian Development Bank to provide credit to its customers towards purchase of new and used vehicles across India. The lender is a merged entity of Shriram City Union Finance and Shriram Transport Finance.

#### 42. Tata Power raises Rs 1,000 cr capital through non-convertible debentures

Tata Power said it has raised Rs 1,000 crore through the issuance of non-convertible debentures on a private placement basis. In a regulatory filing, the company said it has allotted 10,000 unsecured, redeemable, taxable, listed, rated, Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) worth Rs 1,000 crore, on private placement basis.



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## International

### 1. Indonesia's Mount Semeru volcano alert status raised to highest level

Indonesia's Mount **Semeru** erupted spewing hot ash clouds a mile into the sky, prompting authorities to raise the volcano's alert status to the highest level.

The eruption of the highest mountain on Indonesia's main island of Java around 800 kilometres southeast of the capital Jakarta sparked evacuations of nearby villages.

### 2. FAO Opening Ceremony of International Year of Millets 2023 held in Rome, Italy

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, organized an opening ceremony for the International Year of Millets ' 2023 (IYM2023) in Rome, Italy. An Indian delegation led by Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, Minister of State, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare along with Smt. Shubha Thakur, Joint Secretary (Crops), DA&FW and other senior officials were present.

### 3. ILO's 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting concludes with launch of 'Singapore Statement'

The 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) has concluded with governments, workers' and employers' organizations agreeing to bolster efforts to achieve social justice and decent work for all.

### 4. Britain, Italy and Japan to jointly develop future fighter jet

Britain, Italy, and Japan on Friday said, they will jointly develop a future fighter jet that uses artificial intelligence. The three nations held out the prospect of cooperation with European and US allies, which are developing their own sixth-generation planes, vowing to maintain interoperability among all the allies against threats from the likes of China.

### 5. G-7 approves 15.5 billion US dollar deal with Vietnam to help cutting climate-damaging pollution

A group of nine rich industrialized nations has approved a deal to provide Vietnam with 15.5 billion US dollars to help the nation move faster from coal power to renewable energy, cutting its climate-damaging pollution. The Group of Seven major economies, along with Norway and Denmark, said that the aim is to help Vietnam reduce its emissions "net zero" by 2050.

### 6. Mette Frederiksen has been re-elected as Denmark's PM.

Mette Frederiksen has been re-elected as Denmark's Prime Minister.

Mette Frederiksen was forced to call an early election in October.

Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen's "red bloc" of parties secured the required 90 seats to form a government.

### 7. Iran expelled from UN women's commission; India abstains on resolution

Twenty-nine members of the UN's Economic and Social Council voted in favor of a resolution proposed by the United States to 'remove with immediate effect the Islamic Republic of Iran from the Commission on the Status of Women for the remainder of its 2022-2026 term.'

Iran's term, which began this year, was to have run through 2026.

There are 54-members in UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

### 8. COP15 Adopts Biodiversity Plan to Protect 30% of Land and Water by 2030

After a delay of two years due to Covid-19, a new global agreement to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 gets a final nod during the last day of UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal, Canada. The historic deal signed in Montreal also aims to provide critical financing to the developing world to protect biodiversity.

### 9. UNSC adopts first-ever resolution on Myanmar

The U.N. Security Council has adopted its first ever resolution on Myanmar in 74 years to demand an end to violence and urge the military junta to release all political prisoners, including ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Ms. Kyi, 77, has been a prisoner since the army toppled her government almost two years ago and violently cracked down on dissent. UNSC Headquarters: New York, United States UNSC Founded: 24 October 1945

### 10. Bangladesh launches first-ever Japan-funded metro service in Dhaka

Bangladesh launched its first metro rail service with Japanese assistance to ease commuting in the capital Dhaka, one of the most congested cities in the world. The new elevated train network has been largely funded by Japanese development funds. Known as Line 6, the first metro line took around six years to complete. Bangladesh Capital: Dhaka Currency: Bangladeshi Taka Prime minister: Sheikh Hasina

## Sports

### 1. Vijay Hazare Trophy Final: Saurashtra beat Maharashtra by 5 wickets in Ahmedabad

Saurashtra beat Maharashtra by 5 wickets in the final to win the Vijay Hazare Trophy at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Maharashtra captain Ruturaj Gaikwad slammed yet another century. Chirag Jani was the stand-out bowler for Saurashtra as he picked up 3 wickets. This is Saurashtra's second Vijay Hazare Trophy triumph.

### 2. Shooter Rudranksh Patil clinches ISSF President's Cup in Egypt

Indian shooter Rudranksh Patil has clinched the International Shooting Sport Federation President's Cup held in Cairo, Egypt. He defeated Italy's Danilo Solla in the 10-metre rifle play-off by 16-8. Rudranksh Patil bagged India's first quota for the 2024 Paris Olympics, when he clinched a gold in the men's 10-metre air rifle in the ISSF Rifle-Pistol World Championship.

### 3. Saikhom Mirabai Chanu clinches silver at Weightlifting World Championship in Colombia

Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu won silver at the 2022 World Weightlifting Championships in Colombia. She beat the Tokyo 2020 champion Hou Zhihua of China. Mirabai lifted a combined weight of 200 kg compared to Zhihua's total of 198 kg. This was Mirabai's second medal at the World Championships, having previously won gold in 2017 with a lift of 194 kg.

### 4. Divya TS crowned women's air pistol national champion, Manu Bhaker wins gold in juniors

Divya TS beat Sanskriti Bana 16-14 to clinch the women's air pistol gold in the 65th National shooting championship that concluded at the Madhya Pradesh Academy in Bhopal. In centre fire pistol, Olympic silver medallist Vijay Kumar won the gold with a score of 583, ahead of Anish Bhanwala, Gurpreet Singh and Vijayveer Sidhu. Manu Bhaker won the gold medal in junior category

### 5. Ishan Kishan shatters Gayle's world record, hits fastest double century in ODI history

Young India batter Ishan Kishan raced away to a record-smashing knock in the third and final ODI match of the series against Bangladesh in Chattogram as he notched up a double century off just 126 balls. He became the seventh batter in the world to achieve the feat and fourth from India after Sachin Tendulkar, Rohit Sharma and Virender Sehwag.

### 6. Sports Minister Anurag Thakur unveils Hockey World Cup trophy

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur unveiled Hockey World Cup trophy in New Delhi.

The Federation of Indian Hockey, FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar - Rourkela Trophy arrived at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in the national capital after which it was unveiled to the hockey fans. FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 will begin from 13th of January, 2023.

### 7. Iga Swiatek, Rafael Nadal crowned ITF World Champions 2022

Polish star Iga Swiatek and Spanish legend Rafael Nadal were crowned as ITF World Champions 2022 by International Tennis Federation for clinching two Grand Slam titles during this season.

ITF determines its awards based on criteria that include all events and give special weightage to 4 major championships and 2 team events, which are Billie Jean King Cup and Davis Cup.

### 8. Tata Steel officially partners FIH Men's World Cup 2023 in Odisha

Tata Steel Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hockey India to become an official partner of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela.

The FIH Men's World Cup is the 15th edition of the prestigious event and will take place in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to January 29, 2023.

FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup will be the India's fourth time hosting.

### 9. FIFA WC 2022: Croatia edge Morocco 2-1 to clinch third spot

Croatia beat injury-hit Morocco 2-1 in the World Cup third-place playoff to leave Qatar on a high after again surpassing expectations following their run to the final in 2018.

Despite defeat, Morocco also leave with heads aloft after becoming the first African side to reach a World Cup semi-final.

Zagreb, capital of Croatia.

Rabat, capital of Morocco.

Croatia clinched bronze, matching the feat of their heroes from 1998 world cup.

### 10. Indian Women's Hockey Team beat Spain 1-0 to lift FIH Nations Cup in Valencia

In Hockey, the Indian Women's Hockey Team defeated Spain 1-0 in the Final to win the FIH Women's Nations Cup 2022 in Valencia, Spain. Indian remained undefeated during the tournament and also got promoted to the 2023-24 FIH Hockey Women's Pro League. This was the inaugural season of the Women's FIH Nations Cup, with a promotion to next year's Women's Pro League hockey.

### 11. Jaipur Pink Panthers beat Puneri Paltan in final match to win PKL 9 title

Jaipur Pink Panthers defeated Puneri Paltan 33-29 in the summit clash to emerge champions of the Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 champions. V Ajith, Sunil Kumar and Arjun Deshwal emerged as the best players for Jaipur side. This is their their second Pro Kabaddi League title. Vivo was the sponsor of Pro Kabaddi League Season 9

### 12. Indian female wrestler Antim Panghal nominated for United World Wrestling Rising Star of the Year honour

Indian female wrestler Antim Panghal has been nominated for the honour of United World Wrestling Rising Star of the Year. In addition to Panghal, the five women nominated for the award include Nonoka Ozaki of Japan, Amit Elor of the US, Emma Malmgren of Sweden, and Andreea Ana of Romania. She in August became the first Indian to become U20 world champion in wrestling.

### 13. PV Sindhu 12th highest-paid female athlete in world

India's badminton star PV Sindhu is the only Indian player in the top 25 in Forbes' annual list of the highest-paid female athletes in the world. Sindhu, the 2016 Rio Olympics silver medalist, occupies the 12th spot in the list.

Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka tops the list for the third straight year.

### 14. Lovlina Borgohain, Nikhat Zareen win Gold medals at Women's Boxing National Championship

Lovlina Borgohain and Nikhat Zareen have won Gold medals at Women's National Boxing Championship 2022 in Bhopal. While Lovlina Borgohain beat Arundhati Choudhary of Services 5-0 in the 75kg final, Nikhat Zareen defeated Anamika of Railways 4-1 in the final of the 50kg category. Railways team topped the medals tally with 10 medals five golds, three silvers and two bronze.

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## Agreements & MoUs

### **1. IIT Madras, Australian Varsities Collaborate To Launch 'Australia-India Centre For Energy' With Focus On SDGs**

IIT Madras, in collaboration with Australian Universities, has established the 'Australia-India Center for Energy' (AICE) to work towards United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The two-day Energy Summit 2022, which IIT Madras is hosting in December, will witness the official launch of the virtual Center.

### **2. India, South Korea sign arrangement regarding Economic Development Cooperation Fund loan**

India and South Korea signed arrangement regarding Economic Development Cooperation Fund loan of 245 billion Korean won for establishment of Intelligent Transport System on Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway Project in Delhi. The objective of project is to enhance efficiency in traffic management through establishment of the Intelligent Traffic Management System.

### **3. Protean and Fino Payments Bank tie-up to expand PAN card issuance services in India**

Fino Payments Bank has tied up with Protean eGov Technologies (formerly NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited), a market leader in universal, citizen centric and population scale e-governance solutions, to expand PAN card issuance services in India, especially in rural areas.

The association makes Fino the first payments bank to act as PAN Service Agency (PSA) of Protean

### **4. spocto introduces India's First Debt Collection Innovation Lab**

The world's leading full-stack debt support and risk mitigation platform has inaugurated India's first Innovation Lab (SIL) dedicated to the debt collection segment of banking industries in India and the Middle East. SIL will work with a variety of bank stakeholders to better understand the NPA situation and how the team might be able to use technology to remedy it.

### **5. GMR Airports, NIIF announce partnership to invest in three airports, including North Goa**

GMR Airports, a subsidiary of the erstwhile GMR Infra and the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) have announced a financial partnership, under which the NIIF will invest in the equity capital of three airport projects of GMR. This partnership marks NIIF's first investment in an airport asset in India. Pradeep Panicker, CEO, GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd.

### **6. NSIC, Walmart join hands to strengthen outreach program for MSMEs**

National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and retail giant Walmart signed an MoU to strengthen the latter's outreach program for the benefit of MSMEs.

The signing of the pact was held at Walmart Vriddhi MSME Summit 2022 in New Delhi where 20,000 MSMEs were honoured from all over India who have expanded their businesses with the support of the Vriddhi program.

### **7. ADB approves \$780 mn loan to expand Chennai's metro rail network**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved financing of \$780 million to build new lines for Chennai's metro rail and improve the network's connectivity with bus and feeder services. ADB and the India government last year signed a deal for a \$500 million loan to expand Bengaluru's metro rail network by constructing two new lines of 56 km length. ADB Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members'49 from the region.

### **8. ISRO inks MoU with Social Alpha to establish SpaceTech Innovation Network**

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Social Alpha today signed an MoU to launch SpaceTech Innovation Network (SpIN), India's first dedicated platform for innovation curation and venture development for the burgeoning space entrepreneurial ecosystem. In line with the partnership announcement, SpIN has launched its first innovation challenge. Shri. S Somanath, Chairman, ISRO Manoj Kumar, Founder, Social Alpha

### **9. India and Finland sign joint declaration of Intent on migration and mobility between the two countries**

India and Finland have signed a joint declaration of Intent on migration and mobility to arrive at a mutually beneficial arrangement on migration and mobility between the two countries. External Affairs Ministry said, the declaration underlines the resolve of both countries to work jointly towards developing a common framework of arrangement and cooperation.

### **10. IIT Ropar, Army Training Command sign MoU to set up centre of excellence**

Indian Institute of Technology Ropar and the Army Training Command of the Indian Army has signed an MoU for setting up a centre of excellence for studies and applied research in defence and security at the

premier institute. IIT Ropar will also curate training programmes as exchange of information on educational programmes for security practitioners of armed forces.

#### **11. HDFC Bank partners with Startup India for Parivartan SmartUp Grants**

HDFC Bank today announced the launch of its sixth annual grants program for social startups in partnership with the Government of India's flagship initiative 'Startup India'. Known as Parivartan SmartUp Grants, the program aims to identify startups working in the social impact space and support them through monetary grants to their incubators.

#### **12. AIIA inks agreements with international institutions for promoting Ayurveda**

In a bid to promote Ayurveda across continents, the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the University of Medical Sciences, Cuba, and extended the agreement with Rosenberg European Academy of Ayurveda (REAA), Germany, for five more years to take forward collaborative programmes.

#### **13. MoU signed to develop Krishi-Decision Support System using RISAT and VEDAS**

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Department of Space signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop the Krishi-Decision Support System (Krishi-DSS) using geospatial technologies and related databases for enhancing evidence-based decision making capability of all the stakeholders in the agriculture sector.

#### **14. CCI, TEXPROCIL sign MoU to brand India's Kasturi cotton**

Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council of India (TEXPROCIL) have signed an MoU on branding, traceability, and certification of Indian Kasturi cotton.

Union minister of textiles, Piyush Goyal, also announced the creation of an advisory group on 'man-made fibre' on the lines of cotton group.

#### **15. Ireda inks '4,445 cr loan pact with SJVN Green Energy for 1,000 MW solar project**

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (Ireda) has inked a loan agreement with SJVN Green Energy, a subsidiary of SJVN Ltd, for financing '4,444.71 crore for a 1,000 MW solar power project at Bikaner, Rajasthan.

Ireda-funded project will connect to 400/220 KV substation Bikaner-II.

#### **16. Wipro, Finastra tie up to target digital transformation business from corporate banks in the Middle East**

Wipro Limited announced a partnership with Finastra, a global provider of financial software applications and marketplaces, to drive digital transformation for corporate banks in the Middle East.

This multi-year engagement, aligned with the region's vision to rapidly digitize and bolster cross-border trade.

Thierry Delaporte is the CEO & Managing Director of Wipro Limited. Finastra is a financial software company headquartered in London, England.

#### **17. Paytm and HDFC ERGO launch 'Payment Protect' to insure your mobile transactions**

Paytm launched 'Paytm Payment Protect', a group insurance plan in association with HDFC ERGO General Insurance to insure transactions made through UPI across all apps and wallets. With this new insurance offering, which comes at a cost of as low as Rs 30 per annum, users can now secure themselves against mobile fraudulent transactions up to Rs 10,000.

#### **18. Google, DigiLocker partner to bring on-device storing of government IDs**

Google announced a partnership with DigiLocker, a government authorized identification storage system, to bring local storage of government issued IDs on Android devices. Announced at the company's Google for India conference, the partnership is part of Google's artificial intelligence (AI) offerings that include on-device processing of text and images to identify documents

#### **19. Gail inks pact with Japan's Mitsui OSK for LNG carrier**

State-owned Gail India and Japanese transport firm Mitsui OSK Lines, through its wholly owned subsidiary, has signed a time charter contract for a new-build liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier, and for joint ownership of an existing LNG carrier. The vessel will be built by South Korean shipbuilder Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering with a charter period from 2023.

#### **20. Maruti Suzuki signs 5-year pact with Kamarajar port for PV exports**

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd said it has signed a five-year pact with Kamarajar Port Ltd for export of its passenger vehicles to international markets. Under the agreement starting December 2022 Kamarajar Port will be used for exports to Africa, Middle East, Latin America, ASEAN, Oceania and SAARC regions by the company. The port will be used to export around 20,000 cars annually. MSIL Managing Director & CEO - Hisashi Takeuchi Kamarajar Port Ltd, CMD- Sunil Paliwal

### 21. Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) signs agreements with MSMEs

Atal Incubation Centre at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) signed agreements with MSMEs for incubation of newer technologies into commercial products. The incubation agreements are signed specifically for technologies aligned with India's global commitments of achieving Net Zero (carbon neutrality).

### 22. Tata Power gets '450 cr credit facility from Japan's MUFG Bank

Tata Power said it has received a Rs 450 crore "sustainable trade finance facility" from MUFG Bank of Japan to fund its solar projects in India. This credit facility was extended for two solar projects under TP Kirnali Limited. TPKL is a 100 per cent subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited. It is the first sustainable trade finance facility offer from MUFG.

### 23. NTPC and Tecnimont sign MOU to explore possibility to develop Green Methanol Production

NTPC has signed an MoU with Tecnimont Private Limited, Indian Subsidiary of Maire Tecnimont Group, Italy. Objective of MOU is to jointly evaluate and explore the possibility to develop commercial scale Green Methanol Production facility at NTPC project in India. Green Methanol Project involves capturing carbon from NTPC power plants and converting it into a green fuel.

### 24. Power Ministry, DRDO sign MoU for implementation of Early Warning System for Vulnerable Hydro Projects and Power Stations

Power Ministry and the Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO, have signed an Memorandum of Understanding, MOU, for implementation of Early Warning System for Vulnerable Hydro Projects and Power Stations. Power Secretary Alok Kumar and DRDO Chairman Dr Samir V Kamat signed the MoU in New Delhi.

### 25. NTPC, GE sign pact to cut carbon intensity from coal-based power plants

State-owned NTPC Ltd and GE Power India Ltd, a listed Indian company of GE Steam Power, on signed a Memorandum of Understanding for feasibility to demonstrate technologies to reduce the carbon footprint of power generating utility's existing coal-fired power plants. The collaboration is to support NTPC in co-firing of biomass pellets beyond 20% and up to 100%

### 26. Tata Steel, TuTr Hyperloop sign agreement to develop Hyperloop Transportation Technology

Tata Steel and TuTr Hyperloop signed an agreement to jointly work on development and deployment of hyperloop technology. The research will focus on key challenges of design and materials selection. The partnership seeks to design, develop, and scale up the technology for commercialisation. The Phase-I work will take place on the 50-meter test track at IIT Madras.



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## Schemes

### **1. Centre is committed to provide comprehensive insurance coverage on crop loss on account of non-preventable natural risks-PMFBY**

Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare reiterated that under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Government is committed to provide comprehensive insurance coverage against crop loss on account of non-preventable natural risks. In the last 6 years, Rs 25,186 crores have been paid by farmers as the premium, wherein Rs. 1,25,662 crores have been paid to farmers.

### **2. PM SVANIDHI SCHEME Extended to December 2024**

The Government of India has extended the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme beyond March, 2022 till December 2024. Introduction of 3rd loan of upto '50,000 in addition to 1st & 2nd loans of '10,000 and '20,000 respectively. To extend 'SVANidhi Se Samridhi' component for all beneficiaries of PM SVANidhi scheme across the country.

### **3. Union Ministry of State for Heavy Industries says, FAME and PLI Schemes promotes use of electric vehicles in the country**

The Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries, Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha informed that to promote the use of electric vehicles in the country and to make their manufacturing cost effective the following schemes have been launched by ministry, FAME II, PLI for Automotive Sector, PLI Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell.

### **4. Finance Ministry informs over 37.76 crore loans disbursed since inception of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana in April 2015**

Finance Ministry has informed that over 37.76 crore loans are disbursed since the inception of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) in April 2015. It said that the loan amounts to over 20.43 lakh crore rupees as of November 2022. The Finance Ministry also stated that in three years between 2015 and 2018, helped in generating 1.12 crore net additional employment.

### **5. Centre Extends Rooftop Solar Programme Till March 2026**

Central Government announced that it has extended the Rooftop Solar Programme till 31 March, 2026. The subsidy under the programme will be available until the target under the Programme is achieved now. On the National Portal, any consumer willing to install rooftop solar from any part of the country can apply and track complete process.

### **6. Ministry of Culture operates Museum Grant Scheme and Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science for New Age Museums**

These schemes aim to provide financial assistance to State Governments, Societies, Autonomous bodies, Local Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings and Trusts registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 for establishment/development and create a congenial spatial setting for diverse exhibitions, galleries and visitors' amenities, digitization, etc. in the Museums.

### **7. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) now named as Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme**

The Ministry of Minority Affairs informed that Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Ko Kaam Karyakram (PMKKK) has now been named as Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme. The integrated scheme converges five erstwhile schemes of the Ministry viz. Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzil. The scheme has been approved by the Cabinet for the period of 15th Finance Commission.

### **8. Jammu & Kashmir tops scheme to assist microenterprises, shows govt data**

Jammu & Kashmir has generated the most number of jobs among all the states and Union territories under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) in the current fiscal year. The credit-linked subsidy scheme facilitates employment generation opportunities by assisting in setting up of new self-employment projects and microenterprises in the non-farm sector.

### **9. PMFBY number one crop insurance scheme globally in terms of farmers' enrollment: Agriculture Minister**

The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has become the world's number one crop insurance scheme in terms of farmer applications enrolled, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar informed Parliament. The PMFBY is also the world's third-largest crop insurance scheme in terms of gross premium, said Tomar.

### **10. MoHUA kickstarts ground survey of Pey Jal Survekshan from 15th December 2022**

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has kickstarted the ground survey of Pey Jal Survekshan. The Survey is to assess the service level compliance of the city with respect to quality, quantity, and coverage

of water supply, sewerage and septage management, the extent of reuse and recycling of used water, and conservation of water bodies in 500 AMRUT cities. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)

### 11. Union Cabinet approves a pending One-Rank-One-Pension revision for veterans

The Union Cabinet has approved a pending pension revision for pensioners from the armed forces and their families under the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme, which has been delayed since July 2019. OROP implies uniform pension to personnel based on rank and length of service, and irrespective of the date of retirement.

### 12. Cabinet approves Minimum Support prices for copra for 2023 season

The Cabinet committee on economic affairs has announced that minimum support prices (MSPs) have been approved for copra for the 2023 season based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.

The Cabinet also fixed the MSP of milling copra at Rs 10,860 per quintal and for ball copra at Rs 11,750 per quintal for the 2023 season.

### 13. Railways to renovate 1,000 small stations under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

The Ministry of Railways, as part of its station redevelopment drive, has formulated a new scheme to modernise over 1,000 small stations over the coming years. Under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, stations will be equipped with facilities inspired by the mega-upgradation of marquee stations such as New Delhi and Ahmedabad, albeit at a lower cost.

### 14. Telangana govt launches 10th phase of Rythu Bandhu, the investment support scheme for farmers

Telangana government has launched the 10th phase of Rythu Bandhu, the investment support scheme for farmers. Under this phase, 7,676 crores will be deposited in the bank accounts of over 70 lakh 54 thousand farmers towards investment support for the Rabi crop season. The investment support is being disbursed at a rate of 5000 rupees per acre.

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## Appointments & Resignations

### 1. Prasanth Kumar elected as Advertising Agencies Association of India president

Prasanth Kumar, CEO, South Asia of GroupM Media (India) Pvt Ltd, has been elected as the president of the Advertising Agencies Association of India at its annual general body meeting. Rana Barua, group CEO of Havas Group India, was elected vice-president of the association. Anupriya Acharya, outgoing president, will be the ex-officio member of the AAAI board for 2022-2023

### 2. Hansraj Ahir assumes charge as NCBC chairperson

Former Union Minister Hansraj Gangaram Ahir assumed charge as Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). Hansraj Gangaram Ahir had been elected four times Member of Parliament from Parliamentary Constituency Chandrapur, Maharashtra and also he was Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council. He had been Union Minister of State for Home Affairs.

### 3. Sushmita Shukla appointed First Vice President, Chief Operating Officer of Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Sushmita Shukla, an Indian-origin veteran of the insurance industry, has been appointed as First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, making her the second-ranking officer at the prominent institution.

The appointment was approved by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. President and Chief Executive Officer of the New York Fed John Williams.

### 4. Vodafone CEO Nick Reed to step down from his role

Vodafone Chief Executive Officer Nick Read will step down as head of organisation at the end of December 2022. He will be replaced on an interim basis by Margherita Della Valle who has been serving as Chief Financial Officer OF Vodafone Group.

Nick Read has been serving the group for more than 20 years and is holding the chair of CEO for the last four years.

### 5. Ashok Leyland appoints Shenu Agarwal as MD and CEO

Ashok Leyland, a subsidiary of Hinduja group, announced on December 8, 2022, that they had appointed Shenu Agarwal as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for a period of five years from December 8, 2022, to December 7, 2027.

Agarwal joins Ashok Leyland from Escorts Kubota Ltd, where he was its President.

### 6. Meghna Ahlawat new TTFI president, ex-champ Kamlesh Mehta secretary

Meghna Ahlawat was elected president of the Table Tennis Federation of India on Monday with former stalwart Kamlesh Mehta elected secretary general. Patel Nagender Reddy was elected treasurer. The Delhi High Court had suspended TTFI in February and appointed a Committee of Administrators (CoA) to take over its functioning. Dushyant Chautala was the previous TTFI president.

### 7. NDDDB appoints Meenesh C Shah as Managing Director

National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) has appointed Meenesh C Shah as its Managing Director. Meenesh C Shah has been functioning as the Executive Director, NDDDB, and holding the additional charge of the Chairman NDDDB from June 1, 2021 to November 14, 2022.

The National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) was founded in 1965.

National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) headquarters: Anand, Gujarat.

### 8. Senior nuclear scientist K V Suresh Kumar is new BHAVINI CMD

Senior nuclear scientist K V Suresh Kumar assumed charge as the chairman and managing director of the Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI).

BHAVINI is tasked with operationalizing the Stage-II of India's three-stage nuclear programme with a focus on fast breeder reactor technology. BHAVINI is under the Government's Department of Atomic Energy.

### 9. MCA Secretary Manoj Govil nominated as SEBI Board Member

The Centre has nominated Manoj Govil, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, to the Board of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Govil, a 1991 batch IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, will serve as a Member of the SEBI Board in the place of erstwhile MCA Secretary Rajesh Verma, who was appointed as part-time Member of the Board.

### 10. AstraZeneca Pharma India's MD resigns; appoints Sanjeev Panchal for 3 years

AstraZeneca Pharma India said Gagandeep Singh Bedi has resigned from the post of managing director. The drug firm said it has approved the appointment of Sanjeev Panchal as its managing director for a period of three years with effect from January 1, 2023. Panchal had joined AstraZeneca Pharma in February 2003 as Brand Associate.

### **11. WhatsApp Pay India chief Vinay Choletti quits**

WhatsApp's India payment business head Vinay Choletti has quit the organization within four months in the role.

In recent times, Meta has seen a spate of changes in executive roles. WhatsApp's India head Abhijit Bose, Meta's public policy director in India Rajiv Aggarwal, and Meta's India head Ajit Mohan resigned in November.

### **12. PESB recommends Praveen Kumar as ALIMCO, CMD**

The Public enterprises' selection board (PESB) selected Praveen Kumar for the post of Chairman & Managing Director of Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO).

Incorporated on 30.11.1972, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) is a Schedule 'C', Mini-Ratna Category II Central Public Sector Enterprise.

### **13. Centre appoints former SC Judge Hemant Gupta as head of New Delhi International Arbitration Centre**

The Centre has appointed Justice Hemant Gupta, who retired recently as a judge of the Supreme Court, as the Chairperson of the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre. Along with Justice Gupta, Ganesh Chandru and Anant Vijay Palli have been appointed as part-time members of the NDIAC. The aim of the NDIAC is to conduct arbitration, mediation, and conciliation proceedings.

### **14. Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan appointed as next Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia**

The Indian Foreign Service official of 1997 batch, Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan who is presently the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Lebanon has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He will replace Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, a 1989 batch IFS officer. Dr. Khan is expected to take up the assignment shortly.

### **15. PN Vasudevan to continue as MD & CEO of Equitas**

PN Vasudevan, MD and CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank, who had in May expressed a desire to step down from the position, has reversed his decision. Vasudevan's current term as MD and CEO of the Bank expires on July 22, 2023.

### **16. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' becomes Nepal's PM for third time**

CPN-Maoist Centre chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' appointed as the new Prime Minister of Nepal for the third time. President Bidya Devi Bhandari appointed Prachanda as the prime minister.

Prachanda has support of 165 lawmakers in the 275-member House of Representatives. Capital: Kathmandu

### **17. Sitiveni Rabuka becomes Fiji's new Prime Minister**

Sitiveni Rabuka has become Fiji's prime minister after a coalition of parties voted to install him, signalling an end to Frank Bainimarama's 16 years in power. Fiji's Social Democratic Liberal party held the balance of power and voted to form a coalition with Rabuka's People's Alliance and the National Federation party.

Rabuka's coalition holds 29 seats in parliament. Capital: Suva Currency: Fijian Dollar Continent: Oceania

### **18. Santosh Kumar Yadav appointed NHAH chief; Ganji Kamala V Rao has been named Chief Executive Officer, FSSAI**

Senior bureaucrats Santosh Kumar Yadav was appointed as chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHAH). Yadav, a 1995-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, is currently additional secretary in the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.

### **19. SBI Funds Management appoints Shamsheer Singh as new MD, CEO of company**

SBI Funds Management Ltd has appointed Shamsheer Singh as managing director and chief executive officer of the company. Singh, who was deputy managing director at State Bank of India (SBI), has taken over the charge from Vinay M Tonse. SBI Funds Management is a joint venture between SBI and Europe's largest asset manager Amundi.

### **20. Lieutenant General Arvind Walia appointed Engineer-in-Chief of Army**

Lieutenant General Arvind Walia has been appointed as the next Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army. He would be succeeding Lt Gen Harpal Singh who is superannuating on December 31.

Lt Gen Walia has previously commanded an independent squadron in the desert sector, a regiment in Jammu and Kashmir and an Engineer Brigade along the western front.

### **21. RBI approves Baskar Babu's re-appointment as Suryoday Bank's Chief for 3 years**

The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Baskar Babu Ramachandran as the MD & CEO of Suryoday Small Finance Bank effective January 23, 2023. He sold bank's 50 lakh shares on December 16 for '55.44 crore to close a loan for exercising warrants to maintain the promoter's stake at the minimum of 26% for the first 5 years (up to January 22, 2022) as per RBI.

## 22. Alope Singh to be the chief of Air India's low-cost airline business from January 1

Alope Singh, the incumbent CEO of Air India Express, will take over from January 1, 2023, as the sole CEO of Air India's LCC business. Air India's current CEO Sunil Bhaskaran will head the aviation training academy.

Air India Express and the merger is likely to be completed by the end of 2023. Campbell Wilson, CEO & MD, Air India.

## 23. MOIL appoints Ajit Kumar Saxena as chairman, MD

Ajit Kumar Saxena has been appointed as the chairman-cum-managing director of MOIL by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). Prior to this assignment, Saxena held the position of director (operations) at RINL-Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant. MOIL is one of the largest manganese ore producers of the country.

## 24. Praveen Kumar Srivastava appointed acting Central Vigilance Commissioner

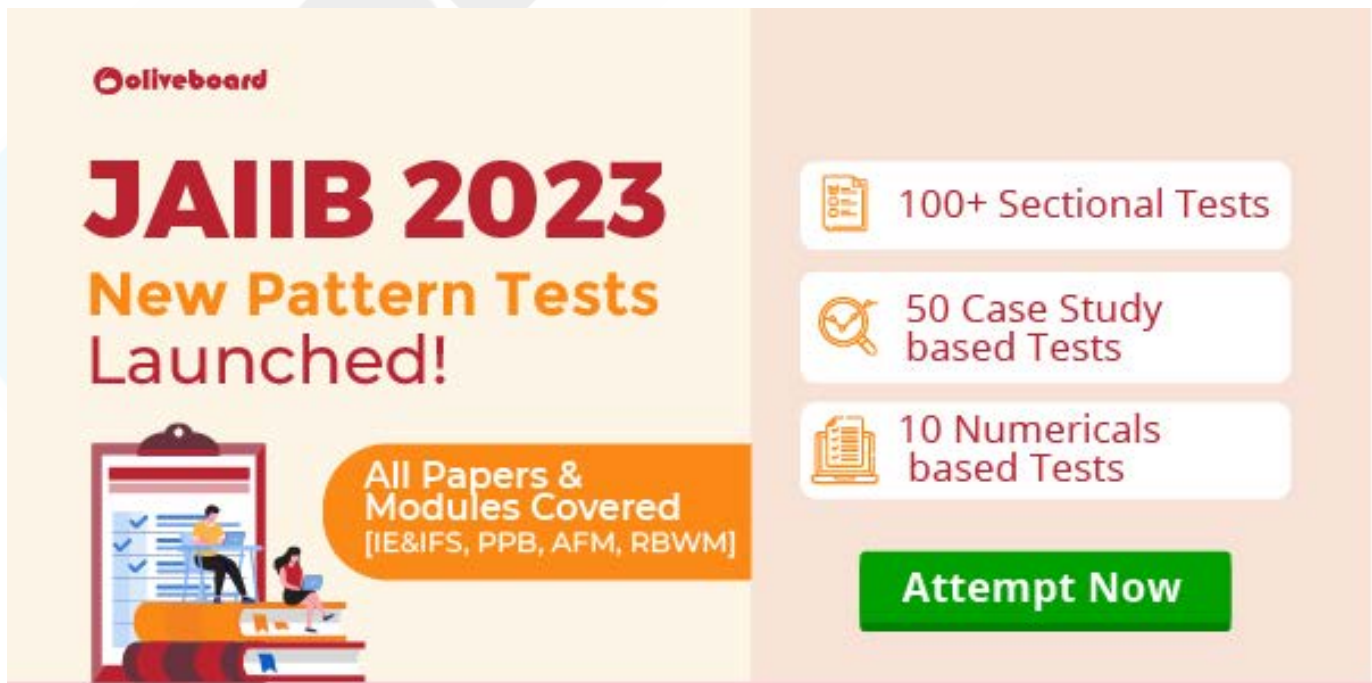
Vigilance Commissioner Praveen Kumar Srivastava has been appointed as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC).

Srivastava's appointment comes after Suresh N Patel completed his term as the chief of the anti-corruption watchdog Central Vigilance Commission.

The commission is headed by a CVC and can have a maximum of two Vigilance Commissioners. The tenure of a CVC and vigilance commissioner is of four years (or 65 years).

## 25. Israel's Netanyahu Sworn In As Prime Minister For 3rd Term

Benjamin Netanyahu was sworn in as Israel's prime minister following a vote in parliament that brought in the most right-wing government in the country's history. Netanyahu was sworn in a few minutes after his new government was approved, with 63 deputies out of 120 voting in favour of the administration.



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## Awards

### **1. Shekhar Pathak's 'The Chipko Movement' Wins Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2022**

The Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2022 has been awarded to The Chipko Movement: A People's Movement by Shekhar Pathak, translated from Hindi by Manisha Chaudhry. This is the fifth iteration of the prize launched by the New India Foundation in 2018. The prize recognises and celebrates excellence in non-fiction writings on modern/contemporary India by writers.

### **2. Manthan Platform Wins the Best Tech Initiative Award**

The Manthan platform won NSEIT the Best Tech Initiative of the Year at the Dun & Bradstreet Business Excellence Awards 2022. The award was presented for building the technology infrastructure to support Manthan, a platform that promotes collaboration at scale between industry and the scientific research and development ecosystem.

### **3. India's Greenhouse-in-a-Box startup Kheyti wins 2022 Earthshot Prize**

A Greenhouse-in-a-Box sustainable solution for small farmers devised by Telangana startup Kheyti has won the 1 million pounds Earthshot Prize, founded by Britain's Prince William and dubbed the Eco Oscars'. Kheyti, one of the five winners at a gala green carpet awards ceremony in Boston, won the prize in the Protect and Restore Nature category from hundreds.

### **4. Bank of Baroda awarded the EAG Laureate Award for the Best AML/CFT Financial Analysis**

Bank of Baroda is the first bank in India to win the EAG Laureate Award for the Best AML/CFT Financial Analysis, in the International Olympiad on Financial Security held at Sochi, Russia. The EAG objective is to incorporate these countries into the global system on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT).

### **5. J&K awarded 1st prize in category for Ayushman Bharat health account ID generation**

Jammu and Kashmir has been awarded 1st prize in the category for Ayushman Bharat health account ID generation and 2nd prize in the category for Teleconsultation conducted during the celebration of Universal Health Coverage Day 2022 which is being celebrated on 10th and 11th December at International Cooperation and Convention Centre, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

### **6. Ex-Vice President Venkaiah Naidu receives SIES award for public leadership**

Former vice president Venkaiah Naidu has been conferred with the 25th Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award (SIES). The awards are given in the fields of public leadership, community leadership, science and technology, and social thinkers who have made outstanding contributions in their respective fields.

### **7. SpiceJet wins 'Safety Performer of the Year' award by Delhi Airport**

SpiceJet has been awarded the 'Safety Performer of the Year' award by GMR Delhi Airport Awards for being the top performer among the self-handling airlines & as it has been able to reduce ground safety violations. Recently, the airline was audited by the International Civil Aviation Organization, and its operations, safety processes, and systems were par with global standard

### **8. NMDC wins IEI Industry Excellence Award 2022**

National Miner NMDC won the coveted IEI (Institution of Engineers, India) Industry Excellence Award 2022 in December, 2022. The largest producer of the iron ore in the country was felicitated at the 37th Indian Engineering Congress for its outstanding performance and high level of business excellence. Shri Sumit Deb, CMD, NMDC

### **9. India's Sargam Koushal wins Mrs World 2022, crown back in India after 21 years**

Sargam Koushal was named Mrs World 2022, beating contestants from 63 countries to bring the title back to India after 21 years. Mrs World 2021 Shaylyn Ford of the US presented the crown to Mumbai-based Mrs Koushal at a ceremony held at Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino in the US. Sargam Koushal hails from Jammu and Kashmir.

### **10. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs wins Platinum Icon in Digital India Awards 2022**

The Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has won the Platinum Icon in the Digital India Awards 2022 for their initiative 'DataSmart Cities: Empowering Cities through Data'. The award was announced under the 'Data Sharing and Use for Socio-Economic Development' category.

### **11. Beth Mead, Lionesses star wins BBC Sports Personality of Year 2022 award**

Beth Mead has become the BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2022 after guiding the Lionesses to victory in the Women's Euros. Beth won the Golden Boot after scoring six goals and was also the Player of the Tournament in the Women's Euros. Ben Stokes, the captain of the English cricket team, gymnast Jessica Gadirova, and runner Jake Wightman were among the nominations.

## **12. Authors Badri Narayan, Anuradha Roy among Sahitya Akademi award winners for 2022**

The prestigious 'Sahitya Akademi Award' for 2022 will be conferred on authors Badri Narayan and Anuradha Roy. Narayan would be conferred the award for his collection of poems in Hindi titled 'Tumadi Ke Shabd'. Roy will be awarded the award for her novel 'All the Lives We Never Lived' in English and Anis Ashfaq for his novel 'Khwab Sarab' in Urdu.

## **13. NHPC wins Best Globally Competitive Power Company of India**

NHPC Limited has been awarded as Winner of 'Best Globally Competitive Power Company of India ' Hydropower and Renewable Energy Sector' at PRAKASHmay '15th Enertia Awards 2022'.

The Award has been conferred to NHPC in recognition of its leadership in the hydropower sector with a gross asset class renewable energy capacity of more than 7000 MW

## **14. Indian scientist Prof. Thalappil Pradeep receives VinFuture special prize 2022**

Indian scientist, Prof. Thalappil Pradeep, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras received VinFuture special prize on 20th Dec. 2022 in Hanoi for innovation of a low-cost filtration system to remove arsenic and other heavy metals from groundwater.

He also received the Padma Shri award for his distinguished work in the field of Science and Technology in 2020

## **15. Geto Sora wins Junior International Badminton Championship title in Malaysia**

Geto Sora once again made Arunachal proud by winning the Top Arena Junior International Badminton Championship title in the below 9 years category, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

This is Sora's second international badminton title in two months.

## **16. Indian female wrestler Antim Panghal nominated for United World Wrestling Rising Star of the Year honour**

Indian female wrestler Antim Panghal has been nominated for the honour of United World Wrestling Rising Star of the Year.

In addition to Panghal, the five women nominated for the award include Nonoka Ozaki of Japan, Amit Elor of the US, Emma Malmgren of Sweden, and Andreea Ana of Romania.

## **17. UIDAI gets DSCI AISS Award for 'Best Security Practices in Government Sector'**

The Unique Identification Authority of India has bagged a top data security award for best practices in the government sector.

Data Security Council of India (DSCI), a not-for-profit, industry body on data protection in India, setup by NASSCOM awarded UIDAI for its significant role in securing national critical 'Aadhaar' infrastructure that provides digital identity.

## **18. UIDAI HQ Building wins top Green Building Award**

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Headquarter in New Delhi has won the prestigious GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022, a top national level Green Building Award. GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) is a national rating system for green buildings in India. In 2021, UIDAI HQ building was adjudged the runners up. Saurabh Garg is the Chief Executive Officer of UIDAI

## **19. The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22 jointly won by Sudeep Sen and Shobhana Kumar**

The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22 has been jointly won by Sudeep Sen for his genre and formbender Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation (Pippa Rann Books & Media, 2021) and Shobhana Kumar for her haibun collection A Sky Full of Bucket Lists (Red River, 2021). The winners, awarded \$10,000 and a Rabindranath Tagore statuette.

## **20. NHPC wins 'Best Globally Competitive Power Company of India ' Hydropower and Renewable Energy Sector' at PRAKASHmay**

NHPC Limited has been awarded as Winner of 'Best Globally Competitive Power Company of India ' Hydropower and Renewable Energy Sector' at PRAKASHmay '15th Enertia Awards 2022'. The Award has been conferred to NHPC in recognition of its leadership in the hydropower sector with a gross asset class renewable energy capacity of more than 7000 MW.

## **21. Prabhu Chandra Mishra honoured with Atal Samman Award**

Prabhu Chandra Mishra received an honourable Atal Samman Award (Atal Anveshi Shikhar Samman) during this event for his excellence in field of science & research. His area of work is StemCell & Regenerative Medicine in infertility especially when IVF also fails. Prabhu Mishra is the President of International Association of StemCell & Regenerative Medicine.

## 22. IIT Madras' BS in Data Science and NPTEL Win Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) won key recognition in the Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards, often referred to as 'the Oscars of Education.' IIT madras' BS in Data Science and Applications has won a silver prize in the 'Best Online Program' category.

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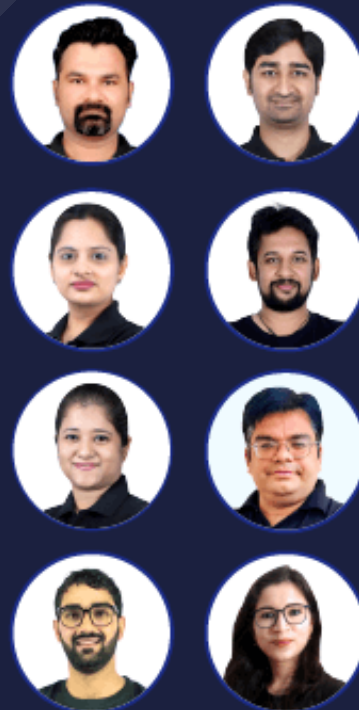
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## Ranks & Reports

### 1. India on track for record \$100 billion in remittances, says World Bank

Asia's third largest economy is on track to receive more than \$100 billion in yearly remittances in 2022, according to a World Bank report. This will be the first time a country will reach that milestone figure. India had received \$89.4 billion in remittances in 2021, according to the World Bank, making it the top recipient globally last year.

### 2. Global Water Resources Report 2021 released by WMO

According to the World Meteorological Organization's first Global Water Resource report 2021, Currently, 3.6 billion people face inadequate access to water at least a month per year and this is expected to increase to more than 5 billion by 2050. Between 2001 and 2018, UN-Water reported that 74% of all natural disasters were water-related.

### 3. RBI's House Price index Rises 4.5% In Q2, Kochi Tops Tally With 11.5% Jump

The Reserve Bank of India released its quarterly house price index (HPI)<sup>1</sup> (base: 2010-11=100) for Q2:2022-23, based on transaction-level data received from the registration authorities in ten major cities (viz., Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Mumbai).

### 4. India Jumps To 48th Rank In Global Aviation Safety Ranking

India has jumped to the 48th position in the global aviation safety ranking by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), according to DGCA officials. Four years ago, the country was ranked at the 102nd position. In the ranking, Singapore is at the top, followed by the UAE and South Korea at the second and third positions. China is at the 49th place.

### 5. Gautam Adani, 2 other Indian billionaires on Forbes Asia Heroes of Philanthropy list

Billionaires Gautam Adani, HCL Technologies' Shiv Nadar, and Happiest Minds Technologies' Ashok Soota are the three Indians who have been named in the 16th edition of Forbes Asia's Heroes of Philanthropy list. Gautam Adani was listed for having pledged '60,000 crores (\$7.7 billion).

Shiv Nadar donated '11,600 cr. (\$142 million).

Ashok Soota has pledged '600 cr. (\$75 mn.)

### 6. UPI transactions increase 650% in semi-urban and rural stores: Report

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) saw a whopping rise of 650 percent in value at the semi-urban and rural stores in India, according to a report by fintech company PayNearby.

So far in 2022, Assisted financial transactions across semi-urban and rural retail counters in India grew 25 percent and 14 percent in value terms and volumes, respectively.

### 7. FM Sitharaman, Kamala Harris among Forbes' 100 most powerful women

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and US Vice President Kamala Harris are among Forbes' 19th annual list of 'World's 100 Most Powerful Women' of 2022. While Harris is ranked third, Sitharaman is at number 36 on the list that was released on Tuesday highlighting "innovators and instigators who are leading on the world stage to redefine traditional power structures".

### 8. India records over 23 billion digital payments worth Rs 38.3 lakh crore in Q3

According to Worldline India's 'Digital Payments Report', India logged 23.06 billion digital transactions worth Rs 38.3 lakh crore in the third quarter of FY23. These digital transactions include payment done by Unified Payments Interface (UPI), debit and credit cards, prepaid payment instruments like mobile wallets, and prepaid cards.

### 9. Only 31% women own mobile phones, says Oxfam report on India digital divide

Less than 32 per cent of women in India own a mobile phone - compared to over 60 per cent of men - Oxfam said in a report. The 'India Inequality Report 2022: Digital Divide' considers data till the end of 2021 to underline the role gender inequality plays in deepening the digital divide between men and women.

### 10. World's strongest passports list 2022: India stands at 87th position, UAE ranked the best

The Passport Index 2022, published by Arton Capital, ranks the world's strongest and weakest passports. The passport rankings indicate how many countries you can visit without a visa. The UAE has got the first position in the rating of passports for 2022, while India was ranked 87 in the list of the strongest passports in the world.

### 11. FIDC-CRIF releases report on NBFC sanctions: Insights inside

Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC), a representative body of Asset and Loan Financing of the NBFCs registered with the Reserve Bank of India and CRIF high-mark, credit information companies that provides credit scores and credit reports in India on individuals and companies recently released data on the NBFC-MFI sector that gives insights on NBFC Sanctions. FIDC, Director General: Mr. MAHESH THAKKAR.

## **12. UIDAI tops Grievance Redressal Index in Nov, fourth month in a row**

Unique Identification Authority of India has once again awarded first rank amongst all Group A Ministries, Departments and Autonomous Bodies for resolution of public grievances in the rankings report published by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) for November 2022. This is the fourth month in a row when UIDAI has topped the said ranking.

## **13. FASTag transactions at all-time high in November 2022**

The FASTag monthly toll transaction hit an all-time high of 285.83 million in November, beating by a whisker the previous high of 285.37 million reported in May this year.

The monthly volume saw a decline during June and July but bounced back in August. However, in September it dropped only to pick up in October and November, according to NPCI data.

## **14. New York and Singapore are the most expensive cities to live in**

According to this year's Worldwide Cost of Living Index, released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), the average cost of living is up 8.1 per cent in 2022, owing to the Russian war in Ukraine and the lingering effects of the pandemic. This year New York and Singapore climbed up to the number 1 position of the world's most expensive cities to live in.

## **15. 2022 Global Food Security Index (GFSI) Report**

The 2022 Global Food Security Index (GFSI) report was released by the British weekly The Economist. In 2022, 8 of the top 10 performing countries are in Europe, with Finland topping the list with a score of 83.7.

India ranked 68th out of 113 countries with an overall score of 58.9.

## **16. India's employable talent rises, women workforce increases: India skills report**

India's employable talent has risen in the past one year, according to The Wheebox India Skills Report 2023.

India's employable workforce has increased from 46.2% to 50.3% which means that 50.3% people were found to be employable as compared to last year's data.

Percentage of women who were found to be employable has increased to 52.8% compared to 47.2% for men.

## **17. Bloomberg 50 Report declares Gautam Adani as busiest dealmaker globally**

In the 'Sixth Bloomberg 50' report, Businessman and philanthropist Gautam Adani has topped the list of people whose wealth witnessed the maximum rise globally during this year.

The Bloomberg report has taken into account the USD 49 billion surge in Adani's wealth, which had helped put him ahead of billionaires like Bill Gates and Warren Buffet.

## **18. Govts to spend \$11.6 billion on tech in 2023, says Gartner report**

The total government spending on IT in India is expected to grow at 10.2 percent in 2021, down from 11.6 percent growth in the previous year, a report by Gartner--a research and consulting firm focused on the technology sector-- has said.

The spending on data centres, devices, and telecom services is projected to decline in the coming year.

Expenses on software are expected to go up by 30.3 per cent.

## **19. India topped inward remittance list for 23 of 27 years since 1995**

World Bank's data shows that between 1995 & 2021, India has been receiving the highest remittances across the world for 23 years. The only years where it did not clinch the first position were 1998, 2004, 2005 and 2007.

In 2020, when remittance flows to India were 0.22 per cent lesser than what it received in 2019, it still topped the list for maximum remittance worldwide.

## **20. IndiGo airline ranked number one in on-time performance in November**

IndiGo took the No. 1 spot in on-time performance (OTP) in November, after seven months. It dislodged Air India, which was second. IndiGo carried more passengers on a sequential basis, while its market share fell to 55.7 per cent (from 56.7 per cent in October). Overall air traffic grew 2.3 per cent sequentially to over 11.6 million in November.

## **21. Bengaluru tops in Grade-A flexible among 12 APAC cities: CBRE report**

Bengaluru has the highest flexible stock of Grade-A assets among 12 major Asia-Pacific (APAC) cities, according to CBRE's H2 2022 report on the flexible office market in the region. As of September 2022, Bengaluru had 10.6 million sq ft of Grade-A flexible stock, ahead of Shanghai, Beijing, Seoul, Tokyo, and Singapore, the study reveals. Shanghai and Beijing ranked second & third in top 12 APAC cities with highest flex stock.

## **22. Varanasi, Tirupati, Puri are top travel destinations, as spiritual tourism gains favour -OYO**

Northern India has emerged as the most favoured spiritual travel destination followed by Southern, Western and Eastern regions in the country, reveals OYO Cultural Travel 2022 Roundup Report by global hospitality chain OYO. Varanasi, which is also one of the oldest cities in the world, emerged as the top religious destination for bookers across India. This was followed by Tirupati, Puri, Amritsar and Haridwar.

## **23. Delhi leads with highest crypto adoption in India: CoinSwitch**

CoinSwitch, a cryptocurrency trading platform in an annual investor report informed that New Delhi has the highest cryptocurrency adoption in India followed by Jaipur, measured in terms of value invested. An insight from the report was that investing patterns followed by men and women were largely similar in India at 8%, women represent a small group of crypto investors.

## **24. British consultancy firm, CEBR says India will become third largest economy by 2037**

The Centre for Economics and Business Research, a British consultancy, has said India will become the third-largest economy by 2037 from the current fifth spot. In its annual World Economic League Table, the Centre for Economics and Business Research said that over the next five years, India's annual rate of GDP growth is expected to average 6.4% afterwards 6.5% in 9 years.

## **25. Only 8.2% of 463 million Jan Dhan accounts are zero balance: RBI report**

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana accounts in the country have seen an increase in the deposit base during the past eight years, and only 8.2 per cent of such accounts had zero balance in August, the Reserve Bank of India's Trend & Progress report said. A PMJDY account is regarded as inoperative if there are no customer-induced transactions in it for two years.

## **26. ADB ranks WAPCOS amongst Top Consulting Services Firm in Water and other Infrastructure Sectors**

In a major breakthrough for WAPCOS, a Government of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its report released on Annual Procurement, ranked WAPCOS as Top amongst Consulting Services Firm in Water and other Infrastructure Sectors, with highest sanctioned financed amount.

## **27. Ministry of Road Transport &Highways -Annual report 'Road accidents in India ' 2021'**

As per the report, there were 4,12,432 unfortunate incidences of road accidents during 2021 which claimed 1, 53,972 lives and caused injuries to 3, 84,448 persons. During the previous year 2020, country saw an unprecedented decrease in accidents, fatalities and injuries. Road accidents decreased by 8.1 percent and injuries decreased by 14.8 percent in 2021 compared to 2019.

## **28. India's Top 7 Cities Register Record Housing Sales In 2022 At Nearly 3.65 Lakh Units: Anarock**

Releasing the demand-supply data of India's top residential primary (fresh sale) markets, property consultant Anarock said that the housing sales rose 54% this year to 3,64,900 units as against 2,36,500 units in 2021 across the seven cities -- Delhi-NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune.

## **29. Services sector attracts highest ever FDI: Ind-Ra Report**

Foreign direct investment (FDI) into the country's services sector increased to \$153.01 billion during April 2014 to March 2022 from \$ 80.51 billion during April 2000 to March 2014, shows data analysed by India Ratings and Research. During the same period, FDI in manufacturing increased to \$94.32 billion from \$77.11 billion.

## Important Days

### 1. National Pollution Control Day | 2 December

National Pollution Control Day is honoured every year on December 2. It honours those who died in the Bhopal Gas catastrophe on December 2nd and 3rd in 1984. Thousand of people died in Bhopal on that day due to leakage of deadly gas MIC, Methyl Isocyanate. The Bhopal Gas Tragedy is one of the deadliest industrial pollution catastrophes in the history.

### 2. World Computer Literacy Day 2022 | 2 December

World Computer Literacy Day is celebrated on December 2 every year. World Computer Literacy Day was first marked in 2001 by an Indian company, the National Institute of Information Technology to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the institute. World Computer Literacy Day seeks to address the digital divide by taking computer literacy to the remotest corners of the world.

### 3. International Day of Persons with Disabilities | 3 December

International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is observed every year on 3 December. The theme for this year is 'Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world.' The day is about promoting the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities at every level of society and development.

### 4. International Day of Banks | 4 December

On 19 December 2019, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution, which designated 4 December as the International Day of Banks in recognition of the significant potential of multilateral development banks and other international development banks in financing sustainable development and providing know-how; and also in recognition of the vital role of the banking system.

### 5. Indian Navy Day | 4 December

India observes Navy Day on December 4 every year to recognise the role and achievements of the Indian Navy. It also commemorates the launch of Operation Trident in the Indo-Pakistan War in 1971. The Indian Navy is all set to demonstrate India's combat prowess and capability through an 'Operational Demonstration' at Visakhapatnam.

### 6. World Wildlife Conservation Day | 4 December

On December 4, the world dedicates a special day towards wildlife conservation. World Wildlife Conservation Day aims to raise awareness, conserve and provide protection for endangered species such as elephants, rhinos, and tigers. The day came into being during an event "Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation: A Call to Action" held at the State Department on November 8, 2012

### 7. International Cheetah Day | 4 December

Since 2010, the world has been celebrating the cheetah each December 4th as International Cheetah Day. The day is dedicated to encouraging people worldwide to help this animal win the race against extinction. The cheetah is popularly known as the fastest animal on earth. The cheetah was declared extinct from India in 1952. In September 2022, cheetah was reintroduced in India.

### 8. International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development | 5 December

International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development is observed on December 5 every year. The day is also referred to as IVD and is mandated by the UN General Assembly in 1985. To achieve goals at the local, national and international levels, the UN offers an opportunity to volunteer-involving organisations and individual volunteers to promote volunteerism. International Volunteer Day 2022 celebrates the theme of solidarity through volunteering.

### 9. World Soil Day | 5 December

World Soil Day is held annually on 5 December as a means to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources. An international day to celebrate soil was recommended by the International Union of Soil Sciences in 2002. In December 2013, the UN General Assembly designated 5 December 2014 as first soil day. The theme of World Soil Day 2022 is 'Soils: where food begins'.

### 10. SAARC Charter Day | 8 December

SAARC Charter Day is observed annually on 8th December. This day marks the signing of the SAARC Charter in 1985 by the Leaders of SAARC Countries at the First SAARC Summit held in Dhaka. This year marks the 38th Anniversary of the regional group. The aim of SAARC members is to promote stability, peace and progress in the region. SAARC has organised 18 summits since 1985.

### **11. International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of Crime | 9 Dec**

International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime is commemorated on December 9 of every year around the world. It is observed to raise awareness about the greatest crime perpetrated by man against man, the violation of human rights and how it can be prevented in the future.

### **12. Nobel Prize Day | 10 December**

On December 10th, Nobel Prize Day recognizes the annual award established by Alfred Nobel. Since 1901, the five Nobel Prize has been awarded annually on December 10th. In 1969: 'The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.' Each year on 10 December, a ceremony is held in Stockholm, Sweden on the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.

### **13. Human Rights Day | 10 December**

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December ' the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

The 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be celebrated on 10 December 2023. 2022 Theme: Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All.

### **14. International Mountain Day | 11 December**

International Mountain Day is marked annually on 11 December to create awareness about mountains. The United Nations accepted a document titled 'Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development' while the Commission on Sustainable Development was held in 1992. The United Nations General Assembly then declared 11 December as International Mountain Day in 2003. The theme for 2022 is 'Women move mountains'

### **15. UNICEF Day | 11 December**

UNICEF Day is observed every year on December 11. The United Nations General Assembly created UNICEF on December 11, 1946, as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. The organisation was originally named United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.

### **16. International Day of Neutrality | 12 December**

International Day of Neutrality is commemorated on December 12. It is a day when people look at the possibility of a world free of armed and other types of conflicts. The day was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017. Its focus was on advocating and campaigning for intra-state peaceful relations.

### **17. International Universal Health Coverage Day | 12 December**

On 12 December 2017, the United Nations proclaimed 12 December as International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day). Universal Health Coverage Day, commemorated each 12 December, is the anniversary of the first unanimous United Nations resolution calling for countries to provide affordable, quality health care to every person, everywhere. The UHC Day 2022 theme is 'Build the world we want: A healthy future for all,'

### **18. Nation celebrates Vijay Diwas on 16 December to mark victory of 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War**

Vijay Diwas is observed on December 16 every year to commemorate the victory of the Indian forces over Pakistan in the 1971 war. This year is the 51st anniversary of that epochal event, which led to the creation of Bangladesh. India declared victory on December 16, 1971, after the Pakistani armed forces surrendered.

### **19. Minority Rights Day | 18 December**

Minority Rights Day which is observed on December 18th every year. The United Nations on December 18, 1992, adopted and broadcast the Statement on the individual's Rights belonging to Religious or Linguistic National or Ethnic Minorities. The government on this day ensures efforts to guarantee their rights of non-discrimination and equality. The theme for 2022 is 'All in 4 Minority Rights'

### **20. International Migrants Day | 18 December**

On 4 December 2000, the General Assembly, taking into account the large and increasing number of migrants in the world, proclaimed 18 December International Migrants Day. On that day, in 1990, the Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

### **21. Goa Liberation Day | 19 December**

Goa Liberation Day is celebrated annually on 19 December to mark the anniversary of the state gaining independence from the Portuguese. Goa was liberated by Indian forces in 1961. The 36-hour military action, code-named 'Operation Vijay' meaning 'Operation Victory,' included strikes by the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Air Force to free Goa and it became a Union Territory.



## **22. International Human Solidarity Day | 20 December**

International Human Solidarity Day is celebrated on December 20 to honour 'unity in diversity'. According to the United Nations (UN), the day is observed to remind governments of all nations of their responsibilities under international agreements, to raise public awareness of the importance of solidarity, and to encourage new initiatives for poverty eradication. UNGA passed a resolution to set up the World Solidarity Fund on December 20, 2002.

## **23. Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurates Good Governance Week 2022**

Union Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated Good Governance Week 2022 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on 19th December. The Minister also launched a five day 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' a nationwide Campaign, to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It is during the 19-25 December every year.

## **24. National Mathematics Day | 22 December**

National Mathematics Day is celebrated on December 22 every year. The National Mathematics Day is marked to recognise and celebrate the works of Srinivasa Ramanujan. Srinivasa Ramanujan, the Indian mathematical genius, was born on this day in 1887. The former PM Manmohan Singh, in 2012, declared December 22 as the National Mathematics Day to mark the birth anniversary. Srinivasa Ramanujan is also known as the 'man who knew infinity'.

## **25. Kisan Diwas (or) National Farmers Day | 23 December**

National Farmers' Day is observed to honour and acknowledge the contribution of farmers in our lives. The day is also celebrated to mark the birth anniversary Shri Choudhary Charan Singh, the fifth Prime Minister of India. The first Kisan Diwas was celebrated in the year 2001. Chaudhary Charan Singh, the Kisan Leader, served the country from July 28, 1979 to Jan 14, 1980.

## **26. National Consumer Rights Day | 24 December**

National Consumer Rights Day or Bharatiya Grahak Diwas is observed every year on 24 December to highlight the importance of the consumer movement and the need to make every consumer more aware of their rights and responsibilities.

On this day the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 had received the assent of the president.

## **27. Good Governance Day | 25 December**

The Good Governance Day is celebrated on December 25 every year, on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, to create awareness of accountability in government among the people.

## **28. Veer Bal Diwas 2022 | December 26**

December 26 is observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas' to mark the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's sons. Guru Gobind Singh, who was raising an army, founded the Khalsa in 1699. Devout Sikhs made up this elite warrior group, whose mission was to defend people from religious persecution. Guru Gobind Singh's four sons -- Ajit Singh, Jujhar Singh, Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh.

## **29. International Day of Epidemic Preparedness | 27 December**

In its 75th session and 36th plenary meeting on December 7, 2020, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution which declared December 27 as the International Day of Epidemic Preparedness. The decision is part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The day serves the purpose of creating awareness about epidemics.

## Summit & Conferences

### **1. Coal Ministry to Organize Investor Conclave in Bengaluru on Commercial Coal Mines Auction**

To further enhance participation in commercial auction of coal mines, Ministry of Coal is organising an investor conclave in Bengaluru on December 03, 2022.

The Ministry of Coal plans to conduct a series of investors' conclave at several locations across India and has already organized such conclaves at Indore and Mumbai.

### **2. Four-day meeting of G-20 Sherpa to begin on December 4th in Udaipur, Rajasthan**

The first G-20 Sherpa meeting began on 4 Dec in Udaipur, Rajasthan. The four-day meeting will be presided over by the Indian Sherpa Amitabh Kant. Representatives of 19 countries including from European Union and nine special invitee countries will take part in the meeting. G-20 Sherpa meeting will also help in projecting Udaipur as an international tourist destination.

### **3. Seventh edition of Global Technology Summit held at New Delhi**

The seventh edition of the Global Technology Summit was held from 29th Nov till the 1st of December in New Delhi in a hybrid format. The Summit is India's annual flagship event on Geotechnology and is co-hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs and Carnegie India. The theme for this year's Summit is 'Geopolitics of Technology'.

### **4. Millets-Smart Nutritive Food' conclave; to help boost exports of nutri-cereals**

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal said that India must strive to become the global capital of millets. He was addressing the gathering at the 'Millets-Smart Nutritive Food' Conclave in New Delhi. Shri Goyal pointed out that India had celebrated its Year of Millets in 2018.

### **5. Ministry of Culture organizes International conference on the contributions of "J C Bose: A Satyagrahi Scientist"**

On the occasion of 164th birth anniversary of legendary Indian scientist Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose and as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava, Vijnana Bharati and Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India organized an 'International conference on the contributions of J C Bose: A Satyagrahi Scientist', at Inter-University Accelerator Centre, New Delhi. Bose Institute was set up in 1917 by Sir Jagadish Chandra (JC) Bose.

### **6. 9th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2022 inaugurated in Goa**

9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) was inaugurated at Panaji, Goa. The 9th WAC aims to showcase the efficacy and strength of the AYUSH systems of medicine at the Global level.

A MoU was signed between All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and Rosenberg's European Academy of Ayurveda, Germany to facilitate advanced studies in traditional Indian medicine systems.

### **7. 1st G20 Central Bank Deputies meet in Bengaluru; Finance Track in focus**

The first G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) will be held in Bengaluru. The First Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting will be held during 23-25 February 2023 in Bengaluru. This meeting, which will mark the start of discussions on the Finance Track agenda under the Indian G20 Presidency.

### **8. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, India International Science Festival (IISF)-2022 to be held in Bhopal in January 2023**

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said, India International Science Festival -2022 will be held in Bhopal in January 2023 and incidentally, it is one of the major events to be held after India took over G-20 Presidency. It is a festival to celebrate the achievements of India's scientific and technological advancements with students, innovators, craftsmen, farmers, scientists.

### **9. India's first SCO-IBC meeting held with focus on climate finance, SDGs, creation of data bank**

The 19th meeting of the Experts and Coordinators of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's Interbank consortium, and the first under India's presidency. It was decided to create a data bank of the various initiatives which have been taken so far, work towards sustainable development goals, and climate finance initiatives, besides sharing the best practices among members.

## Science & Technology

### 1. Govt exempts ISRO from provisions of explosives rule

The government has exempted the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from taking its approval for manufacturing, storage, use and transportation of solid propellant for space rockets to promote ease of doing business.

Earlier, ISRO was required to take a license from the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisations (PESO), an arm of the DPIIT. Current ISRO chairman: S Somanath.

### 2. Japan successfully uses steam to power lunar spacecraft

Japan's space agency Jaxa has announced that it has successfully used steam to power its spacecraft, which was launched as one of the payloads aboard Nasa's Orion spacecraft.

This is the world's first successful orbit control beyond low Earth orbit using a water-fuel propulsion system. Lagrange points are places in space where gravity and centrifugal forces are in balance.

### 3. Meta, Bharti Airtel to bring world's longest subsea cable to India

Bharti Airtel said it would partner Facebook parent Meta to jointly invest in global connectivity infrastructure that would extend a subsea cable the 'Africa Pearls' to India. When it was launched in 2020, the 37,000-km subsea cable connected 23 countries. It has become one of the world's longest subsea cable systems and aims to provide faster internet connectivity.

### 4. IIT Madras generates power from sea waves, aims to go commercial by 2024

In a development that might help India achieve its climate change-related goal of generating 500 Gw (gigawatt) of renewable energy by 2030, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) have invented an 'Ocean Wave Energy Converter' that can generate electricity from sea waves. Researchers expect to commercialise the innovation by 2024.

### 5. Japan's ispace launches world's first commercial moon lander

A Japanese space startup launched a spacecraft to the moon after several delays, a step toward what would be a first for the nation and for a private company.

ispace Inc's HAKUTO-R mission took off without incident from Cape Canaveral, Florida, after two postponements caused by inspections of its SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

### 6. UAE successfully launches first-ever Arab-Built lunar spacecraft

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carried into space the first ever Arab-built lunar spacecraft. It was launched from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. The Rashid Rover was built by Dubai's Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC), in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), & is being delivered by the HAKUTO-R lander, engineered by Japanese lunar exploration company ispace.

### 7. ISRO test for Solar Group's rocket motor unit successful

The rocket motor produced by Nagpur's Economic Explosives Limited (EEL), a subsidiary of Solar Group, was successfully tested by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). This also marks the beginning of end-to-end production of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV) through a private sector industry. ISRO had transferred the technology to EEL in 2019.

### 8. NASA Successfully Launches Game-Changing SWOT Mission To Survey Earth's Water

The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched the newest Earth science satellite to track nearly all the water on Earth's surface. The Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) spacecraft was launched atop a SpaceX rocket from Space Launch Complex 4E at Vandenberg Space Force Base in California with a prime mission of three years.

### 9. BHEL, Sumitomo partner for circulating fluidised bed combustion boilers

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has entered into a long-term Technology License Agreement (TLA) with Sumitomo SHI FW, Finland for design, engineering, manufacturing, erection, commissioning and sale of subcritical as well as supercritical CFBC boilers in India and in overseas territories except select countries.

### 10. IIT Kanpur develops artificial heart to deal with acute cardiac problems

IIT Kanpur has developed an artificial heart that would be of great help to people with acute cardiac problems.

Trial on animals will start from February or March. After success in the trial, transplantation can be done in humans in the next two years.

### 11. Garuda Aerospace becomes first drone company ever to get double certification by DGCA for 'Kisan Drones'

Drone manufacturer Garuda Aerospace has become India's first drone startup to receive both Type Certification and RTPO approvals by DGCA for their indigenously designed Kisan Drones. DGCA Type

certification is provided on the basis of the quality check of the drones and is issued after a rigorous testing process. Garuda Aerospace Founder and CEO Agnishwar Jayaprakash

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## Defence

### **1. MoD organizes interaction with defence industry on corporate jobs for ex-Agniveers**

Ministry of Defence organized an interaction session with the Indian Defence industry under the aegis of Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers to seek opportunities for gainful employment of Ex-Agniveers under the Corporate Recruitment Plan of the companies.

The session was chaired by Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane.

### **2. Joint Exercise Agni Warrior with Singapore Armed Forces Concludes at Devlali**

The 12th Edition of Exercise Agni Warrior, a bilateral exercise between the Singapore & Indian Army, which had commenced on 13 November 2022 concluded at Field Firing Ranges, Devlali (Maharashtra) on 30 November 2022. Exercise Agni Warrior, involved showcasing joint firepower planning, execution and use of New Generation Equipment by the Artillery arm of both armies.

### **3. Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III squadron, 840 Sqn (CG), commissioned in Chennai**

In a major boost to further strengthening the Coast Guard Region East, 840 Sqn (CG), an Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III squadron, was commissioned by DG Shri VS Pathania at ICG Air Station, Chennai on November 30, 2022. The commissioning of 840 Sqn (CG) is indicative of the leap towards self-reliance in the field of helicopter manufacturing.

### **4. Indian Navy participates in maiden international fleet review in Bangladesh**

Indian Navy ships Kochi, Kavaratti and Sumedha arrived in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh to participate in the maiden International Fleet Review (IFR) being conducted by the Bangladesh Navy (BN). The ships are taking part in a variety of activities being conducted as a part of BN IFR-22

### **5. 39th India-Indonesia CORPAT begins; Ensuring a safer IOR under vision SAGAR**

The 39th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT). With the participation of the navies of both countries, the IND-INDO CORPAT will conclude on December 19 with a debrief at Port Blair. During the exercise, the Coordinated Patrol will be conducted along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). Navies of India and Indonesia have been conducting CORPATs twice a year since 2002.

### **6. 6th edition of Indo - Kazakhstan joint training exercise -KAZIND-22 to be conducted at Umroi (Meghalaya) from December 15**

The 6th edition of Indo - Kazakhstan joint training exercise -KAZIND-22 will be conducted at Umroi (Meghalaya). The Defence Ministry said, the exercise will enhance the level of defence cooperation between the Indian Army and the Kazakhstan Army which will further foster the bilateral relations between the two nations.

### **7. 16th Edition of Nepal-India to hold joint military exercise 'Surya Kiran'**

The 16th Edition of Indo-Nepal joint army training exercise began. The exercise 'SURYA KIRAN' will be conducted at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi. It is conducted annually between India and Nepal with the aim to enhance inter-operability in jungle warfare & counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain & Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief as per UN mandate

### **8. Rajnath Singh commissions stealth-guided missile destroyer INS Mormugao into Indian Navy**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned INS Mormugao, a P15B stealth-guided missile destroyer, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on December 18.

This marks the formal induction into the Navy of the 2nd of four 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers, indigenously designed by Indian Navy's in-house organisation, Warship Design Bureau and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders.

### **9. Indian Navy's INSV Tarini to participate in 50th edition of Cape Town to Rio Race 2023**

Indian Navy's sailboat INSV Tarini has set sail for an expedition to Cape Town, South Africa for participating in the 50th edition of Cape to Rio Race 2023. This ocean sailing race will be flagged off from Cape Town on 2 January 2023 and will culminate at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The expedition is being undertaken by an Indian Navy crew of five officers including two women. The race is one of the most prestigious Trans-Atlantic ocean races.

### **10. Indian Navy gets fifth Scorpene Class submarine INS Vagir**

The fifth Scorpene submarine, Vagir of Project - 75 Kalvari Class submarines has been delivered to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai. Defence Ministry said, the submarine would shortly be commissioned into the Navy and enhance its capability. Project-75 includes the indigenous construction of six submarines of Scorpene design. Submarines are constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited with Naval Group France

### 11. Defence ministry approves capital procurement proposals worth Rs 84,328 cr

The defence ministry approved the procurement of a number of military platforms and weapons including light tanks, anti-ship missiles and long range guided bombs at a cost of Rs 84,328 crore to boost combat capabilities of the armed forces. The procurement proposals were cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

### 12. iDEX reaches milestone with signing of its 150th contract

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), the flagship initiative of Department of Defence Production, has reached a milestone with the signing of its 150th contract in New Delhi. The contract was signed by Joint Secretary (Defence Industries Production) & Additional CEO/DIO Shri Anurag Bajpai with CEO, Altair Infracore Pvt Ltd.

### 13. First-ever India-Japan air exercise next month

India and Japan who are members of the QUAD are getting set to hold their maiden bilateral air exercise 'Veer Guardian' in Japan from January 16 to 26.

The focus of the first ever air exercise is going to be on interoperability between the forces of both India and Japan.

### 14. India Launches First ASW SWC Ship "Arnala"

'Arnala', the first of 08 x ASW SWC Project, being built by GRSE for the Indian Navy was launched at M/s L and T, Kattupalli, Chennai. She made her first contact with the water of the Bay of Bengal at 1040 hrs at the Launch Ceremony graced by Smt Rasika Chaube, Financial Adviser (Defence Services), Ministry of Defence.

### 15. IAF successfully test-fires extended range version of BrahMos air missile

The Indian Air Force successfully test-fired the extended range version of BrahMos air launched missile against a ship target from a SU-30MKI aircraft. BrahMos Aerospace is an Indo-Russian joint venture which produces supersonic cruise missiles. The missiles can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft or land platforms. A BrahMos missile travels at a speed of 2.8 Mach.

### 16. Indian Army inaugurates first ever 3D printed dwelling unit in Ahmedabad

The Indian Army now has a 3D Printed House Dwelling Unit, which is a disaster-resilient structure that complies with Zone-3 earthquake specifications and green building norms. The Army inaugurated such a unit in Ahmedabad. It is the first 3D Printed House for Indian soldiers and located at Ahmedabad Cantt.



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## Books & Authors

- 1. Vikram Sampath's Book 'Brave Hearts of Bharat, Vignettes from Indian History' launched**  
'Brave Hearts of Bharat, Vignettes from Indian History' by Vikram Sampath (Penguin), an anthology of 15 stories of men and women and their indomitable spirit of freedom and courage, was launched in Delhi. The book chronicles the stories of courage and determination of few individuals, whose stories largely remained untold and therefore unknown for a long time.
- 2. The Indian Navy@75: Reminiscing The Voyage by Commodore Ranjit Rai (r) & Aritra Banerjee**  
Book, 'The Indian Navy@75 Reminiscing the Voyage' by Commodore Ranjit B Rai (Retd) and defence journalist Aritra Banerjee, tells you how the exploits and sacrifices of the British-era Royal Indian Navy (RIN) during World War 2 were omitted by British historians who could not digest the RIN's mutiny in 1946. The IN built its own records and archives to rectify that.
- 3. The book, Forks In The Road ' My Days At RBI And Beyond by C Rangarajan released**  
This book is a memoir of Dr C. Rangarajan, an Indian economist, a former Member of Parliament, and the 19th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. The book includes his journey as an economist and RBI Governor and brings to light some of the hidden truths surrounding India's economic history. It was released by Penguin Publications.



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## Miscellaneous

### 1. 'Gaslighting' is Merriam-Webster's word of the year for 2022

'Gaslighting' ' behavior that's mind manipulating, grossly misleading, downright deceitful ' is Merriam-Webster's word of the year. Merriam-Webster's top definition for gaslighting is the psychological manipulation of a person, usually over an extended period of time, that 'causes the victim to question the validity of their own thoughts, perception of reality, or memories'

### 2. Oxford dictionary chooses 'Goblin Mode' as word of year 2022

Oxford Dictionaries said that 'goblin mode' has been selected by an online vote as its word of the year. It defines the term as 'a type of behavior which is unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy, typically in a way that rejects social norms or expectations.' In 2021, the Oxford word of the year was 'vax'.

### 3. Ayush Ministry's Professor Ayushman comic series to get Portuguese language edition after agreement with Brazil

An informative comic series titled 'Professor Ayushman' brought out by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) functioning under the Union Ayush Ministry is set to come out in Portuguese after India entered into an agreement with Brazil.

Debut series came out in September 2019 with the aim of spreading knowledge on medicinal plants among children.

### 4. Ministry of culture in collaboration with Prasiddha foundation organises Delhi International Arts Festival

Ministry of Culture in collaboration with Prasiddha Foundation inaugurated Delhi International Arts Festival at Kartavya Path with the tagline - 'Where Bharat Meets India'. The festival is being organised from 16th December to 30th December. Kathak, Odissi along with theatre, classical musical performances & other cultural performances will be organized.

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## Obituary

### 1. Veteran Lavani Singer Sulochana Chavan Dies At 92

Renowned Marathi Lavani singer Sulochana Chavan died in Mumbai due to age-related ailments, her family said. Sulochana Chavan, 92, was a Padma Shri recipient. Known as 'Lavani Samradnyi' (Queen of Lavani), Sulochana Chavan was one of the most well-known singers in this traditional Maharashtrian musical genre closely associated with the folk theatre form Tamasha.

### 2. Eminent economist and former Union minister YK Alagh passes away

Former Union minister and eminent economist Yoginder K Alagh passed away at his home in Ahmedabad. Alagh was also an emeritus professor at the Ahmedabad-based Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research. From 1996-98, Alagh served as the minister of power, planning, & programme implementation in the Government of India. He was also a member of the Planning Commission

### 3. Brazil's legendary footballer Pele dies at the age of 82

Brazilian football legend Pele, who won a record three World Cups has passed away at the age of 82. Pele is credited with scoring a world record 1,281 goals in 1,363 appearances during a 21-year career, including 77 goals in 92 matches for his country. The only player to win the World Cup three times, 1958, 1962, 1970. Pele was named Fifa's Player of the Century in 2000.

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## Person in news

### 1. Arjun Erigaisi, Rameshbabu Vaishali Emerge Champions in Tata Steel Chess India

Arjun Erigaisi clinched the Blitz title finishing ahead of Hikaru Nakamura on the concluding day of the Tata Steel Chess India.

Displaying a strong performance on the last day, R Vaishali emerged as the Blitz women's champion. She ended with 13.5 points followed by Mariya Muzychuk with 12 points and Harika Dronavalli with 11 points.

### 2. SEBI Bars MSEI's Former CEO Udai Kumar For Six Months

Markets regulator SEBI has barred Udai Kumar, former MD and CEO of Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India (MSE) for six months from being associated with any market infrastructure institution or its associated entities.

Udai Kumar was sent on indefinite leave from the post of MD and CEO from July 2018 onwards, without completing his tenure.

MSE was notified as a "Recognized Stock Exchange" on December 21, 2012.

### 3. Cristiano Ronaldo signs 200-million euro contract with Saudi club Al-Nassr

Cristiano Ronaldo is set to move to Saudi Arabia from the start of 2023 after agreeing a contract with Al-Nassr.

The initial deal will be around '100m (86m) with advertisement and sponsorship bringing his wages to a record figure that will see him become the highest paid athlete in sport.

He recently became the first man to score at five different World Cups.

### 4. Deepika Padukone to unveil FIFA World Cup 2022 trophy

Deepika Padukone will be the first global actor to unveil the FIFA World Cup trophy during the finals, possibly the first in FIFA history. The FIFA World Cup final will be held on December 18 at the Lusail Iconic Stadium in Qatar.

Nora Fatehi, an actor and dancer, performed at the Fifa World Cup 2022 Fan Festival at Al Bidda Park in Doha. Nora Fatehi performed on the World Cup anthem "Light the Sky."

### 5. BBC Releases 100 Most Influential Women's List, Names 4 Indians Including Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Geetanjali Shree

The BBC has published the list of 100 most influential women in the world and has included women from several areas such as politics, science, sports, entertainment, & literature.

The BBC's 100 most influential women's list also includes four Indians - Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, author Geetanjali Shree, engineer & astronaut Sirisha Bandla, & social worker Sneha Jawale.

### 6. Indian PhD student at Cambridge University solves 2,500-year-old Sanskrit puzzle

A grammatical problem which has defeated Sanskrit scholars since the 5th Century BC has finally been solved by Rishi Rajpopat.

He made the breakthrough by decoding a rule taught by Panini, known as the father of linguistics, and is now encapsulated in his thesis entitled 'In Panini, We Trust: Discovering the Algorithm for Rule Conflict Resolution in the Astadhyayi'.

### 7. Casper Ruud wins 2022 Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award

Casper Ruud has been announced as the winner of the 2022 Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award.

It is the first time since 2004 that the award has not been won by either Roger Federer (13-time winner) or Rafael Nadal (five-time winner including last four years). Ruud is also the award's first Scandinavian winner since Sweden's Edberg who won it for a fifth time in 1995.

### 8. Indian-origin Leo Varadkar is new Prime Minister of Ireland

Indian-origin Leo Varadkar has returned for a 2nd term as Ireland's Prime Minister as part of a job-sharing deal made by Ireland's centrist coalition government.

Lawmakers voted to approve Varadkar's nomination to replace Michel Martin during a special session of the Dail, the lower house of Ireland's parliament.

In his first term, he was Prime Minister from 2017 to 2020. Ireland head of state, President: Michael D. Higgins.

### 9. PC Rath is president of Cardiological Society of India

Senior cardiologist from Hyderabad, Dr PC Rath, on Monday was formally elected president of the Cardiological Society of India (CSI) for the year 2023-24.

CSI is a national body of cardiologists within India and those settled abroad. It has more than 5,000 members and was formed in 1948 under the stewardship of Dr Vidhan Shankar Roy, who served as its first president.

### 10. Indian actor Dev Joshi to join crew for SpaceX moon trip

The 'dream crew' for the first civilian mission to the moon has been announced and it includes Indian actor Dev Joshi. Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa informed that Dev Joshi will be among the eight people who will join him on a flyby around the moon on a SpaceX spaceship next year.

The rocket, developed by Elon Musk's SpaceX, will make a week-long journey to moon.

### 11. Rehan Ahmed becomes youngest to claim five-fer on Test debut in men's cricket

England teenager Rehan Ahmed (18y and 128d) became the youngest debutant in the history of men's Test cricket to claim a five-fer, going past current Australian Test captain Pat Cummins, who had achieved the feat while he was 18 years and 196 days old.

### 12. Sonakshi Sinha named as PETA India's 2022 'Person of the Year' title

Sonakshi Sinha has been awarded PETA India's 2022 Person of the Year title. PETA stands for People for Ethical Treatment of Animals in India. The international animal rights non-profit group endorsed the title and celebrated the actions of the "Dabang" actress for saving animal lives in India. Last year, Alia Butt was awarded the same title.

### 13. Puma India ropes in Anushka Sharma as brand ambassador

Puma India said it has roped in actor and entrepreneur Anushka Sharma as its new brand ambassador. It added that this latest association is part of the company's ongoing commitment towards the women consumer segment in India. Other brand ambassadors of the sports brand include Virat Kohli, MC Mary Kom, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Yuvraj Singh, Sunil Chhetri, and Harrrdy Sandhu.

### 14. India's Dr Mahima Swamy Recognised & Honored As Europe's Top Talents In Biology

The prestigious European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) Young Investigator Network has chosen an Indian scientist to be part of the team, recognizing her as one of the top talents of Europe in Biology. Indian scientist Dr Mahima Swamy who comes from Bengaluru has been one of the most revered experts at the University of Dundee's School of Life Sciences.

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## Insurance

### 1. Canara HSBC Life Insurance introduces 'Guaranteed Fortune Plan'

Canara HSBC Life Insurance introduces the "Guaranteed Fortune Plan," which is a non-linked, non-participating individual savings life insurance plan. The Company's new offering is also a POS (Point of Sale) Life Insurance policy.

Canara HSBC Life Insurance, Shareholders - Canara Bank: 51%, HSBC: 26%, PNB Bank: 23%.  
Anuj Mathur, MD and CEO, Canara HSBC Life Insurance.

### 2. Irdai to introduce 'Bima Vahaks' to expand insurance force

To enhance the insurance force in India, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) will soon introduce "Bima Vahaks" in each gram panchayat. Each Gram Panchayat will have a 'Bima Vahak' who would be tasked to sell and service simple parametric bundled insurance products, Bima Vistar, covering health, property, life and personal accident.



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## India & World

### 1. Germany announces 1 billion euro funding for energy transition projects in India

Ahead of German foreign minister Annalena Baerbock's visit to India in December, Germany unveiled a proposal to provide 1 billion euros ( '8440 crore) for energy transition projects across the country under a bilateral partnership for green and sustainable development.

The funding, including 10% grants and 90% in the form of lines of credit.

### 2. India assumes the Presidency of UN Security Council for the month of December

India has assumed the Presidency of the UN Security Council for the month of December. It is the second time in its two-year tenure as an elected member of the UN Security Council that India has assumed the Presidency of the Council. India had earlier assumed the Presidency of the UNSC in August 2021.

Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations- Ruchira Kamboj

### 3. India to assume chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement on 1 Jan

India will assume the chairmanship of the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA), a multilateral technology control agreement, on 1 January 2023, for a period of one year. India joined the Wassenaar Arrangement, a multilateral export control regime, in 2017 and became its 42nd member. The WA operates on a voluntary basis and decisions are made by consensus.

### 4. 'Maitri Diwas' marking recognition to Bangladesh by India celebrated in Dhaka

The 51st anniversary of 'Maitri Diwas' marking the recognition granted to Bangladesh by India in 1971 was celebrated in Dhaka on 6th December.

Liberation war fighters, Parliamentarians, members from civil society, media, dignitaries, and other prominent people took part in the event organised by the High Commission of India in Dhaka. Minister for Liberation War Affairs of Bangladesh A.K.M Mozammel Haque- Chief Guest.

### 5. SIDBI partners with Saudi Arabian counterpart to enhance MSME ecosystem in both countries


Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Monsha'at, which is SME General Authority of Saudi Arabia will jointly work on the development of MSME and related ecosystems in India and Saudi Arabia.

Assistance and expertise will be offered by SIDBI to the newly launched SME Bank in Saudi Arabia.

### 6. India declares candidature for UN Security Council membership for 2028-29 term

India looks forward to being back in the UN Security Council, External Affairs S Jaishankar declared the country's candidature as non-permanent member for the 2028-29 term.

India's current Presidency of the UN Security Council, before the curtains come down this month on the country's 2-year tenure as elected member of the 15-nation top organ of the world body.



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## Apps & Portals

### 1. National Single Window System facilitates over 44000 approvals since launch

The National Single Window System (NSWS) currently accepts applications for 248 G2B clearances from 26 Central Ministries/ Departments, in addition to different State/UT Level clearances in 16 States/ UTs. 44,000+ approvals have been facilitated through NSWS and 28,000+ approvals are currently under process.

### 2. Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal Launches Right To Repair Portal

Minister Piyush Goyal introduced a host of new initiatives, including a right to repair portal and an NTH mobile app and opened new premises of the National Consumer Helpline centre in the national capital. Under the Consumer Protection law, a complaint is required to be disposed of within 90 days of its filing and within 150 days wherever expert evidence is required.

### 3. Home Minister Amit Shah launches BSF mobile app 'Prahari'

Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Border Security Force (BSF) mobile app 'Prahari'. This app is a great example of proactive governance. BSF soldiers can get personal and service related information, housing, Ayushman-CAPF and leave related information on their mobiles. Soldiers can also get information on various welfare schemes through this app.



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## Acquisitions & Mergers

- 1. Max Financial Services gets Irdai nod to acquire 5.17% stake of Mitsui Sumitomo in Max Life**  
 MFSL announced that it has received approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) to purchase the balance 5.17 per cent stake held by Mitsui Sumitomo Company Ltd (MSI) in Max Life.  
 Post completion of MSI balance stake buyout of 5.17 per cent, MFSL's shareholding in Max Life will increase to 87 per cent.
- 2. CCI approves Bharat Biotech International-Eastman Exports deal**  
 The Competition Commission of India has approved the proposed deal of Bharat Biotech International Ltd for acquiring shares of Eastman Exports Global Clothing Pvt Ltd through a share purchase agreement. The proposed combination relates to the acquisition of shares of Eastman Exports Global Clothing (EEGC) by Bharat Biotech International Ltd (BBIL).
- 3. Adani group becomes single-largest shareholder in NDTV with 37.4% stake**  
 The 13-day open offer for an additional 26 per cent stake in New Delhi Television (NDTV) by the Adani group closed this week, investors tendered 5.32 million shares or a third of the open offer size of 16.7 million shares, according to BSE data. As a result, the Adani group, which has a 29.18 per cent in NDTV, has picked up an additional 8.26% stake through open offer route
- 4. Shriram Finance turns India's largest retail NBFC after merger**  
 Shriram Transport Finance and Shriram City Union Finance Ltd. have been merged to form Shriram Finance Ltd. Post the merger, Shriram Finance has become the largest retail NBFC in India with a robust network of '40,900 crore and Assets under Management of '1,71,000 crore. It appointed Mrs. Maya Sinha as an Independent Director and Mr. Juugal Kishor Mohapatra as Chairman. 'Mr YS Chakravarti, MD & CEO, Shriram Finance
- 5. HUL Acquires D2C Brands OZiva, Wellbeing Nutrition**  
 Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) major Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) announced the acquisition of two D2C brands - OZiva and Wellbeing Nutrition. With the acquisition, the company will foray into the health and well-being category.  
 OZiva - Zywie Ventures Private Limited is a plant-based consumer wellness brand launched in 2016.  
 Wellbeing Nutrition - Nutritionalab Private Limited was founded in 2019.
- 6. Marico Acquires Vietnamese Beauty X Corporation for Rs 172 cr**  
 India's consumer goods major with a turnover of Rs 95 billion Marico Ltd's subsidiary Marico South-East Asia Corporation (MSEA) has signed an agreement to acquire Vietnamese Beauty X Corporation for about Rs 172 crore.  
 The transaction is expected to be completed by March 31, 2023, subject to requisite regulatory approvals and customary closing conditions. Saugata Gupta, Managing Director, and CEO, Marico.
- 7. Dalmia Bharat acquires Jaiprakash Associates' cement plants for nearly Rs 6,000 crore**  
 Dalmia Bharat's wholly owned subsidiary ' Dalmia Cement has entered into an agreement to acquire the cement, clinker and power plants of Jaiprakash Associates having a total cement capacity of 9.4 million tonnes (along with a Clinker capacity of 6.7 million tonne and Thermal Power plants of 280MW). The plants are situated in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. The plants have been bought for an enterprise value of Rs 5,666 crore.
- 8. Axis Bank takes over RCom's enterprise arm, Globalcom**  
 Axis Bank has taken over Reliance Communication's (RCom) enterprise business, Globalcom IDC Ltd, due to the non-payment of dues. Reliance Communications (RCom) said that Axis Trustee has invoked the pledge over 100% equity in RCom subsidiary Globalcom IDC Limited (GIDC) for non-repayment of loans. RCOM holds 100% stake in GIDC through another subsidiary Reliance Webstore Limited (RWSL)
- 9. JK Cement enters paint segment, acquires 60% stake in Acro Paints**  
 JK Cement announced its foray into the paints business by acquiring 60 per cent stake in Rajasthan-based Acro Paints in a Rs 153 crore deal. Its wholly-owned subsidiary JK Paints and Coatings Ltd has entered into a share purchase agreement with Acro Paints Ltd and its shareholders to acquire a 60 per cent controlling stake in the company. JK Cement Managing Director - Raghavpat Singhania
- 10. Jio to acquire Reliance Infratel for Rs 3,720 crore**  
 Reliance Projects and Property Management Services, a subsidiary of Jio, has deposited Rs 3,720 crore in an SBI escrow account to acquire mobile tower and fiber assets of Reliance Infratel. The National Company Law Tribunal gave approval to Jio for the acquisition of Reliance Infratel in November. Reliance Infratel transaction is complete. Jio placed a bid of Rs 3,720 crore in November 2019

### 11. Tata Communication to acquire US-based Switch Enterprises for Rs 486 cr

Tata Communications (Netherlands) B.V., a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Tata Communications Limited, will acquire 100 per cent equity stake of Switch Enterprises, LLC, USA for a full cash deal of Rs 486 crore. The Switch will bring live production capabilities helping organisations to produce high quality immersive content faster and efficiently.

### 12. Flipkart and PhonePe announce their separation, will continue as part of Walmart

After the Flipkart Group's acquisition of PhonePe in 2016, the latter company announced its separation from Flipkart Group. Additionally, the company stated that the post their separation, the entities will continue to operate under the retail brand Walmart. Moreover, Walmart will remain the majority shareholder of both business groups. Sameer Nigam, founder and CEO, PhonePe Kalyan Krishnamurthy, CEO, Flipkart

### 13. Reliance acquires Metro AG's India business for Rs 2,850 crore

Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd, on signed definitive agreements to acquire 100 percent equity stake in Metro Cash and Carry India Pvt Ltd, which operates under the 'Metro India' brand, for a cash consideration of Rs 2,850 crore.

### 14. JSW Energy completes acquisition of Ind-Barath Energy Utkal

JSW Energy has completed the acquisition of Ind-Barath Energy Utkal pursuant to the Resolution Plan submitted under the corporate insolvency resolution process of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 and approved by the Committee of Creditors and National Company Law Tribunal. The RP has now been implemented, consequently Ind-Barath has become a subsidiary of JSW.

### 15. Tata Motors completes Rs 725 cr acquisition of Ford's Sanand plant

Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEML), a subsidiary of Tata Motors, has completed the acquisition of Ford India's vehicle manufacturing plant in Sanand for Rs 725.7 crore. TPEML and Ford India (FIPL) had signed a unit transfer agreement for acquisition of FIPL's plant in Sanand, Gujarat.

### 16. Tata Consumer Products subsidiary increases stake in Joekels Tea Packers to 75% for Rs 43.65 crore

Tata Consumer Products step-down wholly-owned subsidiary, Tata Consumer Products Overseas Holdings Limited (TCP Overseas), acquired a 23.3 percent stake in the South African tea brand Joekels Tea Packers. On completion of the acquisition, TCP Overseas' shareholding in Joekels will rise to 75 percent from the current 51.7 percent.

### 17. Reliance Retail FMCG arm acquires 51% stake in Lotus Chocolate for '74 crore

Reliance Consumer Products Ltd (RCPL), the FMCG division and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), announced that it has acquired a 51 percent stake in Lotus Chocolate Company Limited for an estimated total of Rs 74 crore. Abhijit Pai, Founder-Promoter of Lotus.



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## Legal

### 1. All-woman bench to hear pleas involving matrimonial disputes, bail matters in SC

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud has constituted an all-woman bench comprising Justices Hima Kohli and Bela M Trivedi to hear transfer petitions involving matrimonial disputes and bail matters.

There are three women judges in the top court at present including Justice Kohli, B V Nagarathna, and Trivedi. Justice Nagarathna is also set to become first woman Chief Justice in 2027.

### 2. NCLT dismisses Jalan-Kalrock consortium appeal over Jet Airways staffers' dues

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) dismissed the Jalan-Kalrock consortium (JKC) appeal regarding PF and Gratuity payments to Jet Airways workers and employees.

The JKC's plea to limit its payment liability under the resolution plan to Rs. 475 billion was rejected by the judicial body.

### 3. CJI constitutes committee to conduct accessibility audit of SC premises

In a bid to remove the barriers to access, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud has constituted a committee headed by apex court judge Justice S Ravindra Bhat to conduct an audit of "physical and functional access" of the top court premises to make them disabled friendly. Additional registrar of the Supreme Court, Ajay Agrawal, is the member (secretary) of the committee.



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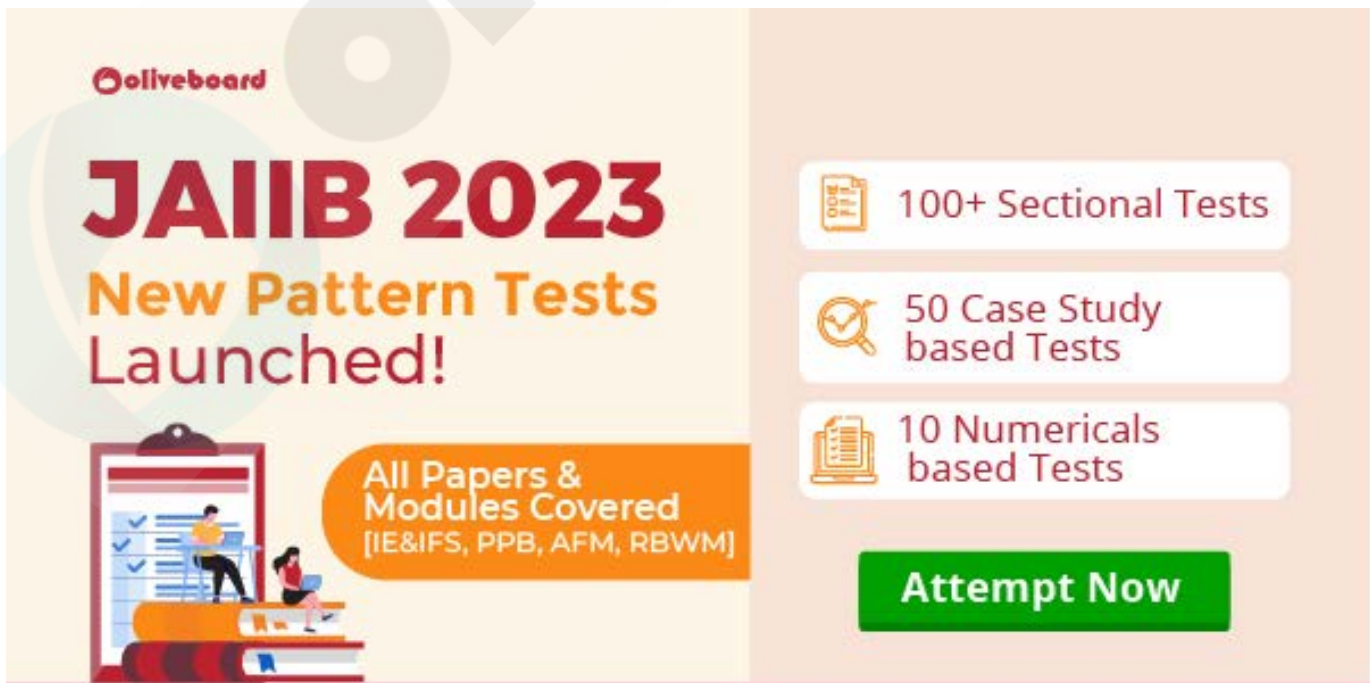
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## PSUs

### 1. Ircon International Limited bags order worth 14.89 million dollars in Sri Lanka

Ircon International Limited has bagged an order in Sri Lanka worth 14.89 million dollars on competitive bidding basis. The Miniratna Public sector enterprise was awarded the work for procurement of Design, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Certifying of Signalling and Telecommunication system by Sri Lanka Railways.

Ircon International Ltd. is a Government of India Undertaking under Ministry of Railways.



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## State/UTs

### Assam

#### 1. Adani group entity operating Guwahati airport gets aerodrome licence

The Guwahati International Airport Ltd, the Adani group entity that operates the LGBI Airport, here, has been granted aerodrome licence by the DGCA for complete management of the airport. The licence was granted by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The license authorises the aerodrome to be used as a public airport of the country.

#### 2. Assam grants industry status to its tourism sector

The Assam cabinet has approved the proposal for grant of industry status to the tourism sector in the state, to boost investments and generate employment. With industry status, fresh investments in tourism infrastructure, permanent in nature, will contribute towards rapid employment generation, public-private partnership and development.

### Goa

#### 1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Goa's second international airport

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Goa's second airport, MOPA International Airport. The airport is named after former Chief Minister Manohar Parikar. The operations will begin from January 5, 2023. GMR Goa International Airport Limited (GGIAL) will manage the airport.

Manohar International Airport is built on 2,132 acres and is located at Pernem Taluka in North Goa. Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

#### 2. Airbnb signs MoU with Goa govt to promote inclusive tourism

Airbnb inked an agreement with the government of Goa to jointly promote the state as one of the most high potential tourist destinations around the world. This will be done through targeted domestic and international destination promotion campaigns. Under the MoU they will work together to promote the state as a destination for high-quality tourism.

#### 3. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Goa's new Zuari bridge

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated Goa's new Zuari bridge. The bridge is an important link between North and South Goa. This 13.20-kilometer eight-lane bridge costing 2530 Crores across Zuari river from Bambolim to Verna. It is country's second longest cable-stayed bridge. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant

#### 4. International Lusophone Festival to be held from 3-6 December in Goa

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in partnership with Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Goa government will organize the International Lusophone Festival in Goa from 3-6 December. The festival seeks to further India's connect with the Lusophone world.

The International Lusophone Festival will be inaugurated by Pramod Sawant, CM of Goa.

### Gujarat

#### 1. Bhupendra Patel to continue as Gujarat CM for second term

Bhupendra Patel took oath as chief minister of Gujarat for the second time.

BJP swept the Gujarat Assembly election with a whopping 156 out of the 182 Assembly seats, which is the highest number of seats any party has won after the formation of the state in 1960. Governor of Gujarat: Acharya Devvrat.

### Haryana

#### 1. Haryana charts out 15-point strategy to reduce road accidents by 20% in a year

The Haryana government has decided to opt for a 15-point strategy to reduce road accidents by 20% in a year which includes fixing of illegal road cuts on highways made by dhaba and petrol pump owners and keeping a watch on illegal liquor vends on roads.

This year till November, as many as 9,951 road accidents occurred in Haryana.

### Himachal Pradesh

#### 1. Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu takes oath as new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh , Mukesh Agnihotri his deputy

Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel made the announcement. He said the new Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister will be Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu and Mukesh Agnihotri will be Deputy Chief Minister.

He will be the second chief minister from Hamirpur district, after Prem Kumar Dhupal.

Governor of Himachal Pradesh: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar. Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu will be the 15th chief minister of HP.

## **Kerala**

### **1. Country's largest business jet terminal commissioned at Cochin International Airport**

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the country's first chartered gateway, and a business jet terminal at the Cochin International Airport. With this, Cochin airport has become the fourth airport in the country to operate a private jet terminal. The Chief Minister is also the Chairman of the Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL).

### **2. CM Pinarayi Vijayan declares Kerala Seed Farm in Ernakulam district as first carbon-neutral farm in the country**

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared the State Seed Farm at Aluva in Ernakulam district as the first carbon-neutral farm in the country. The declaration was the culmination of decade-long efforts which included totally organic agricultural activities and scientific interventions to maintain soil health in the farm.

### **3. Kerala's Dharmadam becomes first complete library constituency in India**

Dharmadam, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's constituency has achieved the position of complete library constituency in India, the first in India. Vijayan said that out of the total 138 wards in the constituency, there were no libraries in 63 wards. Dharmadam reached the achievement with the opening of libraries in these wards too.

## **Madhya Pradesh**

### **1. Madhya Pradesh forms task force to regulate online gambling and gaming**

The Madhya Pradesh government has constituted a high-level task force, which will make recommendations about regulating online gambling & gaming in the state after examining the technical and legal aspects. This task force will be headed by the state chief secretary. It will examine various judicial precedents, legal situations & technical aspects related to online gambling.

## **Maharashtra**

### **1. CM Eknath Shinde announces Maharashtra will establish separate Divyang department**

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has announced that the state will establish a separate Divyang department for the welfare of differently-abled persons with a fund allocation of 1,143 crore rupees. The government has created 2,063 posts for the new department. He added that Maharashtra is the first state to have such a department.

### **2. Maharashtra Assembly passes Lokayukta Bill, brings CM under anti-corruption lens**

Maharashtra assembly passed the Lokayukta Bill 2022, which brings the chief minister and council of ministers under the ambit of the anti-corruption ombudsman. As per the bill, prior approval of the Assembly has to be obtained and the motion has to be placed before the immediate session of the House before initiating any inquiry against the CM

It should be passed by not less than two-thirds of the total members of the assembly,

## **Meghalaya**

### **1. In a first in Northeast, Meghalaya Cabinet approves mental health and social care policy**

Meghalaya became the third state in the country to have a comprehensive policy for mental health and social care. The Meghalaya Cabinet approved the Meghalaya mental health and social care policy. The policy seeks to address the social determinants of mental ill-health and ensure cultural security through collaborative engagement with the communities it intends to serve. Chief Minister of Meghalaya - Conrad Sangma

### **2. Meghalaya govt unveils Asia's first drone delivery hub**

The Meghalaya government in partnership with startup TechEagle has unveiled Asia's first drone delivery hub and network which is aimed at providing universal access to healthcare for the people in the state. The project is aimed at delivering vital supplies like drugs, diagnostic samples, vaccines, blood & blood components quickly and safely to different regions of the state.

## **Nagaland**

### **Vice President inaugurates the 23rd edition of Hornbill Festival**

The Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the 23rd edition of Hornbill Festival on 1st Dec at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama.

The Hornbill Festival is an annual festival celebrated from 1 to 10 of Dec in the Northeastern Indian state of Nagaland. The festival represents all ethnic groups of Nagaland for which it is also called 'the Festival of Festivals'.

## Odisha

### 1. CJI Chandrachud inaugurates 10 district court digitisation hubs in Odisha

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud virtually inaugurated 10 district court digitisation hubs (DCDH) in Odisha, and said that modernisation of judiciary is the need of the hour.

With Monday's inauguration, a total of 15 DCDHs have now become functional in the state, with each catering to a neighbouring district, thus covering all 30 district courts.

## Rajasthan

### 1. Extensive exploration programme to find minerals stepped up in Rajasthan

The Rajasthan government is extensively exploring minerals in the state, with possibilities of finding gold and emerald. An extensive exploration programme to find minerals, with financial help from the Rajasthan State Mineral Exploration Trust (RSMET), is being carried out in the Banswara-Nathdwara, Rajsamand, Barmer and Udaipur regions.

## Tamil Nadu

### 1. Cyclone Mandous intensifies; 3 Tamil Nadu districts on red alert

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a deep depression over the southwest and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal intensified into a cyclonic storm Mandous. Consequently, the weather monitoring agency has issued an alert for the north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and south Andhra Pradesh coasts.

Mandous means "treasure box". United Arab Emirates (UAE) has given the cyclone this name.

### 2. MK Stalin launches Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin launched the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission to protect the natural resources in the state besides restore them on a long-term basis. The state is first to launch its own Climate Change Mission to make Tamil Nadu a climate smart state. The state will achieve carbon neutrality much ahead of 2070 target.

### 3. NIIFL to collaborate with Tamil Nadu govt to develop infra opportunities

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited announced the signing of a MoU with Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board to help attract commercial capital into infrastructure opportunities in the state. Seven projects are identified across departments which have the potential to attract private investments of approximately Rs. 5,000 to 6,000 crore.

### 4. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin launches scheme to uplift sanitation staff

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated the Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme to protect the welfare of conservancy workers in the State.

He launched a mobile application to help identify and collect census data of sanitation workers as part of the scheme.

The scheme was launched in Madurai and will benefit over 53,000 permanent and contract-based conservancy workers.

### 5. Tamil Nadu government makes Aadhaar a must for all of its schemes

The Tamil Nadu government issued a notification making the Aadhaar number mandatory for availing various welfare schemes of the government.

Recently, it was announced that electricity connection holders should link electricity consumer number with their Aadhaar card for e-bill payment in Tamil Nadu and the process of linking is active all over Tamil Nadu.

### 6. State-of-the-art Cardiac Centre Inaugurated at NLC India Hospital

A new High end Cardiac Centre with state-of-the-art Cath Lab has been inaugurated at NLC India Hospital. This is the only such advanced Cath Lab in Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu which provides cardiology Outpatient services & Inpatient treatment for any cardiac disease for patients referred by NLC India Hospital and stakeholders and is also open to the public.

### 7. India, ADB sign \$125 million loan to improve Urban Services in Tamil Nadu

The Government of India and Asian Development Bank signed a \$125 million loan to develop climate-resilient sewage collection and treatment, and drainage and water supply systems in three cities in the state of Tamil Nadu. The financing is the third and the last tranche of the \$500 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) for the Program approved by ADB in 2018.

## Telangana

### 1. President of India lays the Foundation Stone for the Development of Pilgrimage Infrastructure at Bhadrachalam group of temples

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu laid the foundation stone for the development of pilgrimage facilities at Bhadrachalam Group of Temples under PRASHAD scheme at Bhadrachalam. President visited

Ramappa Temple (Rudreshwara Temple) in Warangal district where she laid foundation stones for development of tourism infrastructure and restoration of Kameshwaralaya Temple.

### **Uttar Pradesh**

#### **1. UP CM Yogi Adityanath launches 'One District One Sport' scheme**

In his mission to promote sports and sportspersons of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched One District One Sport (ODOS) on the lines of the highly successful One District One Product (ODOP) scheme of the government. The scheme serves the two interrelated objectives of promoting sports culture and keeping the younger generation healthy.

### **Uttarakhand**

#### **1. Uttarakhand plans genetic enhancement of its indigenous Badri cow**

To increase the productivity of its indigenous petite Badri cow, that grazes on the medicinal herbs of the Himalayas, Uttarakhand is now planning for its genetic enhancement. The National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources had granted certification to the Badri cow, the first registered cattle breed in Uttarakhand.

#### **2. Uttarakhand Ropes In Global Consultancy Firm McKinsey To Help Double State's Economy By 2027**

Uttarakhand has hired McKinsey, a global management consultancy, with the aim of doubling its GDSP in the next five years. It has set the target of boosting the economy from '2.73 lakh crore to '5.5 lakh crore, which will be done by reporting a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 15% by 2027.

Under the Shashakt Uttarakhand mission, government has signed 2 yr agreement.

### **West Bengal**

#### **1. Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia flags off first commercial flight from Kolkata to Donyi-Polo Airport**

It is considered as the beginning of a new chapter in Civil Aviation History of Arunachal Pradesh as from now onwards Arunachal Pradesh is going to have direct air-connectivity from Donyi-Polo Airport, Itanagar to Kolkata, Mumbai and other metro cities across the country. Donyi Polo Airport in Itanagar would be Arunachal Pradesh's third airport.

### **Jammu and Kashmir**

#### **1. Indian Railways opens nation's longest 'escape tunnel' in Kashmir**

The Indian Railways completed the construction of a tunnel on a 111-kilometre section of the Udhampur-Katra railway line in Kashmir. The 'escape tunnel', which is the longest of its kind in the country, is located at an elevation of 12.89 meters. The tunnel was constructed to allow emergency response teams to carry out rescue operations in case of an accident.

#### **2. Bandipora hosts J&K's first-ever winter tribal tourism festival**

North Kashmir's Bandipora district hosted the first ever winter tribal tourism festival of Kashmir valley which was held at Ketson tribal hamlet of the district.

Tribal people in their traditional attire thronged the picturesque hamlet Ketson to witness varied shades of ethnic tribal culture.

### **Ladakh**

#### **1. Ladakh to soon have India's first Dark Night Sky Reserve with 18 telescopes installed for stargazing**

Ladakh is all set to have India's first Dark Night Sky Reserve at Hanle village in Changthang region. In about eighteen locations in Hanley, powerful telescopes will be installed for stargazing. At an elevation of 4,500 meters, Hanley is home for the second-highest optical telescope in the world, established in 2001 by Indian Institute of Astrophysics.

#### **2. ISRO to develop Spatial Data Infrastructure geoportal for Ladakh: Union Minister Jitendra Singh**

The government of the Union Territory of Ladakh has approached the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), a unit of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for developing 'Spatial Data Infrastructure geoportal 'Geo-Ladakh' for UT-Ladakh, said Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh.

#### **3. Ladakh celebrates Losar Festival to mark Ladakhi New Year**

Ladakh on December 24 celebrated Losar festival to mark the Ladakhi New Year. Ladakhi New Year is the major socio-religious festival of Ladakh celebrated in winter. The Losar festivities continue for nine more days from the new year with the offering of prayers in the name of God and Goddess, dances and songs in honour of Ibex and the pilgrimage of Mount Kailash.

## Committees

### 1. Committee set up by Home Ministry to look into demand for 'Frontier Nagaland'

The three-member committee of the ministry of home affairs (MHA) constituted by the Centre to study the demand of Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO) for a separate 'Frontier Nagaland' state will arrive in eastern Nagaland on December 16.

The committee headed by adviser, northeast, MHA, AK Mishra will be in eastern Nagaland till December 18.

### 2. Sebi expands committees on cyber security and information systems

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has expanded two of its committees--High Powered Steering Committee on Cyber Security (HPSC-CS) and Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC)--in a bid to strengthen cyber security frameworks and cyber resilience requirements. The committee on cyber security has been expanded to eight members from six earlier.



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**Kal ki Taiyyari, Aaj se!**

## Imp CA

### **1. National Sports Awards 2022: Sharath Kamal, Lakshya Sen, Nikhat Zareen, and others get prestigious awards**

President Droupadi Murmu felicitated over 25 star Indian athletes at the National Sports Awards 2022 ceremony on November 30.

Over 25 athletes were presented with the Arjuna award while veteran table tennis player Achanta Sharath Kamal was presented with the all-important Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award, which is the highest honour in India for a sportsperson. All players felicitated with the Arjuna award would receive Rs15 lakh each.

### **2. WHO to use 'mpox' for monkeypox to tackle stigma**

Monkeypox is to be renamed mpox, the World Health Organization announced, in a bid to avoid stigmatisation stemming from the existing name.

Monkeypox received its name because the virus was originally identified in monkeys kept for research in Denmark in 1958, but the disease is found in a number of animals, and most frequently in rodents.

### **3. Sebi Sets Up Panel To Review Corporate Takeover Rules**

SEBI has set up three separate committees to reform the capital markets and improve ease of doing business. All three committees will be widely represented by various stakeholders and cover the key areas such as foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), takeover code and the newly-introduced concept of social stock exchanges (SSEs).

### **4. UNESCO recommends Great Barrier Reef world heritage site should be listed as 'in danger'**

The Great Barrier Reef should be placed on to a list of world heritage sites that are 'in danger', according to a recommendation from UN officials that urges Australia to take 'accelerated action at all possible levels' on climate change.

UNESCO says the world's biggest coral reef system should be placed on the list at the world heritage committee meeting next month.

### **5. India extends USD 100 million financial assistance to Maldives to ease economic challenges**

India has provided financial assistance of USD 100 million to the Maldives government amid the economic challenges faced by the country.

The financial support of US\$ 100 million to the Maldives government will be provided through subscription in Maldives' Government Domestic Treasury bonds by SBI, Male.

President of the Maldives: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

### **6. South Korea's Mina Sue Choi is Miss Earth 2022**

South Korea's Mina Sue Choi was crowned Miss Earth 2022 during the pageant's coronation night at Cove Manila, Okada Hotel, Paraaueque City.

Miss Fire 2022 is Andrea Aguilera of Colombia, Miss Water 2022 is Nadeen Ayoub of Palestine, and Miss Air 2022 is Sheridan Mortlock of Australia.

Jenny Ramp from Phillipines won the the Best in Fauna Costume award.

### **7. World AIDS Day | 1 December**

World AIDS Day is observed on December 1 and this year's theme is "Equalize."

Since 1988, World AIDS Day has been observed to spread awareness about this life-threatening condition caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). It is also observed to extend support to those who are fighting AIDS.

As per WHO's latest data, 38.4 mn people were living with AIDS in 2021.

### **8. Stphanie Frappart to make history as the first woman to referee a men's World Cup match**

Alongside assistants Neuza Back from Brazil and Karen Diaz from Mexico, the Frenchwoman Frappart will form part of an all-female refereeing trio officiating Costa Rica vs. Germany in their Group E match.

In 2019, she became the first female referee to take charge of a Ligue 1 match, in August 2019 the first to take charge of a major men's European match. In 2020, she became the first female to officiate a men's UEFA Champions League match.

### **9. Border Security Force celebrated its Raising Day on 1 December**

The Border Security Force (BSF), India's first line of defence, has celebrated its 58th Raising Day on 1 December.

It was on December 1, 1965 that the first sector of the Punjab Frontier of the BSF was raised with its headquarters in Jalandhar. The Western Frontier initially comprised of Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat and with its headquarters at Jalandhar.



### **10. World's first intra-nasal vaccine for COVID developed by India has got approval from the CDSCO**

World's first intra-nasal vaccine for COVID developed by India has got approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) for restricted use in emergency situations in the age group of 18 and above.

This vaccine received approval under restricted Use in emergency situations for ages 18 and above for primary 2 dose schedule, homologous booster doses.

### **11. RBI's modified digital lending norms to come in effect from 1st Dec**

The digital lending modified guidelines aim to protect customers from exorbitant interest rates and keep a check on unethical loan recovery practices. As per the new norms, all loan disbursements and repayments are to be executed only between the bank accounts of the borrowers and the regulated entities such as the banks and the NBFCs.

### **12. SEBI reduces timeline to list debt securities issued on pvt placement basis**

SEBI reduced the timeline for listing of debt securities issued on a private placement basis to three days. Currently, the timeline is four days and the latest move would also expedite the availability of securities for trading by the investors.

The new guidelines would come into effect from January 1, 2023.

### **13. Tatas, Walt Disney to launch Tata Play IPO; becomes 1st firm to file confidential draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI**

The direct-to-home platform, Tata Play (formerly Tata Sky), has become the first firm to file confidential papers with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for an initial public offering (IPO). It is Tata Group's first IPO since the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) listing in 2004.

SEBI introduced the concept of confidential filings in November 2022.

### **14. Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar appointed chairperson of the National Statistical Commission**

The Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) said that the Government of India had appointed Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar, Professor Emeritus at CMI, as the part-time chairperson of the National Statistical Commission (NSC) of India for a period of three years.

NSC is an autonomous body formed in June 2005 under the recommendation of the Dr. C Rangarajan commission. The chairperson of the Commission enjoys the status of a Minister of State, GoI.

### **15. NPCI extends UPI volume cap deadline by 2 years till Dec 2024**

In a major relief to payment firms like PhonePe and Google Pay, the National Payments Corporation of India extended the volume cap deadline for third-party application providers by two years, until December 31, 2024. This has been done to preserve growth of NPCI's flagship payments platform 'UPI, which is touching record highs every month, in terms of volume and transaction

### **16. SBI's maiden infra bond issue for Rs 10,000 cr oversubscribed 3.27 times**

The country's largest lender, State Bank of India, has raised Rs 10,000 crore through its maiden issue of infrastructure bonds, for funding projects in segments such as power and roads. The coupon on the 10-year paper was fixed at 7.51 per cent, or about 17 basis points above the yield on government benchmark bonds. The base issue size was Rs 5,000 crore, with a green shoe option of Rs 5,000 crore.

### **17. Canara Bank receives the Banker's Bank 2022 award**

Canara Bank, on Friday, announced receiving the Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022 for the India segment at the Global Banking Summit. The judgment criteria included the ability to deliver returns, strategy, innovation, technology, and product and services in their respective geographies in the last 12 months MD and CEO of Canara Bank-L V Prabhakar

### **18. IDFC Mutual Fund to be renamed Bandhan Mutual Fund**

Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) cleared Bandhan-led consortium's proposed acquisition of IDFC Asset Management Company.

Earlier this year, a consortium of Bandhan Financial Holdings (BFHL), GIC, and ChrysCapital signed an agreement to buy IDFC AMC and IDFC AMC Trustee Company from parent IDFC, for Rs 4,500 crore. BFHL will own about 60% and GIC and ChrysCapital will hold 20% each in IDFC AMC.

### **19. RBI, Financial Services Agency of Japan exchange letters of cooperation**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Financial Services Agency (FSA), Japan exchanged letters of cooperation in the field of Central Counter Parties (CCPs) with the objective of improving mutual cooperation.

With this exchange of letters, RBI and FSA are committed to deepen relations between the two countries and strengthen the exchange of information.

## **20. RBI comes out with four-tiered regulatory framework for urban cooperative banks**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a four-tiered regulatory framework for the categorization of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs). Besides, the central bank has come out with norms pertaining to the net worth and capital adequacy of these banks. The four-tiered regulatory framework, based on the size of deposits of the UCBs, will come into force with immediate effect. The extant regulatory framework classifies UCBs into two tiers - Tier I and Tier II.

## **21. IIFL launches India's first passive tax-saving fund after SEBI's nod**

IIFL Mutual Fund has launched the new fund offering of IIFL ELSS Nifty 50 Tax Saver Index Fund (IN50). It is the first passively managed tax-saving scheme (also known as Equity-Linked Savings Scheme, or ELSS) to be launched after the capital market regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), allowed fund houses to launch such passive funds on May 23, 2022. IN50 is an equity fund.

## **22. Asian Junior C'ships: Unnati Hooda wins India's first-ever medal in under-17 category**

Indian shuttler Unnati Hooda became the first-ever Indian under-17 shuttler to clinch a medal at the Asian Junior Badminton Championships.

She lost to Sarunrak Vitidsarn of Thailand in the gold medal match in the women's singles category.

In the men's doubles category, the in-form duo of Arsh and Sanskar also got a silver medal. Unnati Hooda is world No. 4 in the junior badminton world rankings.

## **23. UAE emerges as second biggest tea importer from India after CIS bloc**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) emerged as the second largest importer of tea from India after the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as a block, according to the latest data released by Tea Board. During the period from January to September 2022, UAE imported 28.58 million kilograms of tea from India, a rise of 159 per cent from the similar nine-month period of 2021. Assam is the largest producer of tea in India.

## **24. EAM S Jaishankar and German FM Annalena Baerbock discuss key global challenges; inks mobility pact**

India and Germany inked a mobility partnership pact and held comprehensive discussions on key global challenges including the Ukraine conflict, the situation in Afghanistan, and cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

Baerbock arrived on a two-day visit, four days after India formally took over the presidency of the G-20 grouping. 'Chancellor of Germany: Olaf Scholz.

## **25. Hyderabad gets India's first real-time Gold ATM**

Goldsikka Pvt Ltd launched its first Gold ATM with Technology support from M/s OpenCube Technologies Pvt Ltd, a Hyderabad-based startup company. This is India's first and the world's first real-time Gold ATM. The ATM has a capacity of storing 5kgs of gold. There are 8 available options for the quantity of gold starting from 0.5 grams to 100 grams.

## **26. World No. 3 Sukant Kadam strikes gold at Peru Para Badminton International**

Sukant Kadam smashed his way to a gold medal at the Peru Para-Badminton International, defeating ace shuttler defeated Singapore's Chee Hiong Ang.

In the women's category, Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan and Mandeep Kaur clinched the titles in the SH6 & SL3 singles sections.

While Nithya overpowered Peru's Giuliana Poveda Flores, Mandeep defeated Ukraine's Oksana Kozyna.

India won 14 medals in total (6 gold, 1 silver and 7 bronze).

## **27. Adani Green becomes world's largest wind-solar hybrid power developer with 450 MW Rajasthan plant**

Adani Green stated that it has commissioned a 450 MW wind-solar hybrid power plant in Rajasthan. With the new hybrid plant in Jaisalmer, Adani Green Energy has the largest operational hybrid power generation capacity of 1,440 MW. AGEL has a total operational generation capacity of 7.17 GW, making it the largest wind-solar hybrid power farm developer.

## **28. Technotex 2023 to be held in Mumbai from 22nd to 24th February, 2023**

India's premier show on Technical Textiles - 'Technotex 2023' will be held in Mumbai from 22nd to 24th February 2023. The largest event of technical textile industry in India is focused on providing its attendees access and networking opportunities to meet top CEOs, manufacturers, industry peers, purchase managers and suppliers from India and around the globe.

## **29. India's GDP to grow at 6.9% in FY23 & will remain one of the fastest-growing major economies, says World Bank**

The World Bank in its India Development Update has upgraded the forecast for the Indian economy to 6.9% from 6.5% earlier in the current fiscal year.

The report sees average retail inflation at 7.1% this year. World Bank's India Development Update said India is affected by spillovers from the US, Euro area, and China.

### **30. India hosts conclave of top security officials of Central Asian countries**

For the 1st time, India hosted conclave of top security officials of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan & Uzbekistan with a focus on the evolving security situation in Afghanistan and ways to deal with threat of terrorism emanating from that country.

The meeting coincides with the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between India & the Central Asia.

'National Security Adviser Ajit Doval chaired this conclave.

### **31. Razorpay becomes India's first payment gateway to support credit cards on UPI**

Razorpay, India's full-stack payments and banking platform for businesses announced the platform's readiness to support credit card transactions on Unified Payments Interface (UPI). With this launch, Razorpay becomes India's first PG to support credit cards on UPI.

Customers of HDFC Bank, Punjab National Bank, Union Bank & Indian Bank will be the 1st to enjoy the benefits.

### **32. Armed Forces Flag Day 2022 | December 7**

December 7 is marked as the Armed Forces Flag Day or the Flag Day in India every year. The day is commemorated in order to honour the soldiers serving in India's armed forces as well as the veterans. This year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the new naval ensign that eschews the Union Jack and other colonial heritage of the past. The day has been observed annually since December 7, 1949.

### **33. International Civil Aviation Day 2022 | December 7**

International Civil Aviation Day is observed on December 7 every year. The day was established by the United Nations in order to promote the importance of international civil aviation.

The ICAO Council establishes the theme for International Civil Aviation Day every four years. The theme till 2023 is "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development". International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Headquarters: Montreal, Canada.

### **34. Monetary Policy Statement, 2022-23 Resolution of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) December 5-7, 2022**

Increase the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 35 basis points to 6.25 per cent with immediate effect.

Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate stands adjusted to 6.00 per cent and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.50 per cent.

CPI inflation moderated to 6.8 per cent (y-o-y) in October 2022. The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during February 6-8, 2023.

### **35. Special forces exercise of Indian Navy, US Navy underway in Goa**

The 7th edition of Exercise Sangam, a joint Naval Special Forces exercise between Indian Navy MARCOs and US Navy SEALs commenced in Goa on December 1.

Notably, the 18th edition of the Indo-US joint training exercise 'YUDH ABHYAS 22' started in Uttarakhand last month.

The exercise is planned for a duration of three weeks. Exercise Sangam was first conducted in 1994.

### **36. NDDDB, Amul to Help Boost Sri Lanka's Dairy Industry**

Sri Lanka has sought technical assistance from India's National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) and market leader Amul in order to scale up its dairy production and become self-sufficient, reviving a collaboration that the island attempted but failed to pursue in the late 1990s.

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), markets milk under the Amul brand.

### **37. Aditya Mittal Becomes India's 77th Chess Grandmaster**

Sixteen-year-old Aditya Mittal has become India's 77th chess Grandmaster.

The Mumbai player, who had secured three GM norms, crossed 2,500 ELO points mark during the sixth round of the ongoing Ellobregat Open tournament in Spain.

To become a GM, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 ELO points.

### **38. Retired BPCL head Arun Kumar Singh appointed ONGC chairman for 3 years**

Arun Kumar Singh, formerly the chairman of the oil refining and marketing company BPCL was appointed as the new chairman of ONGC, India's major oil and gas producer, for three years.

This is the first instance of a retired person being appointed the head of a Maharatna PSU.

There are twelve companies that have the Maharatna status.

### **39. Tata Sons' N Chandrasekaran appointed Chair of B20 India**

The government has appointed Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran as the Chair of B20 India, industry body CII said.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has been appointed as the B20 India Secretariat by the Indian government to lead the B20 India process.

He will lead the business agenda during India's G-20 presidency. Sanjiv Bajaj, President, CII, and Chairman & Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv Limited.

### **40. Peru gets its first female president after Pedro Castillo is impeached**

The South American country, Peru, saw a significant political upheaval. Pedro Castillo has been impeached and arrested & Dina Boluarte has become the country's first female President.

The latest political crisis in Peru is a continuation of a series of events that have led to four Presidents since 2020. Castillo, a left-wing former school teacher, was elected in June 2021.

### **41. Time magazine names Volodymyr Zelensky 'Person of the Year'**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and the spirit of Ukraine have been named Time magazine's 2022 Person of the Year.

The magazine did name the women of Iran, the movement of young women protesting the Heroes of the Year.

Blackpink South Korea's most successful girl band was named Entertainer of the Year.

Time is an American news magazine based in New York City.

Last year, Time gave the title to the CEO of SpaceX and Tesla, Elon Musk.

### **42. Ujjivan SFB gets RBI nod to reappoint Ittira Davis as MD and CEO for 2 years**

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank on December 7, said it has received the approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the reappointment of Ittira Davis as its managing director and chief executive officer for a period of two years.

Davis has been associated with Ujjivan since March 2015.

Ujjivan SFB Headquarters: Bengaluru. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (USFB) commenced its Banking operations from February 1, 2017.

### **43. NABARD names Shri Shaji KV as Chairman**

Shaji Krishnan V has been named Chairman of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). He formerly served as NABARD's Deputy Managing Director (DMD) till May 21, 2020.

From 2013 until 2017, he served as the Chairman of Kerala Grameen Bank.

He replaced Govinda Rajulu Chintala.

### **44. L&T Finance replaces State Bank of India (SBI) as the biggest renewable energy financier in 2021**

Coal vs Renewables Financial Analysis 2022 identifies L&T Finance replacing SBI as the biggest financier in project finance for renewable energy in 2021.

5th edition of Coal vs Renewable Financial Analysis, authored by Climate Trends & Centre for Financial Accountability (CFA), was released at CFA's annual energy finance conference hosted in collaboration with IIT Madras.

### **45. International Anti-Corruption Day 2022 | December 9**

International Anti-Corruption Day is observed annually on December 9 with an aim to raise awareness against corruption and the measures that can be implemented to fight it. The UN General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption on October 31, 2003, and designated December 9 as International Anti-Corruption Day.

### **46. RBI signs Currency Swap Agreement with Maldives Monetary Authority**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed a Currency Swap Agreement with the Maldives Monetary Authority under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework. This agreement will enable the Maldives authority to make drawals in multiple tranches up to a maximum of 200 million dollars from the RBI.

### **47. 20 Indian firms in 500 most valuable globally, Reliance top: Hurun report**

Twenty Indian companies, up eight from last year, are among the 500 most-valuable ones in the world, Hurun report showed. With a valuation of \$202 billion, Reliance Industries was the most valuable Indian company on the list. Globally, it was the 34th biggest company. Apple, worth \$2.4 trillion, was the most valuable company, followed by Microsoft, with \$1.8 trillion.

### **48. Asian Development Bank Approves \$250 Million Loan To Strengthen Logistics Sector**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday said it has approved a USD 250 million policy-based loan to support India's wide-ranging reforms that aim to strengthen and modernise the country's logistics

infrastructure, improve efficiency, and lower costs. This will rationalise India's high cost of logistics and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. ADB HQ- Manila, Philippines

#### **49. Government Infuses Rs 5,000 Crore In SWAMIH Fund**

The Union government has infused about '5,000 crore in SWAMIH Investment Fund I, helping the fund mark its final close of '15,530 crore. The SBICAP Ventures-managed fund invests in stressed residential projects. The fund is sponsored by the finance ministry and managed by SBICAP Ventures, a unit of State Bank of India.

#### **50. PM Modi flags off India's sixth Vande Bharat train on Nagpur-Bilaspur route**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off India's sixth Vande Bharat Express between Bilaspur (Chattisgarh)-Nagpur (Maharashtra) route. The Bilaspur- Nagpur Vande Bharat Express will be operated by the Southeast Central Railways (SECR). Vande Bharat Express is India's first semi-highspeed train equipped with world-class passenger amenities.

#### **51. 9th World Ayurveda Congress: PM Modi inaugurates 3 National Ayush Institutes**

The institutes inaugurated by PM Modi include the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Goa, National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), Ghaziabad and National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH), Delhi. National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh will be a satellite Centre of the existing National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore. NIUM will be first such institute in Northern India.

#### **52. Jos Buttler, Sidra Ameen clinch November 2022 ICC Player of the Month Awards**

England's T20 World Cup-winning captain Jos Buttler was named ICC men's Player of the Month for the first time following his stupendous show in November. Pakistan's Sidra Ameen became the second successive winner of the women's Player of the Month award from the country.

Virat Kohli and Nida Dar were crowned ICC Players of the Month for October 2022.

#### **53. CJI administers oath to newly appointed SC judge Dipankar Datta**

Bombay High Court Chief Justice Dipankar Datta was administered the oath of office as a Supreme Court judge by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud. With the swearing-in of Justice Datta, the total number of judges in the apex court has reached 28 against the sanctioned strength of 34, including the CJI.

#### **54. Union Ministry, ISRO develop a project-monitoring mobile application**

The Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (MoDoNER) has in collaboration with North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC) under the department of space has developed a project-monitoring mobile application.

The physical progress of the projects supported by MoDoNER is monitored in three modes viz mobile apps, satellite images and drone images.

#### **55. RBI slaps penalty on 13 cooperative banks for breaking regulatory norms**

The Reserve Bank of India announced penalties against 13 cooperative banks on Monday for breaking various regulatory standards. According to the RBI, fines are based on regulatory compliance shortcomings and are not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the banks with their customers

#### **56. SBI wrote off Rs 1.65 lakh crore loans in last four fiscal years, shows data**

Country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) wrote off loans worth Rs 1.65 lakh crore in last four fiscal years followed by Punjab National Bank (PNB) which wrote off Rs 59,807 crore, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed the Parliament. Banks typically write off loans where there is no scope of recovery .

#### **57. National Energy Conservation Day 2022 | December 14**

President Droupadi Murmu launched an 'EV-Yatra portal' & a mobile application, which will facilitate in-vehicle navigation to the nearest public EV charger.

The President also felicitated the winners of the National Energy Conservation Awards and National Energy Efficiency Innovation Awards.

The Government of India set up Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) on 1st March 2002. National Energy Conservation Day is being celebrated every year on Dec 14 since 1991.

#### **58. Supreme Court Collegium recommends five names to Centre for appointment as apex court judges**

Those recommended for elevation to the Supreme Court are Rajasthan High Court chief justice Pankaj Mithal, Manipur High Court chief justice PV Sanjay Kumar, Patna High Court chief justice Sanjay Karol, Patna HC judge Ahsanuddin Amanullah, and Allahabad High Court judge Manoj Misra.

The Supreme Court collegium was headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud.

### **59. The World Health Organization names Sir Jeremy Farrar as its new chief scientist**

The World Health Organization said that Jeremy Farrar will become its new chief scientist as the agency prepares to cope with post-pandemic health challenges.

He will join the WHO in the second quarter of 2023, replacing Soumya Swaminathan.

Dr Amelia Latu Afuhamango Tuipulotu has been named WHO's Chief Nursing Officer. WHO Director-General : Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

### **60. New World Bank Toolkit To Make Transport and Public Spaces More Gender Inclusive**

The World Bank today launched a 'Toolkit on Enabling Gender Responsive Urban Mobility and Public Spaces in India' with the aim of guiding Indian cities on how to design public transport that is more inclusive of women's travelling requirements. India has amongst the lowest female labor force participation rates globally, at 26.2 percent in 2020-21.

### **61. New Zealand passes law banning cigarettes for future generations**

New Zealand passed a law banning cigarettes for future generations in the country. It is considering an attempt to bring in a near-total tobacco ban from next year. According to media reports, the law passed by Parliament means that anyone born after 2008 will never be able to buy cigarettes or tobacco products in the country. Smoking rate in New Zealand is one of the lowest

### **62. Assam's Gamosa, Telangana's Tandur Redgram, Ladakh's apricot get GI tag**

The government has granted Geographical Indications tag to various products, including Gamosa of Assam, Tandur Redgram of Telangana, and an apricot variety of Ladakh. The commerce and Industry ministry said on Wednesday that the total number of GI has reached to 432. The top five states holding maximum number of GIs are Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka&Kerala

### **63. Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to inaugurate 7th India IWIS 2022**

Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will inaugurate the 7th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS 2022) at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi. The theme of the summit this year is Restoration and Conservation of Small Rivers in a Large Basin. It will also focus on the select aspects of 'Mapping and Convergence of 5Ps' - People, Policy, Plan, Program & Project.

### **64. India's WPI Inflation Declines To 5.85% In November, Hits 21-Month Low**

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation data for India has been released. According to this data, India's WPI inflation has eased, bringing relief to a long cycle of rising prices. As per latest updates, this WPI inflation has eased to 5.85 per cent, hitting a 21-month low after a very long time. In October, the WPI inflation figures stood at 8.39 per cent.

### **65. Night trials of Agni-5 nuclear-capable ballistic missile carried out successfully**

India has successfully carried out night trials for the Agni-5 nuclear-capable ballistic missile. The NCBM is capable of hitting targets at a range of over 5,000 kilometers.

In June, India successfully carried out a night launch of the nuclear-capable Agni-4 ballistic missile, in a boost to India's military capabilities.

### **66. 36,428 villages to be developed as 'model tribal villages': Govt to LS**

Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs is working to develop 36,428 villages with at least 50% tribal population and 500 STs across the country into 'model tribal' villages.

It is part of the existing Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS), which has now been renamed to the Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna for implementation from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Minister of State (MoS) for Tribal Affairs: Renuka Singh.

### **67. The United Nations Recognizes Namami Gange As One Of The Top 10 World Restoration Flagships**

The United Nations (UN) has recognized Namami Gange initiative to rejuvenate India's sacred River Ganga as one of the top 10 World Restoration Flagships to revive the natural world. The Award was received by Mr. G. Asok Kumar, Director General, Namami Gange at a function in the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada.

### **68. Govt allocates Rs 1037.90 crore to New India Literacy Programme for next 5 years**

The central government has allocated a total financial outlay of the New India Literacy Programme (NILP) for five years to be Rs.1037.90 crore. The minister said that the government has announced a Centrally Sponsored Scheme NILP for implementation during five years from 2022-23 to 2026-27.

### **69. 48th GST Council Meeting: No claim bonus to not be taxed under GST and other key takeaways**

The 48th GST Council met under the Chairmanship of Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. The meeting was also attended by Union Minister of State for Finance Shri Pankaj Choudhary.

SUVs with an engine capacity of 1,500 cc and length exceeding 4,000 mm with a ground clearance of 170 mm could be levied a 22 percent compensation cess.

#### **70. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav appointed as first Chancellor of Gati Shakti University**

Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, Govt. of India has been appointed as the Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara by Hon'ble President Smt. Draupadi Murmu. It is noteworthy to mention that Shri Ashwini Vaishnav will be the first Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya. Hon'ble President has also appointed Dr. Manoj Chaudhary, as the first Vice Chancellor.

#### **71. IMF executive board approves \$3bn loan to Egypt under Extended Fund Facility**

International Monetary Fund approved a \$3 billion loan to Egypt, with an immediate disbursement of \$347 million.

Egypt will benefit from the loan over 46 months under the Extended Fund Facility. The agreement is for 2,350.17 million SDRs, or Special Drawing Rights, an IMF unit of account based on a basket of five major international currencies, equivalent to about \$3 bn.

#### **72. FIFA World Cup 2022 Final: Lionel Messi's Argentina beat France 4-2 on penalties**

After a 3-3 thriller across 120 minutes, Argentina bested France 4-2 on penalties to win their third World Cup, after 36 years. Earlier, while Argentina took a 2-0 lead via Lionel Messi and Angel Di Maria, it was Kylian Mbappe, who got France back with a brace inside 97 seconds in the second half.

#### **73. Stealth guided missile destroyer Mormugao commissioned into Indian Navy**

The stealth guided missile destroyer Mormugao, the 2nd of the four 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers, was commissioned into the Indian Navy.

INS Mormugao is the second of the 4 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers of 'Project 15B', indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation, Warship Design Bureau & constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai. Named after the historic port city of Goa, Mormugao undertook sea trial on Dec 19, 2021.

#### **74. RBI imposes Rs 2.66 crore penalty on Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC**

Reserve Bank of India imposed a penalty of Rs 2.66 crore on Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC, India operations for non-compliance with directions on cyber security framework.

RBI said the penalty is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers. Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait B.S.C (BBK) was incorporated in Bahrain in March 1971.

#### **75. Account aggregator network: 94 FIUs, 26 FIPs onboarded on RBI's financial data-sharing system**

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) financial data-sharing system Account Aggregator (AA), launched in September 2021, has onboarded 94 financial institutions as financial information users (FIUs) as of December 12, 2022.

The details were shared by the Minister of State for finance Bhagwat Karad in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

#### **76. France's Karim Benzema announces retirement from international football**

Ballon D'Or winner Karim Benzema announced his retirement from International Football.

Benzema, who scored 37 goals in 97 appearances for France, had to withdraw from the World Cup squad before their first match in Qatar due to a left thigh injury he suffered in training.

Benzema has won the Champions League 5 times with Real Madrid and helped them to four Spanish titles.

#### **77. Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2022-23 (Series III) opened for Subscription**

Sovereign Gold Bonds was opened for subscription on 19th December 2022. This is the third Series of SGB Scheme in 2022-23 fiscal. The issue price of the bond during the subscription period will be five thousand four hundred and nine rupees per gram. The government has allowed discount of fifty rupees per gram to investors who apply online & make payment through digital mode.

#### **78. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launches one of India's first-ever Surety Bond Insurance products from Bajaj Allianz**

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has launched one of India's first-ever Surety Bond Insurance products from Bajaj Allianz. Surety Bond Insurance will act as a security arrangement for infrastructure projects and will insulate the contractor as well as the principal. The Surety Bond Insurance is a risk transfer tool for the Principal.

### **79. Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra became the most written-about athlete in 2022 leaving behind Usain Bolt**

Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was the most written-about track and field athlete in 2022, displacing Jamaican sprint legend Usain Bolt from the top of the list after years. Neeraj Chopra, the Tokyo Olympics men's javelin champion, led the way with 812 articles ahead of the Jamaican women's sprint trio of Olympic champion Elaine Thompson-Herah (751 articles). Neeraj Chopra also became the first athlete from India to win Diamond League final 2022.

### **80. Senior nuclear scientist Dinesh Kumar Shukla is new head of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board**

Dinesh Kumar Shukla has been appointed as the chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) for a period of three years.

Shukla, who has been the executive director of the AERB, succeeds G Nageswara Rao to the top post. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board was constituted on 15 November 1983 by the President of India.

### **81. Indian Navy launches INS Arnala; first ship of ASW SWC Project**

Arnala, the first ship of the ASW SWC Project, being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, GRSE for the Indian Navy was launched on December 20 at Kattupalli, Chennai. She made her first contact with the water of the Bay of Bengal at 1040 hrs at the launch ceremony graced by Rasika Chaube, Financial Adviser, Ministry of Defence.

### **82. Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launches country's first Green Steel Brand**

Steel Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched India's first Green Steel Brand - KALYANI FeRRESTA in New Delhi. This first-of-its-kind steel has been manufactured by a Pune-based Steel company, Kalyani group by using renewable energy resources, leaving zero carbon footprints in the environment. Green steel is the manufacturing of steel without the use of fossil fuels.

### **83. Puducherry, Lakshadweep and Goa adjudged best performers among States/UTs in Social Progress Index**

The Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) along with Institute for Competitiveness and Social Progress Imperative today released the Social Progress Index (SPI) for States and Districts of India as mandated by the EAC-PM. Puducherry, Lakshadweep, and Goa stand out as the best-performing States in the index.

### **84. India GDP grew by 9.7% in H1FY23, says Finance Ministry**

India's gross domestic product growth in the first half of the current fiscal year averaged at 9.7 per cent, the finance ministry said in its mid-year expenditure and revenue statement. Ministry said it could not present the medium-term expenditure framework as said in Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, because projections were disrupted by global situation.

### **85. Adani Solar introduces India's first large sized monocrystalline silicon ingot**

Adani Solar, the photovoltaic manufacturing and research arm of the Adani Group, has introduced India's first large sized monocrystalline silicon ingot. Inaugurated at Mundra facility, the monocrystalline ingots will drive indigenization to produce renewable electricity from Silicon based PV modules with efficiencies ranging from 21% to 24%. Adani Solar is a part of Adani New Industries (ANIL)

### **86. IGX launches gas index, plans trading in pipeline capacity**

The Indian Gas Exchange (IGX), promoted by the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX), has launched an index that will reflect gas prices and will soon come up with a product for trading in gas pipeline capacity. The index, which IGX has named 'GIXI', will reflect the volume-weighted average price for all gas traded and would represent the gas prices at the Western and Southern hubs.

### **87. Country's first infantry Museum opens for public in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh**

On the eve of 75 years of raising of the Infantry School and to commemorate the Vijay Diwas, the country's first Infantry Museum opened to the general public. This museum is the country's first and world's second Infantry museum. History of the Infantry corps shown in this museum is from 1747 to 2020, in which the sacrifice and valor of Infantry soldiers are depicted.

### **88. India's textile and apparel exports including handicrafts achieve over 44 billion dollars in the last FY**

Minister of State for Textiles Darshana Jardosh has said that India's textile and apparel exports including handicrafts achieved over 44 billion dollar in the last financial year, registering a growth of 41 per cent under the 'Make in India' initiative. Exports of readymade garments which included cotton accessories recorded more than six billion dollar export for FY2022. The 'Make in India' initiative was launched in September 2014



### **89. DoT forms 4 task forces to boost domestic telecom mfg, remove hurdles**

The Department of Telecom (DoT) has formed four task forces to recommend to the government measures that will boost the domestic telecom manufacturing ecosystem and remove the bottlenecks. The development follows a round table between Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and 42 chiefs of telecom.

### **90. NSE gets Sebi nod to set up Social Stock Exchange**

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) received in-principle approval from market regulator Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 19, 2022, to set up a Social Stock Exchange (SSE) as a separate segment of the NSE. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Union Budget speech of 2019-20, had proposed creation of a Social Stock Exchange, under SEBI.

### **91. RBI's revised bank locker rules to come into effect from 1st of January**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated banks in the country to renew their locker agreements with existing locker customers by 1st January. All the existing locker depositors are required to furnish proof of eligibility for a renewed locker arrangement. They are required to sign a renewal agreement before the specified date.

### **92. CIBIL, SIDBI, Online PSB loans launch MSME rankings**

FIT Rank provides a ranking for the MSME, based on its financial, income, and trade data on a scale of 1 to 10, FIT Rank 1 being for the least risky MSME and FIT Rank 10 being for the most at-risk MSME. Each FIT rank corresponds to a Probability of Default (PD). The lower the FIT Rank, the lower the perceived risk of default associated with the MSME.

### **93. Anil Kumar Lahoti to be the next railway board chairman and CEO from January 1**

Anil Kumar Lahoti has been appointed as the Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board. He has been working as a member of the Infrastructure Committee of the Indian Railway Board. He will start his work as a chairman on January 1, 2023.

This is the first appointment of the Railway Board chief after the government notified the integrated railway service, IRMS. He will be taking over the chairmanship from Vinay Kr Tripathi.

### **94. AVGC Task Force Report calls for National AVGC-XR Mission with budgetary outlay**

The Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comic (AVGC) Task Force has called for a National AVGC-XR Mission with a budget outlay to be created for integrated promotion & growth of the AVGC sector. In a report submitted to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Task Force headed by Secretary I&B has recommended launching a 'Create in India' campaign. It focuses on content creation, In India, For India & For World

### **95. RBI to Migrate Its Payment Fraud Reporting Module to DAKSH from 1st January**

In order to streamline reporting, enhance efficiency and automate the payments fraud management process, the RBI said the fraud reporting module will be migrated to DAKSH --- the Reserve Bank's advanced supervisory monitoring system -- from January 1.

This reporting was earlier facilitated through Electronic Data Submission Portal (EDSP) and is being migrated to DAKSH.

### **96. Bharat Biotech's nasal vaccine 'iNCOVACC' to be available at Rs 325 for govt hospitals, Rs 800 for Pvt centers**

Bharat Biotech has said that its nasal vaccine against Covid-19, iNCOVACC, would be available to the public from the fourth week of January. The Hyderabad-based biotechnology company said that the vaccine will cost 800 rupees for private markets and 325 rupees for governments. iNCOVACC has been developed by Bharat Biotech in partnership with America's Washington University

### **97. India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement comes into force**

India, Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement comes into force from 29-12-2022. India and Australia signed the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) on the 2nd of April this year. ECTA is the first trade agreement of India with a developed country after more than a decade.

### **98. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw unveils digital innovation alliance for G20**

Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Communications and Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the G20 Digital Innovation Alliance (DIA) and a 'stay safe online' campaign, with the aim of digitally transforming the global economy in a secure cyber environment. The G20'DIA summit, which will be held in Bengaluru. India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant

### **99. Indian Bank launches 'MSME Prerana' in the state of Rajasthan**

Indian Bank, one of the leading public sector banks in the country, has launched its flagship business mentoring program for MSME entrepreneurs 'MSME Prerana' in the state of Rajasthan. Indian Bank's

unique program, 'MSME Prerana', is a first-of-its-kind initiative for MSME Sector in the country by any bank. Shanti Lal Jain, MD & CEO, Indian Bank

#### 100. RBI releases the Financial Stability Report, December 2022

The Reserve Bank of India released the 26th issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR), which reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on risks to financial stability and the resilience of the financial system.

The Financial Stability Report (FSR) is published biannually. The RBI's 25th Financial Stability Report (FSR) was released in June 2022.

#### 101. Average per instance penalty was highest for private sector banks in FY22: RBI report

Instances of imposition of penalty on banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) by the Reserve Bank of India shot up about three times to 189 in FY22 even as the amount of penalty slapped on them more than doubled to '65.32 crore, according to a central bank report.

#### 102. RBI Releases Fifth Volume of Reserve Bank History (1997-2008)

The fifth volume of the Reserve Bank of India's history encompasses the 11-year period from 1997 to 2008. With this volume, the history of the Reserve Bank of India is now updated up to 2008. The Reserve Bank initiated the process of preparation of this volume in 2015 under the guidance of an Advisory Committee chaired by Dr. Narendra Jadhav.

#### 103. Road transport ministry introduces authorisation certificates for car dealers to check malpractices

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has introduced authorization certificates for the dealers of registered vehicles to identify the authenticity of a dealer, a move that will promote ease of doing business and transparency in the sale and purchase of registered vehicles. The new rules will come into force from 1 April, 2023.

#### 104. IDBI Bank signs pact to transfer mutual fund schemes to LIC MF

IDBI Bank said it has signed an agreement to transfer schemes of IDBI Mutual Fund to LIC Mutual Fund. IDBI Bank, the parent of IDBI MF, is majority owned by LIC. Sebi rules bar a single promoter from owning more than 10% stake in two asset management companies (AMCs). LIC MF manages assets over Rs 18,000 crore, while IDBI MF has AUM of just over Rs 3,800 crore.

#### 105. Senior Citizen Savings Scheme, Post office time deposits, NSC interest rates hiked by up to 110 bps for March quarter

The central government hiked interest rates on various small savings schemes including senior citizen savings scheme during the January to March quarter but kept the rate for Public Provident Fund and Sukanya Samridhi scheme unchanged for this period. The rates on the various instruments have been raised between 20 to 110 basis points and now range from 4.0 % to 7.6%.

### QUICK LEARNERS

#### BANKING

<b>Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)</b>	4.50%
<b>Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)</b>	18.00%

<b>POLICY/EXCHANGE RATE &amp; RESERVE RATIO</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
<b>Repo Rate</b>	6.25%
<b>Reverse Repo Rate</b>	3.35%
<b>Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)</b>	6.50%
<b>Bank Rate</b>	6.50%

<b>APPOINTMENT</b>	<b>POST</b>
<b>Prasanth Kumar</b>	President of the Advertising Agencies Association of India
<b>Hansraj Gangaram Ahir</b>	Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)
<b>Sushmita Shukla</b>	Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York
<b>Shenu Agarwal</b>	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Ashok Leyland
<b>Meghna Ahlawat</b>	President of the Table Tennis Federation of India
<b>Meenesh C Shah</b>	Managing Director of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)
<b>K V Suresh Kumar</b>	Chairman and Managing Director of the Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI)

<b>Manoj Govil</b>	Board Member of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
<b>Sanjeev Panchal</b>	Managing Director of AstraZeneca Pharma India
<b>Praveen Kumar</b>	Chairman and Managing Director of Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)
<b>Justice Hemant Gupta</b>	Chairperson of the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre
<b>Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan</b>	Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
<b>PN Vasudevan</b>	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Equitas Small Finance Bank
<b>Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'</b>	Prime Minister of Nepal
<b>Sitiveni Rabuka</b>	Prime Minister of Fiji
<b>Santosh Kumar Yadav</b>	Chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
<b>Ganji Kamala V Rao</b>	Chief Executive Officer of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
<b>Shamsher Singh</b>	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI Funds Management Ltd
<b>Lieutenant General Arvind Walia</b>	Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army
<b>Baskar Babu Ramachandran</b>	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Suryoday Small Finance Bank
<b>Aloke Singh</b>	Chief Executive Officer of CEO of Air India's LCC business
<b>Ajit Kumar Saxena</b>	Chairman and Managing Director of MOIL
<b>Praveen Kumar Srivastava</b>	Acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)
<b>Benjamin Netanyahu</b>	Prime Minister of Israel
<b>Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar</b>	Chairperson of the National Statistical Commission (NSC)
<b>Arun Kumar Singh</b>	Chairman of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
<b>N Chandrasekaran</b>	Chair of B20 India
<b>Dina Boluarte</b>	President of Peru
<b>Ittira Davis</b>	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
<b>Shaji Krishnan V</b>	Chairman of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
<b>Dinesh Kumar Shukla</b>	Chairperson of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)
<b>Justice Dipankar Datta</b>	Supreme Court judge
<b>Jeremy Farrar</b>	Chief Scientist of World Health Organization
<b>Ashwini Vaishnaw</b>	Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya
<b>Anil Kumar Lahoti</b>	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Railway Board
<b>Bhupendra Patel</b>	Chief Minister of Gujarat
<b>Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu</b>	Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh
<b>Mukesh Agnihotri</b>	Deputy Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh

## AWARDS

WINNER	AWARD
The Chipko Movement: A People's Movement by Shekhar Pathak	Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2022
Manthan platform	NSEIT the Best Tech Initiative of the Year at the Dun & Bradstreet Business Excellence Awards 2022
Kheyti	Earthshot Prize
Bank of Baroda	EAG Laureate Award for the Best AML/CFT Financial Analysis
Venkaiah Naidu	Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award (SIES)
Canara Bank	Banker's Bank of the Year Award 2022
SpiceJet	'Safety Performer of the Year' award by GMR Delhi Airport Awards

NMDC	IEI (Institution of Engineers, India) Industry Excellence Award 2022
Sargam Koushal	Mrs World 2022
Beth Mead	BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2022
NHPC Limited	'Best Globally Competitive Power Company of India ' Hydropower and Renewable Energy Sector' at PRAKASHmay
Prof. Thalappil Pradeep	VinFuture special prize
Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Headquarter	GRIHA Exemplary Performance Award 2022
Sudeep Sen	Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22
Shobhana Kumar	Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22
Prabhu Chandra Mishra	Atal Samman Award (Atal Anveshi Shikhar Samman)
Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M)	Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards
Mina Sue Choi	Miss Earth 2022
Volodymyr Zelensky	Time magazine's 2022 Person of the Year
Jos Buttler	ICC men's Player of November 2022
Sidra Ameen	ICC women's Player of November 2022
Gulam Mohammad Shaikh	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Gujarati
Anuradha Roy	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- English
K.B. Nepali	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Nepali
Madhuranthakam Narendra	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Telugu
Manoj Kumar Goswami	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Assamese
Janardan Prasad Pandey	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Sanskrit
Maya Anil Kharangate	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Konkani
M. Rajendran	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Tamil
Kamal Ranga	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Rajasthani
Rashmi Choudhury	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Bodo
Kanhaiyalal Lekhwani	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Sindhi
Anis Ashfaq	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Urdu
Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Kannada
Koijam Shantibala	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Manipuri
Veena Gupta	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Dogri
Sukhjot	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Punjabi
Ajit Azad	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Maithili
Badri Narayan	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Hindi
Farooq Fayaz	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Kashmiri
M. Thomas Mathew	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Malayalam
Praveen Dashrath Bandekar	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Marathi
Gayatribala Panda	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Odia
Jagannath Soren	Sahitya Akademi Award 2022- Santali

### IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
<b>December 1<sup>st</sup></b>	World AIDS Day	Equalize
<b>December 1<sup>st</sup></b>	International Jaguar Day	
<b>December 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Border Security Force- Rising Day	
<b>December 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	National Pollution Control Day	
<b>December 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	World Computer Literacy Day	
<b>December</b>	International day of Abolition of Slavery	

<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>		
<b>December 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)	Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world
<b>December 4<sup>th</sup></b>	International Day of Banks	
<b>December 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Indian Navy Day	
<b>December 4<sup>th</sup></b>	World Wildlife Conservation Day	
<b>December 4<sup>th</sup></b>	International Cheetah Day	
<b>December 5<sup>th</sup></b>	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development	
<b>December 5<sup>th</sup></b>	World Soil Day	Soils: where food begins
<b>December 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Armed Forces Flag Day	
<b>December 7<sup>th</sup></b>	International Civil Aviation Day	Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development
<b>December 8<sup>th</sup></b>	SAARC Charter Day	
<b>December 9<sup>th</sup></b>	International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime	
<b>December 9<sup>th</sup></b>	International Anti-Corruption Day	Uniting the world against corruption
<b>December 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Nobel Prize Day	
<b>December 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Human Rights Day	Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All
<b>December 11<sup>th</sup></b>	International Mountain Day	Women move mountains
<b>December 11<sup>th</sup></b>	UNICEF Day	
<b>December 12<sup>th</sup></b>	International Day of Neutrality	
<b>December 12<sup>th</sup></b>	International Universal Health Coverage Day	Build the world we want: A healthy future for all
<b>December 14<sup>th</sup></b>	National Energy Conservation Day	
<b>December 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Vijay Diwas	
<b>December 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Minority Rights Day	All in 4 Minority Rights
<b>December 18<sup>th</sup></b>	International Migrants Day	
<b>December 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Goa Liberation Day	
<b>December 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Good Governance Week	
<b>December 20<sup>th</sup></b>	International Human Solidarity Day	
<b>December</b>	National Mathematics Day	

<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>		
<b>December 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	National Farmers' Day	
<b>December 24<sup>th</sup></b>	National Consumer Rights Day	
<b>December 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Good Governance Day	
<b>December 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Veer Bal Diwas	
<b>December 27<sup>th</sup></b>	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness	

### OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
<b>Sulochana Chavan</b>	Lavani Singer
<b>Yoginder K Alagh</b>	Economist
<b>Pele</b>	Football Player

### IMPORTANT STATIC & CURRENT INFO

#### INDIAN STATES, CAPITALS, CHIEF MINISTERS & GOVERNORS

STATE	CAPITAL	CHIEF MINISTER	GOVERNOR
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandn
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Brigadier B.D. Mishra (retd)
Assam	Dispur	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Prof. Jagdish Mukhi
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Bhupesh Baghel	Anusuiya Uikey
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Bhupendra Patel	Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Bandaru Dattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	Ramesh Bais
Karnataka	Bengaluru	Basavaraj Bommai	Thaawarchand Gehlot
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shivraj Singh Chauhan	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Eknath Shinde	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	La. Ganesan
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Brigadier B.D. Mishra (retd)
Mizoram	Aizawl	Pu Zoramthanga	Dr Kambhampati Haribabu
Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	Jagdish Mukhi
Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Chandigarh	Bhagwant Mann	Banwarilal Purohit
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	Gangtok	PS Golay	Ganga Prasad
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	M. K. Stalin	R. N. Ravi
Telangana	Hyderabad	K. Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
Tripura	Agartala	Dr. Manik Saha	Satyadeo Narain Arya
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Pushkar Singh Dhami	Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mamata Banerjee	C V Ananda Bose

**UNION TERRITORIES, LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS & ADMINISTRATORS**

UNION TERRITORY	LT. GOVERNOR & ADMINISTRATOR
Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT)	Admiral D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor)
Chandigarh (UT)	Banwarilal Purohit (Administrator)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Delhi (NCT)	Vinai Kumar Saxena (Lieutenant Governor)
Jammu and Kashmir (UT)	Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor)
Lakshadweep (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Puducherry (UT)	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge) (Lieutenant Governor)
Ladakh (UT)	Radha Krishna Mathur (Lieutenant Governor)

**UNION MINISTERS & PORTFOLIO**

UNION MINISTER	PORTFOLIO
<b>Narendra Modi</b>	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space
<b>Rajnath Singh</b>	Ministry of Defence
<b>Amit Shah</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation
<b>Nitin Gadkari</b>	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
<b>Nirmala Sitharaman</b>	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Corporate Affairs
<b>Piyush Goyal</b>	Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of Textiles Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution
<b>Narendra Singh Tomar</b>	Ministry of agriculture and Farmers welfare
<b>Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar</b>	Ministry of External Affairs
<b>Arjun Munda</b>	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
<b>Smriti Zubin Irani</b>	Ministry of Women and child Development Ministry of Minority Affairs
<b>Dharmendra Pradhan</b>	Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
<b>Pralhad Joshi</b>	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of coal Ministry of Mines
<b>Narayan Tatu Rane</b>	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>Sarbananda Sonowal</b>	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
<b>Dr. Virendra Kumar</b>	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
<b>Giriraj Singh</b>	Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj
<b>Jyotiraditya M. Scindia</b>	Ministry of Civil Aviation Ministry of Steel
<b>Ashwini Vaishnaw</b>	Ministry of Railways Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
<b>Pashu Pati Kumar Paras</b>	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
<b>Gajendra Singh Shekhawat</b>	Ministry of Jal Shakti
<b>Kiren Rijiju</b>	Ministry of Law and Justice
<b>Raj Kumar Singh</b>	Ministry of Power Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

<b>Hardeep Singh Puri</b>	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
<b>Mansukh L. Mandaviya</b>	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
<b>Bhupender Yadav</b>	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment
<b>Mahendra Nath Pandey</b>	Ministry of Heavy Industries
<b>Parshottam Rupala</b>	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
<b>G. Kishan Reddy</b>	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
<b>Anurag Singh Thakur</b>	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports



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