

## **Table of Contents**

- 01. INTERNATIONAL NEWS**
- 02. NATIONAL NEWS**
- 03. SPORTS**
- 04. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**
- 05. OBITUARY**
- 06. APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**
- 07. IMPORTANT DAYS**
- 08. SUMMITS AND MOU'S**
- 09. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**
- 10. RANKING**
- 11. BOOKS AND AUTHORS**
- 12. BANKING AND ECONOMY**

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Robert Golob elected as the new Prime Minister of Slovenia

- Robert Golob has defeated three-time prime minister Janez Janša in the Slovenia Prime Minister election. State election authorities have confirmed that the Freedom Movement won nearly 34% of the votes as compared to around 24% for the governing conservative Slovenian Democratic Party. The New Slovenia party with 7%, followed by the Social Democrats with more than 6%, and the Left party with just 4%.
- The 55-year-old former power company manager has promised to restore “normality”, having billed the elections as a “referendum on democracy”.

### Guadalajara, Mexico named World Book Capital for the year 2022

- Guadalajara, Mexico was named World Book Capital for the year 2022 by the Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, on the recommendation of the World Book Capital Advisory Committee. The city, already a UNESCO Creative City since 2017, was selected for its comprehensive plan for policies around the book to trigger social change, combat violence and build a culture of peace.
- As a UNESCO Creative City of Media, Arts Guadalajara has supported its local talents and advancing creative industries through initiatives that place media arts at the core of their programmes including in its world-famous International Book Fair. Cities designated as UNESCO World Book Capital undertake to promote books and reading and to organize activities over the year. As the twenty-second city to bear the title since 2001, Guadalajara follows Tbilisi (2021) Kuala Lumpur (2020).

### Russia will deploy 'Satan 2' nuclear missiles '

- Russian President Vladimir Putin said that his military had successfully test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of carrying a big nuclear payload, but the Pentagon said the missile did not pose a substantial danger to the US. Russia's most powerful ICBM is the RS-28 Sarmat, dubbed “Satan 2” by NATO.
- It is a super-heavy, thermonuclear-armed intercontinental-range ballistic missile.
- The Sarmat was supposed to take the place of the Soviet-built Voevoda, which had three warheads and was designed in 1962.
- The Sarmat weighs 200 metric tonnes (220 tonnes) and has a longer range, allowing it to fly across the North and South poles and strike targets anywhere on the planet.

## **Estonia hosts the world's largest cyber exercise**

- A cyber organisation recognised by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation will undertake the world's largest and most complicated "live-fire" cyber defence drills. The biennial Locked Shields event, according to the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence in Estonia, is designed to improve the skills of cybersecurity experts protecting national IT systems and vital infrastructure against real-time attacks.
- The participants are sent to help a fake country deal with a massive cyberattack.
- Over 2,000 people from 32 countries, including Ukraine, are expected to take part in the event.
- The Locked Shields event this year takes place in the midst of the ongoing war in Ukraine, in which hacking has played a steady, albeit minor, role in Russia's invasion. Hackers linked to the Russian government have been accused of assaulting Ukrainian government offices and attempting to break into the power infrastructure.

## **Tropical Storm Megi: Landslides and floods kill 167 in Philippines**

- Tropical Storm Megi wreaked havoc on the Philippines, killing at least 167 people in landslides and floods. According to the national disaster organisation, another 110 persons are missing, and 1.9 million people have been impacted. Hillside avalanches and overflowing rivers wreaked havoc on the villages surrounding Baybay city in central Leyte province.
- Tropical Storm Megi, also known as Tropical Storm Agaton in the Philippines, was a minor but devastating tropical storm that hit the Philippines in April 2022.
- It's the third tropical depression and second tropical storm of the typhoon season in the Pacific for 2022.
- Megi arose from a convection zone in the Philippine Sea, travelling northwestward into the Leyte Gulf, where it stayed nearly stationary, slowly tracking eastward.

## **UN: COVID plunged 77 million into poverty before Ukraine war**

- According to a United Nations report released, the pandemic pushed 77 million additional people into severe poverty last year, and many developing nations are unable to recover due to the heavy cost of loan repayments — and that was before the extra burden of the crisis in Ukraine.
- According to the research, rich countries might use historic amounts of money borrowed at ultra-low interest rates to help them recover from epidemic slumps.
- The poorest countries, on the other hand, spent billions of dollars servicing their debts and faced considerably higher borrowing costs, prohibiting them from investing in education and health care, environmental protection, and inequality reduction.

## **Israel tests new laser-based air defence system 'Iron Beam'**

- Israel successfully tested a new laser missile-defence system 'Iron Beam' which can destroy any airborne object including drones. Iron Beam is the world's first energy-based weapons system that uses a laser beam to shoot down incoming UAVs, rockets, mortars, long-range

missiles, anti-tank missiles etc. The Iron Beam which is developed by the Rafael Advanced Defense Systems is using a directed-energy weapon system and can go a long way in providing aerial defence.

- Iron Beam works on a fibre laser system to destroy any airborne object.
- Iron Dome defense system has been a great success, with a 90% interception rate against incoming rocket fire.

### **WTO slashes 2022 global trade growth forecast amid COVID**

- The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has revised down its projection for global trade growth (in volume) for 2022 to 3 per cent. Earlier in October 2021, this was estimated at 4.7 per cent. The downward revision follows the Russia-Ukraine conflict that has impacted commodity prices, disrupted supplies and intensified geopolitical and economic uncertainty. For 2023, this merchandise trade volume growth is projected at 3.4%.
- In the longer term, the WTO said the conflict could even trigger the disintegration of the global economy into separate blocs. India's real GDP, in such a scenario, would falter by 9% (deviation from a baseline projection), China's by 7% and Russia's by as much as 10%, it added.

### **Joint Statement on the Fourth India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue**

- Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III welcomed Ministers of Defense Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Dr S. Jaishankar to Washington, D.C. for the fourth US-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue. A virtual conference between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joseph Biden preceded the Dialogue.
- With a shared commitment to democracy and pluralism, a multifaceted bilateral agenda, and growing convergence of strategic interests, the United States and independent India are celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations. Both countries seek to maintain a resilient, rules-based international order that protects sovereignty and territorial integrity, upholds democratic values, and promotes peace and prosperity for all.

### **Sri Lanka to suspend foreign debt payments**

- Anger over Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's handling of the island nation's mounting economic crisis degenerated into violence, with hundreds of protestors clashing with police for several hours. Due to a significant lack of foreign money, Rajapaksa's government has been unable to pay for basic imports, like as fuel, resulting in power outages lasting up to 13 hours. After the country depreciated its currency last month ahead of talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a loan programme, ordinary Sri Lankans are also suffering with shortages and rising inflation.
- According to critics, the foundation of the crisis, which is the worst in decades, is economic mismanagement by successive governments, which established and maintained a dual deficit – a budget deficit as well as a current account deficit

- According to a working paper published by the Asian Development Bank in 2019, Sri Lanka is a classic twin deficits economy.

#### **China launches new satellite for Earth observation**

- China successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite Gaofen-3 03 on April 07, 2022, from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre on board a Long March-4C rocket. The new satellite will become part of its land-sea radar satellite constellation by forming a network with the orbiting Gaofen-3 and Gaofen-3 02 satellites.
- They will then capture reliable, stable synthetic aperture radar (SAR) images, to help Beijing safeguard its maritime rights and interests.
- The Earth Observation (EO) satellites produce a large number of SAR images every day, which are characterised by all-weather operation, high spatial resolution, among other things.

#### **Serbian president Aleksandar Vučić wins new term by landslide**

- Aleksandar Vučić has been re-elected as the President of Serbia. The pollster organizations CeSID and Ipsos had predicted victory for Vucic. The pro-European and centrist Alliance for Victory coalition was represented by Zdravko Ponos, a retired army general. The pollsters had predicted that Vucic's Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) would win most of the votes with 43 per cent and they would be followed by the United for Victory of Serbia opposition.
- Aleksandar Vučić is serving as Serbia's president since 2017, and since 2012 he has been serving as the president of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS). He has served as the President for two terms, from 2014 to 2016 and from 2016 to 2017. In 2017, he was first elected as the country's President and succeeded Tomislav Nikolić. Vučić's rule has been described by observers as an autocratic, authoritarian, illiberal democratic regime, and he curtailed the freedom of the press.

#### **Hurun Richest Self-Made Women in the World 2022**

- According to the list of Hurun Richest Self-Made Women In The World 2022 released by the Hurun Research Institute. According to the list, there are 124 Self-Made Women Billionaires in World and China contributes to two-thirds of the world's self-made women billionaires with 78 followed by the United States with 25 and the United Kingdom with 5.

##### **Top Three:-**

- Wu Yajun co-founder of Longfor (China has topped the list).
- Fan Hongwei, Chairman/President, Hengli Petrochemical Co Ltd (China).
- Wang Laichun of Luxshare Precision Industry (China).

#### **Hungary PM Viktor Orban Wins Fourth Term With Comfortable Victory**

- Hungarian Prime Minister, Viktor Orban won a fourth successive term in office by a landslide victory in the country's general elections for 2022. His right-wing Fidesz party secured 53.1% of the total 98% of the count complete. The 58-year-old is already the longest-serving head of government in the EU, since assuming the role of Prime Minister in May 2010.



- The 58-year-old, already the longest-serving head of government in the EU, was challenged by six united opposition parties seeking to roll back the “illiberal” revolution Orban’s Fidesz party has pursued during 12 consecutive years in office.

#### **UN rights body appoints Australian national Ian Fry to key new role**

- The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has appointed Dr Ian Fry as the world’s first independent expert for human rights and climate change. Dr Fry has been appointed for a period of three years. He holds dual citizenship of Tuvalu and Australia. The first to hold the post will be Ian Fry, who holds both Australian and Tuvaluan nationality.
- He has negotiated on behalf of least developed countries including at the 2015 Paris climate conference where he helped ensure that human rights were part of the final package.
- The position of Special Rapporteur for human rights and climate change was created by UNHRC in October 2021. The new independent expert will have the mandate to “study and identify how the adverse effects of climate change, including sudden and slow-onset disasters, affect the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and make recommendations on how to address and prevent these adverse effects”.

#### **World’s largest electric cruise ship makes its debut on the Yangtze River**

- The largest electric cruise ship in the world has returned back to port in Yichang in central Hubei province, China after travelling up and down the Yangtze River for its maiden voyage. This cruise ship has been powered by a 7,500-kilowatt-hour massive-sized marine battery. This battery has been provided by Contemporary Amperex Technology, the No. 1 battery manufacturer for electric cars in the world.
- The developer of this ship, China Yangtze Power has plans to use this electric ship as the starting point for expanding the marine electric vehicle market in China. The name of the ship is Yangtze River Three Gorges 1 and it is a 100 per cent electric cruise ship that has been developed and built in China. This ship is 16 meters wide and 100 meters long and has the capacity to carry around 1,300 passengers.

### **NATIONAL NEWS**

#### **Maharashtra became India’s 1st state to develop Migration Tracking System app for portability of ICDS scheme**

- Maharashtra became the first state in India to develop a website-based Migration Tracking System (MTS) application to track the movement of migrant workers through individual unique identity numbers. The MTS project aims to ensure the continuity of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) for migrant beneficiaries, such as children under the age of 18, lactating mothers, and pregnant women who are registered with Anganwadi centres.
- Migration workers will be tracked to ensure the portability of the ICDS for their families in their destination districts within or outside the state until their return to their native places. ICDS is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It was launched in 1975.

**Jamtara becomes country's first district with library in every village**

- Jamtara in Jharkhand has become the only district in the country where all gram panchayats have community libraries. This district with a population of about eight lakh has a total of 118-gram panchayats under six blocks and each panchayat has a well-equipped library that is open for students from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Career counselling sessions and motivational classes are also held free of cost here. Sometimes, IAS and IPS officers also visit these libraries to guide students. Everyone is welcome to visit these innovative sites.
- Gradually, libraries were set up in panchayats such as Chandradeep, Panjaniya, Menjhia, Gopalpur, Shaharpura, Champapur, and Jhilua. The villagers elected a President, Treasurer, and Librarian from amongst themselves, to run these libraries.

**J&K: Samba becomes first district in India to cover 100% households under ABPMJAY-SEHAT scheme**

- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Samba district of the Jammu division has become the first district in India to cover 100% of households under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY)- SEHAT scheme. The district achieved this milestone after the conclusion of a special registration drive organized by the State Health Agency (SHA) from April 11 to April 21 in all BDO offices across the district which was aimed to cover all families under the ABPMJAY SEHAT scheme in the district.
- The Samba district has a total of 62,641 families with 3,04,510 people eligible for ABPM-JAY SEHAT golden cards. However, 100% family coverage for the Ayushman Bharat Golden card in the district is a major achievement for the UT Government. This ambitious health insurance scheme enables all the residents of J&K including employees and pensioners as well as their families to avail of cashless quality healthcare services across public and empanelled private hospitals across India.

**Agra to get country's first vacuum-based sewer system**

- Agra, Uttar Pradesh has become the first city in the country to have vacuum-based sewer systems. These vacuums would be used in public places. Agra Smart City officials told the media that the municipal corporation has linked 240 such houses near the Taj Mahal with vacuum-based sewers, where conventional sewer systems could not be used.
- The estimated cost for the work of sewer connection is Rs 100 crore. Presently, this technology is being used in low-lying areas. The Maintenance and complete care will be done by the Netherlands company for up to five years. A vacuum sewer network of 240 houses has been constructed at Rs 5 crore. All the chambers are equipped with geographic information system (GIS) based sensors, which will help pinpoint the area of the chamber and the problem.

**Palli becomes India's first 'carbon neutral panchayat'**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated a 500 KV solar plant to the nation in the unassuming hamlet of Palli in Jammu and Kashmir's border region of Samba making it the country's first 'carbon neutral panchayat.'
- Palli, according to the Prime Minister, has showed the country the way by becoming carbon neutral.
- Palli residents have assisted with the project. They've also fed those who are working on the project.
- Officials added that under the national government's 'Gram Urja Swaraj' programme, 1,500 solar panels with a total area of 6,408 square metres will provide clean electricity to 340 homes in the model panchayat.

**India's participated as Guest of honour at the Paris Book Festival 2022**

- As announced in the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi – President Emmanuel Macron Joint Statement released in 2018 during the French President's visit to New Delhi, India has been designated as the Guest of Honour Country at the Paris Book Festival 2022, which will take place from April 21 to April 24, 2022.
- On April 21, 2022, the Paris Book Festival was launched. On the same day, the India Pavilion at the Paris Book Festival
- The National Institute of Design (NID) developed the India Pavilion, which comprises over 15 digital and physical exhibitions showing over 400 books published in various Indian languages, representing the work of 65 Indian publishers.

**Maharashtra is first state to launched a bus service with totally digital ticketing system**

- Maharashtra State Environment Minister Aditya Thackeray inaugurated the tap-in tap-out service on the Gateway of India to Churchgate route in an effort to make commuting across Mumbai easier. Aditya Thackeray stated during the event that Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) is India's first fully digital bus service.
- In a few days, all 10 buses on this route will be equipped with this technology, which will eventually be expanded to all 438 routes.
- According to Lokesh Chandra, BEST's General Manager (GM), this is the country's first-ever 100 percent digital bus service, with the goal of increasing the digitalisation of the bus ticketing system.

**PM Modi inaugurates & lays foundation stone of projects in Dahod & Panchmahal, Gujarat worth Rs 22000 crore**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and inaugurated the various projects worth 22,000 crore rupees at a function organized at Dahod in Gujarat. Dahod District Southern Area Regional Water Supply Scheme, constructed at Narmada River Basin (Rs 840 crore); Dahod Smart City (Rs 335 crore).



- These projects include Integrated Command & Control Centre (ICCC) Building, Stormwater drainage system, Sewerage works, Solid Waste Management System and Rain Water Harvesting System.
- Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, benefits worth Rs. 120 crore were provided to 10,000 tribal of Panchmahal and Dahod districts. Prime Minister also inaugurated 66 KV Ghodia substation, Panchayat Houses, and Anganwadis, among others. Manufacturing project of 9,000 HP Electric Locomotives at the Railway Production Unit in Dahod. 10,000 tribals of Panchmahal and Dahod districts (provided Rs 120 crore under PMAY).

#### **Biliti To Build Worlds Largest 3-Wheeled EV Manufacturing Facility In Telangana**

- Biliti Electric Inc (Biliti), based in California, United States of America, has announced its intention to establish the world's largest electric three-wheeler manufacturing facility in Telangana. The plant will be built in 2 phases over an area of 200 acres. Phase I of 13.5 acres with a capacity to produce 18000 Electric Vehicles (EV) per year will become operational in 2023 and the larger facility of 200 acres with a production capacity of 240000 EV per year will become operational in 2024.
- The facility will produce all the products of Biliti including the cargo model Taskman<sup>TM</sup> and the passenger version Urban<sup>TM</sup>. The facility is estimated to drive private investment of USD 150 million (around Rs 1,144 crore) and is expected to create more than 3000 jobs in Telangana.

#### **Covid insurance scheme for health workers extended**

- The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP), an insurance policy for health care workers fighting COVID-19, has been extended for another 180 days. It was decided to extend the programme in order to continue to provide a safety net for the dependents of health workers assigned to COVID-19 patients.
- A letter to this effect was sent to the Additional Chief Secretaries (Health)/Principal Secretaries (Health)/Secretaries (Health) of all States/UTs on April 19, 2022, requesting that they publicise the event widely among health workers in their respective States/UTs.
- The PMGKP was launched on March 30, 2020, to provide Rs. 50 lakh in comprehensive personal accident coverage to 22.12 lakh health care providers, including community health workers and private health care providers, who may have had direct contact and care of COVID-19 patients and are at risk of being impacted.
- Private hospital staff/retired/volunteer/local urban bodies/contract/daily wage/ad-hoc/outsourced staff requisitioned by states/central hospitals/autonomous hospitals of central/states/UTs, AIIMS & Institute of National Importance (INI)/hospitals of Central Ministries specifically drafted for care of COVID-19 patients are also covered under the PMGKP due to the unprecedented situation.

#### **National cyber exercise underway to train govt officials on cyber threat**

- To bolster India's cyber posture, the National Security Council Secretariat is holding a National Cyber Security Incident Response Exercise (NCX India) for government officials and key sector organisations.

- The National Cyber Security Incident Response Exercise was kicked off by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.
- According to a statement from the National Security Council Secretariat, more than 140 officials would be trained through training sessions, Live Fire, and Strategic exercises.
- Intrusion Detection Techniques, Malware Information Sharing Platform (MISP), Vulnerability Handling & Penetration Testing, Network Protocols & Data Flows, and Digital Forensics are among the topics covered by the attendees.
- The practise comes in the wake of recent power grid hacking incidents in Ladakh, as well as a number of incidents involving ministry Twitter accounts being hacked.

### **A Nationwide Meeting On Agriculture For The 2022 Kharif Campaign Inaugurated By Narendra Singh Tomar**

- Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Agriculture Minister, recently launched the National Conference on Agriculture for the Kharif Campaign 2022-23 at the NASC Complex in New Delhi.
- The Minister expressed his delight that, according to the 2nd Advance Estimates (2021-22), total food grain production in the country will reach 3160 lakh tonnes, a new high.
- The production of pulses and oilseeds will be 269.5 lakh tonnes and 371.5 lakh tonnes, respectively.
- Horticulture production is expected to reach 3310.5 lakh tonnes in 2020-21, the greatest level ever for Indian horticulture, according to third advanced projections.
- The Minister added that the centre and states will collaborate to secure the availability of herbicides and seeds, lowering farmers' input prices.

### **'Smart Cities, Smart Urbanization' Conference opens in Surat, with 100 Smart Cities joining from across the country**

- The three-day "Smart Cities, Smart Urbanization" conference kicked off today in Surat. Under the clarion call of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), given by Hon'ble Prime Minister to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Independence, the event is being organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, in collaboration with Surat Smart City Corporation Development Ltd.
- The event's chief guest was Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs. Gujarat's Chief Minister, Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, delivered a video message to the audience.
- Shri Kaushal Kishore, Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Ms Darshana Jardosh, Shri Vinod Moradiya, Minister of Urban Development and Urban Housing, Government of Gujarat, Dr Audimulapu Suresh, Minister of Education, Andhra Pradesh, Shri C.R. Patil, MP, and Smt. Hemali Kalpeshkumar

Boghawala, Mayor, Surat, were among those who attended the inaugural session.

### **OIL commissions India's first pure green hydrogen plant in Assam**

- India's first 99.999% pure Green Hydrogen pilot plant has been commissioned by the Oil India Limited (OIL) at its Jorhat Pump Station in Assam. The plant has an installed capacity of 10 kg per day. The plant produces Green Hydrogen from the electricity generated by a 500kW Solar plant using a 100 kW Anion Exchange Membrane (AEM) Electrolyser array. The use of AEM technology is being used for the first time in India.
- This plant is expected to increase its production of green hydrogen from 10 kg per day to 30 kg per day in future. The company has initiated a detailed study in collaboration with IIT Guwahati on the blending of Green Hydrogen with Natural Gas and its effect on the existing infrastructure of OIL. The company also plans to study use cases for commercial applications of the blended fuel.

### **India gets its sixth Scorpene-class submarine 'INS Vagsheer' in Mumbai**

- The Indian Navy launched the sixth and last submarine, Yard 11880, of the French Scorpene-class under Project 75, at the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in Mumbai. The submarine has been named 'Vagsheer'. The submarine will now undergo rigorous harbour trials and sea trials, before being commissioned in the Indian Navy. These submarines are designed by French naval defence and energy company 'DCNS' while Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai has manufactured them.

### **J&K launched app 'Jan Nigrani' to help people lodge complaints, under the e-governance initiative**

- The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Jammu and Kashmir, under the e-governance initiative has launched an app 'Jan Nigrani', intended to help people lodge their complaints related to various schemes online. The Jan Nigrani app is a 24x7 internet-based platform aimed at reporting and resolving the grievances of the residents of J&K, against various government schemes launched by the department.
- The app would act as a single link between the residents and the officials by mapping concerned authorities related to the complaint about faster grievance redressal. The app has been developed as an e-governance initiative to provide a 24x7 platform to the people for redressal of their grievances.
- The application has been set at the block level with a seven-day time slot to redress any particular grievance. It will also check bogus or false complaints and can be downloaded from the Google play store of android software.
- The app would also facilitate accurate reporting of grievances using customised scheme-specific input forms to ensure minimal rejections on account of incomplete information.

#### Health & Wellness Centre Scheme Marks 4th year Anniversary

- The Union Health minister Mansukh Mandaviya, organised a week-long celebration under the “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav”, marking the fourth anniversary of Ayushman Bharat- Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) from April 16 to April 22. The inauguration of the first AB-HWC on 14th April 2018, at Jangla, a serene village in the Bijapur District of Chhattisgarh.
- Mansukh Mandaviya, the union Health minister addressed the fourth-anniversary celebration of AB-HWCs in a meeting organised virtually, which saw the participation of more than 1 Lakh AB-HWCs, State Health ministers, senior officials of all the States and Union Territories, healthcare workers from various hospitals and development partners.

#### India's first portable solar rooftop system unveiled in Gujarat

- The first portable solar rooftop system in India has been inaugurated at Swaminarayan Akshardham temple complex in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The 10 Photovoltaic PV Port system has been manufactured by New Delhi-based Servotech Power Systems Ltd and designed by the German development agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The systems have been installed under the initiative of the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to develop renewable energy cities across India.
- The PV Ports have been manufactured by New Delhi-based Servotech Power Systems Ltd (SPSL), a leading maker of high-end solar products like LEDs, oxygen concentrators and EV charging equipment under the Make in India project, it added. The PV Port system is highly cost-effective, requires low maintenance, has a long shelf life of 25-30 years, can be easily installed by a single person and is ideal for the Indian climate.

#### SC reconstitutes oversight expert panel for Delhi-Dehradun Expressway

- The Supreme Court of India has reconstituted the expert committee to monitor the compensatory afforestation and other mitigation measures for the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor Expressway project. The independent 12-member expert committee was formed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to be headed by Sukhbir Singh Sandhu Chief Secretary, Uttarakhand.
- The Director-General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change will be the Chairperson of the reconstituted Committee.
- Chandra Prakash Goyal is currently appointed as the Director-General of Forests and Special Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

#### Defence Secy inaugurates 8th National Level Pollution Response Exercise by Coast Guard

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) kicked off the 8th edition of the two-day National Level Pollution Response Exercise, ‘NATPOLREX-VIII’, on April 19, 2022, off Mormugao harbour, Goa. The marine spill preparedness exercise was



inaugurated by Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar. The exercise is being attended by more than 85 participants from 50 agencies, including 29 observers from 22 friendly foreign countries & International Organisations and two Coast Guard ships from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

- The objective of NATPOLREX-VIII is to enhance the preparedness and response capability of all the stakeholders in combating marine spills.
- It aims at validating the procedures and guidelines as contained in the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) at the national and regional levels under the aegis of SACEP MoU to which India is a member state.

### **BRO to build world's highest tunnel at 16,580 feet to connect Himachal to Ladakh through Shinku La Pass**

- BRO Director General Lieutenant General Rajeev Chaudhary announced that the Border Roads Organisation will build the world's highest tunnel at Shinku La Pass, at 16,580 feet, to connect Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh. He said this while opening the strategically crucial Himachal to Zaskar Road at Shinku La Pass, where more than a half-dozen vehicles crossed from the Zaskar side towards Manali.
- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO), according to Lieutenant General Rajeev Chaudhary of PTI, would begin construction of the tunnel connecting Himachal Pradesh and the Zaskar Valley in Ladakh by July this year. He stated that the Centre has already established BRO's 'Mission Yojak' to carry out this ambitious project.
- The tunnel, which is expected to be completed by 2025, will transform the economy of Zaskar Valley, according to the official.
- Currently, one must travel 101 kilometres on the Leh route from Manali to Darcha, then turn left towards Shinku La Pass and enter Zaskar valley.
- The tunnel's south portal will be at Shinku La, and the tunnel's north portal will be at Lhakang.
- The D-G praised BRO personnel's efforts in reopening the Shinku La-Padum and Manali-Leh roads in record time.

### **First IT Training & Services centre of Ethosh Digital inaugurated in Leh**

- Leh has taken the first step in building an IT sector. SS Khandare, the Additional Director General of Police for Ladakh, has opened Ethosh Digital's first IT Training and Services centre in Leh.
- Ethosh Digital is a multinational company established in California that specialises in digital communications and AR-VR products. Ethosh Digital was assisted in establishing the first IT office in Ladakh by Aseem Foundation, a Pune-based NGO that works in India's border regions in the sectors of education, business, health, sports, and sustainable development.

### **PM Modi unveils 108-ft tall Lord Hanuman statue in Gujarat's Morbi**

- The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has unveiled a 108 ft statue of Lord Hanuman ji in Morbi, Gujarat, at the Ashram of Bapu Keshvanand ji, via video conferencing, on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti. This statue is the second among the four statues being built in the four directions across the country, as part of the 'Hanumanji Char Dham' project.
- The first such grand statue of Hanuman Ji was inaugurated in the North in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh in 2010. The statue at Morbi has been set up in the West. The third statue will be set up in the South at Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. Similarly, the final statue will be established in East in West Bengal.

### **India elected to four UN ECOSOC Bodies 2022**

- India has been elected to the United Nations Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) four major bodies, including the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. To the Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Ambassador Preeti Saran has been re-elected. In 2018, she was first elected to the Asia Pacific seat on the UN's Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. On 1st January 2019, her first four-year term began.

#### **The 4 bodies to which India has been elected**

- The Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
- The Commission for Social Development
- The Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations
- The Commission on Science and Technology for Development

### **Manipur CM Biren Singh: 165 tall Indian National Flag to be installed at INA Headquarter Complex**

- Manipur chief minister, N Biren Singh announced that a 165-foot-high Indian national flag, the tallest in the Northeast, would be hoisted at the Indian National Army (INA) headquarters complex in Moirang in Manipur's Bishnupur district, for which a pole had already been erected.
- According to Singh, as part of the 100-day action plan, union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit the state and unfurl the Indian national flag.
- He was speaking at the INA Martyr's Memorial Complex in Moirang, 45 kilometres south of Imphal, where the 78th Anniversary of Flag Hoisting Day was observed.
- The state government had already purchased land for the construction of the new INA memorial hall and construction work had begun.
- Various performers presented cultural programmes such as Dhol-Dholok Cholom and Thang Ta during the observation.

### **Puducherry LG inaugurated Beach Festival I Sea PONDY-2022**

- In the presence of Chief Minister N. Rangasamy, Lieutenant Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan opened the Puducherry first-ever Beach Festival I Sea PONDY-2022.

- Gandhi Beach, Pondy Marina, and Sandunes of Paradise Beach in Puducherry will host the festival for four days.
- During the festival, there will be a variety of cultural events and competitions.
- Pondicherry (or Puducherry) was a French colonial settlement in India until 1954, and is currently a Union Territory town bordering the Tamil Nadu state in the southeast.

#### **Civil Aviation Ministry's "UDAN" scheme selected for Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration**

- Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) flagship Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik) has been selected for Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020 under the category "Innovation (General) – Central".
- Government of India has initiated this award to acknowledge, recognize and reward extraordinary and innovative work done by Districts and Organizations of State/Government. This scheme emphasises on Good Governance, Qualitative achievements, and last mile connectivity rather than only on achievement of quantitative targets. The award consists of a trophy, scroll and an incentive of Rs 10 lakhs.

#### **40th edition of govt of India's 'Hunar Haat' festival begins in Mumbai**

- The 40th edition of the Centre's 'Hunar Haat' festival was inaugurated by Union Minister Anurag Thakur in Mumbai on Sunday. The festival, which will conclude on April 27, is aimed at promoting ancestral crafts from remote areas of India. According to the officials, the event has provided employment opportunities to over 9 lakh artisans in a span of 6 years.

#### **The sixth anniversary of the National Agriculture Market**

- e-NAM marks the sixth anniversary of the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), a pan-India electronic trade network. To ease online trade of agricultural commodities, the flagship programme incorporates physical wholesale mandis and markets from several States and Union Territories. The Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium is implementing e-NAM, which was launched on April 14th in 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is completely funded by the Central Government.
- The National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a pan-India electronic trading system that connects the existing APMC mandis to form a unified national agricultural commodities market. Under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare of the Government of India, the Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is the key agency for implementing eNAM.

#### **PM Modi inaugurates K K Patel Super Speciality Hospital in Bhuj, Gujarat**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation, a 200-bed KK Patel Super Speciality Hospital in Bhuj in the Kutch district of Gujarat, via video-conferencing. This

hospital has been built by Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Samaj, Bhuj and is the first charitable super speciality hospital in the Kutch region.

- It will guarantee quality medical treatment for the people of Kutch including lakhs of soldiers, par military personnel and traders. This initiative is in line with the policy of the Central government to set up at least one medical college in every district of the country so that India gets a record number of doctors in the next 10 years.

### **‘SVANidhi se Samriddhi’ launched in additional 126 cities**

- In the presence of senior officials from States/UTs and several Central Ministries, Shri Manoj Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), launched the ‘SVANidhi se Samriddhi’ programme in an additional 126 cities across 14 States/UTs.
- PMSVANidhi’s extra initiative, ‘SVANidhi se Samriddhi,’ was launched in 125 cities in Phase 1 in 2021, covering around 35 lakh street vendors and their families. They have been given 22.5 lakh scheme sanctions, which include 16 lakh insurance benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana, and 2.7 lakh pension benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, among other things.
- Due to the success of Phase I, the MoHUA has expanded the programme to 126 cities, with the goal of covering 28 lakh street vendors and their families, with a total target of 20 lakh plan sanctions for FY 2022-23. The remaining cities would be added to the programme over time.

### **Tamil Nadu Will Celebrate April 14 As 'Equality Day' In Memory Of BR Ambedkar: CM Stalin**

- Chief Minister MK Stalin announced in the Assembly that the birth anniversary of BR Ambedkar (April 14) will be commemorated as ‘Samathuva Naal’ (Equality Day), and that a promise will be administered on that day, in accordance with Rule 110.
- The chief Minister stated that a demand to this effect was made during State Vigilance and Monitoring Committee Meeting on behalf of the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, adding that the idea is to commemorate the day in the same way that Periyar’s birthday is commemorated as ‘Social Justice Day.’
- Former Union Minister and Nilgiris MP A Raja once demanded that BR Ambedkar’s writings be translated into Tamil, according to the chief minister. “His request has been granted. The Tamil Nadu government plans to publish a few of Ambedkar’s books.”
- Chief Minister Stalin asked DMK personnel to commemorate Equality Day in the party’s district unit offices and all 238 Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram around the state of Tamil Nadu.

### **Rongali Bohag Bihu Festival observed in Assam**

- Bohag Bihu or Rongali Bihu, one of the biggest festivals of Assam, falls in the second week of April every year, marking the beginning of the harvest period. This year Bohag Bihu is being observed from April 14 to April 16. Rongali means joy in Assamese and the festival indeed is the time to rejoice and make merry with family and community.
- The first day of the Hindu solar calendar is celebrated in the states of Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Kerala, Manipur, and West Bengal among others with different names and traditions. Bihu is celebrated thrice a year; apart from Rongali or Bohag Bihu – Kati Bihu or Kongali



Bihu and Magh Bihu or Bhogali Bihu are celebrated to mark different stages of the harvesting period.

### **Govt of Uttarakhand will launch “Him Prahari” scheme for ex-servicemen & youngsters**

- The Government of Uttarakhand is set to implement the ‘Him Prahari’ Scheme which is meant for ex-servicemen and youngsters. The Uttarakhand Govt is seeking the cooperation of the Union Government to implement the scheme in areas bordering the Uttarakhand. The scheme will also prioritise settling ex-servicemen in areas bordering the state.
- The scheme is aimed at stopping the migration of people from Uttarakhand and will focus on areas where migration occurs at a rapid phase so that people stay put, and not move out. The estimated expenditure of the scheme is around Rs 5.45 crore. The Him Prahari Scheme was announced by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Uttarakhand unit in its 2022 Election Manifesto.

### **Amit Shah inaugurated the “Amrit Samagam”**

- Shri Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, launched the Amrit Samagam, a summit of the country’s tourism and cultural ministers, in New Delhi. The Ministry of Culture is hosting a two-day conference, as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The goal of this conference is to discuss how far the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav has progressed so far, as well as to gather best practices and ideas for methods to be used for the remainder of the celebration, particularly for impending critical initiatives.
- Union Minister for Tourism, Culture, and DONER Shri G. Kishan Reddy launched the Utsav Portal website during the conference, a digital initiative launched by the Ministry of Tourism to showcase all events, festivals, and live darshans across India in order to promote different regions of the country as popular tourist destinations worldwide.

### **PM Modi to Virtually Address Umiya Mata Temple's Foundation Day Celebrations in Gujarat on Sunday**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that the Umiya Mata Temple, a religious site in Gujarat’s Junagadh, has now become a central focus for social consciousness. He explained that the temple helps the underprivileged members of the community by providing free health treatment as well as religious and social activities.
- On Ramnavami, Prime Minister Modi was virtually speaking at the 14th foundation day festivities of Umiya Mata Temple in Junagadh. Mr Modi also presided over the temple’s inauguration in 2008, when he was Gujarat’s, Chief Minister.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged people to practise natural farming for the sake of future generations. He stated that we should not exploit our homeland for personal gain.

- He emphasised that just as we understand the necessity of water conservation, we must also realise the importance of preserving and nurturing our motherland through natural farming.

#### **President of India Inaugurates Madhavpur Ghed Fair in Gujarat**

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the five-day long Madhavpur Ghed Fair, at Madhavpur Ghed, Porbandar in Gujarat. The Madhavpur Ghed Fair is being organised by the Government of Gujarat in association with the Ministry of Culture since 2018 every year to celebrate the sacred union of Lord Krishna and Rukmini. The Madhavpur Fair connects Gujarat with the northeast region in an integral bond.
- The Madhavpur Ghed fair was organised in the village associated with the life of Shri Krishna and near Porbandar, the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi. The folk story of the marriage of Shri Krishna and Rukmini shows how ancient is the cultural unity of India and how deep were the roots of our social harmony.

#### **Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates Indo-Pak border viewing point in Banaskantha district of Gujarat**

- Union Home and Cooperative Minister, Amit Shah has inaugurated the Seema Darshan Project at Nadabet on the Indo-Pak border in Banaskantha District of Gujarat. The project was launched with the aim to provide an opportunity for the citizen to observe the life and work of the BSF personnel on our border. The tourist can see missiles, tanks, aircraft etc which are used by the Indian Army and BSF at Nadabet.
- The project was initiated with the objective of giving the citizens of the nation an opportunity to see firsthand the lifestyle of the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel who are constantly protecting their motherland, as well as to observe their living conditions, and their duties and their patriotism.
- The idea to develop another border viewing point for tourists was mooted when Vijay Rupani was chief minister of Gujarat in 2018. It took three years for the state government to develop the point.

#### **Tamil Nadu: CM M K Stalin inaugurates Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram**

- K. Stalin, the Deputy Chief Minister, launched a Periyar memorial samathuvapuram at Pilipakuttai in Namagiripettai panchayat union. Allottees were given the keys at the function. 100 dwelling units with all basic amenities were built at the cost of 2 crores 88 lakh rupees. Stalin, who gave Rs. 30.42 crore in financial assistance and other benefits to 2,671 Namakkal residents, said that the current administration has issued loans totalling Rs. 8,080 crore to 3,24,024 women self-help groups across the state.
- Stalin promised that all 1,601 developmental works under the Anaithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam will be finished shortly after laying the foundation for them at a cost of Rs. 19.32 crore.

- In addition, Mr. Stalin dedicated 7,392 works that had been completed under various projects.
- He had previously opened and handed over the key to a house built under the Kalaingar Housing Scheme in Iyampalayam hamlet near Namakkal.

#### **Kangra tea likely to get EU GI tag**

- Himachal Pradesh's Kangra Tea will soon get a European Commission Geographical Indication Tag (GI Tag); this tag helps Kangra tea to get an opportunity to enter the European market. Kangra tea received the Indian GI tag in 2005. Since 1999, the cultivation and development of tea have improved constantly in the Kangra region of Himachal Pradesh.
- The development and cultivation of Kangra tea is being promoted and looked after by four departments iTea Board of India Regional office Palampur, cooperative and agriculture departments of the state and CSIR, IHBT Palampur and Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Agriculture University, Palampur.

#### **Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Dhama launches anti-corruption mobile app**

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has launched an anti-corruption mobile app named 1064 Anti-Corruption Mobile App. This mobile application has been developed by the vigilance department, Uttarakhand. It helps the citizens to lodge corruption-related complaints directly with the authorities.
- Currently, the app is available in both Hindi and English language. Registered complaints, data and the identity of the complainant will be protected. Government is committed to making the state corruption-free and ensuring that governance in the state is carried out in a transparent manner.

#### **South-Central Railway launches 'One station One Product' initiative at 6 major stations**

- The SCR has introduced the "One Station, One Product" campaign at six main stations across its six divisions. Arun Kumar Jain, SCR in-charge General Manager, has opened stalls at Secunderabad Station as part of the new initiative.
- In addition to Vijayawada, Guntur, and Aurangabad, stalls have been set up in Kacheguda.
- The new programme was introduced by the government in the General Budget 2022-23 and is currently being tested in Tirupati.
- The Railway stations are ideal for promoting indigenous and local products, and the programme aims to turn them into a sales and promotional centre.
- The stalls will be open for two phases, starting on the 7th of next month and ending on the 7th of the following month.

**Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System and Pinaka Area Denial Munition Rocket Systems successfully flight-tested by DRDO & Indian Army**

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation and Indian Army successfully flight-tested a new version of the Pinaka rocket system at the Pokhran firing ranges. These included Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System (EPRS) and Pinaka Area Denial Munition (ADM) rocket systems. With these trials, the initial phase of technology absorption of EPRS by the industry has successfully been completed and the industry partners are ready for user trials/series production of the rocket system.
- The Pinaka rocket system has been developed by DRDO lab- Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune in collaboration with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune.

**Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports releases contribution of USD 72,124 to UNESCO Fund for Elimination of Doping in Sport**

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, has contributed an amount of USD 72,124 towards the UNESCO Fund for Elimination of Doping in Sport 2022. This is double the amount of the minimum agreed value. As per the resolution of 7COP held at Paris between 29-31 September 2019, the State Parties had agreed for contributing 1% of the regular budget of their respective nations to UNESCO towards the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport.
- In 2021, India contributed USD 28172 towards the UNESCO Fund. The contributed fund will be used to support the implementation of the Fund's Operational Strategy 2020-2025.

**Ministry of Information and Broadcasting constitutes AVGC promotion task force**

- An animation, visual effects, gaming, and comics (AVGC) promotion task group has been established by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The task force, which will be led by the I&B Secretary, will produce its first action plan within 90 days. Industry, academics, and state governments are all represented.
- In her Budget speech, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the formation of an AVGC promotion task team.
- The organisation will develop a national AVGC policy, recommend a national curriculum framework for graduation, post-graduate, and PhD courses in AVGC-related fields, and collaborate with academic institutions, vocational training centres, and industry to assist skilling programmes.
- It will increase job possibilities, assist in promotion and market development operations to expand Indian industry's worldwide reach, increase exports, and recommend incentives to attract foreign direct investment in the sector.
- According to the I&B Ministry, the country's AVGC industry has the potential to be the torchbearer of Create in India and Brand India.

**The 9th edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Khanjar 2022 Exercise**

- The 9th Edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise was held in March-April, 2022 at Special Forces Training School, Bakloh (HP). Special Forces contingents from India



and Kyrgyzstan have shared their experience and best practices in terms of tactics, techniques, and procedures for countering present and emerging threats throughout the conflict spectrum. During the Exercise, combat shooting, sniping, mountain survival, hostage rescue drills, and unarmed warfare were all extensively performed.

- The collaborative training reinforced the existing link between India and Kyrgyzstan, which has grown over years of mutual respect for strategic autonomy, democratic ideals, and zero tolerance for terrorism.

### **AAI launches 'AVSAR' Scheme to provide platform to SHGs for promotion of local artisans and products**

- The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has launched an initiative "AVSAR" to encourage the talent of women, artisans and craftsmen and provide them with the right opportunities. AVSAR stands for 'Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans Of The Region'. Under "AVSAR" (Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans Of The Region), which is an initiative of AAI, an opportunity to help the indigent to mobilize their households into functionally effective self-earned groups for self-reliance and self-dependence, has been provided.
- An area of 100-200 square feet has been earmarked at each AAI operated airport. The space is being allotted to the self-help groups, turn on a turn basis, for a duration of 15 days.
- Few outlets have already been commissioned at Chennai, Agartala, Dehradun, Kushinagar, Udaipur & Amritsar Airport wherein SHGs operated by local women, are showcasing and marketing their homemade local products like Puffed Rice, Packaged Papad, Pickles, Bamboo based Ladies Bag/Bottle/Lamp Sets, local artefacts, traditional craft, natural dyes, embroidery and indigenous weaves with contemporary design to the air travellers.

### **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying launches 'One Health' pilot project in Uttarakhand**

- The Government of India's Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) has launched a pilot project in Uttarakhand to implement the One Health Framework through the One Health Support Unit.
- The Unit's main goal is to create a national One Health roadmap based on the lessons learned during the pilot project's deployment.
- The implementation of the One Health Support Unit would be led by an inter-ministerial One Health committee chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.

### **Sarhul celebrated with traditional fervor across Jharkhand**

- Sarhul is the festival of the New Year celebrated in the state of Jharkhand by the tribal communities as part of the local Sarna religion. It is celebrated in the Hindu month of Chaitra, three days after the appearance of the new moon. It is also a celebration of the beginning of spring. The word "Sarhul" is connected with tree worship. It is a festival where nature is venerated. In the year 2022, it falls on 04 April, Monday.
- Sarhul is celebrated by many tribes in Jharkhand, but most notably the Munda, Ho, and Oraon tribes. While nature veneration is an important aspect of the festival, there are also many cultural programmes that are enjoyed along with it.

- Among these many cultural events is “Baa Porob”, the festival of flowers and the worship of the Sal Tree as well as a special Sarhul dance.
- The festivities around Sarhul are made even more special with the many festive delicacies that are cooked and enjoyed, such as the rice dish called “handia”, a baked or dried fish dish called “fish sukha”.

#### **TN CM launches 'Kaaval Uthavi' app for public during emergency**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M K Stalin has launched the ‘Kaaval Uthavi’ app which helps citizens to seek police assistance during any emergency. The app is containing sixty features that are used to send an emergency alert to the police control room. By pressing the emergency red button, the user’s live location will be shared with the control room. The user can also identify the nearest police station/patrol vehicle.
- The app comprises an emergency help and a dial facility (Dial-112/100/101). The Dial 100 facility has been integrated with the app. It also has a facility for mobile-based complaints and a location sharing facility.
- Other features include Police Station Locator, Control Room Directory, Cyber Financial Related Complaint, Other Emergency Helplines, Alert / Notification messages, Vehicle Verification, e-payment of fines for traffic violations, Police Verification Services), Lost Document Report, TN Police Citizen App, 112-India App among others.

#### **Ayush Ministry to celebrate Yoga Mahotsav at Red Fort on World Health Day**

- On World Health Day and the 75th day of the countdown to International Day of Yoga, the Ministry of Ayush is hosting a magnificent programme for the presentation of the Common Yoga Protocol in the backdrop of 15th August Park, Lal Quila, (Red Fort) Delhi. The program’s Chief Guest is slated to be Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla. Several Union Ministers, Members of Parliament, Ambassadors of several nations stationed in Delhi, famous Sports Celebrities, and Yoga Gurus are expected to attend the event.
- The Ministry, in collaboration with its numerous stakeholders, has devised a 100-day countdown programme for the 8th International Day of Yoga, in which 100 organisations promote yoga in 100 different locations/cities.
- The Ministry of Ayush is the nodal ministry for the International Day of Yoga’s commemoration. The primary event of IDY is a Mass Yoga Demonstration, which is led by Prime Minister Modi every year. The IDY-2022 preparations are well underway.

#### **Stand up India scheme completes 6 years, benefits over 1.33 lakh new entrepreneurs**

- Stand-Up India scheme has completed its six years on 5th April 2022. Under the Stand-Up India Scheme, over 30,160 crore rupees have been sanctioned to more than 1 lakh 33 thousand 995 accounts since the launch of the Scheme. The scheme was launched by PM Modi on 5th April 2016. Stand Up India scheme was extended till 2025.
- Out of the total sanctioned accounts, 6,435 accounts belonged to ST borrowers with Rs 1373.71 crore sanctioned and 19,310 accounts belonged to SC borrowers with Rs 3976.84 crore sanctioned. To 1,08,250 women entrepreneurs who held accounts, Rs. 24809.89 crore has been sanctioned. Loan facility between 10 lakh and one crore rupees to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and women.

### UP CM launches 'School Chalo Abhiyan'

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath begins the 'School Chalo Abhiyan' in order to secure 100 per cent enrollment in elementary and upper primary schools in Uttar Pradesh. Citing an official announcement, the state government will make an effort to shape the future of primary education and the holistic development of elementary schools.
- The 'School Chalo Abhiyan' is being implemented in Shravasti, which has the lowest literacy rate in the state.
- Bahraich, Balrampur, Badaun, and Rampur are the other districts in Uttar Pradesh with the lowest literacy rate.
- Under the initiative, students will receive uniforms, shoes, and socks.

### New scheme to set up 'Hobby Hubs' in Delhi government schools in works

- The Delhi government has set up Hobby Hubs for government schools in Delhi after school hours to promote extra-curricular activities. This project will implement in the single shift government school. A project to set up 'Hobby Hubs' in government schools in Delhi with after-school dance, music, arts and crafts activities during this new academic session is in the works.
- For the 2022-2023 academic session, this project will only be implemented in single shift government schools. The idea is to make optimum use of school infrastructure and to use it after school hours to promote these extra-curricular activities.
- Private academies, individuals and NGOs will be roped in to provide free training in fields selected by the schools. They will also be allowed to train private students during these sessions and charge them, but government school students will have to make up 50 per cent of the total students enrolled and no student of the concerned school will be denied admission into hobby classes being conducted in their own school.

### 13 new districts inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh

- YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, inaugurated 13 new districts in the state via video conference on Monday, April 4 in Tadepalli, Guntur district. As a result, there will be a total of 26 districts in the state.
- The new districts were created using Parliamentary constituencies as a guide. With the addition of 13 new districts, Andhra Pradesh now has a total of 26 districts.
- As part of the 26 districts of Andhra Pradesh, there will now be 23 revenue divisions. The CM added that people have accepted and liked the decentralised system of government because the initiatives are given straight to their doorstep, and that the same is now being extended to the districts.
- The CM further mentioned that previously, one district served 38 lakh 15 thousand people, but today, with the establishment of 26 districts, each district will serve 19 lakh 7 thousand people.

### Andhra Pradesh sets up its first 'She Auto' stands to provide safe transport to women

- In a move to provide safe transport to women and girl students, the police in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor have set up three 'She Auto' stands, the first of its kind in the state. The

three 'She Auto' stands have been set up in RTC Bus Stand, Mahila University, and Ruia Hospital in Tirupati.

- Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, MLA, along with city Mayor Dr R Sireesha and Urban Superintendent of Police Venkata Appala Naidu inaugurated the dedicated auto stands at the RTC Bus Stand, Mahila University and Ruia Hospital. Tirupati is the first city in the state to set up special auto stands for women like this. Proved that women have a special place in society by setting up auto stand in RTC bus stand in Tirupati, Women's University and Ruia Hospital. Earlier, women, auto drivers used to keep their vehicles with men at other auto stands.

#### **Haryana govt launched a portal of 'Mukhya Mantri Bagwani Bima Yojana'**

- The Haryana Agriculture Minister J P Dalal launched the portal of Mukhya Mantri Bagwani Bima Yojana' with an initial corpus of Rs 10 crore for the scheme. Under this the farmers will be compensated for the damage caused to their crops due to adverse weather and natural calamities.
- The scheme compensates a sum of Rs 30,000 per acre for vegetables and Spices and Rs 40,000 per acre for fruits, which will be compensated to the farmers upon claim via four categories such as 25 per cent, 50 per cent, 75 per cent and 100 per cent based on the survey.
- The farmer's contribution will be only 5 per cent of the insured amount i.e., Rs 750 per acre for vegetables and Spices and Rs 1000 per acre for fruits.
- The Scheme covers 21 crops – 14 vegetables, 2 spices, and 5 fruits. The scheme will be optional for all those farmers who will get registered under 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora' (a web portal through which the problems of the farmers of the state will be resolved).

#### **IAF to celebrate 60 yrs of Chetak helicopter**

- The Indian Air Force organised a conclave at Air Force Station, Hakimpet on 02 April 2022, to commemorate 60 years of glorious service by Chetak Helicopter in IAF. The conclave was inaugurated by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh. Raksha Mantri released a Special Cover, a Coffee Table Book and a Commemorative Movie on Chetak Helicopters during the conclave.
- The Chetak helicopter is the oldest operational flying machine with the Indian Air Force. It has been made by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under the licence agreement. The Chetak Helicopter was inducted into the Indian Air force in 1962.

#### **Minister of State, Culture & External Affairs, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi inaugurates 'Temple 360' website**

- The Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs, Meenakshi Lekhi has launched a website 'Temple 360'. During an event organized by the Ministry of Culture at IGNCA Amphitheatre, Indira Gandhi National Centre of Arts, New Delhi under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Temple 360 is a digital platform where anyone can visit or do darshan of 12 Jyotirlinga and Char Dham from any location, making everyone's life convenient while also keeping people connected.



- The website also allows a devotee to perform e-Darshan, e-Prashad, e-Aarti and several other services. Temple 360 is a website where one can visit a temple of their choice, anytime and from anywhere from India.

### **Maharashtra: Chandrapur records third hottest place in the world**

- According to the El Dorado weather website, Chandrapur was the third hottest city in the world, with a maximum temperature of 43.2 degrees Celsius. According to the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Nagpur was also the hottest city in Vidarbha, with a maximum temperature of 41.6 degrees Celsius, followed by Akola.
- As per the El Dorado Weather, Kayes city of Mali is the hottest place on earth with 44.4 degrees Celsius on Tuesday, Segou of Mali is second in the list with 43.8 degrees Celsius whereas Chandrapur is third in the list.

### **CJI N V Ramana launches software to transmit court orders swiftly**

- Chief Justice of India NV Ramana unveiled the 'Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records' (FASTER), a digital platform that allows the supreme court to send interim orders, stay orders, and bail orders to the appropriate authorities via a secure electronic channel. The online introduction of the FASTER programme was attended by CJI Ramana, Justices AM Khanwilkar, DY Chandrachud, and Hemant Gupta, as well as Chief Justices and Judges of High Courts.
- The CJI has launched software to convey court orders quickly and securely via electronic means, a measure that will aid in judicial order transmission.
- He emphasised the importance of court orders issued by higher courts being safely communicated without tampering by outside parties.

### **Dearness Allowance Hiked By 3% To 34%, Effective From January 1, 2022**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has approved a hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners by 3 per cent to 34%, over the existing rate of 31% of the Basic Pay/Pension. The hike announced will be effective from January 1, 2022, to compensate for the price rise.
- The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief would be Rs. 9,544.50 crore per annum. This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission. The hike will benefit about 47.68 lakh Central Government employees and 68.62 lakh, pensioners.

### **Samsung & Manipur Government Tie-Up To Start Sports Digital Experience Centre**

- The state government of Manipur 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 domain of Manipur Olympian Park and Khuman Lampak Sports Complex. The MoU was exchanged in the presence of chief minister N Biren Singh at the cabinet hall of the Chief Minister's Secretariat.
- With the setting up of the Digital Experience Centre, various achievements of Olympians from Manipur will be digitally displayed making the public aware about their achievements.

Such initiatives will help in improving and enhancing the performance of sporting talents through the latest technologies like sports analytics, virtual reality and mixed reality among others, he maintained, adding that it will also motivate younger generations to opt for sports as a career.

### **Khelo India University Games 2021 logo, mascot and anthem launched**

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur and Governor of Karnataka, TC Gehlot launched the logo, jersey, mascot and anthem of the Khelo India University Games 2021 (KIUG 2021) on April 01, 2022, at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru. The theme song has been composed by Kannada rapper Chandan Shetty. The KIUG 2021 will be held in Karnataka between April 24 and May 3, 2022.
- This will be the second edition of KIUG. The first edition was hosted by Odisha in 2020. KIUG 2021 was postponed for 2022 due to the Covid crisis. A Khelo India App for live updates on the Games has also been launched by Karnataka. Around 4500 athletes, representing 20 sports from across the country will participate in the KIUG 2021.

### **Meghalaya's living root bridges included on tentative list of UNESCO's World's Heritage Sites**

- 'Jingkieng Jri or Living Root Bridge', found in over 70 villages in Meghalaya highlighting the socio-cultural, social and botanical links between people and nature, has been included in the tentative list of World Heritage Sites of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).
- Villagers grow the living root bridges by training the 'ficus elastica' tree on both sides of water bodies over a period of about 10 to 15 years where the roots form the bridge. At present, there are about 100 known living root bridges spread across 72 villages in the state. Villagers, (especially Khasi and Jaintia tribal communities) build and maintain these bridges from the past for more than 600 years.

### **India, France conduct joint naval exercise Varuna in Arabian sea**

- The 20th edition of the Bilateral Naval Exercise between the Indian Navy and French Navy named 'VARUNA' is being conducted in the Arabian Sea from March 30 to April 03, 2022. The Bilateral Naval Exercises between the two Navies is being held since 1993 and the exercise was christened as 'VARUNA' in 2001. Various ships, submarines, maritime patrol aircraft, fighter aircraft and helicopters of the two navies will be participating in the VARUNA-2022 exercise.
- VARUNA series of exercises continue to provide both the navies opportunities to learn from each other's best practices. The exercise has been a principal driver for operational-level interactions between the two navies and has underscored the shared commitment of both nations to security, safety and freedom of the global maritime commons.

## **SPORTS**

### **Asian Wrestling Championships 2022: India finished with 17 medals(one gold, five silver & 11 bronze)**

- The 30-member Indian contingent participated at the 35th Edition of Asian Wrestling Championships 2022 held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Indian wrestlers

secured a total of 17 medals, that includes (1-Gold, 5-Silver, and 11-Bronze medals). Gold Medalist: Ravi Kumar Dahiya is the only Gold medalist representing India, in the men's 57kg freestyle category, beating Kazakhstan's Rakhat Kalzhan on technical superiority.

- Ravi Kumar became the first Indian to win 3 Gold medals in Asian Wrestling Championships which includes 2020 in New Delhi, India, 2021 in Almaty, Kazakhstan and 2022 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia respectively.

### **Max Verstappen Wins 2022 Laureus World Sportsman of the Year**

- F1 champion Max Verstappen has been named the 2022 Laureus Sportsman of the Year while Jamaican Olympic sprinter Elaine Thompson-Herah has been named Sportswoman of the Year. The awards recognise the greatest sporting achievements of 2021, one of the highlights of which was the European Championship victory by the Italian Men's Football Team who won their second Laureus Team of the Year Award as a result.

### **Bumrah, Rohit among Wisden's five 'Cricketers of the Year'**

- The Wisden Almanack has named India captain Rohit Sharma and bowler Jasprit Bumrah among the "Five Cricketers of the Year" for 2022. Rohit Sharma amassed 368 runs at an average of 52.57 in four Tests, completing an outstanding tour with a second-innings 127 at The Oval, his first Test century away from home.
- Others that made the cut include England fast bowler Ollie Robinson, South African women's player Dane van Niekerk, and New Zealand opener Devon Conway.
- Former England captain Joe Root has been crowned the World's Leading Cricketer, while South African Lizelle Lee has been named the World's Leading Woman Cricketer, and Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan has been named the World's Leading T20 Cricketer.

### **West Indies Cricketer Kieron Pollard announced retirement**

- West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard has announced his retirement from international cricket. Pollard, who was the captain of West Indies' limited-overs teams, played a total of 123 ODIs and 101 T20Is. He has been an integral part of the Mumbai Indians team in the Indian Premier League for several years now and was retained by the franchise ahead of the mega auction in February this year. He was part of the West Indies team that won the 2012 ICC WT20 and missed out on his second T20 World Cup title in 2016 as he missed the tournament due to injury.

### **Gukesh wins La Roda International Open chess title in style**

- Indian Grandmaster Dommaraju Gukesh has clinched the 48th La Roda International Open chess tournament title in Castile-La Mancha, Spain. He defeated Israel's Victor Mikhalevski in the final round. GM Haik M. Martirosyan

from Armenia placed second with 7.5 points. Indian GM Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa finished third followed by Raunak Sadhwani (India), Manuel Lopez Martinez Josep (Spain) and Ramon Martinez (Venezuela).

### **Haryana crowned champions of Senior Hockey Nationals**

- Haryana has emerged as the champions of the 12th Senior Men's National Hockey Championship by defeating Tamil Nadu 3-1 in the shootout after the final ended 1-1 in the regulation time. The tournament was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh from April 6 to 17, 2022. Haryana has won the trophy for the first time since 2011. Karnataka prevailed over Maharashtra 4-3 in the third/fourth place classification match.

### **New Zealand Fast Bowler Hamish Bennett announced retirement from all forms of cricket**

- The 35-year-old, New Zealand pacer (fast bowler) Hamish Bennett, has announced his retirement from his 17-year-old cricket career with the 2021/22 season as the last one. Before retiring, Bennett represented New Zealand in T20I against Bangladesh in Mirpur, Pakistan in September 2021.
- Hamish Bennett made his international debut in October 2010 and represented New Zealand in one Test, 19 One Day International (ODIs) and 11 Twenty-20 Internationals (T20Is). Overall, he picked up 33 wickets in ODIs and 10 wickets in T20Is.

### **Joe Root steps down as England Test captain**

- Joe Root steps down holding the record for having the most matches and wins as an England men's Test captain; Root, who replaced Sir Alastair Cook as skipper in 2017, says he "looks forward to helping the next captain".
- The 31-year-old, who succeeded Sir Alastair Cook as captain in 2017, ends his tenure with the most matches (64) and wins (27) as an England men's Test skipper.
- Root's decision follows a run of just one win in England's last 17 Test matches, stretching back to February 2021, which ended with a series defeat in the West Indies last month.

### **Naveen Patnaik unveils official logo of Odisha Hockey Mens World Cup 2023**

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has unveiled the logo of the 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup at the Kalinga stadium in the capital Bhubaneswar. To be held in the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, the prestigious quadrennial tournament is scheduled from January 13 to 29.
- Hockey India and its official partner Odisha will host the marquee event for the second consecutive time in the country after 2018. The 15th edition of the showpiece will be staged in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, where the country's largest hockey stadium is being constructed.



### **Tamil Nadu men beat Punjab to regain National Basketball Championship Title**

- Tamil Nadu defeated defending champion Punjab 87-69 in the final to win the men's title in the 71st Senior National Basketball Championship. The formidable Indian Railways team won the women's title, beating Telangana 131-82 in convincing fashion, riding on Poonam Chaturvedi's 26 points.
- In the men's summit clash, Tamil Nadu pulled ahead after a slow start when Punjab kept pace and never looked back. At half-time, the host had widened the lead to 17 with a 50-33 scoreline. An Aravind with 26 points and M Arvind Kumar (21) were in the fine nick for the home team as they stamped their authority against their arch-rival.

### **Indian shuttler Mithun Manjunath settles for Silver medal in Men's Singles of Orleans Masters 2022 Badminton tournament**

- Indian shuttler Mithun Manjunath has won silver in Men's Singles at the Orléans Masters 2022, a badminton tournament held from 29th March to 3rd April 2022 in Orleans, France. Playing in his maiden BWF final, the 79th ranked Indian shuttler lost 11-21, 19-21 to world number 32 Frenchman Toma Junior Popov at the Palais des Sports Arena. The women's doubles pair of Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam has won the bronze in the Women's doubles at the tournament.

### **India to host Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023**

- India is ready to host the Street Child Cricket World Cup in 2023. This world is organized by Street Child United and Save the Children India, the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023 will welcome 22 teams from 16 countries to India next year. The Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023 will welcome 22 teams from 16 countries to India next year.
- Countries that will participate this year are Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, England, Hungary, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Rwanda, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. In addition to the partnership between Street Child United and Save the Children the SCCWC 2023 will also collaborate with World Bank, ICC and the British High Commission.

### **Victoria confirmed as 2026 Commonwealth Games host with regional centres to host most events**

- In a deviation from the conventional single host city approach, the Commonwealth Games will be held in Victoria in 2026, with the majority of events being organised by the state's regional centres. In March 2026, the Games will be held in numerous towns and regional centres around Australia, including Melbourne, Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat, and Gippsland, each with its own athletes' village.
- The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) confirmed that the opening ceremony will be held at the famous 100,000-seat Melbourne Cricket Ground.
- Following an exclusive consultation session between the CGF, Commonwealth Games Australia (CGAus), and Victoria, the announcement was made.

### **Netherlands crowned FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup champions after beating Germany in final**

- The Netherlands has lifted their fourth title of FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup 2022 after beating Germany at Potchefstroom, South Africa. The Netherlands is the most successful team. England claimed the bronze medal in the third-place match after defeating India by 3-0 in the shoot-out.
- The FIH has banned Russia from the 2022 Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup due to 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. The 2023 Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup will be the tenth edition and will be held in Santiago, Chile.

### **First Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery Tournament to be held in Jamshedpur**

- The first Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery will be held in Tata Archery Academy, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has approved Rs 75 Lakh to host the Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery Tournament over six phases.
- The tournament will be conducted as per the World Archery Rules, held in the senior, Junior, and Cadet Categories across the Recurve and Compound events. The Archery Association of India (AAI), in collaboration with the Jharkhand Archery Association and TATA Steel, is organizing the tournament.
- The Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery Tournament, now, will provide more competition and exposure at domestic levels for second, third and fourth lines of Archers, in line with Women Empowerment. This will also help to provide them exposure to matches to develop their mental toughness and competitiveness.

### **Indian All-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin becomes 1st player to get retired out in IPL History**

- Rajasthan Royals all-rounder, Ravichandran Ashwin became the first player in IPL history to get retired out during the high-octane clash against Lucknow Super Giants. Ashwin played a crucial knock of 28-run off 23 balls to revive Rajasthan's innings from a tricky stage when they were four down for 67. During the penultimate over, the veteran all-rounder made a sacrificing call of getting himself retired out to make way for Riyan Parag in the middle who has a slightly better ability to clear the boundary rope in the final overs.
- It did not happen before in the history of the tournament which started way back in 2008 but Ashwin being a trendsetter made the big decision so that Parag can come and attack the bowlers at the business end of the innings.

### **Thailand Open boxing: Amit Panghal, Ashish Kumar win silver as India bag 10 medals**

- The 15-member Indian boxing contingents ended their campaign at the Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament 2022 in Phuket with 10 medals, including three golds, four silvers, and three bronze. Gold medal winners earned USD 2000 while silver and bronze medallists took home USD 1000 and USD 500 respectively

as the tournament witnessed thrilling competition with the participation of 130 top boxers including 74 males and 56 females, from Asia, Europe, Oceania and Africa.

## **Medal Winners :**

### **Gold**

1. Govind Sahani (48kg),
2. Ananta Pralhad Chopde (54kg)
3. Sumit (75kg)

### **Silver**

1. Amit Panghal (52kg)
2. Monika (48kg),
3. Varinder Singh (60kg)
4. Ashish Kumar (81kg)

### **Bronze**

1. Manisha (57kg),
2. Pooja (69kg)
3. Bhagyabati Kachari (75kg)

## **Charles Leclerc wins Australian F1 GP**

- Charles Leclerc (Ferrari- Monaco) has won the Formula One (F1) 2022 Australian Grand Prix, held on 10 April 2022 in Melbourne, Victoria. It was the third round of the 2022 Formula One World Championship. Sergio Pérez (Red Bull Racing-RBPT – Mexico) came second while George Russell (Mercedes – Britain) came third.
- Verstappen was on course for second place when his car failed with 18 laps to go. The second Red Bull of Sergio Perez finished second, ahead of the Mercedes of George Russell and Lewis Hamilton.

## **World Doubles Squash C'ship: Dipika Pallikal, Saurav Ghosal, Joshna Chinappa lead India to two golds**

- The second-seeded Indian duo Dipika Pallikal Karthik and Saurav Ghosal won the mixed double title at the 2022 WSF World Doubles Squash championship at Glasgow, Scotland. The Indian duo thrashed the fourth-seeded pair of Adrian Waller and Alison Waters of England in the mixed doubles finals in straight sets 11-6, 11-8. This is the first gold medal for India at the WSF World Doubles Squash championship, which the country had never won before this.
- Meanwhile, England's Declan James and James Willstrop beat Scotland's Greg Lobban and Rory Stewart, 11-10; 11-6, to win the men's doubles final. Apart from this, Dipika and Joshna Chinappa paired to win the women's doubles final, 11-9, 4-11, 11-8 defeating England's Sarah Jane Perry and Waters.

## 2022 Miami Open Tennis Tournament Overview

- The 2022 Miami Open tennis tournament was the 37th edition of the men's and women's event, held from March 22 to April 3, 2022, in Miami Gardens, Florida. Miami Open is classified as an ATP Masters 1000 event on the 2022 ATP Tour and a WTA 1000 event on the 2022 WTA Tour.
- The Miami Open (also known as the Miami Masters, and currently branded as the Miami Open presented by Itaú for sponsorship reasons) is a tennis tournament held at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida. It is part of the men's ATP Tour Masters 1000 circuit, and part of the women's WTA 1000 circuit. The Miami Open is usually held between March and April.

### List of winners:

Award	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Single	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)	Casper Ruud (Norway)
Women's Single	Iga Świątek (Poland)	Naomi Osaka (Japan)
Men's Double	Hubert Hurkacz / John Isner	Wesley Koolhof / Neal Skupski
Women's Double	Laura Siegemund / Vera Zvonareva	Veronika Kudermetova / Elise Mertens

## In a first, Meghalaya to host national table tennis championship

- Meghalaya is geared up to host the 83rd National Table Tennis Championship 2022, which will take place at the SAI Indoor Training Centre, NEHU in Shillong from April 18 to 25. This is the second time the Northeast has hosted the world's largest table tennis tournament.
- During a press conference, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma stated that the tournament is one of the largest sports events that the state has hosted to date, among others.
- The State is expecting around 650 people to attend, with 450 of them being players and the rest being coaches and support personnel. He went on to say that the state is expecting a variety of officers from several states, including Haryana's Deputy Chief Minister.

## FIFA World Cup 2022 Qatar: Adidas unveils official match ball `Al Rihla`

- Al Rihla – the Official Match Ball for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 has been revealed by Adidas. It is Adidas' 14th World Cup ball, and it is designed to accommodate the fastest game speeds possible, since it flies quicker in flight than any other World Cup ball.
- Al Rihla provides the highest level of precision and reliability on the field of play, having been designed from the inside out utilising data from extensive testing in Adidas labs, wind tunnels, and on-pitch.
- The ball was also created with the environment in mind, with all components carefully considered, and Al Rihla being the first World Cup ball to be constructed entirely of water-based inks and glues.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### IIT Guwahati, NTPC develop energy-efficient tech for CO<sub>2</sub> capture from power plants

- The Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, has teamed up with the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to design and construct a highly energy-efficient CO<sub>2</sub> collection system from power plants. A research team led by Prof. Bishnupada Mandal, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Guwahati, developed this indigenous technique, which could be copyrighted soon.
- The oil, natural gas, and biogas industries, as well as petroleum refineries, will benefit from the project's outputs.
- It also has the potential to save India money in terms of foreign exchange.
- This project will also assist and strengthen the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its research and education.

### Microplastics in Cauvery river may be harming fish: IISc study

- A study led by experts from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, discovered that microplastics and other contaminants may be causing growth abnormalities and skeletal deformities in fish in the Cauvery river.
- In the states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, the Cauvery provides a source of drinking water for humans and animals, as well as agriculture. Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety is the publication where the research was published.
- The researchers looked at pollution levels in river water samples as well as the microplastic composition.
- They next looked at zebrafish embryos that had been incubated in these substances in the lab and discovered that they had growth and skeletal malformations, a lower heart rate, a shorter life span, and DNA damage.

### NASA Data on India's Space Debris

- According to the most recent report of NASA's Orbital Debris Program Office's Orbital Debris Quarterly News, there are 25,182 pieces of space debris larger than 10 cm in lower earth orbits near 2,000 kilometres of the planet's surface. India is responsible for only 114 space debris items, whereas the United States has 5,126 space debris objects in Earth's orbit and China has 3,854 space debris objects in Earth's orbit, including spent rocket bodies.
- According to the research, India's space debris levels have returned to those of 2018, following a rise in 2019 when the country conducted its first-ever anti-satellite test.
- Any man-made object in earth orbit that no longer serves a useful purpose is referred to as space debris, or space garbage. Space debris can be large items, such as failed satellites that have been left in orbit, or small objects, such as bits of debris or paint flecks that have fallen off a rocket. This debris can range in size from a leftover rocket stage to a minuscule paint speck. Much of the junk is in low Earth orbit, close to the Earth's surface.

### **IIT Madras Researchers Launch India's First Polycentric Prosthetic Knee**

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, have unveiled India's first Polycentric Prosthetic Knee, which seeks to improve the conditions for thousands above the amputees. 'Kadam,' a polycentric knee for above Knee Prosthesis created in collaboration with Society for Biomedical Technology (SBMT) and Mobility India, and is also a 'Made in India' product.
- Above-knee amputees can now walk with a natural gait thanks to Kadam. It not only attempts to improve users' mobility, but also their quality of life by increasing community participation, access to education, livelihood opportunities, and overall well-being.
- It was created by a team at IIT Madras' TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2), which also created and commercialised the country's first standing wheelchair, 'Arise,' and the NeoFly-NeoBolt: active wheelchair and motorised add-on for seamless indoor-outdoor mobility.
- R2D2 is active in human movement research, as well as the design and development of rehabilitative and assistive equipment for persons who have movement disabilities.

### **Indian Coast Guard Commissions Advanced Light Helicopter MK III Squadron**

- Two Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopters Mark-III were inducted into the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The choppers will be based out of Kochi's Coast Guard Aviation Squadron. These choppers were the ninth and tenth in a series of 16 ALH.
- HAL is building and delivering helicopters to the Coast Guard at four bases: Porbandar, Bhubaneswar, Kochi, and Chennai.
- Two ICG facilities in Bhubaneswar and Porbandar have already received eight helicopters.
- The Indian Coast Gurad bought these ALH MK III helicopters for a variety of operations, including maritime surveillance, search and rescue, medical evacuation, ship logistical support, and interdiction, making ALH the ideal flying vehicle for specialised missions.

### **Second flight test of anti-tank guided missile Helina successful**

- A team of scientists from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) jointly conducted the successful flight test of the indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA' at high-altitude ranges. The flight trials were conducted from an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), and the missile was fired successfully, engaging a simulated tank target in the Pokhran desert ranges, Rajasthan.
- HELINA is one of the most advanced anti-tank weapons in the world. The missile has a maximum range of 7 kilometres. It has been developed by Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad.

**DRDO successfully flight-tests Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet**

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested “Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet” (SFDR) booster on April 08, 2022, at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. The test met all the mission objectives. The SFDR-based propulsion enables the missile to intercept aerial threats at very long range at supersonic speeds. It has an extremely high projected range of 350 km.
- The SFDR-based propulsion enables the missile to intercept aerial threats at very long range at supersonic speeds. The performance of the system has been confirmed from the data captured by a number of range instruments like Telemetry, Radar and Electro-Optical Tracking Systems deployed by ITR.
- The SFDR has been developed by Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories such as Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune.

**Spacetech startup Pixxel launches India's first private commercial imaging satellite with SpaceX**

- Pixxel, a space data startup, launched its first fully operational satellite, TD-2, on SpaceX's Transporter-4 mission. TD-2 is Pixxel's first full-fledged satellite, carrying one of the highest-resolution hyperspectral commercial cameras ever flown, taking the company one step closer to developing a global health monitoring system that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- The launch, according to the business, brings it closer to completing its aim of assembling one of the world's most advanced constellations of low-earth-orbit imaging satellites and bringing the benefits of space to Earth. “ Life has certainly come full circle for us, from being one of the few finalists in the SpaceX Hyperloop Pod Competition in 2017 to now launching our own satellites as part of SpaceX's fourth dedicated rideshare mission.

**Microsoft launches Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub in India to support early-stage companies**

- Microsoft launched a new digital and inclusive platform for startup founders in India. The platform called as ‘Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub’ in India, will support startup founders in India at every stage of their startup journey. This platform will offer over USD 300,000 worth of benefits and credits to startups, including free access to the technology, tools, and resources from the tech giant and partners. The initiative will help the Startups to gain mentorship and skilling opportunities with industry experts and Microsoft Learn.
- Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub was created following extensive research and conversations with hundreds of founders who explicitly shared their need for access to a digital ecosystem that promotes opportunities and democratises innovation regardless of background, location, progress, or passions.
- Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub is designed specifically for early-stage startups to lower the barriers of business creation, act as a catalyst for entrepreneurship and innovation, and contribute to easing the journey from an idea to a unicorn.

## **Petascale Supercomputer Param Shakti inaugurated at IIT Kharagpur under National Supercomputing Mission**

- The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), a collaborative project of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Department of Science and Technology, has dedicated PARAM Shakti, a Petascale Supercomputer, to the country at IIT Kharagpur (DST).
- Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Honourable Governor of West Bengal, inaugurated the supercomputer on March 27, 2022.
- The PARAM Shakti supercomputing facility is advancing research and development efforts in diverse disciplines of computational and data sciences.
- In March 2019, IIT Kharagpur and the Centre for Development in Advanced Computing (CDAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop this state-of-the-art Supercomputing Facility with 17680 CPU cores and 44 GPUs.

## **OBITUARY**

### **Eminent biologist Prof M Vijayan passes away at 80**

- Eminent structural biologist M. Vijayan, DAE Homi Bhabha Professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), passed away in Bengaluru. Vijayan, who was instrumental in the development of macromolecular crystallography in India, was 80.
- Born in Cherpu, Thrissur, in 1941, Prof. Vijayan graduated from the Kerala Varma College, and continued his studies at Allahabad University, before pursuing his PhD in X-ray Crystallography from IISc, Bangalore. A recipient of the Padma Shri and Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, Prof. Vijayan was the president of the Indian National Science Academy from 2007 to 2010.

### **Former Indian women's hockey team captain Elvera Britto dies aged 81**

- Former Indian women's hockey team captain, Elvera Britto has passed away at 81 due to old-age-related problems. He led Karnataka's domestic team to win seven national titles. She ruled the domestic circuit from 1960 to 1967. She also represented India against Japan, Sri Lanka, and Australia. She is the second women hockey player to be conferred with the Arjuna Award (1965) after Anne Lumsden.

### **Noted Odia singer and musician Prafulla Kar passes away at 83**

- Popular Odia singer and music director Prafulla Kar has passed away following age-related ailments. Kar was an eminent musician, singer, lyricist, writer and columnist. He received the prestigious Padma Shri award in 2015.
- He started his career as a singer in 1962 with the Odia film Shri Shri Patita Pabana. In 1975, he became a music composer in the film Mamata which turned out to be an instant hit. Some of the movies which would forever carry the legacy of his melodious music are Batighara, Shesha Shrabana, Sindura Bindu, Bandhu Mahanti, Balidaan and Ram Balaram.



### **Veteran Producer, Gol Maal Actor Manju Singh Dies At 73**

- Veteran Hindi television presenter and actor, Manju Singh has passed away due to cardiac arrest. She was one of the pioneers in the Indian television industry and was fondly remembered as didi. She was the anchor of the children's program, Khel Khilone for 7 years. She started her career as a television producer in 1983 with the Show theme, 1st sponsored show on Indian Television. From 1984 onwards, Ek Kahani, prime a time series based on literary shorts.

### **Former Sikkim CM BB Gurung dies at age 92**

- The 3rd Chief Minister of Sikkim, Bhim Bahadur Gurung has passed away at his residence in Lumsui in Gangtok, Sikkim. B. Gurung served as a teacher and a staff reporter in a Calcutta (Kolkata)-based newspaper the Amrita Bazar Patrika and he also edited the first news-based Nepali Journal of Sikkim, called Kanchenjunga.
- Gurung started his political career with Sikkim Rajya Congress Party in 1947 and was later appointed as the General Secretary in 1958. He served as the 3rd CM of Sikkim from 11 May to 24 May 1984, the shortest term in the history of Sikkim. Between 2014 and 2015 he served as the political advisor to the CM of Sikkim.

## **APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

### **Shivalik Small Finance Bank appoints Anshul Swami as Managing Director and CEO**

- Anshul Swami has been named managing director and chief executive officer of Shivalik Small Finance Bank. Swami's nomination has already been accepted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Swami succeeds Suveer Kumar Gupta, who co-founded the bank and guided it through its transformation from an urban co-operative to a local finance institution. According to insiders, Gupta will now serve as an adviser to the Board of Directors.
- Swami has worked in a variety of client and geographic sectors for over 20 years. He has experience in a variety of consumer categories, including retail, SMB, microfinance, and agriculture.
- Swami worked for RBL Bank as Head – Retail & Inclusion, Products before joining Shivalik SFB. He's previously worked at Barclays, Citi Financial, and Britannia.

### **Indifi Technologies appoints former SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar as advisor**

- Online lending platform, Indifi Technologies has appointed former chairman of SBI, Rajnish Kumar as an advisor. Presently, he sits on the boards of HSBC Asia Pacific, L&T Infotech, Hero MotoCorp and BharatPe. As an advisor, he will engage with the management on the company's growth strategy and provide guidance in the financial services sector. In this capacity, Kumar will engage with the management on the company's growth strategy and provide guidance in the financial services sector.
- In his earlier assignments, he has also served as the Managing Director of National Banking Group and as the Managing Director of Compliance and Risk at SBI. He was previously appointed as a non-executive director at HSBC's Hong Kong-headquartered Asia unit; Baring has also served as Senior Advisor to

Private Equity Asia, and as an Advisor to Kotak Investment Advisors. He recently joined the International Strategic Advisory Board of Dun & Bradstreet, a global provider of business decision data and analytics.

#### **Generali Asia appoints Bruce de Broize as MD and CEO of Future Generali India Life Insurance**

- Generali Asia has appointed Bruce de Broize as MD and CEO of Future Generali India Life Insurance (FGILI). He takes over from Miranjit Mukherjee who served as interim CEO since September 2021. He was the Regional Head of Distribution for Generali Asia based in Hong Kong for over five years. In March, Generali has become the majority shareholder of the Indian life insurance joint venture after getting all regulatory approvals.
- Broize has a career spanning over 34 years of life and P&C insurance experience. He has also held a range of senior leadership roles to drive strategic initiatives across Asia. Prior to this, Broize was the regional head of distribution for Generali Asia based in Hong Kong where he oversaw life, health and p&c distribution for Generali's operations across China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, India, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines.

#### **Former Union minister Vijay Sampla appointed as the chairperson of NCSC**

- BJP leader and former Union minister Vijay Sampla has been appointed as the chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) for a second time. Sampla had resigned as the NCSC chairman ahead of the Punjab elections and had contested the polls. The official order for his appointment was issued by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- Sampla, a prominent Dalit politician from Punjab, began his political career in 1998 as the sarpanch of Sofipind village in Jalandhar Cantonment. He has also served in the Punjab government. He was the chairman of the Punjab Khadi Board from 2008 to 2012 and the chairman of the Punjab State Forest Development Corporation in 2014. He was then elected to the Lok Sabha from Hoshiarpur and became a Union minister in 2015.

#### **TCS' Krishnan Ramanujam assumes the role of Chairperson of NASSCOM for 2022-23**

- The National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) announced that Krishnan Ramanujam, President, Enterprise Growth Group at Tata Consultancy Services, has been appointed as its Chairperson for 2022-23. Ramanujam succeeds Rekha M. Menon, Chairperson and Senior Managing Director of Accenture in India, in this role.
- Nasscom also announced the appointment of Anant Maheshwari, President, Microsoft India, as its Vice-Chairperson for 2022-23. Maheshwari will succeed Ramanujam in this role.
- The new Nasscom leadership, along with President Debjani Ghosh, will lead the industry body to carry out its diverse array of priorities to achieve the 2025 vision for the industry. In line with the changing industry landscape, the key

priorities will be to re-align and re-calibrate the course of the technology industry to maximise growth from technology potential to technology impact, reimagine India as the preferred hub for digital talent, innovation and impact at scale, and shape the next frontiers of digital next to catalyse future-readiness for the techade.

#### **N Chandrasekaran Appointed as Tata Digital Chairman**

- Tata Sons executive chairman N Chandrasekaran has formally taken charge as chairman of Tata Digital. At present, Tata's digital strategy is being spearheaded by its CEO Pratik Pal along with Mukesh Bansal, founder of Cultfit. Chandrasekaran's formal appointment is of significance considering its future plans of raising funds from external investors.
- For Chandrasekaran, who was reappointed as the chairman of Tata Sons for another five years in February, Tata Digital has been his brainchild since he took charge as Tata Sons chairman. He has been closely involved in its growth plans from the beginning as the Mumbai-based conglomerate eyes to make a dent in the Indian eCommerce universe.

#### **AP Abdullahkutty elected chairperson of Haj Committee of India**

- AP Abdullahkutty has been elected as the chairperson of the Haj Committee of India, while for the first time, two women have been chosen as its vice-chairpersons— Munnawari Begum and Mafuja Khatun. Ministry of Minority Affairs is the nodal ministry to conduct the Haj pilgrimage in India. Haj pilgrimage for the Indian pilgrims is conducted either through Haj Committee of India (HCol), or the Haj Group Organisers (HGOs) approved by the Ministry.
- The Government of India has appointed C Muhammed Faizi as a member of the Haj Committee of India (HCol), a statutory body under the Ministry of Minority Affairs, under sub-section (11), of Section 4 of Haj Committee Act 2022, for a period of 3 years up to 31st March 2025 with effect from 21st April 2022.

#### **Vishakha Mulye of ICICI Bank has been named CEO of Aditya Birla Capital**

- Vishakha Mulye has been appointed as the next Chief Executive Officer of Aditya Birla Capital. The company said in its stock filing that the board of directors approved the appointment based on the recommendations of the Nomination, Remuneration and Compensation Committee. She replaces Ajay Srinivasan, who is taking up other responsibilities within the group, as per the exchange filing.
- Mulye, currently the Executive Director of ICICI Bank, will join Aditya Birla Capital on June 1, 2022, and will operate as the CEO with Srinivasan for a month to ensure a smooth transition of leadership. She will take charge of her role as the CEO of Aditya Birla Capital Limited post this period.

## **Ashwin Yardi, CEO Of Capgemini India Joins UNICEF YuWaah Board As Co-Chair**

- YuWaah (Generation Unlimited India) in India announced today that Ashwin Yardi, CEO of Capgemini in India, has joined the organisation, starting immediately, alongside Yasumasa Kimura, UNICEF Representative, as being the co -chair of the organisation.
- The YuWaah Board would now serve as a decision-making body, with the majority of founding partners and board members providing time and resources to help the YuWaah Secretariat with money and functional expertise.
- They will play a critical role in influencing YuWaah's long-term strategy and execution, as well as actively crafting shared-value partnerships with governments and the private sector to genuinely establish a collaborative platform.
- YuWaah has set a lofty goal of enlisting 300 young people as changemakers. Bold strategies and quick actions will be required to achieve this goal.
- The new YuWaah Board will work to provide the essential tools and assistance to youth in India, particularly those who are most marginalised, so that they can effectively traverse the challenges of the twenty-first century.

## **Rajiv Kumar steps down as Niti Aayog vice chairman**

- The government-run organisation, Niti Aayog's Vice Chairperson, Rajiv Kumar has resigned due to a government order. Suman Bery, an economist, will take over as the new head of the planning agency.
- The government has authorised Rajiv Kumar's resignation and Suman Bery's appointment, according to an order issued by the Cabinet Appointments Committee. Rajiv Kumar will be relieved of his duties, according to the ruling.
- The reason for Rajiv Kumar's resignation was not stated in the order.
- After Arvind Panagariya resigned from the job in August 2017 to return to academia, Rajiv Kumar, an economist, was named vice chairman of the Niti Aayog.

## **Achi reappointed PM of Ivory Coast after resigning last week**

- Patrick Achi has been re-appointed as Prime Minister of Ivory Coast by President Alassane Ouattara. He was appointed prime minister in March 2021. He was the third prime minister in the West African state (Ivory Coast) in the last three years after Amadou Gon Coulibaly (who died in 2020) and Hamed Bakayoko (who died in 2021).
- President has accepted Achi resignation ahead of a government reshuffle. Ivory Coast, also officially known as the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, is a country on the southwest coast of Africa.

## **IISc's Prof Sood is new principal scientific advisor**

- Ajay Kumar Sood, a member of the Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, has been appointed to the post for a period of three years to succeed renowned biologist K VijayRaghavan. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Sood as Principal Scientific Advisor to the government.



- The PSA's office aims to provide pragmatic and objective advice to the prime minister and cabinet on matters related to science, technology and innovation with a focus on the application of science and technology in critical infrastructure, economic and social sectors in partnership with government departments, institutions and industry.

### **Naresh Kumar takes charge as Delhi Chief Secretary**

- According to a home ministry notification released, senior IAS officer Naresh Kumar has been appointed as the chief secretary of Delhi. Kumar, an IAS officer from the 1987 batch of the AGMUT cadre, has been shifted from Arunachal Pradesh to Delhi. Before being transferred, he was the chief secretary of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Following the voluntary retirement of Vijay Dev, IAS (AGMUT:1987), Naresh Kumar IAS (AGMUT:1987) is hereby appointed as chief secretary of GNCTD with effect from April 21, 2022 or from the day of joining, whichever is later.
- Kumar had previously served in Delhi as chairman of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and managing director of the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC).
- Dev, who stepped down as Delhi's chief secretary after a voluntary retirement, will take over as the state's election commissioner on April 21.

### **Babita Singh named as the New Global Peace Ambassador 2022**

- Babita Singh, a serial entrepreneur, was named a Global Peace Ambassador for her work in promoting peace through education, sports, art, culture, and diplomacy at the India International Conclave 2022, which was held in collaboration with the Asia Africa Consortium (AAC) in New Delhi.
- Babita Singh has been awarded this honour because she is one of the very few people who have dedicated their lives to practises that promote Universal Moral Values, Interreligious cooperation, and International Harmony in accordance with the United Nations Human Rights Charter in order to improve the lives of billions of people around the world.
- The bureaucrats, politicians, international keynote speakers, celebrity artists, diplomats, and ambassadors from ten other nations were all in attendees.
- The conference was organised in collaboration with On Sky Global, the United Nations World Sports Alliance, the World Health Organization, CBSE, Primary Plus, George Washington University, and the Bangladesh Olympic Association, with support from CBSE, Primary Plus, George Washington University, and the Bangladesh Olympic Association.

### **Jasleen Kohli appointed as new MD and CEO of Prem Watsa-backed Digit Insurance**

- Digit Insurance has appointed Jasleen Kohli as the company's new managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) with effect from April 20, 2022. She succeeds Vijay Kumar who retired from the company on April 19, 2022. She served as chief distribution officer (CDO) at Digit, where she was responsible for all of the company's sales and distribution channels.
- In 2021, Digit increased its worth to USD 3.5 billion in less than six months after raising USD 200 million in a funding round. The company also announced it has promoted Adarsh Agarwal from the role of Appointed Actuary to Chief

Distribution Officer (corporate business). Nikhil Kamdar has been appointed as the next Appointed Actuary, replacing Agarwal.

**Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar appointed as next Director General of Military Operations**

- Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar has been appointed as the next Director-General of Military Operations. He would take charge of the new office on May 1st. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Lieutenant General Katiyar was commissioned in the 23rd Battalion of the Rajput Regiment in June 1986.
- Lieutenant General Katiyar is presently the General Officer Commanding of 1 Corps, a strike formation responsible for offensive operations against both Pakistan and China. He was posted as Director of General Staff Duties at Army Headquarters. He also commanded an infantry brigade along the Western borders and a mountain division. Besides attending the National Defence College, New Delhi, he is also a distinguished graduate of the National War College, USA. He served as an instructor in the Indian Military Training Team in Bhutan and at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington.

**LV Vaidyanathan to take over as India CEO at Procter & Gamble**

- Procter & Gamble India appointed LV Vaidyanathan, who leads the company's business in Indonesia, as the new chief executive officer. He takes over from Madhusudan Gopalan who will move into a new role at the parent company. Vaidyanathan takes over as the CEO from July 1, 2022.
- Vaidyanathan completed his Bachelor of Engineering (mechanical) from the National Institute of Technology, Nagpur and has an MBA from IIM-Ahmedabad. He started his career with P&G in India in 1996 in the sales function and worked in various leadership roles. He has more than 26 years of experience across diverse geographies and cultures like India and ASEAN countries including Singapore, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. In 2018, he was elevated to the role of CEO, P&G Indonesia.

**Indian-American Navy veteran Shanti Sethi appointed Kamala Harris's defence advisor**

- Indian-American Navyveteran Shanti Sethi has been appointed as USA Vice President Kamala Harris's Defence Adviser. Shanti Sethi is the first Indian-American commander of a major US Navy combat ship. Shanti Sethi commanded the guided-missile destroyer, USS Decatur, from December 2010 to May 2012. She joined the Navy in 1993. When she joined the Navy in 1993, the combat exclusion law was still in effect so she was limited in what she could do. However, when she was an officer, the Exclusion Act was lifted.
- Recently, US Senate has confirmed the appointment of Ketanji Brown Jackson (the first Black woman) to Supreme Court Judge.

**Karnataka appoints Robin Uthappa as brand ambassador for Brain Health Initiative**

- The Karnataka State Government in association with NIMHANS and Niti Ayog launched the Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI) in January. Indian cricketer Robin Uthappa has been recently appointed as the brand ambassador for Karnataka- Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI). Training of doctors and preparations to start Brain Health Clinics in the three pilot hospitals has also commenced.
- While training of doctors and preparations to start Brain Health Clinics in the three pilot hospitals – Jayanagar General hospital in Bengaluru Urban, SNR Hospital in Kolar and District Hospital in Chickballapur has begun.

**Lt Gen Manoj Pande first engineer to be appointed new Army chief**

- Lieutenant General Manoj Pande has been appointed as the next Chief of Army Staff. Lt Gen Pande is the incumbent Vice-Chief of the Army. He will take over from General MM Naravane, who is set to retire on April 30, 2022. Lt Gen Manoj Pande is the first-ever officer from the Corps of Engineers to be appointed as Army Chief.
- He has served as chief engineer in the UN mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea. He was the Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) from June 2020 to May 2021. Outgoing army chief Gen MM Naravane is seen as the frontrunner for the Chief of Defence Staff's (CDS) post, that has been vacant since the death of India's first CDS Gen Bipin Rawat in an air crash last December.

**HDFC Bank re-appoints Renu Karnad as director**

- HDFC Bank board of administrators permitted the re-appointment of Renu Karnad as Non-Executive Director for a interval of 5 years with impact from September 3, 2022.
- Karnad was a nominee of the dad or mum Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC).
- As per HDFC Bank, Karnad brings along with her wealthy expertise and information of the mortgage sector, having been related to the true property and mortgage trade in India for over 40 years.
- Notably, Karnad just isn't debarred from holding the workplace of director by advantage of any SEBI order or another such authority. She just isn't associated to any director of the Bank.

**Foreign secretary Shringla may be named India's G20 chief coordinator**

- Foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla will take over next month as G20 chief coordinator, the government officially announced. The appointment is significant as India will assume the G20 presidency on December 1, 2022, from Indonesia, and will convene the G20 Leaders Summit for the first time in India in 2023.

- Shringla will retire on 30th April 2022, handing over charge to foreign secretary-designate V M Kwatra, who is currently India's ambassador to Nepal. The G20 sherpa will remain to be Piyush Goyal, the Indian Commerce Minister.
- G20 Bali Summit 2022 is the 17th meeting of the G20 Heads of State and Government Summit which is scheduled to take place in Bali, Indonesia from November 15-16, 2022 under the Presidency of Indonesia with the overall theme of "Recover Together Recover Stronger".

### **Jay Shah appointed as Member Board Representative of ICC Cricket Committee**

- Jay Shah, the BCCI secretary, has been appointed to the ICC Cricket Committee as a Member Board Representative, while Mahela Jayawardene has been reappointed as the Past Player Representative. Other important decisions were also made at the ICC Board Meeting in Dubai. The CEC agreed, in keeping with a recent suggestion by the ICC Men's Cricket Committee, that when travel limitations are eased, more neutral match officials should be used, building on the success of the employment of local umpires.
- In Tests, one neutral and one home umpire will be permitted beginning in the 2022-23 season, while home umpires will be permitted in ODIs and T20s.
- Based on the recent decision to increase the ICC Women's Championship to ten teams, the ICC Board approved a recommendation that Associate Member women's teams be granted ODI status, allowing them to compete in global qualifying events based on ODI rankings.

### **Dr Manoj Soni is the New UPSC Chairman**

- Currently a Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Dr Manoj Soni has been appointed the chairman of the country's premier government recruiting agency. He has been associated with the Swaminarayan sect's Anoopam Mission, at Mogri in Anand district, since a young age and received diksha (initiation) as a nishkarma karmayogi (selfless worker) on Jan 10, 2020.
- Dr Soni has been appointed to replace the previous UPSC chairman Pradip Kumar Joshi. Prior to this assignment, Soni has also served as the vice-chancellor of two universities and has earned several national and international awards and recognitions.

### **Vice Chief Lt Gen Manoj Pande All Set To Become Army Chief, Naravane Likely To Be Next CDS**

- Vice Chief Lieutenant General, Manoj Pande is all set to become Chief of the Army Staff as the incumbent Army Chief General M.M. Naravane, who is being seen as the frontrunner for the Chief of Defence Staff's post, is due to retire by the end of this month. Being senior-most in the office after General Naravane, Lt Gen Pande will take over the reign.
- Lt Gen Pande became the senior-most after a few top officers retired in the last three months. The incumbent Lt Gen Raj Shukla who was commanding Army's training command (ARTRAC) retired on March 31.



- Meanwhile, present Army Chief, Gen MM Naravane is ahead in the race for the post of Chief of Defence Staff after the post fell vacant in December last year as the then Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat passed away in a helicopter crash near Coimbatore.

#### **India's ambassador to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra appointed new foreign secretary**

- The Government of India has appointed IFS Vinay Mohan Kwatra as the new Foreign Secretary of India. He is currently serving as India's envoy to Nepal, from March 2020. He will replace the current foreign secretary, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who will superannuate on April 30, 2022.
- Kwatra is a 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, having more than 32 years of experience in foreign service. He has also worked in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office (PMO) from 2015 to 2017, as well as India's ambassador to France from August 2017 to February 2020.

#### **Dr Arunabha Ghosh Appointed to the UN High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities**

- United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres appointed Arunabha Ghosh (India) to a High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities. Arunabha Ghosh is the CEO of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), a climate and energy think tank. He has been appointed to the Government of India's G20 Finance Track Advisory Group for India's G20 Presidency in 2023. In 2021, he was appointed as Co-Chair of the T20 Task Force on climate and energy for Indonesia's G20 2022.
- The group was launched by Antonio Guterres on 31 March 2022. Dr Ghosh will be among three Asians (and the only South Asian) serving on the expert group. It will be chaired by former Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna. The 16-member expert group comprises independent experts, drawn from different countries.

#### **PharmEasy appointed Amir Khan as its brand ambassador**

- PharmEasy, a consumer healthcare "super app," has unveiled its new campaign, which introduces Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan as its brand ambassador. API Holdings Limited is in charge of the PharmEasy brand. This partnership will aid in the development of the brand and raising consumer awareness of healthcare in India.
- PharmEasy is dedicated to offering a hassle-free healthcare experience.
- Aamir will promote the PharmEasy brand in a variety of ways.
- The IPL campaign in 2022 will also include TV commercials starring Aamir Khan.
- Amir Khan will also emphasise how medicines, diagnostic tests, and healthcare goods are easily accessible to clients as the brand's face.

#### **Vikas Kumar appointed new MD of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation**

- Vikas Kumar has been appointed as the new Managing Director of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). He succeeds Mangu Singh, whose tenure ended on March 31, 2022. Singh was the managing director of DMRC since January 1, 2012, and his famed tenure ended. Kumar is the third managing director of the DMRC after E Sreedharan and Mangu Singh. He will hold the post for a term of five years.

- Kumar, who was holding the position of the Director (Operations) in the DMRC, has over three decades of experience in rail based urban transportation projects. He has worked with the Indian Railways in various capacities before joining the DMRC in September 2004. He has been associated with the urban transporter for more than 17 years in key management positions. In the DMRC, Kumar has headed the operations wing of the organisation since 2007 in various leadership capacities, such as general manager (operations), executive director (operations) and director (operations). He has played a key role in ensuring the smooth commencement of metro services in Delhi-NCR.

### India secures leadership position in ITU's Council Standing Committee on Administration and Management

- An Indian official has been selected as vice-chairperson of the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Council Standing Committee on Administration and Management, giving India a leadership position. Ms Aprajita Sharma, an IP&TAF Service officer, has been appointed vice-chair of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management at the International Telecommunication Union's Council sessions in Geneva from March 21 to March 31, 2022.
- Aprajita will continue to serve as vice-chairperson of the Council Standing Committee in 2023 and 2024, and as chairman in 2025 and 2026.
- The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations' information and communication specialised organisation. The Plenipotentiary Conference and the Administrative Council manage the ITU.

### Mahesh Verma appointed as the chairman of NABH

- Vice-Chancellor of Indraprastha University, Mahesh Verma has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH). NABH is a constituent board of the Quality Council of India (QCI). This is responsible for setting benchmarks for quality and certifying hospitals and other health facilities. NABH is also a member of the board of the Asian Society for Quality in Healthcare (ASQua).
- Dr Verma is a recipient of Padma Shri as well as Dr. B. C. Roy award. He has also received the National Science and Technology award. He is currently the vice-chancellor of Delhi's Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, and Professor Emeritus at Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences. He is the president of the India chapter of the International Association for Disability and Oral Health and the Indian Academy of Restorative Dentistry. He is also the president-elect of the International Association of Dental Research, India Division, and the Indian Society of Dental Research.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Jazz Day 2022: 30<sup>th</sup> April

- International Jazz Day is celebrated every year around the world on 30 April. This day is observed to promote Jazz and raise awareness about its significance. According to United Nations, Jazz is recognised for promoting peace, dialogue among cultures, diversity, and respect for human rights and human dignity,

eradicating discrimination, promoting freedom of expression, fostering gender equality, and reinforcing the role of youth for social change.

- The theme for International Jazz Day 2022 is 'A Call for Global Peace and Unity'. It focuses on the importance of unity and peace through dialogue and diplomacy.

#### **World Veterinary Day 2022: Last Saturday of April**

- World Veterinary Day is observed on the last Saturday of April every year. This year it falls on 30th April 2022. World Veterinary Association was established with an objective to provide global leadership for the veterinary profession and promote animal health and welfare and public health through advocacy, education, and partnership.
- The theme for World Veterinary Day 2022 is "Strengthening Veterinary Resilience". This essentially means providing veterinary doctors with all kinds of help, and resources they require in their journey.
- The main objective of the World Veterinary Association is to promote animal health & welfare and eradicate issues related to animal safety and the environment. Veterinarians play the role of advocates for animal health and welfare. Every year, World veterinary day is celebrated to praise the veterinarians for their work.

#### **World Stationery Day 2022: 27<sup>th</sup> April**

- World Stationery day is celebrated every year on the last Wednesday of April. This year World Stationery Day 2022 is observed on the 27th of April. The day is celebrated to mark the importance of stationery and writing on paper than using computers. It is celebrated around the world by enthusiasts to protect and encourage the use of Stationery.
- World Stationery Day is celebrated every year since 2012 to honour the 800th anniversary of the creation of the Magna Carta which is one of the most important written documents in British history. It stands as an excellent example to show the longevity of handwritten documents. Magna Carta was created in 1215. This day was designed to encourage the art of writing all around the world. Writing is a fundamental aspect of communication that deserves to maintain an active presence in people's lives around the world. Celebrating World Stationery Day will preserve a special artform while helping participants grow closer with loved ones.

#### **World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2022: 28<sup>th</sup> April**

- The annual World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April promotes the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. The World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2022 focuses on enhancing social dialogue towards a culture of safety and health.
- World Day for Safety and Health at Work represents the awareness and promotion of ways that help prevent occupational diseases and accidents worldwide. It represents the development and maintenance of a robust

Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) management system. And ever since the pandemic, the OSH management system has gained more importance than it had before.

- This year's theme of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work is "Participation And Social Dialogue In Creating A Positive Safety And Health Culture"

### **International Girls in ICT Day 2022: 28<sup>th</sup> April**

- International Girls in ICT Day is marked annually on the fourth Thursday in April. This year International Girls in ICT Day is observed on 28th April 2022. International Girls in ICT Day aims to inspire a global movement to increase the representation of girls and women in technology. Today, let's recommit to the goal of equal access for young women and girls to opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math.
- International Girls in ICT Day is a global movement encouraging girls and young women to pursue science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) education, inspiring STEAM careers, including career pathways, career attainment and advancement and engaging the community and promoting collaboration through partnerships. This year's theme is access and safety.

### **Tamil Nadu govt : Minorities Rights Day to be observed annually on Dec 18**

- Tamil Nadu government has announced that December 18, every year will be observed as Minorities Rights Day at the state level. The state government promotes the upliftment and economic advancement of the minorities through effective implementation of schemes and welfare measures.
- The government, being the saviour of minorities, is striving tirelessly to promote the upliftment and economic advancement of the minorities through effective implementation of various development schemes and welfare measures. This day is being observed at the district level of Tamil Nadu under the concerned collectors concerned. Henceforth, it will also be observed at the state level.

### **Khongjom Day observed in Manipur**

- Rich tributes were paid in Manipur to the valiant sons of the state who made tremendous sacrifices fighting against the British in the battle of Khongjom during the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri War to maintain Manipur's independence.
- Governor La Ganesan and Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, as well as the general public, attended the state-level Khongjom Day ceremony at Khongjom War Memorial Complex in Khebaching, Thoubal district.
- Every year on the 23rd of April, Manipur commemorates Manipuri warriors who battled against the British, especially Major Paona Brajabashi.
- The Governor and Chief Minister of Manipur joined the people of Manipur in a floral homage to the heroes. At Khebaching, two minutes of silence were held, as well as a gun salute.



## **International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day 2022: 26<sup>th</sup> April**

- International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is observed every year on April 26 to raise awareness of the consequences of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster and the risks of nuclear energy in general. The day not only informs us about the man-made disaster but also educates human beings about the risks of nuclear energy in general.
- Built-in 1977, the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant was used to make electricity for the then Soviet Union, or in modern-day Pripjat, Ukraine. Before the horrifying incident, in 1982 the Chernobyl plant had a partial meltdown of reactor 1, which caused some damage and it took a few months to repair. This incident wasn't reported until the Chernobyl disaster happened. In 1986, an explosion at the nuclear power plant spread a radioactive cloud over the large territories of Belarus, Ukraine, and the Russian Federation. The seriousness of the disaster can be known by the fact that around 8.4 million people in the three European nations were exposed to the radiation.

## **World Intellectual Property Day 2022: 26<sup>th</sup> April**

- World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated on the 26th of April to learn about the role that intellectual property (IP) rights play in encouraging innovation and creativity. The day recognizes the huge potential of young people to find new and better solutions that support the transition to a sustainable future.
- This year, World Intellectual Property Day 2022's theme focuses on IP and Youth innovating for a Better Future. It is an opportunity for young people to find out how IP rights can support their goals, help transform their ideas into reality, generate income, create jobs and make a positive impact on the world around them. With IP rights, young people have access to some of the key tools they need to advance their ambitions.

## **International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace 2022: 24<sup>th</sup> April**

- On December 12, 2018, the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace was established. To promote and maintain the UN's three pillars of peace and security, development, and human rights, it is critical to preserve the values of multilateralism and international cooperation that underpin the UN Charter and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- To address the rising challenges of protectionism and isolationism, the international norms and rules-based system that have guided states for seven decades must rise to the occasion.
- Climate change, geopolitical conflicts, humanitarian and migration crises are global concerns that cut beyond states' beliefs and interests, necessitating collective attention and action.
- The political and socioeconomic landscape, as well as inter-state interactions, have all been influenced by technological growth.

## **World Malaria Day 2022: 25<sup>th</sup> April**

- Every year on April 25th, World Malaria Day is commemorated to raise awareness about this life-threatening disease that continues to be a menace to humanity. Malaria affects over

half of the world's population, with the chances of people living in poor nations catching the disease being substantially higher.

- Malaria is spread through the female Anopheles mosquito's bite (which is infected with the malaria-causing plasmodium parasite).
- Malaria affects over half of the world's population, with the chances of people living in poor nations catching the disease being substantially higher.
- According to WHO figures, as many as 241 million people would be affected with this deadly disease in 2020, with the majority of cases occurring in Africa.
- Despite the fact that the WHO states that malaria is a curable and preventable disease with proper treatment, many people continue to die due to a lack of competent healthcare.

### **National Panchayati Raj Day 2022: 24<sup>th</sup> April**

- National Panchayati Raj Day is a national holiday in India that honours the Panchayati Raj system. Every year on April 24th, it is commemorated. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, which was passed in 1992, is also commemorated on this day. The Panchayati Raj system, which is one of the country's oldest governing organisations, governs about 6 lakh communities in India.
- The day was initially observed in April 2010 to commemorate the decentralisation of power, which is considered one of India's most significant milestones. As Panchayati Raj Diwas 2022 approaches, we bring you additional information about the event's history, significance, and topic.

### **English Language and Spanish Language Day 2022: 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

- The United Nations launched Language Days in 2010 to promote equal usage of the organisation's six official languages and to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity.
- Every year on April 23, the United Nations celebrates English Day.
- The UN Department of Public Information created the event in 2010 to "celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity, as well as promote equal use of all six official languages within the Organisation.
- The date of April 23 was chosen for English Language Day because it is "traditionally honoured as both the birthday and date of death of William Shakespeare."
- The date was chosen since it is the anniversary of Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra's death in Spain, as well as William Shakespeare's birth and death in England. Not only because of their historic status in the canon, but also because of how they represent the power of language in culture, politics, and business, these two literary titans are excellent icons. Their works continue to have an impact even after they have passed away.

### **International Delegate's Day 2022: 25<sup>th</sup> April**

- Every year on April 25th, the world celebrates International Delegates Day. This day is commemorated to increase awareness of the function of Member States' representatives and delegates at the United Nations.
- The United Nations is brought to life by delegates. This organisation would not exist if it weren't for them. They work with their home countries to establish agreements and

cooperate. Some establish coalitions, while others try to reach a compromise. In this sense, they exemplify the UN's commitment to multilateralism.

- Delegates attend United Nations meetings to represent their countries. The delegates speak and vote on behalf of their country at the UN General Assembly and other fora, such as the UN Security Council, unless a higher-ranking politician is present. The delegates are chosen by their respective governments. As a result, they act in the best interests of the government they work for.

#### **World Book and Copyright Day: 23rd April 2022**

- Every year on April 23, World Book and Copyright Day is observed to promote the love of reading. April 23 is significant in world literature because it commemorates the death on this date of prominent writers such as Miguel de Cervantes and William Shakespeare.
- This date was an obvious option for UNESCO's General Conference, which was convened in Paris in 1995, to pay a worldwide tribute to books and authors on this day, urging everyone to read.
- Books have long symbolised humanity's ability to conjure up worlds, both real and imagined, and to give voice to the diversity of human experience.
- They provide far-reaching kinds of conversation between individuals beyond distance and time by allowing us to share ideas, receive information, and inspire admiration for diverse cultures.

#### **International Mother Earth Day :22<sup>nd</sup> April**

- World Earth Day, also known as International Mother Earth Day, is celebrated every year on April 22. The Day will be celebrated all over the world to spread awareness for Earth's wellbeing and to encourage people to support environmental protection. The day focuses on the global climate crisis that is worsening with each passing day. World Earth Day 2022 will mark the 52nd Anniversary of the day since it started being observed in 1970. Earth Day was renamed officially by the UN in 2009 as International Mother Earth Day.
- The theme of Earth Day 2022 is to 'Invest in our planet'.
- Earth Day was first celebrated on April 22, 1970. This was when the peace activist John Mc Connell proposed to honour Mother Earth and the concept of peace during a UNESCO conference in San Francisco. Notably, World Earth Day was earlier decided to be celebrated on March 21, 1970, as the day one of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. Thereafter, US Senator Gaylord Nelson proposed to hold nationwide environmental enlightenment on April 22, 1970, which was later renamed 'Earth Day'.

#### **World Creativity and Innovation Day 2022 : 21<sup>st</sup> April**

- World Creativity and Innovation Day is celebrated on April 21 every year. The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of creativity and innovation in problem-solving and encourage creative multidisciplinary thinking at the

individual and group levels. The World Creativity and Innovation Week is also observed from April 15-21.

- The theme of World Creativity and Innovation Day 2022: Collaboration
- World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID) was founded on 25 May 2001 in Toronto, Canada. The founder of the day was the Canadian Marci Segal. Segal was studying creativity in 1977 at the International Center for Studies in Creativity.
- The United Nations on 27 April 2017 resolved to include World Creativity and Innovation Day on 21 April as a Day of observance to raise importance among people about the use of their creativity in problem-solving for all issues that may be related to achieving the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

### **National Civil Services Day 2022: 21st April**

- India observes National Civil Services Day on April 21 every year to acknowledge the works of officers engaged in several public service departments in the country. The day also marks a reminder for civil servants, who collectively run the country's administrative machinery and their dedication to serving the citizens of the country.
- Civil Services Day is celebrated on April 21 to commemorate the day when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Home Minister of Independent India addressed probationers of Administrative Services Officers at Delhi's Metcalf House in 1947. In his address, he called Civil Servants, the 'Steel Frame of India'. This meant that civil servants, employed at various levels of the government, act as supporting pillars of the country's administrative system.

### **UN Chinese Language Day 2022: 20th April**

- The UN Chinese Language Day is observed on April 20 annually. The day has been chosen to pay tribute to Cangjie, who is a mythical figure who is presumed to have invented Chinese characters about 5,000 years ago.
- The UN Department of Public Information established the day in 2010 to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as promote equal use of all six of its official working languages throughout the organization. The 1st Chinese Language Day was celebrated in 2010 on the 12th of November, but since 2011 the date has been on the 20th of April. The day celebrates multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as promotes equal use of all six of its official working languages throughout the organization.

### **World Liver Day 2022 :19<sup>th</sup> April**

- World Liver Day is observed on 19 April annually to spread awareness about the causes of liver disease and tips for its prevention so as to take holistic care of the liver. The liver is the second largest and the second most complex organ in the body, after the brain. It performs crucial body functions and is associated with a person's digestion, immunity, metabolism, and nutrition storage. The liver



regulates blood sugar, removes toxic substances from the body, helps blood clot, and controls cholesterol levels.

### World Heritage Day 2022: 18<sup>th</sup> April

- Every year on April 18, the United Nations commemorates World Heritage Day. The Day is observed to preserve the human heritage and recognize the efforts of the organizations working for it. Monuments and ancient buildings are an asset to the world. They make for the rich heritage of the nation.
- Since 1983, the International Council on Monuments and Sites has set a theme around which events are centred on the day. The theme for World Heritage Day 2022 is "Heritage and Climate".
- The International Day for Monuments and Sites was proposed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) on 18 April 1982 and approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983.

### World Hemophilia Day 2022 :17<sup>th</sup> April

- World Hemophilia Day is observed globally on 17 April every year. This day is observed to raise awareness for hemophilia and other bleeding disorders. The date was chosen in honour of the World Federation of Hemophilia founder Frank Schnabel birthday. This year is the 31st edition of World Haemophilia Day.
- This year, the theme of the day has been kept as 'Access for All: Partnership. Policy. Progress. Engaging your government, integrating inherited bleeding disorders into national policy.' The aim is to sensitize people and governments on the disease and achieve better diagnosis by providing people with access to healthcare.

### Save the Elephant Day 2022 observed on 16th April

- Save the Elephant Day is celebrated on April 16 every year to raise awareness about the dangers elephants face and the various difficulties they have to overcome to live. Save The Elephant Day aims to change this alarming trend by educating people about elephants and the plights they face, encouraging everyone to do their bit and helping save them from extinction.
- The Day is established by the Thailand-based Elephant Reintroduction Foundation, to spread awareness among the general people about the significance and consequences of their actions, or inactions on the future of elephants. According to WWF data, at present, the population of Pachyderms in India is around 20,000 to 25,000.

### World Voice Day 2022 :16<sup>th</sup> April

- World Voice Day (WVD) is celebrated globally on April 16 every year. The day is observed to demonstrate the enormous importance of the voice in the daily lives of all people. The Day is a global annual event dedicated to recognizing the boundless limits of the human voice. The mission is to share the excitement of the voice phenomenon with people, scientists, and other funding bodies.

- This year, the theme of the World Voice Day campaign is 'Lift your voice'. The American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) has put forward the motto of the campaign to highlight how maintaining a good quality of voice can improve communication skills.

#### **Himachal Pradesh statehood Day observed on 15th April**

- Himachal Day is observed on the 15th of April in Himachal Pradesh. The state became a full-fledged state on this day. Four districts of Mandi, Chamba, Mahasu and Sirmour were integrated with over two dozen princely states, leading to the formation of Himachal Pradesh as a Union Territory in 1948. Decades later, in 1971, Himachal Pradesh became the 18th state in India with Shimla as its capital.
- It was on this day in 1948 that Himachal Pradesh was created as a province of India. The day is marked with a grand parade in the capital city of Shimla. Local events are also organised in the cities, towns, and villages to mark the day.

#### **Ambedkar Jayanti observed on 14th April 2022**

- Ambedkar Jayanti (also known as Bhim Jayanti) is celebrated on 14 April to commemorate the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar. The Day has been observed as an official public holiday throughout India since 2015. In 2022, we are marking the 131st birth anniversary of Babasaheb.
- Dr Ambedkar is known as the Father (chief architect) of the Indian Constitution. He was the first Law and Justice Minister of the country after the independence. Dr Bhim has been bestowed with the country's highest civilian honour, Bharat Ratna in 1990 posthumously.

#### **World Chagas Disease Day 2022: 14th April**

- World Chagas Disease Day is observed on 14 April to raise public awareness and visibility among people about Chagas Disease (also called American trypanosomiasis or silent or silenced disease) and the resources needed for the prevention, control or elimination of the disease. The theme for 2022 is finding and reporting every case to defeat chagas disease.
- It is often termed a "silent and silenced disease" as the infected majority have no symptoms or extremely mild symptoms. There are approximately 6-7 million people infected with Chagas disease worldwide, with 10,000 deaths, every year. It is one of 11 official global public health campaigns marked by WHO.

#### **103 years of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre : 13 April 1919**

- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, also known as the Amritsar massacre, took place on 13 April 1919. This year we commemorate the 103rd anniversary of the terror that shook the entire country to a standstill. The Jallianwalabagh garden has been converted into a memorial. And thousands of people on this day come to pay their respects to the martyred men, and women, who were killed on that fateful day for the nation.

- On 13 April 1919, thousands of people were gathered at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar, Punjab. This day marks the beginning of New Year for the Sikhs and is also celebrated as the Baisakhi festival all over Punjab. People travel days to reach Punjab on this auspicious day to celebrate Baisakhi with their family and loved ones.

### **World Homeopathy Day 2022: 10th April 2022**

- World Homeopathy Day is observed every year on April 10 to spread awareness about homeopathy and its contribution to the world of medicine. The day is also celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann. Hahnemann, born in Paris in 1755, founded this branch of medicine and is considered the father of Homeopathy.
- This year, the theme for World Homeopathy Day 2022 in India is 'People's Choice For Wellness.' The theme, like every year, is decided by the Ministry of AYUSH. On this day, a documentary made on Homeopathy, its benefits, and its contribution to medicine, will be released.

### **57th CRPF Shaurya Diwas 2022 celebrated on 9th April**

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas) is observed on 9 April every year, as a tribute to the brave men of the Force. The year 2022 marks the 57th CRPF Valour Day. It was on this day in 1965, a small contingent of CRPF created history by defeating an invading Pakistani army, several times larger, at the Sardar Post located in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat. The CRPF men eliminated 34 Pakistani soldiers and captured four alive. In the conflict, CRPF lost six personnel who had attained martyrdom.
- The Central Reserve Police Force is India's largest Central Armed Police Force. It functions under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India. The CRPF's primary role lies in assisting the State/Union Territories in police operations to maintain law and order and counter-insurgency.

### **World Health Day 2022 : 7th April**

- World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated on the 7th April every year. Every year, World Health Day focuses on contemporary health issues that require immediate attention, with varied themes. On World Health Day 2022, World Health Organisation will focus global attention on urgent actions needed to keep humans and the planet healthy and foster a movement to create societies focused on well-being. The World Health Organization has done its part to raise awareness about health and health-related concerns, as well as how to address them.
- The theme for World Health Day 2022 is 'Our Planet, Our Health'. This year's theme aims to direct global attention toward the well-being of our planet and the humans living in it.

### **International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda 2022 : 7th April**

- International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda is commemorated by UNESCO on April 07, every year. 2022 marks the 28th anniversary of the

genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, one of the darkest chapters in human history. On April 7th, the date where the genocide against members of the Tutsi began.

- The day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2003. The day commemorates the beginning of the genocide perpetrated against members of the Tutsi minority by the Hutu extremist-led government. Within just over 100 days, more than 1 million Tutsi were systematically murdered. Moderate Hutu and others who opposed the massacres were also killed during this period.

### **United Nations International Day of Conscience 2022 : 5th April**

- The United Nations General Assembly has designated 5 April to be observed as an International Day of Conscience every year. The resolution was adopted on 31 July 2019 by the UN General Assembly. The year 2022 marks the third edition of the celebrations. This day serves to remind people to self-reflect, follow their conscience, and do the right things. This Day is observed every year on the 5th of April and the first International Conscience Day was observed in 2020.
- Conscience refers to a person's inner self that is abstract a virtual entity, but it plays an important role in the actions of a person. A human being cannot ignore the mystic side of his personality that usually becomes the chief motivator behind every action a person performs. Psychologists also confess that human beings are highly influenced by thoughts and feelings. These thoughts are governed by conscience and history proves that the nations who regarded conscience were just and those who did not regard it became cruel. Morality, ethics, and virtue are guided by conscience and conscience stops people and nations from exploiting others. When conscience becomes inactive, people become materialistic, cruel, senseless, and scoundrels. Eventually, jungle law starts prevailing in the society which leads to the absolute damnation of society.

### **International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 2022 : 5th April**

- The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) is observed globally on April 6. To raise awareness of this potential, 6 April was declared as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) by the UN General Assembly. The adoption of this Day signifies the increasing recognition by the UN of the positive influence that sport can have on the advancement of human rights, and social and economic development.
- Sport has the power to change the world; it is a fundamental right and a powerful tool to strengthen social ties and promote sustainable development and peace, as well as solidarity and respect for all.

### **National Maritime Day 2022 : 5th April**

- National Maritime Day in India is observed on 5 April every year. This year is the 59th edition of the National Maritime Day. The National Maritime Day is celebrated every year day to illustrate the awareness in supporting intercontinental commerce and the global economy as the most well-organized, safe and sound, environmentally responsive approach of transporting goods from one corner to another corner of the world.
- On this day 'NMD Award of Excellence' is usually given during the celebrations and there is a trophy and citation, given to recognize and honour individuals for their lifetime



distinguished and exceptional achievements and performances in the Indian Maritime sector at a senior level.

- The theme of the National Maritime Day is “Sustainable Shipping beyond Covid-19”.

### International Children’s Book Day 2022 : 02 April

- The International Children’s Book Day (ICBD) is organised annually on the 2nd of April since 1967, by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). IBBY is an international non-profit organization, to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children’s books.
- In 2022, Canada is hosting International Children’s Book Day with this chosen theme: “Stories are wings that help you soar every day.” Every year, a different international section of IBBY hosts a children’s books event on or around April 2 (which is the birthday of classic children’s book author Hans Christian Andersen). The host country picks a theme and invites a well-known author and illustrator to create a message for children around the world.

### World Autism Awareness Day 2022 : 02 April

- World Autism Awareness Day is observed annually on 2nd April by the member states of the United Nations. The day is observed to raise awareness among its citizens about people with Autism Spectrum Disorder throughout the world. World Autism Awareness Day is organized by the UN Department of Global Communications and UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with the support of civil society partners including the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, the Global Autism Project and the Specialisterne Foundation.
- The theme for ‘World Autism Awareness Day 2022’ is “Inclusive Quality Education for All”. Access to education that was made easy for years, especially for autistic persons was disrupted after 2020 with the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Odisha Day or Utkal Divas 2022: 1st April

- Utkal Divas or Utakala Dibasha or Odisha Day is celebrated on April 1st every year to remember the formation of the Odisha state after a struggle to be recognised as an independent state. The state was originally called Orissa but the Lok Sabha passed the Orissa Bill, and Constitution Bill (113rd amendment), in March 2011 to rename it Odisha.
- History beckons that the present-day Odisha used to form a major portion of the ancient Kalinga. The region witnessed the epic “Kalinga War” led by King Ashoka who invaded and conquered the region in 260 BC. Later, the state was invaded and taken over by the Mughals till the British took over the administrative powers of the region and divided it into small units in 1803.
- The western and northern districts became a part of the state of Bengal while the coastal region formed the basis of Bihar and Odisha (then known as Orissa). After decades of struggle under the leadership of Odisha’s eminent leaders, the new province came into existence on the 1st of April 1936. The state saw another facelift, now in terms of its name being changed from Orissa to Odisha.

## **SUMMITS AND MOU'S**

### **Google aims to bring benefits of digital economy to Telangana youth, women**

- Google signed a MoU with the Telangana government to bring the benefits of the digital economy to the state's young and women entrepreneurs, and officially off the construction of its three million square foot headquarters in the city from the ground up.
- Telangana IT and Industries Minister K T Rama Rao was present when the MoU was signed.
- For decades to come, a 3 million sq ft energy-efficient campus designed with sustainability will be a hallmark for Hyderabad.
- Throughout its design, the three million square foot structure prioritises sustainability and energy efficiency.
- Google will work with the government through its various arms to provide scholarships for Google Career Certificates to Telangana's youth, support women entrepreneurs through digital, business, and financial skills training, and support the government's efforts to modernise schools with digital teaching and learning tools and solutions under the new initiative.

### **L&T collaborates with IIT Bombay to develop Green Hydrogen Technology**

- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has signed an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay to jointly pursue research and development work in the Green Hydrogen value chain. Under the agreement, both the institutions would contribute to the development of the Green Hydrogen industry in India while developing technology in this field. Hydrogen when produced through the electrolysis process using renewable energy is known as Green Hydrogen which has no carbon footprint.
- The Central Government in February 2022 notified the Green Hydrogen policy aimed at boosting the production of Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia to help the nation become a global hub for the environmentally friendly version of the molecule. For countries like India, with its ever-increasing oil and gas import bill, Green Hydrogen will help provide crucial energy security by reducing the overall dependence on imported fossil fuels. It should be noted that India has its own ambitious target of becoming net-zero by 2070.

### **Estonia hosts the world's largest cyber exercise**

- The Tallinn, Estonia NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, abbreviated as CCDCOE, is organising the Locked Shields 2022, the largest and most complex annual international live-fire cyber defence exercise in the world. This year's exercise has particular importance as it takes place amid the rising threat of cyber-attacks since the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- Cyber experts practise the protection of national civilian and military IT systems and critical infrastructure in a large-scale cyber-attack. It is conducted under conditions of intense pressure, with teams countering a series of sophisticated cyberattacks.

- The exercise provides an opportunity to practice cooperation in a crisis situation between both civilian and military units, as well as public and private sectors, as in the event of a large-scale cyber-attack these tactical and strategic decision-makers must work together.

### **Netflix & Modi govt collaborate for video series on 'women change-makers'**

- Netflix India, in collaboration with the Information & Broadcasting Ministry, has released a series of short video series under an initiative called 'Azadi Ki Amrit Kahaniya', highlighting the role of women achievers. As part of a broader partnership, the global OTT platform will also conduct workshops and masterclasses for the skill development of Indian filmmakers.
- Netflix and ministry will partner to develop a creative ecosystem by organizing training programs for post-production, VFX, animation, and music production among others and will be organized on the ground and virtually.
- The Minister lauded the remarkable achievements of the three women on the dais and said their stories will inspire people across the country. He also expressed hope that after this collaboration filmmakers from across the world will come to India to make films and documentaries for not just the Indian audience but to showcase it to the entire world.
- The Minister stated that the partnership between the Ministry and Netflix was only a beginning and will not be limited to Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

### **Kerala, Netherlands join hands for 'Cosmos Malabaricus' project**

- Kerala and the Netherlands have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the 'Cosmos Malabaricus' project. This study will contribute to a better understanding of Kerala's history in the 18th century.
- In Malappuram and Kollam, the state will also collaborate with the Netherlands to establish paint academies.
- The agreements were inked in the presence of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Dutch Ambassador to India Marten van den Berg.
- The Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR), which is part of the Department of Higher Education, the University of Leiden, and the National Archives of the Netherlands, is carrying out this project.

### **India to host accountants World Congress for the first time in 118 years**

- According to the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) president, Debashis Mitra, India is set to host the 21st World Congress of Accountants (WCOA), the Kumbh of accountants, for the first time in 118 years of its existence. About 6000 top accountants from 130 countries will participate in the programme physically. The event will be held from November 18 to 21 after outbidding France.
- The event will be held at Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai. The theme for 2022 would be 'Building Trust Enabling Sustainability'. The WCOA, a forum for

thought leadership and global exchange of views, is held every four years since it started in 1904.

#### **Prasar Bharati signed MoU with Public Broadcaster of Radio Television Argentina (RTA)**

- Prasar Bharati has signed an MoU with the Public Broadcaster of Argentina Radio Television Argentina (RTA) for collaboration in the field of broadcasting. The MoU encompasses a range of fronts in Media and Broadcasting that is set to exemplify the communication and transmission networking of both nations. India and Argentina share cordial relations and developmental partnerships in the areas of political, economic, scientific and technological cooperation.
- The Chief Executive Officer of Prasar Bharati, Shashi Shekhar Vempati and the president of RTA, Rosario Lufrano, signed the agreement in the presence of the Indian Ambassador to Argentina Dinesh Bhatia.

#### **Posoco signed a memorandum of understanding with Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT D)**

- Power System Operation Corp. Ltd.'s (Posoco) Northern Regional Load Despatch Centre signed a memorandum of understanding with Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT Delhi) to encourage research on issues relating to India's power sector and strengthen interaction between academia and industry.
- The partnership's goals are to improve academia-industry interaction with the goal of knowledge sharing and capacity building through collaboration, as well as to promote research on topics related to India's power sector, such as data sciences or data analytics, ancillary services for grid operations, short-term demand and RE forecasting using artificial intelligence and machine learning, dynamic security assessment, phasor measurement, and unit analytics, among others.
- Posoco, a state-owned company, is in charge of the national energy grid's secure and integrated operations. The National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC) is one of five regional load despatch centres (RLDCs).
- India wants to increase its focus on clean energy, with the government aiming for net-zero carbon emissions by 2070 and intermediate goals through 2030.

#### **Mumbai to host India's first International Cruise Conference on May 14 & 15**

- Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and AYUSH, said that the 1st Incredible India International Cruise Conference-2022 will be hosted in Mumbai.
- The two-day event in Mumbai is being organised by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Mumbai Port Authority, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- The Minister noted during a news conference in Mumbai that the Indian cruise market had the potential to develop tenfold over the next decade, owing to increased demand and disposable incomes.
- According to the minister, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship Sagarmala programme connects the ports of Chennai, Vizag, and Andaman with Goa, which attracts the most tourists.



#### **NITI Aayog, UNICEF to Develop Country's First Report on 'State of India's Children'**

- The latest report on the State of India's Children: Status and Trends in Multidimensional Child Development will be jointly developed and launched by NITI Aayog and UNICEF India. This was determined, when the two organisations signed a Statement of Intent (Sol), reiterating their joint commitment to achieving children's rights in India.
- The report will create frameworks for understanding health and nutrition, education, water and sanitation, household living standards, and a child-friendly environment across states.
- This endeavour will contribute to India's commitments to the 2030 Agenda by providing a set of policy suggestions for concerted action in terms of speeding progress toward the SDGs and ensuring holistic development for all children.

#### **PM inaugurates Global AYUSH summit in Gandhinagar**

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will open the Global Ayush Investment & Innovation Summit 2022 at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The three-day conference will bring together key policymakers, entrepreneurs, investors, startups, and other national and international players to discuss innovation and how India can become a global Ayush destination for entrepreneurship.
- Shri Pravind Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius, and Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), will attend the summit's opening ceremony, as will Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Union Minister of Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, and Minister of State Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai.
- The global ayush investment and innovation conference 2022 will have 5 plenary sessions, 8 roundtables, 6 seminars, and 2 symposiums over the course of three days.
- After the opening ceremony, technical sessions will take place on the first day of the summit. Two roundtables will be held during these sessions, one on the diplomat's conclave and the other on Indian ayush prospects for the rest of the globe.

#### **IFSCA signs pact with National Insurance Academy**

- The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Insurance Academy with the goal of creating capacity and establishing a qualified talent pool in the insurance sector in International Financial Services Centres.
- IFSCA aspires to build a strong worldwide connection and focus on the demands of the Indian economy, as well as function as a regional/global international financial platform.
- At IFSC, insurance is a growing sector, and the MoU with NIA will go a long way toward building insurance capacity.
- The National Insurance Academy (NIA) is a prestigious school dedicated to training the finest and brightest in the insurance sector.

#### **Indo-French dialogue on bilateral defence cooperation concludes in Paris**

- The 20th edition of the India-France Joint Staff talks focused on new initiatives within the framework of the existing bilateral defence cooperation mechanism, as well as improving current defence engagements. The two-day talks took place in a nice, warm, and courteous setting in Paris. The Joint Staff Consultations between India and France are a forum intended to improve defence cooperation between the two countries through frequent talks at the operational and strategic levels.
- The 20th edition of Joint Talks between India and France ended with the goal of actively enhancing defence cooperation.
- The two-day meetings focused on new projects that come under the existing bilateral defence cooperation umbrella, as well as the enhancement of ongoing defence engagements between the two countries.

#### **IIT Madras signs agreement with IAF to develop solutions to maintain weapon systems**

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have signed a memorandum of understanding for technology development and finding indigenous solutions for the sustenance of various weapon systems. The joint partnership between IAF and IIT Madras aims to accelerate IAF's indigenisation efforts for achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
- IIT Madras in partnership with IAF will significantly contribute to indigenisation efforts by Base Repair Depots (BRDs) of Maintenance Command IAF, towards enhancing sustenance capability, obsolescence management and achieving 'Self Reliance'.

#### **NMDC Wins two Awards at 80th SKOCH Summit 2022**

- In the 80th SKOCH Summit and SKOCH Awards, held recently in New Delhi, India's largest iron ore producer, National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), under the Ministry of Steel, received one gold and one silver medal. The SKOCH Summit's subject was 'State of BFSI & PSUs.'
- The project 'Promotion of Technical Education and Skill Development in Dantewada District through NMDC ITI Bhansi' got the Gold Award in the category social responsibility, and the project 'Project Kalpataru' for ERP implementation earned the Silver Award in the category digital inclusion. Shri Amitava Mukherjee, Director (Finance), accepted the honours on behalf of Chairman and Managing Director, Shri Sumit Deb, via video conference.
- The winners of the SKOCH Awards were chosen based on an application submitted on their website, a jury presentation, three rounds of popular online vote, and a second round of jury evaluation.

#### **Bharat Petroleum partners with Microsoft to step up digital transformation**

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), an Indian oil refinery, has teamed with Microsoft to improve its customer experience. It will also integrate cloud computing and artificial intelligence (AI) to help the oil and gas business adapt digitally. Microsoft will supply BPCL with infrastructure-as-a-service, platform-

as-a-service, and cloud network and security services over the course of the seven-year partnership.

- BPCL plans to employ Microsoft's secure cloud platform to accelerate its cloud transformation, create smarter supply chains, and improve customer engagement. BPCL will also make use of Microsoft Teams and other productivity tools to improve employee communication.

### **UNDP announces \$2.2 million in climate action grants for innovators**

- The UNDP and partners of the Adaptation Innovation Marketplace (AIM) have announced \$2.2 million in climate action funding for 22 local innovators from 19 countries, including India. The Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) window's first round of funding will improve local climate action and speed the achievement of the Paris Agreement's and Sustainable Development Goals' ambitions.
- The project enables local actors and contributes to UNDP's and partners' worldwide endorsement of the principles for locally driven adaptation action.
- The Adaptation Innovation Marketplace will provide technical support and know-how for new funding applications launched.

### **ISRO tieup with UIDAI for technical collaboration**

- Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), MeitY has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO, Hyderabad for technical collaboration. NRSC will develop a Bhuvan-Aadhaar portal for providing information and locations about the Aadhaar centres across India.
- The portal will provide the facility of complete geographic information, retrieval, analysis, and reporting for Aadhaar centres with a high-resolution backdrop of natural-colour satellite images. UIDAI has, so far, issued Aadhaar numbers to more than 132 crore residents and facilitates over 60 crore residents who have updated their Aadhaar.

### **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav Chairs 20th NTCA Meeting at Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh**

- The 20th NTCA in Arunachal Pradesh is chaired by Bhupender Yadav. The 20th Meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held in Pakke tiger reserve in Arunachal Pradesh and was led by Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav.
- The first-ever NTCA meeting was held in Arunachal Pradesh, outside of the National Capital.
- He also released a technical manual on MEE of Tiger Reserves in India, as well as standard operating procedures for tiger reintroduction and supplementation in the wild, a forest fire audit protocol for tiger reserves, and a standard operating procedure for tiger reintroduction and supplementation in the wild.

**Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates two-day scientific convention on 'Homoeopathy: People's Choice for Wellness'**

- The Union Minister of AYUSH, Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated a two-day scientific convention on the theme 'Homoeopathy: People's Choice for Wellness' in New Delhi. The convention has been organised jointly by the three apex bodies under the Ministry of Ayush namely, the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, the National Commission for Homoeopathy and the National Institute of Homoeopathy to mark the occasion of the World Homoeopathy Day.
- This convention is an opportunity to review the achievements in the field of Homoeopathy and to formulate future strategies for the development of Homoeopathy.
- There is an imminent need to initiate a dialogue among the major stakeholders of Homoeopathy to address much-needed practice standards in clinical research informatics, data standards in clinical research, policy issues, educational standards, and instructional resources.

**Arya.ag joins UN Global Compact programme**

- Arya.ag, an integrated grain commerce platform, has joined the United Nations Global Compact India, voluntarily adhering to universal sustainability principles and taking actions to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- The United Nations Global Compact is a developed framework of Corporate Governance-driven sustainability that compels members to conduct business in accordance with ten principles that include human rights, labour, the environment, and anti-corruption.
- In addition, members must take steps to attain the SDGs by 2030.
- There are currently over 550 organisations that are members of the India Network, UN GCNI.

**India-Nepal launch multiple projects, sign four agreements during Modi-Deuba meeting**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese colleague Sher Bahadur Deuba met in New Delhi, initiating a number of projects and signing four important agreements across a variety of fields. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) and Nepal Oil Corporation Ltd. signed agreements on Nepal becoming the 105th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), technical cooperation in railways, petroleum product delivery, and technical experience sharing in the petroleum sector.
- The two Prime Ministers also observed the first passenger train service between India's Jayanagar and Nepal's Kurtha, the handover of India's Solu corridor transmission project to Nepal, and the progress of 132 health facilities being built across 10 districts in Nepal under a Gol grant.
- The two countries announced the debut of the Indian RuPay card in Nepal, with the domestic variation of the RuPay card (about 83 percent of all RuPay cards issued) being compatible with approximately 1400 POS machines in Nepal.
- After Bhutan, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates, Nepal is now the fourth country outside of India to accept RuPay.



## India, Australia sign accord to double trade in 5 years

- India and Australia signed an Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (IndAus ECTA), hailing it as a watershed moment and one of the biggest economic doors there is to open in the world. It will provide zero-duty access to 96 per cent of India's exports to Australia, including shipments from key sectors like engineering goods, gems and jewellery, textiles, apparel, and leather.
- According to a government estimate, the agreement will increase bilateral trade in products and services to \$45-50 billion over the next five years, up from roughly \$27 billion, and create over one million employees in India.
- Around 85% of Australia's exports, including coal, sheep meat, and wool, will have zero duty access to the Indian market, while Australian wines, almonds, lentils, and select fruits would have lower duty access.
- Under the deal, zero-duty access for Indian goods will be expanded to 100% over the next five years.

## 4th edition of India Boats & Marine Show In Kochi

- The 4th edition of the India Boat & Marine Show (IBMS) was held at Bolgatty Palace in Kochi in Kerala. IBMS is India's only and most influential Boat and Marine industry related exhibition. The event is organised by Kochi-based Cruz Expo. The IBMS 2022 showcased leading international brands as well as indigenous boat manufacturers from across the country. Around 45 exhibitors from all over India and two international exhibitors participated in the expo.
- Several PSUs and agencies like Cochin Port Trust, Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy and Cochin Shipyard took part in the expo. The focus of the IBMS expo 2022 was the requirements for MSME in the marine and boating sector.
- The event showcase leading international brands as well as indigenous boat manufacturers from across the country. In addition to marinas, engines, navigational and other systems and equipment, mainstream craft such as motorboats, speed boats, jet skis, kayaks, water scooters, scuba diving and fishing boats & trawlers and other marine equipment will be on display.

## Assam, Meghalaya sign agreement to resolve border dispute

- Assam and Meghalaya agreed to resolve their five-decade-long border dispute in six of the 12 contested places that have frequently sparked tensions between the two states, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah hailing the decision as a "historic day for the Northeast." Chief Ministers of Assam and Meghalaya, Himanta Biswa Sarma and Conrad Sangma, respectively, inked the agreement in the presence of Shah.
- The agreement will end the long-running disagreement in six of the 12 points along the 884.9-kilometer boundary between the two States.
- According to the home minister, the signing of the agreement has settled 70% of the border issue between the two countries, and he hopes to find a solution for the remaining six places shortly.

- Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and West Bengal share a 2743-kilometer border with Assam. Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh all have border conflicts with it.

### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

#### **Ardeshir B K Dubash conferred highest diplomatic award by the Government of Peru**

- The former Honorary Consul of Peru in Mumbai, Ardeshir B.K. Dubash has received the Order of “Merit in the Diplomatic Service of Peru Jose Gregorio Paz Soldan” by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru. Ambassador of Peru in India, H.E. Carlos R. Polo has conferred the award to him. Dubash was designated as Honorary Consul of Peru in 1973. The Order of Merit was instituted in 2004, named after José Gregorio Paz Soldán.
- Dubash was designated as Honorary Consul of Peru on August 13th, 1973. His career as Honorary Consul, which spans almost half a century, has seen 14 Presidents of Peru and 15 Ambassadors of Peru to India.

#### **Deepika Padukone makes it to Cannes Film Festival Jury**

- Deepika Padukone will grace the Cannes Film Festival as a member of the jury, this year. The actress-producer has attended the prestigious film festival several times in the past, in the capacity of an ambassador of the beauty brand L’Oreal. The jury for the 75th edition of the film festival is headed by French actor Vincent Lindon, who won Best Actor at Cannes in 2015.
- With her induction into the Cannes jury, Deepika Padukone has become a part of a select group of Indian stalwarts who served in the same role in the past, including Sharmila Tagore, Nandita Das, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, and Vidya Balan.

#### **Earth champion David Attenborough bestowed Lifetime Achievement award**

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has named Sir David Attenborough, English natural history broadcaster and naturalist, as the recipient of the Champions of the Earth Award 2021 under the Lifetime Achievement category. This award is given to him for his dedication to research, documentation, and advocacy for the protection of nature and its restoration.
- Sir David Attenborough is well known for his innovative educational television programs, especially the nine-part Life series forming the Life collection. His well-known documentaries include The Green Planet and A Plastic Ocean. He was knighted twice by Queen Elizabeth II in 1985 and again in 2020. He has won 3 Emmy Awards and 8 British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) awards.

#### **Meghalaya Planning Department’s e-Proposal System wins coveted UN Award**

- The important effort of Meghalaya’s Planning Department, the e-Proposal System, which is part of Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture (MeghEA), has been awarded the prestigious UN Award – World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS) Prizes 2022.

- The state government noted that in today's digital era, IT is critical in not only innovating digital services but also in catering to the requirements of the public and fostering inclusive communities.
- MeghEA was launched by CM Conrad K Sangma in 2019 and is being executed by the Planning Department of the Government of Meghalaya.
- In the beginning of the year, the government announced that Meghalaya had been chosen as one of the top 360 projects in the world.

### **Zelensky gets John F. Kennedy award for defending democracy**

- The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, for the first time ever, awarded the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award 2022 to five individuals. The award will be presented by Caroline Kennedy and her son, Jack Schlossberg on May 22, 2022, at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, Boston, USA.

#### **Five individuals are:**

1. Ukrainian President: Volodymyr Zelenskyy
2. United States (US) Representative: Liz Cheney
3. Michigan Secretary of State: Jocelyn Benson
4. Arizona Representative: Russell "Rusty" Bowers
5. Fulton County, Georgia, elections worker: Wandrea "Shaye" Moss

### **NMDC Conferred at PRSI Awards 2022**

- The National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC) swept the Public Relations Society of India's (PRSI) Public Relations Awards 2022, taking first place in four categories. Shri V Srinivas Goud, Telangana Minister of Prohibition and Excise, Sports and Youth Services, Tourism and Culture, gave the award to NMDC's Shri Praveen Kumar, ED (Personnel) and Shri Ch. Srinivasa Rao, DGM (Corporate Communications) on behalf of the Navratna PSU. On behalf of the Navratna PSU, Shri Srinivasa Rao, DGM (Corporate Communications), accepted the honours.
- The award was given to the mining company for its Corporate Website, Annual Report, Newsletter Layout and Design, and CSR Corporate Video.
- Shri V Srinivas Goud, the Telangana State Minister, praised the PR industry's efforts in creating an informed community and congratulated the awardees.
- The conference, which marked the PRSI Hyderabad Chapter's Golden Jubilee, included participatory and thought-provoking workshops on the theme of Emerging Trends in Modern Public Relations.

### **Indian-American defence expert Vivek Lall to receive Entrepreneur Leadership Award**

- The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce has picked Indian-American chief executive of General Atomics Global Corporation Vivek Lall for the prestigious Entrepreneur Leadership Awards in appreciation of his contribution to the defence sector. The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) was founded in 1968 and is the premier bi-lateral chamber for India-US commercial cooperation.
- Lall, 53, has been chosen for the 'Global Leader in the Defence and Aviation Sector' award, which will be awarded online on Friday during an awards ceremony.

- The event's chief guest will be Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia.
- Lall, who has worked for Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and now General Atomics, has been recognised by Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin as a leader in the defence industry.
- Lall, who has worked for Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and now General Atomics, has played a key role in advancing defence trade.

**Union Steel Ministry to host National Metallurgist Award 2021 today to recognise outstanding contribution of metallurgists, engineers**

- The "National Metallurgist Award 2021" will be held here tomorrow by the Union Ministry of Steel. Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, the Union Minister of Steel, will host the event. The programme aims to recognise the outstanding contribution of metallurgists/engineers working in the field of iron and steel in the areas of manufacturing, research and development, design, education, waste management, and energy conservation, as well as their specific contribution to achieving Atmnirbhar Bharat's objectives.
- After extensive discussions with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) about how to rationalise the awards in keeping with the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Ministry of Steel established the National Metallurgist Award.
- The name of the award was changed from National Metallurgist Day Award to National Metallurgist Awards, the eligibility restrictions were relaxed to broaden the nomination pool, the number of awards was lowered to raise the award's profile and emphasis, and so on.

**IndusInd Bank bags global 'Celent Model Bank' Award for its Enterprise Payments Hub (EPH) initiative**

- IndusInd Bank has been awarded the global 'Celent Model Bank' award under the category of 'Payments System Transformation' for building a best-in-class Enterprise Payments Hub (EPH). The award recognises the Bank's outstanding journey in creating a cloud-based central payments hub. The award is given by Celent, leading research and advisory firm focused on technology for financial institutions globally. This payment hub is capable of seamlessly processing high transaction loads originating across all forms of payment instructions, and across all originating client touchpoints.

**Prabhat Patnaik selected for Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2022**

- Well-known Indian economist and political commentator, Prabhat Patnaik has been selected for the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2022. The award is annually given by the Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust to an outstanding social scientist selected from nominations received by a specially constituted national jury. The award includes a citation and prize money of Rs 2 lakh.
- Dr Patnaik has taught at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning in the School of Social Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi and was the Vice Chairman of the Kerala State Planning Board.



## **VP presents International Gandhi Award for Leprosy**

- Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu has presented the International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy, 2021 to Dr Bhushan Kumar of Chandigarh under the Indian nomination (individual) category and Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust, Gujarat under the institutional category. The award was given during a function in New Delhi on April 13, 2022.
- Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust and Dr. Bhushan Kumar have been working round the clock to raise awareness regarding leprosy and the care that can be provided to those afflicted with this disease. They have also been working to remove the social stigmas that are associated with this disease.

## **Falguni Nayar Wins EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2021**

- Falguni Nayar has been named as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021, at the 23rd edition of the EY Entrepreneur of The Year India awards. She is the founder and chief executive officer (CEO) of beauty supply company Nykaa (FSN E-commerce). She will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) on June 9, 2022, at Monaco. The Lifetime Achievement was given to A. M. Naik, Group Chairman of Larsen & Toubro.

## **PM Modi to receive first Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award for selfless service to nation, society**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be honoured with the inaugural Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award which is instituted in the memory of the veteran singer of Lata Mangeshkar. PM Modi will receive the award for selfless service to the nation and society. The award ceremony will be held on April 24 which marks the 80th death anniversary of Master Deenanath Mangeshkar (singing legend's father).
- Among the other awardees will be singer Rahul Deshpande, who will receive the Master Deenanath Award besides three other special awardees including veteran actress Asha Parekh, actor Jackie Shroff and the Mumbai Dabbawalas, represented by Nutan Tiffin Suppliers.

## **56th Jnanpith Award presented to Assamese poet Nilamoni Phookan**

- Assam Chief Minister, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma presented the country's highest literary award, the 56th Jnanpith for the year 2021 to one of the most celebrated poets of Assam, Nilamoni Phookan. Nilamoni Phookan is the third person to win the Jnanpith Award from Assam after Mamoni Raisom Goswami and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya. The Award carried a Citation, a shawl, and Rs. 11 lakh.
- The octogenarian was awarded the Padma Shri in 1990 and received the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship in 2002. He was selected as an 'Emeritus Fellow' for a period of two years by Cultural Department, Govt. of India in 1998. Assam Sahitya Sabha also conferred 'Sahityacharya' honour to him. The notable works of Phukan are 'Xurjya Henu Naami Aahe Ei Nodiyedi', 'Kabita' and 'Gulapi Jamur Lagna'.

- Novelist Damodar Mauzo was chosen for the 57th Jnanpith Award 2022 for his contribution to Indian literature. The 77-year-old writer was conferred with the country's highest literary award for his "outstanding contribution to literature".

#### **Veteran Bengali Author Amar Mitra Wins Prestigious O. Henry Award For 45 Year Old Story**

- Veteran Bengali author Amar Mitra was awarded this year's O. Henry prize for a short story he wrote 45 years back. He bagged the award for his short story titled 'Gaonburo' - a Bengali short fiction, which was translated into English (The Old Man Of Kusumpur) earlier. The translated work was published in an American magazine in 2020. Mitra was awarded the Sahitya Academy award in 2006.
- Mitra was born in Kolkata and is a well-known writer of Bengali literature. He spent some of his childhood in the districts of Bengal where he came across the Adivasi culture and their struggle. This is the background to Mitra's award-winning story.

#### **VP Naidu confers Sangeet Natak Akademi, Lalit Kala Akademi awards**

- The Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu has presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship and Sangeet Natak Awards for the year 2018 to 43 eminent artists (4 Fellows and 40 awardees). Naidu also presented Fellowships and National Awards of Lalit Kala Akademi for the year 2021 to 23 people (3 Fellows and 20 National Awards).
- The awards were presented during the 62nd National Exhibition of Art, organised by the Lalit Kala Akademi and inaugurated by Minister of Culture, Shri G. Kishan Reddy on April 09, 2022, in New Delhi.

#### **Amber Bracken wins 2022 World Press Photo of the Year award for Kamloops Residential School image**

- A photograph by Canadian photographer Amber Bracken titled "Kamloops Residential School" has won the 2022 World Press Photo of the Year award. The photo shows children's clothing hung on crosses commemorating the more than two hundred children who died of maltreatment, neglect and disease at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia. Ms Bracken's photo also won the Singles award in the regional North and Central America category.
- Australian photographer Matthew Abbott won the Photo Story of the Year prize for a series of images for National Geographic/Panos Pictures that document how the Nwarddeken people of West Arnhem Land in northern Australia fight fire with fire by deliberately burning off undergrowth to remove fuel that could spark far larger wildfires.
- The Long-Term Project award went to Lalo de Almeida of Brazil for a series of photos for Folha de São Paulo/Panos Pictures called "Amazonian Dystopia" that charts the effects of the exploitation of the Amazon region, particularly on Indigenous communities forced to deal with environmental degradation.

## **Indian-American singer Falguni Shah wins Best Children's Music Album at Grammys 2022**

- Indian-American singer Falguni Shah won a Grammy Award for A Colorful World in the Best Children's Album category. Falguni Shah has even performed and collaborated with music maestro AR Rahman and she is the only Indian-origin woman to be nominated in the Best Children's Music Album category at the Grammys twice. Falguni Shah was earlier nominated for a Grammy in the same category for her 2018 album Falu's Bazaar.
- The other nominees in the category were 'Actívate' by 123 Andrés, 'All One Tribe' by 1 Tribe Collective, 'Black To The Future' by Pierce Freelon, and 'Crayon Kids' by Lucky Diaz And The Family Jam Band. Born in Mumbai and now based out of New York, Falu was even nominated in the same category in 2019 for her previous album called 'Falu's Bazaar'.

## **Journalist Aarefa Johari Wins Chameli Devi Jain Award**

- A journalist from Mumbai, Aarefa Johari was awarded the Chameli Devi Jain Award for an Outstanding Woman Media person 2021. It was announced by the Media Foundation. Aarefa Johari works for 'Scroll. in' in Mumbai, Maharashtra. In 2020, Neetu Singh got this award. She is associated with 'Goan Connection' media house. Jury: Nirupama Subramania, Githa Hariharan and Ashutosh.
- Chameli Devi Jain Award is the annual prestigious recognition in the field of Journalism for women media persons journalist in India who have reported on themes such as social development, politics, equity, gender justice, health, war and conflict, and consumer values. The award was instituted in 1980 by Verghese and the family of Chameli Devi.

## **Ramdarash Mishra selected for Saraswati Samman 2021**

- Noted poet and litterateur Prof Ramdarash Mishra will be awarded the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2021, for his collection of poems 'Mein to Yahan Hun', the KK Birla Foundation announced. The recipient is chosen by a selection committee, whose current head is Dr Subhash C Kashyap.
- Prof Ramdarash Mishra was born in Dumri village in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur district on August 15, 1924, Mishra has excelled in different branches of Hindi literature. In a career spanning decades, the 98-year-old has to his credit 32 collections of poems, 15 novels, 30 short-story collections, 15 books of literary criticism, four collections of essays, travelogues, and several memoirs. He has also served as an important member of different Hindi consultative committees in various ministries and retired as a professor from the Hindi department of the University of Delhi.

## **64th Grammy Awards 2022**

- The 64th annual Grammy Awards are being held for the first time at the MGM Grand Garden Arena with Trevor Noah as host. The 64th GRAMMY Awards recognizes recordings (including musical artists, compositions and albums) released between September 01, 2020, to September 30, 2021. Jon Batiste received the most nominations with eleven and Batiste also received the most awards with five.

**List of winners of the 64th annual Grammy Awards 2022 :-**

S.No	Category	Winners
1.	Album Of The Year	'We Are' by Jon Batiste
2.	Record Of The Year	'Leave the door open' by Bruno Mars and Anderson Paak
3.	Best New Artist	Olivia Rodrigo
4.	Best Rap Album	"Call Me If You Get Lost," Tyler, the Creator
5.	Best R&B Album Winner	"Heaux Tales," Jazmine Sullivan.
6.	Best Rap Song	"Jail," Kanye West featuring Jay-Z
7.	Best Country Album	"Starting Over," Chris Stapleton
8.	Song Of The Year	"Leave the Door Open," Silk Sonic (Brandon Anderson, Christopher Brody Brown, Dernst Emile II and Bruno Mars)
9.	Best Rock Album	"Medicine at Midnight," Foo Fighters
10.	Best Rock Song	"Waiting On a War," Foo Fighters
11.	Best Dance/Electronic Album	"Subconsciously," Black Coffee
12.	Producer of the Year, non-classical:	Jack Antonoff
13.	Best Music Video	"Freedom," Jon Batiste
14.	Best Country Song	"Cold," Chris Stapleton
15.	Best Folk Album	"They're Calling Me Home," Rhiannon Giddens with Francesco Turrisi
16.	Best Comedy Album	"Sincerely Louis CK," Louis C.K.
17.	Best rap performance:	"Family Ties," Baby Keem featuring Kendrick Lamar
18.	Best rock performance:	"Making a Fire," Foo Fighters
19.	Best music film:	"Summer of Soul"
20.	Best musical theater album:	"The Unofficial Bridgerton Musical"
21.	Best global music:	"Mohabbat," Arooj Aftab



- |     |   |                                     |
|-----|---|-------------------------------------|
| 22. | Best global music album:                                | "Mother Nature," Angélique Kidjo    |
| 23. | Best historical album: "Joni Mitchell Archives, Vol. 1: | The Early Years (1963-1967)         |
| 24. | Best Pop Duo / Group Performance:                       | Doja Cat and SZA for "Kiss Me More" |
| 25. | Best American roots performance:                        | "Cry," Jon Batiste                  |

#### **Olympic Medalist Mirabai Chanu Wins BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year Award**

- Olympic silver medallist weightlifter, Mirabai Chanu won the 3rd edition of the BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year award 2021. Chanu created history last year when she became the first Indian weightlifter to clinch a silver medal at the Summer Olympics. Chanu won the gold medal in the 48kg division at the 2017 World Championships in Anaheim and followed up with Commonwealth Games gold in 2018.
- The BBC Emerging Player award was presented to 18-year-old cricketer Shafali Verma, who has recently been playing at the Women's World Cup in New Zealand. In 2021, Verma became the youngest Indian cricketer, male or female, to play in all three formats for the national team.
- The first Indian woman to have won a medal at the Olympics in 2000, former weightlifter Karnam Malleswari was presented the 'BBC Lifetime Achievement' award. Olympians and the Paralympians from the Tokyo Games were also honoured in this edition of BBC ISWOTY.

#### **RANKING**

#### **SIPRI's report 2021": India ranked 3rd**

- According to the Sweden-based think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report, titled "Trends in World Military Expenditure Report 2021", India's military expenditure is the third highest in the world behind the US and China. Military spending in India is amounting to \$76.6 billion in 2021 which grew by 0.9% from 2020. Russia has also increased its military expenditure for the third consecutive year.
- The report's data is based upon the updated SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, which provides military spending data by country for the years 1949–2021. The five largest spenders in 2021 were the US, China, India, the UK (United Kingdom) and Russia, together accounting for 62% of expenditure.

#### **Gujarat tops NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index Round 1**

- NITI Aayog has launched the State Energy & Climate Index (SECI) Round I. The State Energy & Climate Index (SECI) Round I ranks the states' performance on 6 parameters, namely, (1) DISCOM's Performance (2) Access, Affordability and Reliability of Energy (3) Clean Energy Initiatives (4) Energy Efficiency (5) Environmental Sustainability; and (6) New Initiatives.

- These parameters are further divided into 27 indicators. Based on the composite score of SECI Round I, the states and UTs have been ranked as larger states, smaller states, and UTs, based on size and geographical differences. States and UTs are categorized into three groups: Front Runners, Achievers, and Aspirants.

**Top Three States**

- Gujarat
- Kerala
- Punjab

**QS World University Rankings 2022 Out**

- QS Quacquarelli Symonds released the 12th edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022, the subject-wise rankings of institutes across the world are compilations of multiple lists. The QS World University Rankings by Subject are compiled annually to help prospective students identify the leading universities in a particular subject.

**The QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022 cover a total of 51 disciplines, grouped into five broad subject areas.**

1. Arts & Humanities
2. Engineering and Technology
3. Life Sciences & Medicine
4. Natural Sciences
5. Social Sciences & Management

**Top Five institutes under each category:**

Category	Top Institute(Rank 1)
Arts and Humanities	University of Oxford(UK)
Engineering and Technology	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)
Life Sciences & Medicine	Harvard University (USA)
Natural Sciences	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)(USA)
Social Sciences & Management	Harvard University(USA)

**Forbes Billionaires 2022 list: The Richest People In The World**

- The Forbes billionaires 2022 list is out, which compiles the list of the world's richest, who this time was hit by the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, coronavirus pandemic and sluggish markets. Elon Musk, the Tesla and SpaceX founder topped Forbes' list for the first time ever with a net worth of \$219 billion. Elon Musk is leading the Forbes billionaires list with a net worth of \$219 billion, followed by Amazon chief Jeff Bezos at \$171 billion.
- America has most number of billionaires at 735 worth a collective net worth of \$4.7 trillion, including Elon Musk, who tops the World's Billionaires list for the first time. China (including Macau and Hong Kong) remains number two, with 607 billionaires worth a collective \$2.3

trillion. Forbes uses stock prices and exchange rates from March 11, 2022, to calculate net worths.

**List of the top 10 billionaires:-**

Rank	Name	Net Worth	Country
1	Elon Musk	\$219 B	Tesla, United States
2	Jeff Bezos	\$171 B	Amazon, United States
3	Bernard Arnault & family	\$158 B	LVMH, France
4	Bill Gates	\$129 B	Microsoft, United States
5	Warren Buffett	\$118 B	Berkshire Hathaway, US
6	Larry Page	\$111 B	Google, United States
7	Sergey Brin	\$107 B	Google, United States
8	Larry Ellison	\$106 B	Oracle, United States
9	Steve Ballmer	\$91.4 B	Microsoft, United States
10	Mukesh Ambani	\$90.7 B	Reliance Ind Ltd, India

**Uttar Pradesh become top producer of vegetables**

- Uttar Pradesh has become the top producer of vegetables, getting back its first position by demoting West Bengal to the second position, with a difference of a million tonnes in production in 2021–22 Crop Year (CY) (July–June), after two years since 2020.
- Vegetable production in Uttar Pradesh is expected to be 29.58 million tonnes (mt) in the 2021–22 crop year (July–June), down from 29.16 mt in 2020–21, while West Bengal output is expected to dip to 28.23 mt in 2021-22 from 30.33 mt in 2020-21.
- Other top producers of vegetables as per the data in the current year 2021-22 include Madhya Pradesh at 20.59 mt, Bihar at 17.77 mt and Maharashtra at 16.78 mt.

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

**Book 'Chinese Spies: From Chairman Mao to Xi Jinping' authored by French journalist Roger Faligot**

- HarperCollins India has published a new book titled "Chinese Spies: From Chairman Mao to Xi Jinping" authored by French journalist Roger Faligot and translated by writer, editor and translator, Natasha Lehrer. The foreword of the book is written by Vikram Sood, the former head of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), India's foreign intelligence agency. The book 'Chinese Spies' was originally published in French in 2008 and later translated into English from the updated 4th edition by Natasha Lehrer.

**Two books "The Magic of Mangalajodi" & "The Sikh History of East India" released by cm of Odisha**

- Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik released 2 books, a coffee table book titled "The Magic of Mangalajodi" by Avinash Khemka; and a compilation of the Sikh history of eastern India titled "Sikh History of Eastern India" by Abinash Mohapatra. The coffee table book "The Magic of Mangalajodi" provides a bird's eye view of Mangalajodi in Chilika lake through various images and descriptions.
- Sikh History of Eastern India is a result of the meticulous research work on Sikh history and philosophy by Abinash Mohapatra. This is a compilation of 8 books authored by Abinash Mohapatra, which includes a Sikh history of Bihar, Assam, Bangladesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

**Book "The Boy Who Wrote a Constitution" authored by Rajesh Talwar**

- On the occasion of Dr BR Ambedkar's 131st birth anniversary, a new book titled "The Boy Who Wrote a Constitution: A play for Children on Human Rights" authored by Rajesh Talwar, a fact-based drama on Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar's own recollections of his childhood has been released. It is published by Ponytale Books. Talwar's also authored books include "The Vanishing of Subhash Bose", "Gandhi, Ambedkar, and the Four-Legged Scorpion", and "Aurangzeb".
- This book conveys to the children about the challenging boyhood and grown-up years of Ambedkar who had written the Constitution of India and became India's first law minister.

**'Tomb of Sand' by Geetanjali Shree is FIRST Hindi fiction to be shortlisted for International Bookers Prize**

- In the history of the International Booker Prize, the novel 'Tomb of Sand', authored by Geetanjali Shree, has become the first Hindi language work of fiction to be shortlisted for the prestigious literary prize. The novel has been translated into English by Daisy Rockwell. The book Tomb of Sand will compete with five other novels from around the world. The literary prize comes with a cash award of 50,000 pounds, which is split equally between the author and translator.



**Book 'The Maverick Effect' authored by Harish Mehta**

- "The Maverick Effect", tells the untold story of how in the 1970s and 80s a 'band of dreamers' joined hands to create NASSCOM and pave the way for the IT revolution in India. The book, touted to be an authoritative biography of the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), the apex body of software and IT service companies, is written by Harish Mehta.
- "The Maverick Effect is a definitive and authoritative biography of NASSCOM as recounted by one who led the creation of NASSCOM in 1988 and has been nurturing it like his precious child even after 33 years to the day. The Maverick Effect is the extraordinary story of this band of dreamers who joined hands to transform a nation while also changing the lens through which the world looked at India.

**"Tiger of Drass: Capt. Anuj Nayyar, 23, Kargil Hero" authored by Meena Nayyar & Himmat Singh Shekhawat**

- Meena Nayyar, Mother of Captain Anuj Nayyar and Himmat Singh Shekhawat, a part of Rashtriya Riders, a biking group that pays homage to martyrs and their families has authored a new book titled "Tiger of Drass: Capt. Anuj Nayyar, 23, Kargil Hero", published by HarperCollins Publishers India.
- The book features the story of Capt. Anuj Nayyar (23 years old), who martyred during the 1999 Kargil War while fighting to secure the Drass sector which was critical to the success of Operation Vijay and India's victory in Kargil. Captain Anuj Nayyar was honoured with the Maha Vir Chakra (posthumously), the second-highest gallantry award in 2000.

**Book "Decoding Indian Babudom" authored by Ashwini Shrivastava**

- A new book titled "Decoding Indian Babudom" authored by Ashwini Shrivastava and published by Vitasta Publishing Private Limited launched. This is a first-of-its-kind book by a journalist covering the bureaucratic system of India. It highlights India's administrative system and functioning of governance from a common man's point of view. The author recommended "15 Sutras" to achieve good and effective governance that can bring in investment by boosting businessmen's confidence in the administration.

**Book titled "Birsa Munda – Janjatiya Nayak" released by Dharmendra Pradhan**

- Union Minister of Education and Skill Development, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan released a book titled "Birsa Munda – Janjatiya Nayak". The book has been written by Prof. Alok Chakrawal, Vice-Chancellor, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh. This book is a comprehensive attempt to bring to the fore the struggle of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and the contribution of forest dwellers in the freedom movement.

**Book "Crunch Time: Narendra Modi's National Security Crises" authored by Sreeram Chaulia**

- Dr Sreeram Chaulia has authored a new book titled "Crunch Time: Narendra Modi's National Security Crises". The book was released by Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs at the India International Centre in New Delhi, Delhi. The book highlights the much needed public faith in the state to protect the country from security threats posed by India's

external adversaries. The book analyses PM Modi's series of decision-making moves during the crises with China and Pakistan.

## **BANKING AND ECONOMY**

### **World Bank Approves \$47 Million Loan For Indian Govt's 'Mission Karmayogi' Program For Civil Services**

- The World Bank has approved a USD 47 million projects to support the Government of India's Mission Karmayogi, a national program to build civil service capacity. There are nearly 18 million civil servants employed across India, with approximately two-thirds at the state government and local authority levels.
- The Bank's financing aims to support the Government's objectives of enhancing the functional and behavioural competencies of approximately four million civil servants. It will focus on three components: the development and implementation of competency frameworks; the development of an integrated learning platform; and program monitoring, evaluation, and management.

### **BoB launches new feature for seniors on mobile banking platform**

- Bank of Baroda has launched "bob World Gold", a new feature on its bob World mobile banking platform for seniors and the elderly. It is a unique digital banking platform that has been designed to provide its senior customers with a simple, smooth and secure mobile banking experience. This platform has easy navigation, large fonts, sufficient spacing and clear menus.
- The idea behind bob World Gold was to look at every element from the lens of this demographic and understand their specific requirements from a digital banking platform.

### **Tata group to merge Air Asia with Air India, seeks Competition Commission of India's approval**

- The Tata Group has been attempting to improve Air India's performance since its takeover in January 2022. That includes its on-time performance. The Tata's most recent job is to consolidate their aviation operations. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has already been notified of Air India's intention to merge with AirAsia India.
- In December 2020, Tata increased its stake in AirAsia India to 67 percent.
- AirAsia India, which began operating in June 2014, provides scheduled passenger, cargo, and charter flight services throughout the country.

### **Reliance m-cap hits Rs 19 lakh crore as stock surges to all-time high**

- Reliance Industries Limited has become the first Indian company to hit the Rs 19 lakh crore market valuation mark in intra-day trade. The market heavyweight stock jumped 1.85 per cent to its record high of Rs 2,827.10 during the day on the BSE. It finally settled flat at Rs 2,777.90, up 0.08 per cent.

- In March this year, the company's market valuation had gone past Rs 18 lakh crore. Last year on October 13, the company's market valuation went past Rs 17 lakh crore mark. Following the gain in the share price, the company's market valuation jumped to Rs 19,12,814 crore in morning trade on the BSE. At the close of trade, the market valuation was at Rs 18,79,237.38 crore.

### **Elon Musk to buy Twitter in \$44 billion deal**

- Elon Musk, the world's richest man, agreed to acquire Twitter for \$44 billion, ending a drama that included hostile takeover threats before handing him personal control of one of the world's most powerful social media networks.
- According to Twitter, the publicly traded corporation will now become a private entity owned by Musk, who negotiated a \$54.20 per-share purchase price.
- Musk secured \$46.5 billion in funding last week to complete the deal, and Dan Ives, an analyst at Wedbush Securities, predicted earlier in the day that the board would likely approve his offer because no other buyer could be found.
- Twitter stock was trading 5.9% higher on Wall Street.

### **India will give another \$500 million in fuel aid: Sri Lanka foreign minister**

- India will provide an additional \$500 million in financial aid to help the Sri Lanka island nation buy fuel, and that Bangladesh was willing to postpone \$450 million in swap repayments to help Colombo. This is the second \$500 million in gasoline credit that India has given to a Sri Lankan government grappling with the country's greatest financial crisis in living memory.
- After a shipment of 120,000 tonnes of diesel and 40,000 tonnes of gasoline earlier this month, the first line of credit was exhausted.
- India has supplied approximately 400,000 tonnes of petroleum so far.
- After fuel stockpiles were depleted, massive protests erupted.
- AFP claimed that thousands of irate motorists torched tyres and blocked a major road leading into Colombo, citing police and local officials. The protests erupted after the state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation increased the price of 92 octane gasoline to LKR 338 per litre, an increase of LKR 84.

### **Dhanlaxmi Bank signed MoU with CBDT & CBIC**

- For the collection of taxes, Dhanlaxmi Bank has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). Dhanlaxmi Bank said in a regulatory filing that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has authorised the bank to collect different taxes based on a recommendation from the Controller General of Accounts.
- The technical integration required to implement the seamless flow of remittances from the bank's portal to the CBDT and CBIC portals will be implemented as soon as possible in order to give customers early access to the facilities.

- The bank was empanelled as a 'Agency Bank' by the RBI in October, allowing it to handle general banking activity for the federal and state governments on their behalf.

#### **HDFC to sell 10% stake in HDFC Capital for Rs 184 crore**

- HDFC Ltd, a mortgage lender, announced the sale of a 10% share in its private equity arm, HDFC Capital Advisors, to an Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) wholly-owned subsidiary for Rs 184 crore on Wednesday.
- ADIA is also the largest shareholder in HDFC Capital's USD 3 billion alternative investment vehicles.
- HDFC Capital, which was established in 2016, is the investment manager for the HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Funds 1, 2, and 3. It is aligned with the government's goal of increasing housing supply and supporting the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – 'Housing for All' initiative, according to a statement from HDFC Ltd.
- HDFC Capital manages funds that provide long-term, flexible capital for affordable and middle-income housing projects, including early-stage funding, according to the company.

#### **Sebi reorganises advisory panel on leveraging regulatory and technology solutions**

- Securities and Exchange Board of India's advisory council on leveraging regulatory and technological solutions has been reconstituted advisory committee on leveraging regulatory and technology solutions (ALERTS). Sunil Bajpai will now lead the seven-member panel.
- The Advisory Committee for ALERTS will now be led by Sunil Bajpai, the former Principal Advisor (Information Technology) of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, according to SEBI's website (TRAI).
- Puneet Narang, Deutsche Bank's head of corporate banking technology in India, Girish Keshav Palshikar, TCS Research and Innovation's Principal Scientist, Ratnakar Pandey, Amazon's Senior Data Scientist, Rohan Rao, H2O.ai's Senior Data Scientist, Subir Saha, ICICI Group's Head of Compliance, and, ISD's CGM, are among the other members of the committee.

#### **RBI Fined Manappuram Finance Rs 17.63 Lakh For Failing To Comply With KYC Regulations**

- Manappuram Finance Limited was fined Rs 17.63 lakh by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for failing to comply with Know Your Customer (KYC) and Prepaid Payment Instruments regulations (PPIs).
- Manappuram Finance Limited has been fined Rs 17,63,965 by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for failing to comply with certain provisions of the Master Direction on Issuance and Operation of Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) dated October 11, 2017 (as updated on February 28, 2020) and the Master Direction – Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction dated February 25, 2016 (as updated on April 20, 2020).
- This action is based on regulatory compliance issues and is not meant to be a judgement on the validity of any transaction or agreement the organisation has with its consumers.



- The entity was found to be in violation of RBI instructions on KYC and minor PPI standards. As a result, the entity was given notice to show cause why a penalty should not be applied for failing to follow the orders.

#### **RBI caps lending limits of NBFCs to bring them on a par with those of banks**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has tightened the rules for non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) relating to their large exposures. RBI capped aggregate exposure of NBFCs which are in the upper layer toward one entity at 20% of the capital base. The limit can only be extended by another 5% with the board's approval.
- For a particular borrower group, the cap is at 25%, with an additional 10% if exposure is towards infrastructure. The upper-layer NBFCs are typically the top 10 ones in terms of asset size. However, NBFCs that are into infrastructure finance can have exposure of 25 per cent, with an option of an additional 5 per cent of Tier I capital to a single counterparty. For a group of connected counterparties, infrastructure companies can have an exposure of 35 per cent of Tier-I capital. These norms will come into effect from October 1, 2022.

#### **World Bank slashes global growth forecast to 3.2% from 4.1%**

- The World Bank has lowered the global growth forecast for 2022 to 3.2%. Earlier this was estimated at 4.1%. The downward revision is due to the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on the world economy. The reason for lowering the projection is that people are facing reduced commercial activity and trade, and the debt crisis and currency depreciations have placed a heavy burden on the poor. The world is also facing reversals in development in education, health and gender equality.

#### **World's First "Crypto-Backed" Payment Card Launched By Nexo**

- London-based Cryptocurrency lender, Nexo has joined hands with global payments company Mastercard to launch the world's first "crypto-backed" payment card. Electronic money firm DiPocket is Nexo's card issuer. The card requires no minimum repayments, monthly, or inactivity fees. There are no FX fees for up to 20,000 euros per month. Interest remains at 0% for customers who maintain a loan-to-value ratio of 20% or below.
- This move by crypto and incumbent financial networks forces digital assets to become more mainstream. Initially, The card will be available in selected European countries. There are no restrictions on how much a customer can spend or withdraw from the open credit line and interest is only paid on the amount of credit actually used.

#### **IMF slashes India's FY23 GDP growth forecast to 8.2%**

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has slashed the gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for India in FY23 to 8.2 per cent in its latest World Economic Outlook report, released on April 19, 2022. Earlier in January report,

this was estimated at 9 per cent. IMF has also cut India's FY24 GDP growth forecast to 6.9 per cent. Earlier this was 7.1 per cent. In the case of the global economy, IMF has cut the growth forecast for the calendar year 2022 to 3.6 per cent from 4.4 per cent.

### **Paytm becomes official digital payments partner for Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya**

- Paytm has become an official digital payments partner for the prime ministers' museum. It is offering its payment gateway, EDC (Electronic Data Capture) machines and QR code payment options to make way for superfast, convenient and secure transactions. The museum, which is a tribute to former Prime Ministers of India, will be opened to the public on April 21, 2022. PM Modi also purchased the first ticket of the museum before its inauguration.
- The museum is built at a cost of Rs. 271 crores. It is constructed on the site of Teen Murti Estate, which served as the home of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, for 16 years until being converted into the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) following his death.

### **12th April 2022: 128th Foundation Day of PNB**

- Punjab National Bank, India's second-largest bank has celebrated its 128th Foundation Day on April 12, 2022. On the occasion of foundation day, MD & CEO of PNB, Atul Kumar Goel has launched a cardless cash withdrawal service and a virtual debit card for its customers. Bank also launched various services on its mobile app named PNB One for safe banking transactions.
- PNB was established by the great freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai, proudly known as Sher-e-Punjab (Lion of Punjab) in 1894 as the First Swadeshi Bank after being influenced by the swadeshi movement.

### **Fino Payments Bank to buy minority stake in New Delhi-based fintech Paysprint**

- Fino Payments Bank announced that its board of directors has approved a 12.19 percent minority strategic investment in New Delhi-based fintech Paysprint Pvt Ltd. Fino Payments Bank is making its first strategic investment since becoming public. This is in addition to the bank's Fino 2.0 projects, which include many internal programmes aimed at creating a digital ecosystem for its customers.
- Paysprint, a profitable fintech, is a fast-growing financial technology firm that provides next-generation application programming interfaces (APIs) in banking, payments, travel, lending, insurance, and investment, among other fields.
- Paysprint's co-founder and CEO, S Anand, said the fintech company is excited to collaborate with Fino Payments Bank and combine technical knowledge to develop innovative banking products and solutions that will increase consumer acceptance.
- Paysprint completed its first full year of operations in FY22, with an annual GMV of Rs 5,500 crore.

**Govt enhances authorised share capital of three public sector general insurance companies**

- Three public sector general insurance businesses – National Insurance Company Limited, Oriental Insurance Company Limited, and United India Insurance Company – have had their authorised share capital increased by the government. This will allow for a capital inflow of Rs. 5,000 crore into these businesses.
- The permitted capital for National Insurance will now be 15,000 crore (1,500 crore shares with a face value of 10 apiece), up from the current 7,500 crore, according to a notification released by the Finance Ministry (1,500 crore shares with a face value of ten each).
- Oriental Insurance would have a market capitalization of 7,500 crore (750 crore shares with a face value of ten rupees each), up from 5,000 crore (500 crore shares with a face value of ten rupees each).
- United India Insurance's permitted capital has been increased to Rs 7,500 crore.
- United India Insurance's authorised capital has been raised from 5,000 crore (500 crore shares with a face value of 10) to 7,500 crore (750 crore shares with a face value of 10).
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in her FY 2018-19 Budget speech that three public sector general insurance companies, National Insurance Company Ltd., United India Assurance Company Limited, and Oriental India Insurance Company Limited, would be merged into a single insurance entity and then listed.

**Kotak Mahindra Bank launches digital platform for business banking, corporate clients**

- Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) has launched Kotak FYN, a new enterprise platform designed specifically for Business Banking and Corporate clients. Customers of the bank can utilise the portal to conduct all trade and service transactions.
- According to a press release, the Kotak FYN portal will contain many other services by the fourth quarter of 2022, including account services, payments, and collections.
- The portal will also have a dashboard that consumers can personalise, real-time tracking of transaction limits, access to prior transactions, and upcoming transaction events, among other things.
- It also promises to deliver a tailored experience in small steps with system stability.

**World Bank cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 8% from 8.7% in FY23**

- The World Bank has slashed the GDP growth forecast for India in FY2022/23 to 8 per cent in its bi-annual "South Asia Economic Focus" report, due to the negative impact of the war in Ukraine on FY23 growth. Earlier in January 2022, the growth forecast for FY23 was estimated at 8.7 per cent.
- The World Bank said a further escalation in the war in Ukraine could scare investors in emerging market securities and debt instruments and lead to a capital flight from South Asia to "safe havens" in the West.
- Foreign investors have already been exiting India's financial market since October 2021, due to the impending monetary tightening by the US Federal Reserve. Recent developments in Eastern Europe have intensified the capital outflow, weakening the Indian rupee (INR).

**India's gold imports surge to \$46.14 bn in FY22 on higher demand**

- According to the official data, the import of gold in India has been rose by 33.34% to Rs 46.14 billion on account of higher demand in 2021-22. The import of gold in 2020-21 was about Rs 34.62 billion. The increase in gold imports has contributed to the widening of the trade deficit to \$192.41 billion, against \$102.62 billion in 2020-21.
- India is the world's second-biggest gold consumer after China. The imports are largely driven by the jewellery industry. The export of gems and jewellery grew by about 50% to about \$39 billion during 2021-22.

**ADB to provide \$2 million for urban infrastructure development in Nagaland**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed an agreement to provide a \$2 million project readiness financing (PRF) loan to Nagaland for the design of climate-resilient urban infrastructure, strengthening institutional capacity, and improving municipal resource mobilisation.
- According to a statement released by ADB, Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance, who signed for the Government of India, and Takeo Konishi, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission, who signed for ADB, were the signatories to the project readiness financing (PRF) for the proposed Nagaland Urban Infrastructure Development Project.
- By establishing an urban sector plan, conducting feasibility studies, and comprehensive engineering designs of chosen subprojects, the ADB financing will ensure high project readiness.
- The PRF loan will be used to help construct climate resilient water supply, sanitation, solid waste management, and urban highways in Nagaland's 16 district headquarter towns, as well as better access for the poor and vulnerable.

**Bank of Maharashtra to divest entire 4% stake in ISARC**

- Bank of Maharashtra announced that it will sell its entire 4% ownership in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company for almost Rs 4 crore. According to a regulatory statement, the Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has entered a share purchase agreement for the sale of the entire equity position of 4% in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (ISARC).
- The bank's 4% stake, which translates to 40,00,000 equity shares, would be sold for Rs 9.80 per share for Rs 3.92 crore in cash.
- The sale of ISARC's interest is subject to RBI approval for a change in ISARC's sponsor shareholder. By the end of December 2022, the transaction should be closed.
- ISARC's overall revenue for the fiscal year ended March 2021 was Rs 11.09 crore, with a net profit of Rs 0.36 crore.



### **IndusInd Bank's 'Indus Merchant Solutions' App wins big at the Digital CX Awards 2022**

- 'Indus Merchant Solutions', a mobile app for merchants of IndusInd Bank, got the Digital CX Awards 2022 for 'Outstanding Digital CX – SME Payments'. The Digital CX Awards is organized by Digital Banker, a globally trusted financial news service provider. Indus Merchant Solutions being adjudged as a winner is a testament to its strength in offering customers a seamless banking experience, which aligns with the Bank's ethos of 'customer-centricity'.
- 'Indus Merchant Solutions' was launched in November 2021. It is a mobile application (app) to enable merchants, retailers, and professionals to various facilities such as Accepting instant cashless payments through multiple digital modes, Tracking inventory via in-built dashboards, Apply for an exclusive Point of Sale (POS) machine to facilitate card-based payments, Avail small ticket business loans from the Bank, etc.
- The Digital CX Awards is organised by Digital Banker, a globally trusted financial news service provider that recognises the world's leading Financial Services Organisations (FSO) that blend the best of technology, and innovation, with the power of their people to provide a superior customer experience and reinvent their industry. This year, the awards received over 600 submissions from 127 marquee FSOs across the globe.

### **Establishment of Digital Banking Units (DBUs)**

- The Reserve Bank of India announced that current banks can open digital banking units to provide products and services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in both self-serve and assisted modes. The government announced in the Union Budget that at least 75 such units will be established in 75 districts to commemorate the country's 75th anniversary of independence as the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The products and services to be supplied at a DBU, according to the requirements for the formation of Digital Banking Units (DBUs), include account opening, cash withdrawal and deposit, KYC updation, loans, and complaint registrations.
- Scheduled commercial banks with digital banking experience are allowed to open DBUs in Tier 1 to Tier 6 centres without obtaining RBI clearance, according to the guidelines.
- Each DBU must be housed separately, with its own entry and exit points. According to the recommendations, these units would be different from conventional banking outlets and will have forms and designs that are most ideal for digital banking consumers.

### **PNB makes verification of high-value cheques mandatory to check fraud**

- Punjab National Bank has implemented the Positive Pay System (PPS) being compulsory for cheque payments worth Rs 10 lakh and above. This is being done as a move to protect its over 180 million customers from any security threats. The bank had announced to make the

Positive Pay System mandatory last month, and the same has been implemented today. Under the new system, high-value cheques worth Rs 10 lakh and above will be cleared using the PPS, after reconfirmation with the issuer of the cheque.

- As per the Positive Pay System (PPS) developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), a customer issuing a high-value cheque has to reconfirm some essential details. The details are then cross-checked while presenting the cheque in clearing before payment.
- Positive Pay System will be available for all account holders issuing cheques for amounts of Rs 50000 and above. Availing of this facility will be at the discretion of the account holder.

### India's trade deficit rises 88% in FY22: Govt data

- According to government data released, India's trade imbalance increased by 87.5 percent to \$192.41 billion in 2021-22, up from \$102.63 billion the previous year. While total exports hit a new high of \$417.81 billion last fiscal year, imports also hit a new high of \$610.22 billion, resulting in a \$192.41 billion trade deficit.
- As per the ministry of commerce and industry, "India's merchandise imports in April 2021-March 2022 totaled \$610.22 billion, up 71 percent from \$394.44 billion in April 2020-March 2021 and 28.55 percent higher than \$474.71 billion in April 2019-March 2020."
- In March 2022, the trade deficit was \$18.69 billion, compared to \$192.41 billion for the entire fiscal year 2021-22.
- India's monthly merchandise exports surpassed \$40 billion for the first time in March 2022, reaching \$40.38 billion, up 14.53 percent from \$35.26 billion the previous month.

### GST collections hit all-time high of Rs 1.42 lakh crore

- The greatest ever GST was collected in March, which is a very good for the economy. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection totaled Rs 1,42,095 crore, breaking the previous high of Rs 1,40,986 crore set in January 2022.
- The March 2022 revenues are 15% greater than the same month last year and 46% higher than the March 2020 revenues.
- Revenues from imports of products were 25% higher during the month, while revenues from domestic transactions (including imports of services) were 11% higher than in the same month last year.
- In the month of March 2022, the gross GST revenue collected was Rs 1,42,095 crore, with Central GST at Rs 25,830 crore, state GST at Rs 32,378 crore, integrated GST at Rs 74,470 crore, including Rs 39,131 crore collected on imports of goods, and cess at Rs 9,417 crore, including Rs 981 crore collected on imports of goods.

### HDFC Bank adjudged best performing bank in SHG

- HDFC Bank Limited has been adjudged Best Performing Bank in Self Help Group (SHG) Linkage by Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM). Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India at the event organised at the Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. HDFC Bank is the only private bank to be honoured with the award for their contribution in SHGs by NRLM.
- Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of Rural Development presented the award to K Venkatesh, Head of Sustainable Livelihood Initiative of HDFC Bank. National Rural Livelihoods Mission

(NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) in June 2011 is a poverty alleviation project. This rural income generation scheme is also known as Aajeevika Mission.

#### **RBI fixes WMA limit for states at Rs 47010 cr**

- The Reserve Bank reduced the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for states and union territories to Rs 47,010 crore from Rs 51,560 crore on Friday, citing an improvement in the economic scenario. WMAs are short-term loans provided by the RBI to the government to help it deal with any discrepancies between receipts and payments.
- Due to the uncertainty surrounding C-19, the RBI increased the WMA limit for all states to Rs 51,560 crore. The new WMA was in effect until March 31, 2022.
- RBI stated it has decided to revert to the WMA limitations and deadlines for Over Draft (OD) for state governments / UTs, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Ways and Means Advances to State Governments, following a review of the limits and in light of the gradual easing of C-19 restrictions.
- The Special Drawing Facility (SDF) used by state governments and UTs would continue to be linked to the amount of marketable securities issued by the government of India, such as Auction Treasury Bills, according to the RBI (ATBs).

#### **Flipkart launches rural area- and women-focused Flipkart Foundation**

- Homegrown e-commerce giant, The Flipkart Group has constituted and launched the Flipkart Foundation, a new platform with a focus on development in rural areas and providing equitable access to growth opportunities for women and other disadvantaged communities. The Flipkart Foundation aims to positively influence 20 million lives directly and indirectly in the coming decade across a wide array of areas by utilising Flipkart's learnings over the years.
- The operations of the Flipkart Foundation will be grant-based. The contributions will come from the Flipkart Group and through the 'Charity Checkout' feature available on Flipkart platforms.
- The Flipkart Foundation will engage with diverse stakeholders to enable transformational development work for society and the economy, by offering support to underprivileged sections of society and making them a part of the country's growth story.

#### **Indias jobless rate falls to 7.6% in March from 8.1% a month earlier: CMIE**

- As per the data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the overall unemployment rate in India fell to 7.6 per cent in March 2022. This rate was 8.10 per cent in February 2022. The report also stated that though the overall unemployment rate in the country is falling, it is still high for a "poor" country like India. The decrease in the ratio shows that the economy is getting back on track after being hit by COVID-19 for two years.
- Haryana recorded the highest unemployment rate in March 2022, at 26.7 per cent. It was followed by Rajasthan (25%) and Jammu and Kashmir (25 %), Bihar (14.4%), Tripura (14.1%) and West Bengal (5.6%). Karnataka and Gujarat registered the least unemployment rate at 1.8.percent each in March 2022. CMIE is a Mumbai-based independent non-government

entity that serves both as an economic think-tank as well as a business information company.

#### **Indias FY23 GDP growth estimated at 7.4%, RBI rate hike by year end: Ficci**

- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) has estimated India's GDP to grow at 7.4 per cent in the financial year 2022-23 (FY23). The Ficci's Economic Outlook Survey was released on April 03, 2022. The report has stated that rising prices due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict is the biggest challenge to the global economic recovery.
- According to the survey, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to start a rate hike cycle in the second half of 2022, while a repo rate hike of 50-75 bps is expected by the end of the current fiscal. The RBI is expected to continue supporting the ongoing economic recovery by keeping the repo rate unchanged in its April policy review.

#### **Centre extends foreign trade policy by another six months till Sept 30**

- The Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 has been extended by six months, until September 30, 2022. The present Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20, which is effective through March 31, 2022, has been extended until September 30, 2022, according to a notification from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade. Following the Covid-19 outbreak, the policy was first extended for a year, until the end of March 2020, and subsequently for another year, until September 30.
- The strategy lays out recommendations for boosting exports to boost economic growth and create jobs, as well as incentives under various programmes like Duty-Free Import Authorisation (DFIA) and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) (EPCG).
- Tea, steel, chemical, and pharmaceutical exporters to Russia are pleading with the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to intervene, as millions of rupees are at stake.

#### **Axis Bank's \$1.6 Billion takeover of Citibank's India consumer business**

- Citigroup has announced that Axis Bank will be acquiring Citibank's India consumer business for an amount of USD 1.6 billion (Rs 12,325 crores) in an all-cash deal. This transaction will be including Citibank India's consumer banking businesses, which include retail banking, credit cards, consumer loans, and wealth management.
- This transaction will also be including the sale of Citibank's non-banking financial company consumer business, Citicorp Finance (India) Limited, which comprises a financing business that is asset-backed and also includes construction equipment and commercial vehicle loans, and a portfolio of personal loans.
- It is an exchange of assets or a single asset for cash and no other monetary means, such as exchange of stocks or financing are used. The most common way of settling all-cash deal are wire transfers or check and the physical form of cash is generally avoided.

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

- Central Bank of India partnered with ID to implement digital Know Your Customer (KYC), video KYC and eKYC for its network across India. The aim of the partnership is to bring seamless onboarding and provide efficient digital facilities to the customers across India.



- ID is India's fastest and first-ever AI-based fully compliant Video KYC solution and a flagship product by Think360.ai. It has the target to digitize 10 million customers' onboarding annually and streamline its end-to-end processes. Central Bank of India had an eight-month-long gruelling evaluation process on technology and product experience followed by a reverse auction commercial round for this selection. This partnership will support the bank in driving its digital transformation agenda and supporting digital finance initiatives championed by the government.

### **RBI extends timelines for banks to use lockable cassettes in ATMs by a year**

- The Reserve Bank of India has delayed the deadline for banks to use lockable cassettes in their ATMs that can be swapped during cash replenishment by a year, till March 31, 2023. The decision was made after the RBI received representations from various banks and the Indian Banks' Association noting difficulty in achieving the deadline, according to a notification released yesterday.
- It has instructed the banks to establish an internal roadmap that has been approved by the Board in order to meet the extended deadline and submit a quarterly status report, and it has requested the banks' boards to monitor progress to assure compliance.
- Most ATMs are currently replenished via open cash top-ups or by placing cash into the machines on the spot. The RBI requested that this approach be replaced by guaranteeing that lockable cassettes are swapped when currency is replenished in ATMs.

### **Govt keeps interest rate of small savings schemes unchanged for Q1FY23**

- The Ministry of Finance has decided to keep the interest rates unchanged on small savings schemes or post office schemes for the Quarter -1 of FY2022-23 (April-June 2022). The interest rates on the various instruments for April-June 2022 range from 4.0 per cent to 7.6 per cent. It must be noted that the Government notifies the Interest rates for small savings schemes on a quarterly basis. This is the eighth consecutive quarter when the interest rates on small savings instruments remained unchanged.

### **Google Pay launches Tap to Pay for UPI, in collaboration with Pine Labs**

- Google Pay has launched 'Tap to Pay for UPI', new functionality to bring the seamless convenience of Tap to Pay to Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The initiative has been launched in collaboration with Pine Labs. To complete a payment, all a user will need to do is tap their phone on the POS terminal and authenticate the payment from their phone, using their UPI PIN, making the process virtually instantaneous, as compared to scanning a QR code or entering the UPI-linked mobile number.
- The functionality will be available to any UPI user who wants to use their NFC-enabled Android smartphone to transact using any Pine Labs Android POS terminal across the country. This was piloted with Reliance Retail and will now be available at other large merchants such as Future Retail and Starbucks.

**India Ratings slashes India's FY23 GDP forecast to 7%-7.2% from 7.6%**

- India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has revised downwards the GDP growth forecast for India in FY23 to 7-7.2 per cent. Earlier in January, the rating agency Ind-Ra had forecast this rate at 7.6 per cent.
- According to Ind-Ra, in scenario one, the crude oil price is assumed to be elevated for three months, and in scenario two, the assumption is for six months, both with a half cost pass-through into the domestic economy. Since the duration of the Russia-Ukraine conflict continues to be uncertain, Ind-Ra has created two scenarios with respect to the FY23 economic outlook basis certain assumptions.

