

# CURRENT AFFAIR

# MARCH 2022



FundaMakers



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## Important Days:

Date	Day	Extra Info
The Women and Child Development Ministry celebrates the International Women's Day week from the 1st of March as an Iconic Week as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. On 3rd March 2022, the theme for the celebration is 'Women of Tomorrow'.		
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers organized the Janaushadhi Diwas from 1st March to 7th March 2022. On 7th March 2022, the 4th Jan Aushadhi Diwas will be celebrated. The theme of 4th Janaushadhi Diwas: "Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi".		
1 March	World Civil Defence Day	Theme 2022: Civil defence and management of displaced populations in face of disasters and crises; role of volunteers and the fight against pandemics <sup>1</sup>
1 March	Zero Discrimination Day	Theme 2022: Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower
2 March	Civil Accounts Day	
3 March	World Wildlife Day	Theme 2022: Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration
3 March	World Hearing Day	Theme 2022: To hear for life, listen with care
4 March	National Safety Day	Theme 2022: Nurture young minds –Develop safety culture
4 March	National Security Day	
4 March	World Obesity Day	Theme 2022: Everybody Needs to Act
8 March	International Women's Day	Theme 2022: Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow
9 March	No Smoking Day	Second Wednesday of March
10 March	World Kidney Day	Theme 2022: Kidney Health for All Second Thursday of March
10 March	Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF) Raising Day (53rd)	
10 March	International Day of Women Judges	
13 March	World Rotaract Day	Theme 2022: Rotary Making a Difference <sup>1</sup>
14 March	International Day of Mathematics	Theme 2022: Mathematics Unites!
14 March	International Day of Action for Rivers	Theme 2022: The Importance of Rivers for Biodiversity
15 March	World Consumer Rights Day	Theme 2022: Fair Digital Finance
United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted by consensus a resolution introduced by Pakistan on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) that proclaims March 15 as International Day to Combat Islamophobia.		
16 March	National Vaccination Day	Theme 2022: Vaccines Work for all
18 March	World Sleep Day	Theme 2022: Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World
18 March	Global Recycling Day	The event's focus on the "recycling fraternity"
18 March	India's Ordnance Factories' Day	
20 March	International Day of Happiness	2022: Keep Calm, Stay Wise and Be Kind
20 March	World Sparrow Day	2022: LOVE Sparrows
20 March	World Oral Health Day	2022: Be Proud Of Your Mouth
21 March	International Day of Forests	2022: Forests and sustainable production and consumption
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	2022: VOICES FOR ACTION AGAINST RACISM
21 March	World Down Syndrome Day	2022: Inclusion Means
21 March	World Poetry Day	
22 March	World Water Day	2022: Groundwater, Making the Invisible Visible
23 March	Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day	
23 March	World Meteorological Day	2022: Early Warning and Early Action
24 March	World Tuberculosis Day	Theme 2022: Invest to End TB. Save Lives
24 March	International Day for the Right to the Truth	
25 March	International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members	
25 March	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade	Theme 2022: Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism

26 March	Earth Hour 2022	Theme 2022: Shape Our Future(last Saturday of March month)
27 March	World theatre Day	
31 March	International Transgender Day of Visibility	
31 March	World Backup Day	
31 March	International Day of DrugChecking	

## **MOU/Agreement Countries:**

- India and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the supply of Urea and Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP) from India to Nepal under Government to Government Arrangement.
- The Union Cabinet was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Health of Department of Health and Human Services, USA in September last year.
- Industry and research institutes from India and Singapore would soon jointly develop new products related to economic and societal challenges.
- The Union Cabinet was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Oxford University in November last year.
- Australian Army Research Centre (Aarc) signs Memorandum of Understanding (Mou) with Centre for Land Warfare Studies (Claws), India
- India and Sri Lanka have signed an agreement for developing a 100 megawatt solar power plant in the eastern port district Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, as part of the efforts to strengthen bilateral economic partnership, including through cooperation in the renewable energy sector.
- India and Japan signed six agreements in the areas including cyber security, waste water management and clean energy after the 14th India-Japan Annual Summit in New Delhi.
- Amid possible shortage and cost escalation due to Ukraine-Russia conflict, companies from India and Israel signed an MoU for the supply of muriate of potash (MOP) for five years.
- The MoU between Indian Potash Ltd (IPL), under the Department of Fertilisers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, and Israel Chemicals Ltd (ICL) will be for the period 2022 to 2027 with a yearly quantity of 6 to 6.5 LMT.
- A tripartite agreement to promote yak dairy enterprise that can sustain the age-old yak herding culture in the highlands of the eastern Nepal has been signed.
- The initiative aims to develop a viable yak-based business model to generate attractive and sustainable employment opportunities for rural youth in the Kangchenjunga landscape of Nepal.

## **MOU Industry/States/Others:**

- Google has partnered with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Startup Hub to help 100 Indian startups build high-quality global apps and games.
- The Ministry of Science and Technology has decided to promote a unique Start-up in latest Daylight Harvesting Technology in order to reduce carbon footprint and improve the building's energy efficiency.
- The Ministry of Science and Technology said that the only Start-up company in India for Daylight Harvesting Technologies "Skyshade Daylights Private Limited" Hyderabad signed an MoU with the Department of Science and Technology.
- Rajasthan, the state government has announced a 'Camel Protection and Development Policy' in its budget 2022-23. Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) is India's only listed depository.
- Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur have developed a biodegradable nanoparticle that can be used as an alternative to chemical-based pesticides and help farmers protect their crops from bacterial and fungal infections.
- The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) has inked a pact for cooperation and collaboration in the field of renewable energy, electric mobility, and alternative fuels including the development of ESG Projects, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy said.
- 'Building AI Readiness among Young Innovators', a program by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, in partnership with Intel India, was launched on the occasion of National Science Day on 28th February by Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology (I/C), Government of India.
- The Indian Hotels Company (IHCL), India's largest hospitality company, has announced that it will collaborate with UNESCO to help safeguard and promote the intangible cultural heritage of India as part of a major new initiative meant to transform the landscape of travel in the post COVID 19 world.
- A leading fintech digital lending platform, LoanTap aims to close Financial Year 2022 with a bang as they announce business collaborations with Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) – Arka Fincap Ltd. (Arka). Additionally, LoanTap has also partnered with RBI registered NBFC, MAS Financial Services Ltd. (MAS) in a co-lending model for the salaried and MSME segment.
- IIFL Finance Limited announced its collaboration with fintech firm NIRA as part of its strategy to strengthen its digital footprint. Through this partnership, salaried customers can avail of a personal loan of up to Rs1 lakh from IIFL Finance by downloading the NIRA app from Google's Play store.
- Private lender Kotak Mahindra Bank and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd announced a strategic partnership to launch

- the Indian Oil Kotak co-branded fuel credit card.
- Axis Bank and Bharti Airtel have entered into a strategic partnership to strengthen the growth of the digital ecosystem in India, through a range of financial solutions.
  - Adani Solar and Smart Power India (SPI), a subsidiary of Rockefeller Foundation, have signed a non-financial and non-commercial memorandum of understanding for equitable access to last-mile electricity and to encourage energy transition in rural India.
  - The Atal Innovation Mission of Niti Aayog announced that it has partnered with camera company Snap Inc, which controls social media platform Snapchat, to promote Augmented Reality (AR) skilling among Indian youth.
  - Insolvency regulator IBBI and Indian Banks Association (IBA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on capacity building for financial creditors on topics related to insolvency, bankruptcy and related subjects.
  - Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI), the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), and Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd. have announced their bancassurance partnership.
  - A tripartite agreement has been signed between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ayush ministry and CSIR for facilitation of R&D and deployment of technologies related to medicinal plants and ayurvedic food for the benefit of humans and animals.
  - National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to develop a sustainable model for promoting entrepreneurship at the grass roots by initiating the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP).
  - India's public broadcaster, Prasar Bharati has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Yupp TV, an over-the-top (OTT) platform, which is a gateway for television viewers across the globe.
  - With this, DD India is now available on the OTT platform of Yupp TV in USA, UK, Europe, Middle East, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand. Through Yupp TV, one can watch live TV anytime anywhere in the world.
  - Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), a government agency under the Union ministry of consumer affairs, food and public distribution, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee for establishment of a 'BIS Standardisation Chair Professor'.
  - This would be the first standardisation chair established by BIS in an institute for activities on standardisation and conformity assessment, an official statement said.
  - The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) have signed a new agreement to advance decent work and encourage a human-centred recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in the aviation industry.
  - IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC) and RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), have signed a memorandum of understanding to develop the ecosystem required necessary to support and scale fintech start-ups in India.
  - Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) has entered into a tripartite MoU with Eker Group (Norway) and Vaan moto to explore future business in the field of manufacturing high speed boats for accelerating business growth.
  - NMDC Ltd, the country's largest iron ore producer, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IIT Kharagpur for drone-based mineral exploration.
  - India's public broadcaster Prasar Bharati has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Australia's public service broadcaster Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) to boost co-operation in the field of broadcasting.
  - This will expand the reach of DD News, DD India and multiple language services of DD News amongst the Indian Diaspora in Australia.
  - The Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), to promote entrepreneurship at a local level amongst the rural youth.
  - Airport operators Groupe ADP and GMR Airports together with Airbus, Axens and Safran have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to conduct a joint study on Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) and their potential in India.
  - In a major boost to Government's "Make in India" Initiative, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has entered into an agreement with Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the joint indigenous development of systems for air traffic management and surface movement of aircraft at airports in the country which were being imported till now.

## Appointments and Resignations:

Name	Post	Other Info
In Nagaland, BJP's nominee S Phangnon Konyak is set to become the first woman to be elected as a Member of Parliament for the state's lone Rajya Sabha seat.		
T S Ramakrishnan	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of LIC Mutual Fund	
Akshaye Widhani	Chief Executive Officer of Yash Raj Films	
Junaaid Kamal Ahmad	Vice President of Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)	
Madhabi Puri Buch	First woman chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India	She will replace Ajay Tyagi

Professor Bhushan Patwardhan	Chairman of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bengaluru.	Succeeds Prof JagadishKumar
Vidya Balan	Brand Ambassador of Bharti Axa Life Insurance	
Sanjiv Kapoor	CEO of Jet Airways	
Nitin Chugh	Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of State Bank of India	
DN Patel	Chairperson of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)	
Amitabh Bachchan	Brand Ambassador of upGrad	
Mary Kom	Brand Ambassador of Lupin Limited (Lupin) for its Shakti Campaign	
B Chandra Sekhar	Commandant of Air Force Academy, Indian Air Force	
Ashwani Bhatia	Whole-time member (WTM) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	He is State Bank of India (SBI) managing director
Debasish Panda	Chairperson of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)	
AK Sikri	Chairman of Char Dham panel	
Ajay Bhushan Pandey	Chairperson of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)	Appointed Praveen Kumar Tiwari, a retired Indian Audit and Accounts Service official, and Smita Jhingran, an Indian Revenue Service officer, to the post of full-time members of NFRA.
T Raja Kumar	President of Financial Action Task Force (FATF)	He hails from Singapore
Tapan Singhel	Managing Director and CEO of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance	It is a 5-year extension
N Chandrasekaran	Chairman of Air India	
Shubman Gill and Ruturaj Gaikwad	Brand ambassadors of My11Circle	
Ranjit Rath	Chairman & MD of Oil India Ltd	Succeeds Sushil Chandra Mishra
Bhagwant Singh Mann	17th Punjab chief minister	The 48-year-old comedian-turned-politician has become the first non-Congress and non-Akali leader to make it to the chief minister's office in the border state since 1966, when its map was last redrawn. He is AAP leader.
N Biren Singh	Chief Minister of Manipur	For 2nd term
Pushkar Singh Dhami	Chief Minister of Uttarakhand	
Pramod Sawant	Chief Minister of Goa	
Suchitra K Ella	Chairperson of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Southern Region	
Prashant Jhaveri	CEO of Flipkart Health+	
Jay Shah	President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC)	Extended by 1 year
Rajesh Gopinathan	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of TCS	Re-appointment
Rajeev Ahuja	Interim Managing Director & CEO of RBL Bank	3-month extension
Jayati Ghosh	Appointed to a new high-level advisory board on effective multilateralism	
Dr Randeep Guleria	AIIMS Director	3 months extension
Pushkar Singh Dhami	12th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand	
Pralay Mondal	Interim Managing Director (MD) & CEO	C. VR. Rajendran, the present MD & CEO will take early retirement from the position due to health reasons.
Lt. Gen. Vinod G. Khandare (retd.)	Adviser in the Ministry of Defence	
Vishwas Patel	Chairman of Payments Council of India (PCI)	Re-elected for second term
Dr Renu Singh	Director of the Forest Research Institute (FRI)	
Shashi Sinha	Chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC India)	



Gilbert Houngbo	Director General of International Labour Organization	First African to be appointed to this position
Raj Subramaniam	Chief Executive Officer of FedEx	Replaces Frederick W Smith
Jens Stoltenberg	Secretary-General of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	1 year extension
Serdar Berdimukhammedov	President of Turkmenistan	
Yoon Suk-yeol	President of South Korea	Will succeed incumbent President Moon Jae-in
Gabriel Boric	President of Chile	Chile's youngest president
Katalin Novak	President of Hungary	First ever female president of Hungary
Former State Bank of India (SBI) chairman Rajnish Kumar has joined the international strategic advisory board of data and analytics firm Dun & Bradstreet.		
<b>Resignations</b>		
Ashneer Grover, who had lost an arbitration that he filed against BharatPe, on March 1 resigned from the fintech firm as managing director of the company.		
Senior Advocate Aman Lekhi resigned from the post of Additional Solicitor General		
Uday Kotak has announced to step down as the Chairman of the board of the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS). CS Rajan, Managing Director, IL&FS has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director for six months with effect from April 3 by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.		

## **Awards and Recognitions:**

<b>Award Name</b>	<b>Person/Institution</b>	<b>Extra Knowledge</b>
Boltzmann Medal for the year 2022	Prof Deepak Dhar of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune (IISER Pune)	The award has been awarded to Prof Dhar for his contribution in the field of 'Statistical Physics'. He shared the award with Americanscientist John Hopfield.
ASSOCHAM Award for Sustainability Excellence in Energy Management		It is Asia's largest Rated-4 Hyperscale Data Center
'Special Jury Award' at the 7th India Industry Water Conclave and the 9th edition of the FICCI WaterAwards	National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)	
1st prize in the Ispat Rajbhasha Award for 2018-19 and 2020-21 and the Ispat Rajbhasha Purna Award for 2019-20	National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC)	
Policing and Safety ranking of Skoch Awards-2021	Andhra Pradesh	2nd – Telangana, 3rd – Gujarat
1st GD Birla Award for Scientific Research	Professor Narayan Pradhan (Awarded for his outstanding contribution in the field of material sciences. )	The recipient is chosen by a selection board, whose present head is professor Chandrima Shaha, the president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA).
Miss World 2021 crown (70th edition)	Poland's Karolina Bielawska	
Pritzker Prize	Architect Diébédo Francis Kéré of Burkina Faso	Pritzker Prize - the world's highest recognition in building design. Kéré is the first African to be honored with the Pritzker.
"Best MSME Bank of the year – Winner" award among private sector Banks	Karnataka Bank	
Abel Prize	American Mathematician Dennis Parnell Sullivan	
Governor of the year award 2022	Mario Marcel, the Governor of the Central Bank of Chile	
Stockholm Water Prize 2022	Wilfried Brutsaert, also known as Mr Evaporation	for his groundbreaking work to quantify environmental evaporation, helping to make accurate predictions of the impact that climate change has on local rainfall patterns and water sources.

## **Recognitions**

The US Department of State has decided to recognise Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association

(Bela) Chief Executive Syeda Rizwana Hasan with the International Women of Courage Award 2022.
In a significant development, Chennai-based petrochemicals manufacturer Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd (TPL) becomes the first company in the world to have its product linear alkylbenzene (LAB) conferred with IS12795:2020 certification by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India.
In recognition of its best performance in Self Help Group Bank Linkage, Ministry of Rural Development(Gol) has awarded J&K Bank with 'National Award for Outstanding Performance for FY 2020-21'.
Axis Bank, India's third-largest private sector bank has been awarded IFR Asia's Asian Bank of The Year, for its breadth of coverage and depth of expertise in the Asian investment banking space.
On the eve of the 65th birthday of late Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Bipin Rawat, the Indian Army has instituted a Chair of Excellence in his memory at the United Service Institution of India (USI). The aim of the proposed Chair of Excellence will be to conduct research on strategic issues of significance pertaining to the armed forces.
Seventy five women were conferred with the Women Transforming India Awards-2021 in recognition to their contribution towards a Sashakt Aur Samarth Bharat.
To mark the occasion, a ceremonial parade was held and a 150-men guard of honour was presented to the President. Established in 1942, INS Valsura is a premier training establishment of the Indian Navy.
Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Executive Chairperson of Biocon and Biocon Biologics, has been elected as the Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE), Scotland's National Academy established in 1783, for the advancement of learning and useful knowledge.
The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has bagged the 'Covid champion' award at Wings India 2022 which is Asia's largest event on civil aviation jointly organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and FICCI at the Begumpet airport in Hyderabad.
Virat Kohli has emerged as the most valued celebrity in India for the fifth year in a row, topping the Duff & Phelps Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2021 despite seeing a dip in his brand value to \$185. 7million last year from a high of \$237. 7 million in 2020. Actor Ranveer Singh bettered his brand equity and climbed a spot higher to the second spot with a brand value of \$158. 3 million. Swapping positions with him, fellow actor Akshay Kumar slipped to number three with a brand value of \$139. 6 million. At fourth position is another movie star, Alia Bhatt, the youngest celebrity in the top 10 and now the most valued brand (\$68. 1 million) among female Bollywood actors.
The Living Roots Bridge or the Jingkieng Jris, as they are locally called in Meghalaya has been included in the Unesco's tentative list for the coveted World Heritage Site status.
In one-of-its-kind recognition for a military institution, the Centre of Excellence for Marine Engineering at INS Shivaji has been recognised by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

### **75th edition (2022) of British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA) Winners List:**

- ☐ **Best Film:** The Power of the Dog wins Best Film
- ☐ **Best Director:** Jane Campion for The Power of the Dog
- ☐ **Best Actor:** Will Smith for King Richard
- ☐ **Best Actress:** Joanna Scanlan for After Love
- ☐ **Outstanding British Film:** Belfast
- ☐ **Best Animated Film:** Encanto
- ☐ **Best Documentary:** Summer of Soul
- ☐ **Best Supporting Actor:** Troy Kotsur for CODA
- ☐ **Best Supporting Actress:** Ariana DeBose for West Side Story
- ☐ **Best Original Score:** Dune
- ☐ **EE Rising Star Award:** Lashana Lynch
- ☐ **Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer:** The Harder They Fall
- ☐ **Best Film not in English Language:** Drive My Car
- ☐ **Best Original Screenplay:** Licorice Pizza
- ☐ **Best Adapted Screenplay:** CODA
- ☐ **Best Casting:** West Side Story
- ☐ **Best Editing:** No Time To Die
- ☐ **Cinematography:** Dune
- ☐ **Production Design:** Dune
- ☐ **Sound:** Dune
- ☐ **Special Visual Effects:** Dune
- ☐ **Best Costume Design:** Cruella
- ☐ **Best Hair and Make Up:** The Eyes of Tammy Faye

- ☐ British Short Animation: Do Not Feed the Pigeons
- ☐ British Short Film: The Black Cop

### **94th Academy Awards or Oscars Awards 2022**

List of winners:

- ☐ Best Actor in a Leading Role: Will Smith, “King Richard”
- ☐ Best Actress in a Leading Role: Jessica Chastain (The Eyes of Tammy Faye)
- ☐ Best Picture: CODA
- ☐ Best International Feature Film: Drive My Car
- ☐ Documentary Short Subject: The Queen of Basketball
- ☐ Best Directing: Jane Campion (The Power of the Dog)
- ☐ Best Actress in a Supporting Role: Ariana DeBose (West Side Story)
- ☐ Best Actor in a Supporting Role: Troy Kotsur (CODA)
- ☐ Best Makeup & Hairstyling: The Eyes of Tammy Faye
- ☐ Best Cinematography: Dune
- ☐ Best Original Score: Hans Zimmer (Dune)
- ☐ Best Visual Effects: Dune
- ☐ Best Animated Feature Film: Encanto
- ☐ Best Animated Short Film: The Windshield Wiper
- ☐ Best Costume Design: Cruella
- ☐ Best Original Screenplay: Kenneth Branagh (Belfast)
- ☐ Best Adapted Screenplay: Sian Heder (Coda)
- ☐ Best Live Action Short Film: The Long Goodbye
- ☐ Best Sound: Dune
- ☐ Best Documentary Feature: “Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)”
- ☐ Best Original Song: “No Time To Die” from “No Time to Die,” music and lyric by Billie Eilish and Finneas O’Connell
- ☐ Best Production Design: Dune
- ☐ Best Film Editing: Dune

### **Summits/Conferences**

<b>Summit</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Extra Knowledge</b>
Fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5. 2)	Nairobi, Kenya	
Mobile World Congress 2022	Barcelona, Spain	
India Global Forum	Bengaluru, Karnataka	
Virtual meeting of agriculture ministers from the G7 countries	Germany	
36th International Geological Congress	New Delhi	The theme of the event is Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future.
73 rd Annual National Conference of Indian Psychiatric Society (ANCIPS)	Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh	Beat Amey Nitin

### **International News:**

- ☐ The United States, European Union and United Kingdom agreed to block “selected’ Russian banks from the SWIFT global financial messaging system and to impose “restrictive measures” on its central bank in retaliation for its invasion of Ukraine.
- ☐ China’s new Long March-8 rocket placed 22 satellites in space, setting a domestic record for the most spacecraft launched by a single rocket.
- ☐ Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has signed an official request for Ukraine to join the European Union.
- ☐ The largest cargo plane in the world — Ukraine’s Antonov-225 or ‘Mriya’ — was destroyed by Russian strikes outside Kyiv on the fourth day of Moscow’s invasion, Ukraine’s state-owned Ukroboronprom group said. The aircraft was unique to the world. At 276 feet long, it could transport up to 551,000 pounds of cargo at a speed of up to 528 mph.
- ☐ It had been named “Mriya,” which means “dream” in Ukrainian.
- ☐ Swiss and its parent company, the Lufthansa Group, have partnered with synthetic fuel group Synhelion to use its solar fuel.
- ☐ This will make Swiss the first airline in the world to use “sun-to-liquid” fuel.
- ☐ The global financial watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has retained Pakistan on its grey list.



- ❑ The FATF included the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with which India signed a free trade agreement less than a month ago.
- ❑ The FATF excluded Zimbabwe from the list after a review found it compliant on all parameters.
- ❑ Due to its war on Ukraine, Russia has become the most sanctioned in the world, according to a New York-based sanctions watchlist site.
- ❑ Investing in universal childcare and long-term care services can generate up to 299 million jobs by 2035. Of these, 234 million (78 per cent) will go to women, according to a new report by International Labor Organization (ILO), the United Nations labour agency.
- ❑ The report, titled Care at work: Investing in care leave and services for a more gender equal world of work provides a global overview of national laws and practices regarding care policies, namely maternity protection, paternity, parental and other care-related leave policies, as well.
- ❑ Bangladesh tops the list in South Asia in terms of women on board of listed companies, says a study conducted by International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).
- ❑ As part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate India's 75th year of independence, a "Green Triangle" named after Mahatma Gandhi was jointly inaugurated in Madagascar's capital Antananarivo.
- ❑ International Court of Justice (ICJ) has ruled that Russia should suspend its military operations in Ukraine immediately.
- ❑ The ICJ said that both Parties shall refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute before the Court or make it more difficult to resolve.
- ❑ The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has joined a multilateral initiative that aims to advance human, ecosystems, and animal health simultaneously in line with the sustainability agenda.
- ❑ The UNEP said in a joint statement released in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, evening that by joining the One Health Alliance, the agency will offer the expertise required to tackle the ecological dimension of human and animal health.
- ❑ The World Bank said it has priced the world's first wildlife bond, raising \$150 million that will be partly used for the conservation of black rhinos in South Africa.
- ❑ The five-year bond will pay returns determined by the rate of growth in populations of the animals in two South African reserves, the Addo Elephant National Park and the Great Fish River Nature Reserve, the World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
- ❑ The Wildlife Conservation Bond is a first-of-its-kind, outcome-based, financial instrument that channels investments to achieve conservation outcomes — measured in this case by an increase in black rhino populations.
- ❑ Microsoft launched a new digital and inclusive platform for startup founders in India. The platform called as 'Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub' in India, will support startup founders in India at every stage of their startup journey.

## **National News:**

- ❑ Packaged food products in India will soon be labelled with an official health star rating (HSR), a top official at Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said.
- ❑ At present, countries such as the UK, Chile, Mexico, New Zealand, and Australia have Front of Packaging Labelling (FoPL).
- ❑ The food regulator has exempted milk and dairy products from the proposed FoPL, as they were in the earlier FSSAI draft notified in 2019.
- ❑ Niti Aayog is in the process of developing a National Gender Index to measure the progress and identify the persisting gaps in gender equality to make informed policy decisions.
- ❑ The index will support policy action and advocacy around gender and will be aligned to the framework of Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❑ Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) in Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune on the occasion of National Science Day 2022.
- ❑ Tech giant Google has made its Google Play Pass, a subscription service which provides access to apps and games without ads, in-app purchases, and upfront payments, available in India.
- ❑ Play Pass will offer a high-quality and curated collection of more than 1,000 titles across 41 categories from developers across 59 countries including many from India
- ❑ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated a hub of medicinal herbs and plants 'Arogya Vanam' at Rashtrapati Bhavan in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and First Lady Savita Kovind.
- ❑ Union Minister of State for Education Annpurna Devi presented National ICT Awards to 49 teachers across the country.
- ❑ The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL), the world's first airport fully powered by solar energy, is to become power-positive with the commissioning of its new solar power plant near Payyannur in Kannur district of Kerala.
- ❑ The airport became the first in the world in 2015 to be fully powered by solar energy.
- ❑ The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) launched the 'Stree Manoraksha Project' in collaboration with NIMHANS Bengaluru with an aim to improve the mental health of women in India.
- ❑ The Government has approved over 1,682 crore rupees of additional Central assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund to five States and one Union Territory. The High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Home Minister Amit Shah cleared over 351 crore rupees to Andhra Pradesh, over 112 crore to

Himachal Pradesh and over 492 crore to Karnataka.

- ❑ More than 355 crore rupees have been granted to Maharashtra, around 353 crore to Tamil Nadu and around 18 crore rupees to Puducherry.
- ❑ The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report has cautioned that the extreme climatic conditions are threatening the food security in South Asia with escalated droughts and floods making India and Pakistan the most vulnerable to climate change. The second installment of the IPCC Report titled 'Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptations, and Vulnerability' was released on February 28, 2022.
- ❑ Centre has approved the Modernisation Plan-IV scheme for Central Armed Police Forces. It will equip the forces with modern state-of-the-art weapons and equipment as per their operational requirement, keeping in view their deployment pattern in different theatres.
- ❑ The scheme with a total outlay of 1,523 crore rupees to be implemented by the Home Ministry from February 2022 to March 2026.
- ❑ Centre has approved the proposal for continuation of the seven existing sub schemes under the Umbrella Scheme Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates. The approval has been given for the period 2021- 22 to 2025-26 with a total outlay of 1,452 crore rupees. The umbrella scheme enables migrants and repatriates, who have suffered on account of displacement, to earn a reasonable income and facilitate their inclusion in mainstream economic activities.
- ❑ Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has said that the government of India has transferred one lakh 82 thousand crore rupees till date to the farmers' accounts under the PM KISAN Samman Nidhi yojana.
- ❑ This year India and the Netherlands are commemorating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. To mark the occasion, a special logo was unveiled to commemorate 75 years of diplomatic relations between both nations.
- ❑ The country's first indigenous Flying Trainer HANSA-NG designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore, has successfully completed the sea level trials at Puducherry from 19th February to 5th March.
- ❑ Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced that 'Kavach' System, the anti-collision test conducted by the Indian Railways to check the indigenous developed system to avoid rail accidents is successful. He held an on-site inspection near Secunderabad.
- ❑ Science and Technology Ministry has said that students of Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences, ARIES and Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, IITR will soon be able to participate in joint PhD programmes. It said IIT Roorkee students can do projects on the ongoing activities at ARIES utilizing the various existing and upcoming facilities at ARIES.
- ❑ In a record 210 per cent increase year-over-year (YoY), India has added 10 gigawatts (GW) of solar capacity in the calendar year (CY) 2021, compared to 3. 2 GW installed in CY 2020, according to the recently released 2021 Q4 and Annual India Solar Market Update by Mercom India Research.
- ❑ Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Communications and H. E. Houlin Zhao, Secretary General of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) signed the Host Country Agreement (HCA) for the establishment of an Area Office & Innovation Centre of ITU in New Delhi on 3rd March 2022.
- ❑ In a first of its kind initiative, the National Highway for Electric Vehicle (NHEV), an organization for promoting electrification of the country's transportation systems, is constructing a green charging hub along the Jaipur- Delhi-Agra E-highway.
- ❑ Reliance Industries Ltd. announced the opening of the Jio World Centre. The centre envisioned by Nita Ambani, director, Reliance Industries and founder-chairperson of Reliance Foundation is spread across 18. 5 acres in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex.
- ❑ The Union Labour and Employment Ministry launched the "donate a pension" scheme allowing any citizen to pay the premium amount on behalf of an unorganised worker under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Scheme.
- ❑ Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, MSME Minister Narayan Rane launched a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women – "SAMARTH" on the occasion of International Women's Day 2022 in New Delhi.
- ❑ The Centre has approved an allocation of Rs 3,274. 87 crore for the continuation of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY), under which freedom fighters and their eligible dependents are given pension and other financial benefits, till 2025-26.
- ❑ The government's decision to extend the interest equalisation scheme for exporters, allowing credit at a subsidised rate up to March 31, 2024, with retrospective effect from October 1, 2021, will provide greater predictability in operations and help in judicious pricing decisions, exporters have said.
- ❑ Government has approved the continuation of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana and its components for Financial Years 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- ❑ Freedom Fighters and their eligible dependents have been sanctioned the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension. Presently, there are 23 thousand 566 beneficiaries across the country covered under this scheme.
- ❑ The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) for undertaking surplus land monetization. It will be a wholly-owned government company with an initial authorized share capital of five thousand crore rupees and paid-up share capital of 150 crore rupees.
- ❑ Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat. It will be the first and only global out posted Centre for traditional medicine across the globe. It will be established under the Ministry of AYUSH.

- Bangladesh, India, and Nepal held a meeting to discuss the passenger and Cargo protocols to operationalize the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA). The two-day meeting held in Delhi.
- Bhutan participated in the meeting as an observer.
- The first 'Gati Shakti' cargo terminal of Indian Railways' was inaugurated in the Eastern Railway's Asansol division.
- The cargo facility is expected to boost railway earnings by roughly Rs 11 crore per month.
- The Union government has launched Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav to bring out-of-school girls back to the education system. Women and Child Development Secretary Indevar Pandey said as of now, only four lakh out-of-school adolescent girls are visiting the anganwadis for nutrition, nutrition education and skilling.
- Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav is being launched by the Women and Child Development Ministry in partnership with the Education Ministry.
- Minister of State for Railways Ravsaheb Danve sanctioned Rs. 484 crore for the electrification of railway tracks between Manmad- Mudkhed route and to set up subcentre to give connectivity between Rotegaon- Chikhalthana- Jalna – Partur of Marathwada region.
- Odisha has become the only state in the country to achieve 90. 5% of immunization apart from the successful vaccination against Covid-19 infection under Mission Indradhanush 4. 0. Twenty districts of the state were above 90% in full immunization, and 10 districts were below 90%.
- Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the 'India WaterPitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge', under which the government will select 100 start-ups and they will be provided with Rs 20 lakh each as funding support as well as mentorship.
- The new initiative aims at empowering start-ups in the water sector to grow through innovation and design that will drive sustainable economic growth and generate employment opportunities.
- Government has extended Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt for Stressed Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, MSMEs upto 31st March next year.
- The scheme was launched on 24th June, 2020 to provide credit facility through lending institutions to the promoters of stressed MSMEs.
- Asansol division of Indian Railways has successfully commissioned a private siding of Maithan Power Limited at Thaparnagar, in accordance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision "Gati Shakti" and the Ministry of Railways' policy regarding the "Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal" (GCT), informed the Ministry of Railways.
- Since the publication of the GCT policy in December of 2021, this is the FIRST such GCT to be commissioned in Indian Railways.
- The Jammu and Kashmir government has finally started a Geographical Indication (GI) registry for the famed Kashmiri carpet with a quick response (QR) code with details of artisans and the material used. The first ever consignment of GI-tagged carpets were exported to Germany from New Delhi.
- The country's first Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) was launched in Bengaluru.
- It is promoted by a not-for-profit foundation set up by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, with a seed capital of Rs. 230 crore from the State and Central governments.
- The country's first Digital Water Bank 'AQVERIUM' was launched in Bengaluru. It is formed by AquaKraft Group Ventures, next-generation sustainability, and impact enterprise focused on providing clean drinking water & sanitation.
- The health ministry, announced that the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India had declined by 10 points as per the special bulletin on MMR released by the Registrar General of India.
- MMR refers to deaths due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth. This rate in the country has declined from 113 in 2016-18 to 103 in 2017-19, marking a reduction of 8. 8 percent as per the latest figures.
- The number of states which have achieved the SDG target has now risen from 5 to 7 and includes Kerala (30), Maharashtra (38), Telangana (56), Tamil Nadu (58), Andhra Pradesh (58), Jharkhand (61), and Gujarat (70).
- The National Capital Regional Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has unveiled the coaches of India's first rapid rail for the Delhi – Meerut corridor. The Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train will run on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor and cover a distance of 82 km in just 55 minutes. The new RRTS train is a completely new design of train designed to provide a good travelling experience for passengers.
- The RRTS train will be the first in the country to have a business or 'premium' coach on a regional corridor. The train will be capable of accommodating 1500 passengers at once.
- Govt Will Implement Rs 7,500-crore Scheme to Tackle Road Accidents: Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari
- The Indian Railways has set a target of becoming net zero carbon emitter by 2030 by utilizing renewable energy to meet its power requirement and reducing its energy consumption thereby reducing its carbon emission.
- The Production Linked Incentive, PLI Scheme for Automobile and Auto Component Industry in India has been successful in attracting proposed investment of 74 thousand 850 crore rupees against the target estimate of investment 42 thousand 500 crore rupees over a period of five years.
- Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari launched the world's most advanced technology-developed Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle Toyota Mirai in New Delhi.
- He said it is an important initiative in promoting clean energy and protecting the environment by reducing dependence on fossil fuels and thereby making India 'Energy Self-reliant' by 2047.
- The Ministry said that this is a first-of-its-kind project in India that aims at creating a Green Hydrogen-based ecosystem in the country by bringing awareness about the unique utility of Green Hydrogen and FCEV technology.
- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has achieved a landmark when the motor vessel (MV) Ram Prasad



Bismil became the longest vessel ever to sail on the Brahmaputra river.

- ❑ The Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a unit of the CIL, has crossed 157 million tonne (MT) in coal production in the financial year of 2021-22, to become the leading coal producing company in the country.
- ❑ Computer Age Management Services Limited (CAMS), India's largest registrar and transfer agent of mutual funds (a SEBI regulated entity) has announced the go-live and launch of Central Record Keeping Agency (CRA) under the National Pension System (NPS).
- ❑ India added 1.2 GW of new solar open access capacity in 2021, marking a growth of 222% year-over-year (YoY), according to a Mercom India report. The cumulative installed solar capacity in the open access market crossed 5 GW.
- ❑ Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said, IT Ministry recently initiated a scheme with an outlay of approximately 6,500 crore rupees to enable broadband and 4G connectivity to 7,000 villages in the country.
- ❑ Union Ministry of Finance has said that Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, PMJJBY has registered a cumulative enrolment of over nine crore and 27 lakh. While Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, PMSBY witnessed a cumulative enrolment of more than 17 crore 74 lakh.
- ❑ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Minimum Support Price, MSP for Raw Jute for 2022-23 season. The approval is based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.
- ❑ The MSP of Raw Jute, TDN3 equivalent to TD5 grade has been fixed at 4750 rupees per quintal for 2022-23 season. This is an increase of 250 rupees over the previous year.
- ❑ The Union Cabinet has approved continuation of National AIDS and STD Control Programme, a Central sector scheme fully funded by the Government of India from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026 with an outlay of ₹15,471.94 crore by approving phase-V of the programme.
- ❑ Foreign Minister of Oman Sayyid Badr Hamad Hamood Al Busaidi paid a two-day official visit to India at the invitation of External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar.
- ❑ Govt sets a target of creating 220 new airports by 2025
- ❑ Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh while addressing the event, announced the launch of "Dare to Erade TB" program which will be based on Indian data, and formation of a Genome Sequencing Consortium for Whole Genome Sequencing, (WSG) TB surveillance.
- ❑ The Government said that 478 Khelo India centres have been approved in 375 districts of 29 states and union territories.
- ❑ The Government has set a target to open ten thousand five hundred Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) across the country.
- ❑ Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has launched the Sujalam 2.0 campaign for greywater management.
- ❑ The theme for this year's campaign is Groundwater: making the invisible visible.
- ❑ Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation, Wings India 2022 held at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad. Led by the Ministry of Civil Aviation of India (MoCA) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) jointly, the theme of the event this year is 'India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry'.
- ❑ Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inspected India's first Mobile Biosafety-03 Lab manufactured by Indian Council of Medical Research in Delhi.
- ❑ Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav informed that October 5th has been designated as National Dolphin Day to be celebrated every year to create awareness for conservation of Dolphins. Mr Yadav stated that generating awareness and community participation is integral for conservation of the indicator species.
- ❑ The Centre has decided to extend the validity of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, FCRA registration certificates of certain categories of FCRA registered entities.
- ❑ The Ministry said, validity of FCRA entities whose 5 years validity period is expiring during 1st April 2022 to 30th June 2022 and who have applied for renewal before expiry of 5 years validity period will stand extended up to 30th June 2022 or till date of disposal of renewal application, whichever earlier.
- ❑ The Union Cabinet extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana by another six months till September 2022.
- ❑ In a significant development for Goa Shipyard Ltd and India's bilateral ties with Sri Lanka, a floating dock valued at approximately \$20 million will be built by the Vasco-based shipyard and given as a grant by India to the Sri Lanka navy.
- ❑ Government has accorded in-principle approval to set up 21 greenfield airports across the country. These airports include Mopa in Goa; Navi Mumbai, Sindhudurg and Shirdi in Maharashtra; Bijapur, Hassan, Kalaburagi and Shimoga in Karnataka; Dabra in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh; Kushinagar and Jewar (Noida) in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❑ Government has sanctioned 1.15 crore houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (Urban), which is going to end this month. The objective of the scheme and the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi enshrined in it will stand fulfilled within the next 18 months.
- ❑ The country has crossed a milestone of 50 thousand open defecation-free (ODF) Plus villages. Among the top performing States are Telangana with 13 thousand 960 ODF Plus villages followed by Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❑ Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen Phase-II was launched in February 2020 with the aim to ensure that all villages in the country can declare themselves as ODF Plus by the end of 2024.
- ❑ The Ministry of Defence has banned import of 107 strategically important line replacement units or sub-systems aimed to enhance self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

- The Indian Air Force has unveiled a new initiative with the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. Under it, IAF's convoys will be refuelled at fuel stations of the state-run energy major. As per the Defence Ministry, 'Fleet Card-Fuel on Move' has been rolled out to facilitate the refuelling of convoys belonging to the Indian Air Force.
- In what has been termed as a "historic day" for the Northeast, the chief ministers of Assam and Meghalaya signed an agreement in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to resolve part of their five-decade-old inter-state border dispute.
- The Union Cabinet has approved a World Bank-assisted programme worth \$808 million to improve the performance of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME).
- The programme, called 'Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance' – or RAMP – will commence in FY23.
- Of the \$808 million, \$500 million will be a loan from the World Bank, while the remaining \$308 million will come from the Centre.
- With the first pour of concrete for a 700 MW atomic power plant in Karnataka's Kaiga scheduled in 2023, India is set to put in motion construction activities for 10 'fleet mode' nuclear reactors over the next three years.

## **State News:**

### **Andhra Pradesh**

- In a first, Visakhapatnam railway station will be implementing the 'One Nation, One Product' concept, the Railway Board informed.  
It will become the first station in the East Coast railway to implement the concept. It would be running on a pilot basis for 15 days.

### **Assam**

- The Assam government has declared the entire state as "Disturbed Area" for up to six months. A press release issued in Guwahati said that the order came into effect on 28th of February.

### **Bihar**

- Buddha International Welfare Mission is constructing India's largest reclining statue of Buddha in Bodhi Gaya, Bihar. The statue, which will reportedly be 100 feet long and 30 feet high, is on track to be completed by February 2023.
- Bihar has become the first state in the country to introduce the concept of a dynamic map for villages which will get updated every time land ownership changes hands. The move is aimed at reducing legal disputes.

### **Chhattisgarh**

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched the Kaushalya Matritva Scheme by handing over cheques worth Rs 5,000 each to five beneficiaries to bringing up their second girl child.

### **Delhi**

- To ease the availing of interest subvention on loans taken to purchase electric autos (e-Auto Rickshaws), the Delhi Government has launched 'My EV Portal'. The move is expected to help the auto rickshaw drivers who look to switch to the electric ones from the CNG.
- Sainik School in Delhi will be named after Shaheed Bhagat Singh.
- The Union Cabinet has approved a bill for the unification of Delhi's three Municipal corporations into one Municipal Corporation.
- The erstwhile Delhi Municipal Corporation was trifurcated into three Municipal Corporations – South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), and East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) in the year 2012.
- Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched BRICS Vaccine R&D Centre and Workshop on Vaccine Cooperation in Delhi.

### **Goa**

- The ground-breaking ceremony for a new facility of Helicopter Engines MRO Pvt Limited (HE-MRO), a joint venture of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Safran, was held at Sattari, 40 km from Panaji, in Goa.

### **Gujarat**

- Goldi Solar, a global solar panel manufacturer and EPC services provider, in partnership with Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation (SRKKF) laid the foundation stone for the solarization of the village of Dudhala in Southern Gujarat.
- Once complete, this would be the first village to be completely powered with solar panels by a foundation.
- Union Minister Parshottam Rupala launched the Sagar Parikrama initiative from the coast of Mandvi in Gujarat's Kutch district along the Arabian Sea.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated the new complex building of Rashtriya Raksha University- RRU at Lavad village near Gandhinagar in Gujarat to the nation by unveiling a plaque.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 11th Khel Mahakumbh at Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad, an annual sports competition organized here by the Gujarat government.
- A host country agreement would be inked between the Ministry of Ayush and the World Health Organisation at Geneva to set up the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat.



- Surat in Gujarat has become the first city in India to build a 'steel' road. Using steel waste, the road is in the city's Hazira industrial area sponsored by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), receiving necessary assistance from the Ministry of Steel and the NITI Aayog.

#### Haryana

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced to start an award of Rs. 5 lakhs in the name of Late Sushma Swaraj for their significant contribution or achievements in different walks of life in national and international spheres.
- Besides, Khattar also announced the Haryana Matrushakti Udyamita Scheme to provide support to women for becoming entrepreneurs.
- Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti organisation established by Ambassador of Peace, Eminent Jainacharya Dr Lokeshji will establish India's first World Peace Center in Gurugram, Haryana.
- Welspun One Logistics Parks (WOLP), an asset management and development platform, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of Haryana to develop large scale warehousing facilities across the state.  
The integrated fund, part of the \$2. 7 billion Welspun Group, will bring in a total investment of Rs 1,500 crores in the state.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal government and the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali, have tied up, for the upcoming Medical Devices Park in Nalagarh area of Solan district as the knowledge partner.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the Youth Services and Sports department of Himachal Pradesh is set to build India's first-ever SAI National Centre of Excellence to train athletes in Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross in Shimla.

#### Jammu and Kashmir

- Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur have developed a biodegradable nanoparticle that can be used as an alternative to chemical-based pesticides and help farmers protect their crops from bacterial and fungal infections.
- Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated the Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Sciences at the Central University of Jammu, saying the first course, B. Tech in Aviation and Aeronautics, with an intake capacity of 60 students, will start this year.  
It is North India's First Centre for Space Sciences

#### Karnataka

- Minister of Higher Education, Electronics, IT-BT, S&T and Skill Development Dr C N Aswath Narayan launched Women@Work (W@W) programme with an aim to provide five lakh jobs within 2026 to women with necessary employable skills.
- The Survey Settlement and Land Records (SSLR) unit of Karnataka's revenue department is ensuring easy availability of original land records through an app called Dishank.

#### Kerala

- Kerala is set to become the first State in the country to introduce carbon-neutral farming methods in selected locations, for which the government has set aside ₹6 crore in the 2022-23 Budget.
- Kerala Tourism launched its 24x7 WhatsApp chatbot 'Maya' to enable tourists to access all information and updates about the tourism ecosystem in the state by just sending a 'Hi' to the WhatsApp no 7510512345, or by scanning the QR code to access the service

#### Madhya Pradesh

- In Madhya Pradesh, Ujjain entered Guinness Book of World Records for lighting more than 11 lakh earthen lamps simultaneously on the occasion of Mahashivratri. It broke the record of 9 lakh 41 thousand lamps lit in Ayodhya last November.
- Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh inaugurated the first drone school in Gwalior.

#### Maharashtra

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the premises of the Pune Municipal Corporation. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Pune Metro rail s 's two priority stretches of 12 km, out of the total 32. 2 km project in the city.  
The statue is made up of 1,850 kg of gunmetal and is about 9. 5-foot tall.
- Mumbai announced detailed plans to zero out carbon emissions by 2050, a target that puts it two decades ahead of India's national goal and makes it the first city in South Asia to set such a timeline.
- The state government of Maharashtra has announced to set up country's first medical city named as 'Indrayani Medicity' in Pune, to provide all kinds of specialised treatment under one roof.  
It will come up in 300-acre of land area in Khed taluka of Pune. The project is estimated to attract investmentworth over Rs. 10,000 crore.

### Meghalaya

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

### Nagaland

- Union Minister AYUSH, & Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal has announced a major investment of more than 100 crore rupees to develop the AYUSH Healthcare sector in Nagaland.
- Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) has become the first in the country to have operationalised the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme. This was stated by NLA Speaker, Sharingan Longkumer during the first day of the the13th NLA Budget session which commenced.

### Odisha

- Bank of Maharashtra has tied up with Mahagram to roll out the 'Bank Sakhi' project in Odisha. The fintech would provide financial technology and infrastructure support to augment rural financial inclusion.
- The Odisha government and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) have inked a pact for the creation of fisheries infrastructure to augment fish production in the state.
- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rs 4,013 crore to the Odisha government during the financial year 2021-22 under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). This financial allocation is highest in the country under RIDF during the financial year.

### Puducherry

- The Union Territory has started digitisation of the health records of students starting from Classes I to XII. Under the digitisation project, the Health Department will feed the personal details of all government school students into a portal to maintain their health records.  
The software has been developed with the assistance of Axis Bank.

### Rajasthan

- Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur have developed a biodegradable nanoparticle that can be used as an alternative to chemical-based pesticides and help farmers protect their crops from bacterial and fungal infections.

### Sikkim

- The Sikkim government will give Rs 20,000 each to all non-working mothers and free sanitary napkins to all girl students of class 9 and above in the state under 'Aama Yojna', Chief Minister P S Tamang said.

### Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin launched an ambitious skill development scheme for students in the state, with the initiative aimed at honing the educational skills, knowledge, talent and efficiency of 10 lakh youth annually. It broke the record of 9 lakh 41 thousand lamps lit in Ayodhya last November.
- The Blue Cross of India and Four Paws International inaugurated India's first fully equipped mobile animal ambulance for stray animals in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin inaugurated what is said to be India's biggest floating solar park in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu with a capacity to produce 42 million units of electricity per annum. The park is established at a cost of Rs 150. 40 crore.
- Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has collaborated with Tamil Nadu government to promote awareness among micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) of the state about the benefits of listing.
- Leading South Korean consumer electronics and smartphone maker Samsung will invest Rs 1,588 crore in India to set up a new compressor manufacturing plant at its existing facility at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu.

### Telangana

- Leading stock exchange NSE has collaborated with the Telangana government to encourage and support the MSMEs (micro, small & medium enterprises) of the state for listing.
- India's Hyderabad city has opened the country's first 100% women-owned 'FLO Industrial Park' paving the way for female entrepreneurs to run and operate their business from this park.
- After the paddy procurement row with the Centre and the state government urging farmers to opt for alternate crops, Telangana has, for the first time in the country, began recording crop diversification patterns in the form of an index.

### Tripura

- In an attempt to ensure social security of over 7,000 tea garden workers of Tripura, the state government has announced a special scheme named "Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa".

### West Bengal

- The people of Bengal celebrated the festival of colours, predominantly known as Dol Utsav in the state through cultural programs, marking the onset of spring season.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the occasion of Shaheed Diwas, virtually inaugurated the Biplobi BharatGallery at Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata.
- West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar dedicated to the nation Supercomputer PARAM Shakti which will accelerate research and development activities in IIT Kharagpur. PARAM Shakti was developed under the National Supercomputing Mission – a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Department of Science and Technology.

## **Finance and Banking News:**

- Ambit Finvest has signed a co-lending agreement with Union Bank of India (UBI) for lending to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) customers. Ambit Finvest is the non-deposit taking Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) of the Ambit Group.
- Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the license of Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank, Sangli, Maharashtra, as it did not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
- The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) has introduced a development programme for the management of public sector banks with a view to improving the quality of bank boards.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has partnered Yatra. com and SBI Card to launch a co-branded 'Yatra SBI Card' on the RuPay network.
- State-owned UCO Bank has extended the fintech partnership with Fisdor to include demat account and stockbroking services, pension funds and tax filing, with an objective to offer customers a three-in-one personal banking experience.
- Edelweiss Housing Finance announced a strategic co-lending partnership with Standard Chartered Bank, for extending loans against property (LAP) to prospective customers, especially MSMEs.
- IDBI Bank has launched Corporate Liquidity Management Solution (C-LMS) and Government Liquidity Management Solution (G-LMS) to meet the liquidity management needs of institutional customers.
- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das launched UPI for feature phones called UPI123Pay. He also launched 24x7 helpline for digital payments – DigiSaathi. UPI on feature phones will help people in rural areas who cannot afford a smartphone.
- The UPI123pay will provide the users of feature phones the option to use Unified Interface Payments (UPI) for making payments. For this, UPI123 pay presently offers four mediums/options to the users of feature phones to make UPI payments. The name UPI123pay denotes that the UPI payment can be done in three (123) easy steps i. e. 1. Call 2. Choose and 3. Pay Presently the option available for feature phone users for digital payments is of USSD which is a bit cumbersome and not popular.
- Urban educated women's participation in the workforce still not at desired levels, Axis Bank has kicked off the 'House Work Is Work' initiative, offering opportunities to those who want to rejoin the professional space.
- Sound-based proximity communication and payments service provider ToneTag has introduced a simplified voice based UPI digital payment solutions for feature phones in association with NSDL Payments Bank.
- The company has launched its IVR '6366 200 200' to bridge the gap in accessibility of digital payments, especially in rural India and help people to make digital payments with inconsistent network connectivity.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directed Paytm Payments Bank Ltd to stop onboarding new customers with immediate effect and conduct a comprehensive audit of its IT system, citing "material supervisory concerns".
- Karnataka Bank has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SELCO Solar Light, engaged in the business of designing, assembling, selling and servicing of solar energy products for the last 27 years with themain objective of providing energy access to underserved population.
- The Reserve Bank said NaBFID will be regulated and supervised as an All India Financial Institution by it under the RBI Act, 1934.
- The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Act, 2021, received the assent of the President on March 28, 2021. It came to force with effect from April 19, 2021.
- Accordingly, NaBFID has been set up as a Development Financial Institution (DFI) to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing in India.
- UCO Bank has entered into an agreement to acquire a 3 percent stake in India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL) for Rs 1. 50 crore.
- Sharing of confidential information by customers, knowingly or unknowingly, is one of the major causes leading to financial frauds, according to a booklet, "BE(A)WARE", released by the Reserve Bank of India.
- The booklet gives information on the common modus operandi used by fraudsters and precautions to be taken while carrying out various financial transactions.
- BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB), and CreditAI Fintech Pvt Ltd (CAI), a Singapore and Bengaluru based farmer digitisation and credit scoring company have launched Unnati – a co-branded credit card exclusively for farmers. The card has been launched as a contactless offering on the Visa network.
- Bank of Baroda and BNP Paribas Asset Management have entered into a strategic partnership by combining the strengths of their respective asset management (AMC) businesses in India to form 'Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund'.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has launched digital on-boarding facility for its micro banking customers.
- Private sector lender ICICI Bank announced a tie-up with Emirates Skywards, a loyalty programme of Emirates and

flydubai, to launch a range of co-branded credit cards.

- Named, 'Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Credit Card', the cards will enable customers to earn reward points, called Skywards Miles, on travel, lifestyle and everyday spends.
- State Bank of India (SBI) plans to set up an Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre (IIAC) at Hyderabad in a bid to build in-house capability to bolster its current performance and drive higher top-line growth through innovation.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has come out with the 'on-device' wallet feature for Unified Payments Interface (UPI) users, which will be known as "UPI Lite", for facilitating small ticket transactions. This is aimed at reducing stress on the banking system and making the transaction process even simpler.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Business France, the French national agency in charge of the development of exports and international investments in France, to support companies in the Indo-French corridor.
- The finance ministry said that State Bank of India (SBI) will provide \$1 billion credit facility to Sri Lanka for procurement of food, medicines and other essential items.
- ICICI Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank have signed agreements to pick up stakes in National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).
- While ICICI Bank will be investing Rs 137.5 crore to acquire a 5% stake, Punjab & Sind Bank will put in Rs 55 crore for a 2% stake.
- HDFC Bank has decided to create a dedicated app for mom-and-pop stores to push merchant loans.
- The bank now clocks at least ₹1,000 crore in merchant loans every month and is looking to triple the run rate.
- HDFC Bank will also launch an application 'AutoFirst' that will offer fully automated auto loans.
- Already in its pilot phase, the SmartHub Vyapar programme for merchants will be launched soon. It is an app that bundles all payment platforms – cards, UPI, QR code, tap pay and SMS-based payments.
- The Reserve Bank of India cancelled the license of Kanpur-based People's Co-operative Bank Limited as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
- DBS Bank India has announced the launch of its Green Deposit Programme for corporate clients providing a simple way for companies to support environmentally friendly projects or avenues.
- SBI Card, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, has inked partnership with Nature's Basket, India's leading premium grocery store brand, to launch 'Nature's Basket SBI Card'.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lifted the restrictions that were placed on the fresh digital launches of HDFC Bank, under the Bank's Digital 2.0 programme, vide its letter dated March 11, 2022.
- Leading private lender ICICI Bank has launched a co-branded credit card in partnership with Chennai Super Kings (CSK).
- The 'Chennai Super Kings ICICI Bank Credit Card' has been specially designed with a range of exclusive privileges for millions of cricket fans of the iconic team.
- Nearly 1.5 years after announcing it in August 2020, the governor of RBI Mr Shaktikanta Das inaugurated the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) in Bengaluru.
- It has been set up with an initial capital contribution of ₹100 crore, and will have an independent Board with Mr
- Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan as Chairman and other persons from industry and academia as members. Mr Gopalakrishnan was the co-founder and former co-Chairman of Infosys.
- The Centre has set a target of about Rs 1 trillion for government-backed National Bank for Financial Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) for sanctioning loans to the infrastructure sector in the next financial year.
- EbixCash, a technology-based provider of digital products and services in the B2C, B2B and financial technology space has announced a partnership with Axis Securities for providing trading services to its customers.
- Country's largest lender State Bank of India has signed a co-lending agreement with five housing finance companies including PNB Housing Finance and Shriram Housing Finance to give loans for affordable homes. India's largest bank has entered into co-lending tie-ups with PNB Housing Finance, IIFL Home Finance, Shriram Housing Finance, Edelweiss Housing Finance and Capri Global Housing Finance.
- Airtel Payments Bank customers can now buy smartphone insurance from ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company on the Airtel Thanks app.
- Private lender ICICI Bank said that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has accorded approval to the SBI Funds Management Limited (SBIFML) and other entities of the SBI Group entities for increasing their stake up to 9.99 per cent of the paid-up equity capital of ICICI Bank Limited.
- A total of 27 scheduled commercial banks and financial institutions have reported 96 cases of fraud, involving a total amount of Rs 34,097 crore in the nine months ended December.
- While Punjab National Bank recorded the highest value of frauds worth Rs 4,820 crore, Bank of India recorded the highest number of frauds at 13, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India.
- Equitas Small Finance Bank has launched Equitas Bank CSK Debit Card in association with the IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings in the Equiverse platform.
- DBS Bank India has partnered EaseMyTrip to launch an environment-friendly international debit card made using 99% recycled polyvinyl chloride (PVC) material.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) has sanctioned a Rs 837-crore support under its cluster development fund scheme to Odisha to help develop 18 MSME infrastructure projects.



## **Business News:**

- Indian stock exchanges – the NSE and the BSE – have introduced T+1 settlement for funds and securities investors from February 25. Previously, the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had cut short the settlement cycle from T+3 days to T+2 days in 2003.
- Auto giant Tata Motors Ltd introduced a new initiative for 'showroom on wheels' also called 'Anubhav', which is a door-step car buying experience for rural customers.
- Hero MotoCorp Ltd, India's largest two-wheeler maker, will make its long-awaited entry into the country's thriving electric vehicle market in July through the Vida brand.
- Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited (FGII) announced the launch of FG Dog Health Cover, a comprehensive health insurance for pet dogs, along with industry-first 'Emergency Pet Minding' cover.
- On the occasion of International Women's Day, Government eMarketplace –GeM has launched Stitching and Tailoring Services on the GeM portal in partnership with USHA International Ltd through its Silai School Programme.
- Tech giant Microsoft announced that the company will be setting up its fourth data center in Hyderabad, Telangana, with an investment of over Rs 15,000 crore. Microsoft said that this will be one of the largest datacenters in India and will be operational by 2025.
- The data center will be an addition to the existing network of three regions in India – Pune, Mumbai, and Chennai.
- Religare Broking has announced the launch of Religare 'Pre Apply LIC IPO' app, which will be a one-stop app to open demat account and share intent to pre-apply for the LIC IPO.
- Digital payments company Paytm announced that it has further expanded its partnership with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to provide digital ticketing services to consumers through Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM) installed at railway stations across the country.
- Zeta, a banking tech unicorn and provider of next-gen credit card processing to banks and fintechs, and Mastercard announced a 5-year global partnership.
- HDFC Mutual Fund has launched a women-led financial empowerment initiative 'LaxmiForLaxmi' which will connect women investors to a woman financial expert near them through a unique missed call service. The female financial expert will guide and address queries of the woman investor.
- This International Women's Day, health insurance company Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd. , announced the launch of Star Women Care Insurance Policy, a woman-centric comprehensive health cover specially designed to protect the health-care needs of women at every stage of their lives.
- Google Cloud and e-commerce firm Flipkart, have entered into a multi-year strategic partnership to help fast-track Flipkart's innovation and cloud strategy.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has increased the investment limit for retail investors applying in public issues of debt securities through unified payments interface (UPI) mechanism to ₹5 lakh from the current limit of ₹2 lakh.
- Intellect Design Arena said that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has chosen Intellect to implement the upgraded version of the Cloud Native Intellect Quantum Core Banking solution to power the next stage of their digital transformation agenda.
- Country's foreign exchange reserves increased by 394 million US Dollars in week ended 4th March
- Employees Provident Fund Organization has decided to provide 8. 10 per cent rate of interest to its subscribers in the fiscal year 2021-22.
- Hero Electric said it has partnered with SUN Mobility to deploy 10,000 electric two-wheelers with swappable battery technology.
- IIFL Securities launched 'OneUp', India's first primary markets investment platform for investing in initial public offerings (IPOs), non-convertible debentures (NCDs) and sovereign gold bonds (SGBs), among others.
- Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuer LivQuik said it has achieved full Interoperability as mandated by the Reserve Bank of India for their Prepaid payments Instruments.
- The company is also the first PPI issuer to have achieved full interoperability, it said in a statement.
- National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) and India Bullion and Jewelers Association Ltd (IBJA) has joined hands to launch the Domestic Bullion Spot Exchange in line with SEBI guidelines.
- Fintech unicorn Razorpay announced its acquisition of IZealant Technologies, a leading Fintech startup that provides payments technology solutions for banks, for an undisclosed amount.
- HSBC Mutual Fund (MF) has launched HSBC CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL Apr 2028 Index Fund, an open-ended target maturity Index Fund tracking CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL Index- April 2028.
- Paytm Payments Bank punished by RBI for data breaching to Chinese firms
- Fair trade regulator CCI gave its go ahead to Generali Participations Netherlands N. V. to increase its stake in Future Generali India Insurance Company Ltd to around 74 per cent.
- Dredging Corporation of India has signed a historic Ship Building Agreement for the first Make in India Project for construction of First Beagle Series 12 Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger of 12000 Cubic Meter capacity at Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. has announced the launch of the 'Max Life Smart Guaranteed Pension Plan', a non-linked, non-participating single premium individual/group general annuity plan.
- Mahila Money, Visa and Transcorp have teamed up to launch the Mahila Money Prepaid Card, a product created for women entrepreneurs to use digital payments more effectively.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) announced that its TCS BaNCS offering has been selected by Singapore



Exchange(SGX) to power the NSE IFSC-SGX Connect (Gift Connect). NSE IFSC is a fully owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE).

- US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Mastercard have partnered to foster digitalempowerment of women in India through an initiative called 'Project Kirana'.
- Project Kirana is a business development and digital financial literacy programme for women entrepreneurs that aims to increase revenue streams, expand financial inclusion, and enable the adoption of digital payments and other digital tools by women-owned-and-operated kirana shops.
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a 'Maharatna' and a Fortune Global 500 Company has partnered with UltraCash Technologies Pvt. Ltd. to offer a voice-based digital payment facility for BharatGas consumers for booking their LPG cylinders.
- Through this feature, the consumers who do not have smartphones or internet can book their cylinders and make the payment through 'UPI 123PAY'.
- BPCL is the first Company in India to offer their service to consumers after RBI Governor announced the launch of UPI 123PAY.
- Asset-backed digital lending platform Rupeek has announced the launch of 'Rupeek Academy' in collaboration with the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), an initiative by NSDC.
- The partnership is aimed at attracting young talent looking for career opportunities within India's gold loan industry.
- Paytm Payments Services Limited (PPSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of One97 Communications, has launched 'Payment Analytics', a data analysis feature for online and offline merchants
- Private sector lenders HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Axis Bank have acquired 7.84 per cent stake each in the open public digital infrastructure framework entity ONDC. All the three banks have invested Rs 10 crore each.
- Over 8000 cr digital payment transactions reported during current financial year: Govt
- GeM attains annual procurement of INR 1 Lakh crore in FY 2021-22. This represents a 160 percent growth compared to last Financial Year.
- Omnispace and Nelco Limited, a TATA Group company, have announced a strategic cooperation agreement to enable and distribute 5G non-terrestrial network (NTN), direct-to-device satellite services.
- ANI Technologies Pvt. Ltd, the parent of ride-hailing platform Ola Cabs, has reached an agreement to pick up a 100% stake in fintech startup Avail Finance, which serves the blue collar workforce, the company said.
- The Centre for Digital Transformation at Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA), a premier global management institute, has recently set up a Retail Tech Consortium and plans to collaborate with several retail and technology organisations in India.
- Flipkart, India based e-commerce marketplace has joined as a principal partner for the inaugural year of the consortium, bringing its industry knowledge and experience and consumer insights in the internet ecosystem to contribute to this effort.
- In a major step to end the gender-based barriers that pose significant obstacles to women entrepreneurs across India, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, announced their collaboration with the Indo-German Development Cooperation Project 'Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs and Start-ups by Women (Her&Now)' commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and jointly implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the Ministry for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, to help women play a greater role in the economy as entrepreneurs.
- HDFC Mutual Fund has filed a scheme information document (SID) with SEBI to come up with India's first Defence Fund.
- Called the HDFC Defence Fund, it will be an open-ended equity scheme that will be investing in defence & allied sector companies.
- Financial services company FinMapp said it has received licence from Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) under the National Pension Scheme (NPS). It has also acquired a registration certificate from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) recognizing it as a corporate agent.
- Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd has announced the launch of Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan, a non-linked non-participating individual pure risk premium life insurance plan on the PhonePe app to enhance financial protection for digitally-savvy customers.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has acquired 7.84 percent stake in the open public digital infrastructure framework entity, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), through an investment of Rs 10 crore.
- Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd has announced the debut of the Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan via the PhonePe app, a non-linked non-participating individual pure risk premium life insurance plan aimed at digitally savvy customers.
- PVR and Inox Leisure have announced the merger to create the largest multiplex chain in the country.
- The combined entity will be named PVR INOX Ltd with the branding of existing screens to continue as PVR and INOX, respectively. New cinemas opened post the merger will be branded as PVR INOX.
- Private sector lenders Axis Bank and HDFC Bank said they have signed agreements to acquire up to 15 per cent stake each in India Debt Resolution Company Limited (IDRCL) for a total cash consideration of Rs 7.5 crore each.

## **Economy News:**

- Finance Ministry said that more than one lakh 33 thousand crore rupees Gross GST Revenue was collected during the month of February 2022.
- India's GDP growth slows to 5.4% in Q3, estimated to rise 8.9% in FY22: National Statistical Office (NSO). Besides, NSO revised its estimates of GDP contraction for the coronavirus pandemic-hit last financial year (2020-21) to 6.6 per cent.

- PayU has collaborated with VTEX, one of the largest global digital commerce platforms, to offer multiplepayment solutions to VTEX merchants.
- Crisil has retained its GDP growth forecast of 7. 8 per cent for the fiscal year 2023 amidst the ongoing invasion of Ukraine by Russia.
- US investment bank and financial services company, Morgan Stanley has trimmed India's economic growth forecast by 50 basis points to 7. 9% for the fiscal year 2022-23.
- Furthermore, Stanley raised the country's retail inflation estimate to 6%, meanwhile, current account deficits are seen to widen by 3% of GDP.
- United States Federal Reserve has raised interest rates for the first time since 2018 as it approved a rate hike of 0. 23 percent or 25 basis points. 'India's overall exports are estimated to be over 57 billion dollar in February this year, exhibiting a positive growth of 25. 41 per cent over the same period last year.
- Retail inflation hit an eight-month high of 6. 07% in February, remaining above the RBI's comfort level for the second month in a row, while wholesale price-based inflation soared to 13. 11% on account of hardening of crude oil and non-food item prices, government data showed.
- The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation in February rose to 13. 11% due to hardening of prices of crude oil and non-food items.
- Moody's slashed India's growth estimate for the current year to 9. 1%, from 9. 5% earlier.
- Rating agency Fitch slashed India's growth forecast for the next fiscal to 8. 5 per cent from 10. 3 per cent, citing soaring energy prices and rising inflation on account of the Russia-Ukraine war.
- Net direct tax collections for the financial year 2021-22 so far are at over 13 lakh 63 thousand crore rupees compared to over 9 lakh 18 thousand crores over the corresponding period of the preceding financial year.
- The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) retained the outlook for India's real gross domestic product (GDP) at 5. 5% in FY24, lower than 8. 1% in 2022-23.
- India's 2022 GDP Growth Downgraded to 4. 6% Due to Ongoing War in Ukraine: UN Report
- As the curbs imposed during the Covid-19 wave were eased and economic activity gathered momentum, the unemployment rate in urban areas in the 15 years and above age group declined to 9. 8% in the July- September quarter of 2021 from 12. 6 per cent the previous quarter.
- Ratings agency Icra sharply lowered India's economic growth forecast for the financial year 2022-23 to 7. 2% from 8% estimated earlier as rising fuel and commodity prices due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict are expected to impact domestic demand.
- India has scripted history by achieving its highest ever goods export target of 400 billion US dollars. The target was achieved nine days ahead of schedule.

## Science & Technology

- US space agency, NASA, successfully launched the third in a series of four next-generation weather satellites, Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES), from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida. The satellite is named as GOES-T.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is organising a special programme for school children called "YUva Vigyani Karyakram" (YUVIKA) or "Young Scientist Programme" to impart basic knowledge on space technology, space science and space applications to young students, especially for those from rural areas.
- The programme aims to select 150 students across the country, who are studying in Class IX in a school located within the territory of India
- The European Space Agency (ESA), introduced its new one-of-a-kind mission meant to protect the Earth from its nearest star.
- Named 'Vigil', the mission was launched in the mid-2020s with an aim to defend the planet from the violent outbursts from the Sun.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully completed the ground test of the solid-fuel based booster stage (SS1) of its new Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), completing the ground testing of all three stages of the launch vehicle.
- Researchers in China have developed a microwave machine "Relativistic Klystron Amplifier (RKA)", that could jam or destroy satellites in space.
- The device can generate a wave burst measuring 5-megawatts in the Ka-band, a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum increasingly used for both civil and military purposes, citing Asia Times.
- Bharti Enterprises-led OneWeb, the low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite communications company, announced that it has entered into an agreement with Elon Musk-owned SpaceX, which will enable it to resume satellite launches.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired surface to surface supersonic cruise missile BrahMos in Andaman and Nicobar.
- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras builds a new interdisciplinary water management and policy centre known as 'AquaMAP' to address India's water issues.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras has partnered with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to launch a web-enabled, user-oriented program on "Industrial AI" that is targeted at upskilling employees incorporates the applications of AI to industrial problems.
- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad has developed a portable, cost-effective, and IoT-enabled ventilator powered by lithium-ion batteries. The smart ventilator named 'Jeevan Lite' was launched by Telangana Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan recently.

## Defence

- The 19th edition of India-US Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting was held in Agra, Uttar Pradesh on March 01-02, 2022.
- Indian Navy successfully demonstrated the accuracy of an extended-range land-attack Brahmos supersonic cruise missile from the stealth destroyer INS Chennai. The missile hit its intended target with pinpoint accuracy after traversing an extended range trajectory and performing complex manoeuvres.
- The ninth edition of Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise SLINEX has begun in Visakhapatnam. The exercise will be conducted in two phases-the harbour phase at Visakhapatnam on March 7 and 8, followed by the sea phase on March 9 and 10 in the Bay of Bengal.
- As part of Joint Exercise between India-Japan, 15 Maratha LIRC UNIT and Japan 30 Infantry regiment participated at Maratha Light Infantry Regimental Centre in Belgaum in Karnataka.
- Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has successfully put a second military satellite, the Noor 2, into orbit.
- Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar commissioned Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Saksham, the fifth in the series of 105-metre Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) class, at Goa. The 105-meter OPV has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited and fitted with advance technology, navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machinery.
- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated a seven-storeyed Flight Control System (FCS) Integration facility at Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Cold Response 2022, major military exercises involving 30,000 NATO troops and partner countries kicked off in Norway as tensions escalate between the West and Russia over the Ukraine war.
- India and Seychelles held LAMITIYE, a 10-day military exercise as part of efforts to further boost overall security cooperation in the Indian Ocean amid China's growing assertiveness in the region.
- The 3rd edition of joint training exercise between Indian and Uzbekistan armies, EX-DUSTLIK held at Yangiariq, Uzbekistan.
- The Defence Ministry approved the procurement of Rs 8,357 crore worth of military platforms and hardware, including air defence fire control radar and GSAT-7B satellite.
- Suraksha Kavach 2, a Joint Security Exercise was organised between Indian Army and Maharashtra Police at Lullanagar, Pune.
- North Korea says it test-fired its biggest-yet intercontinental range ballistic missile under the orders of authoritarian leader Kim Jong Un, who vowed to expand the North's "nuclear war deterrent" while preparing for a "long-standing confrontation" with the United States.
- Malaysia will host defense forces from 4 nations namely, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and also the UK within the annual Bersama Shield 2022 training.
- An offshore security exercise, code-named 'Prasthan' was conducted in the Offshore Development Area (ODA) off Mumbai by the Western Naval Command (WNC).
- The first edition of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) was held from March 26 to 30, 2022, in Goa and in the Arabian Sea.

## Environment:

- Kuwaiti becomes hottest place on earth, temperature reaches 53. 2 degrees Celsius

## Sports News:

<b>Tournament</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Other news</b>
I-League	Sreenidi Deccan FC	Beat TRAU FC Was held in Naihati (West Bengal).
Mexican Open	Rafael Nadal	Defeated Cameron Norrie
Football Delhi Women's Premier League 2021-22	Hans Women FC	Signature FC
Grandiscacchi Cattolica International Open	S L Narayanan	
Indian Super League 2021-22 League Winners' Shield	Jamshedpur FC	Beat ATK Mohun Bagan
Indian Super League title	Hyderabad FC	Beat Kerala Blasters
Asian junior championships	Indian women's handballteam	Beat Thailand team Championship held in Almaty, Kazakhstan
Formula One Bahrain Grand Prix 2022	Charles Leclerc (Ferrari-Monaco)	
19th Asian 100 UP Billiards Championship 2022	Pankaj Advani	
WBC India Featherweight Title	Satnam Singh	Beat Amey Nitin

Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament	PV Sindhu	
Saudi Arabian Grand Prix 2022	Max Verstappen	
Indian boxers Nikhat Zareen (52kg) and Nitu (48kg) struck gold at the 73rd Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria by notching up thoroughly comprehensive victories in their respective finals.		

## Sports:

- The 31st Southeast Asian Games, the region's biggest sporting event, will be held in Vietnam from May 12 to 23 this year.
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has stripped Russian President Vladimir Putin of the Olympic Order award in response to the invasion of Ukraine.
- Rookie para archer Pooja Jatyant scripted history as she became the first Indian to win a silver in an individual section of the Para Archery World Championships 2022 in Dubai.
- The Indian Premier League Governing Council (IPL GC) announced RuPay, the flagship product of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) as an official partner for TATA IPL, which will begin on 26th March 2022.
- The race walking trio of Bhawna Jat, Ravina and Munita Prajapati scripted history by winning the country's maiden women's 20km team medal, a bronze, at the World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships. China and Greece won the gold and silver respectively.
- Tokyo Paralympics champion Pramod Bhagat struck gold in all the three categories that he participated in at the Spanish Para badminton International II tournament in Vitoria, Spain.
- Sukant Kadam, who is World No 4, also continued his good run and ended his campaign with a gold and a silver in the tournament.
- In the singles, World No 1 Bhagat defeated Kumar Nitesh 17-21 21-17 21-17 in a hard-fought final which lasted for 1 hour and 1 minute to claim the yellow metal.
- In the mixed doubles, World No 1 pair of Bhagat and Manoj Sarkar outwitted fellow Indians Kadam and Nitesh 21-19 11-21 21-11 in the summit clash for another gold.
- Bhagat then paired up with his mixed doubles partner Palak Kohli and secured a thrilling come-from-behind 14- 21 21-11 21-14 win against the Indian pair of Ruthick Ragupathi and Manasi Girishchandra Joshi for his third gold medal of the tournament.
- Indian women's cricket team skipper Mithali Raj became the first woman, and only the third cricketer ever, to appear at six ICC Women's Cricket World Cups.
- In doing so, Mithali ensured the record enters a new decade — former Pakistan cricketer Javed Miandad appeared in the first six Men's Cricket World Cups between 1975 and 1996 with Sachin Tendulkar beginning his World Cup career in 1992.
- Priyanka Nutakki has become India's 23rd and newest Woman Grandmaster (WGM).
- Russian and Belarusian athletes will not be able to compete at the Winter Paralympics in Beijing, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) said, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine for which Belarus has been a key staging area.
- Aarushie Verma, a national level shooter in Pistol & trap shooting, a multi – time State & Northern India Champion & National medalist, and an active environmentalist, has been selected to represent India at the 2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition to be held in March 2022.
- Olympic champion Mondo Duplantis broke his own world pole vault record with a 6. 19-meter clearance at the Belgrade Indoor Meeting.
- Tiger Woods was formally inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame and ushered into golf's most revered club by his daughter, Sam, who delivered a touching speech as the 82-time PGA TOUR winner and 15- time major champion's induction presenter.
- S Sreesanth announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. The discarded Indian pacer represented the national team in 90 internationals (27 Tests, 53 ODIs and 10 T20Is).
- Meghana Sajjanar, representing Railways, beat West Bengal's Mehuli Ghosh 16-10 to claim the top spot in the T1 women's 10m air rifle trials.
- Tokyo Paralympics champion Pramod Bhagat struck gold in all the three categories that he participated in at the Spanish Para badminton International II tournament in Vitoria, Spain.
- Sukant Kadam, who is World No 4, also continued his good run and ended his campaign with a gold and a silver in the tournament.
- India batter Shreyas Iyer and New Zealand's all-rounder Amelia Kerr were adjudged the ICC Players of the Month for February 2022.
- All India Chess Federation (FAIC) has announced that India will be hosting the upcoming 44th World Chess Olympiad 2022 at Chennai.
- All England Badminton Championship held in Birmingham. In Women's Doubles, pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand have entered the second round. In the first round, Indian pair defeated Thailand's pair 17-21, 22-20, 21-14
- Formula 1 and Tata Communications jointly announced a multi-year strategic collaboration for end-to-end managed network services for video contribution globally.
- Former India cricketer Suresh Raina was felicitated with the prestigious 'Sports Icon' award at the Maldives Sports Awards 2022. He was nominated alongside 16 international sportspersons.



- The Maldives President honoured Saudi Minister of Sports Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al-Faisal with the “Maldives Sports Award” for 2022 for his efforts in developing Saudi sports and striving to achieve the goals of the Kingdom’s Vision 2030.
- Venezuela’s Yulimar Rojas bettered her own women’s triple jump world record with a leap of 15.74 metres to win gold at the World Indoor Championships.
- Ashleigh Barty, the Women’s Tennis Association’s top-ranked player and the winner of this year’s Australian Open, announced that she is retiring at the age of just 25.
- Cristiano Ronaldo etched his name as the highest goal scorer in the game of football after he scored a hat-trick against Tottenham Hotspur.
- Indian para-athlete Dharambir has set a new Asian record in the men’s club throw F32/51 event, winning a silver in the ongoing 13th Fazza International Para Athletics Championships in Dubai.
- India’s National Cricket Team spin-bowling all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has reclaimed the No. 1 spot in the ICC Men’s Test Rankings for all-rounders.
- South African batter Zubayr Hamza was provisionally suspended by the ICC for failing an out-of-competition dope test.
- The second edition of South Asian Athletics Federation (SAAF) cross country championships and the 56th National Cross Country Championships held at Indira Gandhi Stadium at Kohima in Nagaland.
- Ed-tech company BYJU’S said it has been named as an official sponsor of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.
- Para-swimmer Jiya Rai, who has autism, has created history by swimming 28.5 kilometres in 13 hours. Rai, 13, swam across the Palk Strait from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Arichalmunai in Dhanushkodi, Tamil Nadu.
- Olympic silver medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu won the BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year award. Chanu created history last year when she became the first Indian weightlifter to clinch a silver medal at the Summer Olympics.
- Young India opener Shafali Verma was awarded the The ‘BBC Emerging Player’ award. Verma is the youngest female cricketer to have played for India.
- The first Indian woman to have won a medal at the Olympics in 2000, former weightlifter Karnam Malleswari was presented the ‘BBC Lifetime Achievement’ award.
- Indian Shuttle Lakshya Sen wins Silver Medal in the German Open (Badminton) 2022 Tournament. He is defeated by Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand, 18-21, 15-21, in the men’s singles final at the German Open 2022.

#### **Winner list of German Open (Badminton) 2022:**

- Men’s singles – Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand) beat Lakshya Sen (India)
- Women’s singles – He Bingjiao (China) beat Chen Yufei (China)
- Men’s Double – Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin (Malaysia)
- Women’s Double – Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan (China)
- Mixed Doubles – Dechapol Puavaranukroh / Sapsiree Taerattanachai (Thailand).
- Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra claimed the coveted ‘Sportstar of the Year (Male)’ award at the 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards held at The Taj Mahal Palace hotel.
- Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, who won the silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics, received the ‘Sportstar of the Year (Female)’ award.

#### **Other awardee’s in the list:**

- Lovlina Borgohain (Sportswoman of the Year, Individual Sports),
- Avani Lekhara (Parathlete of the Year, Female),
- Pramod Bhagat (Special Recognition award),
- Savita (Sportswoman of the Year, Team Sports), and Rupinder Pal Singh (Sportsman of the Year, Team Sports).
- Arif Khan wins Special Recognition Award at Sportstar Aces 2022.
- Former Indian hockey team captain Ajit Pal Singh was conferred the ‘Lifetime Achievement award’.

#### **BNP Paribas Open | Indian Wells 2022 winners**

The 2022 BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, also known as the 2022 Indian Wells Masters, was held from March 07 to 20, 2022 at Indian Wells, California, US.

List of winners:

- Women’s singles: Iga Świątek (Poland)
- Men’s Singles: Taylor Fritz (United States)
- Women’s Doubles: Xu Yifan / Yang Zhaoxuan
- Men’s Doubles: John Isner / Jack Sock.

#### **Indian Fencers win Nine Medals in Asian Junior and Cadet Championships**

- India returned with a rich haul of nine medals from the recently-concluded Asian Junior and Cadet Fencing Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- India won four medals in the junior championships — in sabre women’s team (bronze), epee women’s team (silver), foil men’s team (bronze) and foil women’s team (bronze).
- In the Cadet Championship, India won five medals — in epee women’s individual (bronze), epee women’s team (silver), epee men’s team (bronze), sabre women’s team (bronze) and foil women’s team (bronze).



## **In Boxing, six Indian Junior boxers, led by Vini, Yakshika and Vidhi registered contrasting wins to claim the gold**

### **medal at the 2022 ASBC Asian Youth & Junior Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan.**

- Vini, the diminutive boxer from Hisar was facing Karina Tokubay of Kazakhstan in the flyweight 50kg final. Yakshika (52kg) displayed remarkable courage and temperament against Uzbekistan's Rakhima Bekniyazova to mount a comeback.
- Defending Champion Nikita Chand (60kg) grabbed the yellow metal again as she dominated her bout against Uldana Taubay of Kazakhstan from the beginning which forced the referee to stop the contest in the third round.
- Shrushti Sathe (63kg) was up against Nursulu Suienalay of Kazakhstan who had no answer for the Indian boxer's reflexes and strong punches. Rudrika (75kg) blanked Kazakhstan's Shuglya Nalibay 5-0 in a one-sided contest.
- With 21 medals in junior and 18 in youth section, the Indian contingent has secured 39 medals at the prestigious continental tournament where both the age groups of men and women-youth and junior-are being played together.

## **Rankings:**

- India ranks 3rd in billionaire population globally: Knight Frank's latest edition of The Wealth Report 2022. USA tops the list of countries with most number of billionaires in 2021. It is followed by Chinese Mainland, India, Germany and Russia.
- India has slipped three spots from last year's 117 to rank 120 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 192 United Nations member states in 2015, a new report said.
- On the state-wise preparedness, the report said Jharkhand and Bihar are the least prepared to meet the SDGs by the target year 2030.
- Kerala ranked first, followed by Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh in the second position. The third position was shared by Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- Democracy Report 2022 by the V-Dem Institute at Sweden's University of Gothenburg:
- India ranked 93rd
- Top 5 LDI (Liberal Democratic Index) Countries are Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Costa Rica and New Zealand.
- India is the second-largest global venture capital investment hub for digital shopping companies, growing by a whopping 175% from \$8 billion in 2020 to \$22 billion in 2021, according to the London & Partners analysis of Dealroom. co investment data.
- On a global scale, India came in second to the US last year, which attracted \$51 billion in investment, followed by China at third with \$14 billion and the UK at fourth with \$7 billion.
- Within India, Bengaluru comes out on top globally with \$14 billion worth of Venture Capital (VC) investments in digital shopping in 2021, followed by Gurugram at No. 7 with \$4 billion and Mumbai at No. 10 with \$3 billion.
- Bengaluru almost tripled its investments from \$5 billion in 2020 to take the top spot, ahead of other leading cities in the world – New York City (second), San Francisco (third), London (fourth) and Berlin (fifth).
- India's equity market has broken into the world's top five club in terms of market capitalisation for the first time. The country's total market cap stands at \$3. 21 trillion, which is higher than that of the UK (\$3. 19 trillion), Saudi Arabia (\$3. 18 trillion), and Canada (\$3. 18 trillion).
- 1st – USA (\$47. 32 trillion), 2nd – China, 3rd – Japan, 4th – Hong Kong, 5th – India, 6th – UK
- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its latest report on Trends in International Arms Transfer, 2021, released in March 2022, reveals that India and Saudi Arabia had emerged as the largest arms importers of arms between 2017-21, each accounting for 11% of all global arms sales.
- World Happiness Report 2022: Finland has been named the world's happiest country for the fifth year running, in an annual UN-sponsored index that again ranked Afghanistan as the unhappiest, followed closely by Lebanon. India is ranked 136th. 135th – Sierra Leone, 137th – Burundi
- India ranks 51st in annual appreciation in housing prices with a 2. 1 per cent rise in rates during the October-December quarter of the last year, according to property consultant Knight Frank.
- Turkey witnessed the highest annual price growth rate by 59. 6 per cent in the year to Q4 2021, followed by New Zealand (22. 6 per cent), Czech Republic (22. 1 per cent), Slovakia (22. 1 per cent) and Australia (21. 8 per cent).
- World Air Quality Report 2021, prepared by Swiss organization IQAir: Delhi was found to be the most polluted capital in the world for the fourth consecutive year in 2021
- On the list of capital cities, Dhaka followed Delhi in terms of the annual average PM2. 5 concentration, while N'Djamena, the capital of Chad, was third on the list.
- Bangladesh was the most polluted country in the world in 2021. Bangladesh was followed by Chad, Pakistan and Tajikistan. India was the fifth most polluted country.
- UNEP report – 'Frontiers 2022: Noise, Blazes and Mismatches': Three cities in South Asia have filled the top three spots in the list – Bangladesh's Dhaka, Moradabad in India's Uttar Pradesh, and Pakistan's Islamabad.

## **Rankings (States, Persons, Others)**

- Telangana became the top-performing state in India with a population over one crore in terms of the growth rate of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). It succeeded other states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.
- Telangana Surpasses Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to become Top performing states in the country

in terms of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices. Telangana state began its journey in 2014 with the spirit of a “startup state”.

- RailTel jumped 67 positions to rank 124th in the recently announced ‘Fortune India Next 500 list of Year 2022’ list.
- Besides RailTel, there are five more private telecom players on the list. Apart from RailTel, IRCTC is the only Railway PSU featuring in the list, at the rank of 309.
- Reliance Retail, the consumer business arm of Reliance Industries Ltd, has moved down three spots to 56th in the top-250 global retailers’ list, according to global consulting firm Deloitte.
- Walmart has managed to claim the first spot, followed by Jeff Bezos-owned Amazon and the US-based Costco Wholesale Corporation.
- The top 3 billionaires in the world are SpaceX and Tesla founder Elon Musk, Amazon’s executive chairman Jeff Bezos, and LVMH CEO Bernard Arnault.
- With a net worth of a \$103 billion, Ambani not only just earned the title of being the ‘Richest Man in India’ but also in Asia, reporting a 24 per cent surge in his wealth. The RIL chairman also earned the ‘Richest Telecom Entrepreneur’ title. Meanwhile, Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani wasn’t much behind Ambani and was named the ‘Richest Energy Entrepreneur’, 12th on the list.
- With a wealth of \$16 billion, Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO Uday Kotak secured the ‘World’s Third Richest Banker’ title.
- With a wealth of US\$ 7.5 billion, Nusli Wadia and family of Britannia is the richest biscuit manufacturer in the world.
- With a wealth of US\$ 4.3 billion and US\$ 4.2 billion respectively, Rakesh Gangwal and Rahul Bhatia and the family of “Indigo” airlines are the wealthiest aviation billionaires. Cyrus Poonawalla, ranked 55th, of the serum institute of India, is the richest healthcare billionaire in the world.
- With a wealth of US\$ 9.7 billion, jumping 113 ranks in last year, Ashwin Dani & family, ranked 269th, is the richest paint entrepreneur in the world.
- 2022 Hurun global rich list: Mukesh Ambani richest man in India, Asia; Uday Kotak 3rd richest banker
- Gujarat, for the second consecutive year, has topped the NITI Aayog’s Export Preparedness Index 2021 which is aimed at assessing the readiness of the states in terms of their export potential and performance.
- Besides Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab, Maharashtra received the second position while Karnataka and Tamil Nadu got third and fourth position, respectively.
- Union territories and states like Lakshadweep, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Ladakh and Meghalaya were placed at the bottom.

## Loans from Banks/Countries:

- Axis Bank has committed a USD 150 million (about Rs 1,140 crore) loan for strengthening the healthcare infrastructure in the country in association with IPE Global, in the aftermath of the pandemic.
- PSU lender Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) announced that it has sanctioned a loan of ₹1,000 crore to Jammu and Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation Ltd (JKIDFC).
- Government of India, Government of West Bengal, and World Bank signed a 125 million dollar International bank for reconstruction and development, IBRD loan to support efforts to help poor and vulnerable groups access social protection services in West Bengal.
- Sri Lanka’s Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa signed a US\$1 billion credit line with India to help ease crippling shortages of essential items, including fuel, food and medicine, officials said.

## Deadlines/ Important Dates/Years:

- Centre extended timeline to 10 years for converting debt into equity. Earlier, startups had 5 years time period for converting their debt investment into equity shares effective from the initial day of the convertible note issued.

## Books:

<b>Book</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Other Info</b>
Udaan Ek Majdoor Bachhe Ki	Mithilesh Tiwari	about the life journey of Captain AD Manek
The Millennial Yogi: A modern-day parable about reclaiming one’s life	Deepam Chatterjee	
“Ungalil Oruvan” (One Among You)	Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin’s autobiography	
The Queen Of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography Of Usha Uthup	Vikas Kumar Jha	
The Blue Book: A Writer’s Journal	Amitava Kumar	
On Board: My Years in BCCI	Autobiography of Ratnakar Shetty	
Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times	Abhinav Chandrachud	Soli Sorabjee, the former Attorney

		General of India
Monsoon	Abhay K	
More than Just Surgery: Life Lessons Beyond the OT	Tehemton Erach Udwadia	
Wrist Assured: An Autobiography	Co-authored by Gundappa Vishwanath and journalist R Kaushik	It is cricketer legend G. R. Viswanath's autobiography
The Shield: Covishield	Prakash Kumar Singh	Pens the journey of Serum Institute of India in producing Covid vaccine 'Covishield'
Unfilled Barrels: India's oil story	Richa Mishra	
The Little Book of Joy	14th Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) & Archbishop Desmond Tutu	
Rahul Bajaj: An Extraordinary Life	Gita Piramal	It is a biography of Rahul Bajaj. He was the chairman emeritus of the Indian conglomerate Bajaj Group.
Twelve books penned by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee have been published during the ongoing 45th International Kolkata Book Fair. The books chronicle recent events in her long political innings. The 12 books include titles such as 'Khela Hobe', referring to TMC's 'game is on' campaign during last year's assembly elections, and 'Covid Dinlipi', which dwells on events during the pandemic. Other books include 'Duare Sarkar' (government at doorstep), 'Bidhansabhai Mukhyamantri' (chief minister in assembly), 'Loho Pranam Mohiyashi Charane Charane', 'Kalam' and 'Kabita Bitan'. Banerjee has penned 114 books in the last two decades.		
Sportstar and The Hindu group released a Coffee Table Book, 'Road to 1000', at the 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards at The Taj Mahal Palace hotel. The book is a 520-page, special collection with 1000 pictures to commemorate Indian cricket's journey.		
The India Meteorological Department (IMD) launched an e-book, Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas of India-State: Tamil Nadu, in the city as part of the World Meteorological Day celebrations. The atlas is available at <a href="http://mausam.imd.gov.in">mausam.imd.gov.in</a> for public access. The e-atlas would help disaster management agencies take preventive steps.		

## Obituaries:

Name	Profession	Other Info
Jai Prakash Chouksey	Film Critic	
RC Lahoti	Former Chief Justice of India	
BB Gurung	Former Chief Minister of Sikkim	
S F Rodrigues	Former Indian Army Chief General	
Kumudben Manishankar Joshi	Former Governor of Andhra Pradesh	
V Ravi Rama Krishna	Senior Indian Information Service officer and former Prasar Bharati Kabul Correspondent	
Shahabuddin Ahmed	Bangladesh's former president and chief justice	
Eugene Parker	US astrophysicist	
Scott Hall (Razor Ramon)	Former Wrestler (USA)	
Rupiah Banda	Zambia's former president	
Shane Warne	Australian Cricketer	
Rod Marsh	Australian Cricketer	
Sonny Ramadhin	West Indies Cricketer	
Alan Walbridge Ladd Jr	American Film Producer	
Muhammad Rafiq Tarar	Former President of Pakistan	
Stephen E. Wilhite	American computer scientist	Best known for inventing the GIF
Miguel Van Damme	Belgian Footballer	