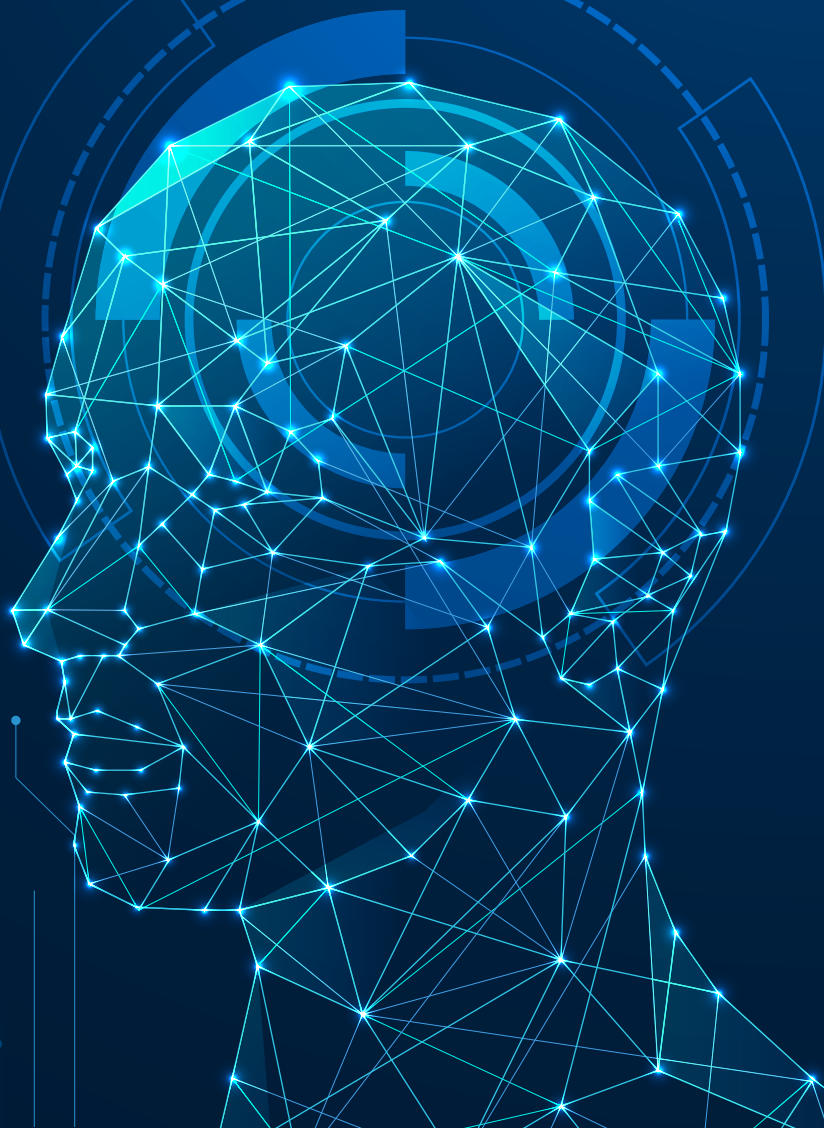


**March 2022**

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## Banking & Finance

### 1. NDB first multilateral agency to open office in Gift City

New Development Bank (NDB) will become the first multilateral agency to open an office in the Gujarat International Finance Tech City (Gift) after an approval for the same this week. The multilateral agency will take all requisite steps to make the Indian office operational by the middle of May.

### 2. UPI transactions value dips to Rs 8.27 lakh crore in February

India's cashless retail transactions on UPI platform were worth Rs 8.27 lakh crore in February, slightly lower than the amount recorded in the previous month, data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

In the preceding month, NETC FASTag toll collections were valued at Rs 3,603.71 crore by way of 23.10 crore (231.01 million) transactions. There were a total of 452 crore (4.52 billion) transactions in February 2022.

### 3. Mahagram to power Bank of Maharashtra's project - 'Bank Sakhi' in Odisha

Bank of Maharashtra has tied up with Mahagram to roll out the 'Bank Sakhi' project in Odisha.

As part of the tie-up, the company has onboarded more than 11,000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform to help the rural citizens avail basic banking services at their doorstep or the next door Kirana stores. Fintech would provide financial technology & infrastructure support to rural areas.

### 4. India's stock exchanges starts T+1 Stock Settlement

On July 9, 1997, about 25 years ago, the National Stock Exchange (NSE) implemented the T+5 stock settlement mechanism. From February 25, 2022, India became only the second country after China to move to the T+1 stock settlement mechanism in a phased manner.

## **5. RBI selects Intellect Design Arena for Cloud Native Intellect Quantum Core Banking solution**

Intellect Design Arena will implement the upgraded version of the Cloud Native Intellect Quantum Core Banking solution to power the next stage of the digital transformation agenda. The next generation Intellect Quantum solution is built on cutting edge API first, cloud-native and cloud-agnostic microservices architecture supported by a rich set of packaged business component. The entire central banking operation of RBI is currently being supported e Kuber

## **6. ICICI Bank makes InstaBIZ interoperable to help merchants**

ICICI Bank announced that it has made InstaBIZ interoperable, making the benefits of its business banking mobile app available to all merchants including customers of other banks. InstaBIZ is an app for business customers to access banking accounts and do transactions on both mobile and tablet devices.

## **7. Banks Board Bureau (BBB) launches programme for improving quality of PSU bank boards**

The nine-month Directors' Development Programme (DDP) is designed for the directors of the PSBs and financial institutions with the key objective of enhancing director effectiveness to increase their impact on the boards.

The programme designed in collaboration with IBA and others will help empower and enrich the board critical for the decision making.

Bhanu Pratap Sharma: Chairman, Banks Board Bureau

## **8. Axis Bank rolls out 'HouseWorkIsWork' initiative; to bring educated women to workforce**

Urban educated women's participation in the workforce still not at desired levels, Axis Bank has kicked off the 'HouseWorkIsWork' initiative, offering opportunities to those who want to rejoin the professional space.

GIG-A-Opportunities is Axis Bank's new platform for alternative work models to attract the finest talent, with a promise of growth.

## **9. SEBI Increases Public Debt Investment Limit Through UPI To Rs 5 Lakhs**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) increased the investment limit for payments through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) mechanism for retail investors buying debt securities in public issues to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 2 lakh currently to make investments more accessible.

## **10. Interest subsidy scheme for exporters extended till March 2024: RBI**

The Reserve Bank of India extended the interest equalisation scheme for pre and post shipment rupee credit for MSME exporters till March 2024 with the objective of boosting outbound shipments. Exporters get subsidy under the 'Interest Equalisation Scheme for pre and post-shipment Rupee Export Credit'.

In April last year, the scheme was first extended till June end and later till September.

## **11. HDFC MF launches financial empowerment initiative for women**

HDFC Mutual Fund has launched a women-led financial empowerment initiative 'LaxmiForLaxmi' which will connect women investors to a woman financial expert near them through a unique missed call service.

The female financial expert will guide and address queries of the woman investor.

## **12. RBI releases booklet on modus operandi of financial frauds**

Sharing of confidential information by customers, knowingly or unknowingly, is one of the major causes leading to financial frauds, according to a booklet, "BE(A)WARE", released by the Reserve Bank of India.

The booklet gives information on the common modus operandi used by fraudsters and precautions to be taken while carrying out various financial transactions.

## **13. RBI bars Paytm Payments Bank from signing new customers; asks company to conduct IT audits**

Reserve Bank of India in exercise of its powers, inter alia, under section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, directed Paytm Payments Bank Ltd to stop, with immediate effect, onboarding of new customers,"

RBI has also asked One 97 Communications Ltd's Paytm Payments Bank Action to appoint an IT audit firm to conduct a comprehensive System Audit of its IT system.

## **14. NaBFID to be regulated as AIFI under RBI Act**

NaBFID shall be regulated and supervised as an All India Financial Institution (AIFI) by the Reserve Bank under Sections 45L and 45N of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Act, 2021, received the assent of the President on March 28, 2021. It came to force with effect from April 19, 2021.

It shall be the fifth AIFI after EXIM Bank, NABARD, NHB and SIDBI, said the apex bank.

### **15. IMF Approves \$1.4 Billion Emergency Support For Ukraine**

The International Monetary Fund said its executive board has approved \$1.4 billion in emergency financing for Ukraine to help meet urgent spending needs and mitigate the economic impact of Russia's military invasion.

The Russian military invasion of Ukraine has been responsible for a massive humanitarian and economic crisis.

### **16. RBI lifts restrictions on HDFC Bank's new digital business generation, allows lender's Digital 2.0 programme**

In a major relief for HDFC Bank, the Reserve Bank of India lifted all restrictions on new digital business generating operations.

RBI has removed all restriction from HDFC's Digital 2.0 programme.

It should be noted that the restrictions were imposed by the Reserve Bank of India in December, 2020.

### **17. UCO Bank to acquire 3% stake in debt resolution company IDRCL**

UCO Bank has entered into an agreement to acquire a 3 percent stake in India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL) for Rs 1.50 crore.

UCO Bank became one of the stakeholders of IDRCL.

The state-owned lender further said the acquisition will be completed within 10 working days from the date of the agreement.



### **18. LivQuik, first to achieve RBI's PPI interoperability guidelines**

Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuer LivQuik has achieved full Interoperability as mandated by the Reserve Bank of India for their Prepaid payments Instruments.

The company is also the first PPI issuer to have achieved full interoperability.

RBI guidelines mandate PPI Issuers to facilitate interoperability for full-KYC wallets by March 31, 2022.

### **19. HSBC Mutual Fund launches CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL April 2028 Index Fund**

HSBC Mutual Fund (MF) has launched HSBC CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL April 2028 Index Fund, an open-ended Target Maturity Index fund. The target maturity fund has a fixed tenure. The securities maturing on or before the maturity date follow a predefined index. According to the fund house, the fund is focused on the short end versus the rich stability of the curve.

### **20. ICICI Bank launches co-branded credit cards with Emirates Skywards**

ICICI Bank launched 'Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Credit Card' in partnership with Emirates Skywards, the loyalty program of Emirates and flydubai. The bouquet of cards allows the customers to earn reward points ' called Skywards Miles ' on travel, lifestyle and everyday spending. ICICI Bank is the first Indian lender to partner with Emirates Skywards.

## **21. Paisabazaar, Orange Retail Finance and Phocket join fintech association Face**

Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment (FACE) has onboarded three new member companies. Digital credit marketplace Paisabazaar along with online consumer credit providers Orange Retail Finance and Phocket, have now become members of the association. Face members collectively cater to more than half of the digital lending market, including B2B and B2C customers. FACE is the largest consumer-oriented fintech association in India

## **22. Mahila Money, Visa and Transcorp launch Mahila Money Prepaid Card for women entrepreneurs**

To help women entrepreneurs easily collect payments, loans and get incentives for transactions, Mahila Money, Visa and Transcorp have teamed up to launch Mahila Money Prepaid Card. Mahila Money said the prepaid card will help women entrepreneurs use digital payments more effectively. A physical copy of the card is also available upon request, in addition to the digital ca

## **23. Axis Bank bags IFR Asia's Asian Bank of the Year and India Bond House Award**

Axis Bank, India's third-largest private sector bank has been awarded IFR Asia's Asian Bank of The Year, for its breadth of coverage and depth of expertise in the Asian investment banking space. The award acknowledges the bank's outstanding performance in equity and debt issuance, across all major products and segments. Axis has also won the 'Best DCM House in India' Award at the Finance Asia's Country Award

#### **24. RBI gives 3-month extension to RBL Bank's interim MD & CEO Rajeev Ahuja**

The Reserve Bank of India has approved the extension of the term of Rajeev Ahuja, interim managing director and CEO of RBL Bank for three months with effect from March 25, 2022, or till the appointment of a regular MD & CEO. Earlier the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given for the appointment of Rajeev Ahuja as interim MD and CEO for three months on December 30, 2021. RBL Bank, formerly known as Ratnakar Bank, is a private bank headquartered in Mumbai.

#### **25. Karnataka Bank bags award 'Best MSME Bank of the year - Winner'**

Karnataka Bank has bagged 'Best MSME Bank of the year - Winner' award among private sector Banks at the 8th Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' s Excellence Awards Ceremony and Summit instituted by ASSOCHAM at New Delhi.

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group based in New Delhi, India. Karnataka Bank has been focusing on MSME sector with various digital products.

#### **26. NPCI set to launch UPI Lite for small value transactions in offline mode**

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is set to launch UPI Lite, which would enable small value transactions in an offline mode.

At present, it will be near offline but will require a smartphone. It is set to go live with pilots in the next 1 week or 10 days.

NPCI has designed the UPI Lite ' on-device wallet functionality for UPI user.

## **27. DBS Bank India launches Green Deposits programme enabling institutions to support sustainable projects**

DBS Bank India has announced the launch of its Green Deposit Programme for corporate clients providing a simple way for companies to support environmentally-friendly projects or avenues.

The program will allow Corporate Entities to fund sustainability projects.

## **28. FinMapp gets licence from PFRDA and Irdai to sell NPS, insurance**

FinMapp, a financial services company, had obtained a license from the Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA) under the National Pension System (NPS). In addition, it has obtained a registration certificate certified as a corporate agent from the Insurance Regulatory Development Bureau (Irdai) of India. The company plans to release the NPS as an investment tool for apps in the coming months.

## **29. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das inaugurates Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) in Bengaluru**

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das inaugurated the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) in Bengaluru, set up with an initial capital contribution of Rs 100 crore to encourage and nurture financial innovation. The Hub has an independent Board with Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan as the Chairman and other eminent persons from industry and academia as members.

## **30. Paytm launches 'Payment Analytics' to help SMEs make data driven decisions**

Digital payments and financial services company One97 Communications Limited, which owns the brand Paytm, has announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary Paytm Payments Services Limited, is enabling merchants with data-driven payment insights to help them understand their customers and their payment preferences.

### **31. Bank of Baroda, RBI's Innovation Hub to boost financial inclusion for millions of women entrepreneurs, others**

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has partnered with RBI's wholly-owned subsidiary Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) to promote financial inclusion of women through technology.

BoB will be the 'scale-up partner' for RBIH's inaugural edition of its programme Swanari TechSprint which would focus on developing digital solutions to help women achieve financial security and independence.

### **32. RBI Sets Framework For Geo-Tagging Of Payment System Operators**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a framework for geo-tagging of payment system touch points, issuing instructions to bank and non bank payment system operators to maintain and submit to it the geographical locations of their touch points on a regular basis.

The announcement was made in the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies released by the RBI.

### **33. Varnika ink manufacturing facility established by RBI in Mysuru, Karnataka**

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das dedicated to the nation the Varnika ink manufacturing facility in Mysuru, Karnataka. Varnika has been set up by Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran (BRBNMPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of RBI. BRBNMPL has set up Varnika with an annual ink manufacturing capacity of 1,500 MT to enhance the security of banknotes.

  
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by Siva Rama Sir  
Ex-GM, SBI PO

## Economy

### 1. GST collections in Feb stand at '1.3L cr

Goods and services tax collections dipped marginally to Rs 1.3 lakh crore during February, compared to Rs 1.4 lakh crore in the previous month.

This was also the first time in nearly five years that cess collected from soft drinks, coal, tobacco, and automobiles and automobiles crossed the Rs 10,000 mark in a month.

### 2. Reliance to invest '1,670 cr in Sanmina's India unit for JV

Reliance Industries (RIL) has signed an agreement to set up a joint venture (JV) with Sanmina Corp through an investment in the US-based company's Indian unit for building an electronics manufacturing hub in Chennai. Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Ltd (RSBVL), an RIL subsidiary, will invest Rs 1,670 crore in new shares for a 50.1 per cent stake in the JV, and Sanmina.

### **3. L&T launches SuFin, a B2B E-Commerce platform for MSMEs**

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has launched an e-commerce platform called L&T-SuFin. It is the country's first integrated e-commerce platform for business to business industrial products and services.

The transaction fee of the platform is around 1.5%.

The platform will have all types of construction and industrial products.

### **4. Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD) extended upto 31.03.2023**

Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt' scheme was launched on 24th June, 2020 to provide credit facility through lending institutions to the promoters of stressed MSMEs viz. SMA-2 and NPA accounts who are eligible for restructuring as per RBI guidelines on the books of the Lending institutions. The Government has decided to further extend this scheme till 31.03.2023 The Government had earlier extended this scheme up to 31.03.2022.

### **5. India breaks into world's top five club in terms of market capitalisation**

India's equity market has broken into the world's top five club in terms of market capitalisation for the first time. The country's total market cap stands at \$3.21 trillion, which is higher than that of the UK (\$3.19 trillion), Saudi Arabia (\$3.18 trillion), and Canada (\$3.18 trillion). India has climbed two positions, despite a 7.4 per cent drop in its market cap. 1st- USA 2nd- China 3rd-Japan 4th- Hong Kong 5th- India 6th- UK 7th- Saudi Arabia

## **6. I-T dept has made highest tax collection in its history: CBDT Chairman**

The I-T department has made the highest collection in its history, CBDT Chairman J B Mohaptra said when the direct tax mop up jumped over 48% in the current fiscal backed by a 41% surge in advance tax payments. The net collection numbers as on Mar 17 is Rs 13.63 lakh cr which is against Rs 11.18 lakh cr of 2018-19, Rs 10.28 lakh cr of 2019-20 and Rs 9.24 lakh cr of 2020-21. FY 2021-22 estimates: the proportion of direct tax to the gross tax revenue would be 49%.

## **7. India's forex reserves dip by \$9.64 billion, the biggest drop in 2 years**

India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves declined by \$9.646 billion to \$622.275 billion in the week ended March 11, the sharpest decline in nearly two years, as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) heavily sold dollars to prevent the slide in the value of rupee. The foreign currency assets are slumped by \$11.108 billion to \$554.359 billion during the week under review. The biggest component of the forex reserves in India is foreign currency assets.

## **8. Coal India Plans to Produce 1 Billion-Ton By 2023-24**

Coal India Limited, the largest coal producer in the world has planned to increase all India coal production to the level of 1 BT by 2023-24 and coal production by Coal India Limited to 1 BT by 2024-25 has been prepared.

As per the draft report of Niti Aayog, the coal demand is expected to remain in the range of 1,192-1,325 million tonnes by 2030.



## 9. ICRA lowers FY23 GDP forecast to 7.2%

Ratings agency Icrasharply lowered India's economic growth forecast for the financial year 2022-23 to 7.2% from 8% estimated earlier as rising fuel and commodity prices due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict are expected to impact domestic demand.

It has also taken into account the downside risks arising from fresh lockdown in parts of China led by a surge in covid-19 cases.



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## National

### **1. International Office to Accelerate Global Monsoon Research Launched on National Science Day; To Be Hosted At IITM Pune**

The International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) will be hosted at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, an institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt of India, initially for five years.

Setting up the IMPO reiterates the importance of monsoons for the national economy.

### **2. India's GDP growth slows to 5.4% in Q3, estimated to rise 8.9% in FY22**

India's economic growth slowed to 5.4 per cent in the third quarter of 2021-22 but higher than China's GDP expansion of 4 per cent during the same period and the country retained its position as the world's fastest growing major economy.

In the current fiscal, GDP growth stood at 20.3 per cent in April-June quarter and 8.5 per cent in July-September period.

### **3. From April 1, GST e-invoice is mandatory for businesses with '20 crore turnover**

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Custom (CBIC) has lowered the threshold for mandatory issuance of e- invoice (electronic invoice) under Goods & Services Tax (GST) to '20 crore from the earlier prescribed limit of '50 crore.

It means businesses with turnover of '20 crore or more will have to issue e-invoice from April, 2022.

#### **4. BEE observes its 20th foundation day with the National Innovation Conclave on Low Carbon Technologies**

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), commemorated its 20th Foundation Day by organising the National Innovation Conclave on Low Carbon Technologies. This conclave provided a platform to present the innovations showing benefits of energy savings and greenhouse gas emission reduction potential when deployed at a large scale in industrial and commercial sectors.

#### **5. 'Sagar Parikrama' from March 5 to showcase marine fisheries sector wealth**

The world's single largest ecosystem, covering nearly three-fourths of the earth's surface, oceans are vital to the economies, security, and livelihoods of lakhs of communities in India that has a coastline of 8,118 km, spanning nine states and four Union Territories. The Parikrama, a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'- an endeavour to know the problems of coastal fisherfolk.

#### **6. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights Celebrates its 17th Foundation Day**

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) today celebrated its 17th Foundation Day at 15th August Ground at Red Fort, New Delhi. The Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani was the chief guest at the event which was attended by the Chairperson of NCPCR, Shri Priyank Kanoongo, Secretary, WCD, Shri Indevar Pandey.

## **7. Field assessment of Swachh Survekshan 2022 launched, with around 3,000 assessors ready to go on field**

The field assessment for the seventh consecutive edition of the world's largest urban cleanliness survey, Swachh Survekshan (SS), was launched on 1st March 2022 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Designed with 'People First' as its driving philosophy.

MoHUA formally kicked off the SS 2022 survey on 1st March 2022.

## **8. UN telecom body ITU to open its area office in New Delhi for South Asia**

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Secretary-General Houlin Zhao signed a pact virtually to establish an area office and innovation centre of the United Nations telecom body in New Delhi.

The setting up of the area office will provide greater access and engagement to India and South Asian countries in global policy. ITU Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; Founded: 17 May 1865

## **9. CDSL becomes 1st depository with 60 million active demat accounts**

Central Depository Services (India) has more than six crore plus (60 million) active Demat accounts.

Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) is India's only listed depository.

As the interest of the general public in Indian share markets has been increasing, the number of Demat accounts too have seen a large upsurge in the past two years. CDSL - Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: February 1999.

## **10. Tata Motors launches Anubhav mobile dealership for rural areas**

Tata Motors has launched its newest initiative the 'Anubhav,' showroom on wheels, a doorstep car buying experience for the rural customers. According to the carmaker, this initiative will help increase reach in Tehsils and Talukas, which have high potential in terms of rural population, and economy. 103 mobile showrooms have been deployed around the country.

## **11. Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar inaugurates NIC Tech Conclave 2022**

National Informatics Centre organized the #TechConclave2022 focused on Emerging Technologies applicable especially in e-Governance, with the theme - 'Next Gen Technologies for Digital Government'. The conclave will enrich the IT Managers of the Government Ministries/ Departments on the latest ICT technologies and their use on the latest technologies and industry practices

## **12. Indian Railways tests indigenous train collision protection system 'Kavach'**

'Kavach', which literally means armour, is being promoted by the Railways as the world's cheapest automatic train collision protection(ATAP) system. ATP system has been built to help the Railways achieve the goal of "zero accidents". Kavach is designed to bring a train to a halt automatically when it notices another train on the same line within a prescribed distance.

It will cost Rs 50 lakh per kilometre to operate compared to about Rs 2 crore worldwide

### **13. Paytm partners with IRCTC for unreserved and platform tickets**

Digital payments company Paytm has partnered with IRCTC to provide digital ticketing services to consumers through Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs) installed at railway stations across the country. This is the first time that Indian Railways is providing digital payment option for providing ticketing services through UPI on ATVMs QR codes can be scanned on ATVMs installed at railway stations

### **14. Average increment in India likely to increase to 9.1% in 2022: Survey**

Indian companies are expected to dole out an average increment of 9.1 per cent in 2022, higher than the pre-Covid-19 increment in 2019, as companies are focusing on retention of talent through rewards.

Moreover, the 2022 projected increment is higher than the pre-Covid-19 increment in 2019 by 50 basis points (bps).

### **15. India Added Record-Breaking 10-Gigawatt Solar Energy Capacity In 2021**

In 2021, India installed a record 10 gigawatt of solar capacity, registering a 212 percent year-on-year rise according to Mercom India Research.

In the firm's latest report, it revealed that in 2020, India saw 3.2GW of the solar capacity of installations. By the end of December 2021, the cumulative solar installed capacity was around 49GW.

## **16. US-Based Firm Mavenir Receives 'Trusted Source' Approval From the Government**

The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), the trusted telecom cell has granted the US-based telecom software provider Mavenir a 'trusted source' approval.

The report comes in from sources that suggest that the Pardeep Kohli-headed firm that predominantly offers open radio access networks (OpenRAN) to telecom carriers has received the approval.

## **17. MSME Ministry launches 'SAMARTH' to promote women entrepreneurship**

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has launched SAMARTH ' a special entrepreneurship promotion drive for women.

Under SAMARTH, 20 per cent seats in free skill development programmes, organised under skill development schemes of the ministry, will be allocated for aspiring and existing women entrepreneurs.

This will benefit more than 7,500 women in 2022-23.

## **18. ISSF WC 2022: India top medal tally with 4 gold, 2 silver, one bronze in Cairo**

India have taken first place in the medal standing in International Shooting Sport Federation, ISSF World Cup 2022 in Cairo. The Indian team finished on the top of the medals tally with a total of seven medals comprising of four gold, two silver and one bronze.

Norway, who won six medals- three gold, one silver and two bronze claimed second spot on the medals tally. France were third, with three golds out of the 20 on offer.

## **19. Cabinet Approves National Land Monetization Corp., Mining Of New Minerals**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved to set up a corporation to monetise surplus land and building assets of central public sector companies. The government also cleared an amendment to allow mining of a new set of minerals to cut imports.

It aims to monetise underutilised or unused government non-core assets under a programme announced by the FM.

## **20. Jio World Centre Opens in the Heart of Mumbai**

Reliance Industries Ltd. announced the opening of India's largest and most prestigious multi-faceted destination, the Jio World Centre.

The Centre covers an expanse of 18.5 acres in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex, and is set to become an iconic business, commerce and culture destination, giving India and its citizens a world-class landmark.

## **21. Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Textiles to organise pan-India programme 'Jharokha '.**

As part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Textiles are organizing 'Jharokha-Compendium of Indian handicraft/ handloom, art and culture'.

It will be a PAN India celebration which will be held at 16 locations in 13 states and UTs.

Jharokha is a celebration of the traditional Indian handicrafts, handlooms, and art & culture.



## **22. Indian Railways' 1st Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal commissioned in Asansol Division of Eastern Railway**

In pursuance of the Prime Minister's vision 'Gati Shakti' & Ministry of Railways' policy regarding 'Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal' (GCT), the Asansol Division of Indian Railways has successfully commissioned private siding of Maithan Power Limited at Thaparnagar, Jharkhand.

It was initiated in the year 2009 & subsequently, the power generation was started in 2011.

## **23. Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog & KidEx collaborate to promote innovation & entrepreneurship**

Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog has announced a partnership with KidEx Venture Private Limited to leverage KidEx's technology platform 'IKIGAI' to promote innovation and entrepreneurship among school students.

The partnership's first engagement will go live on 1 May 2022 with AIM Bootcamp, ATL Tinkerpreneur for students of 9600+ schools.

## **24. Sh. Narayan Rane Launches MSME Innovative Scheme And Idea Hackathon 2022**

Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Narayan Rane has launched the MSME Innovative Scheme (Incubation, Design and IPR) along with the MSME Idea Hackathon 2022.

MSMEs have an important role to play in Atmanirbhar Bharat and these schemes will help entrepreneurs in developing new ventures.

## **25. Provident fund interest rate for FY22 lowered to four-decade low of 8.1%**

Interest rate on employees' provident fund deposit was cut to a four-decade low of 8.1 per cent for the 2021-22 fiscal from 8.5 per cent in the previous year.

This is the lowest interest rate since 1977-78 on deposits that employees make towards their retirement fund. Interest rate on employees provident fund that year stood at 8 per cent.

## **26. Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla addresses Valedictory Function of 3rd edition of National Youth Parliament Festival 2022**

Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla addressed the valedictory function of the 3rd edition of National Youth Parliament Festival -2022 in the Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi.

National Youth Parliament is an innovative programme to equip youth with the understanding of parliamentary procedures and democratic processes.

## **27. Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah addressed the 37th Foundation Day celebrations of National Crime Records Bureau**

Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah attended the 37th Foundation Day celebrations of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) as the Chief Guest in New Delhi.

The Crime and Criminal Tracking & Network Systems (CCTNS) Hackathon has also been inaugurated.

NCRB has a big role in handling the internal security of the country.

## **28. Tamilnadu Petroproducts Becomes the World's First LAB Manufacturer Accredited with the BIS 12795 2020 Certification**

Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd. (TPL) became the first linear alkylbenzene (LAB) manufacturing company in the world to be granted Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification.

TPL's 'Superlab' brand is among the most trusted LAB brands in the country today.

LAB has application in the production of biodegradable detergent.

## **29. Ministry of Rural Development organizes 'Gender Samwaad'**

Over 3000 State Mission staff and Self-Help Group (SHG) members logged in from 34 states to attend the third edition of 'Gender Samwaad' organised by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development.

The theme for this edition was 'Promotion of food and nutrition security through women's collectives'.

## **30. Creation of Record for Highest Quantity of Bituminous Mix laid for road construction in 100 Hrs.**

Union Minister for Road Transport and highways Shri Nitin Gadkari informed that longest Length of Flexible Pavement (DBM Course) road construction in 100 Hrs was awarded to PNC Infratech Ltd.

India Book of Records have awarded certificates in respect of creation of record for Highest Quantity of Bituminous Mix laid for road construction in 100 Hrs.

### **31. Digital economy to see exponential growth to \$800 billion by 2030**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that India's digital economy is expected to witness exponential growth to 800 billion dollars by 2030 on the back of rising internet penetration and increasing income.

The combined valuation of India's fintech industry is set to surge to 150 billion dollars in the next three years.

### **32. MCL becomes largest coal producing company in India**

The Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a unit of the CIL, has crossed 157 million tonne (MT) in coal production in the financial year of 2021-22, to become the leading coal producing company in the country.

On March 12, 2022, the company produced 7.62 lakh tonne of dry fuel which is the highest in a day during the current financial year.

### **33. First ever GI-tagged Kashmir carpets flagged off to Germany**

The Jammu and Kashmir government has finally started a Geographical Indication (GI) registry for the famed Kashmiri carpet with a quick response (QR) code with details of artisans and the material used.

The first ever consignment of GI-tagged carpets were exported to Germany from New Delhi.

### **34. Country's first Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park launched in Bengaluru**

The country's first Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) was launched in Bengaluru.

It is promoted by a not-for-profit foundation set up by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, with a seed capital of Rs. 230 crore from the State and Central governments.

### **35. MV Ram Prasad Bismil, longest vessel to sail on Brahmaputra, completes pilot run**

MV Ram Prasad Bismil, the longest vessel to set sail on the Brahmaputra, completed its pilot run of heavy cargo movement. The 90-meter-long flotilla started from Haldia Dock in Kolkata and anchored at Pandu port in Guwahati.

The pilot run laid down the path for commencement of barging operation from Kolkata to Guwahati through Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBRP).

### **36. MoRTH constructs 8,045 kms of highways during Apr-Feb '22**

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways through its various implementing agencies has constructed 8,045 kms of highways up to February 2022 during the current financial year. The National Highways Authority of India and National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation are primarily responsible for the construction of National Highways and expressways.

### **37. Shri Nitin Gadkari launches world's most advanced technology - developed Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle**

Nitin Gadkari launched the world's most advanced technology - developed Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle Toyota Mirai. Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd & International Center for Automotive Technology are conducting a Pilot Project to study and evaluate the world's most advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle Toyota Mirai which runs on hydrogen, on Indian roads and climate.

### **38. NCRTC unveils coaches of India's first rapid rail for Delhi-Meerut corridor**

The National Capital Regional Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has unveiled the coaches of India's first rapid rail for the Delhi - Meerut corridor. The Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train will run on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor and cover a distance of 82 km in just 55 minutes. The train will be capable of accommodating 1500 passengers at once.

### **39. Country's first Digital Water Bank 'AQVERIUM' launched in Bengaluru aims to provide clean drinking water & sanitation**

The country's first Digital Water Bank 'AQVERIUM' was launched in Bengaluru. It is formed by AquaKraft Group Ventures, next-generation sustainability, and impact enterprise focused on providing clean drinking water & sanitation. Clean Water & Water security is the key for India to become a USD 5 trillion economy. The Digital Startup AQVERIUM is headquartered in Bengaluru.

#### **40. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has made two Indian Standards pertaining to drinking water: Centre**

Center has informed that the Bureau of Indian Standards has made two Indian Standards pertaining to drinking water, namely, IS 10500:2012 on Drinking Water Specification and IS 17482:2020 on Drinking Water Supply Management System Requirements for Piped Drinking Water Supply. BIS standards are not mandatory for civic agencies engaged in supplying drinking to houses.

#### **41. Indian Railways prepare 'National Rail Plan' for India' 2030**

The NRP is aimed to formulate strategies based on both operational capacities and commercial policy initiatives to increase the modal share of the Railways in freight to 45%.The objective of the plan is to create capacity ahead of demand, which in turn would also cater to future growth right up to 2050 and also increase the modal share of railways to 45% in freight traffic

#### **42. CAMS launches Central Record Keeping Agency under NPS**

Computer Age Management Services Limited (CAMS), India's largest registrar and transfer agent of mutual funds (a SEBI regulated entity) has announced the go-live and launch of Central Record Keeping Agency (CRA) under the National Pension System (NPS).Sector regulator Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority appointed CAMS as a CRA to broad-base the service to NPS NPS was launched on 1st January 2004 by Central Government and is regulated by PFRDA.

#### **43. Union Panchayati Raj Minister Shri Giriraj Singh releases the Disaster Management Plan of Ministry of Panchayati Raj**

Union Minister Giriraj Singh released the Disaster Management Plan of Ministry of Panchayati Raj on 17th March 2022, through video conferencing. aim to develop disaster resilience at the grassroots level among the Panchayats and establish a framework to align the disaster management measures in rural areas to that of the National Disaster Management Authority'. Disaster Management is the creation of the plans to reduce vulnerability to hazards.

#### **44. Governor of Haryana and Chief Minister of Haryana inaugurated the 35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela**

Governor of Haryana and Chief Minister of Haryana inaugurated the 35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela. Surajkund Mela is the world's largest crafts fair, showcasing the rich diversity of India's hands. Surajkund Crafts Mela was hosted for the first time in 1987 to showcase the richness and diversity of handicrafts, handlooms, and the cultural heritage of India. The main goal of the festival is to promote the talent & culture of indigenous artisans.

#### **45. PM Modi inaugurated centenary year celebrations of Mathrubhumi**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the centenary year celebrations of Mathrubhumi, via video conferencing. The Prime Minister paid tribute to all the leading personalities in the journey of the newspaper.

Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's ideals, Mathrubhumi was born to strengthen India's freedom struggle.



#### **46. Ministry of Civil Aviation confers with 'Best Tableaux' Trophy for Republic Day 2022**

Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) was conferred with 'Best Tableaux' Trophy.

The award ceremony took place in Ministry itself with a small delegation of Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) officials present for the same.

Republic Day 2022 marks the first time when Ministry of Civil Aviation tableau took part.

#### **47. PM Modi to virtually inaugurate Biplobi Bharat Gallery in Kolkata**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Biplobi Bharat Gallery at Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata through video conferencing.

The Gallery displays the contribution of the Revolutionaries in the freedom struggle and their armed resistance to British colonial rule.

#### **48. External Affairs Minister Jaishankar holds talks with Chinese counterpart Wang Yi**

In the first major diplomatic engagement between India and China in nearly two years, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his visiting Chinese counterpart Wang Yi held extensive talks covering the eastern Ladakh row and the geopolitical turmoil triggered by the crisis in Ukraine.

Wang, who holds the rank of state councillor, arrived in Delhi from Kabul.

#### **49. Government launches SLNP and AJAY to install smart,energy efficient LED street lights and solar street lights across the country**

The Street Light National program(SLNP) was launched by the Government in January 2015 to replace conventional street lights with smart and energy efficient LED street lights in the municipal sector across the country.

Atal Jyoti Yojana(AJAY) Phase-II which provides for installation of solar street lights in remote, rural and semi-urban areas, was launched in December, 2018

#### **50. Ten-day Red Fort Festival-Bharat Bhagya Vidhata to begin in New Delhi**

The ten-day Red Fort Festival - Bharat Bhagya Vidhata will begin at the iconic 17th-century monument, Red Fort in New Delhi.

Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Zubin Irani will inaugurate the festival.

It will feature a wide range of experiences including 'Matrubhumi' - Projection Mapping Show, a Cultural Parade, Khao Galli, Anokhe Vastra, and Khel Manch.

#### **51. Union Agriculture Minister chairs 93rd AGM of Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society**

The 93rd Annual General Meeting of the ICAR Society was organised at the National Agricultural Science Centre Complex, New Delhi.

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare stated that committed for the betterment of Indian Agriculture, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has always encouraged the farmers and scientists of the country.

## **52. NCLT organised Colloquium on 'NCLT- The Road Ahead'**

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) organised a national level Colloquium on the subject 'NCLT- The Road Ahead'.

Chief Justice (R) Ramalingam Sudhakar, President, NCLT; Shri Rajesh Verma, Chairman, Indian Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) inaugurated the colloquium.

Members of the Tribunal, both Judicial and Technical, represented 15 Benches across India.

## **53. Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 launches peer learning webinar series 'SwachhTalks' with flagship webinar on SafaiMitra Suraksha**

The SBM-Urban Mission organised the first-of-its-kind 'SwachhTalks' as part of its peer learning webinar series for States/UT and ULB, with the theme 'SafaiMitra Suraksha in 100 lighthouse cities'.

The objective of the webinar was to accelerate the progress of these 100 cities towards complete 'manhole to machinehole' transformation to ensure safety & security of SafaiMitras

## **54. India crosses milestone of 50,000 ODF Plus villages**

The country has crossed a milestone of 50 thousand open defecation-free(ODF) Plus villages. Among the top performing States are Telangana with 13,960 ODF Plus villages followed by Tamil Nadu & Madhya Pradesh.

Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen Phase-II was launched in February 2020 with the aim to ensure that all villages in the country can declare themselves as ODF Plus by 2024

## **55. CSIR-NAL showcases civil aircraft initiatives at Wings India 2022**

CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore (CSIR-NAL) is participating in Wings India 2022 and showcasing its indigenous initiatives of civil aircrafts for flying training & commuter air connectivity.

HANSA'NG Aircraft designed and developed by CSIR-NAL is a major attraction in Wings 2022.

HANSA-NG is one of the most advanced two seat flying trainer aircraft.

## **56. National Commission for Women organises Seminar on Racial Diversity Sensitization**

National Commission for Women(NCW) organised a seminar on 'Racial Diversity Sensitization' in collaboration with Bureau of Police Research & Development, National Commission for Minorities and Special Police Unit for North-Eastern Region(SPUNER) of Delhi Police to spread awareness towards different cultures in India & to recommend strategies for strengthening understanding.

## **57. NMCG Organizes 'Yamunotsav' At ITO Yamuna Ghat**

As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) organized Yamunotsav in association with a group of NGOs at ASITA East River Front, ITO Bridge, to celebrate the glory of Yamuna with a 'pledge to keep it clean'.

DG, NMCG, Shri G. Asok Kumar urged the people to dedicatedly join hands to clean Yamuna. Yamuna :- The biggest and the most important tributary of River Ganga.

### **58. Assam-Meghalaya sign pact to end border dispute in 6 contested areas**

Assam and Meghalaya decided to end their five-decade-old border dispute in six of the 12 contested locations that often raised tensions between the two states.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Union Home minister Sh Amit Shah by Chief Ministers of Assam and Meghalaya Himanta Biswa Sarma and Conrad Sangma respectively.

### **59. ONDC to help small retailers serve customers with modern ways of delivery: Piyush Goyal**

The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) will ensure that small retailers get an equal opportunity to engage with big firms, protect their businesses and serve customers with modern ways of delivery system, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said.

ONDC received its certificate of incorporation as a private sector non-profit company on December 31, 2021.

### **60. Konkan Railway accomplishes 'Mission 100% Electrification**

Indian Railways is on a mission mode to electrify its entire Broad Gauge network to provide environment friendly, green & clean mode of transport to its people under the 'Mission 100% Electrification ' Moving towards net Zero Carbon Emission' plan.

The foundation stone for the Electrification of the entire 741 kms route work was laid in November 2015. The total cost of the project is '1287 crore.

## 61. Cabinet Clears Rs 6,062 Crore World Bank-Assisted Programme For MSMEs

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by PM Modi, approved the Rs 6,062.45 crore or \$808 million 'Raising and Accelerating MSM Performance' for the micro, small & medium enterprises.

Of the total outlay under the programme, Rs 3,750 crore (\$500 million) will come from World Bank loan, and the remaining Rs 2,312.45 crore will be funded by the central government.

## 62. DMRC inaugurates first interchange station at Punjabi Bagh

Dr. Mangu Singh, MD/DMRC, inaugurated a new interchange station at Punjabi Bagh which will provide interconnectivity between the green and pink lines of the Delhi Metro.

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has built such a station that connects two operational corridors for the first time.



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## International

### 1. 'Operation Ganga' - India's mega mission to save its citizens in Ukraine

India has started a mega mission to evacuate its 20,000 citizens from Ukraine.

India is the only country in the world that is evacuating its citizen from Ukraine on government expenses.

On the other hand, most of the nations have clearly asked their citizens to bear their own expenses and make personal efforts to exit Ukraine. Capital: Kyiv; Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia.

### 2. UN Adopts Historic Resolution to Tackle Plastic Pollution

Heads of State, Ministers of environment and other representatives from 175 nations endorsed a historic resolution at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) in Nairobi to End Plastic Pollution and forge an international legally binding agreement by 2024.

The resolution addresses the full lifecycle of plastic, including its production, design and disposal. UNEP Headquarters location: Nairobi, Kenya.

### 3. Japan and India renews Bilateral Swap Arrangement of up to \$75 billion

Japan and India have renewed the Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) of up to \$75 billion with effect from February 28, 2022.

The Bank of Japan, acting as agent for the Minister of Finance of Japan, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signed the Amendment and Restatement Agreement of the BSA.

#### **4. Argentina Federal Police to effectively use Yoga for stress management of its personnel**

Argentina federal police will now effectively use the technique of Yoga for stress management of its personnel, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Ayush.

The embassy of India in Argentina and the University Institute of the Argentine Federal Police (IUPFA) will be jointly conducting a workshop on Yoga. Argentina's Capital: Buenos Aires; Currency: Argentine peso

#### **5. India, WHO sign pact to set up Global Traditional Medicine Centre in Gujarat**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Government of India signed an agreement to establish the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Gujarat.

The onsite launch of the new WHO global centre for traditional medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat, India will take place on April 21, 2022.

While Jamnagar will serve as the hub, the new centre will engage and benefit entire world

#### **6. Democratic Republic of Congo set to join East African Community**

The Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC is all set to be admitted as the seventh member of the East African Community(EAC).

Democratic Republic of Congo comes into the bloc with a huge market of 90 million people and the potential to contribute to an expanded market and investment opportunities.



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## Sports

### 1. Saurabh Chaudhary clinches India's first gold at ISSF World Cup in Cairo

Saurabh Chaudhary clinched India's first gold medal at the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in Cairo, Egypt.

The 19-year-old Indian defeated Michael Schwald of Germany 16-6 in the gold medal match of the Men's 10m Air Pistol event.

Russian Artem Chernousov grabbed a bronze medal.

### 2. 31st Southeast Asian Games to open in Vietnam

The 31st Southeast Asian Games, the region's biggest sporting event, will be held in Vietnam from May 12 to 23, 2022.

The Games will feature 40 sports with 526 events, attracting around 10,000 participants.

The Vietnamese capital Hanoi will be the main venue alongside 11 neighbouring localities including Quang Ninh, Phu Tho and Bac Ninh, Xinhua. Moto of 31st Southeast Asian Games- 'For a Stronger South East Asia'.

### **3. Rafael Nadal Wins Mexican Open, Claims Third Title in 2022**

Rafael Nadal, 35, beat Cameron Norrie 6-4, 6-4 to win the Mexican Open and take his career-best start to the season to 15-0, while claiming his 91st ATP title. Mexican Open is an ATP 500 level tournament played on hard courts, and this year 4 of the top 5 players in the world started in the draw: Daniil Medvedev (2), Alexander Zverev (3), Stefanos Tsitsipas (4) & Nadal (5).

### **4. India's Sadia Tariq wins gold medal in Moscow Wushu Stars Championship**

India's Sadia Tariq came up with a brilliant performance to win the gold medal in the Moscow Wushu Stars Championship which is being held in the Russian capital from February 22 to 28.

Sadia Tariq, who hails from Srinagar, is a two-time gold medalist in the Junior National Wushu championship.

### **5. Indian shooters Shri Nivetha, Esha Singh and Ruchita Vinerkar win gold at ISSF World Cup in Cairo**

India's Shri Nivetha, Esha Singh, and Ruchita Vinerkar won the gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol team event of the ISSF World Cup.

The Indians shot 16 in the gold medal contest to finish on the podium for the country's third medal, and second gold, in the year's first World Cup. India lead the standings with three medals -- two gold and silver.

## **6. International Judo Federation suspends Vladimir Putin as honorary president**

Russian president Vladimir Putin has been suspended as honorary president of the International Judo Federation (IJF) due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Putin, an accomplished judoka who was awarded an eighth dan in 2014 -- one of the highest levels in the sport, has been honorary president since 2008. Marius Vizer is the president of IJF. The Headquarters of International Judo Federation is located in Budapest, Hungary.

## **7. Priyanka Nutakki becomes the 23rd Woman Grandmaster of India**

19-year-old Priyanka Nutakki from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh secured her final WGM-norm at MPL 47th National Women Chess Championship. She scored 7.0/9, performed at 2348 to become India's latest Woman Grandmaster in March 2022.

Priyanka Nutakki scored her first WGM-norm in January 2019 and crossed the 2300 rating criteria in the next two months. India's first Woman Grandmaster- Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi.

## **8. BCCI announces RuPay as official partner for Tata IPL**

The Indian Premier League Governing Council has announced RuPay as an official partner for Tata IPL beginning March 26.

With RuPay's venture into IPL as the official partner, we feel it is one of the best ways to define the tech-savvy, youthful, contemporary brand personality of RuPay. The IPL 2022 is scheduled to be played in the country from March 26 till May 29.

## **9. Winter Paralympics opened in Beijing without Russia**

The Winter Paralympics opened in Beijing with the Russian athletes sent home and the Ukrainian team escaping a war zone to get to China.

A Ukrainian team member in a wheelchair carried the country's now widely known blue and yellow flag at the head of a 20-person delegation entering the Bird's Nest.

The 10-day Paralympics closes on the 13th of this month.

## **10. S Sreesanth announces retirement from all forms of first-class cricket**

India pacer S Sreesanth announced his retirement from all forms of domestic cricket.

Sreesanth took to Twitter to announce his retirement from all domestic formats of the game.

Sreesanth played 27 Tests and 53 ODIs for India, taking 87 and 75 wickets respectively.

He has also taken seven wickets in 10 T20 Internationals.

## **11. Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Inaugurates 11th Khel Mahakumbh in Ahmedabad**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 11th Khel Mahakumbh at Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad, an annual sports competition organized here by the Gujarat government.

Khel Mahakumbh started in 2010 with 16 sports and 13 lakh participants, and it increased to 36 general sports and 26 para sports in 2019.

## **12. Indian GM S L Narayanan wins Cattolica International Open chess tournament in Italy**

Indian Grandmaster S L Narayanan emerged winner in the Grandiscacchi Cattolica International Open while his compatriot R Praggnanandhaa finished runner-up.

Narayanan and six others, including Praggnanandhaa, finished equal first on 6.5 points after nine rounds. However, Narayanan took the top spot on the basis of a better tie-break score.

## **13. Pramod Bhagat wins two silver, one bronze in Spanish Para-Badminton International**

Pramod Bhagat won two silver and a bronze medal and Sukant Kadam ended up with a Bronze in Spanish Para-Badminton International 2022.

World champion Pramod Bhagat won the men's singles SL3 Silver and mixed doubles SL3-SU5 Bronze at the Spanish Para-Badminton International 2022.

## **14. Asian Youth and Junior Boxing Championships: Vishwanath Suresh, Vanshaj strike gold; Indians clinch 39 medals in total**

Vishwanath Suresh (48kg) and Vanshaj (63.5kg) clinched gold medals in the men's youth competition as the Indian contingent concluded its campaign with a whopping 39 medals, including 15 gold, at the Asian Youth and Junior Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan.

Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan claimed the first and second position respectively with 23 and 22 gold medals. The haul also included 10 silver and 14 bronze.

### **15. Chennai to host FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022 from July 26 to August 8**

India will host the 44th World Chess Olympiad 2022 at Chennai, tentatively between July 26 and August 8 after it was decided to pull the event from Russia due to the ongoing event.

In the previous 43 times that the official FIDE Chess Olympiad has been organised since 1927 India has not once been able to be the host nation.

### **16. Pankaj Advani wins Asian Billiards title for eighth time**

Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani defeated compatriot Dhruv Sitwala by six frames to win his eighth title at the 19th Asian 100 UP Billiards Championship 2022 in Doha.

This is Advani's 40th international title and 8th Asian crown.

Being semi-finalists, former World Champion PraputChaithanasukan from Thailand and Pauk Sa from Myanmar claimed bronze medals for their country. He was conferred Padma Shri in 2009 and Padma Bhushan in 2018.

### **17. Neeraj Chopra wins Sportsman of the Year (Track and Field) award at Sportstar Aces 2022**

Neeraj Chopra was adjudged Sportstar of the Year (Male) at the 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards. Weightlifter Chanu, who claimed the silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics, received the 'Sportstar of the Year (Female)' award.

## **18. All England Open 2022 : Lakshya Sen settles for silver after defeat against Viktor Axelsen in final**

World No.1 Viktor Axelsen of Denmark defeated Lakshya Sen in the men's singles final of All England Open Badminton Championship in Birmingham.

Sen became only the fifth Indian after Prakash Nath (1947), Prakash Padukone (1980, 1981), Pullela Gopichand (2001) and Saina Nehwal (2015) to reach the final of the prestigious tournament. All England Open 2022, PRIZE MONEY USD 1,000,000.

## **19. Sri Lanka to host Asia Cup T20 tournament from August 27 to September 11**

Sri Lanka will host the Asia Cup T20 tournament from August 27 to September 11, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) announced after its annual general meeting.

All five Test teams of the continent -- India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and hosts Sri Lanka -- will feature in the tournament, along with one more Asian side that will be decided after a qualifier tournament.

## **20. Hyderabad FC win maiden Indian Super League trophy**

Goalkeeper Laxmikant Kattimani made three stunning saves as Hyderabad FC clinched their maiden Indian Super League title after defeating Kerala Blasters in the penalty shootout in the summit clash.

Hyderabad beat Kerala 3-1 in the shootout after the match ended 1-1 in the regulation and extra-time.

## **21. Venezuela's Yulimar Rojas Sets Triple Jump World Record**

Venezuela's Yulimar Rojas bettered her own women's triple jump world record with a leap of 15.74 metres to win gold at the World Indoor Championships.

The Olympic champion beat her previous outright best of 15.67 metres set at the Tokyo Games last year, as well as her indoor record of 15.43 metres, set in 2020.

## **22. India's First-ever SAI National Centre of Excellence for Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross to be set up in Shimla**

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the Youth Services and Sports department of the Government of Himachal Pradesh is set to build India's first-ever SAI National Centre of Excellence to train athletes in Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross in Shimla. This center is at an altitude of 2000 meters above sea level. The NCOE is being set up to provide world-class training facilities to Indian cyclists.

## **23. UEFA World Cup 2022 qualifiers: Italy will miss Qatar after shock loss to North Macedonia; Portugal advance**

Italy missed out on a second consecutive World Cup after losing 1-0 at home to North Macedonia, with Aleksandar Trajkovski scoring the winner in second-half stoppage time. European champions Italy did not qualify for the World Cup four years ago, their first failure to reach the tournament since 1958.

## **24. Indian Railways' women team wins gold in National Cross Country Championship**

Indian Railways' women team became the winner in the 56th National Cross Country Championship (Men & Women) held at Kohima in the state of Nagaland.

Indian Railways women athletes won Gold in the team event while the Men team won the Silver.

Ms.Varsha Devi, Manju Yadav, Preenu Yadav and Munni Devi were members of Railway Sports Promotion Board team in the Championship.



## **25. Swiss Open 2022: PV Sindhu wins women's singles title**

Double Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu made light work of Busanan Ongbamrunghan to win the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament in Basel.

Sindhu overcame Thailand's Ongbamrunghan in straight games with a scoreline of 21-16, 21-8.

This is the 2nd title for PV Sindhu in Basel, where she won her maiden World Championships title in 2019.

## **26. Indian Railways lift Obaidullah Khan Hockey Cup in nail-biting finish**

Indian Railways' men Hockey team won the prestigious Obaidullah Khan Heritage Hockey Cup held at Bhopal (MP) from 21.03.2022 to 27.03.2022. In the final match held on Sunday, Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) team beat Army XI by 2.

The prestigious hockey tournament was played at Major Dhyanchand Stadium, Bhopal.

## **27. India end campaign at WTT Contender 2022 championship with two medals**

India ended their campaign at the World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender 2022 championship at Doha in Qatar with two medals.

Mixed Doubles pair of Manika Batra and Gnanasekaran Sathiyan settled for a silver while Achanta Sharath Kamal bagged a Bronze in Men's Singles at the tournament.

## **28. Formula 1 ' Max Verstappen wins Saudi Arabian Grand Prix after epic battle with Charles Leclerc**

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands celebrates after he won the Formula One Grand Prix in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia.

Max Verstappen won an intense race-long battle with Charles Leclerc to take his first victory of the season in the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz and Red Bull's Sergio Perez took third and fourth.

## 29. Indian team clinches SAFF U-18 Women's Championship title

India lost 0-1 to Bangladesh but still emerged champion of the SAFF U-18 Women's Championships on account of a better goal difference. India enjoyed a better goal difference of +11 in comparison to +3 of Bangladesh.

The valuable player of the tournament and the highest goal scorer of the tournament was Lynda Kom, who scored five goals in the tournament.

## 30. Ajay Jayaram Announces Retirement After Almost 2 Decades of Being a Pro Badminton Player

Indian badminton ace Ajay Jayaram who reached a career-best ranking of world number 13 in 2017 decided to call it quits after almost 2 decades of professional involvement in the sport.

Jayaram is the first Indian to win a medal at the Korean Open.



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## Agreements & MoUs

### 1. Nepal-India sign MoU on supply of Urea and DAP under G2G agreement

India and Nepal sealed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a long-term supply of Urea and DAP fertilizers from India to Nepal under a G2G arrangement.

The signing of this MoU is expected to help address the recurring fertilizer shortages in Nepal and enable improve agricultural productivity for the direct benefit of Nepali farmers.

### 2. Adani Solar, Smart Power to jointly promote solar rooftop panels in rural India

Adani Solar and Smart Power India (SPI), a subsidiary of Rockefeller Foundation, have signed a non-financial and non-commercial memorandum of understanding for equitable entry to last-mile electrical energy and encourage vitality transition in rural India. The MoU goals to promote the utilization of solar rooftop panels and obtain 5 MW of solar deployment.

### 3. Mahindra Group partners Google Cloud for digital transformation

Mahindra Group and tech giant Google Cloud announced collaboration as part of the homegrown conglomerate's digital transformation strategy to fuel its next phase of business growth. Under the collaboration, Mahindra group's digital, data and cloud centre of excellence will use Google Cloud's secure and reliable infrastructure and advanced data analytics technology.

#### **4. NIESBUD Signs An MoU With Ministry Of Rural Development For Implementing The Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme**

The MoU will develop a sustainable model for promoting entrepreneurship at the grass roots by initiating the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP). SVEP is a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana ' National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). It aims to support entrepreneurs in rural areas to set-up enterprises at the non-agricultural sector DAY-NRLM is implemented by Ministry of Rural Development

#### **5. Mahindra Partners With CSC Grameen eStore To Expand Rural Reach**

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd has partnered with CSC Grameen eStore, a government of India initiative, to deepen connections with over 7 lakh villages in India. The partnership will harness CSC Grameen's digital platform to facilitate Mahindra vehicle enquiries and real-time online lead transfer to M&M from deep rural pockets. Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd- CEO: Anish Shah. CEO CSC SPV,- Dr. Dinesh Tyagi

#### **6. Insolvency regulator IBBI signs MoU with IBA**

Insolvency regulator IBBI and Indian Banks Association (IBA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on capacity building for financial creditors on topics related to insolvency, bankruptcy and related subjects.

Timely resolution of insolvency cases potentially impedes the value erosion of the assets of the corporate debtor.

## **7. DD India inks MoU with Yupp TV; widens its global outreach**

Indian public broadcaster Prasar Bharti has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the over-the-top (OTT) platform Yupp TV to enhance the global reach of DD India channel.

DD India says it aims to put forth India's perspective on various international developments on global platforms and to showcase India's culture and values to the world.

## **8. Cabinet approves MoU between ICMR, Oxford University to build partnership on data sharing for vector-borne diseases**

The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and United Kingdom's Oxford University.

The objective of the MoU, signed in November 2021, was to build partnership in and beyond data and skill-sharing with equity and transparency.

## **9. Zeta partner Mastercard to power next-gen credit processing for banks, fintechs**

Zeta, a banking tech unicorn and provider of next-gen credit card processing to banks and fintechs, and Mastercard announced a 5-year global partnership.

As part of the agreement, the firms will go-to-market jointly to launch credit cards with issuers worldwide on Zeta's modern, cloud-native, and fully API-ready credit processing stack.

## **10. Flipkart enters strategic alliance with Google Cloud to improve innovation**

Google Cloud and e-commerce firm Flipkart, have entered into a multi-year strategic partnership to help fast-track Flipkart's innovation and cloud strategy.

The partnership will propel Flipkart into its next phase of growth and advance its vision of onboarding India's next 200 million shoppers and lakhs of sellers.

The companies didn't reveal the value of this deal.

## **11. Bureau of Indian Standards signs MoU with IIT Roorkee for establishment of 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor'**

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Roorkee (IITR) on 10th March 2022 for establishment of 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor' at IIT Roorkee.

This would be the first Standardization Chair established by BIS in an Institute for activities on Standardization and Conformity Assessment.

## **12. India And World Bank Sign \$125 million Loan To Support Social Protection Services In West Bengal**

The Government of India, the Government of West Bengal, & the World Bank signed a \$125 mn IBRD loan to support efforts to help poor & vulnerable groups access social protection services in West Bengal. The state runs more than 400 programs that provide social assistance, care services, & jobs. Most of these services are offered through an umbrella platform called Jai Bangla.

### **13. Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance partners Bharat Co-operative Bank**

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI), the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), and Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd. have announced their bancassurance partnership.

This collaboration facilitates a common platform to reach out to the bank's five lac plus customers with relevant life insurance solutions.

### **14. Atal Innovation Mission collaborates with Snap Inc for AR skilling Indian youth**

Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has collaborated with camera firm Snap Inc, which owns social media platform Snapchat, to drive Augmented Reality (AR) skilling among the Indian youth.

The partnership started on the eve of International Women's Day with the launch of a nationwide Lensathon (AR-making hackathon).

Chintan Vaishnav, mission director, AIM.

### **15. India, Sri Lanka sign agreement to build solar power plant in island nation**

India and Sri Lanka have signed an agreement for developing a 100 megawatt solar power plant in the island nation's eastern port district of Trincomalee, as part of the efforts to strengthen bilateral economic partnership, including through cooperation in the renewable energy sector.

## **16. IREDA inks MoU with CIPET for Solarization of CIPET academic campuses**

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET), to provide its techno-financial expertise for solarization of CIPET campuses.

The two organisations are under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy and the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.

## **17. Karnataka Bank signs MoU with SELCO Solar Light**

Karnataka Bank has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SELCO Solar Light, engaged in the business of designing, assembling, selling and servicing of solar energy products for the last 27 years with the main objective of providing energy access to underserved population.

SELCO Solar Light Pvt. Ltd. is a for-profit social enterprise based in Bangalore, India.

## **18. SASMOS signs MoU with HAL & NAeL to explore cooperation in Fibre Optics, Electronics and electrical interconnect systems**

SASMOS HET Technologies Limited, has signed an MoU with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and its wholly-owned subsidiary Naini Aerospace Limited (NAeL), to work together in the field of advanced electronics, electrical and Fibre optics interconnections in the aerospace domain.

H G Chandrashekar, Chairman & Managing Director, SASMOS HET Technologies Limited.

Amit Mai Shrivastava, CEO NAeL.



## **19. Border Roads Organisation (BRO) signs MoU with GRSE for construction of 27 double-lane class 70 modular bridges in border areas**

The MoU includes fabrication, supply, erection, and launching of 27 double-lane bridges of carriageway 7.5 meters of load class 70 along with the Northern and North Eastern border states.

It has been inked by DG BRO Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry and Officiating Chairman and MD of Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd. Commodore PR Hari IN (Retd) in New Delhi.

## **20. AJ-NIFM & JNU enter into MoU for award of MBA degree**

Arun Jaitley National Institute Of Financial Management and Jawaharlal Nehru University signed an MoU for promoting exchange and cooperation in the area of academics and strengthening the professional competence of Civil and Defence Officers and other participants pursuing their post graduate program at AJNIFM. MoU will facilitate the award of MBA Degree in Finance & in Financial Management by JNU.

## **21. Tata Power Delhi Distribution partners with Battery Smart**

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd introduced a partnership with Battery Smart, India's largest and fastest-growing battery-swapping community for electrical automobiles (EVs) to arrange swap stations for two-and three-wheelers at numerous places throughout North Delhi in 2022. The first swap station is dwell and operational at Azadpur.

## **22. Kinetic Green partners IGL to set up battery swapping stations**

Indraprastha Gas (IGL), one of India's largest CNG distribution company has partnered with Pune-based electric vehicle maker Kinetic Green to launch their first battery-swapping station christened 'Energy Cafe'. The partners aim to roll out a network of battery swapping stations for two- and three-wheelers, starting with the Delhi region.

### **23. JSW Cement signs MoU with Punjab Renewable Energy Systems to use agricultural waste as biomass**

JSW Cement, part of US\$ 13 billion JSW Group has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Punjab Renewable Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd (PRESPL) to use agricultural waste as biomass energy in its cement-manufacturing operations. According to the MOU, Punjab Renewable Energy Systems will build a sustainable supply chain of agricultural waste to be utilized as biomass energy

### **24. IIT Madras, RBI Innovation Hub join hands to boost fintech startups**

India's leading deep-tech startup hub spearheaded by IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC) and RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together in developing the ecosystem necessary to support and scale fintech startups in India. The startup ecosystem in India makes a significant contribution to economic prosperity.

### **25. NMDC signs MoU with IIT Kharagpur for Drone-Based Mineral Exploration**

National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC), Country's largest Iron Ore producer, a CPSE under Ministry of Steel signed a MoU with IIT Kharagpur for drone-based mineral exploration. NMDC has been exploring minerals for six decades for a wide range of minerals such as Copper, Rock phosphate, Limestone, magnesite, Diamond, Tungsten and Beach sands amongst others.

## **26. Dredging Corporation of India has signed a historic Ship Building Agreement for the First Make in India Project**

Dredging Corporation of India has signed a historic Ship Building Agreement for the First Make in India Project for Construction of First Beagle Series 12 Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger of 12000 Cubic Meter capacity at Cochin Shipyard Limited. Ship Building Agreement would also benefit from the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy (SFAP) (2016) of the Ministry of Port. Dredging Corporation of India Ltd, Visakhapatnam is a listed dredging company in India.

## **27. NABARD sanctions highest allocation of Rs 4,013cr to Odisha**

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rs 4,013 crore to the Odisha government during the financial year 2021-22 under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).

This financial allocation is highest in the country under RIDF during the financial year.

## **28. ICICI Bank partners with Chennai Super Kings for co-branded credit card**

ICICI Bank announced that it has launched a co-branded credit card in partnership with Chennai Super Kings. The 'Chennai Super Kings ICICI Bank Credit Card' has been designed with a range of privileges including joining and renewal gifts of 2000 reward points that can be redeemed against CSK merchandise.

Credit card users will also get an opportunity to attend a practice session.

### **29. IIT Madras, TCS partner to launch M.Tech in Industrial Artificial Intelligence**

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has partnered with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to launch an online masters course, M.Tech in Industrial AI. The course is targeted at upskilling corporate employees in applications of artificial intelligence to industrial problems. The 18-month-long course will be offered by IIT Madras through virtual classrooms. The first cohort of students for the program will be from TCS.

### **30. ICICI Lombard, Airtel Payments Bank partner to offer smartphone insurance**

Airtel Payments Bank announced its partnership with ICICI General Insurance Company to provide smartphone insurance that offers device financial protection from damages caused by accidents, liquid spillage, or more. There are over 750 million smartphone users currently in India and this number is likely to reach 1 billion by 2026.

The customers can get insured for a sum equal to the purchase price of their smartphone.

### **31. Ahmedabad IIM sets up retail tech consortium with Flipkart and other partners**

The Centre for Digital Transformation at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Ahmedabad has recently set up a retail tech consortium and plans to collaborate with several retail and technology organizations in India. This consortium would bring to the fore unbiased voices of customers on the digitization of retail to help retailers understand their consumers better. Flipkart has joined as a principal partner for the inaugural year of the consortium.

### **32. HCL Technologies and NEORIS Sign Agreement for Integrated IT Services**

HCL Technologies has signed a collaboration agreement with NEORIS, a leading global digital accelerator that co-creates disruptive solutions for digitally aspirational companies. The agreement will bring unique capabilities to clients in global markets, including the ability to increase application usage time, business management operations, and integrated IT services.

### **33. AAI and BEL join hands to develop indigenous Air Traffic Management Systems**

In a major boost to Government's 'Make in India' Initiative, the Airports Authority of India under its R & D initiative, has entered into an agreement with Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited for the joint, indigenous development of systems for air traffic management and surface movement of aircraft at airports in the country which were hitherto being imported.

### **34. Signing of MOU Between NHAI/NHLML, NHIDCL and Ministry of Tourism for developing Way-Side Amenities**

An MoU between NHAI / NHLML, NHIDCL of Ministry of Road Transport and highways, and Ministry of Tourism was signed. This is a significant MoU that will facilitate leveraging expertise of Ministry of Tourism and Indian Tourism Development Corp (ITDC) for developing Way-Side Amenities(WsAs) and View-Points at tourist places.

### **35. Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC) signs MoU with Tata Steel and LoI with BASF for Scientific cooperation**

A new MoU and LoI have been signed to foster Science and Technology led innovations through Indo-German R&D networking, including industrial research partnership in PPP mode. The partnership has been established between bilateral Indo-German Science and Technology Centre through the MoU with Tata Steel Ltd will institute a joint collaborative Research & Innovation framework

### **36. TNAU inks pact with World Resources Institute**

The Tamilnadu Agricultural University has signed an agreement with World Resources Institute, India, to ensure green coverage across the country and evaluate carbonization through tree plantations. The agreement would promote agroforestry development with inclusive social and economic empowerment among the rural communities.

### **37. SpiceJet, Boeing and CSIR-IIP team up on sustainable aviation fuel**

SpiceJet, Boeing and CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) have joined hands to explore opportunities for the use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) in the Indian aviation industry. This collaboration is a part of the organisations' commitment to help reduce carbon emissions, contributing to the Indian Government's environmental goals. The collaboration was announced at the ongoing Wings India 2022 civil aviation conference

### **38. IIE Signs MoU With MoRD To Enhance The Impact Of The Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)**

In line with Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), to promote entrepreneurship at a local level amongst the rural youth.

### **39. Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) gets Rs 473 cr contract for 8 high-speed vessels**

The Ministry of Defence has formally placed an order with Goa Shipyard Limited for 8 fast patrol vessels for the Indian Coast Guard. GSL was awarded the Rs 473 cr contract after the Vasco-based shipyard emerged as the lowest bidder for the project. The ministry is expected to ink two contracts with GSL for 8 fast patrol vessels & 7 next generation off-shore patrol warships.

### **40. SIDBI Joins Hands With Meghalaya Govt, To Develop MSME Ecosystem**

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has joined hands with the Meghalaya government to develop an ecosystem for small and medium businesses.

SIDBI has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Meghalaya Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd (MiDFC) to develop the MSME ecosystem in the state.

### **41. Max Life Insurance partners PhonePe to offer financial protection to consumers**

Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd has announced the launch of Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan, a non-linked non-participating individual pure risk premium life insurance plan on the PhonePe app to enhance financial protection for digitally-savvy customers.

Customers have the flexibility to choose a sum assured up to'10 crore.

## 42. India, Australia to collaborate in lithium and cobalt identification projects

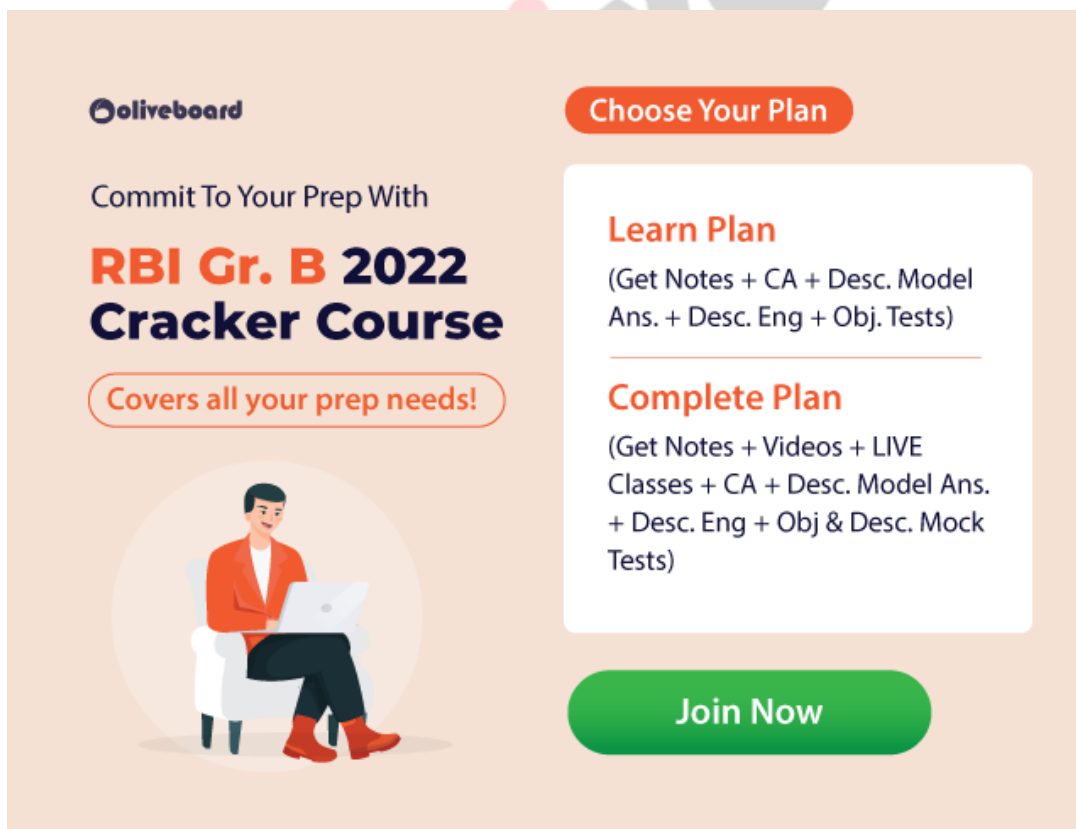
India and Australia have agreed to jointly undertake due diligence of greenfield and brownfield Lithium and Cobalt mineral assets that holds critical and strategic interest for both countries.


Both India and Australia have committed an initial investment of \$ 6 Million for the joint due diligence process in the 50:50 ratio of participating interest.

## 43. Central Bank of India partners Kwik.ID to 'digitize customer onboarding

Central Bank of India has selected Kwik.ID to implement digital KYC, video KYC and eKYC for its network across India with an aim to bring better onboarding and digitisation practices.

This partnership will support the bank in driving its digital transformation agenda and supporting digital finance initiatives championed by the Government of India.




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## Schemes

### **1. Government led Shri Narendra Modi has approved the scheme - Modernisation Plan-IV for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)**

The Government has approved the scheme - Modernisation Plan-IV for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs). The Modernisation Plan-IV will run from 01.02.2022 to 31.03.2026. Modernisation Plan-IV for CAPFs with a total financial outlay of Rs.1,523 crore is to be implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs. It will equip the CAPFs with modern state-of-the-art weapons and equipments.

### **2. Women and Child Development Ministry launches 'Stree Manoraksha Project' aiming to improve mental health of women**

The 'Stree Manoraksha Project' in collaboration with NIMHANS Bengaluru is launched with an aim to improve the mental health of women in India. The project would focus on building on capacity building of OSC (One-Stop Center) functionaries on the tools and techniques as to how to handle the cases of women approaching the One-Stop Centres.

### **3. Govt launches Donate-a-Pension programme**

Union Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched the 'Donate-a-Pension' program under Pradhan Mantri Shram.

It is an initiative under (PM-SYM) pension scheme where citizens can donate the premium contribution of their immediate support staff such as domestic workers, drivers, helpers etc.

#### **4. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launches 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge' under AMRUT 2.0**

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) & Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launched the 'India WaterPitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge' under Ministry's Atal mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0.

Government will select hundred start-ups across the country to empower sustainable economic growth and generate employment.

#### **5. Mission Indradhanush: Odisha tops list of full immunisation with 90.5% coverage**

Odisha has become the only state in the country to achieve 90.5% of immunization apart from the successful vaccination against Covid-19 infection under Mission Indradhanush 4.0. The Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0 Has Been Rolled Out In The State From March 7 For Boosting Full Immunization Coverage Of The Targeted Women And Children.

#### **6. 8689 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra's have been opened up covering all districts of the country**

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India in November, 2008. Under the scheme, dedicated outlets known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMBJKs) are opened to provide generic medicines at cheaper rates to the citizens of the country. The Government has set a target to have 10,500 PMBJK by March 2025 across the country.

## 7. Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the Sujalam 2.0 campaign

Union Minister of Jal Shakti launched the Sujalam 2.0 campaign for greywater management at a virtual event hosted by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation Ministry of Jal Shakti to mark World Water Day, 2022. Greywater can be best managed where it is generated and turns into a major management and infrastructure challenge if it is allowed to accumulate & Stagnate The theme for this year is 'Groundwater: making the invisible visible'.



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## Appointments & Resignations

### 1. Madhabi Puri Buch appointed first woman chairperson of SEBI

Madhabi Puri Buch has been appointed as the new chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) - the first-ever woman to head the capital markets regulator.

Ms. Buch (57), who was not only the first woman whole-time member of SEBI but also the first person from the private sector working at the regulator, has been appointed for a three-year term.

### 2. SN Subrahmanyam appointed chairperson of L&T Finance Holdings

The board of directors of L&T Finance Holdings Ltd (LTFH) approved the appointment of S N Subrahmanyam as its director and chairperson.

Subrahmanyam takes over from Shailesh Haribhakti who served as the chairperson on the board of L&T Finance Holdings from 1 June 2017. Haribhakti will continue as a board member.

### 3. Christian Schenk to be the new Chairman of Skoda Auto Volkswagen India (SAVWIPL)

Christian Schenk, Board Member for Finance and IT, Skoda Auto, will be the new Chairman of SAVWIPL. Piyush Arora joins the Board as Managing Director of SAVWIPL and Christian Cahn von Seelen will assume an Executive position on the Board of SAVWIPL as Executive Director ' Sales & Marketing.

Skoda Auto, Headquarters: Mlada Boleslav, Czechia Thomas Schfer, CEO of Skoda Auto.

#### **4. Sh. Sanjay Bhattacharyya concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Principality of Liechtenstein**

Shri Sanjay Bhattacharyya presently Ambassador of India to Switzerland, has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Principality of Liechtenstein, with residence in Berne.

Liechtenstein is a western European principality located between Switzerland and Austria, its capital is Vaduz.

#### **5. Deepak Parekh steps down as non-executive chairman of HDFC ERGO**

Deepak Parekh, the chairman of Housing Finance Development Corporation, has resigned as the non-executive chairman of the company's insurance arm HDFC ERGO General Insurance.

HDFC has nominated Keki Mistry, the incumbent vice chairman and CEO of the company, as a non-executive chairman.

#### **6. Aviation veteran Sanjiv Kapoor appointed CEO of Jet Airways**

As part of their plans of restarting operations by summer, Jet Airways has picked Sanjiv Kapoor, who had previously headed revenue and strategy departments at SpiceJet and Vistara, to lead the new Jet Airways.

Jet Airways, which is now promoted by Jalan Kalrock consortium, had plans to restart operations during the first quarter of 2022.

#### **7. Hari Shyamsunder to be new CEO of Navi Mutual Fund**

Navi Mutual Fund announced that Hari Shyamsunder, currently the Fund Manager of Navi AMC Limited, will take over as CEO, subject to obtaining the necessary corporate approvals. He will succeed Saurabh Jain who recently resigned. Saurabh Jain will be moving to another role within the Navi Group where he will lead a new business vertical.

## **8. Delhi High Court Chief Justice DN Patel to be next TDSAT chairperson**

The Central government has cleared the appointment of Delhi High Court Chief Justice DN Patel to the post of Chairperson of the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) for a period of four years. The appointment has been approved by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) which is chaired by the Prime Minister. He will replace Justice Shiva Kirti Singh. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act (TRAI) was enacted in 1997

## **9. Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava appointed as Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court**

President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava as the Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court. In exercise of the power conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India, the President appointed, Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava a senior-most Judge of the Rajasthan High Court, to perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice. He will replace chief justice Akil Abdulhamid Kureshi

## **10. LIC hires Reliance-Nippon's Sunil Agarwal as CFO ahead of listing**

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is understood to have hired former Reliance-Nippon Life Insurance executive Sunil Agarwal as its new chief financial officer.

Agarwal, who resigned from Reliance as CFO and had spent nearly two decades as finance executive in life insurance firms, joined LIC this month.

### **11. T Raja Kumar appointed president of the FATF, global money laundering watchdog**

Singapore's T Raja Kumar has been appointed as the president of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global money laundering and terrorism financing watchdog.

His appointment, which begins on Jul 1, is a for fixed two-year term. He was selected to succeed Dr Marcus Pleyer of Germany during the FATF plenary. Singapore has been a member of the organisation since 1992.

### **12. SBI appoints ex-Ujjivan Small Finance Bank CEO Nitin Chugh as Deputy Managing Director**

State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed former Ujjivan Small Finance Bank CEO Nitin Chugh as Deputy Managing Director (DMD) to drive digital banking operations.

He has been appointed to SBI for an initial term of three years.

Chugh, who joined Ujjivan Small Finance Bank in 2019, quit the bank in September last year citing personal reasons.

### **13. Lupin signs Mary Kom as brand ambassador for Shakti initiative**

Lupin, one of the leading pharmaceutical companies in India, has signed on 6-time world boxing champion, Mary Kom as the brand ambassador for its Shakti campaign.

The campaign is aimed at increasing the awareness on heart diseases among women, Coronary heart diseases are the leading cause of death for women in India & yet awareness levels on the issue remain abysmally low.

#### **14. SBI Managing Director Ashwani Bhatia appointed SEBI whole-time member**

Ashwani Bhatia, who is the managing director of State Bank of India (SBI) has been appointed as a whole-time member (WTM) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for a period of three years.

In August 2020, Bhatia was appointed as the Managing Director of SBI till the date of his superannuation, ie., May 31 2022.

#### **15. Bharti Axa Life Insurance appoints Vidya Balan as its brand ambassador**

Bharti Axa Life Insurance has announced the appointment of actor Vidya Balan as brand ambassador.

With this partnership, Balan will aim to strengthen the brand's core values and deepen the #DoTheSmartThing narrative promoted by the brand.

Bharti AXA Life Insurance has registered steady growth and performance, expanded on its suite of customer-centric products. Parag Raja:- managing director, CEO, Bharti Axa Life Insurance

#### **16. Prabha Narasimhan appointed as Colgate-Palmolive India CEO**

Colgate-Palmolive (India) Limited appointed former Hindustan Unilever (HUL) executive Prabha Narasimhan as its CEO and MD as present chief Ram Raghavan got promoted to the role of President, Enterprise Oral Care, at its parent firm - Colgate Palmolive Company. Raghavan succeeded Issam Bachaalani, former MD Colgate-Palmolive (India), in 2019.



### **17. Yoon Suk-yeol will be the next president of South Korea**

South Korea has chosen a conservative opposition candidate, Yoon Suk-yeol, as the country's next president following a tightly-contested race.

Mr Yoon, a political novice, edged out a victory over the Democratic Party's Lee Jae-myung based on promises to tackle class inequality.

He called his win a "victory of the great South Korean people".

### **18. Ex-Finance Secretary Debasish Panda appointed IRDAI chairman for 3 years**

Former Finance Secretary Debasish Panda has been appointed as the chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for a period of three years.

He will fill the seat that has been lying vacant after Subhash Chandra Khuntia completed his term in May last year.

He retired as financial services secretary in January 2022.

### **19. Hungary elects Katalin Novak, first-ever female president**

The Hungarian parliament has elected Katalin Novak, a close ally of Prime Minister Viktor Orban, as the EU member's first-ever female president.

Novak, who most recently served as a minister for family policy, portrayed her election as a victory for women. Hungary's Capital: Budapest; Currency: Hungarian forint.

### **20. Former Revenue Secretary AB Pandey appointed as NFRA Chairperson**

The government has appointed former finance secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey as chairman of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) for a period of three years. Pandey, a 1984-batch Maharashtra cadre IAS officer, retired as revenue secretary in February last year.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment.

## **21. Dr Ranjit Rath appointed as CMD of Oil India**

Government headhunter PESB has picked Ranjit Rath to head India's second largest state oil and gas producer, Oil India Ltd.

He is currently chairman and managing director of Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL).

Oil India's current chairman and managing director Sushil Chandra Mishra will superannuate on June 30 this year. Mallika Srinivasan- chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).

## **22. Jubilant FoodWorks CEO Pratik Pota resigns**

The board of directors of Jubilant FoodWorks in their meeting held on March 11, 2022, accepted the resignation of Pratik Rashmikant Pota as the CEO and whole-time director of the company as he wishes to pursue opportunities outside Jubilant FoodWorks, the company said in a statement. Pota will continue in his current role till June 15.

## **23. Tata Sons chief N Chandrasekaran appointed as chairman of Air India**

Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran has officially been appointed as the chairman of Air India.

Last month, Chandrasekaran was reappointed as chairman of Tata Sons for a second term of five years. Chandrasekaran, a Tata Group veteran, was the MD and CEO of Tata Consultancy Services before he was appointed as the chairman of Tata Sons back in 2017.

## **24. India's new envoy to China, Pradeep Kumar Rawat takes charge**

Shri. Pradeep Kumar Rawat, Ambassador of India to the People's Republic of China assumed charge.

Rawat succeeds Ambassador Vikram Misri, who was appointed as the Deputy National Security Advisor.

Rawat served as the ambassador of India to Indonesia and Timor-Leste from September 2017-December 2020.

## **25. India EdTech Consortium Appoints Retired SC Judge BS Chauhan As Its Chairperson**

The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) has appointed a retired SC Judge BS Chauhan as the chairperson of the Independent Grievance Redressal Board (IGRB) formed as part of the India EdTech Consortium (IEC), to address the grievances pertaining to its members. IAMAI Chairman- Google India MD Sanjay Gupta.

## **26. Munish Varma, managing partner at SoftBank, resigns from Paytm board**

Munish Varma, managing partner at SoftBank, resigned from the board of One97 Communications, the parent firm of Paytm. Varma was a non-executive and non-independent director on the board of the company which owns the Paytm app.

SoftBank currently holds a 17.4% stake in Paytm, recent shareholding data from BSE shows.

## **27. Flipkart Health+ appoints Prashant Jhaveri as CEO**

Flipkart Health+ announced the appointment of Prashant Jhaveri as its chief executive officer (CEO). He is expected to lead Flipkart's foray into the fast-growing healthcare sector in India.

Before joining Flipkart Health+, Jhaveri worked as CEO of Apollo Health and Lifestyle Limited, and MediBuddy. Flipkart Health+ was launched in 2021 to create an end-to-end digital healthcare platform

## **28. Bhagwant Mann sworn in as Punjab CM; Inderbir Nijjer appointed protem speaker**

Defying the tradition of conducting the swearing-in ceremony at Raj Bhavan, Mr. Mann took oath at Khatkar Kalan, the ancestral village of freedom fighter 'Shaheed-e-Azam' Bhagat Singh. Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mann in the swearing-in ceremony.

He took oath as 17th Chief Minister of Punjab.

## **29. Frank Torres Appointed As President Of Nissan India**

Senior Nissan executive Frank Torres has been appointed Region Divisional Vice President for Business Transformation in the AMIEO region (Africa, Middle East, India, Europe, and Oceania) and the new President of Nissan India. Torres joined Nissan in Spain in 2007 as a Production Engineering Analyst, before becoming Managing Director for Nissan Motor Iberica (NMISA) in 2011.

### **30. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank appoints M.D. Ramesh Murthy as Chief Financial Officer**

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has appointed MD Ramesh Murthy as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). As CFO, Murthy will be responsible for formulating and guiding the bank's strategy for growth, while also leading the Finance and Accounts functions. Murthy joins Ujjivan SFB from Karur Vysya Bank where he was the CRO and subsequently, the CFO. Murthy is a Chartered Accountant and an alumnus of The Harvard Business School.

### **31. Tapan Singhel gets 5-year extension as Bajaj Allianz General Insurance's MD & CEO**

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance announced a five-year tenure extension of its managing director and CEO Tapan Singhel. The new term will be effective from April 1, 2022, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance. Under Singhel's leadership, the company has emerged as one of the largest and most profitable private general insurers in the country ensuring growth, and profitability.

### **32. Shankar Prasad Sharma appointed as new Nepal envoy to India**

President Bidya Devi Bhandari appointed Dr Shankar Prasad Sharma as the Ambassador to India.

President Bhandari appointed Sharma to the post as per the recommendation of the Council of Ministers in line with the Article 282 of the Constitution of Nepal.

Post of Nepal's envoy in New Delhi was vacant after Ambassador Nilambar Acharya, was recalled some six months ago.

### **33. Banks Board Bureau recommends names for chiefs of Union Bank, IOB and Punjab & Sind Bank**

While A Manimekhalai, executive director at Canara Bank, has been recommended as the MD & CEO of UBI, Ajay Kumar Srivastava, Executive Director at IOB, has been recommended for the post in the same bank. Swaroop Kumar Saha has been recommended for the position at the Punjab & Sind Bank.

### **34. N Biren Singh Takes Oath As Manipur CM For Second Time**

N Biren Singh was sworn in as the chief minister of Manipur for the second time at the Raj Bhavan.

Singh, along with five cabinet ministers, were administered oath by Governor La Ganesan.

### **35. Pushkar Singh Dhami gets second term in Uttarakhand, Pramod Sawant in Goa**

Pushkar Singh Dhami will continue as the Uttarakhand chief minister.

In Goa, Pramod Sawant was unanimously elected the leader of the BJP legislature party, paving the way for him to take over as the chief minister for a second term.

(Retd.) Gurmit Singh- Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand

Shri P.S. Sreedharan Pillai - 22nd & current Governor of the State of Goa.

### **36. TCS appoints Rajesh Gopinathan as CEO; NG Subramaniam as COO**

Tata Consultancy Services, a leading IT services, consulting and business solutions firm announced that Rajesh Gopinathan has been appointed as chief executive officer and managing director.

Mr Gopinathan takes over from N Chandrasekaran who has been appointed as the Chairman of Tata Sons, effective February 21, 2017.

### **37. Pushkar Singh Dhama takes oath as the 12th chief minister of Uttarakhand**

Pushkar Singh Dhama was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. Eight Cabinet ministers also took oath along with Dhama.

46-year-old Pushkar Dhama was administered the oath by Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen (retd) Gurmit Singh. He needs to be elected to the state assembly within six months to continue as Chief Minister.

### **38. Maruti Suzuki names Hisashi Takeuchi as MD and CEO for next 3 years**

Maruti Suzuki has appointed Hisashi Takeuchi as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer from April 1, 2022

Takeuchi will succeed Kenichi Ayukawa - a whole-time director - who will be designated as Executive Vice-Chairman for a period of six months with effect from 1 st April, 2022 till 30th September, 2022. Ayukawa joined as MD, MSIL in 2013.

### **39. Lt. Gen. Vinod G. Khandare appointed Adviser in Defence Ministry**

Lt. Gen. Vinod G. Khandare (retd.) has been appointed as Adviser in the Ministry of Defence. He will work closely with the Defence Secretary.

Lt. Gen. Khandare superannuated from the Army end-January 2018. From then till October 2021, he served as the Military Adviser in the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) under the Prime Minister's Office.

### **40. Former SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar joins advisory board of Dun & Bradstreet**

Former State Bank of India (SBI) chairman Rajnish Kumar has joined the international strategic advisory board of data and analytics firm Dun & Bradstreet. Kumar, a veteran banker, currently sits on the boards of HSBC Asia Pacific, L&T Infotech, Hero MotoCorp and BharatPe. Dun & Bradstreet has a legacy of more than 180 years.

#### **41. IPG Mediabrands India CEO Shashi Sinha takes over as BARC chairman**

The board of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) has elected Shashi Sinha, Chief Executive Officer at IPG Mediabrands India, as its new chairman at a meeting on March 25. He succeeds Zee Entertainment Enterprises MD & CEO Punit Goenka, who served as the chairman for three years.

Sinha represented the Advertising Agencies Association of India as the board member.

#### **42. Payments Council of India re-elects Infibeam Avenues' Vishwas Patel as chairman**

Payments Council of India (PCI), a payments ecosystem industry body and a part of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) has re-elected Vishwas Patel as the chairman of PCI for another term.

Praveena Rai, COO, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and MN Srinivasu, Co-founder and Director at BillDesk have been appointed as co-chairs of its seven committees

#### **43. RBI approves appointment of Pralay Mondal as CSB Bank's interim MD and CEO**

CSB Bank appointed its current deputy Managing Director, Pralay Mondal, as the interim Managing Director (MD) & CEO for a period of 3 months from 1 April 2022 or till the appointment of a regular MD & CEO, whichever is earlier.

C. VR. Rajendran, the present MD & CEO will take early retirement from the position due to health reasons by 31 March 2022.



#### **44. Former banker Mukesh Jain appointed as WDRA Member**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Mukesh Kumar Jain, former MD & CEO of the erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC), as Member in the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA).

He has been appointed for a period of three years, according to the Department of Personnel & Training.

#### **45. NIRDPR, ICAI ink pact for development of Accounting/Auditing Standards for Rural Local Bodies**

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for collaboration in the development of Accounting/Auditing Standards for Rural Local Bodies

. NIRDPR, Director General G Narendra Kumar. ICAI President Debashis Mitra.

#### **46. Sanjay Kumar takes over as New MD of Indraprastha Gas Ltd**

Sanjay Kumar takes over as Managing Director of Indraprastha Gas Ltd. A Mechanical Engineer from prestigious IIT Kharagpur and an MBA, Mr. Kumar brings to IGL a rich domain experience of over 34 years in Gas sector during his tenure in GAIL (India) Ltd.

#### **47. Ex-CAG Vinod Rai appointed as Kalyan Jewellers India chairman**

Kalyan Jewellers has announced the appointment of former Comptroller and Auditor General of India Vinod Rai as the chairman and independent non-executive director on the company's board. TS Kalyanaraman will, however, continue as the Managing Director.

Rai received the Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian award in 2016.

## **48. FedEx Founder steps down as CEO after 50 years; Indian-born Raj Subramaniam takes over**

FedEx founder Frederick Smith will step down as chief executive after some five decades atop the transport behemoth.

Chief Operating Officer Raj Subramaniam will take the company's helm.

Smith first devised the idea for Federal Express -- which adopted FedEx as its brand name in 1994.

The transition will take place on June 1.

## **49. Robert Abela sworn in as Malta's Prime Minister**

Robert Abela has been sworn in for his second tenure as Malta's prime minister.

The ceremony was held at the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta, where he was administered the oath of office by President George Vella.

Abela secured his mandate in the 2022 general election, where he led the Labour Party into another landslide victory with an almost 39,500 majority. Malta's Capital: Valletta,

Currency: Euro

## **50. ILO elects former Prime Minister Gilbert F. Houngbo of Togo as new Director-General**

The International Labour Organization's (ILO) next Director-General will be Gilbert F. Houngbo from Togo.

Houngbo is currently President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

He was elected by the ILO's Governing Body, comprising representatives of governments, workers and employers, during their meeting in Geneva. He will be the 11th Director-General of the ILO, and the first African to hold the post.

### **51. Mahesh Verma appointed NABH chairman**

Mahesh Verma has been appointed the new chairman of the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare providers (NABH).

NABH, a constituent Board of Quality Council of India, operates accreditation, certification and empanelment programmes for healthcare organisations.

Dr Verma is a recipient of Padma Shri as well as Dr. B. C. Roy award. He is the Vice Chancellor of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University.

### **52. Himanta Biswa Sarma Re-elected As President Of Badminton Association Of India**

Incumbent Himanta Biswa Sarma was re-elected unopposed as the president of Badminton Association of India (BAI) for a second term of four years -- 2022 to 2026 -- during its General Body Meeting in Guwahati.

Sarma, who is also the current Chief Minister of Assam, was elected as BAI chief for the first time in 2017.

### **53. NATO extends chief Stoltenberg's term for a year due to Russia's war**

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg will remain in his role for an extra year to help steer the 30-nation military organization through the security crisis sparked by Russia's war on Ukraine.

The former Norwegian prime minister was named to NATO's top civilian post in October 2014. It's the second time that his term of office has been extended.

## Awards

### **1. Prof Deepak Dhar from IISER-Pune Becomes 1st Indian Physicist to Receive Boltzmann Medal**

The prestigious Boltzmann Medal for the year 2022 has been awarded to Prof Deepak Dhar from Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune (IISER Pune).

The award was declared to Prof Dhar for his contribution in the field of 'Statistical Physics'. He shared the award with American scientist John Hopfield.

### **2. President of India Sh. Ram Nath Kovind To Confer Prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskars To 29 Outstanding Individuals**

As many as 29 outstanding personalities will be conferred with the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar for the years 2020 and 2021 on the occasion of International Women's Day.

In all, 28 awards (14 each for the year 2020 and 2021) will be presented to 29 individuals in recognition of their exceptional work in rendering distinguished services towards the empowerment of women.

### **3. NMDC receives 1st prize in Ispat Rajbhasha Award for 2018-19 and 2020-21 & Ispat Rajbhasha Prerna Award for 2019-20**

National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC), Country's largest Iron Ore producer, a CPSE under Ministry of Steel received 1st prize in the Ispat Rajbhasha Award for 2018-19 and 2020-21 and the Ispat Rajbhasha Prerna Award for 2019-20 in the meeting of the Hindi Salahakar Committee of the Ministry of Steel held in Madurai on 3rd March 2022. NMDC Limited, is a government owned mineral producer. Headquarters: Hyderabad.

#### **4. Bangladeshi environmental lawyer Rizwana Hasan to get US International Women of Courage Award for 2022**

A Bangladeshi environmental lawyer Rizwana Hasan has been selected for the International Women of Courage (IWOC) Award for 2022.

She is among the 12 women from around the world who will be honoured by the US Department of State with the award for showing exceptional courage and leadership to make a difference in their communities.

#### **5. J&K Bank wins National Award for SHG Bank Linkage, commissions 4 Business Units**

In recognition of its best performance in Self Help Group Bank Linkage, Ministry of Rural Development (GoI) has awarded J&K Bank with 'National Award for Outstanding Performance for FY 2020-21'.

Zonal Head Delhi Kirti Sharma received the national award on behalf of Bank.

J&K Bank has expanded its footprint by commissioning four Business Units (BUs) in the Kashmir valley.

#### **6. SKOCH State of Governance Report Card for 2021 released**

The SKOCH Group has released the SKOCH Governance Report Card for 2021, ranking the states according to their performance in various projects at state, district and municipal level. Andhra Pradesh bagged the number 1 spot for the 2nd consecutive year.

The SKOCH State of Governance report is an annual report that studies project-level outcomes across various states of India.

## **7. Shri Bhupender Yadav Presents Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar , National Safety Awards And National Safety Awards Mines**

Shri Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister of Labour and Employment, Environment, Forest and Climate Change presented Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP), National Safety Awards (NSA) for the performance year 2018 and National Safety Awards (Mines) [NSA (Mines)] for the contest years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

## **8. Narayan Pradhan selected for GD Birla Award for Scientific Research**

Professor Narayan Pradhan has been selected for the 31st GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for his outstanding contribution in the field of material sciences, He has provided his expertise in crystal modulations to help design new shapes of these tiny lighting materials.

## **9. MoHUA announces winners of EatSmart Cities Challenge**

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs announced eleven winning cities for the EatSmart Cities Challenge. The challenge was launched by MoHUA in collaboration with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on 15th April, 2021, to scale up the Eat Right India approach to city level.

## **10. NITI Aayog to organize 5th Edition of Women Transforming India Awards on March 21**

NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform will confer to seventy five women in its fifth edition of the Women Transforming India Awards on March 21.

The Awards will be conferred on seventy five women achievers to celebrate their contribution towards a Sashakt Aur Samarth Bharat.

### **11. Pritzker Prize 2022: Francis Kr becomes first African to win 'Nobel of architecture'**

The latest edition of Dezeen Debate features Burkinab architect Dibdo Francis Kr, who has won this year's Pritzker Architecture Prize.

Born in Gando, Burkina Faso, Kr is the first African and the first Black architect to win the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize, which has been awarded annually since 1979.

### **12. Abel prize for 2022 goes to American mathematician Dennis P. Sullivan**

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has awarded the Abel prize for the year 2022 to American Mathematician Dennis Parnell Sullivan.

One of Abel prize winner Dennis Parnell Sullivan's key breakthroughs is in developing a new way of understanding rational homotopy theory, a subfield of algebraic topology.

### **13. C-DOT felicitated with Voice & Data Excellence award at 21st edition of Telecom Leadership Forum**

Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier Telecom R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India has been felicitated at 21st edition of Telecom Leadership Forum, a conference on 'Era of Convergence' organized by VOICE & DATA.

## **14. Oscars 2022 : Will Smith wins Best Actor, Jessica Chastain lifts Best Actress trophy**

This year, Jane Campion's *The Power of The Dog* has received the most number of nominations.

Oscars 2022 for Best Picture went to CODA.

Will Smith won Best Actor in a Leading Role for *King Richard*.

The 94th Academy Awards paid tribute to *Godfather*. The film completes 50 years in 2022.

Hans Zimmer won Oscars for Best Original Score for *Dune*. The 94th Academy Awards' ceremony is being held at Los Angeles' Dolby Theatre.

## **15. Cochin International Airport (CIAL) bags 'Covid Champion Award'**

Cochin International Airport Limited bagged the 'Covid Champion Award' at Wings India 2022, Asia's largest event on civil aviation jointly organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad.

CIAL managing director S Suhas received the 'Covid Champions' trophy from Minister for Civil Aviation. Minister for Civil Aviation:- Jyotiraditya Scindia.

## **16. Wilfried Brutsaert aka 'Mr Evaporation' wins the Stockholm Water Prize 2022**

The renowned hydrologist Wilfried Brutsaert, also known as Mr. Evaporation, has been awarded the Stockholm Water Prize 2022 for his groundbreaking work to quantify environmental evaporation, helping to make accurate predictions of the impact that climate change has on local rainfall patterns and water sources.



## 17. Deepika Padukone Conferred With The TIME100 Impact Award

TIME recently announced the awardees of the first-ever TIME100 Impact Awards. It's a recognition of leaders who, through sustained effort, have done extraordinary work to shape the future of their industries and the world at large.

Deepika was honoured for her contribution to films and being an active advocator of mental health.



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## Ranks & Reports

### 1. All India House Price Index rises 3.1 pc in Q3: RBI data

The All India House Price Index (HPI) rose 3.1% in the third quarter of the fiscal on an annual basis, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The RBI releases its quarterly house price index (HPI) based on transaction-level data received from housing registration authorities in ten major cities.

## **2. Sh. Bhupender Yadav releases DTE's State of India's Environment 2022**

Sh. Bhupender Yadav, Union minister of environment, forests & climate change, released Down To Earth's Annual State of India's Environment Report 2022 at the Anil Agarwal Dialogue organised by Delhi-based non-profit Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). Climate change, desertification and the sustainability-affordability linkage- 3 extremely critical issues facing India.

## **3. India slips 3 spots to rank 120 on 17 SDG goals adopted as 2030 agenda**

India has slipped three spots from last year's 117 to rank 120 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 192 United Nations member states. The south Asian countries ahead of India are Bhutan ranked 75, Sri Lanka 87, Nepal 96 and Bangladesh 109. India's overall Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) score was 66 out of 100. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, was adopted by all UN Member States in 2015

## **4. India ranks 3rd in billionaire population globally: Knight Frank**

The number of ultra-high-net-worth-individuals (UHNWIs) has globally increased by 9.3% in 2021. Over 51,000 people have seen their net assets increased to US\$30m or more. In India, the number of UHNWIs (net assets with US\$ 30m or more) has grown by 11% YoY in 2021, the highest percentage growth in APAC, according to Knight Frank's latest edition of The Wealth Report 2022. India has ranked 3rd in terms of billionaires' population in 2021, US and China

## **5. Telangana tops country in terms of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices**

Telangana has surpassed Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to become top-performing state in the country in terms of growth rate of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices.

GSDP in Telangana increased from Rs 359434 crores in 2011-12 to Rs 1,154,860 crores in 2021-22.

Telangana state began its journey in 2014 with the spirit of a 'startup state'.

## **6. Russia Is Now the World's Most-Sanctioned Nation**

Due to its war on Ukraine, Russia has become the most sanctioned in the world, according to a New York-based sanctions watchlist site.

Castellum.AI said that sanctions were first imposed by the US and its allies on Russia on February 22 a day after President Vladimir Putin declared the two Ukrainian rebel regions of Donetsk and Luhansk as "independent states".

## **7. Ministry of Education releases Report on Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2020-21**

Ministry of Education has released of the report on Unified District Information System for Education Plus 2020-21 on school education of India. The UDISE+ system of online data collection from the schools was developed by Department of School Education & Literacy in 2018-19 to overcome the issues related to erstwhile practice of manual data filling in paper format.

## **8. Crisil retains GDP growth forecast at 7.8 per cent for 2022-23**

Domestic rating agency CRISIL has estimated FY23 real GDP growth at 7.8 per cent as compared with the 8.5 per cent projected in the Economic Survey.

The growth to slow to 7.8 per cent in FY23 from the 9.2 per cent in FY22.

Global growth is expected to slow this year as major economies see a withdrawal of monetary and fiscal stimulus.

## **9. India's gold imports bounced back to 1,067 tonnes in 2021: Gem Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)**

India's gold imports bounced back to 1,067.72 tonnes in 2021 from 430.11 tonnes during 2020 when the demand was hit due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The gold imports in 2021 were up by 27.66 % from 836.38 tonnes during 2019.

Along with China, India is by far the world's largest importer and consumer of gold.

## **10. Morgan Stanley cuts India GDP growth forecast to 7.9% for FY23**

As higher oil prices torpedo economic recovery worldwide, Morgan Stanley has cut India's GDP forecast for the fiscal year beginning April 1 by 50 basis points to 7.9%, raised retail inflation projection to 6 % and expects current account deficit to widen to 3% of GDP.

The report saw upside risks of 0.5 % of GDP to the fiscal deficit target of 6.4% of GDP for FY23.

## **11. Greater investment in care services could create almost 300 million jobs : International Labour Organisation report**

Persistent & significant gaps in care services & policies have left hundreds of millions of workers with family responsibilities without adequate protection and support, yet meeting these needs could create almost 300mn jobs by 2035. ILO revealed the information in a new report titled "Care at work: Investing in care leave & services for a more gender-equal world of world".

## **12. RailTel ranks 124 in Fortune India Next 500 list**

RailTel jumped 67 positions to rank 124th in the recently announced 'Fortune India Next 500 list of Year 2022'.

It was ranked 197 in the 2021 list of top midsize companies operating in India.

RailTel is one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure services providers in the country.

## **13. Mobile broadband subscribers more than double to 765 million in 5 yrs: Nokia**

Mobile broadband subscribers in India more than doubled to 765 million from 345 million in the past five years and the average data traffic per user per month reached 17GB in 2021, said a new report by Finnish telecom equipment maker Nokia.

India's growing 4G networks carried almost all mobile broadband traffic in 2021.

#### **14. Finland named as the Happiest Country in the World for the fifth consecutive year**

World Happiness Report 2022, 10th edition of the report, identified Finland as the happiest country of the world, for the fifth times in a row. Published since 2012, the World Happiness Report is based on two key ideas ' happiness or life evaluation measured through opinion surveys and identifying key elements that determine well-being and life evaluation across countries. World Happiness Report is published by UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

#### **15. Moody's cuts India's GDP forecast to 9.1%**

Moody's Investors Service has reduced its projection on India's economic growth in calendar year 2022 to 9.1% from 9.5%, citing high fuel prices & potentially elevated fertilizer costs that could weigh on government finances & limit planned capital spending. Moody's also cut global growth forecast for 2022 by 0.7 % point to 3.6%, citing the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war.

#### **16. Bangladesh top in South Asia in terms of women on board of listed companies**

Bangladesh top in South Asia in terms of women on board of listed companies.

Bangladesh tops the list in South Asia in terms of women on board of listed companies, says a study conducted by International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

### **17. Bangladesh most polluted country of the World**

Bangladesh was the most polluted country in the world in 2021, says the World Air Quality Report prepared by the Swiss-based air quality technology company IQAir in its latest report.

In terms of particulate matter in the air, Bangladesh recorded an average PM2.5 level of 76.9 micrograms per cubic metre in 2021 against the WHO recommended maximum 5 micrograms per cubic metre.

### **18. India ranks 51st in global list of annual rise in housing prices**

India ranks 51st in annual appreciation in housing prices with a 2.% rise in rates during the Oct-Dec quarter of the last year, according to property consultant Knight Frank.

In its latest research report titled 'Global House Price Index ' Q4 2021,' Knight Frank said that India has climbed up 5 spots to the 51st rank in Q4 of 2021 against the 56th rank in Q4 of 2020.

### **19. Fitch cuts India growth forecast for 2022-23 to 8.5% from 10.3%**

Fitch Ratings downgraded its 2022-23 growth forecast for India from 10.3% to 8.5% citing sharply higher energy prices which it believes will spur inflation beyond 7% as oil companies eventually pass on price hikes to retail consumers.

Global inflation is back with a vengeance after an absence of at least two decades.

## **20. Gujarat retains top position at NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2021**

Gujarat has retained the top position at the NITI Aayog's second edition of the Export Preparedness Index 2021 followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana as the top 10 performers.

Among union territories, Delhi has topped the index.

Jammu and Kashmir ranked third.

## **21. Moradabad 2nd in world in noise pollution: UN report**

Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad is the second-most noise polluted city globally, according to the recent 'Annual Frontier Report, 2022' published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The area recorded noise pollution of an ear-splitting 114 decibels at its highest (dB) in 2021.

## **22. Banks Report Frauds Worth Rs 34,000 Crore In April-December 2021: RBI**

A total of 27 scheduled commercial banks and financial institutions have reported 96 cases of fraud, involving a total amount of Rs 34,097 crore in the nine months ended December.

While Punjab National Bank recorded the highest value of frauds worth Rs 4,820 crore, Bank of India recorded the highest number of frauds at 13, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India. Minister of State for Finance -Bhagwat Karad.

## **23. Virat Kohli tops celebrity brand rankings for fifth straight year**

Virat Kohli has emerged as the most valued celebrity in India for the fifth year in a row, topping the Duff & Phelps Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2021 despite seeing a dip in his brand value to \$185.7 million last year from a high of \$237.7 million in 2020.



## Important Days

### 1. Zero Discrimination Day 2022: March 1

To battle against the mentality that sparks issues, cases of violence, or general violence, Zero Discrimination Day is observed every year on March 1.

The day was first launched by Michel Sidibe, director, UNAIDS, in December 2013. The next year on March 1, 2014, Zero Discrimination Day was observed for the very first time.

2022 Theme:- 'Remove Laws That Harm, Create Laws That Empower.'

### 2. 46th Civil Accounts Day to be celebrated on 2nd March 2022

The 46th Civil Accounts Day will be celebrated on 2nd March 2022 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi. Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman will be the Chief Guest.

Finance Minister will launch a major e-governance initiative - the Electronic Bill (e-Bill) processing system as part of ease of doing business & Digital India.

### 3. Janaushadhi Diwas week to be observed from 1st March to 7th March 2022

Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), under the aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals is going to celebrate their 4th Jan Aushadhi Diwas by organizing weeklong celebrations at different locations across the country covering all States/UTs.

This will generate awareness about the usages of generic medicines and benefits of Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana.

#### **4. Union Minister for Women & Child Development Inaugurates celebration of International Day of Women ' Week From 1st To 8th March**

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is celebrating the International Women's Day week from 1st to 8th March, 2022 as a part of nationwide celebrations of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

WCD Ministry in collaboration with Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) to raise awareness on safety and security of women. Union Minister for Women and Child Development:- Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani

#### **5. World Wildlife Day, observed on March 3 annually.**

On 20 December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 3, the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973, as World Wildlife Day.

The World Wildlife Day (WWD) 2022 theme is "Safeguarding key species for ecosystem restoration" There are over 22,000 endangered & critically endangered species.

#### **6. National Safety Day 2022: March 4**

Every year on March 4, India commemorates National Safety Day with the goal of raising awareness and commitment to working safely.

The National Safety Council established the holiday to raise public awareness of all safety principles, including road safety, workplace safety, human health safety, and environmental safety. 2022 theme :- 'Nurture young minds - Develop safety culture'.

## **7. World Obesity Day: March 4**

Observed on March 4, World Obesity Day is an initiative that is directed towards the eradication of the global obesity crisis. Earlier October 11 was marked as World Obesity Day. Since 2020, the date has been changed to March 4. 'Everybody Needs to Act' is the theme for World Obesity Day 2022. World Obesity Federation, a non-profit body organises this day annually. World Obesity Day was celebrated for the first time in 2015.

## **8. National Security Day: March 4**

March 4 is observed as National Security Day in India. It is also known as Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas and is celebrated to honour the National Security Day. The day aims to show gratitude to our security forces which include military, para-military, commandos, police officials, guards, and India's security forces and to those who maintain peace and security of our country. March 4 marks the day when the National Safety Council of India was established in 1966.

## **9. CISF celebrated its 53rd Raising Day**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah attended the 53rd Raising Day celebrations of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in Ghaziabad.

The Home Minister pitched for a hybrid security model where the CISF could train and certify private security agencies so that they can take over the task of efficiently guarding various kinds of industrial and manufacturing units in India.

## **10. International Women's Day 2022: March 8**

Each year, International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, International Women's Day first emerged from the activities of labour movements at the turn of the twentieth century across North America and Europe. Theme 2022:- Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow.

## **11. World Kidney day 2022 | 10 March**

World Kidney day is celebrated on the second Thursday of March every year. This year World Kidney day will be celebrated on 10 March.

World kidney day is a joint initiation of International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF).

The theme for World Kidney day 2022 is 'Kidney health for all'.

## **12. Pi Day / International Day of Mathematics 2022: March 14**

Pi is a Greek letter and a mathematical constant that expresses the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter.

Not only that, but it's also Albert Einstein's birthday on this day, so it's a mathematician's dream come true.

On National Pi Day, which falls on March 14 every year, mathematicians all across the world commemorate the constant Pi.

### **13. World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated every year to spread awareness about the common concerns of consumers.**

The World Consumer Rights Day is observed annually on 15 March. On this day, advocates raise their voices to demand that the rights of all consumers are respected and protected, no matter the product or service in question or the social strata where the consumers belong.

The theme for World Consumer Rights Day 2021 is Fair Digital Finance.

### **14. National Vaccination Day 2022 | March 16**

National Vaccination Day 2022 - 16 March Theme - "Vaccines Work for all".

India administered its first dose of oral vaccine against polio on this day in 1995. It marked the launch of National Immunization Day (NID), also known as National Vaccination Day and Pulse Polio Immunisation programme.

World Immunization Week ' celebrated every year in the last week of April.

### **15. International Adolescent Health Week to be celebrated from March 20 to 26**

It is an annual international week of dynamic participatory events to inspire health care providers, policy makers, administrators, media and adolescents and their communities to advocate for a successful transition into adulthood. Indian Academy of Pediatrics' Adolescent Health Academy is coordinating the national celebrations of International Adolescent Health Week.

## **16. Global Recycling Day: March 18**

Global Recycling Day is held annually on 18 March to help recognise, and celebrate, the importance recycling plays in securing the future of our planet.

The day strives to urge world leaders that recycling must be a global issue and encourage people to think resourcefully and not waste when it comes to the goods around us. Global Recycling Day was created in 2018 by the Global Recycling Foundation.

## **17. Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Amit Shah attended the 83rd Raising Day celebrations of the CRPF**

The Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah attended the 83rd Raising Day celebrations of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Jammu as the Chief Guest. On this day in 1950, the country's first Home Minister and Iron Man, Sardar Patel gave CRPF its colours. Today, the CRPF is the country's largest armed force with 246 battalions and 3.25 lakh soldiers. This is the first time that the CRPF is celebrating its Raising Day outside Delhi.

## **18. World Sparrow Day 2022 | 20th March**

World Sparrow Day is celebrated on March 20 every year to raise awareness about the conservation of the common house sparrows, which are increasingly vanishing due to urbanisation, high pollution levels, global warming and loss of ecological resources among other reasons.

World Sparrow Day was first observed in 2010. The theme for World Sparrow Day this year is "I love sparrows".

## **19. International Day of Forest | 21 March**

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests (IDF) in 2012. The Day celebrates and raises awareness of the importance of all types of forests.

Forests are home to about 80% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity, with more than 60,000 tree species.

The world is losing 10 million hectares of forest each year. The theme for 2022 is "Forests and sustainable production and consumption."

## **20. World Down Syndrome Day 2022: March 21**

Down syndrome, a genetic condition, was first described by British physician John Langdon Haydon Down in the year 1862, but it was only in 1959, the French physician Jérôme Lejeune identified Down syndrome as a chromosomal condition.

World Down Syndrome Day is observed annually on March 21 to raise public awareness of the genetic condition. This year, the theme of the day has been decided as 'We Decide'.

## **21. World Water Day 2022: March 22**

World Water Day is observed every year on March 22 to celebrate water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water.

This year, the theme for the day is "Groundwater, making the invisible visible".

The United Nations began observing World Water Day since 1993.

## **22. World Meteorological Day: March 23**

World Meteorological Day is observed every year on 23 March to commemorate the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

WMO is a United Nations' (UN) specialised organisation with 193 member states and territories.

This year, the theme is 'Early Warning and Early Action'.

## **23. Shaheed Diwas 2022: March 23**

Shaheed Diwas 2022 also known as Martyr's Day is celebrated every year on March 23. This is the day when we remember all the valiant warriors who fought to protect our country and lost their lives on the front.

This day is remembered as a dark chapter in the pages of history as the British government hanged Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar.

## **24. World Tuberculosis Day 2022 | 24th March, Theme- Invest to End TB. Save Lives**

Each year, we commemorate World Tuberculosis (TB) Day on March 24 to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of TB, and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic. The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB.

## **25. October 5 to be designated as National Dolphin Day**

The Union environment ministry has designated October 5 as the National Dolphin Day, to be celebrated annually starting this year.

The decision to designate a National Dolphin Day was taken by the standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).

The NBWL is chaired by the Prime Minister.





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## Summit & Conferences

### 1. Minister of Electronics & IT Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw to inaugurate Tech Conclave 2022

Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Railways and Communications, Ashwini Vaishnaw will inaugurate the 3rd edition of 'NIC Tech Conclave 2022', a 2-day event being organized by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

NIC has been organizing Tech Conclave focused on Emerging Technologies applicable especially in e-Governance. The Theme for Tech Conclave this year is 'Next Gen Technologies for Digital Government'.

## **2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address post-budget Webinar on 'Make in India for the World'**

In line with the vision of PM Narendra Modi to make India a global hub for manufacturing, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry is organizing a Post Budget Webinar on Make in India for the World.

The Union Budget 2022 has laid down a roadmap for India@100 with manufacturing as one of the key drivers of growth.

## **3. CCI organising 7th National Conference on Economics of Competition Law to be held on March 4, 2022 in Virtual Mode**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) will hold the 7th National Conference on Economics of Competition Law on Friday, March 4, 2022 in Virtual Mode. CCI has been organising the Conference every year since 2016.

The Conference is an endeavour to develop and sustain interest in the Economics of Competition Law and create a critical mass of antitrust economists.

## **4. PM Sh. Narendra Modi joins QUAD leaders in virtual meet, exchanged views on developments in Indo-Pacific**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated along with President of USA Joseph R Biden, Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison, and Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida in a QUAD Leaders' virtual meeting.

The leaders had an opportunity to continue their dialogue after the September 2021 Summit in Washington DC.

## **5. Ministry of MSME organizes Summit on Plastics Recycling & Waste Management**

Union Minister of State for MSME inaugurated International Summit on Plastics Recycling & Waste Management today being organized by Ministry of MSME in association with The All-India Plastics Manufacturers' Association. Ministry also launched two special initiatives - 'Sambhav' and 'Svavlamban' to promote entrepreneurship amongst youth, especially in aspirational Districts.

## **6. Sh. Rajnath Singh Virtually Inaugurates Indo-Pacific Military Health Exchange Conference**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated the four-day Indo-Pacific Military Health Exchange (IPMHE) conference co-hosted by Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) and US Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM).

The theme of the conference is 'Military Healthcare in a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) World'.

## **7. Germany To Host G7 Meeting Over Food Security**

Germany will host a virtual meeting of agricultural ministers from G7 countries to discuss the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on global food security and how to best stabilize food markets.

The German Minister of Agriculture and Food, Cem zdemir, said that the meeting would focus on how to stabilize food markets. Germany holds the rotating presidency of the G7 most-advanced economies in 2022.

## **8. India, Canada to hold 5th Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment**

India and Canada will be holding the 5th Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment (MDTI) from March 10-13.

The meeting will be co-chaired by Piyush Goyal, Minister of Textiles, Commerce and Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Total bilateral trade between India and Canada including goods and services crossed USD 11 billion.

## **9. Minister of State for Culture, Sri Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurates Sahityotsav, the Festival of Letters of Sahitya Akademi**

Sahityotsav, the Festival of Letters of Sahitya Akademi, India's most inclusive literature festival commenced in New Delhi.

Festival of Letters 2022 is being celebrated to commemorate 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

The Exhibition showcases Akademi's achievements and seminal events held in the previous year.

## **10. 36th International Geological Congress to be held in New Delhi**

The 36th International Geological Congress (IGC), themed 'Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future' will be held here during 20-22 March, 2022 on a virtual platform.

The 36th IGC is a joint endeavour of the Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Indian National Science Academy and the Science Academies of Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Described as the Olympics of Geosciences, the IGCs are held quadrennial.

### **11. India-Indonesia hold second security dialogue in Jakarta**

The 2nd India-Indonesia Security Dialogue (IISD) was held in Jakarta.

It was co- chaired by Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal & Security Affairs of Indonesia, Mohammad Mahfud & National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

They also discussed several shared priorities, including review of the current global & security issues, countering terrorism & violent extremism, etc.

### **12. Ministry of Civil Aviation & FICCI to jointly organise 'WINGS INDIA 2022' from 24th to 27th March in Hyderabad**

Ministry of Civil Aviation and FICCI will jointly organise Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation - WINGS INDIA 2022 - from 24th to 27th of this month at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad.

Theme of the event is 'India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry.'

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia will be formally inaugurating the event on 25th March. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry - FICCI.

### **13. Indian Psychiatric Society national conference to begin in Visakhapatnam on March 24**

The 73 rd Annual National Conference of Indian Psychiatric Society (ANCIPS) will be organized in Visakhapatnam from March 24 to 26. Experts from various parts of India and a few from abroad are expected to participate in the three-day conference to be held at Vizag Conventions at Madhurawada. The last national conference was held 37 years ago in Visakhapatnam. The theme chosen for the three-day meet is 'Bridging minds ' Connecting generations'

## **14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend 5th BIMSTEC Summit virtually on March 30**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the 5th BIMSTEC Summit on 30th of this month.

The Summit Meeting, which is being held in a virtual mode, will be hosted by Sri Lanka which is the current BIMSTEC chair.

The Summit, meetings of BIMSTEC Senior Officials will take place on 28th March followed by meetings of the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers on 29th of March, 2022.

### **Science & Technology**

#### **1. Canada clears world's 1st plant-based Covid vaccine.**

Canada has approved the use of Covifenz, the world's first plant-derived Covid-19 vaccine jointly developed by Medicago Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline Plc.

The vaccine has been cleared for people aged 18 to 64 since its safety and effectiveness, according to Health Canada, have not been established in people younger than 18 or older than 64 years of age.

#### **2. Google launches 'Play Pass' subscription in India**

Google has announced the launch of 'Play Pass' subscription service in India that will provide Android device users access to over 1,000 applications and games without ads, in-app purchases, and upfront payments.

In India, users can get started with the service with a one-month trial and subscribe for Rs. 99 per month or Rs 889 for the year.

### **3. DST partners with Intel India to boost AI readiness**

'Building AI Readiness among Young Innovators', a program by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, in partnership with Intel India, was launched on the occasion of National Science Day on 28th February by Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology(I/C), Government of India.

### **4. NASA, ULA Launch NOAA's Newest Earth Observing Satellite**

NASA successfully launched the third in a series of next-generation weather satellites for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The newest Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite, GOES-T, launched on a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. GOES-R satellites main job is to help with weather prediction

### **5. Petascale supercomputer 'PARAM Ganga' established at IIT Roorkee**

National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) has deployed PARAM Ganga, a supercomputer at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee, with a supercomputing capacity of 1.66 petaflops.

The system is designed and commissioned by C-DAC under phase-2 of the build approach of the NSM.

### **6. Iran puts second military satellite into orbit - Tasnim**

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has successfully put a second military satellite, the Noor 2, into orbit.

Noor 2 is orbiting at an altitude of 500 kilometres (311 miles).

The first military satellite, launched by the Islamic Republic in April 2020, placed the Noor, or "light" in Persian, at an orbit of 425km (265 miles) above the earth's surface. Iran's Capital: Tehran; Currency: Iranian rial.

## **7. ISRO launches 'Young Scientist Programme' for Class 11 students; registrations begin**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is organising a special programme for school children called 'YUva VIgyani KAryakram' (YUVIKA) or 'Young Scientist Programme' to impart basic knowledge on space technology, space science and space applications to young students, especially for those from rural areas.

## **8. Israel-based Coralogix forms Snowbit, a cyber security venture in India**

Israel-based Coralogix, announced its foray into the India cyber security market with the launch of security venture Snowbit. The company is a full-service cybersecurity venture focussed on empowering cloud-native companies to secure themselves against growing cyber risks in a quick, efficient, and cost-effective manner. It is founded and led by tech veterans and former Amazon Web Services (AWS) executives.

## **9. ISRO successfully carried out ground test of solid booster stage for SSLV**

The newly developed Solid Booster Stage (SS1) motor is a three-segmented solid propulsion stage incorporating various new technologies and innovative processes which includes a bond-free joint between the segments, high power electromechanical actuator with digital control electronics, optimized ignitor and simultaneous propellant casting of all segments, have been tested. Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is developed to launch small satellites.



## **10. China develops laser weapon that could destroy satellites in space**

Researchers in China have developed a microwave machine "Relativistic Klystron Amplifier (RKA)", that could jam or destroy satellites in space. The device can generate a wave burst measuring 5-megawatts in the Ka-band, a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum increasingly used for both civil and military purposes. Directed Energy Weapons (DEW) use concentrated electromagnetic energy rather than KE.

## **11. IIT Madras launches Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre to map human brains at cellular level**

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras has launched the Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre that aims to power 'Global Project' to map the human brain at the cellular and connectivity levels, with a focus on high-resolution brain imaging.

IIT Madras plans to train hundreds of undergraduate and postgraduate students at this Centre in neuroscience and computing. Prof K. VijayRaghavan, principal scientific adviser to the government of India.

## **12. IIT Madras launches AquaMAP for improving water use in agriculture**

The principal scientific advisor to the government of India, Vijay Raghavan, inaugurated a new water management and policy centre, AquaMAP, at IIT Madras that will focus on improving the agricultural water use efficiency.

IIT Madras is collaborating with IIT Dharwad around the broad theme of 'Data Science for Water Security and Agriculture Sustenance' and AquaMAP is a national water centre.

### **13. Petascale Supercomputer PARAM Shakti at IIT Kharagpur Dedicated to the Nation**

"PARAM Shakti", a Petascale Supercomputer " at IIT Kharagpur, has been dedicated to the nation under Indian government's National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) - a joint initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST).

## **Defence**

### **1. Air Marshal S Prabhakaran assume charge as IAF's Western Air Command**

Air Marshal Sreekumar Prabhakaran assumed command of the Indian Air Force's Western Command headquartered in Delhi.

The Air Officer is a recipient of the Vayu Sena Medal and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal.

Air Marshal S Prabhakaran succeeds Air Marshal Amit Dev who superannuated on 28 Feb 22 after more than 39 years of distinguished service in IAF.

### **2. India & US hold 19th Military Cooperation meeting in Agra to strengthen defence cooperation**

The 19th edition of India-US Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting was held in Agra, Uttar Pradesh on March 1-2, 2022.

The meeting was co-chaired by Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) Air Marshal BR Krishna from the Indian side and Deputy Commander, US Indo-Pacific Command Lieutenant General Stephen D Sklenka from the US.

### **3. Over 140 aircraft of IAF to take part in Vayu Shakti 2022 in Pokhran on 7th March**

Over 140 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will take part in the 2022 edition of Vayu Shakti that will be held at Rajasthan's Pokhran test facility on March 7.

Rafale, LCA Tejas, Sukhoi-30, and other fighter jets will participate.

Vayu Shakti, which is IAF's biggest exercise, is held every three years to showcase country's air power.

### **4. India gives nod for indigenous development of light tanks for mountain warfare**

The defence ministry move comes amid Army considering Russian offer of Sprut light tanks and private firm Larsen & Toubro working with DRDO to convert howitzer Vajra into a light tank. It is expected to boost Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push for self-reliance and is the first defence ministry announcement since the launch of the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020

### **5. Ninth edition of India-Sri Lanka Naval Exercise SLINEX begins in Visakhapatnam**

The ninth edition of India-Sri Lanka Naval Exercise, SLINEX, is scheduled at Visakhapatnam.

The exercise is being conducted in two phases, the Harbour Phase at Visakhapatnam on 07 to 08 March this year, followed by the Sea Phase on 09 to 10 March in the Bay of Bengal.

The Sri Lanka Navy will be represented by SLNS Sayurala, an advanced offshore patrol vessel. The previous edition of SLINEX was conducted off Trincomalee in October 2020.

## **6. Exercise Dharma Guardian-2022 Culminates at Belgaum (Karnataka)**

Ex DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022, an annual exercise between Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Force which commenced on 27 February 2022 at Foreign Training Node, Belgaum successfully culminated on 10 March 2022 after twelve days of intense joint military training, providing a unique opportunity of achieving synergy between Armed Forces of both nations.

## **7. 15th round of Corps Commander level talks underway between India, China**

India and China are holding the 15th round of Corps Commander level talks at the Indian side of Chushul Moldo Meeting Point.

India and China have been holding talks on the Line of Actual Control in the Eastern Ladakh area to resolve the standoff and 14 rounds have been held so far.

## **8. Defence Minister inaugurates Flight Control System Integration complex in Bengaluru**

Minister inaugurated a seven-storeyed Flight Control System Integration facility at Aeronautical Development Establishment, laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation in Bengaluru. This FCS facility will support R&D activities for developing Avionics for Fighter Aircraft and FCS for Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft being undertaken by ADE in Bengaluru Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO: G. Satheesh Reddy DRDO HQ: Delhi

## **9. Fifth Offshore Patrol Vessel ICGS 'Saksham' enters in service for India**

In a significant development aimed at bolstering the maritime security of the nation, the Indian Coast Guard has commissioned ICGS 'Saksham', the fifth Coast Guard Ship in the series of 105 M-Class offshore patrol vessels.

Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Saksham is the 5th and last Offshore Patrol Vessel designed and developed by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for Coast Guard. ICGS Saksham was launched in December 2020 as a part of the indigenous project.

## **10. NATO military exercises 'Cold Response 2022' kick off in Norway with 30,000 troops**

Major military exercises involving 30,000 NATO troops and partner countries have kicked off in Norway as tensions escalate between the West and Russia over the Ukraine war.

Organised every two years, the naval, air and ground drills are held over vast swaths of Norway, including above the Arctic Circle.

## **11. Exercise LAMITIYE 2022: India, Seychelles to kick-start 10-day military exercise from March 22**

An Indian Army contingent arrived in Seychelles for the ninth edition of the Joint Military Exercise Lamitiye 2022 between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF).

The exercise is being conducted at the Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA) from March 22 to 31.

## **12. 3rd edition of India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise begins in Yangiariq**

The 3rd edition of joint training exercise between Indian and Uzbekistan armies, EX-DUSTLIK is being conducted at Yangiariq, Uzbekistan from today to 31st March 2022.

The last edition of DUSTLIK was conducted in Ranikhet, Uttarakhand in March last year.

The joint exercise would focus on counter terrorism operations in semi-urban terrain under a United Nations Mandate.

## **13. Military Modernisation Projects Worth Over Rs 8000 Crore Approved By Union Defence Ministry**

The Union Defence Ministry has given the initial permission to military modernisation projects worth Rs 8537 crore.

The Defence Acquisitions Council (DAC) has approved proposals focusing on indigenous design, development, production of weapon systems and platforms.

## **14. North Korea Launches Banned Intercontinental Ballistic Missile For First Time Since 2017**

North Korea has tested a banned intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) for the first time since 2017. ICBMs, designed for nuclear arms delivery, could extend North Korea's strike range as far as the US mainland.

This missile appeared to be newer and more powerful than the one North Korea fired five years ago, reaching an altitude of more than 6,000km (3,730 miles)

## **15. India successfully tests extended range version of BrahMos cruise missile from Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

India on March 23 successfully test fired the extended range version of a surface-to-surface BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a launch pad in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The successful launch of what is arguably the world's fastest cruise missile with a maximum speed of Mach 2.8 (nearly three times the speed of sound), was witnessed by the Chief of the Air Staff. Chief of the Air Staff: Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari.

## **16. India successfully test-fires two MRSAMs off Odisha coast**

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has conducted two successful flight tests of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

The flight tests were carried out as part of the live firing trials against high-speed aerial targets.

## **17. IAF unveils new initiative for refuelling its convoys**

The Indian Air Force unveiled a new initiative with the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd under which its convoys will be to refuel at fuel stations of the state-run energy major. The defence ministry said a 'Fleet Card - Fuel on Move' has been rolled out to facilitate the refuelling of convoys belonging to the IAF.

The new initiative was launched by Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari.

### **18. Second P-81 aircraft squadron commissioned into Indian Navy**

Indian Naval Air Squadron 316, the second squadron of P-8I maritime reconnaissance aircraft ' which were also deployed during the peak of India- China dispute in Ladakh region in 2020 ' was commissioned into the Indian Navy.

The ceremony took place at INS Hansa, Goa.

The squadron, christened as 'The Condors'.

### **19. President Sh. Ram Nath Kovind presents President's Colour to INS Valsura for its yeoman service to nation**

President Ram Nath Kovind presented the President's colour to INS Valsura, the Navy's premier technological training establishment.

The President's Colour is bestowed on a military unit in recognition of the exceptional service rendered to the nation, both in peace and in war.

### **20. Maiden edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise held**

The premier forum Indian Ocean Naval Symposium held its maiden Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) at Goa & in Arabian Sea from 26 ' 30 Mar 22 which witnessed participation of 16 out of the 25 member nations of IONS which included Iran.

The participation included warships, Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft & helicopters from the Navies of Bangladesh, France, India & Iran.



## **21. Army chief presents President's Colours to two battalions of Dogra regiment**

Army Chief Gen MM Naravane has presented the 'President's Colours' to two battalions of the Dogra Regiment at a ceremony in Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh. The battalions that received the prestigious 'President's Colours' are 20 DOGRA and 21 DOGRA.

The Colour Presentation Parade was also witnessed by former Army Chief Gen NC Vij (retd).

## **Books & Authors**

### **1. Ungalil Oruvan: A vivid narrative of MK Stalin's eventful life**

The autobiography of DMK president and Chief Minister MK Stalin, which covers the first quarter of his life, is a vivid narrative of his formative years as a politician. This volume recounts most of the key incidents that show the politics in his veins and his commitment towards DMK and its growth. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched the first volume of book.

### **2. Labour Minister Shri Bhupendra Yadav releases Book titled 'Role of Labour in India's Development'**

Union Minister for Labour and Employment & Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav released a book titled 'Role of Labour in India's Development' at New Delhi.

The Book contains 12 articles written by eminent academicians and practitioners on the contribution of labour in India's development journey.

### **3. Penguin publishes the Authorised Biography of Soli Sorabjee ' One of India's foremost Constitutional Experts**

On the occasion of Soli Sorabjee's (the former Attorney General of India) 92nd birth anniversary, Penguin Random House India announces the acquisition and publication of his authorized biography.

Titled, Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times, this biography is chronicled by advocate and legal scholar Abhinav Chandrachud.

### **4. NITI Aayog and FAO Launch Book Titled Indian Agriculture towards 2030**

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) Shri Narendra Singh Tomar today released a book titled Indian Agriculture towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers' Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems, at an event organized by NITI Aayog and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **1. Poster of Mujib ' The Making of a Nation, India-Bangladesh co-produced biopic on 'Bangabandhu' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Released**

Renowned director Shyam Benegal has released the poster of the film Mujib ' The Making of a Nation, a biopic on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of the nation of Bangladesh on 17th March 2022. The film on 'Bangabandhu' is being made under an Audio Visual Co-Production Agreement between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of Bangladesh. It was released on the 102nd birth anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

## Obituary

### 1. Former Odisha CM Hemanand Biswal passes away

Former Chief Minister of Odisha Hemanand Biswal passed away.

He was 82.

He was the Chief Minister of the state for two brief terms from 1989 and from 1999.

He was elected to the state assembly for six times while in 2009 he was elected to the Parliament from the Sundargarh constituency.

### 2. Film critic Jai Prakash Chouksey dies at 83 in Indore

Film critic, writer Jaiprakash Chouksey died after suffering a cardiac arrest at his home in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city.

Chouksey, 82, had been suffering from lung cancer for the last 7 years and his condition had deteriorated over the last 3 months.

Chouksey has penned scripts and dialogues for several films including 'Shayad' (1979), 'Qatl' (1986) & 'Bodyguard' (2011).

### 3. Former Australian wicket-keeper Rod Marsh, 74, dies.

Former Australian wicket-keeper Rod Marsh has died, aged 74, after being put in an induced coma following a heart attack. He featured in 96 Tests for Australia in the seventies and eighties, claiming 355 dismissals, while scoring 3633 runs at 26.51. Marsh served as chair of selectors for the men's national team before stepping down in 2016.

#### **4. Australia's legendary cricketer Shane Warne dies of heart attack**

Australian cricket legend Shane Warne has died at the age of 52 after a heart attack in Koh Samui, Thailand. Warne is widely considered one of the best players in history, having taken 708 wickets in 145 Test matches. He was a key member in one of the greatest teams in history, with Australia dominating the sport for much of his 15-year international career.

#### **5. Mukul Arya, India's representative at Ramallah, passes away**

India's envoy to Palestine Mukul Arya passed away in Ramallah.

In his mid-30s, Arya, a career diplomat of 2008 batch Indian Foreign Service, had served at the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi, in addition to serving at the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO in Paris, and at the Embassies of India in Kabul and Moscow.

#### **6. Former PM Vajpayee's long-time aide Shiv Kumar Pareek passes away**

Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's long-time aide Shiv Kumar Pareek passed away.

Shiv Kumar Pareek was rooted in the ideologies of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and devoted himself to the service of nation-building.

He also worked to nurture innumerable workers with nationalist ideas, human values and ideals,

#### **7. PM condoles the passing away of former AP Governor, Ms Kumudben Joshi**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has expressed deep grief over the passing away of former Andhra Pradesh Governor and Union Minister, Ms Kumudben Joshi. She was the Governor of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh from 26 November 1985 to 7 February 1990. She was the second female Governor of the state after Sharda Mukherjee.

## 8. Former Chief Justice of India R.C. Lahoti dies at 81

Former Chief Justice of India Ramesh Chandra Lahoti passed away. He was 81 years old.

Justice Lahoti was appointed as the 35th chief justice of India on June 1, 2004. He retired on November 1, 2005. Born on November 1, 1940, he joined the Bar in Guna district in 1960 and enrolled as an advocate in 1962.

## 9. Stephen Wilhite, Creator of the Animated GIF, Dies at 74

Stephen Wilhite, the inventor of GIF or Graphics Interchange Format, died on March 14, 2022, due to Covid complications. He passed away at the age of 74 at his home in Ohio, United States. Today, GIFs have become an integral part of communication on social media and networking sites. Wilhite invented the GIF while he was working at a tech company CompuServe in 1987.

### Person in news

#### 1. National women's chess championship: Divya Deshmukh wins maiden title

Divya Deshmukh played out an 18-move draw with Soumya Swaminathan following a three-fold repetition of moves to claim her maiden MPL National women's chess title.

Divya, 16, played way over her eighth seeding in the nine-round competition and garnered eight points for the first prize of Rs. 5.50 lakh - the highest in the 47 editions of the championship.

## **2. Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi is new national chess champion**

Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi of Telangana won the 58th edition of Senior National Chess Championship, edging out fellow GMs of Tamil Nadu D Gukesh and P Iniyan in a tie-breaker after the trio finished on 8.5 points each.

Defending champion Aravindh Chithambaram of Tamil Nadu finished fourth.

The champion received Rs 6 lakh prize money. The 18-year-old Erigaisi remained unbeaten in 11 rounds.

## **3. Olympic champion Duplantis sets pole vault world record of 6.19m in Belgrade**

Sweden's Olympic pole vault champion Armand Gustav "Mondo" Duplantis cleared 6.19m to smash his own world record by one centimetre at the World Indoor Tour Silver meeting in Belgrade.

Duplantis set the record of 6.18 in February 2020 indoors in Glasgow.

This is the fourth world record of 22-year-old Duplantis's career. In Pole vault, Competitors vault over a 4.5-metre long horizontal bar.

## **4. NSE Chief Vikram Limaye To Not Seek Second Term**

Vikram Limaye will not seek an extension as the chief of the nation's largest bourse, which is being probed for governance standards during the term of his predecessor.

Limaye took charge in 2017 after Ramkrishna stepped down following a whistleblower complaint to SEBI alleging unfair access to the NSE's co-location facility.

## **5. With 807 goals Cristiano Ronaldo becomes football's all-time leading scorer**

Manchester United forward Cristiano Ronaldo etched his name in the record books as professional football's all-time leading scorer with 807 goals after a brilliant hat-trick against Premier League rivals Tottenham Hotspur.

Ronaldo's goals have been scored for Sporting, United, Real Madrid, Juventus and the Portugal national team. Austro-Czech Josef Bican netted 805 goals during a career that lasted from 1931 to '55.

## **6. Team India captain Mithali Raj makes history, breaks World Cup captaincy record**

India's ODI skipper Mithali Raj has broke the record for most matches captained in the ICC Women's World Cup, surpassing former Australian counterpart Belinda Clark.

Mithali, 39, led the cotuntry in 24 World Cup games, claiming 14 victories, 8 losses and one no result.

Clark had captained her side in 23 matches.

## **7. DMRC employee enters Guinness world records for metro travel**

A DMRC employee entered the Guinness Book of World Records for clocking the 'fastest time to travel across all metro stations'. Prafull Singh has entered into the Guinness World Records for recording the 'Fastest time to travel to all Metro stations'. This makes him the first person to travel to 254 stations covering 348 kms in just 16 hrs and 2 minutes.

## **8. Shreyas Iyer, Amelia Kerr voted Players of the Month for February 2022**

Shreyas Iyer and New Zealand all-rounder Amelia Kerr were voted ICC Players of the Month for February 2022, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced.

Iyer pipped fellow nominees, UAE's Vriitya Aravind and Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee to claim the award.

Kerr was chosen ahead of fellow nominees, India captain Mithali Raj and all-rounder Deepti Sharma for the award.

## **9. BWF German Open 2022: Lakshya Sen Loses To Kunlavut Vitidsarn In Final**

World Championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen's giant-killing run ended with a straight-game loss to Thailand's rising star Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the summit clash of German Open Super 300 badminton tournament in Muelheim An Der Ruhr.

World number 12 Sen came into the match with a 3-3 head-to-head record against Vitidsarn.

## **10. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc Wins Bahrain GP; Carlos Sainz 2nd, Lewis Hamilton 3rd**

Charles Leclerc won a close battle with Red Bull's Max Verstappen before taking a classy victory as Ferrari took a one-two in a dramatic season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix.

## **11. Devendra Jhajharia becomes first para athlete to receive Padma Bhushan**

The legendary Devendra Jhajharia has become the first para athlete to receive the Padma Bhushan, the country's third highest civilian award.

The 40-year-old Jhajharia received the prestigious award from President Ram Nath Kovind at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.



## **12. World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty announces retirement from tennis aged 25**

Australia's world number one Ashleigh Barty announced her retirement from tennis aged just 25.

Barty has been the No.1-ranked WTA player for 114 consecutive weeks and counting.

Barty is retiring after winning three major singles titles on three different surfaces - the 2019 French Open, the 2021 Wimbledon and, back in January, the Australian Open.

## **13. JP Morgan India chief Leo Puri joins Tata Sons board**

Leo Puri, a financial sector veteran, and chairman of JP Morgan India, South and Southeast Asia, has been inducted on the board of Tata Sons, officials aware of the development said.

## **14. Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi wins Delhi International Open Chess tournament**

Arjun Erigaisi came up with another inspired effort to annex the 19th Delhi International Open Chess tournament that concluded at the Tivoli Gardens in New Delhi.

Arjun got Rs 4 lakh rupees as the winner's purse ,he scaled past 2675 in live Elo ratings.

D Gukesh & Harsha Bharthakoti finished second & third respectively.

## **Insurance**

### **1. T S Ramakrishnan appointed as new MD and CEO of LIC Mutual Fund**

LIC Mutual Fund announced the appointment of T S Ramakrishnan as its Managing Director & CEO, effective March 1, 2022.

Ramakrishnan, as the MD and CEO, LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management, will succeed Dinesh Pangtey, its former Wholetime Director and CEO.

## **2. Govt permits up to 20% FDI under automatic route in LIC**

Government has permitted up to 20 percent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under automatic route in Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) with an aim to facilitate disinvestment of the country's largest insurer.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) had mooted the proposal to allow FDI in LIC, after taking views from the Ministry of Finance.

## **3. IPO-bound LIC posts Rs 235 cr profit in Q3 of 2021-22**

The net profit of Life Insurance Corporation of India rose to Rs 234.91 crore in the third quarter of the current financial year from Rs 0.91 crore recorded in the corresponding period of last year.

## **4. India, Japan sign six agreements in areas including cyber security, wastewater management and clean energy**

India and Japan signed six agreements in the areas including cyber security, wastewater management and clean energy after the India-Japan Annual Summit in New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida held productive talks and discussed ways to boost economic and cultural linkages between the two countries. This is the 14th India-Japan Annual Summit.

## **5. HDFC ERGO launches VAULT, an Industry-first Digitally-enabled Rewards Program**

HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company, a leading private general insurer and a digital-first company leads the way in customer loyalty with the launch of the VAULT program, an industry-first digital customer engagement and rewards program.

The Company has taken advantage of the Regulatory Sandbox by IRDAI, in the form of VAULT, an experiment to test a new idea.

## India & World

### **1. Google And MeitY Startup Hub To Help 100 Early To Mid-Stage Indian Startups Scale Globally As Part Of Appscale Academy**

Aiming to help India's next generation of innovators unlock this growth opportunity, MeitY Startup Hub, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and Google announced a cohort of 100 Indian early to mid-stage startups it aims to help build high-quality global apps and games as part of the Appscale Academy.

### **2. Celebrating 75 years of Indo-Netherlands ties; Special logo unveiled**

India and the Netherlands established diplomatic relations in 1947. Since then, the two countries have developed strong political, economic & commercial relations, and various sectoral co-operations. The Netherlands presented 3,000 fresh tulips to India, as a symbol of friendship, which were planted in the Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan gardens. The Netherlands has Europe's second-biggest Indian diaspora community after UK

### **3. India, Bangladesh, Nepal finalise MOU for implementation of BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement**

India, Bangladesh & Nepal finalised an enabling MoU to be signed by them for the implementation of the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA), pending ratification of the MVA by Bhutan.

The delegates agreed on specific steps and timelines to expeditiously finalise the Passenger and Cargo Protocols for the implementation of the BBIN MVA.

Indian delegation was led by Smita Pant, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

#### **4. HAL signs MoU with Safran to extend cooperation on chopper engines**

The ground-breaking ceremony for a new facility of Helicopter Engines MRO Pvt Limited (HE-MRO), a joint venture of HAL and Safran, a French aerospace firm, was held at Sattari in Goa.

HE-MRO aims to constantly improve serviceability and reduce cycle time to aid the operational preparedness of the armed forces. R. Madhavan, CMD, HAL, Franck Saudo, CEO, Safran Helicopter Engines.

#### **5. 'Green Triangle' named after Mahatma Gandhi inaugurated in Madagascar's capital**

As part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate India's 75th year of independence, a 'Green Triangle' named after Mahatma Gandhi was jointly inaugurated in Madagascar's capital Antananarivo. The word green in the plaque signifies their commitment to sustainable development and saving the environment.

#### **6. SBI signs agreement to provide \$1-bn credit facility to Sri Lanka**

India announced a USD 1 billion line of credit to Sri Lanka as part of its financial assistance to help the island nation deal with its economic crisis. Visiting Sri Lankan Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa witnessed the signing of the agreement for the USD 1 billion line of credit being extended through the State Bank of India (SBI). Line of Credit is not a grant but a 'soft loan' provided on concessional interest rates.

## **7. Sri Lanka-India ink MoUs for defence, economic, education, religious cooperation**

Tightening the defence, economic, education, religious and cultural ties, multiple agreements were inked on the first day of Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to Sri Lanka.

On the security front, an MoU was signed to establish a Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) with a grant of \$6 million from India.

### **Environment**

#### **1. SECI and HPCL sign MoU to fulfill government's ambitions of carbon-neutral economy**

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaboratively work in the field of renewable energy, electric mobility, and alternative fuels including the development of ESG Projects. This is in line with the government's vision of a carbon-neutral economy by 2070.

#### **2. SWISS to be the world's first airline to use Synhelion solar fuel**

SWISS and the Lufthansa Group have concluded a strategic collaboration with the Synhelion company to bring its solar aviation fuel to market. This will make SWISS the first airline in the world to use 'sun-to-liquid' fuel. The process devised by Synhelion uses concentrated sunlight to produce carbon-neutral kerosene. SWISS is set to become the first customer for the solar kerosene in 2023.

### **3. Mumbai Releases Climate Action Plan to Zero Out Carbon Emissions by 2050**

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has unveiled the Mumbai Climate Action Plan (MCAP) ' a comprehensive strategy to tackle the challenges of climate change in the city and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The BMC also revealed that there are certain infrastructure projects (worth Rs 40,000 crore) that are working towards making Mumbai climate resilient.

### **4. Kuwaiti becomes hottest place on earth, temperature reaches 53.2 degrees Celsius**

Kuwait reached a scorching temperature of 53.2 degrees Celsius (127.7 degrees Fahrenheit), making it among the hottest places on earth.

It was so hot in Kuwait last summer that birds dropped dead from the sky. Sea horses boiled to death in the bay. Dead clams coated the rocks, their shells popped open like they'd been steamed.

### **5. First wildlife bond issued by World Bank to save Africa's black rhino**

The World Bank has priced the world's first wildlife bond, raising \$150 million that will be partly used for the conservation of black rhinos in South Africa. The five-year bond will pay returns determined by the rate of growth in populations of the animals in two South African reserves, the Addo Elephant National Park and the Great Fish River Nature Reserve.

## Acquisitions & Mergers

### 1. Emami acquires 19% stake in D2C nutrition firm Tru Native F&B

Kolkata-based FMCG major Emami Ltd has acquired 19 per cent equity stake in direct-to-consumer (D2C) nutrition firm Tru Native F&B Pvt Ltd.

Tru Native F&B markets nutrition products under the brand TruNativ, targetted at health and fitness enthusiasts.

'TruNativ' product offerings are very unique as they are based on real consumer habits and issues." Emami Ltd- Founded in 1974 by two childhood friends - RS Agarwal and RS Goenka,

### 2. CCI approves acquisition of 100% share capital of L&T Investment Management Limited by HSBC Asset Management (India) Private Ltd

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition of 100% share capital of L&T Investment Management Limited (L&T AMC/Target) by HSBC Asset Management (India) Private Limited (HSBC AMC/Acquirer).

HSBC AMC is the asset management entity for operating the day-to-day functioning of HSBC Mutual Fund schemes.

### 3. CCI clears Amazon's proposal to buy Catamaran's stake in Cludtail parent

The Competition Commission of India has cleared Amazon's proposal to acquire Catamaran Ventures' entire stake in Prione Business Services Pvt. Ltd., the joint venture between Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy's Catamaran Ventures and the US-based e-commerce giant.

Prione Business Services houses Cludtail, one of the largest retailers on the e-commerce firm's India.

#### **4. CCI approves acquisition of Micro Life Sciences Private Limited by South Elm Investments B.V.**

Competition Commission of India approved the acquisition of Micro Life Sciences Private Limited by South Elm Investments B.V.

The proposed combination pertains to the proposed acquisition of a minority stake in Micro Life Sciences Private Limited (Micro Life/ Target) by South Elm Investments B.V. (SEI/ Acquirer). SEI is an investment holding company incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands.

#### **5. CCI approves acquisition of equity stake in Future Generali India Insurance Company by Generali Participations Netherlands N.V**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition of equity stake in Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited by Generali Participations Netherlands N.V. Generali Participations Netherlands N.V. (GPN / Acquirer) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A ('Generali Group'), the ultimate parent entity of the Generali group of companies.

#### **6. Razorpay acquires fifth payments tech startup IZealiant Technologies**

Fintech unicorn Razorpay announced its acquisition of IZealiant Technologies, a leading Fintech startup that provides payments technology solutions for banks, for an undisclosed amount. The acquisition of IZealiant will further strengthen Razorpay's Banking Solutions Arm to build innovative payment banking technologies for partner banks. IZealiant is a Pune-based startup founded in 2015.



## **7. Torrent Power to buy 51% stake in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu Power discom**

Torrent Power Limited has entered into a Share Purchase Agreement and Shareholders Agreement with Administrator of the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Holding Entity) and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Power Distribution Corporation Limited for purchase of 51 percent Equity Share Capital of the SPV from the Holding Entity.

## **8. Hinduja Leyland Finance to merge with NxtDigital**

Intercorporate transactions continue with Hinduja Leyland Finance merging with NxtDigital ' both of them are Hinduja Group companies.

Hinduja Leyland Finance is a non-banking financial company. It caters to vehicle financing. Ashok Leyland is the promoter of the Hinduja Group, so Ashok Leyland has about 69 percent stake in it, the AUM is close to about Rs 29,000 crore.

## **9. Amazon.com has completed the acquisition of MGM Studios**

Amazon.com Inc announced that it has completed its \$8.5 billion acquisition of MGM, bringing together the legendary film studio behind 'Rocky' & 'James Bond' with the online retailing behemoth as it seeks to attract more customers through streaming video. MGM gave a plethora of content to produce and deploy to entice users to Amazon's fast-shipping and streaming club Prime.

## **10. PhonePe acquires freelance entrepreneur network GigIndia to strengthen enterprise offerings**

Through the acquisition, PhonePe will integrate with itself the 1.5 million entrepreneurs, and over 100 enterprises as customers, besides the company's employees. PhonePe will leverage GigIndia's network of freelance microentrepreneurs to help corporates and enterprises acquire more customers and scale up their distribution channels.

## **11. CCI approves acquisition of shareholding in Busybees Logistics Solutions Private Limited by BXG Xenon HoldCo Limited**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves the acquisition of a shareholding in Busybees Logistics Solutions Private Limited by BXG Xenon HoldCo Limited. The proposed combination envisages the acquisition of certain equity shareholding on a fully diluted basis in BusyBees Logistics Solutions Private Limited (Target) by BXG Xenon HoldCo Ltd (Acquirer). Blackstone Inc. is a global alternative asset manager. It is headquartered in the USA.

## **12. CCI approves acquisition of stake in Busybees Logistics by TPG**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition of the stake in Busybees Logistics by TPG. The proposed combination envisages acquisition of ~7% shareholding of Busybees Logistics Solutions Private Limited (Xpressbees) by TPG Growth V SF Markets Pte. Ltd. (TPG SF). TPG SF is majority owned and controlled by certain affiliates of TPG, Inc. TPG, Inc. is the ultimate holding company of the TPG group.

### **13. Ola signs agreement to acquire neo bank Avail Finance**

Mobility firm Ola has signed an agreement to acquire neo bank Avail Finance which provides financial services to the blue-collared workforce and has over 6 million users. The acquisition is a key step in Ola's broader push into the fintech space as it looks to build a mobility-focused financial services business under Ola Financial.

Ola recently invested nearly Rs 800 crores into its financial services business.

### **14. Emami acquires Dermicool from Reckitt for Rs 432 crore**

Boroplus maker Emami has acquired Dermicool, one of the leading brands in the prickly heat and cool talc category, from FMCG major Reckitt for a total consideration of Rs 432 crore (excluding taxes and duties).

According to industry stakeholders, Navratna is the second-largest brand in the segment after Nycil (owned by Zydus Wellness) while Dermicool comes in third.

### **15. Inox, PVR announce merger; combined entity to be called PVR Inox Ltd**

Merger to bring together two of India's best cinema brands to deliver an unparalleled consumer experience with a network of more than 1,500 screens.

Ajay Bijli will be managing director of PVR Inox Limited. Sanjeev Kumar will be executive director and Pavan Kumar Jain will be non-executive chairman of the consolidated board.

### **16. Axis Bank, HDFC Bank to acquire up to 15% stake each in India Debt Resolution Co**

Private sector lenders Axis Bank and HDFC Bank have signed agreements to acquire up to 15 per cent stake each in India Debt Resolution Company Limited (IDRCL) for a total cash consideration of Rs 7.5 crore each.

In September last year, public sector banks had created IDRCL as a step-down asset management company.

## FinTech

### **1. Airtel, Axis Bank partner for financial services; launch co-branded credit card**

Bharti Airtel and Axis Bank announced a collaboration for offering financial services, starting with a co-branded credit card for subscribers of the telecom services company. Under the partnership, the companies will provide pre-approved instant loans, 'buy now pay later' offerings, and other services.

Bharti Airtel MD and CEO for India and South Asia, Gopal Vittal. Axis Bank MD and CEO Amitabh Chaudhry.

### **2. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Launches Instant Payment System "UPI 123PAY", Helpline For DigiSaathi**

RBI and the National Payment Corporation of India launched UPI 123Pay today, i.e., UPI for feature phones which allows one to make payments without the internet.

UPI for feature phone, i.e., UPI123Pay is a 3-step process - call, choose and pay.

Users can visit [www.digisaathi.info](http://www.digisaathi.info) or call on 14431 and 1800 891 3333 for their queries on digital payments and grievances.

### **3. ToneTag, NSDL Payments Bank introduce voice-based UPI digital payment solutions for feature phones**

ToneTag, which is a sound-based proximity communication and payments service provider, has recently rolled out its VoiceSe UPI digital payments for feature phone users, in partnership with NSDL Payments Bank and NPCI.

Users can call 6366 200 200 where an Interactive voice response (IVR) guides the desired financial transaction.

#### **4. IFSCA announces winners of Hackathon 'Sprint03: InsureTech' under I-Sprint'21**

International Financial Services Centres Authority, in its endeavour to support a World Class FinTech Hub at GIFT IFSC, had launched I-Sprint'21, the global FinTech Hackathon as part of InFINITY Forum 2021. 'Sprint03:InsureTech' under the banner of I-Sprint'21 was launched with a focus on Insurance Sector and was hosted by IFSCA and GIFT city in collaboration with FICCI. InFINITY Forum is an IFSCA's flagship financial technology event.

### **Legal**

#### **1. Justice Vipin Sanghi appointed as acting chief justice of Delhi High Court**

A notification issued by the Department of Justice in the Law Ministry said Justice Sanghi has been asked to perform the duties of the office of the chief justice of Delhi High Court with effect from March 13 consequent upon the retirement of Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel.

### **States/UTs**

#### **Andhra Pradesh**

#### **1. Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2022 inaugurated at Rajamahendravaram in Andhra Pradesh**

Under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Mega festival, Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2022 was inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh by Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan.

This Mahotsav will further strengthen our culture and traditions.

The Union Ministry of Culture was organising various festivals across the country, which would help in inculcating nationalism among the country.

## **Arunachal Pradesh**

### **1. Arunachal Pradesh to get a Greenfield Airport in Hollongi**

Airports Authority of India has undertaken the work of constructing a Greenfield Airport in Hollongi, 15 kms from Itanagar considering the importance of air connectivity to the capital city.

With an estimated cost of Rs.645 crore, the project includes the development work i.e. construction of airport pavements, air side work, terminal Building and city side works.

## **Assam**

### **1. Assam government has declared the entire State of Assam as 'disturbed area' up to 6 months**

Assam government has declared the entire State of Assam as 'Disturbed Area' up to 6 (six) months with effect from February 28, 2022.

The declaration has been made as per powers conferred under Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.

AFSPA Act in its original form was promulgated by the British in response to the Quit India movement in 1942.

### **2. Startup supported by NRL acquired by Australian Company**

Numaligarh Refinery Limited backed Onetracker Technologies Pvt Ltd from Guwahati , Assam has been acquired by Get it Fast an innovative Australian last mile delivery company. Onetracker provides a world class enterprise technology platform for logistics and last mile delivery companies.

### 3. Tripura govt announces Rs 85 crore scheme for tea workers

In an attempt to ensure social security of over 7,000 tea garden workers of Tripura, the state government has announced a special scheme named "Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa".

The scheme assures housing, rations and financial support to the tea garden workers providing them with facilities of state and central government entitlements in a clubbed format.

#### **Bihar**

### 1. India's largest reclining statue to be situated in Bodh Gaya

India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being built in Bodh Gaya.

Built by Buddha International Welfare Mission, the statue will be 100 feet long and 30 feet high.

Lord Buddha is in the sleeping posture in the statue.

The construction of the giant statue started in the year 2019.

It is being made with fiberglass and built by sculptors from Kolkata.

#### **Chhattisgarh**

### 1. Chhattisgarh govt launches 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana'

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched the 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana' and gave away cheques of Rs 5,000 each to five women beneficiaries for safe motherhood at a state-level conference held before International Women's Day.

Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs 5000 will be given to women on the birth of second girl child.

## Gujarat

### **1. Dudhala in Gujarat to become first village to be completely solarized by a foundation**

Goldi Solar, a global solar panel manufacturer and EPC services provider, in partnership with Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation (SRKKF) laid the foundation stone for the solarization of the village of Dudhala in Southern Gujarat.

A 450 KW solar rooftop project will be used to power around 350 houses and public areas such as anganwadis and gram panchayat.

### **2. Cabinet approves establishment of WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Gujarat**

Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

It will be the first and only global out posted Centre for traditional medicine across the globe.

It will be established under the Ministry of AYUSH.

### **3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Dedicated the National Defence University to the Nation**

Prime minister Narendra Modi dedicated the National Defense University to the nation & addressed its first convocation at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah attended the convocation ceremony.

Many dignitaries, including the Governor of Gujarat, Shri Acharya Devvrat & Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel, were present.



#### **4. Aadi Bazaar ' A Celebration of the spirit of Tribal culture and cuisine inaugurated at Gujarat**

Keeping in line with the series of Aadi Bazaars: A Celebration of the spirit of Tribal culture and cuisine, another one was inaugurated on 26th March, 2022 at Kevadia, Statue of Unity in Narmada district of Gujarat.

Organised by TRIFED of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the 11 day exhibition, was inaugurated by Smt. Nimishaben Suthar, Minister of State for Tribal Development

#### **5. Gujarat gets India's first 'steel road'**

The Diamond City of India, Surat, has become the first in India to get a road that is made out of steel waste.

Built by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India with CSIR India (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) & CRRI (Central Road Research Institute) along with the government think tank NITI Aayog, the steel slag road is a stellar example of sustainable development.

### **Haryana**

#### **1. Haryana CM Khattar Announces Sushma Swaraj Award, Scheme for Women in Budget 2022**

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has presented the Budget 2022-23 in the state's Assembly and announced the 'Sushma Swaraj Award' for women for their significant contribution or achievements in different walks of life in national and international spheres.

Besides, he also announced the Haryana Matrushakti Udyamita Scheme to provide support to women.

## **2. India gets first Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Centre in Manesar**

The Union minister for power has launched the Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (Virtual SGKC) and Innovation Park.

The initiative, part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Programme, will be one of the leading Centers of Excellence globally to foster innovation, entrepreneurship and research in smart grid technologies.

### **Jharkhand**

#### **1. India's largest EV charging station opens in Gurugram**

India's largest electric vehicle (EV) charging station with a capacity of 121 charging points for 4 wheelers, has been opened here in Sector 86.

With this EV station, the city has now two of the largest electric vehicle charging stations in India.

The first EV station was opened earlier in January with a capacity of 100 charging points in Sector 52 of Gurugram.

### **Karnataka**

#### **1. Sh. Nitin Gadkari inaugurates and lays foundation stone of 46 NH Projects with investment of '19,930 cr in Karnataka**

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated and laid foundation stone of 46 National Highway Projects with investment of '19,930 crore in Karnataka.

National Highway Projects of total length 238 KM with an investment of '3,972 crore will improve the interstate road connectivity from Karnataka to Maharashtra and Goa.

## **2. Karnataka govt launches programme to provide 5 lakh jobs to women**

Minister of Higher Education, Electronics, IT-BT, S&T and Skill Development Dr C N Aswath Narayan has launched Women@Work (W@W) programme with an aim to provide five lakh jobs within 2026 to women with necessary employable skills.

The new initiative that was also held as part of the Karnataka digital economy mission programme.

## **3. The Karnataka government created Dishaank app to make it easier to access land records.**

The Survey Settlement and Land Records (SSLR) unit of Karnataka's revenue department is making original land records more accessible through an app called Dishaank.

The Dishaank app was created as part of the Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Center's Geographical Information System (GIS) programme (KRSAC).

## **4. Karnataka Governor appoints Justice Phaneendra as new Upa Lokayukta**

After a gap of nearly two years, a former judge of the Karnataka High Court Justice K N Phaneendra has been appointed the Upa Lokayukta of the state.

Karnataka Governor issued a notification appointing Justice Phaneendra for the post following a consultation with the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, Speaker of Legislative Assembly, Chairman of Legislative Council Karnataka Chief Minister: Basavaraj Bommai Karnataka Governor: Thaawar Chand Gehlot

## **Kerala**

### **1. Kerala Becomes First State To Introduce Carbon-Neutral Farming**

Kerala is set to become the first state in the country to implement carbon-neutral agricultural practices in selected places, for which the government has budgeted 6 crores in the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Carbon-neutral farming will be introduced at 13 farms under the Agriculture Department and tribal regions in the first phase.

## **Madhya Pradesh**

### **1. First 'drone school' inaugurated in Gwalior**

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has inaugurated the first drone school in Gwalior.

Madhya Pradesh was also the first state in the country in advancing the use of drone technology at a big scale by organising drone meta in Gwalior.

## **Maharashtra**

### **1. India's first FSRU Hegh Giant arrives at H-Energy's Jaigarh terminal in Maharashtra**

India's first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU)- has arrived at H-Energy's Jaigarh Terminal in Maharashtra, the FSRU Hegh Giant which sailed from Keppel Shipyard, Singapore was berthed at Jaigarh terminal in Maharashtra.

With the berthing of the FSRU Hegh Giant, the LNG regasification terminal will be ready to start testing and commissioning activities soon.

## **2. PM Modi unveils Shivaji statue, launches metro rail project in Pune**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled a 9.5-foot tall statue of great Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and launched a 12km stretch of 32.2 km-long metro rail project in Maharashtra's Pune.

He took a metro ride from Garware college to Anandnagar metro station to address a rally at MIT ground.

## **3. Maharashtra launches scheme to offer personal loans for prisoners**

Maharashtra government has launched a scheme to provide personal loans for prisoners with the aim to improve the living standard of the families of the inmates.

The Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank will give loans under the scheme up to Rs 50,000 at an interest rate of 7 per cent.

The scheme will be implemented on a pilot basis at Yerawada Central Jail, Pune.

## **Manipur**

### **1. Manipur government inks Mou with Samsung to start Sports Digital Experience Centre**

Manipur government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Samsung Data System India Pvt. Ltd. and Abhitech IT Solutions Pvt. Ltd. for setting up a world class "Sports Digital Experience Centre" as a part of Manipur Olympian Park and at Khuman Lampak Sports Complex at the CM Secretariat

## **Nagaland**

### **1. BJP's S Phangnon Konyak to become Nagaland's first woman Rajya Sabha MP**

In Nagaland, BJP's nominee S Phangnon Konyak is set to become the first woman to be elected as Member of Parliament for the state's lone Rajya Sabha seat.

Konyak, 44 years old is the incumbent Mahila Morcha President Nagaland unit, hailing from Mon district.

Creating history, Konyak becomes the second woman after Rana M Shazia to enter any Parliament House. It was in 1977 when Shaiza was elected to the Lok Sabha from Nagaland.

### **2. IBM to impart digital skill to 12,000 girl students in Nagaland schools**

IBM India has collaborated with the Nagaland school education department to introduce digital training for girl students in more than 250 secondary and higher secondary schools across 15 districts of the northeastern state.

The programme, IBM Stem (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) for Girls, aims to provide 21st century skills to more than 12,000 girls.

## **Rajasthan**

### **1. Rajasthan govt announces Rs 10 crore budget to promote cattle rearing**

Faced with a declining number of camels in Rajasthan, the state government has announced a 'Camel Protection and Development Policy' in its budget 2022-23. Camel is the state animal of Rajasthan and their number is continuously decreasing. According to the government figures, there are now less than two lakh camels left in the state.

The Rajasthan government had declared camel as the state animal in 2014

## **Sikkim**

### **1. Sikkim govt to provide Rs 20,000 each to all non-working mothers & free sanitary napkin to girl students**

The Sikkim government will give Rs 20,000 each to all non-working mothers and free sanitary napkins to all girl students of class 9 and above in the state.

The state government will implement the 'Aama Yojna' for non-working mothers and Bahini scheme for girl students.

A sum of Rs 100 crore has been earmarked in the budget for the scheme.

## **Tamil Nadu**

### **1. Naan Mudhalvan: Tamil Nadu CM unveils skill training scheme for students**

Chief Minister MK Stalin launched an ambitious skill development scheme for students in the State, with the initiative aimed at honing the educational skills, knowledge, talent and efficiency of 10 lakh youth annually. Titled 'Naan Mudhalvan' (I am first). Under the scheme, students of government and aided schools and colleges will be monitored and their special skills identified.

### **2. TN CM launches SPIC's floating solar unit at Thoothukudi**

Leading fertiliser manufacturer Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Ltd (SPIC) has set up a floating solar project at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu at an estimated cost of '150.4 crore.

The power plant come up on the storage ponds of SPIC's campus was inaugurated by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin.

### **3. Narasinghapettai nagaswaram bags GI tag**

Nagaswaram made in Narasinghapettai in Thanjavur district has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag on the application filed by the Thanjavur Musical Instruments Workers Co-operative Cottage Industrial Society Ltd.

Narasinghapettai, a village near Thiruvaidaimarudur, has an inseparable place in the world of Carnatic music.

## **Telangana**

### **1. Microsoft to set up India's largest datacenter region in Hyderabad**

Microsoft said that it plans to establish its largest India data centre region in Hyderabad as the tech firm looks to tap into a growing digital market where more businesses are adopting new-age tech capabilities like the cloud and AI to drive their growth.

Government of Telangana will be investing over '15,000 crore for the development of the project. The data centre is expected to be operational by 2025.

### **2. India's first 100% women-owned industrial park in Hyderabad.**

India's first 100% women-owned industrial park has turned operational in Hyderabad.

A partnership between the state government of Telangana and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), the 50-acre industrial park has 25 women owned and operated units across 16 different industrial segments.



### **3. 'Lakshya Zero Dumpsite': Government of India approves '178.6 crore Legacy Waste Remediation Proposal of Telangana**

Under the vision of Swachh Bharat Mission, India has pledged to achieve 'Lakshya Zero Dumpsites' within the mission period. The remediation of legacy waste will facilitate the recovery of valuable land across the country, this will also take the nation closer to its dream of 'Garbage-free cities', which will further provide a healthier future to the residents. The total project approval is worth '178.6 crores.

#### **Uttar Pradesh**

##### **1. Ramapati Shastri appointed UP Assembly pro-tem speaker**

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel appointed senior BJP leader Ramapati Shastri as the pro-tem speaker of the state Legislative Assembly.

Shastri, who is a BJP MLA from Mankapur in Gonda district, will administer the oath to newly elected legislators.

##### **2. Yogi Adityanath takes oath as UP CM for 2nd straight term; KP Maurya, Brajesh Pathak sworn-in as Deputy CMs**

Yogi Adityanath took oath as the CM of UP for the second time.

Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak are the two deputy CMs of UP. While this is the second term for Keshav Maurya as Deputy CM, Dinesh Sharma has been replaced by Brajesh Pathak.

## Uttarakhand

### 1. Banshidhar Bhagat appointed protem speaker of Uttarakhand Assembly

Banshidhar Bhagat has been appointed as the protem speaker of the Uttarakhand Assembly.

A notification on Bhagat's appointment as the protem speaker was issued by Governor Lt Gen (Retd) Gurmit Singh.

### 2. IFS officer Renu Singh appointed Forest Research Institute (FRI) director

Dr Renu Singh has been appointed by MoEF as the next director of Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun. She will be the institute's second woman director.

Singh joined as FRI director after AS Rawat, director general, ICFRE, handed over his additional charge of director FRI to her.

## West Bengal

### 1. West Bengal celebrates Dol Utsav, welcomes spring season

The people of Bengal has celebrated the festival of colours, predominantly known as Dol Utsav in the state through cultural programs, marking the onset of spring season. People throw 'gulaal' or powder colour on each other and sing and dance to mark the festival. On this day people celebrate the victory of good over evil. In Eastern India, the festival of spring is celebrated as Dol Jatra, Dol Purnima etc

## Delhi

### 1. Delhi all set to build India's first ever e-waste eco-park

In a bid to boost tourism, the Delhi government has decided to build India's first ever e-waste eco-park.

The announcement was made by Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia. He said that soon Delhi will be home to the "country's first" e-waste eco-park which will take care of rising e-waste.

The park will be built on 20 acres of land.

### 2. Delhi Police launches new digital initiative ' Anubhuti, e-Chitta

Delhi police launched three new digital initiatives - Anubhuti, a QR code-based feedback system, a refurbished Delhi Police website and e-Chittha portal. Anubhuti - Feedback Management System, will establish two-way communication between the public and the police, and the analysis of the feedback received will help improve the functioning of the department.

### 3. DMRC, CPWD sign pact for Central Vista 'Metro loop'

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) signed an MoU under which the former will provide technical assistance and execute finishing and service works for construction of a loop corridor connecting the existing Metro network with the new Central Secretariat buildings coming up as part of the Central Vista revamp project. DMRC's Managing Director-Dr. Mangu Singh. Shailendra Sharma-Director General, CPWD.

#### **4. Retired Jharkhand HC judge Harish Chandra Mishra is Delhi Lokayukta**

Retired Jharkhand High Court judge Harish Chandra Mishra has been appointed as the Lokayukta of Delhi.

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal appointed Justice (retired) Mishra as Lokayukta and he will hold office for a term of five years from the date of joining.

The post had been lying vacant since the retirement of Justice Ms. Rewa Khetrapal in December 2020.

#### **5. Delhi govt launches 'My EV' portal for purchasing, registering e-autos; buyers to get additional relief**

The Delhi government launched an online portal "My EV" for the purchase and registration of electric autos in the city. The government will also provide a 5 percent interest subvention on the purchase of e-autos on loans under the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy, an official statement said, adding Delhi has now become the first state to provide such a facility.

#### **6. Delhi government presents Rs 75,800 crore budget; aims to create 20 lakh jobs under 'Rozgar Budget' in five years**

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia presented a "Rozgar Budget" in the Assembly with an outlay of Rs 75,800 crore for the financial year 2022-23, focussing on creating 20 lakh jobs in five years by setting up an electronic city and promoting night economy, retail and wholesale markets in the national capital. The budget size for the next financial year is 9.86% higher than that of previous year.

## **Puducherry**

### **1. India's first indigenous flying trainer HANSA-NG completes sea-level trials**

India's first indigenous flying trainer 'HANSA-NG' designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories(NAL), has successfully completed the sea-level trials at Puducherry. The aircraft was flown to Puducherry covering a distance of 140 nautical miles in 1.5 hours at a cruising speed of 155 km/hr on February 19. NAL Director -Jitendra J Jadhav.

## **Ladakh**

### **1. ITBP Organises Ladakh's First Ice Wall Climbing Competition**

The North West Frontier of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) organised an ice wall climbing competition in Ladakh for the first time in the country. More than 100 climbers from 13 teams across the country took part in the ice climbing event. The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Radha Krishna Mathur graced the opening ceremony of the event.

ITBP was founded in 1962

## **Committees**

### **1. SC appoints ex-judge Sikri as chairperson of High Powered Committee on Char Dham project**

The Supreme Court has appointed its former judge Justice AK Sikri as Chairperson of the court-appointed High Powered Committee to look after the environmental concerns and other issues related to the Char Dham highway project.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud & Surya Kant accepted the resignation of environmentalist Ravi Chopra who was heading the High Powered Committee.

## QUICK LEARNERS

### BANKING

<b>Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)</b>	4.0%
<b>Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)</b>	18.0%

<b>POLICY/EXCHANGE RATE &amp; RESERVE RATIO</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
<b>Repo Rate</b>	4.00%
<b>Reverse Repo Rate</b>	3.35%
<b>Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)</b>	4.25%
<b>Bank Rate</b>	4.25%

### APPOINTMENTS

<b>APPOINTMENT</b>	<b>POST</b>
Madhabi Puri Buch	Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
S N Subrahmanyam	Director and Chairperson of L&T Finance Holdings
Christian Schenk	Chairman of Skoda Auto Volkswagen India (SAVWIPL)
Sanjay Bhattacharyya	Ambassador of India to the Principality of Liechtenstein
Deepak Parekh	Non-Executive Chairman of HDFC ERGO General Insurance.
Sanjiv Kapoor	CEO of Jet Airways
Hari Shyamsunder	CEO of Navi Mutual Fund
Justice DN Patel	Chairperson of the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)
Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava	Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court
Sunil Agarwal	Chief Financial Officer of LIC
T Raja Kumar	President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
Nitin Chugh	Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of SBI
Mary Kom	Brand Ambassador of Lupin
Ashwani Bhatia	Whole-Time Member (WTM) of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
Vidya Balan	Brand Ambassador of Bharti Axa Life Insurance
Prabha Narasimhan	CEO and MD of Colgate-Palmolive (India) Limited

Debasish Panda	Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
Katalin Novak	President of Hungary
Ajay Bhushan Pandey	Chairman of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)
Ranjit Rath	Chairman and Managing Director of Oil India Ltd.
N Chandrasekaran	Chairman of Air India
Pradeep Kumar Rawat	Ambassador of India to the People's Republic of China
BS Chauhan	Chairperson of the Independent Grievance Redressal Board (IGRB), EdTech Consortium (IEC)
Prashant Jhaveri	CEO of Flipkart Health+
Frank Torres	President Of Nissan India
M.D. Ramesh Murthy	Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
Dr Shankar Prasad Sharma	Nepal's Ambassador to India
Rajesh Gopinathan	Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Tata Consultancy Services
Hisashi Takeuchi	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Maruti Suzuki
Lt. Gen. Vinod G. Khandare (retd.)	Adviser in the Ministry of Defence
Shashi Sinha	Chief Executive Officer of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC)
Vishwas Patel	Chairman of Payments Council of India (PCI)
Mukesh Kumar Jain	Member in the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA)
Sanjay Kumar	Managing Director of Indraprastha Gas Ltd.
Vinod Rai	Chairman and Non- Executive Director of Kalyan Jewellers
Raj Subramaniam	Chief Executive Officer of FedEx
Robert Abela	President of Malta
Gilbert F. Hougbo	Director-General of The International Labour Organization's (ILO)
Mahesh Verma	Chairman of National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare providers (NABH)
Himanta Biswa Sarma	President of Badminton Association of India (BAI)
Jens Stoltenberg	Secretary General of North Atlantic Treaty Organization
Pushkar Singh Dhami	Chief Minister of Uttarakhand
Pramod Sawant	Chief Minister of Goa
N Biren Singh	Chief Minister of Manipur

Yogi Adityanath	Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh
Bhagwant Mann	Chief Minister of Punjab

## AWARDS

WINNER	AWARD
<b>Prof Deepak Dhar</b>	Boltzmann Medal
<b>Rizwana Hasan</b>	International Women of Courage (IWOC) Award, 2022
<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir Bank</b>	Self Help Group Bank Linkage Award for FY 2020-21
<b>Narayan Pradhan</b>	GD Birla Award for Scientific Research
<b>Dibdo Francis Kr</b>	Pritzker Architecture Prize, 2022
<b>Dennis Parnell Sullivan</b>	Abel Prize, 2022
<b>Will Smith</b>	Oscar for Best Actor
<b>Hans Zimmer</b>	Oscar for Best Original Score
<b>Jessica Chastain</b>	Oscar for Best Actress
<b>CODA</b>	Oscar for Best Picture
<b>Encanto</b>	Oscar for Best Animated Feature Film
<b>Cochin International Airport Limited</b>	'Covid Champion Award' at Wings India 2022
<b>Wilfried Brutsaert</b>	Stockholm Water Prize 2022
<b>Deepika Padukone</b>	TIME 100 Impact Award

## IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
<b>March 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Zero Discrimination Day	Remove Laws That Harm, Create Laws That Empower
<b>March 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Civil Accounts Day	
<b>March 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	World Wildlife Day	Safeguarding key species for ecosystem restoration
<b>March 4<sup>th</sup></b>	National Safety Day	Nurture young minds - Develop safety culture
<b>March 4<sup>th</sup></b>	World Obesity Day	Everybody Needs to Act
<b>March 4<sup>th</sup></b>	National Security Day	
<b>March 8<sup>th</sup></b>	International Women's Day	Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow
<b>March 10<sup>th</sup></b>	World Kidney day	Kidney health for all
<b>March 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Pi Day / International Day of Mathematics	
<b>March 15<sup>th</sup></b>	World Consumer Rights Day	Fair Digital Finance
<b>March 16<sup>th</sup></b>	National Vaccination Day	Vaccines Work for all
<b>March 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Global Recycling Day	



<b>March 20<sup>th</sup></b>	World Sparrow Day	I love sparrows
<b>March 21<sup>st</sup></b>	International Day of Forest	Forests and sustainable production and consumption.
<b>March 21<sup>st</sup></b>	World Down Syndrome Day	We Decide
<b>March 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	World Water Day	Groundwater, making the invisible visible
<b>March 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	World Meteorological Day	Early Warning and Early Action
<b>March 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Shaheed Diwas	
<b>March 24<sup>th</sup></b>	World Tuberculosis (TB) Day	Invest to End TB. Save Lives

## OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
<b>Hemanand Biswal</b>	Former CM of Odisha
<b>Jaiprakash Chouksey</b>	Film Critic
<b>Rod Marsh</b>	Former Australian Cricket Player
<b>Shane Warne</b>	Former Australian Cricket Player
<b>Mukul Arya</b>	India's envoy to Palestine
<b>Kumudben Joshi</b>	Former Andhra Pradesh Governor
<b>Ramesh Chandra Lahoti</b>	Former Chief Justice of India
<b>Stephen Wilhite</b>	Creator of the Animated GIF

## 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	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Bandaru Dattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Jai Ram Thakur	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	Uddhav Thackrey	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	La. Ganesan
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Sangma Kongkal	Satya Pal Malik
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	Biplab Kumar Deb	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	Jagdeep Dhankhar

### 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)	Anil Baijal (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</b>	Ministry of External Affairs

<b>Jaishankar</b>	
<b>Arjun Munda</b>	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
<b>Smriti Zubin Irani</b>	Ministry of Women and child Development
<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>SarbanandaSonowal</b>	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
<b>Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi</b>	Ministry of Minority Affairs
<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 Scindia</b>	Ministry of Civil Aviation
<b>Ramchandra Prasad Singh</b>	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 Rijju</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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