

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – January 2022

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CURRENT AFFAIRS: IMPORTANT DAYS

World Braille Day- Jan 4

- **World Braille Day** is an international day on **4 January** and celebrates awareness of the importance of braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the **human rights for blind and visually impaired people**
- The day is marked remembering the birth anniversary of **Louis Braille**, the inventor of Braille – for people with visual disabilities.
- **Louis Braille was born on 4th January 1809** in the town of Coupvray in northern France.

DRDO Celebrates 64th Foundation Day on 1st January 2022

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** celebrated **64th DRDO Day** on **January 1, 2022**.
- The DRDO was formed in **1958** from the amalgamation of the then already functioning Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO).

World Day of War Orphans: January 6

- **Every year on January 6, the World Day of War Orphans** is recognized.
- **World Day of War Orphans** was started by the **French organisation SOS Enfants en Detresses**, which aimed to help children affected by conflict.
- According to the **United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)**, an orphan is defined as a “**child under 18 years of age who has lost one or both parents to any cause of death**”.

Indian Army Day- Jan 15:

- **Every year 15 January is observed as Indian Army Day** because on this day in 1949 Field Marshal **Kodandera M Cariappa** took over as the **first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army** from **General Sir Francis Butcher**, the last British Commander-in-Chief.

International Day of Education- Jan 24:

- The **United Nations General Assembly** proclaimed **24 January** as **International Day of Education**, in celebration of the role of education for peace and development.
- The **theme of 4th International Day of Education** in 2022 is **Changing Course, Transforming Education**.
- The celebration is led by the **UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Birth Anniversary: Jan 23

- India is celebrating **125th Birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** on **January 23**.

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- Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birth anniversary is also marked as "Parakram Diwas" (Courage Day), Modi government had announced in 2021.

National Girl Child Day- Jan 24

- India is celebrating **National Girl Child Day** on **January 24**.
- National Girl Child Day is celebrated to raise awareness among people regarding inequalities, discrimination, exploitation faced by the girls in society.
- The day was observed for the first time in 2008 as an initiative by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India.

12th National Voters' Day to be celebrated on January 25, 2022

- The **National Voters' Day** is celebrated on **25 January** every year in India to encourage the country's voters to participate in the electoral process.
- **2022** marks the **12th National Voters' Day (NVD)**.
- The **theme** of 2022 NVD is, 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'.

National Tourism Day 2022 : January 25

- Every year, **25th January** is observed in India as the **National Tourism Day**, an incredible practice to spread awareness of the importance for traveling and protecting nature.
- The **theme** for National Tourism Day 2022 is "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav."

India's Republic Day 2022:

- India marks **January 26** as its **Republic Day** every year. In 2022, the country is celebrating its **73rd Republic Day**.
- Additionally, Constitution Day is celebrated in India on November 26 every year, as on November 26, 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India.

26 January – International Customs Day

- **January 26** is celebrated as the **International Customs Day (ICD)**.
- This year, the theme chosen by WCO for ICD is 'Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem'.
- The day was instituted by the **World Customs Organization (WCO)** to commemorate the day in 1953 when the inaugural session of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) was held in **Brussels, Belgium**.

28 January: Data Protection Day:

- On **28 January 2022**, the **16th edition of Data Protection Day** will be celebrated globally.
- It aims at raising awareness on the right to data protection.

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- Data Protection Day is now celebrated globally and is called the "Privacy Day" outside Europe.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: NATIONAL NEWS

Prime Minister to lay foundation stone of Major Dhyan Chand Sports University at Meerut:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of Major Dhyan Chand Sports University at Meerut.
- The University will be established at Salawa and Kaili villages of Sardhana town in Meerut at an estimated cost of about 700 Crore rupees.

CCI approves acquisition of 96.42% equity shareholding in Jindal Power Limited by Worldone Private Limited:

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition of 96.42% equity shareholding in Jindal Power Limited by Worldone Private Limited.
- Worldone Private Limited (Worldone) is an investment holding company which has investments in various listed and unlisted companies.
- Jindal Power Limited (JPL) is primarily engaged in the business of generating thermal power by using coal as a fuel source.

PM releases 10th instalment of PM-KISAN:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi released 10th instalment of financial benefit under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme via video conferencing.
- This enabled the transfer of an amount of more than Rs. 20,000 crore to more than 10 crore beneficiary farmer families.
- During the programme, Prime Minister also released equity grant of more than Rs. 14 crore to about 351 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), which will benefit more than 1.24 lakh farmers.

Dharmendra Pradhan launched 'Padhe Bharat', 100 days reading campaign:

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched 100 days reading campaign 'Padhe Bharat'.
- The launch of 100 Days Reading Campaign is in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which emphasises on promotion of joyful reading culture for children by ensuring availability of age-appropriate reading books for children in local/mother tongue/regional/tribal Language.
- Padhe Bharat campaign will focus on children studying in Balvatika to Grade 8.
- The reading campaign will be organised for 100 days (14 weeks) starting from 1st January 2022 to 10th April 2022.

MoHUA opens 'Urban Geospatial Data Stories Challenge-2022':

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- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has announced the opening of **Urban Geospatial Data Stories** Challenge to foster adoption of geospatial technologies & to promote innovation in India's urban ecosystem.
- The challenge has been organized with select Smart Cities that will be publishing **high quality GIS datasets**.
- The challenge will commence for the registered participants on **1st January, 2022** and conclude by **end of January 2022**.

Defense minister Rajnath Singh unveils 27 border infrastructure projects

- Indian Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** virtually inaugurated **24 bridges** and **three roads**, which have been built by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** in **four states** and **two union territories**.
- He listed the development of critical border infrastructure as a key priority to boost India's overall military preparedness to confront any security challenge.
- Out of the 24 bridges, nine are in Jammu and Kashmir, five each in Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh, three in Uttarakhand and one each in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh & Out of the three roads, two are in Ladakh and one is in West Bengal.

Raksha Mantri inaugurates Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science & Technology at Chandigarh University:

- Raksha Mantri Shri **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated **Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science & Technology (KCCRSST)** at **Chandigarh University** on January 03, 2022.
- He also launched a Scholarship Scheme, **worth Rs 10 crore**, for the **wards of Defence Personnel** of the **three Services**.
- The CUSat will be among the 75 student-built satellites to be launched into space on the eve of the **75th Independence Day** in 2022.
- The **Chandigarh University** has joined the list of **13 institutes** like **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, IIT Bombay** and became the first university in North India to design and develop its own satellite. For the project, 75 students of the University have been working on the **Chandigarh University Student Satellite Project** under the guidance of eminent Indian scientists.

Union Education Minister launches NEAT 3.0 and AICTE prescribed technical books in regional languages:

- **Union Education Minister and Skill Development Minister** Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched **NEAT 3.0**, a single platform to provide **the best-developed ed-tech solutions** and courses to students of the country.
- The Minister also launched **AICTE prescribed technical books in regional languages**.

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- The Minister encouraged AICTE to integrate courses in NEAT with skill India to tap the opportunities in emerging areas of skill to boost employability and prepare our youth for the future.
- He urged that AICTE and ed-tech companies to offer e-resources in the least possible cost. Shri Pradhan complimented the global ed-tech companies and Indian start-ups who are a part of NEAT 3.0.
- **National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT)** is an initiative to provide the use of best-developed technological solutions in the education sector to enhance the employability of the youth on a single platform for learners' convenience.

Ministry of Civil Aviation releases draft 'National Air Sports Policy' for public feedback:

- **Ministry of Civil Aviation has released draft National Air Sports Policy (NASP)** for public feedback.
- The draft policy is available on the website of the Ministry and can also be accessed through the link: <https://www.civilaviation.gov.in/sites/default/files/Draft-NASP-2022.pdf>
- India has the potential to be among the leading nations in the world of air sports. It has a large geographical expanse, diverse topography and fair-weather conditions.
- It has a **large population, especially the youth**. It has a growing culture for adventure sports and aviation.

IIT-M to launch Masters Programme in electric vehicles:

- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** will launch a **Master's Programme in electric vehicles (EV)**.
- **This Interdisciplinary Dual Degree (IDDD)** will boost the students' engagement with e-mobility and will be offered for its BTech and dual degree students.

PM inaugurates and lays the foundation stone of various developmental projects in Imphal, Manipur:

- Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **13 Projects** worth around **Rs. 1850 crores** and laid the foundation stone of **9 projects** worth around **Rs 2950 crore** in **Imphal, Manipur**.
- These projects relate to diverse sectors such as Road Infrastructure, Drinking Water Supply, Health, Urban Development, Housing, Information Technology, Skill Development, Art and Culture, among others.
- The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of construction of **five National Highway Projects** to be built at a cost of more than **Rs 1700 crore**.
- He inaugurated the **Steel Bridge built over the Barak River on NH-37**, at a cost of over **Rs 75 crore**, which would decongest traffic between Silchar and Imphal.

Nirmala Sitharaman chairs 46th GST council meet in Delhi:

- The **46th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council** is being held in **New Delhi** under the chairmanship of Union finance minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**.
- The GST Council has recommended deferring the decision to **change the rates in textiles recommended in the 45th GST Council meeting**.

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- Consequently, the existing **GST rates of 5 % instead of 12%** in **textile sector** would continue.
- The meeting holds significance as it is taking place ahead of the Union Budget for 2022-23, which is scheduled to be presented in Parliament **on February 1, 2022**.
- This will be the fourth budget of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led **NDA government** in its second tenure.

GST collection in Dec 2021 over Rs 1 lakh 29000 crores:

- The **gross Goods and Services Tax**, GST revenue collected in **December 2021** is over **one lakh 29 thousand crore rupees**.
- Of which, CGST is 22 thousand 578 crore rupees, SGST is 28 thousand 658 crore rupees, IGST is 69 thousand 155 crore rupees and cess is nine thousand 389 crore rupees.
- The total revenue of Centre and the States in the month of **December last year after settlements** is **48 thousand 146 crore rupees** for CGST and 49 thousand 760 crore rupees for the SGST.
- The revenues for the month of December 2021 are 13 percent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launches theme of National Science Day 2022:

- Union Science and Technology Minister, **Dr Jitendra Singh** has launched the **theme of National Science Day 2022**.
- The theme of this year is '**Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future**'.
- The **National Science Day** is observed every year on **28th February** to mark the discovery of the Raman effect.
- Launching the theme in New Delhi, Singh expressed hope that through this all the institutions across the country will be able to chart out programmes to observe the day.

Smart Cities Mission launches “Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)” program:

- Smart Cities Mission has launched “**Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)**” program.
- It is a **joint initiative** of the Ministry of **Housing and Urban Affairs**, **National Institute of Urban Affairs** and leading **Indian academic institutions of the country**.
- Under the program, **15 premier architecture & planning institutes** of the country will be working with Smart Cities to document landmark projects undertaken by the Smart Cities Mission.
- The first activity envisaged under SAAR is to prepare a compendium of 75 landmark urban projects in India under the Smart Cities Mission.
- These **75 urban projects** are innovative, multi-sectoral, and have been implemented across geographies.

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Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launches the web portal for PM's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration for the year 2021-22

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; Dr Jitendra Singh launched the Web Portal for PM's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration for the year 2021-22.
- PM's Award for Excellence in Public Administration portal for the year 2021-2022 is www.pmawards.gov.in.
- The Minister also added that the prize money was also **doubled this year from Rs.10 lakh to Rs.20 lakh to the awarded District/Organization** which is to be utilized for implementation of project/programme or bridging resource gaps in any area of public welfare.
- The Period of consideration is **1st April 2019 to 31st Dec, 2021**.
- The total number of Awards under the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2021 would be 18.

PM to inaugurate second campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute in Kolkata:

- Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the second campus of **Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute (CNCI) in Kolkata** via video conferencing.
- The second campus of CNCI has been built in line with the Prime Minister's vision to expand and upgrade the health facilities in all parts of the country.
- The second campus of CNCI **has been built at a cost of over Rs 530 crore**, out of which **around Rs 400 crores** have been provided by the Union government and rest by the West Bengal government, in **the ratio of 75:25**.

19th Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) held:

- The **19th Meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** was held here under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav.
- The rally saw an active involvement of diverse range of stakeholders – forest officials, school and college students, media persons, local communities, and representatives from NGOs etc.

"Six One District One Product" brands launched under the PMFME scheme:

- Union Minister for Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Shri **Pashupati Kumar Paras** and Minister of State, Shri **Prahlad Singh Patel** and senior officials of **NAFED** has launched six, **One District One Product (ODOP)**.
- **One District One Product (ODOP) brands** under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme at Panchsheel Bhawan, **New Delhi**.

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- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has signed an agreement with NAFED for developing **10 brands of selected ODOPs** under the branding and marketing component of the PMFME scheme.
- Out of these, six brands namely Amrit Phal, Cori Gold, Kashmiri Mantra, Madhu Mantra, Somdana, and Whole Wheat Cookies of Dilli Bakes were launched.

CABINET APPROVALS:

- i. Memorandum of Understanding between India and Turkmenistan on Cooperation in the field of Disaster Management:
- ii. India and Spain on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters:
- iii. MoU between India and Nepal for construction of bridge over Mahakali River at Dharchula (India) – Dharchula (Nepal)
- iv. Intra-State Transmission System – Green Energy Corridor:

DPIIT to organize Startup India Innovation Week:

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry is set to organize the Startup India Innovation Week from January 10th to 16th, 2022.

24th National Conference on e-Governance 2021 successfully concludes at Hyderabad:

- The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, in association with the State Government of Telangana organized the 24th Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2021 on 7th – 8th February 2022 at Hyderabad, Telangana.

Indian Oil's CSR initiative to help eliminate TB in Punjab & UP:

- IndianOil has committed to support the National TB elimination Program (NTEP) in India by providing an enabling environment through integrated and prioritised intervention with City Coordination Committees, District Health Societies, Technical support groups, etc., in each of the **75 districts of Uttar Pradesh and 23 districts in Punjab**.

MoE, AICTE and DPIIT organises 'National Innovation Week' from 10th – 16th January, 2022:

- To commemorate **75th years of progressive India 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'**, Ministry of Education (MoE), AICTE and Ministry of Commerce & Industry (DPIIT) are jointly organising 'National Innovation Week' from **10th – 16th Jan 2022**.

PM to inaugurate 25th National Youth Festival on 12th January

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 25th National Youth Festival on 12th January, 2022 in Puducherry, via video conferencing.
- The day, being the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, is observed as National Youth Day.

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Dharmendra Pradhan addresses 82nd Indian Public Schools' Conference Principals' Conclave:

- The 82nd Indian Public Schools' Conference Principals' Conclave, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has urged all schools attending the conclave to reflect how inclusive our leading schools.

Narendra Modi to inaugurate 11 New Government Medical Colleges in Tamil Nadu:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate 11 New Government Medical Colleges across Tamil Nadu and the new campus of Central Institute of Classical Tamil in Chennai.
- The new medical colleges are being established at an estimated cost of about 4 thousand crore rupees.

UNESCO agrees to publish Hindi descriptions on its website:

- UNESCO's World Heritage Centre has agreed to publish Hindi descriptions of India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites on its website.
- The permanent delegation of India to UNESCO announced.

SC appoints high-level committee under retired judge Indu Malhotra to investigate PM's security breach:

- The Supreme Court has appointed former SC Judge, Indu Malhotra, as the Chairperson to head the inquiry committee, along with other members.

Arun Goel inaugurates the Exhibition on "Unsung Heroes of Freedom Struggle from Madhya Pradesh:

- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Bhopal, a CPSE under the aegis of Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) is celebrating "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" from 10th- 16th January, 2022.

Subhas Sarkar launches Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2021 – 2022:

- Subhas Sarkar, Minister of State for Education has virtually launched Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) 2021 – 2022.
- The event was attended by Anita Karwal, Secretary (SE&L), and representatives from all States and UTs and UNICEF.

Atal Innovation Mission unveils the Top Teams of the ATL Space Challenge 2021:

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog declared the results of the 'ATL Space Challenge 2021'.
- The Challenge was launched in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

Prime Minister inaugurates MSME Technology Centre at Puducherry:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated a Technology Centre of the MSME Ministry, established at Puducherry, on the occasion of National youth day.

Jitendra Singh has chaired 1st meeting with Sectoral Experts on Vision India@2047:

- Union Minister Jitendra Singh has chaired the first meeting with Sectoral Experts to have suggestions on structural and institutional reforms necessary to attain the envisaged Vision India@2047 on Governance.

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Nitin Gadkari to inaugurate Conference on PM-Gati Shakti for South Zone:

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) is going to organize a conference on **PM-Gati Shakti for the South Zone** on 17 January 2022 to deliberate on its action plans and projects.

PM calls startups backbone of New India; announces Jan 16 as National Start-up Day:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, that **2022 has brought several possibilities** for the **Start-up ecosystem in the country**.
- India is celebrating **75th years of independence**, and when India will achieve 100 years of independence, role of start-up will be significant in the nation's progress.

Education Minister invites students, teachers, parents to participate in 5th edition of "Pariksha Pe Charcha 2022":

- Union Education and Skill Development Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** invited students, teachers and parents to participate in the **5th edition of "Pariksha Pe Charcha 2022"**.
- It is a unique **interactive program where students, parents, teachers across the nation** and also from overseas interact with Prime Minister Modi to discuss and overcome the stress emerging from examinations.

KVIC rolls out innovative "Mobile Honey Processing Van"

- Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), **Vinay Kumar Saxena** launched the **country's first Mobile Honey Processing Van** at Village Sirora in Ghaziabad, UP.
- The Mobile Van has been designed in-house by KVIC at its Multi-disciplinary Training Centre, Panjokehra, at a cost of Rs 15 lakh.
- This mobile honey processing unit can process up to 300 KG of honey in 8 hours.

SCM, MoHUA launches 'Open Data Week':

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has announced the initiation of the **Open Data Week** to encourage adoption of open data and promote innovation across India's urban ecosystem.
- Leading up to the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Smart Cities: Smart Urbanization' conference scheduled to be held in Surat, during February 2022, the **Open Data Week** is part of a series of pre-event initiatives being undertaken by MoHUA to promote awareness and use of open data.
- It will be conducted during the third week of January, i.e., from 17th January 2022 to 21st January 2022.

Pralhad Joshi Launches New Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy of NLC India Ltd:

- Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs **Shri Pralhad Joshi** that NLC India Ltd, a **Navratna public sector enterprise** under the Ministry of Coal has been playing a pivotal role in ensuring **India's energy security** during the last six decades of performance.
- The Minister was virtually launching the **new rehabilitation & resettlement (R&R)** policy applicable to land

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owners of NLCIL mines area.

Virendra Kumar to launch first bi-monthly E-Newsletter of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities:

- **Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar** will launch the **first bi-monthly E-Newsletter of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**.
- The E-Newsletter will be launched during the inauguration of the main building of **Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation, and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities** virtually.
- The function is being organized at **CRC Campus at Chevayur, Kozhikode in Kerala**.

University Grants Commission organises online workshop for Universities and Colleges on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):

- **University Grants Commission** has organised online **workshop for Universities** and Colleges on **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)** under the iconic week of Ministry of Education.
- **Neeta Prasad**, Joint Secretary Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, **Shri Rajendra Ratnoo**, Joint Secretary, **DPIIT & CGPDTM**, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and **Prof. Rajnish Jain**, Secretary, UGC addressed the Inaugural session.

MeitY organises 26th CISO Deep Dive Training program under Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative:

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is organising **26th CISO Deep Dive Training program under Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative**.
- The training is aimed to equip participants with better understanding of **emerging cyber threat landscape, understand best practices in cyber security**.
- It will cover topics such as Governance Risk and Compliance and Data Privacy, Network Security, End Point Security, Application and Data Security, Cloud Security, Mobile Security, Cryptography, Cyber Security related provisions in IT Act.

CABINET APPROVALS:

- Extension of tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for three years
- Scheme for grant of ex-gratia payment of difference between compound interest and simple interest for six months to borrowers in specified loan accounts
- Infusion of Rs.1,500 crore in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)

Indian Army signs first contract with private sector

- In a significant step towards achieving self-reliance in the defence sector, the **Indian Army** signed its **first contract worth Rs 96 crore** with **Anadron Systems Pvt Ltd** under **Make-II for Maneuverable Expendable Aerial Target**.

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- It also represents a significant step towards the 'AtmaNirbhar' initiative, which is aimed at making India a self-reliant nation.

Finance Minister authorizes release of advance installment of tax devolution to State Governments amounting to Rs. 47,541 crores:

- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has authorised the release of an advance installment of tax devolution to State Governments amounting to Rs. 47,541 crore.

69th meeting of Governing Body of National Water Development Agency held:

- The 69th meeting of Governing Body of National Water Development Agency, NWDA was held through video conferencing.
- The meeting was chaired by Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

PM Modi to host first meeting of India-Central Asia Summit:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be hosting the first meeting of the India-Central Asia Summit in a virtual format on 27th January.
- Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan will participate.

IFFCO reaches to Kuttanad farmers to promote nano urea liquid:

- IFFCO, the cooperative fertiliser company, has reached out to farmers in Kuttanad – the rice bowl of Kerala – through a boat campaign to popularise its nano urea liquid.
- The Kuttanad Below Sea-level Farming System (KBSFS) is unique and it is the only system in India that practices rice cultivation at around 1.2-3 metre below sea level.

TCIL launches first e-vehicle charging station in South Delhi

- TCIL, a Mini Ratna Status Company under the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, with support of SDMC launched the first e-vehicle charging station in South Delhi.
- The launch was inaugurated by Meenakshi Lekhi, Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture in the presence of Shri Sanjeev Kumar, CMD, TCIL & other dignitaries of area.
- This e-vehicle charging station is first one in series of 65 e-charging stations to be setup by TCIL in progressive manner in next four months in South Delhi area within easy reach of citizens of Delhi.

DAY-NRLM celebrates Agri Nutri Garden Week as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) has observed 'Agri Nutri Garden Week' from 10th to 17th January, 2022 through awareness campaign and encouraging establishment of 'Agri Nutri Gardens' in the rural households.

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- It is the Mission's agenda to support every rural poor household to have **Agri Nutri Garden** to fulfill the **need of the family's nutrition** and any excess production can also be sold for income generation.

MoS Ajay Bhatt inaugurates interactive Virtual Museum hosted by Gallantry Awards portal

- Minister of state for **Defence Ajay Bhatt** has inaugurated an interactive **Virtual Museum** hosted by the **Gallantry Awards portal**.
- It comprises of a **3-D walk through experience, gallery building, lobby, wall of fame, tour of war memorials, war room, resource centre, selfie booth and equipment display**.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's grand statue to be installed at India Gate

- The **Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi** has announced that a grand statue of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** will be installed at **India Gate**.

NITI Aayog, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and RMI India release 'Banking on Electric Vehicles in India:

- **NITI Aayog, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), and RMI India** today released a report, titled '**Banking on Electric Vehicles in India**', which outlines the importance of **priority-sector recognition for retail lending** in the electric mobility ecosystem.
- The report provides considerations and recommendations to inform the inclusion of **EVs in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) priority-sector lending (PSL) guidelines**.

Government to Promote Drone use in Agriculture:

- The **Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** has issued guidelines to make drone technology affordable to the stakeholders of this sector.
- The guidelines of "**Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization**" (**SMAM**) have been amended which envisages granting up to **100% of the cost of agriculture drone or Rs. 10 lakhs**.
- The **Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs)** would be eligible to **receive grant up to 75% of the cost of agriculture drone** for its demonstrations on the farmers' fields.

Prajakta Kohli Becomes UNDP India's First Youth Climate Champion

- **Content creator and actress Prajakta Koli** has become **India's first UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion** under her partnership with the organization.
- The title has been conferred to her following her contribution towards **mental health, women's rights and girl child education** through various **global social campaigns**.

Ministry of Tourism organises webinar on "Role of Bengal in the Freedom Movement of India" under Dekho Apna Desh series:

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- The **Ministry of Tourism** in collaboration with the **Association of Indian Universities (AIU)** held a webinar and during the webinar, a series of 12 episodes was launched that will take the participants on a **virtual journey of Incredible India**.
- The 6th episode of the series titled **“Role of Bengal in the Freedom Movement of India”** was held.

Government to raise SECI's net worth; Plans to finance 3300 MW RE projects:

- The **Ministry of New and Renewable Ministry (MNRE)** will infuse **₹1,000 crore** in state-run Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) as it eyes financing renewable energy (RE) capacity of **3,300 megawatt (MW)**.
- **“Government has approved an equity infusion of ₹1,000 crore** in Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).

Ministry of Electronics & IT releases 2nd Volume of Vision Document on Electronics Manufacturing

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, in association with **India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA)** released a **5-year roadmap** and **Vision Document** for the electronics sector, titled **“\$300 bn Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026**.
- This roadmap is the **second volume** of a two-part Vision Document – the first of which titled **“Increasing India's Electronics Exports and Share in GVCs”** was released in November 2021.

Ministry of Culture organized Rangoli Utsav 'Umang' to celebrate National Girl Child Day

- On the Occasion of **National Girl Child Day**, the **Ministry of Culture** organized the **‘Umang Rangoli Utsav’** on 24th January 2022.

29 children conferred Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2022

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** conferred the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBR)** award to **29 children** from across the country ahead of Republic Day.
- A total of **15 Boys** and **14 Girls** among the awardees belong to **21 States** and **UTs**.

President approves conferment of Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards-2021:

- The **President of India** has approved the conferment of **Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards - 2021** on 51 persons which includes **Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak** to 06, **Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak** to 16 and **Jeevan Raksha Padak** to 29 persons.

CCI imposes penalty on maritime transport companies for indulging in cartelization:

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** passed a final order against four maritime transport companies namely **Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha ('NYK Line')**, **Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha Ltd. ('K-Line')**, **Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd. ('MOL')** and **Nissan Motor Car Carrier Company ('NMCC')** for indulging in cartelization in the provision of **maritime motor vehicle transport services** to automobile **Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs)** for various trade routes.
- Amongst these four companies, **NYK Line, MOL** and **NMCC** were lesser penalty applicants before CCI.

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Padma Awards 2022 announced:

- **Padma Awards** - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, **Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri**.
- This year the President has approved conferment of **128 Padma Awards** including 2 cases (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one) as per list below.
- The list comprises **4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri Awards**.

PM Modi to host first India-Central Asia Summit virtually:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be hosting the first meeting of the India-Central Asia Summit in a virtual format.
- Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan will participate.

Union Agriculture Minister addresses 4th National Conference on Agriculture for Summer Campaign 2021-22:

- Union Agriculture Minister **Shri Narendra Kumar Tomar** addresses 4th National Conference on Agriculture for Summer Campaign 2021-22

Grassroots innovator from Karnataka popular as 'tamarind maniac' selected for Padma Shri for 2022:

- **Abdul Khader Nadakattin**, a serial grassroots innovator from Dharwad, Karnataka, is amongst the 107 **Padma Shri awardees** announced for the year 2022 in the Others (Grassroots Innovation) category.
- Supported by **National Innovation Foundation (NIF) – India**, an autonomous body of the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India **Shri Abdul Khader Nadakattin** was conferred with a **Lifetime Achievement Award** in 2015 during **NIF's 8th National Grassroots Innovation and Outstanding Traditional Knowledge Awards** by the then Hon'ble President of India **Shri Pranab Mukherjee**.

Ministry of Civil Aviation notifies drone certification scheme:

- **The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** has notified a drone certification scheme to ensure minimum safety and quality requirements so as to **boost indigenous manufacturing**.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to present Union Budget 2022-23 on 1st Feb in paperless form:

- **Union Budget 2022-23** will be presented by **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** on 1st of next month in **paperless form**.
- The mobile App allows complete access to **14 Union Budget documents**, including the Budget Speech, Annual Financial Statement is commonly known as Budget, and Demand for Grants.

Air India officially handed over to Tata Sons as disinvestment process completes:

- **Air India** has been officially handed over to the **Tata Sons Limited**.
- The transaction cover three entities, **Air India, Air India Express and AI SATS**.

BEL signs \$73 million contract with US-based Hyperion Global:

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- **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** and **Hyperion Global Group, LLC**, a United States based infrastructure telecommunication distribution company, have entered into a contract to develop, **manufacture and supply Internet of Things (IoT) devices** for the US market.
- BEL will manufacture and supply IoT devices worth **\$73 million** to **Hyperion** during the first year of commencement of supply with a provision to negotiate and supply upgrades of the products, **worth \$365 million, in the next five years.**

Google to invest up to \$1 billion in a partnership with Airtel:

- **Google** to invest up to **\$1 billion** in a partnership with **Airtel** as part of its Google for India Digitization Fund
- Deal includes investment of **\$700M** to acquire **1.28%* ownership** in **Airtel** and up to **\$300M** toward potential multi-year commercial agreements
- The partnership will **focus on enabling affordable access to smartphones across price ranges**, and will continue to explore building on their existing partnerships to potentially co-create **India-specific network domain use cases for 5G** and other standards, and help accelerate the cloud ecosystem for businesses across India

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India-UK FTA may include chapter on gender equality in trade:

- Issues around **gender equality in trade** and **women's economic empowerment** are likely to feature for the **first time in a bilateral trade agreement** being negotiated by India.
- The UK is insisting on a chapter on gender issues in the proposed **India-UK free trade pact** and New Delhi is willing to **participate as long as it does not lead to greater market access commitments.**
- "While India is open to exploring ways to ensure women too can take advantage of free trade pacts being negotiated, it will not allow gender to be used as a tool to gain back door market access or restrict trade.

PM and new German Chancellor express hope of cooperation initiatives in areas of Climate Action and Green Energy:

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Federal Chancellor of Germany **Olaf Scholz** have agreed on further diversifying **cooperation and exchanges in new areas including Climate Action and Green Energy.**
- Prime Minister Modi held a telephonic conversation with Mr Scholz and congratulated him on his appointment as the **German Chancellor.**
- Modi expressed his appreciation for the immense contribution of former Chancellor Angela Merkel in strengthening the **India-Germany Strategic Partnership** and looked forward to continuing this positive momentum under the leadership of Mr Scholz.

Bilateral trade between India, China crosses 125 billion USD in 2021:

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- Bilateral trade between India and China crossed 125 billion USD in 2021.
- Despite a protracted border standoff, **Two-way trade between India and China in 2021 stood at 125.66 billion USD**, up 43.3% from 2020 when bilateral trade was worth 87.6 billion USD.

Narayan Rane virtually inaugurates MSME Pavilion in World Expo, 2020 Dubai:

- Union Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister, **Narayan Rane** has virtually inaugurated **MSME Pavilion in World Expo, 2020 Dubai**.
- The **World Expo 2020**, held under the **Bureau International des Expositions** aims at bringing together millions of people for the world's exceptional show, celebrating human brilliance and achievement with the theme **"Connecting Minds, Creating Future"**.

Abu Dhabi Airport Drone Attack:

- Three persons including two Indian nationals were killed in an explosion at **Mussafah in United Arab Emirates (UAE)** near **Abu Dhabi National Oil Company ADNOC's** storage tanks.
- The fuel tank explosion was triggered by a drone attack carried out by **Yemen's Huthi rebels**.

India & Denmark agree to work together on green fuels including green hydrogen

- **India & Denmark** agreed to initiate joint research and development on **green fuels including green hydrogen**, during the **Joint S&T Committee meeting** on 14th January 2022.
- The committee emphasised on **development of bilateral collaboration** on mission-driven research, innovation, and technology development, including climate and green transition, energy, water, waste, food, and so on as agreed by the two Prime Ministers while adopting the **Green Strategic Partnership – Action Plan 2020-2025**.

Joint inauguration and launch of projects by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Mauritius

Pravind Kumar Jugnauth:

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth** will jointly inaugurate the **India-assisted Social Housing Units project in Mauritius** virtually on 20 January, 2022.
- The two dignitaries will also launch the **Civil Service College and 8MW Solar PV Farm projects in Mauritius** that are being undertaken under India's development support.

HAL Signs Contract for Export of ALH to Mauritius:

- In-line with **Government's vision to boost defence exports** to friendly foreign countries, **HAL** signed a contract with **Govt. of Mauritius (GoM)** for export of one **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH Mk III)** for **Mauritius Police Force**.

India, Sri Lanka extend existing Science & Technology cooperation for three more years

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- **India and Sri Lanka** have extended the existing **Science and Technology cooperation** for three more years, with focus on new areas like **waste-water technologies, sustainable agriculture, aerospace engineering, robotics and artificial intelligence**.
- The decision was taken during the **5th Joint Committee meeting** on Science and Technology Cooperation between India and Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh to make Unique Business ID mandatory for e-commerce entities:

- The Bangladesh government will make the **Unique Business ID (UBID)** mandatory for all e-commerce entities in the country.

Indonesia replaces sinking Jakarta with new capital city Nusantara:

- **Nusantara** has been chosen keeping in mind the future of Indonesia, The initial relocation will start from between **2022 and 2024**.
- In the next decade, the government centre will be relocated and by 2045, the vision of **'World City for All'**
- The Indonesian Parliament has passed a law to relocate the country's capital from Jakarta to Nusantara.

India announces 2 lakh US dollar immediate relief assistance to Tonga in wake of tsunami:

- India has announced **two lakh US dollar** immediate relief assistance to **Tonga** in the wake of the tsunami.

Indian Embassy in Berlin opens exhibition on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to mark his 125th birth anniversary:

- The Indian Embassy in Berlin celebrated **Parakram Diwas** by opening a special exhibition titled **"Bose 125"** marking 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- **Ambassador of India to Germany Harish Parvathaneni** and Netaji's daughter, Professor **Anita Bose Pfaff** inaugurated the exhibition at the Embassy which includes rare, personal letters and memorabilia from Netaji.

India, Israel launches commemorative logo to mark 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties:

- **India and Israel** have launched a commemorative logo to mark the **30th anniversary** of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.
- The logo was unveiled virtually at an online event in the presence of **Ambassador of Israel to India Naor Gilon** and Indian envoy to Israel, **Sanjeev Singla**.
- The logo features the **Star of David** and the **Ashoka Chakra**- the two symbols that adorn the national flags of both countries- and forms the numeral 30 depicting the 30th anniversary of bilateral relations.

India, France sign MoU with scope for cooperation in health research:

- **India and France** have signed an MoU with a **scope for cooperation in health research**.
- In **The Science and Technology Ministry**, the MoU was signed between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR and Institut Pasteur, France.

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\$150-million India-UAE VC Fund set up to boost start-up ecosystem:

- A \$150-million India-UAE venture capital fund to fuel growth of start-ups in India and the UAE was launched from the India Pavilion at EXPO2020 Dubai.
- The VC Fund is a first-of-its-kind to be set up in the UAE to source, invest and nurture promising start-ups through an accelerator to fuel the growth of India-UAE start-ups.
- It will be funded by investors across UAE, India and wider GCC countries.

India, Philippines signs 375-million-dollar deal for the sale of BrahMos supersonic anti-ship cruise missiles:

- India and Philippines have signed a 375 million dollar deal for the sale of BrahMos supersonic anti-ship cruise missiles to the Philippines Navy.
- Defense Secretary of Philippines Delfin Lorenzana and Indian Envoy to Philippines Shambhu Kumaran signed the contract in Manila.

India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022 approved at 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) meeting:

- The 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) meeting with India held on a virtual platform. H.E. Shri Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State for Communications (MoSC) and H.E. Admiral Tin Aung San, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Myanmar co-chaired the meeting.
- The ADGMIN is an annual meeting of Telecom Ministers of 10 ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam and dialogue partner countries - Australia, Canada, China, EU, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia, UK and US.

India-Israel agree to further enhance cooperation in the agricultural sector:

- Israeli Ambassador to India Shri Naor Gilon called on the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar at Krishi Bhawan on 27th January 2022.
- The Ambassador of Israel to India, Shri Tomar, completion of 30 years of diplomatic relations between India and Israel.

World's-largest canal lock unveiled in Netherlands:

- The world's largest canal lock was inaugurated by Dutch King Willen-Alexander on January 26, 2022 at IJmuiden The Netherlands.
- World's-largest canal lock IJmuiden is 500-meter (1,640-feet) long and 70-meter wide.
- \$338 million amount has been spent on the construction on this project.
- The IJmuiden lock was designed to allow large, modern cargo ships to reach the port of Amsterdam.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS: STATE NEWS

Drinking Water Supply schemes of Rs. 15,381.72 Crore approved for Madhya Pradesh under Jal Jeevan Mission:

- Drinking water supply schemes of Rs. 15,381.72 Crore were approved under Jal Jeevan Mission in the State of Madhya Pradesh in the State-level Scheme Sanctioning Committee (SLSSC) meeting.
- 22 multi-village schemes were sanctioned to provide tap water connection to more than 1.09 Crore rural population.
- These 22 schemes will benefit 9,240 villages in Rewa, Satna, Sehore, Sidhi, Alirajpur, Badwani, Jabalpur, Panna, Mandla, Sagar, Katni, Dhar, Sheopur, Umaria and Khargone districts.
- Since the State plans to provide tap water supply to all rural households by 2023, approval of these schemes is very important at this juncture.

Central Grant of Rs 831 Crore released to Odisha under Jal Jeevan Mission:

- With a focus to expedite the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Odisha, the Government of India has released Rs 830.85 Crore to Odisha.
- Odisha plans to become 'Har Ghar Jal' State in 2024. Out of 85.67 lakh rural households in the State, 35.37 lakh (41.28%) households have tap water supply in their homes.
- Water supply work is in full swing to make provision of tap water supply in villages. Provision has been made for ensuring 100% tap water connectivity to all rural households.
- Union Government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has accorded top priority to make provision of tap water connection in every rural household across the country under Jal Jeevan Mission.
- There is a massive increase in budgetary allocation to Rs. 3,323.42 Crore in 2021-22, from Rs. 812.15 Crore in the preceding year for Odisha.

First electric boat built for Kochi Water Metro Project handed over to KMRL:

- In Kerala, the first battery powered electric boat built for the Kochi Water Metro Project was handed over to the Kochi Metro Rail Limited at a function held at the Cochin Shipyard.
- The fully air-conditioned boat is among the 23 boats being built by the Cochin Shipyard for the 747-crore rupee Kochi Water Metro project.
- The boat has been christened Muziris after the prominent BC-era port, located about 25 kilometres away from Kochi city. The 50 seater boat can carry 100 passengers at a time.
- Kochi Water Metro system will have 78 ferries, linking 38 terminals spread over 76 route kilometres.

Jawaharlal Nehru Road renamed "Narendra Modi Marg"

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- Governor of Sikkim **Ganga Prasad Chaurasia**, inaugurated a road named **Narendra Modi marg**.
- The **older route** is called **Jawaharlal Nehru Road**, and was named after **Jawaharlal Nehru**.
- It is the **second road linking Tsomgo lake and Nathula border pass** with **Gangtok**.
- It is the **19.52 km long road** & It is a **double-lane road** at **51 Kyongasala Gram Panchayat Unit**.
- The road was **constructed** by the **Border Roads Organization (BRO)**, & has now reduced the distance between **Gangtok and Tsomgo lake** by **15 kms**.

Nitin Gadkari inaugurates and lays foundation stone for 821 km of National Highways worth Rs 26778 crore in

Uttar Pradesh:

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated and laid foundation stone for **821 km of National Highways worth Rs 26778 crore in Uttar Pradesh** in presence of Union Minister **Shri Rajnath Singh**, Chief Minister **Shri Yogi Adityanath**.
- **Shri Gadkari** inaugurated and laid foundation stones in **Kanpur** for **8 National Highway projects** worth **Rs. 14,199 Crore**, in **Lucknow** for **16 National Highway projects** worth **Rs. 7409 Crore** and in **Shringverpur Dham, Prayagraj** for **4 National Highway projects** worth **Rs. 5169 Crore**.

Prime Minister inaugurates newly integrated terminal building of the Maharaja Bir Bikram(MBB) Airport at

Agratala:

- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **New Integrated Terminal Building of Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport** and launched key initiatives like **Mukhyamantri Tripura Gram Samridhi Yojana** and **Project Mission 100 of Vidyajyoti Schools**.
- The airport of **Agartala**, which was spread over **10,000 square meters**, has now been built in an area of **30,000 square meters** which will showcase the cultural heritage of **Tripura**.
- **Maharaja Bir Bikram Airport** will now be able to cater **30 lakh passengers** every year instead of **13 lakh** in a year.
- Under the **Krishi Udan2.0 scheme of the Central Government**, **4500 kg** of agricultural products have been exported in the month of **November 2021**, which includes **pineapple and jackfruit** of **Tripura**.

Gujarat CM launches Student Start-ups and Innovation Policy 2.0:

- **Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel** has launched **Student Start-ups and Innovation Policy (SSIP) 2.0** which is aimed at financially supporting school students in innovation.
- He announced the policy, while inaugurating the two-day **International Conference on Academic Institutions at Gujarat Science City in Ahmedabad**.
- This policy has a provision of setting up active innovation and incubation centres across all universities in the state.

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- It intends to cover 50 lakh students across One thousand higher education institutes and 10 thousand schools of innovation and entrepreneurship.

9th women National Ice Hockey Championship-2022 inaugurated: HP

- In Himachal Pradesh, the 9th women National Ice Hockey Championship-2022 was inaugurated at Ice Skating Rink, Kaza in Lahaul Spiti district.
- Teams from Himachal Pradesh, Telengana, Ladakh, ITBP Ladakh, Chandigarh and Delhi are participating in this mega event.

Purple Revolution is J&K's contribution to Start-up India:

- The Prime Minister had announced that **16th January will be celebrated as National Start-Up Day.**
- The Minister briefed about the Aroma Mission launched by the Science and Technology Ministry through the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** which has led to the **"Purple Revolution"** in India.

Telangana to introduce English medium in all govt schools from next academic year:

- The **Telangana State** cabinet has decided to introduce English medium in all government schools across **the State** from the next academic year.
- Along with it, several key decisions have been taken in the cabinet meeting chaired by the **Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao.**
- The cabinet also decided to bring a new law to regulate the fees in private schools, junior and degree colleges.

Meghalaya govt to implement Bharat series registration of private vehicles:

- **Meghalaya Government** has decided to implement the **Bharat (BH) series registration of private vehicles.**
- The Cabinet has also approved the Early Childhood Development Mission which will be jointly implemented by the **Social Welfare, Health, Education** departments.

Gujarat govt launches helpline toll-free number 14567 for senior citizens:

- The Gujarat government has launched a helpline for **senior citizens.**
- **Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Pradip Parmar** has launched this helpline with a **toll-free number 14567.**

Meghalaya cabinet approves extension of upper age limit for recruitment in all State Government services:

- Meghalaya cabinet has approved the extension of the **upper age limit** for recruitment in all **State Government services** from **27 years to 32 years** and the same has been **extended to 37 years** for **Schedule tribes.**

Karnataka govt launches AVGC center of excellence in Bengaluru

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- Karnataka minister for Electronics, IT, BT and Higher Education C N Aswatha Nayarana launched the AVGC Center of Excellence in Bengaluru.
- Karnataka has become the first state in the country to set up a Center of Excellence with pioneering high technology digital media hub under its Innovate Karnataka initiative.

Gujarat: PM Modi to inaugurate newly built Circuit House building near Somnath Temple

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the newly built Circuit House building near Somnath Temple in Gujarat.

Centre providing full assistance to Himachal Pradesh to achieve goal of providing clean tap water supply to every rural home by 2024:

- Jal Shakti Ministry has providing full assistance to Himachal Pradesh to achieve the goal of providing clean tap water supply to every rural home by 2024.
- Jal Jeevan Mission is a decentralized, demand-driven, community-managed water supply scheme which aims to improve the lives of rural people.

'One District One Product' (ODOP) initiative of Centre churning big success stories in J & K, North East , Uttar Pradesh:

- One District One Product (ODOP) Initiative – a State Conference was held on 21st January, 2022 by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- The Conference was chaired by Sumita Dawra, Additional Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and was attended by Principal Secretaries and other key officers of the Industries Departments of all States.

BSF to launch boat ambulance service in Malkangiri, Odisha:

- Border Security Force (BSF) will start boat ambulance service from Swabhimani Anchal zone in Malkangiri district of Odisha on the occasion of Republic Day.
- BSF organized forty-six medical camps last year in Kanker and Narayanpur districts of Chhattisgarh and the interior areas of Malkangiri and Koraput districts of Odisha.

NHPC contributes Rs. 1 Crore to Chief Minister Relief Fund (CMRF), Himachal Pradesh:

- A.K. Singh, CMD, NHPC handed over payment intimation advice of Rupees One Crore to Jai Ram Thakur, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh as NHPC's contribution towards Chief Minister Relief Fund (CMRF) at Shimla (HP).

DARPG and Government of Jammu & Kashmir to collaborate in 3 major sectors of Next Generation

Administrative Reforms:

- The DARPG and Government of Jammu & Kashmir will collaborate on

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- (a) creation of an online portal for monitoring progress in 58 District Good Governance Index Indicators
- (b) adoption of e-HRMS in the Jammu Secretariat and Srinagar Secretariat and
- (c) monitor online the citizen satisfaction in 150 e-Services through Jammu & Kashmir e-Services Delivery Assessment framework.

A Special Delhi Metro Train to Commemorate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' Inaugurated:

- As part of the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav-celebrating 75 years of India's Independence' (AKAM), a specially decorated Metro train was inaugurated at Yamuna Bank Metro Station on the Blue Line.

South Maubuang Becomes Mizoram's First ODF Plus Village:

- The village of South Maubuang in Aibawk block of Aizawl district in Mizoram has been declared a model ODF Plus village, having fulfilled all the criteria as per SBM-G Phase II guidelines.

Gurgaon gets India's largest EV charging station:

- NHEV (National Highway for Electric Vehicle) has inaugurated India's largest electric vehicle (EV) charging station in Gurgaon, Haryana.

India's first graphene innovation centre to come up in Kerala:

- India's first innovation centre for graphene will be set up in Kerala by the Digital University Kerala (DUK), along with Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) in Thrissur, for Rs 86.41 crore.
- This will be the first graphene Research and Development (R&D) incubation centre in the country.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BANKING AND ECONOMY

Bank of Maharashtra launches WhatsApp Banking service:

- Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has launched WhatsApp banking service for its customers as well as non-customers.
- The Pune-headquartered public sector bank will offer services such as balance inquiry, mini statement, cheque status inquiry, cheque book request, locate branch/ ATM, opt-in, opt-out, contact us information on WhatsApp.
- The WhatsApp banking service is available on both Android and iOS based mobile phones.
- the WhatsApp banking service can be activated by a user by saving the Bank's WhatsApp number (7066036640) in their phone and sending a 'hi' message on this number.
- A message with Menu will appear as a response and a user can start performing Banking operations instantly using the menu.

LIC, GIC Re and New India systemically important insurers: IRDAI

- Insurance regulator Irdai announced that the state-owned LIC, GIC Re and New India continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2021-22.

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- D-SIIs refer to insurers of such size, market importance and domestic and global inter connectedness, whose distress or failure would cause significant dislocation in the domestic financial system.
- LIC, GIC Re and New India continue to be identified as **Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)**, as in the 2020-21 list of D-SIIs," Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai).
- Life Insurance Corporation of India; General Insurance Corporation of India; and New India Assurance Co. Ltd, are on the list of D-SIIs for the year 2021-22.

About IRDAI:

- Founded: 1999
- Headquarters: Hyderabad
- Chairperson: Subhash Chandra Khuntia

About LIC:

- Chairperson: M R Kumar
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1 September 1956

IDFC, holding firm to merge with IDFC FIRST Bank:

- **IDFC FIRST Bank** its board of directors, in-principle, favours the merger with itself of **IDFC Ltd and IDFC Financial Holding Company Ltd (Promoter Group)**.
- This merger is subject to the approval of the board of directors, shareholders, creditors, of the respective entities as also statutory and regulatory nod, IDFC First Bank .
- The bank's board has constituted and authorised a '**Capital Raise and Corporate Restructuring Committee**' to work on the terms of the proposed merger including finalising the scheme, valuation, and hiring advisors.
- The boards of IDFC and IDFC FHCL, at their respective meetings, considered and noted the letter received from **IDFC FIRST Bank** regarding the merger and decided to give "in principle" approval for the proposed merger.

SBI to acquire 9.95% stake in GIFT-IFSC-based Clearing Corp:

- **State Bank of India** announced that it will **acquire up to 9.95 per cent stake in India International Clearing Corporation (IFSC) Ltd** subject to maximum investment of **₹34.03 crore**.
- The Clearing Corporation is a **GIFT City (Gandhinagar, Gujarat)** based Market Infrastructure Institution (MII).
- The Corporation is the first international clearing corporation to be set up at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

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- India's largest bank said the requisite approvals required for the acquisition have been received from the **Reserve Bank of India (in July 2021) and IFSC Authority (in July 2021)**.
- Per the filing, initial subscription is estimated to be completed by March 31, 2022.
- Thereafter, the Clearing Corporation may call up the residual commitment from SBI in accordance with the transaction documents and applicable law.

Fino Payments Bank gets RBI nod to start international remittance business:

- **Fino Payments Bank** has received the **Reserve Bank of India's** approval for commencing international remittance business under the **Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS)**.
- The Bank will be undertaking inward cross-border money transfer activities in association with an overseas principal, the details of which are being worked out.
- It also has plans to commence outward remittance services soon.

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund launches Auto ETF:

- **NFO will be open for five days** from January 5-10. The offering aims to provide returns that closely correspond to the total return of the **benchmark Nifty Auto index**.
- However, this is one industry which boasts of much higher return on capital employed (RoCE) and cash generation compared with other sectors, attributable to good margins and higher asset turnover.

RBI unveils framework to enable small value digital payments in offline mode:

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued a framework to enable **small value digital payments in offline mode** using any channel or instrument such as cards, wallets and mobile devices.
- An offline digital payment means a transaction which does not require internet or telecom connectivity.
- Under this new framework, **which is applicable with immediate effect**, offline payments can be made in face-to-face (proximity) mode only.

NPCI Bharat BillPay introduces Unified Presentment Management System for recurring bill payments:

- **NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL)**, the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India, has introduced '**Unified Presentment Management System**' (UPMS) for recurring bill payments.
- UPMS will enable the customers to set up standing instructions from any channel and for any mode on their recurring bill payments.
- The bills will be automatically fetched from the billers and presented to customers for their action, in terms of **auto-debit and bill payment management**.

ICICI Bank facilitates payment of customs duty online:

- Private sector lender **ICICI Bank** has announced the launch of a facility for payment of customs duty online.

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- The facility is available for both retail and corporate customers.
- Corporate customers can pay customs duty through the bank's **Corporate Internet Banking (CIB)** and **mobile banking app InstaBIZ**, while retail customers can do so through the bank's retail internet banking platform

SBI, ICICI, HDFC Bank remain as Domestic Systemically Important Banks: RBI:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that the State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank continue to be identified as **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)**, under the same bucketing structure as in the 2020 list of D-SIBs.
- RBI places D-SIBs in appropriate buckets depending upon their **Systemic Importance Scores (SISs)**.
- The central bank's current update on D-SIBs is based on the data collected from banks as on March 31, 2021. **Based on the bucket in which a D-SIB is placed.**
- Under RBI's 'Framework for dealing with D-SIBs', SBI is placed in the third bucket, whereby it is required to maintain Additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) at **0.60 per cent of its Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs)**.
- ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank are placed in the first bucket, whereby they are required to maintain Additional CET1 at 0.20 per cent of their RWAs.

SBI enhances IMPS transaction limit to ₹5 lakh:

- State Bank of India (SBI) has enhanced the limit on **Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)** transactions from **₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh** with nil charges on transactions via digital channels – **internet banking/mobile banking, including YONO.**
- The enhancement in the IMPS limit comes in the wake of the Reserve Bank of India's announcement on October 8, 2021, that the per transaction limit for IMPS transactions would be **increased from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh for channels other than SMS and IVRS.**
- While there are no charges for IMPS transactions up to ₹1,000 at branches, the bank is currently charging ₹2 plus GST for transactions above ₹1,000 and up to ₹10,000, ₹4 plus GST for transactions above ₹10,000 and up to ₹1 lakh, and ₹12 plus GST or transactions above ₹1 lakh and up to ₹2 lakh.
- **With effect from February 1, 2022**, SBI will introduce a new slab – ₹2 lakh and up to ₹5 lakh – for IMPS transactions at branches and it will charge ₹20 plus GST.
- The bank said the service charges on IMPS are in line with the service charges on NEFT/RTGS transactions.

SBI invests \$20 m in payments solution provider Pine Labs:

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- **State Bank of India**, the country's largest commercial bank, has taken its next major step in its ongoing **digital transformation journey** with an investment of **\$20 million in Pine Labs**, an IPO-bound start-up focused on payments and is emerging as a leading merchant commerce platform.
- This investment is in sync with the government's recent push to PSBs to partner and align with new age fintechs as part of the development of digital ecosystem in the country.

Airtel Payments Bank receives scheduled bank status from RBI:

- **Airtel Payments Bank** has been categorised as **scheduled bank** by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), paving the way for it to pitch for government business.
- With this, Airtel Payments bank can now pitch for government-issued **Requests for Proposals (RFP)** and primary auctions and undertake both **Central and State Government** business besides participating in government-operated welfare schemes.
- Airtel Payments Bank has a base of **115 million** users.
- The bank turned profitable in the quarter ended September'21.
- It offers a diverse suite of digital solutions through the **Airtel Thanks app** and a retail network of over 500,000 neighbourhood banking points.

RBI cancels CoA of Muthoot Vehicle, Asset Finance, and Eko India Financial Services

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the **authorisation certificates of Muthoot Vehicle and Asset Finance Ltd and Eko India Financial Services Private Ltd** for non-compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Both the Payment System Operators (PSOs) had authorisation for the issuance and operation of **prepaid payment instruments**.

KVG Bank joins hands with Mecwin Tech to finance solar pump-sets for farmers:

- **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)**, the Dharwad-headquartered regional rural bank, and the Bengaluru-based Mecwin Technologies Ltd, which is involved in the manufacture and supply of **solar-powered pump-sets for farmers**, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to introduce farmer-friendly solar-powered pump-sets using bank finance.

India's Gross Domestic Product estimates to rise 9.2 per cent in current fiscal:

- **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** is estimated to **rise 9.2 per cent** in the current fiscal as compared to a contraction of 7.3 per cent in the financial year 2020-21.

NHB's ₹150 cr refinance exposure to PMC Bank may get preferential treatment:

- **National Housing Bank's ₹150 crore refinance exposure** to the scam-hit Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank may get preferential **treatment vis-a-vis other institutional creditors** having uninsured deposits with the bank.

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- The ₹150 crore refinance that NHB has given to PMC Bank against its individual home loans will get transferred to Unity Small Finance Bank

LazyPay forays into card segment partnering with SBM Bank India:

- Lazypay, a Buy Now Pay Later solution by PayU Finance, has partnered with SBM Bank India to launch LazyCard, a payment instrument backed by a credit line, thus foraying into the card segment.

RBI extends validity of its Directions for Sri Guru Raghavendra Bank till May 10, 2022:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the validity of its Directions for Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, Bengaluru, till May 10, 2022, subject to review.

Axis Bank ties up with MinkasuPay for smoother biometric-based net banking payments:

- Axis Bank has entered into a partnership with MinkasuPay to offer biometric authentication solution for its customers, whereby the transaction time to execute net banking payment will be reduced from about 50-60 seconds currently, to just 2-3 seconds.

HDFC Bank adjudged Best Private Bank in India at the Global Private Banking Awards 2021:

- HDFC Bank has been adjudged Best Private Bank in India at the Global Private Banking Awards 2021, organized by Professional Wealth Management (PWM).

RBI authorises South Indian Bank to collect direct, indirect taxes:

- The Reserve Bank of India has authorised South Indian Bank to collect direct and indirect taxes on behalf of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC).

Paytm Payments Bank becomes most preferred UPI beneficiary bank:

- Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL), an associate entity of Paytm, has become the first beneficiary bank in the country to achieve the landmark of over 926 million UPI transactions in a single month.

ICICI Prudential AMC joins hands with US-based First Trust Advisors:

- ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company has entered into a collaboration with the US-based First Trust Advisors, which is into actively-managed exchange-traded funds, to launch a slew of global fund of funds.

Punjab & Sind Bank cuts MCLR by 5-10 bps:

- Punjab & Sind Bank, a public sector bank, has slashed the Marginal Cost Based Lending Rate (MCLR) by 5 to 10 basis points (bps) across the short-term loans which will be effective from January 16, 2022.

IPO-bound Snapdeal ties up with BOB Financial to launch Rupay Credit Card:

- IPO-bound Snapdeal, a value commerce platform, has joined hands with BOB Financial and NPCI to launch a co-branded contactless RuPay credit card.
- This co-branded credit card, which will be offered on the Rupay platform, aims to popularise the adoption

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and usage of credit cards among the growing number of online buyers from India's smaller cities and towns.

MobiKwik launches 'ClickPay' in collaboration with NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd:

- **MobiKwik has launched 'ClickPay'** in collaboration with **NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL)** whereby its customers can pay recurring online bills such as mobile, gas, water, electricity, DTH, insurance, and loan EMIs with ease by eliminating the need to remember individual bill details and due dates.
- **MobiKwik is one of the largest Mobile Wallet and Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) Fintech companies in India.**

Cholamandalam launches three new business verticals for consumer & SME loans:

- **Murugappa Group's Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company** has created three new business divisions to drive the next wave of growth – **Consumer & Small Enterprise Loan (CSEL), Secured Business & Personal Loan (SBPL)** and **SME Loan (SME)**.

Federal Bank, Equirus Wealth launch exclusive USD Fixed Maturity Fund:

- **Federal Bank**, in association with **Equirus Wealth**, has launched a "US Dollar offshore fund" exclusively for their customers.
- This is in collaboration with **SCUBE Capital**, a **Singapore-based global fund management company**.

Ind-Ra estimates GDP growth at 7.6 per cent:

- **India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra)** expects **Gross Domestic Products (GDP)** to grow by **7.6 per cent** in the fiscal year **2022-23 (FY23)**

SEBI launches Saaṛthi mobile app on investor education:

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has launched **Saaṛthi**, a mobile app on investor education.
- The new app aims to empower investors with **accurate knowledge about the securities market**.
- The app will be popular among young investors in the times to come and it **will be helpful in easily accessing all the relevant information** like the basic concepts of Securities Market, KYC Process, trading and settlement, mutual funds, recent market developments, investor grievances redressal mechanism, etc.

India Post Payments Bank's customer base crosses 5 crore mark:

- **India Post Payments Bank, IPPB**, has crossed the **five-crore customer mark** in just **3 years** of commencement of its operations to become one of the fastest growing digital payments bank in the country.

ICRA revises AUM growth outlook for FY22 for retail NBFCs to 5-7 per cent

- **ICRA** has revised the **assets under management (AUM)** growth outlook of retail non-banking finance companies for the **current fiscal to 5-7 per cent from 8-10 per cent** in view of the muted **first-half performance**.

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RBI: Digital payments up 39.6% in Sept 2021:

- The RBI's Digital Payment Index, which shows the deepening of payments through digital modes in India, rose by 39.64 per cent to 304.06 in September 2021 against 217.74 in the year-ago month.

Fullerton India and Paytm tie up to provide lending products:

- Fullerton India and One97 Communications, which owns Paytm, have partnered to provide lending products to merchant partners and consumers.
- With the partnership, the two will leverage data-driven insights and wide reach to bring credit to new-to-credit users.
- The programme will offer Paytm Postpaid or buy-now-pay-later to consumers on the Paytm platform while utilising Fullerton's risk assessment capabilities and scale

HDFC Cap announces initial close of \$1.88 b of affordable housing fund:

- HDFC Capital has achieved the initial closure of its third fund focussed on affordable housing, the HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Fund – 3 (H-CARE-3).
- H-CARE 3 will also invest in technology companies such as construction technology, fintech and cleantech that are engaged in the affordable housing ecosystem.

West Bengal Gets \$125 Million to Help Citizens Access Social Protection Services:

- The World Bank's Executive Board of Director has approved a \$125 million loan to the Government of West Bengal to support the state's efforts to help poor and vulnerable groups access social protection services.

Indipaisa, Hitachi Payments tie-up to develop new fintech platform for MSMEs:

- Hitachi Payment Services and Indipaisa have tied up to develop a new Fintech platform for India's MSMEs.
- In partnership with Hitachi Payment Services, Indipaisa will offer a range of payment solutions to match the specific needs of Indian MSME owners and operators, to help them grow their businesses, comply with government tax laws, and build a better future for themselves and their families

Government notifies PMC Bank's merger with USFB:

- All the branches of the scam-hit Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank will function as branches of Unity Small Finance Bank (USFB) with effect from January 25, 2022, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

IMF cuts India's GDP growth estimate to 9 per cent in FY22:

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- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) lowered India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth rate by 50 basis points to 9 per cent in Fiscal Year 2021-22 (FY22).
- In October, it has maintained the estimated rate of 9.5 per cent during the current fiscal.

Karnataka Bank introduces mobile banking facility for NRIs:

- Karnataka Bank Ltd has launched a mobile banking facility for its NRI customers through the existing mobile banking application - 'KBL MobilePlus'.

IMGC and Muthoot Homefin enter into tie-up for offering mortgage guarantee-backed home loans:

- India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC) has announced its partnership with Muthoot Homefin (India) Limited (MHIL) to offer mortgage guarantee-backed home loan products to MHIL's home loan customers in the affordable housing segment.

Remove MAT for troubled firms under resolution:

- A company admitted by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for resolution should be exempt from Minimum Alternate Tax until it sees a turnaround.

ToneTag and Elocity partner to bring sound-based payment technology for EV sector:

- ToneTag and EV charging solution firm Elocity have partnered to bring sound-based technology to solve payment processing challenges for the electric vehicle sector.

Crypto industry's revised self-regulation norms to include NFT, tighten customer protection rules:

- The cryptocurrency industry in India, which has been working on revising self-regulation rules, will include non-fungible token (NFT) start-ups under the purview.
- The ongoing work on code of conduct guidelines is also expected to expand on bringing uniform consumer protection safeguards, taxation and advertising rules

TerraPay partners with NPCI International to boost cashless transactions for Indian customers:

- TerraPay, a leading global payments infrastructure company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the International arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Ensure advisory board's recommendations are taken in fraud cases of over Rs 3 crore: CVC

- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has asked all public sector banks and insurance companies to ensure that they seek recommendations from its advisory board regarding all cases of fraud involving Rs 3 crore and more.

AIDWA demands withdrawal of 'anti-women' SBI guidelines:

- The All-India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) has demanded the withdrawal of the "anti-women" SBI guidelines.

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India pays \$29.9 million in UN regular budget assessments for 2022:

- India has paid **USD 29.9 million in UN regular budget assessments** for the year 2022.
- India joins the 2022 Honour Roll of **24 Member States** out of **193** that have paid their **@UN Regular Budget Assessments in full**, India's Permanent Mission to the UN.

SBI withdraws controversial circular on recruitment of pregnant women candidates:

- **State Bank of India**, the country's **largest commercial bank**, withdrew the controversial circular that **barred women candidates** who are **over three months pregnant from taking up jobs in the bank**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BUSINESS NEWS

Interest rates on Small Savings Schemes kept unchanged for fourth quarter of FY22:

- The interest rates on various **Small Savings Schemes** have been kept unchanged for the fourth quarter of this financial year.
- The rates of interest on Small Savings Schemes **from 1st January to 31st March, 2022, will remain unchanged**.

Compound annual growth rate of digital transaction gone up by 50%:

- Government has stated that the compound annual **growth rate of digital transaction has gone up by fifty per cent**.
- Electronics and Information Technology Ministry, the number of digital transactions has increased from one thousand 85 crore rupees in **2016-17 to five thousand 554 crore in 2020-21**.
- Recognizing the importance of a cashless economy, the government announced setting up of Digi Dhan Mission with a target of **two thousand 500 crore digital payment transactions** during the Financial Year 2017-18 **through Unified Payment Interface**, Unstructured Supplementary Service Data, Aadhaar Pay, Immediate Payment Service and Debit cards.
- As a result of coordinated efforts of all stakeholders, **the number of digital transactions has increased manifolds as of now**.
- In the last financial year, the mission was given a target of five thousand 500 crore digital payment transactions, which it has surpassed achieving five thousand 554 crore transactions.

Govt approves 19th tranche of electoral bonds

- Ahead of assembly elections in **five states**, the government **approved the issuance of the 19th tranche of electoral bonds**, which will be open for sale from **January 1 to 10, 2022**.

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- **State Bank of India (SBI)**, in the XIX Phase of sale, has been authorised to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its **29 Authorized Branches**.
- The 29 specified SBI branches are in cities, such as Lucknow, Shimla, Dehradun, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Patna, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Srinagar, Gandhinagar, Bhopal, Raipur, and Mumbai.

About Electoral bonds :

- Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding.
- The bonds do not have a maximum limit and are issued in the multiples of **Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh and 1 crore**.
- It can be purchased by a person who is a citizen of India or entities incorporated or established in India.
- Only the political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) and which secured not less than 1 percent of the votes polled in the last general elections to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the state, shall be eligible to receive the electoral bonds.
- An electoral bond will be **valid for 15 days** from the date of issue.
- The bond deposited by any eligible political party into its account would be credited on the same day.
- The bonds were first issued in **2018**.
- The sale of the **first batch** of electoral bonds took place from **March 1-10, 2018**.

The **18th tranche** of the bond sale took place from **September 1 to September 10, 2021**

Microsoft to buy gaming giant Activision Blizzard for \$69 bn:

- **Microsoft** has announced a **landmark \$69 billion deal** to buy **US gaming giant Activision Blizzard**, betting big on the prospects of the video game market by scooping up the scandal-hit **"Call of Duty" maker**.

Spices Board launches first online portal for exports

- **Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som Parkash** launched **Spice Xchange India'**, **spicexchangeindia.com** the country's **first virtual platform for spice exports** at a hybrid event held in **Kochi, Kerala**.
- The **spicexchangeindia.com** is a **3D virtual platform** aimed at connecting India's spice exporters with buyers from around the world beyond the constraints of time, space, and language.
- The portal uses **AI-based technology** to connect relevant spice buyers with Indian spice exporters.

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Swiggy turns decacorn with \$10.7-billion valuation

- Food delivery platform **Swiggy** has signed a **\$700 million (nearly Rs 5,225 crore)** funding round led by asset manager **Invesco**.
- With this, the total valuation of Swiggy has reached **\$10.7 billion**, almost doubling it from the \$5.5 billion valuation during the \$1.25 billion fund raise in July 2021.

Additional Info :

- **Unicorn**: The term is for startups that have a valuation of over 1 billion dollars.
- **Decacorn**: It is for startups that exceed the valuation of \$10 billion are called decacorns.
- **Hectocorn**: The entities with over \$100 billion valuation are hectocorns.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Sanjay Kumar Singh Assumes Charge as Secretary Steel:

- **Sanjay Kumar Singh** has assumed charge as the Secretary, **Ministry of Steel in New Delhi**.
- He is a **1987 batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh** cadre.
- Shri Singh succeeds Shri P.K. Tripathi, Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- **Shri Tripathi was holding the additional charge of Secretary Steel.**
- Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh was appointed as Steel Secretary as part of a major top-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre
- Before assuming the present post, Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh was holding the post of Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Department of Pensions & Pensioners Welfare (DoPPW).

IBBI cancels registration of insolvency professional:

- **Insolvency regulator IBBI has cancelled registration of Vimal Kumar Grover** as an insolvency professional (IP) for violation of various provisions of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**.
- It has also debarred him from seeking fresh registration as an IP or providing any service under the IBC for a period of one year from December 29.

Vikram Misri appointed deputy National Security Advisor

- **Vikram Misri** has been appointed as the **Deputy National Security Advisor** in the **National Security Council Secretariat** from **1 January 2022**, succeeding **Pankaj Saran**.
- The appointment of Misri came after he served as the **Indian ambassador to China** from **January 2019 to December 2021**.
- At present, **Rajinder Khanna, Pankaj Saran and Dattatray Padsalgikar** are serving as deputy NSAs.

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Indian Forest Service Officer CP Goyal appointed Director-General of Forests & Special Secretary

- Indian Forest Service officer Chandra Prakash Goyal has been appointed as the Director-General of Forests & Special Secretary (DGF&SS), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.
- The Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet approved the appointment of the IFoS officer.
- He had returned to UP after being on central deputation as Joint Secretary in the Indian Department of Biotechnology .

J&K Bank appoints Baldev Prakash as MD, CEO

- Jammu & Kashmir Bank's board of directors has appointed Baldev Prakash as the MD & CEO for three years.
- His appointment was slated from the date of taking charge or April 10, 2022.
- Previously, R.K Chhibber was the Chairman and Managing Director of J&K Bank, who assumed charge of the bank in June 2019.

Anupam Ray appointed to be India's new permanent representative at UN Conference on Disarmament

- The Ministry of External affairs announced that Senior diplomat Anupam Ray has been appointed as India's next permanent representative to the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Ray will succeed Pankaj Sharma.

Durga Shankar Mishra becomes U.P. chief secretary

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Housing and urban affairs secretary Durga Shankar Mishra, who took over as the new Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh.
- He replaces Rajendra Kumar Tiwari, a 1985 batch IAS officer who is due to retire in February 2023.
- Meanwhile Senior bureaucrat Manoj Joshi took charge as the new secretary of the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.

Vinay Kumar Tripathi appointed as new chairman, CEO of Railway Board:

- Vinay Kumar Tripathi has been appointed as new Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Railway Board.
- The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Mr Tripathi who is presently working as General Manager, North Eastern Railway to the post of Chairman of Railway Board.
- Mr Tripathi belongs to 1983 Batch of Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers.

ITBP DG Sanjay Arora Gets Additional Charge Of Sashastra Seema Bal Chief

- According to the order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) chief Sanjay Arora was given additional charge of the post of Director General Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

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- He has replaced **Kumar Rajesh Chandra**, a 1985-batch IPS officer of the Bihar cadre, who had taken over as the SSB DG in January, 2019 and superannuated on December 31, 2021.
- Arora will serve as SSB DG till the appointment and joining of the regular incumbent or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Director General VS Pathania takes over as DG of Indian Coast Guard

- **VS Pathania** took charge as the **Director-General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**.
- He replaced **Director General Krishnaswamy Natarajan**, who served as the Chief of the ICG from July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021.
- V S Pathania is the **24th** and the **current Director General of the Indian Coast Guard** & he is the **first helicopter pilot** to hold this position.

Govt re-appoints Vijay Paul Sharma as CACP Chairman:

- **The Centre has again appointed Vijay Paul Sharma** as the chairman of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) after he relinquished the post in May last year following completion of **the five-year tenure**.
- The role of **CACP chairman** will be crucial in the proposed committee on the minimum support price (MSP) and other reforms.
- **Sharma, a professor** at the Centre for Management in Agriculture in Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad was first appointed as **CACP Chairman in June 2016**.

Amir Subhani becomes new Chief Secretary of Bihar

- According to a government notification, **Amir Subhani**, was appointed the **new chief secretary of Bihar**.
- According to a notification issued by the **General Administration Department**, Subhani will take charge on **January 1**.
- He will replace **Tripurari Sharan**, who will retire on December 31.

Sudan's PM announces resignation amid political deadlock

- **Sudan's Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok** announced his **resignation** amid a political deadlock and widespread pro-democracy protests following a military coup that derailed the country's fragile transition to democratic rule.
- He signed a political agreement with the military in November, roundtable discussion is needed to reach a new deal.
- Hamdok's resignation came after Sudanese security forces violently dispersed the pro-democracy protesters against the October 25 military coup

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Vinod Kannan takes over as CEO at Vistara

- Vinod Kannan took over as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of Vistara airline.
- He replaced **Leslie Thng** who was the CEO from July 16, 2017 to December 31, 2021.
- **Deepak Rajawat** has been elevated to take up the role of **Vistara's Chief Commercial Officer**.
- He was the Divisional Vice President and Head of Corporate Planning with the airline until December 31, 2021.
- He holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the National University of Singapore and University of California, Los Angeles.

ONGC appoints Alka Mittal as its first woman Chairman and Managing Director

- On January 4, 2022, Government-owned **ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation)** appointed **Alka Mittal** as its **first woman Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)**.
- She replaces **Subhash Kumar** who retired on December 31.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for entrustment of additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), ONGC to Alka Mittal, Director (HR), ONGC for a period of six months with effect from January 1, 2022.

G Asok Kumar appointed as the DG, NMCG

- **G Asok Kumar, Additional Secretary**, took charge as the **Director General of National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- He replaced **Rajiv Ranjan Mishra**, a 1987-batch IAS officer, who superannuated on 31-Dec.

About G Asok Kumar :

- G Asok Kumar is a **1991-batch IAS officer** belonging to the **Telangana Cadre**.
- He is an **Additional Secretary and Mission Director, National Water Mission (NWM)** & he was leading the successful **Jal Shakti Abhiyan : CatchTheRain** campaign launched by PM Modi on 22 March 2021 to conserve rainwater.
- He had also served **NMCG as Executive Director (Projects)** in the 2019-20 period.
- Earlier he had served at the Centre as **Joint Secretary** in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- He has initiated/completed many infrastructure projects like the **Outer Ring Road, Krishna Phase-2 Drinking Water Pipeline, Godavari Drinking Water Pipeline Project**, etc. in Hyderabad.

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RBI appoints Ajay Kumar Choudhary and Deepak Kumar as new Executive Directors

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Deepak Kumar and Ajay Kumar Choudhary as new executive directors (ED) with effect from 03 January 2022.

About RBI :

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata
- Repo Rate : 4.00%
- Reverse Repo Rate : 3.35%
- Bank Rate : 4.25%
- Cash reserve ratio (CRR) : 4.0%
- Statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) : 18.00%

Former US diplomat Atul Keshap appointed head of US-India Business Council

- On 5 January, 2022, Former US envoy to India, Atul Keshap was appointed as President of the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC), announced the US Chamber of Commerce.
- Atul Keshap replaces Nisha Desai Biswal.
- Prior to this, Keshap served in Delhi as United States Chargé d’Affaires to India, leading the US Embassy team.

About USIBC :

- Founded : 1975
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C., United States
- President : Atul Keshap
- It is a business advocacy organization to enlighten and encourage the private sectors of both India and the United States to enhance investment flows.
- It represents top global companies operating across the United States, India, and the Indo-Pacific.

Bank of Baroda appoints cricketer Shafali Verma as brand endorser

- State-owned Bank of Baroda has signed cricketer Shafali Verma as its brand endorser.

About Shafali Verma :

- Shafali Verma born on 28 January 2004 in Rohtak, Haryana, India.
- She is an Indian cricketer who plays for the India women's national cricket team.
- In 2019, at the age of 15, she became the youngest cricketer to play in a Women's Twenty20 International match for India.

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- In June 2021, she became the youngest player, male or female, to represent India in all three formats of international cricket.

About BoB :

- Founded: 20 July 1908
- Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat
- Chairman : Hasmukh Adhia
- MD & CEO : Sanjiv Chadha
- Founder : Sayajirao Gaekwad III
- It is the fourth largest nationalized bank in India.
- In 2021, the Bank launched its latest offering 'bob World Wave' – a wearable line of products for payments with a complete health ecosystem, under the bob World umbrella.
- The product offers a seamless digital payment option on-the-go which gives a convenience to shop and transact with ease.
- The Bank has a digital first policy to attract the youth and provide them a seamless banking experience at their fingertips.

Center Re-Appoints Vijay Paul Sharma as Chairman of CACP

- The Center has reappointed **Vijay Paul Sharma** as chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) after he resigned in May 2021 at the end of his five-year term (2016-2021).

Pankaj Sharma appointed as India's next ambassador to Mexico

- **Pankaj Sharma**, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Mexico.
- Pankaj Sharma, an Indian Foreign Service officer of the 1991 batch.
- He is presently Permanent Representative of India to the UN Conference on Disarmament, Geneva.

RBI approves re-designation of Rajiv Anand as Axis Bank Deputy MD

- The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-designation of **Rajiv Anand** as the Deputy Managing Director of Axis Bank till August 3, 2022.
- In October 2021, the board of directors of the bank approved to re-designate Rajiv Anand as the Deputy Managing Director of the bank, subject to approval of the Reserve Bank of India.

ECI withdraws appointment of Sonu Sood as state icon for Punjab:

- Election Commission of India (ECI) has **withdrawn** the appointment of Actor **Sonu Sood** as a state icon for Punjab.
- Punjab Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) **Dr S Karuna Raju** confirmed that ECI has withdrawn the appointment of Actor **Sonu Sood** as a state icon of Punjab on January 4, 2022.

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India's TS Tirumurti assumes new chair of UN Counter-Terrorism Committee

- TS Tirumurti, India's permanent representative to the United Nations was named the new Chair of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) for 2022.

LLC appoints cricketer Jhulan Goswami as ambassador

- Legends League Cricket (LLC) has appointed cricketer Jhulan Goswami as an ambassador to the All Women Match Official Team.

Maria Elisa Quinteros elected new President of Chilean constitutional convention

- Chile's Constitutional Assembly elected Maria Elisa Quinteros as new president for Chile's constitutional convention.
- María Elisa Quinteros Cáceres born on 20 December 1981 is a Chilean professor who was elected as a member of the Chilean Constitutional Convention.

Former RBI governor Urjit Patel appointed vice president of AIIB

- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Urjit Patel has been appointed vice-president of the Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
- He will take the place of former Gujarat Chief Secretary D.J. Pandian who had been, as Vice-President.

Gol extends Navrang Saini's Term As IBBI Chief

- The Government of India has extended the tenure of Navrang Saini as interim Chairperson of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) for three more months till March 05, 2022.

RBI approves re-appointment of Anup Bagchi as ICICI Bank's Executive Director

- The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Anup Bagchi as an Executive Director of ICICI Bank for a period of three years, with effect from February 1, 2022.

Vini Mahajan Assumes Charge as Secretary, Department Of Drinking Water and Sanitation

- Vini Mahajan, a 1987 batch Punjab cadre IAS officer, assumed the charge as secretary in the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- Prior to this, she was serving as Punjab Chief Secretary from 26th June 2020.

OPEC appoints Haitham Al-Ghais of Kuwait as new Secretary General

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has appointed Mr Haitham Al-Ghais of Kuwait as Secretary General of the Organization, with effect from 1 August 2022, for a period of three years (2022 - 2025).
- He will replace Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, the Nigerian who has held the post since Aug. 1 2016.

Ayesha Malik set to become Pakistan's first female Supreme Court judge

- Justice Ayesha Malik is all set to become Pakistan's first woman to become a Supreme Court judge.

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- The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) approved the elevation of Lahore High Court Justice Ayesha Malik to the Supreme Court.

Alikhan Smailov appointed as new Prime Minister of Kazakhstan

- On Jan 11, 2022, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev nominated Alikhan Smailov for Prime Minister and the lower house of parliament swiftly voted him in during a session broadcast live on state television.

Eminent rocket scientist S Somanath appointed new chairman of ISRO

- On Jan 12, 2022, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) appointed eminent rocket scientist Dr S Somanath as its new chairman and Space Secretary.
- He will succeed K Sivan who completes his extended tenure as ISRO chief.

RenewBuy appoints Rajkummar Rao as brand ambassador

- RenewBuy has appointed India's adored film actor, Rajkummar Rao, as its first brand ambassador.
- The campaign has been designed and conceptualized by Havas Worldwide India.

Ortega sworn in for 4th straight term as Nicaragua's president

- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega was sworn in for a new presidential term.
- The Central American country held presidential elections on Nov. 7 2021 in which Ortega's Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) secured at least 74.99% of the votes.

Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas succeeds Gita Gopinath as IMF's Chief Economist

- On Jan 11, 2021, The International Monetary Fund (IMF) appointed French-born University of California-Berkeley economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas as the next economic counselor and director of the Research Department (RES).
- Gourinchas will succeed Gita Gopinath, a US national of Indian origin.

Adani Power Board Appoints Shersingh B Khyalia As Its CEO

- Adani Power's board approved the appointment of Shersingh B Khyalia as the chief executive officer (CEO) with effect from, 11 January, 2022.

RBI approves Ittira Davis' appointment as Ujjivan SFB's new MD & CEO

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Ittira Davis as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) for a one-year term effective January 14, 2022.

Raghuvendra Tanwar appointed chairman of ICHR

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – January 2022

- **Raghuvendra Tanwar**, a professor emeritus and former registrar of the Kurukshetra University, has been appointed as chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi for a period of three years by the Government of India (GOI).

DCB Bank's board approves appointment of Rupa Devi Singh as Non-exec Chairman:

- The **Board of Directors of DCB Bank** has approved the appointment of **Rupa Devi Singh**, Independent Director, as **Non-Executive Chairman of the Bank**.
- This appointment, which was approved at the Board of Director meeting on **January 14, 2022**, is in view of the vacancy caused by **retirement of Nasser Munjee** from that position.

Rakesh Anand Appointed Chef de Mission for CWG, Bhupender Singh Bajwa for Asian Games 2022

- The Indian Olympic Federation appointed **Rakesh Anand**, Vice President of the Indian Olympic Federation, as **Chief of the Country Contingent at the Commonwealth Games 2022**.
- The appointment of **president of Wushu Association of India Bhupender Singh Bajwa** as **India's Chef de Mission for the Asian Games 2022**.

North Macedonia elects new prime minister

- I. **North Macedonian Parliament** has voted for a new coalition government, with **Dimitar Kovacevski**, leader of the **Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM)**, elected as the **new prime minister**.

Narendra Kumar Goenka appointed as new chairman of AEPC

- On Jan 17, 2022, **Founder and Managing Director of Texport Industries Narendra Kumar Goenka** took over as the **Chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)**.
- **Goenka succeeded Padma Shri awardee Dr. A Sakthivel** in the position.

Roberta Metsola elected as European Parliament New president

- **Maltese center-right MEP Roberta Metsola** was elected **president of the European Union Parliament**.
- She **succeeded David Sassoli**, who passed away.

Vikram Dev Dutt appointed new CMD of Air India

- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** appointed **Vikram Dev Dutt** as **Chairman and Managing Director of Air India** as part of a **senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle**.
- He has been appointed as the **Air India chief** in the rank and pay of **Additional Secretary**.
- He **succeeded Rajiv Bansal** at the helm of the national carrier, after the latter took over as the secretary at the **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)**.

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Gujarat's former cabinet minister Dileep Sanghani elected as IFFCO Chairman

- The Board of Directors of IFFCO unanimously elected Dileep Sanghani, a former cabinet minister in the Government of Gujarat and senior co-operator, became the 17th chairman of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO).

PayTm Founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma as UA Ambassador

- Global internet body ICANN-supported Universal Acceptance Steering Group has roped in Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma as UA Ambassador.

Barbados PM Mia Mottley sworn in after 2nd consecutive elections

- Barbados Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley was sworn in for a second term.
- The victory gives Mottley, the nation's first female leader, a second five-year term as prime minister.

RBI approves former CAG Vinod Rai's appointment as independent chairman of Unity SFB

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of former comptroller and auditor general (CAG) of India Vinod Rai as independent chairman of Unity Small Finance Bank (Unity SFB).

Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma re-elected as National People's Party Chief

- Meghalaya Chief Minister, Conrad K Sangma has been re-elected as the National People's Party (NPP) Chief in the party's main office in Shillong.

Government appoints Vinodanand Jha as new chairperson to PMLA Adjudicating Authority

- Vinodanand Jha, a 1983-batch retired IRS officer has been appointed as the chairperson of the PMLA Adjudicating Authority, New Delhi.
- An order issued by the Union Finance Ministry, Jha's appointment to the post of chairperson will be till the completion of his tenure on June 22, 2023.

Shashank Goel appointed as Additional Secretary in Labor and Employment Ministry

- Chief Electoral Officer Shashank Goel 1990 batch IAS officer has been transferred to Central Government services as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labor and Employment.

Cadila Healthcare Re-Appoints Dr Sharvil P Patel As Managing Director

- Cadila Healthcare has re-appointed Sharvil P Patel as Managing Director of the company for a period of five years with effect from April 1, 2022.

Armenian President Armen Sarkissian quits

- Armen Sarkissian announced that he was stepping down as president of Armenia, citing his inability to influence policy during times of crisis.

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Wipro appoints Badrinath Srinivasan as Managing Director for Southeast Asia

- **Wipro Limited**, a leading global information technology, consulting and business process services company, announced the appointment of **Badrinath Srinivasan (Badri)** as the **Managing Director** for **Southeast Asia**.

Pushp Kumar Joshi to be new chairman and MD of HPCL

- **Pushp Kumar Joshi** is set to be the next **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)** of **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)**, a Maharatna PSU under the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG)**.
- He has been recommended for the post by the **Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)** panel.
- He will **replace Mukesh Kumar Surana**, who superannuates on April 30 this year.

Govt appoints V Anantha Nageswaran as new Chief Economic Adviser

- On Jan 28, 2022, The **Government of India** appointed **Dr V Anantha Nageswaran** as the new **Chief Economic Adviser**.
- He **replaced Krishnamurthy Subramanian**, who returned to academia in December after a three-year tenure as CEA.
- The search panel for the selection of CEA is headed by **15th Finance Commission chief NK Singh**.

IIFL Finance Limited Appoints Arun Kumar Purwar as Chairman of the Board

- **Fairfax and Capital Group**-backed non-banking finance company **IIFL Finance** appointed former **State Bank of India boss Arun Purwar** as **chairman** of its board effective from April 1.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: AWARDS AND HONOUR

Sahitya Akademi announces awards in 20 languages:

- The **Sahitya Akademi** has announced its awards for **2021 for literary works in 20 languages**, including novels in **Assamese and English** by **Anuradha Sarma Pujari** and **Namita Gokhale** respectively.
- the national academy of letters informed that seven books of poetry, five of short stories, two plays, one each of biography, autobiography, criticism and epic poetry had won the **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021**.
- The awards for works in **Gujarati, Maithili, Manipuri and Urdu** would be announced at a later date.
- The award ceremony would also be held later.
- **Ms. Gokhale** was awarded for her novel **Things to Leave Behind** and **Ms. Pujari** for **Iyat Ekhan Aaronya Asil**.

Ramnath Goenka Award: Photo journalism award for documenting NRC struggles:

- **Zishaan A Latif** won the award for his **photo essay**, The arduous struggle for inclusion in the NRC, which was published in **The Caravan** in **October 2019**.

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- The winner of the Ramnath Goenka Award in the Photo Journalism category documented the plight of people who were dropped from the National Register of Citizens (NRC), and put a face to an untold human story.
- Zishaan A Latif won the award for his photo essay, The arduous struggle for inclusion in the NRC, which was published in The Caravan in October 2019.

Smriti Mandhana nominated for prestigious Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year-2021 award

- India women's team cricketer **Smriti Mandhana** was nominated for the prestigious **Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy** for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year-2021 award.
- She has scored 855 runs in 22 internationals, at an average of 38.86 with one century and 5 half-centuries.
- Besides Mandhana, the other **three** cricketers
- England's Tammy Beaumont
- Australia's Lizelle Lee
- Ireland's Gaby Lewis

Aquaconnect wins FICCI's 'Most Innovative AgTech Startup Award':

- **Aquaconnect**, India's pioneering full-stack aquaculture platform, has won the "Most Innovative Agtech" (Mature Startup) award at the fourth edition of the **FICCI Summit and Awards for Agri Startups**.

Oxford University Press declares 'Anxiety' as Children's Word of the Year 2021:

- The **Oxford University Press** has declared 'Anxiety' as Children's Word of the Year 2021.
- Previous Oxford University Press' Children's Word of the Year include coronavirus (2020), Brexit (2019), plastic (2018), Trump (2017), and refugee (2016).

Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla wins \$1 million Genesis Prize for COVID-19 vaccine development:

- The global pharmaceutical giant **Pfizer Inc.**'s Chairman and Chief Executive, **Albert Bourla**, has been awarded with the prestigious **Genesis Prize 2022**.

Oscar 2022: Suriya's Tamil socio-drama 'Jai Bhim' nominated for Best Featured Film:

- The **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences** revealed the list of 276 films that is eligible for consideration at the **94th Oscars**.
- Among these films, **Suriya's** hard-hitting Tamil socio-drama **Jai Bhim** is India's entry into The Academy.

Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2022 presented to GIDM, Prof. Vinod Sharma:

- The **Prime Minister** conferred **Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskars** for the year 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 in the investiture ceremony.

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- This award was instituted by the Union Government to recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by the individuals and organisations in **India in the field of disaster management**.

Ex-Japan PM Shinzo Abe given Netaji Award 2022:

- **Former Japan prime minister Shinzo Abe** was conferred with the **Netaji Award 2022** by **Netaji Research Bureau**.
- **Consul General of Japan in Kolkata Nakamura Yutaka** received the honour on behalf of Abe at a function at the **Elgin Road residence of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** on his **125th birth anniversary**.

Indian film Koozhangal gets the best film award at Dhaka International Film Festival:

- **P S Vinodraj** directed film **Koozhangal** from India won the **best film award** in the **Asian Film Competition** section at the **20th Dhaka International Film Festival** which concluded in Dhaka.
- The **best actor award** was given to **Jayasurya** for **Ranjith Sankar**-directed film **Sunny**.
- The **Best Script Writer Award** went to **Indranil Roychowdhury** and **Sugata Sinha** for **Indranil Roychowdhury**-directed **India-Bangladesh film Mayar Jonjal**.
- The **special audience award** was given to **Aimee Baruah** Directed film **Semkhor**. **Best Actor Award** went to **Jayasurya** for **Ranjith Sankar**-directed film **Sunny**.
- **Sujit Bidari** directed film **Aina Jhyal Ko Putali** from **Nepal** got the **best director award**.
- In the **Women film maker's** section, the **best feature film award** was given to **Maryam Bahrololumi**-directed film **Shahrbanoo (Lady from the City)** from **Iran**.
- Two **Bangladeshi** films, **Nurul Alam Atique**-directed **Lal Moroger Jhuti** and **N Rashed Chowdhury**-directed **Chandrabati Kotha** got the **Audience Award**.

Olympian Neeraj Chopra honoured with Param Vishisht Seva Medal:

- **Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra** has been bestowed the **Param Vishisht Seva Medal** in this year's list of defence decorations, which include gallantry medals for soldiers and police forces involved in counterterror operations in **Jammu and Kashmir** and the **northeast**.
- It is the highest **non-gallantry decoration** given to defence personnel.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: MOUS AND AGREEMENT

TRIFED signs MoU with Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini to leverage knowledge, expertise & institutional strengths:

- In a bid to expand its activities and help more tribals, **TRIFED** has signed an **Memorandum of Understanding** with **Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini- Nation First Policy Research Centre** on **29th of December** for a collaborative effort in leveraging knowledge, expertise and institutional strengths.

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- A major game changing initiative- **Van Dhan Programme**, has been implemented by TRIFED in the recent past which is spearheading in 25 states and 307 districts with availability of MFPs as well as significant forest dwelling tribal population.

Innoterra partners AEGF to serve smallholder farmers:

- Innoterra, a Swiss-Indian food and tech platform company, has partnered with **Agri Entrepreneur Growth Foundation (AEGF)**, set up by Tata Trusts, IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative and Syngenta Foundation to serve small holder farmers through their agri entrepreneur network in the country.
- The partnership provides **Innoterra Platform Services access to all AEGF clusters**, setting the stage for a roll-out of its hi-tech and high-touch **Farmer-360 services for taking up dairy activities**.

MoU between NCGG, Government of India and National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad:

- In order to promote inclusive good governance, strengthening of local institutions and effective implementation of government programmes, the **National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)**, Government of India and **National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD & PR)**, Hyderabad signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship signs an MoU with IGNOU to link vocational education and training with higher education:

- To further strengthen the vocational and technical training framework, the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Indira Gandhi Open University (IGNOU)**.
- The partnership aims to link vocational education and training with higher education, making **India's youth employable by creating avenues for them to access better work opportunities**.

NIF Incubation Council ties up with Amazon India to boost Grassroot Innovation:

- **National Innovation Foundation's Incubation and Entrepreneurship Council** and **Amazon India** have signed an MoU for online distribution of product of **grassroots innovations, student innovations, and outstanding traditional knowledge-based products**.

IFSCA inks MOU with Insurance Institute of India (III):

1. The **International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA)**, with an objective of capacity building of professionals in the insurance sector in **International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs)**, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the **Insurance Institute of India (III)**.

Dredging Corp signs MoU for strategic alliance with Abu Dhabi's NMDC

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- Dredging Corporation of India Ltd (DCI) and Abu Dhabi's National Marine Dredging Company (NMDC) have formed a strategic alliance to bid jointly for projects using each other's resources, equipment and knowhow in the Indian sub-continent, Africa, Middle East and Far East regions.

Flipkart signs MoU with IIT Delhi unit for research on social commerce:

- Flipkart has announced that it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), the industry interface organisation of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) as a part of its ongoing Industry-academia collaboration program to research on social commerce and product recommendations to resellers.

IREDA and Goa Shipyard Ltd signs MoU for Rooftop Solar Power Projects:

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) to provide its techno-financial expertise to set-up a rooftop solar power project.
- Under the MoU, IREDA will assist GSL to set-up a rooftop solar power project at the headquarter of the company situated in Vasco da Gama, Goa.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

NITI Aayog to Hold National Workshop on Bamboo Development

- Government think-tank Niti Aayog is organizing a daylong national-level workshop on bamboo development.

Key People :

- NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh, NITI Aayog Member Dr VK Saraswat and CEO Amitabh Kant will inaugurate the workshop.
- The workshop will have four technical sessions.
 1. Production, Value Addition and International Experience of Bamboo
 2. Government Policies, Programmes and Opportunities in Different Sectors
 3. Circular Economy in Bamboo
 4. National and International Best Practices'
- Several stakeholders from India and abroad will attend the workshop to understand the opportunities and challenges in bamboo development, explore missing linkages in the entire value-chain of the bamboo sector, and accordingly develop strategies and a road map for the sector.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurates 24th Conference on e-Governance 2020-21 in Hyderabad

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- On Jan 07, 2021, The Union Minister of Science and Technology **Dr Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the **24th National Conference on e-Governance in Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- The 24th Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2020-21 will be conducted from **7th – 8th January 2022**.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal addresses 16th India Digital Summit, 2022

- Minister of Textiles, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, **Shri Piyush Goyal** addressed the **16th India Digital Summit, 2022** through video conference.
- **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)** will organise the 16th edition of IDS, scheduled for 11-12 January 2022 With the central theme – ‘Supercharging Startups’.

First BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 held on 18-19 Jan under Chinese chairship

- The **first BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022** was held on **January 18 and 19, 2022** through a virtual platform under the **chairmanship of China**.
- **India's BRICS Sherpa of 2022 Sanjay Bhattacharyya** represented the Indian delegation.
- **China's BRICS Sherpa and Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu** hosted the 2022 the First BRICS Sherpas' Meeting to discuss programmes and priorities for the year.

PM Modi at WEF's online Davos Agenda 2022 summit

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the **World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda** via video conferencing.
- During his speech, he talked about some of the pressing issues like **Covid, climate change, cryptocurrency, reforms** and initiatives taken by his government for ease of doing business.
- He mentioned **India is the world's third largest pharma producer**, with this approach, **\$26 billion worth of PLI schemes** have been implemented in **14 sectors**.

Union Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav delivers Fourth Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation

- Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Shri Bhupender Yadav** attended the **4th Asia Ministerial Conference on tiger conservation**.
- The Conference organized by the Government of Malaysia and Global Tiger Forum (GTF).
- **India will facilitate Tiger Range Countries** towards finalisation of **New Delhi declaration** for the **Global Tiger Summit** to be held at **Vladivostok, Russia**

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CURRENT AFFAIRS : DEFENCE NEWS

Russia test-fires Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missiles from frigate, submarine

- Russia test-fired around **10 new Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missiles** from a frigate and two more from a submarine.
- It was a substantial step in increasing Russia's defense capabilities.
- The Missile is capable of flying at **9 times the speed of sound** and has a range of 1000 km.

About Russia :

- Capital: Moscow
- President: Vladimir Putin
- Currency: Russian ruble

Philippines to buy India's BrahMos missile

- The Philippines will acquire three batteries of the **BrahMos cruise missile** jointly developed by India and Russia in a deal worth almost **\$375 million**, a development expected to boost India's efforts to become a major exporter of defence hardware.
- India is aiming to target \$5 billion in defence exports by 2025.

India and Japan undertake maritime partnership exercise in Bay of Bengal

1. Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmatt undertook maritime partnership exercises with Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) Ships Uruga and Hirado in the Bay of Bengal conducted in a non-contact mode, thereby adhering to COVID safety norms.

INS Kochi undertakes PASSEX with Russia's Admiral Tributs in Arabian Sea

- Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer, **INS Kochi**, exercised with Russian Federation Navy's RFS Admiral Tributs in the Arabian Sea.
- The exercise showcased cohesiveness and interoperability between the two navies and included tactical manoeuvres, cross-deck helicopter operations and seamanship activities.

Indian military awards contracts Saab for supply of AT4 anti-tank weapons

- Swedish defence empire **Saab** was awarded a contract to supply single-shot anti-armour armament **AT4** to the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- The AT4 systems are combat-proven across the world & they are **lightweight, single-shot, fully disposable** and truly characterized by its ease of use and handling.

Russia delivers 70,000 AK-203 assault rifles to India

- On Jan 25, 2022, **Russia** has delivered to India all the contracted **70,000 AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles** as envisaged under a contract signed late last summer between India and Kalashnikov.

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- The Joint Venture is between India, represented by the Defence PSUs-Advanced Weapons & Equipment India Limited (AWEIL) & Munitions India Limited (MIL) and Russia, represented by Rosoboronexport (RoE) & Concern Kalashnikov (CK).

Russia-China-Iran begins joint naval exercise CHIRU-2Q22 in Northern Indian Ocean

- Iran, Russia, and China navies began a joint naval exercise CHIRU-2Q22 in the Gulf of Oman from January 18 to 22, 2022.

Western Naval Command Conducts Joint Maritime Exercise: Paschim Lehar (XPL – 2022)

- On 25 January 2022, A joint maritime exercise **Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022)** conducted by the **Indian Navy off the West Coast** was concluded.

Decommissioned INS Khukri to be handed over to Diu admin

- As the nation celebrates its **73rd Republic Day**, **INS Khukri** will be handed over to the **Diu administration** in a ceremonial event at the **Khukri Memorial**.
- **INS Khukri**, the lead ship of the Indian Navy's Khukri class corvettes, is an indigenous surface-to-surface missile fitted vessel that has had the distinction of being part of both the Western and Eastern Fleets.
- The Ship was **Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders & was commissioned on 23 August 1989** in **Mumbai** by **Krishna Chandra Pant**, the then defence minister, and **Sudha Mulla**, wife of late captain Mahendra Nath Mulla, MVC.

Navy inducts two indigenously built Advanced Light Helicopters ALH-DHRUV MK III in Port Blair

- On Jan 28, 2022, The **two indigenously made Advance Light Helicopters ALH-DHRUV MK III** inducted in the fleet of **Andaman Nicobar Command** in **Port Blair**.
- The induction ceremony was held at **INS Utkrosh**, in presence of **Commander-in-Chief, Andaman Nicobar Command, Lt. Gen. Ajai Singh** as chief guest.
- The MK III helicopter is manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** and represents a tremendous leap towards self-reliance in the field of military aircraft, in line with the government's push towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : ENVIRONMENT

Two new plant species discovered in Western Ghats

- **Researchers from SNM College Maliankara, the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, and the Payyanur College** have reported **two new plant species Fimbristylis sunilii and Neanotis prabhui** from the **biodiversity-rich Western Ghats regions** in **Thiruvananthapuram and Wayanad districts**.
- The findings by the research teams have been detailed in the plant taxonomy journal **Phytotaxa**.

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – January 2022

Researchers discover two new species of rare fireflies

- Researchers have discovered two new species of very rare wasp-like flower flies namely *Monoceromyia flavoscutata* and *M. nigra* from north-eastern India and the Western Ghats.

Research Team :

- The species were discovered by researchers H. Sankararaman, a Ph.D scholar from Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu, Anooj S.S., an assistant professor of entomology at the Kerala Agricultural University, Padannakkad, and Ximo Mengual, a scientist from Alexander Koenig Zoological Research Museum, Germany.
- The study was recently published in the *Journal of Asia-Pacific Entomology*.

New Species Of Rain frog species *Pristimantis gretathunbergae* Discovered in Panama Jungle Named After Greta Thunberg

- A new species of rain frog *Pristimantis gretathunbergae*, or popularly known as the Greta Thunberg Rainfrog discovered by scientists in the Panama jungle has been named after Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg.
- The results were published in the journal *Zookeys*.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS;

SBI To Acquire 10% Stake In India International Clearing Corporation

- State Bank of India (SBI) will acquire about 10 percent stake in the India International Clearing Corporation (IICC).
- It clears and settles index and single stock derivatives, currency derivatives and debt securities.
- SBI is expected to complete up to 9.95 per cent stake, subject to a maximum investment of ₹ 34.03 crore, by March 32, 2022, in IICC.
- The strategic investment in IICC is aimed at strengthening the financial markets infrastructure.

About SBI :

- Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Founded: 1 July 1955

About IICC :

- Founded : 2016
- IICC is the first international clearing corporation set up at GIFT-IFSC that acts as a central counterparty providing clearing and settlement and risk management services.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – January 2022

CCI approves acquisition of 96.42% equity shareholding in Jindal Power Limited by Worldone Private Limited

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved Worldone's acquisition of 96.42 percent stake in Jindal Power Limited (JPL) from Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL).
- The proposed combination is in line with JSPL's strategic objective to bring down its debt and to reduce the firm's carbon footprint as part of its broader ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) objectives.
- The relevant markets associated with the transaction are (i) Market for coal-based thermal power generation in India (ii) Market for power transmission in India.

Note :

- Earlier in July 2021, Jindal Steel & Power Limited (JSPL) had announced receiving the Rs 7,401-crore revised offer from Worldone Private Limited to acquire the 96.42 per cent stake in Jindal Power Ltd (JPL).
- The company had informed that out of the Rs 7,401 crore, Rs 3,015 crore will be paid in cash, while the balance Rs 4,386 crore will be settled by way of assumption and takeover of liabilities and obligations of JSPL in relation to inter-corporate deposits and the capital advances extended by JPL to JSPL.

About CCI :

- Founded: 14 October 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson : Ashok Kumar Gupta
- Secretary : P K Singh
- First executive: Dhanendra Kumar

About Jindal Power Limited :

- Jindal Power Limited (JPL) is primarily engaged in the business of generating thermal power by using coal as a fuel source.
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India.
- Chairman : Anil Kumar Jha
- Part of O P Jindal Group, JSPL is an industrial powerhouse with a dominant presence in steel, power, mining and infrastructure sectors.

About Worldone Private Limited :

- Worldone Private Limited (Worldone) is an investment holding company which has investments in various listed and unlisted companies.
- Located at : New Delhi
- Directors : Chandra Prakash Sharma, Rajeev Jain

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – January 2022

Reliance New Energy Solar acquires 100% stake in Faradion Limited

- **Reliance New Energy Solar Ltd**, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), has signed a definitive agreement to pick up a **100% stake in Faradion Ltd for an enterprise value of £100 million**.
- It has also agreed to subscribe to new equity shares of Faradion for an aggregate consideration of **31.59 million pounds (INR 3.17 billion)**, of which 25 million pounds (INR 2.5 billion) is as growth capital for accelerating commercial roll out and the balance for repayment of debt and other fees.
- The announcement is in line with billionaire Mukesh Ambani's ambitious plans of investing Rs 75,000 crore over the next three years to build a new clean energy business aimed at RIL's commitment to be net carbon neutral by 2035.

Tech Mahindra acquires 100% stake in Allyis India, Green Investments

- **Tech Mahindra** announced that the company and its wholly-owned subsidiary **Tech Mahindra (Americas) Inc.** has approved the proposal to **acquire 100 per cent equity shares in Allyis India Pvt Ltd and Green Investments LLC, holding company for Allyis Group**.
- Tech Mahindra will pay **total consideration of up to \$125 million**, including employment-related and performance-related earnouts.
- The acquisition will bolster Tech Mahindra's capabilities in Digital Experience Solutions, Learning & Development, Marketing, Instructional Design; Engineering: Cloud & Automation, BI & Analytics, Technical support services

Google acquires Israeli cybersecurity startup Siemplify for \$500 mn

- **Google** has acquired an **Israel-based cybersecurity startup 'Siemplify'** reportedly for **\$500 million**.
- The startup will be integrated into Google Cloud Platform, especially its Chronicle operation.
- The acquisition will expand the U.S. tech giant's security offerings in the country amid rising cyber-attacks.
- Google has pledged to invest \$10 billion in cybersecurity over the next five years.

Reliance Acquires 54% Stake in Noida-based Robotics Firm Addverb for \$132 million

- **Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd**, the retail unit of Reliance Industries Ltd, has acquired **54% stake in Addverb Technologies for \$132 million (₹983 crore approximately)**.
- Reliance will own around **54 percent of Addverb** as a result of this investment, becoming the company's largest shareholder.

IEX divests 4.93% equity stake in arm IGX to Indian Oil

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- Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) announced divestment of 4.93 percent of its equity stake in Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) to oil major Indian Oil Corporation.

CCI approves acquisition by GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Overseas Limited and GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare UK Trading Limited of shareholding in GlaxoSmithKline Asia Private Limited

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition by GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Overseas Limited and GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare UK Trading Limited (Acquirers) of shareholding in GlaxoSmithKline Asia Private Limited (Target) under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.

TVS Motor acquires 75% stake in e-bike maker Swiss E-Mobility

- TVS Motor Company announced the acquisition of a 75% stake in Switzerland's largest e-bike player Swiss E-Mobility Group (SEMG) for consideration of \$100 million (about Rs 752 crore).
- This is TVS Motor's second acquisition in Switzerland for FY22.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO successfully conducts qualification tests of Cryogenic Engine for Gaganyaan

- On Jan 12, 2022, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the qualification test of the Cryogenic Engine for the Gaganyaan programme for a duration of 720 seconds at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.
- It ensures the reliability and robustness of the cryogenic engine for induction into the human-rated launch vehicle for Gaganyaan.

South Africa launches first satellite constellation - MDASat

- Higher Education, Science and Innovation minister Dr Blade Nzimande has announced the launch of three locally-produced nanosatellites from Cape Canaveral in the United States as part of South Africa's new Maritime Domain Awareness Satellite (MDASat) constellation.
- The MDASat will be an operational constellation of nine cube satellites that will detect, identify and monitor vessels in near real-time, in support of South African maritime domain awareness.

Iran Launches 'cost-efficient' Solid-fuel Satellite Carrier Rocket Into Space

- Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched a solid-fuel satellite carrier rocket into space.
- It marked the first time Iran used a solid-fuel rocket rather than a liquid-fuel one.
- Iran will produce lighter rocket engines in further space projects.

Israel & U.S Successfully Test Arrow 3 Anti-ballistic Missile Defense System

- The U.S. and Israel conducted a successful test of the Arrow 3 Weapon System designed to "intercept ballistic missiles outside the earth's atmosphere.

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- It was **developed** in a joint project between the **Defense Ministry's Missile Defense Organization** and the **American Missile Defense Agency**.

Russias first newly-built Tu-160M s strategic bomber performs debut flight

- A completely new **Tupolev Tu-160M s strategic missile-carrying bomber** nicknamed the **'White Swan'** by **Russian military pilots** performed its debut flight from the aerodrome of the **Kazan Aviation Enterprise**, a subsidiary of the **Tupolev Company** [part of the **United Aircraft Corporation** within **Rostec**].
- The newly-built strategic bomber performed its flight at an **altitude of 600 meters** that lasted about **30 minutes**.

India Successfully Test-Fires New BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile Off Odisha Coast

- **India** successfully test-fired **supersonic cruise missile BrahMos** off the **Odisha coast** in **Balasore**.
- The missile was test-fired from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR) launch pad-III** at **Chandipur**.
- The launch was conducted by the **Brahmos Aerospace** in close coordination with **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** teams.

NASA scientist discovers Jupiter-like planet

- A citizen scientist has discovered a **giant gaseous planet** called **TOI-2180 b** was discovered in data from **NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)**.
- The result, **published** in the **Astronomical Journal**.

Scientists find evidence of Internal ocean on Saturn's moon Mimas

- Scientists from the **Southwest Research Institute (SwRI)** discovered an underground **ocean** buried beneath the surface of the **'Death Star'-like moon of Saturn**, named **Mimas**.
- It would help the scientists in better understanding **Saturn's rings** and pave the way for further investigation towards possible signs of life on the planet.
- It was published recently in the **journal Icarus**.

Astronomers discovers potato-shaped planet

- Astronomers at the **European Space Agency** have discovered an **oblong-shaped planet** that resembles a **potato** named **WASP-103b**, is located in the constellation **"Hercules"**, at a distance of about **1,800 light-years** from the solar system.
- **WASP-103b** is a close distance away from its star **WASP-103**, which is about **50 times closer to its sun** than **Earth** is to its sun, to the extent that the planet's cycle takes only **22 hours**, while the **Earth's** cycle takes **365 days**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – January 2022

- WASP-103b has a **solid core**, covered with a **liquid layer**, and surrounded by a **gaseous atmosphere** - just like Jupiter.

China builds the world's first artificial moon

- China has built an '**artificial Moon**' research facility that is **capable of simulating low-gravity conditions** using magnetism.
- The artificial moon facility is located in the **eastern city of Xuzhou, in Jiangsu province**.
- It could provide valuable research for China's lunar exploration activities.
- It was the "**first of its kind in the world**" and would take lunar simulation to a whole new level.
- The facility has a vacuum chamber that houses a **mini 'Moon' measuring 60cm (about 2 feet) in diameter**.

India among top 10 nations to adopt Artificial Intelligence

- According to findings from a study published by The **Brookings Institution**, India is among the **top 10 nations** in the world in terms of technological advancements and funding in **artificial intelligence**.
- While India is outside the top 10 in terms of commercial and research initiatives, it ranks **sixth** in terms of spending and investments on AI made by the public, governmental initiatives, as well as private institutions and organizations.
- The **United States, China, the United Kingdom, France, Japan, and Germany** are leading AI advances ahead of India.

NASA offers \$1 million for innovative ideas to feed astronauts in 'Deep Space Food Challenge'

- In coordination with the **Canadian Space Agency**, NASA has launched **Phase 2** of the challenge called '**Deep Space Food Challenge**'.

Meta builds world's fastest AI supercomputer

- **Mark Zuckerberg's Meta (formerly known as Facebook)** has built a **research AI supercomputer** that is among the fastest in the world.
- According to Meta, it will become the **world's fastest supercomputer** by the end of **2022**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : PERSON IN NEWS

Jahnavi Dangeti becomes first Indian to complete NASA's International Air and Space Program

- **Jahnavi Dangeti**, a **second-year engineering student**, hailing from **Palakollu of West Godavari, AP** has become the **only Indian** to undergo **International Air and Space Program (IASP)** at **Nasa Launch Operations' Kennedy Space Center in Alabama, US**.
- She was also appointed as the mission director for '**Team Kennedy**', where she led a group of 16 people from several countries.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – January 2022

19-year-old woman Zara Rutherford becomes youngest woman to fly solo around the world

- The 19-year-old Belgian-British pilot Zara Rutherford set a world record as the youngest woman to fly solo around the world.
- Zara Rutherford, who has set a new Guinness World record as the youngest woman to fly solo around the world, touching down in western Belgium 155 days after beginning.
- She visited 41 countries and stopped in five continents throughout her 52,000-kilometer (28,100 nautical mile) journey.
- Rutherford now holds the title for the first woman to circumnavigate the world in a microlight aircraft.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : RANKING & INDEX

NITI Aayog releases North Eastern Region District Sustainable SDG Index and Dashboard 2021-22

- The Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region in collaboration with NITI Aayog released the North Eastern Region District Sustainable Development Goal, SDG Index, and Dashboard 2021-22.
- The index measures the performance of the District of the eight NE States.
- This is the first time a District wise index is being prepared in the country.
- The SDG Index will be used as a base for planning of development and welfare activities, education, and health care.

Top 5 performer of the index :

2. East Sikkim (Sikkim)
 3. Gomati (Tripura)
 4. North Tripura (Tripura)
 5. Serchhip (Mizoram)
 6. South Sikkim (Sikkim)
- Meanwhile, the kiphire district of Nagaland is the worst performer of the index.

About Ministry of Development of North-East Region :

- Cabinet Minister : G. Kishan Reddy
- Minister of State : B. L. Verma

About NITI Aayog :

- Formed: 1 January 2015
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi
- Vice Chairperson : Rajiv Kumar
- CEO : Amitabh Kant

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Telangana tops in highest number of ODF villages

- **Telangana** stood first in the country in the list of highest number of open defecation free (ODF Plus) villages under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II programme till December 31, 2021.
- As many as **13,737** out of **14,200** villages in the State are in the ODF Plus list, which is **96.74%**.

Chennai International airport ranked 8th in global list for on-time performance

- In a review conducted by Cirium, **Chennai International Airport** has been ranked **eight** for on-time performance among large international airports globally for 2021.
- It is the only Indian airport ranked in the top 10

Indian passport becomes 83rd most powerful globally in 2022

- London-based global citizenship and residence advisory firm **Henley & Partners** has released the **Henley Passport Index** for the year 2022, India has improved its ranks and is currently placed at **83rd position** with a visa-free score of 60.

PM Modi tops list of most popular world leaders with 71 percent rating

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has topped the list of most popular world leaders according to the global rating survey released by the **Morning Consult Political Intelligence**.
- The survey showed PM Modi occupying the pole position with an approval rating of **71 percent**.
- **Mexico President Andrés Manuel López Obrador** came second with **66 percent** approval rating while **Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi** held the **third** position with **60 percent** approval.

Amit Shah launches First District Good Governance Index: Jammu and Kashmir Tops

- **Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah** released India's First "District Good Governance Index" for 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir virtually.
- The index was prepared by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances** in collaboration with the government based on the 'Behtar e-Hukumat - Kashmir Aelamia' resolution adopted in July 2021.
- It is organized jointly by the **Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG)**, GOI and **Jammu & Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration & Rural Development** in association with the **Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad**.

India ranks 85 in Transparency International's corruption index 2021

- According to the **Transparency International** report, India is ranked **85th** with a score of **40** in the **Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)**, 2021.
- **Denmark, Finland, New Zealand** and **Norway** topped the list with the highest score of **88**.

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- While the worst-performing countries were South Sudan with a corruption perception score of 11, followed by Syria (13), Somalia (13), Venezuela (14) and Afghanistan (16).

Apple retains the world's most valuable brand title in Brand Finance Global 500 2022 Report

- According to the **Brand Finance 2022 Global 500 report**, **Apple** has retained the title of the world's most valuable brand following a **35% increase to US\$355.1 billion** – the highest brand value ever recorded in the Brand Finance Global 500 ranking.
- **TikTok** has been named the **world's fastest-growing brand** in the list & Its brand value increased from **US\$18.7 billion** in 2021 to **US\$59.0 billion** in 2022.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : APPS & PORTALS

Defence Minister launches Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal

- On the occasion of **Armed Forces Veterans' Day**, the **Defence Ministry** has set up an online portal **Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal** to resolve pension-related grievances of **ex-servicemen (ESM)** and their dependents.
- The portal will allow them to lodge grievances directly with the **Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW)**.

Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur launches Apna Kangra App from Dharamsala

- **Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur** launched '**Apna Kangra**' app and hampers handcrafted by self help groups at **Dharamsala, HP**.
- Purpose : In view of providing a **hassle-free experience for tourists** and **simultaneously boosting sales of local handicrafts**.

Coal Secretary launches Koyla Darpan Portal

- **Coal Secretary Dr. Anil Kumar Jain** launched **Koyla Darpan Portal** to share **Key Performance Indicators** related to the **Coal Sector**.
- The portal is accessible through the **website** of the **Ministry of Coal (<https://coal.gov.in>)** for maximum public outreach.

CSC launches Yogyata app for rural empowerment

- **Common Services Centers (CSC)** has launched the "**Yogyata**" mobile phone application to provide **vocational education and skill enhancement opportunities to youth and citizens in rural areas**.
- The **Yogyata app** will leverage **CSCs massive reach and penetration** in the target group while providing an opportunity to access courses that add skills and educational qualifications to increase employability by offering courses like **Cyber Security, CAD and 3D printing**.

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Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launches Revamped CGHS Website and Mobile App MyCGHS”

- Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare digitally launched the revamped CGHS (Central Government Health Scheme) website (www.cghs.gov.in) and mobile app, MyCGHS, in the presence of Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launches NIPER Research Portal

- On Jan 28, 2022, Union Minister for Chemical and Fertilizers, Mansukh Mandaviya virtually launched the Research Portal of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), in New Delhi.

Om Birla launches ‘Digital Sansad App’

- On Jan 27, 2022, The Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla launched the official mobile application of the Parliament named Digital Sansad App.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : BOOKS & AUTHORS

Dhirendra K.Jha authors a New book titled Gandhi's Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India

- The New Book Titled **Gandhi's Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India** authored by **Dhirendra K. Jha**.
- The Book is Published by **Vintage Books**.

About the Book :

- The Book is the story of Godse's life throws a light on the obscure layers of the assassin's past.
- The Book deals with the Godse's personality; his relationship with organizations and individuals who influenced his world view; and the fateful decisions that eventually led to Mahatma Gandhi's assassination.

About Dhirendra K.Jha :

- Dhirendra K. Jha is a **Delhi-based journalist**.
- He is the author of **Shadow Armies: Fringe Organisations and Foot Soldiers of Hindutva** and **Ascetic Games: Sadhus, Akharas and the Making of the Hindu Vote** and co-author of **Ayodhya The Dark Night: The Secret History of Rama's Appearance in Babri Masjid**.

A New Book Titled Mamata: Beyond 2021 Authored by Jayanta Ghosal

- On the occasion of **Bengal's CM Mamata Banerjee's 67th birthday**, HarperCollins Publishers India released a New Book Titled **Mamata: Beyond 2021** written by **Jayanta Ghosal**, a political Journalist and translated by **Arunava Sinha**, fiction and non-fiction translator.
- The book will be published on **January 24, 2022**.

About the Book :

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- The book details how Mamata was successfully able to portray herself as the 'daughter of Bengal' who worked tirelessly for the state's poor and disadvantaged.
- The author, Jayanta Ghosal, travelled to all the districts of West Bengal and unearthed certain key factors that helped the Trinamool win the state.
- The book explores as it examines why the BJP lost the plot in West Bengal and what this means for the next general elections.

About Jayanta Ghosal :

- Jayanta Ghosal was born in **1962**, has been a political journalist for the past four decades.
- He is a journalist, writer, teacher and speaker, he is a student of the history, politics, and culture of West Bengal and eastern India.
- He has worked for the Bengali newspapers **Anandabazar Patrika and Bartaman**, TV channels **ABP News, India TV**, and is now **consulting editor, India Today group**.
- He has authored several books in Bengali about the region and is also a **biographer of West Bengal's chief minister, Mamata Banerjee**.

About Arunava Sinha :

- Arunava Sinha was **born** and grew up in **Kolkata**, and lives and writes in New Delhi.
- He translates classic, modern and contemporary Bengali fiction and non-fiction from Bangladesh and India into English.
- Over **65** of his translations have been published so far in India, the UK and the USA.
- His recent translations include *The Sickle* by Anita Agnihotri, *Khwabnama* by Akhtaruzzaman Elias, and *Imaan* by Manoranjan Byapari.
- He teaches at **Ashoka University**, and is the books editor at Scroll.in.

HarperCollins Publish Autobiography of Arundhati Bhattacharya

- Autobiography of Arundhati Bhattacharya titled **Indomitable: A Working Woman's Notes on Life, Work and Leadership** is set to Published by HarperCollins.
- The book will be published by **Harper Business**, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Ratan N. Tata: The Authorized Biography to hit stands in November 2022

- Industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata's authorized biography titled '**Ratan N. Tata: The Authorized Biography**' authored by **Dr Thomas Mathew** & it set to hit the stands globally in November 2022.

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Biography of Subhas Chandra Bose Titled Bose: The Untold Story of an Inconvenient Nationalist

- A new biography of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose titled 'Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist' authored by researcher and founder of 'Mission Netaji' Chandrachur Ghose and published by Penguin Random House India under its Viking imprint.

ICAAP and NCDC Jointly Release a Handbook on Global Good Practices for Cooperatives

- ICAAP President Dr Chandra Pal Singh Yadav and NCUI President Dileep Sanghanion jointly released a policy recommendation handbook on SAHAKAR PRAGYA Good Practices for Cooperatives.
- The book is based on a 'Brainstorming Session on International Good Practices Platform for Cooperatives' conducted earlier by Laxmanrao Inamdar National Academy for Cooperative Research and Development (LINAC) of NCDC.

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari releases a Book Titled Tuhin Sinha's book 'The Legend of Birsa Munda'

- Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari released the book 'The Legend of Birsa Munda' authored by Tuhin A Sinha and Ankita Verma at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai.

New book titled A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence authored by Ruskin Bond

- A New Book Titled A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence authored by Ruskin Bond.
- The book is Published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).

Rohan J Alva authors a New Book Titled Liberty After Freedom

- A New book titled Liberty After Freedom: A History of Article 21, Due Process and the Constitution of India authored by Rohan J Alva.
- The Book is published by HarperCollins.

MoS Culture Meenakashi Lekhi releases pictorial comic book 'India's Women Unsung Heroes'

- On Jan 27, 2022, Minister of State for Culture Meenakashi Lekhi released the pictorial comic book 'India's Women Unsung Heroes' in New Delhi.
- The unique book has been prepared by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha.

New Book Titled Last among equals: Power, Caste and Politics in Bihar's villages authored by MR Sharan

- A New Book Titled Last among equals: Power, Caste and Politics in Bihar's villages authored by MR Sharan.

Former finance secretary Subhash Chandra Garg authors a book titled The \$10 Trillion Dream

- Former finance secretary Subhash Chandra Garg authored a book titled The \$10 Trillion Dream.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – January 2022

- The Book is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI) & the book is scheduled to release towards the end of February 2022.

New Book Titled Operation Khatma authored by R. C. Ganjoo & Ashwini Bhatnagar

- A New Book Titled **Operation Khatma** authored by R. C. Ganjoo & Ashwini Bhatnagar.
- The Book is Published by **Locksley Hall Publishing LLP**.
- The Book is an **eyewitness account** by two journalists R. C. Ganjoo & Ashwini Bhatnagar.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : SCHEMES

IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launches India Semiconductor Mission

- Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the India Semiconductor Mission.
- This scheme was notified by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on December 21, 2021.
- Under the scheme, interested companies which seek to tap the Rs 76,000-crore incentives earmarked by the Central government for developing semiconductors and displaying the manufacturing ecosystem in India will be able to start applying for it from January 1, 2022.

CURRENT AFFAIRS : SPORTS NEWS

New Zealand's Ross Taylor announces retirement from international cricket

- Veteran **New Zealand batter Ross Taylor** confirmed that he will **retire** from **international cricket** after the two-Test series against Bangladesh and the ODI against Australia and the Netherlands in February and March 2022.

About Ross Taylor :

- Ross Taylor born on 8 March 1984, **Lower Hutt, Wellington, New Zealand**.
- He is an international cricketer and **former captain of the New Zealand national team**.
- The 37-year-old has been a mainstay in the New Zealand batting since making his debut in 2006, & becoming the highest run scorer (18,074) for New Zealand in international cricket and appearances (445) charts.
- Taylor also became the **first cricketer to play in 100 matches in all three formats of international cricket**.
- He was picked up by the **Royal Challengers Bangalore** in the **2008 Indian Premier League auction**.
- He holds the nation's record in **one-day international runs (8,581)** and centuries (21), and was the **world's first to play in 100 internationals in all formats**.
- Taylor has scored the most runs for New Zealand in Tests (7584) .

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- He is one of only four New Zealanders to play 100 Tests at 110 Tests; he joins Daniel Vettori 112, Stephen Fleming 111 and Brendon McCullum 101 on the list.

South Africa's Quinton De Kock Announces Retirement From Test Cricket

- **South Africa's** star wicketkeeper-batter **Quinton de Kock** announced his **retirement** from Test cricket with immediate effect.
- He remained committed to **playing international limited-overs cricket (white-ball cricket)**.

Kargil Winter Expedition canceled due to Corona

- The **Kargil District Disaster Management Authority, DDMA**, has **canceled Kargil Winter Expedition** due to the rise of Covid 19 cases in Ladakh region.
- The Expedition which includes various events like **Snow Horse Polo, Snow Soccer, Snow Bashing** etc .
- It was scheduled to begin from 22nd January for 7 days.

U-19 Asia Cup 2021 title : India defeat Sri Lanka by 9 wickets

- In cricket, India defeated Sri Lanka by nine wickets in the final of the U-19 Men's Asia Cup 2021 to seal their eighth title at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, United Arab Emirates.
- India under the leadership of Yash Dhull won through the Duckworth Lewis method (DLS) as the match was reduced to 38 overs due to rain interruption.
- Sri Lanka posted a total of 106 runs for the loss of 9 wickets in 38 overs.
- However, Raghuvanshi and Rasheed stitched an unbeaten 96-run stand to take India home in the summit clash.

Veteran Pakistan All-rounder Mohammad Hafeez Retires From International Cricket

- On Jan 03, 2021, **Veteran Pakistan all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez**, who captained his national team in every format of the game, announced his **retirement** from international cricket, ending a Pakistan career spanning more than 18 years.
- The 41-year-old top-order batter hafeez signed up for **Lahore Qalandars** in the upcoming edition of the Pakistan Super League.

About Mohammad Hafeez :

- Mohammad Hafeez born on 17 October 1980 in Sargodha, Punjab, **Pakistan**.
- Hafeez had announced his **retirement** from **Tests** in **2018**.
- He represented Pakistan in **392 international matches** in which he scored **12,789 runs** and took **253 wickets**.

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- He has played **55 Tests, 218 ODIs** and **119 T20Is** for the country including three ICC ODI World Cups and six T20 World Cups.
- He won 32 Player-of-the-Match awards, the fourth-highest among Pakistan players in all international cricket, with only Shahid Afridi (43), Wasim Akram (39) and Inzamam-ul-Haq (33) placed ahead of him.
- Hafeez also earned **nine Player-of-the-Series awards** across formats.
- He is the only Pakistan player to have played in all but one T20 World Cup so far - incidentally, the one they ended up winning in 2009 - and holds the Pakistan record for most T20 World Cup appearances.
- Overall, Hafeez played in **three 50-over World Cups (2007, 2011 and 2019)**, **six 20-over World Cups (2007, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2021)** and **three ICC Champions Trophies (2006, 2013 and 2017)**.
- In the **ICC Player Rankings**, Hafeez achieved the **highest Test rankings of 22nd** in batting, 29th in bowling and fifth in all-rounders.
- In the **ODI rankings**, Hafeez's **highest** ranking was 13th in March 2014, while he topped the bowling and all-rounder charts in August 2012 and January 2013.

About Pakistan Cricket Board :

- Founded: 1949
- Located at Lahore, Pakistan
- Chairperson: Rameez Raja
- CEO : Faisal Hasnain

Sri Lankan Cricketer Bhanuka Rajapaksa Announces Retirement from International Cricket

- On Jan 05, 2022, **Sri Lanka batsman Bhanuka Rajapaksa** announced his **retirement** from **international cricket** and submitted his resignation to **Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC)**.

About Bhanuka Rajapaksa :

- Bhanuka Rajapaksa was born on 24 October 1991 in **Colombo, Sri Lanka**.
- Rajapaksa represented Sri Lanka in **five ODIs** and **18 T20Is**, scoring a total of 409 across formats which included two fifties.
- He was part of Sri Lanka's ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 squad, where he finished as the third-highest run-scorer for the Lions in the tournament with 155 runs in eight matches.

Rafael Nadal Wins Melbourne Summer Set 1 Trophy 2022

- In the **Melbourne Summer Set 1 ATP 250** event **Rafael Nadal** won his **89th** tour-level title at the **Melbourne Summer Set** trophy by beating the **American qualifier Maxime Cressy** 7-6(6), 6-3 in Men's Singles final clash at Rod Laver Arena.

Monfils wins 2022 Adelaide International 1 tennis tournament

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- **Gael Monfils** won the 11th title of his career by defeating **Karen Khachanov** in the final of the 2022 Adelaide International 1 tennis tournament.

Bharath Subramaniyam Becomes India's 73rd Chess Grandmaster

- Chennai-based 14 year-old **Bharath Subramaniyam** became India's 73rd chess Grandmaster, after completing his third and final GM norm at Vergani Cup Open in Italy.

Karnataka to host Khelo India Games in 2023

- Minister for Youth Empowerment and Sports **K.C. Narayana Gowda** informed that Karnataka will host the next Khelo India Games in 2023.

Gujarat's Tasnim Mir becomes first Indian to clinch No.1 spot in under-19 girls' singles badminton

- Young shuttler **Tasnim Mir** became the first Indian to claim the world no 1 ranking in the under-19 girls singles in the latest BWF junior rankings.

Canada clinches ATP Cup with 2-0 win over Spain

- **Felix Auger-Aliassime** clinched the ATP Cup title for Canada with a 7-6 (3), 6-3 singles victory over **Roberto Bautista Agut** to give his country an insurmountable 2-0 lead against Spain.

Virat Kohli steps down as India's Test captain

- On Jan 15, 2022, **Virat Kohli** stepped down from Test captaincy of the Indian team after the recently-concluded South Africa series.
- He had replaced **MS Dhoni** as the full-time captain in the 2014/15 season.
- With 40 wins in 68 matches, Kohli ends his captaincy stint as the most successful Indian Test captain.

India withdraws from Asian Under-22 boxing championship amid Covid threat

- The Boxing Federation of India has decided to pull out of the Asian Under-22 Championships for men and women in Tashkent, Uzbekistan due to the global surge in COVID-19 cases.

TCS Becomes Title Sponsor and Technology Partner of Toronto Waterfront Marathon

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has partnered with **Canada Running Series (CRS)** to become the new title sponsor and official IT services and technology consulting partner of the Toronto Waterfront Marathon and Virtual Race through November 2026.

India's tennis queen Sania Mirza Announces Her Retirement From Professional Tennis

- **Sania Mirza**, India's most popular female tennis player, announced that she will retire from the sport after the 2022 season.

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- The 35-year-old made the statement after her doubles partner NadiiaKichenok was eliminated from the Australian Open 2022.

Smriti Mandhana Named In ICC Women's T20I Team Of 2021

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) named Smriti Mandhana as the Women's T20I Team of the Year (2021).
- With 255 runs at an average of 31.87, Smriti was India's highest scorer in the format in 2021.

ICC Test Team of the Year 2021: Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant, R Ashwin named

- India opener Rohit Sharma, wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant and off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin have been included in the ICC Men's Test team of the year for 2021.
- New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson has been named as the captain of the ICC Test Team of the year 2021.

ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year 2021 includes Mithali Raj, Jhulan Goswami

- Veteran India players Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami were named in the Women's ODI Team of the Year for 2021 by the International Cricket Council.
- England's Heather Knight has been named as the captain of the team.

Syed Modi International: PV Sindhu wins Women's singles title

- On Jan 23, 2022, In Badminton, two-time Olympic medalist, P.V. Sindhu has won the Women's singles title at the Syed Modi International tournament in Lucknow.
- Sindhu defeated compatriot Malvika Bansod 21-13, 21-16 in the summit clash.

Ladakh Team won 9th IHAI National Women's Ice Hockey Championship

- The Ladakh women's team has won the ninth national women's ice hockey championship organized by the Ice Hockey Association of India in Himachal Pradesh.
- The 9th National Women's Ice Hockey Championship was held at Ice Hockey Rink in Kaza in Lahaul and Spiti, Himachal Pradesh from 15 to 21 January, 2022.

ICC Awards 2021 Winners

- The 2021 ICC Awards were the 17th edition of ICC Awards.
- To recognise and honor the best international cricket players of the previous 12 months, between January 01, 2021 and December 31, 2021.

Lucknow's IPL team to be called Lucknow SuperGiants

- The Lucknow franchise of the Indian Premier League will be called Lucknow SuperGiants.
- The official IPL team of Lucknow, owned by RPSG Group, decided to take public opinions from its fans and the name was shared by owner Sanjiv Goenka.

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- IPL's two new teams : **Sanjiv Goenka RPSG Group** for the Lucknow franchise and **CVC Capital's Ahmedabad team** had received formal clearance from the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**.

Tata Motors to be title sponsor for tennis tournament Maharashtra Open

- **Tata Motors** will continue to support the **Tata Open Maharashtra** tennis tournament, for the fourth consecutive year.
- The event will be held from **January 31 to February 6, 2022** at the **Balewadi stadium** in **Pune**.
- The **Tata Open Maharashtra**, **South Asia's only ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals)** tournament and country's oldest sporting international event, is a flagship and important association for **Tata Motors**.

Odisha Open 2022 to kick off at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack

- The **2022 Odisha Open**, a **Badminton World Federation (BWF)** event, will kick off at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium** in **Cuttack** from **January 25**.
- The **Super 100** tournament which is the **third event of the 2022 BWF World Tour calendar** will continue till **January 30**.
- It is the **first edition of the Odisha Open**.
- The tournament is **organized by the Badminton Association of India** with sanctions from the **Badminton World Federation**.

Fit India Quiz preliminary round result declared; UP students top first round

- The results of the **Preliminary Round of the first-ever Fit India Quiz**, **India's biggest sports and fitness quiz** for students, was announced.
- Results of the nation-wide competition **organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** has revealed that **two students from Uttar Pradesh** have **outperformed** students from all other states to become the top scorers of the Preliminary Round.
- While **Divyanshu Chamoli** of **Delhi Public School, Greater Noida** won the top spot, he was closely followed by **Shashwat Mishra** of **Sunbeam School, Lahartara, Varanasi**.

India's first Para-Badminton Academy inaugurated in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

- **Dronacharya Awardee** and **Head National Coach** of the Indian Para-badminton team, **Gaurav Khanna**, formally announced his **association with Ageas Federal Life Insurance** to launch the **country's first Para-Badminton Academy** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS : OBITUARIES

Bollywood Producer Vijay Galani Passes Away

- Famous **Bollywood producer Vijay Galani** passed away in his late 50s.
- Vijay's filmography as a producer includes films like Salman Khan's *Suryavanshi* (1992), Govinda and Manisha Koirala's *Achanak* (1998), Akshay Kumar's *Ajnabee* (2001), Paresh Rawal and Mallika Sherawat's *Bachke Rehna Re Baba* (2005), Salman Khan's *Veer* (2010).
- His last production venture was Vidyut Jammwal and Shruti Haasan's *The Power* (2021).

Pioneer of street photography Sabine Weiss Passes away

- **Swiss-French photographer Sabine Weiss** Passed away at the age of 97.

About Sabine Weiss :

- Sabine Weiss born on 23 July 1924, in **Switzerland** and became a naturalized French citizen in 1995.
- She was regarded as the **last** of the **French humanist** photography school of post-World War II that reimagined the evocative powers of images, which included Robert Doisneau, Willy Ronis and Brassai.
- Her work covered eight decades, pioneering what was to become known as street photography.
- Weiss photographed the condition of ordinary people in Paris & she wanted to immortalize "the snotty-nosed kids," "the beggars" and "the little piss-takers" in her photos.
- Her work has featured in 160 exhibits and is shown in permanent collections of several leading museums, including the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and the Centre Pompidou in Paris.
- He coined the "**photographie humaniste**" with her everyday images, and traveled the world for magazines such as *Vogue*, *Life*, *Time* and *Newsweek*.

World-renowned Kenyan conservationist Richard Leakey Passes away

- On Jan 02, 2021, **Richard Leakey**, a world-renowned **Kenyan conservationist** and **fossil hunter** passed away at the age of 77.

About Richard Leakey :

- Richard Erskine Frere Leakey was born on 19 December 1944 in **Nairobi**.
- He spearheaded campaigns against the ivory trade to save the dwindling African elephant population.
- Leakey held a number of official positions in Kenya, mostly in institutions of **archaeology and wildlife conservation**.
- He was **Director of the National Museum of Kenya**, founded the **NGO WildlifeDirect** and **twice as board chairman at the Kenya Wildlife Service**.
- He was a **co-founder of the Safina Party** in 1995.

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- Leakey also served Kenya's head of civil service from July 1999 to March 2001.

Three-time Olympic triple jump champion Viktor Saneyev Passes away

- The three-time Olympic triple jump champion and former world record-holder Viktor Saneyev Passed away at the age of 76.

About Viktor Saneyev :

- Viktor Danilovich Saneyev born on **3 October 1945, Georgia, Soviet Union.**
- He was a Soviet and Georgian triple jumper, who competed internationally for the **USSR** and won **four Olympic medals; three golds (1968 Mexico City, 1972 Munich and 1976 Montreal) and one silver (1980 Moscow)**.
- He also won two **European titles in 1969 Athens and 1974 Rome** and was a six-time European indoor champion before calling time on his athletics career after the 1980 Olympics.

Indo-Pak 1971 war veteran Vice Admiral SH Sarma Passes away

- On Jan 03, 2021, The Indian Navy's 1971 Indo-Pak war veteran Vice Admiral S H Sarma passed away.

About Vice Admiral SH Sarma :

- Sarma was born on **1 December 1922** in Orissa, British Raj (present day Odisha).
- During the 1971 war, he was the **Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet** in which India had defeated Pakistan to form Bangladesh.
- He served as the **Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Naval Command** from 1 March 1977 to 2 February 1978.

Autobiography :

- SH Sarma published his autobiography, **My Years at Sea** in May 2017 which includes the defeat of Pakistani naval forces, and the growth of the Indian Navy.

Awards & Recognitions :

- For his command of the Eastern Fleet in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, Sarma was decorated with the **Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM)** on 26 January 1972.

'Mother of Orphans', Padma Shri Awardee Sindhutai Sapkal Passes Away

- On Jan 04, 2021, The renowned social worker and recipient of the **Padma Shri Award**, Sindhutai Sapkal passed away at the age of 74.

About Sindhutai Sapkal :

- Sindhutai Sapkal was born on **14 November 1948** in Wardha district, Maharashtra.
- She is fondly known as **the mother of orphan children.**

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- Sapkal, popularly referred to as "**Mai**", Sapkal ran an orphanage in Pune where she adopted over 1,000 orphan kids.
- **Mee Sindhutai Sapkal**, a Marathi movie based on her life was also released in 2010.

Awards & Honors :

- Sapkal has received more than **750 awards and honors** in her lifetime.
- She has used the award money to further build shelters for orphans.
- 2013 – The National Award for Iconic Mother
- 2013 – Mother Teresa Awards for Social Justice
- 2014 – Ahmadiyya Muslim Peace Prize
- 2016 – Social Worker of the Year award from Wockhardt Foundation
- 2017 – Nari Shakti Puraskar (India's highest civilian award dedicated to women, which was presented to her by President Ram Nath Kovind in 2017.)
- 2021 - Padma Shri in Social work category

Kenyan Fossil Hunter and Conservationist Richard Leakey Passes away

- **Richard Leakey**, the world-renowned paleoanthropologist-turned-conservationist, Passes away at the age of 77.

About Richard Leakey :

- Richard Leakey was born on 19 December 1944 in **Nairobi, British Kenya**.
- He was **Director** of the **National Museum of Kenya**, founded the **NGO WildlifeDirect** and was the **chairman of the Kenya Wildlife Service**.
- The legendary paleoanthropologist is credited for the discovery of '**Turkana Boy**' in 1984 which led to groundbreaking discoveries proving that humankind evolved in Africa.
- Leakey was serving as **chairman** of the **Turkana Basin Institute at Stony Brook University in New York**.
- He is also known for spearheading anti-ivory campaigns in order to save the African elephant population.

Note :

- The **Turkana boy** is the **most complete fossil Skeleton of a human ancestor** ever found.
- **Paleoanthropology** is the **study of human evolution through fossil and archeological records**.

Former Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu Passes Away

- **Former Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu Toshiki** passed away at the age of 91.

Padma Shri And Social Activist Shanti Devi Passes Away

- **Eminent social activist and Padma Shri awardee Shanti Devi** passed away at the age of 88.

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Legendary Kathak Dancer Pandit Birju Maharaj Passes Away

- On Jan 17, 2022, Kathak maestro Pandit Birju Maharaj passed away at the age of 83.
- Pity Birju Maharaj was honored with the Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian honor in India, in 1986 for his contributions to the field of performing arts.

Eminent theater personality Saoli Mitra passes away

- On Jan 16, 2022, Saoli Mitra, eminent theater personality and daughter of legendary actor Sombhu Mitra and Tripti Mitra Passed away.

Former president of Mali Ibrahim Boubacar Keita Passes away

- Mali's former president Ibrahim Boubacar Keita Passed away at the age of 76.

Veteran Bengali cartoonist Narayan Debnath Passes away

- On Jan 18, 2022, Legendary Bengali cartoonist and Padma Shri awardee Narayan Debnath passed away at the age of 96.

Spine institute founder and mountaineer Major Ahluwalia Passes away

- Padma Shri recipient and founder of the Indian Spinal Injuries Center Major HPS Ahluwalia passed away at the age of 85.

Legendary 'Collarwali' Tigress passes away

- 'Collarwali', one of India's most popular tigresses in the wild, Passed away at the Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

Noted environmentalist M K Prasad passes away

- Prof M K Prasad, renowned environmentalist, botanist, and educator, who successfully spearheaded the Save Silent Valley movement in the 1970s, passed away at the age of 89.

World's oldest living man, Saturnino de la Fuente, passes away

- Spaniard Saturnino de la Fuente García, the world's oldest man, passed away at the age of 112 years and 341 days old.

Former India footballer and coach Subhas Bhowmick Passes away

- On Jan 22, 2022, Former Indian footballer and coach Subhash Bhowmik passed away at the age of 71.

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Eminent archeologist & Padma Bhushan R. Nagaswamy passes away

- Renowned archeologist and Tamil Nadu archeology department's first director, Padma Bhushan R. Nagaswamy passed away at the age of 91.
- He was awarded the prestigious Padma Bhushan in 2018 for his outstanding contribution to archeology.

Sydney Olympics Rings Champion Szilveszter Csollany Passes Away

- Former Olympic gymnastics champion Szilveszter Csollany Passed away at the age of 51.
- He was a six-time medallist at the European gymnastics championships, and the recipient of Hungary's "Sportsman of the Year" award in 2000 and 2002.

Indian hockey legend and Olympics gold medallist Charanjit Singh passes away

- On Jan 27, 2022, Captain of India's 1964 Tokyo Olympics gold medal-winning hockey team, Charanjit Singh Passed away at the age of 92.

Renowned Kathakali artist & Padma Shri awardee Milena Salvini passes away

- Padma Shri winner and famous Kathakali artist Milena Salvini passed away at the age of 84.

Renowned author and social activist Anil Awachat passes away

- Renowned author and social activist Anil Awachat has passed away at the age of 78.