

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

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CURRENT AFFAIRS: IMPORTANT DAYS

International Women's Day:

- The Women and Child Development Ministry celebrates the International Women's Day week from the 1st of March as an Iconic Week as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with the theme "Women of Tomorrow"

Janaushadhi Diwas week - 1st March to 7th March:

- Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers will organize the Janaushadhi Diwas from 1st March to 7th March 2022.
- On 7th March 2022, the 4th Jan Aushadhi Diwas will be celebrated.

Zero Discrimination Day - 1st March:

- The Zero Discrimination Day is held every year on the 1st of March.
- The day aims to ensure right to equality, inclusion and protection of all people without any discrimination in their law and policies to live a full life with dignity regardless of any barriers.

Civil Accounts Day-2 March

- The Civil Accounts Day has celebrated on 2nd March 2022 at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi.
- Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman is the Chief Guest of the occasion.

World Civil Defence Day - 1st March

- World Civil Defence Day is annually observed across the globe on 1st March to honour the significance of Civil Defence and the personnel who have sacrificed their lives for it.

World Birth Defects Day 2022: 03 March

- On March 3 is recognized annually as World Birth Defects Day (WBDD).
- The Theme of 2022 WBDD is Many Birth Defects, one voice.

World Wildlife Day 2022 - 03 March

- World Wildlife Day is celebrated on March 3 every year to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora.
- The Theme of World Wildlife Day 2022: "Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration".

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World Hearing Day 2022: 3 March

- The World Hearing Day 2022 is annually Observed on 03rd March by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- Theme of World Hearing Day 2022: “To hear for life, listen with care.”

National Security Day: 04 March

- Every Year On March 04, National Security Day (Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas) is celebrated in India.

National Safety Day 2022: 04 March

- The National Safety Day (NSD) is marked every year on 4 March by the National Safety Council of India.
- Theme 2022 is “Nurture young minds – Develop safety culture”.

RBI to observe Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) from March 7 -11, 2022:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is going to observe Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) between 7th March 2022 and 11th March 2022.
- The theme of Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) 2022 is: “Outreach and Availability of Digital Payments”.

No Smoking Day- 9th March:

- "No Smoking Day" is celebrated annually on the second Wednesday of March to raise awareness about the ill effects of smoking. This year, it is celebrated on the 9th of March, 2022. This year, the theme for the "No Smoking Day" is "quitting smoking doesn't have to be stressful."

World Kidney Day: 10th March

- World Kidney Day is an annual event observed every second Thursday in the month of March. This year World Kidney Day will be observed on March 10, 2022. The World Kidney Day 2022 theme is “Kidney Health for All”.

54th CISF Raising Day: 10th March

- In the year 1969, the CISF was set up on March 10 and three battalions were formed under the CISF act 1968, which was passed by the Parliament of India.
- Central Industrial Security Force, is for the central armed police force in India.

International Day of Women Judges: 10 March

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- In 2022, 10 March will be celebrated as the International Day of Women Judges.
- The day will be celebrated and observed for the first time after the UN General Assembly passed the resolution concerning the same in April 2021.

World Rotaract Day -13th of March

- Every year, Rotaractors and Rotarians around the world celebrate World Rotaract Week during the week of 13 March to commemorate the founding of the first club in 1968 at North Carolina, USA.
- The theme of World Rotaract Day 2022 is “Rotary Making a Difference”.
- World Rotaract Week will be held from 11 March 2022 to 18 March 2022.

International Day of Mathematics- 14 March 2022

- International Day of Mathematics is observed on 14th of March every year.
- It is also known as the Pi Day because the mathematical constant π (pi) can be rounded down to 3.14.
- The theme for 2022 IDM is “Mathematics Unites!”.
- The proclamation of March 14 as the International Day of Mathematics was adopted in the 205th session of the UNESCO’s Executive Council.

World Consumer Rights Day - 15th March:

- The consumer movement marks 15th March with World Consumer Rights Day every year, as a means of raising global awareness about consumer rights and needs.
- This year the International Consumer Rights Day will be celebrated on the theme of “Fair Digital Finance.”
- World Consumer Rights Day was inspired by President John F Kennedy, who sent a special message to the US Congress on 15th March 1962.

International Day of Action for Rivers: 14 March

- International Day of Action for Rivers, observed on March 14 every year, is a day that is dedicated to saving, celebrating, and creating awareness about the importance of rivers
- The year 2022 marks the 25th anniversary of the International Day of Action for Rivers.
- The theme in 2022 is The Importance of Rivers for Biodiversity”.

National Vaccination Day-16th March:

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- **National Vaccination Day** is observed annually on 16th march in India.
- The occasion is celebrated to raise awareness about importance of vaccination.
- The first dose of oral polio vaccine got started in the year 1995 in India & the last case of polio was reported from Bengal in 2011.

International Day to Combat Islamophobia- March 15:

- The **UN General Assembly** adopted a resolution to proclaim **March 15 as International Day to Combat Islamophobia**.
- **Objective:** It will be curtailing systematic hate speech and discrimination against Muslims; respect for religious symbols and practices; along with the elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief.

Global Recycling Day: 18th March:

- **Global Recycling Day**, celebrated on **March 18 every year**, is a recycling initiative that encourages us to look at our trash in a new light.
- **Theme for 2022** is “recycling fraternity”.
- The theme recognises the people who put themselves on the **frontline to collect waste and recycling during the multiple lockdowns**.
- The **Global Recycling Day** was created in **2018** by the London-based **Global Recycling Foundation** to promote the concept and practice of recycling.

World Sleep Day 2022:

- The **World Sleep Day** is held every year on the **Friday before Spring Vernal Equinox**.
- In 2022, the **World Sleep Day** falls on **March 18, 2022**.
- The theme of 2022 is ‘**Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World**’.
- The **World Sleep Society** first observed **World Sleep Day** in 2008.

International Day of Happiness:

- The **International Day of Happiness** is celebrated throughout the world on **20 March**.
- The theme for **Happiness Day 2022** is **Keep Calm, Stay Wise and Be Kind**. **Bhutan** initially prioritized the value of **National Happiness** over **National Income** in the 1970s.
- **Bhutan** is known for adopting the goal of **Gross National Happiness** over **Gross National Product** at the **66th General Assembly**.

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- It was established by the United Nations General Assembly on 28 June 2012.

India's Ordnance Factories' Day: 18 March

- Ordnance Factory Day is observed across India on 18 March to commemorate the foundation of the first ordnance factory at Cossipore near Kolkata in the year 1801.
- The Indian Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), which comprised 41 institutions, ceased to exist from 1 October last year.
- The OFB was split into seven public sector undertakings (PSUs), which continue to supply the country's armed forces with a variety of military equipment.
- OFB was founded in 1775 and its Headquarters is in Ayudh Bhawan, Kolkata.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination:

- The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March.
- The 2022 edition of the International Day focuses on the theme "VOICES FOR ACTION AGAINSTRACISM".

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)- 83rd Raising Day:

- The CRPF Raising Day is held on March 19 after India's first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel presented colours to the CRPF following the enactment of the CRPF Act by the Parliament in 1950.
- The CRPF was raised in 1939 and was then known as the Crown Representative's Police.

International Day of Forests-21 March:

- The world celebrates the International Day of Forests on March 21 every year with the aim to increase awareness about the unprecedented role forests play in sustaining lives on this planet.
- The theme for 2022 is "Forests and sustainable production and consumption."
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests (IDF) in 2012.

World Sparrow Day 2022:

- World Sparrow Day is celebrated on 20th March every year and puts the spotlight on the tiny-chirpy House Sparrow and other birds.
- The theme of World Sparrow Day is "LOVE Sparrows."

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- World Sparrow Day was established by Mohammed Dilawar, the founder of The Nature Forever Society.
- The first World Sparrow Day was held in the year 2010.

World Poetry Day-21 MARCH

- World Poetry Day is celebrated on 21 March, and was declared by UNESCO in 1999, with the aim of supporting linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increasing the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted this day during UNESCO's 30th session in Paris in 1999.
- Some countries also celebrate World Poetry Day on October 15 to mark the birthday of Virgil, a Roman poet who is famous for his epic Aeneid.

World Down Syndrome Day 2022:

- World Down Syndrome Day (WDS) is observed annually on March 21.
- It is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012.
- The theme of World Down Syndrome Day this year is "Inclusion Means".
- The first World Down Syndrome Day was observed in 2006.

World Water Day- 22nd March:

- World Water Day is an annual United Nations observance day held on 22 March that highlights the importance of fresh water.
- The World Water Day theme 2022 is "Groundwater, Making the Invisible Visible".

Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs Day- 23rd March:

- March 23 every year is observed as Shaheed Diwas to mark the death anniversary of Indian freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar.
- Also, 30 January is observed as Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.
- It was on March 23, 1931, when the three were hanged to death in the Lahore Central Jail in British India (now Pakistan) by Britishers.

World Meteorological Day 2022:

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- World Meteorological Day takes place every year on 23 March, commemorating the date in 1950 when the Convention establishing the World Meteorological Organization came into force.
- This year World Meteorological Day is celebrated keeping the theme of Early Warning and Early Action.
- World Meteorological Day is celebrated as the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which was established on March 23, 1950.

International Day for the Right to the Truth: March 24

- Each year, on 24 March, the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed.
- This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero, who was murdered on 24 March 1980.

World TB Day: 24 March

- World Tuberculosis Day, observed on 24 March each year, is designed to build public awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis and efforts to eliminate the disease.
- The theme of World TB Day 2022 Invest to End TB. Save Lives.

Bihar Day: March 22

- The Bihar Diwas is celebrated every year on as it was on this day that the British carved out Bihar from Bengal Presidency in 1912.
- Bihar Diwas 2022 marks the 110th anniversary of the state's founding.

International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members:

- Every year, on 25th March the International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed by the United Nations.
- This day is observed by the UN with the aim of demanding justice, mobilizing action, and strengthening the resolve to protect the peacekeepers and personnel of the UN.

International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade:

- Every year on 25 March, the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade offers the opportunity to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system.
- This Year Theme: "Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism".

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- The International Day also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice.
- It was first observed in 2008 with the theme "Breaking the Silence, Lest We Forget".

International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members:

- Every year, on 25th March the International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed by the United Nations.
- This day is observed by the UN with the aim of demanding justice, mobilizing action, and strengthening the resolve to protect the peacekeepers

Earth Hour 2022: 26 March

- Every year, on the last Saturday in March, Earth Hour is observed.
- The date for Earth Hour in 2022 is Saturday, March 26, 2022.
- The topic for Earth Hour 2022 will be "Shape Our Future."
- The Day is a worldwide movement organized by the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

October 5 to be National Dolphin Day, decides National Board for Wildlife:

- The union environment ministry has designated October 5 as National Dolphin Day, to be observed annually starting this year.
- The decision to designate a National Dolphin Day was taken by the standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).

World theatre Day- 27th March:

- World Theatre Day is celebrated on 27 March every year throughout the world.
- It will be observed by the ITI centres and the theatre fraternity 27 March 2022.
- World Theatre Day is observed to promote the positivity that theatre has brought in the lives of people.
- It was first celebrated by the International Theatre Institute (ITI) in the year 1961, on 27 March.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: NATIONAL NEWS

Ministry of Education has launched Bhasha Certificate Selfie campaign:

- The Ministry of Education has launched a campaign titled 'Bhasha Certificate Selfie'.

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- The aim of this campaign is to promote the **Bhasha Sangam mobile app**, launched by the Ministry under the aegis of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat to encourage cultural diversity and promote multilingualism.

Mansukh Mandaviya has launched the “ICMR/ DHR Policy on Biomedical Innovation:

- The Union health ministry has launched the **ICMR/ DHR Policy on Biomedical Innovation and Entrepreneurship**.
- This Policy will ensure multi-disciplinary collaboration, promote start-up culture, and develop an innovation led ecosystem at Medical Institutes across the country by promoting **Make-in-India, Start-Up-India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiatives.

Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates seminar “Industry Connect 2022”:

- The Union Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, inaugurated a seminar “**Industry Connect 2022**”: Industry and Academia Synergy on February 25, 2022 in New Delhi.

28th DST-CII India- Technology Summit 2022:

- **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi** in partnership with the Department of Science & Technology (DST), GoI hosted the 28th edition of the **DST – CII Technology Summit** on 23rd and 24th of February 2022.

President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated ‘Arogya Vanam’ at Rashtrapati Bhavan:

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated a newly developed ‘**Arogya Vanam**’ at the President’s Estate, (Rashtrapati Bhavan) in New Delhi on **March 1, 2022**.

First ‘Smart Managed EV Charging Station’ commissioned by BSES:

- A subsidiary of Reliance Infrastructure, **SES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL)** has commissioned India’s first ‘**Smart Managed EV Charging Station**’ in the New Delhi.

Herath Festival Celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir 2022

- **Herath** or the ‘**Night of Hara (Shiva)**’, generally referred to as **Maha Shivratri**, is the main festival celebrated by the **Kashmiri Pandits** across **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**.

India, Pakistan: Most Vulnerable to Climate Change

- The latest **IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)** report mentioned severe climatic conditions threaten food security in South Asia.

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

- Sagar Parikrama' is envisaged across the coastal belt demonstrating solidarity with all fisherfolk, fish farmers, and stakeholders concerned as a spirit of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', a release from the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

GoI Launches Mission Named Operation Ganga to Evacuate Nationals from Ukraine:

- The Government of India has launched an evacuation mission named Operation Ganga to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine due to the Russia-Ukraine tension.

MoWCD Launches 'Stree Manoraksha' Project

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) launched the 'Stree Manoraksha Project' in collaboration with NIMHANS Bengaluru with an aim to improve the mental health of women in India.

Centre approves proposal for continuation of seven existing sub schemes under Umbrella Scheme

Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates

- The Modi Government has approved the proposal for the continuation of the seven existing sub-schemes under the Umbrella Scheme "Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates" for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total outlay of Rs.1,452 crore.

India & ITU Sign Host Country Agreement.

- The Union Minister of Communications and Secretary General of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) signed the Host Country Agreement (HCA) for the establishment of an Area Office & Innovation Centre of ITU in New Delhi.

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

- National Informatics Centre (NIC) organized the #TechConclave2022 focused on Emerging Technologies applicable especially in e-Governance, with the theme - "Next Gen Technologies for Digital Government".

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Symbiosis Arogya Dham and Pune metro rail project worth Rs 11,400 crore.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 12km stretch of the Pune Metro Rail project in the city. The project is being built at a cost of more than Rs 11,400 crore.

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Coal Ministry to Celebrate “Iconic Week” Under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav from 7th March, 2022.

- To celebrate and commemorate the 75 years of Independence and as India enters into the Amrit Kaal, Ministry of Coal is organizing special events and programmes throughout the country from 7th to 11th March, 2022, as part of the ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ Iconic Week celebrations.

Virendra Kumar addresses the two - day sensitization workshop at Tent City, Gujarat:

- Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar addressed the two - day sensitization workshop, which concluded today at Kevadia (Ekta Nagar), Gujarat.

Ministry of Culture in collaboration with Sulabh International organized “Swacchagraha: celebrating Swachhta and Swadhinta”:

- Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in collaboration with Sulabh International organized an event “Swacchagraha” under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to encourage the mass awareness with the core thought of “Swachhta, Swadhinta and Sulabh” on 5th March in New Delhi.

Jitendra Singh to inaugurate 3-Day symposium on "Imagining India@2047 through Innovations"

- A three-day Symposium on the theme 'Imagining India @2047 through Innovation', will be held in Chennai during 07-09th March, 2022.

NMDC receives 1st prize in Ispat Rajbhasha Award for 2018-19 and 2020-21 and Ispat Rajbhasha Prema Award for 2019-20.

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

Government has launched Donate-a-Pension programme:

- The government has launched Donate-a-Pension programme.
- It is an initiative under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) pension scheme where citizens can donate the premium contribution of their immediate support staff including domestic workers, drivers and helpers.

Government has approved continuation of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana:

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- Government has approved the continuation of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana and its components for Financial Years 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The proposal for continuation of the scheme was received from the Home Ministry.

Rajnath Singh has virtually inaugurated four-day Indo-Pacific Military Health Exchange conference:

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has virtually inaugurated, on March 07, 2022, the four-day Indo-Pacific Military Health Exchange (IPMHE) conference co-hosted by Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) and US Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM).
- The theme of the conference is 'Military Healthcare in a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) World'.

Narayan Rane launches Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women – "SAMARTH":

- On the occasion of International Women's Day 2022, Union Minister for MSME, Shri Narayan Rane along with Minister of State for MSME, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma launched a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women - "SAMARTH" at New Delhi.

Department of Rural Development kick starts its Iconic Week celebration on the theme 'Naye Bharat ki Naari':

- The Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India will be celebrating its Iconic Week under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav from 7th – 13th March 2022 during the week of International Women's Day.
- The Iconic Week's theme to celebrate the contribution of rural women in India is 'Naye Bharat ki Naari' and the official hashtag is #NayeBharatkiNaari.

Minister of Electronics & IT Ashwini Vaishnaw to inaugurate Tech Conclave 2022:

- National Informatics Centre (NIC) is partnering with Governments in their digital initiatives for the last four decades.
- Over the years we have built state-of-the-art PAN-India ICT infrastructure, digital platforms & solutions for the exclusive use of the Government.

Ram Nath Kovind Presents 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' – 2020 and 2021:

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind conferred the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' - 2020 and 2021, at a special ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on occasion of International Women's Day.

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Petascale Supercomputer “PARAM Ganga” established at IIT Roorkee:

- The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) has now deployed “PARAM Ganga”, a supercomputer at IIT Roorkee, with a supercomputing capacity of 1.66 Petaflops.
- The system is designed and commissioned by C-DAC under Phase 2 of the build approach of the NSM.

Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Textiles to organise pan-India programme “Jharokha - Compendium of Indian handicraft/ handloom, art and culture”:

- As part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Textiles are organizing “Jharokha-Compendium of Indian handicraft/ handloom, art and culture”. na
- It will be a PAN India celebration which will be held at 16 locations in 13 states and UTs.

2,000 km of rail network will be brought under 'Kavach' in 2022-'23:

- 'Kavach', the indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system, will be deployed across the entire rail network beginning with 2,000 km in the 2022-23 fiscal and will be rolled out in 4,000 to 5,000 km every subsequent year, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

MOU signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research, India and Deutsche

Forschungsgemeinschaft e.V. (DFG), Germany:

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft e.V. (DFG), Germany in December 2021 and in accordance with Rule 7(d)(i) of the Second Schedule of Government of India (Transaction of Business) rules 1961.

MOU signed between ICMR, India and NIAID, National Institute of Health of Department of Health and Human Services:

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institute of Health of Department of Health and Human Services, USA, in September 2021 and in accordance with Rule 7(d)(i) of Second Schedule of Government of India (Transaction of Business) rules 1961.

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Establishment of WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India:

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHOGCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat by signing a Host Country agreement between the Government of India and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Setting up of National Land Monetization Corporation as SPV for undertaking surplus land monetization:

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the setting up National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) as a wholly owned Government of India company with an initial authorized share capital of Rs 5000 crore and paid-up share capital of Rs 150 crore.

MOU signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research, India and the Oxford University, UK:

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Oxford University, the UK in November 2021 and in accordance with Rule 7(d)(i) of the Second Schedule of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) rules 1961.

Amendment of the Second Schedule to the Mines and Minerals Act, 1957 for specifying rate of royalty in respect of certain minerals:

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Mines for amendment of Second Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Act') for specifying the rate of royalty in respect of Glaucosite, Potash, Emerald, Platinum Group of Metals (PGM), Andalusite, Sillimanite and Molybdenum.

Ministry of culture to organize Literature festival 'Sahityotsav' from 10th to 15th March 2022 in New Delhi:

- Sahityotsav, the Festival of Letters of Sahitya Akademi, India's most inclusive literature festival will be held from 10th to 15th March 2022 in New Delhi.
- Festival of Letters 2022 will be a part of the celebrations to commemorate 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

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MoHUA to organise a national level 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Conclave' on 12 March, 2022:

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is organising a national level 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Conclave' on 12 March, 2022 at Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, with an aim to start the communication with Start-ups in water sector.

Kailash Choudhary inaugurates Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela – 2022:

- Union Minister of State Kailash Choudhary inaugurated Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela 2022 in New Delhi.
- The three-day Krishi Mela is being organized by the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) under the guidance of the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar. Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) presided over the function.

Nitin Gadkari inaugurates 19 National Highway projects worth Rs 1407 crore in Haryana and Rajasthan.

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated 19 National Highway projects worth Rs 1407 crore in Haryana and Rajasthan.
- With the construction of these projects, tourism, agriculture, industry and trade will increase along with increase in employment in the states.

Indian Railways' 1st Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal commissioned in Eastern Railway:

- In pursuance to Prime Minister's vision "Gati Shakti" and Ministry of Railways' Policy regarding 'Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal' (GCT), Asansol division of Indian Railways has successfully commissioned private siding of Maithan Power Limited at Thaparnagar.

MoPNG Swachhta Pakhwada Awards presented by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri:

- The MoPNG Swachhta Pakhwada Awards were presented to the winners by the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Hardeep Singh Puri.
- The Minister also launched the Ministry's annual publication 'Indian Petroleum & Natural Gas Statistics 2020-21'.

Union Minister RK Singh launches Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center and Innovation Park:

- Union Minister for Power R.K. Singh has launched the Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (SGKC) and Innovation Park virtually as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Programme.

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3rd National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) begins in New Delhi:

- The 3rd edition of the National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) on March 10 and 11, 2022, in the Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi.
- Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur will address the inaugural session of NYPF on March 10, while the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will address the valedictory function on March 11.

Ashwini Vaishnaw to inaugurate seminar on “25 Years of TRAI Act: The Way Forward for Stakeholders:

- Ashwini Vaishnaw, the union minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways, will inaugurate a seminar on “25 Years of TRAI Act: The Way Forward for Stakeholders (Telecom, Broadcasting, IT, AERA and Aadhaar)”.

Union Ayush Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates 25th Convocation of Rashtriya Ayurveda

Vidyapeeth:

- Union Minister for Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonobal has inaugurated the 25th Convocation of Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth (RAV), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Ayush, where he urged the young Vaidyas to prepare themselves to bring the traditional medicine and knowledge on the world map and take India to a new height and help the mankind.

Ministry of chemicals and fertilizers releases guidelines for the scheme “strengthening of pharmaceutical industry”:

- Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has released the guidelines for the scheme “Strengthening of Pharmaceutical Industry (SPI)”, with a total financial outlay of Rs.500 Cr for the period from FY 21-22 to FY 25-26.

Amit Shah addressed the 37th Foundation Day celebrations of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in New Delhi:

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

Giriraj Singh has launched SMS sending functionality to inform MPs/ MLAs about the commencement of drone flying in their constituency under SVAMITVA Scheme:

- Shri Giriraj Singh, Minister of Panchayati Raj & Rural Development launched the SMS functionality developed wherein SMS will be rolled out to Elected Representatives of respective

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State / UT informing about the commencement of drone flying in their respective constituency scheduled for survey under SVAMITVA scheme.

Atal Innovation Mission expanded to encourage AR skills in youth:

- Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog has announced their partnership with Snap Inc. to drive Augmented Reality (AR) skilling among the Indian youth.
- Snap Inc. is a global camera company and Snap's camera plays a transformative role in how people experience the world around them, combining what they see in the real world, with all that's available to them in the digital world.

India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Challenge' launched by Minister Hardeep Singh:

- Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has launched the 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge', under which the government will select 100 start-ups and they will be provided with Rs 20 lakh each as funding support as well as mentorship.

Formulation of GIS based Master Plan for AMRUT Cities has been approved to facilitate States and cities to take up Master Planning:

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) supports States/ Union Territories by issuing advisories, design standards and schematic interventions for optimal use of technology for integrated urban planning.
- Under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), a sub-scheme on 'Formulation of GIS based Master Plan for AMRUT Cities' has been approved to facilitate States and cities to take up Master Planning and is being implemented in 456 towns of 35 States/ UTs.

Swachhata Startup Challenge launched to promote an enabling environment for development startups:

- Government has launched 'Swachhata Startup Challenge' in collaboration with Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to promote an enabling environment for development startups and entrepreneurs in the waste management sector.
- The scheme provides for the ten best solutions from the startups to be selected and each of them to get financial support of ₹25 Lakh per selected project and one year dedicated incubation support.

Ministry of Tourism under Swadesh Darshan scheme has sanctioned 76 projects under 13 thematic circuits including 'Buddhist theme':

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- The Ministry of Tourism under its Swadesh Darshan scheme since its inception has sanctioned 76 projects under 13 thematic circuits including 'Buddhist theme' for development of tourism infrastructure in the country.

Amit Shah inaugurated and laid foundation stone of various schemes of Sumul Dairy in Surat, Gujarat:

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various schemes of Sumul Dairy in Surat, Gujarat.
- The aim is to strengthen the cooperative movement for the workers of all cooperative movements and make it the world's strongest cooperative movement in the 100th year of Independence.

Govt extends Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt up to March 31, 2023:

- Government has extended Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt for Stressed Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, MSMEs up to 31st March next year.
- The scheme was launched on 24th June, 2020 to provide credit facility through lending institutions to the promoters of stressed MSMEs.

ISRO has organized Young Scientist Programme "YUVIKA" for students:

- Indian Space Research Organisation is organising a special programme for School Children called "Young Scientist Programme" "YUva Vigyani Karyakram", YUVIKA, to impart basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger students with a preference to rural areas.
- The programme is aimed at creating awareness about the emerging trends in science and technology amongst the youngsters, who are the future building blocks of our nation.

36th International Geological Congress to be held in New Delhi:

- The 36th International Geological Congress (IGC), themed "Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future" will be held here during 20-22 March, 2022 on a virtual platform.
- The 36th IGC is a joint endeavour of the Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Indian National Science Academy and the Science Academies of Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Nation's first AI & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) has launched in Bengaluru:

- An Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) with a seed money of Rs 230 crore was launched at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru.

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- Of the Rs 230 crore, Rs 170 crore would be borne by the Centre and the rest by the Karnataka government.

India's first World Peace Center will be established in Gurugram:

- Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti organisation established by Ambassador of Peace, Eminent Jainacharya Dr Lokeshji will establish India's first World Peace Center in Gurugram, Haryana.
- For this, the Haryana Government has allotted a plot to the organization in Sector 39 of Gurugram opposite Medanta Hospital and adjacent to Delhi-Jaipur Highway.

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited is now the biggest coal-producing firm of India:

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

Govt issues draft notification on Inter-County Non-Transport (personal) Vehicle rules, 2022:

- The Government has issued a draft notification on Inter-County Non-Transport (personal) Vehicle rules, 2022.
- According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the rules are proposed to formalize the movement of personal vehicles registered in other countries when entering or plying in the territory of India.

Nitin Gadkari has launched Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle Toyota Mirai:

- Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has launched the world's most advanced technology-developed Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle Toyota Mirai in New Delhi.
- It is an important initiative in promoting clean energy and protecting the environment by reducing dependence on fossil fuels and thereby making India 'Energy Self-reliant' by 2047.

Country's first Digital Water Bank AQVERIUM launched in Bengaluru:

- The country's first Digital Water Bank 'AQVERIUM' was launched in Bengaluru.
- It is formed by Aqua Kraft Group Ventures, next-generation sustainability, and impact enterprise focused on providing clean drinking water & sanitation.

Mumbai becomes first South Asian city to detail net-zero roadmap:

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- **Mumbai announced detailed plans to zero out carbon emissions by 2050, a target that puts it two decades ahead of India's national goal and makes it the first city in South Asia to set such a timeline**

India Needs 1.3 to 1.5 billion Tonnes of Coal by 2030:

- **As per Economic Survey, the demand for coal is expected to remain in the range of 1.3-1.5 billion tonnes by 2030.**
- **Coal is the most important and abundant fossil fuel in India and accounts for 55% of the country's energy need.**
- **The current per capita commercial primary energy consumption in India is about 350 kgoe/year.**

India's Maternal Mortality Ratio witnesses a remarkable drop by 10 points:

- **India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has dropped by 10 points, which is a notable achievement.**
- **From 113 in 2016-18 to 103 in 2017-19, this ratio has decreased, witnessing an 8.8 % decline.**
- **MMR has gradually decreased in the country, falling from 130 in 2014-2016 to 122 in 2015-17, 113 in 2016-18, and 103 in 2017-19.**
- **There are now nine (9) states that have met the NHP's MMR objective, including the seven mentioned above as well as the states of Karnataka (83) and Haryana (96).**

Defence Minister inaugurates Flight Control System Integration complex in Bengaluru:

- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated a seven-storeyed Flight Control System (FCS) Integration facility at Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.**
- **The state-of-the-art complex has been constructed in record 45 days, with in-house hybrid technology consisting of conventional, pre-engineered and precast methodology.**
- **The technology has been developed by DRDO with the help of M/s Larsen & Toubro (L&T).**
- **Design check and technical support has been provided by the teams of IIT Madras and IIT Roorkee.**

Union Minister Giriraj Singh releases Disaster Management Plan of Ministry of Panchayati Raj:

- **Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh has released disaster management and mitigation activities at grassroots level.**

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Department of Consumer Affairs celebrating 'Consumer Empowerment Week' and Azadi Ka Amrit

Mahotsav:

- The Department of Consumer Affairs is celebrating the “Consumer Empowerment Week” from 14th March, 2022 to commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Under the celebrations of Iconic Week, seven programmes are being conducted by various departments of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

PM Modi has inaugurated centenary year celebrations of Mathrubhumi:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the year-long celebrations of the centenary year of Malayalam Daily, Mathrubhumi through video conferencing.
- Mathrubhumi is a key part of the glorious tradition of newspapers and periodicals founded all across India to unify the people of our nation against colonial rule.
- Mathrubhumi started functioning on 18th March in 1923 & it has 15 editions and 11 periodicals.

IFSCA Announces Winners of Hackathon Sprint03: InsureTech under I-Sprint'21:

- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), in its endeavour to support a World Class FinTech Hub at GIFT IFSC, had launched I-Sprint'21, the global FinTech Hackathon as part of InFinity Forum 2021
- The Partners to the Hackathon were ICICI Lombard, Max Life, iCreate, India Insure-Tech Association and Invest-India.

A Future Ready Railway System: Indian Railways National Rail Plan 2030:

- Indian Railways have prepared a National Rail Plan (NRP) for India – 2030.
- The Plan is to create a ‘future ready’ Railway system by 2030.
- The NRP is aimed to formulate strategies based on both operational capacities and commercial policy initiatives to increase modal share of the Railways in freight to 45%.

NCRTC unveils coaches of India's first rapid rail for Delhi-Meerut corridor:

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

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- The train will be capable of accommodating 1500 passengers at once.

Visakhapatnam railway station to implement Centre's 'One Station, One Product':

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

CAMS launches Central Record Keeping Agency under NPS:

- Computer Age Management Services Limited (CAMS), India's largest registrar and transfer agent of mutual funds (a SEBI regulated entity) has announced the go-live and launch of Central Record Keeping Agency (CRA) under the National Pension System (NPS).

India unveils its Arctic policy, focuses on combating climate change:

- The Centre has released India's Arctic Policy, Titled 'India and the Arctic: building a partnership for sustainable development', with the aim of enhancing the country's cooperation with the resource-rich and rapidly transforming region.
- It was unveiled by Earth Sciences Minister Jitendra Singh.
- The policy also seeks to combat climate change and protect the environment in the region, which is warming three times faster than the rest of the world.

India adds 1.2 GW of new solar open access capacity in 2021:

- India added 1.2 GW of new solar open access capacity in 2021, marking a growth of 222% year-over-year (YoY), according to a Mercom India report.
- The cumulative installed solar capacity in the open access market crossed 5 GW.
- The country added 298 MW of new solar open access capacity in the fourth quarter (Q4) of calendar year 2021, a 75% increase compared to the same period in 2020.
- The top five states with the highest QoQ growth are Telangana (329%), Karnataka (102%), Andhra Pradesh (88%), Maharashtra (52%), and Uttar Pradesh (4%).

HAL, Safran to set up Helicopter engines MRO facility in Goa:

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

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- The facility will be operational by the end of 2023 with a capacity to repair 50 engines a year and a full-capacity goal of 150 engines in the coming years

IIT Madras establishes AquaMAP Water Management and Policy Centre:

- To solve water problems in India, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras establishes a new inter-disciplinary water management and policy centre known as 'AquaMAP'.
- AquaMAP will collaborate with other IIT Madras water research centers such as Sutram, International Centre for Clean Water (ICCW) – IIT Madras, and PCoE on Water and Sustainability, and other partners as well.

Ministry of Civil Aviation & FICCI to jointly organised 'WINGS INDIA 2022' in Hyderabad:

- Ministry of Civil Aviation and FICCI will jointly organise Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation - WINGS INDIA 2022 - from 24th to 27th of March at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad.
- Theme of the event is "India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry."

CCEA approves extension of applicability of NIP-2012 for three units of Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved an extension of applicability of New Investment Policy, NIP-2012 for the three units of Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited, HURL in Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni.
- HURL is a Joint Venture Company by Coal India Limited, NTPC and Indian Oil Corporation.
- These three facilities integrate the world's best technologies aiming to meet the demand for urea in Seven States - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha.

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya to inaugurate Step-Up to End TB – World TB Day Summit on occasion of World TB Day:

- Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will inaugurate the Step-Up to End TB- World TB Day Summit on the occasion of World TB Day on 24th of March in New Delhi.
- Chief Guest at the summit will be Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Anandiben Patel, who will attend the summit virtually.
- The two days summit will provide a forum to showcase the National TB Elimination Programme's learnings and successes.

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Cabinet approves Minimum Support Price of Raw Jute for 2022 -23 season:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Minimum Support Price, MSP for Raw Jute for 2022-23 season.
- The approval is based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.
- The MSP of Raw Jute, TDN3 equivalent to TD5 grade has been fixed at 4750 rupees per quintal for 2022-23 season.

Govt Extends FAME-II Scheme till March 2024:

- The Union government has announced the extension of the second phase of FAME India scheme by two years till March 31, 2024.
- The FAME India (Faster Adoption and Manufacture of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicles) Scheme is an incentive scheme for the promotion of electric and hybrid vehicles in the country.
- Ultimate objective of the scheme is to promote electric mobility and it gives financial incentives for enhancing electric vehicle production and creation of electric transportation infrastructure.
- Launched by the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises in 2015, the first phase of the scheme started in 2015 and was completed on March 31st, 2019.
- Phase I of the FAME-India Scheme was implemented with an outlay of INR 895 Cr.
- Approximately 2,18,625 Electric Vehicles were promoted by FAME I till July 2018.

Jitendra Singh has announced the launch of Data-Driven Research to Eradicate TB- “Dare2eraDTB”:

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Jitendra Singh has announced the launch of Data-Driven Research to Eradicate TB- “Dare2eraDTB” by the Department of Biotechnology, M/o Science & Technology, on the occasion of World TB Day.

India’s First-ever SAI National Centre of Excellence for Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross to be setup in Shimla:

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the Youth Services and Sports department of the Government of Himachal Pradesh is set to build India’s first-ever SAI National Centre of Excellence to train athletes in Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross in Shimla.

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PM Modi virtually inaugurates Biplobi Bharat Gallery in West Bengal:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Biplobi Bharat Gallery at Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata on the occasion of Shaheed Diwas.
- The newly built gallery depicts the contribution of the revolutionaries towards the freedom struggle of India and provides a holistic view of the events that led to 1947, according to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Government set the target to create 220 new airports by 2025:

- Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Government has set a target of creating 220 new airports by 2025.

LG Manoj Sinha addresses Gulf Countries Investment Summit in Srinagar:

- Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the Gulf Countries Investment Summit in Srinagar and highlighted the scope to make the paradise on earth as the most beautiful investment destination in the world.
- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, a 36-member delegation from the Gulf countries is presently in Srinagar to strengthen ties and look at the investment opportunities in the region.

Centre for Digital Transformation at IIM Ahmedabad sets up Retail Tech Consortium with industry partners:

- The Centre for Digital Transformation at Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA), a premier global management institute, has recently set up a Retail Tech Consortium and plans to collaborate with several retail and technology organisations in India.
- The consortium will work towards sharing deep knowledge, research, and setting up industry best practices for better collaboration amongst retail tech players in the country.

Centre extends validity of FCRA registration certificates till June 2022:

- The Centre has decided to extend the validity of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, FCRA registration certificates of certain categories of FCRA registered entities.
- The validity of registration certificates of such entities whose validity was extended till 31st March 31st of March and whose renewal application is pending will stand extended till this year or till the date of disposal of the renewal application, whichever is earlier.

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- Also, the validity of FCRA entities whose 5 years validity period is expiring during 1st April 2022 to 30th June 2022

Govt sets target to open 10,500 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras across the country:

- The Government has set a target to open ten thousand five hundred Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) across the country.
- About eight thousand six hundred eighty-nine PMBJKs have been opened covering all districts of the country.
- Around 1.25 to 1.50 crore people on an average purchase medicine from more than eight thousand six hundred PMBJKs in a month across the country.

Mahatma Gandhi's granddaughter inaugurates Modi Story website:

- The granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi Sumitra Gandhi Kulkarni inaugurated the Modi Story website which is a collection of stories from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's life.
- Modi story is a volunteer-driven initiative to bring together inspiring moments from Narendra Modi's life, as narrated by his co-travellers.

Union minister G Kishan Reddy inaugurates mega northeast cultural festival 'Ishan Manthan' in Delhi:

- The Union Minister of Culture, G Kishan Reddy, has inaugurated the three-day mega cultural event 'Ishan Manthan', which celebrates the culture and arts of the north-eastern region, in Delhi.
- In addition to spending Rs one lakh crore for the rail network and Rs 55 lakh crores for road network in the northeast, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also created a 'political network' with the regional parties that ensures smooth governance and development of the states.

Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2022 inaugurated at Rajamahendravaram in Andhra Pradesh:

- Under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Mega festival, Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2022 was inaugurated in Arts college Ground, RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, Andhra Pradesh by Governor, Andhra Pradesh Shri Biswabhusan Harichandan in the presence of Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER Shri G. K Reddy.

PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana has extended:

- The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for six more months till September this year to provide relief to poor, Union minister Piyush Goyal.

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- The government will spend ₹80,000 crore during the period.
- The phase-V of the PMGKAY scheme was to end in March 2022.
- The government has spent approximately Rs 2.6 lakh crore so far.

Smriti Irani has inaugurated the ten-day mega Red Fort Festival, 'Bharat Bhagya Vidhata,' at the Red Fort in Delhi:

- Smriti Irani, Union Minister of Women and Child Development, has launched the ten-day mega Red Fort Festival, 'Bharat Bhagya Vidhata,' at the Red Fort in Delhi.
- The event was organised in collaboration with the Dalmia Bharat Group (DBG), which has adopted the Red Fort as its Monument Mitra.

Centre extends import of Tur and Urad under 'Free category' for another year, till 31st March, 2023:

- The Centre has notified the decision to keep the import of Tur and Urad under 'Free category' till March 31, 2023.
- The Government had allowed the import of Tur, Urad, and Moong under the 'Free category' May 15, 2021, till October 31, 2021, in order to ensure smooth and seamless imports.
- The Free regime in respect of import of Tur and Urad was thereafter extended till March 31, 2022.

Ministry of MSME to organize Mega International Summit on MSMEs in association with EDII:

- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad is organizing a two-day Mega International Summit on MSMEs in New Delhi.

NCW launches legal aid clinic to resolve women grievances:

- National Commission for Women has launched a legal aid clinic in collaboration with Delhi State Legal Services Authority which will act as a single-window facility for resolving grievances of women by offering them free legal assistance.
- The legal aid centre aims to provide free advice and legal services to women.

Govt planning to amend Multi State Cooperative Societies Act 2002:

- Government is planning to amend Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act 2002 to have an effective regulatory mechanism for multi-state cooperative societies.

RBI Governor dedicates Varnika Ink Manufacturing Unit of BRBNMPL to the Nation:

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- Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), dedicated Varnika, the Ink Manufacturing Unit of Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of RBI to the nation in Mysuru.
- BRBNMPL has set up Varnika with an annual ink manufacturing capacity of 1,500 MT to enhance the security of banknotes.
- It is a boost to 'Make in India' initiative.

NITI Aayog and FAO Launch Book Titled Indian Agriculture towards 2030:

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has released a book titled Indian Agriculture towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers' Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems, at an event organized by NITI Aayog and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.
- Published by Springer, Indian Agriculture towards 2030.

IAF UNVEILS NEW INITIATIVE FOR REFUELLING ITS CONVOYS:

- The Indian Air Force has unveiled a new initiative with the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd under which its convoys will be to refuel at fuel stations of the state-run energy major.
- The defence ministry, 'Fleet Card - Fuel on Move' has been rolled out to facilitate the refuelling of convoys belonging to the IAF.
- The new initiative was launched by Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari.

NMCG Organizes 'Yamunotsav' At ITO Yamuna Ghat:

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has organized Yamunotsav in association with a group of NGOs at ASITA East River Front, ITO Bridge, to celebrate the glory of Yamuna with a "pledge to keep it clean".
- While under Namami Gange Programme, the focus was on the main stem of Ganga Basin and the positive results are now showing, the target now is to clean River Yamuna and ensure that 3 big STPs being constructed are completed by December 2022 with the support of stakeholders, preventing all the major drains and dirty water from falling into Yamuna

PM Modi To Inaugurate Museum of All Former PMs Of India on April 14:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the All-Former Prime Ministers Museum in New Delhi on April 14, 2022.

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- The Rs. 270 crore projects will be inaugurated on April 14, 2022, at the Teen Murti Bhavan complex which was the residence of ex-PM Jawaharlal Nehru.

Piyush Goyal inaugurates Indian Jewellery Exposition Centre building in Dubai:

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal has inaugurated the Indian Jewellery Exposition Centre (IJEX) building in Dubai, UAE, during his visit to Dubai to participate in the India Pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020.
- Piyush Goyal called upon the G&J Industry to triple their exports target from about \$35 billion exports at present to go for a 100 billion Dollar target worldwide.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Swiss to become first airline to use solar fuel

- The Lufthansa subsidiary Swiss Air Lines plans has come to an agreement with synthetic fuel group Synhelion to be the first airline in the world to use solar aviation fuel.
- The plant will be based in Germany and will become operational from 2022.

India, Netherlands Release Special Logo To Mark 75 Years Of Ties

- To commemorate 75 years of diplomatic relations between India and the Netherlands, Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs and Marten van den Berg, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to India released a joint special logo.

Pakistan continues to remain on FATF's grey list

- The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has retained Pakistan on its terrorism financing “grey list” and asked Islamabad to address at the earliest the remaining deficiencies in its financial system.

UN Environment Assembly ends with 14 resolutions

- The 5th UN Environment Assembly concluded in Nairobi with 14 resolutions to strengthen international action for climate, nature and a pollution-free planet to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Russia Surpasses Iran To Become World's Most Sanctioned Country

- According to the Castellum.AI dashboard, Russia became the world's most sanctioned country in the world surpassing Iran, Syria and North Korea, as its invasion of Ukraine.

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- Since February 22, 2022, Russia has faced 2,778 newsanctions led by the US and European nations, bringing the total to 5,530.

Investment in care services can generate 234 million jobs for women by 2035, ILO

- The International Labor Organization (ILO) has published a report titled 'Care at work: Investing in care leave and services for a more gender-equal world of work'.
- The report provides a global overview of national laws and practices regarding care policies, namely maternity protection, paternity, parental and other care-related leave policies, as well as childcare and long-term care services.

Revoking Russia's Most Favored Nation Trade Status: US

- President Biden and the G7 (a group of countries that includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States) jointly announced their intention to take steps to revoke most-favored-nation (MFN) status.
- Earlier, Canada became the first nation to revoke Russia's MFN status.
- Revoking Russia's PNTR status will allow the United States to increase and impose new tariffs on all Russian imports.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: STATE NEWS

Tamil Nadu overtakes Karnataka as the leader in overall renewable capacity

- Tamil Nadu has achieved the Number One position in overall installed renewable energy capacity in India surpassing Karnataka.

TN CM M K Stalin Launches Naan Muthalvan Scheme

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has launched an ambitious skill development scheme for students titled Naan Muthalvan' (I am first) at the Kalaivanar arangam in Chennai, TN.

Delhi police launches new digital initiatives- Anubhuti, refurbished user-friendly website, e-Chittha

- Delhi police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana launched three new digital initiatives - Anubhuti, a QR code-based feedback system, a refurbished Delhi Police website and e-Chittha portal.

Delhi govt plans to develop Science Innovation Hub in city school

- The Delhi government has announced plans to set up a "Science Innovation Hub" at a school run by Kautilya Enclave to promote scientific culture among students.

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- The Science hub will be ready with a cost of over Rs 5 crore in the next two-and-a-half years.

Jharkhand Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon Presents Budget For FY 2022-23

- Finance Minister Rameshwar Oraon of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-led coalition government in Jharkhand presented a budget of Rs 1.01 lakh crore for the Financial Year 2022-23.

India's first ambulance for street animals launched in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

- Blue Cross of India and Four Paws, an international animal welfare organisation, launched a mobile animal ambulance for street animals in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Deputy CM Manish Sisodia inaugurates Delhi Teachers University

- Delhi Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister Manish Sisodia inaugurated the Delhi Teachers University in Outram Lane in Mukherjee Nagar area of Delhi.
- It would offer programmes such as BA-BEd and BSc-BEd and focus on fundamental and applied research in education.

BSE partners with Tamil Nadu gov't's M-TIPB to promote listing of MSMEs

- Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has collaborated with the MSME Trade and Investment Promotion Bureau (M-TIPB), Government of Tamil Nadu, for promoting awareness among micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) of the state about the benefits of listing.

Himachal govt presents Rs 51,365-cr Budget for FY23

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur presented Rs 51,365 crore tax-free budget for the year 2022-23 in the state assembly.
- This is the fifth budget of the Chief Minister during his term after 2017.

Chhattisgarh govt launches 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana'

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched the 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana' and gave away cheques of Rs 5,000 each to five women beneficiaries for safe motherhood at a state-level conference.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

Telangana Finance Minister presents budget for 2022-23

- Telangana Finance Minister T Harish Rao presented a tax-free budget of Rs 2.56 lakh crore for 2022-23.
- Harish Rao called this budget the 'KCR Mark' Budget.

Andhra Pradesh Presents Rs 2.56 Lakh Crore Budget for 2022-23

- The Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath presented the Budget for 2022-23 with a proposed expenditure of Rs 2.56 lakh crore and a projected revenue deficit of Rs 17,036 crore.
- The fiscal deficit in 2022-23 is expected to be Rs 48,724 crore it would be around 3.64 percent of the GSDP
- The total public debt of the state is projected to shoot up to Rs 4,39,394.35 crore in 2022-23.

Delhi govt launches 'My EV' portal for purchasing, registering e-autos

- The Delhi government launched an online portal "My EV" for the purchase and registration of electric autos in Delhi.
- The government will also provide a 5 percent interest subsidy on the purchase of e-autos on loans under the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy & Delhi has now become the first state to provide such a facility.
- It has collaborated with Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) to develop the website.

West Bengal presents Rs 3.21 lakh crore Budget for 2022-23

- West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya presented a Rs 3.21-lakh crore budget for the financial year 2022-23.
- Revenue receipts are pegged at Rs 1,98,047 crore
- Capital expenditure for the fiscal is estimated to be Rs 33,144 crore, and revenue expenditure is pegged at Rs 2,26,326 crore.

Kerala Finance Minister presents state budget 2022-23

- Kerala's Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal presented the budget for the financial year 2022- 23 in the Assembly.
- The Budget has earmarked Rs 2,000 crore to arrest price rise and ensure food security in Kerala.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

Karnataka govt launches programme to provide 5 lakh jobs to women

- Minister of Higher Education, Electronics, IT-BT, S&T and Skill Development Dr C N Aswath Narayan launched the Women@Work (W@W) programme.

Aim :

- To provide 5 lakh jobs within 2026 to women with necessary employable skills.
 - The W@W Program is being organized jointly by Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), KTECH and Karnataka Skill Development Corporation, Government of Karnataka.
- At present women constituted 35 percent of the workforce and the programme aims to raise their workforce strength to 50 percent.

Kashmiri Hand-Knotted Carpets Get QR Code-Based GI Tag

- The Jammu and Kashmir government has launched a Geographical Indication (GI) registry for the famed Kashmiri carpet with a quick response (QR) code with details of artisans and the material used.
- Recently the first ever consignment of GI-tagged hand-knotted carpets were exported to Germany from New Delhi.
- The Geographical Indication Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Govt of India) granted GI Tag to Kashmiri Carpets in June 2016., but the registered carpets were certified from 2022.

Haryana Chief Minister proposes over Rs 1.77 lakh crore tax-free Budget

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar presented the state budget in the state assembly and proposed a Budget of Rs 1,77,255.99 crore for the year 2022-23.
- The state would adopt the “Vajra Model” of growth for Haryana, in which, the state has envisioned five developmental forces

Madhya Pradesh Govt Presents Rs 2.79-Lakh-Crore Budget for FY 2022-23

- Finance minister of Madhya Pradesh, Jagdish Devda, has presented the state budget worth Rs 2.79 lakh crore for 2022-23.
- The fiscal deficit was Rs 52,511 crore, which is 4.56 per cent of the Gross State Gross Domestic Product (GSDP).

Aim of the budget:

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

- To make the Madhya Pradesh 'Atma-Nirbhar' (Self-reliant) state
- For the first time, the state government presented a 'child budget' & Rs 17,792 crore has been allotted.

Tripura govt announces special scheme for tea workers - Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa”

- The state government of Tripura has announced a special scheme named "Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa" to ensure social security of over 7,000 tea garden workers of Tripura.
- For the implementation of the scheme the govt has allocated a sum of Rs 85 crore.

West Bengal celebrates Dol Utsav, welcomes spring season

- The people of Bengal celebrated the festival of colors, predominantly known as Dol Utsav in the state through cultural programs, marking the onset of spring season.
- The festival of colors is celebrated across India with much zeal. People throw “gulaal” or powder color on each other and sing and dance to mark the festival.
- Dol Jatra or Dol Purnima is celebrated on a full moon day, and the festival is dedicated to Lord Krishna.

TN finance minister Palanivel Thiagarajan presents budget for 2022-23

- Tamil Nadu finance minister Palanivel Thiagarajan presented the budget for 2022-23.
- For the first time since 2014 the revenue deficit was to decrease by over ₹7,000 crore.
- The state's fiscal deficit is set to decline - by 4.61 percent to 3.80 percent.

Haryana Govt inaugurat the 35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela

- Governor of Haryana Shri Bandaru Dattatraya and Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Manohar Lal inaugurated the 35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela at Surajkund in Faridabad district of Haryana.
- It is jointly hosted by the Surajkund Mela Authority and Haryana Tourism in collaboration with the Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture, External Affairs and Government of Haryana
- The Mela is open from 19th March to 4th April, 2022, daily from 12.30 pm-9.30 pm.
- The Mela was first organized in 1987.

Kerala Becomes First State To Introduce Carbon-Neutral Farming

- Kerala is set to become the first State in the country to introduce carbon-neutral farming methods in selected locations.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

- For that the government has set aside **₹6 crore** in the 2022-23 Budget.
- In the first phase, carbon-neutral farming will be implemented in **13 farms** under the agriculture department and tribal areas, and steps are on to convert the State Seed Farm at Aluva to a carbon-neutral farm.
- In the second phase, model carbon-neutral farms will be developed in all the **140 Assembly constituencies**.

Music instrument of TN Narasinghapettai Nagaswaram gets GI tag

- Tamil Nadu's traditional wind instrument 'Narasinghapettai Nagaswaram' made by traditional village artisans of Kumbakonam, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu has got the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag.
- It has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag under **musical instruments of class 15'**
- Narasinghapettai nagaswaram' is its production process - it is **handmade** in Narasingapettai village in Thanjavur, unlike the other machine-made ones.

Nagaland becomes first state to paperless Assembly by implementing National e-Vidhan Application programme

- The north eastern state of **Nagaland** became the **first State Assembly** in the entire country to implement the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)** programme to become **completely paperless**.
- The Nagaland Assembly Secretariat has attached a tablet or e-book on each table in the **60 members' assembly**.
- This initiative encourages paperless operations and reflects the government's commitment towards **Ashta Lakshmi**.
- The expenses for implementing NeVA are funded by the **Centre** and the **state** government on a **90:10** sharing basis.

Kerala tourism launches 24/7 WhatsApp chatbot 'Maya'

- Kerala Tourism launched its **24×7 WhatsApp chatbot Maya'** to enable tourists to access **all information and updates** about the tourism ecosystem in Kerala.
- To enable this, tourists just send a **Hi** to the **WhatsApp no 7510512345**, or by scanning the QR code to access the service.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

Bihar becomes first state to implement dynamic map to track land ownerships

- Bihar has become the **first state** in the country to introduce the concept of a dynamic map for villages which will get updated every time land ownership changes hands.

Gujarat gets India's first 'steel road'

- Gujarat became India's first city to get a unique steel road, made with 100% processed steel slag at the Hazira Industrial Area in Surat, Gujarat.
- The steel slag road has been built by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India.
- It is sponsored by the Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) with help from the Ministry of Steel and Policy Commission and the NITI Aayog.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BANKING AND ECONOMY

Standard Chartered tie up with IATA to launch payment platform for Indian airline industry

- Standard Chartered has partnered with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to launch IATA Pay in India.
- It enables participating airlines to offer instant payment options such as UPI Scan & Pay and UPI Collect (Request to Pay).

NDB first multilateral agency to open office in Gift City

- New Development Bank (NDB) will become the first multilateral agency to open an office in the Gujarat International Finance Tec City (GIFT), Gujarat.
- NDB will open the office in **May 2022** in GIFT City.

BoM Partnered with Mahagram to roll out the 'Bank Sakhi' project

- Bank of Maharashtra has tied up with Mahagram to roll out the 'Bank Sakhi' project in Odisha.
- The fintech would provide financial technology and infrastructure support to augment rural financial inclusion.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

RBI cautions against car-pooling app sRide

- The Reserve bank of India cautioned public against car-pooling app sRide, citing that the firm was operating a semi-closed prepaid instrument without authorization from the central bank under Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

NSO estimates GDP growth for India in 2021-22 at 8.9%

- The National Statistical Office (NSO)'s second advance estimates of national accounts have been released.
- The GDP growth rate projection as per NSO

Japan & India renews the Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) worth USD 75 billion

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

Cabinet allows up to 20% FDI in IPO-bound LIC under automatic route:

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a proposal to allow foreign direct investment (FDI) up to 20 per cent in Life Insurance Corporation through the automatic route.

RBI proposes to assess impact of its financial literacy campaigns

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is proposed to assess the impact of the multi-media awareness campaigns to promote financial literacy and also safe banking practices.
- It was a multi-media multi-lingual campaign using SMSes, print, television channels, radio, hoardings, websites and social media.

Paytm partners with IRCTC for unreserved and platform tickets:

- Digital payments company Paytm has partnered with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to provide digital ticketing services to consumers through Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs) installed at railway stations across India.

IDBI Bank launches liquidity management solution for institutional clients

- IDBI Bank has launched Corporate Liquidity Management Solution (C-LMS) and Government Liquidity Management Solution (G-LMS) to meet the liquidity management needs of institutional customers.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

Edelweiss Housing Finance and Standard Chartered Bank partner for Co-lending of Loan against Property

- Edelweiss Housing Finance Limited has announced a strategic co-lending partnership with Standard Chartered Bank for extending loans against property to prospective customers, especially MSMEs.

UCO Bank extends partnership with Fisdom to offer demat, stockbroking services

- UCO Bank, formerly United Commercial Bank in partnership with Fisdom, extends the FinTech partnership to now include demat account & stockbroking services, Pension funds and tax filing.

NPCI tie up with Yatra.com, SBI Card to launch the 'Yatra SBI Card'

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) announced a special co-branded 'Yatra SBI Card' on the RuPay network, in collaboration with Yatra.com and SBI Card.

Axis Bank Commits \$150 Million to SAMRIDH Healthcare :

- Axis Bank has signed an MoU with IPE Global for strengthening India's healthcare infrastructure by providing affordable finance of up to USD 150 million (about Rs 1,140 crore) through SAMRIDH.

RBI cancels licence of Maharashtra-based Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank, Maharashtra

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has canceled the license of Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank Ltd, Shirala, Dist. Sangli, Maharashtra.

LICHFL tie up with CSC to provide loans via over 4 lakh village level entrepreneurs

- LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LICHFL) and CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd (CSC) have entered into a strategic partnership to provide loans to citizens through CSC's network of over four lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs).

PayU Collaborates with VTEX to offer merchants multiple local payment methods:

- PayU has collaborated with VTEX, one of the largest global digital commerce platforms, to offer multiple payment solutions to VTEX merchants.

Indian Oil partners Kotak Mahindra Bank for co-branded credit card:

- Private lender Kotak Mahindra Bank and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd has announced a strategic partnership to launch the Indian Oil Kotak co-branded fuel credit card.

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RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das launches UPI123Pay

- On March 08, 2022, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das launched UPI for feature phones called UPI123Pay.
- He also unveiled a 24x7 helpline for digital payments – DigiSaathi.

IOB extends ₹1,000 cr loan to JKIDFC

- PSU lender Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has sanctioned a loan of ₹1,000 crore to Jammu and Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation Ltd (JKIDFC).
- The bank has already disbursed ₹500 crore of the sanctioned amount.

Insolvency Regulator IBBI Signs MoU With IBA

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

Bharti Airtel Partners with Axis Bank to launch credit card

- Bharti Airtel, India's premier communications solutions provider, and Axis Bank, India's third-largest private sector bank, have entered into a strategic partnership to strengthen the growth of India's digital ecosystem through a range of financial solutions.

RBI selects Intellect Design Arena for Cloud Native Intellect Quantum Core Banking solution

- Intellect Design Arena stated that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has chosen Intellect to implement the upgraded version of the Cloud Native Intellect Quantum Core Banking solution to power the next stage of their digital transformation agenda.

BE(A)WARE: RBI's notice on modus operandi of financial frauds

- The Reserve Bank of India released a booklet namely 'BE(A)WARE' on the common modus operandi used by fraudsters and precautions to be taken while carrying out various financial transactions.

Axis Bank rolls out 'HouseWorksWork' initiative:

- Axis Bank has kicked off the 'HouseWorksWork' initiative, offering opportunities to those who want to rejoin the professional space.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

HDFC Mutual Fund Launches an Exclusive Financial Empowerment Initiative

- HDFC Mutual Fund has launched a women-led financial empowerment initiative 'LaxmiForLaxmi'.

Star Health launches Women-Centric Medical Insurance Policy

- Health insurance company Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd launched Star Women Care Insurance Policy, a woman-centric comprehensive health cover specially designed to protect the health-care needs of women at every stage of their lives.

ToneTag tie up with NSDL Payments Bank launches VoiceSe UPI digital payments for feature phone users:

- ToneTag in partnership with NSDL Payments Bank and NPCI has recently rolled out its VoiceSe UPI digital payments for feature phone users under the guidance of RBI.
- This comes after the Reserve Bank of India has launched the UPI 123Pay facility that enables UPI payments for feature phone users.

SEBI Increases Public Debt Investment Limit Through UPI To ₹ 5 Lakhs for retail investors

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) increased the investment limit for payments through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) mechanism for retail investors buying debt securities in public issues to ₹ 5 lakh from ₹ 2 lakh.
- It will open on or after May 1, 2022.

RBI issues guidelines for extended interest equalization scheme for export credit

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued modified norms on Interest Equalization Scheme for pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit up after the extension of the scheme till March 31, 2024 by the government.
- The extension takes effect from October 1, 2021.

NaBFID to Be Regulated as AIFI Under RBI Act

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated that National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) will be regulated and supervised as an All India Financial Institution by it under the RBI Act, 1934.

Zeta partners with Mastercard to power next-gen credit processing for banks, fintechs

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

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

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

BOB Financial and CreditAI launch Unnati Co-Branded Credit Card for Farmers

- BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB), and CreditAI Fintech Pvt Ltd (CAI), have launched Unnati – a co-branded credit card exclusively for farmers.

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance partners with Bharat Co-operative Bank

- Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI), the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), and Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd. have announced their bancassurance partnership with an aim of combining synergies to enhance the reach of life insurance products.

India and World Bank sign \$125 million Loan to support access to Social Protection Services in West Bengal

- The Government of India, the Government of West Bengal, and the World Bank signed a \$125 million IBRD loan to support efforts to help poor and vulnerable groups access social protection services in the state of West Bengal.

India's GDP growth estimated at 7.8% in FY2023 : CRISIL Report

- According to the ratings agency CRISIL, reiterated its December 2021 forecast of India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 7.8% in fiscal 2023.
- CRISIL stated that average Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation will stay firm at 5.4 percent next fiscal if the price of crude oil averages \$85-90 per barrel.

Karnataka Bank partners with SELCO to finance solar energy products

- Karnataka Bank Ltd has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with SELCO Solar Light Pvt Ltd to provide energy access to the underserved population.

RBI directs Paytm Payments Bank to stop onboarding new customers

- On March 11, 2022, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directed Paytm Payments Bank to stop onboarding of new customers with immediate effect.
- The RBI took the decision in exercise of its powers under section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

EPFO fixes 8.1 per cent as interest rate on provident fund deposits for 2021-22

- The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has set the interest rate on provident fund deposits for 2021-22 at 8.1 percent, from 8.5 percent in the previous year.
- This is the lowest interest rate since 1977-78 on deposits that employees make towards their retirement fund.
- The interest rate was recommended by the Central Board of Trustees (CBT)

RBI bars Paytm Payments Bank from onboarding new customers

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directed Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) to stop onboarding new customers with immediate effect and conduct a comprehensive audit of its IT system, citing "material supervisory concerns".
- The RBI took action in exercise of its powers under Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

LivQuik first PPI to achieve RBI's PPI interoperability guidelines

- Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuer LivQuik has achieved full Interoperability as mandated by the Reserve Bank of India for their Prepaid payments Instruments.
- With interoperability, customers of LivQuik will be able to optimise their payments and spending across wallets by attaching a card on Visa and RuPay networks and can also enable UPI.

NSE, IBJA Partners To Set Up Bullion Spot Exchange

- National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) and India Bullion and Jewelers Association Ltd (IBJA) have joined hands to launch the Domestic Bullion Spot Exchange in line with SEBI guidelines.
- India is the second-largest consumer of gold, and it is the first time that a domestic bullion spot exchange is being set up under the aegis of SEBI.

Ujjivan SFB launches digital on-boarding for its micro banking customers

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has launched a digital on-boarding facility for its micro banking customers via Ujjivan SFB Assisted App.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

- It would enable over **60 lakh customers** of the bank to update their mobile number for their individual banking transactions through a **new Paperless, Real time and Secure, OTP-based authentication**, followed by a **Biometric Authentication process**

DBS Bank India launches Green Deposits program

- **DBS Bank India** has announced the launch of its **Green Deposit Program** for corporate clients, providing businesses with an easy way to support green projects.

Aim:

- To finance green industries and initiatives for **renewable energy, wastewater management and clean transport.**”
- DBS had partnered with **CapitaLand Group** to place its **first green deposit** for one of their group entities & the total net worth of outstanding green loans disbursed by DBS Bank in India is worth **INR 1,546 Crores**.
- **HSBC India** is the **first foreign bank** to launch a **Green Deposits program** in India.

ICICI Bank launches co-branded credit cards with Emirates Skywards

- Private sector lender **ICICI Bank** announced a tie-up with **Emirates Skywards**, a loyalty programme of **Emirates** and **flydubai**, to launch a range of co-branded credit cards named, '**Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Credit Card**.'
- The cards will enable customers to earn reward points, called **Skywards Miles**, on travel, lifestyle and everyday spends.
- The cards award up to **2.5 Skywards Miles** on every spend of **₹100**.
- The co-branded credit cards, powered by **Visa** as the network partner, are available in **three variants**:
 1. '**Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Emerald Credit Card**'
 2. '**Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Sapphire Credit Card**',
 3. '**Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Rubyx Credit Card**'.
- **India** is the **first Indian bank** to partner with **Emirates Skywards**, to offer an exclusive range of credit cards in the country.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

Morgan Stanley projects India's GDP growth forecast to 7.9% for fiscal 2022-23

- US investment bank and financial services company Morgan Stanley has trimmed India's economic growth forecast by 50 basis points to **7.9% for the fiscal year 2022-23**.
- Furthermore, Stanley raised the country's retail inflation estimate to 6%, meanwhile, current account deficits are seen to widen by 3% of GDP.

SBI to set up Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** plans to set up an **Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre (IIAC)** at Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The centre will be operational in **six to nine months** of on-boarding a consultant

Max Life Insurance launches smart guaranteed pension plan

- **Max Life Insurance Company** has launched the '**Max Life Smart Guaranteed Pension Plan**', a non-linked, non-participating single premium individual/group general annuity plan.
- Corporates and public sector enterprises can directly purchase this plan as a group annuity product to meet the employees' retirement needs.
- The Company offers attractive annuity rates and unique benefits, **National Pension System (NPS)** subscribers will also be eligible to buy the product utilizing their NPS proceeds.

Mahila Money, Visa and Transcorp Jointly launch prepaid card to support women entrepreneurs

- India-based digital bank **Mahila Money** has partnered with **Visa** and **Transcorp** to launch the **digital Mahila Money Prepaid Card for women entrepreneurs** to use digital payments more effectively.
- The Mahila Money Prepaid Card would bridge the gap for community members who want the convenience of a bank account with added **flexibility, safety and convenience**.
- According to the latest survey by the **All-India Debt and Investment Survey (AIDIS)**, **80.7% of women in rural areas** and **81% in urban areas** have bank accounts, 55% of women still don't actively use their bank accounts.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

Kotak Mahindra Bank signs MoU with Business France

- Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Business France, the French national agency in charge of the development of exports and international investments in France, to support companies in the Indo-French corridor.
- The signing ceremony was chaired by Eric Fajole, Regional Director, French Embassy in India and Ms. Sudha Balakrishnan, Business Head, MNC Banking Group, Kotak Mahindra Bank in France.
- With this Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd became the first bank in India to tie-up with Business France for promoting business & start-up ecosystem in India & France

SEBI amends rules governing alternative investment funds

- Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has amended the rules pertaining to investment aspects of certain categories of alternative investment funds (AIFs) & the new norms called Sebi's AIF Regulations, 2022.
- Under the rules, Category III AIFs can invest not more than 10 percent of the investable funds in an investee company, directly or through investment in units of other AIFs.
- In India, alternative investment funds (AIFs) are defined in Regulation 2(1)(b) of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012.

USAID, Mastercard enters partnership to foster digital empowerment of women

- US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Mastercard have partnered to foster digital empowerment of women in India through an initiative called 'Project Kirana'.
- Project Kirana is a business development and digital financial literacy programme for women entrepreneurs.
- It is the two-year program, implemented by DAI and ACCESS Development Services, is working in select cities of Uttar Pradesh like Kanpur, Lucknow, Varanasi.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

SBI to provide \$1-bn credit line to Sri Lanka to Battles Severe Economic Situation

- The State Bank of India (SBI) and the Government of Sri Lanka signed USD 1 billion Line of Credit (LOC) for procurement of food, medicines and other essential items, amid the island nation's worsening economic crisis.
- New Delhi has agreed to several economic arrangements with Colombo including:
 1. A currency swap arrangement of \$400 million (over Rs 3,037.32 crore)
 2. A debt deferral of \$515 million (Rs 3,911.25 crore) for two months
- Earlier, the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) had extended a line of credit of USD 500 million for financing the purchase of petroleum products to Sri Lanka which is facing a financial crisis.

Moody's lowers India growth estimate for CY22 to 9.1% amid Russia-Ukraine conflict

- Rating agency Moody's has revised downwards the economic growth forecast of India by 40 basis points to 9.1 per cent in CY2022 due to adverse effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on the global economy.
- Earlier in February 2022, Moody's estimated India's GDP in CY2022 to 9.5 percent.

Centre extends timeline for converting debt investment into equity to 10 years

- According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the government has increased the timeline for startups to convert debt investments (convertible note) made in the company into equity shares up to ten years.
- Earlier the option of changing convertible notes into equity shares was allowed for up to five years from the day when initial convertible note was issued.

HDFC Bank to give a digital push to small business loans

- To give a digital push to small business loans, HDFC Bank has decided to create a dedicated app for mom-and-pop stores to push merchant loans.
- The SmartHub Vyapar programme for merchants will be launched soon & now in its pilot phase.
- The Bank will launch an application 'AutoFirst' that will offer fully automated auto loans.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

Paytm Payment Gateway launches 'Payment Analytics'

- A wholly-owned subsidiary of **One97 Communications Limited**, **Paytm Payments Services Limited**, has launched a first-of-its-kind service called 'Payment Analytics', designed by **Paytm Payment Gateway**.
- It is a data analysis feature for online and offline merchants. This is available to all **Paytm** merchants at no extra cost.
- It offers **three** services
 1. Payment source analytics
 2. Customer analytics
 3. Payment flow analytics

Fitch Ratings declines India's FY23 growth forecast to 8.5% from 10.3%

- Rating agency **Fitch** slashed India's growth forecast for the next fiscal to **8.5 percent** from **10.3 percent**, citing soaring energy prices and rising inflation on account of the **Russia-Ukraine war**.
- It has revised upwards the GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal by **0.6 percentage points** to **8.7 percent**.
- For 2023-24, it is estimated at **7 per cent**.

RBI cancels license of Kanpur-based People's Co-operative Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the license of **Kanpur-based People's Co-operative Bank Limited** as the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
- The bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects, as such, it does not comply with the provisions of **Section 11(1) and Section 22 (3) (d)** read with **Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- The bank has failed to comply with the requirements of **Section 22(3) (a), 22 (3) (b), 22 (3) (c), 22 (3) (d) and 22 (3) (e)** read with **Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

NABARD sanctions Rs 4,013cr financial assistance for Odisha

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

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

- With an assistance of Rs 2,568 crore (64 percent of the state's total sanction) has been sanctioned for construction of rural roads.
- These projects are expected to benefit more than 10 lakh people in the state by way of creating and upgrading the road and bridge length of 2,000 km and 17.13 km respectively.
- The total cumulative sanctions of NABARD since the inception of RIDF has crossed Rs 32,100 crore for Odisha.

SBI Card, Nature's Basket launches Worldwide Gourmand Card

- India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, SBI Card has inked partnership with Natures Basket India's leading premium grocery store brand, to launch the first-of-its-kind credit card, Nature's Basket SBI Card'.
- The card will be introduced in two variants 'Nature's Basket SBI Card' and 'Nature's Basket SBI Card Elite'.
- The card will allow cardholders to earn up to 20 reward points for every Rs 100 spent at Nature's Basket stores and 10 reward points on every Rs 100 spent on dining, movies and international travel.

RBI lifts all curbs on HDFC Bank, including launch of new digital products

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lifted restrictions on the new digital business-generating activities of private lender HDFC Bank under its Digital 2.0 programme.
- The Central bank in December 2020 had asked HDFC Bank to stop all launches of its upcoming digital business-generating activities and sourcing of new credit card customers after repeated outages at its data centre which impacted operations.

First wildlife bond issued by World Bank to save Africa's black rhino

- The World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, IBRD) priced the Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB) in support of South Africa's efforts to conserve endangered species of Black Rhino.
- WCB is also known as "Rhino Bond".
- It is a five-year \$150 million Sustainable Development Bond.
- It includes a potential performance payment from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

OECD retains India's GDP for FY23 at 8.1% and for FY24 at 5.5%

- The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has retained the outlook for India's real gross domestic product (GDP) at 5.5% in FY24, lower than 8.1% in 2022-23.
- The GDP was released in the Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India of OECD.

ICICI Bank partners with Chennai Super Kings, launches co-branded credit card

- ICICI Bank has launched a co-branded credit card in partnership with Chennai Super Kings (CSK), one of the most successful cricket teams in India, called 'Chennai Super Kings ICICI Bank Credit Card'.
- Customers can apply for the 'Chennai Super Kings ICICI Bank Credit Card' by sending an SMS 'KING' to 5676766.

EbixCash Partners with Axis Securities to Offer Integrated trading services to its Customers

- EbixCash Limited, a technology enabled provider of digital products and services in the B2C, B2B and financial technology arena, through an integrated business model, announced a strategic agreement with Axis Securities, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Axis Bank, to provide end-to-end trading services to customers of EbixCash.
- The association offers a 3-in-1 account to the customers of EbixCash, allowing them to integrate savings, demat and trading accounts.

ICICI Lombard ties up with Airtel Payments Bank to offer smartphone insurance

- Airtel Payments Bank partnered with ICICI General Insurance Company to provide smartphone insurance that offers device financial protection from damages caused by accidents, liquid spillage, or more.
- The customers can get insured for a sum equal to the purchase price of their smartphone which can be priced anywhere between the range of Rs 10,000 to Rs 1,00,000.
- By paying a monthly premium of Rs 1,299, customers also have the facility to get this insurance on their own within 10 days of making the purchase.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

- As Per a 2020 report published by RedSeer, the Indian smartphone insurance segment could potentially become a \$500 million market by 2025, with an expected CAGR of 29 percent per annum.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das inaugurates Reserve Bank Innovation Hub in Bengaluru, Karnataka

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das inaugurated the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The RBI has set up the RBIH as a Section 8 company under Companies Act, 2013, with an initial capital contribution of Rs 100 crore.
- The Hub has an independent Board with Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan as the Chairman and other eminent persons from industry and academia as members.
- Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) is one of the five wholly-owned subsidiaries of the RBI.

Federal Bank partners with RBI's Innovation Hub to advance digital financial inclusion for women

- Private sector lender Federal Bank has teamed up with Reserve Bank Innovation Hub, a subsidiary of the central bank, as scale up partner for the second phase of Swanari TechSprint programme.
- The term Swanari stands for Swanirbhar Nari meaning Self Reliant Lady.
- RBIH is hosting the Swanari TechSprint during 18-22 April 2022 to create and produce smart, creative, and sustainable solutions supporting women's advancement in financial growth and independence and for women-owned enterprises in India.

SBI inks co-lending pact with 5 HFCs for affordable housing

- Country's largest lender State Bank of India has signed a co-lending agreement with five housing finance companies (HFCs) to give loans for affordable homes.

List of 5 HFCs:

1. PNB Housing Finance Ltd
2. IIFL Home Finance Ltd
3. Shriram Housing Finance Ltd
4. Edelweiss Housing Finance Ltd
5. Capri Global Housing Finance Ltd

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

- The partnerships align to accelerate effective and affordable credit to small home buyers in India and contribute to the vision of “Housing for All by 2024”.
- Shriram Housing Finance Ltd & SBI will jointly service housing loan customers as per the 20:80 co-lending model (CLM) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

HDFC mutual fund to launch country's first defence fund

- HDFC Mutual Fund has filed a scheme information document (SID) with SEBI to come up with India's first Defence Fund called the HDFC Defence Fund.
- It will be an open-ended equity scheme that will be investing in defence & allied sector companies (includes Aerospace, Explosives, Ship Building, industries /stocks present on SIDM (Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers) list or any other similar industries / stocks allied to the Defence sector.
- The fund will be primarily managed by Abhishek Poddar.
- This fund will be benchmarked to the recently introduced Nifty India Defence Index TRI (Total Returns Index).

Government Sets infrastructure lending Target of Rs 1 Trillion For NaBFID

- The Centre has set a target of about Rs 1 trillion for the government-backed National Bank for Financial Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) for sanctioning loans to the infrastructure sector in FY23.
- The government has infused Rs 20,000 crore as equity in the DFI, and an additional Rs 5,000 crore has been given as grants to NaBFID.

Max Life Insurance ties up with PhonePe to launch Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan

- Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd has tied up with PhonePe for the launch of Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan, a non-linked non-participating individual pure risk premium life insurance plan on the PhonePe app to enhance financial protection for digitally-savvy customers.
- With this, PhonePe customers can avail comprehensive financial coverage for their families with premiums starting as low as ₹4,426 annually.
- Customers have the flexibility to choose a sum assured up to ₹10 crore and can have their policies renewed on the PhonePe app.

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RBI releases framework for Geo-tagging of payment system touch points

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the framework for geo-tagging of payment system touch points to ensure proper monitoring of the availability of payment acceptance infrastructure.
- The payment acceptance infrastructure includes Point of Sale (PoS) terminals and Quick Response (QR) codes.
- This framework is issued under Section 10 (2) read with Section 18 of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (Act 51 of 2007).
- Banks and non-banks can report information on payment touch points to the Reserve Bank through the Centralized Information Management System (CIMS).

RBI Governor lays Foundation Stone of Learning and Development Centre (LDC) of BRBNMPL

- Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), laid foundation stone for the establishment of a Learning and Development Centre (LDC) of the Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL), in Mysuru.
- LDC is being established with active collaboration from Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL), a wholly owned Schedule 'A' Miniratna Category-I company of Government of India and Bank Note Paper Mill India private Limited (BNPMIPL), a joint venture of BRBNMPL and SPMCIL.

ICRA lowers FY23 GDP growth forecast to 7.2% from 8%

- Ratings agency ICRA has lowered the growth forecast for India's GDP in 2022-23 (FY23) to 7.2 percent.
- Earlier projection was 8 percent.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BUSINESS NEWS

NSE, BSE starts T+1 Stock Settlement from February 25:

- India has become the second country after China to implement the T+1 stock settlement mechanism in a phased manner from 25 February.
- The system will be starting with select stocks and then gradually adding others to the fold.

BSE inks pact with 2 entities to promote commodity derivatives, EGRs:

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

- With an aim to deepen commodities derivatives trade and proposed electronic gold receipt (EGR) markets in India, stock exchange BSE has collaborated with the Bhartiya Swarnkar Sangh (BSS) and Jamshedpur Jewellers Association (JJA).
- The pacts are aimed at growing and developing value chain participants, enabling them to face competition and manage price risk better.

GST reduced from 18% to 5% for domestic Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services:

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate has been reduced from 18% to 5% for domestic Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services.
- The issue of reduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) has been taken up with the States and the UTs.

The following 11 States/UTs have reduced the VAT on ATF to below 5%:

- Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

India's overall exports estimated to be over 601 billion dollars in April to Feb 2021-22:

- India's overall exports are estimated to be over 57 billion dollars in February this year, exhibiting a positive growth of 25.41 per cent over the same period in 2021
- Commerce and Industry Ministry, the country's overall exports in April to February 2021-22 are estimated to be over 601 billion dollars, exhibiting a positive growth of over 36 per cent over the same period in 2021.

BPCL Launches Voice-Based LPG Cylinder Booking, Payment Facility Via 'UPI 123PAY' For Non-Internet Users:

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has partnered with UltraCash Technologies Pvt Ltd to offer voice-based digital payment facility for BharatGas consumers for booking their LPG cylinders.
- Through this feature, the consumers who do not have smart phones or internet can book their cylinders and make the payment through 'UPI 123PAY'.

IIT Madras, RBI Innovation Hub join hands to boost fintech startups:

- India's leading deep-tech startup hub spearheaded by IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC) and RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India, have signed a

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Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together in developing the ecosystem necessary to support and scale fintech startups in India.

Rupeek partners with NSDC to build skilled gold appraisers:

- Asset-backed digital lending platform Rupeek has announced the launch of 'Rupeek Academy' in collaboration with the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), an initiative by NSDC.
- The partnership is aimed at attracting young talent looking for career opportunities within India's gold loan industry.

India's Merchandise Exports Cross Record \$400 Billion In FY22:

- India's merchandise exports crossed record \$400 billion in the ongoing fiscal, led by agricultural products and engineering goods, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.
- India set an ambitious target of \$400 billion of goods exports & achieves this target for the first time ever.

GeM attains annual procurement of INR 1 Lakh crore in FY 2021-22:

- Government e-Marketplace, GeM has attained an annual procurement of one lakh crore rupees within 2021-22.
- This represents a 160 percent growth compared to last Financial Year.

Over 8000 crores digital payment transactions reported during current financial year:

- The government informed more than eight thousand crore digital payment transactions have been reported in the country during the current financial year.
- Over the years, the digital payment transactions have grown multifold from over two thousand crores in 2017-18 to over five thousand crores in 2020-21, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

DCI and CSL sign agreement to build 1st indigenous dredger

- Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) signed an agreement with Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) to build India's largest dredger, in collaboration with IHC Holland.
- The contract for the construction of the 12,000-cubic-metre Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger (TSHD) is a culmination of efforts by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to bring in 'best-in-class' global technology into India under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

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HSL signs MoU with Eker Group, Vaanmoto to build speed boats

- Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) has entered into a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Eker Group of Norway and Vaanmoto of Kerala to explore opportunities in the field of manufacturing speed boats.
- These boats are high-end boats with good, versatile options with superior manoeuvrability, which could be operated from the shore at a maximum velocity of 75 knots.
- The boats with a complement of 4 crew members and 4 passengers are outfitted with navigation and communication gear.

NMDC Signs MoU With IIT Kharagpur For Drone-Based Mineral Exploration

- National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIT) Kharagpur for drone-based mineral exploration.
- NMDC is conducting exploration for various minerals in Madhya Pradesh and in the Beloda-Belmundi block in Chhattisgarh for diamonds.
- NMDC would be the first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) in India to conduct drone-based geophysical surveys and hyperspectral studies for mineral exploration in the country.

Indian Potash Ltd inks MoU with Israel Chemicals Limited for the supply of Muriate of Potash (MOP)

- Indian Potash Limited (IPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative under the Department of Fertilisers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Israel Chemicals Limited (ICL) for providing Muriate of Potash (MOP) from 2022 to 2027.
- The annual quantity supply would be 6 to 6.5 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT).
- The MoU is signed in the presence of Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers in Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
- MOP is Potassium Chloride, it contains 60% of potash (essential for plant growth).

HP govt signs MoU with NIPER as Knowledge Partner for Medical Devices Park

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- Himachal Pradesh Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali as the knowledge partner for the upcoming Medical Devices Park in Nalagarh area of Solan district.
- The MoU was approved by the board of members from the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India.

Tripartite agreement signed to promote yak dairy enterprise in Nepal

- A tripartite agreement between The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the Surketham Dairy Cooperative Limited (SDCL) and the Nepal Dairy Private Limited (NDPL) signed to promote yak dairy enterprise that can sustain the age-old yak herding culture in the highlands of the eastern Nepal.
- Pema Gyamtsho, Director General, ICIMOD, Heramba B Rajbhandary, Executive Chairman, NDPL and Maita Bahadur Libang, Chairperson, SDCL signed the Letter of Exchange.

SIDBI signs MoU with Meghalaya govt to develop MSME ecosystem

- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Meghalaya Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd (MiDFC) to develop the MSME ecosystem in Meghalaya.

Sri Lanka's navy inks agreement with goa shipyard ltd for floating dock

- The Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) has signed an agreement with India's Goa Shipyard Ltd to obtain a much-needed floating dock worth \$20 million as a grant.
- The dock is to be constructed at SLN dockyard in Trincomalee within the next 30 months.
- With this SLN will be able to save \$2.1 million (600 million Sri Lankan rupee) annually.

India, WHO sign pact to set up Global Traditional Medicine Centre in Jamnagar, Gujarat

- The Ministry of Ayush has signed a Host Country Agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO) to establish the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- The agreement was signed in Geneva by Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush and Director General, WHO Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- The Centre will be supported by an investment of about USD 250 million from the Government of India.
- The GCTM will be the first and only Global Centre for traditional medicine across the world.

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Airport Operators Groupe ADP, GMR Airports, Airbus, Axens and Safran sign a MoU for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) in India

- Airport operators Groupe ADP and GMR Airports together with Airbus, Axens and Safran have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to conduct a joint study on Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) and their potential in India.
- The SAF is a clean substitute for fossil jet fuels.
- India, is the 3rd largest domestic aviation market in the world and with a forecasted yearly growth of about 9% going forward.

Ministry of Defence signs Rs.887 crore contract with L&T for two MPVs

- The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for acquisition of two multi-purpose vessels (MPVs) for the Indian Navy at an overall cost of Rs 887 crore under "Buy-Indian" category.
- The contract was signed in the presence of Vice Admiral SN Ghormade, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff and Pankaj Agarwal, Additional Secretary and Director General Acquisition.
- Delivery of vessels is scheduled to commence from May 2025.
- These vessels would also be capable of towing ships and rendering Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) support with limited hospital ship capability.

Ola to acquire Avail Finance:

- Mobility firm Ola has signed an agreement to acquire neo bank Avail Finance which provides financial services to the blue-collared workforce and has over 6 million users.
- The acquisition is a key step in Ola's broader push into the fintech space as it looks to build a mobility-focused financial services business under Ola Financial
- The financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed by Ola, which owns a 9% share in Avail Finance.

PVR & INOX Leisure announced merger combined entity to be called PVR Inox Ltd:

- Multiplex giants PVR and Inox has announced the merger of their two companies in what may well be one the biggest business deals of the year.
- Inox will have a 16.66 per cent stake in the new firm and PVR will have 10.62 per cent stake.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS: APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Madhabi Puri Buch Appointed as Chairperson of SEBI

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by the Prime Minister, approved the appointment of former banker Madhabi Puri Buch as the new chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for a three-year term from 1st March 2022.

Ashneer Grover resigns as MD & Director of BharatPe

- Ashneer Grover has resigned as the MD & Director of BharatPe but continues to hold his 9.5 per cent stake in BharatPe.

Abhishek Singh appointed as CEO of NeGD

- The Government of India appointed 1995-batch IAS officer from Nagaland cadre Abhishek Singh as CEO & President of National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).

Manu Kumar Srivastava appointed as Chief Secretary of Maharashtra

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray appointed veteran bureaucrat Manukumar Srivastava as the new chief secretary of Maharashtra.
- He has a term till April 2023.

World Bank's India head Junaid Ahmad appointed as vice president of operations

- The World Bank's India head Junaid Kamal Ahmad has been appointed as a Vice President of the international lending institution.
- He will assume his new role from April 16, 2022.

LIC Mutual Fund appoints TS Ramakrishnan as its MD & CEO:

- LIC Mutual Fund has appointed Mr. T S Ramakrishnan as its Managing Director & CEO, effective March 1, 2022.
- Ramakrishnan will succeed Dinesh Pangtey, its former Wholetime Director and CEO.

Yash Raj Films names Akshaye Widhani as CEO:

- Film production and distribution company Yash Raj Films has appointed Akshaye Widhani as chief executive officer.

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UpGrad ropes in Amitabh Bachchan as brand ambassador:

- upGrad, the edtech platform, has roped in Amitabh Bachchan as the official brand ambassador.

Bharti AXA Life Insurance appoints Vidya Balan as brand ambassador:

- Bharti AXA Life Insurance has roped in National Award-winning actress Vidya Balan as its brand ambassador.
- She will help deepen the narrative of #DoTheSmartThing championed by the brand.

Aman Lekhi resigns as Additional Solicitor General of India

- Senior Advocate Aman Lekhi has resigned from the post of Additional Solicitor General of India (ASG) at the Supreme Court with immediate effect.

Jet Airways Appoints Sanjiv Kapoor As CEO

- Jet Airways has appointed Sanjiv Kapoor as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), with the appointment effective from April 4.
- Jet Airways, promoted by the Jalan Kalrock consortium.

LIC appoints Sunil Agrawal as CFO:

- Life Insurance Corp. of India has appointed Sunil Agrawal as the chief financial officer (CFO).
- Prior to this, LIC Executive Director Shubhangi Sanjay Soman was holding charge as CFO of the insurance behemoth.

SBI appoints former Ujjivan Small Finance Bank CEO Nitin Chugh as DMD

- State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed former Ujjivan Small Finance Bank CEO Nitin Chugh as Deputy Managing Director (DMD) to drive digital banking operations.
- He has been appointed to SBI for an initial term of three years.

Delhi HC Chief Justice DN Patel appointed as chairperson of TDSAT

- The Central government appointed Justice DN Patel, Chief Justice of the High Court to the post of chairperson, Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

CII Maharashtra Elects Sriram Narayanan As Chairman

- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Maharashtra State Council has elected Sriram Narayanan, Managing Director, Endress+Hauser (India) Automation Instrumentation as the New Chairman of CII Maharashtra State Council 2022-23.
- Mr Narayanan succeeds Sudhir Mutalik, Founder & Managing Director, Positive Metering Pumps.

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Lupin signs boxing champion Mary Kom as brand ambassador for Shakti campaign

- Domestic pharma company Lupine Ltd has roped in woman boxer Mary Kom as the brand ambassador of its Shakti campaign.

Singapore's T Raja Kumar appointed as president of FATF:

- Singapore's T Raja Kumar has been appointed as the president of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- He replaced Dr. Marcus Pleyer.

Yoon Suk-yeol become new President of South Korea

- On March 09, 2022, Yoon Suk-yeol won the 2022 South Korean presidential election to be elected as the new President of the country.
- He will succeed incumbent President Moon Jae-in.

Government appoints Ajay Bhushan Pandey as chairman of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of former finance & revenue secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey as the chairperson of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years

Justice Vipin Sanghi appointed as Acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court

- A notification issued by the Department of Justice in the Law Ministry & according to the Article 223 of the Constitution of India, Justice Vipin Sanghi has been appointed as the acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court with effect from March 13.
- He will replace Chief Justice D.N. Patel.

Debashish Panda appointed as new Chairman of IRDAI

- The union government has appointed former financial services secretary Debasish Panda as chairman of IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India).
- He has been appointed for 3 years.

SC appoints Former judge Sikri as chairperson of High Powered Committee on Char Dham project

- The Supreme Court of India appointed ex-judge AK Sikri as chairperson of the High-Powered Committee (HPC), which would consider the cumulative and independent impact of the

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CharDham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana (Char Dham Highway Development Project) on the entire Himalayan valley”.

- He succeeded previous Chairperson Professor Ravi Chopra who had resigned from his post in February 2022.

Games24x7 appoints cricketers Shubham Gill, Ruturaj Gaikwad as brand ambassadors for My11Circle

- India's leading online skill gaming company Games24x7 has appointed cricketers Shubman Gill and Ruturaj Gaikwad as its new brand ambassadors for its My11Circle fantasy gaming platform.

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance's MD & CEO Tapan Singhel gets 5-year extension

- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, the second largest private sector general insurer, has extended the tenure of Tapan Singhel, the current managing director & chief executive officer (MD&CEO) of the company, by another 5 years, effective April 1, 2022.
- Singhel has already completed 10 years as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance since April 2012.
- Tapan Singhel is the first MD & CEO who has received 2 consecutive extensions at the Company.

Katalin Novak elected Hungary's first-ever woman president

- The Hungarian parliament elected Katalin Novak the country's first woman president.
- Novak will succeed Janos Ader (a co-founder of Orban's governing right-wing Fidesz party who has held the job since 2012)
- She will take over the new role from May 2022.
- She won the 2022 Presidential election by a two-thirds majority.

Tata Sons chief N Chandrasekaran appointed as chairman of Air India

- Tata Sons chief Natarajan Chandrasekaran was appointed as chairman of Air India.
- In February 2022, N Chandrasekaran was reappointed as chairman of Tata Sons for a second term of five years.
- In Feb 2022, Air India appointed former Turkish Airlines chairman Ilker Ayci to be the CEO & MD of Air India & On March 1, Ayci declined the Tata Sons' offer to be MD & CEO of Air India.

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Govt Appoints MD of SBI Ashwani Bhatia as a whole time member of SEBI

- The government has appointed State Bank of India (SBI) managing director Ashwani Bhatia as a whole-time member (WTM) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved the appointment for a period of 3 years
- The government appointed Madhabi Puri Buch as the new chairperson of Sebi, the first woman to head the capital market regulator & she replaced Ajay Tyagi, whose five-year term came to an end on February 28.

Geoscientist Ranjit Rath Appointed as Chairman & MD of Oil India Ltd

- Odisha-born Ranjit Rath (50) has been appointed as the next Chairman and Managing Director of Oil India Limited (OIL) has been selected by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).
- He will succeed current chairman and managing director Sushil Chandra Mishra, who will superannuate on June 30, 2022.
- Currently, he is the chairman and managing director of Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL).

Gabriel Boric inaugurated as youngest president of Chile

- Gabriel Boric Font, a 36-year-old leftist politician has been elected as the new and 36th President of Chile.
- He is the youngest leader to hold the office in Chile's history & he will hold the office for the period between 2022-2026.
- Gabriel Boric Font succeeds Sebastián Piñera.

Bhagwant Singh Mann takes oath as Punjab CM

- Aam Aadmi Party leader Bhagwant Mann was sworn in as the punjab Chief minister at a mega event in Punjab's Khatkar Kalan, the ancestral village of legendary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh in Nawanshahr (Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar) district, Punjab.
- Mr Mann was administered the oath by Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit.
- Bhagwant Singh Mann is the 18th and current Chief Minister of Punjab.

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- He has become the **first non-Congress and non-Akali leader** to make it to the chief minister's office in the border state since 1966.

Suchitra Ella, elected Chairperson of CII Southern region for 2022-23

- Ms Suchitra K Ella, Co-Founder and Joint Managing Director, Bharat Biotech International Ltd, Hyderabad has been elected as **Chairperson of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)- Southern Region** for the year 2022-23.
- Also, CII appointed Volvo Group India president and managing director Kamal Bali as the **deputy chairman**.

Bank Board Bureau recommends names for chiefs of PSU Banks

- The **Banks Board Bureau** has recommended names for the positions of **managing director (MD)** and **chief executive officers (CEO)** at **Union Bank, Indian Overseas Bank and Punjab and Sind Bank & State Bank of India (SBI)**.
- The **Banks Board Bureau (BBB)** has recommended **A Manimekhalai** for the position of **managing director and chief executive (MD & CEO)** of **Union Bank of India**.
- BBB has also recommended **Ajay Kumar Srivastava's** name as **MD & CEO** in **Chennai-based IOB**.
- **Swaroop Kumar Saha** has been recommended for the post of **MD & CEO of PSB**.
- BBB has recommended **Alok Kumar Choudhary** for the position of **MD** at **State Bank of India**.

RBI extends Rajeev Ahuja's term as RBL Bank MD & CEO for 3 more months

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, has approved the extension of the term of **Rajeev Ahuja**, **interim managing director and CEO of RBL Bank** for **three months** with effect from **March 25, 2022**, or till the appointment of a regular MD & CEO.
- He was appointed after the then MD & CEO **Vishwavir Ahuja** went on leave, a day after RBI appointed one of its chief general managers as an additional director.
- The appointment of Additional Director/s in private banks is undertaken under **Section 36AB of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949** as and when it is felt that the board needs closer support in regulatory or supervisory matters.

Serdar Berdimuhamedow sworn in as President of Turkmenistan

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

- On March 19, 2022, **Serdar Berdimuhamedow** was sworn in as the **President of Turkmenistan**.
- He succeeds his father and former president **Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov**.
- Berdimuhamedow won the presidential election with nearly **73 percent** of the votes.
- Presidential elections in Turkmenistan are held for every **seven years**.

Asian Cricket Council extends Jay Shah's tenure as ACC President till 2024

- **BCCI secretary Jay Shah's** tenure as president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) was unanimously extended till the **2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**.
- The decision was taken at the ACC AGM in Colombo on March 19.
- First, Shah was appointed as the **President of ACC in January 2021**, replacing Nazmul Hassan, the President of **Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)**.
- **Pankaj Khimji** was appointed as the **Vice President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC)** and **Mahinda Vallipuram** was appointed as **Chairman of the Development Committee**.

BJP leader N Biren Singh takes oath as Manipur chief minister for second term

- **BJP leader and former Chief Minister of Manipur Nongthombam (N). Biren Singh** took oath as the **Chief Minister of the state** for the **second time**.
- **BJP party** contested all 60 seats in Manipur Assembly election in 2022 and won **32 seats** while **NPF** won 5, **NPP** won 7, **JD (U)** won 6 and the **Congress** won 5 seats.
- The swearing-in ceremony was held at **Raj Bhawan** in Imphal and Manipur Governor **La Ganesan** administered the oath to Mr Biren Singh.

Indian Economist Jayati Ghosh Appointed In UN Advisory Board On Multilateralism

- The **United Nations (UN) Secretary General Antonio Guterres** has appointed Indian development economist **Jayati Ghosh** as a member of the UN's newly established **Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism**.
- The **12-member high-level advisory board on effective multilateralism** will be co-chaired by former **Liberian president and Nobel laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf** and former **Swedish prime minister Stefan Lofven**.

TCS re-appoints Rajesh Gopinathan as MD & CEO for 5 years

- **IT major Tata Consultancy Services** has re-appointed **Rajesh Gopinathan** as the **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer** for five years, from **February 21, 2022 to February 20, 2027**.

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- The company has also re-appointed **N Ganapathy Subramaniam** as the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director from February 21, 2022, to May 19, 2024, as per the retirement age policy of the Company.

Maruti Suzuki Board Appoints Hisashi Takeuchi as MD & CEO

- The country's largest carmaker **Maruti Suzuki India (MSI)** has appointed **Hisashi Takeuchi** as the new **Managing Director and CEO** for a period of **three years** with effect from **April 1, 2022 till March 31, 2025**.
- He will **succeed Kenichi Ayukawa** as the MD and CEO.
- Meanwhile Mr. Kenichi Ayukawa will continue as a Whole-time Director designated as **Executive Vice Chairman** for a period of **six months** with effect from **1st April, 2022 till 30th September 2022** and will continue to provide guidance to the Company.

Pushkar Singh Dhami takes oath as Uttarakhand CM

- **Pushkar Singh Dhami** took oath as the **12th Chief Minister of Uttarakhand** for his **second consecutive term** at Parade Ground in Dehradun.
- Along with Dhami, **eight newly-elected MLAs** were administered the oath of office by Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmeet Singh.

CSB Bank appoints Pralay Mondal as interim MD & CEO

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has approved the appointment of **Pralay Mondal, Deputy Managing Director, CSB Bank** as **interim Managing Director and CEO**, for **three months from April 1** or till the appointment of a regular Managing Director and CEO, whichever is earlier.
- The Place of MD and CEO at CSB Bank was lying vacant after its full-time MD and CEO, **C V R Rajendran** announced early retirement due to health reasons.
- **C V R Rajendran** will continue in the office of the Managing Director and CEO till the close of office hours on **March 31**.

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Pramod Sawant Takes Oath As Goa Chief Minister For 2nd Consecutive Term

- Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Pramod Sawant took oath as the Chief Minister of Goa for the second consecutive term
- Goa Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai administered the oath to 48-year-old Mr Sawant in a ceremony at the Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee stadium near the state capital Panaji.

Yogi Adityanath takes oath as UP chief minister for second time

- Yogi Adityanath took oath as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for the second consecutive term was administered by Governor Anandiben Patel.
- Meanwhile, Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak also took oath as the deputy chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh.
- The swearing-in ceremony took place at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium.
- The BJP came to power in UP with 255 seats in the 403-strong assembly.
- Yogi Adityanath is the first chief minister in four decades to return to power after completing a full term in office.

ILO Elects First African Gilbert F. Hougbo as 11th DG

- The Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) comprising representatives of governments, workers and employers, have elected African born Togolese, Gilbert F. Hougbo, and will take office in October 2022.
- He will be the 11th Director-General of the ILO, and the first African to hold the post.
- He will replace the current Director-General, Guy Ryder, from the United Kingdom, who has held the office since 2012.

Shashi Sinha appointed as new BARC India chairman

- Shashi Sinha, has been elected as the new chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC India).
- He will replace Punit Goenka, MD & CEO of Zee Entertainment Enterprises, who has been the chairman of BARC India for the last 3 years.

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Uday Kotak To Step Down As The Chairman Of IL&FS

- Uday Kotak will step down as the Chairman of the board of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) after his term ends on April 2.
- CS Rajan, Managing Director, IL&FS has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director for six months with effect from April 3 by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Re-elected as President of BAI

- Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma was re-elected unopposed as the president of Badminton Association of India (BAI) for another four years term from 2022 to 2026 at the general body meeting held in Guwahati.
- He was elected during the General Body Meeting of BAI in Guwahati on March 25, 2022.
- The jumbo-sized newly-elected Executive Council will also have 11 vice-presidents alongside eight joint-secretaries and an equal number of committee members.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: AWARDS & HONORS

Physicist Deepak Dhar became the First Indian To Be Conferred With Boltzmann Medal

- Professor emeritus in the Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune Prof Deepak Dhar will become the first Indian to be conferred the prestigious Boltzmann Medal 2022 for his contribution in the field of statistical physics.

NMDC receives 1st prize in Ispat Rajbhasha Award for 2018-19 and 2020-21 and Ispat Rajbhasha Prema Award for 2019-20

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

President Ram Nath Kovind confers Nari Shakti Puraskars on 29 women for 2020 and 2021

- On the occasion of International Women's Day on March 08, 2022, The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind conferred the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' - 2020 and 2021, at a special ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

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- The award was conferred on **29** outstanding and exceptional women achievers for the years 2020 and 2021.

MoPNG Swachhta Pakhwada Awards presented by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri 'Indian Petroleum & Natural Gas Statistics 2020-21' published

- Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas **Shri Hardeep Singh Puri** presented the **MoPNG Swachhta Pakhwada Awards** to the winners.
- The Minister also launched the Ministry's annual publication '**Indian Petroleum & Natural Gas Statistics 2020-21**'.
- The Swachhta Pakhwada was organised by **Oil & Gas CPSEs**, and attached offices of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas during 1st-15th July 2021.
- Base on their performance in the event, **IOCL** was ranked **first**, **ONGC** second and **HPCL** came third.

Union Minister of Labour & Employment Bhupender Yadav presents Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar, National Safety Awards and National Safety Awards Mines

- Union Minister of Labour and Employment, Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Shri Bhupender Yadav** presented **Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP)**, **National Safety Awards (NSA)** for the performance year 2018 and **National Safety Awards (Mines) [NSA (Mines)]** for the contest years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.
- For the performance year 2018, total **96** awards were given whereas in the case of NSA, a total 141 number of (80 winners & 61 runners-up) awards were given.
- In case of NSA (Mines), a total **144** awards were given (72 Winner prizes and 72 Runner-up prizes) for the contest year 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020.

Haryana CM Khattar Announces Sushma Swaraj Award, Scheme for Women

- Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** has announced the '**Sushma Swaraj Puraskar**' award.
- The award will be given to women for their significant contribution and achievements in different walks of life in national and international spheres.
- The award will carry a commendation and a cash prize of **Rs 5 lakh**.

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- He also announced the **Haryana Matrushakti Udyamita Scheme** to provide support to women for becoming entrepreneurs.

Axis Bank bags IFR Asia's Asian Bank 2021, India Bond House Award

- India's third-largest private sector bank, **Axis Bank**, has won the **IFR Asia's Asian Bank of The Year 2021** for its breadth of coverage and depth of expertise in the Asian investment banking space.
- Axis bank has also bagged '**Best DCM House in India**' Award.

Top 3 global IFR Asia Award for 2021:

1. Bank of the year: **Morgan Stanley**
2. Asian Bank of The Year: **Axis Bank**
3. Issuer of the year: **JSW Group**

Diébédo Francis Kéré becomes the First African to receive Pritzker Architecture Prize 2022

- **Burkina Faso-born architect Diebedo Francis Kere** has become the **first African** to be awarded the **51st Pritzker Architecture Prize 2022**, architecture's most prestigious honor.
- The Pritzker Architecture Prize is an award presented annually "to honor a living architect or architects & it was sponsored by the **Hyatt Foundation**.
- It is considered to be one of the world's premier architecture prizes, and is often referred to as the **Nobel Prize of architecture**.

Karnataka Bank receives best MSME Bank of the year at ASSOCHAM's Excellence Awards

- **Karnataka Bank** has bagged "**Best MSME Bank of the year – Winner**" award among private sector Banks at the **8th MSMEs Excellence Awards Ceremony and Summit** instituted by **ASSOCHAM** at **New Delhi**.
- **Karnataka Bank** has been focusing on the **MSME sector** with various digital products.
- The Summit was Organised under the theme '**Enabling Indian MSMEs to Go Global**', the summit was organised by **Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma**, Minister of State (MoS) of MSMEs.

Poland's Karolina Bielawska crowned 70th edition of Miss World 2021

- **Karolina Bielawska** from **Poland** was honoured with the **Miss World 2021** crown at the **70th** edition of the event at the **Coca-Cola Music Hall** in **San Juan, Puerto Rico**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – March 2022

- Bielawska was crowned by her predecessor Toni-Ann Singh of Jamaica, who won the pageant in 2020.
- This is the **second Miss World** title for Poland, Aneta Kreglicka won the coveted pageant back in 1989 for the country.
- India was represented by **Manasa Varanasi**, the winner of Femina Miss India 2020.

Narayan Pradhan selected for GD Birla Award for Scientific Research

- Professor **Narayan Pradhan** has been selected for the **31st GD Birla Award for Scientific Research** for his outstanding contribution in the field of material sciences.
- The award recognises eminent Indian scientists below the age of 50 for their original and outstanding contributions to any branch of science.
- It carries a cash prize of **₹5 lakh**.
- The recipient is chosen by a selection board, whose present head is professor Chandrima Shaha, the president of the **Indian National Science Academy (INSA)**.

NITI Aayog Organizes 5th Edition of Women Transforming India Awards

- On March 21, 2022, **NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** is organizing the **fifth edition of the Women Transforming India Awards (WTI)**.
- As part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, to celebrate 75 years of India's independence, the WTI Awards have been conferred on **75 women achievers** for their contribution towards a **Sashakt Aur Samarth Bharat'**.
- WEP is an aggregator portal that aims to **catalyse the entrepreneurial ecosystem for women** and address information asymmetry.

American Mathematician Dennis Parnell Sullivan wins 2022 Abel Prize

- The **Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters** has awarded the **Abel prize** for the year 2022 to **American Mathematician Dennis Parnell Sullivan**.
- He has been awarded "for his groundbreaking contributions to topology in its broadest sense, and in particular its algebraic, geometric and dynamical aspects."
- The Abel Prize was founded by the **Norwegian Parliament** in 2002, to commemorate the 200th birth anniversary of **Niels Henrik Abel**.
- It is named after Norwegian mathematician **Niels Henrik Abel**.

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- It is awarded by 'The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters' for 'Outstanding scientific work in the field of mathematics'.
- In 2007, S. R. Srinivasa Varadhan became the first Black person to win the prize.

President Of India Presents President's Colour To Ins Valsura

- President Ram Nath Kovind presented "President's Colour" to Indian Naval Ship (INS) Valsura at Jamnagar in Gujarat.
- The President's Colour is bestowed on a **military unit** in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation, both in peace and in war.
- The 'Nishan Adhikari' Lt Arun Singh Sambyal received the President's Colour on behalf of the unit, in an impressive parade.
- The Indian Navy was the **first branch of the Indian Armed Forces**, to be awarded the President's Colour by Dr Rajendra Prasad, the then President of India on **May 27, 1951**.

List of Oscar winners 2022

- The **Oscars Awards**, also known as the **94th Academy Awards ceremony**, presented by the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS)**, honored the best films released between **March 1 and December 31, 2021**, at the **Dolby Theatre** in **Los Angeles**.
- The ceremony was hosted by **Regina Hall, Amy Schumer and Wanda Sykes**.
- Awards will be presented across **23 categories**, which are determined based on voting by members of the Academy.
- The film "The Power of the Dog" received the most number of **nominations at 12** while the film **Dune** won the most number of awards at **6**.

Mario Marcel wins the Governor of the year award 2022

- **Mario Marcel**, the Governor of the Central Bank of Chile, has won the **Governor of the year award** at the **Central Banking Awards 2022**.
- **Banco Central de Chile** is the name of the central bank of Chile.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship recognises INS Shivaji as the Centre of Excellence in Marine Engineering

- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** recognised **INS Shivaji**, as the **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** in the field of **Marine Engineering (ME)**.

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- The certification took place at the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi.

President Ram Nath Kovind to confer National Water Awards 2022 - Uttar Pradesh adjudged best state category

- On March 29, 2022, The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind will felicitate the winners of the 3rd National Water Awards at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The President will also launch the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign 2022 during the event.
- Catch the Rain campaign will continue to be implemented this year till 30th November 2022.

Deepika Padukone Receives TIME100 Impact Award

- Bollywood actress, producer and entrepreneur Deepika Padukone was conferred one of the awardees of the TIME 100 Impact Awards 2022.
- The awards were presented at the Museum of the Future in Dubai.
- This is the second honor by the TIME magazine for Deepika, (earlier she was one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2018 by TIME).

CURRENT AFFAIRS: RANKING & INDEX

Hurun India Wealth Report 2021: India's millionaire households rose 11% in 2021:

- Hurun Report, the world's largest rich list compiler, released the 2nd edition of Hurun India Wealth Report 2021, macro research on India's wealth landscape & also released the second edition of Hurun Indian Luxury Consumer Survey 2021 (survey on more than 50 data points).

Telangana Tops Among All States in Terms Of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product

- According to the latest data, from the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, the Telangana State has ranked the Highest in the country among states with a population over 1 crore in terms of growth rate in terms of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices.

India ranks 3rd in billionaire population globally: Knight Frank

- According to property consultant Knight Frank's 16th edition of The Wealth Report 2022 India is ranked 3rd in terms of the greatest number of billionaires' population globally in 2021.

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India Slips 3 Spots To Rank 120 On 17 SDG Goals:

- According to the Centre for Science and Environment's State of India's Environment Report, 2022, released by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav India has slipped three spots from 2021, 117 to rank 120 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Freedom of the World 2022 report - India ranked 'partially free' for second consecutive year

- According to the annual report titled "Freedom in the World 2022 – The Global Expansion of Authoritarian Rule" by Freedom House, for the second consecutive year, India has been termed as a 'partly free' country in terms of democracy and free society.

India ranks 2nd for global investment in digital shopping, Bengaluru tops :

- According to the London & Partners analysis of Dealroom.co investment data, India is the second-largest global venture capital investment hub for digital shopping companies, growing by a whopping 175% from \$8 billion in 2020 to \$22 billion in 2021.

6 Indian airports named as the best airports in Asia Pacific region in ACI Airport Service Quality Survey for 2021

- The Airports Council International (ACI) has named six Indian airports as the 'best airport by size' in various categories (annual passenger traffic) in its Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey for the Asia Pacific region 2021.

Andhra Pradesh retains top rank: Skoch State of Governance ranking in 2021:

- The SKOCH Group released the SKOCH Governance Report Card for 2021, ranking the states according to their performance in various projects at state, district and municipal level.
- Star is a category given to the States ranked from 1 to 5.

RailTel Corporation of India ranks 124 in Fortune India Next 500' list

- RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. (RCIL) under Ministry of Railways has ranked 124th in the Fortune India Next 500 list of Year 2022' list.
- It was ranked 197 in the 2021 list of top midsize companies operating in India.
- The list is published annually by Fortune India English Monthly magazine.
- RailTel is the ONLY Telecom Govt. of India PSU figuring in the list

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Mission Indradhanush: Odisha tops list of full immunisation with 90.5% coverage

As per the reports of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, Odisha has become the only state in India to achieve 90.5% of immunization apart from the successful vaccination against Covid-19 infection under Mission Indradhanush 4.0.

- 20 districts of odisha were above 90% in full immunization, and 10 districts were below 90%.

India emerges as the largest importer of arms in 2017-21 : SIPRI Report

- The latest report of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on Trends in International Arms Transfer, 2021, released.

Top 5 Countries in Largest Arms Importers in 2017-21:

- The report reveals that India and Saudi Arabia had emerged as the largest arms importers of arms between 2017-21, each accounting for 11% of all global arms sales.
- The report places India at the top of the list.
- Meanwhile Egypt, Australia and China were the next three largest importers with respective shares of 5.7%, 5.4% and 4.8%.
- 85% of India's imports were from just three countries: Russia (46%), France (27%), and USA (12%).

Top 5 Countries in Largest Arms Exporters in 2017-21:

1. United States (39% share)
2. Russia (19%)
3. France (11%)
4. China (4.6%)
5. Germany (4.5%)

- India was 23rd largest exporter during 2017-21, with a share of just 0.2% of the global exports.

2022 Hurun global rich list: Mukesh Ambani richest man in India

- According to the M3M Hurun Global Rich List for 2022, Mukesh Ambani, chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries Limited, is the only Indian to feature in the top 10 chart & occupied the ninth rank globally with a net worth of \$103 billion.
- SpaceX and Tesla founder Elon Musk has bagged the top position on the 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List, with a total net worth of \$205 billion. The 2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List is

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published by research and luxury publishing group Hurun India in association with realty firm M3M.

Telangana becomes 1st state to implement CDI

- **Telangana** has started documenting crop diversification trends in the form of an index for the first time in the country & **first state in India** to adopt **Crop Diversification Index (CDI)**.
- According to the CDI, the state grows **77 varieties**, with roughly 10 crops, predominantly grains, favored for diversification.

Top three districts in terms of crop diversification Index in telangana :

1. Nirmal
2. Vikarabad
3. Sangareddy

Global House Price Index Q4 2021 : India Climbs To 51st Position, Turkey Tops - Knight Frank

- According to International property consultancy Knight Frank's latest research report - Global House Price Index Q4 2021, India climbed up 5 spots in the global home price index to 51st rank in Q4 2021 against 56th rank in Q4 2020.

Top 5 countries in Global House Price Index Q4 2021 :

Rank	Country	Price growth rate (%)
1	Turkey	59.6%
2	New Zealand	22.6%
3	Czech Republic	22.1%
4	Slovakia	22.1%
5	Australia	21.8%

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World Air Quality Report 2021: Delhi continues to be most polluted capital city in world

- According to the latest World Air Quality Report for 2021, prepared by Swiss organisation IQAir, Delhi remains the most polluted capital city in the world for the fourth consecutive year in 2021.
- Delhi tops the list of capitals with the highest average annual PM2.5 concentration.
- It is followed by Dhaka (Bangladesh), N'Djamena (Chad), Dushanbe (Tajikistan) and Muscat (Oman).

NITIAayog Releases Second Edition of Export Preparedness Index 2021 : Gujarat Tops

- NITIAayog, in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness, released the Second Edition of Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2021.
- The index was released by NITIAayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar, in the presence of NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, Department of Commerce Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam, and other dignitaries.

Moradabad 2nd most noise polluted city globally - UNEP

- According to a report 'Annual Frontier Report 2022' titled 'Frontiers 2022: Noise, Blazes and Mismatches' published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) the city of Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh is the second-most noise polluted city globally.
- Moradabad has recorded noise pollution of a maximum of 114 decibels (db).
- Bangladesh's capital Dhaka topped the list with a noise level of 119 decibels (dB) & Pakistan's capital city Islamabad was placed on the third spot, where noise pollution level has been recorded at 105 dB.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA delays Artemis 1 Lunar Mission test launch:

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has delayed the test launch of Artemis 1 moon mission.
- Artemis 1 will be the first test flight of NASA's new Space Launch System megarocket and the Orion crew capsule.

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NOAA's newest earth observing satellite GOES-T launched by NASA

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has successfully launched the third in a series of four next-generation weather satellites, Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite, GOES-T for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

IIT Kanpur develops biodegradable nanoparticle

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

India's First FSRU Reaches At H-Energy's Jaigarh Terminal, Maharashtra

- India's first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU), Hoegh Giant, arrived at H-Energy's Jaigarh terminal in Maharashtra.
- The FSRU has a storage capacity of 170,000 cubic metres and has an installed re-gasification capacity of 750 million cubic feet per day (equivalent to 6 million tons annually).

DRDO Developed Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuits Onboard EOS 04

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuits (MMICs) that have been used in radar imaging satellite modules of EOS 04.

NASA Begins Assembling Europa Clipper Spacecraft

- NASA has started the assembly of a new spacecraft named Europa Clipper Spacecraft that will carry out the Europa clipper mission.

Petascale supercomputer "PARAM Ganga" established at IIT Roorkee

- The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) has deployed 'PARAM Ganga', a supercomputer at IIT Roorkee, with a supercomputing capacity of 1.66 Petaflops.
- The system is designed and commissioned by C-DAC under phase-2 of the build approach of the NSM.
- The facility was inaugurated by BVR Mohan Reddy, chairman, board of governors, IIT Roorkee.

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NASA rolls out Artemis 1 moon mission to the launch pad for 1st time

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration 's Artemis 1 mega moon rocket was rolled out for the **first time** for its testing debut at **Kennedy Space Center** in **Florida, USA**.
- The agency's huge crawler-transporter 2 vehicle began hauling the **Space Launch System (SLS)** rocket and Orion capsule from KSC's Vehicle Assembly Building to Pad 39B
- The Space Launch System is the **only rocket capable** of sending humans into deep space.

"Relativistic Klystron Amplifier": Laser weapon capable of destroying satellites developed by China

- Researchers in **China** have developed a microwave machine "**Relativistic Klystron Amplifier (RKA)**", that could jam or destroy satellites in space.
- The device can generate a wave burst measuring 5-megawatts in the Ka-band, a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum increasingly used for both civil and military purposes.

OneWeb partners with SpaceX to resume its LEO satellite launches

- **Bharti Enterprises-led OneWeb**, the low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite communications company has entered into an agreement with **Elon Musk-owned SpaceX**, which will **enable it to resume satellite launches**.
- The **first launch** with SpaceX is anticipated in 2022 and will add to OneWeb's total in-orbit constellation that is currently at **428 satellites**, or **66 per cent of the fleet**.

India Successfully Test-fires BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile From Andaman & Nicobar islands.

- **India** successfully test fired the extended range version of a surface-to-surface **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** from a launch pad in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- The BrahMos missile, which has been developed by the joint venture between **Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya** and **India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- These missiles fly at **three times** the speed of sound i.e. **2.8 Mach** (Mach number is the ratio of an object's speed in a given medium to the speed of sound in that medium).
- The **first air launch of BrahMos** was successfully carried out from a **Su-30MKI fighter aircraft** in **2017**.

North Korea confirms test-firing of biggest ICBM Hwasong-17

- **North Korea** test-fired its biggest-yet intercontinental range ballistic missile **Hwasong-17** under the orders of authoritarian leader **Kim Jong Un**.

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- The launch was North Korea's 12th round of weapons launches in 2022.
- The Hwasong-17, which has been shown on a transporter vehicle with 11 axles, would be one of the largest road-mobile ICBMs in the world if it becomes operational.
- It reached a maximum altitude of 6,248 kilometers (3,880 miles) and traveled 1,090 kilometers (680 miles) during a 67-minute flight before landing in waters between North Korea and Japan.

HAL Introduces 19-Seater Civil Aircraft, to Deploy Under Udaan Scheme

- Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has introduced a 19-seater aircraft Hindustan 228 in a first major attempt to develop small civil transport aircraft.
- The company is eyeing to deploy this under the UDAN scheme (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik).
- The UDAN Scheme is a key component of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) which was released by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (India) on 15 June 2016.

WB Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates supercomputer PARAM Shakti at IIT Kharagpur

- On March 27, 2022, the Governor of West Bengal, Jagdeep Dhankhar, inaugurated a Petascale Supercomputer PARAM Shakti under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) - a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST) at IIT Kharagpur.
- The system has been tested extensively by both IIT Kharagpur and CDAC for commercial, open-source and in-house software pertaining to diversified applications.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: DEFENCE NEWS

IAF to demonstrate capabilities at exercise 'Vayu Shakti' in Pokharan range, Rajasthan

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) will demonstrate the exercise Vayu Shakti in Pokharan firing range close to the India-Pak border in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on March 7, 2022.
- Exercise Vayu Shakti is organized by the Indian Air Force once every three years.

Motor Vessel Ram Prasad Bismil becomes longest vessel ever to sail on Brahmaputra River

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has achieved a landmark when the motor vessel (MV) Ram Prasad Bismil became the longest vessel ever to sail on the Brahmaputra river.

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- The 90 meters long flotilla is 26 meters wide, loaded with a draft of 2.1 meters, successfully completed the aspiring pilot run of heavy cargo movement from Haldia Dock in Kolkata after it anchored at Pandu port in Guwahati.
- The vessel along with two barges DB Kalpana Chawla and DB APJ Abdul Kalam were flagged off from the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Haldia by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (PSW) and AYUSH, Sarbananda Sonowal flagged them off on February 16.

ICG's 5th Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) Saksham Commissioned In Goa

- Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar commissioned Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Saksham, the fifth in the series of 105-metre Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) class, at Goa.
- The OPV has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited and fitted with advanced technology, navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machinery.
- It is designed to carry a twin-engine helicopter and four high-speed boats including two inflatable boats for boarding operation, search & rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrol.

Gen Bipin Rawat Memorial Chair of Excellence instituted at the United Service Institution of India (USI)

- On the 65th birthday of late Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, The Indian Army has dedicated a Chair of Excellence in the memory of late Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Bipin Rawat at the United Service Institution of India (USI).
- The official announcement for the formal institution of “General Bipin Rawat Memorial Annual Chair of Excellence” was made by Gen MM Naravane at a solemn ceremony organized at the South Block in New Delhi
- It will focus on the field of Jointness and Integration.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates DRDO's Flight Control System integration facility in Bangalore

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a seven-storeyed Flight Control System (FCS) Integration facility at Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The technology has been developed by DRDO with the help of M/s Larsen & Toubro (L&T).
- Design check and technical support has been provided by the teams of IIT Madras and IIT Roorkee.

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9th India-Seychelles Joint Military Exercise 'LAMITIYE-2022'

- The 9th Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2022 between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) is being conducted at Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA), Seychelles from 22 March to 31 March 2022.
- The Indian Army contingent comprises troops from the 2/3 GORKHA RIFLES group (PIRKANTHI Battalion).
- Exercise LAMITIYE-2022 is a biennial training event which has been conducted in Seychelles since 2001.

Cold Response 2022 - NATO military exercise begins in Norway

- The Major military exercise 'Cold Response 2022' has kicked off in Norway from 14th March till 1st April 2022 organized by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).
- Cold Response 2022 is a long-planned and regular exercise, which Norway hosts biannually.
- Aim of the exercise is to test how Norway would manage Allied reinforcements on its soil, in line with Article 5 of NATO 's charter which requires member states to come to the aid of another member state under attack.

3rd edition of India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise begins in Yangiariq

- The 3rd edition of joint training exercise between Indian and Uzbekistan armies, EX-DUSTLIK is being conducted at Yangiariq, Uzbekistan from March 22 to 31 2022.
- The Indian contingent will be represented by the Grenadiers Regiment and will join the Uzbekistan Army contingent represented by troops of the North-Western Military District.
- The 2nd edition of DUSTLIK was conducted in Ranikhet (Uttarakhand) in March 2021.
- The 1st edition of DUSTLIK was held in Uzbekistan in Nov 2019.

Malaysia to host 4 nations for Bersama Shield 2022 military drills

- Malaysia will host armed forces from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom in the annual Bersama Shield 2022 training exercise.
- The exercise, referred to as BS22, is conducted within the framework of the Five Power Defense Arrangements (FPDA) – a series of bilateral and multilateral defense agreements established in 1971.
- Bersama means together in Malay.

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Defence Ministry approves military acquisitions worth Rs 8,357 crore

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), which met under the chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisition proposals of armed forces worth ₹8,357 crore.
- The approved proposals included "procurement of night sight (image intensifier), light vehicles GS 4X4, air defence fire control radar (light) and GSAT-7B satellite.
- As an impetus to "Aatmanirbhar Bharat", all of the aforementioned proposals have been approved under "Buy Indian (IDDM)" category.

Exercise Suraksha Kavach 2- Joint Security Exercise by Indian Army and Maharashtra Police

- On March 22, 2022, Agnibaaz Division organized a joint exercise between Indian Army and Maharashtra Police at Lullanagar, Pune.
- The exercise involved participation of Counter Terrorism Task Force (CTTF) of Indian Army, Anti-Terrorism Squad of Maharashtra Police alongwith Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs), Dog Squads and Bomb Disposal Teams of both agencies.

Western Naval Command conducts offshore security exercise 'Prasthan'

- Western Naval Command conducts an offshore security exercise, 'Prasthan' was conducted in the Offshore Development Area (ODA) off Mumbai under the aegis of Headquarters, Western Naval Command.
- The exercise was conducted on the B-193 platform of ONGC located about 38 nm west of Mumbai.
- The exercise is conducted every six months, an important element of ensuring offshore security.

MoD bans import of 107 strategically important sub-systems

- The Ministry of Defence has banned import of 107 strategically important line replacement units or sub-systems aimed to enhance self-reliance in defence manufacturing & to minimise imports by DPSUs under 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.
- The list is in continuation to the positive indigenisation list of 2,851 sub-systems, which had been earlier notified by the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.

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India Successfully test-fires two MRSAMs off Odisha coast

- India successfully test-fired two Army-version Medium Range Surface-to Air-Missiles (MRSAMs) from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha.
- The MRSAM version is developed jointly by the DRDO and the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for the Army.
- The first launch was to intercept a medium-altitude long-range target and the second launch was for proving the capability of a low altitude short-range target.
- The MRSAM Army weapon system comprises a multi-function radar, mobile launcher system and other vehicles.

US & Philippines begins 'Balikatan 2022' largest-ever military drills

- On March 28, 2022, The United States military and the Philippines military started the large-scale annual joint military drills in the Southeast Asian country Balikatan 2022.
- The exercise will take place across Luzon in the Philippines region near Taiwan, from March 28 to April 8, 2022.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SPORTS NEWS

Singapore Weightlifting International 2022: India secures 8 medals:

- India concluded its campaign at the Singapore Weightlifting International 2022 with eight medals, including six golds and a silver and bronze each.

Wushu Stars Championship: India's Sadia Tariq wins Gold in Russia:

- Indian Wushu player Sadia Tariq has won a gold medal in the junior tournament at the Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022.
- The Wushu Stars Championship is being held in Moscow, Russia from February 22 to 28.

Strandja Memorial Boxing: Nikhat Zareen, Nitu win gold medals for India:

- Indian boxers Nikhat Zareen (52kg) and Nitu (48kg) has won gold medals at the 73rd Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria.

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ISSF World Cup 2022: Saurabh Chaudhary wins 10m air pistol gold medal

- On March 01, 2022, In the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup, Indian shooting ace Saurabh Chaudhary has won the gold medal after defeating Micheal Schwald of Germany 16-6 in Men's 10m Air Pistol event in Cairo, Egypt.

Mithali Raj becomes first woman to play in six World Cups.

- Mithali Raj became the only third cricketer and the first woman to appear in six World Cups, joining the iconic Sachin Tendulkar and Pakistani great Javed Miandad.

Virat Kohli receives a special guard of honour by teammates in his 100th Test

- Indian players gave a guard of honour to Virat Kohli as he walked out to field in his 100th Test on Saturday. The ongoing first Test between India and Sri Lanka at the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) Stadium in Mohali is Kohli's 100th appearance for India in the whites.

ISSF World Cup: Indian women's 25m pistol team bags gold medal in Egypt:

- Indian women's 25m pistol team of Rahi Samobat, Esha Singh and Rhythm Sangwan won the gold medal by beating Singapore 17-13 in the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World cup in Cairo, Egypt.
- It is the 5th medal for India in the tournament

National sportswoman selected for Climate-Force Antarctica Expedition:

- Aarushie Verma, a national level shooter in Pistol and trap shooting, a multi-time State & Northern India Champion & National medalist, and an active environmentalist, has been selected to represent India at the 2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition to be held in March 2022.

Priyanka Nutakki becomes the 23rd Woman Grandmaster of India:

- 19-year-old Priyanka Nutakki secured her final WGM-norm at MPL 47th National Women Chess Championship.
- She scored 7.0/9, performed at 2348 to become India's latest Woman Grandmaster on 2nd March 2022.

Mondo Duplantis sets pole vault world record of 6.19m in Belgrade:

- Sweden's Olympic pole vault champion Mondo Duplantis etched his name in the record books yet again as he broke his own Pole vault world record during the World Indoor Tour Silver meeting in Belgrade.

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

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

Mondo Duplantis sets pole vault world record of 6.19m in Belgrade:

- Sweden's Olympic pole vault champion Mondo Duplantis etched his name in the record books yet again as he broke his own Pole vault world record during the World Indoor Tour Silver meeting in Belgrade.

Tiger Woods inducted into World Golf Hall of Fame:

- Tiger Woods was formally inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame, who is the 82-time PGA TOUR winner and 15-time major champion's induction presenter.

Pramod Bhagat wins two silver, one bronze in Spanish Para-Badminton International:

- Pramod Bhagat won two silver and a bronze medal and Sukant Kadam ended up with a Bronze in Spanish Para-Badminton International 2022.
- World champion Pramod Bhagat won the men's singles SL3 Silver and mixed doubles SL3-SU5 Bronze at the Spanish Para-Badminton International 2022.

Five Indian women boxers grab gold medals in Asian Youth and Junior Boxing Championships:

- Five Indian women boxers grabbed gold medals in the youth competition of the Asian Youth and Junior Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan.
- Tamanna in 50 kilograms and Nivedita Karki in the 48-kilogram category won gold medals while Shaheen Gill in 60 kilograms, Ravina in 63 kilograms and Muskan in 75 kilograms also bagged gold medals.

Lakshya Sen Wins Silver Medal at German Open (Badminton) 2022:

- Indian Shuttler Lakshya Sen wins Silver Medal in the German Open (Badminton) 2022 Tournament.
- He is defeated by Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand, 18-21, 15-21, in the men's singles final at the German Open 2022.

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- German Open is an annual badminton tournament classified as BWF World Tour Super 300 event.

India to host FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022 in Chennai:

- India has won the bid to host the FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022 in Chennai.
- It was originally scheduled to be held in Russia.
- This is the first time India hosts the FIDE Chess Olympiad since its inception in 1927.

Bumrah jumps six spots to fourth in ICC Test Rankings:

- Jasprit Bumrah and Dimuth Karunaratne have made significant gains in the latest ICC Test Rankings, following their impressive performances in the recently concluded India-Sri Lanka Test series.
- Jasprit Bumrah, who bagged eight wickets, jumped up six spots to attain fourth ranking in the ICC Test Rankings for bowlers.
- Virat Kohli, however, slipped to the ninth spot.

Railways to Participate in Weightlifting National Championships to retain the title:

- National Weightlifting Championships (Men & Women)- 2021-22 will be held at Bhubaneswar (Odisha) from 19.03.2022 to 31.03.2022.
- Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB), the sports arm of Indian Railways (IR) will be sending a strong contingent from Indian Railways in this Championship.
- Indian Railways Men team has been winners in the National Weightlifting Championships continuously for last 04 years and Railways Women team have been winners in the last 02 National Championships.

Pankaj Advani Won Asian Billiards title for 8th time:

- Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani defeated compatriot Dhruv Sitwala by six frames to win his eighth title at the 19th Asian 100 UP Billiards Championship 2022 in Doha.
- This is Advani's 40th international title and 8th Asian crown.
- Against Sitwala, a two-time Asian Billiards champion, Advani won the first frame before following it up with a smooth century break to extend the lead to 2-0.

F1 Bahrain Grand Prix 2022 won by Ferrari's Charles Leclerc:

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- Charles Leclerc of Ferrari won the Formula One season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix after reigning champion Max Verstappen was forced out with engine trouble with just two laps remaining.

Neeraj Chopra wins Sportsman of the Year award: Sportstar Aces 2022:

- Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra claimed the coveted 'Sportstar of the Year (Male)' award at the 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards held at The Taj Mahal Palace hotel.
- Neeraj created history by becoming the first Indian to win an athletics gold medal at the Olympics by winning the men's javelin throw at Tokyo 2020 with a best throw of 87.58m.
- Neeraj is only the second Indian ever to win an individual gold -- shooter Abhinav Bindra finished on top of the podium in 2008.
- Neeraj is also the first Indian since independence to win an athletics medal at the Olympics.

Suresh Raina felicitated with 'Sports Icon' award by Maldives government:

- Former India cricketer Suresh Raina was felicitated with the prestigious 'Sports Icon' award at the Maldives Sports Awards 2022 by the Maldives government.
- He was nominated alongside 16 international sportspersons, including former Real Madrid player Roberto Carlos, Jamaican Sprinter Asafa Powell, former Sri Lankan captain and cricketer Sanath Jayasuriya and Dutch football legend Edgar Davids.
- The event was chaired by the President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, Sports Ministers, world-renowned athletes and Maldivian athletes.

BNP Paribas Open 2022:

- The world's best players will compete at the BNP Paribas Open for the 45th edition of the ATP Masters 1000 event, held in Indian Wells.
- New World No. 1 Daniil Medvedev and three-time 2022 titlist Rafael Nadal will lead the way at the first Masters 1000 of the season.
- The 2022 BNP Paribas Open will be held from 10-20 March.

World number one Ashleigh Barty announces retirement from professional tennis aged 25:

- In Tennis, world number one in women's category, Ashleigh Barty has announced her retirement from professional tennis.

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- The 25-year-old Australian made the announcement on social media today, saying she was leaving to "chase other dreams".
- Barty won her first Grand Slam at the 2019 French Open.

Fazza International Para Athletics Championships: Indian para-athlete Dharambir sets new Asian record, wins silver medal in Dubai:

- Indian para-athlete Dharambir has set a new Asian record in the men's club throw F32/51 event, winning a silver in the ongoing 13th Fazza International Para Athletics Championships in Dubai.
- Overall, India took three medals on an opening day with Devendra Singh also clinching silver in the F44 men's discus throw event, while Jyoti Behera claimed bronze in 400 m women's final T37/38/47 final.

Someswara Rao Ramudri, Mohit bags gold medals at World Para Athletics Grand Prix:

- Long jumper Someswara Rao Ramudri and javelin thrower Mohit bagged Gold medals in their individual events at the Dubai 2022 World Para Athletics Grand Prix.
- Overall, the Indian contingent won six medals on the day and set two Asian records.
- Paralympian Dharambir claimed his second silver medal in the Championships.
- Algeria's Mohamed Berrahal took the gold, as Dharambir's fellow thrower Ajitkumar Amrutla Panchal claimed the bronze in the F52 category.
- In women's track events, Jayanti Behera claimed the silver medal in 200 metre women final T46/47.
- Ishwari Nishad also took second place in 400 metre women's final T11.

15th edition of Indian Premier League 2022 to begin:

- The 15th edition of Indian Premier League - TATA IPL 2022 will begin on 26th March.
- There are 10 teams to compete for four playoff spots in this edition.
- BCCI added two new teams, Lucknow Super Giants and Gujarat Titans for this season of IPL.
- A total of 74 T20 matches are to be played.

Second edition of SAAF, 56th National Cross-Country Championships commence in Nagaland's Kohima:

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- The second edition of South Asian Athletics Federation (SAAF) cross country championships and the 56th National Cross-Country Championships commenced at Indira Gandhi Stadium at Kohima in Nagaland.
- This is the first international event being hosted by the state.
- Five South Asian countries namely India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka are participating in the championships.

India finishes in WTT Contender 2022 championship with two medals:

- India ended their campaign at the World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender 2022 championship at Doha in Qatar with two medals.
- Mixed Doubles pair of Manika Batra and Gnanasekaran Sathiyam settled for a silver while Achanta Sharath Kamal bagged a Bronze in Men's Singles at the tournament.

PV Sindhu wins Swiss Open badminton in her Basel fortress:

- Ace Indian shuttler P V Sindhu notched up her second women's singles title of the season with a straight game win over Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan in the summit clash of the Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament in Basel.
- Playing her second successive final in the tournament, Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist, took 49 minutes to get the better of the fourth seeded Thai 21-16 21-8 at the St. Jakobshalle in Basel.

SAFF U-18 Women's Championship title 2022 won by Indian women's team:

- India lost 0-1 to Bangladesh but still emerged champion of the SAFF U-18 Women's Championships on account of a better goal difference.
- India enjoyed a better goal difference of +11 in comparison to +3 of Bangladesh.
- The 2022 edition of the international football competition for women's under-18 national teams was held in Jharkhand at JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur.

The men's and women's team has won gold in the National Cross-Country Championship:

- Indian Railways' women team became winner in the 56th National Cross-Country Championship (Men and Women) held at Kohima in state of Nagaland.
- Indian Railways women athletes won Gold in the team event while Men team won the Silver.

Max Verstappen wins 2022 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix:

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- Defending F1 champion Max Verstappen has defeated Charles Leclerc three laps from the end of the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix for his first win of the season and the 21st of his career.
- Charles Leclerc (Ferrari- Monaco) came second and Carlos Sainz Jr. (Ferrari – Spain) came third.
- It was the second edition of the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix and the second round of the 2022 Formula One World Championship.

Canada Qualify for FIFA World Cup finals for first time in 36 years:

- Canada men's football team qualified for the FIFA World Cup finals for only the second time ever with a 4-0 rout of Jamaica.
- Canada become the 20th team to qualify for the 2022 FIFA World Cup which will feature 32 nations vying for the ultimate prize in Qatar from November 21 to December 18.
- The nation's only previous appearance in the tournament was 1986 in Mexico.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BOOKS AND AUTHOR

Anup Jalota released book “Udaan Ek Majdoor Bachhe Ki”:

- Bhajan Samrat Anup Jalota has released the book “Udaan Ek Majdoor Bachhe Ki” by Captain AD Manek in a glittering program organized by Shailesh B Tiwari of P Club Education Pvt Ltd in Mumbai.

Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin’s autobiography “Ungalil Oruvan” has launched:

- Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched the first volume of Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin’s autobiography Ungalil Oruvan (One Among You) in Chennai.
- The first part of the autobiography contains his early life experiences

Ex-soldier Captain Deepam Chatterjee authored a new book “The Millennial Yogi”

- Former Indian Army Captain, Deepam Chatterjee has authored a new book titled “The Millennial Yogi: A modern-day parable about reclaiming one’s life”.

Bhupendra Yadav releases Book titled ‘Role of Labour in India’s Development’:

- Union Minister for Labour and Employment & Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupendra Yadav released a book titled ‘Role of Labour in India’s Development’, on 9th March, 2022 at New Delhi.

Sharad Pawar unveiled Ratnakar Shetty’s autobiography “On Board: My Years in BCCI”:

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- A book titled “On Board: My Years in BCCI”, an autobiographical account of Ratnakar Shetty’s experiences as an administrator.
- Shetty, a Chemistry professor by profession, went on to be the BCCI’s first Chief Administrative Officer after serving the Mumbai Cricket Association in various capacities.

The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup:

- The biography of pop icon Usha Uthup titled “The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup” was released and it was originally written in Hindi titled “Ullas Ki Naav” by author Vikas Kumar Jha.

A book titled ‘The Blue Book’ by authored by Journalist Amitava Kumar:

- Indian writer and journalist Amitava Kumar has authored a new book titled ‘The Blue Book: A Writer’s Journal’.
- The book has been published by HarperCollins India.

A book titled ‘Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery’ released soon:

- The book, ‘Modi @ 20: Dreams Meet Delivery’, brought out by Rupa Publications, is a compilation of chapters authored by eminent intellectuals and domain experts.

Sahitya Akademi publishes a book-length poem ‘Monsoon’ by Indian poet-diplomat Abhay K:

- Sahitya Akademi, India’s National Academy of Letters has published a book-length poem ‘Monsoon’ by Indian poet-diplomat Abhay K on the occasion of its 68th anniversary.
- Sahitya Akademi was established on 12th March in 1954
- ‘Monsoon’ is a poem of 150 stanzas of 4 lines each (quatrain/ruba’i) that commences its journey in Madagascar and follows the path of the monsoon invoking the rich flora and fauna, languages, cuisine, music, monuments, landscapes, traditions.

A New Book titled “More than Just Surgery: Life Lessons Beyond the OT” by Dr Tehemton Erach

Udwadia:

- Dr. Tehemton Erach Udwadia, a Padma Awardee, has published a new book called "More than Just Surgery: Life Lessons Beyond the OT," which is a personal narrative of people, occurrences, mentors, failures, and follies set against the backdrop of surgery.
- As a way of imparting the lessons he learned, the book follows Dr. Tehemton Erach Udwadia from his student years through residency, research, surgical practice, and surgical teaching.

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- He is widely known as the ‘Father of laparoscopy in India’.

Autobiography of former cricketer G.R. Viswanath titled “Wrist Assured: An Autobiography”:

- The autobiography of former Indian cricketer Gundappa Ranganatha Viswanath, titled ‘Wrist Assured: An Autobiography’ was released on March 17, 2022
- The book has been co-authored by senior journalist and cricket writer R. Kaushik.
- Rupa Publications India is the publisher of the book.

‘Road to 1000’ book released at Sportstar Aces Awards 2022:

- Sportstar and The Hindu group released a coffee-table book, ‘Road to 1000’, at the 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards at The Taj Mahal Palace hotel.
- ‘Road to 1000’ was released by former India cricketers Sunil Gavaskar, Syed Kirmani, Dilip Vengsarkar, Mohammad Azharuddin, Chandrakant Pandit and Nilesh Kulkarni.
- Mirabai Chanu wins Sportstar of the Year (Female) Award at Sportstar Aces 2022
- Neeraj Chopra wins Sportsman of the Year (Track and Field) award at Sportstar Aces 2022
- India's World Cup triumphs in 1983 and 2011, under Kapil Dev and M. S. Dhoni respectively, remain the major highlights in Indian ODI history.

A New book titled Unfilled Barrels India’s oil story authored by Richa Mishra:

- A new Book titled “Unfilled Barrels: India’s oil story authored by Richa Mishra will be released on March 2022.
- Richa Mishra is a journalist with The Hindu BusinessLine.

A Children’s Book ‘The Little Book of Joy’ authored by Dalai Lama & Desmond Tutu:

- A picture-book edition of a bestseller co-authored by the Nobel Peace Prize winners the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu will be published.
- Random House Children’s Books announced that “The Little Book of Joy” will come out September 27, with Rachel Neumann and Douglas Abrams collaborating on the text, and illustrations provided by artist Rafael López.

A New book titled ‘Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya’ authored by K Syam Prasad:

- The Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has released a book titled ‘Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya’ authored by K Syam Prasad.

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- The book narrates life story of noted social worker from Andhra Pradesh, late Shri **Somepalli Somaiah**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: OBITUARIES

Australian cricket icon Shane Warne passes away at 52:

- Shane Warne, Australian cricket legend who helped his nation win the World Cup in 1999 and was part of five Ashes-winning teams during his career, died aged 52.

Legendary West Indies spinner Sonny Ramadhin has passed away:

- West Indies spin legend, Sonny Ramadhin has passed away
- He was 92.

Oscar-winning producer Alan Ladd Jr Passes away

- Alan Ladd Jr, the Oscar-winning producer has Passed away at the age of 84.

Former Zambian President Rupiah Banda passes away at 85:

- Former Zambian President Rupiah Bwezani Banda passed away in capital Lusaka at the age of 85 after a two-year battle with colon cancer.
- Rupiah Banda, who served as Fourth president of Zambia from 2008 and 2011.

Former Andhra Pradesh Governor 'Ms Kumudben Joshi' passes away:

- The former Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Kumudben Manishankar Joshi has passed away.
- Ms. Joshi served as the Governor of Andhra Pradesh from 26 November 1985 to 7 February 1990.
- She was the second female Governor of the state after Sharda Mukherjee.

WWE legend Scott Hall a.k.a Razor Ramon passes away at age 63:

- Former wrestler Scott Hall, better known as Razor Ramon, passed away at the age of 63.
- His tenure with World Wrestling Federation (WWF, now WWE) began in May 1992. With WWE, he was famously known by his ring name as 'Razor Ramon'.
- In 2014, Scott Hall was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame as an individual wrestler and then again in 2020 as part of NWO.

American Astrophysicist Eugene Parker passes away:

- Eugene Parker, the pioneering astrophysicist whose name graces NASA's Parker Solar Probe mission, died at the age of 94.

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- Eugene Parker witnessed the launch of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s Parker Solar Probe in 2018, the first NASA mission named after a living person, and became the first person to witness the launch of a spacecraft named after them.

Creator of the GIF format, Stephen Wilhite has passed away:

- **Stephen E. Wilhite**, one of the lead inventors behind the **GIF file format**, passed away March 14th, from COVID-19 at age 74.
- Wilhite was working at **CompuServe** when he came up with the idea for GIFs.

Former Chief Justice of India R C Lahoti passed away:

- Former **Chief Justice of India Ramesh Chandra Lahoti** died.
- Justice Lahoti was appointed as the **35th chief justice of India** on June 1, 2004.

Former Malian Prime Minister Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga passes away:

- **Mali's former Prime Minister Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga**, arrested over corruption allegations last year, has died of an undisclosed illness in hospital.
- Maiga served as prime minister of **Mali** from 2017 until 2019.

Bangladesh's former president Shahabuddin Ahmed passes away:

- **Bangladesh's former president and chief justice Shahabuddin Ahmed** passed away at the age of 92 at a military hospital.
- He became the **head of the government** as acting president of Bangladesh.