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# INDEX

National & States Affairs.....	5
International Affairs.....	35
Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs .....	40
Defence Affairs.....	61
Schemes & Initiatives.....	66
Sports & Games.....	68
Important Days & Dates.....	77
Meetings, Conferences and Summits.....	84
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes.....	87
Appointments & Resignations.....	96
Amount & Agreements.....	105
Ranks, Reports & Surveys.....	107
Acquisitions & Mergers.....	115
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships.....	118
Books & Authors.....	126
Obituaries.....	129
Persons in News.....	134
Science & Technology.....	137
Ordinance, Bills and Acts.....	142
Arts & Cultural Affairs.....	143



# National & States Affairs

1. In January 2022, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a 100-day reading campaign 'Padhe Bharat' for children studying in Balvatika to Grade 8 in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The reading campaign is being organized for 100 days starting from January 1, 2022. February 21 which is celebrated as International Mother Tongue Day, has also been integrated with this campaign. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Dharmendra Pradhan – launched 100-day reading campaign 'Padhe Bharat'
- Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar

2. Government-promoted CSC SPV, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, will undertake the 1<sup>st</sup> ever cultural survey of India's villages through a mobile application. CSC will develop the mobile application and train the village level entrepreneurs (VLEs) in conducting the survey. The survey, titled "Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar", will document the cultural identity at the village level by involving citizens to share what makes their village, block or district unique. The entire exercise is expected to be completed by mid-2022. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- CSC + Ministry of Culture = will undertake 1<sup>st</sup> ever cultural survey of India's villages - "Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar"
- Ministry of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Ministry of Tourism: Shripad Yesso Naik & Ajay Bhatt
- CSC e-Governance Services – functions under the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY)

3. In January 2022, Union Education Minister & Skill Development Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched "NEAT 3.0" for the students. National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) is an initiative to provide the use of best-developed technological solutions in the Education sector to enhance the employability of the youth on a single platform. AICTE, MoE is acting as the facilitator in the process while ensuring that the solutions are freely available to a large number of socially and economically backward students. The Minister also launched AICTE prescribed technical books in regional languages. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Dharmendra Pradhan – launched "NEAT 3.0" to provide technological solutions in the Education Sector
- Dharmendra Pradhan – launched AICTE prescribed technical books in regional languages
- Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar
- HQs of AICTE – New Delhi | Chairman – Anil D. Sahasrabudhe (AICTE functions under Ministry of Education)

4. On 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022, on the 5<sup>th</sup> POSOCO Day, Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy Shri R.K. Singh dedicated "Automatic Generation Control (AGC)" to the nation to facilitate achieving the government's target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel-based generation capacity by 2030. The AGC is operated by Power System Operation Corporation (POSOCO) through National Load Despatch Centre. He also released a report titled "Assessment of Inertia in Indian Power System" which was prepared by POSOCO in collaboration with IIT Bombay. India's target to achieve the renewable energy capacity of 175 GW is 2022. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- R.K. Singh – dedicated “Automatic Generation Control (AGC)” to the nation
- R.K. Singh – released a report titled “Assessment of Inertia in Indian Power System”
- India targets to achieve non-fossil fuel-based generation capacity of 500 GW – by 2030
- India’s target to achieve the Renewable Energy capacity of 175 GW – 2022
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal
- HQs of POSOCO – New Delhi | CMD – K. V. S. Baba

**5.** In January 2022, Bharti Airtel announced the formation of a joint venture with Hughes Communications India Pvt Ltd (HCIPL), an innovator in satellite and networks to offer satellite broadband services in India. Hughes will hold a 67% stake in the joint venture, while Airtel will hold a 33% stake. It will be the largest satellite service operator in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bharti Airtel + HCIPL = to form a Joint Venture (JV) to become India’s largest satellite service operator
- Stake in Joint Venture – Bharti Airtel (33%) & Hughes Communications India Pvt Ltd (67%)
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | CEO & MD – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal

**6.** In January 2022, Ganjam district of Odisha was declared as state’s 1<sup>st</sup> child marriage free district. The district administration was able to stop as many as 450 child marriages in 2020 & 2021. Ganjam had started “Nirbhaya Kadhi” (Fearless bud) campaign, tried to prevent adolescent girls from dropping out of school, & counselling them. As many as one lakh teenagers have undergone counselling in the past two years. ₹5,000 reward was announced for those informing about any child marriage. Now, this has been increased to ₹50,000. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ganjam district – Odisha’s 1<sup>st</sup> child marriage free district
- Ganjam – started “Nirbhaya Kadhi (Fearless bud)” campaign
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**7.** In January 2022, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) selected Tata Consultancy Services for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of ‘Passport Seva Program’ which was launched in 2008. In this phase, TCS will refresh existing facilities & systems, and develop innovative new solutions to enable the issuance of e-passports and further enhance the citizen experience using technologies such as biometrics, artificial intelligence, advance data analytics, chatbots, auto-response, natural language processing, and the cloud. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tata Consultancy Services – selected by MEA for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of ‘Passport Seva Program’
- Passport Seva Program – launched in 2008
- HQs of TCS – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajesh Gopinathan | Founded in – 1968
- Ministry of External Affairs: S. Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of External Affairs: Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, V. Muraleedharan & Meenakashi Lekhi



**8.** In January 2022, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's 1<sup>st</sup> unique "Rock Museum" in Hyderabad. The Open Rock Museum, set up with the aim to educate and enlighten the masses about several lesser known facts, displays around 35 different types of rocks from different parts of India with ages ranging from 3.3 Billion years to around 55 Million years of the Earth's history. He also released Earthquake Risk Maps of Lucknow and Dehradun Cities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr Jitendra Singh – inaugurated India's first unique "Rock Museum" in Hyderabad
- Dr Jitendra Singh – released 'Earthquake Risk Maps' of Lucknow & Dehradun Cities
- [MoS \(I/C\) in the Ministry of Science & Technology: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K](#)
- [MoS in the Department of Atomic Energy and Space: Dr. Jitendra Singh](#)
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

**9.** On January 3, Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited (NAM India), asset manager of Nippon India Mutual Fund (NIMF), launched "Nippon India Nifty Auto Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)". The minimum investment amount required for the New Fund Offer (NFO) was ₹1,000. Nippon India Nifty Auto ETF which is the first Auto sector ETF to be launched in India, will provide a simple and low-cost (in terms of total expense ratio) portfolio building block to participate in the auto sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nippon Life India Asset Management Ltd – launched India's first "Auto Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)"
- [HQs of Nippon Life India AML – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#)

**10.** On January 3, Azure Power successfully commissioned its largest project, 600 MW Interstate Transmission System (ISTS) connected Solar Project, allocated by Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI). The project is located in Bikaner, Rajasthan. This is the largest solar power project in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Azure Power – commissioned "600 MW Interstate Transmission System connected Solar Project" in Bikaner, Rajasthan
- This largest solar power project in India is allocated by – SECI
- [HQs of SECI – New Delhi | Chairman – Jatindra Nath Swain | MD – Suman Sharma | Founded on – Sep 9, 2011](#)
- [HQs of Azure Power Global Ltd – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Ranjit Gupta | Founded in – 2008](#)

**11.** On January 4, Himachal Pradesh became the first LPG enabled and smoke-free state in India due to 'Ujjwala Scheme' of the Central government and 'Grihini Suvidha Yojana' of the state government. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Himachal Pradesh – became the first LPG enabled & smoke-free state in India
- 'Ujjwala Scheme' – Central government | 'Grihini Suvidha Yojana' – Himachal Pradesh government
- [Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar](#)

**12.** On January 2, Mumbai launched India's first water taxi service. The service was formally launched in January by PM Narendra Modi. The project is a joint initiative of Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT), City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB). [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi – launched India's first water taxi service – in Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**13.** On January 5, Power Ministry successfully completed 7 years of distributing and selling LED lights under its flagship "UJALA" programme. Launched in 2015, the "Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)" programme succeeded in bringing down the retail price of LED bulbs from ₹300-350 a bulb to ₹70-80. With UJALA, the cost of LED bulb came by down by 85%. The initiative evolved into the world's largest zero subsidy domestic lighting programme with more than 36.78 Cr LEDs distributed across India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Power Ministry – successfully completed 7 years of distributing & selling LED lights under its "UJALA" programme
- UJALA – Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All | Launched in – 2015
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal

**14.** On January 5, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh released a Special Postage Stamp commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Platinum Jubilee year of CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi. The Minister also dedicated "LED Photometry Laboratory" to the nation at CSIR-National Physical Laboratory. The Minister also released "Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravya (BNDs)" to support the testing and calibration laboratories for quality assurance at par with the international standards. He also launched Certification Process for Indian Made Low-Volume PM2.5 Sampler to fight pollution. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Jitendra Singh – released a Special Postage Stamp commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Platinum Jubilee year of CSIR-NPL
- Dr. Jitendra Singh – dedicated "LED Photometry Laboratory" to the nation at CSIR-NPL, New Delhi
- Dr. Jitendra Singh – released "Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravya (BNDs)" to support the laboratories
- HQs of CSIR-NPL – New Delhi | Director – Venu Gopal Achanta

**15.** On January 3, Ministry of Civil Aviation released a draft "National Air Sports Policy 2022 (NASP 2022)" for public feedback. The vision of the policy is to make India one of the top Air Sports Nations by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Civil Aviation – released a draft "National Air Sports Policy 2022 (NASP 2022)"
- Vision: To make India one of the top Air Sports Nations by 2030
- Ministry of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia | Constituency – Guna, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Civil Aviation: V. K. Singh

**16.** Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) launched its mega bond sale to raise \$3-5 billion from offshore investors. This is the largest-ever foreign currency bond sale by an Indian company and the year's first fundraising from. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Reliance Industries – launched its mega bond sale to raise \$3-5 billion from offshore investors
- This is the largest-ever foreign currency bond sale by an Indian company
- HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani | Founded in – 1973



**17.** On January 5, the Smart Cities Mission, under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched “Smart cities and Academia towards Action & Research (SAAR)” program, a joint initiative of MoHUA, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and 15 leading Indian academic institutions of India. The first activity envisaged under SAAR is to prepare a compendium of 75 landmark urban projects distributed across 47 Smart cities in India under the Smart City Mission.

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoHUA + NIUA + 15 Indian Academic Institutions = launched “SAAR” program
- SAAR – Smart cities and Academia towards Action & Research

**18.** After becoming extinct in 1952, Cheetah is all set to return to India as the central government launched an action plan under which 50 Cheetahs will be introduced in the next 5 years. Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched the action plan at the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). The minister also released a ‘Water Atlas’, mapping all the water bodies in the tiger-bearing areas of India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bhupender Yadav – launched an Action Plan to introduce 50 Cheetahs in India in the next 5 years
- Bhupender Yadav – released a ‘Water Atlas’ mapping all the water bodies in the tiger-bearing areas of India

**19.** On January 6, Delhi Assembly passed an amendment Bill to the “Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1971”, recognizing ‘Takht Damdama Sahib’ as the 5<sup>th</sup> Takht of Sikhs. There are five Sikh Takhts, three in Punjab and one each in Maharashtra and Bihar. Takht Damdama Sahib is located in Bathinda, Punjab. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi Assembly – passed an amendment Bill recognizing ‘Takht Damdama Sahib’ as the 5<sup>th</sup> Takht of Sikhs
- Takht Damdama Sahib – located in Bathinda, Punjab
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**20.** In January 2022, Telangana launched the first of its kind mobile app “Urban Forest Parks” that gives information about the nearest theme based urban parks and forest area. The app provides all the information about the parks, including entry ticket fee, special features of the park, distance from the app user, route app etc. The app has been developed by ‘PamTen Software Solutions Private Limited’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Telangana – launched “Urban Forest Parks” mobile app | Developed by – PamTen Software Solutions
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**21.** In January 2022, Honasa Consumer Pvt. Ltd. (HCPL), the parent company of ‘Mamaearth’ became the 1<sup>st</sup> unicorn of 2022 & the latest entrant to the coveted club after it closed a \$52 million funding round led by Sequoia Global. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Honasa Consumer Pvt Ltd, the parent company of ‘Mamaearth’ – became the 1<sup>st</sup> unicorn of 2022
- HQs of Honasa Consumer Pvt. Ltd. – New Delhi | CEO – Varun Alagh

**22.** On January 5, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated “Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science & Technology (KCCRSST)” at Chandigarh University, the first of its kind in North India. The Defence Minister also launched Chandigarh University’s Defence Scholarship Scheme, worth Rs 10 Cr, for the wards of Defence Personnel of the three services. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – inaugurated “Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space S&T” – at Chandigarh University
- Rajnath Singh – launched Chandigarh University’s “Defence Scholarship Scheme” – worth Rs 10 Cr

**23.** On January 5, Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Pashupati Kumar Paras launched 6 brands developed as part of the ‘One District-One Product’ (ODOP) approach under a central scheme “PMFMES” (Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises). The six brands launched are Amrit Phal, Cori Gold, Kashmiri Mantra, Madhu Mantra, Somdana, and Whole Wheat Cookies of Dilli Bakes. The central scheme PMFMES aims to provide financial, technical and business support for upgradation/setting up of 2 lakh micro food processing units based on the ‘ODOP’ approach in a period of 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an outlay of Rs 10,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoFPI – launched 6 brands developed as part of the ‘One District-One Product’ (ODOP) under “PMFMES” scheme
- Total outlay of “PMFMES” scheme – Rs 10,000 Cr | Launched in – June 2020
- [Ministry of Food Processing Industries: Pashu Pati Kumar Paras](#) | [Constituency – Hajipur, Bihar](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Food Processing Industries: Prahalad Singh Patel](#)

**24.** On January 6, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the scheme on Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II for Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS) in 7 states namely, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The transmission systems will be created over a period of 5 years from FY 2021-22 to 2025-26. The scheme is targeted to be set up with total estimated cost of Rs 12,031.33 Cr and Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of 33% of the project cost. Besides, the cabinet approved signing of an MoU between India and Nepal to construct a bridge over River Mahakali. The bridge will help the people living in Uttarakhand’s Dharchula and in the area under Nepal territory. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved the scheme on Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II for Intra-State Transmission System in 7 states
- Estimated cost – Rs 12,031.33 Cr (CFA - 33%) | Period – 5 years from FY 2021-22 to 2025-26
- Cabinet approved an MoU between India & Nepal – to construct a bridge over ‘River Mahakali’

**25.** On January 5, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated a 2-day International Conference of Academic Institutions at Science City, Gujarat as a precursor to the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit which was held between January 10 and 12. During the inaugural ceremony, Bhupendra Patel launched the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the “Student Start-up and Innovation Policy (SSIP 2.0)”. The SSIP 2.0 will remain in force till March 2027. The new policy aims to establish an innovation and incubation centre in each of the 90-odd universities in Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bhupendra Patel – inaugurated a 2-day “International Conference of Academic Institutions” at Science City, Gujarat
- Bhupendra Patel – launched the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of “Student Start-up & Innovation Policy (SSIP 2.0)”
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar](#) | [CM – Bhupendra Patel](#) | [Governor – Acharya Devvrat](#)



**26.** On January 7, the Election Commission of India (ECI) enhanced the candidate expenditure limit for Parliamentary Constituencies and Assembly Constituencies. The poll body increased the expenditure limit for the Parliamentary constituencies to Rs 95 lakh (from Rs 70 lakh) for bigger states and Rs 75 lakh (from Rs 54 lakh) for smaller states. Likewise, the expenditure amount was revised to Rs 40 lakh (from Rs 28 lakh) for Assembly constituencies in bigger states while that in smaller states was increased to Rs 28 lakh (from Rs 20 lakh). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ECI enhanced the candidate expenditure limit for Parliamentary & Assembly Constituencies
- Parliamentary Constituencies: Rs 95 lakh for bigger states & Rs 75 lakh for smaller states
- Assembly Constituencies: Rs 40 lakh for bigger states & Rs 28 lakh for smaller states
- [HQs of ECI – New Delhi](#) | [Chief Election Commissioner – Sushil Chandra \(24<sup>th</sup>\)](#) | [Formed on – 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950](#)

**27.** Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that Indian Railways plans to implement 'Plan Bee' throughout India. 'Plan Bee' adopted by the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is a unique amplifying system imitating the buzz of a swarm of Honey Bees to keep Elephants away from railway tracks. 'Plan Bee' had also won "Best Innovation Award" by Indian Railways in July, 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Railways plans to implement 'Plan Bee' throughout India
- Initially adopted by – Northeast Frontier Railway | Award won in 2019 – "Best Innovation Award"
- [HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman & CEO – Vinay Kumar Tripathi](#)

**28.** Mud Crab Reovirus (MCRV), also known as 'Sleeping Disease', caused the mass mortality (death) of Wild Crabs (Scylla serrate) in Andhra Pradesh. Joint research by M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) and Centre for Advanced Study in Marine Biology (Tamil Nadu) confirmed the presence of MCRV in the collected samples. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mud Crab Reovirus (MCRV) or Sleeping Disease – caused the mass death of Wild Crabs in Andhra Pradesh
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati \(LC\), Visakhapatnam \(EC\) & Kurnool \(JC\)](#)
- [CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy](#) | [Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan](#)

**29.** In January 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was trapped on a flyover for 20 minutes by protesters in Punjab. The Special Protection Group (SPG) is responsible for the safety and security of the prime minister. For visits to the states, the SPG follows the instructions as stated in the 'Blue Book'. The instructions in the 'Blue Book' are issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi was trapped on a flyover for 20 minutes by protesters in Punjab (in Jan 2022)
- SPG is responsible for the safety & security of the PM
- SPG follows the instructions as stated in the 'Blue Book' – issued by Ministry of Home Affairs

**30.** On January 12, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated 11 new government Medical Colleges and the new campus of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) in Tamil Nadu. The institutes were established under the Centre's 'Establishing of New Medical Colleges attached with existing district/referral hospital' scheme. While the new campus of CICT was fully-funded by the Central government and built at a cost of ₹24 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- PM Modi inaugurated 11 new Medical Colleges & new campus of Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) in Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi
- HQs of CICT – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairperson – M. K. Stalin | Director – R. Chandrasekaran

**31.** On January 8, National Health Mission, Assam in collaboration with Piramal Swasthya and Cisco launched project “Niramay” to demonstrate the integration of digital health technology to strengthen the public health care delivery in the state. This initiative is based on Piramal Swasthya’s indigenous integrated health technology platform ‘AMRIT’. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- National Health Mission (Assam) + Piramal Swasthya + Cisco = launched project “Niramay” for digital health technology
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- Location of Piramal Swasthya Management & Research Institute (NGO) – Hyderabad, Telangana
- HQs of Cisco – California, US | CEO – Chuck Robbins

**32.** On January 6, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 572 km of National Highway (NH) projects at a cost of Rs 12,981 Cr in Kaushambi, Ayodhya and Basti in Uttar Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari laid foundation stones for 572km NH projects in Kaushambi, Ayodhya & Basti (UP) | Cost - Rs 12,981 Cr
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**33.** In January 2022, The Haryana government has proposed to set up the first heli-hub of the country in Gurugram the 1<sup>st</sup> of its kind in the country to have all the facilities at one place like heliport, hangars, repairs, & any other related services. It is in alignment with the NCRPB Regional Plan 2041 to introduce heli-taxi service in the region. Also, Maharaja Agrasen Airport is being built in Hisar. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Haryana – proposed to set up 1<sup>st</sup> heli-hub of India – in Gurugram
- Maharaja Agrasen Airport – being built in Hisar, Haryana
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

**34.** In January 2022, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2<sup>nd</sup> campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute (CNCI) in Kolkata in a virtual event. The facility will help in ensuring quality healthcare to the poor & the middle class & will be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for cancer diagnosis, staging, treatment & care. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – inaugurated the 2<sup>nd</sup> campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute in Kolkata
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar



**35.** In January 2022, Shri Rajnath Singh flagged-in India's first 'Multi-dimensional Adventure Sports Expedition' conducted by National Institute of Mountaineering & Allied Sports (NIMAS) in France. The expedition was conducted in November 2021 & the team was led by Director NIMAS Colonel Sarfaraz Singh. The expedition team carried out over 250km of winter trekking in the Alps Mountain Ranges followed by 975km of cycling from Alps Mountain Ranges to English Channel near Dunkirk via France, Switzerland & Belgium & culminated with 12 deep scuba dives in the Mediterranean Sea. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – flagged-in India's 1<sup>st</sup> 'Multi-dimensional Adventure Sports Expedition' (conducted in France by - NIMAS)
- Expedition team lead by – Sarfaraz Singh
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

**36.** On January 6, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) released guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for waste Tyres. As per data provided for an NGT case, India discards roughly 2,75,000 tyres each year but does not have comprehensive plan for them. After 2024-25, the EPR obligation will be 100% of the quantity of new tyres manufactured or imported in the year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoEFCC – released guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for waste Tyres

**37.** As on January 2022, Union Minister Piyush Goyal plans to launch Brand India Campaign. This campaign will serve as an "umbrella campaign" for promoting goods & services exported by India. He also reviewed the status of Brand India Campaign of India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF). IBEF is a trust established by Department of Commerce with the primary objective of promoting & creating international awareness of the 'Made in India'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Piyush Goyal – to launch "Brand India Campaign", an umbrella campaign to promote goods & services exported by India
- "Brand India Campaign" – belongs to India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF)
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash

**38.** In January 2022, in line with Prime Minister's dream of "Sweet Kranti" (Sweet Revolution) though honey production, KVIC launched the country's first "Mobile Honey Processing Van" at Village Sirora in Ghaziabad, UP. The van is equipped with a testing laboratory that would instantly examine the quality of honey & can process up to 300 KG of honey in 8 hours. The van will move to different apiaries where beekeepers will be able to get their honey processed at nominal charges at their doorsteps. It will also eliminate any scope for adulteration of honey. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- KVIC – launched India's 1<sup>st</sup> Mobile Honey Processing Van in Ghaziabad, UP
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Founded in – 1956



**39.** On January 8, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Flagged Off The First 'Jan Shatabdi Express' Between Badharghat Railway Station in Tripura & Jiribam Railway station in Manipur through video conference. Tripura also has two pairs of DEMU trains providing local train services in northern & southern parts of the state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ashwini Vaishnaw – flagged off first 'Jan Shatabdi Express' between Badharghat (Tripura) & Jiribam (Manipur)
- Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardosh
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan

**40.** On January 10, Ministry of Railways approved the renaming of the Statue of Unity's Kevadiya Railway Station as Ekta Nagar Railway Station. This Gujarat's railway station falls under the Vadodara division. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kevadiya Railway Station – renamed as Ekta Nagar Railway Station (Kevadiya, Gujarat)
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**41.** On January 11, Western Railway Zone launched a new initiative "Mission Amanat" to track the lost belongings of passengers. The Railway Protection Force uploads the information of the lost luggage and belonging in the web portal "wr.indianrailways.gov.in" in the tab of divisions under the link "Mission Amanat - RPF". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Western Railway Zone – launched a new initiative "Mission Amanat" to track the lost belongings of passengers
- HQs of Western Railway Zone – Mumbai, Maharashtra | GM – Anil Kumar Lahoti

**42.** On January 10, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) gave 'Category I' licence to SJVN Ltd for the inter-state trading of power in the entire country. If the licensee fails to undertake trading in electricity within one year from the date of licence, the licence will be liable for revocation in accordance with the provisions of the Act and Trading Licence Regulations. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CERC gave 'Category I' licence to "SJVN Ltd" for the Inter-state Trading of Power in India
- HQs of CERC – New Delhi | Chairman – P. K. Pujari
- HQs of SJVN – Shimla, Himachal Pradesh | MD & Chairman – Nand Lal Sharma

**43.** On January 12, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a Technology Centre of the MSME Ministry, established at Puducherry, on the occasion of National youth day. The Technology Centre is set up with an investment of about Rs. 122 Cr. This Centre will boost skill development & inculcate entrepreneurial spirit among the youth. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi – inaugurated a Technology Centre of the MSME Ministry at Puducherry
- Ministry of MSME: Narayan Rane | Constituency – Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of MSME: Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma
- Puducherry: CM – N. Rangasamy | Governor – Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge)

**44.** On January 11, India's oldest sloth bear, named Gulabo, died at the age of 40 at the Van Vihar National Park and Zoo in Bhopal. The female sloth bear was rescued from a Madaari or street performer in May 2006 at the age of 25 years. The Van Vihar National Park is located on the banks of Bhopal's Upper Lake. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Gulabo" - India's oldest sloth bear – died at Van Vihar National Park (Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh)
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel](#)

**45.** On January 8, Assam government issued a notification for adding 200.32 sq. km to the Orang National Park. It will make Orang National Park more than thrice of its existing size. This expansion is for the conservation of the gharials (*Gavialis gangeticus*) that were wiped out from the Brahmaputra River system in the 1950s. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Assam – to make "Orang National Park" more than thrice of its existing size for the conservation of the 'gharials'
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)

**46.** On January 12, Subhas Sarkar, Minister of State for Education launched "Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) 2021-2022". In order to create self-motivation & awareness about sanitation the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) was 1<sup>st</sup> instituted by the Department of School Education & Literacy in 2016-17. At the National level, 40 schools will be selected for awards this year under the overall category. Schools shall be awarded at the District, State and National level. The award money for the schools has been enhanced this year from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 60,000/- per school, under Samagra Shiksha scheme. Also, 6 sub-category wise awards have been introduced for the 1<sup>st</sup> time, with award money of Rs. 20,000/- per school. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Subhas Sarkar (Mini. of Education) – launched "Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2021-22"
- Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar – instituted by the Department of School Education & Literacy in 2016-17
- Award money – enhanced from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 60,000/- per school under 'Samagra Shiksha Scheme'
- [Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar](#)

**47.** On January 03, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone for the Heartfulness International Yoga academy at Hyderabad. The Heartfulness Academy (Shri Ram Chandra Mission) will have a recording Yoga hall for Live online Yoga Classes. It will also have a Yoga library with books from every Yoga Institutions and access to Yoga research articles. The 75 Cr Suryanamaskar Initiative, a tribute to 75 years of India's independence, as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was also inaugurated by him to create the largest Surya Namaskar event. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sarbananda Sonowal – laid the foundation stone for the 'Heartfulness International Yoga Academy' at Hyderabad
- Sarbananda Sonowal – inaugurated 75 Cr Suryanamaskar Initiative to create the largest Surya Namaskar event
- [Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjapara Mahendrabhai](#)



**48.** On January 12, Supreme Court appointed former judge Indu Malhotra as chairperson of a panel to investigate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security lapse in Punjab. The committee will look into the causes of the security breach that left PM Modi's convoy stuck on a flyover for 15-20 minutes. The Ministry of Home Affairs also constituted a 3 member committee for the same which will be led by Sudhir Kumar Saxena. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Judge Indu Malhotra – will head the panel set by Supreme Court to investigate Narendra Modi's security lapse in Punjab
- Sudhir Kumar Saxena – will head a 3-member committee constituted by Ministry of Home Affairs for the same
- [Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana \(48<sup>th</sup>\)](#)

**49.** On January 15, the 10<sup>th</sup> century stone idol of Goat Head Yogini that had been illegally removed from a temple in Lokhari village in Banda district of Uttar Pradesh, was handed back to India from the UK. The Ministry of Culture informed that the stone idol had been stolen in sometimes the 1980s. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 10<sup>th</sup> century stone idol of 'Goat Head Yogini' – handed back to India from the UK
- It was illegally removed from a temple in Lokhari, Banda, Uttar Pradesh
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)
- [UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson](#)

**50.** On January 10, Uttar Pradesh government declared 4 villages located near the Nepal border in the district as revenue villages. These 4 villages are Bhavanipur, Tedhia, Dhakia & Bichhia located in Mihinpurwa tehsil of the district. A revenue village is a small administrative region with defined borders. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttar Pradesh – declared 4 villages located near Nepal as Revenue Villages (Bhavanipur, Tedhia, Dhakia & Bichhia)
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)
- [Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba](#)

**51.** On January 15, Tamil Nadu government will install a statue of Col. John Pennycuik in Camberley, United Kingdom, the birthplace of the British Army Engineer/Architect. He was instrumental in constructing the Mullaperiyar Dam in Kerala. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – to install a statue of Col. John Pennycuik in Camberley, UK
- Mullaperiyar Dam (over Periyar river) – in Kerala
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

**52.** On January 16, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh L. Mandaviya released a commemorative Postal Stamp on COVID-19 Vaccine to mark the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of India's 'National Covid-19 Vaccination Program', which was rolled out in India on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. It is the world's largest and most successful vaccination drive. The commemorative stamp design features a healthcare worker inoculating a senior citizen with COVID-19 vaccine, along with an image of 'COVAXIN' vial. The denomination of Postal Stamp is Rs 5. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Mansukh L. Mandaviya – released a commemorative Postal Stamp of Rs 5 to mark the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of India's 'National Covid-19 Vaccination Program'
- India's 'National Covid-19 Vaccination Program' – launched on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

**53.** On January 15, Union Minister for Heavy Industries Mahendra Nath Pandey dedicated India's first BHEL-built "Coal to Methanol (CTM)" pilot plant to the nation. It is built in the Hyderabad unit of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL).

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mahendra Nath Pandey – dedicated India's first "Coal to Methanol (CTM)" plant to the nation – located in Hyderabad
- CTM plant is built by – BHEL
- HQs of BHEL – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Nalin Shinghal

**54.** On January 11, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the 'Jagananna Smart Township' website to give land with clear and litigation-free titles in a transparent manner and at a reasonable price below the non-profit market. The Jagananna Smart Townships (MIGs) are being set up by the state government. Those citizens with an annual income of up to Rs 18 lakh are eligible to apply for plots in Jagananna Smart Townships. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- YS Jagan Mohan Reddy – launched 'Jagananna Smart Township' website to give land to the middle-class families
- Citizens with annual income of up to Rs 18 lakh are eligible to apply for plots
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**55.** The Koppal Toy Cluster (KTC), the 1<sup>st</sup> such infrastructure in the country, will be operational in March 2022. It is being set up by Aequs Infra, a group company of Belagavi-based Aequs Pvt. Ltd. KTC is being set up on a spread of over 400 acres of land. The cluster is also estimated to attract an investment of over ₹4,000 Cr & create over 25,000 direct jobs (mostly for women in North Karnataka) & over a lakh indirect jobs. Educational toys are a sizable part of this market.

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Koppal Toy Cluster (Karnataka) – being set up by Aequs Infra, will be operational in March 2022
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot
- HQs of Aequs Pvt Ltd – Belagavi, Karnataka | CEO & chairman – Aravind Melligeri
- HQs of Toy Association of India – New Delhi | President – Ajay Aggarwal

**56.** On January 11, Kerala launched 'The Citizen Constitution Literacy Campaign' in Kollam district jointly with the Kollam district panchayat, District Planning Committee, & the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA). Its target is to declare Kollam a totally Constitution literate district on August 14 midnight. The entire population of Kollam above the age of 10 will be briefed on the preamble of the Constitution, its historical background & the basic principles of the Constitution. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Kerala – launched “The Citizen Constitution Literacy Campaign” to make Kollam a totally Constitution literate district
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**57.** On January 13, the Indian Railways decided to redesignate the post of ‘Train Guard’ as ‘Train Manager’. Also, assistant guard will now be ‘assistant passenger train manager’, goods guard will be ‘goods train manager’, a senior passengers’ guard will be ‘senior passenger train manager’ and mail or express train guard will be mail/express train manager. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Railways decided to redesignate the post of ‘Train Guard’ as ‘Train Manager’
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Vinay Kumar Tripathi

**58.** To strengthen the Cyber Security Ecosystem in India, the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) conducted a 6-day Deep Dive Training Program for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs). The 26<sup>th</sup> CISO Deep Dive Training Program was organised under the ‘Cyber Surakshit Bharat’ initiative from January 17 to 22, 2022. MeitY had initiated the Cyber Surakshit Programme in January 2018. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NeGD (MeitY) – conducted the 26<sup>th</sup> Deep Dive Training Program for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs)
- The program was organised under – ‘Cyber Surakshit Bharat’ initiative

**59.** On January 14, the Defence Ministry launched “Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal” to resolve pension-related grievances of ex-servicemen (ESM) and their dependents. The portal will allow them to lodge grievances directly with the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW). Also, DESW allotted ₹320 Cr to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF) to clear all backlog of pending applications for welfare schemes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Defence Ministry – launched “Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal” to resolve pension-related grievances
- DESW – allotted ₹320 Cr to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

**60.** On January 13, The State government notified Andhra Pradesh Mahila Police (Subordinate Service) Rules, 2021, facilitating the creation of separate women police cadre under the Police Department. The special uniformed (khaki) women wing consists of inspectors (non-gazetted), sub-inspectors, assistant sub-inspectors, senior Mahila police & Mahila police personnel. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh – notified “Mahila Police Rules 2021” & created a separate ‘Women Police Cadre’
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**61.** On January 11, Lakshadweep became the 1<sup>st</sup> among UTs & states to vaccinate all 3,469 eligible children in the age group of 15 to 18 years. Vaccination of children began from January 3 in all the 10 inhabited islands. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Lakshadweep – 1<sup>st</sup> among UTs & states to vaccinate all eligible children in the age group of 15 to 18 years
- Lakshadweep: Kavaratti | Administrator – Praful Patel

**62.** On January 12, CtrlS announced deployment of Asia's largest Gas Insulated Substation (GIS) in Mumbai. It is currently equipped with a 300MW & can scale up to 700MW and backed by 3 different sources and diversified paths ensuring 100% availability of power at all times. It is highly corrosion resistant, seismic resistant, having operating life of greater than 50 years, with no maintenance requirement for 25 years & protected against aggressive environmental conditions. The Gas Insulated Substation (GIS) technology originally began in Japan in the 60's. In comparison, the total space required for a GIS is roughly 10% of that needed for a conventional AIS (Air-Insulated Substation) facility. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CtrlS – announced deployment of Asia's largest Gas Insulated Substation (GIS) in Mumbai (equipped with 300MW)
- HQs of CtrlS – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Sridhar Pinnapureddy

**63.** On January 15, University Grants Commission (UGC) brought all Higher Education Institutions, irrespective of their accreditation or rankings, on the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) platform. The ABC framework is part of 'National Education Policy (NEP) 2020'. ABC platform enables students to switch between institutions and multiple entries and exits to and from the programme. Under the "UGC (Establishment and Operation of Academic Bank of Credits in Higher Education) Regulations, 2021", now any university or college, irrespective of ranking, can participate and register to come under the ABC framework. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UGC brought all Higher Education Institutions on the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) platform
- HQs of UGC – New Delhi | Chairman – Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar | Founded in – 1956

**64.** On January 17, Legendary 'Collarwali' Tigress died in Madhya Pradesh at after living for 17 years. The tigress, who had earned the title of 'Supermom', died in Pench Tiger Reserve due to old age. She gave birth to total 29 cubs. Her contribution is immense in restoring back the ecological balance by improving the tiger population. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 'Collarwali' (Supermom) tigress died – in Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**65.** In January 13, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MoI&B) asked television monitoring agency Broadcast Audience Research Council India (BARC) to release viewership ratings of news channels with immediate effect. The ministry also announced the formation of a Working Group under the chairmanship of Prasara Bharti CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati to study different aspects of capturing data, including return path data (RPD) capabilities, to improve television rating point (TRP) services. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of I & B – asked 'BARC' to release viewership ratings of news channels
- Ministry of I & B – formed a Working Group to improve TRP services – headed by Shashi Shekhar Vempati
- HQs of BARC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Nakul Chopra | Chairman – Punit Goenka

**66.** India's Laxmanrao Inamdar National Academy for Cooperative Research and Development (LINAC) signed an agreement with the International Co-Operative Alliance Asia and Pacific (ICAAP) intending to assimilate and develop further on the core strengths, experience, and institutional objectives in the interest of advancement of research in on Cooperative Sector. ICAAP president Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) president Dileep Sanghani jointly released a policy recommendation handbook "Sahakar Pragya: Good Practices for Cooperatives". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- LINAC + ICAAP = an agreement on Cooperative Sector
- Chandra Pal Singh Yadav + Dileep Sanghani = released a policy recommendation handbook "Sahakar Pragya: Good Practices for Cooperatives"
- LINAC ([Gurugram, Haryana](#)) – functions under National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

**67.** On January 16, the "National Startup Day 2022", Flipkart announced the evolution of its flagship startup accelerator programme, "Flipkart Leap", to identify wider and relevant market opportunities for its selected startups. After the successful completion of the first cohort of the programme, Flipkart Leap will now evolve into two new programmes - Flipkart Leap Ahead (FLA) and Flipkart Leap Innovation Network (FLIN). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Flipkart – launched its flagship startup accelerator programme "Flipkart Leap"
- 'Flipkart Leap' is evolved into 2 new programmes: Flipkart Leap Ahead (FLA) & Flipkart Leap Innovation Network (FLIN)
- [HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka](#) | [Chairperson – Binny Bansal](#) | [CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy](#)

**68.** On January 15, union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated 'Power MAP' medical analytics application developed by Madhavbaug (Vaidya Sane Ayurved Labs Ltd). Power MAP is built for doctors to help them get necessary medical intelligence regarding a patient's clinical parameters to reverse their chronic diseases effectively. Madhavbaug is a unique medical service institution that treats chronic ailments like cardiac disease, diabetes, hypertension and obesity with the distinctive outlook of amalgamating technology with traditional healing of Ayurveda. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nitin Gadkari – inaugurated medical analytics application 'Power MAP' developed by Madhavbaug
- [Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: Nitin Gadkari](#) | [Constituency – Nagpur, Maharashtra](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: V. K. Singh](#)

**69.** On January 15, Chhattisgarh launched an employment mission called 'Rojgar Mission'. Around 12-15 lakh employment opportunities will be created in the state through the mission in the next 5 years. The 'Chhattisgarh Rojgar Mission', headed by the chief minister, will have chief secretary Amitabh Jain and principal secretary Alok Shukla as the vice chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) respectively. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chhattisgarh – launched "Rojgar Mission" to create around 15 lakh job opportunities
- [Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur](#) | [CM – Bhupesh Baghel](#) | [Governor – Anusuiya Uikey](#)





**70.** On January 14, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), on its 147<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day, launched operations of 4 new Doppler Weather Radars (DWR), one each in Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, and Leh, to further improve the weather forecast system in these cities/region. It also announced to use 'Drone-based Observation Technology' in a big way in the future for strengthening the localized forecasting across. Besides, Minister of Earth Sciences, Jitendra Singh launched the Crowd source mobile app "Public Observation" for different weather services. Jitendra Singh also launched India's 1<sup>st</sup> Climate Hazard & Vulnerability Atlas based on the 13 most hazardous meteorological events. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 14 – 147<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of IMD
- IMD – launched operations of 4 new Doppler Weather Radars (DWR) – in Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai & Leh
- Jitendra Singh – launched the Crowd source mobile app "Public Observation"
- Jitendra Singh – also launched India's 1<sup>st</sup> Climate Hazard & Vulnerability Atlas
- HQs of IMD – New Delhi | Director General – Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra | Founded in – 1875

**71.** The UK-based Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) has listed 5 sites with unusual features in the world. These sites are associated with World War I and World War II. In India, the CWGC listed Kohima War Cemetery as the site with unusual features. Kohima War Cemetery is one of 23,000 World War graves across the continents maintained by the CWGC. Nagaland's capital Kohima probably has the only cemetery on the Earth that sports a Tennis Court. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CWGC listed 5 sites (associated with 'World War I & II') as the 'sites with unusual features' in the world
- Kohima War Cemetery (Nagaland) – one of 23,000 World War graves across the continents maintained by the CWGC
- Kohima (Nagaland) – has the only cemetery on the Earth that sports a Tennis Court
- HQs of CWGC – Maidenhead, UK | DG – Claire Horton

**72.** Ministry of Science & Technology, through the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), had launched "Aroma Mission" which led to the well-known "Purple Revolution" in India. "Purple Revolution" is Jammu & Kashmir's contribution to "Start-ups India". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Aroma Mission" – launched by Ministry of S&T – led to the well-known "Purple Revolution" in India
- "Purple Revolution" – J&K's contribution to the 'Start-ups India'
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**73.** On January 19, the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) launched a new project called the "Digital Government Mission" to speed up delivery of citizen services through the help of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) in line with the Prime Minister's vision of accelerating the digitalisation of government. With this, benefits will be offered to citizens without them having to apply for it. Citizens will also have easier access to subsidised food grains through ration cards. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MeitY – launched "Digital Government Mission" project to speed up delivery of citizen services
- MoS (I/C) in the Ministry of Science & Technology: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K
- MoS in the Department of Atomic Energy and Space: Dr. Jitendra Singh

**74.** On January 18, the KIMSHEALTH Medical Devices Testing and Calibration Lab (KMDTCL) won 'NABL (National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories) recognition' & became the country's 2<sup>nd</sup> & Kerala's 1<sup>st</sup> hospital group to receive the honour. The NABL recognition enables the KIMS hospital to bypass the tedious procedure of sending its equipment to other labs for certification in proceeding with urgent treatments for critical diseases. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- KMDTCL – became India's 2<sup>nd</sup> & Kerala's 1<sup>st</sup> hospital group to win 'NABL recognition'
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**75.** On January 17, Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi launched a new Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) policy applicable to landowners of Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Ltd's (NLCIL) mines area. The minister ensured that compensation to the affected villagers will be based on the fair and transparent process. The new policy has provisions for enhanced amenities to the project-affected families. NLC India Limited, a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Coal and has been playing a pivotal role in ensuring India's energy security during the last 6 decades of performance. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pralhad Joshi – launched a new "Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) Policy" of NLCIL
- Ministry of Coal & Ministry of Mines: Pralhad Joshi | Constituency – Dharwad, Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Coal & Ministry of Mines: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao

**76.** On January 19, the Union Cabinet approved the extension of the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) for 3 years beyond March 31, 2022. The NCSK was established in the year 1993 as per the provisions of the 'NCSK Act 1993'. The NCSK Act ceased to have effect from February, 2004. After that the tenure of the NCSK was extended as a non-statutory body from time to time through resolutions. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Union Cabinet – approved the extension of the tenure of the 'NCSK' for 3 years beyond 31.3.2022
- NCSK – functions under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

**77.** On January 20, Jammu & Kashmir administration declared Jerri Settlement (Jerri hamlet) in Reasi district as the first 'Milk Village' of the Union Territory and sanctioned 57 more dairy farms under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS) for the hamlet. Under the IDDS, dairy units of 5 animals are provided with a 50% subsidy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- J & K declared Jerri settlement (Jerri hamlet) in Reasi district as the first 'Milk Village' of the UT
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**78.** On January 20, Karnataka, which was the first in India to bring an AVGC policy in 2012, also became the first state to set up the "AVGC Center of Excellence" (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics) in Mahadevapura, Bengaluru. Karnataka accounts for a 20% share of the Indian Entertainment & AVGC industry. While India commands around 10% of the global AVGC market and has the potential to reach 20-25% by 2027. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's first "AVGC Center of Excellence" (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics) – set up in Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Karnataka accounts for 20% share of the Indian Entertainment & AVGC industry
- India commands around 10% of the global AVGC market
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot](#)

**79.** On January 20, Union Minister of State for Science & Technology, Jitendra Singh launched a Mobile Covid testing facility, a first of its kind Mobile Diagnostic Laboratory (I-LAB) for Northeast India, beginning with Mizoram. The mobile lab has bio-safety facility and is capable of performing both RT-PCR and ELISA tests. It has been developed by the AMTZ (Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jitendra Singh – launched a Mobile Covid testing facility for Northeast India, beginning with Mizoram
- [Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – B. D. Mishra \(addi. charge\)](#)

**80.** In January 2022, Telangana Health Minister T. Harish Rao inaugurated a 100 Bedded MCH (Mother & Child Health Care) Hospital and 20 Bedded SNCU (Special Newborn Care Units) at Wanaparthy under the 'KCR Kit' scheme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Telangana – inaugurated 100 Bedded MCH Hospital & 20 Bedded SNCU at Wanaparthy under the 'KCR Kit' scheme
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

**81.** Tripura is now home to India's first Bamboo Park that has been set up to boost industries in the Northeast region, whereas the first-of-its-kind multi-purpose Bashgram (Bamboo Village) also came up in the state to boost eco-tourism in the region. The goal is to turn bashgram into a world-class medical-cum-eco tourism hub, using the locally available resources. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's first 'Bamboo Park' & 'Bamboo Village' (Bashgram) – set up in Tripura
- [Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya](#)

**82.** "Miss Kerala" (Denison barb), a native freshwater fish species, commonly found in parts of Karnataka and Kerala, has been included in 'Schedule I' of the 'Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021'. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December last. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Miss Kerala" (Denison barb), a fish species – included in 'Schedule I' of 'Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021'
- This species is commonly found in parts of Karnataka & Kerala
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

**83.** On January 17, Common Services Centers (CSC) launched the "Yogyata" mobile app to provide vocational education and skill enhancement opportunities to youth and citizens in rural areas across India. The enrolments under the app will be carried out by the Village Level Entrepreneurs, managing the CSCs across India. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- CSC launched “Yogyata” mobile app to impart skill-based Vocational Education to rural youth across India
- HQs of CSC – New Delhi | Chairman – Ajay Prakash Sawhney | MD – Dinesh Kumar Tyagi

**84.** On January 21, Coal Secretary Dr. Anil Kumar Jain launched “Koyla Darpan” portal to share Key Performance Indicators related to the Coal Sector. The portal is accessible through the website of the Ministry of Coal for maximum public outreach. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Anil Kumar Jain – launched “Koyla Darpan” portal to share Key Performance Indicators related to Coal Sector
- Ministry of Coal: Pralhad Joshi | Constituency – Dharwad, Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Coal: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao

**85.** On January 17, Justice DY Chandrachud virtually inaugurated a ‘Justice clock’ that has been set up in Gujarat High Court along with its e-version on its website, as well as an e-court fees system for all the courts in the state. Gujarat High Court became the 1<sup>st</sup> in India to have a ‘Justice clock’, which is an outdoor display LED wall within the court premises to display disposal and pendency of cases, etc. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gujarat High Court – 1<sup>st</sup> high court in India to have a ‘Justice clock’, virtually inaugurated by Justice DY Chandrachud
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Devvrat
- Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court – Vikram Nath

**86.** On January 18, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) organized ‘Streets for People Challenge’ & ‘Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge’. The event was chaired by Manoj Joshi, Secretary, MoHUA. The ministry also launched Season-2 of India Cycles4Change. A book titled “Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge: Stories from the Field” was also launched. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoHUA – organized ‘Streets for People Challenge’ & ‘Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge’
- The event was chaired by – Manoj Joshi (Secretary in MoHUA)
- MoHUA – launched a book titled “Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge: Stories from the Field”
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore

**87.** On January 18, Andhra Pradesh government banned 100-year-old ‘Chintamani Natakam’ over objectionable dialogues & characters in the play. The objections were raised by the Arya Vysya community. The play was written by the famous reformer, playwright and cinematographer ‘Kallakuri Narayana Rao’ nearly 100 years ago. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh – banned 100-year-old ‘Chintamani Natakam’ written by ‘Kallakuri Narayana Rao’
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan



**88.** On January 18, cabinet approved the “Mana Ooru Mana Badi” Programme. The programme will be implemented in 3 years with a budget of ₹7,289 Cr. The amount will be spent on setting up digital classrooms, construction of additional classrooms & taking up repairs to schools. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Telangana – launched the “Mana Ooru Mana Badi” Programme for development of basic infrastructure in schools
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad](#) | [CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao](#) | [Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

**89.** On January 20, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched “Apna Kangra” app to promote local handicrafts through tourism in Kangra. The motive of the app is to empower rural women & provide job opportunities to youth through tourism, while facilitating hospitality services such as hotels, homestays & transport to travellers. He also virtually inaugurated Radhe Krishna Cow Sanctuary at Luthan in Jawalamukhi Vidhan Sabha area of Kangra. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Himachal Pradesh – launched “Apna Kangra” app to promote local handicrafts through Tourism
- ‘Radhe Krishna Cow Sanctuary’ – inaugurated at Luthan, Himachal Pradesh
- [Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala](#) | [CM – Jai Ram Thakur](#) | [Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar](#)

**90.** Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) observed ‘Agri Nutri Garden Week’ from 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 through awareness campaign and encouraging establishment of ‘Agri Nutri Gardens’ in the rural households. A total of 76,664 ‘Agri Nutri Gardens’ were established against the target of 7500. It is the Mission’s agenda to support every rural poor household to have Agri Nutri Garden to fulfill the need of the family’s nutrition and any excess production can also be sold for income generation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 10 to 17 – “Agri Nutri Garden Week” observed by DAY-NRLM
- [Ministry of Rural Development: Giriraj Singh](#) | [Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Rural Development: Faggansingh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti](#)

**91.** On January 20, India’s 1<sup>st</sup> virtual platform for spice exports ‘Spice Xchange India’ was launched. The platform is developed by the Spices Board. The portal, which is a 3D virtual platform, uses AI-based technology to connect Indian spice exporters to relevant spice buyers from around the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Spice Xchange India” - India’s 1<sup>st</sup> virtual platform for Spice Exports was launched (developed by – Spices Board)
- [HQs of Spice Board of India – Kochi, Kerala](#) | [Chairman – A. G. Thankappan](#) (under Ministry of Commerce & Industry)

**92.** Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh released revised “Rural Area Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (RADPFI) Guidelines” prepared by Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Giriraj Singh called upon Panchayati Raj Institutions to take the RADPFI Guidelines as a “Sankalp Patra” for vision India 2047. The revised RADPFI guidelines would serve as the basis for rural transformation and enable effective Land use planning in rural areas. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Giriraj Singh – released revised “Rural Area Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (RADPFI) Guidelines”
- The revised guidelines are prepared by – Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- Ministry of & Panchayati Raj: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Panchayati Raj: Faggansingh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti

**93.** On January 21, the Department of Food and Public Distribution & FCI developed a roadmap to roll out ‘Online Storage Management’ (OSM) in India. The OSM will provide a single source of information for the food grains stored in India for central pool through integrating State portals with the central portal. The OSM will develop an ecosystem of storage management applications across the States. 16 States agreed to develop/implement storage management applications and integrate them with the central portal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DoF&PD + FCI = developed a roadmap to roll out “Online Storage Management” (OSM) in India
- OSM – will provide a single source of information for the food grains stored in India for central pool
- HQs of FCI – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Atish Chandra

**94.** On January 23, Marking Netaji’s 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a hologram of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate. A grand statue of him would be placed soon. The PM also conferred the ‘Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabhandhan Puraskar’ or ‘Awards for Disaster Management’ for 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022. The winners for 2022 were the Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management & Prof. Vinod Sharma, a senior professor at the Indian Institute of Public Administration and the vice-chairperson of the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – unveiled a hologram of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate (on his 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary)
- “Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabhandhan Puraskar for 2022”:
  - Institutional Category: Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management
  - Individual Category: Prof. Vinod Sharma

**95.** On January 20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the launch of ‘Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ki Ore’. Prime Minister also flagged off 7 initiatives of Brahma Kumaris. Brahma Kumaris is a worldwide spiritual movement dedicated to personal transformation & world renewal. It was founded in India in 1937. The event was held on the occasion of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Ascension Anniversary of Pitashree Prajapita Brahma, Founding Father of Brahma Kumaris. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated ‘Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ki Ore’
- Narendra Modi – flagged off 7 initiatives of Brahma Kumaris
- Brahma Kumaris – spiritual movement founded in India in 1937

**96.** On January 6, the Uttar Pradesh government renamed the Sainik School at Mainpuri after 1<sup>st</sup> Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat. Gen Rawat, his wife and 11 other armed forces personnel died after their military helicopter crashed near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Uttar Pradesh – renamed the Sainik School at Mainpuri after 1<sup>st</sup> Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**97.** On January 4, Delhi issued first caste certificate to a son based on his mother's (Geeta Devi) credentials. Previously, SC/ST caste certificates were issued based only on the father's caste certificate or paternal side documents. Due to this, several single mothers couldn't get SC/ST caste certificates for their children. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi – issued first caste certificate to a son based on his mother's credentials (single mother)
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**98.** On January 19, Union Power Secretary chaired the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of SAMARTH (Steering Committee for Sustainable Agrarian Mission on use of Agro Residue in Thermal Power Plants). Ministry of Power's policy mandates all thermal power plants in the country to use 5 to 10% biomass along with coal for power production. The website of the Mission was also reviewed which will be launched shortly with a new logo for SAMARTH. NTPC has emerged as a leader in biomass user having co-fired approx 58,000 MT of biomass, while tendering a total of 10.7 MMT. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Union Power Secretary – chaired the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of 'SAMARTH'
- SAMARTH – Steering Committee for Sustainable Agrarian Mission on use of Agro Residue in Thermal Power Plants
- Ministry of Power's policy – mandates thermal power plants to use 5 to 10% biomass with coal for power production
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal

**99.** On January 23, Kerala released its first ever Scientific Bird Atlas dubbed as "Kerala Bird Atlas (KBA)", the first-of-its-kind state-level bird atlas in India. It is arguably Asia's largest bird atlas in terms of geographical extent, sampling effort and species coverage. The KBA has created solid baseline data about the distribution and abundance of various bird species across all major habitats giving an impetus for futuristic studies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kerala – released Kerala Bird Atlas, Asia's largest bird atlas & the 1<sup>st</sup>-of-its-kind state-level Bird Atlas in India
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**100.** On January 22, Ladakh got its first 'Open Synthetic Track & Football Turf' for football stadium under Khelo India Programme. It is built at open stadium at Spituk, Leh at an estimated cost of ₹10.68 Cr. Khelo India Programme is a Centre's initiative to revive the sports culture in India at the grassroots level. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ladakh – got its first 'Open Synthetic Track & Football Turf' under Khelo India Programme
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur



**101.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 216-foot statue of Ramanujacharya, described as the 'Statue of Equality' in Hyderabad on February 5. The ₹1,000 Cr project was funded entirely by donations from devotees globally. The statue is made of 'Panchaloha', a mix of five metals - gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc. The inner sanctum deity of Ramanujacharya is made of 120 kg of gold to commemorate the 120 years the saint walked this earth. This statue would be one of the tallest statues in a sitting posture. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – unveiled the 'Statue of Equality', a 216-foot statue of Ramanujacharya
- It is made of – 'Panchaloha', a mix of five metals - gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc
- Cost – ₹1,000 Cr, funded entirely by donations from devotees globally
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad](#) | [CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao](#) | [Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

**102.** On January 22, In a move aimed at making drones more accessible to the farmers, the Agriculture Ministry decided to provide 40-100% subsidy until March 2023 in purchasing drone by revising guidelines of Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM). The guidelines have been amended which envisages a grant up to 100% of the cost of agriculture drone or ₹10 lakh, whichever is less. But, this 100% grant will be limited to only Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes, ICAR institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras & State Agriculture Universities. Agriculture graduates establishing Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs) will be eligible to receive 50% of the basic cost of a drone or up to ₹5 lakh in grant for drone purchases. The FPOs would be eligible to receive a subsidy of 75% of the cost of drone if used only for demonstration purpose. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Agriculture Ministry – to provide 40-100% subsidy for drone purchases until March 2023
- 100% grant (₹10 lakh): To Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes, ICAR institutes & Krishi Vigyan Kendras
- 50% grant (₹5 lakh): To Agriculture graduates establishing Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs)
- 75% grant: To FPOs

**103.** On January 26, Andhra Pradesh government issued a draft notification for creating 13 new districts bringing the total figure to 26 districts from existing 13 districts. The two new tribal districts will be Manyam and Alluri Sitarama Raju. The other new districts are Anakapalli (out of the existing Visakhapatnam district), Konaseema and Kakinada (out of East Godavari), Eluru (out of West Godavari), NTR (out of Krishna), Bapatla and Palnadu (out of Guntur), Nandyal (out of Kurnool), Sri Satya Sai (out of Anantapuramu), Annamayya (out of Kadapa) and Sri Balaji (out of Chittoor). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh issued a draft notification for creating 13 new districts (Total districts 26 after addition)
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati \(LC\), Visakhapatnam \(EC\) & Kurnool \(JC\)](#)
- [CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy](#) | [Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan](#)

**104.** On January 26, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai launched "Grama One" in 12 districts of the state. The services will be extended to all districts across Karnataka by the end of March, 2022. 'Grama One' aims to provide 100 government services under a single platform in rural areas. Earlier, 'Grama One' had been run on a trial basis in four districts. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai – launched "Grama One" in 12 districts to provide services at doorstep
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore](#) | [CM – Basavaraj Bommai](#) | [Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot](#)

**105.** On January 23, Delhi Police launched the 1<sup>st</sup> episode of its podcast, titled 'Kissa Khaki Ka' to establish communication with the masses through its unheard stories of crimes, investigations, heart and humanity. The podcast will be narrated by media educator Vartika Nanda. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi Police – launched the 1<sup>st</sup> episode of its podcast, titled 'Kissa Khaki Ka'
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**106.** On January 24, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched the revamped Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) website and mobile app, "MyCGHS". The website has been developed in accordance with Guidelines for Indian Government Websites and has user friendly features including aid for visually impaired persons. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mansukh Mandaviya – launched the revamped CGHS website and "MyCGHS" mobile app
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar

**107.** On January 24, the Gujarat government named an under-bridge in Rajkot after General Bipin Rawat to honour the India's 1<sup>st</sup> Chief of Defence Staff who died in a chopper crash in December. His military helicopter crashed near Coonoor in Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gujarat government – named an under-bridge located in Rajkot after 'General Bipin Rawat'
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

**108.** On January 28, Decommissioned Indian naval ship (INS) Khukri was handed over to the Diu administration so that it can be developed as a full-scale museum. The missile corvette was decommissioned on December 23, 2021 after 32 years of service. The recently decommissioned vessel is the second ship of the Navy to carry the name INS Khukri, the first was lost during the 1971 India-Pakistan War off the coast of Diu. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Decommissioned INS Khukri was handed over to the Diu Administration & will be converted to a Museum

**109.** On January 24, the occasion of National Girl Child Day, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha approved 15% reservation for women in Non-gazetted posts of Jammu and Kashmir Police. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- J & K – approved 15% reservation for women in Non-gazetted posts of Jammu & Kashmir Police
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**110.** On January 28, NHEV (National Highway for Electric Vehicle) inaugurated India's largest electric vehicle (EV) charging station in Gurgaon, Haryana. This charging station has been installed and operated by Alektrify Pvt Ltd. This smart EV charging station has 96 operational charging ports for electric vehicles for 96 EVs at a time and can serve upto 576 electric vehicles round the clock. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NHEV – inaugurated India's largest EV charging station in Gurgaon, Haryana (installed & operated by – Alektrify)
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya





**111.** The flypast of Indian Air Force (IAF) was the grandest ever in the history of the Republic Day parade as the largest-ever fleet of 75 aircraft, including newly-acquired Rafale fighters, showcased the India's aerial assets over Rajpath. India's first woman fighter pilot, Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh became the second woman fighter pilot to be part of an IAF tableau after Flt Lt Bhawna Kanth. A total of 21 tableaux, 12 of various states/UTs and 9 of ministries/departments were showcased at Republic Day Parade this year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The biggest fly-past with 75 aircraft of IAF was showcased at Republic Day Parade 2022
- Shivangi Singh – became the 2<sup>nd</sup> woman fighter pilot to be part of an IAF tableau (1<sup>st</sup> - Bhawna Kanth)
- Total 21 tableaux (12 states/UTs + 9 ministries/dept) were showcased at Republic Day Parade 2022

**112.** On January 25, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) issued notification restricting the export of human hair, unworked, whether or not washed or scoured, waste of human hair or any other form of raw human hair. This is expected to curb the under-invoicing of the product and smuggling via Myanmar to China where it was labeled as domestic Chinese hair and processed. India is the world's largest producer of human hair and 80% of world hair is produced in India but only 2% of value-added products such as wigs are made here. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DGFT – restricted the export of any form of raw human hair
- India – world's largest producer of human hair
- [HQs of DGFT – New Delhi](#) | [Director General – Santosh Kumar Sarangi](#)

**113.** On January 25, Himachal Pradesh celebrated its 52<sup>nd</sup> statehood day. On this occasion, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur announced that the domestic consumers whose electricity consumption is up to 60 units per month will not be charged any money while those who consume up to 125 units will be charged only Re 1 per unit. For farmers, he announced to reduce the present cost of electricity from 50 paise to 30 paise per unit. He also announced to increase the limit of maximum annual income for availing the benefit of various welfare schemes and pensions for weaker sections of society from existing Rs 35,000 to Rs 50,000. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 25 – 52<sup>nd</sup> statehood day of Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh – announced to reduce cost of electricity for domestic consumers and farmers
- [Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala](#) | [CM – Jai Ram Thakur](#) | [Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar](#)

**114.** On January 26, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren launched the 'Petrol Subsidy Scheme' under which a subsidy of Rs 250, with the rate of Rs 25 per litre for 10 litres of petrol in a month will be credited to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. It will be credited through CM-SUPPORT App. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jharkhand – launched 'Petrol Subsidy Scheme' under which a subsidy of Rs 250 per month will be credited
- [Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi](#) | [CM – Hemant Soren](#) | [Governor – Ramesh Bais](#)

**115.** On January 25, Assam and Nagaland agreed for out-of-court settlement for several decade old border dispute. Neutral forces have been stationed along the contentious area in Assam-Nagaland border since 1971. Both the states agreed to share royalty from petroleum from the disputed area. They also decided to monitor the area by surveillance using UAV and satellite imagery. The two states share a 512.1-km-long border. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Assam + Nagaland = agreed for out-of-court settlement to resolve their border dispute
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)

**116.** On January 26, Jio-bp constructed and launched one of India's largest EV Charging Hubs in Dwarka, Delhi with BluSmart as its primary customer. Reliance BP Mobility Limited is operating under the brand name 'Jio-bp' - a joint venture of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and energy supermajor BP. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jio-bp – constructed & launched one of India's largest EV Charging Hubs in Dwarka, Delhi
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**117.** On January 25, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed Delhi & Haryana to enforce the Environment Management Plans for the rejuvenation and protection of the Najafgarh jheel, a transboundary wetland. The order also stated the outlet of the Najafgarh jheel should remain free from sewage before it joins the Yamuna river. The implementation of these action plans will be monitored by the National Wetland Authority. A status report on it is to be submitted to the NGT as on July 31. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NGT – directed Delhi & Haryana to enforce Najafgarh jheel restoration plan
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev
- HQs of NGT – New Delhi | Chairman – Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel

**118.** On January 25, India initiated an anti-dumping probe against imports of 'vinyl tiles' from China, Taiwan and Vietnam. If it is established that the dumping has caused material injury to the domestic players, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) would recommend the imposition of anti-dumping duty on these imports. The finance ministry will take the final decision to impose the duties. India has already imposed anti-dumping duty on several products to tackle cheap imports from various countries, including China. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – initiated an anti-dumping probe against imports of 'vinyl tiles' from China, Taiwan & Vietnam
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Pham Minh Chinh | President – Nguyen Xuan Phuc
- Taiwan – Taipei – New Taiwan dollar | President – Tsai Ing-wen

**119.** On January 28, PM Narendra Modi launched "Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation" on the occasion of the 92<sup>nd</sup> birth anniversary of this Indian classical vocalist. The Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation has been founded by Pandit Jasraj's son Shaarang Dev Pandit, and his daughter, Durga Jasraj with an objective to protect, preserve, develop and promote the National Heritage, Art & Culture of India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi – launched "Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation" on his 92<sup>nd</sup> birth anniversary
- The Cultural Foundation has been founded by = Shaarang Dev Pandit (son) + Durga Jasraj (daughter)

**120.** In January 2022, the CPI(M)-led Kerala government decided to introduce an ordinance to amend the 'Kerala Lokayukta Act' in a manner that gives it powers to reject the report of the anti-corruption ombudsman. In July 2011, as the then UPA government engaged with activist Anna Hazare on drafting of a Lokpal Bill. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kerala government – decided to introduce an ordinance to weaken the power of its 'Kerala Lokayukta Act'
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**121.** On January 20, the Delhi government launched a dedicated one-stop website for the promotion and adoption of electric vehicles (EVs). The website is- "ev.delhi.gov.in". The website features include a 'charging stations explorer', 'EV calculator', 'EV search' and 'EV dashboard' among others. The website will also feature recent notifications, circulars issued by the Delhi government. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi – launched a 'one-stop e-vehicle website' for the promotion and adoption of electric vehicles
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**122.** On January 28, the Lok Sabha secretariat launched a new app, 'Digital Sansad'. The app will make it easier for people to follow proceedings in Parliament. It is a brainchild of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. People will also be able to access archival data, speeches, debates, etc. MPs are barred from using laptops inside the House, the app comes handy for parliamentary information for MPs during a debate in the House. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lok Sabha secretariat – launched "Digital Sansad" app for people to follow proceedings in Parliament
- Rajya Sabha Chairman – M. Venkaiah Naidu | Lok Sabha Speaker – Om Prakash Birla

**123.** On January 28, Union Minister for Chemical and Fertilizers, Mansukh Mandaviya virtually launched the Research Portal of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER). This research portal will help the MSME sector and will lead to coordination between industry & NIPER. The portal will also provide information about the research being done by NIPER. NIPER is established under the aegis of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mansukh Mandaviya – launched a research portal of 'NIPER' to help MSME sector
- NIPER – established under the aegis of Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers
- Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers: Bhagwanth Khuba

**124.** On January 28, the Centre decided to convert as many as 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence' in 12 States with technical assistance from the Israel government. Already, the Israel government has established 29 Centre of Excellence (CoEs) in 12 States. Out of these 150 villages, 75 villages will be taken up in the first year to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> year of India's independence. Also, recently 30 years of diplomatic relations between India and Israel were completed. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Centre decided to convert 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence' in 12 States with technical assistance from Israel
- India & Israel – 30 years of diplomatic relations were completed recently
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Naftali Bennett

**125.** On January 28, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the "AP Seva Portal 2.0" (Citizen Service Portal). This Portal is a one-stop digital platform for grievance redress and over 540 services can be used through this portal directly. All the applications can be approved online and the officials can also provide certificates and documents online with digital signature. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh CM Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy – launched the "AP Seva Portal 2.0" (Citizen Service Portal)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**126.** On January 27, The drug regulator granted Serum Institute of India's Covishield & Bharat Biotech's Covaxin Covid-19 vaccines "Conditional Market Authorisation" for India's adult population. Since January 2021, these vaccines are available under "Emergency Use Authorisation" (EUA), under which 140.89 Cr doses of Covishield & 22.95 Cr doses of Covaxin have been administered so far. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Covishield & Covaxin – were given "Conditional Market Authorisation" for India's adult population
- Covishield – manufactured by SII | Covaxin – manufactured by Bharat Biotech
- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) – V G Somani

**127.** On January 30, One of the most successful franchises of Indian Premier League (IPL), Chennai Super Kings (CSK), became India's first Sports Unicorn with its market cap having touched a high of Rs 7,600 Cr and its share in the Grey market trading in the Rs 210-225 price band. The Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led CSK, which won its 4<sup>th</sup> IPL title in Dubai last year, now has a market cap more than its parent entity, India Cements. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- CSK – became India's first Unicorn Sports Enterprise with its market cap of Rs 7,600 Cr
- CSK Captain – MS Dhoni | Owner – India Cements | Head Coach – Stephen Fleming

**128.** In January 2022, South Maubuang village of Aizawl district in Mizoram was declared a model ODF Plus village, having fulfilled all the criteria as per 'SBM-G Phase II' guidelines. This village emerged as the first ODF Plus village in the State of Mizoram. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- South Maubuang – became the first ODF Plus village in Mizoram
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – B. D. Mishra (addi. charge)



**129.** On January 31, Punjab Chief Electoral Officer unveiled its poll mascot Shera depicting a lion to spread voter awareness among voters on the importance of their votes. The mascot is dressed in traditional Punjabi attire and represents the rich cultural heritage of Punjab. The mascot is promoted under the 'Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) project' to increase voter awareness and promote ethical voting. The mascot was developed by Jasvinder Singh and Rahul Attreja, the designers engaged from C-DAC, Mohali, for the SVEEP project. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Punjab – unveiled its poll mascot 'Shera' to spread voter awareness among voters under "SVEEP" project
- SVEEP – Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation

**130.** On January 31, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin administered the pledge against untouchability to Ministers, senior officials and staff to mark the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The pledge is taken every year by the officials as a mark of respect to Mahatma Gandhi, who was assassinated on January 30. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – the pledge against untouchability to mark the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**131.** On January 31, Madhya Pradesh tourism department will construct a geo park in Lamheta. It will be India's 1st geological park. Approval for the park has been granted by Geological Survey of India, under ministry of mining, Government of India for construction of the park with an investment of Rs 35 Cr. GSI sanctioned Rs 1.30 Cr for the formation of Geopark. UNESCO has also recognised Lamheta as geo heritage site. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's 1st geological park – will be developed in Lamheta, Madhya Pradesh
- GSI sanctioned Rs 1.30 Cr for the formation of Geopark
- HQs of GSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director General – Rajendra Singh Garkhal
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**132.** In January 2022, Manipur received freight train connectivity for the first time in 75 years. It will enhance the state's commerce and connectivity across India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manipur – received freight train connectivity for the first time in 75 years
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan





# International Affairs

1. In January 2022, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan launched the public version of the country's first-ever "National Security Policy (NSP)" for 2022-2026. The document emphasises the "non-negotiable" focus on defence and territorial integrity of Pakistan, strengthening space-based technology and its application, and combating hybrid warfare through enhancing information and cyber security. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Pakistan – launched the public version of the country's first-ever "National Security Policy (NSP)" for 2022-2026
- [Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee](#) | [PM – Imran Khan](#) | [President – Arif Alvi](#)

2. On January 4, India and Japan established diplomatic relations on 28 April 1952. In 2022, the two countries celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations by launching special logos - a Peacock and a Green Pheasant, which are national birds of India and Japan respectively. The Green Pheasant forms the numeral 7 with its tail and the Peacock forms the numeral 0. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Japan & India – celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations
- Japan & India – launched special logos - Green Pheasant (7) & Peacock (0) (their national birds respectively)
- [Japan – Tokyo – Yen](#) | [PM – Fumio Kishida](#)

3. On January 4, a new variant of Covid-19 named 'IHU' (B.1.640.2) was discovered in France. This new variant was discovered by the academics at institute IHU Mediterranee Infection. According to the researchers, the new variant contains 46 mutations - more than Omicron. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- A new variant of Covid-19 named 'IHU' (B.1.640.2) – discovered in France
- [France – Paris – Euro](#) | [President – Emmanuel Macron](#) | [PM – Jean Castex](#)

4. On 1 January 2022, France, for the first time in 14 years, took over the presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) from Slovenia. France will hold the presidency of the Council of the EU for 6 months from 1 January to 30 June 2022. French President Emmanuel Macron laid out France's priorities during its presidency by encapsulating the motto - "Recovery, Power and Belonging". [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- France – took over the presidency of the 'Council of European Union' for 6 months (Jan to June 2022)
- France took over the Presidency – from Slovenia
- [France – Paris – Euro](#) | [President – Emmanuel Macron](#) | [PM – Jean Castex](#)

5. On January 5, Antigua & Barbuda became the 102<sup>nd</sup> country to join Gurugram-based International Solar Alliance (ISA). The ISA was launched by India & France in 2015 to facilitate energy access, security & transition. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Antigua & Barbuda – became the 102<sup>nd</sup> country to join the ISA
- High Commissioner of India to Antigua & Barbuda – K. J. Srinivasa
- [Antigua & Barbuda – Saint John's – Eastern Caribbean dollar](#) | [PM – Gaston Browne](#)
- [ISA was launched in 2015 at COP21 – by India & France](#)
- [HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana](#) | [DG – Ajay Mathur](#) | [Member countries – 102](#)

**6.** In January 2022, China, Russia, Britain, the United States & France (The permanent five members of the UNSC) agreed that a further spread of nuclear arms & a nuclear war should be avoided. They also agreed that a nuclear war 'cannot be won & must never be fought'. The joint pledge was issued ahead of latest review of the Treaty of the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The treaty came into force 1970. In total, 191 states have signed the treaty. South Africa is the only country known to have developed nuclear weapons & then to have dismantled its nuclear arsenal completely. North Korea is the only country to withdraw from the treaty. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China, Russia, Britain, US & France – agreed to stop further spread of Nuclear Arms & Nuclear War
- Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) – signed in July 1968 & effective from March 1970
- North Korea – the only country to withdraw from the NPT
- [HQs of UNSC – New York, US](#) | [Presidency in January – Norway](#) (Dec - Niger | Feb - Russia)

**7.** On January 10, Sri Lanka launched a Luxury Train Service connecting Sri Lanka's Jaffna district to the capital city Colombo with the help of a Line of Credit (LoC) offered by India. India had provided AC Diesel Multiple Units (AC DMUs) under the loan facility. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sri Lanka launched a Luxury Train Service connecting Sri Lanka's Jaffna to Colombo
- It is built with the LoC offered by – India
- [Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee](#)
- [PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa](#) | [President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa](#)

**8.** On January 16, Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov ordered experts to find a way to extinguish a massive five-decade old fire in a giant natural gas crater in the country, dubbed the "Darvaza gas crater". Darvaza gas crater also known as "Gateway to Hell" is in the middle of the vast Karakum desert. The crater was created in 1971 during a Soviet drilling accident that hit a gas cavern. To prevent the dangerous fumes from spreading, the Soviets decided to burn off the gas by setting it on fire. The pit has been ablaze ever since and previous attempts to put it out have been unsuccessful. In 2018, the president officially renamed it to the "Shining of Karakum". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Turkmenistan – to extinguish "Darvaza gas crater" or "Gateway to Hell" located in the Karakum desert
- Darvaza Gas Crater – was created in 1971
- [Turkmenistan – Ashgabat – Manat](#) | [President – Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow](#)



**9.** On January 13, the UK government launched Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with India and describes it as a 'golden opportunity' to put British businesses at the front of the queue of the Indian economy. An India-UK FTA is billed in the UK as creating huge benefits for both countries, with the potential to boost bilateral trade by up to GBP 28 billion a year by 2035. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UK – launched a “Free Trade Agreement (FTA)” negotiations with India in January 2022
- ‘India-UK FTA’ has potential to boost bilateral trade by up to GBP 28 billion a year by 2035
- [UK – London – Pound Sterling](#) | [PM – Boris Johnson](#)

**10.** On January 19, Indonesia passed a bill replacing its capital Jakarta with Nusantara, a city of East Kalimantan, situated to the east of Borneo Island. Nusantara is an old Javanese term that means ‘archipelago’. The transfer of the status will take place in 2024. Jakarta has been Indonesia’s capital since the country became independent in 1949. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indonesia – announced to move capital city from Jakarta to ‘Nusantara’
- [Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah](#) | [President – Joko Widodo](#)

**11.** On January 20, China has built an “Artificial Moon” research facility in the city of Xuzhou. It simulates low-gravity conditions using magnetism. The facility could provide valuable research for China’s lunar exploration activities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China – built an “Artificial Moon” research facility in Xuzhou
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi](#) | [President – Xi Jinping](#)

**12.** On January 18, Yemen’s Houthi rebels carried out a drone attack on 3 petroleum tankers in Abu Dhabi near Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) facilities as a warning to the UAE to stop interfering in Yemen. Houthi rebels, who have been fighting the Yemeni government, are backed by a Saudi-UAE coalition. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Yemen’s Houthi rebels – carried out a drone attack on 3 petroleum tankers in Abu Dhabi, UAE
- [Yemen – Sana’a – Yemeni Rial](#) | [President – Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi](#)
- [UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham](#) | [President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan](#)

**13.** In January 2022, India and Israel launched a commemorative logo to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. The logo features the ‘Star of David’ and the ‘AshokaChakra’ - the two symbols that adorn the national flags of both countries. The logo forms the numeral 30 depicting the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of bilateral relations. Israel and India established diplomatic relations on 29 January 1992. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Israel = launched a commemorative logo to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties
- India + Israel = established diplomatic relations on 29 January, 1992
- The logo features: ‘Star of David’ & ‘AshokaChakra’ | The logo forms the numeral ‘30’ (3 - Israel & 0 - India)
- [Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel](#) | [President – Isaac Herzog](#) | [PM – Naftali Bennett](#)

**14.** On January 22, Peruvian government declared a 90-day “Environmental Emergency” in damaged coastal territories, after an oil spill that saw 6,000 barrels of crude oil pour into the sea. It was caused by the eruption of a volcano in Tonga.

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Peru – declared a 90-day “Environmental Emergency” after oil spill caused by the eruption of a volcano in Tonga
- [Peru – Lima – Sol](#) | [President – Pedro Castillo](#)

**15.** On January 23, the first Taliban delegation to visit Europe since returning to power in Afghanistan began talks in Norway’s capital Oslo, with Afghan Civil Society members focused on Human Rights. The delegation was headed by Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Taliban – began talks in Oslo with Afghan Civil Society members focused on Human Rights
- [HQs of Taliban – Kandahar, Afghanistan](#) | [Present Supreme Leader – Hibatullah Akhundzada](#)
- [Norway – Oslo – Krone](#) | [PM – Jonas Gahr Store](#)

**16.** On January 24, Malaysia’s AirAsia Group announced that it has changed the name of its listed holding company to ‘Capital A Berhad’ (Capital A) to reflect the diversity of its business portfolio as it seeks to grow its non-airline revenue. The airline retains the ‘AirAsia’ brand name. But the group will focus more on expanding other businesses. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AirAsia Group – changed the name of its listed holding company to ‘Capital A’
- [HQs of Capital A Berhad – Sepang, Malaysia](#) | [CEO – Tony Fernandes](#)

**17.** In January 2022, Iran, Guinea & Vanuatu paid sufficient back dues to the United Nations’ regular operating budget to regain their voting rights. That leaves only two countries - Venezuela and Papua New Guinea without the right to vote in the UN General Assembly. The UN Charter states that members whose arrears equal or exceed the amount of their contributions for the preceding two full years lose their voting rights. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Iran, Guinea & Vanuatu – paid their dues & regained their voting rights in the UNGA
- Venezuela & Papua New Guinea – the only countries without the right to vote in UNGA
- [Iran – Tehran – Rial](#) | [President – Ebrahim Raisi](#) | [Supreme Leader – Ali Khamenei](#)
- [HQs of UNGA – New York, USA](#) | [President – Abdulla Shahid](#) | [Member Countries – 193](#)

**18.** On January 27, Netherlands’ King Willem-Alexander officially opened the “Ijmuiden Sea Lock” (Zeesluis Ijmuiden), which is claimed to be the world’s largest sea or canal lock system. It is 500-metre long and 70-metre wide. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Netherlands – opened the world’s largest sea or canal lock system called “Ijmuiden Sea Lock” (Zeesluis Ijmuiden)
- [Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro](#) | [PM – Mark Rutte](#)

**19.** On January 31, World’s first hydrogen-powered flying boat named “The Jet” is all set to be manufactured and launched in Dubai. Swiss startup THE JET ZeroEmission signed an agreement with UAE-based Zenith Marine Services and US-based DWYN to manufacture and operate “The Jet”. Dubai launched the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050, under which it aims to produce 75% of its energy requirements from clean sources by 2050. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat named "The Jet" – to be manufactured & launched in Dubai, UAE
- "The Jet" will be manufactured & operated by = THE JET ZeroEmission + Zenith Marine Services + DWYN
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**20.** On January 28, Australia Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced Aus\$1 billion (US\$700 million) 9-year plan to protect the Great Barrier Reef to prevent the vast network of corals from being removed from UNESCO's World Heritage list. A recent study found bleaching had affected 98% of the reef since 1998, leaving just a fraction of it untouched. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Australia – announced the Aus\$1 billion (US\$700 million) 9-year plan to protect the Great Barrier Reef
- World's largest Coral Reef system – Australia's Great Barrier Reef – a UNESCO World Heritage
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison





# **Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs**

**1.** In January 2022, Fino Payments Bank received approval from Reserve Bank of India for starting international remittance business under the money transfer service scheme (MTSS). The Bank will undertake inward cross-border money transfer activities. People in India will now be able to directly withdraw money remitted by their family members abroad at the nearest Fino Bank neighbourhood merchant point. According to a recent World Bank release, India is expected to receive \$89.6 billion as remittances in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Fino Payments Bank – received approval from RBI for starting international remittance business under the MTSS
- [HQs of FPBL – Maharashtra](#) | [MD & CEO – Rishi Gupta](#)

**2.** In January 2022, Superapp CryptoWire launched India's first cryptocurrency index, IC15, which will measure the performance of the 15 most widely traded cryptocurrencies listed on leading crypto exchanges by market capitalization which include Bitcoin, Ethereum, Binance coin, Solana, Cardano, Ripple, Terra, Dogecoin and Shiba Inu, Avalanche, Polkadot, Uniswap, Litecoin, Chainlink, Bitcoin Cash. The index will be reviewed quarterly. IC15's base value as on 1 April 2018 was 10,000. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- CryptoWire – launched India's first cryptocurrency index – IC15
- [HQs of CryptoWire – Mumbai](#) | [MD & CEO – Jigish Sonagara](#)

**3.** On January 3, Goods & Services Tax (GST) collection of Odisha touched a collection of Rs 4080.14 Cr during December 2021 as against Rs 2860.20 Cr collected during December 2020 registering a growth of 43%. With this, Odisha topped among the major states in GST Collection for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive month. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Odisha – topped in GST Collection with a collection of Rs 4080.14 Cr in Dec 2021 (Growth of 43%)
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar](#) | [CM – Naveen Patnaik](#) | [Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

**4.** On January 4, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a framework for 'Small-Value Offline Transactions' in the digital mode. Offline payments can be made using any channel or instrument like cards, wallets or mobile devices, but they shall be made in proximity, or in the face-to-face mode only. The upper limit of an offline payment transaction shall be Rs 200. The total limit for offline transactions on a payment instrument shall be Rs 2,000 at any point in time. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- RBI released a framework for 'Small-Value Offline Transactions' in the digital mode
- The upper limit of an offline payment transaction – Rs 200 | Total limit at any point in time – Rs 2,000
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH](#) | [Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25<sup>th</sup>\)](#) | [Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935](#)

**5.** India's merchandise exports in December 2021 surged 37% on an annual basis to \$37.29 billion, the highest-ever monthly figure, even as the trade deficit widened to \$21.99 billion. Imports in December also rose by 38% to \$59.27 billion. With \$300 billion in the first 9 months (from April to Dec) of FY2021-22, India is on track to achieve its target of merchandise exports of total \$400 billion in this fiscal year. India saw \$179 billion services exports in the first 9 months of this fiscal. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- India's merchandise exports in Dec 2021 – increased by 37% to \$37.29 billion (highest-ever monthly figure)
- India's imports exports in Dec 2021 – increased by 38% to \$59.27 billion
- India's target to achieve merchandise exports during FY2021-22 – \$400 billion (\$300 billion achieved in first 9 months)

**6.** On January 5, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank continue to be identified as domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs) or institutions which are too big to fail. Private sector lenders ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank fall under bucket 1, while SBI falls under bucket 3. They are classified into total 5 buckets, according to their importance to the National Economy. In order to be listed as a D-SIB, a bank needs to have assets that exceed 2% of the national GDP. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI released a list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs): SBI, ICICI Bank & HDFC Bank
- Criteria for D-SIBs: Assets of the bank should be greater than 2% of National GDP
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**7.** On January 4, the RBI notified the “Market Making Scheme” to promote retail participation in Government Securities (G-Secs) by providing prices/quotes to Retail Direct Gilt Account Holders (RDGAH) enabling them to buy and sell securities under the ‘RBI Retail Direct Scheme’. PM Narendra Modi had launched the ‘RBI Retail Direct Scheme’ on November 12, 2021 to provide one-stop access to facilitate investment in government securities by retail investors. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI introduced the “Market Making Scheme” to promote retail participation in G-Secs
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**8.** On January 5, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that Airtel Payments Bank Ltd (APBL) has been included in the Second Schedule to the ‘Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934’ which means that APBL has been categorised as a Scheduled Bank. With this, APBL became the 4<sup>th</sup> payments bank after India Post Payments Bank Ltd (IPPBL), Fino Payments Bank Ltd (FPBL) and Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) to receive Scheduled Bank status. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Airtel Payments Bank – received status of ‘Scheduled Bank’ from the RBI (after IPPBL, FPBL & PPBL)
- Currently, Number of Payments Banks in India – 6 | Number of Scheduled Payments Banks in India – 4
- HQs of APB – New Delhi | CEO – Anubrata Biswas | Founded in – 2017
- Airtel Payments Bank – first to receive a Payments Bank license from the RBI

**9.** On January 5, the RBI released Eligibility Criteria for entities to be categorised as specified users of Credit Information Companies (CICs). A company incorporated in India or a Statutory Corporation established in India, having a net worth of at least ₹2 Cr, will be eligible to be categorised as Specified User of CICs. Currently, there are four CICs - Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd (CIBIL), Equifax Credit Information Services Pvt Ltd, Experian Credit Information Company of India Pvt Ltd and CRIF High Mark Credit Information Services Pvt Ltd. These companies are governed by the “Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005”. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- RBI released Eligibility Criteria for entities to be categorised as specified users of **Credit Information Companies (CICs)**:
  - A specified user should be a company incorporated in India or a Statutory Corporation established in India
  - A specified user should have net worth of at least ₹2 Cr
- Currently, there are four CICs which are governed by “Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005”
- **HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935**

**10.** In January 2021, ICICI Bank launched the facility to pay Custom Duty online, to benefit both retail and corporate customers. Corporate customers can pay customs duty through the bank’s “Corporate Internet Banking (CIB)” and “InstaBIZ” mobile app, while retail customers can do so through the bank’s “Retail Internet Banking” platform. Customers can make online payment by selecting ICICI Bank from the list of banks on the website of the Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICICI Bank – launched the facility to pay Custom Duty online for Retail & Corporate customers
- **HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Taglines – “Hum Hain Na!” & “Khayal Apka”**

**11.** On January 4, the State Bank of India increased the limit on IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) transactions from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. The motive behind the move was to encourage customers towards digital banking. However, the proposed service charges for this new slab (Rs 2,00,000 to Rs 5,00,000) is Rs 20 + GST. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI – increased the IMPS transactions limit from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh (charges for new slab = Rs 20 + GST)
- **HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara**
- **MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman**

**12.** On January 4, State Bank of India (SBI) took its next major step in its ongoing digital transformation journey with an investment of \$20 million in Pine Labs. In the recent years, SBI has been heavily investing in digital transformation with large initiatives like SBI YONO, SBI InTouch, SBI Buddy, CRM, etc. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI – to invest \$20 million in Pine Labs
- **HQs of Pine Labs – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – B. Amrish Rao**
- **HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara**
- **MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman**

**13.** Effective January 1, Food aggregators like Swiggy and Zomato will have to collect and deposit tax at 5% rate when order is placed through these online platforms. Earlier, restaurants registered under GST were collecting and depositing the tax. Also, cab aggregators like Uber and Ola will have to collect 5% Goods and Services Tax (GST) for booking 2 and 3 wheeler vehicles. Footwear irrespective of prices will attract 12% tax. The GST law has been amended to allow GST officers to visit premises to recover tax dues without any prior show-cause notice. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- As per amended GST law effective January 1, 2022 :
  - Food aggregators will have to collect & deposit tax at 5% rate if order is placed through online platforms
  - Cab aggregators will have to collect 5% GST for booking 2 & 3 wheeler vehicles
  - Footwear will attract 12% tax
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – Vivek Johri | Founded in – 1964

**14.** GST revenue collected in December 2021 was over Rs 1.29 trillion or Rs 1.29 lakh Cr (CGST Rs 22,578 Cr, SGST Rs 28,658 Cr, IGST Rs 69,155 Cr) & cess Rs 9,389 Cr. December 2021 GST revenue was 13% higher than the same month last year. The average monthly gross GST collection for the third quarter (October-December) of the FY22 was Rs 1.30 lakh Cr against the average monthly collection of Rs 1.10 trillion and Rs 1.15 trillion in the first and second quarter, respectively.

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- GST revenue collected in December 2021 – Rs 1.29 trillion (lakh Cr) | 13% higher than December 2020
- Average monthly gross GST collection of Q3 of FY22 – Rs 1.30 trillion (Rs 1.30 Lakh Cr)
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – Vivek Johri | Founded in – 1964

**15.** On January 6, the IRDAI decided to set up 2 Hubs on Motor Insurance & Property Insurance and also an Advisory Committee with the overall objective to promote loss prevention measures in the General Insurance industry. It has been decided to form a hub on property insurance at 'National Insurance Academy (NIA)' and one on motor insurance at 'Institute of Insurance & Risk Management (IIRM)'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IRDAI decided to set up 2 Hubs on:
  - Motor Insurance – at Institute of Insurance & Risk Management (IIRM)
  - Property Insurance – at National Insurance Academy (NIA)
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

**16.** On January 7, the National Statistical Office (NSO) released the First Advance Estimates (FAE) of National Income at both Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices for FY2021-22. Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices (2011-12) in FY2021-22 is estimated at ₹147.54 lakh Cr with the estimated growth of 9.2%. While Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in FY2021-22 is estimated at ₹232.15 lakh Cr with the estimated growth of 17.6%. The First Advance Estimates of GDP was introduced in FY2016-17. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NSO – released the First Advance Estimates (FAE) of National Income at both Constant & Current Prices for FY2021-22
- Estimate of Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices in FY2021-22 – ₹147.54 lakh Cr (Estimated growth – 9.2%)
- Estimate of Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in FY2021-22 – ₹232.15 lakh Cr (Estimated growth – 17.6%)
- NSO comes under – Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoS I/C – Rao Inderjit Singh)
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

**17.** On January 7, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) introduced limits for cash withdrawals and mini statements on transactions done through Aadhaar enabled Payments Systems (AePS). According to the guidelines, acquiring banks will have to implement a maximum limit of 5 approved cash withdrawal transactions per customer per terminal per day. Cash withdrawal from micro ATMs of AePS has a limit of Rs 10,000 per transaction. These limits were implemented by the acquiring banks by January 15, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NPCI – introduced limits for cash withdrawals & mini statements on transactions done through ‘AePS’
- Maximum transactions limit – 5 cash transactions per customer per terminal per day | Amount limit – Rs 10,000
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

**18.** On January 10, Edelweiss Housing Finance Ltd (EHFL) and ECL Finance Ltd (ECLF) signed a strategic co-lending agreement with Indian Bank for priority sector lending (PSL). Agriculture, micro enterprises and advances to weaker sections of the society are amongst the categories that form the priority sector in lending space. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- EHFL + ECLF + Indian Bank = a strategic co-lending agreement for priority sector lending (PSL)
- HQs of EHFL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajat Avasthi
- HQs ECLF – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman - Rashesh Shah
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Shanti Lal Jain | Tagline – “Your Own Bank”

**19.** On January 10, RBL Bank and Google announced a strategic partnership to improve the Bank’s customer experience strategy and expand its value proposition through its digital platform, “Abacus 2.0”. Through ‘Abacus 2.0’, the Bank aims to provide a superior and holistic one-stop solution to its existing and new customers. To achieve this, RBL Bank will leverage Google Cloud’s secure and scalable infrastructure for seamless customer onboarding. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBL Bank + Google = strategic partnership to improve the Bank’s customer experience through “Abacus 2.0” platform
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajeev Ahuja (interim) | Chairman – Prakash Chandra
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

**20.** On January 8, Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) and the Bengaluru-based Mecwin Technologies Ltd signed an MoU to introduce farmer-friendly Solar-powered Pump-sets using bank finance. The lifespan of solar-powered pump-sets is 20-25 years. Besides, KVGB was the first bank to introduce Solar Loan Scheme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- KVGB + Mecwin Technologies = an MoU to introduce farmer-friendly Solar-powered Pump-sets for farmers
- KVGB – the first bank to introduce Solar Loan Scheme
- HQs of KVGB – Dharwad, Karnataka | Chairman – P. Gopi Krishna | Sponsored by – Canara Bank
- HQs of Mecwin Technologies – Bengaluru, Karnataka

**21.** On January 9, the RBI decided to set up a separate Fintech Department to facilitate innovation in the Indian fintech sector. The RBI's Executive Director Ajay Kumar Choudhary was appointed as head of the department. [{Read more}](#)





**Key Points:**

- RBI decided to set up a separate Fintech Department | HoD – Ajay Kumar Choudhary
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**22.** In January 2022, India's nominal GDP measured is forecast to rise from \$2.7 trillion in 2021 to \$8.4 trillion by 2030. As per IHS Markit report, India is likely to overtake Japan as Asia's second-largest economy by 2030 when its GDP is also projected to surpass that of Germany & the UK to rank as world's No 3. Currently, Indian economy is the sixth-largest in the world, behind the US, China, Japan, Germany & the United Kingdom. Meanwhile, Ratings agency ICRA has recently maintained its forecast of a 9% GDP expansion in FY22 & FY23. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IHS markit report:
  - India's nominal GDP will rise to \$8.4 trillion by 2030 (from \$2.7 trillion in 2021)
  - India will overtake Japan to be Asia's 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest economy by 2030 (after China)
- India – currently 6<sup>th</sup> largest Economy after US, China, Japan, Germany & UK
- India's GDP forecast by ICRA for FY22 & FY23 – 9%
- HQs of ICRA – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & Group CEO of ICRA – Ramnath Krishnan | MD & CEO – Sushmita Ghatak

**23.** On January 11, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the validity of its Directions for Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, Bengaluru, for 4 months till May 10, 2022, subject to review. The bank has been under RBI Directions since January 10, 2020. The withdrawal limit for depositors is capped at ₹1 lakh per depositor during the entire duration. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI extended validity of its Directions for Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank (N), Bengaluru – till May 10, 2022
- Withdrawal limit per depositor – ₹1 lakh
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**24.** On January 12, HDFC Bank was adjudged 'Best Private Bank' in India at the "Global Private Banking Awards 2021", organised by Professional Wealth Management (PWM), a magazine published by the Financial Times group. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HDFC Bank – adjudged 'Best Private Bank' in India at the "Global Private Banking Awards 2021" organised by PWM
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – "We understand your world"

**25.** On January 11, Federal Bank launched an online lending platform, "federalinstalans.com", to facilitate quick and hassle-free credit approvals of up to ₹50 lakh for Micro, Small & Medium enterprises (MSMEs) across India. The platform enables borrowers to avail loans in less than 30 minutes digitally. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Federal Bank – launched an online lending platform to facilitate quick & hassle-free loans up to ₹50 lakh for MSMEs
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – "Your Perfect Banking Partner"



**26.** On January 11, Chennai-based Shrinithi Capital Pvt Ltd tied up and raised Rs 300 Cr as co-lending facility from IndoStar Capital Finance Ltd. IndoStar Capital Finance Ltd is a 10,000 Cr net worth company owned by Everstone Capital and Brookfield investment. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shrinithi Capital – tied up & raised Rs 300 Cr as co-lending facility from IndoStar Capital Finance Ltd
- HQs of Shrinithi Capital – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – S. Sellamani
- HQs of IndoStar Capital Finance Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Deep Jaggi

**27.** On January 11, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) partnered with fintech firm Arthimpact Digital Loans (ARTH) to provide end-to-end fintech solution. The solutions include skilling, micro financial services and forward linkage support to SHG members. ARTH plans to provide financial and technical support in partnerships with specialized entities across occupations to 500 enterprises across Uttar Pradesh impacting 2500 households. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NABARD + ARTH = partnership to provide end-to-end fintech solutions & support SHGs
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala | Founded in – 1982

**28.** On January 10, National Stock Exchange (NSE) of India received approval from the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch derivatives on the “Nifty Midcap Select Index”. Nifty Midcap Select index aims to track the performance of focused portfolio of 25 stocks within the Nifty Midcap 150 index. The midcap stocks account for around 17% of market capitalization. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NSE – received approval from the SEBI to launch derivatives on the “Nifty Midcap Select Index”
- The index aims to track the performance of focused portfolio of 25 stocks
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi | MD & CEO – Vikram Limaye
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**29.** In January 2022, NPCI Bharat BillPay launched a Unified Presentment Management System (UPMS), which enables users to set up standing instructions on their recurring bill payments across all channels and modes of digital payments. Under the system, bills can be automatically fetched from the billers and presented to customers to take action in terms of auto-debit and bill payment management. UPMS will be available to the customers through the centralized infrastructure and application support provided by Bharat BillPay Central Unit (BBPCU). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NPCI Bharat BillPay – launched a UPMS to fetch bills from the billers & present to customers
- UPMS – **U**nified **P**resentment **M**anagement **S**ystem
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

**30.** In January 2022, South Indian Bank (SIB) won the “UiPath Automation Excellence Awards 2021” for best automation under crisis for business continuity. In the 2021 Edition of the UiPath Automation Excellence Awards, the individuals and organizations across India and South Asia (Sri Lanka, Bangladesh & Nepal), who have solved some of the greatest challenges through transformative automation projects were recognised. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- South Indian Bank – won the “UiPath Automation Excellence Awards 2021”
- HQs of South Indian Bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – Murali Ramakrishnan

**31.** In January 2022, The Reserve Bank of India cancelled the Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) of Payment System Operators (PSOs) Muthoot Vehicle & Asset Finance Limited and Eko India Financial Services Ltd on account of non-compliance with the regulatory requirements. Due to the cancellation of their CoAs, these companies cannot transact the business of issuance and operation of Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – cancelled the CoA of “Muthoot Vehicle & Asset Finance Ltd” and “Eko India Financial Services Ltd”
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**32.** In January 2022, SBI General Insurance launched a campaign to increase awareness of Indians around the need to buy health insurance to save tax. The campaign #BahaneChhodoTaxBachao will also underline other benefits of opting for health insurance. Health insurance can also help save tax under ‘Section 80 D’ of Income Tax laws of India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI General Insurance – launched a campaign “#BahaneChhodoTaxBachao”
- HQs of SBI Gen Ins. – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Prakash Chandra Kandpal | Tagline – “Suraksha aur Bharosa Dono”

**33.** In January 2022, Reliance Jio launched “UPI Autopay” feature for its prepaid and postpaid customers in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). Jio has become the first telecom company to launch this feature on its MyJio App. The ‘UPI Autopay’ feature will allow Jio customers to set standing instructions using the MyJio app for auto-recharge, making the recharging and bill payment process hassle-free. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Reliance Jio + NPCI = launched “UPI Autopay” feature
- HQs of Reliance Jio – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Pravir Kumar
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

**34.** In January 2022, Airtel Payments Bank collaborated with Park+ to offer FASTag-based smart parking solutions. The service is already operational at a South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) parking site, and will soon be made available at Aurangabad Airport and 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (32<sup>nd</sup> Milestone) in Gurugram. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Airtel Payments Bank + Park+ = collaborated to offer FASTag-based smart parking solutions
- HQs of APB – New Delhi | CEO – Anubrata Biswas | Founded in – 2017
- Airtel Payments Bank – first to receive a payments bank license from the RBI

**35.** In January 2022, The Reserve Bank of India increased the threshold limit for all commercial banks (other than regional rural banks, local area banks and payments banks) to maintain Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) on deposits and other extension of funds received from non-financial small business customers from ₹5 Cr to ₹7.5 Cr. LCR promotes short-term resilience of banks to potential liquidity disruptions by ensuring that they have sufficient high quality liquid assets (HQLAs) to survive an acute stress scenario lasting for 30 days. This will enable banks to manage liquidity risk more effectively and banks will be able to lend instead of parking in HQLAs. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- RBI – increased the threshold limit for banks to maintain LCR on deposits from ₹5 Cr to ₹7.5 Cr
- This will make sure that banks have sufficient HQLAs to survive an acute stress scenario lasting for 30 days
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**36.** On January 10, Axis Bank successfully executed industry-first blockchain-enabled domestic trade transaction with Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India and Lalit Pipes & Pipes Ltd on Secured Logistics Document Exchange (SLDE). SLDE is a government-backed platform which provides a seamless experience to all participants involved in the trade transaction. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Axis Bank – executed industry-1<sup>st</sup> blockchain-enabled domestic trade transaction on SLDE
- Axis Bank executed it along with = Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India + Lalit Pipes & Pipes Ltd
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

**37.** On January 11, Lazypay, a Buy Now Pay Later solution by PayU Finance, partnered with SBM Bank India to launch Lazy Card, a payment instrument backed by a credit line. Consumers can avail the card at zero joining fee & zero annual fee. It also offers users multiple transactional benefits and rewards-earning potential such as welcome rewards, retention rewards & Visa Platinum Rewards in the form of cashbacks. LazyCard’s ‘Booster’ feature lets users set up a fixed deposit with SBM Bank India in a fully digitized two-minute app flow. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lazypay + SBM Bank India = partnered to launch LazyCard
- Lazypay – a Buy Now Pay Later solution by PayU Finance
- HQs of SBM Bank India – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sidharth Rath
- SBM Bank India – the 1<sup>st</sup> foreign bank in India to obtain a banking licence from the RBI
- HQs of PayU Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Prashanth Ranganathan

**38.** On January 12, Axis Bank partnered with MinkasuPay to offer the smoothest net banking payment experience for its customers through a biometric authentication solution. MinkasuPay’s biometric authentication solution is a 2-Factor-Authentication as mandated by RBI, helps increase the security of all digital transactions. Transaction time will reduce from the current 50-60 seconds to just 2-3 seconds with Fingerprint or Face ID authentication without the need of usernames, passwords, and OTPs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Axis Bank + MinkasuPay = to offer net banking payment through a biometric authentication solution
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”
- HQs of MinkasuPay India – Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Anbu

**39.** On January 11, UCO Bank launched a RuPay Select contactless debit card for its premium customer segment in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). All RuPay Select contactless debit cardholders are eligible for the insurance cover of up to ₹10 lakh in case of death due to personal accident and permanent disability. The card also offers a purchase of up to ₹2 lakh at PoS or e-commerce. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UCO Bank – launched RuPay Select contactless debit card for its premium customer in association with the NPCI
- HQs of UCO Bank – Kolkata, West Bengal | MD & CEO – Soma Sankara Prasad | Tagline – “Honours your Trust”
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

**40.** Yes Asset Management’s name has been changed to “White Oak Capital Asset Management” with effect from January 12. GPL Finance & Investments, a subsidiary of White Oak Capital group, had received capital markets regulator SEBI’s approval to acquire Yes Asset Management from Yes Bank in September. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Yes Asset Management – acquired by GPL Finance & Investments, a subsidiary of White Oak Capital group
- After acquisition, Yes Asset Management – renamed as ‘White Oak Capital Asset Management’
- HQs of White Oak Capital Management – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Aashish P. Sommaiya
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**41.** On January 13, CDSL Ventures Ltd (CVL) received SEBI’s approval to set up an accreditation agency for a period of 3 years with effect from February 1, 2022 for accreditation of eligible Investors. SEBI introduced a concept of ‘Accredited Investors (AI)’ in the Indian securities market in August-2021. Persons desirous of being reckoned as AIs can approach an accreditation agency for accreditation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CDSL Ventures – received SEBI’s approval to set up an Accreditation Agency
- HQs of CVL – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sunil Alvares | Chairman – Rakesh Kumar Kakkar
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**42.** In June 2021, HDFC Bank announced plans to become Carbon Neutral by 2031-32. After HDFC, now Yes bank announced to do so by 2030. The Bank’s Net Zero Emissions target covers its absolute Scope 1 & Scope 2 emissions. Net zero refers to a condition in which the Greenhouse Gases produced are balanced by the amount removed from the atmosphere. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Yes bank – announced to become Carbon Neutral by 2030
- HDFC bank – announced to become Carbon Neutral by 2031-32
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”

**43.** Paytm Payments Bank emerged as the biggest receiver of UPI payments with 926.17 million transactions, while public sector bank State Bank of India topped the chart of being the biggest remitter in December 2021, according to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). With this, Paytm became the most preferred beneficiary bank for UPI payments. SBI followed PPBL as the second-largest UPI beneficiary bank with 664.89 million transactions. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Biggest receiver of UPI payments: 1<sup>st</sup> – PPBL (926.17 million transactions) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – SBI (664.89 million transactions)
- Paytm Payments Bank – became the most preferred beneficiary bank for UPI payments (in Dec 2021)
- SBI – the biggest remitter (in Dec 2021)

**44.** On January 13, Marwadi Financial Services partnered with NSDL Payments Bank to offer Integrated 3-in-1 Savings Account that combines the features of savings, Demat and trading accounts. This strategic partnership will help Marwadi to boost customer experience while allowing NSDL Payments Bank to access Marwadi's clients and expand its customer base. NSDL Payments Bank is a subsidiary of NSDL, the first and the largest depository in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Marwadi Financial Services + NSDL Payments Bank = partnership to offer Integrated 3-in-1 Savings Account
- HQs of Marwadi Financial Services – Rajkot, Gujarat | MD & Chairman – Ketan Marwadi
- HQs of NSDL Payments Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Abhijit Kamalapurkar

**45.** On January 13, Torus Kling Blockchain IFSC signed an MoU with BSE's India International Exchange (India INX) to launch India's first Bitcoin and Ethereum Futures ETF and Metaverse US-listed Large-cap Discount Certificates. Torus Kling Blockchain IFSC is a 50:50 joint venture Cosmea Financial Holdings (CFH) and Kling Trading India. Torus Kling Blockchain targets \$1 billion Assets Under Management (AUM) in the first 2 years from customers participating in blockchain backed products through ETFs and Discount certificates. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Torus Kling Blockchain IFSC + India INX = an MoU to launch India's first Bitcoin & Ethereum Futures ETF at Gift City
- Torus Kling Blockchain IFSC – will also launch Metaverse US-listed Large-cap Discount Certificates
- Torus Kling Blockchain – targets \$1 billion Assets Under Management (AUM) from customers in the first 2 years
- HQs of India INX – GIFT City, Gujarat | MD & CEO – V. Balasubramaniam

**46.** On January 14, Axis Bank and CRMNEXT were awarded the “Best CRM System Implementation” at “IBS Intelligence Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2021”. The bank has implemented CRMNEXT for sales and service modernisation. CRMNEXT is the World's most powerful banking CRM platform. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Axis Bank + CRMNEXT = awarded for ‘Best CRM System Implementation’ at “IBS Intelligence Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2021”
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

**47.** On January 14, ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company collaborated with the US-based First Trust Advisors to launch a slew of Global Fund of Funds (FoF). Under the agreement, ICICI Prudential AMC will first launch a strategic metal & energy equity fund of funds. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICICI Prudential AMC + First Trust Advisors (US) = collaboration to launch Global Fund of Funds (FoF)
- HQs of ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Nimesh Shah



**48.** On January 14, Indifi Technologies collaborated with Google Pay to offer instant loans to eligible small merchants on the Google Pay platform. Indifi already has an existing partnership with many digital companies including Amazon, Zomato, Swiggy etc, under which MSMEs present on these platforms can avail credit through embedded lending offerings. Eligible merchants on the Google Pay for Business app can click on loan offerings from Indifi & submit an application online. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indifi Technologies + Google Pay = collaboration to offer instant loans to eligible small merchants on the Google Pay
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- HQs of Indifi – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Alok Mittal

**49.** On January 13, IIM Kozhikode's Business incubator, Laboratory for Innovation Venturing and Entrepreneurship (LIVE) and Indian Bank signed an MoU to launch a startup funding scheme "IndSpring Board". The agreement aims to support early stage startups by providing loans up to Rs 50 Cr. The loan amount can be used by startups to meet their operational expenditure and capital expenditure including working capital, purchase of fixed assets and other expense. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- LIVE (IIM Kozhikode) + Indian Bank = an MoU to launch a startup funding scheme "IndSpring Board"
- Aim: To support early stage startups by providing loans up to Rs 50 Cr
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Shanti Lal Jain | Tagline – "Your Own Bank"

**50.** On January 13, e-commerce platform Snapdeal partnered with Bank of Baroda subsidiary BOB Financial Solutions & NPCI to launch a co-branded contactless RuPay credit card. The Snapdeal-BoB co-branded contactless card will be equipped with contactless features. The partnership aims to popularise the adoption & usage of credit cards among the growing number of online buyers from India's smaller cities and towns. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Snapdeal + BOB Financial + NPCI = partnered to launch Snapdeal-BoB co-branded contactless RuPay credit card
- HQs of Snapdeal – New Delhi | CEO – Kunal Bahl | Founded in – 2010
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- HQs of BOB Financial Solutions – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Shailendra Singh

**51.** On January 19, Federal Bank & Equirus Wealth in collaboration with Singapore-based SCUBE Capital, launched a "US dollar Offshore Fund" for their customers. NRI and resident customers of Federal Bank can invest in this fund that offers a portfolio return (IRR) guidance of ~ \$6.50% per annum with a fund tenure of 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Federal Bank + Equirus Wealth + SCUBE Capital = launched a "US dollar Offshore Fund" for their customers
- Portfolio return (IRR) guidance of ~ \$6.50% per annum | Tenure – 3 years
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – "Your Perfect Banking Partner"

**52.** On January 18, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) sanctioned financial assistance of ₹650 Cr to AU Small Finance Bank & Jana Small Finance Bank. An amount of ₹530 Cr has already been released to these SFBs. This is to reach out to small-sized non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) & microfinance institutions (MFIs) who in turn provide financial assistance to the small businesses & micro entrepreneurs. This financial assistance is extended out of the Special Liquidity Facility of ₹16,000 Cr sanctioned by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to SIDBI to meet the challenges being faced by the MSMEs due to the prevailing covid-19 pandemic situation. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- SIDBI – sanctioned financial assistance of ₹650 Cr to AU SFB & Jana SFB to reach out to small-sized NBFCs & MFIs
- RBI – sanctioned Special Liquidity Facility of ₹16,000 Cr to SIDBI to support MSMEs during covid-19 pandemic
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990
- HQs of AU SFB – Jaipur, Rajasthan | MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal
- HQs of Jana SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Ajay Kanwal | Chairman (part-time) – S. C. Khuntia

**53.** On January 18, MobiKwik launched 'ClickPay' for its customers, in collaboration with NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL), the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India. This feature enables MobiKwik customers to pay recurring online bills (such as mobile, gas, water, electricity, DTH, insurance, & loan EMIs) with ease by eliminating the need to remember individual bill details and due dates. ClickPay was also launched by Tata Power, PhonePe & ICICI Prudential Life Insurance in partnership with NBBL prior to this collaboration. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NPCI Bharat BillPay + MobiKwik = launched 'ClickPay' for customers to allow them to make payments easily
- 'ClickPay' was earlier launched by – Tata Power, PhonePe & ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- HQs of MobiKwik – Gurugram, Haryana | Founder, MD & CEO – Bipin Preet Singh
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

**54.** On January 18, Fintech company Lendingkart entered into a co-lending partnership with Canara Bank to provide low-cost business loans of up to ₹10 lakh to MSMEs to enhance financial inclusion under the Reserve Bank's Priority Sector initiative. The loans will be powered by "Lendingkart 2gthr" platform using 'zero touch' technology. Canara Bank will leverage Lendingkart platforms 'xlr8' to originate and distribute MSME loans & 'cred8' to underwrite these loans. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Canara Bank + Lendingkart = partnership to provide low-cost business loans of up to ₹10 lakh to MSMEs
- HQs of Lendingkart – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO & Co-founder – Harshvardhan Lunia
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
- Tagline of Canara bank – "Together We Can"

**55.** On January 17, The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) amended Settlement Proceedings norms. The SEBI reduced the timeline for filing settlement applications to just 60 days from the current 180 days in its effort to make the system more efficient. However, an additional 120 days can be availed by the applicants in case they pay an additional 25% over the settlement charges. Moreover, the SEBI rationalised the proceeding conversion factor (PCF) values range as 0.40 to 1.50. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI – reduced the timeline for filing the applications to 60 days from 180 days
- SEBI – rationalised the proceeding conversion factor (PCF) values range as 0.40 to 1.50
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**56.** On January 18, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) crossed the mark of 5 Cr customers which made it 3<sup>rd</sup> largest entity in the segment after Paytm and Airtel Payments Bank. IPPB opened these 5 Cr accounts in digital and paperless mode, out of which 1.20 lakh are in rural areas. IPPB claims to have achieved the world's largest Digital Financial Literacy Programme by building a financially aware and empowered customer-base. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IPPB – became the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest entity to cross the mark of 5 Cr customers (after Paytm & Airtel Payments Bank)
- IPPB – achieved the world's largest Digital Financial Literacy Programme
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Venkatram Jayanthi | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> Sep, 2018

**57.** On January 19, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched Saa<sup>₹</sup>thi - a mobile app on investor education. The app will create awareness among the investors about the basic concepts of securities market, KYC (Know Your Customer) process, trading and settlement, mutual funds, recent market developments and investor grievances redressal mechanism, among others. SEBI last year had published the "Investor Charter" to help investors to improve their ease of investing in Indian securities market. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI – launched Saa<sup>₹</sup>thi mobile app on investor education
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**58.** On January 19, the Cabinet approved the payment of ₹973.74 Cr to State Bank of India (SBI) under the 'Scheme for Grant of Ex-Gratia Payment' of difference between compound interest and simple interest for 6 months to borrowers. A Budget allocation of ₹5,500 Cr was made for the scheme in FY21. Whole amount of ₹5,500 Cr was disbursed to SBI for consequent reimbursement to lending institutions. Education loans, MSME loans, Housing loans & Personal loans up to Rs 2 Cr are the eligible borrowers under the 'Scheme for Grant of Ex-Gratia Payment'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved the payment of ₹973.74 Cr to SBI under the 'Scheme for Grant of Ex-Gratia Payment'
- Education loans, MSME loans, Housing loans & Personal loans up to Rs 2 Cr are the eligible borrowers
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**59.** On January 19, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved an equity infusion of Rs 1,500 Cr in the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), which would raise its additional lending capacity by Rs 12,000 Cr. The enhanced lending capacity will enable IREDA to finance addition Renewable Energy capacity of up to 4000MW. Present loan book size of IREDA is around Rs 27,000 Cr. As per the RBI lending norms, a lender can lend up to 20% of its net worth. Thus, IREDA would now be able to lend up to Rs 900 Cr in an RE project as its net worth is increased to Rs 4,500 Cr from existing Rs 3,000 Cr. IREDA, a 'Mini Ratna' company under the administrative control of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved an equity infusion of Rs 1,500 Cr in the IREDA (raising its additional lending capacity by Rs 12,000 Cr)
- As per the RBI lending norms: a lender can lend up to 20% of its Net Worth
- Net worth of IREDA increased from Rs 3,000 Cr to Rs 4,500 Cr (its lending capacity - up to Rs 900 Cr)
- HQs of IREDA – New Delhi | CMD – Pradip Kumar Das



**60.** On January 20, the RBI's Digital Payment Index rose by 39.64% to 304.06 in September 2021 against 217.74 in the year-ago month, as per the "RBI - Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) for September 2021" released by the RBI. Constructed with March 2018 as the base period, DPI score for March 2018 is set at 100. The RBI-DPI comprises 5 broad parameters that enable measurement of deepening and penetration of digital payments in India over different time periods. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "RBI - Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) for September 2021" – released by the RBI
- In September 2021: RBI's Digital Payment Index rose by 39.64% to 304.06 score
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**61.** On January 19, the International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) signed an MoU with the 'Insurance Institute of India' for capacity building in insurance sector. The Insurance Institute of India (III), which functions under the Ministry of Finance, would undertake a study to make changes to the academic curriculum in meeting the current needs of the insurance industry participants in IFSCA. The Institute is also the member of the Institute of Global Insurance Education (IGIE). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IFSCA + Insurance Institute of India = an MoU for capacity building in Insurance Sector
- Insurance Institute of India – functions under Ministry of Finance
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas

**62** On January 18, UBS bank won right to sell Vijay Mallya's London home. Under the May 2019 order, UBS had been granted an 'immediate right to possession' and Mallya was not permitted to make any further applications to postpone or suspend the date for giving up possession. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UBS bank – granted an 'immediate right to possession' to sell Vijay Mallya's London home
- HQs of UBS bank – Zurich, Switzerland | CEO – Ralph Hamers

**63.** On January 20, Kotak Mahindra Bank signed an MoU with GIFT SEZ Limited (GIFT SEZ), enabling both to work together towards greater enhancement of the financial services eco-system in GIFT IFSC for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) and Global Custody Services. In May 2021, Kotak Mahindra Bank had issued the first-ever FPI license to a GIFT IFSC AIF, marking a new beginning in the journey of the fund business in GIFT IFSC. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kotak Mahindra Bank + GIFT SEZ = an MoU to improve customers' overall financial services offerings
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – "Let's make money simple"

**64.** On January 21, the RBI conducted a Variable Rate Repo (VRR) operation to infuse liquidity, instead of its usual Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) operations to suck out cash. The central bank proposed to lend the banking system Rs 50,000 Cr under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF). Rs 50,000 Cr auction drew bids worth Rs 65,700 Cr from the banking system at the cut-off rate of 4.06%. The lowest call money rate was 2.80%, while the highest rate paid as call money was 4.65%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – conducted a Variable Rate Repo (VRR) operation to infuse liquidity
- RBI – proposed to lend the banking system Rs 50,000 Cr under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**65.** On January 21, the RBI amended the “Factoring Regulation Act, 2011”. In exercise of the powers conferred under the Act, the RBI issued some regulations. Under the provisions of the regulations, all existing Non-deposit taking NBFC-Investment & Credit Companies (NBFC-ICCs) with asset size of Rs 1000 Cr & above will be permitted to undertake factoring business. This will increase the number of NBFCs eligible to undertake factoring business significantly from 7 to 182. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI amended the “Factoring Regulation Act, 2011”
- Non-deposit taking NBFC-ICCs with asset size of Rs 1000 Cr & above are permitted to undertake factoring business
- NBFCs eligible to undertake factoring business will be increased from 7 to 182
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**66.** On January 20, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of former comptroller and auditor general (CAG) of India ‘Vinod Rai’ as independent chairman of Unity Small Finance Bank (Unity SFB). Unity SFB is a 51:49 joint venture between Centrum Group and Bharatpe. According to the licence agreement, Unity SFB will take over the Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vinod Rai – appointed as Independent Chairman of Unity Small Finance Bank
- Unity SFB – a joint venture between Centrum Group & Bharatpe
- HQs of Unity SFB – New Delhi | interim CEO – Inderjit Camotra
- HQs of PMC Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Administrator – A. K. Dixit
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**67.** Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will invest \$150 million in the development of Data Centers that mostly serve Asia. This is AIIB’s 1<sup>st</sup> data center project. AIIB will channelise funds through the Keppel Data Centre Fund II (KDCF II), a private equity vehicle managed by Alpha Investment Partners Limited (Alpha). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AIIB – will invest \$150 million in the development of Data Centers that mostly serve Asia
- AIIB – will channelise funds through the KDCF II, a private equity vehicle managed by Alpha Investment Partners Limited
- HQs of AIIB – Beijing, China | President – Jin Liqun | Established in – 2016 | Members – 105

**68.** On January 24, Fullerton India and One97 Communications Ltd, the parent company of Paytm, announced a partnership to provide lending products to merchant partners and consumers. With this partnership, the fintech users will get Paytm Postpaid (buy-now-pay-later) feature on the Paytm platform. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Fullerton India + One97 Communications = partnership to provide lending products to merchant partners & consumers
- One97 Communications – the parent company of Paytm
- HQs of Fullerton India Credit Company – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Shantanu Mitra
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010

**69.** On January 21, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launched “Platina Fixed Deposit”, which offers interest of 15 basis points in addition to the regular Ujjivan SFB term deposit rates. The minimum FD amount is ₹20 lakh and the maximum amount is less than ₹2 Cr. The Platina FD is a non-callable deposit, partial & pre-mature withdrawal is not applicable to this scheme. The deposit tenure ranges from 1 year to a maximum of 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ujjivan SFB – launched “Platina FD” which offers interest of 15 basis points more than regular FD
- FD amount – Rs 20 Lakh to Rs 2 Cr (Tenure - 1 to 5 years)
- HQs of Ujjivan SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Ittira Davis | Founded in – 2004

**70.** On January 24, India crossed the \$200 million mark of export of agricultural processed product - pickling cucumber, which is globally referred as ‘gherkins’ or ‘cornichons’. India emerged as the largest exporter of gherkins in the world with outbound shipments worth \$114 million from April-October 2021 compared to \$200 million of exports in full FY21. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India is largest exporter of ‘gherkins’ in the world with shipments worth \$114 million from April-October 2021
- India – crossed the \$200 million mark of export of ‘gherkins’ which is an agricultural processed product

**71.** On January 25, Pencilton, a teen-focused fintech company, launched PencilCard in partnership with Transcorp. It is an NCMC-compliant (National Common Mobility Card) RuPay debit card specially designed for the teenager segment. A single PencilCard will serve multiple needs and will work as an all-in-one card. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pencilton + Transcorp = launched “PencilCard”, an NCMC-compliant RuPay debit card for the teenager segment
- HQs of Pencilton – Hyderabad, Telangana | Co-founder and CEO – Vishwajit Pureti

**72.** On January 25, fintech company Lendingkart Finance partnered with the Bank of Maharashtra to co-lend business loans to MSME borrowers across India at low interest rates. Through this partnership, credit will be made available to MSME borrowers at their doorstep powered by the ‘zero touch’ technology platform Lendingkart ‘2gthr’. The MSMEs will be eligible for loans up to ₹10 lakhs. The Bank will leverage Lendingkart’s platform ‘xlr8’ to distribute MSME loans sourced through multi-channel strategies supporting its vision of financial inclusion. Lendingkart had announced a similar partnership with Canara Bank too. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lendingkart + BoM = partnered to co-lend business for loans up to ₹10 lakhs to MSME borrowers
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – A S Rajeev | Tagline – “One Family One Bank”
- HQs of Lendingkart – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO & Co-founder – Harshvardhan Lunia



**73.** On January 24, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) offered the banking system Rs 75,000 Cr of overnight liquidity through variable rate repo (VRR) auction. The central bank offered Rs 75,000 Cr of liquidity to the banking system against which banks bid for up to Rs 1.38 trillion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – offered the banking system Rs 75,000 Cr of overnight liquidity through variable rate repo (VRR) auction
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**74.** On January 24, City Union Bank, in association with GOQii, the smart-tech-enabled preventive healthcare platform, and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched “Rupay-on-the-go” payment solution through their debit card in a ‘fitness watch’. For payments above ₹5000, customers need to tap and enter their PIN. This fitness watch enables the wearer to monitor their oxygen level (SpO2), body temperature, heart rate, blood pressure, and 18 exercise modes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CUB + GOQii + NPCI = launched “Rupay on the go” payment solution through debit card in a ‘fitness watch’
- HQs of CUB – Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Dr. N. Kamakodi
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

**75.** On January 21, India paid \$29.9 million in UN Regular Budget Assessments for the year 2022. Only 24 Member States out of 193 that have paid their UN Regular Budget Assessments in full. India is currently a non-permanent member of the 15-nation Security Council and its two-year term will end on December 31, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – paid \$29.9 million in UN Regular Budget Assessments for 2022
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945

**76.** On January 25, Swiggy raised \$700 million in Invesco-led new funding which made it a decacorn, almost doubling its valuation to \$10.7 billion. Swiggy’s latest valuation is almost double that of Zomato. Zomato was valued at \$5.4 billion before its IPO. Bengaluru-based Swiggy has overtaken budget hospitality company ‘Oyo’ and sports technology company ‘Dream Sports’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Swiggy – raised \$700 million in Invesco-led new funding & reached its valuation to \$10.7 billion
- HQs of Swiggy – Bangalore, Karnataka | Founder & CEO – Sriharsha Majety | Founded in – 2014

**77.** On January 27, Max Life Insurance partnered with Policybazaar to offer its “Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan” on Policybazaar’s platform as an independent cover to homemakers. The housewife with an annual household income of over ₹5 lakh in the age group of 18-50 can buy the independent cover from ₹25 lakhs to ₹49 lakhs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Max Life Insurance + Policybazaar = partnership to offer “Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan” on Policybazaar’s platform
- Criteria: Household income – ₹5 lakh | Age Group – 18-50 years
- HQs of Max Life Ins. – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Prashant Tripathy
- HQs of Policybazaar – Gurgaon, Haryana | CEO – Yashish Dahiya

**78.** On January 27, Central government approved the amalgamation of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank (PMC Bank) with Unity Small Finance Bank (USFBL) which is the 12<sup>th</sup> SFB in India. The scheme of amalgamation envisages takeover of the assets and liabilities of PMC Bank. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Central government approved the amalgamation of = PMC Bank + Unity SFB
- Central government gave approval to Unity SFB to takeover the assets & liabilities of PMC Bank
- [Unity SFB – a joint venture between Centrum Group & Bharatpe](#)
- [HQs of Unity SFB – New Delhi | interim CEO – Inderjit Camotra](#)

**79.** On January 27, Fintech company Alphaniti partnered with IIFL Securities to allow investors to invest and trade in stock offerings. Alphaniti aims to redefine the experience of direct investments by offering high-quality products at affordable costs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Alphaniti + IIFL Securities = partnership to allow investors to invest & trade in stock offerings
- [HQs of Alphaniti – Pune, Maharashtra | Founder & CEO – Arindam Ghosh](#)
- [HQs of IIFL Securities Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Sandeep Bhardwaj](#)

**80.** On January 27, NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) signed an MoU with TerraPay to allow Indians with an active UPI ID to receive Real-time International Payments into their bank accounts via TerraPay's secure payments technology. TerraPay is a Netherlands-based global payments infrastructure company. India is the largest recipient of cross-border remittances, receiving over US\$ 80 Billion per annum. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NIPL + TerraPay = an MoU to allow Indians with an active UPI ID to receive Real-time International Payments
- [HQs of NIPL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ritesh Shukla](#)
- [HQs of TerraPay – Amsterdam, Netherlands | CEO – Ambar Sur](#)

**81.** On January 27, Agri-tech start-up FAARMS in association with Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd (RGICL) introduced customized Digital Insurance Solutions for the rural population especially the farmers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- FAARMS + Reliance General Insurance = introduced customized Digital Insurance Solutions for rural population
- [HQs of Reliance General Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rakesh Jain](#)
- [HQs of FAARMS Solution Pvt Ltd – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#)

**82.** On January 27, Paytm Money introduced India's 1<sup>st</sup> intelligent messenger called 'Pops'. With 'Pops', users can receive specific information related to their stocks, analysis about their portfolio, market news, and important market movements all in one place. Paytm Money partnered with InvestorAi to offer stock recommendations based on signals generated using artificial intelligence. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Paytm Money – introduced 'Pops' - India's 1<sup>st</sup> intelligent messenger
- Paytm Money + InvestorAi = partnership to offer stock recommendations based on signals generated using AI
- [HQs of Paytm Money – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Varun Sridhar | Founded in – 2009](#)



**83.** On January 29, Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) set up 'New Bank Note Printing Lines' each at Currency Note Press, Nashik and Bank Note Press, Dewas under its modernisation initiatives. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SPMCIL set up 'New Bank Note Printing Lines' each at Nashik & Dewas under its modernisation initiatives
- Currency Notes printing places – Nasik, Dewas, Mysore, Salboni
- Coins minting places – Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Noida
- HQs of SPMCIL – New Delhi | CMD – Tripti Patra Ghosh
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**84.** On January 31, the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), released the (i) First Revised Estimates of National Income, Consumption Expenditure, Saving and Capital Formation for FY 2020-21, along with (ii) Second Revised Estimates for FY 2019-20 and (iii) Third Revised Estimates for FY 2018-19 (with Base Year 2011-12). The Indian economy contracted by 6.6 % in 2020-21 as compared to growth of 3.7% during 2019-20.

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NSO (under Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation) released: (with Base Year 2011-12)
  - First Revised Estimates of National Income, Consumption Expenditure, Saving & Capital Formation for FY 2020-21
  - Second Revised Estimates for FY 2019-20
  - Third Revised Estimates for FY 2018-19
- Indian Economy (GDP): -6.6% in 2020-21 | 3.7% in 2019-20
- NSO comes under – Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoS I/C – Rao Inderjit Singh)
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

**85.** On January 28, State Bank of India (SBI) listed its first \$300 million Formosa bonds on India International Exchange IFSC (India INX). The bank had raised \$300 million of "Regulation S" Formosa bonds at a coupon rate of 2.49%. With this, SBI became the first Indian entity to raise money through Formosa Bond. While India INX became the first Exchange in IFSC to list Formosa Bonds issued by SBI. A Formosa bond is a bond issued in Taiwan but denominated in a currency other than the New Taiwan Dollar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI – listed its first \$300 million 'Formosa bonds' on India International Exchange IFSC (India INX)
- SBI – became the first Indian entity to raise money through 'Formosa Bond'
- India INX – became the first Exchange in IFSC to list 'Formosa Bonds'
- Formosa bond is issued in – Taiwan
- HQs of India INX – GIFT City, Gujarat | MD & CEO – V. Balasubramaniam
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**86.** On January 29, the RBI imposed several restrictions on Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd, Lucknow, including a cap of Rs 1 lakh on withdrawals. The restrictions would remain in force for six months and are subject to review. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- RBI imposed several restrictions on Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd, Lucknow (Rs 1 lakh cap on withdrawals)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**87.** On January 28, Banks have finalised plans to transfer 15 Non-Performing Asset (NPA) accounts worth ₹50,000 Cr to the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. (NARCL), or the 'bad bank' set up to help resolve the stress by the end of this financial year 2021-22 (March 2022), announced by Dinesh Khara, Chairman, State Bank of India (SBI). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Banks finalised plans to transfer 15 NPA accounts worth ₹50,000 Cr to NARCL or Bad Bank

**88.** On January 31, State Bank of India (SBI) entered into an agreement with Tata Power Solar Systems for financing of solar projects. The SBI also set up a dedicated centralized processing cell - "Surya Shakti Cell", at the Ballard Estate in Mumbai with an objective to provide a new direction to solar projects financing in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI + Tata Power Solar Systems = an agreement for financing of Solar Projects
- SBI also set up a dedicated centralized processing cell - "Surya Shakti Cell"
- HQs of Tata Power Solar Systems – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Ashish Khanna
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**89.** On January 31, Metal and mining giant Vedanta Ltd tied up a facility of ₹8,000 Cr with Union Bank of India to take over majority of the syndicated facility. During 2020 amidst COVID pandemic, Vedanta Limited had tied up a syndicated facility of ₹10,000 Cr with SBI at a running cost of 10.5%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vedanta Ltd + UBI = tied up a syndicated facility of ₹8,000 Cr (in Jan 2022)
- Vedanta Ltd + SBI = tied up a syndicated facility of ₹10,000 Cr (in 2020)

**90.** On January 31, Banks' non-food credit increased to 9.3% in December 2021 from 6.6% in December 2020, according to the RBI's Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit data for December 2021. Credit to Agriculture and Allied activities continued to perform well, registering a robust growth of 14.5% in December 2021. Moreover, Loans to industry improved noticeably to 7.6% in December 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI's Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit data for December 2021:
  - Banks' non-food credit increased to 9.3%
  - Credit to Agriculture and Allied activities registered a growth of 14.5%
  - Loans to industry increased to 7.6%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**91.** The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) plans to add 30 Cr users to its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and increase the number of transactions to 100 Cr a day in 3-5 years. This is more than a doubling of the current base of 25 Cr users and a manifold increase in the number of transactions from the current level of 450 Cr a month. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NPCI plans to add 30 Cr users to its UPI & increase the number of transactions to 100 Cr a day in 3-5 years
- Current base of Users – 25 Cr | Current number of transactions – 450 Cr a month



# Defence Affairs

1. In January 2022, Six Indo-Pacific nations (India, Australia, Canada, Japan, US and South Korea) participated in the “Sea Dragon 22” multi-lateral anti-submarine warfare exercise in the Pacific Ocean. India, Japan, Australia and America are also part of the Quad, and also participate in the Malabar exercise. The exercise took place at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, which is a territory of USA. Each event will be graded and the nation scoring the highest total points will receive the coveted ‘Dragon Belt award’. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- India + Australia + Canada + Japan + USA + South Korea = began anti-submarine exercise “Sea Dragon 22”
- Location of the exercise – Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, a territory of USA
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950

2. In January 2022, The Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA), the defence treaty between Australia & Japan was signed. Japan and Australia are two treaty allies of the US and this treaty shows the changing security architecture in the Asia & Indo-Pacific region. The treaty points towards a more empowered and committed regional strategic network. Thus far, Japan’s only major defence ally had been the US and this treaty shows that Japan is willing to play a more proactive role in the region. Reports suggest it will seek RAA-like agreements with the UK and France as well. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Australia & Japan – signed a defence treaty “Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA)”
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

3. On January 12, India successfully test-fired an extended range, sea-to-sea variant of the “BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile” from the INS Visakhapatnam. BrahMos missiles are designed & developed by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture company set up by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) & Mashinostroyeniya of Russia. BrahMos, first deployed by the Navy in 2005, has the capability to hit sea-based targets beyond radar horizon. This version of the missile has been designed to launch either in a vertical or a horizontal mode from moving/stationary assets to target both land & sea targets. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- India – test-fired extended range sea-to-sea variant of “BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile” from INS Visakhapatnam
- BrahMos missiles – developed by BrahMos Aerospace - a JV between DRDO (India) & Mashinostroyeniya (Russia)
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

4. On January 13, Russia’s defence forces unveiled the new ‘Tupolev Tu-160M’ strategic missile bomber also known as ‘White Swan’ which has 80% of equipment upgraded & modernised. This development comes Amid Russia's tensions with Ukraine at the border. Tu-160M is the world’s heaviest supersonic military aircraft. It is designed to strike targets in remote areas with nuclear and conventional weapons. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Russia – unveiled “Tupolev Tu-160M”, world’s heaviest Supersonic Missile Bomber also known as ‘White Swan’
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

5. On January 14, Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched a "Solid-fuel Satellite Carrier Rocket" into space. It marked the first time Iran used a solid-fuel rocket rather than a liquid-fuel one. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Iran's Paramilitary Revolutionary Guard – launched its first "Solid-fuel Satellite Carrier Rocket" into space
- [Iran – Tehran – Rial](#) | [President – Ali Khamenei](#)

6. On January 16, Philippines confirmed to acquire 3 batteries of the BrahMos cruise missile from India in a deal worth \$375 million. This missile is jointly developed by India and Russia. The Philippines is the first country to buy the BrahMos missile system from India. This development will boost India's efforts to become a major exporter of defence hardware. India has targeted to achieve defence exports of \$5 billion by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Philippines – to acquire 3 batteries of the BrahMos cruise missile from India at a deal worth \$375 million
- Philippines – the first country to buy the BrahMos missile system from India
- India's target to achieve defence exports of \$5 billion – by 2024
- [Philippines – Manila – Peso](#) | [President – Rodrigo Duterte](#)

7. On January 15, the occasion of Army Day, Indian Army unveiled a Monumental National Flag of size 225 feet by 150 feet at Jaisalmer Military Station as a tribute to the Indian heritage, as it is completely made of Khadi material. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Army – unveiled a Khadi made Monumental National Flag at Jaisalmer Military Station
- Size: 225 feet long & 150 feet wide
- [HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi](#) | [Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane](#) | [Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty](#)

8. Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmat undertook "Maritime Partnership Exercise" with Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) Ships Uruga and Hirado in the Bay of Bengal on 13 January 2022. The entire exercise was planned and conducted in a non-contact mode, thereby adhering to COVID safety norms. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Maritime Partnership Exercise" – conducted between the Ships of Indian Navy & Japanese Navy
- INS Shivalik & INS Kadmat – participated in the exercise
- [Japan – Tokyo – Yen](#) | [PM – Fumio Kishida](#)

9. Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer, INS Kochi, undertook the international "PASSEX" (Passage Exercise) with Russian Federation Navy's RFS Admiral Tributs on 14 January 2022 in the Arabian Sea. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- International "PASSEX" (Passage Exercise) – conducted between the Ships of Indian Navy & Russian Navy
- INS Kochi – participated in the exercise
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)





**10.** On January 19, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed a contract with the Mauritius government to export 1 advanced light helicopter (ALH Mk-III) for the country's police force. ALH Mk-III is a multi-role, multi-mission versatile helicopter in 5.5 tonne category. The Mauritius government already operates HAL-built ALH & Do-228 aircraft. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HAL + Mauritius = contract to export 1 advanced light helicopter (ALH Mk-III)
- Mauritius – Port Louis – Mauritian rupee | PM – Pravind Kumar Jugnauth
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD – R. Madhavan

**11.** On January 20, Swedish Defence Company 'Saab AB' has been given a contract to supply single-shot anti-armour weapon "AT4" to the Indian armed forces. AT4 will be used by Indian Army and Indian Air Force. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Saab AB (Sweden) – given a contract to supply single-shot anti-armour weapon "AT4" to the Indian Armed Forces
- 'AT4' will be used by – Indian Army & Indian Air Force

**12.** In January 2022, China unveiled world's largest 'Quadruped Military Robot'. This yak-like appearance robot is strong enough to carry 160 Kgs and can sprint at 10 Kph. The robot can deal with all sorts of road and weather conditions. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China – unveiled world's largest 'Quadruped Military Robot' with yak-like appearance
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**13.** The Border Security Force conducted "Operation Sard Hawa" from January 23 to 28 along the Pakistan border in Rajasthan. All personnel and officers of the headquarters were on the border during this period and monitored the situation 24 hours. The BSF conducts "Operation Garam Hawa" in summer & "Operation Sard Hawa" in winter every year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BSF – conducted "Operation Sard Hawa" from January 23 to 28 along the Pakistan border in Rajasthan
- Every year, BSF – conducts "Operation Garam Hawa" in summer & "Operation Sard Hawa" in winter
- HQs of BSF – New Delhi | DG – Pankaj Kumar Singh | Established on – Dec 1, 1965 | Motto – "Duty Unto Death"

**14.** On January 21, the Amar Jawan Jyoti at the India Gate was merged with the eternal flame at the National War Memorial. Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Air Marshal B R Krishna presided over the ceremony. After India defeated Pakistan in the 1971 war, the Amar Jawan Jyoti was constructed as a memorial for Indian soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amar Jawan Jyoti (India Gate) – merged with the eternal flame at 'National War Memorial, New Delhi'
- Amar Jawan Jyoti – was established in 1971

**15.** On January 15, Indian Army introduced a light and more climate-friendly combat uniform for its personnel during the Army Day parade. The new Uniform is developed with the help of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) to serve two purposes - Protection against harsh climatic conditions, and to provide soldiers' outfits with field camouflage, to increase survivability. The Army's uniform is made of a combination of cotton and polyester in a ratio of 70:30. The camouflage uniform is based on a "digital disruptive" pattern and is available in 13 sizes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Army – introduced a light & more climate-friendly combat uniform based on a digital disruptive pattern
- The uniform is made = Cotton (70%) + Polyester (30%)
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande
- HQs of NIFT – New Delhi | DG – Sh. Shantmanu | Established in – 1986

**16.** On January 21, the "2022 Marine Security Belt" exercise took place in the Indian Ocean. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> joint naval drill between China, Russia & Iran. The three countries started joint naval drills in 2019. Iran is pursuing a "look east" policy to deepen ties with China & Russia. Both navies from Iran's armed forces & Revolutionary Guards took part in the drills. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "2022 Marine Security Belt Exercise" – took place between China, Russia & Iran in the Indian Ocean
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ebrahim Raisi | Supreme Leader – Ali Khamenei

**17.** In January 2022, NATO members conducted a 12-day maritime exercise "Neptune Strike '22" in the Mediterranean Sea. The exercise was led by US Navy. This exercise is designed to demonstrate NATO's ability to integrate the high-end maritime strike capabilities of an aircraft carrier strike group. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NATO members conducted a 12-day maritime exercise "Neptune Strike '22" in the Mediterranean Sea
- The exercise was led by – US Navy
- HQs of NATO – Brussels, Belgium | Secretary General – Jens Stoltenberg | Member Countries – 30

**18.** On January 26, Indian Navy started conducting a 20-day joint maritime exercise Paschim Lehar in Arabian Sea to validate operational plans of the Western Naval Command and enhance inter-service synergy among the Navy, Air Force, Army and Coast Guard. The exercise called 'XPL-22' was concluded. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Navy – conducted a 20-day joint maritime exercise 'Paschim Lehar (XPL-22)' in Arabian Sea
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950

**19.** On January 28, the indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III aircraft was formally inducted at INS Utkrosh by Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN), Lieutenant General Ajai Singh at Port Blair. ALH MK III aircraft is manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). INS Utkrosh is an Indian naval air station under the joint-services Andaman and Nicobar Command of the Indian Armed Forces. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lt. Gen. Ajai Singh formally inducted 'ALH MK III' aircraft – at INS Utkrosh, Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar
- ALH MK III aircraft is manufactured by HAL
- [HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#) | [CEO – Amitabh Bhatt](#) | [Chairman & MD – R. Madhavan](#)

**20.** On January 25, the Armed Forces received the first batch of 70,000 rifles from Russia as part of a larger contract to manufacture the AK 203 assault rifles in India. The first batch is likely to be used by the Indian Air Force, while the rifles to be manufactured at the Amethi factory will be delivered to the Indian Army, which is the main customer with a requirement of over 6,00,000 AK 203s. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Armed Forces received the first batch of 70,000 AK 203 assault rifles from Russia (1<sup>st</sup> batch is likely to be used by IAF)
- Korwa Rifle Factory – Amethi, Uttar Pradesh
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)



# Schemes & Initiatives

**1.** Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) launched an umbrella scheme called “SMILE” (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) for rehabilitation of persons engaged in begging and for providing support to transgender persons. The scheme will cover rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling, education, skill development and economic linkages. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- MoSJE – launched “SMILE” scheme for transgender persons & beggars
- SMILE – Support for **M**arginalised **I**ndividuals for **L**ivelihood and **E**nterprise

**2.** On January 14, Kerala’s Kumbalangi became 1<sup>st</sup> sanitary-napkin free village of India. Under an initiative, titled ‘Avalkayi’ (for her), around 5,000 menstrual cups will be distributed to women aged 18 & above. HLL Management Academy through their ‘Thingal’ scheme & Indian Oil Corporation are the other partners in the scheme. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Kumbalangi ([Kerala](#)) – 1<sup>st</sup> sanitary-napkin free village of India
- Kerala – launched “Avalkayi” scheme to distribute 5,000 menstrual cups to women aged 18 & above
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram](#) | [CM – Pinarayi Vijayan](#) | [Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

**3.** On January 25, NIMHANS in association with NITI Aayog launched the ‘Karnataka Brain Health Initiative’, a first-of-its-kind programme in India. Under this programme, doctors will be trained in screening and treating mental health patients. The initiative was rolled out in Bengaluru, Kolar, and Chickballapur districts on a pilot basis. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NIMHANS + NITI Aayog = launched the “Karnataka Brain Health Initiative” to train doctors
- [HQs of NIMHANS – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#) | [Director – Pratima Murthy](#)
- [HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi](#) | [CEO – Amitabh Kant](#)
- [Chairperson – Narendra Modi](#) | [Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar](#)

**4.** On January 26, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) notified a drone certification scheme under Rule 7 of the liberalized Drone Rules, 2021. The objective of this scheme is to provide safety and security criteria and requirements for drones, evaluate their certification, among others. This scheme will ensure quality requirements to boost indigenous manufacturing. The MoCA approved a PLI scheme for unmanned aircraft systems (drones) and drone components with an allocation of ₹120 Cr. India’s target is to be the drone hub by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Ministry of Civil Aviation – notified a drone certification scheme to ensure quality requirements
- Ministry of Civil Aviation – approved a PLI scheme with allocation of ₹120 Cr for drones & drone components
- India’s target is to be the drone hub by – 2030
- [Ministry of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia](#) | [Constituency – Guna, Madhya Pradesh](#)

**5.** In January 2022, Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) notified the “Scheme on Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Indian Capital Goods Sector - Phase-II” for providing assistance to Common Technology Development and Services Infrastructure. The scheme has a financial outlay of Rs 1207 Cr (Budgetary support of Rs 975 Cr & Industry Contribution of Rs 232 Cr). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Heavy Industries Mini. – notified “Scheme on Enhancement of Competitiveness in Indian Capital Goods Sector - Phase-II”
- Financial outlay of the scheme – Rs 1207 Cr (Rs 975 Cr Budgetary support + Rs 232 Cr Industry Contribution)
- Ministry of Heavy Industries: Mahendra Nath Pandey | Constituency – Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Heavy Industries: Krishan Pal



# Sports & Games

1. In January 2022, Sri Lanka batter Bhanuka Rajapaksa announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect. He represented Sri Lanka in five ODIs and 18 T20Is, scoring a total of runs 409 across formats which included three fifties. In T20 World Cup 2021, he finished as the third-highest run-scorer for his team with 155 runs from eight matches. He made his debut in July 2021. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Bhanuka Rajapaksa ([Sri Lanka](#)) – retired from International Cricket
- [Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee](#)
- [PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa](#) | [President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa](#)

2. India won a record 8<sup>th</sup> Under-19 Asia Cup title in Dubai, UAE, by thrashing Sri Lanka by nine wickets. India's win was orchestrated by spinners Vicky Ostwal and Kaushal Tambe and opener Angkrish Raghuvanshi. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- India – won a record 8<sup>th</sup> 'Under-19 Asia Cup' title in Dubai, UAE
- India U-19 Cricket Team Captain – Yash Dhull

3. In January 2022, Sri Lanka's opening batter, Danushka Gunathilaka, decided to retire from Test cricket at the age of 30 to focus on the white-ball formats. Before this, Bhanuka Rajapaksa had also announced his retirement from international cricket. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Danushka Gunathilaka ([Sri Lanka](#)) – retired from Test cricket
- Bhanuka Rajapaksa ([Sri Lanka](#)) – retired from Test cricket
- [Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee](#)
- [PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa](#) | [President – Gotabaya Rajapaksaes Ltd"](#)
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH](#) | [Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25<sup>th</sup>\)](#) | [Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935](#)

4. In January 2022, the All India Sports Council of the Deaf (AISCD) got the approval from the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) to host the 1<sup>st</sup> "World Deaf T20 Cricket Championship" in Kerala from January 10 to 20, 2023. A minimum 8 countries are expected to take part in the championship. AISCD is the only Centre-recognised national sports federation for the deaf. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- AISCD will host the 1<sup>st</sup> "World Deaf T20 Cricket Championship" in Kerala in 2023
- [HQs of IOC – Lausanne, Switzerland](#) | [President – Thomas Bach](#) | [Established in – 1894](#)
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram](#) | [CM – Pinarayi Vijayan](#) | [Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

5. In January 2022, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of "Major Dhyan Chand Sports University" in Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh. The University will be established at Salawa and Kaili villages on the outskirts of the Sardhana town of the district at an estimated cost of about Rs 700 Cr. It will have the capacity of training 1,080 sportspersons including 540 female and 540 male ones. The sports university will be equipped with modern and state of the art sports infrastructure for football, basketball, volleyball, handball, kabaddi, shooting, squash, gymnastics, weightlifting, archery, canoeing and kayaking, among other facilities. [{Read more}](#)





**Key Points:**

- PM Modi – laid the foundation stone of “Major Dhyan Chand Sports University in Meerut, UP (Cost – Rs 700 Cr)
- Capacity – to train 1,080 sportspersons (540 female & 540 male)
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow](#) | [CM – Yogi Adityanath](#) | [Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

**6.** Uzbekistan’s GM Nodirbek Abdusattorov defeated Russia’s GM Ian Nepomniachtchi, to win the “World Rapid Chess Championship 2021”. The 17-year-old is the youngest person ever to win the title. Nodirbek received ‘Mard Uglon’ (Brave Son) state award for winning World Rapid title 2021. Indian GMs Koneru Humpy and D. Gukesh were among the Top 10 at the Championship held in Warsaw, Poland. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nodirbek Abdusattorov ([Uzbekistan’s Grandmaster](#)) – won the “World Rapid Chess Championship 2021” in Warsaw

**7.** On January 9, India’s tennis players Rohan Bopanna and Ramkumar Ramanathan won the men’s doubles title at the Adelaide International ATP 250 event. This is Ramkumar’s first ATP Tour title while Rohan won his 20<sup>th</sup>. Besides, France’s Gael Monfils won the men’s singles title and Australia’s Ashleigh Barty won the women’s singles title at the ‘Adelaide International ATP 250’ event. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rohan Bopanna + Ramkumar Ramanathan = won the Men’s Doubles title at ‘Adelaide International ATP 250’ event
- Gael Monfils ([France](#)) – won the Men’s Singles title | Ashleigh Barty ([Australia](#)) – won the Women’s Singles title

**8.** On January 9, Rafael Nadal beat American qualifier Maxime Cressy to win the “Melbourne Summer Set 1 ATP 250” event. It was Nadal’s 89<sup>th</sup> career singles title. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rafael Nadal ([Spain - Tennis](#)) – won the “Melbourne Summer Set 1 ATP 250” event (beating - Maxime Cressy)

**9.** On January 9, Chennai’s 14-year old Bharath Subramaniam became India’s 73<sup>rd</sup> Chess Grandmaster, securing the third and final GM norm at the Vergani Cup in Cattolica, Italy. While Indian player M. R. Lalith Babu emerged as the winner in the tournament, followed by Hans Moke Niemann of the US. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bharath Subramaniam ([Tamil Nadu](#)) – became India’s 73<sup>rd</sup> Chess Grandmaster – at ‘Vergani Cup’ in Italy
- M. R. Lalith Babu ([Andhra Pradesh](#)) – winner of the ‘Vergani Cup’ in Italy

**10.** Karnataka will host the next “Khelo India Games” in 2023. It was announced at the three-day 81<sup>st</sup> All-India Inter-University Athletics Championship at Swaraj Maidan in Moodbidri held under the auspices of Mangalore University & Alva’s Education Foundation. Sports persons get 2% job reservation in government departments. In February 2022, “Khelo India Games 2021” will take place in Panchkula, Haryana. While “Khelo India Games 2022-23” will take place in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Karnataka – to host the next “Khelo India Games” in 2023
- 81<sup>st</sup> All-India Inter-University Athletics Championship – held in Karnataka
- “Khelo India Games 2021” – to take place in Panchkula, Haryana (in Feb 2022)
- “Khelo India Games 2022-23” – to take place in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore](#) | [CM – Basavaraj Bommai](#) | [Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot](#)

**11.** On January 11, South Africa all-rounder ‘Chris Morris’ announced his retirement from all forms of cricket & will take up a coaching role. He was the most expensive buy in the history of IPL 2021 auction (Rs 16.25 Cr) by Rajasthan Royal. He represented South Africa in four Tests, 42 ODIs & 23 T20 Internationals, picking up 48 & 34 wickets respectively. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chris Morris ([South Africa](#)) – retired from all forms of Cricket
- Chris Morris – most expensive buy (Rs 16.25 Cr) in the history of IPL 2021 auction (by Rajasthan Royal)

**12.** On January 11, the Tata Group replaced Vivo as the Title Sponsor for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022 and 2023, IPL's 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> editions respectively. Tata Group will have to shell out more than ₹440 Cr per year that Vivo was paying, due to the increase in number of matches per edition from 60 to 74. ‘IPL 2022’ season will comprise 10 teams. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tata Group – replaced Vivo as the Title Sponsor for the IPL 2022 (15<sup>th</sup>) & 2023 (16<sup>th</sup>) editions
- [HQ of Tata Group – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – N. Chandrasekaran](#)

**13.** New Zealand cricketer Ajaz Patel won the “ICC Men’s Player of the Month Award” for December 2021. Mumbai-born Ajaz achieved the rarest of rare feats as he took all 10 wickets to fall in India's first innings in Mumbai in December 2021. With this, he became only the third player in the history of Test cricket to do so. There was no award in the women's category in December 2021 as there were no international women's games scheduled in that month. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ajaz Patel ([New Zealand](#)) – won the “ICC Men’s Player of the Month Award” for December 2021
- Ajaz Patel – 3<sup>rd</sup> bowler in the history of Test Cricket to take 10 wickets in an innings

**14.** In January 2022, Vinisha Umashankar, a student innovator turned environmentalist was selected as a ‘Changemaker’ & ‘Baton-bearer’ for the 16<sup>th</sup> official Queen’s Baton Relay in India. The Relay began at the Buckingham Palace in London on October 7, 2021 and will conclude on July 28, 2022 at the Opening Ceremony of the “Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games”. Vinisha is famous for her mobile ironing cart, which uses solar panels to power a steam iron box. She also bagged the “Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam IGNITE Awards” instituted by National Innovation Foundation (NIF). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vinisha Umashankar – selected as a ‘Changemaker’ & ‘Baton-bearer’ for the 16<sup>th</sup> official Queen’s Baton Relay in India
- 2022 Commonwealth Games – to take place in Birmingham, England (from July 28)
- [UK – London – Pound Sterling](#) | [PM – Boris Johnson](#)

**15.** Boxing Federation of India (BFI) decided to pull out of the “Asian Under-22 Championships” for men and women due to the global surge in Covid-19 cases. The event was scheduled to be held from January 20 to 30, 2022 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BFI – withdrew from the “Asian Under-22 Championships” – to be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- HQs of BFI – New Delhi | President – Ajay Singh

**16.** On January 16, India’s Lakshya Sen beat World Champion Loh Kean Yew to clinch Men’s Singles Title at the “India Open 2022” held in New Delhi. It was Lakshya’s maiden Super 500 title. While Women’s Singles Title was won by Thailand’s Busanan Ongbamrungphan. India’s Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty won Men’s Doubles title. And Thailand’s Benyapa Aimsaard & Nuntakarn Aimsaard won Women’s Doubles title by defeating Indian pair. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “2022 India Open Badminton Championships” or “Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2022” – held in New Delhi
- Lakshya Sen ([India](#)) – won Men’s Singles title (his maiden ‘Super 500’ title)
- Busanan Ongbamrungphan ([Thailand](#)) – won Women’s Singles title
- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty ([India](#)) – won Men’s Doubles title
- Benyapa Aimsaard & Nuntakarn Aimsaard ([Thailand](#)) – won Women’s Doubles title

**17.** On January 15, Virat Kohli stepped down as India’s most successful Test captain of all time. With this, he has stepped down as captain of India in all 3 formats. He led the team to 40 wins from 68 test matches. He ended his captaincy career as the 4<sup>th</sup> most successful Test skipper of all time in terms of wins behind Graeme Smith (53), Ricky Ponting (48), and Steve Waugh (41). His 1<sup>st</sup> Test as captain was against Australia during 2014-15 series. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Virat Kohli – stepped down as India’s Test captain (4<sup>th</sup> most successful Test skipper of all time)
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Geoff Allardice | Members – 106 countries

**18.** On January 12, Goalkeeper Savita Punia named captain of Indian Women’s Hockey Team. She will lead India in Asia Cup 2022, which is scheduled to be held between January 21-28 at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex, Muscat. India is placed in Pool A along with Japan, Malaysia & Singapore. The top 4 teams will qualify for the ‘2022 World Cup’, to be held in Spain & Netherlands. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Savita Punia – named captain of Indian Women’s Hockey Team for Asia Cup 2022 to be held in Muscat
- ‘Hockey World Cup 2022’ – to be held in Spain & Netherlands
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Narinder Batra | CEO – Thierry Weil | Founded in – 1924
- HQs of Hockey India – New Delhi | President – Gyanendro Ningombam

**19.** On January 15, Russian Aslan Karatsev won the title of Men’s Single at the Sydney Tennis Classic tournament. Andy Murray lost to Aslan Karatsev in the tournament. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Aslan Karatsev ([Russia-Tennis](#)) – won the title of Men’s Single at the “Sydney Tennis Classic Tournament”

**20.** On January 21, the Ladakh women's team won the 9<sup>th</sup> National Women's Ice Hockey Championship. The championship was organised by the 'Ice Hockey Association of India' in Kaza area of Himachal Pradesh from January 15 - 21. It was inaugurated by the chief minister Jai Ram Thakur. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ladakh – won the 9<sup>th</sup> “National Women's Ice Hockey Championship”
- Organised by Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) – in Himachal Pradesh
- HQs of IHAI – New Delhi | President – Surinder Mohan Bali | General Secretary – Harjinder Singh Jindi
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

**21.** On January 19, Sania Mirza announced her retirement by the end of 2022 season. She is winner of 6 Grand Slam titles, including 3 mixed doubles trophies. She made the retirement announcement after losing the Australian Open women's doubles first round with partner Nadiia Kichenok. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sania Mirza ([Tennis](#)) – announced her retirement

**22.** She is the only Indian to win the award twice in her career, having earlier been awarded the trophy in 2018. The only other Indian to receive the award was Jhulan Goswami in 2007. Australian all-rounder Ellyse Perry remains the only player to win the award three times. Indian women's team played their maiden pink-ball Test in Australia. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Smriti Mandhana – became only Indian to win “ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2021” twice in her career
- Ellyse Perry ([Australia](#)) – the only player to win the award 3 times
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Geoff Allardice | Members – 106 countries

**23.** There are no Indian players in the “ICC Men's T20I team of the Year 2021” while Pakistan skipper Babar Azam named as the Captain of the “ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year 2021” in the 11, announced by the International Cricket Council (ICC). Babar's opening partner, Mohammad Rizwan was also included in the team & named as the Wicketkeeper of the team. Besides, Shaheen Afridi (Pakistan), Wanindu Hasaranga (Sri Lanka) & Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh) were also included. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICC announced the names of players included in the “ICC Men's T20I team of the Year 2021”
- Captain – Babar Azam (Pakistan) | Wicketkeeper – Mohammad Rizwan (Pakistan)
- Other players – Shaheen Afridi (Pakistan), Wanindu Hasaranga (Sri Lanka) & Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh)

**24.** India hosted the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the AFC Women's Asian Cup from 20 January to 6 February, 2022. India hosted the tournament for the second time after 1979. Mumbai and Pune hosted the matches in India. Total 12 teams participated in the tournament. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – hosted the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the “AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022” (2<sup>nd</sup> time after 1979)
- Venues in India – Mumbai & Pune

**25.** On January 13, Lilima Minz, midfielder in hockey, announced her retirement from the sport. She hails from the Sundargarh district of Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lilima Minz ([Odisha](#)) – retired from Hockey
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Narinder Batra | CEO – Thierry Weil | Founded in – 1924
- HQs of Hockey India – New Delhi | President – Gyanendro Ningombam

**26.** On January 20, Indian cricketers Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant, and Ravichandran Ashwin were named in the ICC Men's Test team of 2021. New Zealand's Kane Williamson is named the captain of the team. Moreover, Mithali Raj & Jhulan Goswami were included in the ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year for 2021 by the ICC. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rohit Sharma + Rishabh Pant + Ravichandran Ashwin = included in the ICC Men's Test team of 2021
- Kane Williamson ([New Zealand](#)) – captain of the Team
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Geoff Allardice | Members – 106 countries

**27.** On January 20, Indian origin golfer Akshay Bhatia won the Bahamas Great Exuma Classic on the 'Korn Ferry Tour'. He became the 3<sup>rd</sup>-youngest player to win this Tour after Australia's Jason Day & Korean Sungjae Im as the only teenagers to win on the development circuit. The Tour was established in 1990. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Akshay Bhatia ([Indian-origin Golfer](#)) – won the "Korn Ferry Tour"

**28.** On January 23, world No. 7, PV Sindhu won the 'Syed Modi International 2022' after defeating Indian shuttler Malvika Bansod in the women's singles final at the 'Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium' in Lucknow. This is her 2<sup>nd</sup> title at the Super 300 event. She had won the tournament in 2017 as well. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PV Sindhu – won the "Syed Modi International 2022" – held in Lucknow, UP
- HQs of BWF – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen

**29.** On January 19, With the aim to improve India's medal prospects at the 2024 Paralympics, the country's first state-of-the-art, High-performance Para-Badminton Academy with advanced equipment and facilities was set up in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The centre was launched by Dronacharya awardee and head national coach of Indian para-badminton team, Gaurav Khanna, in association with Ageas Federal Life Insurance. Khanna also unveiled the Ageas Federal 'Quest for Fearless Shuttlers' programme to spot and nurture new talent for the 2028 and 2032 Paralympics. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's first High-performance Para-Badminton Academy – set up in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- The centre was launched by = Gaurav Khanna + Ageas Federal Life Insurance
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



**30.** On January 25, as part of the 2021 edition of the ICC Awards, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced Indian opener Smriti Mandhana as the recipient of the “Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy” for the ICC Women’s Cricketer of the Year 2021. ICC Cricketer of the Year award was received by Shaheen Afridi in men’s category. ICC Men’s Test Cricketer of the Year award was given to Joe Root. ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year award was given to Babar Azam and Lizelle Lee in men’s and women’s category respectively. Mohammad Rizwan and Tammy Beaumont received ICC T20I Cricketer of the Year award in men’s and women’s category respectively. Janneman Malan and Fatima Sana are the recipients of ICC Emerging Cricketer of the Year in men’s and women’s category respectively. Moreover, ICC Umpire of the Year award was given to Marais Erasmus. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Smriti Mandhana – received “Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy” for 2021
- ICC Awards 2021:

Award	Recipient
ICC Men’s Cricketer of the Year	Shaheen Afridi (Pakistan)
ICC Women’s Cricketer of the Year	Smriti Mandhana (India)
ICC Men’s Test Cricketer of the Year	Joe Root (England)
ICC Men’s ODI Cricketer of the Year	Babar Azam (Pakistan)
ICC Women’s ODI Cricketer of the Year	Lizelle Lee (South Africa)
ICC Men’s T20I Cricketer of the Year	Mohammad Rizwan (Pakistan)
ICC Women’s T20I Cricketer of the Year	Tammy Beaumont (England)
ICC Emerging Men’s Cricketer of the Year	Janneman Malan (South Africa)
ICC Emerging Women’s Cricketer of the Year	Fatima Sana (Pakistan)
ICC Umpire of the Year	Marais Erasmus (South Africa)

**31.** On January 25, Aslan Karatsev of Russia won Men’s Single title in the 2022 Sydney Tennis Classic or 2022 Sydney International. It was the 3<sup>rd</sup> title of his career. He defeated former world No 1 Andy Murray of Great Britain in the final to win this title. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Aslan Karatsev ([Russia - Tennis](#)) – won Men’s Single title in the “2022 Sydney Tennis Classic” (defeating - Andy Murray)
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

**32.** In January 2022, South Africa beat India by four runs in the third and final One-Day International (ODI) at Newlands in Cape Town and won the 3-match series 3-0. Indian team was captained by K. L. Rahul while South Africa’s team was captained by Temba Bavuma. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- South Africa – won the 3 matches One Day International (ODI) series (defeated - India)
- South Africa’s team was captained by – Temba Bavuma | Indian team was captained by – K. L. Rahul

**33.** In January 2022, Pakistan’s Shaheen Shah Afridi was awarded “Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy” for the Cricketer of the year 2021. The Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy is a cricket trophy which is awarded annually by the International Cricket Council to the ‘ICC Men’s Cricketer of the Year’. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Shaheen Shah Afridi ([Pakistan - Cricketer](#)) – awarded “Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy” for 2021
- ‘Garfield Sobers Trophy’ - a Cricket trophy – awarded annually by the ICC to ‘ICC Men’s Cricketer of the Year’

**34.** On January 28, 2022 Asian Games will take place from September 10 to September 25, 2022, in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China and there will be five co-host cities. The multi-sporting event will feature 40 sports with a total of 61 disciplines. E-sports and breakdancing will debut in the 2022 Asian Games as full medal sports, while Cricket will also be back at Asian Games in T20 format after 11 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “2022 Asian Games” will take place from Sep 10 to 25, 2022 – in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China (total 40 sports)
- Newly added as full medal sports: E-sports & Breakdancing | Again added: Cricket (after 11 years)

**35.** On January 29, Ashleigh Barty won Women’s Single title at the “Australian Open 2022” by defeating Danielle Collins. Barty became the first Australian to win the event since Chris O’Neil captured the women’s title in 1978. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ashleigh Barty ([Australia - Tennis](#)) – won Women’s Single title at the “Australian Open 2022”

**36.** On January 28, India defeated China to win a bronze medal at the ‘Women’s Asia Cup hockey tournament’. Japan defeated South Korea to clinch the title. The tournament was held in Muscat. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Women’s Asia Cup hockey tournament”: Gold – Japan | Silver – South Korea | Bronze – India
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in

**37.** On January 27, Tata Motors extended its partnership with the Tata Open Maharashtra tennis tournament for the fourth year, and will be this year’s title sponsor. The tournament is South Asia’s only ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) tournament and India’s oldest international sporting event. It is scheduled from 31 January to 6 February at the Balewadi stadium, Pune. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tata Motors – will be the title sponsor for tennis tournament “Maharashtra Open 2022”
- ‘Maharashtra Open’ – India’s oldest International Sporting Event
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, MH | Non-Executive Director & Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran

**38.** In January 2022, Odisha hosted “2022 Odisha Open”, the inaugural edition of a BWF international badminton tournament. Over 300 players from 18 countries will participate in the tournament. The 2022 Odisha Open is a “BWF Super 100” tournament and it will take place at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack from January 25 to January 30. 14-year-old badminton player Unnati Hooda became the youngest-ever Indian to win a BWF Super 100 tournament by winning the Odisha Open 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha – hosted 1<sup>st</sup> “Odisha Open Badminton Tournament” at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack
- Unnati Hooda – became the youngest-ever Indian to “BWF Super 100” tournament
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**39.** On January 29, Netherlands batter Ben Cooper (Benjamin Nicolas Cooper) announced his retirement from International Cricket at the age of 29. The left-hand batter has featured in 70 international matches for the Netherlands, since making his debut back in 2013. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ben Cooper ([Netherlands](#)) – retired from International Cricket

**40.** On January 30, Rafael Nadal beat Daniil Medvedev in the “Australia Open” final to win a men’s record 21<sup>st</sup> Grand Slam title. While Men’s Double title was won by Australia's Thanasi Kokkinakis and Nicholas Hilmy Kyrgios. Recently, Ashleigh Barty won Women’s Single title at the “Australian Open 2022” by defeating Danielle Collins. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rafael Nadal ([Spain - Tennis](#)) – won men’s single title at the “Australian Open 2022” (his 21<sup>st</sup> Grand Slam title)
- Ashleigh Barty ([Australia - Tennis](#)) – won women’s single title at the “Australian Open 2022”

**41.** On January 28, Veteran India hockey goalkeeper P. R. Sreejesh won the prestigious “World Games Athlete of the Year” for his performances in 2021, becoming only the second Indian to receive the accolade. In 2020, Indian women’s hockey captain Rani Rampal became the first Indian to win this honour. Sreejesh was the only Indian nominated and was recommended by the International Hockey Federation (FIH). In the FIH Stars Awards in October 2021, Sreejesh was named the “Goalkeeper of the Year 2021”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- P. R. Sreejesh ([Hockey](#)) – became 2<sup>nd</sup> Indian to win the prestigious “World Games Athlete of the Year Award”
- 1<sup>st</sup> Indian – Rani Rampal ([Hockey](#))
- P. R. Sreejesh – also named the “Goalkeeper of the Year 2021” at ‘FIH Stars Awards’ (in Oct 2021)

**42.** On January 30, World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen defeated Fabiano Caruana to clinch the title at the “Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2022”. It was Magnus' 8<sup>th</sup> title. While Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi lost to Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan in the 12<sup>th</sup> and penultimate round. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Magnus Carlsen ([Norway - Chess](#)) – won his 8<sup>th</sup> title at “Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2022” (defeating Fabiano Caruana)

# Important Days & Dates

**1.** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated 64<sup>th</sup> DRDO Day on January 01, 2022. The DRDO was formed in 1958 from the amalgamation of the then already functioning Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO). DRDO was then a small organisation with 10 establishments or laboratories. Currently, the DRDO has total 49 establishments or laboratories. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- January 01 – 64<sup>th</sup> DRDO Day
- Currently, the DRDO has total 49 establishments or laboratories [{Dynamic Data}](#)
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

**2.** In January 2022, 4<sup>th</sup> edition of World Braille Day was observed on 4 January to mark the 231<sup>st</sup> birth anniversary of Louis Braille. The day has been marked by the United Nations since 2019. The day highlights the importance of Braille as a means of communication for partially sighted and blind people. Braille is a tactile representation of alphabetic and numerical symbols using 6 dots to represent each letter and number, and even musical, mathematical and scientific symbols. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- January 04 – 4<sup>th</sup> World Braille Day – by UN (since 2019)
- The day marks the 231<sup>st</sup> birth anniversary of – Louis Braille

**3.** ‘War Orphans Day’ or ‘World Day of War Orphans’ is observed annually on January 6 to educate and address people about the need to care for children living in traumatic conditions in war-torn areas around the world. The day was initiated by the French organisation ‘OS Enfants en Detresses’. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- January 6 – ‘War Orphans Day’ or ‘World Day of War Orphans’

**4.** Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on January 6, 2022. BIS came into existence as Indian Standards Institution (ISI) on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 1947 and in June 1947 Dr. Lal C. Verman took over as its first Director. Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) came into existence, through an Act of Parliament dated 26<sup>th</sup> November 1986, on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1987. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- January 6 – 75<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
- HQs of BIS – Manek Bhawan, Old Delhi | Director General – Pramod Kumar Tiwari

**5.** “National Bird Day” is celebrated on January 5 every year to create awareness or education about the physical and behavioral needs that need to improve the welfare of the millions of birds kept in captivity. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- January 5 – “National Bird Day”



**6.** Union Minister of State for Science and Technology (S&T) Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the theme of National Science Day (NSD) 2022 - “Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future”. NSD is celebrated every year on February 28 to commemorate the discovery of the ‘Raman Effect’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jitendra Singh – launched the theme of ‘National Science Day 2022’ – to be observed on February 28
- 2022’s Theme – “Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future”

**7.** The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2022 as the “International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture” (IYAFA 2022). FAO is the lead agency for celebrating the year in collaboration with other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 2022 – declared as “International Year of Artisanal Fisheries & Aquaculture”

**8.** Every year on January 10, International Hindi Day or World Hindi Day or the Vishwa Hindi Diwas with an aim to promote the use of the Hindi language worldwide. The word Hindi originated from the Persian word Hind, meaning the land of the Indus river. Apart from India, the language is also spoken in Nepal, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Fiji, and Mauritius. January 10 marks the first World Hindi Conference that took place in 1975, in Nagpur, Maharashtra. While Hindi Diwas is observed annually on September 14. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 10 – “International Hindi Day” or “World Hindi Day” or “Vishwa Hindi Diwas” (since 2006)
- September 14 – “Hindi Diwas”

**9.** “Pravasi Bharatiya Divas” or “Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day” is observed on 9 January across the country to reconnect the Non-Resident Indian community with their original roots. In the year 1915, Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa on this day & headed India’s freedom struggle. This year, India celebrated its 17<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bhartiya Divas. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 9 – 17<sup>th</sup> edition of “Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas” or “NRI Day”

**10.** 6<sup>th</sup> January is celebrated as Patrakar Din (Journalism Day). On 6<sup>th</sup> January 1832, Bal Shastri Jambhekar started the 1<sup>st</sup> newspaper in Anglo-Marathi named ‘Darpan’ (Mirror). He is known as the Father of Marathi journalism. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 6 – Patrakar Din (Journalism Day)
- 1<sup>st</sup> newspaper in Anglo-Marathi – ‘Darpan’ started by – Bal Shastri Jambhekar (Father of Marathi journalism)

**11.** Ministry of Commerce’s Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT) organised the first-ever “Startup India Innovation Week” from 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Its primary goal was to bring together India’s key startups, entrepreneurs, investors, funding entities, banks, & other national, international stakeholders to celebrate entrepreneurship & promote innovation. In the startup world, 2021 has been recognised as the ‘Year of Unicorns,’ with 40+ unicorns added in the year. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- January 10 to 16 – 1<sup>st</sup> “Startup India Innovation Week” by DPIIT
- 2021 – ‘Year of Unicorns’
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash

**12.** In January 2022, on the occasion of the 365<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the 10<sup>th</sup> Sikh guru, Guru Gobind Singh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that December 26 will be celebrated as Veer Baal Diwas from 2022. It will be a tribute to the bravery & martyrdom of the sahibzades, the four sons of Guru Govind Singh. Veer Baal Diwas will be on the same day Sahibzada Zorawar Singh Ji & Sahibzada Fateh Singh Ji attained martyrdom after being sealed alive in a wall. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- December 26 – “Veer Baal Diwas” from 2022

**13.** On January 12, the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda is celebrated across India as “National Youth Day”. PM Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 25<sup>th</sup> National Youth Festival in Puducherry on the occasion. The day was first marked on January 12, 1985. The theme for National Youth Day 2022 is “It's all in the Mind”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 12 – “National Youth Day” (since 1985) | 159<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda
- 2021's Theme – “It's all in the Mind”
- Puducherry – hosted the 25<sup>th</sup> National Youth Festival (Inaugurated by - PM Narendra Modi)

**14.** Interacting with over 150 startups in “Celebrating Innovation Ecosystem” even as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, PM Narendra Modi has declared that January 16 will be celebrated as “National Start-up Day”. The event marks the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of the ‘Startup India’ initiative which was launched in August 2015. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 16 – declared as “National Start-up Day” – by PM Narendra Modi
- ‘Startup India’ initiative launched in August 2015

**15.** The 74<sup>th</sup> Indian Army Day was celebrated in India on 15 January 2022 to honour each soldier in the armed forces of our country for their selfless service. Indian Army was officially established on 1 April 1895 under the British rule. However, the first Indian to head the forces was Lieutenant General KM Cariappa, who was appointed to the post on 15 January 1949. In 2022, new ‘Camouflage Uniform’, designed in partnership with the Indian Army and the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), was showcased during the Indian Army Day parade. Besides, the 6<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Veterans’ Day is commemorated on January 14 each year as a mark of respect to and in recognition of the services rendered by Field Marshal KM Cariappa. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 15 – 74<sup>th</sup> Indian Army Day
- January 14 – 6<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Veterans’ Day
- New ‘Camouflage Uniform’ = designed by Indian Army + NIFT
- Indian Army – established on 1 April, 1895
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty



**16.** On January 15, the government decided to commemorate Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary as part of the Republic Day celebrations. So, the celebrations will be started from January 23 instead of January 24 every year. This is in line with the PM Narendra Modi government's focus to commemorate important aspects of our history and culture. Last year, the Centre announced that January 23 will be celebrated as "Parakram Diwas" or "Day of Valour". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- In 2022, Government started Republic Day celebrations from January 23 (Netaji's birth anniversary)
- January 23 – "Parakram Diwas" or "Day of Valour" (Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary)

**17.** On Tiruvalluvar Day, PM Narendra Modi, Tamil Nadu Governor R. N. Ravi and Chief Minister M. K. Stalin paid rich tributes to Tiruvalluvar, the author of Tamil classic and didactic literature, "Tirukkural". 'Tiruvalluvar Day' is observed on the second day of Tamil month ('Thai') by the state government and other Tamils. It is observed either on January 15 or 16. And this year, it is celebrated on January 15. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 15 – "Tiruvalluvar Day" observed by Tamil Nadu or Tamils
- "Tirukkural" - a classic Tamil language text – authored by Thiruvalluvar

**18.** Smart Cities Mission (SCM), under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the "Open Data Week" to encourage adoption of open data and promote innovation across India's urban ecosystem. It will be conducted during the third week of January, i.e., from 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022. The Event saw participation from all 100 Smart Cities that will be publishing high quality datasets and data blogs on the Smart Cities Open Data Portal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SCM (MoHUA) – launched the "Open Data Week" – to be observed from January 17 to 21, 2022
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore

**19.** On January 19, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) celebrated 17<sup>th</sup> Raising Day. The NDRF came into existence on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2006. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the parent body of the NDRF. Also, the NDRF inducted the 1<sup>st</sup> batch of 100 women disaster combatants and rescuers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 19 – 17<sup>th</sup> Raising Day of National Disaster Response Force
- HQs of NDMA – New Delhi | Headed by – Prime Minister of India | Established in – 2005
- NDMA functions under – Ministry of Home Affairs
- HQs of NDRF – New Delhi | DG – Atul Karwal | Founded in – 2006 | Functions under – Ministry of Home Affairs

**20.** The 44<sup>th</sup> "Kokborok Day", also known as "Tripuri Language Day" was celebrated across Tripura on January 19, 2022. This day is chosen to commemorate its initial recognition of 'Kokborok' as an official language in 1979. Kokborok is a native language of the people in Tripura. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 19 – 44<sup>th</sup> "Kokborok Day" or "Tripuri Language Day"
- Kokborok – a native language of the people in Tripura
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya





**21.** On January 21, Tripura, Manipur & Meghalaya celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day. On January 21, 1971, Tripura, Meghalaya & Manipur became a full-fledged state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 21 – 50<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of Tripura, Meghalaya & Manipur
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

**22.** On January 24, India celebrated National Girl Child Day. It is an initiative undertaken by the Ministry of Women & Child Development with an objective to provide support and opportunities to the girls of India. National Girl Child Day is meant to support the girl child of the nation and remove gender-based biases. The government of India, in 2008, declared January 24 to be celebrated as the National Girl Child Day every year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 24 – National Girl Child Day – by Ministry of Women & Child Development (since 2008)
- Ministry of Women and Child Development: Smriti Irani | Constituency – Amethi, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Women and Child Development: Munjapara Mahendrabhai

**23.** On 24 January 2022, the United Nations General Assembly celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> 'International Day of Education' under the theme "Changing Course, Transforming Education". Also, India marks National Education Day on November 11 to memorialize the birthday of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the 1<sup>st</sup> Minister for Education in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 24 – UN's 4<sup>th</sup> International Day of Education
- Theme – "Changing Course, Transforming Education"
- HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Abdulla Shahid | Member Countries – 193

**24.** On January 25, the Election Commission of India (ECI) celebrated 12<sup>th</sup> National Voters' Day (NVD) on the theme "Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative". Since 2011, this day is celebrated to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India, 25 January 1950. ECI recently launched a new initiative to deliver the Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC). A national voter awareness contest "My Vote is my Future- Power of One Vote" was also launched on social media. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 25 – 12<sup>th</sup> National Voters' Day – by ECI (since 2011)
- Theme – "Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative"
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Sushil Chandra (24<sup>th</sup>) | Formed on – 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950

**25.** On January 25, 'National Tourism Day' was celebrated across the country to spread awareness about the importance of tourism & its impact on the economy. This year's theme for National Tourism Day was "Rural and Community Centric Tourism". Pochampally was selected as one of the Best Tourism Villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) in November 2021. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- January 25 – National Tourism Day
- 2022's Theme – "Rural and Community Centric Tourism"
- Ministry of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Ministry of Tourism: Shripad Yesso Naik & Ajay Bhatt

**26.** On January 27, the United Nations marked the 'International Holocaust Remembrance Day' in honour of six million Jews killed in the Holocaust, and millions of other victims of Nazism. The theme of this year's Holocaust remembrance and education was "Memory, Dignity and Justice". This day was first observed in 2006. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 27 – 'International Holocaust Remembrance Day' – by UN (since 2006)
- 2022's Theme – "Memory, Dignity and Justice"
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945

**27.** The International Customs Day (ICD) is celebrated on 26 January to commemorate the inaugural session of the World Customs Organisation (WCO), which was held on this day in 1953. This year, the theme of International Customs Day was "Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 26 – International Customs Day
- 2022's Theme – "Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation"
- HQs of WCO – Brussels, Belgium | Secretary General – Kunio Mikuriya

**28.** "Martyrs' Day" or "Shaheed Diwas" is observed in India on several days to honour those who laid down their lives for the nation. January 30 is the date which is observed as Martyrs' Day across India as it marks the date of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi by Nathuram Godse in 1948. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 30 – "Martyrs' Day" or "Shaheed Diwas" – to mark the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

**29.** Data Privacy Day, celebrated on January 28, aims to spread the awareness about online safety for the data of all individuals. In 2021, the theme was "Privacy Matters". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 28 – Data Privacy Day | Theme – "Privacy Matters"

**30.** 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (WNTDD) was celebrated on January 30. To mark this event, WHO organized a virtual event. The day provides an opportunity to focus on the millions of people who have limited or no access to prevention, treatment and care services. NTDs are a group of preventable diseases which include Lymphatic Filariasis (Hathipaon), Visceral Leishmaniasis (Kala-Azar), leprosy (Kusht-Rog), dengue, chikungunya, snakebite, rabies etc. The theme for 2022 was "Achieving health equity to end the neglect of poverty-related diseases". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 30 – World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day – by WHO
- 2022's theme – "Achieving health equity to end the neglect of poverty-related diseases"
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

**31.** The "World Leprosy Day" is celebrated on the last Sunday of January. This year, it was observed on January 30 to raise public awareness of leprosy. World Leprosy Day was established in 1954. The theme this year is "United for Dignity". Leprosy is a disease that is caused by bacillus Mycobacterium leprae. A Norwegian physician named 'Gerhard Henrik Armauer Hansen' proved that the disease is caused by bacteria and is not hereditary. Hence, it was also named "Hansen's Disease". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 30 (last Sunday of January) – World Leprosy Day (since – 1954)
- 2022's theme – "United for Dignity"

**32.** PM Narendra Modi addressed the 30<sup>th</sup> National Commission for Women (NCW) Foundation Day programme on January 31, 2022. The theme of the programme is "She The Change Maker", aimed at celebrating the achievements of women in different fields. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 31 – 30<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of National Commission for Women (NCW)
- Theme of the programme – "She The Change Maker"



# Meetings, Conferences and Summits

1. On January 7, Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated a Conference on e-Governance in Hyderabad, Telangana. The 24<sup>th</sup> "Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2020-21" was organised by Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) in association with the Telangana government. The theme of this conference was "India's Techade: Digital Governance in a Post Pandemic World". Moreover, 26 'National Awards for e-Governance 2021' were presented during the conference where the State Labour Department of Chhattisgarh won 'Golden Award for e-Shramik Seva'. While, Uttar Pradesh received the most number of National e-governance awards in 24<sup>th</sup> e-Governance Conference. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Jitendra Singh – inaugurated 24<sup>th</sup> "Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2020-21" in Hyderabad, Telangana
- The Conference was organised by = DARPG + MeitY + Telangana government
- Chhattisgarh's State Labour Department – won 'Golden Award for e-Shramik Seva' during the 'NCeG'
- Uttar Pradesh – received the most number of National e-governance awards in 24<sup>th</sup> e-Governance Conference
- **Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan**

2. Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) organised the 16<sup>th</sup> India Digital Summit on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The theme for this year's summit is "Supercharging Startups". Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal virtually addressed the Summit. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 16<sup>th</sup> India Digital Summit – organised by IAMAI | Theme – "Supercharging Startups"
- **HQs of IAMAI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Subho Ray | Chairman – Sanjay Gupta**

3. In January 2022, Piyush Goyal chaired a Review Meeting of all major Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) where he highlighted India's target to achieve exports of \$650 Billion within the current financial year. With \$300 billion in the first 9 months (from April to Dec) of FY2021-22, India is on track to achieve its target of merchandise exports of total \$400 billion in this fiscal year. India's Merchandise Exports in December 2021 surged 38.91% on an annual basis to \$37.81 billion, the highest-ever monthly figure. Imports in December 2021 also increased by 38.55% to \$59.48 billion. Even as the trade deficit widened to USD 21.68 billion during December 2021. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Piyush Goyal – chaired a Review Meeting of all major Export Promotion Councils (EPCs)
- India's merchandise exports in Dec 2021 – increased by 38.91% to \$37.81 billion (highest-ever monthly figure)
- India's imports exports in Dec 2021 – increased by 38.55% to \$59.48 billion
- India's target to achieve merchandise exports during FY2021-22 – \$400 billion (\$300 billion achieved in first 9 months)

4. World Economic Forum's summit titled 'Davos Agenda', was held virtually from 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2022. It was addressed by several heads of state including Prime Minister Narendra, Scott Morrison, Naftali Bennett, and Xi Jinping. The WEF has been hosting its annual meeting in the Swiss ski resort town of Davos for 50 years but it could not take place in 2021 due to the pandemic. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- World Economic Forum's summit – 'Davos Agenda' held virtually from 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2022
- HQs of WEF – Cologne, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971

5. On January 17, PM Narendra Modi addressed the World Economic Forum's "Davos Agenda" via video conferencing. During the address, he proposed the 'P-3' approach. The P-3 approach stands for "Pro-Planet People". The 3 main areas of concern at the WEF's "Davos Agenda Virtual Summit" were - Climate Action, Pandemic Recovery, and Economic & Social Resilience. PM also stated that India contributes 5% of global carbon usage but its commitment to phasing out non-renewable energy is 100%. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – proposed the 'P-3' approach at the WEF's "Davos Agenda" | P3 = **Pro-Planet People**
- 3 main areas of concern at the Summit: Climate Action, Pandemic Recovery, and Economic & Social Resilience
- PM Modi's 5 Big Goals for India:
  - Achieving Net-zero by 2070
  - Reducing total projected Carbon Emissions by 1 billion tonnes starting now till 2030
  - Increasing Renewable Energy component to 50% of our total Energy requirements by 2030
  - Reducing Carbon Intensity by 45% by 2030
- Increasing Non-fossil Energy capacity to reach 500 GW by 2030

6. India will host 5 events in 2022 as decided by in the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the BRICS Science Technology Innovation (STI) Steering Committee on 17 January 2022. During this event, India handed over the chairmanship to China from January 2022. The theme for BRICS 2022 is "Foster High-Quality BRICS Partnership Usher in a New Era for Global Development". DPIIT is the main executing agency for BRICS startups Forum and creation of innovation Knowledge Hub. China also proposed to host the 10<sup>th</sup> BRICS S&T Ministerial meeting and Senior Official Meeting in September 2022. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- BRICS STI Steering Committee meeting decided: India will host 5 events in 2022
- India handed over the BRICS chairmanship to China from January 2022
- Theme for BRICS 2022 – "Foster High-Quality BRICS Partnership Usher in a New Era for Global Development"
- BRICS Member Countries: 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairship in 2022 – China

7. On January 20, at the India-Sri Lanka 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Committee on S&T Cooperation, India and Sri Lanka extended the existing S&T cooperation for 3 years more, with focus on new areas like waste-water technologies, biotech, sustainable agriculture, aerospace engineering, robotics, big data analytics, and artificial intelligence. Indian delegation was led by Mr. S. K. Varshney at the India-Sri Lanka 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Committee on S&T Cooperation. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- S. K. Varshney – led Indian delegation at the "India-Sri Lanka 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Committee on S&T Cooperation"
- India + Sri Lanka = extended the existing S&T cooperation for 3 years more
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- MoS (I/C) in the Ministry of Science & Technology: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K

**8.** PM Narendra Modi hosted the first “India-Central Asia Summit” in a virtual format on January 27. The summit coincides with the 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India & Central Asian Countries. The summit was held with the participation of the presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi (India) – hosted the first “India-Central Asia Summit”
- Participated Countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan

**9.** The 1<sup>st</sup> BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 was held virtually on January 18-19 under the Chinese chairship. Members thanked India for its BRICS Chairship in 2021. China holds the BRICS Chairmanship in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 – held virtually on January 18-19 under the Chairship of China
- [BRICS Member Countries: 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa](#) | [Chairship in 2022 – China](#)

**10.** On January 21, Union minister Bhupender Yadav represented India at the 4<sup>th</sup> Asia Ministerial Conference on tiger conservation. It was organised by Malaysia and coordinated by Global Tiger Forum (GTF). He stated that natural resources dependent community is an important aspect of tiger conservation and the ‘People agenda’ ranks prominently in India’s ‘Tiger agenda’. India will facilitate Tiger Range Countries towards finalisation of New Delhi declaration for the ‘Global Tiger Summit’ to be held at Vladivostok, Russia later in 2022. India achieved the target of doubling the tiger population in 2018, 4 years ahead of the targeted year 2022. 14 Tiger Reserves in India are awarded with international CA|TS accreditation. Also, The budgetary allocation for tiger conservation has increased from Rs 185 Cr in 2014 to Rs 300 Cr in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bhupender Yadav – represented India at the 4<sup>th</sup> Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation
- Conference organised by – Malaysia & coordinated by Global Tiger Forum
- “Global Tiger Summit 2022” – to be held at Vladivostok, Russia
- India – achieved the target of doubling the tiger population in 2018
- [Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Bhupender Yadav](#) | [Constituency – Rajasthan](#)
- [MoS in Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Ashwini Kumar Choubey](#)

**11.** On January 28, the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) meeting with India was held. Shri Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State for Communications (MoSC) co-chaired the meeting. The ADGMIN is an annual meeting of Telecom Ministers of 10 ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries and dialogue partner countries. ADGMIN Meeting approved the ‘India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Devusinh Chauhan – co-chaired the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) Meeting with India
- [Chairmanship of ASEAN 2022 – Cambodia](#) | [Secretariat of ASEAN – Jakarta, Indonesia](#) | [Members – 10](#)
- [Ministry of Communications: Ashwini Vaishnaw](#) | [Constituency – Odisha](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Communications: Devusinh Chauhan](#)



# Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

1. In January 2022, The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) won SKOCH Award in Silver category for its work towards combating Crime and Violence against Children. It was given on the 78<sup>th</sup> SKOCH Summit organised with theme of “State of Governance”. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Forensic Science Laboratory – won SKOCH Award in Silver category on the 78<sup>th</sup> SKOCH Summit
- Theme of the 78<sup>th</sup> SKOCH Summit – “State of Governance”
- HQs of Skoch group – Gurgaon, Haryana | Chairman – Sameer Kochhar

2. On January 3, Union Minister of State (I/C) Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the “PM’s Award for Excellence in Public Administration” portal for the year 2021-2022. The Minister also added that the prize money for 2021 was also doubled from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh to the awarded District/Organization. The Period of consideration is April 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021. The total number of Awards in 2021 would be 18. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Dr. Jitendra Singh – launched the “PM’s Award for Excellence in Public Administration” portal for 2021-2022
- 2021’s Prize money was doubled from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh | Total number of Awards in 2021 – 18
- Period of consideration – April 1, 2019 to Dec 31, 2021

3. On January 4, the first-ever Guinness World Record in Numerology and the first world record of 2022 was achieved by one of India’s top numerologists JC Chaudhry. The initiative was organised by CNPL (Chaudhry Nummero Pvt Ltd) and the Indian Institute of Numerology to create awareness regarding numerology. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- JC Chaudhry – won the first-ever Guinness World Record in Numerology & the first World Record of 2022

4. On January 9, A mission to combat malnourishment among children aged 6 months to 5 years won the “SKOCH Award” for southern Assam’s Cachar district. Cachar district’s mission named “Parvarish” saw 704 out of 800 children recover from the severely acute malnourished stage. Instituted in 2003, SKOCH Award recognises people, projects and institutions that go the extra mile to make India a better nation. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- “Parvarish” mission of Cachar district (Assam) – won the “SKOCH Award” to combat malnourishment among children
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

5. In January 2022, the Kerala Arts & Crafts Village near Kovalam won the “2021 International Craft Award” for the best craft village of the year. Shahrbanoo Arabian (Iran) & Dalavayi Kullayappa (India) were selected as the craft persons of the year. Sri Lanka’s Chandramali Liyanage was named as Craft icon of the year. China’s Qiling Zhang & India’s Mubin Khatri got selected for the Next generation craft designers. India’s Amita Sachdeva & Mubarik Khatri have won the artisans award. The “House of Toramally”, “Jaipur Rugs” and “Mandala” & “Gaurang Shah” were selected as the craft brands of India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “2021 International Craft Awards”:
  - Best Craft Village of the Year – Kerala Arts & Crafts Village
  - Craft Persons of the Year – Shahrbanoo Arabian (Iran) & Dalavayi Kullayappa (India)
  - Craft Icon of the Year – Chandramali Liyanage (Sri Lanka)
  - Next Generation Craft Designers – Qiling Zhang (China) & Mubin Khatri (India)
  - Artisans Award – Amita Sachdeva (India) & Mubarik Khatri (India)
  - Craft Brands of India – “House of Toramally”, “Jaipur Rugs” and “Mandala” & “Gaurang Shah”
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**6.** In January 2022, Uttar Pradesh was awarded the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in 3<sup>rd</sup> National Water Awards-2020 in the best state category, followed by Rajasthan & Tamil Nadu. Ministry of Jal Shakti gave 57 awards to States, Organizations, Individuals etc. in 11 different categories. The 1<sup>st</sup> National Water Award was launched in 2018 in attaining the government’s vision of a ‘Jal Samridh Bharat’. The ₹3.6 trillion Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) scheme aims to ensure assured tap water supply or ‘Har Ghar Jal’ to all rural households by 2024. Mission Paani (Network 18) was awarded for the ‘Best Media (Print & Electronic)’ category. While ITC Ltd was awarded for the ‘Best Industry for CSR activities’ category. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “National Water Awards 2020” in ‘Best state’ category: 1<sup>st</sup> – UP | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Rajasthan | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tamil Nadu
- ‘Best Media (Print & Electronic)’ category – Mission Paani (Network 18)
- ‘Best Industry for CSR activities’ category – ITC Ltd
- Jal Jeevan Mission targets to ensure ‘Har Ghar Jal’ to all rural households – by 2024
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- Ministry of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- MoS for Jal Shakti & Food Processing Industries – Prahlad Singh Patel

**7.** On January 11, Actor Harshaali Malhotra was honoured with “Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award 2022” for her performance in the 2015 film Bajrangi Bhaijaan. She received the award from Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari. Bajrangi Bhaijaan was directed by Kabir Khan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Actor Harshaali Malhotra – honoured with “Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award 2022”
- She received the award for her performance in the 2015 film ‘Bajrangi Bhaijaan’

**8.** On January 10, Jane Campion was awarded under “Best Director - Motion Picture (Drama)” category at the Golden Globe Awards for ‘The Power of the Dog’ movie which was also awarded under “Best Motion Picture (Drama)” at the Golden Globe Awards 2022. While ‘West Side Story’ movie was awarded under the “Best Picture (Musical/Comedy)”. Will Smith was awarded the first Golden Globe under the “Best Actor - Motion Picture (Drama)” category for ‘King Richard’ movie. While Nicole Kidman was awarded under “Best Actress - Motion Picture (Drama)” category for ‘Being the Ricardos’ movie at the 79<sup>th</sup> Golden Globe Awards. The Golden Globe awards are bestowed by Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) every year. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- 79<sup>th</sup> Golden Globe Awards 2022 – by Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA):
- ‘The Power of the Dog’ movie – awarded under “Best Motion Picture (Drama)”
- ‘West Side Story’ movie – awarded under “Best Picture (Musical/Comedy)”
- Jane Campion – awarded under “Best Director - Motion Picture (Drama)”
- Will Smith – awarded under “Best Actor - Motion Picture (Drama)”
- Nicole Kidman – awarded under “Best Actress - Motion Picture (Drama)”

**9.** “India Skills 2021 National Competition” was organised by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the guidance of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MoSDE). The competition witnessed participation in 54 different skills. Of the 150+ winners, 59 were awarded gold medals, 73 were given silver medals and 53 received bronze medals. More than 50 participants won the Medallion of Excellence. Odisha topped the chart with 51 winners, followed by Maharashtra and Kerala. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “India Skills 2021 National Competition” – organised by NSDC under MoSDE
- Top states: 1<sup>st</sup> – Odisha, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Maharashtra, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Kerala
- [HQs of NSDC – New Delhi](#) | [CEO – Ved Mani Tiwar](#) | [Chairman – A. M. Naik](#)

**10.** On January 8, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) selected Satish Adiga, professor in Clinical Embryology at Kasturba Medical College (KMC), Manipal, for the “Dr. Subhas Mukherjee Award” for the year 2020. He was selected in recognition of his work in the field of in-vitro fertilisation (IVF). ICMR instituted the award in the name of Dr. Subhas Mukherjee, who is the creator of India’s first IVF baby. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Satish Adiga – selected for the “Dr. Subhas Mukherjee Award 2020” by the ICMR
- [HQs of ICMR – New Delhi, India](#) | [Director General – Balram Bhargava](#) | [Established in – 1911](#)

**11.** On January 13, West Indies veteran cricketer Clive Llyod received Knighthood at Windsor Castle from the Duke of Cambridge, Prince William. Sir Clive Llyod is famous for leading the West Indies to 27 Test matches without defeat, including 11 wins in a row. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Clive Llyod (West Indies Veteran Cricketer) – received “Knighthood” from the Duke of Cambridge, Prince William
- [HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE](#) | [Chairman – Greg Barclay](#) | [CEO – Geoff Allardice](#) | [Members – 106 countries](#)

**12.** On January 13, Japan’s tennis champion Naomi Osaka with \$57.3 million earning, was named as world’s highest-paid female athlete, in a list published by business magazine Forbes. She was followed by Serena Williams (45.9 million) & Michael Venus (\$11.3 million). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Naomi Osaka ([Japan](#)) – Forbes’ world’s highest-paid female athlete | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Serena Williams | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Michael Venus
- [HQs of FORBES – Jersey City, New Jersey](#)

**13.** Mrs. Navdeep Kaur, crowned “Mrs. India World 2021”, is representing India at “Mrs. World 2022” held in Las Vegas, US. She won the Costume Round and bagged the ‘Best National Costume Award’ at Mrs. World 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mrs. Navdeep Kaur – bagged the ‘Best National Costume Award’ at “Mrs. World 2022”
- She is representing India at “Mrs. World 2022” held in Las Vegas, US

**14.** At 20<sup>th</sup> Dhaka International Film Festival in Dhaka, Indian movie “Koozhangal” won the Best Film award in the “Asian Film Competition” category. The film was directed by P. S. Vinothraj. Indian actor Jayasurya won the Best Actor award for the Ranjith Sankar-directed film “Sunny”. While Best Actress award was given to Sussan Parva for the film “Botox”. Nepal’s director Sujit Bidari won the Best Director award for the film “Aina Jhyal Ko Putali”. The slogan/motto/theme for the festival was “Better Film, Better Audience and Better Society”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 20<sup>th</sup> Dhaka International Film Festival – held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from January 15-23
- Theme/Slogan/Motto of the festival – “Better Film, Better Audience and Better Society”
- Awards given in the “Asian Film Competition” category:
- Best Film – “Koozhangal” ([India](#)) | Best Director – Sujit Bidari ([Nepal](#))
- Best Actor – Jayasurya ([India](#)) | Best Actress – Susan Parvar ([Iran](#))

**15.** On January 15, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the “National Startup Awards 2021” to 46 Startups, along with 1 incubator and 1 accelerator. Repos Energy was awarded in ‘Energy Distribution’ category for their door-to-door delivery of fuel at the ‘National Startup Award 2021’. Department of Fisheries in association with Startup India inaugurated the “Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Piyush Goyal – presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the “National Startup Awards 2021” to 46 Startups
- Repos Energy – received “National Startup Award” in ‘Energy Distribution’ category
- Department of Fisheries + Startup India = inaugurated the “Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge”

**16.** On January 18, Bayern Munich's Polish striker Robert Lewandowski won the ‘FIFA Best Men's Player’ award for 2021, while Barcelona's Spanish midfielder Alexia Putellas won the ‘FIFA Best Women's Player’ award. Chelsea FC won both the awards for ‘Best Coach’, with Thomas Tuchel winning the men's award and Emma Hayes named the Best women's coach. Chelsea FC's Edouard Mendy won the ‘Best Men's Goalkeeper’ award. Christiane Endler was named the ‘Best Women's Goalkeeper’. Denmark National Team and their medical staff won the ‘Fair Play’ award. ‘Puskas Award for Best Goal’ of the year was won by Argentine Erik Lamela of Sevilla FC. Moreover, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo received ‘FIFA Special Best Men's award 2021’. While Canada's Christine Sinclair won the ‘FIFA Special Best Women's award 2021’. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- “Best FIFA Football Awards 2021” – held at Zurich, Switzerland

Award	Winner
Best Men’s Player award	Robert Lewandowski (Bayern Munich FC)
Best Women’s Player award	Alexia Putellas (Barcelona FC)
Best Men’s Coach award	Thomas Tuchel (Chelsea FC)
Best Women’s Coach award	Emma Hayes (Chelsea FC)
Best Men’s Goalkeeper award	Edouard Mendy (Chelsea FC)
Best Women’s Goalkeeper award	Christiane Endler (Olympique Lyonnais FC)
Puskas Award for Best Goal	Erik Lamela (Sevilla FC)
FIFA Special Best Men’s award	Cristiano Ronaldo (Manchester United FC)
FIFA Special Best Women’s award	Christine Sinclair (Portland Thorns FC)
Fair Play award	Denmark National Team

**17.** Shaylyn Ford from the US is the winner of “Mrs. World 2022” event which was held in Las Vegas, Nevada, US. Debanjali Kamstra, who was representing the UAE for the first time in the pageant's history, was named second runner-up, with Mrs Jordan Jaclyn Stapp finishing as first runner-up. The winner of the Best Costume went to India's Navdeep Kaur. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shaylyn Ford ([US](#)) – the winner of “Mrs. World 2022” held in Las Vegas, Nevada, US (8<sup>th</sup> American woman to win)
- First runner-up – Jaclyn Stapp | Second runner-up – Debanjali Kamstra

**18.** In January 2021, Jammu & Kashmir IAS officer, Dr. Shahid Choudhary was given the “National Award 2020-21” for outstanding efforts in Covid-19 management as Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar. He won Gold registering 1st position among 231 finalist districts and organisations in the category of Covid-19 management with effective use of Information and Communication Technology. The award was presented by Dr Jitendra Singh, MoS, PMO and Ministry of Personnel at the 24<sup>th</sup> “National Conference on e-Governance” held in Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 24<sup>th</sup> “National Conference on e-Governance” – held in Hyderabad
- Shahid Choudhary ([Srinagar](#)) – won Gold medal in the “National Award for e-Governance 2020-21”

**19.** Virat, Darmi and Heena were awarded the ‘Chief of the Army Staff Commendation’ on the eve of Army Day on January 15 for their exemplary service. Virat is a horse with the President’s Bodyguard (PBG), while Darmi and Heena are Army dogs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Virat + Darmi + Heena = awarded the ‘Chief of the Army Staff Commendation’ for their exemplary service
- Virat – Army Horse | Darmi & Heena – Army Dogs

**20.** On January 22, Rhapsody Music Foundation won the prestigious “Reimagine Education Award”, the ‘Oscars’ of Education and ranked Number 1 in Asia and Number 1 worldwide in the Arts and Humanities category. The Reimagine Award is given by Wharton School’s Alfred West Jr. Learning Lab and QS Quacquarelli Symonds. Rhapsody Music Foundation, which was founded by Anil Srinivasan in 2013, has reached over 4 lakh schoolchildren in south India and uses music to teach them science and mathematical concepts. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rhapsody Music Foundation – won “Reimagine Education Award” also dubbed as the ‘Oscars’ of Education
- Award given by = Wharton School’s Alfred West Jr. Learning Lab + QS Quacquarelli Symonds
- [Rhapsody Music Foundation – founded by Anil Srinivasan](#)

**21.** On January 19, Albert Bourla, chairman & chief executive of Pfizer Inc, was awarded the prestigious ‘Genesis Prize’ or ‘Jewish Nobel’ for his efforts in leading the development of a COVID-19 vaccine. Pfizer’s vaccine was the 1<sup>st</sup> to win U.S. approval for emergency use. The prize was inaugurated in 2014 & is usually awarded in Jerusalem each year by the President of Israel. The award is granted each year to a person for his professional achievements, contributions to humanity and commitment to Jewish values. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Albert Bourla (Chairman of Pfizer Inc) – awarded the ‘Genesis Prize’ also dubbed as ‘Jewish Nobel’
- The prize will be presented to him by the President of Israel

**22.** On January 20, Sushmita Sen was awarded the International Association of Working Women Award which was presented by DCSAFF (DC South Asian Film Festival) for her show ‘Aarya 2’. Ananth Mahadevan, writer, director, and actor, was a guest speaker at the event to discuss his book ‘Once Upon A Prime Time’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sushmita Sen – won “International Association of Working Women Award” for her show ‘Aarya 2’
- The award – given by DCSAFF (DC South Asian Film Festival)
- “Once Upon A Prime Time” book – authored by Ananth Mahadevan

**23.** On January 23, Former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was conferred with the Netaji Award 2022 by Netaji Research Bureau on 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Netaji. Japanese Ambassador to India Satoshi Suzuki addressed the programme virtually from New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shinzo Abe – conferred with the “Netaji Award 2022”
- Japanese Ambassador to India – Satoshi Suzuki
- [Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida](#)



**24.** On January 26, the President approved awards of 384 gallantry and other defence decorations on the eve of 73<sup>rd</sup> Republic Day celebrations, which includes 12 Shaurya Chakras. The parade was held at Rajpath in New Delhi and the tableaux of 12 States were selected on this occasion. Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra was bestowed the “Param Vishisht Seva Medal”. The PVSM is usually accorded to three-star officers for distinguished service to the nation. Chopra is a Subedar in the Rajputana Rifles. Out of 12 Shaurya Chakras, six were awarded to Army personnel while the rest of six were awarded to CRPF personnel. Moreover, Ashoka Chakra, the country’s highest peacetime gallantry award, was conferred on Assistant Sub-Inspector of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Babu Ram, posthumously. On the same occasion, Squadron Leader Suraj Nair was conferred with the award of “Vayu Sena Medal” for his act of exceptional courage and disregard to personal safety. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Neeraj Chopra – received the “Param Vishisht Seva Medal” on the 73<sup>rd</sup> Republic Day celebrations
- Neeraj Chopra is a Subedar in ‘Rajputana Rifles’
- Babu Ram (Assistant Sub-Inspector of J&K) – posthumously awarded the “Ashoka Chakra”
- Suraj Nair (Squadron Leader) – conferred with the “Vayu Sena Medal”

**25.** On January 24, 29 children were conferred the ‘Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar’ this year by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The children were selected from all regions of India for their exceptional achievements in 6 different categories. The function was held on the occasion of ‘National Girl Child Day’ as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The cash prize of Rs 1,00,000/- was given to the awardees of PMRBP 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – conferred “Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2022” to 29 children in 6 different categories

**26.** On January 21, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, which conducts the Academy Awards (also known as the Oscars), released the list of 276 films eligible for the awards this year. Tamil drama Jai Bhim and Malayalam action-adventure film Marakkar are the only two Indian feature films on the list. The award ceremony is scheduled to take place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, on March 27. Only three Indian feature films have ever been nominated for an Oscar - Mother India, Salaam Bombay, and Lagaan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jai Bhim (Tamil) + Marakkar (Malayalam) = only two Indian feature films eligible for the ‘Oscars 2022’

**27.** In January 2022, the President approved conferment of 128 Padma Awards including 2 duo cases (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one). The list comprises 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri Awards. 34 of the total awardees are women. The 17 Padma Bhushan include Ghulam Nabi Azad (Public Affairs), Cyrus Poonawalla Natarajan (Trade & Industry), Chandrasekaran (Trade & Industry), Sundar Pichai (Trade & Industry), Satya Narayana Nadella (Trade & Industry), Rashid Khan (Art), Rajiv Mehrishi (Civil Service) and Pratibha Ray (Literature & Education). The 107 Padma Shri Awardees include Neeraj Chopra (Sport), Sumit Antil (Sport), Sonu Nigam (Art) and Avani Lekhara (Sport). The 4 Padma Vibhushan awardees are mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Total 128 Padma Awards in 2022 = 4 Padma Vibhushan + 17 Padma Bhushan + 107 Padma Shri
- 4 Padma Vibhushan awardees:

Awardees	Field	State/Country
Prabha Atre	Art	Maharashtra
Radheyshyam Khemka (Posthumous)	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
General Bipin Rawat (Posthumous)	Civil Service	Uttarakhand
Kalyan Singh (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Uttar Pradesh

**28.** On January 24, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) emerged as the first Indian PSU to win the “Global Healthy Workplace Award 2021” in the ‘Large Scale Industry’ category. The award was announced during the “9<sup>th</sup> Global Healthy Workplace Summit”. The award was presented by Global Centre for Healthy Workplaces. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IOCL – won “Global Healthy Workplace Award 2021” in ‘Large Scale Industry’ category (1<sup>st</sup> Indian PSU)
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Founded in – 1959

**29.** On January 24, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) in Erode district of Tamil Nadu won the prestigious “TX2 Award 2022” after its tiger numbers doubled to 80 since 2010. Apart from the STR, the Bardia National Park in Nepal won this year’s TX2 award for doubling the population of tigers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Winners of “TX2 Award 2022”:
  - Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (Erode, Tamil Nadu)
  - Bardia National Park (Nepal)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**30.** In January 2022, Maharashtra National Cadet Corps (NCC) Directorate won the prestigious “Prime Minister Banner” at the Republic Day Camp (RDC) 2022 at Cariappa Ground, in New Delhi. Narendra Modi presented the prestigious PM Banner to Major General Y. P. Khanduri, ADG, NCC Directorate, Maharashtra. Senior Under Officer (SU) Siddhesh Jadhav was the banner bearer and Cadet Captain Nikita Khot was the trophy bearer. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra NCC Directorate – won the prestigious “Prime Minister Banner” at the ‘RDC 2022’ in New Delhi
- Major General Y. P. Khanduri – ADG, NCC Directorate, Maharashtra
- Banner bearer – Siddhesh Jadhav | Trophy bearer – Nikita Khot
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**31.** On January 28, Friendship Hospital was named the world’s “Best New Building” or “Most Transformative Building” for 2021 by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). The Friendship Hospital is located in Shyamnagar village in southwest Bangladesh’s Satkhira district. The 80-bed hospital in the cyclone-prone area was constructed using locally-made bricks. The hospital was designed by a Bangladeshi architect Kashef Chowdhury. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Friendship Hospital – named the world’s “Best New Building” or “Most Transformative Building” for 2021 by RIBA
- Friendship Hospital – located in Shyamnagar village, Satkhira district, Bangladesh
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

**32.** Jammu and Kashmir topped the list of Police Gallantry Medals announced on the eve of Republic Day. J&K Police bagged 115 Police Medals for Gallantry (PMG), out of a total of 189 awarded in 2022. Among state police forces, Chhattisgarh received the highest number of gallantry medals (10), followed by Odisha (9) and Maharashtra (7). Moreover, 42 fire service medals, 37 correctional service medals for police personnel and 51 ‘Jeevan Rakshak Padak’ were also announced. And this year, Delhi Police’s DCP (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav bagged his 11<sup>th</sup> President’s medal for Gallantry on the occasion of Republic Day 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- J & K – topped the list of Police Medals for Gallantry (PMG) with 115 medals (among states & UTs)
- Among states: 1<sup>st</sup> - Chhattisgarh (10), 2<sup>nd</sup> - Odisha (9), 3<sup>rd</sup> - Maharashtra (7)
- Sanjeev Kumar Yadav (Delhi Police’s DCP) – bagged his 11<sup>th</sup> President’s medal for Gallantry

**33.** On January 29, Telugu short film, ‘Street Student’ by Akula Sandeep was selected for the first prize in the 7<sup>th</sup> Short Film Award Competition organised by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). The film shows the story of a street urchin to send across a strong message on right to education. ‘Karfew’ by Romi Meitei was selected for the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize. It is in Meiteilon language. Marathi short film, ‘Munghyar’ by Nilesh Ambedkar was selected for the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NHRC’s 7<sup>th</sup> Short Film Awards: 1<sup>st</sup> – Street Student (Telugu) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Karfew (Meiteilon) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Munghyar (Marathi)
- HQs of NHRC – New Delhi | Chairperson – Arun Kumar Mishra | Established in – 1993



# Appointments & Resignations

**1.** In January 2022, Alka Mittal was appointed as interim chairman and managing director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). She became the 1<sup>st</sup> woman to head the India's largest oil and gas producer. She replaced Subhash Kumar. Nishi Vasudeva was the first woman to head an oil company, when in 2014 she took over as CMD of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Alka Mittal – 1<sup>st</sup> woman to be appointed as CMD of ONGC
- [HQs of ONGC – New Delhi](#) | [CMD – Alka Mittal](#) (addi. charge)

**2.** In January 2022, the Reserve Bank of India appointed Deepak Kumar & Ajay Kumar Choudhary as new Executive Directors. Deepak Kumar will look after Foreign Exchange Department, Department of Communication and Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the RBI. Meanwhile, Ajay Kumar Choudhary will look after fintech department, risk monitoring department and inspection department. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Deepak Kumar & Ajay Kumar Choudhary – appointed as new Executive Directors of RBI
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH](#) | [Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25<sup>th</sup>\)](#) | [Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935](#)

**3.** In January 2022, Bank of Baroda signed cricketer Shafali Verma as its brand endorser. She was the youngest woman cricketer to play for India in her debut game against South Africa. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Shafali Verma – appointed as brand endorser of Bank of Baroda
- Shafali Verma – youngest woman cricketer to play for India (against South Africa)
- [HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat](#) | [CEO – Sanjiv Chadha](#) | [Tagline – “India's International Bank”](#)

**4.** In January 2022, the Centre again appointed Vijay Paul Sharma as the chairman of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) after he relinquished the post in May 2021 following completion of the 5-year tenure. He played a critical role in acceding to the government's decision of fixing the MSP at 50% over the cost of production. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Vijay Paul Sharma – re-appointed as the chairman of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)
- [HQs of CACP – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – Vijay Paul Sharma](#)

**5.** In January 2022, China's senior diplomat Zhang Ming took charge as the new Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) from Vladimir Norov, former Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan from January 1 for a three-year term. The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India & Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017. The official languages of the SCO are Chinese and Russian. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Zhang Ming ([China](#)) – appointed as the new Secretary-General of the SCO (succeeding - Vladimir Norov)
- India & Pakistan – became permanent members of SCO in 2017
- [HQs of SCO – Beijing, China](#) | [SG – Zhang Ming](#) | [Present Member Countries – 8](#) | [2021 Presidency – Uzbekistan](#)



6. In January 2022, 'Legends League Cricket' roped in Jhulan Goswami as an ambassador to promote Women's Empowerment initiatives. She was the face of the League to promote women's participation in cricket. Amitabh Bachchan also joined Legends League Cricket as its Ambassador. Legends League Cricket also announced an All Women Match Official Team for the League. This is for the first time in cricket that an all-women Match Officials team would be officiating an entire men's league. Shandre Frtiz from South Africa was the 'Match Referee' for the entire League. The League also had former India Head Coach, Ravi Shastri as its 'Commissioner'. The first season of 'Howzat Legends League Cricket' was scheduled to be held at Oman Cricket Stadium, Muscat between the India Maharajas, Asia Lions, and World Giants from January 20-29, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jhulan Goswami – roped in as ambassador of 'Howzat Legends League Cricket' to promote Women's Empowerment
- Amitabh Bachchan – also joined Legends League Cricket as its Ambassador
- Shandre Frtiz ([South Africa](#)) – was the Match Referee for the entire League
- Ravi Shastri – Commissioner of the League
- [HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE](#) | [Chairman – Greg Barclay](#) | [CEO – Geoff Allardice](#) | [Members – 106 countries](#)

7. On January 3, Sudan's Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok announced his resignation amid political deadlock and widespread pro-democracy protests. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Abdalla Hamdok – resigned from the post of PM of Sudan
- [Sudan – Khartoum – Sudanese Pound](#)

8. Indian-origin Atul Keshap was appointed as the President of the US-India Business Council (USIBC) effective from January 5, 2022. Atul Keshap replaced Nisha Desai Biswal for this post. Keshap most recently served in New Delhi as United States Charge d'Affaires to India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Atul Keshap – appointed as the President of the US-India Business Council (USIBC)
- [HQs of USIBC – Washington, D.C., US](#) | [President – Nisha Desai Biswal](#)

9. On January 5, the Chilean assembly, tasked with drafting a new constitution in Chile, elected Maria Elisa Quinteros as the new President of the assembly. Epidemiologist Maria Elisa Quinteros replaced the body's inaugural president, Indigenous Mapuche professor and activist Elisa Loncon. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maria Elisa Quinteros – elected as the new President of Chilean Assembly, tasked with drafting a new Constitution
- Maria Elisa Quinteros replaced – Elisa Loncon
- [Chile – Santiago – Peso](#) | [President – Gabriel Boric \(from March, 2022\)](#)

10. On January 7, Major General Vikas Lakhera assumed charge as the 20<sup>th</sup> Inspector General of Assam Rifles (North). He took over charge from Maj Gen VPS Kaushik. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vikas Lakhera – assumed charge as the 20<sup>th</sup> Inspector General of Assam Rifles (North)
- [HQs of Assam Rifles – Shillong, Meghalaya](#) | [DG – Lt. Gen. Pradeep Chandran Nair](#)

**11.** On January 6, Lt. Gen. Anindya Sengupta assumed charge as the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Leh-based XIV Corps (14 Corps) or Fire & Fury Corps, replacing Lt. Gen. P. G. K. Menon. Prior to taking over this appointment, Lt. Gen. Sengupta was Director General, Strategic Planning, at the Army Headquarters in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Anindya Sengupta – assumed charge as the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of ‘XIV Corps’ or ‘Fire & Fury Corps’
- HQs of XIV Corps – Leh, Ladakh | GOC – Anindya Sengupta (Nickname - ‘Fire & Fury Corps’)

**12.** On January 9, Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel was appointed as the Vice President of the Beijing-based multilateral funding institution, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for 3-year tenure. India has the second highest voting share after China. He succeeded outgoing Vice President D. J. Pandian. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Urjit Patel – appointed as the Vice President of ‘AIIB’ for 3-year tenure (succeeding - D. J. Pandian)
- HQs of AIIB – Beijing, China | President – Jin Liqun | Established in – 2016 | Members – 105

**13.** In January 2022, Vinod Kannan replaced Leslie Thng & took over as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the ‘Vistara Airline’. Vistara is a 51:49 joint venture between Tata Sons Private Limited & Singapore Airlines (SIA). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vinod Kannan – appointed as CEO of Vistara Airles (succeed - Leslie Thng)
- HQs of Vistara Airline – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO – Vinod Kannan

**14.** In January 2022, Kuwaiti oil executive ‘Haitham al-Ghais’ will be the next Secretary General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). He will take up his 3-year post on August 1. He will replace Nigeria’s Mohammed Barkindo. The Vienna-based organisation comprises 13 members led by Saudi Arabia which fix output to control prices along with the 10 other countries in a grouping dubbed “OPEC+”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Haitham al-Ghais – to be the next Secretary General of the OPEC from August 1 (replacing - Mohammed Barkindo)
- HQs of OPEC – Vienna, Austria | Secretary General – Mohammed Barkindo (From 1 Aug 2022 – Haitham al-Ghais)

**15.** On January 7, the Election Commission of India (ECI) withdrew the appointment of actor Sonu Sood as a state icon of Punjab as he was political active in Punjab to seek a ticket for his sister from the Moga assembly segment. The commission had appointed him in November 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ECI – withdrew appointment of actor Sonu Sood as a state icon of Punjab
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Charanjit Singh Channi | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Sushil Chandra (24<sup>th</sup>) | Formed on – 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950

**16.** On January 8, the central government extended the additional charge as Chairperson of Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) to ‘Navrang Saini’ till March 5, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Navrang Saini – appointed as the Interim Chairperson of IBBI
- HQs of IBBI – New Delhi | Interim Chairperson – Navrang Saini | Established in – 2016





**17.** On January 11, online insurance platform “RenewBuy” appointed film actor Rajkummar Rao as its 1<sup>st</sup> brand ambassador for its ‘Smart Tech, Right Advice’ campaign. The campaign is designed & conceptualized by Havas Worldwide India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RenewBuy – appointed ‘Rajkummar Rao’ as its 1<sup>st</sup> brand ambassador for ‘Smart Tech, Right Advice’ campaign
- [HQs of RenewBuy – Gurugram, Haryana](#) | [CEO – Balachander Sekhar](#)

**18.** In January 2022, Hyderabad-based electric two-wheeler charging infra provider ‘BikeWo’ roped in Southern movie star Venkatesh Daggubati as the lead brand ambassador & strategic investor. It will help the brand to meet its ambitious target of installing 20,000 EV charging points across India by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ‘BikeWo’ – roped in Venkatesh Daggubati as the lead Brand Ambassador & Strategic Investor

**19.** On January 12, Adani Power’s board approved the appointment of ‘Shersingh B. Khyalia’ as the company’s chief executive officer (CEO). Earlier, he has worked as the managing director in Gujarat Power Corporation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Adani Power – appointed ‘Shersingh B. Khyalia’ as the CEO
- [HQs of Adani Power Ltd – Ahmedabad, Gujarat](#) | [CEO – Shersingh B Khyalia](#)

**20.** On January 11, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega sworn into office for his 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive term. Most Western and regional nations shunned the inauguration ceremony while leftist leaders such as Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro & Cuba’s President Miguel Diaz Canel showed their support. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Daniel Ortega – sworn in as the President of Nicaragua for his 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive term
- [Nicaragua – Managua – Nicaraguan Cordoba](#) | [President – Daniel Ortega](#)

**21.** On January 16, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev nominated ‘Alikhan Smailov’ as the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan. Alikhan Smailov served as the first Deputy Prime Minister in the previous cabinet which Mr. Tokayev dismissed amid violent unrest. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Alikhan Smailov – nominated as Prime Minister of Kazakhstan
- [Kazakhstan – Nur-Sultan – Tenge](#) | [President – Kassym-Jomart Tokayev](#) | [PM – Alikhan Smailov](#)

**22.** On January 11, International Monetary Fund (IMF) appointed French-born University of California-Berkeley economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas as the next Chief Economist, replacing Indian origin Gita Gopinath. In December 2021, Gopinath was appointed as the first deputy Managing Director of the IMF. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas – appointed as the Chief Economist of IMF (succeeding - Gita Gopinath)
- [HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., US](#) | [President – Kristalina Georgieva](#) | [Member countries – 190](#)

**23.** On January 11, V. Kamakoti was appointed as the new director of IIT Madras. He designed India’s 1<sup>st</sup> indigenously-developed microprocessor “Shakti”. He will take over from Bhaskar Ramamurthi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- V. Kamakoti – appointed as director of IIT-Madras (succeeding – Bhaskar Ramamurthi)
- V. Kamakoti – designed India's 1<sup>st</sup> indigenously-developed microprocessor "Shakti"
- [Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti](#)

**24.** On January 12, S. Somanath was appointed as 10<sup>th</sup> chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for 3 years. He assumed the charge as the Secretary of the Department of Space and the Chairman, Space Commission, after the superannuation of K. Sivan. Moreover, the ISRO successfully conducted the qualification test of 'Cryogenic Engine' for the "Gaganyaan" programme for duration of 720 seconds at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- S. Somanath – appointed as 10<sup>th</sup> Chairman of ISRO (succeeding - K. Sivan)
- ISRO – conducted the qualification test of 'Cryogenic Engine' for "Gaganyaan" program for 720 Secs – in Tamil Nadu
- [HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#) | [Director – S. Somanath](#) | [Formed on – August 15, 1969](#)

**25.** On January 3, Vini Mahajan assumed the charge as secretary in the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation. Prior to this, she was serving as Punjab Chief Secretary. She was also the first woman to be posted as Deputy Commissioner in Punjab in 25 years. The government had formed the new ministry, Jal Shakti, to address all water issues in the country In July 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vini Mahajan – appointed as Secretary in the Ministry of Jal Shakti
- [Ministry of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Sekhawat](#) | [Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan](#)
- [MoS for Jal Shakti & Food Processing Industries – Prahlad Singh Patel](#)

**26.** In January 2022, Raghuvendra Tanwar, professor emeritus, Kurukshetra University (KU) was appointed as Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi, for a period of 3 years by the Government of India (GOI). Prof Tanwar was awarded the prestigious UGC National Fellowship (Research Award) 2002-2005. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Raghuvendra Tanwar – appointed as Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)
- [HQs of ICHR – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – Raghuvendra Tanwar](#)

**27.** In January 2022, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced the appointment of Rakesh Anand and Bhupender Singh Bajwa as India's Chef de Mission for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and Asian Games 2022, respectively. Commonwealth Games 2022 is scheduled to be held in Birmingham, UK from July 28 to August, 2022. While Asian Games is scheduled to be held in Hangzhou, China from September 10 to 25, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rakesh Anand – appointed as India's Chef de Mission for 'Commonwealth Games 2022' (Birmingham, UK)
- Bhupender Singh Bajwa – appointed as India's Chef de Mission for 'Asian Games 2022' (Hangzhou, China)



**28.** On January 12, Australian wine brand, Jacob's Creek appointed captain of the Indian women's cricket team, Mithali Raj as its ambassador. She is the highest run-scorer in women's international cricket & is the only woman to score 7,000 ODI runs in cricket. According to research firm Technavio's recent report published in 2021, the wine market in India is estimated to grow by \$274.00 million from 2021 to 2026. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jacob's Creek (Australian wine brand) – appointed Mithali Raj as ambassador
- Research firm Technavio's report – wine market in India is estimated to grow by \$274.00 million from 2021 to 2026

**29.** The US nominated Eric Garcetti as its new ambassador to India. He is a former communications director to Los Angeles Mayor. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Eric Garcetti – nominated as new ambassador of the US to India
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**30.** On January 17, the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia elected Social Democrat technocrat Dimitar Kovacevski as the Prime Minister, after more than 2 months of political turmoil in India. Dimitar succeeded Zoran Zaev, who stepped down in December 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dimitar Kovacevski – appointed as the PM of North Macedonia
- North Macedonia – Skopje – Macedonian Denar | President – Stevo Pendarovski | PM – Dimitar Kovacevski

**31.** On January 18, Founder and Managing Director of 'Texport Industries' Narendra Kumar Goenka took over as the Chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPIC). He has replaced A. Sakthivel. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Kumar Goenka – appointed as the Chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPIC)
- HQs of AEPIC – Gurgaon, Haryana | Chairperson – Narendra Kumar Goenka | Established in – 1978

**32.** On January 15, Rear Admiral K. P. Arvindan took charge as the Admiral Superintendent of the naval dockyard in Mumbai. He replaced Rear Admiral B. Sivakumar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rear Admiral K. P. Arvindan – took charge as the Admiral Superintendent of the naval dockyard in Mumbai
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950

**33.** On January 19, Dileep Sanghani was elected as the 17<sup>th</sup> chairman of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO). The elections for the same were held due to the demise of incumbent Chairman Balvinder Singh Nakai in October 2021. He is also the chairman of Gujarat State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd and President of the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), the apex body of the Cooperatives in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dileep Sanghani – elected as chairman of IFFCO (succeeding – Balvinder Singh Nakai)
- HQs of IFFCO – New Delhi | Chairman – Dileep Sanghani

**34.** On January 19, global internet body ICANN-supported 'Universal Acceptance Steering Group' roped in Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma as UA Ambassador. Universal Acceptance Steering Group is an Internet panel on languages that works on developing and recommending standards for languages script that are not currently used to access the internet.

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Universal Acceptance Steering Group – roped in Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma as UA Ambassador

**35.** On January 19, Roberta Metsola, a Maltese politician was elected president of the European Parliament & became the youngest person to hold the position. She succeeds former EU Parliament president David Sassoli, who passed away recently. She is also the 3<sup>rd</sup> woman to be elected president of the EU parliament. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Roberta Metsola – became the youngest person to be elected President of the European Parliament (3<sup>rd</sup> woman)
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | Member Countries – 27
- President of European Parliament – Roberta Metsola
- President of European Council – Charles Michel
- President of European Commission – Ursula von der Leyen

**36.** On January 19, the Ministry of Civil Aviation appointed IAS officer Vikram Dev Dutt as Air India's new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD). He will get the rank & pay of an Additional Secretary. He succeeded Rajiv Bansal, who is currently the Union Civil Aviation Secretary. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vikram Dev Dutt – appointed as Chairman & MD of Air India (Succeeding – Rajiv Bansal)
- HQs of Air India – New Delhi | CMD – Vikram Dev Dutt
- Ministry of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia | Constituency – Guna, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Civil Aviation: V. K. Singh

**37.** On January 19, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways appointed IAS officer Chanchal Kumar as the Managing Director of National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL). He will get the rank & pay of an Additional Secretary. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chanchal Kumar – appointed as the Managing Director of NHIDCL
- HQs of NHIDCL – New Delhi | MD – Chanchal Kumar
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: Nitin Gadkari | Constituency – Nagpur, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: V. K. Singh

**38.** On January 25, the central government approved to appoint Lieutenant General Manoj Pande as the next Vice-Chief of Army Staff. He succeeded Lt Gen CP Mohanty superannuated on 31 January, 2022. Prior to this appointment, he was the Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande – appointed as the Vice-Chief of Army Staff (succeeding - Lt Gen CP Mohanty)
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande

**39.** On January 21, Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, the 1<sup>st</sup> female leader in Barbados, sworn in for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term. She is from Barbados Labor Party. Barbados cut ties with Queen Elizabeth II in November and became newest republic in the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mia Mottley – sworn in for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term as the PM of Barbados
- [Barbados – Bridgetown – Barbados Dollar](#) | [PM – Mia Mottley](#) | [President – Sandra Mason](#)

**40.** On January 23, Vinodanand Jha, a retired IRS officer was appointed as the chairperson of the PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) Adjudicating Authority. The 3-member Authority is mandated to adjudicate the cases of attachment of assets orders issued under the 'Prevention of Money Laundering Act'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vinodanand Jha – appointed as the Chairperson of the 'PMLA Adjudicating Authority'

**41.** On January 23, Armen Sarkissian stepped down as president of Armenia, citing his inability to influence policy during times of crisis. He disagreed with Prime Minister 'Nikol Pashinyan' over his decision to remove the chief of general staff in the wake of the war with Azerbaijan and amid protests. Armenia has been embroiled in a political crisis that erupted in the wake of a war with Azerbaijan over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh territory. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Armen Sarkissian – stepped down as the President of Armenia
- [Armenia – Yerevan – Dram](#) | [PM – Nikol Pashinyan](#)

**42.** On January 26, Pushp Kumar Joshi was recommended by Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) to be the new chairman and managing director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL). The recommendation will go to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by PM Narendra Modi. ACC will decide on his selection after getting reports from anti-corruption agencies such as CVC and CBI. If appointed, he will replace Mukesh Kumar Surana, who will superannuate on April 30. HPCL is a subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pushp Kumar Joshi – recommended by PESB to be the new CMD of HPCL (succeeding - Mukesh Kumar Surana)
- [HQs of PESB – New Delhi](#) | [Chairperson – Mallika Srinivasan](#)
- [HQs of HPCL – Mumbai, MH](#) | [CEO & Chairperson – Mukesh Kumar Surana \(till April, 2022\)](#) | [Founded in – 1974](#)
- [HQs of ONGC – New Delhi](#) | [CMD – Alka Mittal \(addi. charge\)](#)

**43.** On January 27, IIFL Finance appointed Arun Purwar as chairman of its board effective from April 1. He was chairman of the State Bank of India from November 2002 to May 2006. He played an important role in starting SBI's life insurance company- SBI Life Insurance Company. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arun Purwar (former chairman of SBI) – appointed as Chairman of IIFL Finance (succeeding - Nirmal jain)
- [HQs of IIFL Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Nirmal jain](#) | [MD – Venkataraman Rajamani](#)

**44.** On January 28, the government appointed Venkatraman Anantha Nageswaran as its Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) at the Ministry of Finance, days before the tabling of the '2021-22 Economic Survey' (on January 31) and the presentation of '2022-23 Union Budget' (on February 1). He replaced Krishnamurthy Subramanian who superannuated in December 2021. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- V. Anantha Nageswaran – appointed as the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) at Ministry of Finance
- He replaced – K. Subramanian

**45.** On January 27, Wipro Limited appointed Badrinath Srinivasan (Badri) as the Managing Director for Southeast Asia. He is based in Singapore and will report to NS Bala, CEO, APMEA (Asia Pacific, Middle East, India and Africa). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Wipro – appointed Badrinath Srinivasan as the MD for Southeast Asia
- HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte | Founder Chairman – Azim Premji

**46.** On January 27, G. Balasubramanian was appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- G. Balasubramanian – appointed the next High Commissioner of India to the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Nigeria – Abuja – Naira | President – Muhammadu Buhari

**47.** On January 30, Italian President Sergio Mattarella was elected to a second term in the office. Mattarella gained a broad majority of 759 votes in favor from a total of 983. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sergio Mattarella – re-elected as the President of Italy (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
- Italy – Rome – Euro | President – Sergio Mattarella | PM – Mario Draghi

**48.** On January 30, the tenure of M. R. Kumar, the Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), was again extended by 1 year till March 2023. In June 2021, his tenure was extended for a period of 9 months till March 13, 2022. The extension is aimed at a smooth rollout of the LIC's proposed IPO. The government owns a 100% stake in LIC. Once listed, it is likely to become India's biggest company by market capitalisation with an estimated valuation of Rs 8-10 lakh Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- M. R. Kumar – tenure extended as Chairman of LIC – by 9 months (till March 2023)
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”

**49.** On January 31, Antonio Costa was re-elected as the Prime Minister of Portugal with majority of 41.7% of the vote & gained 117 seats in the 230-seat parliament. He has been associated with Socialist Party. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Antonio Costa – re-elected as the Prime Minister of Portugal
- Portugal – Lisbon – Euro | President – Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa



# Amount & Agreements

**1.** In January 2022, Ministry of Tourism allocated Rs 500 Cr to Uttar Pradesh under its “Swadesh Darshan” scheme for strengthening tourism infrastructure. The announcement was made by Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy after he virtually inaugurated various components developed at Govardhan bus stand in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh under the “PRASAD scheme” of Ministry of Tourism. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Ministry of Tourism – allocated Rs 500 Cr to Uttar Pradesh under its “Swadesh Darshan” scheme
- G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated various projects – at Govardhan bus stand in Mathura, UP under “PRASAD scheme”
- “Swadesh Darshan” scheme + “PRASAD scheme” = belong to Ministry of Tourism
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**2.** On January 14, India announced a USD 900 million loan to Sri Lanka to build up its depleted foreign reserves and for food imports, amidst a shortage of almost all essential commodities in Sri Lanka. These comprise deferment of Asian Clearing Union settlement of over USD 509 million & currency swap of USD 400 million. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- India – announced \$900 million loan to Sri Lanka to overcome Forex Crisis
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

**3.** On January 18, India announced a \$500 million credit line to help Sri Lanka purchase petroleum products amid a massive fuel and energy crisis. Earlier, India had also announced a \$900 million loan to Sri Lanka to build up its depleted foreign reserves and for food imports. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- India – announced a \$500 million credit line to Sri Lanka for purchasing petroleum products
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

**4.** On January 21, PM Narendra Modi and his Mauritius counterpart Pravind Kumar Jugnauth jointly inaugurated the India-assisted Social Housing Units project and virtually laid the foundation stone for the Civil Service College and 8 MW Solar PV Farm project which will help Mauritius mitigate the effects of climate change. They also signed an agreement for the extension of \$190M Line of Credit by India to Mauritius for the Metro Express project. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- India + Mauritius = an agreement for the extension of \$190M LoC for the Metro Express project
- Narendra Modi & Pravind Kumar Jugnauth jointly:
  - inaugurated the India-assisted Social Housing Units project
  - laid the foundation stone for the Civil Service College
  - laid the foundation stone for 8 MW Solar PV Farm project
- Mauritius – Port Louis – Mauritian rupee | PM – Pravind Kumar Jugnauth



**5.** On January 22, World Bank approved a loan of \$125 million (about Rs 1,000 Cr) to the West Bengal government primarily to support its effort to help the poor and vulnerable groups access its Social Protection Services. The loan will be sanctioned under the 'West Bengal Building State Capability for Inclusive Social Protection'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- World Bank approved a loan of \$125 million (Rs 1,000 Cr) to West Bengal – to help people get WB govt services
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

**6.** On January 26, Dr. Ajai Chowdhry (HCL Founder & Chairman of FICCI Start-up Committee) announced the India-UAE VC Fund of \$150 million from the India Pavilion at EXPO2020 Dubai. The VC Fund is a first of its kind to be set up in the UAE and it will bring investment opportunities to startups in India and the UAE. The Fund will also act as a catalyst for providing a process for developing early-stage startups in India and the UAE into viable global ventures and making them attain the unicorn level. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Ajai Chowdhry – announced India-UAE VC Fund of \$150 million from the India Pavilion at EXPO2020 Dubai
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**7.** On January 28, Bharti Airtel & Google announced to partner on a long-term, multi-year agreement to accelerate the growth of India's digital ecosystem. As a part of its Google for India Digitization Fund, Google intends to invest up to \$1B in Airtel which will comprise an investment of \$700 million to acquire 1.28% in Bharti Airtel. Both companies will focus on shaping and growing the cloud ecosystem in India. They will also co-create India-specific network domain use cases for 5G and other standards. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bharti Airtel + Google = agreement to accelerate the growth of India's digital ecosystem
- Google – will invest up to \$1B in Airtel out of which \$700 million to acquire 1.28% in Bharti Airtel
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | CEO & MD – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

**8.** On January 31, Tata Steel Long Products will buy 93.71% stake of Neelachal Ispat Nigam for ₹12,100 Cr. NINL is a joint venture of 4 CPSEs – MMTC, NMDC, BHEL, MECON and 2 Odisha government PSUs – OMC and IPICOL. NINL has an integrated steel plant with a capacity of 1.1 MT, at Kalinganagar, Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tata Steel Long Products – to buy 93.71% stake of Neelachal Ispat Nigam for ₹12,100 Cr
- HQs of Tata Steel Ltd – Mumbai | MD & CEO – T. V. Narendran

# Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**1.** On January 3, 2022, Apple Inc. became the first company with a \$3 trillion stock market value when the Silicon Valley company's shares hit an intraday record high. Apple shared the \$2 trillion market value club with Microsoft Corp, which is now worth about \$2.5 trillion. Alphabet, Amazon.com Inc. and Tesla have market values above \$1 trillion. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Apple Inc. – became the first company with a \$3 trillion stock market value
- [HQs of Apple – California, US](#) | [CEO – Tim Cook](#)

**2.** In January 2022, Telangana was at the top in India in the list of highest number of open defecation free (ODF Plus) villages under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II programme till December 31, 2021. As many as 13,737 out of 14,200 villages in the State are in the ODF Plus list, which is 96.74%. This was followed by Tamil Nadu with 4,432 villages (35.39%) and Karnataka with 1,511 villages (5.59%). The State government enacted a new Telangana Panchayat Raj Act to ensure holistic development of villages. Sanitation drives have often been carried out through the “Palle Pragathi programme” in villages. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Telangana – topped the list of highest ODF Plus villages under ‘Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II’ programme
- Telangana followed by – Tamil Nadu (2<sup>nd</sup>) & Karnataka (3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Sanitation drives in Telangana – carried out through the “Palle Pragathi programme” in villages
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad](#) | [CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao](#) | [Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

**3.** The National Tiger Conservation Authority recorded 126 tiger deaths in 2021, the highest since it began collecting the data for the same a decade ago. Madhya Pradesh at 44, the maximum tiger deaths is followed by 26 in Maharashtra and 14 in Karnataka. Tigers are now globally listed as ‘Endangered’ on the International Union for the conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list of threatened species. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- National Tiger Conservation Authority recorded 126 tiger deaths in 2021
- Highest deaths state-wise: 1<sup>st</sup> – Madhya Pradesh (44), 2<sup>nd</sup> – Maharashtra (26), 3<sup>rd</sup> – Karnataka (14)
- Tigers – listed as ‘Endangered’ on IUCN’s Red List

**4.** In order to secure consumer internet of things (IoT) devices, Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), under Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, released a report “Code of Practice for Securing Consumer Internet of Things (IoT)” as a baseline requirement aligned with global standards and best practices. As per the projections, there may be 26.4 billion IoT devices in service globally by 2026. Out of this approximately 20% will be on cellular technologies. As per the ‘National Digital Communication Policy (NDCP) 2018’ released by Department of Telecommunications (DoT), an Eco-system is to be created for 5 billion connected devices by 2022. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- “Code of Practice for Securing Consumer Internet of Things (IoT)” report – by Telecommunication Engineering Centre
- There may be 26.4 billion IoT devices in service globally by 2026



**5.** India is on track to surpass China as the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest Ethanol consumer by 2026 as India accelerates the transformation towards a clean energy ecosystem with the objective of becoming carbon neutral by 2070. Ethanol demand in India tripled between 2017 and 2021. India brought forward its 20% ethanol blending target with gasoline from 2030 to 2025, and is aiming to start selling 20% blends in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – to surpass China as the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest Ethanol consumer by 2026

**6.** In January 2021, Chennai International Airport was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> for on-time performance among large international airports globally in 2021, as per the "On-Time Performance Review 2021" report released by Cirium. It is the only Indian airport ranked in the top 10. The top three are Miami Airport in the US, Fukuoka Airport and Haneda Airport from Japan. The on-time departures to 70 routes globally analysed by Cirium is 89.32% for Chennai. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chennai Int. Airport – ranked 8<sup>th</sup> as per the Cirium's "On-Time Performance Review 2021" (only Indian airport in top 10)
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Miami Airport (US), 2<sup>nd</sup> – Fukuoka Airport (Japan), 3<sup>rd</sup> – Haneda Airport (Japan)

**7.** "Global Risks Report 2022", the 17<sup>th</sup> edition, was released by the World Economic Forum (WEF). The report stated that youth disengagement, lack of confidence and/or loss of trust of existing economic, political and social structures at a global scale negatively impacts social stability, individual well-being and economic productivity. The survey looked into five risks (economic, environmental, geopolitical, societal, and technological) that could pose a critical threat to a country in the next two years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Global Risks Report 2022" (17<sup>th</sup> edition) – released by the WEF
- 5 categories of Risks: Economic, Environmental, Geopolitical, Societal & Technological
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971

**8.** Indian passport strengthened as the country improved its passport ranking in the "Henley Passport Index Q1 2022", climbing from its earlier ranking of 90<sup>th</sup> to 84<sup>th</sup> now. India shared 84<sup>th</sup> rank with Mauritania & Tajikistan. With this jump, the Indian nationals will be able to visit as many as 59 countries from around the world without the need of a prior visa. Japan & Singapore retained the top position in the Henley Passport Index 2022. Germany and South Korea followed on the second rank. Henley Passport Index is released on the basis of the data provided by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). A total of 199 countries were ranked on the index. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Henley Passport Index Q1 2022": Topped by – Japan & Singapore | India – 84<sup>th</sup> (shared with Mauritania & Tajikistan)
- HQs of IATA – Montreal, Canada | DG – Willie Walsh



**9.** On January 10, Union Minister for Labour & Employment, Bhupender Yadav released the report of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter (Q2FY22) of Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) part of All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES). The AQEES is prepared by the Labour Bureau. The estimated total employment in the 9 selected sectors in this round of QES (July-Sep, 2021) was 3.10 Cr, which is 2 lakhs higher than the estimated employment (3.08 Cr) during Q1FY22 (April-June 2021) of QES. The over-all percentage of female workers stood at 32.1%, higher than 29.3% reported during the first round of QES. These 9 selected sectors are Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation and Restaurant, IT/BPO and Financial Services. Manufacturing sector recorded the maximum growth of 39%, followed by Education with 22%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bhupender Yadav (Ministry of L&E) – released the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of Quarterly Employment Survey part of AQEES
- The survey is prepared by – Labour Bureau
- Estimated Total Employment in 9 selected sectors during Q2FY22 – 3.10 Cr (Female workers – 32.1%)
- ‘Manufacturing’ sector recorded the maximum growth of – 39%
- **Ministry of Labour & Employment:** Bhupender Yadav | **Constituency – Rajasthan**
- **MoS in Ministry of Labour & Employment:** Rameswar Teli

**10.** On January 13, Forest Survey of India, under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), released the biennial India “State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021”. ISFR 2021 tracked the forest cover in tiger reserves for the first time. ISFR 2021 found that there is an increase of 1,540 sq km of forest cover and 721 sq km of tree cover compared to the 2019 report. The states with the highest increase in the forest cover are Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km), Telangana (632 sq km) and Odisha (537 sq km). The Forest Survey of India classifies India’s forests into 3 categories - Very Dense Forest, Moderately Dense Forest & Open Forest. As per report, Pakke Tiger Reserve has the highest forest cover among all the tiger reserves across India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021” – published by Forest Survey of India (under MoEFCC)
- There is an increase of 1,540 sq km of forest cover & 721 sq km of tree cover (compared to 2019)
- States with the highest increase in the forest cover: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana & Odisha (respectively)
- India’s forests into 3 categories by FSI: Very Dense Forest, Moderately Dense Forest & Open Forest
- Tiger Reserve with the highest forest cover – Pakke Tiger Reserve or Pakhui Tiger Reserve (Arunachal Pradesh)
- HQs of Forest Survey of India – Dehradun, Uttarakhand | DG – Pankaj Agarwal

**11.** On January 11, Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh ranked as the Most Polluted City out of the 132 non-attainment cities with highest levels of PM 2.5 and PM 10, according to the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)’s report. Delhi was the 2<sup>nd</sup> most polluted city in the list of cities with the highest PM 2.5 level & 4<sup>th</sup> in cities with the highest PM 10 level. Cities are declared non-attainment if they consistently fail to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) over a 5-year period. The Centre’s NCAP was implemented across India in 2019 to reduce particulate matter (PM) levels in 132 cities by 20-30% by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NCAP’s report: Ghaziabad ([UP](#)) – the Most Polluted City out of 132 non-attainment cities | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Delhi
- NAAQS – **N**ational **A**mbient **A**ir **Q**uality **S**tandards
- ‘NCAP’ introduced in 2019 – with an aim to reduce PM levels in 132 cities by 20-30% by 2024

**12.** On January 16, Tasnim Mir from Gujarat became the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian to grab the world No. 1 ranking in the under-19 girls singles in the latest BWF junior rankings. She is supported by OGQ & currently ranked 602 in the women's singles. She was also part of India's campaign at the Thomas & Uber Cup held late last year in Denmark. Her father, Irfan Mir, is a badminton coach and also ASI in Mehsana police. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tasnim Mir ([Gujarat](#)) – 1<sup>st</sup> Indian to get world No. 1 ranking in 'U-19 Girls Singles' in the latest "BWF Junior Rankings"
- [HQs of BWF – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia](#) | [President – Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen](#)

**13.** The number of Indian billionaires grew from 102 to 142 (40 new billionaires), while 84% of households in India suffered a decline in their income in 2021, according to the "Inequality Kills" report published by Oxfam. The report indicates that the collective wealth of India's 100 richest people hit a record high of Rs 57.3 trillion in 2021. In India, during the pandemic (since March 2020, through to November 30th, 2021) the wealth of billionaires increased from Rs 23.14 trillion to Rs 53.16 trillion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Inequality Kills" report – published by Oxfam
- Number of Indian billionaires grew from 102 to 142 (40 new billionaires) in 2021
- Wealth of billionaires increased from Rs 23.14 trillion to Rs 53.16 trillion during pandemic (March 2020 - Nov 2021)

**14.** The RBI witnessed a 22.27% rise in the volume of complaints under various Ombudsman Schemes during April 2020-March 2021. The volume of complaints stood at 4,04,143 during the period on an annualised basis. ATM and debit cards, mobile banking and credit cards account for the most of the complaints. North zone accounted for the maximum share of complaints/grievances (43.10%). In terms of growth of complaints, the West zone registered the highest year-on-year growth at 13.51%. The banking ombudsman scheme accounted for 90.13% of the total complaints (2,73,204) received under the RBI's three Integrated Ombudsman Schemes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI witnessed 22.27% rise in the volume of complaints under 'Ombudsman Schemes' during April 2020-March 2021
- Total volume of complaints – 4,04,143 complaints
- North Zone – accounted for the maximum share of complaints/grievances (43.10%)
- West Zone – registered the highest year-on-year growth of complaints (13.51%)
- 3 Ombudsman schemes of RBI:
  - Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006
  - Ombudsman Scheme for NBFC, 2018
  - Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions, 2019
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH](#) | [Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25<sup>th</sup>\)](#) | [Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935](#)

**15.** Global Unemployment is projected to stand at 207 million in 2022. This is 21 million more than in 2019 before Covid-19 pandemic began, according to the "World Employment and Social Outlook - Trends 2022" released by the International Labour Organization (ILO). While the global unemployment rate is projected to reach 5.9% in 2022, higher than 6.2% in 2021. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- “World Employment and Social Outlook - Trends 2022” – released by ILO
- Report’s projections for 2022: Global Unemployment – 207 million | Global Unemployment Rate – 5.9%
- HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Guy Ryder | Founded in – 1919

**16.** According to “Electricity Market Report”, released by International Energy Agency (IEA), Power demand in the country is expected to grow at an annual rate of 6.5% between 2022 & 2024. India clocked the highest 10% Y-o-Y growth in power demand during the calendar year 2021. Power consumption in India declined by more than 2% during 2020. However, in 2021, demand witnessed a rebound with growth of estimated 10%. Also, renewable generation is expected to increase by 30% by 2024 relative to 2021. The majority of supply growth in the years between 2021 & 2024 is expected in China, followed by India (12%), Europe (7%) and the United States (4%). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Electricity Market Report” – released by the IEA
- Power demand in India is expected to grow at an annual rate of 6.5% between 2022 & 2024
- India clocked the highest 10% Y-o-Y growth in power demand during 2021
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30

**17.** Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows to India dropped 26% in 2021 as compared with the previous year as large mergers and acquisitions deals recorded in 2020 were not repeated, according to the UNCTAD’s “Investment Trends Monitor” published on 19 January. Global FDI flows showed a strong rebound in 2021, up 77% to an estimated \$1.65 trillion, from \$929 billion in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Investment Trends Monitor” report – released by the UNCTAD
- FDI flows to India dropped 26% in 2021 | Global FDI flows increased by 77% to \$1.65 trillion in 2021 (from \$929 bn)
- HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Rebeca Grynspan

**18.** On January 19, according to the ‘Futures Industry Association’ (FIA), the National Stock Exchange of India emerged as the world’s largest derivatives exchange for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year in 2021 in terms of the number of contracts traded. As per ‘World Federation of Exchanges’ (WFE), it was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> by the number of trades in cash equities for 2021. NSE recently announced the launch of derivatives on the Nifty Midcap Select index. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- NSE – emerged as the world’s largest derivatives exchange for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year in 2021
- NSE – ranked 4<sup>th</sup> by the number of trades in cash equities for 2021
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi | MD & CEO – Vikram Limaye

**19.** On January 21, ‘Anxiety’ was chosen as “Children’s Word of the Year 2021”, according to new research from Oxford University Press (OUP). ‘Anxiety’ was the top choice, voted by 21% of children, it was followed by ‘Challenging’ (19%), ‘Isolate’ (14%) and ‘Well-being’ (13%). In comparison, teachers had chosen ‘Resilience’. Almost 8,000 children aged between 7-14, from 85 UK schools were surveyed by the OUP. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Oxford University Press (OUP): 'Anxiety' word was chosen as "Children's Word of the Year 2021" (by 21% of children)
- Teachers chose 'Resilience' word

**20.** NITI Aayog, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and RMI India released "Banking on Electric Vehicles in India" report. The report states that Banks and NBFCs in India have the potential to achieve an electric vehicle (EV) financing market size of Rs 40,000 Cr (\$5 billion) by 2025 and Rs 3.7 lakh Cr (\$50 billion) by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NITI Aayog + RMI + RMI India = released "Banking on Electric Vehicles in India" report
- India's Banks & NBFCs have potential to achieve an EV financing market size of Rs 40,000 Cr (\$5 billion) by 2025
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of RMI – Colorado, US | CEO – Jules Kortenhorst

**21.** On January 21, UNDP & the Oxford University released 'G20 People's Climate Vote 2021 Report'. According to the global report, youth across the world are more aware of the severity of climate change. In the age group of 18-35 years, 61% believe in a climate emergency while 59% in the age group of 36-59 years and 49% in over 60 years age group. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "G20 People's Climate Vote 2021 Report" – released by UNDP + Oxford University
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965
- UNDP India's Resident Representative – Shoko Noda

**22.** On January 22, NASSCOM & Zinnov conducted a study titled 'Indian Tech Start-up Ecosystem: Year of The Titans'. According to the study, Start-ups raised a record \$24.1 billion in 2021, a two-fold increase over pre-COVID-19 levels. When compared to the U.K., U.S., Israel and China, in 2021 Indian startup ecosystem recorded the highest growth rate in terms of deals. Also, U.S. was the leading source of FDI in start-ups. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NASSCOM + Zinnov = conducted a study titled "Indian Tech Start-up Ecosystem: Year of The Titans"
- Start-ups raised a record \$24.1 billion in 2021
- HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi | President – Debjani Ghosh
- Chairman – Rekha M. Menon | Vice-Chairman – Krishnan Ramanujam

**23.** On January 15, Dr Jitendra Singh launched India's 1<sup>st</sup> 'weather hazard and vulnerability atlas'. It is developed by the scientists at Climate Research and Services (CRS) office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Pune. The atlas features extreme rainfall, drought, coldwave, heatwave, dust storms, hail storm, thunderstorm, cyclones, snowfall, lightning, winds and fog with a range of vulnerability with risks ranging from nil, low, moderate, high and very high categories for every Indian district. In all, 640 maps are available in the online atlas. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jitendra Singh – launched India's 1<sup>st</sup> 'Weather Hazard & Vulnerability Atlas' for every Indian district
- Developed by – Climate Research & Services (CRS) office of the IMD
- HQs of IMD – New Delhi | Director General – Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra | Founded in – 1875



**24.** According to findings from a study published by Washington-based Brookings Institution, India is among the top 10 nations in the world in terms of technological advancements and funding in artificial intelligence. India ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in terms of spending and investments on Artificial Intelligence (AI) made by public, governmental initiatives, as well as private institutes and organisations. The nations leading in the top 10 AI adopters list are the US, China & UK respectively. India stands at 7<sup>th</sup> position globally in AI adoption. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in terms of spending & investments on AI
- India ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in AI adoption globally | 1<sup>st</sup> – US, 2<sup>nd</sup> – China, 3<sup>rd</sup> – UK

**25.** The World Economic Forum's "Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022" report showed that ransomware attacks rose 151% in 2021 with an average of 270 cyber-attacks per organisation being faced during the year as connected devices proliferated amid the COVID pandemic. Each successful cyber breach cost a company \$3.6 million, the report noted. It is the first Global Cybersecurity Outlook flagship report released by the WEF. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- First "Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022" report – released by the WEF
- Ransomware attacks rose 151% in 2021 (average - 270 cyber-attacks per organisation)
- HQs of WEF – Cologne, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971

**26.** On January 22, Union Minister of Home and Cooperation, Amit Shah released India's first "District Good Governance Index", prepared by Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with Government of Jammu & Kashmir. The DGGI represents Next Generation Administrative Reform in benchmarking governance at district level. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amit Shah – released India's first "District Good Governance Index" in J&K (prepared by DARPG + J&K Govt)
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**27.** On January 24, Transparency International ranked India at 85 in its "2021 Corruption Perception Index" report. The index ranks 180 countries uses a scale of 0 to 100 to rank Corruption Perception Index (CPI), where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. Transparency International gave India a CPI score of 40. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Corruption Perception Index – released by Transparency International ([Berlin, Germany](#))
- India – 85<sup>th</sup> (score - 40) | 1<sup>st</sup> – Denmark, Finland & New Zealand (score - 88)

**28.** On January 25, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in association with India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA) released volume-2 of a 5-year roadmap and vision document for the electronics sector titled "\$300 bn Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026". Mobile manufacturing is expected to cross US \$100 billion annual production - up from the current US \$30 billion. Also, the government committed nearly US \$17 billion over the next 6 years across four PLI Schemes - Semiconductor and Design, Smartphones, IT Hardware and Components. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- MeitY + ICEA = released a vision document titled “\$300 bn Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026”
- HQs of ICEA – New Delhi | Chairman – Pankaj Mohindroo
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

**29.** On January 24, Apple achieved the top spot with a total valuation of \$355.1 billion, according to Brandirectory. This is the highest brand value ever recorded in the “Brand Finance Global 500” ranking. With this, Apple became the world’s most valuable brand for 2022. The report mentions that Apple’s brand value increased by 35% over last year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Brand Finance Global 500” ranking – released by Brandirectory
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Apple (\$355.1 billion) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Amazon (\$350.27 billion) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Google (\$263.43 billion)

**30.** On January 28, World Gold Council released ‘Gold Demand Trends 2021’ report. According to the report, global gold demand rose 10% in 2021. In the October-December quarter in 2021, demand for gold reached its highest quarterly level since the second quarter in 2019 and an increase of almost 50% year-on-year. The use of gold in the technology sector in 2021 increased 9%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Gold Demand Trends 2021” report – released by World Gold Council
- Global gold demand rose 10% in 2021
- HQs of WGC – London | CEO – David Tait | MD (India) – Somasundaram PR

**31.** On January 28, Maharashtra topped India’s list of the number of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) owned by Entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Castes with as many as 96,805 enterprises. Tamil Nadu & Rajasthan occupied second and third position, according to the data provided by the Office of the Development Commissioner in the Ministry of MSME regarding the number of SC-owned enterprises covered under the Udyam system of registration. The proportion of enterprises owned by SC entrepreneurs in the overall national tally of MSMEs is 6%. The Udyam system of registration came into force on July 1, 2020 and the last date to register on Udyam was extended up to March 31, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra – topped India’s list of MSMEs owned by SC Entrepreneurs | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tamil Nadu, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Rajasthan
- Udyam system of registration came into force on – July 1, 2020 | last date to register on Udyam – March 31, 2022

# Acquisitions & Mergers

1. In January 2022, Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) purchased 25.8% stake in Dunzo on a fully diluted basis with an investment of \$200 million. Dunzo raised \$240 million by funding led by RRVL, with participation from existing investors Lightbox, Lightrock, 3L Capital and Alteria Capital. The capital will be used to further Dunzo's vision to be the largest quick commerce business in India. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Reliance Retail Ventures Limited – purchased 25.8% stake in Dunzo for \$200 million
- HQs of RRVL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – V. Subramaniam
- HQs of Dunzo – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Kabeer Biswas

2. In January 2022, NTPC decided to acquire 5% equity stake in Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL) which is India's first institutionally promoted power exchange. This is to increase government's share of the spot power market in total electricity supply in India to 25% by 2023-24. The PXIL was incorporated on February 20, 2008. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NTPC – will acquire 5% stake in PXIL
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975
- HQs of PXIL – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Prabhajit Kumar Sarkar

3. On January 4, Biocon Ltd's subsidiary Biocon Biologics Ltd (BBL) announced the merger with Serum Institute of India's subsidiary Covidshield Technologies Pvt Ltd (CTPL). The Biocon subsidiary will get committed access to a 100 million doses per annum for 15 years, primarily from Serum's upcoming vaccine facility in Pune. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Biocon Biologics + Covidshield Technologies = announced merger
- HQs of Biocon Biologics – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD – Arun Chandavarkar
- HQs of SII – Pune, MH | Chairman – Cyrus S. Poonawalla | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla | Founded in – 1966

4. In January 2022, Alphabet Inc-owned Google acquired Israeli cybersecurity startup Siemplify for \$500 million. Siemplify's platform would be integrated into Google's cloud. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Google – acquired Israeli cybersecurity startup Siemplify for \$500 million
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Naftali Bennett

5. Indian government will own 35.8% stake in Vodafone Idea Ltd. after its board approved conversion of dues into equity. This will result in dilution for all the existing shareholders of the company. Vodafone Group Plc will own around 28.5% & Aditya Birla Group will have about 17.8% in the company. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Indian government – to own 35.8% stake in Vodafone Idea Ltd
- HQs of Vi Ltd – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Ravinder Takkar | Non-Executive Chairman – Himanshu Kapania

**6.** On January 18, Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) acquired 54% stake in Addverb Technologies for \$132 million. Addverb will continue to operate independently and will use the funds received from RIL to expand business overseas as well as set up one of the biggest robotic manufacturing facilities in Noida. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd – acquired 54% stake in Addverb Technologies for \$132 million
- HQs of RRVL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – V. Subramaniam

**7.** On January 19, Microsoft announced to acquire Activision Blizzard for \$68.7 billion to boost its competitiveness in mobile gaming and virtual-reality technology. Activision Blizzard is the maker of Candy Crush and Call of Duty. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Microsoft – to acquire a video game holding company ‘Activision Blizzard’ for \$68.7 billion
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975
- HQs of Activision Blizzard – California, US | CEO – Bobby Kotick

**8.** On January 19, India Energy Exchange (IEX) announced divesting 4.93% equity stake in its subsidiary Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) to oil marketing company Indian Oil Corporation (IOC). IEX & NSE are promoters of IGX and other strategic investors include GAIL, ONGC, Torrent Gas and Adani Total Gas. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India Energy Exchange – announced divesting 4.93% equity stake in its subsidiary IGX to Indian Oil Corporation
- HQs of IEX – New Delhi | Chairman & Managing Director – Satyanarayan Goel
- HQs of IGX – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | MD & CEO – Rajesh Kumar Mediratta | Chairman – R. Vaidyanathan
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Founded in – 1959

**9.** On January 24, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved acquisition of shares of Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Limited (FGLIC) by Generali Participations Netherlands N.V (GPN). After this acquisition, GPN’s shareholding in FGLIC will be increased from 49% to approx 71%. GPN is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Generali Group & FGLIC is a life insurance company. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- GPN – increased its shareholding in FGLIC to approx 71% (from 49%)
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003

**10.** On January 27, the debt-laden Air India has formally been handed over to the Tata Group after 67 years. Tata group had founded Air India as ‘Tata Airlines’ in October 1932. The government nationalised the airline in 1953. The Tata group would pay Rs 2,700 Cr cash and take over Rs 15,300 Cr of the airline’s debt, as the total value of the deal was Rs 18,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Air India was formally handed over to Tata Group after 67 years – for Rs 18,000 Cr (Rs 2,700 Cr cash + Rs 15,300 Cr debt)
- HQs of Air India – New Delhi | CMD – Vikram Dev Dutt
- HQ of Tata Group – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – N. Chandrasekaran





**11.** On January 31, NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd (NVVN), a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Ltd, acquired a 5% equity stake in Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL). NVVN was formed by NTPC Ltd in 2002, as its wholly owned subsidiary. NVVN holds Category 'I' power trading license in terms of latest Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) regulations. The PXIL was incorporated on February 20, 2008. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd (NVVN) – acquired a 5% equity stake in Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL)
- NVVN – a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Ltd
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975
- HQs of PXIL – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Prabhajit Kumar Sarkar



# MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

1. In January 2022, The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in India entered into a partnership to enhance the effectiveness of the 'Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman' (formerly mid-day meal scheme). Since its inception in 1961, school meals have been part of WFP's mission. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Akshaya Patra Foundation + WFP = to enhance the effectiveness of the "Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman"
- HQs of UNWFP – Rome, Italy | ED – David Muldrow Beasley | Countries – 36
- HQs of Akshaya Patra Foundation – Bengaluru | CEO – Shridhar Venkat

2. In January 2022, The Jammu & Kashmir signed an MoU with Dubai-based Lulu group to set up a food processing and logistics hub in Srinagar. Jammu & Kashmir is number one in the production of Saffron, Apple, Walnut & Almond in India. The MoU with the LuLu group will help the UT reach out to shoppers at 190 LuLu Hypermarkets across the GCC and Egypt. The world-famous GI-tagged saffron has been launched at LuLu Hypermarket. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- J & K + Lulu group = MoU to set up a food processing & logistics hub in Srinagar
- J & K – top state/UT in the production of Saffron, Apple, Walnut & Almond in India
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

3. In January 2022, Syntizen, a Digital Identity Solutions provider, partnered with the Odisha government to provide a Video KYC solution to offer life certificates to pensioners. Odisha became the 1<sup>st</sup> State in the country to deploy a digital process which includes Aadhaar Validation for smoothening the process of obtaining a life certificate. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Syntizen + Odisha = partnered to provide a Video KYC solution to offer life certificates to pensioners
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

4. In January 2022, Himachal Pradesh chief minister launched the UNNATI portal. Apart from real time collaboration, UNNATI portal would allow users to share and work on documents together from any place and any time. He also launched the mobile App & website of the HP State Industrial Development Corporation (HPSIDC). An MoU was also signed between HPSIDC and Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) regarding supply of steel requirements of the Corporation within the state. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Himachal Pradesh – launched "UNNATI" portal/mobile App & website of the HPSIDC
- HPSIDC + SAIL = an MoU regarding supply of steel requirements of the Corporation
- HQs of SAIL – New Delhi | CEO – Soma Mondal | Founded in – 1954
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar



**5.** In January 2022, NHPC signed a Promoters Agreement with the Green Energy Development Corporation of Odisha (GEDCOL) for the development of 500 megawatts (MW) floating solar projects on different water bodies in Odisha. NHPC and GEDCOL agree to establish a joint venture (JV) company. The equity shareholding of NHPC and GEDCOL in the proposed JV shall be in the proportion of 74:26. The project will be implemented under Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Park (UMREPP), Mode 8 of Solar Park Scheme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NHPC + GEDCOL = to establish a joint venture (JV) company with equity shareholding of 74:26 respectively
- NHPC + GEDCOL = signed promoters agreement for the development of 500 MW floating solar projects in Odisha
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Abhay Kumar Singh
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**6.** In January 2022, Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL) and GAIL (India) Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the areas of green hydrogen, green ammonia and renewable energy (solar/wind) for the production of eco-friendly fuels in Odisha. Green Hydrogen helps the industries cut aggregate emissions of Green House Gases. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- GAIL + IPICOL = an MoU for cooperation in the areas of RE for the production of Eco-friendly fuels in Odisha
- HQs of GAIL – New Delhi | CMD – Manoj Jain
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**7.** In January 2022, Karnataka state government signed an MoU with Singapore-based 'LNG Alliance Company' for setting up the State's first LNG Terminal in Mangaluru. The terminal will be set up in association with New Mangalore Port Trust (NMPT) with an investment of ₹2,250 Cr. The project will come up as part of the Union Government's plan to boost the alternative fuel market to achieve net zero carbon by 2070. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka + LNG Alliance Company (Singapore) – an MoU for setting up the State's first LNG Terminal in Mangaluru
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

**8.** In January 2022, Sri Lanka signed an agreement with India to jointly redevelop the strategic World War II-era oil tank farm in the Sri Lanka's eastern port district of Trincomalee. This agreement is commonly known as the Trinco Oil Tank Farm. 85 of the 99 tanks now will be under the Sri Lankan control which had previously remained under Indian control. The Cabinet has approved the proposal to allocate 24 and 14 oil tanks of Trincomalee Oil Tank Complex to Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) and the local operators of the Indian Oil Company (LIOC) respectively while remaining 61 oil tanks are to be developed under Trinco Petroleum Terminal Pvt. Ltd, with shares of CPC (51%) & LIOC (49%). The joint venture will be for a lease period of 50 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sri Lanka + India = agreement to redevelop the "Strategic World War II-era Oil Tank Farm" in Trincomalee
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa



**9.** In January 2022, The Assam government & National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) signed an agreement to create a Rs 2,000 Cr joint venture for holistic development of the sector in the state. As per the MoU, a joint venture company will be set up with a target of processing 10 lakh litres of milk through 6 new units in 7 years. Two cattle feed & organic manure manufacturing units will also be set up as per the agreement. The foundation stone of Guwahati-based Purabi Dairy's expansion initiative under the World Bank-funded 'Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transportation Project' was also laid. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Assam + NDDB = an MoU to create a joint venture for holistic development of the dairy sector in the state
- Two cattle feed & organic manure manufacturing units will also be set up
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- HQs of NDDB – Anand, Gujarat | Chairman – Meenesh Shah | Established in – 1965

**10.** On January 6, the Union Cabinet approved the signing of an MoU between India and Turkmenistan on cooperation in Disaster Management. The cabinet also approved an MoU between India & Spain on cooperation & mutual assistance in Customs Matters. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved an MoU on cooperation in Disaster Management – between India & Turkmenistan
- Cabinet approved an MoU on cooperation & mutual assistance in Customs Matters – between India & Spain
- Turkmenistan – Ashgabat – Manat | President – Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow
- Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez

**11.** On January 10, Sova Capital, a London-based emerging markets broker-dealer, signed an agreement with BSE's India International Exchange (India INX) to facilitate investing in Russian stock market. The partnership will create a bridge for Indian investors to access trading on Moscow Exchange (MOEX). India INX Global Access IFSC Limited, a subsidiary of India INX, launched a platform through which Indian clients can trade foreign stocks. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sova Capital (London) + India INX = an agreement to facilitate investing in Russian stock market (MOEX)
- HQs of India INX – GIFT City, Gujarat | MD & CEO – V. Balasubramaniam

**12.** On January 5, AIC STPINEXT Initiatives (STPINEXT), a special purpose vehicle of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), signed two MoUs, one with HDFC Bank and another with Excelpoint Systems India Pvt Ltd, for fostering entrepreneurship and nurturing tech startups in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- STPINEXT signed two MoUs with HDFC Bank & Excelpoint Systems India to strengthen Tech-startup Ecosystem in India
- HQs of STPI – New Delhi | DG – Arvind Kumar
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”

**13.** On January 11, During the “Nepal Power Market Summit 2022” which was held in Kathmandu, Nepal Power Exchange Ltd signed a trading agreement with India’s Manikaran Power Ltd to sell electricity produced by the domestic private sector to India. This is for the 1<sup>st</sup> time that the private sector of Nepal & India signed an agreement to facilitate power trading between the two countries. The agreement will allow Nepal to sell 500 MW of electricity to India in the initial phase. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nepal Power Exchange Ltd + Manikaran Power Ltd (India) = 1<sup>st</sup> agreement between both sides to facilitate power trading
- Nepal – to sell 500 MW of electricity to India
- “Nepal Power Market Summit 2022” – held in Kathmandu
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

**14.** On January 13, Adani Group & South Korean steel company POSCO signed an agreement to set up a “Green, Environment-friendly Integrated Steel Mill” at Mundra, Gujarat. The MoU intends to further collaborate at the group business level in various industries such as renewable energy, hydrogen, and logistics in response to carbon reduction requirements. The Adani group aims to make its port business a net-zero carbon emitter by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Adani Group + POSCO (South Korea) = agreement to set up a “Green Steel Mill” at Mundra, Gujarat
- Adani group aims to make its port business a Net-zero Carbon Emitter – by 2025
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat
- HQs of Adani Group – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Chairman – Gautam Adani | MD – Rajesh Adani

**15.** On January 12, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (POWERGRID) signed a joint development agreement with Africa50, a pan-African infrastructure investment platform to develop the Kenya Transmission Project on a public-private partnership basis. Once completed, the project will be the 1<sup>st</sup> independent power transmission (IPT) in Kenya. Power Grid will provide technical and operational expertise to the project, while Africa50 will bring its project development and finance expertise and will act as a bridge between the Kenyan government and private investors. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- POWERGRID + Africa50 = a joint development agreement to develop the Kenya Transmission Project
- HQs of POWERGRID – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Kandikuppa Sreekanth
- Kenya – Nairobi – Kenyan Shilling | President – Uhuru Kenyatta

**16.** On January 14, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) signed an MoU with Gujarat government for a total investment of Rs 5.955 lakh Cr over the span of 10 to 15 years to set up 100 GW Renewable Energy Power Plant and Green Hydrogen Eco-System in the state. This is part of the Investment Promotion Activity for Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RIL + Gujarat = an MoU for a total investment of Rs 5.955 lakh Cr on Green Energy
- RIL – to set up ‘100 GW Renewable Energy Power Plant’ & ‘Green Hydrogen Eco-System’ in Gujarat
- HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani | Founded in – 1973
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Devvrat



**17.** On January 18, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) partnered with the Canada Running Series (CRS) as the new Title Sponsor and official IT services and technology consulting partner of the Toronto Waterfront Marathon and Virtual Race through November 2026. The partnership is aimed to modernize marathon running in Canada through a new official race app. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- TCS – became the title sponsor & technology partner of “Toronto Waterfront Marathon & Virtual Race” in Nov 2026
- HQs of TCS – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajesh Gopinathan | Founded in – 1968

**18.** On January 18, To achieve self-reliance in the defence sector, The Indian Army signed its 1<sup>st</sup> contract worth Rs 96 Cr with Anadron Systems Pvt Ltd under Make-II for Maneuverable Expendable Aerial Target for Army Air Defence & Indian Air Force. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Army + Anadron Systems = Rs 96 Cr contract under Make-II for Maneuverable Expendable Aerial Target
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

**19.** On January 18, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) & National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) signed an MoU to promote inclusive good governance, strengthening of local institutions and effective implementation of government programmes. The MoU will help in application of good governance principles & also ensure their effective implementation in terms of transparency and accountability in utilisation of public funds in intended manner for delivering services to benefit rural communities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NIRDPR + NCGG = MoU to promote inclusive good governance & effective implementation of government programmes
- HQs of NIRDPR – Hyderabad | Director General – Dr G. Narendra Kumar
- HQs of NCGG – New Delhi | Director General – V. Srinivas

**20.** On January 18, the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed an MoU for a period of 10 years with the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) to link vocational education & training with higher education. The beneficiaries of the programme include trainees attached to the National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs), Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs) and Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MSDE + IGNOU = MoU to link vocational education and training with higher education for 10 years
- Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

**21.** On January 19, Amazon India signed an MoU with the NIF Incubation and Entrepreneurship Council (NIFientreC), a technology business incubator hosted by National Innovation Foundation (NIF), to accelerate grassroots innovation, local economy, and livelihoods across rural India. NIF is an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST). Amazon and NIFientreC will collaborate with key players to conduct training programmes and accelerate grassroots innovation. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Amazon India + NIFientreC = MoU to accelerate grassroots innovation, local economy & livelihoods across rural India
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | CEO – Andy Jassy | Incorporated in – 1994
- HQs of Amazon India – Hyderabad, Telangana | Country Head – Amit Agarwal

**22.** On January 14, India & Denmark agreed to initiate joint research and development on green fuels including green hydrogen, during the Joint S&T Committee meeting. They also adopted the Green Strategic Partnership - Action Plan 2020-2025. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. S. K. Varshney. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Denmark = agreed to initiate joint R&D on Green Fuels
- They also adopted the “Green Strategic Partnership - Action Plan 2020-2025”
- The meeting was co-chaired by – Mr. S. K. Varshney
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen

**23.** On January 20, Jio Platforms (JPL) signed a pact with the University of Oulu, Finland, for undertaking research and standardization related activities in 6G technology. JPL and University of Oulu will collaborate in R&D of aerial and space communication, holographic beamforming, 3D-connected intelligence in cybersecurity, microelectronics, and photonics. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jio Platforms + University of Oulu (Finland) = partnership to accelerate 6G research & standardization
- HQs of Jio Platforms – Mumbai, MH | President – Anish Shah

**24.** On January 20, ReNew Power formed a Joint Venture (JV) with US-based Fluence to form a new entity which will provide BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) solutions in India. The 50:50 JV will target India's storage market which is estimated to grow to 27GW by 2030. The first project the JV will cater to is a 50MWh BESS for ReNew Powers' 300 MW Peak Power Project in Karnataka. In 2019, Fluence delivered India's first BESS project. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ReNew Power + Fluence (US) = formed a JV to offer BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) solutions in India
- HQs of ReNew Power – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Sumant Sinha

**25.** On January 20, AgriTech company 'AgNext Technologies' collaborated with NAFED to organise a virtual training and awareness programme on quality assessment of pulses for Maharashtra's 5 biggest Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). The programme aimed to train FPOs about the different market quality standards for Tur. AgNext also showed its physical quality assessment device 'SpecX Visio' that can instantly analyse tur dal samples and conduct a physical quality check in less than a minute. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AgNext + NAFED = organised a training programme on quality assessment of Pulses for Maharashtra's FPOs
- AgNext's physical quality assessment device – 'SpecX Visio' to analyse tur dal samples
- HQs of NAFED – New Delhi | MD – Sanjeev Kumar Chadha | Chairman – Bijender Singh
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshiyari



**26.** On January 22, Haryana signed an MoU with Himachal Pradesh for construction of a dam at Adi Badri. The extinct Saraswati river will get revived with the construction of this dam. Presence of Saraswati river has been proved through satellite. For conducting research on it, a chair was set up at the Kurukshetra University. Besides, the Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board was also established. The area will also get developed as a pilgrimage site. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Haryana + Himachal Pradesh = an MoU for construction of a dam at Adi Badri to revive Saraswati river
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

**27.** On January 24, Hitachi Payment Services and Indipaisa tied up to develop a high-quality digital platform for fintech services at affordable prices for Indian MSME market. Indipaisa will offer a range of payment solutions to match the specific needs of Indian MSME owners and operators and comply with government tax laws. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Hitachi Payment Services + Indipaisa = to develop a High-Quality Digital Platform for Indian MSMEs
- HQs of Indipaisa – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Aizaz Tahsildar
- HQs of Hitachi Payment Services – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rustom Irani

**28.** On January 25, The Digital University Kerala (DUK) joined hands with the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), Thrissur, to set up India's 1<sup>st</sup> graphene innovation centre in the state. The Ministry of Electronics & IT sanctioned ₹86.41 Cr for this project. Tata Steel Ltd will be the industrial partner. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Digital University Kerala + C-MET = partnership to establish India's 1<sup>st</sup> graphene innovation centre in Kerala
- MeitY – sanctioned ₹86.41 Cr for this project
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

**29.** On January 28, India and France signed an MoU with a scope for cooperation in Health Research. The MoU was signed between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Institut Pasteur (France). CSIR and Institut Pasteur will jointly research and focus on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and inherited disorders. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CSIR (India) + Institut Pasteur (France) = an MoU for cooperation in Health Research
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

**30.** On January 28, Social media platform Meta, under its “#SheMeansBusiness” programme, partnered with FICCI to support 5 lakh women-led small businesses across India. Out of over 63 million small businesses in India, about 20% are owned by women highlighting the need to bring more gender equality. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Meta + FICCI = partnership under “#SheMeansBusiness” programme to support 5 lakh women-led small businesses
- HQs of Meta – California, US | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | DG – Arun Chawla | President – Sanjiv Mehta | Founded in – 1927



**31.** On January 27, the Indian Naval Placement Agency (INPA) signed an MoU with IIFL Home Finance Limited (IIFL HFL) to explore opportunities for the recruitment of naval veterans within the company. Through the MoU, the INPA will identify a pool of ex-servicemen/dependents candidates for relevant roles as per standards of IIFL HFL. The primary aim of the INPA is to enhance second career opportunities for retired Indian Navy personnel in private sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- INPA + IIFL HFL = an MoU for the recruitment of Naval Veterans within the company
- HQs of IIFL Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Nirmal Jain | MD – Venkataraman Rajamani

**32.** On January 29, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) inked an MoU with Goa Shipyard to provide its techno-financial expertise to set up a rooftop solar power project at the headquarters of GSL in Vasco da Gama, Goa. IREDA and GSL are under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ministry of Defence, respectively. The Government of India aims to produce 40 GW of solar power through rooftop solar by the end of 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IREDA + Goa Shipyard = to set up a rooftop solar power project at the headquarters of GSL
- HQs of Goa Shipyard – Vasco da Gama, Goa | CMD – Bharat Bhushan Nagpal
- HQs of IREDA – New Delhi | CMD – Pradip Kumar Das

**33.** On January 27, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Hyperion Global Group, LLC, a United States based infrastructure telecommunication distribution company, entered into a contract to develop, manufacture and supply Internet of Things (IoT) devices for the US market. BEL will manufacture and supply IoT devices to Hyperion and Hyperion will provide advanced connectivity solutions to the customers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BEL + Hyperion Global Group = a contract to manufacture & supply Internet of Things (IoT) devices for US market
- HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava



# **Books & Authors**

1. In January 2022, Dharendra K. Jha authored a new book titled “Gandhi’s Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and his Idea of India” which explores Godse’s connection with RSS. The book is published by Vintage/Penguin. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Book “Gandhi’s Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and his Idea of India” – authored by Dharendra K. Jha
- Publisher – Vintage/Penguin

2. In January 2022, on the occasion of Mamata Banerjee’s birthday HarperCollins announced the release of book “Mamata: Beyond 2021” which is written by Jayanta Ghosal. He has authored several books in Bengali about the region and is also a biographer of Mamata Banerjee. The book is translated by Arunava Sinha who translates classic, modern and contemporary Bengali fiction and non-fiction from Bangladesh and India into English. The book details how Mamata was successfully able to portray herself as the ‘Daughter of Bengal’ who worked tirelessly for the state’s poor and disadvantaged. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Mamata: Beyond 2021” book – authored by Jayanta Ghosal
- Publisher – HarperCollins | Translated into English by – Arunava Sinha

3. On January 16, Former SBI Chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya authored a book titled “Indomitable: A Working Woman’s Notes on Work, Life & Leadership” in which she talks about her time as the head of the largest bank in India. The book is published by Harper Collins. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Indomitable: A Working Woman’s Notes on Work, Life & Leadership” book – authored by Arundhati Bhattacharya
- Publisher – Harper Collins

4. In January 2022, British publisher HarperCollins announced that it has acquired rights to publish the authorised biography of an Indian industrialist, philanthropist and a former Chairman of Tata Sons, Ratan N. Tata, titled “Ratan N. Tata: The Authorized Biography”. The book, authored by Thomas Mathew, will be released in all formats in November, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Ratan N. Tata: The Authorized Biography” – authored by Thomas Mathew
- Publisher – HarperCollins (The book will be published November, 2022)

5. Researcher and founder of ‘Mission Netaji’, Chandrachud Ghose authored a new biography of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose with untold stories titled “Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist”. The book is published by Penguin Random House India. The book is scheduled to be released in February, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist” book – authored by Chandrachud Ghose
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India

6. On January 20, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari released the book “The Legend of Birsa Munda” authored Tuhin A. Sinha and Ankita Verma at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The Legend of Birsa Munda” book – authored by Tuhin A. Sinha & Ankita Verma (Co-author)
- The book was released by – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**7.** On January 25, “Liberty After Freedom: A History of Article 21, Due Process and the Constitution of India” was authored by Rohan J. Alva, a counsel practising in the Supreme Court. The new book provides a comprehensive and fascinating account of the origins and evolution of the most important fundamental right as enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Liberty After Freedom: A History of Article 21, Due Process & the Constitution of India” – authored by Rohan J. Alva

**8.** On January 25, Ruskin Bond in his latest book, “A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence”, pays homage to the country that has been his home for 84 years. The book is an amalgamation of the “physical and spiritual” attributes of India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

“A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence” book – authored by Ruskin Bond

**9.** On January 24, A book titled “Operation Khatma” is authored by journalists R. C. Ganjoo and Ashwini Bhatnagar. The book narrates the Indian Army’s Surgical Strike across the Line of Control (LoC) in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in September 2016. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Operation Khatma” book – authored by R. C. Ganjoo & Ashwini Bhatnagar

**10.** On January 24, Union Minister for Culture and author Meenakshi Lekhi launched a new comic book titled “India’s Women Unsung Heroes” in New Delhi. The unique book has been prepared by the Ministry of Culture in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha which is an Indian publisher of Indian comics & graphic novels. The book beautifully portrays the tales of valor of our forgotten women freedom fighters. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Meenakshi Lekhi – launched “India’s Women Unsung Heroes” book
- The book is prepared by = Ministry of Culture + Amar Chitra Katha

**11.** On January 25, the book “Last among Equals: Power, Caste, and Politics in Bihar’s Villages” was recently published by Context. This book is authored by MR Sharan. This book describes the formidable spirit shown by the poor to succeed against all odds. The book is an account of the author’s field study in a group of villages in Bihar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Last among Equals: Power, Caste, and Politics in Bihar’s Villages” book – authored by MR Sharan
- Publisher – Context

**12.** On January 24, educationist, writer and astrologer Shubira Prasad authored her 2<sup>nd</sup> book “The Angels of Kailash” in the trilogy of the battle between humans and demons. The book is published under Vitasta Publishing. Her 1<sup>st</sup> book was titled “The Demons of Jaitraya”. “The Kumbh Conspiracy” will be the final book of the trilogy. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- “The Angels of Kailash” book – authored by Shubira Prasad (2<sup>nd</sup> book of the trilogy)
- 1<sup>st</sup> book – “The Demons of Jaitraya” | 3<sup>rd</sup> book – “The Kumbh Conspiracy”
- Published by – Vitasta Publishing

**13.** Former finance secretary Subhash Chandra Garg authored his 1<sup>st</sup> book, “The \$10 Trillion Dream”. This book explores the critical policy issues that India faces today and suggests reforms for it to become a \$10 trillion economy by the mid-2030s. The book is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The \$10 Trillion Dream” book – authored by Subhash Chandra Garg (Former Finance Secretary)
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India

**14.** On January 24, Kiran Bedi, India’s first woman IPS officer and former Lt Governor of Puducherry, has written a book. The book is titled “Fearless Governance”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Fearless Governance” book – authored by Kiran Bedi

**15.** On January 18, Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha released a book titled “Prakrtik, Vaidik avem Jaivik Kheti- Graameen Udyamita Ka Naya Swaroop”. The book is published by ‘Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan’ as a souvenir after the successful conduct of the Annual Festival and foundation day celebrations. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manoj Sinha – released a book titled “Prakrtik, Vaidik avem Jaivik Kheti- Graameen Udyamita Ka Naya Swaroop”
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha



# Obituaries

1. In January 2022, Viktor Saneyev, three-time Olympic triple jump champion, died at the age of 76. He was born in Georgia. He won Olympic Golds in Mexico City in 1968, in Munich in 1972 & in Montreal in 1976. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Viktor Saneyev ([Triple jump](#)) – three-time Olympic champion – Passed away

2. On January 3, 2022, The Indian Navy's 1971 Indo-Pak war veteran Vice Admiral S.H. Sarma died at the age of 100. He was the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet during the 1971 war which led to the creation of Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Vice Admiral S. H. Sarma – Indian Navy's 1971 Indo-Pak war veteran – Passed away
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950

3. In January 2022, Social activist Sindhutai Sapkal, popularly known as 'Mother of Orphans' passed away in Pune. She received the Padma Shri in 2021. She was also awarded by 'Mother Teresa Award' in 2013 & 'Nari Shakti Puruskar' in 2017. In 2010, a Marathi biopic on her, "Mee Sindhutai Sapkal" was released which was selected for world premiere at the 54<sup>th</sup> London Film Festival. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Sindhutai Sapkal – Social activist – passed away (known as 'Mother of Orphans')
- Awards: Padma Shri in 2021 | Mother Teresa Award in 2013 | Nari Shakti Puruskar in 2017
- Marathi biopic on her – "Mee Sindhutai Sapkal" (released in 2010)

4. In January 2022, Shillong Chamber Choir's founder and renowned pianist Neil Nongkynrih, aka Uncle Neil, died. He was 51. Neil's choir won India's Got Talent in 2010. He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2015 in Arts. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Neil Nongkynrih ([Pianist](#)) – Shillong Chamber Choir's founder – passed away
- Neil Nongkynrih – won India's Got Talent in 2010 & honoured with the Padma Shri (Arts) in 2015

5. In January 2022, Sidney Poitier, the first Black winner of the best actor Oscar for his role in Lilies of the Field, died at age 94. He was the oldest surviving male Academy Award winner. He wrote three autobiographical books - This Life (1980), The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography (2000) and Life Beyond Measure: Letters to My Great-Granddaughter (2008) & in 2013 published Montaro Caine, a novel that was described as part mystery, part science fiction. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Sidney Poitier – a Bahamian-American Actor – passed away (the first Black winner of the Best Actor Oscar)
- His autobiographical books – This Life, The Measure of a Man & Life Beyond Measure

6. On January 11, European Parliament President 'David Maria Sassoli' died in Italy. He was first elected at the European Parliament in 2009 & won another term in 2014 & served as the Parliament's vice president. Later he was appointed as the president. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- David Maria Sassoli – European Parliament President – passed away
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | Member Countries – 27
- President of European Parliament – Roberta Metsola
- President of European Council – Charles Michel
- President of European Commission – Ursula von der Leyen

**7.** In January 2022, Oscar-winning lyricist Marilyn Bergman passed away at the age of 93. Marilyn and her husband Alan Bergman won 2 Grammys and 4 Emmys and were inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Marilyn Bergman became the first woman elected to the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers and later served as the chair and president. The Bergmans won 3 Oscars for - “The Way We Were”, “Windmills of Your Mind” and “Yentl”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Marilyn Bergman – a renowned Hollywood Lyricist (Music Composer) – passed away
- Marilyn Bergman & Alan Bergman (Husband) won = 3 Oscars + 2 Grammys + 4 Emmys

**8.** On January 12, the 3-times Olympic Champion, sprinter Deon Lendore passed away in the United States at the age of 29. Lendore won silver in the 4x400m relay at the 2015 world championships in Beijing. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Deon Lendore ([Trinidad & Tobago](#)) – a Sprinter – passed away

**9.** On January 15, Award-winning journalist Kamal Khan died of a heart attack at his home in Lucknow at the age of 61. He was associated with news channel NDTV for over 30 years. He had received the “Ramnath Goenka Award” in 2010 and the “Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi Award” from the President of India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kamal Khan – a Veteran Journalist – passed away
- Awards: “Ramnath Goenka Award” & “Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi Award”

**10.** On January 17, Padma Vibhushan awardee & Kathak legend Pandit Birju Maharaj passed away. He was 83. He was also a prolific singer, poet and painter. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pandit Birju Maharaj – Padma Vibhushan awardee & Kathak legend – passed away

**11.** In January 2022, Saoli Mitra, eminent theatre personality and daughter of legendary actor Sombhu Mitra and Tripti Mitra, passed away at the age of 73 due to heart ailments. She was a gifted actor, director and playwright. Mitra was the recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2003, Padma Shri in 2009, and Banga Bibhusan in 2012. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Saoli Mitra – an Actor, Director & Playwright – passed away
- Awards: Sangeet Natak Akademi (2003) | Padma Shri (2009) | Banga Bibhusan (2012)



**12.** In January 16, Padma Shri awardee and social activist Shanti Devi passes away. She worked selflessly to remove suffering and create a healthier as well as just society. She received Padma Shri for her social work in the Maoist-hit Rayagada region. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shanti Devi – Social Activist – passed away (Padma Shri in ‘Social Work’)

**13.** On January 9, former Japanese Prime Minister ‘Kaifu Toshiki’ passed away at the age of 91. He served as prime minister from August 10, 1989 to November 5, 1991, in the middle of the turmoil of the 1990 Gulf Crisis & the 1991 Gulf War. In the history of Japanese politics, Kaifu is regarded as a symbol of Japan’s changing diplomacy in the post-Cold War period in terms of Japan’s contribution to international peace & security. In 1965, Kaifu founded the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), the Japanese equivalent to the U.S. Peace Corps. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kaifu Toshiki – former Japanese Prime Minister – passed away
- Kaifu Toshiki is regarded as a symbol of Japan’s changing diplomacy in the post-Cold War period
- [Japan – Tokyo – Yen](#) | [PM – Fumio Kishida](#)

**14.** On January 18, Cartoonist Narayan Debnath, the creator of Bengali comic characters ‘Bantul The Great’, ‘Handa Bhonda’ & ‘Nonte Phonte, passed away. He was 97. He was awarded Padma Shri award in 2021 for arts. He was also conferred with the Sahitya Akademi award in 2013. The West Bengal government also honoured him with ‘Banga Bibhushan’. He was 1st & only comic artist in India to receive honorary D.Litt degree which was given to him by Rabindra Bharati University in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narayan Debnath – Cartoonist & Padma Shri awardee for Arts – passed away
- He also received – Sahitya Akademi award (2013) & Honorary D.Litt degree (only comic artist to receive)

**15.** On January 14, Major H P S Ahluwalia, the founder of Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC), passed away. He was 85. He was a retired Army officer, professional mountaineer, & a social worker. He was one of the first Indians to conquer Mount Everest. Also, he had written over 13 books, including the widely-acclaimed autobiography, Higher Than Everest. He was honoured with Padma Bhushan in 2002, Padma Shri in 1965 & Arjuna award in 1965. He was also awarded with Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award in 2009. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Major H P S Ahluwalia – Founder of ISIC, Retired Army officer, Mountaineer, Social Worker & Writer – passed away
- Awards: Padma Bhushan (2002), Padma Shri (1965), Arjuna (1965), Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award (2009)
- His autobiography – “Higher Than Everest”

**16.** On January 16, the ousted President of Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, passed away. He was 76. He led Mali for 7 years until 2020, when he was ousted in a coup after huge anti-government protests over his handling of jihadist unrest. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ibrahim Boubacar Keita – ousted President of Mali – passed away
- [Mali – Bamako – CFA franc](#) | [Transitional President – Col. Assimi Goita](#) | [Transitional PM – Choguel Maiga](#)

**17.** Noted Ecologist/Environmentalism M. K. Prasad passed away at the age of 89. He served as Pro-Vice Chancellor of Calicut University. He led the Silent Valley campaign in the 70s. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- M. K. Prasad ([Kerala](#)) – Noted Environmentalist (Ecologist) – passed away

**18.** On January 23, R. Nagaswamy, the 1<sup>st</sup> Director of the Department of Archaeology, passed away. He was 92. He was known as the 'Father of Tamil Archaeology'. He was born at Kodumudi in Erode district of Tamil Nadu. He had deep knowledge of Tamil and Sanskrit. He obtained his MA degree in Sanskrit from the University of Madras. He was awarded a Ph.D. in Indian Arts by Pune University. He started the famous Chidambaram Natyanjali festival. Also, he received TN government's 'Kalaimamani Award' and in 2018, he was honoured with Padma Bhushan. He penned a book, Masterpieces of Early South Indian Bronzes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- R. Nagaswamy – 'Father of Tamil Archaeology' & the 1<sup>st</sup> Director of Department of Archaeology – passed away
- "Masterpieces of Early South Indian Bronzes" book – authored by R. Nagaswamy
- He also started – Chidambaram Natyanjali festival
- Awards – TN government's 'Kalaimamani Award' & 'Padma Bhushan' (2018)
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai](#) | [CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin](#) | [Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

**19.** On January 18, Saturnino de la Fuente, the world's oldest man, passed away at the age of 112. He was born in Leon, a city in northwest Spain. Guinness World Records named him as the world's oldest man in September 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Saturnino de la Fuente ([Spain](#)) – the world's oldest man – passed away
- [Spain – Madrid – Euro](#) | [PM – Pedro Sanchez](#)

**20.** On January 23, R. Nagaswamy, the 1<sup>st</sup> Director of the Department of Archaeology, passed away. He was 92. He was known as the 'Father of Tamil Archaeology'. He was born at Kodumudi in Erode district of Tamil Nadu. He had deep knowledge of Tamil and Sanskrit. He obtained his MA degree in Sanskrit from the University of Madras. He was awarded a Ph.D. in Indian Arts by Pune University. He started the famous Chidambaram Natyanjali festival. Also, he received TN government's 'Kalaimamani Award' and in 2018, he was honoured with Padma Bhushan. He penned a book, Masterpieces of Early South Indian Bronzes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- R. Nagaswamy – 'Father of Tamil Archaeology' & the 1<sup>st</sup> Director of Department of Archaeology – passed away
- "Masterpieces of Early South Indian Bronzes" book – authored by R. Nagaswamy
- He also started – Chidambaram Natyanjali festival
- Awards – TN government's 'Kalaimamani Award' & 'Padma Bhushan' (2018)
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai](#) | [CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin](#) | [Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

**21.** On January 25, Captain of India's 1964 Tokyo Olympics gold medal-winning hockey team, Charanjit Singh, passed away at the age of 90 at his home in Una, Himachal Pradesh. Charanjit was also part of the 1960 Games silver-winning and 1962 Asian Games silver-winning team. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Charanjit Singh – a Hockey Player – passed away
- He was Captain of India's 1964 Tokyo Olympics gold medal-winning Hockey Team

**22.** On January 27, foreign student of one of the initial batches of the Kerala Kalamandalam Milena Salvini died in France. She was 84. The Italian-born French art researcher was an ambassador of Kathakali & other Indian classical art forms in France. In 2019, she was honoured with Padma Shri, to recognise her contributions to the field of Kathakali in 2019. She played a crucial role in getting UNESCO recognition for Koodiyattam as an ancient art form and to include it in the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity Programme in 2001. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Milena Salvini – French Art Researcher & former Ambassador of Kathakali in France – Passed away
- [France – Paris – Euro](#) | [President – Emmanuel Macron](#) | [PM – Jean Castex](#)

**23.** Dr. Anil Awachat, a prominent Marathi author and social activist based in Pune, passed away at the age of 77. He was the founder-director of Mukangan rehabilitation centre in Pune. He is known for the books, “Manasa”, “Karyarat” and “Gard”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Anil Awachat – Marathi Author & Social Activist – passed away

**24.** On January 30, Padma Shri Baba Iqbal Singh, who was 96-years-old, passed away. His name was listed for receiving the 2022 Padma Shri award for his social work. In 2018, he was also awarded with Shiromani Panth Ratan by Takht Sri Harmandar Ji Patna Sahib, a title of honour and distinction for the excellent services to the Sikh community. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Baba Iqbal Singh – Padma Shri awardee 2022 (Social Work) – passed away

**25.** On January 31, senior advocate and Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Rupinder Singh Suri passed away. He was appointed the ASG in June 2020. He also served as the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association. He also served as standing counsel in the Supreme Court for Punjab. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rupinder Singh Suri – Senior advocate & Additional Solicitor General – passed away
- [Solicitor General of India – Tushar Mehta](#)

# Person in News

1. In January 2022, Captain Harpreet Chandi, a 32-year-old Indian-origin British Sikh Army officer and physiotherapist, also known as Polar Preet, became the 1<sup>st</sup> woman of colour to complete a solo unsupported trek to the South Pole. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Captain Harpreet Chandi (British Sikh Army officer) – 1<sup>st</sup> woman of colour to complete a solo unsupported trek to the South Pole

2. On January 2, the parliamentary panel which is assigned to examine the bill on raising legal age of marriage, has only one woman. The bill titled “Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill” seeks to raise the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21. TMC MP Sushmita Dev is the only woman among the 31 members. The Department-Related Standing Committees are permanent, while joint and select committees are constituted from time to time to deal with bills and relevant subjects of various ministries. These panels are constituted by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports is a Rajya Sabha administered Committee. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Sushmita Dev – the only woman in 31-member parliamentary panel to examine Bill on raising legal age of marriage
- “Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill” seeks to raise the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21

3. Anushka Sharma played cricket icon in the biopic titled “Chakda Xpress”. This film is inspired by the life & times of former Indian cricket captain Jhulan Goswami. It is directed by ‘Prosit Roy’ & will stream on Netflix. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Anushka Sharma – played cricket icon Jhulan Goswami’s role in biopic film ‘Chakda Xpress’
- Directed by – Prosit Roy

4. In January 2022, the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) approved elevation of Lahore High Court judge Ayesha Malik to the apex court by a majority votes. She will work as a Supreme Court judge until June 2031 before retiring at the age of 65. She will also be the senior most serving judge & likely to become the Chief Justice of Pakistan in January 2030. She will be the 1<sup>st</sup> ever woman judge to become the Chief Justice of Pakistan. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Judicial Commission of Pakistan – approved elevation of Lahore HC judge ‘Ayesha Malik’ to the Supreme Court judge
- Ayesha Malik – likely to become the 1<sup>st</sup> ever woman judge to be the Chief Justice of Pakistan in 2030
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

5. In January 2022, Google paid tribute to educator & feminist icon ‘Fatima Sheikh’ on her 191<sup>st</sup> birth anniversary. She was the 1<sup>st</sup> Muslim woman teacher in India. She played an important role in establishing one of India’s 1<sup>st</sup> schools for girls. She co-founded the Indigenous Library in 1848 with Jyotirao & Savitribai Phule. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Google – paid tribute to ‘Fatima Sheikh’ on her 191<sup>st</sup> birth anniversary (1<sup>st</sup> Muslim woman teacher in India)



**6.** On January 12, Maya Angelou, the African American author and activist, became the 1<sup>st</sup> Black woman to appear on the currency of the US government. She gained international fame after the publication of her autobiography “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings”. The coin is part of the African Women Quarters program, which was signed into law in January 2021. The program directs the US Mint to issue quarters each year between 2022 & 2025 featuring five different female trailblazers who have contributed to the country. The other women to receive the honour in 2022 are: Sally Ride, Wilma Mankiller, Nina Otero-Warren and Anna May Wong. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maya Angelou – 1<sup>st</sup> Black woman to appear on the currency of the US under ‘African Women Quarters Program’
- The other women to be featured in 2022: Sally Ride, Wilma Mankiller, Nina Otero-Warren & Anna May Wong
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar](#) | [46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden](#) | [49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)

**7.** On January 21, on the list of the 13 world leaders, Prime Minister Narendra Modi topped the global rating amongst world leaders with an approval rating of 71%. US president Joe Biden is ranked at number six with a 43% rating followed by Canadian President Justin Trudeau. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – topped the global rating amongst World’s Most Popular Leaders with an approval rating of 71%
- Joe Biden – ranked at number 6 with 43% rating

**8.** On January 21, Prajakta Koli became India’s 1<sup>st</sup> UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion because of her contribution towards mental health, women’s rights & girl child education through various global social campaigns. Last year, she joined Google’s “Impact Challenge” to aid grants to non-profits addressing economic inequities faced by women & girls. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Prajakta Koli – became India’s 1<sup>st</sup> UNDP Youth Climate Champion
- [HQs of UNDP – New York, USA](#) | [Administrator – Achim Steiner](#) | [Founded in – 1965](#)
- [UNDP India’s Resident Representative – Shoko Noda](#)

**9.** Andhra Pradesh’s Jahnvi Dangeti, a second-year engineering student created history by becoming the only Indian to undergo & complete International Air and Space Program (IASP) at NASA Launch Operations’ Kennedy Space Centre in Alabama, the U.S. She was also appointed as the mission director for ‘Team Kennedy’, where she led a group of 16 people from several countries. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jahnvi Dangeti ([AP](#)) – became the only Indian to complete NASA’s International Air & Space Program (IASP)
- Jahnvi Dangeti – was also appointed as the mission director for ‘Team Kennedy’
- [HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA](#) | [Administrator – Bill Nelson](#) | [Founded on – July 29, 1958](#)

**10.** On January 20, A Belgian-British teenager Zara Rutherford, at the age of 19, became the youngest woman to fly solo around the world. She completed a 52,000 km journey that took in 31 countries across 5 continents. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Zara Rutherford ([Belgian-British aviator](#)) – became the Youngest Woman to fly solo around the world

**11.** On January 19, a bust of Kargil war hero Captain Vikram Batra was unveiled in Himachal Pradesh's Palampur military station by his father G L Batra and mother Kamal Kanta Batra. Point 4875 is a mountain top along the Line of Control (LoC). It is also known as the 'Batra Top', named after him. Also, he was awarded with the highest gallantry award 'Param Vir Chakra'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A bust of Kargil war hero 'Captain Vikram Batra' was unveiled – in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh
- He was awarded – 'Param Vir Chakra' - the highest gallantry award
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande

**12.** On January 19, leading activist Sarah Gill became Pakistan's first transgender doctor after clearing the MBBS (Final) examination from Karachi's Jinnah Medical and Dental College. She is also associated with an NGO working for the welfare of the transgender community in Pakistan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sarah Gill – became Pakistan's first transgender doctor after clearing the MBBS
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

**13.** A day after former West Bengal CM Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee refused to accept Padma Bhushan, legendary singer Sandhya Mukherjee and tabla exponent Anindya Chatterjee also refused to accept Padma Shri. They think that the awardees are chosen at random, not through an evaluation of their life and work, since some other persons who doesn't deserve, were given superior Padma Awards. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The following personalities refused to accept Padma Awards 2022:
  - Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee (Padma Bhushan)
  - Sandhya Mukherjee (Padma Shri)
  - Anindya Chatterjee (Padma Shri)

# Science & Technology

1. South Korea's first indigenously produced space launch vehicle namely "KSLV-II Nuri" rocket failed due to a loose helium tank. The mission failed because the third-stage engine stopped burning 46 seconds earlier than scheduled. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- "KSLV-II Nuri" rocket – South Korea's first indigenously produced space launch vehicle (SLV)
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in

2. On January 2, Researchers from SNM College Maliankara, the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, and the Payyanur College have reported two new plant species from the biodiversity-rich Western Ghats regions in Thiruvananthapuram and Wayanad districts of Kerala. They are christened 'Fimbristylis sunilii' and 'Neanotis prabhuii', and the findings were published in journal Phytotaxa. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 'Fimbristylis sunilii' & 'Neanotis prabhuii' two new plant species – discovered in Western Ghats regions in Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

3. The "Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST)" or the Chinese "Artificial Sun", achieved a continuous high-temperature plasma operation for 1,056 seconds in the latest experiment, the longest time of operation of its kind in the world. They achieved a plasma temperature of 120 million degrees Celsius for 101 seconds in an experiment in the first half of 2021. This time, steady-state plasma operation was sustained for 1,056 seconds at a temperature close to 70 million degrees Celsius. The ultimate goal of "EAST" is to create nuclear fusion like the Sun, using deuterium abundant in the sea to provide a steady stream of Clean Energy. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- "EAST" or Chinese "Artificial Sun" – achieved a continuous high-temperature plasma operation for 1,056 seconds
- The operation was sustained for 1,056 seconds at a 70 million °C plasma temperature
- EAST's goal is to create Nuclear Fusion like the Sun using 'deuterium' abundant in the Sea
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

4. On January 6, North Korea successfully tested a 'Hypersonic Missile'. The missile had precisely hit a target located 700km (430 miles) away. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- North Korea – successfully tested a 'Hypersonic Missile' (hit a target located 700km away)
- North Korea – Pyongyang – North Korean won | President – Kim Jong-un

5. On January 7, Astronomers discovered the longest structure in the Milky Way, an unusual cloud of hydrogen. The gigantic structure, which is more than 3,900 light-years long and around 150 light-years wide, is located roughly 55,000 light-years away from the solar system. The team named the lengthy cloud "Maggie", which is short for the Magdalena River, the longest river in Colombia. The survey relies on data collected by the radio observatory called 'Jansky Very Large Array' located in New Mexico. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Astronomers discovered the longest structure or hydrogen cloud named “Maggie” in the Milky Way galaxy
- “Maggie” is short for Magdalena River – the longest river in Colombia
- The survey relies on data collected by – ‘Jansky Very Large Array’ observatory ([New Mexico](#))

**6.** On January 9, China’s Chang’e 5 lunar lander found the first-ever on-site evidence of water on the surface of the moon. The study published in the peer-reviewed journal Science Advances. The lander detected signs of water in rocks and soil.

[{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- China’s lunar lander namely “Chang’e 5” – found the first-ever on-site evidence of water on the surface of the moon
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi](#) | [President – Xi Jinping](#)

**7.** On January 6, TickerPlant, a subsidiary of 63 Moons Technologies Ltd (formerly Financial Technologies Ltd), announced its collaboration with Google Cloud for the development of the CryptoWire Eco-system, catering to all stakeholders of crypto and the blockchain industry on a common platform. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- TickerPlant + Google Cloud = collaboration for the development of CryptoWire Eco-system
- [HQs of TickerPlant – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Jignesh Shah](#)
- [HQs of Google – California, US](#) | [CEO – Sundar Pichai](#) | [Founded in – 1998](#)
- [HQs of CryptoWire – Mumbai](#) | [MD & CEO – Jigish Sonagara](#)

**8.** On January 11, the US surgeons successfully implanted a heart from a genetically modified pig to a 57-year-old man, David Bennett. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had granted emergency authorization for this surgery. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- US surgeons successfully implanted a heart from a genetically modified pig to a 57-year-old man
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar](#) | [46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden](#) | [49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)

**9.** On January 12, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the final deliverable configuration of the Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM). The indigenously developed anti-tank missile is a low weight (15kg), ‘fire and forget’ missile. The test was conducted at a range in Southern India. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- DRDO successfully flight tested the final deliverable configuration of the “MPATGM” in Southern India
- MPATGM – **M**an **P**ortable **A**nti-**T**ank **G**uided **M**issile
- [HQs of DRDO – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy](#) | [Established in – 1958](#)

**10.** On January 13, Astronomers have confirmed the discovery of a new potato-shaped exoplanet named “WASP-103b”. Astronomers had initially discovered this unusually shaped planet back in 2014. The planet is located in the constellation “Hercules”, at a distance of about 1,800 light-years from the solar system. The study was published in Astronomy and Astrophysics. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Astronomers discovered a new potato-shaped exoplanet named “WASP-103b”
- The planet is located in the constellation “Hercules” (1,800 light-years away from the solar system)

**11.** On January 15, a new species of rainfrog, discovered in the Panama jungle, was named after Swedish Environmental Activist Greta Thunberg. The species has been named as ‘Pristimantis Gretathunbergae’ or popularly known as ‘Greta Thunberg Rainfrog’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A new species of rainfrog, discovered in the Panama jungle, was named after – Greta Thunberg

**12.** In January 2022, South Africa launched its third satellite mission called “MDASat” (Marine Domain Awareness) into space from the Cape Canaveral rocket launch site in Florida in the US. This is the first constellation of satellites developed and designed in entirely Africa. The nanosatellite constellation consists of three satellites. ‘ZACUBE-1’ (TshepisoSat) and ‘ZACUBE-2’ are the two other nanosatellites of South Africa. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- South Africa – launched its 3<sup>rd</sup> satellite mission called “MDASat” (Marine Domain Awareness) from Florida, US
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa

**13.** On January 11, Union minister Jitendra Singh launched an artificial intelligence (AI) driven start-up by IIT alumni for water purification through innovative technology, to provide clean drinking water at a price much lesser than the market price. An MoU was also signed between Technology Development Board (TDB), a statutory body of Department of Science & Technology, and Swajal Water Private Limited, a tech start-up company founded by ex-IITians based in Gurgaon. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jitendra Singh – launched an AI driven start-up by IIT alumni for water purification through innovative technology
- Technology Development Board + Swajal Water Private Limited = signed an MoU for water purification technology
- MoS (I/C) in the Ministry of Science & Technology: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K
- MoS in the Department of Atomic Energy and Space: Dr. Jitendra Singh

**14.** On January 15, North Korea test launched two ‘tactical guided ballistic missiles’ from a train. North Korea in recent months has been ramping up tests of new missiles designed to overwhelm missile defenses in the region. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- North Korea – test launched two “Tactical Guided Ballistic Missiles” from a train
- North Korea – Pyongyang – North Korean won | President – Kim Jong-un

**15.** On January 19, Israel Missile Defense Organization (IMDO), together with the US Missile Defense Agency (MDA), conducted a successful flight test of the Arrow Weapon System (AWS) and the Arrow 3 interceptor, which is designed to intercept ballistic missiles outside of the Earth’s atmosphere. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IMDO (Israel) + MDA (US) = conducted a successful flight test of “Arrow 3 Ballistic Missiles Interceptor”
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Naftali Bennett
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris



**16.** On January 15, Jonathan, a 190-year-old tortoise has been named as the world's oldest living land animal by Guinness Book of World Records. He is the "oldest chelonian" – a category which encompasses all turtles, terrapins and tortoises. The previous record was held by another tortoise named Tu'i Malila who lived to be at least 188. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Guinness Book of World Records – named 'Jonathan' - a 190-year-old tortoise as the world's oldest living land animal

**17.** On January 13, the World's largest fish breeding area discovered in Antarctica near Weddell Sea. The 240 square km of regularly spaced icefish nests, east of the Antarctic Peninsula, has astonished marine ecologists. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- World's largest fish breeding area (240 square km wide) – discovered in Antarctica near Weddell Sea

**18.** In January 2022, a former Naval Officer, Tom Jacobs of Washington discovered a Jupiter-sized planet dubbed "TOI-2180 b". Located about 379 light-years from Earth, this new planet takes 261 days to complete one revolution around its Sun. The planet was discovered hiding in the signatures captured by NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS). The discovery was published in the Astronomical Journal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tom Jacobs (US) – discovered a Jupiter-sized planet dubbed "TOI-2180 b" (located about 379 light-years from Earth)
- The discovery was published in 'Astronomical Journal'

**19.** On January 21, the Indian Space Research Organisation successfully conducted a 25-second qualification test for its liquid propellant-based Vikas engine to be used under the Gaganyaan mission. The test was conducted at the ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragri, Tamil Nadu. It was done to see how the engine performed in conditions that were not optimal. ISRO is targeting the launch of at least one of the two planned uncrewed mission before 2022 Independence Day, while the crewed mission is planned for next year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ISRO – successfully conducted a 25-second qualification test for its liquid propellant-based "Vikas" engine
- Vikas engine – will be used under the 'Gaganyaan' mission
- ISRO Propulsion Complex – located in Mahendragri, Tamil Nadu
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

**20.** On January 25, Meta (previously Facebook) unveiled the "AI Research SuperCluster (RSC)", which is among the fastest AI supercomputers. RSC will help build technologies for the next major computing platform - the 'Metaverse'. Also, Meta's newly unveiled artificial intelligence supercomputer will be the fastest in the world by the middle of 2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Meta – unveiled the world's fastest supercomputer "AI Research SuperCluster (RSC)"
- HQs of Meta – California, US | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004

**21.** On January 28, IIT Jodhpur researchers developed an automated Artificial Intelligence (AI) solution for COVID-19 prediction from chest X-rays. It is a deep learning-based algorithm called 'COMiT-Net', which learns the abnormalities present in the chest X-ray images to differentiate between a COVID-19 affected lung and a non-COVID affected lung. The research is part of the 'RAKSHAK' project under NM-CPS DST and iHub Drishti at IIT Jodhpur. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- IIT Jodhpur – developed an algorithm called COMiT-Net for COVID-19 prediction from chest X-rays
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra
- Director of IIT Jodhpur – Santanu Chaudhury

**22.** In January 2022, California-based Roswell Biotechnologies developed the first scalable Molecular Electronics Chip in peer-review paper. The molecular electronics platform consists of a programmable semiconductor chip with a scalable sensor array architecture. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Roswell Biotechnologies (US) – developed the first scalable Molecular Electronics Chip

**23.** On January 31, Scientists from IIT Kharagpur developed a portable, user-friendly, and non-invasive device for detecting oral cancer in resource-constrained clinical settings. The research has been published recently in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), USA. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Kharagpur – developed a portable, user-friendly & non-invasive device for detecting Oral Cancer
- Director of IIT Kharagpur – Virendra Kumar Tewari



# Ordinance, Bills and Acts

**1.** In January 2022, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) notified the new amendments to the “Environment (Protection) Act, 1986” for better monitoring and utilisation of fly ash by Coal-based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) in India. The latest notification mandates all coal and lignite-based TPPs to utilise 100% fly ash in an environment friendly manner. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- MoEFCC – notified new norms for fly ash utilisation by Coal-based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) in India
- MoEFCC – amended the “Environment (Protection) Act, 1986” for the same purpose
- [Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Bhupender Yadav | Constituency – Rajasthan](#)
- [MoS in Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Ashwini Kumar Choubey](#)

**2.** Australia’s “Online Safety Act”, which was passed in July 2021, has come into effect from January 2022, allowing adults to report cases of online bullying in the country to the eSafety Commissioner, Julie Inman Grant. The act empowers the eSafety commissioner to order social media websites to take down content related to bullying against Australian adults within 24 hours, and if not then face heavy fines of up to \$555,000. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Australia’s “Online Safety Act” came into effect from January 2022 allowing Adults to report cases of online bullying
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison](#)

**3.** In January 2022, the United States House of Representatives unveiled the ambitious “America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology, and Economic Strength Act of 2022”, or the “America COMPETES Act of 2022”, which proposes to open up new vistas for talented individuals from across the world with a new start-up visa. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- US – unveiled the “America COMPETES Act of 2022” for talented individuals from across the world
- COMPETES – **C**reating **O**pportunities for **M**anufacturing, **P**re-Eminence in **T**echnology & **E**conomic Strength
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)



# Arts & Cultural Affairs

**1.** On January 13, Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs, Meenakashi Lekhi launched a Bike Expedition called “North East on Wheels (NEW) Expedition” in New Delhi. The event will jointly be organized by Culture Ministry and Amazing Namaste foundation which works to promote the Culture of India’s North Eastern States. The expedition is scheduled between April 8-16, 2022 to mark the celebrations of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Meenakashi Lekhi (MoC) – launched a Bike Expedition called “North East on Wheels (NEW) Expedition” in New Delhi
- The Expedition will jointly be organized by = Ministry of Culture + Amazing Namaste foundation

**2.** On January 14, the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi celebrated ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’ with “Kala Kumbh” artist workshops for painting scrolls measuring approximately 750 metres, representing the tales of valor of unsung heroes of India’s freedom movement. Kala Kumbh was organized by Ministry of Culture along with Ministry of Defence. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- “Kala Kumbh” - artist workshops was organized by = Ministry of Culture + Ministry of Defence

**3.** On January 16, Lavni Artist Sumit Bhale from Maharashtra won a gold medal in the International Folk Art Festival held in Dubai. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Sumit Bhale – won a gold medal at the “International Folk Art Festival” in Dubai
- Sumit Bhale ([Maharashtra](#)) – associated with ‘Lavani’ folk music
- [Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)
- [UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan](#)





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