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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

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IMPORTANT DAYS

1st October: International Day of the Older Persons

- The International Day of Older Persons is celebrated on October 1 each year to increase awareness about the importance of ageing and promote the rights of older persons.
- The overall umbrella theme for the United Nations International Day of Older Persons in 2022 is "Resilience of Older Persons in a Changing World."
- The International Day of Older Persons was declared by the UN General Assembly on December 14, 1990 (resolution 45/106).
- This was preceded by programs like the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging, which was approved by the UN General Assembly and the World Assembly on Ageing in 1982.

1st October: International Coffee Day

- International Coffee Day is observed on October 1 every year to promote and celebrate coffee as a beverage.
- The day also aims to promote fair trade coffee and to raise awareness of the plight of coffee growers.
- The exact origin of International Coffee Day is unknown.
- An event was first promoted in Japan in 1983 by The All-Japan Coffee Association.
- In 2014, the International Coffee Organization decided to launch the first official International Coffee Day in Milan as part of Expo 2015.

2nd October 2022: Gandhi Jayanti:

- Every year on October 2nd, people celebrate Gandhi Jayanti to remember the "Father of the Nation," Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.
- According to a declaration made by the United Nations General Assembly on June 15, 2007, this day is also observed as the International Day of Non-Violence.
- On October 2, 1869, Mahatma Gandhi was born in Porbandar, a small town in Gujarat.
- He studied law in the United Kingdom and practiced in South Africa.
- Gandhiji wrote about his infancy and adolescent years, his marriage to Kasturba at the age of 13, and his unwavering love for his country in his autobiography "My Experiments with Truth."

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- Gandhiji was a pioneer of truth and nonviolence, and he set an example of simple living and noble thinking.

4th October: World Animal Welfare Day:

- Every year on **October 4th, World Animal Welfare Day** is honored.
- This day is observed worldwide to commemorate **the feast day of Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.**
- The goal of observing this day as World Animal Welfare Day is to elevate the status of animals and improve their well-being.

History:

- The day was first marked in **1925 by animal rights campaigner Heinrich Zimmermann**, but now, the annual global celebration of animals is coordinated by the **UK-based animal welfare organization, Naturewatch Foundation.**
- To raise awareness, the **Naturewatch Foundation** developed the inaugural **World Animal Day website in 2003**, which offers a directory of global World Animal Day events that take place on and around World Animal Day and encourages supporters to add their events.
- The event was originally set for October 4 to coincide with the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of the environment.

5th October 2022: World Teacher's Day

- **World Teachers' Day is observed every year on October 5** across the globe to recognize and celebrate educators including teachers, researchers, and professors' work
- The theme this year for International Teachers' Day 2022 is **"The Transformation Of Education Begins With Teachers"**.

History:

- October 5 was recognized as **World Teachers' Day by UNESCO in 1994**, to honor the adoption of the **UNESCO/ILO Recommendation.**
- This was a part of the intergovernmental conference convened by UNESCO in Paris that recognized the status of teachers in cooperation with the **International Labour Organization (ILO).**
- After the adoption of this recommendation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared October 5 to be World Teachers' Day.

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7th October 2022: World Cotton Day

- **October 7** is celebrated each year as **World Cotton Day**
- It is a multipurpose plant chiefly used in the textile industry but also in the medical sector, edible oil industry, animal feeds, and bookbinding, among others.
- **The theme for 2022's** celebration of World Cotton Day appears to be **“Weaving a better future for cotton,”** as apparent from the posters released by the **Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)**.

History:

- The development and promotion of cotton cultivation are part of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals. To meet the goals, the World Trade Organisation (WTO), The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the International Trade Centre (ITC) undertook a joint initiative on cotton by-products.
- The initiative offers assistance to the “Cotton-4” nations, which are Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and other cotton-producing countries in Africa, to develop cotton by-products and their markets.
- In response to a formal appeal by the **Cotton-4 countries to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**, on **October 7, 2019**, the WTO Secretariat, in collaboration with Secretariats of the **International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC)**, **FAO**, **UNCTAD**, and **ITC**, hosted the first **World Cotton Day (WCD)** event in Geneva.

8 October-Air Force Day

- **Indian Air Force Day** is celebrated on **8 October** every year.
- The main aim is to pay a tribute to the Air Force of India and acknowledge their contribution, and excellence India has presented in the field.
- Every year the Indian Air Force Day is celebrated at **Hindon Air Force Station**, which is the largest air base in Asia.
- The **Air Force was officially raised** as the supporting force of the **Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom** in 1932 and the **first operational squadron** was created in 1933.
- Indian Air Force Day is celebrated to mark the official establishment of the **Indian Air Force**, which was on **October 8, 1932**.

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World Post Day 2022: October 9

- World Post Day is celebrated on 9th October of every year.
- World Post Day is observed to raise awareness about the postal sector.
- This day also reminds people about the important role the postal sector plays in everyday life.

Theme

- The World Post Day 2022 theme is “Post for Planet.”

History

- World Post Day was first declared by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress in Tokyo, Japan in the year of 1969.
- World Post Day was observed on 9th October because on this day the Universal Postal Day was started in the year 1874 in Switzerland.
- The Universal Postal Union started the global revolution in communication and it started the ability to write letters to others in the world.
- Since World Postal Day started, countries from all over the world took part in the celebrations which are conducted on this day.

10 October: World Mental Health Day

- Every year on October 10th, the world celebrates World Mental Health Day.
- The day is observed to promote global awareness of mental health concerns and organize efforts in support of mental health.
- World Mental Health Day is coordinated by the World Federation for Mental Health.
- The theme for World Mental Health Day 2022 is “Make Mental Health For All a Global Priority.”

History:

- The World Federation for Mental Health, a global mental health organization, initiated the celebration in 1992.
- The Day allows all stakeholders working on mental health issues to discuss their work and what more needs to be done to make mental health care a reality for people all around the world.

10 October: National Post Day

- In India, National Postal Day is observed on 10 October each year as an extension of World Post Day, which is observed on 9 October.

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- The purpose of the Day is to remember the role of the **Indian Postal Department**, which was formed in **1854** by **Lord Dalhousie**.
- The Indian postal service is an essential component of the country.
- Despite the diversity of culture, tradition, and tough geographical terrain, India's postal systems have performed well.

11 October- International Day of the Girl Child

- **International Day of the Girl Child** is commemorated on **11 October** every year for empowering girls and amplifying their voices around the globe.
- This day recognizes the rights of the girl child and the challenges faced by them across the world.
- Girls are breaking stereotypes, boundaries, and barriers.
- The theme of the International Day of the Girl Child 2022 is **“Our time is now – Our Rights, Our Future”**.

History:

- The **Beijing Declaration** was adopted by the UN in **1995** during the **World Conference on Women in Beijing**.
- This resolution is the first to specifically call out girls' rights.
- The United Nations General Assembly declared **11 October** as the **International Day of the Girl Child** on **19 December 2011**.
- The day was formed to focus on the fulfillment of the human rights of girls and the challenges that they face.

World Arthritis Day- October 12

- **World Arthritis day 2022** is observed on the **12th of October**.
- Any condition that **affects the joints** is commonly referred to as **arthritis**.
- Pain and stiffness in the joints are typical symptoms. Redness, warmth, swelling, and a reduced range of motion in the afflicted joints are possible additional symptoms.
- The theme of **World Arthritis Day 2022** is **‘It's in your hands, Take Action’**.

History

- The **Arthritis Foundation** established **World Arthritis Day**.

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- The Greek terms "arthro," which means "joint," and "itis," which means "inflammation," are the origin of the word "arthritis."
- Inflammation of the joints is a symptom of arthritis. Any living organism with bones is susceptible.
- The existence of ankle arthritis in humans dates back to at least 4500 B.C., and there is evidence that it was present in dinosaurs as well!
- In actuality, it was among the most prevalent diseases among prehistoric populations.
- William Musgrave's 1715 book "De Arthritide Symptomata," was the first in-depth research and categorization.

World Sight Day: October 13

- World Sight Day is an International Day of Awareness, held annually on the second Thursday of October.
- This year, World Sight Day is observed on the 13th of October 2022.
- The World Sight Day 2022 theme is, "#LoveYourEyes"

History

- Lions Clubs International partnered with blindness presentation organizations worldwide for the first World Sight Day in 1998.
- This event was later integrated into VISION 2020, a global initiative that the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) coordinates.
- This initiative is a joint program between WHO and the IAPB.
- It involves non-government organizations, and professional associations, as well as eye-care institutions and corporations.

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction: October 13

- The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2022 is observed on the 13th of October.
- The day offers an opportunity to celebrate the advancements made in reducing disaster vulnerability and the resulting loss of lives, economy, and health.
- The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2022 theme is, "Early Warning"

History

- The International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction was established by a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly in 1989.

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- However, the Assembly changed its resolution on December 21, 2009, deciding to observe the Day on October 13.
- Also, the day was renamed International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction.

World Standards Day: October 14

- **World Standards Day** is observed annually on the **14th of October 2022**.
- The opportunity to deepen understanding of the value of standardization and to increase awareness of it is provided by World Standards Day in 2022.
- World Standards Standards 2022 Theme is, "**Shared Vision for a Better World**"

History

- The **first World Standards Day** was celebrated in 1946 in London, the same year that the **International Organization for Standardization** was founded.
- **Every year on October 14**, people all over the world, including members of the I.E.C., I.S.O., I.T.U., and other international standardization organizations, celebrate the collaborative efforts of experts, volunteers, and everyone who participates in standardization activities globally.

World Egg Day: October 14

- **World Egg Day** is observed annually on the **second Friday in October**.
- This year, **World egg day** is on the **14th of October 2022**.
- World Egg Day 2022 Theme is, "**Eggs for a better life**"

History

- **World Egg Day** was created in 1996 at the IEC conference in Vienna to recognize and honor the value and relevance of eggs to all of humanity.
- Since then International Egg Day is observed annually on the **second Friday in October**.

Global Handwashing Day: October 15

- **Global Handwashing Day 2022** is observed on the **15th of October**.
- Hand washing is such a basic habit, but it can change everything and save lives.
- Global Handwashing Day 2022 theme is, "**Unite for Universal Hand Hygiene.**"
- The Global Handwashing Partnership established Global Handwashing Day as a chance to develop and put into practice original strategies for inspiring people to wash their hands with soap, particularly in times of need.

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- In 2008, the first Global Handwashing Day was observed.

International Day of Rural Women: October 15

- **International Day of Rural Women 2022** is observed on the **15th of October 2022**.
- This day serves as a reminder that millions of women in isolated rural communities still require our assistance.
- There are several methods to reach out and improve the lives of these women, from providing necessities to financial aid.
- It was proposed to empower and recognize women in **1995 during the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China**.
- To recognize the importance of rural women to agriculture, food production, and food safety, it **was suggested that October 15 be observed as International Day of Rural Women**.
- October 15 will be recognized yearly as International Day of Rural Women globally, according to a resolution 62/136 passed by the **United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 2007**.

White Cane Safety Day: October 15

- **White Cane Safety Day 2022** is observed on the **15th of October 2022**.
- This day is dedicated to **visually impaired people**
- This day is a chance to connect with others that might need your assistance.
- On White Cane Safety Day, you can participate in gatherings and activities that will benefit persons who are blind or visually impaired.
- **James Biggs, a photographer from Bristol**, came up with the concept of white canes.
- Biggs had an accident in 1921 that left him blind.
- During that time, there were more cars on the road, so Biggs decided to paint his cane white to make himself more visible to drivers and other pedestrians.
- White Cane Safety Day was **established annually on October 15** by a joint resolution that **President Lyndon B. Johnson and the U.S. Congress signed on October 6, 1964**.

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day: October 15

- **Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day 2022** is observed on the **15th of October 2022**.

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- The purpose of this day is to increase awareness, remembrance, and support for the 1 in 4 people and families whose lives are reportedly irreversibly changed by the death of their child(ren) during pregnancy, delivery, or infancy.
- **Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day (PAILRD)** is a memorial day that is annually honored on **October 15 in the United States and Canada**.
- To honor, commemorate, and remember infants who have died from miscarriage, stillbirth, neonatal death, and other causes of baby loss, the day was created in 2002.
- **Robyn Bear, Lisa Brown, and Tammy Novak** started the movement by petitioning the federal government to recognize the particular day on October 15.
- On **September 28, 2006**, the **House of Representatives** finally approved National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.
- The month of **October** had previously been declared to be **Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Month** by President Ronald Reagan.

World Students Day: October 15

- **World Students Day 2022** is observed on the **15th of October 2022**, to honor the **birthday of our former president, the late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam**.
- In 2010, **World Students Day** was established by the **United Nations**.
- In honor of former Indian president APJ Abdul Kalam, who was born on the same day in 1931, **October 15 of each year is observed as World Students' Day**.
- The purpose of the day is to **honor Kalam's contributions to education and students**
- Early in his life, Kalam studied science and physics.
- He was born in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.
- Through his insightful lectures, Kalam devoted his life to teaching and encouraging students to become the best versions of themselves.

World Food Day: October 16

- **World Food Day 2022** is observed annually on the **16th of October 2022**.
- World Food Day 2022 theme is, "**Leave No One Behind**"
- The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, a specialized body of the United Nations, created **World Food Day** in 1945.

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- However, it would take another 34 years until the 20th FAO conference in November 1979, when it was declared a global holiday.
- Following this, 150 nations continued to commemorate the day once it was given official UN recognition.
- Since 2014, the day's popularity has been exploited to advance the causes of world hunger relief and eradicate poverty in developing countries.

World Anaesthesia Day: October 16

- **World Anaesthesia Day 2022** is observed on the **16th of October 2022**.
- Anaesthesia, which is generated for therapeutic reasons, is a controlled, brief loss of feeling or awareness.
- World Anaesthesia Day 2022 theme is, "**Anaesthesia and children: Caring for your kids**"
- World Anaesthesia Day is observed on October 16 in remembrance of **W.T.G. Morton, who made the first successful official demonstration** of ether as an anesthetic on this date 173 years ago.
- This event ushered in the practice of anesthesiology.
- **Since 1903**, unique occasions have been planned to commemorate this momentous day.
- Given in an operating room at Massachusetts General Hospital, it is regarded as one of the pivotal moments in medical history.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: October 17

- **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2022** is observed on the **17th of October 2022**.
- The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2022 is an opportunity to recognize the challenges and efforts of those who are poor, give them a voice, and highlight that they are the ones who fight against poverty first.
- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2022 theme, "**Dignity for All in Practice**"
- The first commemoration of this day took place in **1987 at the Trocadéro in Paris**, where more than 100,000 people gathered to remember those who had died from extreme poverty, violence, and hunger at the unveiling of a memorial stone by a **French priest and humanitarian activist named Joseph Wresinski**.
- Such people declared that poverty is a violation of human rights and that we must work together to guarantee that these rights are upheld.

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- The general assembly established **October 17 as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on December 22, 1992**, four years after Wresinski passed away in 1988.
- The eradication of poverty and misery was the subject of an invitation to all nations to submit and promote initiatives.

World Osteoporosis Day: 20th October

- **World osteoporosis day 2022** is observed on the **20th of October 2022**.
- World Osteoporosis Day 2022 theme set up by the International Osteoporosis Foundation is **“Step Up For Bone Health”**
- World Osteoporosis Day was **launched on October 20, 1996**, by the **United Kingdom's National Osteoporosis Society** and supported by the European Commission.
- Since 1997, this awareness day has been organized by the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF).
- In 1998, two prominent organizations committed to educating the public about osteoporosis, combined to create the **International Osteoporosis Foundation**
- The Founding of the IOF was a combination of the joint efforts of the **European Foundation for Osteoporosis** created in 1987 and the **International Federation of Societies on Skeletal Diseases (IFSSD)**, which was started in 1995.

National Solidarity Day: 20th October

- **On 20th October, National Solidarity Day 2022** is observed.
- This day serves for the war's bravery, honoring the War soldier's family, and honoring the defense armed forces in Military, Navy, and Air soldiers.
- War took place between India and China in 1962.
- It was called **the Indo-China War of 1962**.
- The war took place for the **Kashmir border issue and the war started on 20th October 1962**.
- The war took place for one month and it finally ended on 21st November 1962.
- India Finally China occupied some parts of Kashmir which were named **COK - China Occupied Kashmir**.
- In 1966, India was under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. A Committee Constituting Prime Minister Indira Gandhi decided to dedicate 20th October as **“National Solidarity Day”** for war remembrance,

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to honor the Soldiers who participated in the war and to honor the soldier's families who sacrificed their lives in the war.

Police Commemoration Day: 21st October

- **Police Commemoration Day 2022** is observed on the **21st of October 2022**.
- On 21st October, Police Commemoration Day in India, a nationwide program will be conducted for the Police persons who proved their bravery and excellence in their duty.
- The day commemorates the sacrifices of ten **CRPF personnel who lost their lives while defending our border with China On October 21, 1959**.
- On **20th October 1959**, The Indian Reconnaissance party went missing.
- One of the **three Parties launched from Ladakh** does not return to the base.
- On 21st October 1959, the Chinese army attacked and killed 10 brave Indian Soldiers.
- In January 1960 they decided that October 21 will be declared as the Police Commemoration Day in India to remember and honor the sacrifices made by on-duty Police Personnel in the country.

International Stuttering Awareness Day: 22nd October

- **International Stuttering Awareness Day 2022** is observed on the **22nd of October 2022**.
- The International Stuttering Awareness Day theme 2022 set up by the ISAD Online Conference Team is **“Being Seen, Being Heard - Representation and Normalization of Stuttering in the mainstream.”**
- **International Stuttering Awareness Day was established in the year 1998** to bring attention to the millions of people across the world who are living with his specific Communication Disorder.
- People think that stuttering means repetitions of some words.
- Stuttering is also mentioned for persons who are having an elongation of a vowel or syllable.
- This condition may also vary because sometimes a person may stutter once in a while and also they stutter continuously while talking.
- In **19th Century Europe**, surgeons recommended surgery for this disorder
- This practice was later stopped because the patients who survived also stuttered again.
- Later it was understood that stuttering was a neurological disorder that can be developmental from Childhood and also can be acquired due to excessive drug use and also due to trauma.

United Nations Day: 24th October

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- **United Nations Day 2022** is observed on the **24th of October 2022**.
- The **United Nations Conference** took place in **San Francisco** in **1945**. **50 countries** came to the conference to form the **United Nations Charter**.
- The **United Nations Organisation** aims to bring peace among the people to stop the War Situation.
- **UNO** also works to reduce **Poverty** across the **Globe**.
- The **Permanent members** of **UNO** are the **United States, India, the United Kingdom, France, Turkey, and Canada**.
- **United Nations Day** is celebrated for the remembrance of the formation of the **United Nations Organisation**. **United Nations Day** is celebrated annually.
- This year **United Nations Day 2022** will be celebrated by **UNO** globally by conducting a **Peace Conference**.

World Polio Day: 24th October

- **World Polio Day 2022** is observed on the **24th of October 2022**.
- **World Polio Day** is **first initiated and Celebrated** by **Rotary International** for the birthday of **Jonas Salk**, the **Medical Researcher** who led the first team to develop a vaccine against polio.
- He developed the **Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine** in **1955**.
- Later **Albert Sabin** developed **Oral Polio Vaccine** in **1962**.
- **Rotary International** and **WHO** established the **Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)** in **1988**.
- At the time there were around **3,50,000** cases across the world.
- Now the **European Countries** have **completely eradicated polio** and now announced themselves as **Polio-free Countries**.
- But Still **Asian Countries** like **Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India** still find rare cases across the country.
- **World Polio Day 2022** is celebrated for over a decade now by **Rotary International**.
- This year they announced an awareness program to vaccinate babies as per the schedule.

Disarmament Week- 24 to 30 October

- Every year, from **October 24 to 30**, **Disarmament Week** is observed.
- One of the primary purposes of the **United Nations** is to achieve universal peace.

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- To that goal, the organization observes **Disarmament Week** every year from **October 24 to October 30**.
- Disarmament Week attempts to **raise awareness and understanding of disarmament challenges and their interconnections**.

History:

- The week-long yearly observance began on October 24, the anniversary of the United Nations' creation, and was initially called for in the Final Document of the General Assembly's 1978 special session on disarmament (resolution S-10/2).
- In 1995, the General Assembly asked states and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to continue actively participating in Disarmament Week (resolution 50/72 B, 12 December 1995) to increase public understanding of disarmament concerns.
- In 1952, the **United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC)** was founded.
- It was tasked with developing treaty proposal documents to limit and reduce the number of nations' military forces and weaponry.

About United Nations Disarmament Commission

- Founded: 11 January 1952
- Headquarters location: New York, United States
- Head: Han Tae-song.

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage: 27th October

- **World day for Audiovisual Heritage 2022** is observed on the **27th of October 2022**.
- UNESCO aims to promote digital platforms so that our **Culture and Heritage** will be transferred to the next younger generation quickly to their place so that they will be aware of the rich heritage and culture of all countries worldwide.
- World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2022 Theme set up by UNESCO is **“Enlisting documentary heritage to promote inclusive, just, and peaceful societies.”**
- The **World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (WDAH)** is a commemoration of the adoption, in 1980 by the **21st General Conference**, of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images.

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- Since the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2022 is celebrated in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of the World Programme, the members of State in UNESCO take this day as an opportunity to evaluate their performance in implementing the Recommendations for Preservation and Access of the Documentary Heritage in Digital Form.

World Stroke Day: 29th October

- **World Stroke Day 2022** is observed on the **29th of October 2022**.
- World Stroke Day 2022 theme set by the WSO is “**Learn the signs, Say it's a stroke and save Precious time.**”
- World stroke day was **established on 29th October 2004 at World Stroke Congress in Vancouver, Canada.**
- Later in 2006, the day was proclaimed for public awareness.
- In 2006, World Stroke Organization was created with the merger of the **World Stroke Federation** and the **International Stroke Society**.
- Since then, **World Stroke Organization (WSO)** has been taking care of the management and advocacy of **World stroke day (WSD)** on different platforms.
- In 2010, **World Stroke Organization (WSO)** declared stroke a public health emergency to curb the trending mortality and disability due to the lack of awareness and proper accessibility of diagnosis and treatment to everyone.

World Savings Day: 31st October

- **World Savings Day 2022** is observed on the **31st of October 2022. (30th October in India)**
- **World Savings Day 2022** theme set up by the International Savings Bank Congress is “**Saving prepares you for a better future**”
- **World Savings Day, also called World Thrift Day**, was first established in the year **1924 during the first International Savings Bank Congress.**
- The **Congress started on October 24.**
- On the last day of Congress exactly on October 30, the Congress decided to celebrate World Savings day every year to insist on the importance of saving money and also to insist on the method of saving money through banks and other modes.
- However, the Establishment lost its importance after the First World War.

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- Then later the Day gained importance after the second world war.
- The Day is officially celebrated on October 31st every year.
- **But in India, it is celebrated on October 30 since the former Prime Minister Mrs. Indhra Gandhi died on October 31st.**

Halloween Day: 31st October

- **Halloween Day 2022** is observed on the **31st of October 2022**.
- Halloween Day 2022 theme is “**Carving of Pumpkin.**”
- On this Day People set a campfire on the hilltop to show that bad evils are burnt and the people wear different kinds of masks to show that ghosts will go back from their place after seeing them.
- **People who died on the day of the Samhain festival** believed that their souls returned to their homes.
- People who died that year believed that they would go to another world.
- Halloween had its **origin in the festival of Samhain among the Celts of ancient Britain and Ireland.**
- The Observance of Halloween is mainly non-religious.
- The Next day, November 1 is believed to be a new calendar year.
- That date was considered the beginning of the winter period.

National Unity Day: 31st October

- **National Unity Day 2022** is observed on the **31st of October 2022**.
- The **National Unity Day 2022** was first started in the year 2014 by our Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi to honor the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 31st October 1875.
- He made a huge contribution to bringing all the scattered states into one nation after independence.
- He was also the first deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India.
- **National unity Day is also called Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Day.**
- The same day the **Statue of Unity** was opened in 2018 by our Prime Minister in remembrance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- It was the highest statue in the world.
- **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation** announced the **Statue of Unity** as the eighth World Wonder.

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- Hereafter 31st October National Unity Day 2022 will also be called and celebrated as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Day 2022.

IMPORTANT BANKING & ECONOMY NEWS

DBS Bank India collaborates with HDFC ERGO and Atradius to provide a Trade Credit Insurance solution to Tata Metaliks

- DBS Bank India Limited (DBIL) has partnered in collaboration with HDFC ERGO General Insurance Co Ltd and reinsured by Atradius, a worldwide provider of trade credit insurance to provide a bespoke Credit Insurance - Accounts Receivable solution to Tata Metaliks Ltd (TML), a subsidiary of Tata Steel Limited.
- This credit insurance deal is amongst the **first to leverage Trade Credit Insurance**.
- The revised framework was rolled out by the **Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** in **November 2021**, allowing banks to participate in this proposition.
- DBS is one of the **first movers** in the Indian market, supporting financial transactions backed by Trade Credit Insurance.

About DBS Bank India:

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Surojit Shome
- DBS Bank India Limited is the **first among the large foreign banks** in India to start operating as a **wholly-owned, locally incorporated subsidiary** of a leading global bank.

About HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company:

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD: Mr. Ritesh Kumar
- HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company is a joint venture between **HDFCLtd.** and **ERGO International AG**; the primary insurance entity of the Munich RE Group of Germany.

ICRA maintains India's FY23 GDP growth forecast at 7.2%

- Rating agency ICRA has maintained its forecast of **7.2% growth** in India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** for the **financial year FY23**.

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- According to ICRA, the growth will be aided by a revival in contact-intensive services owing to pent-up demand, and a back-ended pick-up in Government and private CAPEX.

Key Highlights:

- ICRA's note highlighted that the Year over Year (YoY) performance of **12** of the **14 non-financial indicators** (except ports cargo traffic and finished steel consumption) deterioration in July-August 2022 relative to Q1 FY2023, on account of the normalization of the base after the easing of the Covid 2.0 wave.
- In Q1FY23, India's real GDP is estimated at **₹36.85 lakh crore**, as against ₹32.46 lakh crore in Q1 2021-22, showing a growth rate of 13.5%. While the gross value added (GVA) growth stood at 12.7% in Q1FY23.

Muthoot Finance ties up with Lulu International Exchange for gold loan repayment

- **Muthoot Finance**, one of India's largest gold loan Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) companies, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Lulu International Exchange**, one of the money exchange and transfer companies in the UAE, to work as its collection partner.

Aim:

- To drive convenience and ease of money transfer for over **4 lakh Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** in UAE whose relatives have availed gold loans back home

About the Partnership:

- The partnership will largely benefit customers and their relatives who have availed of gold loans by providing them with a way to pay their **gold loan installments at special rates**.
- NRIs can avail of the service at any of the **89 branches** of Lulu Exchange spread across the UAE.
- The loan installment will be settled on a **real-time basis** with a nominal fee charged for the remit service.
- **India is the world's largest recipient of remittances** and the share from the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** is higher in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka.

Note:

- CEO of LuLu Financial Group: Richard Wason

About Muthoot Finance:

- Founded: 1939

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- Headquarters: Kochi, Kerala, India
- Managing Director: George Alexander Muthoot

World Bank downgrades growth for East Asia and Pacific to 3.2% in 2022

- The World Bank has downgraded growth for developing East Asia and the Pacific to 3.2% in 2022.
- The region's growth is projected to slow this year from 7.2% in 2021, before accelerating to 4.6% in 2023.
- Rising inflation abroad has provoked interest rate increases, which in turn have caused capital outflows and currency depreciations in some East Asia and Pacific countries.

About World Bank:

- Established: December 1945
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- President: David Malpass
- The World Bank is the collective name for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA).

RBI hikes repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.9%

- The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) headed by RBI Governor Mr. Shaktikanta Das decided to increase Repo Rate by 50 basis points to 5.90%.
- This is the RBI's fourth rate hike in the current financial year.
- Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate is adjusted to 5.65% & the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.15%, the Fixed Reverse Repo Rate: is 3.35%, Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR): is 4.50%, Statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) 18.00%.

GDP:

- The Governor informed that the RBI's growth projection for the Indian economy for 2022-23 is projected at 7.0% with Q2 at 6.3%; Q3 at 4.6%; and Q4:2022-23 at 4.6%, with risks broadly balanced.
- The growth for Q1 of 2023-24 is projected at 7.2%.
- The RBI has retained its inflation projection at 6.7% for this fiscal year.
- India's foreign exchange reserves: \$537.5 billion

About the Monetary Policy Committee:

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- **Section 45ZB** of the amended RBI Act, 1934 provides for an empowered six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) to be constituted by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette.

Members of the MPC:

1. Chairperson- Shaktikanta Das
 2. Michael Debabrata Patra
 3. Rajiv Ranjan
 4. Ashima Goyal
 5. Shashank Bhide
 6. Jayanth Varma
- Members 1 to 3 are **officials from the RBI** and members 4 to 6 are appointed by the **central government**.

About RBI:

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governor: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

World Bank & SIDBI to launch USD 1 billion fund financing purchase of electric 2 & 3 Wheelers

- The **Government of India (GoI)**, **World Bank (WB)**, and **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** are set to launch a **\$1 billion fund** to provide guarantees against loan default to lenders financing the purchase of **electric 2- and 3-wheelers**.
- The **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)** is the facilitating agency for the project.

Aim:

- To facilitate faster and easier financing of electric vehicles.
- Partial credit guarantees and first-loss risk-sharing instruments are some of the most effective financial solutions to foster the transition and increase electric mobility uptake.

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- The instrument would act as a hedging mechanism, for banks to access in case of defaults of loans on the purchase of electric vehicles
- Currently, loans for electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers attract **20-25% interest per annum**.
- This is expected to bring down the cost of financing EVs by **10-12%**.
- In FY23, EV sales in India are expected to cross a million units, an **84% rise year-on-year (y-o-y)**.

About WB:

- Established: December 1945
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- President: David Malpass

About SIDBI:

- Established: 2 April 1990
- Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India
- MD & CEO: Shri Sivasubramanian Ramann
- SIDBI is the apex **regulatory body** for the overall licensing and regulation of micro, small and medium enterprise finance companies in India.
- It is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance, Government of India**.

The government has now decided to borrow ₹14.21 trillion in the current fiscal:

- The government has now decided to **borrow ₹14.21 trillion in the current fiscal**, as against ₹14.31 trillion estimated in the budget.
- Backed by buoyant revenue collections, the government has decided to lower borrowing for the **current fiscal by ₹10000 crores than earlier projected for 2022-23 in the budget**.
- Government is confident of achieving the **fiscal deficit target for 2022-23 of 6.4% of GDP**.
- However, the borrowing for the second half will remain the same as **earlier estimated at ₹5.92 trillion, which includes ₹16000 crores** of its sovereign green bond offering.
- The government finances its fiscal deficit through several means, including raising money from capital markets by issuing different instruments like treasury bills and bonds.
- The fiscal deficit, which is the excess of government spending **over revenues is estimated at ₹16.6 trillion, or 6.4% of GDP**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- The direct tax collections in the first six months of the fiscal are higher by 23% over the corresponding period last year at ₹700,669 crores.

SEBI extends two-factor authentication for mutual fund subscription transactions

- Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** decided to extend the **two-factor authentication (2FA)** for subscription transactions in units of mutual funds to further **safeguard the interest of investors**.
- The new framework will come into effect from **April 1, 2023**.
- In the case of subscription and redemption of units, two-factor authentication (for online transactions) and **signature method (for offline transactions)** will be used for authentication.
- In the case of demat transactions, the process of two-factor authentication as laid down by the depositories will be followed.
- SEBI has clarified that in the case of systematic transactions, the requirement of such authentication will be applicable only at the time of registration.
- The Association of Mutual Funds in India shall furnish the activity-wise schedule for the implementation of two-factor authentication by **October 14** and will furnish progress reports on the implementation of the authentication provisions on a **bi-monthly basis**, starting from **December 1, 2022**.

About SEBI:

- Established: on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance, Gol**.

Karnataka Bank opens Analytical Center of Excellence

- Karnataka Bank has opened an **Analytical Center of Excellence (ACoE)** at Electronic City, Bengaluru, Karnataka to harness the power of data.

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- The center, which is developed in association with Ernst and Young (EY) as a project partner, will help in the accelerated incubation of Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML) models along with their integration into business, on a scalable analytical data platform.
- Shri P Pradeep Kumar, Chairman, and Sri Mahabaleshwara M.S, MD & CEO, along with Shri Mahesh Makhija from EY jointly inaugurated the Centre.
- ACoE will be a key differentiator in accelerating Karnataka Bank's transformation journey to emerge as a relevant, progressive 'Digital Bank of Future' as envisaged as part of the KBL Nxt initiative of the Bank".

About Karnataka Bank:

- Founded: 18 February 1924
- Headquarters: Mangaluru, Karnataka, India
- MD & CEO: Mahabaleshwara M. S
- Tagline: Your Family Bank Across India

SEBI lays guidelines on preferential issues for listed REIT, InvIT

- Capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued guidelines on preferential issues and institutional placement of units in emerging investment vehicles – real estate investment trust (REIT) and infrastructure investment trust (InvIT).
- However, the allotment of units can be made to the sponsor for unsubscribed portions in the institutional placement where at least 90% of the issue size has been subscribed.
- A listed InvIT and REIT may make a preferential issue of units or institutional placement of units in case units of the same class, which are proposed to be allotted, have been listed on a stock exchange for at least 6 months before the date of issuance of notice to its unit holders.
- While a REIT comprises a portfolio of commercial real assets, & InvITs comprise a portfolio of infrastructure assets, such as highways and power transmission assets.

SEBI rolls out a framework for credit rating agencies

- Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) came out with a new framework for credit rating agencies (CRAs), involving ratings of securities having explicit credit enhancement features.
- The new framework, applicable from January 1, 2023

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Aim:

- To enhance transparency and improve the rating process.

Key Highlights:

- Under the rule, CRAs can assign the suffix '**CE**' (**Credit Enhancement**) to the rating of instruments having explicit credit enhancement.
- CRAs will have to conduct independent due diligence on the nature of specified support consideration and form a definitive internal view and, wherever warranted, obtain an independent external legal opinion for ascertaining the strength of the credit enhancement.
- It will have to **verify the documentation** related to the specified support considerations to ensure that the support is unconditional and legally enforceable till all the obligations of the rated security have been paid to the investors.

The combined index of eight core industries increased by 3.3%

- The combined index of eight core industries increased by 3.3% (provisional) compared to the Index of August 2021.
- Index of Eight Core Industries measures combined and individual performance of production in 8 core industries- Coal, Crude Oil, Cement, Fertilisers, Refinery Products, Electricity, Natural Gas, and Steel.
- The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- The final growth rate of the Index of Eight Core Industries for May 2022 has been revised to 19.3% from its provisional level of 18.1%.

Airtel has become the first company to launch 5G services in the country:

- Telecom operator Bharti Airtel's 5G services will be available in eight cities announced chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal at India Mobile Congress.
- Airtel and Nokia have partnered to bring India's first 5G-enabled immersive experience to visitors at the Indian Mobile Congress (IMC) 2022.
- Airtel and Nokia will bring to life the cultural splendour of Kashi Vishwanath temple and the Statue of Unity through holographic images demonstrating the benefits of ultra-fast and low latency 5G networks.

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- **Bharti Airtel has become the first company to launch 5G services** in the country.
- The services will be available in **eight cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Varanasi, Bangalore, and others.**
- Airtel will roll out 5G services in several cities across the country by **March 2023 and across India by March 2024.**
- According to the telecom department, 5G technology is expected to deliver ten times better download speed than that of 4G and up to three times greater spectrum efficiency.
- Bharti Airtel had placed the order for **5G gears with Ericsson, Nokia, and Samsung** immediately after the auctions were over.
- **Bharti Airtel acquired spectrum worth ₹43,084 crores** in the just-concluded auction.

IOCL has set up a subsidiary to pool the funds of its overseas units:

- India's top refiner **Indian Oil Corp** has set up a subsidiary to pool the funds of its overseas units to **meet capital** and trade finance needs.
- The new unit - Finance Company - will help IOC benefit from interest arbitrage as the company's borrowings increase after selling fuel locally at below-market rates.
- The Finance Company will be based in the **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in western India.**
- Companies based in GIFT City get a 100% income tax exemption for 10 years.
- The Finance Company will "carry out finance activities such as fund pooling of foreign companies and utilize the same for carrying out trade financing of IOC and group companies".
- The Finance Company will also handle IOC's global treasury operation and utilize IFSC to raise capital and debt from overseas markets.

SIDBI and Dun & Bradstreet India launches SIDBI–D&B SPeX dedicated to MSMEs

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Dun & Bradstreet, the global leading provider of business decisioning data and analytics, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create the SIDBI-D&B Sustainability Perception Index (SIDBI – D&B SPeX), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu (TN).**

About SIDBI – D&B SPeX:

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- The Index, to be released every quarter, will capture the various business parameters that, when analyzed at an aggregate level, will provide valuable insights into the adoption of an **ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) framework**.
- The index will be presented as a **quantitative measurement** for policymakers and enablers to nudge businesses towards adopting an ESG framework in their business strategy over the coming years.
- It will cover nearly **250 MSMEs every quarter** from the D&B/SIDBI database of MSMEs.
- It is planned to cover the sectoral and sub-sectoral perceptions/aspirations & preparedness.
- It can assess the impact of regulations and government policy on environmental practices in the **SME (Small & Medium enterprises) sector**.
- It can establish the Indian economy and markets (especially the mid-market segment) towards a **sustainable future**, attracting sustainable capital and investments.

About SIDBI:

- Founded: 2 April 1990
- Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Chairman & MD: Sivasubramanian Ramann
- SIDBI is the **apex regulatory body** for the **overall licensing and regulation of micro, small and medium enterprise finance** companies in India.
- It is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India.

About Dun & Bradstreet India:

- Founded: 1995
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Avinash Gupta

RBI to ease net banking norms for customers of regional rural banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, has proposed to **ease norms** for internet banking for customers of **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)**.
- Currently, RRBs are allowed to provide **Internet Banking facilities** to their customers with prior approval of the Reserve Bank, subject to fulfillment of certain **financial and non-financial criteria**.

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- To promote the spread of digital banking in rural areas, the criteria for RRBs to be eligible to provide internet banking are being **rationalized**.

About RRB:

- RRBs are jointly owned by the **central government, state government, and sponsor banks**.
- The ratio of holding for the **central government is 50%, the state government 15%, and the sponsor bank 35%**.
- RRBs provides various banking and financial services like **MGNREGA wages disbursement, debit and credit cards, and Unified Payment Service (UPI)**, among others.
- RRB was allowed to provide internet banking facilities in **2015**.

About RBI:

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar.

Cabinet Approves 4% DA Hike For Central Govt Employees

- The **Union Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved a proposal to **increase the dearness allowance (DA) & dearness relief (DR) of the central government employees and pensioners by 4%** under the **7th Pay Commission** with effect from July 1, 2022.
- The increase in the DA and DR is based on the percentage increase in the **12 monthly averages of the All India Consumer Price Index** for the period **ending June 2022**.
- The additional installment of DA and dearness relief (DR) is an increase of 4% over the existing rate of 34% of basic pay/pension & now, this has increased to **38%**.
- This is the **second increase** in the dearness allowance of the central government employee in 2022.

Key Highlights:

- The impact of enhanced dearness allowance to the employees on the exchequer is estimated at **Rs 6,591.36 crore per annum and Rs 4,394.24 crore in 2022-23 (8 months from July 2022 to February 2023)**.

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- In case of dearness relief, the impact would be Rs 6,261.20 crore per annum and Rs 4,174.12 crore in the current fiscal.
- The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief would be of the order of Rs 12,852.56 crore per annum and Rs 8,568.36 crore in the current financial year.
- DA and DR are revised **twice a year** based on **retail inflation-industrial workers**.
- This is done to compensate for the loss in purchasing power of the **monthly salary/pension wealth due to inflation**.
- Dearness allowance (DA) is given to **government employees**, while dearness relief (DR) is for pensioners.

RBI may adopt an expected loss approach for banks' loan provisioning

- Governor Shri Shaktikanta Das announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) adopted the “expected loss” approach for loan provisioning.
- At present, the banks follow the “incurred loss” approach, where money is set aside after an asset turns sour.
- RBI will release a **discussion paper** on the 'expected loss-based approach' for loan loss provisioning by banks.
- The approach to make provisions or set aside money on the probable losses is a globally accepted prudent norm.
- At present, larger non-bank lenders have already been using the expected loss approach for provisioning since 2018.

ICICI Bank launches special account for Indian students in the UK

- ICICI Bank UK PLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of ICICI Bank Limited, offers a bank account to Indian students aspiring to study in the UK called, ‘HomeVantage Current Account’ (HVCA).
- It is specially designed to **meet every student’s banking needs** in the UK.

About HVCA:

- The HomeVantage Current Account (HVCA), which comes with a **Visa debit card** valid for use anywhere in the world, can be activated digitally before the students leave India for the UK.

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- As an equivalent to savings accounts in India, the account holder can activate **internet banking** and **mobile banking** once it has been activated.
- The students can opt for the **physical debit card** to be delivered to an Indian or UK address.
- According to the latest UK Home Office data released in **August 2022** **Indians** have overtaken **China** as the **largest nationality** being issued visas to study in UK institutions.
- **Nearly 118,000 Indian students** received Student Visas for the year ending **June 2022** an **89% increase** from 2021.

About ICICI Bank:

- Founded: 5 January 1994
- Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat, India
- MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi
- Tagline: Khayal Apka

NABARD sanctions Rs 222 cr to augment infrastructure in Punjab's rural schools

- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has sanctioned **Rs 221.99 crore** from the **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)** to **strengthen school infrastructure** in rural schools in Punjab.

Aim of the Project:

- To benefit a total of **3.80 lakh students**, including likely new enrolment of **3.5 lakh students**, in more than **3,500 villages**.
- The fund will be used to build **2,328 additional new classrooms**, **762 labs**, and **648 playgrounds** in rural schools in all 23 districts of Punjab
- In addition to this, **404 integrated science labs**, **62 physics labs**, **44 chemistry labs**, **54 biology labs**, **103 computer labs**, and **55 National Skills Qualification Framework labs** have also been sanctioned.
- Presently, there are **632 projects** underway that are being built with **Rs 686 crore** granted under the RIDF by the **Department of School Education, Punjab government**.

About NABARD:

- Founded: 12 July 1982
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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- NABARD was established on the recommendations of the **B. Sivaraman Committee** (by Act 61, 1981 of Parliament).
- It is an apex regulatory body for the overall regulation of regional rural banks and apex cooperative banks in India.

RBI to release a discussion paper on the securitization of stressed assets framework

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will release a discussion paper on the Securitisation of Stressed Assets Framework (SSAF).
- RBI has decided to introduce a framework for securitizing stressed assets to provide an alternative mechanism for securitizing non-performing assets (NPAs) in addition to the existing Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARC) route
- Currently, the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 provides a framework for the securitization of NPAs to be undertaken by Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) licensed under the Act.
- Earlier in September 2021, the revised framework for the securitization of standard assets was issued by RBI.

RBI to stop 28-day VRRR will continue with 14-day auctions

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will stop conducting 28-day variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auctions, considering the current banking system liquidity conditions, but will continue with 14-day VRRR auctions.
- In Sep 2022, India's banking system liquidity slipped into deficit & it currently stands at a deficit of 187 billion Indian rupees (\$2.29 billion).
- The RBI has been conducting 28-day VRRR auctions for 500 billion rupees since November 2021, but these auctions have not been fully subscribed for the last few months.
- The RBI also conducts 14-day VRRR auctions for 2 trillion rupees and these too have failed to attract complete subscriptions in the last few weeks.

SBI launches 'Gram Seva Program' across 6 states of India

- On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti (Oct 02, 2022), State Bank Group Chairman Mr. Dinesh Khara, adopted 30 remote villages across Aspirational Districts in Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra,

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

Punjab, Tamil Nadu (TN), and West Bengal (WB) under the 4th phase of the 'SBI Gram Seva' program.

About SBI Gram Seva Program:

- SBI Gram Seva was launched in **2017** to build and develop **Atmanirbhar Rural India**.
- It is one of the flagship programs of the SBI Foundation, the **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** arm of the State Bank Group.
- The program emphasizes the holistic development of villages by active intervention in areas like education, healthcare, livelihoods, and infrastructure.
- The program has so far adopted **100 villages** across 16 States in 3 phases.
- The launch of the 4th phase of SBI Gram Seva takes the program's outreach to a total of **130 villages**, of which 75 villages are from Aspirational Districts notified by the **NITIAayog**, Government of India.
- Additionally, the SBI Gram Seva program covers **16 of the 17 SBI Circles** in the country.

About SBI Foundation:

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Shri Sanjay Prakash

About SBI:

- Founded: 1 July 1955
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara
- Tagline: The Banker to Every Indian

NPCI Signs MoU with Central Bank of Oman to Enable UPI Payments in Oman

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and **Central Bank of Oman (CBO)** signed a historic **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to launch the **Rupay debit card** in Oman, paving the way for a new era of **financial connectivity**.
- This comes after **New Delhi** and **Muscat** reached a consensus to expand the **Indian digital payment ecosystem** to the gulf region.

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- The agreement will open the floodgates for Indian RuPay cards and the UPI platform in Oman for seamless digital remittances, a move that is likely to benefit Indian workers and professionals.
- As per the latest NPCI data, UPI transactions in Sep 2022 grew by over 3% to Rs 678 crore from Rs 657 crore in Aug 2022.
- So far countries including Singapore, Nepal, UAE, Bhutan, Malaysia, and France are among the global nations that accept payments through UPI and RuPay Cards.
- While Australia is in advanced talks with India for early integration of UPI with the Australian New Payment Platform.
- Russia has expressed interest in pushing dialogue on accepting the UPI and Faster Payments System (FPS) of the Central Bank of Russia within their respective national payment infrastructures.
- Earlier in September 2021 Liquid Group, a cross-border digital payment service provider signed an agreement with NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) to launch a UPI-based QR code payment system in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan beginning in 2022.

Aditya Birla Health Insurance launches Activ Fit health insurance policy for young & healthy adults

- Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Limited. (ABHICL), the health insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), has launched the first of its kind ACTIV FIT health insurance policy, a comprehensive health insurance plan for young and healthy adults.

About ACTIV FIT health insurance policy:

- It provides an upfront 10% good health discount based on an assessment done through a unique facial scan.
- It offers up to 50% health returns on being active for 275 days in a year.
- In case of hospitalization, if they fall short of their insurance coverage, the customer can use the 100% Binge Refill feature.
- This feature enables them to get cover up to sum assured, for any illness/injury.
- The product also includes Modern treatments, Mental Care Cover, HIV/ AIDS and STD, Day Care treatments, pre-hospitalization & post-hospitalization, and road ambulance cover

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- Maternity expenses are covered for up to Rs 40,000 and Rs. 60,000 for normal and C-Section deliveries, over and above the base sum insured.
- The road ambulance cover network is based on actual and for non-network hospitals, up to Rs 3,000 per event.
- All customers below the age of 35 years can avail of an **Early Bird Discount** at renewal, 5% from the 4th to 7th policy year & 10% from the 8th policy year for the lifetime of the policy.

Additional benefits:

- The Consumers can opt, for include, **no claim bonus** (10% of the sum insured per annum, and a maximum of up to 100%).
- There is also an option for health check-ups, available once during the policy year for insured aged 18 years and above on the start date of the policy.
- The policy also comes with an optional cover of a super no-claim bonus of up to 50% of the sum insured, a maximum of up to 100%.

About Aditya Birla Health Insurance Company Limited:

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO: Mayank Bathwal

HDFC Life Insurance launches 'Insure India' campaign

- HDFC Life Insurance Company has launched the 'Insure India' campaign.

Aim:

- To **educate Indians** on the benefits of life insurance as a product category.

Objective:

- To educate Indians about life insurance thereby motivating them to secure their future with this unique financial product that offers the **dual benefits of protection and long-term savings**.
- As part of this campaign, HDFC Life will host **chat shows, hold on-ground activities, webinars, etc.**, for engaging with consumers both directly as well as indirectly through its wide network of distributors.
- Previous initiatives of HDFC Life include 'Start the Talk', 'Get Set Protect', and 'Being Responsible' which primarily aimed to **educate consumers about life insurance**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

About HDFC Life Insurance Company Ltd:

- Founded: 2000
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Vibha Padalkar
- It is a joint venture between **HDFC Ltd.**, India's leading housing finance institution, and **abrdn** (Mauritius Holdings) 2006 Limited, a global investment company.

JSW Cement secures Rs 400 cr as sustainability-linked loan from MUFGBank

- **JSW Cement** has raised Rs 400 crore (USD 50 million) from **MUFGBank India** as its first sustainability-linked loan.
- It is the company's first sustainability-linked loan in the credit line.
- Whereas it is **MUFGBank India's** first transaction undertaken out of its new **IFSC unit branch** launched in **August 2022** in the **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (Gift City), Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**
- The funding will enable the company to meet its goal of **25 million tonnes per annum capacity by FY25** and also forms part of its **environmental, social, and governance (ESG) objectives.**

About JSW Cement Ltd:

- Founded: 2009
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Managing Director: Parth Jindal
- JSW Cement is **India's leading green cement company.**

EXIM Bank extends \$100- mn LoC to the Maldives for development projects

- **Export-Import Bank of India [Exim Bank]**, on behalf of the Government of India, has extended a **Line of Credit (LOC)** of **USD 100 million** to the **Government of the Republic of the Maldives** for financing developmental projects.
- The agreement was signed by **Maldives' Minister of Finance Mr. Ibrahim Ameer** and **Exim Bank's general manager Mr. Nimit Ved.** **India's Foreign Secretary Mr. V M Kwatra** and his **Maldivian counterpart Mr. Ahmed Latheef** were also present.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- With this, to date Exim Bank has extended **6 (Six) Lines of Credit** to the Government of the Republic of Maldives, on behalf of the Government of India, taking the total value of LOCs to **USD 1.43 billion**.
- Projects covered under the LOCs extended to the Government of the Republic of Maldives include Greater Male Connectivity Project, Water & Sewerage Projects, Addu Development Project, International Cricket Stadium Project, Defence projects, Gulhifalhu Port Project, Hanimaadhoo Airport Project, Gan Airport Project, Fisheries Project, Road Construction Project, and Sports Infrastructure.
- , Currently, Exim Bank has **311 Lines of Credit**, covering **67 countries** in Africa, Asia, Latin America Oceania, and the CIS, with credit commitments of around **USD 32.31 billion**, available for financing exports from India.

About EXIM Bank:

- Founded: 1982
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD: Harsha Bangari

About the Maldives:

- President: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih
- Capital: Malé
- Currency: Maldivian rufiyaa

Karnataka Bank launches 'KBL Utsav' loan campaign

- Leading private sector lender Karnataka Bank Limited (KBL) has launched a special campaign 'KBL Utsav 2022-23' for home loans, car loans, and gold loans from Oct 01 to Dec 31, 2022, to cater to the demands of customers during the festival season.

Aim:

- To help customers to own a home and a car, with **real-time customer authentication, hassle-free and simplified digital processing, and quick sanctions**.
- The customers can avail the benefits of digital banking and offers of the special campaign across all its **880 branches**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- Under the KBL Utsav campaign, customers can avail of Home, Car, and Gold loans with attractive interest rates, reduction in processing charges for Car & Gold loans, and **nil processing charges** for Home loans, apart from other benefits.
- The digital products are designed to ensure **customer delight** and **satisfaction**.

About Karnataka Bank:

- Founded: 18 February 1924
- Headquarters: Mangaluru, Karnataka, India
- MD & CEO: Mahabaleshwara M. S
- Tagline: Your Family Bank Across India

World Trade Organization lowered its forecast for growth in global trade volume by 1% from 3.4%:

- The **World Trade Organization** lowered its forecast for growth in global trade volume to 1% from **3.4% earlier**, citing rising downside risks.
- Due to several shocks to the global economy, **world trade may lose momentum in the second half of 2022 and remain subdued in 2023**.
- However, the WTO increased its forecast for the growth of global merchandise trade for 2022 from its April estimate of 3% to 3.5%.
- According to the latest WTO forecasts, the world GDP at market exchange rates will **grow by 2.8 percent in 2022 and 2.3 percent in 2023**.
- India's merchandise exports declined 3.5% in September for the first time in 19 months.

About WTO:

- The World Trade Organization is an intergovernmental organization that regulates and facilitates international trade.
- Governments use the organization to establish, revise, and enforce the rules that govern international trade.
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Founded: 1 January 1995
- Membership: 164
- Director-General: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

IDBI Bank launches many digital solutions on its 59th Foundation Day

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- On the occasion of the **59th Foundation Day**, IDBI Bank has launched a slew of **initiatives** catered towards **customer centricity** and meeting the needs of the ever-evolving financial ecosystem.
- The Bank announced its foray into **Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC)** for customers and non-customers engaged in trade.

About ONDC:

- ONDC is an **open network** that will help **Micro Small Medium Enterprise (MSME)** and other retail merchants to set up their Digital Stores and reap the benefits of the **digital commerce revolution**.
- The IDBI Bank ONDC Sellers App will **enable merchants** to on-boarding onto the ONDC Platform.

Initiatives Launched by IDBI Bank:

- The Bank launched the DigiKCC platform for the digitization of the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** loan process with built-in capabilities for scrutiny of loan applications to enable **end-to-end digital** and **paperless journey**.

About the DigiKCC platform:

- DigiKCC platform introduced in **Maharashtra**.
- This is the **first-of-its-kind initiative** for the **digitization** of KCC loans.
- It will be gradually extended to other states where the digitization of land records is streamlined.
- The Bank also launched **WPS (Warehouse receipt Processing System)** for an end-to-end integrated digital solution for loans against Warehouse Receipts.
- The Bank enhanced its mobile banking app, **GO Mobile+** to feature special amenities for Senior Citizens under the **“Naman” page**, including facilities like door-step banking.
- IDBI Bank also introduced a **Repo Linked Fixed Deposit scheme**.
- The Bank announced a Special scheme of **“Amrit Mahotsav Rinn Bhugtan Yojana”** to boost its recovery efforts through Time Settlement of NPAs up to **Rs. 10 Crores**, at attractive terms.

About IDBI Bank:

- Founded: 1 July 1964
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Rakesh Sharma
- Tagline: Banking for All, Aao sochein Bada

RBI governor Shaktikanta Das launches advanced supervisory monitoring system – DAKSH

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- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shri Shaktikanta Das launched a new 'SupTech' initiative called DAKSH.
- This application will be the bank's **advanced supervisory monitoring system**, which is expected to make the supervisory processes more robust.

About DAKSH:

- DAKSH means '**efficient**' and '**competent**', reflecting the underlying capabilities of the application
- It is a **web-based end-to-end workflow application** through which RBI shall monitor compliance requirements in a more focused manner.

Objective:

- To improve the compliance culture in **Supervised Entities (SEs)** like Banks, **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC)**, etc.
- The app will help in strengthening supervision, by utilizing the latest data and analytical tools as well as leveraging technology for implementing more efficient and automated work processes.
- It will also enable seamless communication, inspection planning, and execution, cyber incident reporting, and analysis, & provision of various **Management Information System (MIS)** reports, etc through a platform that enables anytime-anywhere secure access.

About RBI:

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

World Bank cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 6.5% for 2022-23

- The World Bank (WB) trimmed India's growth forecast for 2022-23 (April-March) by 100 basis points, projecting that the **Indian economy** will grow at **6.5%** compared to its earlier estimate of **7.5%** released in June.
- This is the **third time** the World Bank revised its GDP growth forecast for India in FY23.
- In June 2022 it had slashed its forecast to **7.5%** & earlier in April 2022 it had trimmed the forecast from **8.7%** to **8%**.

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- Growth estimates for the South Asia region comprising **India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan**, and the **Maldives** were revised down to **5.8%** from the **6.8%** forecast in June 2022.
- **Real GDP** grew **13.5%** in the first quarter of FY'23, surpassing the pre-pandemic level by **3.8%**
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently cut the economic growth projection for the current fiscal to **7%** from the **7.2% estimated earlier**.
- A top UN agency has also stated that India's economic growth will decline to **5.7%** this year from **8.2%** in 2021, citing higher financing costs and weaker public expenditures.
- According to the forecast by the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Trade and Development Report 2022**, India's GDP will further decelerate to **4.7% growth** in 2023.

About World Bank:

- Established: December 1944
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- President: David Malpass
- The World Bank is the collective name for the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** and **International Development Association (IDA)**.

HDFC Bank launches SmartHub Vyapar Merchant app for SMEs

- India's largest private sector bank **HDFC Bank** in partnership with a merchant Saas platform, **Mintoak Innovations India** has developed the **SmartHub Vyapar app**.

About the SmartHub Vyapar app:

- The app is a **comprehensive payment and banking solution** designed to fulfill the **everyday business needs** of merchants.
- On the banking front, merchants can avail of banking services like the **opening of fixed deposits, and quick access** to pre-approved loans and credit cards.
- Also, Merchants can get a **real-time view** of all **Smart Hub Vyapar transactions** credited into their bank account.

Key features of SmartHub Vyapar include:

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- **Instant, Digital & Paperless Onboarding.**
- Become HDFC Bank SmartHub Vyapar Merchant instantly with your HDFC Bank Current A/c
- **Face to Face** and **remote payment collection** through multiple modes: **Cards, QR and UPI**
- Instant Settlement to the bank account on **UPI transactions** and **Voice Notification** on all transactions
- To **reduce merchant anxiety around transactions**, it has been provisioned with an inbuilt voice feature informing the merchant of successful transactions
- Apply for Fixed Deposits and Cards
- **Easy Access to Business Loans**, Overdraft facility, and Loan on Credit Card
- Easy Distributor & Vendor Payments: Up to 45 days of credit period via business credit cards
- Easy reconciliations of all transactions and bank credits
- Biz View: Monitor business growth in one single dashboard
- Offer creation and promotion to customers via social media
- Customer intelligence & recognition features for offering customized deals
- **24X7 customer support**
- Pay later feature for customers: Record, Track & Collect Customer Dues

About HDFC Bank:

- Founded: August 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan

Unity Bank introduces a special FD scheme with a lucrative interest rate

- **Unity Small Finance Bank Limited (Unity Bank)**, a modern, **digital-first bank**, has introduced **Shagun 501**, a special fixed deposit scheme with attractive interest rates.
- This festive offer will be available only for deposits booked up to **October 31, 2022**.

About the special FD scheme:

- Under the Scheme, Retail consumers will receive a reasonable return of **7.90% annually** for a **501-day fixed deposit**, while senior citizens would receive **8.40% per year**.
- Unity Bank has also revised its interest rates on **callable and non-callable bulk deposits** (deposits higher than Rs 2 crore).

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- Callable bulk deposits offer up to **7% interest** whereas non-callable bulk deposits offer up to **7.25% interest**.

About Unity Small Finance Bank Limited:

- Established: 2018
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Inderjit Camotra

RBI introduces Internal Ombudsman mechanism for Credit Information Companies (CICs)

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced the **Internal Ombudsman mechanism for Credit Information Companies (CICs)**.
- It is directed to all the CICs holding a Certificate of Registration under **sub-section (2) of Section 5 of the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005**, to appoint an **Internal Ombudsman (IO)** at the apex of their internal grievance redress mechanism by **April 1, 2023**.
- The implementation of the mechanism will be monitored by the CIC's internal audit system
- Under the mechanism, all complaints that are partly or wholly rejected by CICs will be reviewed by the IO before the final decision of the CIC is conveyed to the complainant.
- The above direction was announced in the '**Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies**' issued as part of the Monetary Policy statement dated **August 05, 2022**.

Eligibility of an internal ombudsman:

- Every CIC must appoint the Internal Ombudsman for a fixed term of **3 to 5 years**
- Either a **retired or a serving officer**
- Not below the rank of Deputy GM or equivalent, should have **at least 7 years** of experience in the banking sector
- Not attained the age of **70** before completion of the proposed term
- No reappointment for extension of term in the same CIC
- The internal ombudsman shall report to the **Managing Director or Chief Executive Officer** administratively, and to the Board functionally.

Adani Group makes investments to the tune of ₹65,000 crores in Rajasthan:

- **Adani Group** will make **fresh investments to the tune of ₹65,000 crores in Rajasthan** over the next 5-7 years, including ₹7,000 crores for doubling the cement manufacturing capacity in the state.

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- Combining all ongoing and future investments, we anticipate investing an additional ₹65,000 crore in Rajasthan over the next 5-7 years and creating over 40,000 direct and indirect jobs.
- The announcement comes days after Adani declared plans to invest over \$100 billion in the next decade, with 70% of it planned for the energy transition space.
- A week ago, Adani Group achieved commercial operation of the world's largest wind-solar hybrid power plant located in Rajasthan.
- The Group acquired Ambuja Cements and ACC recently, catapulting it to the second spot in the list of India's biggest cement producers.
- Adani Group's other projects in Rajasthan are under various stages of execution and expansion.

RBI to launch a pilot project for the digital rupee

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will soon commence the pilot launch of the Digital Rupee (e₹) for specific use cases as it tests digital currency in India.
- It released a concept note on the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).

About e-RUPI:

- e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment.
- It is a QR code or SMS string-based e-Voucher, which is delivered to the mobile of the beneficiaries.
- It has been developed by the National Payments Corporation of India on its UPI platform, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, and the National Health Authority.

About CBDC:

- CBDCs are a digital form of a paper currency and unlike cryptocurrencies that operate in a regulatory vacuum, these are legal tenders issued and backed by a central bank
- It is the same as a fiat currency (like the Indian rupee) and is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency
- The digital fiat currency or CBDC can be transacted using wallets backed by blockchain
- As of July 2022, 105 countries were exploring CBDC, accounting for 95% of the world GDP.
- The Bahamian Sand Dollar was the first to debut CBDC in 2020, while Jamaica's JAM-DEX was the most recent.

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- **China** became the world's first major economy to pilot a digital currency e-CNY in April 2020.
- According to the RBI, the e-Rupee can be structured as 'token-based' or 'account-based'.
- **Token-based CBDC:** (which is a bearer instrument like banknotes, meaning whosoever holds the tokens at a given point in time would be presumed to own them) is viewed as a preferred mode for CBDC-R as it would be closer to physical cash.
- **Account-based CBDC:** (which requires maintenance of record of balances and transactions of all holders of the CBDC and indicates the ownership of the monetary balances) may be considered for CBDC-W.

About RBI:

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

GST income in September of this year increased by 26%:

- The **Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue in September** this year saw a **26% year-on-year jump at ₹1.48 lakh crore**, the **third highest ever collections crossing the ₹1.40 lakh crore** mark for the seventh consecutive month on robust business activities despite the global economic slowdown.
- While the gross **GST revenue collection in September at ₹1,47,686 crore**.
- GST monthly collections stabilizing above Rs1.4 lakh crore for seven months in a row would provide more headroom on the fiscal front.
- GST was introduced through the **101st Constitution Amendment Act, of 2016**.
- It is one of the biggest indirect tax reforms in the country.
- It was introduced with the slogan of '**One Nation One Tax**'.

India's direct tax collection surged 24 percent to Rs 8.98 lakh crore:

- The **Finance Ministry** informed that **India's direct tax collection surged 24 percent to Rs 8.98 lakh crore between April 1 - October 8, 2022**.
- The gross collection of taxes on corporate earnings rose **16.74 percent** from April 1 to October 8, while personal income tax collection jumped **32.30 percent**,

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- Direct tax collection came at Rs 8.98 lakh crore between April 1 to October 8, 2022, 23.8 percent higher than the gross collection in the corresponding period a year ago.
- Tax collection is an indicator of economic activity in any country.
- But in India, the robust tax collection was despite a slowdown in industrial production and exports.

RBI cancels the license of Pune-based Seva Vikas Co-operative Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the license of Pune-based The Seva Vikas Co-operative Bank Ltd because of the company's earnings prospects and lack of capital.
- The bank 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.
- According to the data submitted by the bank, about 99% of the depositors are entitled to receive the full amount of their deposits from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).
- This payment is made in compliance with the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961 based on the willingness received from the concerned depositors of the Bank.
- Earlier in August 2022, the banking regulator canceled the license of Pune-based Rupee Cooperative Bank.

About RBI:

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

IDBI Bank partners with Vayana Network on supply chain finance

- IDBI Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Vayana Network as its first fintech partner for end-to-end digitization services.

Aim:

- To contribute to the growth of the Supply Chain Finance (SCF) penetration in India, which is less than 1 % of the gross home product (GDP) and contributes only 5% of the outstanding banking assets.

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- This platform is expected to reduce paperwork, and transaction processing time while providing a smooth customer experience throughout.

About IDBI Bank:

- Founded: 1 July 1964
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Rakesh Sharma
- Tagline: Banking For All Aao Sochein Bada Bank Aisa Dost Jaisa

Nomura moderates India's FY24 GDP growth to 5.2%

- Japanese brokerage Nomura has projected a sharp moderation in India's growth rate for FY24 to 5.2% as compared to the FY23 GDP growth estimate at 7%.
- The economy grew at 4% in FY20 a multi-year low.
- It expects inflation to average 6.8% in FY23, a tad above the RBI's 6.7% estimate, and cool down to 5.3% in FY24.

About Nomura:

- Founded: December 25, 1925
- Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan
- President and Group CEO: Kentaro Okuda

RBI imposes monetary penalty on Kerala State Cooperative Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 48 lakh on the Kerala State Co-operative Bank Ltd for non-compliance with the provisions of section 19 read with section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act) and directions issued by RBI on 'Gold Loan – Bullet Repayment'.
- The penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers conferred on RBI under section 47 A (1) (c) read with sections 46 (4) (i) and 56 of the Act.
- The bank failed to comply with the RBI directions limiting the quantum of gold loans that could be granted under the bullet repayment option.

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NPCI launches program to connect with payments-oriented service providers

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched NPCI Partner Program (NPP) to collaborate with various technological service providers, application service providers, and other similar entities in the industry.

Aim:

- To connect with innovative and important payments-oriented service providers.
- To augment the retail payments ecosystem by reducing the time to market and being more transparent and accessible.
- This one-of-a-kind initiative will help in building new offerings that are better aligned with the needs and demands of the contemporary market.

About the NPCI Partner Program:

- The program will also act as a knowledge-sharing platform with exclusive workshops on NPCI products and services, participation in NPCI pilot projects, and building a marketplace through community engagement.
- The participants will get early access to ready-to-test Application Programming interfaces (APIs) and specifications for core development and deployment.

About NPCI:

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Dilip Asbe
- The NPCI is the specialized division of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

RBL Bank partners BookMyShow to launch 'Play' credit card

- RBL Bank has partnered with BookMyShow to launch a new credit card 'Play' that will take the entertainment quotient for Indian audiences several notches higher.

About the 'Play' credit card:

- The card will be available to select customers on BookMyShow and give them access to offers on transactions across movies and live entertainment offerings (online and offline).

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- The eligible customers will be able to avail of offers on binge-watching movies and TV series on BookMyShow Stream by renting or buying a title while enjoying benefits with every purchase made.
- The consumers will be able to track the entire journey from application to delivery of the 'Play' credit card on BookMyShow, with **real-time updates** enabled within the platform
- The card owners will also be able to avail of varied offers on brands including **boAt, Myntra, WOW Momos, Archies, Cookie Man, Ixigo and Eat Sure** listed within the **F&B section** of BookMyShow.

Benefits of 'Play' credit card:

- Customers can enjoy a joining benefit of credits in the form of **BMS Cash worth Rs 200** if onboarded through the video **Know Your Customer (KYC)**
- A welcome benefit of **Rs 500** is available by making the first transaction **within 30 days** after activation of the card
- A monthly offer of Rs 500 in the next billing month upon card spends of **Rs 5,000** or more across movies, live events, and BookMyShow Stream, in the current billing month.
- Rs 100 off on F&B purchased on the BookMyShow platform while booking movie tickets.
- Earlier in **2016**, RBL Bank had partnered with BookMyShow for the launch of the **Fun Plus credit card**.

About RBL Bank:

- Founded: 1943
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Mr. R Subramaniakumar
- Tagline: Apno ka Bank

South Indian Bank enters World Book of Records for '101 Oonjals'

- The **South Indian Bank** for the **first time** organized a **first-of-its-kind** category event '**Onnichirikkam Oonjaladam**' (**Sit together and Swing**) and was accoladed with the **World Book of Records** award for '**staging and swinging 101 Oonjals**' simultaneously at a single venue in Kochi.
- The **World Book of Records** team presented the Award to **South Indian Bank Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mr. Murali Ramakrishnan & other officials**.

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- An Onjal is a **sturdy rectangular plank** suspended by iron link chains hooked to the ceiling of a hall or balcony.
- Onjals are a part of a ritual at the weddings of a section in **Tamil Nadu**.
- In Kerala, the swinging tradition forms an integral part of Onam festivities.

About South Indian Bank:

- Founded: 1928
- Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala, India
- MD & CEO: Murali Ramakrishnan
- Tagline: Experience Next-Generation Banking

SBI unveils next-gen contact center service

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** unveiled its **next-gen contact center service** to deliver a superior customer experience.

Aim:

- To explore embedding **advanced AI/ML-based technologies**, including conversational IVR, and voice bots.
- The revamped Contact Center will set a new industry benchmark with **30+ banking solutions** offered in **12 languages**, available **24×7** from the comfort of home.
- Currently, the contact center manages about **1.5 crore monthly calls**, with about 40% self-serviced through IVR, and the rest managed by over **3500 tele-caller representatives** operating through 4 toll-free helpline numbers.
- The bank has introduced easy-to-remember **4-digit toll-free numbers** (1800-1234 or 1800-2100) to simplify the process further.

About SBI:

- Founded: 1 July 1955
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara
- Tagline: The Banker to Every Indian

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

Dvara E-Dairy & Jana SFB jointly launch cattle loan service for farmers in TN & Karnataka

- **Dvara E-Dairy Solutions Private Limited** in partnership with **Jana Small Finance Bank** has launched **Dvara Surabhi Loan**, a **cattle loan** offered digitally by leveraging **new-age technologies** to create scalable access to finance for unbanked and underbanked small dairy farmers in **Tamil Nadu** and **Karnataka**.

About Dvara Surabhi Loan:

- The loan offers tailored loan products for dairy farmers for **cattle purchase** and **maintenance**.
- The loan is provided depending on a combination of the '**Surabhi Score**', a comprehensive score based on the digital assessment of the cattle management under various factors, as well as the farmers' **credit score**.
- This helps mitigate the risk and helps identify the '**right borrower**' for the loan.
- The loan amount varies between **Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 150,000**, with an average ticket size of **Rs. 80,000**.

As part of its Surabhi platform, Dvara E-Dairy has created the following solutions:

Surabhi ID: Unique, the digital, tamper-proof, verifiable identity of the cattle based on muzzle identity.

Surabhi Score: Comprehensive score arrived based on the digital assessment of the cattle leveraging **artificial intelligence (AI)** and incorporating advanced veterinary science and practices.

Dvara Surabhi: a Do-it-yourself (DIY) mobile application for the farmers to know the cattle's health status (as an indicator) within **60 seconds**.

Dvara Surabhi Loan: Cattle loan by leveraging Surabhi Score + C

About Dvara E-Dairy Solutions Private Limited:

- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- Founder & CEO: Ravi K A

About Jana SFB:

- Founded: 2018
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- CEO: Ajay Kanwal

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

Paytm partners with Jana Small Finance Bank for the deployment of card devices

- **One97 Communications Limited (OCL)**, which owns the brand **Paytm**, has partnered with **Jana Small Finance Bank** to **deploy card machines** to further drive digitization among merchants across India.
- With this partnership, Paytm and Jana Small Finance Bank will further drive the **digital payments revolution** in India.

About the Partnership:

- The partnership will enable Jana Small Finance Bank bank to extend Paytm's **All-in-one Electronic Data Capture (EDC) machines** to its existing and potential customers, providing a one-stop solution for all their digital payment needs.
- Paytm's card machine provides multilingual support to its merchant partners to accept payments through UPI, credit/debit cards, net banking, international cards, Paytm Postpaid, Paytm Wallet, and EMI.
- With over **4.5 million devices deployed**, Paytm continues to be the market leader in offline payments.

About Paytm:

- Founded: August 2010
- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Founder & CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

About Jana Small Finance Bank:

- Founded: 2018
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- CEO: Ajay Kanwal

SBI first bank to achieve this milestone, home loan AUM crosses ₹6 trillion

- India's largest home loan provider, the **State Bank of India (SBI)** continues to lead the **Home Loan segment** and has surpassed **₹6 trillion** in **Assets Under Management (AUM)**.

Aim:

- To make home loans affordable for all prospective buyers amidst the ongoing festive season.
- SBI has launched the **Festive Bonanza** for its home loan buyers.

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- The bank crossed ₹5 trillion mark in January 2021.
- As a part of the Festive Bonanza, SBI will offer a concession of up to 0.25% on Home Loans, 0.15% on Top Up Loans, and 0.30% on Loan Against Property.
- The bank has further waived the processing fees on home loans till January 31, 2023.

About SBI:

- Founded: 1 July 1955
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara
- Tagline: The Banker to Every Indian

The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation retail inflation rose to 7.41 %:

- IMF has lowered its forecast of growth for India to 6.8% and highlighted the threat of inflation, the retail inflation rose to a 5-month high of 7.41 percent in September from 7 percent in August, data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- The rise in inflation in September was driven by higher food prices, with food inflation surging to 8.6 percent from 7.62 percent in August.
- This is the 9th month in a row that inflation is above the RBI mark and it does not look likely to come down any time soon.
- Separately, India's factory output, measured through the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), witnessed a contraction of (-) 0.8 percent in August, the data showed.

Hero MotoCorp launched its first electric scooter worldwide:

- Hero MotoCorp, India's largest two-wheeler maker, launched its first electric scooter worldwide, as it looks to catch up with newer firms who have taken the lead in the country's clean mobility push.
- The new Hero Vida V1 electric scooter will be offered in two variants, which are Vida V1 Plus and Vida V1 Pro.
- It would be first launched in New Delhi, Jaipur, and Bangalore and the deliveries of this electric scooter will start in the second week of December.
- Hero MotoCorp Limited, formerly Hero Honda, is an Indian multinational motorcycle and scooter manufacturer headquartered in New Delhi.
- Pawan Munjal, Chairman and CEO at Hero Moto Corp.

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World Bank extends unconditional loan of \$250 million for the SALT project in AP

- The World Bank (WB) has extended an unconditional loan of \$250 million to Support Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT) project in appreciation of the path-breaking reforms implemented by the Andhra Pradesh (AP) government.

About SALT Project:

- The SALT is the first project in the school education sector to be funded by the World Bank without any precondition.
- The facilities in schools were vastly improved under the Nadu-Nedu program to provide an atmosphere that was conducive to teaching and learning.
- Approximately ₹53,000 crores had been spent on school education in the last 3 years and a major chunk of it (₹22,617 crores) had gone to Amma Vodi and the first phase of the Nadu-Nedu scheme.
- In the academic year 2022-2023, more than 40,31,239 children were studying in government schools.

About World Bank:

- Established: December 1944
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- President: David Malpass
- The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low- and middle-income countries.

Reserve Bank of India issues consolidated guidelines on unhedged foreign currency exposure

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued modified and consolidated guidelines to the banks on Unhedged Foreign Currency Exposure (UFCE) Directions in 2022.
- These directions will apply to all commercial banks (excluding Payments Banks & Regional Rural Banks).
- These instructions shall come into force from January 1, 2023.
- Entities that do not hedge their foreign currency exposure can incur significant losses during a period of heightened volatility in foreign exchange rates.

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- These losses may reduce their capacity to service the loans taken from the banking system and increase their probability of default thereby affecting the health of the banking system.

About RBI:

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

Universal Sampo General Insurance adopts a village in Maharashtra

- **Universal Sampo General Insurance Company Ltd** adopts **Tung village**, in the **Maval sub-district of Maharashtra**. **Universal Sampo** committed to pledging **INR 50 Lakh** in developmental activities in the village.
- This was followed by sharing details of the project with the village chief and the entire community and simultaneously introducing the physician who would supervise **healthcare-related activities**.

Aim:

- To **educate** the **women** in the **village** on **digital literacy** and **farm animal (veterinary) treatment**.

About the Project:

- To boost enterprise, women from the village will be trained to utilize digital platforms like Google Pay, and YouTube, along with various social media platforms for developing businesses.
- The project also helps to equip **60%** of the households in the village with solar lights, helping **200 families** with **reduced electricity bills**.
- Additionally, the project aims to increase the groundwater level in the village, with **artificial recharges** to **conserve water**.

About Universal Sampo General Insurance Co. Ltd:

- Founded: 2007
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Mr. Sharad Mathur
- Universal Sampo is a **Joint venture** of **Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Karnataka Bank, Dabur Investments, and Sampo Japan Insurance Inc.**

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RBI cancels registration certificates of 8 NBFCs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) canceled the certificates of registration of eight non-banking finance companies (NBFC) in India.
- Four NBFCs surrendered their certificates of registration to the RBI.

The four NBFCs are:

1. Ashwini Investment Private Ltd
 2. RM Securities Pvt Ltd
 3. Amity Finance Private Ltd
 4. Matrix Merchandise Ltd.
- Separately, the RBI suo-moto canceled certificates of another 4 NBFCs - SRM Properties and Finance Company Pvt Ltd, North East Region Finservices Ltd, Sowjenvee Finance Ltd, and Opel Finance Ltd.
 - The above companies shall not transact the business of a non-banking financial institution, as defined in clause (a) of Section 45-I of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

About RBI:

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

India's annual wholesale price-based inflation (WPI) eased in September to 10.70%:

- India's annual wholesale price-based inflation (WPI) eased in September to 10.70% as against 12.41% recorded in August 2022 and 11.8% in September last year
- September is the 18th consecutive month of double-digit WPI inflation.
- This year, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) touched a record high of 15.88% in May.
- Earlier this week, government data showed that India's retail inflation accelerated to a five-month high of 7.41% in September, driven by soaring food costs, adding pressure on the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to act aggressively to slow price increases.
- Inflation has remained over the RBI's upper tolerance band of 6% for the ninth straight month.

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- The RBI mainly looks at retail inflation to frame monetary policy. RBI's monetary policy committee (MPC) hiked the repo rate for the fourth time in a row on 30 September, taking the policy rates to a three-year high of 5.9%.

Indian Army signs MoU with 11 banks for Agniveer salary package

- The Indian Army has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with 11 banks for providing banking facilities to Agniveers on enrolment.

List of 11 banks:

1. State Bank of India (SBI)
2. Punjab National Bank (PNB)
3. Bank of Baroda (BoB)
4. IDBI Bank
5. ICICI Bank
6. HDFC Bank
7. Axis Bank
8. Yes Bank
9. Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB)
10. IDFC First Bank
11. Bandhan Bank.

Signatories:

- The MoUs were signed by Lt General V Sreehari, DG (Manpower Planning and Personnel Services) and the senior officials of banks in a ceremony presided over by Lt General C Bansi Ponappa, the Adjutant General of the Indian Army.
- The first batch of Agniveers under the 'Agnipath Scheme' will be joining Training Centres by January 2023.

About 'Agnipath Scheme':

- The Agnipath scheme entails recruitment for individuals below the rank of commissioned officer for 4 years.
- After 4 years, they will receive ₹11.71 lakh as part of the Seva Nidhi Package, which will be exempted from Income Tax.

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- The scheme provides for the recruitment of **youths** between ages **17-and-half years** and **21 years** for four years with a provision to retain **25%** of them for **15 more years**.
- The scheme allows patriotic and motivated youth to serve in the Armed Forces for four years & soldiers who are **recruited** under this scheme will be known as **Agniveers**.
- It has been designed to enable a youthful profile of the Armed Forces and provide a fresh lease of '**Josh**' and '**Jazba**' whilst at the same time bringing about a transformational shift towards a **more tech-savvy Armed Forces** which is indeed the need of the hour.
- Agniveers will be paid **₹33,000** in the **second year**, **₹36,500** in the **third year**, and **₹40,000** in the **fourth**.
- They will also be provided with a **non-contributory Life Insurance Cover** of **Rs. 48 lakh** for the period of their service in the Armed Forces.
- The Indian navy will **enroll women, and sailors**, for the **first time** under the Agnipath Scheme.

About MoD:

- Union Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Dr. Ajay Kumar

RBI intervening in the NDF market, monitoring rupee positions

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has been **selling dollars** in the **non-deliverable forward (NDF)** market via local banks based in **India's GIFT City International Financial Services Center**, as it seeks to support the sliding rupee.
- The rupee has repeatedly hit record lows in recent sessions as the likelihood of more super-sized rate hikes from the **U.S. Federal Reserve** piles pressure on emerging market currencies.
- The intervention by the RBI in the onshore NDF market was confirmed by Treasury officials at **two large private sector banks** present in the **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)** at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)** in western India.
- For the RBI, the GIFT route is the easiest in terms of accessibility to the NDF market.
- In finance, a **non-deliverable forward** is an outright forward or futures contract in which counterparties settle the difference between the contracted NDF price or rate and the prevailing spot price or rate on an agreed notional amount.

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About RBI:

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

India has achieved merchandise export of USD 32.62 billion in September 2022:

- India achieved a monthly value of merchandise export in September 2022 amounting to USD 32.62 billion.
- India's merchandise export in April -September 2022-23 was USD 229.05 billion.
- India's merchandise import in September 2022 was USD 59.35 billion.
- India's merchandise imports in April -September 2022-23 was USD 378.53 billion.
- The trade deficit in September 2022 was USD 26.72 billion, while it was 149.47 billion USD during April -September 2022-23.

SafeGold has introduced the world's first platform named "Gains":

- Homegrown digital gold platform SafeGold launched a new leasing offering called 'Gains' which will allow consumers to lease individually owned gold.
- It will allow over 100 million retail gold consumers in the country to change their perspective on the precious metal, giving it a larger purpose of income generation rather than mere accumulation.
- Not only this, but the new feature will also empower India's underserved MSME jewelry industry.
- MSME jewelers will be able to list their leases on the SafeGold platform once the jeweler has been thoroughly vetted for creditworthiness and KYC verified.
- Jewellers listing their lease choose the yield rate and tenure they wish to offer and provide a bank guarantee covering at least 105 percent of the value of the gold to be leased.
- SafeGold Founder and MD Gaurav Mathur.

LIC unveils Dhan Varsha life insurance plan

- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) introduced Dhan Varsha, a non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings, single premium life insurance plan offering a combination of protection and savings.

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- This plan provides **financial support** for the family in case of **unfortunate death** of the life assured during the policy term.
- It also provides a **guaranteed lumpsum amount** on the date of maturity for the surviving life assured.
- This is a **close-ended plan** and would be available for sale till **March 31, 2023**.

About Dhan Varsha:

- The Plan can be purchased Offline through agents or other intermediaries including **Point of Sales Persons-Life Insurance (POSP-LI)/Common Public Service Centers (CPSC-SPV)** subject to certain conditions, as well as Online directly through the website **www.licindia.in**.
- Under this plan, the proposer will have the following **two options** to choose Sum Assured on Death:
 - Option 1: 1.25 times Tabular Premium for the chosen Basic Sum Assured
 - Option 2: 10 times of Tabular Premium for the chosen Basic Sum Assured

About LIC:

- Founded: 1 September 1956
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairperson: Shri. Mangalam Ramasubramanian Kumar
- MDs: B C Patnaik, Smt. Ipe Mini, Siddharth Mohanty, Rajkumar

SBI General Insurance launches insurance buying facility via WhatsApp

- **SBI General Insurance** has partnered with **Gupshup**, a leader in conversational engagement to offer a **new insurance policy**, renew an existing one, intimate claims, and more, through **WhatsApp**.

Key Highlights:

- Customers across India can buy insurance from SBI General by sending a 'Hi' and Gupshup's chat bot will guide users through a **simple and secure buying process**, and help them complete the purchase within the WhatsApp chat thread.
- The **hassle-free buying experience** ensures that **end-to-end policy purchase** happens on the platform itself, right from exploring product features to accessing their policy documents.

About SBI General Insurance:

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- Founded: 2009
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Kishore Kumar Poludasu

About Gupshup:

- Headquarters: San Francisco, California

Karnataka Bank launches term deposit scheme 'KBL Centenary Deposit Scheme'

- To mark the glorious journey towards the Centenary year (2023-24) Karnataka Bank Limited (KBL) has launched a unique term deposit scheme 'KBL Centenary Deposit Scheme' with a higher rate of interest.
- The deposit will be for 555 days with an interest rate of 7.20% p.a & for Senior Citizens the rate of interest will be 7.60% p.a.

About Karnataka Bank:

- Founded: 18 February 1924
- Headquarters: Mangaluru, Karnataka, India
- MD & CEO: Mahabaleshwara M. S
- Tagline: Your Family Bank Across India
- It is an 'A' Class Scheduled Commercial Bank.

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services partners with IPPB to boost credit access to customers

- Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited, (MMFSL), part of the Mahindra Group & one of India's leading Non-Banking Finance Companies, announced a strategic partnership with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to further enhance credit access to a larger customer base.

About the Partnership:

- Under this Partnership, IPPB will provide Lead referral services to MMFSL for Passenger Vehicles, 3-Wheeler, Tractor, and Commercial Vehicle Loan categories.
- It provides cash Equated Monthly Income (EMI) deposit facility to existing MMFSL Customers at Post Offices.
- The scheme would first go live in IPPB branches in the states of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

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- With the launch of Cash Management services, Mahindra Finance customers can visit the Post Office to deposit EMI payments.

About MMFSL:

- Founded: 1991
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman & Managing Director: Ramesh Iyer
- MMFSL is an Indian rural non-banking financial company.

About IPPB:

- Founded: 1 September 2018
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO: J. Venkatramu
- IPPB, is a division of India Post which is under the ownership of the Department of Post, a department under the Ministry of Communications of the GoI.

RBI gives in-principle approval to Cygnet to operate as an NBFC account aggregator

- Fintech firm Cygnet Infotech Private Limited has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a non-banking financial company (NBFC) account aggregator.

About Account Aggregator:

- Account Aggregator is one of the largest open financing data-sharing protocols regulated by the RBI.
- It allows consumers to instantly share their financial data, securely and digitally with various financial institutions.
- It facilitates financial institutions to quickly and conveniently access consumers' consent-based financial data.
- Small and medium-sized businesses will get better credit facilities whilst banks and other financial institutions will get an opportunity to widen their lending portfolio.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), and Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA) are already in various stages of integration with the account aggregator ecosystem as Financial Information Providers (FIP).

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About Cygnet Infotech Private Limited:

- Founded: 2000
- Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- MD & CEO: Niraj Hutheesing

About RBI:

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

Cashfree Payments launches 'issuance' solution for fintech firms

- India's leading payments and Application Programming Interface (API) banking solutions company, Cashfree Payments India Private Limited, has launched a card issuance stack with its new solution 'Issuance' to enable businesses such as fintech and platforms to launch prepaid cards and wallets for their customers, employees, and partners.

About 'Issuance':

- 'Issuance' is a **prepaid card** and wallet issuance API stack which can be used for payroll & incentive disbursements, customer loyalty programs, and expense management among other use cases.
- 'Issuance' allows businesses to launch **both physical and virtual prepaid cards**.
- It will offer **low-code** and **no-code flows** to enable businesses to launch their customized prepaid card or wallet in a few weeks without deep integration with multiple entities.
- It enables platforms to design and customize their prepaid card features including assigning spend limits, creating a closed loop, open loop, or hybrid payment options, and facilitating minimum and full KYC prepaid cards.
- 'Issuance' allows businesses to launch both **mono-branded and co-branded prepaid cards**.

About Cashfree Payments:

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka

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- Founder and CEO: Akash Sinha

HDFC Securities Opens First Women-Only Digital Center In Bengaluru

- Leading stock brokerage firm, HDFC Securities Limited, has opened the first-ever Women-Only Digital Centre (DC) in Bangalore, Karnataka, India.
- The center, staffed with a team of women aged below 30 years, will serve both male and female investors.

Aim:

- To encourage these women to take charge of their finances with a women-only team at the new DC.
- It will be based in Bengaluru and cater to customers from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.

Key Highlights:

- The DCs will give women easier access to HDFC's services.
- Only 7% of Indian women invest independently in the financial markets, and 33% of women don't have any financial investment.
- HDFC Securities is already in the process of hiring "600 relationship managers for our pan-India DCs."

About HDFC Securities Ltd:

- Founded: 2000
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Dhiraj Relli
- HDFC Securities Limited is a financial services intermediary and a subsidiary of HDFC Bank.

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) Collaborate for innovations in Financial Products and Services

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) have partnered to enhance the reach of financial solutions to large sections of society across India and enable frictionless finance to a billion Indians.

Key Highlights:

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- IPPB and RBIH will plan, design, and execute innovative products and offerings to bridge the existing gap by bringing digitized services to the **customer's doorstep**.
- The collaboration will explore projects which will have an impact on the masses by
 1. leveraging the deep rural reach of **IPPB-Department of Posts (DoP)** to take rural finance to a billion Indians.
 2. It will enable access to **sustainable** and **secure financial services** to every segment of society, through research and innovation.
- Additionally, IPPB shall be an active participant and partner with RBIH on initiatives of national importance led by RBIH.

About RBIH:

- CEO: Shri Rajesh Bansal
- The RBIH is a **wholly-owned subsidiary** of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** set up to promote and facilitate an environment that accelerates innovation across the **financial sector**.
- It has been set up as a **Section 8 company** under the **Companies Act, 2013** with an **initial capital contribution** of Rs. 100 crore.

About IPPB:

- Founded: 1 September 2018
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman & Director: Vineet Pandey
- MD & CEO: J. Venkatramu
- IPPB has been established under the **Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication** with **100% equity** owned by the **Government of India**.

PhonePe launches its first Green Data Center in India with Dell Technologies and NTT Ltd

- India's leading fintech platform, **PhonePe**, has launched its **first Green Data Center** in India, in **Mumbai, Maharashtra** leveraging technologies and solutions from **Dell Technologies** and **NTT**.

About Green Data Center:

- The Green Data Center is set to open up **new opportunities** in **data management** for PhonePe, with **efficient data security**, **power efficiency**, **ease of operations**, and **cloud solutions**.

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- The center will also help the company to build **sustainable and efficient infrastructure** to further seamlessly scale its operations across the country.
- The **4.8-megawatt facility** occupies **13740 sqft at Mahape, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- It is built and designed with advanced alternative cooling technologies like **Direct Contact Liquid Cooling (DCLC)** and **Liquid Immersion Cooling (LIC)**.
- The data center's Dell PowerEdge servers will provide **exceptional performance, simplified management, and intelligent automation** while using **less energy**.

About PhonePe:

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- Founder & CEO: Sameer Nigam

Purchase ICICI Lombard with a 1450-rupee target: Motilal Oswal

- Research from **ICICI Lombard by Motilal Oswal**- The underwriting loss for ICICIGI was **INR1.5 billion in 2Q as contrasted to INR1.9 billion in 1QFY23** since OPEX increased at 9% rise while **NEP grew at 11%**.
- As a result of higher claims in the Motor OD and the Health sectors offsetting the benefits of lower loss ratios in the Motor TP and Fire sectors, **the claims ratio climbed to 72.8% in 2Q from 72.1% in 1QFY23**.
- Over the previous year, the ICICI Lombard report ratio climbed by 300bps.
- Higher rates caused investment income, which was expected to be **INR7.4 billion**, to come in at **INR8.7 billion** instead.
- In a contrast to **105.3%/104.1%** in the 2QFY22 and 1QFY23, the total ratio in the 3QFY22 was **105.1%**.
- The solvency ratio is now **2.5x** compared to **2.6x** in 1QFY23.
- PAT was **INR4.6 billion** after accounting for an **INR1.3 billion** tax reversal (est. **INR3.8b**).
- The PAT was recorded as **INR5.9b**.

GIFT City & Fintech Association of Japan sign MoU to Strengthen Fintech Ecosystem

- The Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (Gift City) has inked an **agreement** with the **Fintech Association of Japan (FAJ)** to promote **innovation and entrepreneurship** in the fintech domain.

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Aim:

- To **strengthen** and create more value for the entities in GIFT City that will further spread **awareness, knowledge, and empowerment** in the **fintech domain**.
- GIFT City and FAJ will also organize boot camps, hackathons, and incubation and acceleration programs focused on fintech areas such as payments, lending, financial planning, insurance technology, regulatory technology, wealth management, and trade processing, among others.
- The entrepreneurial programs will also focus on **financial inclusion, cyber security, artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, and human augmentation**.

About GIFT City:

- Managing Director and Group CEO: Mr. Tapan Ray
- GIFT City is a **central business district** under-construction in **Gandhinagar** and **Ahmedabad** in Gandhinagar district in **Gujarat, India**.
- The **first operational smart city and International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)** in India is **GIFT City**.

NPCI Bharat Billpay partners Kotak Mahindra Bank for credit card bill payments

- NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL), the wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has partnered with Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) to introduce its **credit cards** on the **Bharat BillPay ecosystem**.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has become the **first private bank** to go live in the **credit card category** on the **Bharat BillPay ecosystem**.

Key Highlights:

- The cards will be introduced in the **Credit Card Biller category**.
- With this, Kotak credit card holders will be able to pay their credit card bills at any point in time from any given location through **Bharat BillPay-enabled channels** like **ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, and HDFC Bank**, among others, and get instant confirmation on payments.
- Bharat BillPay is a **one-stop destination** offering recurring payment services to customers across several segments including **electricity, telecom, DTH, gas, education fees, water, and municipal taxes, NETC FASTag recharge, loan repayments, insurance, cable, subscription fees, mobile prepaid recharges**, among other things.

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About KMBL:

- Founded: February 2003
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Uday Kotak

MakeMyTrip, Goibibo, and OYO were penalized by CCI by 392 crore rupees:

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) levied fines of Rs 392 crore against Make My Trip, Goibibo (MMT-Go), and OYO.
- These companies were penalized by CCI for "unfair business practices," as detailed in a 131-page decision.
- OYO will pay a punishment of Rs 168.88 crore, and Make My Trip and Goibibo will each pay Rs 223.48 crore.
- According to MMT-Go, its contracts with lodging partners required pricing parity.
- These agreements forbid the hotel from offering its rooms for sale on any other website or platform for less than the price listed by the two organizations.
- OYO received special treatment on the Make My Trip platform, preventing other businesses from accessing the market.
- The conclusions come from a thorough study of the situation that lasted from 2019 until now.
- Additionally, the CCI ordered MMT-GO to make the necessary changes to the contracts it has with hotels and hotel chains to remove or abandon the price parity and room availability requirements it had placed on these partners.

IDBI Bank introduces festive offers on fixed deposits for a limited period

- The private sector lender IDBI Bank has launched the "Amrit Mahotsav FD" scheme of 555 days commencing as part of its festive offer.
- The bank has launched a special, limited-time offer with an interest rate of 6.90% for 555 days.

Key Highlights:

- The Bank has also raised its interest rate offerings on term deposits across a range of maturity periods.
- The interest rate on a one-year deposit has climbed to 6.75%, while the highest rate for a two-year bucket is now 6.85%.

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About Amrit Mahotsav FD Scheme:

- The Amrit Mahotsav FD Scheme of **500 Days** and **1100 Days** will no longer be offered from **October 21, 2022**.
- The bank provides a **6.40% interest rate** on the "Amrit Mahotsav FD" program to the general public and a **6.90% interest rate** to senior citizens.
- Senior citizens will only be eligible for the standard markup of **0.50%**, and retired senior citizen staff will only be eligible for the standard markup of **1%**.

About IDBI Bank:

- Founded: 1 July 1964
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Rakesh Sharma
- IDBI Bank Limited is a development finance institution under the ownership of the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** and the Government of India.

Aditya Birla Health Insurance launches policy with rewards for healthy habits

- **Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co Limited (ABHICL)** has launched 'Activ Fit', a comprehensive health insurance plan that targets consumers with active lifestyles and aims to reward them for their good health behavior.

Key Highlights:

- The scheme will provide a **10% good health discount** based on the assessment done through a **unique facial scan**.
- All customers **below 35 years** of age can avail **early bird discount on renewal**, **5%** from the **4th policy year** to the **7th policy year** and **10%** from the **8th policy year** for the life of the policy.
- Customers will also get a **100% binge refill feature**.
- "In case of hospitalization, customers can use a **100% binge refill facility** if they fall short of their insurance cover.
- The facility enables them to get cover for any illness/injury up to the sum insured.
- The insurance policy also includes maternity cover, which covers normal delivery, C-section delivery, newborn baby expenses, immunization expenses, and stem cell protection as well as

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modern treatment mental care cover, HIV/AIDS and STD, day care treatment, and pre – Includes hospitalization.

About ABHICL:

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO: Mayank Bathwal
- It was established as a 51:49 joint venture between MMI Strategic Investments (Pty) Ltd, MMI Holdings Limited, Aditya Birla Nuvo Limited, and Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL).

National Pension System: PFRDA changes equity allocation rule under NPS for Tier I, and Tier II accounts

- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has revised the equity allocation rules for Tier 1 and Tier II National Pension System (NPS) accounts.
- As per the new rule, subscribers will be able to allocate up to **75%** of their funds in Equity (E) under active choice without any conditions of tapering from the age of **51 years**.
- Currently, under the **NPS-All Citizen Model**, subscribers have to select any one of the registered Pension Funds and actively allocate their contributions across four asset classes – **Equity (E), Corporate Bonds (C), Government Securities (G), and Alternate Assets (A)** with 'Active Choice'.

Maximum limits for allocation to different asset classes:

- Asset Class G (Government Securities): 100%
- Asset Class C (Corporate Bonds): 100%
- Asset Class E (Equity): 75%
- Asset Class A (Alternate Assets): 5%
- However, the limit of **75%** on asset class E gets tapered off at the rate of **2.5% every year** and is reallocated to Government securities when the subscriber attains **51 years of age**.
- It has also decided to allow the option to allocate **100%** of the subscriber's contribution in **Asset Class E (Equity) in Tier-II (optional account)** under active choice without any conditions of tapering.

Age-wise maximum equity limit:

Age	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60 & above
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Max Equity	75	72.5	70	67.5	65	62.5	60	57.5	55	52.5	50
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- The Asset class wise exposure limits that will now apply to private sector subscribers under Tier I and to all subscribers in Tier II are tabulated below:

Tier –I	
Asset Class	Max limit
Asset Class G (Government Securities)	100%
Asset Class C (Corporate Bonds)	100%
Asset Class E (Equity)	75%
Asset Class A (Alternate Assets)	5%

Tier-II	
Asset Class	Max limit
Asset Class G (Government Securities)	100%
Asset Class C (Corporate Bonds)	100%
Asset Class E (Equity)	100%

About NPS:

- The NPS is a **voluntary defined contribution pension system** in India.
- NPS started with the decision of the Government of India to stop defined benefit pensions for all its employees who joined after **1 April 2004**.

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- In 2021, PFRDA increased the entry age for the National Pension System (NPS) from 65 years to 70 years.
- NPS Trust is a specialized division of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance of the Gov.

About PFRDA:

- Founded: 23 August 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Supratim Bandyopadhyay
- The PFRDA is the regulatory body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India for overall supervision and regulation of pensions in India.

ICICI Bank launches Smart Wire for faster SWIFT-based inward remittances

- ICICI Bank has launched Smart Wire, an online solution to help its customers carry out SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications) based inward remittances in a faster and hassle-free manner.
- The Smart Wire facility allows both Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and resident customers to undertake inward remittance transactions in an online and paperless way.
- ICICI Bank is the first bank in the country to introduce this faster online solution to receive inward wire remittances.

Key Highlights:

- The Smart Wire facility enables the beneficiary to initiate the wire transfer request, submit online declaration/documents, block the exchange rates in advance and track the status of the transaction.
- Through this facility, accurate information related to the beneficiary, the purpose of the inward remittance, and declaration, where required, are captured in advance and shared with the remitter instantly.
- The beneficiary can block the exchange rate for the expected inward wire transfer.
- The deal booking facility is available for US Dollar (USD), Euro (EUR), British pound sterling (GBP), Emirati Dirham (AED), Canadian Dollar (CAD), Singapore Dollar (SGD), and Australian Dollar (AUD).

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Benefits:

- The Smart Wire facilitates can be used for various purposes of remittances including **family maintenance and savings, personal gift / financial support, NRE/ NRO repatriation, salary, business, and management consultancy.**

About ICICI Bank:

- Founded: 5 January 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi

SEBI clarifies Guidelines about the Execution of DDPI

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** widened the scope of the **Demat Debit and Pledge Instruction (DDPI)** for pledging and repledging of securities for margin purposes effective from **November 18, 2022.**
- Under DDPI, **Mutual fund transactions** executed on stock exchange order entry platforms and tendering of shares in open offers through stock exchange platforms will be covered.
- The circular is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under **Section 11(1) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, and Section 19 of the Depositories Act, 1996,** to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of and to regulate the securities markets.
- With the implementation of the guidelines, the **Demat Debit and Staking Instruction (DDPI)** replaced the **PoA document.**
- The DDPI shall serve the same purpose as PoA and significantly **mitigate the misuse of PoA.**

About SEBI:

- Established: on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance** within the Gol.

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SEBI cancels Brickworks license, orders wind-up by April

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** canceled the license of **Brickwork Ratings**, prohibited it from taking up new clients, and directed it to wind up operations in **6 months**.
- It was taken as it **failed to exercise proper skill, care, and diligence** while discharging its duties as a credit rating agency
- **SEBI & the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** conducted a **joint audit** of the rating agency in **January 2020** that led to an **administrative warning and inquiry**.
- The SEBI order listed various violations by Brickwork, including failure to document meetings with the management, **lack of independent analysis of financial projections** given by companies, delay in recognizing defaults, and conflict of interest.

About Brickwork Ratings:

- Brickwork Ratings (BWR), a **SEBI's one of the seven registered Credit Rating Agencies...**

BSE gets SEBI nod for social stock exchange as a separate segment

- Stock exchange BSE has got an in-principle nod from the capital market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** for the **social stock exchange** as a separate segment.
- The SEBI had specified minimum requirements to be met by a **non-profit organization (NPO)** for registration with SSE, disclosure requirements for NPOs raising funds through the **issuance of zero-coupon zero principal instruments**, and put in place annual disclosure requirements that need to be made by NPOs on such exchanges.
- The listed NPO will have to submit a statement of the utilization of funds to SSE, as mandated under Sebi's rules, **within 45 days** from the end of the quarter.

Key Highlights:

- The social enterprises will have to engage in a social activity out of **16 broad activities** listed by the regulator.
- The eligible activities include eradicating hunger, poverty, malnutrition, and inequality; promoting healthcare, supporting education, employability, and livelihoods; gender equality empowerment of women and **LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, pansexual, two-spirit, asexual and allay) communities**; and supporting social enterprise incubators.

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- In **July 2022 SEBI** notified rules for **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)** to provide social enterprises with an **additional avenue to raise funds**.
- About the **minimum requirements** to be met by an NPO, Sebi informed me that NPO needs to be registered as a charitable trust and should be registered for **at least 3 years**.
- It must have spent **at least ₹50 lakh annually** in the past financial year and should have received funding of **at least ₹10 lakh** in the past financial year.

Google is fined Rs.1337 crore in India for abusing its dominant position:

- The country's competition commission **fined Google, a unit of Alphabet Inc., Rs 1,337 crore for anti-competitive behavior** involving **Android mobile devices**.
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** fined Google for "**abusing its dominant position in several places within the Android mobile device ecosystem.**"
- Google described the decision to penalize it for alleged anti-competitive actions as a "**significant setback for Indian consumers and businesses.**"
- In the current case, the commission identified five appropriate markets to serve this function.
- In India, there was a market for licensable mobile operating systems for smart devices, an Android app store, general web search services, non-OS specific mobile web browsers, and an **online video hosting platform (OVHP)**.

Russia's Gazprombank opens special Re account with UCO Bank

- **Russia's Gazprombank** has opened a **special Rupee account** with **UCO Bank** for **undertaking cross-border trade transactions** in the **Indian Rupee**
- The move to open the **special Vostro account** clears the deck for settlement of payments in Rupee for trade between **India** and **Russia**, enabling cross-border trade in the **Indian currency** which the central bank RBI is keen to promote.
- The **Kolkata-based lender** was among the **first banks** to receive the regulator's approval following the RBI's decision to promote Rupee settlement.
- The RBI has allowed the special Vostro accounts to invest the surplus balance in Indian government securities to help popularize the new arrangement.
- UCO Bank already has a **Vostro account-based facility** in Iran.

About Gazprombank:

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- Founded: 1990
- Headquarters: Moscow, Russia
- CEO: Andrey Akimov
- Gazprombank, or GPB, is a **privately-owned Russian lender** and the **third-largest bank in the country by assets**.

About UCO Bank:

- Founded: 6 January 1943
- Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal, India\
- MD & CEO: Soma Sankara Prasad
- Tagline: Honors Your Trust

DCB Bank Reintroduces Suraksha Fixed Deposit Scheme

- The **DCB Bank** has **relaunched** its '**Suraksha Fixed Deposit (FD)**' scheme.
- It is a **3-year FD scheme** that provides a combination of **savings** and **safety** for depositors as well as their dependents.
- The DCB NRI Suraksha Fixed Deposit also offers NRIs attractive returns and **free life insurance** based on the fixed deposit amount.
- DCB NRI Suraksha Fixed Deposits are available in **Non-Resident External (NRE)**, and **Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO)** in Indian Rupees.
- NRIs may use any of the following foreign currencies to make their DCB NRI Suraksha Foreign Currency Non-Resident Account (FCNR) Deposit: Dollars (USD), Australian Dollar (AUD), Canadian Dollar (CAD), EURO, or British Pound Sterling (GBP).

About 'Suraksha Fixed Deposit (FD)':

- The scheme provides a **high-interest rate of 7.10% per annum** on a **3-year deposit** and free life insurance cover either equal to the amount of the Suraksha FD or up to **Rs 10 lakh** if the Suraksha FD amount is greater than Rs 10 lakh.
- The life insurance cover is available with a term of **36 months** and is valid from **18 years of age till the depositor turns 55**.

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- On the other hand, the bank offers a **7.10% per annum** interest rate on fixed deposits of **700 days or 3 years**, which annually yields **7.49% p.a. or 7.84% p.a.** respectively.
- **Senior citizens** can earn **7.60% p.a.** for the same duration, and the yields are **8.05% p.a. and 8.45% p.a.** Respectively.
- For a **longer tenure of 5 years FD**, a **7% p.a.** rate is available for which the annualized yield is **8.43% p.a.** **Senior citizens** can earn a **7.50% p.a.** which translates to a **9.14% p.a. annualized yield.**

About DCB Bank:

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Murali M. Natrajan
- DCB Bank Limited is a **private sector scheduled commercial bank** in India.
- The **Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED)** is the promoter of the Bank with around **15% stake.**

Indian bank launches digital initiatives under project WAVE

- **Public sector lender Indian Bank** has rolled out **6 new digital initiatives** under 'Project WAVE' (**World of Advance Virtual Experience**) for enhancing customer experience through integrated services on its **digital platform.**
- The new products were rolled out by the bank **MD & CEO S.L. Jain** in the presence of **ED Imran Amin Siddiqui** and **Universal Sampo General Insurance Co. Ltd., MD & CEO Sharad Mathur** in **Chennai.**

About the Initiatives:

- **Indian Bank** ties up with **Universal Sampo General Insurance** for providing **online vehicles (02-Wheeler and 04-Wheeler)** and **health insurance** through the **Bank's mobile banking app IndOASIS.**
- This digital collaboration would enable **Bank's customers** to access and **buy general insurance products digitally, anytime, anywhere.**
- Under the **co-lending arrangement**, **Indian Bank** has partnered with **Rupeek Capital Pvt. Ltd,** to offer **jewel loans** at customer doorsteps.

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- The entire gold loan journey will be through a digital platform and not require any physical visit to the bank branch by the customer.
- The public sector lender has extended **pre-approved personal loans to self-employed customers** of the bank as well.
- Since April 2022 it has been offered to **salaried customers and pensioners**.
- Currently, Indian Bank has extended the **e-OD (Overdraft) facility** against **Term Deposits** opened at branches by individual customers which were previously offered for e- deposits only.

About Indian bank:

- Founded: 15 August 1907
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: Shri Shanti Lal Jain
- Tagline: Your Own Bank

India Post Payment Bank launches group accident insurance plan

- The **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** operating under the **Department of Posts** has launched a **group accident insurance plan** with an **accidental death coverage of Rs 10 lakh**.
- The India Post in partnership with **TATA AIG** and **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** companies will offer the insurance plan at a **premium of Rs 399 or Rs 396 per annum**.

About group accident insurance plan:

- The plan covering **comprehensive medical emergencies** has a **low annual premium amount**.
- One can join it at any post office or with the help of a **postman or postwoman**.
- Anyone aged between **18 and 65 years** can join this insurance plan.
- The policy will be issued digitally in **five minutes** using a **smartphone or a fingerprint sensor** carried by the postman under the **e-KYC (Aadhaar-based) method**.
- This doesn't need any application forms, copies of identity, and address proof.
- The insurance plan will offer around **10 major benefits** for the applicant including permanent total or permanent partial disability coverage of **Rs 10 lakh**, an option to cover accidental medical expenses up to **Rs 60,000**, and transportation benefits for the family members traveling to see the accident victim.

About IPPB:

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- Founded: 1 September 2018
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO: J. Venkatramu
- IPPB, is a **division of India Post** which is under the ownership of the **Department of Post**, a department under the **Ministry of Communications of the Government of India**.

IRDAI approved the bima sugam portal

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**, announced the launch of **Bima Sugam**, an online marketplace that will house all companies selling life and non-life insurance on a **single platform**.
- The portal is scheduled to go live on **1 January 2023**.

About Bima Sugam:

- The online platform will provide you with a **one-stop destination** for all insurance needs, providing services like **buying insurance policies, portability facilities, change of insurance agents, and settling claims**.
- It allows buyers to purchase life, motor, or health insurance policies directly.
- Also, **web aggregators (such as PolicyX, PolicyBazaar, etc.), brokers (such as Bajaj Capital, Probus Insurance Broker, etc.), banks, and insurance agents** will act as facilitators in selling insurance policies.
- It will provide all these facilities to policyholders with an **e-insurance account (E-IA)**.

Stakeholders:

Key Stakeholders	Stake	Fund Infusion
Life Insurance Council	30%	25 Cr.
General Insurance Council	30%	25 Cr.
Online PSBs	35%	30 Cr.

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Brokers Association	5%	3 Cr.
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- Bima Sugam shall have linkages with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), and Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL).

About IRDAI:

- Founded: 1999
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairperson: Debasish Panda
- IRDAI is a **regulatory body** under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India, and is tasked with **regulating** and **licensing** the insurance and re-insurance industries in India.

IRDAI offers more flexibility to general insurance companies

- The Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has offered **more flexibility to general insurance companies** in **designing and pricing products** under miscellaneous lines of business and allowed them to launch these in the market without prior regulatory approval.
- This is part of IRDAI's endeavor to **boost the ease of doing business**.
- Earlier, the products with a sum assured above **Rs 5 crore** could be launched without prior approval of IRDAI.
- But insurers needed regulatory approval before launching products with a sum assured up to Rs 5 crore.
- Now, IRDAI said that it has extended the '**Use and File**' procedure, ie. launching insurance products without prior approval, to all categories.

Sprite, a product of Coca-Cola, surpasses \$1 billion in sales in India:

- **Coca-Cola**, a multinational soft drink corporation, **declared that the Indian market had made "Sprite,"** a lemon- and lime-flavored soft drink, **a billion-dollar brand**.
- In the **third quarter of 2022**, the company's India business **experienced "strong" volume growth**.
- **Strong growth was achieved by Trademark Coke** through efficient execution and occasion-based marketing.

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- Through the introduction of returnable glass bottles and single-serve PET containers, **Coke has completed 2.5 billion transactions in India** at reasonable pricing points.
- As it increased its share of effervescent offers in the first half of 2022, Coca-Cola strengthened further.
- Due in large part to the success of locally tailored, occasion-based global marketing campaigns and screen time, **Sprite has developed into a billion-dollar brand in the market.**
- Coca-Cola had declared that its Indian soft drink brand Thumps up would **reach \$1 billion in sales by 2021.**
- The **fifth-largest market for Coca-Cola** worldwide is India.

The BSE has introduced electronic gold receipts:

- The **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** released **Electronic Gold receipts (EGR)** on its platform.
- During the Muhurat trading on Diwali, it presented **two new goods with purity levels of 995 and 999.**
- Trading will be in **1-gram increments, with deliveries in 10-gram and 100-gram increments.**
- It will be settled in T+1. EGR enables efficient gold price discovery and standardization, transparency in gold transactions, promotion of **the India Good Delivery Standard, and payment guarantees to investors.**
- With an annual gold demand of roughly 800-900 tonnes, **India is the world's second-largest consumer of gold,** and it plays a significant role in global markets.
- Despite **being second only to China in gold consumption,** India has remained a price taker in global markets.
- To remedy the issue, the Government of India has authorized the establishment of a gold exchange, where the metal will be traded on Indian exchanges in the form of **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR).**

India's foreign reserves have reached a new low, forcing the RBI to spend \$118 billion to protect the INR:

- **India's foreign exchange reserves (Forex Reserves)** fell to a level not seen in more than two years, as the country's central bank, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI),** defended the rupee's fall while ignoring the serious threat posed by dwindling foreign exchange reserves.

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- According to the RBI's Weekly Statistical Supplement, the decline in foreign currency reserves can be attributed to a decline in **Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)**, which account for a sizable share of overall reserves.
- FCA is the outcome of **the appreciation or devaluation of non-US currencies held in foreign exchange reserves**, such as the euro, pound, and yen, represented in dollars.
- During the week ending October 21, the rupee fell for the **sixth consecutive week**, reaching an all-time low and breaching the **83 per dollar threshold**.
- It fell 0.4% for the week and closed at 82.6750.
- It fell by almost 4% in the six weeks that ended on October 21.
- According to Reserve Bank of India data, **the third largest economy in Asia's foreign exchange reserves fell by \$3.85 billion to \$524.52 billion** in the week ending October 21.
- Spot foreign exchange reserves have fallen from a record high of \$642.45 billion on September 3 of last year to a low of \$607 billion at the end of March.

Shiprocket is the first inter-city logistics company to join the ONDC Network:

- **Shiprocket is the first inter-city logistics company** to connect to the **ONDC network**, allowing vendors from all industries to transport products to cities and towns across India.
- **Shiprocket, a provider of shipping and logistics solutions**, went operational on the government's **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** and completed its first successful transaction.
- Shiprocket claims to be the **first inter-city logistics company to connect to the ONDC network**, allowing retailers from all segments to transport products to cities and towns throughout India.

About Shiprocket:

- Shiprocket, which has over 100,000 clients, will allow sellers from 24,000 pin codes to choose delivery partners to send products across India via both cash-on-delivery and pre-paid alternatives.

About ONDC:

- ONDC is a private non-profit Section 8 company established by the Government of India's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to develop open e-commerce.

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RBI lifts ban on new branches by Tamilnad Mercantile Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lifted its 3-year ban on 101-year-old Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) on opening new branches
- This comes in the backdrop of the bank's shares getting listed in the Indian Stock Exchanges on September 15, 2022.

About TMB:

- Founded: 11 May 1921
- Headquarters: Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: K V Rama Moorthy
- At present, it has 509 branches - 106 rural, 247 semi-urban, 80 urban, and 76 metropolitans.

About RBI:

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

IRDAI sets up a consultative committee to increase health insurance coverage

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted a 15-member committee for 2 years, to give suggestions for increasing health insurance coverage in India.
- The 15-member committee is headed by Rakesh Joshi, a member at IRDAI, & it will have representatives from the healthcare and insurance industries.

Other Committee Members:

- From the healthcare industry, Devi Prasad Shetty, chairman of Narayana Health; Naresh Trehan, chairman and managing director (MD) of Medanta Heart Institute; Alexander Thomas, national president of Association of Healthcare Providers India; Arati Verma, senior vice president of Max Healthcare, and Ajay Nair.

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- From the **insurance industry**, **Neerja Kapur**, chairman and MD of New India Assurance; **Bhargav Dasgupta**, MD, and CEO of ICICI Lombard General Insurance, **Mayank Bathwal**, CEO of Aditya Birla Health Insurance, and **Vibha Padalkar**, MD and CEO of HDFC Life,
- The committee will also have representation from the **third-party administrators (TPA)** with **Nayan Shah**, CEO, of Paramount Health Services & Insurance TPA, and **Vikram Chhatwal**, CEO, Medi-Assist Insurance as members.

About the Committee:

- The Committee will identify challenges in carrying out the health insurance business and make recommendations to facilitate ease.
- According to the IRDAI, health insurance premiums posted **18.9% year-on-year (YoY)** growth in H1FY23, compared to 28.8% growth in the same period in FY22.

About IRDAI:

- Founded: 1999
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairperson: Debasish Panda
- IRDAI is a **regulatory body** under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India, and is tasked with **regulating** and **licensing** the insurance and **reinsurance** industries in India.
- It was constituted by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, of 1999**, following the recommendations of the **Malhotra Committee**

NAREDCO sets up NFC to help builders in getting funds

- **National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO)**, under the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, has formed a **Finance Committee (NFC)** on the sidelines of **NAREDCO 24th Annual General Meeting** to **enable developers easy access** to funds based on merit and viability of the projects.

Key Highlights:

- The Committee will operate as **one-stop-shop**, aggregating financing options from multiple large financial institutions.
- **Merchant bankers, Resurgent India Limited** will be actively associated with the NFC.

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- The NFC will also support **large-scale projects** to access funds via financial institutions and educate members to enhance their credit ratings.
- NAREDCO members can submit their applications online for further processing with **minimum documentation**.
- The Committee & NAREDCO have partnered with financial institutions to limit the processing and in-principle approval time to **15-30 days** for an application.

About NAREDCO:

- Founded: 1998
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director General: Alok Gupta
- It was established as a **self-regulatory body** under the aegis of the **Housing And Urban Affairs** Government of India.

About MoHUA:

- Cabinet Minister: Hardeep Singh Puri
- Minister of State: Kaushal Kishore

IRDAI forms a 24-member panel to develop insurance coverage for the rural population

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has set up a **24-member committee** to develop and suggest an **affordable and comprehensive cover** for the **rural population**.
- The committee will be headed by **Thomas M Devasia, Member (non-life)**.
- The insurance regulator has also asked the committee to develop and suggest a constitution and operation of a preferably, **women-centric distribution channel** to focus on reaching untapped/ rural areas of **Bima Vahak** & recommend the regulatory framework.
- The committee will explore and recommend how to bring about synergies in the working and operations of **Bima Vahak, Bima Vistaar**, and the **digital platform – Bima Sugam**.
- IRDAI announced that the latest developments in technology like **artificial intelligence (AI)** and **machine learning (ML)** can be gainfully utilized by creating a digital platform to reach the last mile.

Northern Arc Capital Raises \$50 Mn to Offer Customized Solutions To Businesses

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- Northern Arc Capital, a non-banking finance company (NBFC), has raised \$50 million (about ₹400 crores) through non-convertible debentures (NCDs) from the Dutch entrepreneurial development bank FMO.
- The fintech lender will deploy half of its proceeds to serve MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) and women entrepreneurs.

Key Highlights:

- The long-term nature of the facility will help Northern Arc provide customized credit solutions to these customers both directly and through partners
- As per Northern Arc, the use of proceeds will address three critical UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- These SDG are SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality).
- Northern Arc has raised funds from a slew of international investors including USDFC (United States International Development Finance Corporation), ADB (Asian Development Bank), Proparco, Calvert Impact Capital, and JICA.

About NCDs:

- NCDs are financial instruments that are not convertible into shares or equities.
- They are used for raising long-term funds.
- In comparison to convertible debentures, NCDs provide higher returns.

About Northern Arc Capital:

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- MD and CEO: Ashish Mehrotra
- Northern Arc provides credit facilities to MSMEs, Indian households, financial institutions, and emerging businesses.

India needs dedicated wing to release Green GDP estimates - RBI article

- RBI in its estimation of Green GDP for India article, India needs to set up a dedicated wing in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) that will be responsible for

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providing the **time-series database** required for estimation of Green GDP and releasing estimates of Green GDP for India periodically regularly.

- Green GDP takes into account estimates for **environmental degradation, depletion of natural resources, and savings of resources and environment** into the **national income accounts**.
- There is also a need for a user-friendly data dissemination platform on the lines of the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** and the **Eurostat**.

India GDP growth expected to decline to 5.7% in 2022: UNCTAD

- According to the forecast by the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Trade and Development Report 2022**, India's economic growth is expected to **decline to 5.7%** this year from **8.2% in 2021**, citing higher financing costs and weaker public expenditures.
- India's GDP will further decelerate to **4.7%** growth in 2023.
- UNCTAD projected the global economy is projected to grow at **2.5%** in 2022, decelerating further to **2.2%** in 2023.

About UNCTAD:

- Established: 30 December 1964
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Secretary General: Rebeca Grynspan

RBI placed Kerala-based private bank Dhanlaxmi bank under Monitoring

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** had placed Thrissur (Kerala)-based private bank **Dhanlaxmi Bank** under **tight monitoring** with its **financial position** coming under greater public scrutiny.
- The Bank's **capital-to-risk weighted assets/capital adequacy ratio (CRAR)** fell to around **13%** at the end of March 2022, down from **14.5%** a year earlier, prompting the RBI to assess the bank's financial health.
- Earlier, Dhanlaxmi Bank's capital adequacy has fallen below the required levels and it has even been placed under the RBI's **prompt corrective action framework (PCA)** to deal with serious deteriorations in its financial position.

About PCA Framework:

- The PCA framework was introduced by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in 2002 as a structured early intervention mechanism.

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- The framework applies only to **commercial banks** (does not cover cooperative banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)).

Key Highlights:

The RBI has specified certain regulatory trigger points concerning **3 parameters** -

1. capital-to-risk weighted assets/capital adequacy ratio (CRAR)
2. net non-performing assets (NPA)
3. return on assets (RoA).

About CRAR:

- It is the **most important financial ratio** used by investors and analysts.
- The ratio measures a **bank's financial stability** by measuring its available capital as a percentage of its risk-weighted credit exposure.
- Banks are required to keep their CRAR at **9% or higher under Basel-III**

About NPA:

- An NPA is a loan or advance for which the principal or interest payment remained overdue for **90 days**.

About RoA:

- RoA is a **type of profitability ratio** that measures the returns generated by a company or financial institution on its assets.

About Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd:

- Founded: 14 November 1927
- Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala, India
- MD & CEO: J. K. Shivan

IMPORTANT STATE NEWS

Odisha releases India's first tribal community-based encyclopedia

- Odisha became the **first state** to publish an **encyclopedia** based on tribal communities.
- The **Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Navin Patnaik** released The “Encyclopedia of Tribes in Odisha”.
- **Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI)** and **Odisha State Tribal Museum** published the encyclopedia.

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Objective:

- To appraise the old and new, the past and the present cultural description of the tribal community.

Encyclopedia of Tribes in Odisha: Constituents

- The encyclopedia consists of **5 edited volumes**.
- It has **418 research articles** on the tribals, including **13 particularly vulnerable groups**.
- The encyclopedia is of **3800 papers** contributed by its research personnel.
- The available articles are by several research scholars and eminent anthropologists on distinct aspects of the tribes
- Tribes constitute **22.85%** of the population in Odisha.

Note:

- **Odisha is the third largest tribal populated state in India** which has a total number of **62 tribal communities** living in the state.

About Odisha:

- Governor: Ganeshi Lal
- Chief minister: Naveen Patnaik
- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- Dance: Odissi, Ghumara

UP CM inaugurates intersection named after Lata Mangeshkar in Ayodhya

- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath** inaugurated an intersection **Lata Mangeshkar Chauraha** named after **legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar** on the occasion of her **93rd birth anniversary** in Ayodhya, UP.
- The intersection at the banks of the Saryu river has been developed at an estimated cost of **Rs 7.9 crore**.
- A **40-ft-long** and **12-meter-high veena** weighing **14 tonnes** has been installed at the intersection.
- The giant veena has been made by **Padma Shri awardee Ram Sutar**, who took two months to make it.

About UP:

- Governor: Anandiben Patel

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- Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Capital: Lucknow
- Dance: Khayal, Nautanki Naqal

Haryana develops the world's largest safari, park to cover 10,000 acres

- The **Government of Haryana** will develop the world's largest jungle 10,000-acre safari park which will cover **Gurugram and Nuh districts** in the **Aravalli range**.
- The Jungle safari project of Haryana would be a joint project of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** and the **Haryana government**.
- An **Aravalli Foundation** will be set up to manage the project.
- It will not only boost tourism but also provide employment opportunities to residents.
- As per a survey conducted a few years ago, **180 species of birds, 15 species of mammals, 29 species of aquatic animals and reptiles, and 57 species of butterflies** were found in the Aravalli range.

About jungle safari park:

- The park would include a **large herpetarium** (a zoological exhibition space for reptiles and amphibians), an aviary/bird park, **four zones** for big cats, a large area for herbivores, an area for exotic animal birds, an underwater world, nature trails, visitors, tourism zones, botanical gardens, biomes, equatorial, tropical, coastal, desert, etc.

Note:

- The Jungle safari park is **5 times larger** in size than **Sharjah Safari Park, United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, and is home to the largest curated safari park **outside Africa**.
- Sharjah Safari opened in **February 2022**, covering an area of about **2,000 acres**.

About Haryana:

- Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya
- Chief minister: Manohar Lal Khattar
- Capital: Chandigarh
- Festival: Gangore, Baisakhi, Teej, Lohri
- Dance: Dhamal, Khoria, Ghoomar

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A&N becomes India's first state/UT to achieve 100 percent coverage of precautionary dose

- Andaman Nicobar (A&N) Islands become India's first state/Union Territory (UT) to achieve 100% coverage of precautionary dose.
- To date, more than 2,87,216 beneficiaries aged 18 have been vaccinated with a precautionary dose.
- The rate of vaccination has seen a spike after the 15th of July 2022 when the Government decided to provide precautionary doses free of cost under 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- To intensify the campaign, healthcare workers reached households and numerous camps were organized in urban and rural areas.
- The set target has been achieved before the set time limit of the 30th of September 2022.
- First, the Nicobar district has been fully vaccinated with a precautionary dose & afterward, the North and Middle Andaman, and South Andaman districts were fully covered.
- Corbevax along with Covishield has been administered as a precautionary dose in the islands.
- Apart from this, the set target of youths under the 15-18 yrs & 12-14 yrs age category have also been fully vaccinated.

About A&N:

- Lieutenant Governor: Admiral (Retd.) Devendra Kumar Joshi
- Capital: Port Blair

Center extends AFSPA in 9 districts of Nagaland till March 30, 2023

- According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Central government has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 in 9 districts of Nagaland including Dimapur, Niuland, Chumoukedima, Mon, Kiphire, Noklak, Phek, Peren and Zunheboto from October 1, 2022, to March 30, 2023.
- In addition, the Gol has also extended AFSPA in the areas falling within the jurisdiction of 16 police stations in 4 districts of Nagaland including 5 police stations in Kohima district; 6 police stations in Mokokchung district; Yanglok police station in Longleng district; & 4 police stations in Wokha district.
- Earlier, the Central Government in the exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (28 of 1958) had declared 9 districts and 16 Police Stations in

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4 other districts of Nagaland as '**disturbed area**' for a period of 6 months with effect from **April 1 to September 30, 2022**.

- The AFSPA empowers security forces to arrest a person **without a warrant**, enter or search premises without a warrant, and perform other actions.

About Nagaland:

- Governor: Jagdish Mukhi
- Chief Minister: Neiphiu Rio
- Capital: Kohima
- Festival: Naga Mircha (King Chili) Festival, Mim Kut, Bushu Festival
- Dance: Chang Lo

Telangana govt enhances ST reservation from 6% to 10%

- The **Telangana government** has issued an **order** to increase the reservation for the **Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities** from 6% to 10%.
- The order was issued by the **Tribal Welfare Department**.
- The enhanced reservation will be applicable in **educational institutions** as well as in **government jobs**.
- In this context, a bill was passed by the Telangana Assembly in **April 2017** and it was sent to the Center for obtaining the President's assent.
- With this 4% hike, the total reservations in Telangana will go up to **54%**.

About Telangana:

- Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan
- Chief Minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao
- Capital: Hyderabad
- Festival: Bathukamma Festival, Bonalu, Ugadi
- Dance: Kuchipudi, Perini Thandavam
- River: Bhima River, Godavari, Krishna river

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Kerala's Pullampara Becomes India's first fully digital literate panchayat

- The Pullampara Panchayat in Kerala's capital Thiruvananthapuram has become the first 'fully digital literate panchayat' in India.
- Full digital literacy was achieved by Pullampara panchayat's 'DigiPullampara' project, under which some 3,300 residents between the 14-65 age group were given digital education.

About the 'DigiPullampara' project:

- The 'Digi Pullampara project was launched on August 15, 2021, to impart digital education to the most underprivileged sections of society in the panchayat.
- The project was run with the assistance of volunteers from 5 engineering colleges, Kudumbashree units, and other self-help groups.
- The digital literacy program was carried out with the technical support of the Kerala Technical University (KTU).

Digital Literacy & Internet Access:

- Kerala which was the first Indian state to attain 100% literacy also declared access to the internet a basic human right in 2019.
- In 2019 the Kerala Government also announced the launch of KFON, which stands for 'Kerala Fiber Optic Network,' a joint venture of the Kerala State Electricity Board and Kerala State IT Infrastructure Ltd to provide an internet connection to every household in Kerala.
- In July 2022, K-FON received the Internet Service Provider (ISP) license from the Department of Telecommunications.
- Over 30,000 government offices in Kerala will also be provided with free internet through the KFON project.

About Kerala:

- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- Dance: Kathakali, Mohiniattam, Chakyar koothu
- Festival: Onam, Thrissur Pooram Festival,

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Union Minister Shri Amit Shah Announces ST Status for Pahari Community In Jammu And Kashmir

- Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah has announced Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for the Pahari community in Jammu and Kashmir at a rally in Rajouri, J&K.
- The reservation will be rolled out after the completion of administrative formalities.
- The abolition of Articles 370 and 35A in August 2019 paved the way for providing reservations to deprived sections of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Gujjars and Bakerwals communities were getting ST benefits since 1991.

Key Highlights:

- The Center formed the Justice Sharma Commission in March 2020, however, it seemed to upset the Gujjars and Bakerwals.
- The Paharis were given a 4 percent quota in the OBC category from January 2020.

About Pahari Community:

- Pahari people is a term used for several heterogeneous communities settled in parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- Pahari is a term used to describe the various northern Indo-Aryan languages spoken by the people, most of them found in the lower Himalayas.

About J&K:

- Lieutenant Governor: Manoj Sinha
- Capital: Srinagar, Jammu
- National Park: Kishtwar High Altitude NP, Hemis NP, Kazinag NP, Dachigam NP
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Achabal Wildlife Sanctuary, Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary

Rajasthan: Country's 1st Hi-tech anti-poaching system installed in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve

- The government of Rajasthan has installed a technology-based Wildlife Monitoring and Anti Poaching System at Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR) and other protected forests of Rajasthan.
- It is claimed that this is the country's first hi-tech surveillance system to stop the poaching of tigers and other anti-wildlife activities.

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- The **State Information Technology and Communication Department** have developed this advanced anti-poaching monitoring system for RTR, which includes **thermal and optical, PTZ, bullet, dome, and drones**.

About RTR:

- The RTR in **Sawai Madhopur district** is Rajasthan's most famous protected forest with **more than 60 tigers**.
- Apart from this, Rajasthan has other protected forests like **Sariska Tiger Reserve Alwar, Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve Kota, Jawai Dam Leopard Conservation Reserve Pali, and Jhalana Leopard Conservation Reserve Jaipur**.
- To protect wildlife in these forests, **high-end thermal and optical cameras** based on a hybrid model for protected areas of forests are being used.
- This is an integrated surveillance system equipped with network and communication equipment, solar power systems, drones, etc.
- This is the **first 24-hour hi-tech surveillance and poaching system** established by **any state** in the country.
- Its control command center has been established in **Ramsinghpura, Shilpgram, and Sawai Madhopur**.
- It helps with **24-hour surveillance with cameras in forest areas**, monitoring the movements of tigers or other identified wildlife species.

About Rajasthan:

- Governor: Kalraj Mishra
- Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot
- Capital: Jaipur
- Dance: Ghumar, Jhuma
- National Park: Keoladeo NP, Ranthambore NP, Mukundara NP
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bandh Baratha WLS, Jaisamand WLS, Jawahar Sagar WLS

India's First Green Hydrogen Fueling Station to Be Commissioned In Leh By May 2023

- India's first green hydrogen fuelling station, being set up at **Leh** in the **Union Territory of Ladakh**, is all set to be commissioned before **May 2023**.

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- The **first-of-its-kind project** is being set up by state-run NTPC.
- The power generator had awarded the contract for the project to **Amara Raja Power Systems**, part of the **\$1.3 billion Amara Raja Group**, in June.

About the Project:

- Under the project, green hydrogen will be produced by **splitting water** into hydrogen and oxygen using electrolysis powered by renewable energy.
- The project is being set up at a **height of 3,600 meters** above sea level with a temperature variation of **minus 14 degrees to plus 20 degrees Celsius**.
- The pilot project will produce **80 Kilograms per day of 99.97 percent pure hydrogen** that will be compressed, stored, and dispensed.
- NTPC plans to ply **5 hydrogen fuel cell buses** in the region.
- While the Leh project will use green hydrogen for mobility, in the longer run, Amara Raja also plans to bid for green hydrogen projects for industrial applications.
- NTPC's wholly-owned subsidiary **NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL)** floated the tender for the project in **July 2021**.
- NTPC REL is also setting up a **1.25 Mw solar power plant** to make the Hydrogen Fuelling Station completely green.

Finland ties up with Kerala Government to implement 'Little KITEs' model

- **Finland** has announced its partnership with **Kerala** to implement the **Little KITEs program** by **Kerala Education Department** in their country's schools.
- As per the collaboration, the **Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE)** will provide **technical assistance** for this and a **Special Working Group** will be constituted for this program.
- The decision was taken in the meeting held at the **Capital of Finland, Helsinki**, between **Finland Education Department's team** and a **high-level delegation from Kerala** comprising **V P Joy**, state chief secretary, **V K Ramachandran**, vice chairman, State Planning Board, and **A P M Mohammed Hanish**, principal secretary, general education department.

Key Highlights:

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- The Little KITES IT Clubs is India's largest ICT network of students in over 2,000 schools, totaling 1.70 lakh student members.
- KITE is equipped to provide consultancy support in free and open-source software (FOSS) based digital education activities to other states and countries.
- Through the Little KITEs units, 9,000 robotic kits would be deployed to schools in 2022.
- The Little KITEs program was launched by Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan in 2018.

About KITE:

- Headquarters: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India
- Chairman: A.P.M Mohammed Hanish
- CEO: K. Anvar Sadath
- KITE was the first SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) company to get funded by KIIFB (Kerala Infrastructure and Investment Fund Board).

About Kerala:

- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

About Finland:

- President: Sauli Niinistö
- Prime Minister: Sanna Marin
- Capital: Helsinki
- Currency: Euro

Maharashtra digitizes property registrations & launches 'Self Help' portal for e-registrations

- The government of Maharashtra has started the e-registration of properties to be sold by realty developers in a bid to digitize the process which will also involve the usage of blockchain technology.
- With this, Maharashtra has become the first state to enable e-registrations of properties.
- Initially, the facility will be enabled for e-registration of the agreement of the first sale, and resale transactions will not be part of it.

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- Now homebuyers of **Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA)** approved projects have the option to register their sales agreements online, sitting in the developer's office.
- Currently, over **400 developers** in Maharashtra have opted for the e-registration system.
- Maharashtra Govt also launched the '**Self Help**' portal for e-registration
- Through this portal, developers and homebuyers can also **upload** their **template** for the agreement, which once approved could be used by the developers for several such transactions.

About Blockchain Technology:

- Blockchain Technology is a **system of recording information** in a way that makes it **difficult or impossible to change, hack, or cheat the system.**

About Maharashtra:

- Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- Chief minister: Eknath Shinde
- Capital: Mumbai

J&K Tourism department inaugurates 1st ever Bird Festival at Pahalgam in South Kashmir

- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), a first-of-its-kind Bird Festival 2022 was inaugurated at Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.
- The Bird Festival is being organized by the J & K Tourism Department in collaboration with **Sanctuary Nature Foundation.**
- **Secretary of the J&K Tourism Department, Sarmad Hafeez** inaugurated the festival.
- The inaugural ceremony of the **6-day Bird Festival** was attended by a large number of nature enthusiasts and bird lovers from across the country as well as Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Bird Festival will be beneficial for **tourism** and the **local economy of Jammu and Kashmir**

About J&K:

- Lieutenant Governor: Manoj Sinha
- Capital: Srinagar, Jammu

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

Haryana govt signs MoU with Dubai for economic cooperation

- The Haryana government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of Dubai, the governing authority of the Emirate of Dubai, for cooperation in various economic activities.
- These activities include investment promotion and land development, including but not limited to real estate development, industrial parks, IT parks, multi-purpose towers, mixed-use townships, innovation centers, and projects related to logistics in Haryana.

About the MoU:

- Under the terms of the MoU, the Government of Dubai will identify a suitable entity to assist with identifying the potential areas of collaboration assess the viability of projects and finalization of definitive agreements, and support the state government in identifying potential investors based in UAE.
- The MoU is expected to boost investment in Haryana and strengthen the bonds of economic and cultural ties between Dubai and Haryana.
- Haryana with strategic locational advantage, robust industrial infrastructure, strong connectivity, robust policy frameworks, and a large pool of skilled manpower has emerged as one of India's most industrialized states.
- With different initiatives such as sector-focused investor-friendly policies, GIS land bank, investor facilitation cell, single roof clearance mechanism, time-bound delivery of services, grievance redressal system, etc.

Recent News:

- Recently, the government of Haryana delegation led by Manohar Lal Khattar, visited the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to promote the State as a leading investment destination and for marketing key projects of Haryana.

About Haryana:

- Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya
- Chief minister: Manohar Lal Khattar
- Capital: Chandigarh
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chhilchhila WLS, Bir Shikargah WLS, Nahar WLS

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- National Park: Kalesar NP, Sultanpur NP

Karnataka Cabinet approves proposal to hike SC, ST reservation

- The Karnataka Cabinet has given its approval to increase the Scheduled Castes and Tribes (SC/STs) quota in Karnataka.
- The decision has been taken by the government based on the report of Justice H N Nagamohan Das Commission, which has recommended hiking the quota for SCs from 15% to 17% and for STs from 3% to 7%.
- The State Government in principle agreed to increase the existing quota by 2% for SCs and by 4% for STs in Karnataka.
- Chief Minister Shri Basavaraj Bommai announced this effect after chairing an all-party meeting that was attended by Congress and JD(S) leader
- After this hike, the total reservation in the state will be 56%.
- Previously, Karnataka had 50% reservation, of which 32% was for OBCs (other backward classes), 15% for SCs, and 3% for STs
- The State Government would seek more than 50% reservation under Scheduled 9 of the Constitution through a constitutional amendment, to get immunity from a legal challenge, on the lines of the Tamil Nadu Government, which has increased reservation up to 69%.

About Karnataka:

- Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
- Chief minister: Basavaraj Bommai
- Capital: Bengaluru
- National Park: Nagarhole National Park, Bandipur NP, Kudremukh NP
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, Brahmagiri wildlife sanctuary

J&K became the first to establish 75 Amrit Sarovars in each district Under Mission Amrit Sarovar

- Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) have become the first Union Territory in the country to establish 75 Amrit Sarovars in each district as per the aspirations of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- This was informed by Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta in a review meeting of the Rural Development Department at Srinagar.

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- J&K had started implementing the scheme in a mission mode & UT level committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary with the participation of departments like **Forest, Culture, Revenue, and Jal Shakti** was constituted for **apex-level monitoring and implementation of the scheme.**

Key Highlights:

- According to the guidelines of the mission, J&K had to complete **300 Amrit Sarovars** before **August 15, 2022**, and **1500 Amrit Sarovars** by **August 15, 2023.**
- However, UT completed **1490 Amrit Sarovar** on **15th August 2022**, and at present, UT has completed work on **1953 Amrit Sarovar.**
- The Finance Department has released **Rs 50 crore** for the rejuvenation and construction of these Amrit Sarovar.

About Mission Amrit Sarovar:

- The Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** on **National Panchayati Raj Day** on **April 24, 2022**, at **Palli Gram Panchayat** in **Jammu's Samba district.**
- At the national level, the UT figures at number 2 in terms of completion of Amrit Sarovar featuring just after the much bigger State of **Uttar Pradesh.**

About J&K:

- Lieutenant Governor: **Manoj Sinha**
- Capital: **Srinagar, Jammu**
- National Park: **Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, Kaziranga National Park, Dachigam National Park**
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: **Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary**

Goa to host 37th National Games in October 2023 - IOA

- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** confirmed that the **Goa government** has been selected as the **host** for the **37th edition** of the **National Games** in **October 2023.**
- The Goa delegation may get the IOA flag at the Closing Ceremony of the **36th National Games** on **12th October 2022** in **Surat, Gujarat.**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- Goa had signed the contract to host the National Games in 2011 but, technically, its turn was only after the 35th edition, which was hosted by Kerala in January 2015.
- Since then, the state sought multiple postponements after finalizing 2016 as the year to host the Games.
- The 37th National Games will be held from **23rd September to 8th October 2022** in Hangzhou, China.

About Goa:

- Governor: S. Sreedharan Pillai
- Chief Minister: Pramod Sawant
- Capital: Panaji
- Airport: Dabolim Airport

Jharkhand records India's highest percentage of child marriage

- According to the latest demographic sample survey by the union home ministry, Jharkhand has the highest percentage of underage girls getting married.
- The survey was conducted in 2020 by the office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner and its report was published in September 2022.

Key Highlights:

- As per the survey, the percentage of girls getting married before turning 18 is 5.8% in Jharkhand.
- The percentage of females who got married before reaching 18 years is 1.9 at the national level.
- At the state level, it varies from 0.0 in Kerala to 5.8 in Jharkhand.
- In Jharkhand, child marriages accounted for 7.3% of marriages in rural areas and 3% in urban areas
- Jharkhand and West Bengal are the only two states in the country where more than half of the women are married before attaining the age of 21 years.
- 54.9% of girls are married in West Bengal before attaining the age of 21 years.
- 54.6% of girls are married in Jharkhand before attaining the age of 21 years.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- The Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report contains estimates of various demographic, fertility, and mortality indicators based on the data collected through one of the largest demographic surveys in the world covering about 8.4 million sample population.

Chhattisgarh CM Shri Bhupesh Baghel inaugurates Chhattisgarh Olympics

- Chief minister Shri Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the Chhattisgarh Olympics at Balbir Singh Juneja Indoor Stadium in Raipur to promote sports in Chhattisgarh.

Aim:

- To make the younger generation aware of our culture and tradition

About Chhattisgarh Olympics:

- The 'Chhattisgarhiya Olympics' will be organized at six levels and it will continue till January 6, 2023.
- A total of 14 types of traditional sports have been included in the Chhattisgarh Olympics 2022-23.
- Traditional sports like Gilli-danda, pitthul, sankhali, langdi-race, kabaddi, kho-kho, and kancha have also been included.
- The games will be played at the development block/urban cluster level, district level, divisional level, and state level.
- The main purpose of the event is to generate the feeling of regionalism, especially among young voters.
- It is the first-of-its-kind tournament where the focus is on local games.

About Chhattisgarh:

- Governor: Anusuiya Uikey
- Chief Minister: Bhupesh Baghel
- Capital: Raipur
- Festivals: Bastar Dussehra, Bhoramdeo Mahotsav Festival
- Dance: Raut Nacha
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary, Narsingharh WLS, Semarsot WLS
- National Park: Guru Ghasi Das (Sanjay) National Park, Kanger Valley National Park

Tamil Nadu CM Shri Stalin inaugurates 'first of its kind liquefied compressed natural gas station in Ranipet

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Shri M.K. Stalin inaugurated AG&P Pratham's liquefied compressed natural gas (LCNG) station near Manthangal village at Walajah Taluk in Ranipet district, Tamil Nadu.
- He opened the station via videoconference, in the presence of Industries Minister Mr. Thangam Thennarasu, Chief Secretary Mr. V. Irai Anbu, and company officials.
- The company will develop a 300-km pipeline network in the Vellore-Ranipet area by the end of FY23.
- The new station will benefit over 30,000 households and 325 industrial and commercial establishments.
- The unit can handle 100 tonnes of gas per day and will serve customers in Vellore, Ranipet, and Tirupattur.
- Currently, the company supplies around 20 tonnes of gas in these districts.

About Tamil Nadu:

- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Chief Minister: M. K. Stalin
- Capital: Chennai
- Dance: Bharatnatyam, Karagattam, Kumi, Kolattam, Kavadi
- National Park: Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Guindy National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Kalakad Wildlife sanctuary, Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve: Anamalai Tiger Reserve
- Biosphere Reserve: Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

Indore to become India's first 'Smart City' with 'Smart Addresses'

- Indore, Madhya Pradesh (MP) will become India's first 'Smart City' with 'Smart Addresses' after implementing a fully digital addressing system.
- The smart city advanced significantly when a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed with the firm Pataa Navigations.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- The MoU is signed by Pataa Navigations Co-Founder Rajat Jain and Indore Smart City CEO Rishav Gupta (IAS).
- The MoU stipulates that the Pataa app will be used by all government agencies and emergency services, such as police, fire, and ambulance.

Key Highlights:

- Pataa is a brief and distinctive code that will help the user to find the specific geolocated location.
- Pataa Navigations and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) collaborated to build a powerful digital addressing system to reduce losses and simplify the Indian addressing system.
- To provide access to digital addressing systems, Pataa Navigation will integrate with government platforms such as those of the departments of electricity, agriculture, excise, protection of women and children, and education.

About Pataa App:

- The Pataa app is a free service, that will help delivery providers find a specific geolocated location.
- Through this app, users can upload images of their homes, landmarks, etc., along with their full-text addresses.
- For necessary services such as Electronic Know Your Customer (E-KYC) and banking geolocation, the Pataa application will be used.
- Additionally, the user can record voice instructions, which eliminates the need to repeat the address over the phone and makes it easier for the guest to find the location.
- In the future, the user will be able to share a shortcode rather than sharing their long and full address with everyone.

Delhi govt launches app to keep track of all ongoing & upcoming projects

- The Delhi government has launched an app called 'Delhi monitoring to keep track of all ongoing and upcoming projects across departments.
- Chief Secretary of the Delhi UT government Mr. Naresh Kumar will be in charge of monitoring the projects.

About 'Delhi monitoring:

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- The Public Works Department (PWD), which undertakes major road, flyover, and infrastructure projects, has updated the data about the projects on the PWD portal to all the chief engineers of the road, maintenance, projects, and flyover divisions.
- The app has been launched for monitoring projects/inspections/tasks used by ministers and senior officers of all departments of the Delhi government.
- Further, the PWD has also directed officials to appoint a nodal officer at the zonal office level to monitor it and all issues related to the PWD web portal.
- The PWD department manages around 1,400 km of major roads and the busiest flyovers including Ring Road and Outer Ring Road in Delhi.

About Delhi:

- Lt. Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena
- Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal
- Capital: New Delhi
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary

India's first sanctuary for endangered Slender Loris to be set up in Tamil Nadu

- The Tamil Nadu government has notified the Kadavur Slender Loris Sanctuary, the first Indian sanctuary for the endangered Slender Loris in Karur and Dindigul districts.

About Slender Loris:

- Slender Lorises are native to India and Sri Lanka.
- Their genus comprises two species, the red slender loris found in Sri Lanka and the gray slender loris which is found both in India and in Sri Lanka.
- According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Slender Loris is listed as an endangered species.
- The survival of the species depends on its habitat improvement, conservation efforts, and mitigation of threats.
- They have a lifespan of approximately 15 years and generally feed on insects, reptiles, plant shoots, and fruit.
- These mammals are also protected under Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, of 1972.

About Kadavur Slender Loris Sanctuary:

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- A total of 11,806 hectares in the forest areas of the Karur (5,700 ha) and Dindigul (6,106 ha) districts will be merged to form the Kadavur Slender Loris Sanctuary.
- The sanctuary is to cover Vendasandur, Dindigul East, and Natham taluks in the Dindigul district and Kadavur taluk in the Karur district.
- The government has already notified India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay, Kazhuveli Birds Sanctuary in Villupuram, Agasthiarmalai Elephants Reserve, and Nanjarayan Tank Birds Sanctuary, Tiruppur.

About Tamil Nadu:

- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin
- Capital: Chennai
- Dance: Bharatnatyam, Karakattam
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve: Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, Annamalai Tiger Reserve
- National Park: Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Mukurthi National Park, Amirthi Zoological Park

Center grants three Bulk Drug Parks to Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh

- The Department of Pharmaceuticals has conveyed 'in-principle' approval to the proposals of the three States Viz, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh under the Scheme for "Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks", a key initiative to support Bulk Drugs manufacturing in India.

Aim:

- To bring down the cost of manufacturing bulk drugs by the creation of world-class common infrastructure facilities supported by the Central Government.
- The financial assistance to the proposed Bulk Drug Park in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh would be 70% of the project cost of common infrastructure facilities.
- In the case of Himachal Pradesh, being the Hilly States, financial assistance would be 90% of the project cost.
- Maximum assistance under the scheme for one Bulk Drug Park would be limited to Rs. 1000 crores.

About the Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks Scheme:

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- The Scheme, with a **financial outlay of Rs. 3,000 crores** notified in **2020**, provides financial assistance to **3 States** for establishing Bulk Drug Parks.
- Under the scheme, proposals were received from **13 States**.
- Under this scheme, a total of **51 projects** have been approved, out of which, **14 projects** have **already been commissioned** and started manufacturing the drugs.
- The Department was guided by an **Advisory Committee under the CEO, NITI Aayog** in the appraisal of the proposals, based on quantitative as well as qualitative methodology.
- The scheme will also help the industry meet the standards of the environment at a **reduced cost** through innovative methods of the **common waste management system**.

Key Highlights:

- The **Indian Pharmaceutical industry** is the **3rd largest** in the world by volume.
- India exported pharmaceuticals worth **Rs. 1,75,040 crore** in the financial year **2021-22**, including **Bulk Drugs/ Drug Intermediates**.
- Also, India is one of the major producers of **Active Pharma Ingredients (API)** or bulk drugs in the world.
- India exported **Bulk Drugs/ Drug Intermediates** worth **Rs. 33,320 crores** in the financial year **2021-22**.
- As per the proposals submitted by these States, the Bulk Drugs will be established in **1402.44 acres of land** at Tehsil Haroli, District Una, Himachal Pradesh, **2015.02 acres of land** at Tehsil Jambusar, District Bharuch, Gujarat, and **2000.45 acres of land** at K.P. Puram & Kodhada of Thondagi Mandal of East Godavari District, AP.

About Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers:

- Cabinet Minister: Mansukh L. Mandaviya
- Minister of State: Bhagwanth Khuba

Leh in Ladakh all set to host 1st-ever Mountain Bicycle World Cup

- **Ladakh Police** in collaboration with the **Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh**, and the **Cycling Association of India** organized the **first-ever Mountain Bicycle (MTB) World Cup** – the ‘**UCI MTB Eliminator World Cup**’ in Leh, Ladakh, India.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- The event will be flagged off by the Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Leh CEC Tashi Gyaltson, and Ladakh ADGP SS Khandare.
- The UCI MTB Eliminator World Cup is going to be a short track race with Cross Country Eliminator, XCE, the format of **500 meters** with natural and artificial obstacles.
- A total of 20 international, 55 national, and local cyclists are going to participate in the upcoming event.
- Since the UCI MTB Eliminator World Cup is going to be held for the **first time in India**, all cyclists are excited about the event.
- **The winner of the Men Elite Category -Cross-Country Eliminator- is Felix Klausmann (Germany) & Winner of the Men Elite Category -Cross-Country Eliminator is Marion Fromberger (Germany).**

Odisha CM Launches SAACAR Portal for quick justice to SC/ST victims of atrocities

- Odisha Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik launched a web portal 'Single Window Application Atrocity Compensation Assistance and Relief (SAACAR)' for end-to-end processing of atrocity cases registered in various police stations.
- The departments of Home, ST & SC Development, and Revenue & Disaster Management have developed the portal.

About SAACAR:

- The portal will facilitate **faster investigation** and payment of compensation in the first phase to the victims of SC-ST atrocity cases within **21 days**.
- It will be able to **avoid the delay** caused by the **existing manual system** of inquiry and payment of compensation to the victims.
- It will increase efficiency in the delivery mechanism of the Government of Odisha through the **5T initiative**.
- Meanwhile, the CM also released a book titled '**Pandemic Disruptions and Odisha's Lessons in Governance**', written by **BJD MP Amar Patnaik**.
- The book contains a collection of essays on issues that emerged in India during the pandemic years of 2020-21 and 2021-2022.

About Odisha:

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- Governor: Ganeshi La
- Chief minister: Naveen Patnaik
- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- National Park: Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary, Chilika Wildlife Sanctuary, Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary, Kotagarh Wildlife Sanctuary
- Dance: Ghumara, Ranapa Dance, Jodi Sankha
- Festival: Rath Yatra

Andhra Pradesh top performer in agri and allied Grass Value Output (GVO)

- Andhra Pradesh (AP), with ₹2,03,638.5 crore combined gross value output (GVO) in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sectors, has registered more than 90% growth in 9 years to 2019-20, the highest among all the states, while Kerala is the only state to have recorded negative growth of over 10%.
- According to the report on the value of output from agriculture, forestry, and fishing sectors released recently by the National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Uttar Pradesh, a leading producer of paddy, wheat, and sugarcane, the GVO in agri and allied activities recorded at ₹3,05,615.24 crore in 2019-20, up 24.8% from ₹2,44,884.44 crore in 2011-12
- The GVO was higher than the growth at the national level in as many as 10 States, including Tripura and Mizoram, and two union territories Lakshadweep and Daman and Diu.
- The all-India GVO in agri and allied sectors was 30.6% up at ₹24,92,052.67 crore in 2019-20 against ₹19,08,087.53 crore in 2011-12.
- Kerala, Delhi, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli were the only ones where the output value declined in the past nine years under the review period.
- The GVO in Kerala, declined almost every year from ₹55,584.37 crores in 2011-12 to ₹49,785.83 crores in 2019-20.
- Madhya Pradesh was the top State in recording the highest 56.7% growth at ₹1,31,781.42 crore in only crops (agri and commercial) in 2019-20 against ₹84,077.42 crores in 2011-12.

India's only business museum set to undergo a makeover will soon go digital

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- The **Indian Business Museum**, housed inside the **Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK) campus** and the **only one of its kind**, will soon offer visitors a slice of **history digitally**.
- The museum intends to collect, consolidate, and conserve the rich business history of India.

About Indian Business Museum:

- Conceptualized in 2010 and officially opened in **2013**, the museum traces the subcontinent's business history from the time of the Indus Valley Civilisation.
- The museum, spanning over **23,000 square feet (2,100 m²)**, also has a Malabar Pavilion sponsored by the **Malabar Chamber of Commerce**
- The museum also has exclusive pavilions set up by the **Tatas, Godrej, India Post, the Indian Navy, and SBI**, among others, showcasing the business history of the respective organizations.
- A major part of the museum is the **RBI gallery**, which mirrors the evolution of both the Reserve Bank of India as well as the modern financial system.
- The makeover is expected to cost **Rs 15-20 crore**.

Note:

- Director of IIMK: **Debashis Chatterjee**

Centre approves New Coastal Zone Management Plan in Karnataka

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** laid the foundation for **8 projects worth Rs 3,800 crore** at **Goldfinch city** and approved the **New Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP)** for Karnataka.
- This Plan would give a **boost** to the **economy** and **tourism** in the **coastal region** of **Karnataka**.

Key Highlights:

- As per the **2019 CRZ notification**, the **new Coastal Zone Management Plan** has been approved by the **Ministry of Forest, Environment, and Climate Change**.
- **Karnataka** is the **first State** in **southern India** and **only the second state** in the country to get the Plan prepared and approved as per the new CRZ notification.

Project worth:

- **₹280 crores** for mechanization of **Berth No. 14** for handling containers and other cargo undertaken by the **New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA)**.
- NMPA is a **100% solar-powered port**, which has won several awards for **zero emission**.
- He laid the foundation of **5 projects** worth around **₹ 1,000 crores** undertaken by the port.

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- He will also inaugurate two projects undertaken by Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited viz. BS VI Upgradation Project and Sea Water Desalination Plant, worth ₹1,830 crores and ₹680 crores respectively.

Other Highlights:

- Under the Sagar Mala project, 18 projects have been completed and 14 schemes worth Rs 950 crore are approved by the Union Ministry of Inland Transport and Ports.
- The Government has approved the development of Maajali Port in Karwar at Rs 350 crore.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada scheme, the Central Government has approved to supply of 100 high-speed boats to help deep sea fishing.
- The government has implemented the Vidyanidhi scheme for the children of fishermen and it will benefit 2 lakh children.
- 5000 houses are constructed at Rs 65 crore.
- The Inland and Fishery Institute will be established in Karwar.

About Karnataka:

- Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
- Chief minister: Basavaraj Bommai
- Capital: Bengaluru
- National Park: Bandipur NP, Kudremukh NP, Bannerghata NP, Rajiv Gandhi NP
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: B R Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, Gudavi Bird Sanctuary, Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve: Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, Bhadra Tiger Reserve
- Festival: Hampi, Mahamastakabhisheka (Shravanabelagola)
- Dance: Yakshagana, Dollu Kunitha, Bolak-aat (Bolak Dance)

Tamil Nadu is the only State to achieve the Jal Jeevan Mission target for 2022 Q1 and Q2

- According to official data, Tamil Nadu (TN) has emerged as the only State which has achieved the target for 2022 Q1 and Q2 for Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), with 69.57 lakh households provided with tap connections to date.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- **Union Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** visited Chennai and reviewed the progress of work on the Jal Jeevan Mission for assured potable tap water supply to every rural household by **2024**.

Key Highlights:

- To date, out of the **1.25 crore households** in Tamil Nadu, **69.57 lakh households** have received tap connections.
- The percentage of households (**55.63%**) with tap connections in Tamil Nadu is higher than the national average of **53.96%**.
- The target set by the Union government for Q1 and Q2 for 2022 was **12.1 lakh tap connections** in Tamil Nadu.
- However, the TN has provided **16.25 lakh tap connections**, registering **134%** of the target.
- The target set for 2022-2023 in the State is **28.48 lakh tap connections**.
- The implementation of the work on tap connections for **14.44 lakh households** is underway in TN.
- Of the **12,525 villages** in TN, the State has reported **2,663 villages** as 'Har Ghar Jal' villages, with tap water connections in **100% of households**.

Expenditure:

- Of the allocation of **₹3,691 crores** from the Union government for the State in 2021-2022, **₹614 crores** have been released.
- The expenditure for the State government for providing the tap connections was **₹496 crore** in 2021-2022 and the expenditure for the Union government was **₹457 crore** in the same period.
- The State government has reported an expenditure of **₹173 crores** during 2022-2023.
- The Union government has reported an expenditure of **₹132 crores** during the same period.

About JJM:

- The Jal Jeevan Mission was announced by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** on **August 15, 2019**.
- Under this, every rural household will have a functional tap connection by **2024**, with assured water supply in adequate quantity of prescribed quality with adequate pressure on a **regular and long time basis**.

About Tamil Nadu:

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- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin
- Capital: Chennai
- Dance: Bharatnatyam, Karakattam
- National Park: Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Guindy National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Kalakad Wildlife sanctuary, Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve: Anamalai Tiger Reserve
- Biosphere Reserve: Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

Coal India to set up 1,190 MW solar power plant in Rajasthan

- The Coal India Limited (CIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rajasthan Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUNL) for setting up an 1190 MW solar power plant in the Bikaner district of Rajasthan.
- RVNUL Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) R K Sharma and Technical Director of Coal India Limited, V Reddy signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the presence of Union Minister of Coal Shri Pralhad Joshi and Chief Minister of Rajasthan Shri Ashok Gehlot.
- The plant will be installed in a 2,000-MW solar park being developed by RVUNL in Poogal, Bikaner.

Key Highlights:

- The Rajasthan government has allotted 4,846 hectares of land to the solar park.
- The plant will be installed in a 2,000-MW solar park being developed by RVUNL in Poogal, Bikaner.
- Out of this, an 1190 MW capacity solar project will be set up by Coal India, while an 810 MW capacity solar project will be set up by RVUNL.

Additional Info:

- Rajasthan becomes the first in the country by setting up 14,825 MW solar power projects.

About CIL:

- Founded: 1975

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- Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal, India
- Chairman & MD: Pramod Agrawal
- CIL is an Indian central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the **Ministry of Coal**, Government of India.
- It is the **largest government-owned-coal-producer** in the world.

About RVUNL:

- Founded: 2000
- Headquarters: Jaipur, Rajasthan, India
- Chairman & MD: Shri R K Sharma
- The RVUNL is the **electricity generation company** of the Government of Rajasthan state in India

About Rajasthan:

- Governor: Kalraj Mishra
- Chief minister: Ashok Gehlot
- Capital: Jaipur
- National Park: Keoladeo National Park, Ranthambore National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Desert WL Sanctuary, Jaisamand WL Sanctuary, Ramsagar WL Sanctuary

Ethiopian delegation Visits Andhra Pradesh to implement Rythu Bharosa Kendra concept

- An **Ethiopian delegation** led by the Agricultural Minister Dr. Meles Mekonen Yimer is in Andhra Pradesh (AP) to study the **first-of-its-kind Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs)**, which have been set up by the **Chief Minister Shri Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy** government.
- Before calling on the CM, the Ethiopian delegation visited the integrated call center at **Gannavaram** and **RBK-2** at **Gandigunta village** of **Yuyuru Mandal** in **Krishna district**.

About RBKs:

- RBKs are **unique seeds-to-sales, single-window service centers** for farmers that have been set up across AP.
- They are a **one-stop solution** to all farmers' needs and grievances.
- RBKs sell pre-tested quality seeds, certified fertilizers, and animal feed.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- Over 10,700 RBKs multi-functional kiosks with digital Aadhar authentication equipment have been set up across AP.
- They also provide farm equipment and enable farmers to sell their produce at the prevailing **minimum support price (MSP)** via supporting systems of **e-cropping, geo-tagging, and CM App**.
- They provide services like **soil testing** and **consultancy** regarding what crops to sow and the quality and type of fertilizer to be used.

About integrated call center:

- The call center established at **Gannavaram** was set up in **March of 2021** to address farmers' grievances.
- The center has several scientists and **30 experienced call center executives**.
- Suggestions and advice will be given to farmers on agriculture and related areas like **horticulture, sericulture, veterinary, fisheries, and marketing**-related technical queries will be addressed.
- Recently, the RBKs were nominated for the **UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Champion Awards (CCA)**, which recognizes the contributions of governments in boosting food security.

About Ethiopia:

- President: Sahle-Work Zewde
- Capital: Addis Ababa
- Currency: Ethiopian birr

About AP:

- Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Chief minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
- Capital: Amaravati
- National Park: Papikonda National Park, Rajiv Gandhi (Rameshwaram) National Park, Sri Venkateswara National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary, Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary, Gundla Brahmeswaram Wildlife Sanctuary

Andhra Pradesh: 3-day Kuchipudi dance festival to begin in Vijayawada

- The **third World Kuchipudi Natyotsavam** would be organized for **three days** in **Vijayawada**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- The Kuchipudi dance festival is being organized in commemoration of the 93rd birth anniversary of world-renowned Kuchipudi dance artist Vempati China Satyam.
- It is being organized by the Department of Culture, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Kuchipudi Art Academy, and Jayaho Bharateeyam.

About the Festival:

- Around 3,000 Kuchipudi artists from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana would take part in the dance festival.
- Two dances choreographed by Chinna Satyam Pedda Vinayaka Kautham and Koluwaitiva would be performed.
- During the festival, Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam Lifetime Achievement Award would be presented to Bala Kondala Rao, and Kumari Lanka Annapoorna Devi's Lifetime Achievement Award would be given to Vanaja Uday.
- Padmaja Reddy will receive the Dr. Sobha Naidu Lifetime Achievement Award, while Vempati Venkat Seva Puraskar will be presented to Srikant Raghupatruni.

About Kuchipudi:

- It is one of the eight classical dance styles of India.
- It is the most popular traditional dance form in South India, and its origin is believed to be in Andhra Pradesh.

About AP:

- Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Chief minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
- Capital: Amaravati
- National Park: Papikonda National Park, Rajiv Gandhi (Rameshwaram) National Park, Sri Venkateswara National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary, Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary, Gundla Brahmeswaram Wildlife Sanctuary

TN CM Shri MK Stalin launches "Kutti Kavalari" scheme for school students

- Tamil Nadu (TN) Chief Minister (CM) Shri MK Stalin launched the "Kutti Kavalari" scheme for school students to make them more responsible when it comes to road safety.

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- The scheme is jointly implemented by the **State government** and "**Uyir**", an NGO based out of **Coimbatore**.

About the Scheme:

- Under the scheme, school students will be educated through a **well-defined curriculum on road safety** to make them ambassadors of road safety.
- As the pledge was administered to a large number of students simultaneously, it formed a record under '**The Asia Book of Records**, and the certificate was handed over to the CM.
- Under the scheme, students of government, government-aided, and CBSE schools in the Coimbatore district studying in **Classes 3 to 8** will be given training on road safety.
- The CM also released a **booklet on road safety training** and a guide for teachers.
- Later, Shri Stalin launched fortnightly and monthly magazines for school students and teachers, respectively.
- The magazine named "**Oonjal**" has been launched for students of Classes 4 and 5 and "**Then Chittu**" has been for students of Classes 6 to 9.
- In the **two magazines**, the creative works of students, the information required for them, news, and interesting stories will be presented.
- Similarly, for teachers, Stalin launched "**Kanavu Asiriyar**" in which the works of teachers, their experience, and special essays will be published

About Tamil Nadu:

- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Chief Minister: M. K. Stalin
- Capital: Chennai
- Dance: Bharatnatyam, Karakattam
- National Park: Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Guindy National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Kalakad Wildlife sanctuary, Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve: Anamalai Tiger Reserve
- Biosphere Reserve: Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

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Kati Bihu is being observed across Assam

- The auspicious festival of harvest Kati Bihu or Kongali Bihu is being celebrated across Assam on **October 18, 2022**.
- It is marked **annually** on the **first day of the Kati month** in the **Assamese calendar** and usually falls during **mid-October**.

About Kati Bihu:

- It is the **fresh start of the harvest season** and the relocation of the rice saplings.
- Kati Bihu 2022 is rooted in the rural household's deep ethos which is related to crops and their yields.
- At this festival, people also **light a special lamp** in their paddy fields.
- There are **two Bihu festivals** celebrated in Assam - **Bhogali or Magh Bihu** is observed on **January 13th or 14th**, and **Rongali, or Bohag Bihu** is observed on **April 14th or 15th**.

About Assam:

- Governor: Jagdish Mukhi
- Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Capital: Dispur
- Dance: Bihu Dance, Jhumar, Bagurumba, Sattriya Dance
- National Park: Kaziranga National Park, Manas NP, Nameri NP, Raimona National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Amsang Wildlife Sanctuary, Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary, Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary

Wildlife board approves new tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh

- The **Madhya Pradesh (MP) Wildlife Board** approved a **new reserve for tigers** of **Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR)**, called **Durgavati Tiger Reserve**, one-fourth of which will get submerged due to the linking of the **Ken-Betwa rivers**.
- The **2,339 square kilometers** new tiger reserve, will spread across **Narisinghpur, Damoh, and Sagar districts**.
- The Board's meeting, chaired by **Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, approved a proposal to notify **1,414 sq km area** as core area and **925 sq km** as a buffer in the new tiger reserve.

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Key Highlights:

- A green corridor linking PTR with Durgavati will be developed for the natural movement of the tiger to the new reserve.
- Now, the proposal will be sent to the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** for final approval.
- **Nauradehi wildlife sanctuary**, which has five tigers, is a corridor between Satpura and PTR, while Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary is a green corridor for Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve.
- The new reserve will also accommodate **excess tigers** from Bandhavgarh
- On **September 27, 2022**, the **Uttar Pradesh cabinet** approved the notification of the **state's fourth tiger reserve** in the **Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary (RWS)** in the **Chitrakoot district**.

Note:

- **Madhya Pradesh (MP)** is also known as the '**Tiger State**' as it occupies around **19% of India's Tiger Population** and **10% of the world's tiger population**

About PTR:

- PTR is located in the **Panna and Chhatarpur districts of Madhya Pradesh** in India.
- It was declared in **1994** as the **22 Tiger reserve of India** and the **5 in Madhya Pradesh**.
- It was designated in **2020** by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**.

About NTCA:

- The NTCA is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change**.

About MP:

- Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel
- Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Capital: Bhopal
- Festival: Lokrang Festival, Grida dance
- National Park: Bandhavgarh National Park, Kanha NP, Panna NP
- Tiger Reserve: Satpura Tiger Reserve

CII & IOC launch project 'Vayu Amrit' in Sangrur

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- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** partnered with **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** to launch project '**Vayu Amrit**', a **crop residue management initiative**, in **Sangrur, Punjab** to mitigate **stubble burning**.

About 'Vayu Amrit':

- The project has been scaled up to **300 villages** covering **3 lakh acres of farmland**.
- Through this Project, **IOC** has recently partnered with the **CII** and is supporting the program in **9 villages** of **Sangrur** covering **7,000 acres** of farmland
- **Stubble burning** is a **major cause of air pollution** in the **northwest**, especially in the **Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR)** during winters.

Key Highlights:

- In **2021**, the **CII** runs a **crop residue management program** in **Punjab** and **Haryana** to mitigate **stubble burning** to **reduce air pollution**.
- The project was operational in **226 villages** covering **2 lakh acres** of farmland last season.
- Through the project interventions, **stubble burning** was reduced by **84%** in the intervening lands.

About CII:

- **Founded:** 1895
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, Delhi, India
- **President:** Sanjiv Bajaj (Chairman MD & CEO of Bajaj Finserv Limited)
- **Director General:** Chandrajit Banerjee
- CII is a **non-governmental trade association and advocacy group**.

About IOC:

- **Founded:** 30 June 1959
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, Delhi, India
- **Chairman:** Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- IOC is a **central public sector undertaking** under the **ownership of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Gol**.

Assam govt inks 7 MoUs with industry partners

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- The Assam government has inked 7 memoranda of understanding and agreement (MoU, MoA) with different industry players in a move to draw a roadmap for a broad-based development of Assam.

Key Highlights:

- On behalf of the government, Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM) entered into agreements with Microsoft, Google India, Larsen & Toubro, and Health Care Sector Skill Council.
- The Directorate of employment and craftsmen training executed an MoU with Info Edge (India) better known as Naukri.com.
- The Assam Tourism Development Corporation signed an MoU with the ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship, the Government of India, TATA Strive Skill Development Initiatives of Tata Community Initiative Trust, and the Indian Hotels Company.
- Further, Assam Power Distribution Company (APDCL) also signed an agreement with Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam's Green Energy for the generation of 1000 MW of solar power.

About the MoU & Agreements:

Microsoft:

- The MoU with Microsoft will pave the way for building the capacity of the youth in Assam Skill Development Centers across the state.
- Microsoft through their modules of MDSP (Microsoft Diversity Skilling Programme) will provide intervention for under-served youth to ensure their active participation in the workforce.

Google:

- The objective of the agreement with Google India is to support the state government in skilling youth with job-ready digital and business skills.

L&T:

- L&T would offer knowledge and support for establishing training setup and executing greenfield projects in the construction sector.

HSSC:

- The objective of the MoU with the Healthcare Sector Skill Council (HSSC) is to mobilize the unemployed youth of Assam for skill training.

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Naukri.com:

- The **Directorate of Employment and Craftsmen Training's MoU with Naukri.com** would provide an **online platform for unemployed youth** to have their profile uploaded to the digital domain to attract prospective employers.

APDCL:

- The MoU between APDCL and **SJVNL Green Energy (SGEL)** would also aim at the development of renewable power projects, namely solar power with **1000 MW installed capacity**.

Assam Tourism Development Corporation:

- The agreement signed between the **Assam Tourism Development Corporation** and **TATA Strive Skill Development Initiatives** and others would also set up a **hospitality skill center of excellence for the training of the youth of Assam**.

About Assam:

- Governor: Jagdish Mukhi
- Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Capital: Dispur
- Dance: Bihu Dance, Jhumar, Bagurumba, Sattriya Dance
- National Park: Kaziranga National Park, Manas NP, Nameri NP, Raimona National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Amsang Wildlife Sanctuary, Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary, Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary

India's First 4.20-MW Wind Power Generator Installed In Tirunelveli, TN

- The **WEG Industries Pvt. Ltd** has installed India's first **4.20-MW wind turbine generator**, a single unit with the **largest generation capacity**, at **Vadalivilai near Valliyoor** in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu at **₹88 crores**.
- **Gujarat and Tamil Nadu** would be the **major players** in the mission.

Key Highlights:

- The central government has set the goal to **produce 500 GW of power through renewable energy sources by 2030**, out of which **solar energy would account for 300 GW**.

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- The **other renewable energy** sources would be tapped optimally to generate the remaining **200 GW**.
- **Tamil Nadu** has the potential to generate **35 GW of wind power**, with **Dhanushkodi** alone capable of producing **30 GW**.
- So far, the **3,000-odd windmills** installed in the **Aralvaimozhi Pass** can generate power up to **2 MW**.

About WEG Industries Pvt. Ltd:

- Headquarters (India): Bangalore, Karnataka
- MD of WEG Industries (India) Private Limited Jean Carlo Butske
- It has its manufacturing unit in India at **SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Hosur**.

About Tamil Nadu:

- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin
- Capital: Chennai
- Dance: Bharatnatyam, Karakattam
- National Park: Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Guindy National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Kalakad Wildlife sanctuary, Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve: Anamalai Tiger Reserve
- Biosphere Reserve: Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

UP's 136 feet Durga Puja pandal to enter in Guinness Book as world's tallest

- The **136 feet tall Durga puja pandal** situated in Lucknow's Jankipuram, Uttar Pradesh (UP) is all set to be recorded in the **Guinness Book of World Records** as the **tallest ever**.
- Before this, the title of the world's tallest pandal was held by **Kolkata**, whose height was **125 feet** but, now it is overpowered by the Lucknow Durga Puja pandal.

About Durga puja pandal:

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- The pandal is a replica of the **under-construction Chandrodaya temple** of Vrindavan, which is built to be one of the tallest religious monuments in the world with a height of **above 700-ft** and spread over **5,40,000 sq feet area**.
- It is built by the **Utsav Puja Committee**, which is also celebrating the Puja for the **last 28 years**.
- The pandal has been built by **52 artisans** from Kolkata and Assam in over one month time period.
- A total of **Rs 32 lakhs** have been spent in making this tallest Durga Puja pandal.
- The Durga Puja pandal, going to be certified by the Guinness Book, is as tall as a **14-storey building**.

Paytm Mall becomes first to go live on ONDC in Bengaluru beta test

- **Paytm E-commerce Private Limited (PEPL)**, the parent of Paytm Mall, became the **first app** to go live on the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- This is a major milestone in the **democratization of e-commerce** in India.
- The network started beta testing for the public across **16 pin codes** in Karnataka.
- This will enable the purchase and sale of goods in the Indian market, driving **transparency and digital independence** for small businesses in the country
- For now, people can place orders in **two domains groceries** and restaurants through buyer-side apps, giving users access to a wide range of local businesses.
- The Bengaluru beta testing has begun with **MyStore** and **Spice Money** as buyer-side apps.

Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal launches "Main Bhi Subhash" campaign from Leh

- Ladakh MP Mr. Jamyang Tsering Namgyal launched the "Main Bhi Subhash" campaign from Leh.

Aim:

- To **create awareness of Netaji's contribution** to the freedom fight
- This event was organized in collaboration with **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose-INA Trust** and the **Ministry of Culture** on the occasion of **Netaji's 125th Birth Anniversary** on 23rd January 2023
- Mr. Namgyal also inaugurated an exhibition on Netaji at **Boys Higher Secondary School** in Leh.

About Ladak:

- Lieutenant Governor: Radha Krishna Mathur
- Capital: Leh, Kargil

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Delhi govt launches 'Diya Jalao, Patake Nahi' campaign

- The Delhi government has launched an anti-firecracker campaign named 'Diya Jalao, Patake Nahi' (light up lamps, not firecrackers) at Central Park in New Delhi, Delhi to promote a pollution-free festival of Diwali.

Objective:

- To stop people from bursting firecrackers and encourage them to celebrate Diwali with diyas.

About the Campaign:

- As per the order of the Delhi government, those who will be found indulging in the storage, production, and sale of crackers will have to pay a fine of 5000 rupees and imprisonment of 3 years as well.
- Those who will be found bursting firecrackers will be imposed a fine of 200 rupees and imprisonment for 6 months.
- To check air pollution, storage, sale, and use of all types of firecrackers have already been banned in the national capital till 1st January 2023.

About Delhi:

- Lt. Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena
- Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal
- Capital: New Delhi
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary

First national project upper bhadra scheme to be launched in Karnataka

- Karnataka Chief Minister Shri Basavaraj Bommai announced that the Upper Bhadra scheme will become Karnataka's first national project.
- The scheme has got the approval of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) and the Union Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has been requested to get it passed in the Union Cabinet.

Key Highlights:

- The Tumkur-Davangere railway line has been reviewed and directions are issued to acquire land for the project.

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- Once this work is done, then all steps will be taken to start the project & the **necessary funds** will be **released**.
- The reason behind the delay in the acquisition of **1.7 acres** for the Upper Bhadra scheme for the **last 2 years**, there are problems with a few farmers providing the land.

About the Upper Bhadra scheme:

- The Upper Bhadra Project is being undertaken by **Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Ltd.**
- It is a **major lift irrigation scheme** under implementation in Karnataka.
- The project envisages the lifting of **17.40 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft)** of water in the **first stage** from the **Tunga river to the Bhadra reservoir** and the lifting of **29.90 tmcft** of water in the **second stage** from the Bhadra reservoir to irrigate **2,25,515 hectares** by micro-irrigation in **Chitradurga, Davanagere, Tumakuru** and parts of **Chikkamagaluru**.

About Karnataka:

- Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
- Chief minister: Basavaraj Bommai
- Capital: Bengaluru
- National Park: Bandipur NP, Kudremukh NP, Bannerghata NP, Rajiv Gandhi NP
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: B R Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, Gudavi Bird Sanctuary, Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve: Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, Bhadra Tiger Reserve
- Festival: Hampi, Mahamastakabhisheka (Shravanabelagola)
- Dance: Yakshagana, Dollu Kunitha, Bolak-aat (Bolak Dance), Huttari Dance

Odisha CM Shri Naveen Patnaik Launches 'Football for All' program for the promotion of sport among children

- **Odisha Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik** virtually launched the '**Football for All** initiative to promote the sport among **school children** in **Odisha**.
- The Programme has been initiated by FIFA in Odisha in partnership with the **Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT)** & **Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS)**.
- This is the **first such program of FIFA** in India that aims at promoting football among school children.

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- Under the program, sponsored by FIFA in partnership with institutes KIIT & KISS, Odisha will distribute at least **43,000 footballs** among children of around **2,000 schools**.

About Odisha:

- Governor: Ganeshi Lal
- Chief minister: Naveen Patnaik
- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- National Park: Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary, Chilika Wildlife Sanctuary, Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary, Kotagarh Wildlife Sanctuary
- Dance: Odissi, Ghumara

About FIFA:

- Founded: 21 May 1904
- Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland
- President: Gianni Infantino
- Secretary General: Fatma Samoura
- Membership: 211 national associations

DGCA grants aerodrome license to Odisha's Jeypore airport

- The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** granted the aerodrome license to Odisha's **Jeypore airport**.

Key Highlights:

- Jeypore became the **"first" state-owned airport** to get the license.
- The airport will now be able to **handle scheduled commercial flights** under the government's regional connectivity scheme **UDAN**, or **Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik**.
- The airport, **33 km northwest of Koraput town** and around **500 km southwest of Bhubaneswar** would boost tourism and development of the region.
- Under UDAN, **68 underserved/unserved destinations** which include **58 Airports**, **8 heliports**, and **2 water aerodromes** have been connected.
- The license would be **liable to suspension, modification, or withdrawal** if the provisions of the Aircraft Act and the Aircraft Rules were violated.

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About DGCA:

- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director General: Arun Kumar
- The DGCA is a **statutory body** of the **Government of India** to **regulate civil aviation** in India

Jakson Green to invest Rs 22,400 cr in green hydrogen project in Rajasthan

- **Jakson Green Pvt Limited (JGPL)** has signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with the **Rajasthan government** to invest about **Rs 22,400 crore (US\$ 2.71 billion)** to set up **green hydrogen and green ammonia projects** in Rajasthan.
- The MoU was signed by **Vish Iyer, Global Chief Commercial Officer, Jakson Green,** and **Bhaskar S Sawant, Principal Secretary of Energy** to the government of Rajasthan.

About the MoU:

- Jakson Green is expected to set up a **365,000-tonne per annum green hydrogen and ammonia plant** together with a **phased-in integrated hybrid renewable power complex**.
- The project is expected to generate over **32,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities** across various phases of the scale-up, planned between **2023 and 2028**.
- The Rajasthan government would facilitate Jakson Green in obtaining necessary registrations, approvals, and clearances, and provide incentives, among others.

About Jakson Green:

- Managing Director & CEO: **Bikesh Ogra**
- It is actively developing a **pipeline of renewable energy, green hydrogen, and green ammonia projects**, both in India and abroad.

About Rajasthan:

- Governor: **Kalraj Mishra**
- Chief minister: **Ashok Gehlot**
- Capital: **Jaipur**
- National Park: **Ranthambore National Park, Darrah National Park**
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: **Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary, Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary**

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Meghalaya govt signs MoA with power firm for hydroelectric projects

- The Government of Meghalaya, Power Department has signed an agreement with North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd (NEEPCO) for the development of two hydel projects in Meghalaya at a program held at Pinewood Hotel, Shillong.
- The agreement for the development of 50-megawatt Wah Umiam Hydro Electric Project Stage-I and 100-MW Wah Umiam Hydro Electric Project Stage-II was signed between the two parties.

Signatories:

- The MOA was signed by the Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Power Department D D Shira, and Anil Kumar Director Personnel, NEEPCO.
- Presently the government of Meghalaya can generate only 350 MW and the requirement in the state is 650 MW.

About Meghalaya:

- Governor: Satya Pal Malik
- Chief Minister: Conrad Sangma
- Capital: Shillong
- National Park: Nokrek National Park, Balpakram National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Siju Bird Sanctuary, Nongkhylliem Sanctuary

About NEEPCO:

- Founded: 2 April 1976
- Headquarters: Shillong, Meghalaya, India
- Chairman & Managing Director: R.K Vishnoi
- NEEPCO is a central public sector undertaking.
- It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- NEEPCO is conferred with the Schedule A- Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) status.

Railway minister inaugurates India's first all-aluminum freight rake

- Union Minister for Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated India's First Aluminum Freight Rake - 61 BOBRNALHSM1 at Bhubaneswar Railway Station in Odisha.

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- It had been fully designed and developed indigenously in collaboration with **Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO), HINDALCO, and Besco Wagon.**
- Notably, its **first-time aluminum rake** has been manufactured in India with the feature of fully lock-bolted construction with no welding on the superstructure.
- **Aluminum** is the **preferred choice for metro trains worldwide** for its **durability** and most importantly – passenger safety, as it has improved crashworthiness or superior crash absorption capability.

Features of Aluminium Rake:

- The tare is **3.25 tons lower than normal steel rakes, with 180 tons extra carrying capacity** resulting in higher throughput per wagon.
- Higher payload to tare ratio **2.85**
- The reduced rate will **reduce carbon footprint as lower consumption of fuel** in empty directions and more transport of freight in a loaded condition.
- A single rake can save over **14,500 tonnes** of CO₂ over its lifetime.
- **80%** is the resale value of the rakes.
- The cost is **35% higher** as the superstructure is all aluminum.
- **Lower maintenance cost** due to higher corrosion and abrasion resistance.
- The freight sector in India is expected to grow at **more than 7% Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) to 15 billion tonnes by 2050**, with the **energy-efficient and eco-friendly railways** expected to notably increase its volume share from the current **18%**.

About Ministry of Railways:

- Cabinet Minister: Ashwini Vaishnaw
- Minister of State: Raosaheb Danve, Darshana Jardosh
- Chairman & CEO of Railway Board: Vinay Kumar Tripathi

About Odisha:

- Governor: Ganeshi Lal
- Chief minister: Naveen Patnaik
- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- National Park: Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park

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- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary, Chilika Wildlife Sanctuary, Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary, Kotagarh Wildlife Sanctuary
- Airport: Biju Patnaik International Airport

'Honesty shops' launched for school students in Kerala's Ernakulam

- For the **first time**, "Honesty shops" have been launched in the **Ernakulam** district of Kerala for **students up to Class 12**.
- This initiative was launched by the **Student police cadet (SPC)**, a youth-development program.

Aim:

- To cultivate valuable lessons on trust, truth, and integrity for students
- There will be **no salesperson** in these shops and neither will they have a shopkeeper present.
- Students can choose items they need and drop the money for each item inside the collection box kept on a table.
- SPC, an initiative launched in **2008** was started to inculcate better civic sense among students.

About Kerala:

- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary
- National Park: Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park
- Dance: Kathakali, Mohiniattam, Chakyar Koothu

Delhi LG launches one-time property tax amnesty scheme 'SAMRIDDHI 2022-23'

- Delhi Lieutenant Governor Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena launched a **one-time property tax amnesty scheme "SAMRIDDHI 2022-23"**, which will provide a major relief to lakhs of residential and commercial property owners in **Delhi**.

About SAMRIDDHI:

- SAMRIDDHI, an acronym for **Strengthening and Augmentation of Municipal Revenue for Infrastructure Development** in Delhi, will start on **October 26, 2022**, & end on **March 31, 2023**, with **no further extensions**.

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- The tax amnesty program envisages a 'One Plus Five' option for residential and a 'One Plus Six' option for non-residential properties.

About One Plus Five:

- The taxpayers of residential properties under 'One Plus Five' are required to pay the principal amount of property tax for the current year and previous five years (i.e FY 2022-23 + FYs 2017-18 to 2021-22) whereupon 100% interest and penalty on the outstanding tax amount shall be exempted and all the previous dues before 2017-18 will be waived off.

About One Plus Six:

- Under the 'One Plus Six' for non-residential properties scheme, property owners have to make payment of the principal amount of property tax for the current year and the previous 6 years (i.e FY 2022-23 + FYs 2016-17 to 2021-22) whereupon 100% interest and penalty on the outstanding tax amount shall be exempted and all the previous dues before 2016-17 will be completely waived off.
- In case a taxpayer fails to settle his tax dues by **March 31, 2023**, he shall be liable to pay all tax dues along with interest and penalty since 2004 or since whichever year it has been pending and shall not be entitled to any waiver.
- Coercive measures to collect the tax dues shall be launched against such defaulters from **April 1, 2023**.

About Delhi:

- Lt. Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena
- Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal
- Capital: New Delhi
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary
- Airport: Indira Gandhi International Airport

Assam & USAID launch green initiative to increase tree coverage in Assam

- The Assam government department of Environment and Forests and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) launched the "Trees Outside Forests in India (TOFI)" program in Assam

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Aim:

- To bring together farmers, companies, and private institutions to **rapidly expand tree coverage** outside of traditional forests in Assam.

About TOFI:

- The TOFI program was first launched in **September 2022** by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change** secretary **Leena Nandan** and **US Chargé d'Affaires Patricia Lacina**.
- The program will allocate up to **25 million USD** in **7 states - Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh**, to **rapidly expand tree coverage** outside of traditional forests by **2.8 million hectares**.
- It contributes to **India's Nationally Determined Contribution target** of creating an additional “carbon sink” of **2.5 to 3 billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalent** by **2030**.
- The program builds on the enduring **US-India partnership** to tackle the climate crisis and bolster resilience in the face of **climate threats** and **extreme weather events**.
- It is expected to **enhance carbon sequestration, support local communities, and strengthen the climate resilience of agriculture**, thereby supporting global climate change mitigation and adaptation goals.
- **Assam** has placed a **high priority on expanding tree cover** outside forest areas, as demonstrated in its State Action Plan on Climate Change and the recent establishment of the **Assam Agroforestry Development Board**.

About Assam:

- Governor: Jagdish Mukhi
- Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Capital: Dispur
- Dance: Bihu Dance, Jhumar, Bagurumba, Sattriya Dance
- National Park: Kaziranga National Park, Manas NP, Nameri NP, Raimona National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Amsang Wildlife Sanctuary, Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary, Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary

About USAID:

- Established: November 3, 1961

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- Headquarters: Washington, D.C, United States
- Administrator: Samantha Power
- Motto: From the American people
- USAID is an independent agency of the U.S. federal government that is primarily responsible for administering civilian foreign aid and development assistance.

PM Modi to visit Arunachal Pradesh to inaugurate Donyi Polo airport

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Arunachal Pradesh on October 30, 2022, to inaugurate the Donyi Polo Airport, at Hollongi near Itanagar.

About the airport:

- The Donyi Polo airport, which was built by the Airport Authority of India (AAI) at an estimated cost of Rs 645 crore, has 8 check-in desks and can accommodate up to 300 people at peak times.
- The airport, spanning an area of 4,100 sq m, is equipped with all modern facilities
- It is suitable for the operations of Airbus-a320 type of aircraft.
- The first airport built in Arunachal Pradesh, which was used for a successful test landing by low-cost carrier Indigo Airlines, was opened on October 18, 2022.
- Recently, commercial airlines giant - IndiGo conducted a successful test of flight landing at the newly built Donyi Polo airport at Hollongi near Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh.

About Arunachal Pradesh:

- Governor: B. D. Mishra
- Chief minister: Pema Khandu
- Capital: Itanagar

IMPORTANT NATIONAL NEWS

Mr. Bhupender Yadav released a report on the 4th round of the quarterly employment survey:

- Labour & Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav released a report on the 4th round of the quarterly employment survey.
- The Fourth Round (January-March, 2022) of the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) is part of the All India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES).
- The QES as a part of the AQEES was launched in April 2021.

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- The report has estimated employment in both organized and unorganized segments of nine selected sectors.
- The estimated employment has increased from 3.14 crore in the third quarter (September-December, 2021) to 3.18 crore in the fourth quarter.
- The female workers' participation has slightly increased from 31.6 percent in the third quarter to 31.8 percent in the 4th quarter report.
- **The manufacturing sector accounts for 38.5 percent** of the total number of workers, followed by the **Education sector at 21.7%**, the **IT/BPO sector at 12%**, and the **Health sector at 10.6%**.
- Around 80% of the establishments have 10 to 99 workers. Only 1.4 % of the establishments reported at least 500 workers.
- Female workers are about 52 % of the workforce in the Health sector.
- The 9 sectors are Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation and Restaurants, IT/BPO, and Financial Service Activities.

Indian Railways is installing the 'Real Time Train Information System (RTIS):

- **Indian Railways** has launched a **real-time information system** to track train movement timings.
- It has been **developed in collaboration with ISRO**.
- RTIS is automatically plotted on the control charts of trains in the **Control Office Application (COA) system**.
- Indian Railways has installed **RTIS devices on 2,700 locomotives in 21 electric loco sheds**.
- RTIS will update the **location within 30 seconds**.
- Also, RTIS can more closely track the location and speed of the locomotive/train without any human intervention.
- In the second phase, 6,000 more locomotives will be covered in **50 loco sheds using ISRO's SATCOM hub**.
- At present, the GPS feed from about 6,500 locomotives (RTIS and REMMLOT) is being fed directly to the Control Office Application (COA).

The Government of India has banned the Popular Front of India:

- The **Government of India** has banned the **Popular Front of India(PFI)**, its affiliates, and associates.

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- PFI has been banned as an **unlawful association with instant effect for five years under the Unlawful Activities Act, of 1967.**
- The ban is also applicable to PFI fronts including Rehab India Foundation(RIF), All India Imams Council (AIIIC), National Women’s Front, Empower India Foundation, Rehab Foundation, Kerala, Campus Front of India(CFI), National Confederation of Human Rights Organization(NCHRO), and Junior Front, as an “unlawful association”.
- According to the reports, **the ban has been imposed against PFI and its affiliates for indulging in unlawful activities**, which are prejudicial to the security, integrity, and sovereignty of the country.
- The ban has been imposed **under section 4 of the UAPA** and has an effect of five years.
- The government applied a ban, mentioning that the investigations have established clear linkages between the PFI and its associates.

Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy launched the Agni Tattva - Energy for LiFE campaign:

- Recently, the **Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy** launched the **Agni Tattva - Energy for LiFE campaign**, to create awareness of the core concept of Agni Tattva, an element that is synonymous with **energy and is amongst the five elements of Panchmahabhoot.**
- The **Panchmahabhoot** comprises **Earth (Prithvi), Water (Jal), Fire (Agni), Air (Vayu), and Aether/ Space (Aakash).**
- The idea of LiFE was introduced by India during the **26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in 2021.**
- The idea promotes an environmentally conscious lifestyle that focuses on ‘mindful and deliberate utilization’ instead of ‘mindless and wasteful consumption.
- The country’s installed Renewable Energy (RE) capacity stands at 150.54 GW (solar: 48.55 GW, wind: 40.03 GW, Small hydro Power: 4.83, Bio-power: 10.62, Large Hydro: 46.51 GW) as of 30th Nov. 2021 while its nuclear energy based installed electricity capacity stands at 6.78 GW.
- According to **REN21's Renewables 2022 Global Status Report (GSR 2022)**, India was ranked **third in wind power, fourth in solar power, and third in renewable power installed capacity in 2021.**

Union Cabinet approved a 4 % hike in dearness allowance (DA) for central government employees and pensioners:

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- **Union Cabinet has approved a 4% additional installment of Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief to Central Government employees and pensioners with effect from July 1, 2022.**
- The move will benefit about 41.85 lakh Central Government employees and 69.76 lakh, pensioners.
- The Central Government employees and pensioners will become entitled to a higher amount of **Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) respectively**, with effect from July 1, 2022.
- Serving employees get DA and now its rate will go up to 38 percent from 34 percent.
- The new rate will be effective from July 1.
- As salary and pension for September have already been prepared, this means higher DA and DR along with arrears are likely to be part of the salary and pension for October.

Union Cabinet has approved the extension for the PMGKAY-Phase VII for a further period of 3 months:

- In pursuance of the pro-people announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in 2021 and regarding the successful implementation of additional food security under PMGKAY, the **Union Cabinet has approved the extension for the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY-Phase VII) for a further period of 3 months i.e. October to December 2022.**
- Under this welfare scheme, 5 kg of food grain per person per month is provided free of cost for all the beneficiaries covered under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA) [Antodaya Anna Yojana & Priority Households]** including those covered under **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**.
- The financial implication for the Government of India has been about **Rs. 3.45 Lakh Crore up to Phase-VI of PMGKAY.**
- With the additional expenditure of about **Rs. 44,762 Crore for Phase-VII of this scheme**, the overall expenditure of PMGKAY will be about Rs. 3.91 lakh crore for all the phases.
- The PM-GKAY was one of the components of the government's Rs 1.7 lakh crore Covid-19 relief package announced by Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** on March 26, 2020—two days after the country went into national lockdown.

The government of India will launch a month-long nationwide Clean India 2.0:

- The **Department of Youth Affairs of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Government of India)** will launch a month-long nationwide **Clean India 2.0** from 1st -31st October 2022 after the successful campaign of last year.

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- The program is being organized in all the villages across the country through the network of **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), affiliated Youth Clubs & National Service Scheme Affiliated Institutions.**
- This month-long nationwide program will be launched to collect waste material mainly single-use plastic and create awareness among people.
- One crore kilogram of waste material including **plastic and e-waste will be collected and disposed of with the support and voluntary participation of citizens.**
- Hotspots for waste collection will be Tourist Places, Educational Institutes, Bus Stand/Railway Stations and the vicinity, National Highways, Historical and heritage buildings, religious places & surroundings, Hospitals, and Water resources, etc.

Union Cabinet approved the Indian Railways' ₹10,000 crore proposal for the redevelopment of three major stations:

- The **Union Cabinet** approved the **Indian Railways' ₹10,000 crore proposal** for the redevelopment of three major stations — **New Delhi, Ahmedabad, and Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT).**
- With the redevelopment, **expected to be completed in 2.5 to 3.5 years**, passengers will be able to enjoy facilities such as a food court, a waiting lounge, a playing area for children, a place to shop local products, proper illumination, and lifts/escalators/travelators, among other facilities.
- The stations, which will make use of green building techniques with solar energy, water conservation/recycling, and improved tree cover, **will be integrated with other modes of transportation such as the metro and bus.**
- The government would be funding the redevelopment project to not put any extra monetary burden on passengers.
- Overall, the government is currently working on the **redevelopment of 199 stations**, of which tenders have been issued for the redevelopment of 47 stations.

Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the World's First CNG Terminal and brownfield port along with Regional Science Centre in Bhavnagar:

- Three years after a formal agreement was signed for setting up the world's first CNG terminal in Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for the project at Bhavnagar.

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- The Foresight Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) for the development of a CNG terminal in Gujarat during the Vibrant Gujarat Global Business Summit 2019.
- The Government of Gujarat accepted the project proposal and GMB issued a Letter of Intent (LOI) in September 2020 in the name of Bhavnagar Port Infrastructure Private Limited (BPIPL), a special-purpose vehicle formed by the consortium.
- The brownfield port at Bhavnagar will be developed at Rs 4,024 crore and will have the state-of-the-art infrastructure for the world's first CNG terminal along with the world's fourth largest lock gate system.
- The construction of the port is expected to commence in the first half of 2023 and the port will be operational in 2026.
- Prime Minister will also inaugurate the Regional Science Centre in Bhavnagar which is spread over 20 acres and built at Rs 100 crore.
- The Regional Science Centre (RSC) Bhavnagar is situated near Das Nala, Nari Gam.

The government to make mandatory 6 airbags rule for passenger cars will come into force from 1 October 2023

- Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari announced the mandatory 6 airbags rule for passenger cars will come into force in October 2023.
- The road transport ministry had earlier planned to make six airbags mandatory in eight-seater vehicles for enhanced safety of occupants from 1 October 2022.
- The government had to defer the implementation of the proposal to make six airbags mandatory in passenger cars by a year due to global supply-chain constraints.
- An airbag is a vehicle occupant-restraint system that interferes between the driver and the vehicle's dashboard during a collision, thereby preventing serious injuries.
- According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, more than 1.55 lakh lives were lost in road crashes across India last year – an average of 426 daily or 18 every single hour – which is the highest death figures recorded in any calendar year so far.
- According to the report titled 'Road accidents in India – 2020', over 11% of deaths and injuries were caused due to the non-usage of seat belts.

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Supreme Court declared that single women with pregnancies are entitled to access the same safe and legal abortion care as married women:

- The Supreme Court declared that single women with pregnancies between 20 and 24 weeks are entitled to access the same safe and legal abortion care as married women.
- The judgment came in an appeal by a person who wanted to terminate her pregnancy before her term was completed 24 weeks.
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, of 1971 prohibits unmarried women who are between 20 and 24 weeks pregnant to abort with the help of registered doctors.
- The Supreme Court held that the rights of reproductive autonomy, dignity, and privacy give an unmarried woman the right of choice as to whether or not to bear a child on a similar footing as that of a married woman.

PM has inaugurated the third vande Bharat train from Gandhinagar to Mumbai:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Gandhinagar-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express train, the third in the Vande Bharat series that was launched in 2019.
- PM Modi also inaugurated the Vande Bharat when it was first launched in Delhi in 2019.
- The name may be the same, but this train, the third in the Vande Bharat series, is being dubbed 'Vande Bharat 2.0', because of certain upgrades it has received over its predecessors, the two existing trains running from Delhi to Varanasi and Katra.
- For starters, this train reaches a top speed of 160 km per hour in 129 seconds, around 16 seconds faster than its predecessor.
- This is because this train weighs around 392 tonnes, 38 tonnes lighter than the last one, and needs to run almost a km less to attain its top speed.
- The new design of Vande Bharat express has a photo-catalytic ultraviolet air purification system in the Roof-Mounted Package Unit (RMPU) for air purification.
- PM Modi also flagged off the Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project.
- The entire Phase 1 project is built at a cost of more than ₹12,900 crores.
- Ahmedabad Metro train set is equipped with an energy-efficient propulsion system that can save about 30-35% of energy consumption.

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- The Vande Bharat 2.0 is equipped with advanced state-of-the-art safety features including an indigenously developed Train Collision Avoidance System – KAVACH.
- Connecting the two state capitals of Maharashtra and Gujarat, this will be the third Vande Bharat train in India.
- The other two are currently operable on New Delhi - Varanasi route and New Delhi - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra route.
- The government aims to replace them with indigenous materials in the upcoming Vande Bharat trains.
- Indian Coach Factory has aimed to manufacture around 75 Vande Bharat trains by August 2023.

National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved 14 projects:

- The executive committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved 14 projects at an estimated cost of ₹1,145 crore rupee.
- The decision was taken at the 45th meeting of the executive committee under the chairmanship of director general G. Ashok Kumar, the Ministry of Jal Shakti said in a statement.
- These include eight projects of sewerage management in five main stem Ganga basin states - Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.
- The EC also approved indicative funds of ₹45 crores for the installation of decentralized wastewater treatment systems in the main stem Ganga basin States.
- The fund bifurcation is ₹10 crore each for Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal and Rs. 5 crores to Jharkhand.
- National Mission for Clean Ganga – It is a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, of 1860, is the implementing wing and its General Body is chaired by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Delhi IGI Airport – has made its facility compliant with the 5G network:

- India's largest airport – Delhi IGI Airport – has made its facility compliant with the 5G network, and passengers will be able to use the service once telecom service providers roll out the technology.

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- While many Indian consumers are waiting for telecom companies to start 5G services, there have been concerns about its possible interference with critical aircraft systems, and many are wondering if the latest rollout in Delhi will impact flights.
- **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL) has made its premises compatible with 5G technology and is the first airport in the country to do so.**
- Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), which operates the airport.

PMMY logged a record 30 percent growth in the first half of the current fiscal:

- The disbursement of small business loans under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) logged a **record 30 percent growth** in the first half of the current fiscal ended September compared to the same period last year.
- It is a flagship scheme of the **Ministry of Finance, Government of India, launched on 8th April 2015.**
- It is a **Financial Inclusion (FI) program** in the country based on **three pillars - Banking the Unbanked, Securing the Unsecured and Funding the Unfunded.**
 - ✓ **Types of loans: Shishu - Covering loans up to Rs 50,000;**
 - ✓ **Kishor - Covering loans above Rs 50,000 and up to Rs 5 lakh;**
 - ✓ **Tarun - Covering loans above Rs 5 lakh and up to Rs 10 lakh.**
- **Eligibility: Any Indian Citizen who has a business plan for a non-farm sector income-generating activities such as manufacturing, processing, trading, or service sector.**
- They can avail from all Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks, Private Sector Banks, Foreign Banks, Micro Finance Institutions (MFI), and Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC) up to Rs 10 lakhs Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Ltd. (MUDRA) loans under PMMY.

ONDC started its beta testing process with small retailers across 16 pin codes in Bangalore.

- The government's ambitious open network e-commerce platform, the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), started its beta testing process with small retailers across 16 pin codes in Bengaluru.**
- As per government sources as many as 497 sellers, and 17 apps were live on the platform on the first day of its going live.

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- As many as 100,000 products were listed on the platform on the first day across grocery, food, and beverages categories.
- ONDC, which is based on open specifications, **will boost small merchant digitization and e-commerce scale** and will reduce the dominance of big players such as Amazon and Walmart-backed Flipkart.
- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. **Anil Agarwal**, additional director, **Department of Promotion of Industries and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.
- The platform will host buyer and seller apps separately, unlike e-commerce platforms like Amazon and Flipkart, which are both buyers and sellers platforms.
- Three buyers apps – Paytm, Spicemoney and Mystore – were on the platform on the first day of the beta testing.
- Apart from them, Dunzo, Load share, and Shiprocket were the logistics service providers.

India has left behind Brazil to become the top producer of the sweetener:

- With a bumper sugar production of 35.9 million tons during the October-September season, **India has left behind Brazil** to become the top producer of the sweetener.
- With this, India has emerged as the world's largest producer and consumer of sugar as well as the world's 2nd largest exporter of sugar.
- **Brazil produced about 32 million tons of sugar** in 2021-22.
- India also produced a record 5,000 lakh metric tons (LMT) of sugarcane during the October-September season, emerging as the world's largest producer of the sweetener.
- The Union government earlier this year capped sugar exports at 100 LMT from 1 June, anticipating a surge in demand during the festive season that could have driven prices higher.
- The growth of **ethanol as a biofuel sector in the last five years** has supported the sector.
- During 2021-22, sugar mills/distilleries **made Rs. 18,000 crores from the sale of ethanol**.
- The ethanol production capacity of molasses/sugar-based distilleries has increased to 605 crore liters per annum.
- The progress aims to meet the target of 20% blending by 2025 under Ethanol Blending with Petrol (EBP) Programme.

The government has modified the ECLGS to enhance the maximum loan amount eligibility for airlines:

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- The government has modified the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** to **enhance the maximum loan amount eligibility for airlines** under **ECLGS 3.0** to 100% of their fund-based or non-fund-based loan outstanding or **₹1,500 crore**, whichever is lower, and of **the above ₹500 crores** shall be considered, based on equity contribution by the owners.
- All other criteria terms and conditions parameters prescribed under the operational guidelines of the ECLGS on 30 August 2022, shall be applicable.
- In March, the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) was **extended till March 2023**, to implement the announcement made in the **Union Budget 2022-23**.
- ECLGS was rolled out in 2020 as part of the Centre's Aatmanirbhar package in

Prime Minister inaugurated the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences at Bilaspur:

- With a promise to increase access to **affordable healthcare** in Himachal Pradesh in an eco-friendly manner, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **All-India Institute of Medical Sciences** in the **Bilaspur district** of Himachal Pradesh.
- He also affirmed that the hospital will run in an environment-friendly manner and will also be known as a **'Green Hospital'**.
- IIMS Bilaspur will not only increase access to affordable healthcare in Himachal but is also eco-friendly and will be known as **'Green AIIMS'**.
- The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of the **Medical Device Park** at Nalagarh, which will be built at a **cost of about Rs 350 crores**.
- **MoUs of more than Rs. 800 crores** have already been signed for setting up industries in this **Medical Device Park**.
- The project will significantly enhance employment opportunities in the region.
- **Himachal Pradesh** is one of the three states chosen for **Bulk Drugs Park** which will ensure access to affordable medicines in the country. Prime Minister Modi affirmed that Himachal Pradesh played a crucial role in **"Rashtra Raksha"** and the new AIIMS will play a **"pivotal role in Jeevan Raksha"** for the people of the state.
- Himachal Pradesh is also one of the four states chosen for **Medical Device Park**.
- The foundation stone that has been laid in Nalagarh is a part of this.

The government has allocated a budget of 26,000 crores to build 25,000 new telecom towers:

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- Telecom Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, ₹26,000 crores has been approved by the government to **install new 25,000 telecom towers** in the next 500 days.
- He said the measure was being taken as connectivity was vital for Digital India and its reach to every corner of the country, during the three-day Digital India Conference of State IT Ministers
- The minister also congratulated all states and Union Territories (UTs) for their speedy onboarding at **PM Gati Shakti**.
- Emphasizing the motto of **Sabka Saath and Sabka Vikas**, he stated that the commitments from all states and UTs, large as well as small states, are vital in taking Digital India to a higher level and in realizing the Aatmanirbhar Bharat and trillion-dollar Digital Economy.
- MeitY organized three sessions on important aspects such as 'IT Rules, online gaming, and data governance', 'Digital India Bhashini and digital payment', and 'MyScheme and Meri Pehchaan'.
- The demo on eligibility/profile-based service discovery at MyScheme was shown.

The government has approved the extension of OBPAS under the eChhawani portal:

- The government has approved the extension of the Online Building Plan Approval System (OBPAS) under the eChhawani portal to five more Cantonment Boards, namely Agra, Ranikhet, Babina, Jammu, and Cannanore.
- eChhawani is a citizen-centric project of the Directorate General of Defence Estates, Ministry of Defence.
- Under this initiative, Cantonment Boards provide online citizen services to more than 20 lakh residents across 62 Cantonments in the country.
- The unified portal provides access to civic services along with all relevant information in a simple, easy-to-understand, and effective manner.
- As a step towards facilitating ease of living, over 2.18 lakh property taxpayers living in cantonment areas would be able to apply online for mutation in the property tax register under the eChhawani portal (echhawani.gov.in).

MSME has organized a national SC-ST hub conclave in Gujarat:

- The Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises has organized a national SC-ST hub conclave in Gujarat.

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- The conclave has been attended by many financial institutions such as the State Bank of India and Yes Bank.
- CPSEs like National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd., Food Corporation of India, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, and Indian Oil Corporation Limited also participated in the conclave.
- Details regarding various lending schemes for the MSME sector have been provided during the conclave.
- The National Scheduled Caste Scheduled Tribe Hub (NSSH) scheme has been launched by the Ministry of MSME for inclusive growth of the Indian economy.
- Its main aim is to enhance capacity and promote an entrepreneurship culture among the SC-ST population.

USOF launched the Telecom Technology Development Fund scheme:

- Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) launched the Telecom Technology Development Fund scheme
- The Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) scheme aims at promoting technology ownership and indigenous manufacturing, developing a culture of technology-cum-innovation, reducing imports, and creating intellectual property.
- Under the scheme, USOF is also aiming to create an ecosystem for research, design, prototyping, and proof of concept testing.
- The scheme encourages and inducts indigenous technologies to meet domestic needs.
- Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) provides funds for research and development in rural-specific communication technology applications.

About USOF:

- It was established in 2002 under the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act 2003.
- It is an attached office of the Department of Telecom.

C K Mishra committee has submitted a report on sustainable finance suggesting the development of the carbon market

- An expert committee headed by former environment and forest secretary C K Mishra has submitted a report on sustainable finance suggesting the development of a carbon market among other things -the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).

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- Recommendations were based on various aspects of sustainable finance including products, policies and regulations, capacity building, and outreach initiatives related to green and sustainable finance.
- The committee also proposed setting up a dedicated MSME platform for sustainable lending.

About IFSCA:

- IFSCA was established in April 2020 under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.
- It is headquartered at GIFT City, Gandhinagar.
- IFSCA is a unified authority for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services, and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India. At present, GIFT IFSC is the only international financial services center in India.
- Before the establishment of IFSCA, the domestic financial regulators, namely, RBI, Sebi, PFRDA, and IRDAI regulated the business in IFSC.
- The main objective of IFSCA is to develop a strong global connection and focus on the needs of the Indian economy as well as to serve as an international financial platform for the entire region and the global economy as a whole.

DPIIT has notified a credit guarantee scheme for startups for providing collateral-free loans:

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has notified a credit guarantee scheme for startups for providing collateral-free loans.
- As per the DPIIT notification, loan/debt facilities sanctioned to an eligible borrower on or after 6 October, would be eligible for coverage under the scheme.
- The CGSS is aimed at providing credit guarantees up to a specified limit against loans extended by Member Institutions (MIs) to finance eligible borrowers viz.
- Startups as defined in the Gazette Notification issued by DPIIT and amended from time to time.
- The credit guarantee cover under the scheme would be transaction-based and umbrella based.
- The exposure to individual cases would be capped at Rs. 10 crores per case or the actual outstanding credit amount, whichever is less.
- The extent of transaction-based cover will be 80% of the amount in default if the original loan sanction amount is up to ₹3 crores, 75% of the amount in default if the original loan sanction

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amount is above ₹3 crore, and up to ₹5 crores, and 65% of the amount in default if the original loan sanction amount is above ₹5 crore (up to ₹10 crores per borrower).

Election Commission launched the Matadata Junction awareness program:

- During an event held at Akashvani Rang Bhavan, Chief Election Commissioner Shri Rajiv Kumar started a year-long Voter Awareness Program called 'Matdata Junction.'
- Election Commissioner Shri Anup Chandra Pandey also assisted with the launch function.
- The Matdata Junction is a 52-episode radio series created by the Indian Election Commission in partnership with All India Radio.
- The episodes will last 15 minutes and will air every Friday from 7-9 PM on All India Radio.
- In 23 languages, the All-India Radio Network includes 25 FM stations, 4 FM Gold stations, 42 Vividh Bharati stations, and 159 Primary Channels/local radio stations.

5th Assembly of International Solar Alliance to be held in New Delhi:

- Union Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy RK Singh released the curtain raiser for the 5th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance and associated side activities, which will take place in New Delhi.
- India now serves as President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly, according to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- Three critical issues will be considered at the ISA's 5th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance: energy access, energy security, and energy transformation.
- World leaders from ISA Member Countries will also discuss the ISA's strategic approach in programmatic assistance for LDC and SIDS Member Countries, capacity-building support for all developing Member Countries, and analytical and advocacy assistance for all Member Countries.

International Solar Alliance's Fifth Assembly to be held in Delhi

- International Solar Alliance's Fifth Assembly is to be held in New Delhi from 17th to 20th October 2022.
- It is an international organization with 109 members and signatory countries.
- It works with governments to improve energy access and security worldwide and promote solar power as a sustainable way to transition to a carbon-neutral future.

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- ISA's mission is to unlock US\$ 1 trillion of investments in solar by 2030 while reducing the cost of the technology and its financing.
- With the signing and ratification of the ISA Framework Agreement by 15 countries in 2017, ISA became the first international intergovernmental organization to be headquartered in India.

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Competition Commission of India's Regional Office in Mumbai:

- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurates **Competition Commission of India's Regional Office (West)** in Mumbai.
- A statutory body established under the provisions of **The Competition Act, 2002**, and established in 2003.
- A **Chairperson and 6 Members** are appointed by the Central Government. Headquarters: New Delhi.
- **Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission.**
- To implement provisions of **The Competition Act, 2002** which –prohibits anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position by enterprises regulates mergers and acquisitions (M&A) which can harm competition within India.
- Thus, deals beyond a certain threshold are required to get clearance from CCI.

Panel to study SC status of Dalits post-conversion:

- The Union government has now formed a **Commission of Inquiry** to examine the issue of whether **Scheduled Caste (SC)** status can be accorded to Dalits who have over the years converted to religions other than Sikhism or Buddhism.
- The three-member Commission is headed by former Chief Justice of India, **Justice K.G. Balakrishnan.**
- Currently, the **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950** stipulates that no person professing a religion different from **Hinduism, Buddhism, or Sikhism** can be deemed to be a member of a **Schedule Caste.**
- The original order under which only Hindus were classified was later amended to include Sikhs and Buddhists.
- A batch of petitions was filed in the **Supreme Court** seeking the inclusion of **Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims** and the removal of the religious criteria for inclusion as SCs.

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- In August 2022, the Supreme Court directed the Centre to submit its current position on the issue.
- In an affidavit filed before the Supreme Court in November 2019, the Union government refused to accept the above-mentioned reports as evidence of continued social disabilities due to caste identity.
- The Government also said that Dalit Buddhists cannot be compared to Dalits who converted to Islam or Christianity.
- This is because, in the case of Dalit Buddhists, conversions were voluntary “on account of some innate socio-political imperatives” and in the case of Dalits who converted to Islam/Christianity, the conversions might have taken place “on account of other factors”.

WHO issued an alert against four cough syrups after 66 children died in the Gambia:

- **WHO issued an alert against India-made cough syrups** after 66 children died in the Gambia.
- The **World Health Organisation** has issued a medical product alert **on four cough and cold syrups made by Maiden Pharmaceuticals in India.**
- The cough syrups—**Promethazine Oral Solution, Kofexmalin Baby Cough Syrup, Makoff Baby Cough Syrup, and Magrip N Cold Syrup** –were made by Haryana-based **Maiden Pharmaceuticals.**
- The **Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** has launched an investigation into the matter.
- As per a report, the **WHO found four of the 23 samples tested contaminated** with diethylene glycol or ethylene glycol.
- Chemical substances like Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol can cause toxic effects.
- WHO also said that countries should increase surveillance of the supply chains to remove substandard products.
- Last year, after consuming cough syrup three children died in New Delhi.

About Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO):

- It is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- Its headquarters is located in New Delhi.

QCI organizations celebrated its Silver Jubilee:

- **Quality Council of India (QCI)** celebrated its **Silver Jubilee.**
- A special event has been organized at the **Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.**

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- Union Minister Piyush Goyal was the Chief Guest at the event.
- The event comprised panel discussions on **the quality ecosystem for achieving India's growth vision for 2047.**
- The Quality Council of India was set up in 1997 by the Government of India and the **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)**, the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**, and the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**.
- **Ratan Tata** was its first Chairman.
- In the last 25 years, QCI has created various boards.
- Quality Council of India has played a key role in the economic growth of India.
- QCI launched a campaign–Gurvatta Se Atmanirbharta: India's quality movement to celebrate the journey of quality and excellence.

NHA has introduced QR Code based rapid OPD registration in the hospital:

- The **National Health Authority(NHA)** under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission scheme has introduced **QR Code-based rapid OPD registration in the hospital.**
- The service allows old and new patients to simply scan a QR Code and share their demographic details such as name, age, address, gender, father name, and mobile number with the hospital.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed that the NHA is going to undertake a **pilot project under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission for faster OPD registration service** at the new OPD block of hospitals including Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC) and Smt. Sucheta Kriplani Hospital (SSKH).
- National Health Authority (NHA) is the apex body working for implementing India's flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme called "**Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**".

DPIIT has notified the establishment of the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups:

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry has notified the establishment of the **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS).**
- CGSS is aimed at **providing credit guarantees up to a specified limit against loans** extended by **Member Institutions (MIs)** to finance eligible borrowers viz. Startups.
- This scheme would help provide collateral-free debt funding to startups

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- The **credit guarantee cover under the Scheme would be transaction-based and umbrella based.**
- In transaction-based guarantee cover, the guarantee cover is obtained by the MIs on a single eligible borrower basis.
- It will **promote lending by Banks/ NBFCs to eligible startups.**
- The umbrella-based guarantee cover will provide a guarantee to **Venture Debt Funds (VDF)** registered under AIF regulations of SEBI.
- The exposure to individual cases would be capped at **Rs. 10 crores per case** or the actual outstanding credit amount, whichever is less.
- DPIIT will be constituting a Management Committee (MC) and a Risk Evaluation Committee (REC) for reviewing, supervising, and operational oversight of the Scheme.
- The **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC)** will be operating the Scheme.

PM to inaugurate the first phase of the Shri Mahakaleshwar Temple Extension project:

- **PM Modi** to inaugurate the **first phase of the Shri Mahakaleshwar Temple Extension project.**
- Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga is a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva and is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, shrines that are said to be the most sacred abodes of Shiva.
- It is located in the ancient city of **Ujjain** in the state of **Madhya Pradesh, India.**
- The **temple is situated on the side of the holy river Shipra.**
- The temple's Mahakal Lingam is believed to be Swayambhu (self-manifested) and unlike any other jyotirlingas in the country, the idol of Mahakaleshwar faces south.
- The Mahakal temple complex expansion project was planned in the year 2017.
- This expansion project **is being conducted in two phases.**
- The second Phase **will be completed in 2023-24.**

Center has decided to bring in amendments to policy guidelines in the private FM radio space:

- The **Center** has decided to bring in amendments to policy guidelines in the private FM radio space, in terms of **ownership of channels at the national level.**
- It believes these amendments **will bring ease of doing business for the FM radio sector.**
- According to the amendments, the Center has decided to remove the **3-year window period** for restructuring of FM radio permissions **“within the same management group”** during the license period of 15 years.

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- Earlier, no entity was allowed to own more than 15 percent of the total channels allotted in the country.
- The government has also accepted the long-pending demand of the radio industry to remove the 15 percent national cap on channel holding.
- As part of the simplification of financial eligibility norms in the FM radio policy, entities with a **net worth of ₹1 crore** can now participate in bidding for 'C' and 'D' category cities.
- **Earlier**, the net worth eligibility was **set at ₹1.5 crores**.

Shri Amit Shah has inaugurated the Eastern and North-Eastern Cooperative Dairy Conclave 2022 in Gangtok:

- The Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah has inaugurated the Eastern and North-Eastern Cooperative Dairy Conclave 2022 in Gangtok**, the capital of Sikkim.
- In another event, **Shri Amit Shah unveiled the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** at Raj Bhavan in **Gangtok**.
- The statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was unveiled at Raj Bhawan premises by Union Home minister Amit Shah in the presence of Governor Ganga Prasad and Chief Minister P.S. Gelay followed by the unveiling of the Flag Mast.
- The brief function at the **Raj Bhawan also witnessed the launch of a documentary on "Life of Ganga Prasad"** and a **coffee table book "Pragati Pathi"** by the Union Home minister.
- As a token of gratitude, a replica of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel statue was presented to the Union Home minister by the Governor of Sikkim.
- The Ministry of Cooperation and the **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** have planned a Multipurpose PACS in every Panchayat which will do the work of distribution of Dairy, FPO, Agriculture, and Gas Production.
- To explore this world market, the government is setting up a multi-state cooperative, which will act as an export house.
- It will work to export the milk product of our cooperative dairy in the world and bring profit to the farmer.
- The government is committed to increasing this market from 13 lakh crore to 30 lakh crore by 2027.

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The Centre has extended the timeline for the disbursement of loans up to March 31

- The Centre has extended the timeline for disbursement of loans up to March 31 under the ethanol blending program interest subsidy scheme, notified first in 2018, to facilitate entrepreneurs to complete their projects while availing of government support.
- The center has launched several schemes to boost ethanol production in the country.
- In April, the deadline for submitting applications under the scheme was extended by six months.
- The deadline was September 2022 earlier.
- India needs 1016 crore liters of ethanol by 2025 to achieve the 20% ethanol blending target.

The Government of India has set a target of 33% emissions intensity reduction:

- The Government of India, as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), has set a target of 33% emissions intensity reduction, with the transport sector being one of the key sectors with substantial mitigation potential.
- One of the most vital transportation emissions mitigation strategies agreed to by the Government of India was increasing the share of Indian Railways in the movement of freight from the current ~35-36% to 45% by 2030.
- Indian Railways has a major role in contributing to India's NDC toward combating Climate Change through several means:
 - To enhance the share of the Railways in the overall land-based freight transport from the present 36% to 45% by the year 2030.
 - Indian Railways is setting up Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs) across the country.
 - The first phase of the project alone is estimated to reduce emissions by about 457 million tons of CO2 over 30 years.
 - Use of 5% blending of biofuels in traction diesel fuel.
 - Improve water use efficiency by 20% up to 2030.
 - By 2029-30, the expected requirement of installation of renewable capacity would be about 30 GW.
 - IR has installed 142 MW of solar rooftop capacity and 103.4 MW of Wind energy till August 2022.

4th NICDC Investors' Roundtable Conference to be held in Mumbai:

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- The 4th NICDC Investors' Roundtable Conference was organized by Maharashtra Industrial Township Limited (MITL).
- The Investors Roundtable Conference has previously been hosted in Delhi, Kochi, and Ahmedabad.
- The 4th edition of the conference will showcase the development of upcoming greenfield industrial cities across India, which have been planned by National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Limited.
- Currently, four such greenfield smart industrial cities are being developed in Maharashtra in the districts of Aurangabad, Raigad, Satara, and Nagpur.
- National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) is a Special Purpose Vehicle aiming to develop new industrial cities as "Smart Cities" and converge next-generation technologies across infrastructure sectors.
- The program is aimed at providing impetus to planned urbanization in India with manufacturing as the key driver.

Government to organize PM-National Apprenticeship Melas:

- Central Government to organize PM-National Apprenticeship Melas.
- It is being organized by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, as part of the Skill India Mission to boost career opportunities and practical training among the youth.
- Every month, the apprenticeship mela will be hosted wherein selected individuals will receive a monthly stipend by government criteria for gaining a new skill.
- To be eligible to apply, the students must have a 5th-12th grade pass certificate, a skill training certificate, an ITI Diploma, or a graduate degree to participate.
- Candidates will also earn National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)-recognized certifications, improving their employability after the training.
- The National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), launched in 2016, aims to promote apprenticeship training in the country by providing stipend support to the apprentices, undertaking capacity building of the apprenticeship ecosystem, and providing advocacy assistance to support rapid growth.

Indian space economy is set to reach \$13 billion by 2025:

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- The Indian space economy is set to reach \$13 billion by 2025, according to a joint report prepared by EY and the Indian Space Association (ISpA).
- According to the report, the space-launch segment would grow at a CAGR of 13%, spurred by growing private participation, the latest technology adoption, and the low cost of launch services.
- The satellite services and application segment would form the largest share of the space economy accounting for 36% of the ecosystem by 2025.
- On the country's satellite-manufacturing opportunity, EY and ISpA said that in 2020, it was \$2.1 billion.
- This would reach \$3.2 billion by the year 2025.

About the Indian Space Association (ISpA):

- Established in December 2020, is the premier industry association of space and satellite companies.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the ISpA on October 11, 2021.
- The industry association will act as an independent and "single-window" agency for enabling the opening up of the space sector to start-ups and the private sector, according to the government agenda.

Shri Amit Shah unveiled the statue of Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan at Sitabdiara in Bihar:

- Shri Amit Shah unveiled the statue of Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan at Sitabdiara in the Saran district of Bihar.
- Home Minister Amit Shah visited Sitabdiara in Bihar's Saran district.
- He presided over a program organized on the birth anniversary of socialist leader Jayaprakash Narayan.
- He unveiled the statue of Jayaprakash Narayan on the occasion.

About Jayaprakash Narayan:

- He is popularly called JP or Lok Nayak.
- He played a major role in movements like Quit India Movement, Sarvodaya Movement, and JP Movement against Indira Gandhi government.
- He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1999.
- He is known for his 'Total Revolution' call against Indira Gandhi.

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Environment Ministry constituted a 9-member task force will monitor the Cheetah introduction project:

- Environment Ministry constituted a nine-member task force to monitor Cheetahs in Kuno National Park.
- A Nine-member task force will monitor the Cheetah introduction project at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh and other suitable designated areas.
- The task force includes Principal Secretaries, Forests and Tourism of Madhya Pradesh, and the Inspector General of NTCA, New Delhi Dr. Amit Mallick.
- **The task force will be in force for two years.**
- It may appoint a subcommittee to regularly visit the Cheetah introduction areas.
- The task force will review the progress and monitor the health status of Cheetahs.
- It will also monitor the hunting skills and adaptation of Cheetahs to the habitat of Kuno National Park.
- Additionally, the task force will recommend the construction of tourism-related infrastructure in the surrounding areas of Kuno National Park and other Protected Areas.

PM Modi will inaugurate the Mahakal Lok in Madhya Pradesh:

- PM Modi will inaugurate the Mahakal Lok and he will also address a public meeting in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh
- On the day of the inauguration of the newly constructed Mahakal Lok in Ujjain, there will be a festival of lights like Deepawali in Madhya Pradesh.
- Earthen lamps will be lit in all major temples and religious places in all 52 districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- PM Modi will inaugurate 1st phase of the Rs 856-crore Mahakaleshwar Temple corridor development project.
- Major highlights of Mahakal Lok in Ujjain are two gateways, a colonnade of 108 ornate pillars made of carved sandstones, fountains, and a panel of over 50 murals depicting stories from Shiv Puran.
- The over 900-meter-long corridor, Mahakal Lok, is one of the largest such corridors in India.
- Two gateways are Nandi Dwar and Pinaki Dwar.
- They are near the starting point of the corridor.

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- Sandstones sourced from the Bansi Paharpur area in Rajasthan have been used.

The government launched Tele Mental Health Assistance and the Networking Across States:

- The government launched Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) initiative.
- On the occasion of World Mental Health Day, the government has launched a 24×7 tele-mental health service Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) initiative.
- It has been launched for 20 states and UTs and will be further expanded to other parts of the country.
- It aims to provide free tele-mental health services round the clock to people all over the country, especially the remote and deprived areas.
- This service can be used by calling the helpline number 14416.
- The program comprises a network of 23 tele-mental health centers of excellence.
- NIMHANS will be the nodal center and the International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIITB) will provide technical support.
- The Central Government aims to establish at least one Tele-Manas Cell in each State/UT.

Office of the Development Commissioner launched the Indian handicraft portal:

- The office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has launched the Indian handicraft portal (<http://indian.handicrafts.gov.in>).
- Eligible artisans can use this portal to submit online applications for marketing events.
- Every year, around 200 domestic marketing events are organized in different parts of the country to support artisans in selling their produce.
- The artisans can log in to the portal through the pehchan card number, followed by authentication with an OTP.
- The online process will provide equal, fair, and transparent opportunities to all artisans.
- The process of receipt of applications, selection, and allotment for all the marketing events will be made through this portal only.

Food regulator FSSAI has made it mandatory for foreign food manufacturing facilities:

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- Food regulator FSSAI has made it mandatory for foreign food manufacturing facilities to register with it for exporting products such as meat, milk, and infant foods to India.
- This will be effective from February 1, 2023.
- It has been decided that registrations of foreign food manufacturing facilities, falling under five food categories, who are intended to export these products shall be mandatory.
- These categories are milk and milk products; meat and meat products, including poultry, fish and their products; egg powder; infant food; and nutraceuticals.

About FSSAI:

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is a statutory body established under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.
- The FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, of 2006, which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India.
- Founded: 5 September 2008, Parent agency: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

PM lays the foundation stone of various healthcare facilities in Civil Hospital Ahmedabad:

- PM Modi recently lays the foundation stone of various healthcare facilities in Civil Hospital Asarwa, Ahmedabad.
- The new Civil Hospital Asarwa will be the first government hospital in the country where state-of-the-art technology like Cyber-Knife will be available.
- After dedicating and laying the foundation stone of various healthcare facilities worth 1275 crore rupees in Civil Hospital Asarwa in Ahmedabad
- The CyberKnife System is a non-invasive treatment for cancerous and non-cancerous tumours and other conditions where radiation therapy is indicated.
- It is used to treat conditions throughout the body, including the prostate, lung, brain, spine, head and neck, liver, pancreas, and kidney.
- It can be an alternative to surgery or for patients who have inoperable or surgically complex tumors.
- It offers several advantages to patients, including rapid relief from pain and other symptoms.

Nitin Gadkari launched India's first flex-fuel car, "Toyota Corolla Altis":

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- The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari launched India's first flex-fuel car, "Toyota Corolla Altis".
- The launch event was held in Delhi.
- In an attempt to further explore the alternatives to combustion-engined vehicles, recently Toyota Kirloskar Motor launched a pilot project on Flexi-Fuel Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicle Technology in Delhi.
- Under this new project, at the launch, the Indo-Japanese automaker unveiled a Toyota Corolla Altis FFV-SHEV, imported from Toyota Brazil.
- The Indian government has started the production of flex-fuel vehicles called E85, E90, and E95 according to the ratio of petrol to ethanol.
- The pilot project aims to check the feasibility of hybrid vehicles in India that can use ethanol-powered flex-fuel vehicles to decrease pollution and increase the use of ethanol in electric-hybrid vehicles to reduce the dependency on diesel and petrol.
- Flex fuel cars can run on flexible fuels including ethanol, petrol, or a blend of petrol and ethanol.
- Toyota Corolla Altis is a first-of-its-kind pilot project vehicle that is based on Flex-Fuel Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicles (FFV-SHEV) technology.
- Toyota Kirloskar Motor Private Limited is an Indian joint venture between Toyota Motor Corporation and Kirloskar Group, for the manufacture and sales of Toyota cars in India. The headquarters are located in Bidadi, Karnataka, near Bengaluru.

Anurag Thakur has launched WADA Athlete Biological Passport Symposium 2022:

- Shri Anurag Thakur, the union minister of Youth Affairs and Sports launched the World Anti-doping Agency (WADA) Athlete Biological Passport Symposium 2022.
- The event is jointly organized by the National Anti-Doping Agency and National Dope Testing Laboratory for the first time in India.
- As per Union Minister Anurag Thakur, on the anti-doping front, the Government has tied up with the National Forensic Science University and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India so that the nutrition supplements can be tested.
- The World Anti-Doping Agency, WADA had played a significant role in making the sports ecosystem more transparent and NADA executes the same process in India.

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About WADA:

- The World Anti-Doping Agency is a foundation initiated by the International Olympic Committee based in Canada to promote, coordinate, and monitor the fight against drugs in sports.
- Headquarters: Montreal, Canada
- President: Craig Reedie
- Founded: 10 November 1999

Union Cabinet approved the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to give a one-time grant amounting to Rs 22,000 crore:

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the proposal of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to give a one-time grant amounting to Rs 22,000 crore to three Public Sector Undertaking Oil Marketing Companies (PSU OMCs).
- The grant will be distributed among Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).
- The approval will help the PSU OMCs to continue their commitment to the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan, ensuring unhindered domestic LPG supplies and also supporting the procurement of Make in India products.
- Domestic LPG Cylinders are supplied at regulated prices to consumers by the public sector Oil Marketing companies namely, IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL.

Union Cabinet approved a 6600-crore scheme for developing India's north-eastern states:

- The Union Cabinet approved a ₹6600 crore scheme for developing India's northeastern states.
- The scheme, Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE), will apply for the remaining four years of the 15th Finance Commission from 2022-23 to 2025-26.
- PM-DevINE will function as a Central Sector Scheme with full 100% funding provided by the union government.
- The Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (DoNER) will implement the scheme.
- The PM-DevINE project will provide support to infrastructure and social development projects which require larger outlays.
- PM-DevINE will be implemented by the Ministry of DoNER through North Eastern Council or Central Ministries/ agencies.

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- Measures would be taken to ensure adequate operation and maintenance of the projects sanctioned under PM-DevINE so that they are sustainable
- The objectives of PM-DevINE are to:
 - (a) Fund infrastructure convergently, in the spirit of PM Gati Shakti;
 - (b) Support social development projects based on the felt needs of the NER;
 - (c) Enable livelihood activities for youth and women;
 - (d) Fill the development gaps in various sectors.

The Union Cabinet has approved the development of a container terminal at Gujarat's Deendayal Port:

- The Union Cabinet approved a project to develop a container terminal at Tuna-Tekra, Deendayal Port in Gujarat under the public-private partnership mode.
- The estimated cost of ₹4,243.64 crores will be on the part of the concessionaire and an estimated cost of common user facilities of ₹296.20 crores will be on the part of the concessioning authority toward the development of common user facilities.
- On commissioning of the Project, it shall cater to the future growth in container cargo traffic.
- From 2025, a net gap of 1.88 million TEUs shall be available which can be catered by tune Tekra Development of a state-of-the-art container terminal at Tuna-Tekra will give it a strategic advantage as it will be the closed container terminal serving the vast hinterland of the northern part of India (Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan).
- Deendayal Port is one of the 12 major ports in India and is located on the west coast in the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat.
- The project is proposed to be developed on a BOT (Built Operate Transfer) basis by a private developer/ BOT operator to be selected through an international competitive bidding process.

The central government scrapped the privatization of the SAIL Bhadravathi steel plant

- The Central government scrapped the privatization of the Steel Authority of India's (SAIL) Bhadravathi steel plant.
- This is due to insufficient bidder interest.
- The government had invited an Expression of Interest (Eoi) for divesting SAIL's 100 percent stake in Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISP), Bhadravathi in Karnataka in July 2019.

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- The Centre's 65 percent stake in primary steelmaker SAIL is worth about ₹29,600 crores at the current market prices.
- This is the second instance when the government withdrew the strategic stake sale offer due to insufficient bidder interest.
- Last month, DIPAM terminated the sale of its 100 percent stake in Central Electronics Limited (CEL) and disqualified the successful bidder Nandlal Finance and Leasing Private Ltd for not meeting the eligibility criteria.
- **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** is a central public sector undertaking based in New Delhi, India. Founded - 19 January 1954.

PM flagged off the country's fourth Vande Bharat express train from Una to New Delhi:

- **PM Shri Narendra Modi** flagged off the country's fourth Vande Bharat express train.
- This express train was launched from **Himachal Pradesh's Una**.
- The new **Vande Bharat Express** will run from **Amb Andaura to New Delhi**.
- This train is an advanced version compared to the earlier ones, being much lighter and capable of reaching higher speeds in a shorter duration.
- It accelerates to **100 km per hour in just 52 seconds**.
- The Integral Coach Factory has set a target of manufacturing 75 Vande Bharat trains by August 2023.
- It also has a photocatalytic ultraviolet air purification system in the **roof-mounted package unit (RMPU) for air purification**.
- Vande Bharat Express is a new-age train redefining passenger traveling in India.
- **PM will also launch the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III in the state**.
- He will also address two public meetings in Una and Chamba.
- The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III in Himachal Pradesh would augment the road network across the state.

The government has set a target of electricity transmission for renewable energy capacity of about 233 GW by 2030:

- The government is mulling electricity transmission for renewable energy capacity of about 233 GW, the latest by 2030, across the country.

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- Planning of a transmission system for integration of an additional 52 GW potential REZ (renewable energy zone) by 2026-27 has been carried out transmission schemes for another 181.5 GW by 2030 have been planned and the same would be taken up for implementation in a progressive manner.
- All five regional grids in India are to be synchronized into the national grid by December 2013.
- The remote Leh region was connected to the national grid in January 2019 through the 220 kv Srinagar-Leh Transmission system.
- **At present, the installed capacity of the national grid is 404 GW and the peak demand met is 216 GW.**

PM inaugurated Phase 1 of Modi Shaikshanik Sankul in Ahmedabad:

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Phase 1 of Modi Shaikshanik Sankul, an educational complex for needy students in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- The project will help provide facilities to students for holistic development.
- He highlighted that Labour has tremendous power and a large section of our 'samaj' belongs to the hard-working class.
- The foundation stone was also laid for one Agro Food Park, Sea Food Park, and MSME Park by the Prime Minister.
- He also dedicated 800 TPD Caustic Soda Plant at Dahej.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated and laid the foundation stone of developmental works worth more than Rs. 8200 crores including the stone laying of the State's first bulk drug park at Amod in Bharuch District.
- The sole aim behind establishing such a mega Bulk Drug Park is to make the country self-reliant in drug manufacturing so that the nation can combat if any such situation arises again in the future.

Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the first-ever all-IIT R&D showcase at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi:

- Union Minister for Education and Skill Development, Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated IInvenTiv, the first-ever all-IIT R&D showcase at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.
- IITs have become instruments of transformation.

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- They are repositories of knowledge and experience and a bridge to the future.
- **InvenTiv will be the start of a revolution and emerge as a key forum** that will provide solutions to complex global problems.
- **The R&D Fair is being organized in commemoration of the 75th year of India's Independence** in line with the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiative.
- It has brought over 300 representatives from the industry.
- There are 75 projects and 6 Showcase projects on diverse themes being exhibited at the event.
- The projects are aligned with the vision of Make in India, Digital India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan has the potential to save over Rs. 10 Lakh Crore by improving logistics efficiency:

- According to the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution and Textiles, **the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan has the potential to save over Rs. 10 Lakh Crore annually by improving logistics efficiency.**
- **The PM GatiShakti National Master Plan was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 13, 2021.**
- It is a digital platform to bring **16 Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning** and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.
- It will facilitate the last-mile connectivity of infrastructure and reduce logistics costs.
- It will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN, etc.
- Economic Zones like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defense corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, and agri zones will be covered to improve connectivity & make Indian businesses more competitive.
- It will also leverage technology extensively including **spatial planning tools with ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) imagery developed by BiSAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics).**

PM Gati Shakti is based on six pillars:

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- **Comprehensiveness:** It will include all the existing and planned initiatives of various Ministries and Departments with one centralized portal. Every Department will now have visibility of each other's activities providing critical data while planning & comprehensively executing projects.
- **Prioritization:** Through this, different Departments will be able to prioritize their projects through cross-sectoral interactions.
- **Optimization:** The National Master Plan will assist different ministries in planning for projects after the identification of critical gaps. For the transportation of goods from one place to another, the plan will help in selecting the most optimum route in terms of time and cost.
- **Synchronization:** Individual Ministries and Departments often work in silos. There is a lack of coordination in the planning and implementation of the project resulting in delays. PM Gati Shakti will help in synchronizing the activities of each department, as well as of different layers of governance, holistically by ensuring coordination of work between them.
- **Analytical:** The plan will provide the entire data in one place with GIS-based spatial planning and analytical tools having 200+ layers, enabling better visibility to the executing agency.
- **Dynamic:** All Ministries and Departments will now be able to visualize, review and monitor the progress of cross-sectoral projects, through the GIS platform, as the satellite imagery will give on-ground progress periodically and the progress of the projects will be updated regularly on the portal. It will help in identifying the vital interventions for enhancing and updating the master plan.

The government has accorded infrastructure status to data centers with over 5-megawatt capacity of IT load.

- **Data centers with over 5 megawatts (MW) capacity of IT load** has been given infrastructure status by the government.
- As per the government notification, **Data Centre has been included in the Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure** sub-sectors by insertion of a new item in the **category of 'Communication'**.
- The notification says Data Centre housed in a building for storage and processing of digital data applications with a **minimum capacity of "5 MW of IT load" will be eligible for infrastructure status.**
- In the budget speech for 2022-23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that data centers will be granted infrastructure status.

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- As per the ICRA report, data centers' capacity expansion in India by both foreign and local firms will add investments of ₹1.05 lakh to ₹1.2 lakh crore over the next 5 years.

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launched the first Solar-Electric Hybrid High-Speed Ferry and inaugurated a Floating Jetty project:

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launched a Solar-Electric Hybrid High-Speed Ferry and inaugurated a Floating Jetty project at Panaji.
- Both projects are expected to boost tourism in Goa while making transport more environmentally friendly.
- The Minister inaugurated the Jetty project and then proceeded to board the Solar-Electric Hybrid High-Speed Ferry.
- Funded by the Inland Waterways Authority of India, the three jetties commissioned today were built at a project cost of 9.6 Crore.
- The jetties are solid concrete structures that float on water, are easy to install, and have a minimal environmental impact in their construction.
- The Solar-Electric Hybrid High-Speed Ferry project is funded by the Government of Goa at a cost of over 3.9 crores and has a carrying capacity of 60 passengers.
- The Hybrid design allows for the reduction in operating costs by eliminating the dependence on fossil fuels and presents a more environmentally friendly form of transport.

About IWAI

- The Inland Waterways Authority of India is the statutory authority in charge of the waterways in India.
- It was constituted under IWAI Act 1985 by the parliament of India
- Its headquarters is located in Noida, UP.

Flipkart has launched a metaverse-based shopping platform dubbed Flipverse

- Walmart-owned Flipkart has launched a metaverse-based shopping platform, Dubbed Flipverse, the platform will allow users to discover and shop products interactively.
- At present, the service will be available for 15 brands including apparel brand Puma, cosmetics and personal care brand Nivea, and homegrown electronics brand Noise.
- Flipverse is already live on the Flipkart app for Android smartphone users.

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- The pilot experience will be live till October 23.

About Flipkart:

- Flipkart is an Indian e-commerce company, headquartered in Bangalore, and incorporated in Singapore as a private limited company.
- Founded: October 2007, Bangalore
- Founders: Binny Bansal, Sachin Bansal

India has set the aim to achieve 65 % of power generation from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030:

- India is well on its way to achieving the aim of 65% of power generation from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and will achieve more than that, Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy RK Singh.
- The minister further informed that India will achieve 90 GW of solar equipment manufacturing capacity by 2030.
- Currently, the country has 20 GW of such capacity and 15-20 GW of the solar manufacturing capacity is under construction.
- Currently, India has 170 GW of renewable energy and another 80 GW is under construction.
- The country aims to achieve 500 GW by the year 2030.
- The government has allocated ₹19,500 crores for the domestic manufacture of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules that could lead to savings of ₹1.37 trillion.
- The PLI will help in achieving a manufacturing capacity of "gigawatt (GW) scale" in high-efficiency solar PV modules.
- It will be disbursed over five years post the commissioning of solar PV manufacturing plants.
- This is the second tranche of the PLI.
- The first tranche of ₹4,500 crores was approved last year and the bids were awarded to Reliance Industries Ltd, Adani Group, and Sri Shirdi Sai Group.

India's 1st cable-cum-suspension bridge has been approved on the Krishna river:

- India's 1st cable-cum-suspension bridge across Krishna River approved by Centre.
- The construction of an iconic cable stayed-cum-suspension bridge across the Krishna River has been approved by the central government.

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- The bridge will connect Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and pass through the Nallamala forest range.
- The bridge will be built at a total cost of ₹1,082.56 crores, with a construction period of 30 months.
- The bridge will have many unique features, such as the longest glass walkway across the river, gopuram-like pylons, signature lighting, and a large navigational span.
- The bridge over the Krishna River will be the first of its kind in India and the second in the World.
- The 80-km distance between Hyderabad and Tirupati will be reduced by this 3-km bridge.
- The bridge starts in Somasila in Kollapur in the Nagarkurnool district of Telangana and ends at Atmakur in the Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.

India's first sports helmet testing center to come up in Meerut:

- India's first sports helmet testing center will be established in Meerut in the next four months and will cost around Rs 3 crore.
- The request sent by MSME's regional technological development center in Meerut has been accepted by the MSME Ministry.
- Regardless of manufacturing sports goods in hubs like Vadodara, Delhi, and Meerut the helmets, mainly worn by cricketers and hockey players were sent abroad for testing.
- With this approval, India will get its first sports helmet testing facility under the "hub and spoke model".
- The main testing center will be set up in Meerut with an extension facility at Okhla in Delhi.
- The center at Meerut will be ready in four months and the entire project will cost around Rs 3 crore.
- Testing is likely to begin in the first week of February 2023.

Fiji will host the prestigious World Hindi Conference in 2023:

- Fiji will host the prestigious World Hindi Conference for the first time in 2023 to make the country a new launching pad to popularise Hindi as a global language.
- The decision to host the World Hindi Conference in Fiji was jointly taken by the Indian and the Fijian government.

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- The **three-day conference**, which would be held in the Fijian city of Nadi and envisaged to promote Hindi globally, would see the participation of over 1,000 experts in the Indian language, including scholars, writers, and laureates.
- Indian High Commissioner to the South Pacific nation **P S Kartigeyan**.

About Fiji:

- Capital: Suva
- Currency: Fijian dollar.

The Union Cabinet has approved an MSP increase for all mandated Rabi crops:

- For the marketing season 2023-24, the Union Cabinet approved an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all Rabi Crops.
- The greatest rise has been approved for lentils, with a 500 rupee per quintal increase.
- Wheat MSP has been increased by 110 rupees, while barley MSP has been increased by 100 rupees.
- The hike is consistent with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of a minimum MSP of 1.5 times the All-India weighted average Cost of Production.

About MSP:

- The MSP is the rate at which the government purchases crops from farmers, and it is calculated as at least one-and-a-half times the producers' cost of production.
- MSP is a "minimum price" for any crop that the government deems profitable for farmers and so worthy of "assistance."

India Gate Basmati Rice is the world's number-one basmati rice brand:

- India Gate, KRBL's main brand, has been named the world's No. 1 Basmati Rice Brand in a market survey done by a renowned global research firm.
- Mordor Intelligence's quantitative analysis includes research on the White and Brown Basmati Rice Category throughout continents such as the Americas, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and the Middle East and Africa.
- The research was conducted using primary and secondary research, data triangulation, and an insight generation approach.

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- **Mordor Intelligence**, a major worldwide research firm launched in 2014, has conducted studies that have provided insights to over 4000 organizations in over 100 countries across numerous industries.

History:

- Since its inception in 1998, **India Gate Basmati Rice** has worked tirelessly to fulfill its mission of enhancing lives through Basmati Rice, a nutritional marvel of nature.
- India Gate has built a strong global consumer franchise over the years, as proven by the fact that it is exported to over 90 countries and sells over 8 million packs per year.
- The grains of India Gate Basmati Rice are aged to perfection, making them longer, fluffier, non-sticky, and full of wonderful aroma, distinguishing them from the competition.
- This new survey naming India Gate Basmati Rice the World's No. 1 Basmati rice brand demonstrates our steadfast dedication to putting the highest quality basmati on consumer plates around the world.

Mr. Rajeev Chandrasekhar launched the first SemiconIndia Future Design tour:

- The first **SemiconIndia FutureDesign** roadshow in Gujarat was officially launched by **Rajeev Chandrasekhar**, Union state minister for electronics and information technology.
- Chandrasekhar remarked on the occasion that **the roadshows were organized to encourage startups, next-generation innovators, and business giants to invest in semiconductor design.**
- It will contribute to the creation of a strong semiconductor ecosystem in the country, **as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**
- The minister also unveiled the **ISRO-tested and approved NavIC Receiver Chipsets** at the event.
- They are ready to enter the commercial sector.
- By extending the program to every school and every institution, the government hopes to get as many young Indians interested in and participating in the Semicon India trip as possible.

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurates Asia's largest compressed biogas plant:

- Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas **Hardeep Singh Puri** inaugurated **Asia's largest Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plant** in Lehragaga, in Punjab's Sangrur
- The plant in Sangrur is just the beginning of **India's master plan for a CBG-based rural economy** and the government is taking all steps to promote the ecosystem around it.

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- The plant has been commissioned with a foreign direct investment of approximately Rs. 220 crores by Verbio AG, one of Germany's leading bio-energy companies.
- Punjab Chief Minister **Bhagwant Mann** and senior management from Verbio India Private Limited were also present at the inaugural ceremony.
- The CBG plant at Sangrur is spread across an area of 20 acres.
- The plant's present production is about six tonnes per day but soon it will process 300 tonnes of paddy straw per day to produce 33 TPD of compressed biogas using eight digesters of 10,000 cubic meters.
- The union minister said initiatives, such as the CBG plant, are a huge leap in arriving at a win-win situation for farmers and the environment.

PM to inaugurate India Urban Housing Conclave 2022 in Rajkot:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate 'Indian Urban Housing Conclave-2022', IUHC2022, a three-day event being organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs at Rajkot, Gujarat.
- This Conclave will provide a platform for all stakeholders to demonstrate their technologies and they will deliberate upon various options of technologies, materials, and processes for large-scale adoption and mainstreaming in different types of housing construction suitable for different Geo-climatic regions of the country.
- It will help devise strategies, action plans, and a roadmap for achieving the vision of "Future Ready Urban India."
- The Conclave will also help in widening the horizon and bringing technology transition in the construction sector for sustainable development.
- It will bring together all global and indigenous innovative technologies, materials, and processes, including those developed subsequently by various stakeholders across the world.
- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, his deputy in the Ministry Kaushal Kishore, and other dignitaries from the Centre and States will attend the conclave.

Center to Launch \$500 Million Accelerator Program to Strengthen Agri Startups:

- Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar announced that the national government will start a Rs 500 crore accelerator program to help agro enterprises with their profitable ideas.

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- On the second day of PM Kisan Samman Sammelan, Tomar announced a slew of major policy announcements aimed at agricultural entrepreneurs.
- Narendra Singh Tomar announced that an executive committee comprised of relevant organizations would be formed.
- Under the chairmanship of the agriculture secretary, this will comprise the **Department of Agriculture Research and Education (DARE)**, DPIIT, agricultural incubators and knowledge partners, agricultural universities, research institutes, top investors, and other stakeholders.
- A website will also be created to gather a database of all farm startups and track their growth.

Indian Railways has announced the closure of COFMOW:

- The **Ministry of Railways** has announced the closing of **New Delhi's Central Organization for Modernization of Workshops (COFMOW)**.
- It will go into effect on **December 1, 2022**.
- With the advice of the **Principal Economic Advisor and the Ministry of Finance**, the **Railway Board** confirmed the **dissolution of the four-decade-old organization** that contributed significantly to the modernization of the workshop across the railway networks.
- **COFMOW was forbidden from floating** or opening bids immediately following its closure.
- All sanctioned works for which a tender has not been issued.
- Workers will be assigned to the **appropriate Zonal Railways or Production Unit**.
- All non-gazetted stations would be surrendered, and the person would be released/repatriated/re-deployed elsewhere.
- The organization's infrastructure and buildings will be **handed over to the Railway Board by November 30th, 2022**.

PM has introduced the "Mission Schools of Excellence" in Gujarat:

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** announced "**Mission Schools of Excellence**"
- The 'Mission Schools of Excellence' is a large-scale initiative in Gandhinagar with the dual objectives of **changing the curricula in Gujarat's public schools** and responding to accusations of the **State government for the poor quality of education** made by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).
- The "Mission Schools of Excellence" are **funded in part by the World Bank and have a budget of 10,000 crores**.

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- Its goal was to provide new classrooms, smart classrooms, computer labs, and other enhancements to the state's educational infrastructure.
- In the first phase, improvements to school infrastructure **will cost about 5,567 crores.**
- Along with the **1.5 lakh smart classrooms**, the project would also construct 50,000 classrooms, 20,000 computer laboratories, and 5,000 Atal Tinkering labs in government schools.
- To improve the quality of instruction in classrooms, Mr. Modi had earlier constructed a school monitoring center in Gandhinagar and asked all States to establish similar state-of-the-art facilities.

PM Modi launched the Mission LIFE movement in Kevadiya, Gujarat:

- **PM Modi has launched the Mission LIFE effort to protect the environment.**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a strong reprimand.
- Following the **global inauguration of Mission LiFE at Gujarat's Statue of Unity** in the presence of **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres**, the Prime Minister addressed the gathering, claiming that lifestyle changes can **help to combat climate change.**
- The Prime Minister emphasized while underlining India's commitment to tackling the problem of climate change, that a circular economy and the concepts of reducing, reusing, and recycling have been established in Indian culture for thousands of years.
- India is the most successful example of economic development and environmental protection.
- The Prime Minister alluded to Mahatma Gandhi's concept of trusteeship, saying that Mission LiFE encourages us to serve as environmental trustees.

Railways plans to achieve net-zero carbon emission by 2030:

- **The Indian Railways plans to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030** and also focus on increasing network capacity.
- The country's railway network is **being electrified to reduce pollution and carry on transportation in an environment-friendly way.**
- The Railways will attempt to reduce its carbon footprint primarily by sourcing its energy requirements from renewable energy sources.
- **By 2029-30, an expected requirement of installation of renewable capacity would be about 30 GW.**

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- **Indian Railways** has installed 142 MW of solar rooftop capacity and 103.4 MW of Wind energy till August.
- The railways have electrified 52,508 RKM out of the total BG network of 65,141 RKM (80.61%).
- With 100% electrification, the electricity demand will go up to about 72 BUs by 2029-30 from 21 BUs in 2019-20.
- **Carbon emission by 2029-30 as per Business As Usual (BAU)** mode is estimated to be 60 million tons which would be offset by various measures planned by Indian Railways

Windergy 2023 will be held in Chennai in October:

- The fifth edition of Windergy India 2023, the most complete international trade fair and conference in India, will take place from October 4 to October 6, 2023.
- The three-day trade fair and conference, Windergy India 2023, is being organized by the Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA) and PDA Ventures Pvt Ltd.
- It will offer a dynamic forum for meeting and interacting with policymakers, regulatory authorities, and international and domestic technology, solution, and services providers from the wind power industries.

About IWTMA:

- The Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA), which was founded in 1998, is the leading trade group and the voice of the country's wind industry.
- IWTMA has taken the lead in developing the regulatory framework and engaging in proactive dialogue with investors, stakeholders, and state and federal authorities.

About PDA Ventures:

- PDA Ventures Pvt Ltd has been coordinating several business-to-business trade fairs, events, roadshows, conferences, and business forums in India and abroad.
- Through a specialty publishing strategy that links communities all year long, the primary business of linking industry-specific ecosystems has been enhanced.

Mumbai featured the official launch of India's first "Migration Monitoring System":

- The Maharashtra Women and Children Development Minister Mangalprabhat Lodha launched India's first "Migration Monitoring Systems" in Mumbai.

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- The beneficiaries of the vulnerable seasonal migrant tracking system will move around according to the website.
- Information on pregnant migrants, nursing mothers, and children is to be made available through the Migration Monitoring Systems.
- The system offers up-to-date data on migrant expectant women, nursing mothers, and kids in a single system.
- The "Migration Monitoring Systems" was introduced by Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Maharashtra Women, and Children Development minister.
- Through the use of unique personal identification numbers, the state department has developed a website-based Migration Tracking System (MTS) to monitor the movements of vulnerable seasonal migrant beneficiaries.
- With the "Migration Monitoring Systems," information about women and children who migrate seasonally will be accessible on a single platform.

The first stage of the "Rozgar Mela" is launched by the prime minister:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi began the hiring effort for the Rozgar Mela, which aims to hire 10 lakh people.
- 75,000 new appointees will be hired in the first round.
- 38 government ministries and agencies will welcome the new hires, who were chosen from around the nation.
- They will be hired at Group A, Group B (Gazetted), Group B (Non-Gazetted), and Group C levels, respectively.
- According to the Prime Minister's Office, this will be a significant step for the government in safeguarding citizen welfare and giving young people access to employment possibilities.
- All departments and ministries are reportedly striving to fill open positions that have been authorized, as instructed by the prime minister.
- All members of the central armed forces, including sub-inspectors, constables, LDCs, Stenos, PAs, income tax inspectors, and MTS, will be recruited.
- Ministries and Departments are doing these hirings in mission mode, either independently or through hiring organizations like the UPSC, SSC, and Railway Recruitment Board.

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- Selection procedures have been streamlined and made tech-enabled for quick recruitment.
- Selection procedures have been streamlined and made tech-enabled for quick recruitment.

India lost 5.4% of its GDP as a result of the 2021 heatwave:

- According to a new **Climate Transparency analysis**, India will lose 5.4% of its GDP in 2021, the most of any G20 country.
- According to the research, **India experienced a record heatwave** that impacted employees, labor migrants, low-income households, and the homeless, as well as reduced wheat crop yields.
- Even though **India is responsible for 3% of global emissions**, the analysis stated that 142 million people (10% of the population) in **India may be subjected to summer heatwaves of 1.5 degrees Celsius**.
- When it comes to worldwide emissions, **the United States ranks first with 25%**, followed by the **European Union with 22%**.
- "G20 members account for around 85% of worldwide GDP, 75% of international trade, and two-thirds of the global population, as well as almost three-quarters of global emissions."
- The '**Climate Transparency Report 2022**' was created in collaboration with experts from 16 partner organizations representing the **majority of the G20 (Group of 20) countries**.
- According to the Climate Transparency Report 2022, the G20 nations are still unable to take the requisite level of accountability of action.

Centre to use technology for crop insurance scheme from 2023:

- The **Agriculture Ministry has set up two committees** — one for nationwide implementation of **technology-based crop yield estimation** and the other for **standardization and improvement of weather data infrastructure**.
- The move will reduce the delay in crop loss/damage estimation and ensure timely settlement of claims by farmers.
- The panels will be **headed by the director of Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC)**.
- Apart from experts drawn from different departments and agencies of the Centre, the committees will have representation from **Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Rajasthan governments**.

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- After paddy and wheat in 2020-21, the Agriculture Ministry has decided to carry out more pilot studies, this time on non-cereal crops for gram Panchayat level yield estimation of current Kharif crops and rabi harvest (March-April) next year.
- These studies will help analyze the issues to be dealt with when the **pan-India rollout of technology-based yield estimation begins from 2023-24.**
- The panel on yield estimation has been asked to **submit its report within 45 days.**
- It will prepare **standard operating procedure (SOP)** as well as enroll **technology implementation partners (TIPs)** from which States have to select anyone.
- The committee, also to be headed by the director of MNCFC, has been tasked to help the Ministry in the creation of the proposed Weather Information Network Data System (WINDS), under which a system of automatic weather stations (AWS) and automatic rain gauges (ARG) will be implemented throughout the country.
- Weather data like rainfall, temperature, and humidity are key to calculating the yield of crops under the weather-based crop insurance scheme as well as **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).**

Vinai Kumar Saxena announced a property tax amnesty Scheme: SAMRIDDHI

- Vinai Kumar Saxena, the lieutenant governor of Delhi, has introduced the "**SAMRIDDHI 2022–23**" one-time property tax amnesty program, which will significantly relieve thousands of city residents and business property owners.
- **Strengthening and Augmenting of Municipal Revenue for Infrastructure Development in Delhi, or SAMRIDDHI,** will begin on October 26 and conclude on March 31, 2023, with no further extensions.
- The plan intends to resolve thousands of unresolved court cases that have accumulated since the unit area method **for calculating property taxes was implemented in 2004.**
- The **Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)** and the city's inhabitants will profit from the program.
- Residential properties will be subject to taxation for 1+5 years (the current fiscal year and the previous five), whereas commercial properties will be subject to taxation for 1+6 years (the current fiscal year plus the prior six).

"Akash for Life" Space Conference will be held in Dehradun:

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- The three-day "Akash for Life" space conference will demonstrate how all schools of thought have been thoroughly integrated to combine traditional and modern knowledge.
- The decision was made by **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Atomic Energy and Space, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, and Earth Sciences, as well as the MoS PMO for Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, and Space.
- The event will take place in **Dehradun** from **November 5 to November 7, 2022**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has urged the integration of research and technology advancement into society in a way that puts science in a position to meet the demands of the average person.
- The **Dehradun Conclave** will have **35 illustrious** speakers who will discuss various facets of **Akash Tattva**, according to Dr. Jitendra Singh.
- The conclave intends to introduce India's youth to the knowledge of classical disciplines as well as cutting-edge technological developments.

Amit Shah: By 2024, NIA would have offices in every state

- The **NIA will open offices in every state**: The Union Minister of Housing and Cooperation, **Amit Shah**, spoke at the beginning of a **two-day "Chintan Shivir"** in **Surajkund, Haryana**.
- Chief Ministers of States, Home Ministers of States, Lieutenant Governors, and Administrators of Union Territories are among those attending the Chintan Shivir.
- To tackle the difficulties confronting the country, it is vital to fully utilize all internal security resources.
- Shri Amit Shah noted that this **Chintan Shivir, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is being hosted to provide the nation** with a single platform to collectively combat dangers such as cybercrime, drug proliferation, and cross-border terrorism.
- Because crimes are developing and becoming more transnational in scope, all states will need to have a coordinated strategy to combat them.
- According to the **Union Home Minister, places devastated by left-wing extremism, such as Jammu and Kashmir and the North East**, which were previously centers of violence and unrest, are now hotspots of growth.

Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates a new IIFT campus in Andhra Pradesh:

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- The nation's finance minister, **Smt Nirmala Sitharaman**, officially inaugurated the third campus of the **Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)** at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU) -K campus in Kakinada**.
- She emphasized the importance of the IIFT campus to the country's development.
- She emphasized the importance of IIFT in terms of research and policy development for the Ministry of Commerce's growth.
- The state government has set **aside 25 acres of land in U. Kothapalli Mandal**, close to the sea coast in the **Kakinada Special Economic Zone**, for the development of the IIFT permanent campus.
- The IIFT officials submitted an application to the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** for a **grant of Rs. 229 crores**, and the sanction order is eagerly awaited.
- Representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs Piyush Goyal (Union Minister), MPs, Ministers, MLAs, and other government entities were present.

IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India & New Zealand Navies Sign Pact on White Shipping Information Exchange

- The **Indian Navy** signed an **agreement on White Shipping Information Exchange** with the **Royal New Zealand Navy** to promote greater **transparency** in the **Maritime Domain**.
- The white shipping information refers to the exchange of prior information on the movement and identity of **commercial non-military merchant vessels**.
- The agreement was signed between **Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar** and **Rear Admiral David Proctor, Chief of Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)** during the former's recent visit to New Zealand.
- **CNS Hari Kumar** visited New Zealand from **Sept 29 to Oct 1, 2022**.
- He was welcomed in the traditional **Powhiri** ceremony hosted by the **RNZN leadership** at the **Te Taua Moana Marae**.

About New Zealand:

- Prime Minister: **Jacinda Ardern**
- Capital: **Wellington**

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- Currency: New Zealand dollar (\$)

MoS for Culture Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal to attend UNESCO-MONDIACULT 2022 World Conference in Mexico

- The Indian delegation headed by the Minister of State for Culture Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal represented the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) MONDIACULT 2022 World Conference to be held in Mexico City from 28th-30th September 2022.

Goal:

- To shape a more robust and resilient cultural sector, fully anchored in the perspectives of sustainable development goals (SDG)
- At the conference, Culture Ministers of more than 100 countries will participate in this multilateral forum to decide on the global cultural discourse.
- It also promotes solidarity, peace, and security”, in line with the vision enshrined in the UN Secretary-General’s Shri Antonio Guterres report titled ‘Our Common Agenda’ which refers to culture as a ‘global public good, the good of us all.

About UNESCO-MONDIACULT 2022 World Conference:

- The UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2022 is convened by UNESCO 40 years after the first Mondiacult world conference on cultural policies held in Mexico City in 1982, and 24 years after the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies for Development held in Stockholm in 1998.
- This is the 3rd such conference & the 2nd conference was held in Stockholm, Sweden in 1998.

Meghalaya-Mawmluh Cave One of the First 100 Geoheritage Sites Listed By UNESCO

- Mawmluh Cave in Sohra, located in the East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya, has been listed among the first 100 International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) geological heritage sites.
- “Mawmluh Cave in Sohra, Meghalaya known for the ‘Meghalayan Age’ has been selected by @theIUGS(@UNESCO) as one of the ‘FIRST 100 IUGS GEOLOGICAL SITES’ in the world.”.
- The full list of the ‘First 100 IUGS Geological Sites’ will be presented at the IUGS’s 60th-anniversary event, which will take place in Zumaia, Spain.
- The First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites were selected from 181 candidate sites from 56 countries.

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About Mawmluh Cave:

- The cave was first explored by a British official named **Lieutenant Yule** in the year **1844**.
- It is the **fourth longest cave** in the Indian subcontinent.
- Mawmluh Cave, locally called **Krem Mawmluh**, is known for the 'Meghalayan Age.
- The word "krem" in the local **Khasi language** means cave.
- The cave, which is **7.2 kilometers long**, has numerous entrances & the cave is situated at an altitude of **4,503 meters**
- **Only one-fourth of the cave** is exposed to **sunlight** while the rest of the cave is shrouded in complete darkness.

About IUGS:

- Established: 1961
- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- President: Qiuming Cheng
- IUGS is one of the **largest scientific organizations of UNESCO**.
- IUGS is an **international non-governmental organization** devoted to international cooperation in the field of geology.
- Internationally significant geological sites are listed by the IUGS, including those with **tectonic, sedimentological, petrological, mineralogical, hydrogeological, paleontological, geomorphological**, and history of geological sciences connections.

About UNESCO:

- Established: 16 November 1945
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Director-General: Audrey Azoulay
- UNESCO is a specialized agency of the **United Nations**.

Aim:

- To **promote world peace and security** through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences, and culture.

India & US launch new energy storage task force to support the clean energy transition

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- During a Ministerial meeting of the United States.-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP), U.S. Energy Secretary Mr. Jennifer Granholm (United States) and Indian Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Mr. Hardeep S. Puri (India) launched a new energy task force to support large-scale integration of renewable energy (RE) needed to support the clean energy transition.

Key Highlights:

- The Ministers welcomed collaboration between Indian and U.S. companies through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to deploy methane abatement technologies in India's city gas distribution sector under the Low Emissions Gas Task Force to help reduce emissions in the oil and gas sector.

Enhanced bilateral efforts include:

- Strengthening the power grid to ensure reliable, affordable, and resilient clean energy supply including through smart grids and energy storage
- Advancing renewable energy development and deployment, including supporting India's goal of achieving approximately 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030
- The Ministers were informed about various initiatives, including joint research and development on smart grids and energy storage and new collaboration on carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) technologies, and the potential to explore collaboration on other novel technologies under the U.S.-India Partnership to Advance Clean Energy-Research (PACE-R).
- The US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) is funding a feasibility study for a private energy developer in India, to evaluate the technical and economic viability of developing a hybrid solar (100 MW) and wind power plant (200 MW) with integrated battery energy storage (100 MWh) at Dwarka in Gujarat.
- This project was one of two highlighted by US President Mr. Joe Biden at the launch of the I2U2 Partnership between the US, UAE, Israel, and India in July 2022.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

UN adopts new carbon emissions goal to achieve net zero from planes by 2050

- The **United Nations (UN) International Civil Aviation Organization, or ICAO** adopted a long-term **aspirational goal** of making **carbon emissions from air travel net zero by 2050** in response to growing pressure for airlines to **reduce their pollution in Montreal, Canada**.
- It could boost the production of **sustainable aviation fuel**.
- Airlines and governments expect to greatly reduce emissions by gradually switching from kerosene-based jet fuel to fuels made from **fats, grease, plants, or renewables**.
- The **European Union** has proposed **higher taxes on fossil fuels** including jet fuel.

About ICAO:

- Founded: 7 December 1944
- Headquarters: Montreal, Canada
- Secretary General: Juan Carlos Salazar Gómez

WHO alerts against India-made cough syrups after 66 children die in the Gambia

- A **global alert** has been issued over **4 cough syrups** after the **World Health Organization (WHO)** warned they could be linked to the **deaths of 66 children in The Gambia**.
- The cough syrups—**Promethazine Oral Solution, Kofexmalin Baby Cough Syrup, Makoff Baby Cough Syrup, and Magrip N Cold Syrup** are made by **Haryana-based Maiden Pharmaceuticals**
- So far, The company has manufactured and exported these products **only to the Gambia**.
- The **Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** has launched an investigation into the matter.
- As per a report, the WHO found 4 of the **23 samples tested contaminated with diethylene glycol or ethylene glycol**.
- Chemical substances like Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol can cause toxic effects.
- In **2021**, at least **three children** died in New Delhi after consuming a cough syrup with **dextromethorphan**, one of the components present in one of the four syrups flagged by WHO.

About CDSCO:

- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Drugs Controller General of India: Dr. V. G. Somani

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- It is the **National Regulatory Authority (NRA)** for cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and medical devices under the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.

About WHO:

- Established: 7 April 1948
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Director General: Tedros Adhanom

About The Gambia:

- President: Adama Barrow
- Capital: Banjul
- Currency: Dalasi

UNESCO launches a list of 50 iconic Indian heritage textile

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has launched **Handmade for the 21st Century: Safeguarding Traditional Indian Textile**, a list documenting exclusive and **50 iconic heritage textile crafts of India**.

Aim:

- To bridge this gap brings together years of research on the 50 selected textiles.
- It lists the histories and legends behind the textiles, describes the complicated and secret processes behind their making, mentions the causes for their dwindling popularity, and provides strategies for their preservation.

Some of the Important Textiles Crafts on the List:

- Toda embroidery (Nilgiris) from Tamil Nadu
- Sungudi or Chungadi (Madurai) from Tamil Nadu
- Sikanayakanpet Kalamkari (Thanjavur) from Tamil Nadu
- Himroo weaves (Hyderabad) from Telangana & Andhra Pradesh
- Bandha tie and dye weaving (Sambalpur) from Odisha
- Kunbi weaves from Goa
- Mashru weaves and Patola from Gujarat
- Himroo weaving (Aurangabad) from Maharashtra
- Garad-Korial weaving (Murshidabad) from West Bengal

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- Ilkal (Bagalkot) from Karnataka
- Lambadi or Banjara embroidery (Sandur, Bellary) from Karnataka
- Khes weaving (Panipat) from Haryana
- Chamba rumals (Chamba Rumals) from Himachal Pradesh
- Thigma or wool tie and dye from Ladakh
- Awadh Jamdani (Varanasi) from Uttar Pradesh
- The UNESCO publication also includes recommendations for the **protection and revitalization** of these textile crafts, which cover the **broad spectrum of issues** extending from policy to **grass-root-based micro-interventions**.

About UNESCO:

- Founded: 16 November 1945
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Director General: Audrey Azoulay
- Members: 193 member states and 12 associate members
- UNESCO is a **specialized agency** of the **United Nations (UN)**.

Aim:

- To **promote world peace** and **security** through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences, and culture.

Russian President Putin recognizes independence for 2 more Ukraine regions

- **Russian President Mr. Vladimir Putin** has recognized the independence of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions located in **southern Ukraine**
- He took similar steps in **February 2022** regarding **Luhansk** and **Donetsk** and earlier for **Crimea**.
- It will annex four occupied regions of Ukraine at a grand ceremony in the **Kremlin, Russia**.

About Russia:

- President: Vladimir Putin
- Prime Minister: Mikhail Mishustin
- Capital: Moscow
- Currency: Russian ruble

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addresses UN World Geospatial International Congress

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the 2nd United Nations World Geospatial International Congress.
- The UN World Geospatial International Congress was inaugurated by Union Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in Hyderabad.
- The theme of the 2nd UN World Geospatial International Congress 'Geo-Enabling the Global Village: No one should be left behind.

Key Highlights:

- The United Nations and the Departments of Science and Technology and Space are organizing the 5-day congress.
- During the 5-day Congress, challenges and plans for making better use of technology for people will be discussed.
- It has brought policymakers, scientists, start-ups, and NGOs working on geospatial information on one platform.
- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that the Geospatial economy will cross the mark of 63,000 crore rupees by 2025 at a growth rate of 12.8%.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh has inaugurated an exhibition where the National Remote Sensing Agency, ISRO, and startups displayed their products.
- The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) created the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in 2011.
- Under the SWAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) scheme, India is using drones to map properties in villages and for the first-time people in rural areas have clear evidence of ownership.

World's largest drone fund to invest up to US\$ 40 million in UAV ecosystem in India

- The US\$ 170 million Drone Fund (DF), one of the largest venture capital funds located in Japan that specializes in supporting the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) ecosystem, intends to invest up to US\$ 40 million in Indian companies operating in the sector.

Objective:

- To invest in agro drones to enhance crop yields using approaches that science can help facilitate.

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- Currently, Drone Fund has a manufacturing unit in Tamil Nadu (TN).
- Japan's Largest drone manufacturer Autonomous Control Systems Laboratory Ltd (ACSL) has partnered with an Indian Company Aerodyne India.

Note:

- DF co-founder and managing associate: Soki Ohmae
- MD of Aerodyne India: Arjun Aggarwal

Textiles Committee signs Cooperation Agreement with UNEP to promote Sustainability and Circularity in

Textile Value Chain

- The Textiles Committee (TC) of the Government of India (GoI) has entered into a Cooperation Agreement with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on “Mainstreaming Sustainability & Circularity in the Textiles Sector” to promote Sustainability and Circularity in Textile Value Chain in India.
- The Cooperation Agreement was exchanged between the Secretary of Textiles Committee Ajit B Chavan and Head of UNEP India Country Office Atul Bagai in presence of Secretary (Textiles) U.P. Singh.

Key Highlights:

- A one-day Stakeholders Consultation on “Sustainability in the Textile Value Chain (TVC) in India” was also organized in New Delhi to commemorate World Cotton Day, 2022 (Oct 07)
- The Textile Value Chain (TVC) plays an important role in the world economy but at the same time is also adversely contributing to the environment.
- According to estimates, the global textile industry emits 1.20 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent per year and it is estimated that every second an equivalent of one garbage truck of textiles is either burnt or landfilled.
- India is also experiencing the challenge of balancing its growth in TVC with sustainability in the production & consumption of textiles.
- The UNEP India and Textiles Committee have joined hands to support the Textile, Trade & Industry on this endeavor with proactive support and guidance of Ms. Prajakta Verma, Joint Secretary Fibre who is heading the newly created Sustainability Cell in the Ministry of Textiles.

About Ministry of Textiles:

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- Minister of Textiles: Piyush Goyal

About UNEP:

- Established: 5 June 1972
- Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya
- Executive Director: Inger Andersen

UNICEF & Pure earth report reveals India bears the world's highest health and economic burden due to lead poisoning

- According to the 2020 report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and non-profit Pure Earth had found India is home to a major chunk of the 800 million children poisoned by lead globally.
- The report, prepared jointly by the government think tank National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog and the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), was published in July 2022.

Key Highlights:

- According to the report, among the Indian States Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh had the highest average blood lead levels (BLL).
- These states account for 40% of India's population that is plagued with this poor health indicator.
- India accounted for 275,561,163 of the 800 million children suffering from lead poisoning globally.
- In India, 23 states have an average Blood Lead Level (BLL) that exceeds 5 micrograms per decilitre ($\mu\text{g} / \text{dl}$) & 4.9 ($\mu\text{g} / \text{dl}$).
- The statistics are worrying on a national level with the average for the country being 4.9 $\mu\text{g} / \text{dl}$ for children less than two years old.
- CSIR and NITI Ayog assessed 89 data sets from 36 studies carried out between 1970 and 2014 to corroborate the findings of the Unicef report.

About UNICEF:

- Established: December 11, 1946
- Headquarters: New York, United States
- Executive Director: Catherine Russell

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- UNICEF is an agency of the **United Nations** responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide.

About Pure Earth:

- Establishment: 1999
- Global Headquarters: New York, United States
- India Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi
- President: Richard Fuller
- Pure Earth is an international **not-for-profit organization** that works to identify, clean up, and solve pollution problems in **low- and middle-income countries**.

PwC partners with Coursera to address the skill gap in the taxation space

- PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), the professional services firm has partnered with Coursera, an online learning platform to handle India's present and future talent hole within the taxation house.

Aim:

- To achieve skilling at scale and create greater **employment opportunities**.
- The skilled companies agency has partnered with the web studying platform to construct **two entry-level skilled certificates Goods & Service Tax (GST) Tax Govt and Direct Tax Govt**.
- The entry-level professional certificates will take about **24 weeks** to complete enabling learners to learn while pursuing other education or work opportunities simultaneously.
- Through projects and instruction, the certificates will provide learners with a foundational understanding of the GST and direct tax practices, equipping them with the knowledge required for a beginner role in the field.
- The courses will be launched in **September 2022** and **early 2023**.
- PwC is also working with Coursera to establish a '**Tax Academy**', a knowledge hub that will equip India's taxation professionals.

About Coursera:

- Founded: 2012
- Headquarters: Mountain View, California, U.S
- CEO: Jeff Maggioncalda

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

UNDP partners with Arya.ag & FWWB India to improve incomes of 10,000 households

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has partnered with the integrated grain commerce platform Arya. ag and Friends of Women's World Banking India (FWWB India) for agri-value chain intervention, enterprise promotion, and skilling in the agriculture sector.
- The UNEP is implementing Project Excel in the Jamnagar and Dwaraka Devbhumi districts of Gujarat to improve the incomes of 10,000 farmer households through enterprise promotion, agri-value chain interventions, skilling, employment, and social protection.

Aim:

- To create a group of community resource persons for mentoring and supporting entrepreneurs and promoting individual and group enterprises by December 2023.

About Project Excel:

Objective:

- To develop the potential of the rural and semi-urban communities and provide them with the opportunities to enhance their livelihoods in sectors like agriculture, dairy, poultry, handloom, goat rearing, handicraft, etc.
- It will also help build their managerial capabilities and provide stronger market linkages.

Key Highlights:

- The blueprint of Project Excel includes building a team of sourcing managers to implement value chain interventions and establish market and credit linkages through collectivization.
- Arya. ag will build on farmers' collectives to effectively manage the post-harvest process and develop the agriculture value chain of the producer group.
- This partnership is to create a conducive business environment with end-to-end solutions consisting of training and technical support, capital and market linkages, and skill enhancement support, empowering women and ensuring a sustainable income at the individual and collective level.

About FWWB India:

- Founded: 1982
- Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- FWFB India is an **Indian APEX organization** that assists **microfinance** and **microenterprise organizations**.

About UNEP:

- Establishment: 22 November 1965
- Headquarters: New York, United States
- Administrator: Achim Steiner
- The UNEP is a **United Nations agency** tasked with helping countries **eliminate poverty** and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development

Israel & Lebanon agree to sign 'historic agreement' on maritime borders

- **Israel** and **Lebanon** reached a **historic agreement** to resolve a long-running maritime border dispute following months of negotiations mediated by the **United States**.
- This is the **first agreement** between Israel and Lebanon.

About Israel:

- President: Isaac Herzog
- Prime Minister: Yair Lapid
- Capital: Jerusalem
- Currency: New shekel

About Lebanon:

- President: Michel Aoun
- Prime Minister: Najib Mikati
- Capital: Beirut
- Currency: Lebanese pound

India & Egypt to collaborate on premier higher educational institutes

- **External Affairs Minister Shri S Jaishankar** will discuss with the **Union Minister for Education, Skill, and Entrepreneurship Shru Dharmendra Pradhan** on collaborating with **Egypt** on premier higher educational institutes, like the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)**.
- Notably, **premier higher educational institutions** in the country are looking to expand their campuses abroad.

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- A **16-member government-constituted committee** headed by the **chairman of the standing committee of the IIT council**, **K Radhakrishnan** has recommended and pitched for the **Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)** to take the lead on this front.
- The committee was constituted by the **Union education ministry** after IIT-Delhi submitted a proposal last year for opening centers in **Saudi Arabia** and **Egypt**.

About Egypt:

- President: Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
- Prime Minister: Moustafa Madbouly
- Capital: Cairo
- Currency: Egyptian pound.

NATO begins nuclear exercises amid Russia war tensions

- The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** began its **long-planned annual nuclear exercises** in **northwestern Europe** as tensions simmer over military action in **Ukraine**.
- **14 of NATO's 30 member countries** were due to take part in the exercises, which the military alliance said would involve around **60 aircraft** including fighter jets and surveillance and refueling planes
- The bulk of the war games will be held **at least 1,000 kilometers (625 miles)** from Russia's borders.
- **U.S. long-range B-52 bombers** will also take part in the maneuvers, dubbed **Steadfast Noon**, which will run until Oct. 30, 2022.

About NATO:

- Founded: 4 April 1949
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium
- Secretary General: Jens Stoltenberg
- Chair of the NATO Military Committee: Lt. Admiral Rob Bauer
- Membership: 30 member states (28 European and 2 North American)

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

FAO, UNEP, WHO & WOAHA launched One Health Joint Plan of Action to help reduce the risk of future pandemics

- The **One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA)** was launched by the **Quadrupartite** comprising the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**, the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, and the **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE)**.

About One Health Joint Plan of Action:

- It is developed through a participatory process, providing a set of activities that aim to **strengthen collaboration, communication, capacity building, and coordination**.
- This initiative seeks to improve the health of **humans, animals, plants, and the environment** while contributing to sustainable development.
- One Health is the main approach for addressing the complex health challenges facing our society, such as ecosystem degradation, food system failures, infectious diseases, and antimicrobial resistance.
- Using a One Health lens that brings all relevant sectors together is critical to tackling global health threats, like **monkeypox, COVID-19, and Ebola**.
- The **five-year plan (2022-2026)** focuses on supporting and expanding capacities in **6 areas**:
 1. Capacities for health systems
 2. Emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics
 3. Endemic zoonotic
 4. Neglected tropical and vector-borne diseases
 5. Food safety risks
 6. Antimicrobial resistance and the environment.

About FAO:

- Founded: 16 October 1945
- Headquarters: Rome, Lazio, Italy
- Director General: Qu Dongyu
- Membership: 195 members (including 194 countries and the European Union)

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is an international organization that leads international efforts to defeat **hunger** and **improve nutrition** and **food security**.

About UNEP:

- Founded: 5 June 1972
- Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya
- Executive Director: Inger Andersen

About WHO:

- Established: 7 April 1948
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Director General: Tedros Adhanom
- The WHO is a **specialized agency** of the **United Nations** responsible for **international public health**.

About WOA:

- Established: 25 January 1924
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- President: Hugo Federico Idoyaga Benítez
- Director General: Monique Eloit
- The WOA, formerly the **Office International des Epizooties (OIE)**, is an intergovernmental organization coordinating, supporting, and promoting animal disease control.

Japan seeks Geographical Indication tag for nihonshu

- The **Embassy of Japan, New Delhi**, has filed an application seeking a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** for **nihonshu/Japanese sake**, an alcoholic beverage.
- This is the **first time** a product from **Japan** has filed for a tag at the **Geographical Indication Registry** in **Chennai**.

About Nihonshu:

- It is regarded as a **special and valuable beverage** made from **fermenting rice**.
- People traditionally drink nihonshu on special occasions, such as festivals, weddings, or funerals, but it is also consumed daily.
- Thus, it is an integral part of the lifestyle and culture in Japan.

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- The sake market (almost all are nihonshu) is the **second largest brewed liquor (such as beer) market** in Japan.
- For making nihonshu three main raw materials – rice, koji-kin (a type of fungal spore), and water are required. •
- The production of nihonshu follows an alcoholic fermentation method called **parallel multiple fermentation** and involves raw material treatment, koji making, starter culture-making, mash making, pressing, heat sterilization, and bottling.

About GI Tag:

- A geographical indication (GI) is a **sign** used on products that have a **specific geographical origin** and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- The GI of **Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India
- It is governed and directed by the **WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)**.
- The tag is valid for **10 years** following which it can be renewed.
- **Darjeeling Tea** was the first Indian product to get a GI tag.

About Japan:

- Prime minister: Fumio Kishida
- Capital: Tokyo
- Currency: Japanese yen

IFC Launches Financing Platform to Respond to Global Food Crisis

- The International Finance Corporation (IFC), World Bank's private sector investment arm, has launched a new, **\$6 billion financing facility** to **strengthen** the private sector's ability to respond to the crisis and help **support food production**.

Aim:

- To facilitate the **trade of food commodities**, delivery of inputs to farmers, supporting efficient production in major origins, including Ukraine, and effective distribution of food products in destination countries

Key Highlights:

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- It will also focus on **long-term actions** to improve the resilience of the global food system and lessen its climate and **ecological footprint**.
- The long-term actions include investing in **increasing efficient crop production, improving access to fertilizers, greening fertilizer production and use, reducing crop loss and food waste, improving supply chain efficiency, and mitigating infrastructure bottlenecks**.
- It will leverage **IFC's sectoral expertise** in agribusiness, manufacturing, infrastructure, and technology, as well as the financial sector and trade finance.
- The platform will supplement the **World Bank's commitment of US\$30 billion** in response to the **food crisis**.

About IFC:

- Established: July 20, 1956
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- MD & CEO: Makhtar Diop
- The IFC is a **member of the World Bank Group**.
- It is an **international financial institution** that offers investment, advisory, and asset-management services to encourage private-sector development in less developed countries.

EU approves adoption of world's first single charger rule

- The **European Parliament** has approved a **new rule** to introduce a **single charging port** for **electronic gadgets (mobile phones, tablets, and cameras)** by **2024** in the **European Union (EU)**.

Aim:

- To **minimize e-waste** and empower customers to make more sustainable choices.
- From **2026**, the rules will be expanded to include **laptops**.

Key Highlights:

- The new rules allow customers to choose between **two chargers** – one with and one without **USB-C chargers** while purchasing a handheld device.
- Under the **first phase** of the law, which will be implemented in **late 2024**, all mobile phones, tablets, and cameras sold in the EU have to be equipped with a **USB Type-C charging port**.
- It is expected to impact smartphone manufacturers such as **Apple** since these rules will force changes in the charging port of **iPhones** and other devices for users in the EU

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- The USB Type-C ports can charge up to **100 Watts**, transfer data up to **40 GB per second**, and link to external displays

Benefits:

- It will also **simplify the life of Europeans**, bring down costs and **reduce the number of chargers** in the market.
- It can save **at least 200 million euros each year** and significantly bring down electronic waste every year.

Note:

- Currently, about **11,000 tonnes of e-waste** is generated by **disposed or unused charges** in the **European Union each year**.

About EU:

- President of the European Council: Charles Michel
- President of the European Commission: Ursula von der Leyen
- Headquarters of European Commission: Brussels, Belgium
- Membership: 27 members
- Official Languages: 24 languages

India and France re-elected as President and Co-President of the International Solar Alliance

- **India and France** have been **re-elected** as **President and Co-President** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**.
- **Union Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister Mr. R K Singh** will be the **President of ISA** while **Chrysoula Zacharopoulou**, France's **Minister of State for Development, Francophonie and International Partnerships**, will be **co-president of the ISA**.
- The ISA Assembly approved the **Solar Facility**, a payment guarantee mechanism that is expected to stimulate investments into solar through **two financial components: Solar Payment Guarantee Fund and Solar Insurance Fund**.
- The ISA Assembly also approved the **SolarX Grand Challenge**, which is planned to focus on **innovation and start-ups**, particularly decentralized solar energy applications that contribute to **livelihoods**, such as **agriculture, health, and small-scale industrial applications**.

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- This will foster a **three-fold benefit- promotion** of the solar energy sector, thinning of the gap of the energy crisis, and promoting of a solar start-up ecosystem.

Key Highlights:

- ISA's mission is to **unlock USD 1 trillion of investments in solar by 2030** while reducing the cost of the **technology** and its financing.
- It promotes the **use of solar energy** in the **Agriculture, Health, Transport, and Power Generation sectors**.

About ISA:

- Founded: 30 November 2015
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana, India
- Director General: Ajay Mathur
- Membership: 87 members of the UN

Pakistan out of FATF's grey list after 4 years

- **Global anti-terrorism watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) removed Pakistan from its "grey list" after four years.**
- Pakistan was on the grey list of FATF since **June 2018** due to **deficiencies** in its **anti-terrorism financing** and **anti-money laundering regime**.
- Significantly, for the **first time**, the FATF put **Myanmar** in the "**high-risk jurisdictions subject to a call for action**"
- Besides Pakistan, **Nicaragua** was **removed** from the FATF "grey list" while **Congo, Tanzania, and Mozambique** were **added** to it.
- FATF stated that **Islamabad** will keep working with the **Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering** to improve its system for its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing system.

About FATF's grey list:

- Greylisting means FATF has placed a country under **increased monitoring** to check its progress on measures against money laundering and terrorism financing.
- The "grey list" is also known as the "**increased monitoring list**".
- FATF grey lists a country that it considers a haven for **terror funding** and **money laundering**.
- Currently, there are **23 countries** on the FATF's increased monitoring list.

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- It is a warning to the country to tackle the issues, failing which it could be "**blacklisted**," the highest level of the indictment.
- So far, **only two countries** have been **blacklisted**- Iran and North Korea.

About FATF:

- Established: 1989
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- President: T Raja Kumar
- It is an **intergovernmental organization** & it was established to combat money laundering, terror financing, and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- Currently, it has **39 members**, including **two regional organizations** - the **European Commission** and **Gulf Cooperation Council**.

Anna May Wong to be the first Asian American featured on US currency

- The **legendary Hollywood star Anna May Wong** will become the **first Asian American** to appear on **US currency**
- This will be the **fifth coin** in the **American Women Quarters (AWQ) Program**, which highlights female pioneers on coins.

About Anna May Wong:

- Wong Liu Tsong, known professionally as Anna May Wong, was an **American actress**.
- She was considered the **first Chinese-American movie star in Hollywood**, as well as the **first Chinese-American actress** to gain international recognition.
- In 1960, Wong was awarded a star on the **Hollywood Walk of Fame**.

About the AWQ program:

- It is a **four-year program** that honors the achievements of women in the **United States** from **2022 to 2025**
- To date, astronaut **Sally Ride**, activist and poet **Maya Angelou**, the first woman chief of the **Cherokee Nation Wilma Mankiller**, and the **suffragist Nina Otero-Warren** have been featured under the program

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WHO releases first-ever fungal priority pathogen list

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released the first-ever priority pathogen list, the WHO Fungal Priority Pathogens List (WHO FPPL) which includes 19 fungi to identify fungi that pose the greatest threat to public health.
- This report is based on research led by the University of Sydney in Australia.

About WHO FPPL:

- The WHO FPPL is the first global effort to systematically prioritize fungal pathogens, considering the unmet research and development (R&D) needs and the perceived public health importance.
- The classification is based on the pathogen's public health impact or emerging antifungal resistance risk.

The list has been divided into three categories

1. Critical
 2. High
 3. Medium priority.
- The critical group includes *Candida Auris*, which is highly drug-resistant and has caused several outbreaks in hospitals worldwide, as well as *Cryptococcus neoformans*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, and *Candida albicans*.
 - The high group includes several other fungi from the *Candida* family as well as others such as *Mucorales*, a group containing the fungi that cause mucormycosis or "black fungus", an infection that rose rapidly in seriously ill people - particularly in India - during COVID-19.
 - The medium group lists several other fungi, including *Coccidioides spp* and *Cryptococcus gattii*.

About Fungal infection treatment:

- Fungal pathogens are a major threat to public health as they are becoming increasingly common and resistant to treatment.
- Currently, only four classes of antifungal medicines are available, and few candidates are in the clinical pipeline.
- A three-layered approach emerged in the strategies suggested by policymakers, governments, and public health professionals.

The strategy includes:

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- Strengthening laboratory capacity and surveillance.
- Sustaining investments in research, development, and innovation
- Enhancing public health interventions for prevention and control.

About WHO:

- Established: 7 April 1948
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Director-General: Tedros Adhanom
- The WHO is a **specialized agency** of the **United Nations** responsible for international public health.

Climate plans to limit global temperature remain insufficient: UN report

- A new report by the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** has **warned** that the **climate plans** from governments worldwide remain insufficient to **limit rising temperatures** to **1.5 degrees Celsius** as set out in the **2015 Paris Agreement**.
- According to the report, the combined climate pledges of **193 parties** under the Paris Agreement could put the world on track for around **2.5 degrees Celsius** of warming by the **end of the century**.

Key Highlights:

- The report shows current commitments will **increase emissions** by **10.6% by 2030**, compared to 2010 levels.
- This is an improvement over the 2021 assessment, which found countries were on a path to increase emissions by **13.7% by 2030**, compared to 2010 levels.
- The 2021 report analysis showed that projected emissions would continue to **increase beyond 2030**
- The **UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2018 report** indicated that **CO2 emissions** needed to be cut by **45% by 2030**, compared to 2010 levels.
- To meet the Paris deal's goal, compared with 2010 levels, it needs to fall by **43% by 2030**.
- UN Climate Change analyzed the climate action plans known as **nationally determined contributions (NDCs)** of **193 parties** to the **Paris Agreement**, including **24 updated or new NDCs** submitted after the **UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26)** up until **September 23, 2022**

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- The **24 countries** include **Bolivia, Vanuatu, and Uganda**, as well as the large emitter nations of **India and Indonesia**.
- Together, the plans cover **94.9%** of total global greenhouse gas emissions in 2019.

Note:

- The **UN Climate Change Conference COP 27** will take place in **Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt**, from 6 to 18 November 2023.

About UNFCCC:

- The UNFCCC entered into force on **21 March 1994**.
- It was signed by **154 states** at the **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)**, informally known as the **Earth Summit**, held in **Rio de Janeiro** from 3 to 14 June 1992.

IMPORTANT MOUs & AGREEMENTS

Paralympic Committee of India and the Indian Army have signed an MoU to provide opportunities for wounded soldiers to participate in Para sports:

- The **Paralympic Committee of India (PCI)** and the **Indian Army** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in a bid to provide opportunities for wounded soldiers to participate in **Para sports**.
- **Lieutenant General Ravin Khosla**, deputy chief of army staff of the Indian Army, **joined PCI President Deepa Malik** and were both present for the signing of the document.
- It is hoped that the **MoU will help to rehabilitate soldiers** who have sustained severe injuries in the line of duty.

About PCI:

- The Paralympic Committee of India is the body responsible for selecting athletes to represent India at the Paralympic Games and other international athletic meets and for managing the Indian teams at the events.
- The organization was founded in 1992 as the Physically Handicapped Sports Federation of India.
- President: Deepa Malik

SFAC and Bayer CropScience Limited have signed an MoU to form and promote 50 specialized FPOs:

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- **Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) and Bayer CropScience Limited** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to form and promote 50 specialized Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).
- In collaboration with SFAC, **Bayer CropScience Limited** has identified clusters in 10 states and will aim to assist smallholder farmers with business planning, identification of key enablers, creation of market linkages, and knowledge transfer, while working to establish the FPOs.
- SFAC's partnership with Bayer CropScience Limited will help strengthen grower collectivization and support farmer collectives to evolve as profitable and self-reliant business entities.
- Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is an Autonomous Society promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India.
- It was registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI in 1994.
- SFAC is an exclusive Society focused on increasing the incomes of small and marginal farmers through the aggregation and development of agribusiness
- It is governed by a Board of Management chaired by the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare as the President and the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare as the Vice President.
- Also, the **National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)** Platform was launched in April 2016 and the **Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO)** was set up with the assistance of SFAC apart from the other important schemes.

Agriculture Ministry, NAFED signed MoU to boost the initiative to promote millets:

- **Agriculture Ministry, NAFED** signed MoU to boost the initiative to promote millets towards the celebration of the international year of millets 2023.
- **The U.N. General Assembly** recently adopted a resolution, sponsored by India and supported by more than 70 countries, **declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets.**
- The resolution is intended to increase public awareness of the health benefits of millets and their suitability for cultivation under tough conditions marked by climate change.
- Millet is a cereal that belongs to the grass family.
- Majorly cultivated in the semiarid tropical regions of Africa and Asia, around 97 percent of the world's overall millet production happens in these regions.

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- Types of millets: Jowar (Sorghum), Ragi, Bajra (Pearl millet).

About NAFED:

- It was established on Gandhi Jayanti on 2 October 1958 NAFED is registered under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act.

NTPC Ltd and GE Gas Power signed an MoU to install at NTPC's Kawas combined-cycle gas power plant in Gujarat:

- State-run NTPC Ltd and GE Gas Power signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the feasibility to demonstrate hydrogen co-firing blended with natural gas in GE's 9E gas turbines installed at NTPC's Kawas combined-cycle gas power plant in Gujarat.
- The two companies will jointly explore the pathways to reduce CO2 emissions from the Kawas gas power plant and further implementation at scale across NTPC's installed units in India.
- NTPC's Kawa gas power plant is powered by four GE 9E gas turbines operating in a combined-cycle mode and has an installed capacity of 645 megawatts (MW).
- Further, GE's advanced E- Class gas turbine portfolio currently can burn up to 100% by volume of hydrogen when blended with natural gas.
- In this first-of-its-kind MoU with NTPC in India, GE Gas Power will evaluate the possible modifications in the gas turbine unit and auxiliaries required for blending H2 with natural gas.

WEF has partnered with Madhya Pradesh for bringing together a network called 'Food Innovation Hub:

- World Economic Forum (WEF) has partnered with Madhya Pradesh for bringing together a network called 'Food Innovation Hubs, to strengthen local innovation ecosystems and achieve self-sufficiency in food production through private-public partnerships (PPP).
- The World Economic Forum (WEF) is bringing together a network called 'Food Innovation Hubs, to strengthen local innovation ecosystems and achieve self-sufficiency in food production through private-public partnerships (PPP).
- The Food Innovation Hubs initiative aims to strengthen local innovation ecosystems and achieve self-sufficiency in food production through private-public partnerships (PPP).
- The 'Food Innovation Hubs are coming up in Columbia, Vietnam, the United Arab Emirates, and the European Union.
- Many others are also in the process of being set up in Kenya and Rwanda.

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- The first hub in India is being set up in Madhya Pradesh under a collaboration agreement between the WEF and Madhya Pradesh government.
- The hub which is based on agricultural development will promote innovations in alignment with tenets of the AtmaNirbharata

About WEF:

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) is a nonprofit foundation.
- It was established in 1971 and is based in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is recognized by the Swiss authorities as the international institution for public-private cooperation.
- The WEF is mostly known for its annual meeting at the end of January in Davos, a mountain resort in the eastern Alps region of Switzerland.

BIS has signed an MoU with the food and consumer affairs ministry to promote and harmonize the implementation of standards:

- **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, the National Standards Body of India has signed an MoU with the **Testing, Inspection, Certification Council**, the food and consumer affairs ministry.
- The two will collaborate to promote and harmonize the implementation of standards and quality, safety and sustainability practices in laboratories.
- Each organization looks forward to a mutually prosperous journey together.
- TIC Council is a global trade association representing the independent third-party testing, inspection, and certification industry.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards is the National Standards Body of India under the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India.
- It is established by the **Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016** which came into effect on **12 October 2017**.

AIFF has signed an MoU with SAFF for the promotion of football activities:

- The **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF)** for the promotion of football activities including the provision of technical support, the organization, and hosting of youth competitions for both men and women regularly.

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- The idea is to host the knockout phase of the **Santosh Trophy in select cities in Saudi to encourage State level players** to dream big and also to connect the large Indian community in Saudi with Indian football and create a win-win situation for both Federations.
- The All India Football Federation is the governing body of football in India under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India**.
- Formed in 1935 founded at Darbhanga, the federation was one of the founding members of the Asian Football Confederation, the overseer of football in Asia. President: Kalyan Chaubey.

NMDC and RailTel Corporation of India have signed MoU for ICT and Digital Solutions:

- **NMDC and RailTel Corporation of India** have signed MoU for ICT and Digital Solutions.
- Shri H Sundaram Prabhu, GM, NMDC, and Shri Manohar Raja, Executive Director, **RailTel signed the MoU at NMDC's headquarters in Hyderabad.**
- RailTel will provide Consultancy, Project Management, and Execution services.
- This MoU builds on the partnership that **NMDC already has with the National Railway Telecom.**

About NMDC:

- **National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)** is the country's largest Iron Ore producer.
- It is a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Steel.
- It is headquartered in Hyderabad. **Sumit Deb is its CMD.**

About RailTel Corporation of India:

- RailTel Corporation of India Limited is an Indian public sector enterprise that was founded in September 2000.
- It is a Mini Ratna (Category-I) PSU.
- It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Indian Railways.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- Sanjai Kumar is its CMD.

BHEL has signed an MoU with CIL and NLCIL for setting up Coal Gasification based plants:

- Aimed at gainfully utilizing the country's vast reserves of coal & lignite, **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** has entered into strategic MoUs with **Coal India Limited (CIL)** and **NLC India Limited (NLCIL)** for setting up **Coal Gasification based plants.**

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- Under these MoUs, BHEL will jointly set up a Coal to Ammonium Nitrate Project with CIL based on the gasification of high ash Indian coal, and a lignite-based gasification pilot plant with NLCIL for power generation, utilizing BHEL's indigenously-developed Pressurised Fluidised Bed Gasification (PFBG) technology.
- Significantly, this will be a breakthrough step towards meeting the National Coal Gasification Mission target of 100 Million MT.
- BHEL is a pioneer in the development of indigenous coal gasification technology, i.e. PFBG, and has successfully gasified high-ash Indian coals.
- This technology was earlier utilized to establish a 6.2 MWe IGCC-based Combined Cycle Plant at BHEL Trichy.
- The company has already successfully set up India's first high-ash Indian coal to Methanol (0.25 TPD) pilot plant at its Corp. R&D, Hyderabad, which was dedicated to the nation by the Hon'ble Minister of Heavy Industries in January 2022.

IIT Kharagpur & ONGC signed an MOU to strengthen the industrial and interdisciplinary research:

- To strengthen the industrial and interdisciplinary research in cost-effective exploration activities, IIT Kharagpur has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with an institute of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation.
- Under this MoU, the two institutes will take on several developmental projects and research projects in drilling, drilling fluids, cementing fluids and completion fluids, etc.
- The MoU between IIT Kharagpur and the Institute of Drilling Technology, Dehradun was signed earlier in the week.
- The collaboration will bring forth the industrial and interdisciplinary research initiatives that are currently being undertaken at the Deysarkar Centre of Excellence in Petroleum Engineering (DCEPE).

IRFC has signed an MoU with IIFCL to strengthen cooperation in financing railway infrastructure projects:

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- **Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **India Infrastructure Finance Company (IIFCL)** to strengthen cooperation in financing railway infrastructure projects.
- The MoU was signed to strengthen cooperation in financing railway infrastructure projects with forward and backward linkages to the Indian Railways sector.
- Through this MoU, IRFC, and IIFCL plan to amplify each other's capabilities, enabling them to jointly leverage the financing opportunities for viable infrastructure projects.
- **India Infrastructure Finance Company (IIFCL)** was set up in 2006, as a wholly-owned Government of India enterprise to cater to the long-term financing needs of the infrastructure sector in India.
- Since its inception, IIFCL has been actively involved in the promotion, development, and financing of the infrastructure sector in India.

About IRFC:

- IRFC is a dedicated financing arm of the Indian Railways for mobilizing funds from domestic as well as overseas markets.
- The Government of India held an 86.36% stake in the company as on 30 June 2021.
- Amitabh Banerjee, CMD of IRFC.

GAME signed an MoU with NRLM to enable financial access for the growth of 10 lakh women entrepreneurs:

- **Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **DAY-National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)** to enable financial access for the growth of 10 lakh women entrepreneurs over 3 years.
- As per the MoU, GAME, and NRLM will strengthen non-farm livelihoods by building the capacity of **women entrepreneurs (WEs)** to access finance and grow their enterprises.
- The program will focus on capacity building of stakeholders and bankers from public sector banks, digitally-led NBFCs, and small finance banks.
- In line with this, another key objective is to identify and train '**VittaSakhis**' from **Self Help Groups (SHGs)** who can help WEs.
- VittaSakhis will educate WEs on how they can apply for and benefit from government schemes/ compliances and onboard them onto digital tools for building their enterprise.

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About GAME:

- The Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship founded by Ravi Venkatesan, Madan Padaki, and Mekin Maheshwari, was officially launched in August 2018, to unlock ME's potential and as a convening body that brings alignment within the ecosystem and mobilize action to address systemic challenges.
- Suresh Gundappa, CEO, GAME.

NHIDCL has signed an MOU with CSIR-CRRI, IIT Roorkee, IIT Kanpur, and NSDC to help introduce innovative technologies:

- **National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL)**, a CPSE under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, has signed a memorandum of understanding with **CSIR-CRRI, IIT Roorkee, IIT Kanpur, and NSDC** to help introduce innovative technologies and find a pragmatic solution to the highways construction issues in challenging hilly and border areas.
- Earlier, **MoUs were signed with IIT Bombay & IIT Guwahati** for sharing knowledge of innovative ideas and technologies in the field of highway engineering to upgrade the skill and capacity of the core engineering professionals of NHIDCL who are working tirelessly for the construction of Highways, tunnels and other infrastructure in the very tough geographical areas of NE region, UT of Ladakh, UT of J&K and UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- The latest MoU with IIT, Patna was signed.
- The National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited is a fully owned company of the Government of India, set up in 2014.
- Managing Director: Chanchal Kumar.

UNDP has partnered with Arya. ag for agri-value chain intervention, enterprise promotion, and skilling in the agriculture sector:

- **UNDP has partnered with the integrated grain commerce platform Arya. ag and Friends of Women's World Banking India (FWWB India)** for agri-value chain intervention, enterprise promotion, and skilling in the agriculture sector.
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is implementing **Project Excel in Jamnagar and Dwaraka Devbhumi districts of Gujarat** to improve the incomes of 10,000 farmer households

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through enterprise promotion, agri-value chain interventions, skilling, employment, and social protection.

- This partnership aims to create a cadre of community resource persons for mentoring and supporting entrepreneurs and promoting individual and group enterprises by December 2023.

About FWWB:

- **Friends of Women's World Banking**, India, often shortened to Friends of WWB, India, or just FWWB, is an Indian APEX organization that assists microfinance and microenterprise organizations. Founded in 1982 by Ela Bhatt, it is located in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.

About UNDP:

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Headquarters - New York City, Head - Achim Steiner.

AIIA and AIST, Japan have signed an MoU for academic establishment:

- The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), the apex institute of Ayurveda in India under the Ministry of AYUSH, and the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan have signed an MoU for academic establishment.
- AIST is a reputed and one of the largest public research organizations in Japan, focusing on technologies and on “bridging” the gap between innovative technological seeds and commercialization.
- AIIA already has MoUs with the European Academy of Ayurveda, Bernstein, Germany; Western Sydney University, Australia; Graz Medical University, Austria; College of Medical, UK; London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK and Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

About Japan:

- Capital: Tokyo
- Currency: Japanese yen
- Prime minister: Fumio Kishida.

CIL signed an MOU with Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited for developing a solar power project of 1 190 MW:

- As part of its diversification program for clean coal energy, Coal India Limited (CIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Rajasthan Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL), for

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developing a solar power project of 1190 MW in Jaipur in presence of Shri Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister for Coal, Mines & Parliamentary Affairs and Shri Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister, Rajasthan

- The proposed project, for which the MoU was inked, will come up in Rajasthan's upcoming solar park cleared under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Parks.

About CIL:

- Coal India Limited is an Indian central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Coal, Government of India.
- It is headquartered in Kolkata.
- Founded: November 1975.

Indian Navy and IIM Nagpur signed an MoU to explore Opportunities to train, up-skill, and re-skill Armed Forces Personnel:

- Indian Navy and IIM Nagpur signed an MoU to explore Opportunities to train, up-skill, and re-skill Armed Forces Personnel, Indian Navy personnel in particular, in emerging areas of Business Management, Financial Management, Block Chain, Project Management, Strategic Management, Digital Marketing, Supply chain, Logistic management, and research.
- This will facilitate career enhancement/ progression of Serving Personnel and up-skill retiring officers to meet industry requirements.

About the Indian Navy:

- The Indian Navy is the maritime branch of the Indian Armed Forces.
- The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Navy.
- Founded: 26 January 1950, Motto(s): शं नो वरुणः (Sanskrit), Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) - Admiral R. Hari Kumar.

SJVN signed an MoU with APDCL for developing 1000MW floating solar power

- State-run power company SJVN signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL) at Guwahati for developing 1000 MW floating solar power projects in Assam by incorporating a joint venture company.
- SJVN will invest ₹6000 crores in the state for developing the project.

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- Assam has a floating solar power generation potential of around 3000 MW out of which SJVN would develop 1000 MW Floating Solar Projects across the state and the same shall be spread over 4500 hectares of water area.
- **About SJVN:**
- Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam, better known as **SJVN**, is an Indian public sector undertaking involved in **hydroelectric power generation and transmission**.
- It was incorporated in 1988 as Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation, a joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh
- Key people: Nand Lal Sharma (Chairman & MD).

IRCTC and CASHe have partnered to provide a "travel now, pay later" option:

- The Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and AI-driven financial wellness platform CASHe have teamed up to offer a "travel now pay later" (TNPL) payment option on IRCTC Rail Connect, the company's travel app.
- This would allow passengers of Indian Railways to promptly reserve their rail tickets and pay for them later in **EMIs that are affordable and last between three and six months**.
- Millions of Indian Railway travelers will now find it simpler and more convenient to purchase train tickets on the **IRCTC travel app with the addition of the CASHe payment option**.
- Passengers purchasing reserved and tatkal tickets through the **IRCTC travel app will have the option to pay with EMI**.
- All consumers are instantly qualified to use the TNPL facility without any documentation when using CASHe's TNPL EMI payment option.
- Over 90 million people have downloaded the **IRCTC travel app, which facilitates more than 1.5 million daily reservations for train tickets**.
- This collaboration will also greatly help CASHe reach millions of IRCTC customers and give them a simple choice to travel right away and pay for their train tickets in manageable EMIs down the road.

Google and Assam Government collaborate to power digital learning:

- **Google** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the **Assam government** to support and **accelerate the State's goal of fostering digital growth and development**.

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- As part of this new initiative, Google will collaborate with the **Skill, Employment & Entrepreneurship Department (SEED) of the Assam Government** to strengthen school digitization efforts with digital tools and solutions to support teaching and learning as well as to spread the **"Be Internet Awesome"** program's lessons on the fundamentals of **online safety and digital citizenship** to school children.
- Google will collaborate with the **Assam Skill Development Mission** to award **Google Career Certificates** to young people in Assam in addition to granting the scholarship.

About Google:

- CEO: Sundar Pichai
- Founded: 4 September 1998
- Headquarters: California, United States
- Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin

Drones might enhance India's GDP by \$100 billion and create thousands of jobs:

- In a recent analysis, the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** claimed that putting drones at the forefront of a **technology-driven transformation of Indian agriculture** may boost the country's GDP by 1–1.5% and generate at least five lakh new jobs in the coming years.
- Drone-based technology has the potential to **revolutionize Indian agriculture**, according to a paper published here by the WEF's Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in India in collaboration with the **Adani Group**.
- The WEF paper outlines drone use scenarios that integrate military and commercial technology and are made practical by local stakeholder coordination, digital adoption, analytics, and financing.
- It also provides a framework for the development of scalable pilot projects that can be implemented by various governments.

American Express ties up with Nasscom to empower women with digital skills:

- The **Nasscom Foundation and American Express** have partnered to train and upskill 700 women graduates through an employment-linked training project, **'Women Empowerment Through Technology'**
- Under this project, American Express and Nasscom Foundation are working with two training partners - **FUEL (Friends Union for Energizing Lives)** and **RCED (Regional Centre for**

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Entrepreneurship) to impart women with technology-based skill development and entrepreneurship training.

- **Women Empowerment Through Technology** project focuses on training 700 women in various technical courses including **cloud and data analytics, blockchain, Machine Learning (ML), and Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.
- The enrolled beneficiaries will also be groomed through non-technical courses, including communication skills, holistic personality development, and interview skills.
- On successful completion of the program, the women beneficiaries will receive a validated professional certificate.

BEL inks MOU with Triton to manufacture hydrogen fuel cells:

- **Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a US-headquartered electric vehicle company, **Triton Electric Vehicle (TEV)**, to manufacture hydrogen fuel cells.
- The cells will be manufactured by **BEL** using the technology transfer from **TEV**.
- This would also help to meet the requirements of the Indian market and mutually agreed upon export markets.
- According to the company, the MoU aims to **tap the demand for clean energy solutions for various applications**, including for e- Mobility, by leveraging the Government of India's thrust for adopting clean energy fuels for applications in transport and energy storage.

Jakson Green had signed an MoU with the Rajasthan government:

- **Jakson Green** had signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Rajasthan government**.
- **Jakson Green** had signed the MoU to invest about **₹22,400 crores (roughly \$2.8 billion)** in **Rajasthan** to establish a **Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia** project in phases.
- **Jakson Green** will establish a **3,65,000 tonnes per annum Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia plant** in **Kota**.
- The **Rajasthan government** would facilitate **Jakson Green** in getting required registrations, approvals, and clearances, and provide incentives.

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- Jakson Green is a part of the Jakson Group, which is a diversified energy and Infrastructure company headquartered in Noida.
- The project, which was developed by **Jakson Green** and the **Rajasthan** government, is estimated to generate over **32,000 direct and indirect job opportunities** throughout the scale-up.
- **Vish Iyer**, Global Chief Commercial Officer at Jakson Green, and **Bhaskar S Sawant**, Principal Secretary of Energy to the Government of Rajasthan, signed the Memorandum of Understanding.
- The Rajasthan government will assist Jakson Green in acquiring the appropriate registrations, approvals, and clearance, as well as provide incentives.

Greenko Group and Keppel Infrastructure have signed an MoU to export green energy to Singapore:

- India's **Greenko group** and **Singapore's Keppel Infrastructure** have signed an MoU.
- India will **export green energy to Singapore from 2025**.
- Under the MoU to **explore opportunities in green hydrogen potential in India**, both will work together towards a **250,000 tonnes per annum contract**.
- Under the MoU, the first shipment will be supplied to **Keppel's new 600MW power plant in Singapore**.
- Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** and Singapore's Trade and Industry Minister **Gan Kim Yong** virtually witnessed the signing of the **Greenko-Keppel MoU**.
- This also comes in the backdrop of **Greenko Group and Belgium's John Cockerill plan to set up a 2 GW electrolyzer factory in India**, one of the world's largest, through their joint venture.
- The factory will require an investment of **\$500 million**.

Drone Federation and the Indian Navy have partnered to advance homegrown drone technology:

- The **Drone Federation of India (DFI)** and the **Naval Innovation Indigenisation Organization (NIIO)** under the **Indian Navy** have joined forces to **promote domestic research, development, testing, and production of drones, counter-drones, and related technologies for the Indian Navy**.
- As part of this partnership, **TDAC and DFI will boost the synergy between the Navy, Industry, and Academic sectors** and identify technical development obstacles for component indigenization.
- To speed up the development and testing of drones, particularly in marine conditions, and to enable development for a variety of applications, a unique maritime drone testing site shall also be designated for the Indian drone sector.

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- As part of this relationship, skill development and sensitization programs will also be run.
- TDAC has been working to hasten the creation of homegrown technologies that the Indian Navy can use.
- The **Drone Federation of India** will assist us in **strengthening our connections with the sector and in building a stronger roadmap** for the timely introduction of drone platforms into the Indian Navy.

IMPORTANT MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

Bank of India acquires over 5.5% stake in ONDC for Rs 10 crore

- State-owned lender, **Bank of India, (BoI)** has acquired over **5.56% stake** in **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** for Rs 10 crore.
- In absolute terms, it has acquired **10,00,000 equity shares** for **Rs 100 each** in the to-be operational digital commerce company, incorporated in **December 2021**.
- The framework is expected to make e-commerce more inclusive and accessible to consumers and sellers.

About BoI:

- Founded: 7 September 1906
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Atanu Kumar Das
- Tagline: Relationship Beyond Banking

About ONDC:

- ONDC is a **private non-profit Section 8 company** established by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** of Gol to develop open e-commerce.

Aim:

- To promote open networks for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks in the country.

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CCI approves the acquisition of Assets of Essar Group by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Limited

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves the acquisition of Assets of Essar Group (Target) by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Limited (AMNS - Acquirer)
- The proposed combination involves the acquisition of certain assets
- Power Assets (Essar Power Hazira Limited (EPHL), Gandhar Hazira Transmission Limited (GHTL))
- Port Assets (Hazira Cargo Terminals Limited (HCTL), Ibrox Aviation & Trading Private Limited (IATPL), Essar Bulk Terminal Limited (EBTL), Essar Bulk Terminal Paradip Limited (EBTPL), Essar Vizag Terminals Limited (EVTL))
- Other Assets (Snow White Agencies Private Limited (SWAPL), Bhagwat Steel Limited (BSL))
- AMNS is a Joint Venture between ArcelorMittal S.A. (AM) and its affiliates and Nippon Steel Corporation, Japan (NSC)
- EPHL is a power plant adjacent to AMNS, Hazira, Gujarat, and comprises two generation units of 135-MW capacity each and is used by the acquirer for captive purposes.

About CCI:

- Established: 14 October 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Ashok Kumar Gupta
- The CCI is the chief national competition regulator in India.
- It is a statutory body within the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

CCI approves the acquisition of the share capital of 18 subsidiaries of Mytrah Energy (India) Private Limited by JSW Neo Energy Limited

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves the acquisition of the share capital of 18 subsidiaries of Mytrah Energy (India) Private Limited by JSW Neo Energy Limited under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.
- The proposed combination pertains to the acquisition of the shareholding of 18 subsidiaries (Targets) of Mytrah Energy (India) Private Limited (Mytrah) through individual share purchase agreements by JSW Neo Energy Limited (Acquirer) (Proposed Combination).
- The Acquirer will acquire an operational renewable portfolio of 1,753 MW.

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About JSW Neo Energy Limited (Acquirer):

- It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of JSW Energy Limited (“JEL”).
- It was incorporated as per JEL’s proposed reorganization of its energy business into **grey (thermal)** and **green (renewable)**.
- Currently, the Acquirer is engaged in power generation through renewable sources of energy such as hydro and solar.

About Mytrah Energy (India) Private Limited (Targets):

- The Targets are subsidiaries of Mytrah and are engaged in power generation through renewable sources of energy, viz., wind and solar.

CCI approves the acquisition by Adani Power Ltd of the share capital of Diligent Power Pvt Ltd and DB Power Ltd

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the acquisition by **Adani Power Limited (Acquirer)** of the share capital of **Diligent Power Private Limited (Diligent Power)** and **DB Power Limited (DB Power)**
- The Acquirer is a publicly listed company incorporated in India with its shares listed on BSE Limited as well as the **National Stock Exchange of India Limited**.
- It is a power company with **8 operational power plants** in India.
- It has a power generation capacity of **13,650 MW** comprising thermal power plants in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh and a **40 MW solar power project** in Gujarat.
- Diligent Power is primarily engaged in the activities of a holding company & it also provides project management and consultancy services, limited to DB Power.
- DB Power operates a coal-based thermal power plant with an installed capacity of **1200 MW per hour** in Chhattisgarh.

LIC increases its stake in Dr. Reddy's Laboratories to 7.7%

- **Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd (DRL)** informed that the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has increased its stake to **7.7%** from **5.65%** stake.

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- Between June 15, 2022, and September 30, 2022, LIC purchased **33,86,486 shares** of DRL, aggregating a **2.034% stake** from the open market.

About Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd:

- Founded: 1984
- Headquarters: Hyderabad; Telangana, India
- CEO: Erez Israeli
- Dr. Reddy's Laboratories is an **Indian multinational pharmaceutical company**.

About LIC:

- Founded: 1 September 1956
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairperson: M R Kumar
- Managing Director: B C Patnaik, Smt. Ipe Mini, Siddharth Mohanty, Rajkumar

Govt, LIC to divest 60.72% stake in IDBI Bank

- The **Government of India (GoI)** and the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** will together divest a **60.72% stake** in **IDBI Bank Limited**.
- The proposed strategic disinvestment includes the sale of **30.48%** of the **Government of India's stake** and a **30.24% stake** in the **Life Insurance Corporation of India**.
- For this, the **Department of Investment & Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has named **KPMG India Pvt Ltd** and **Link Legal** are acting as the transaction and legal advisors for managing the IDBI Bank stake sale
- This would reportedly be the **first privatization** of a **public sector bank**.

Key Highlights:

- The government and LIC hold a **94.72% stake** together in IDBI Bank.
- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) holds **529.41 crore** shares representing a **49.24% stake** in IDBI Bank, while the government holds **488.99 crore shares** or a **45.48% stake**.
- The IDBI Bank sale will contribute to the FY23 divestment target of the Center of **Rs 65,000 crore**
- The government has invited an **expression of interest (EoIs)** till **December 16, 2022**.
- Expression of interest means a **willingness** of a potential buyer to participate in a bid to buy a certain stake in a company.

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- The Eols would be valid for 6 months and can be extended to a further 6 months.
- The selected bidder would be required to mandatorily lock in at least **40%** of the equity capital for **5 years** from the date of acquisition.

About LIC:

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

About IDBI Bank Limited:

- Founded: 1 July 1964
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Rakesh Sharma

CCI approves IndInfravit's acquisition of 5 SPVs operating expressway projects in 4 States

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of 100% of the equity and compulsorily convertible debentures of 5 special purpose vehicles (SPVs) by IndInfravit & allotment of units of IndInfravit to CPHI-4 for part-funding the acquisition of SPVs.
- The 5 SPVs are engaged in the operation and maintenance of highways in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Maharashtra.

About IndInfravit:

- IndInfravit was set up on 7 March 2018, as an irrevocable trust under the provisions of the Indian Trusts Act, of 1882.
- It is registered as an infrastructure investment trust under the SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) (InvIT Regulations) to invest in road infrastructure assets in India.
- Currently, it has a portfolio of 13 road assets across 6 states and a network of approximately 5,000 lane km.
- CPHI-4 is a Canadian corporation and an investment holding company that invests in a diversified portfolio of assets.

About CCI:

- Established: 14 October 2003

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- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Ashok Kumar Gupta
- Secretary: P K Singh
- The CCI is the chief national competition regulator in India.
- It is a statutory body within the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

CCI clears ADIA's minority stake buy in Intas Pharmaceuticals

- Anti-trust regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) cleared Platinum Owl's acquisition of a minority stake in Intas Pharmaceuticals.
- The proposed transaction involves a secondary acquisition by Platinum Owl of 3% of the equity shareholding of Intas (on an outstanding shares basis).
- Platinum Owl is acting in its capacity as a trustee for Platinum Jasmine A 2018 Trust and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) is the sole beneficiary and settlor of the Platinum Jasmine A 2018 Trust.
- ADIA is a public institution established as an independent investment institution by the Government of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.
- Intas is engaged in the business of development, manufacture, and marketing of pharmaceutical formulations.

MCA approves demerger of NMDC Steel from NMDC

- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has approved the demerger of NMDC Steel Limited, a 3-million-tonne steel plant at Nagamar in Chhattisgarh, from NMDC Ltd with an investment outlay of over Rs 20,000 crore.
- The Company is in the process of complying with the requirements as envisaged in the MCA Order and the observation letters received from Bombay, Calcutta, and National Stock Exchanges.

About MCA:

- Cabinet Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State: Rao Inderjit Singh

About NMDC:

- Founded: 1958

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- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairman & MD: Sumit Deb
- NMDC Limited, (formerly **National Mineral Development Corporation**) is under the ownership of the **Ministry of Steel**, Government of India.

LIC reduces stake in United Nilgiri Tea

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has reduced its stake in **United Nilgiri Tea Estates Company Ltd** from 4.81 lakh shares to 3.80 lakh shares.
- The LIC's shareholding has decreased from 9.632% to 7.613% of the paid-up capital of the company.
- LIC offered these shares at a mean value of ₹310.72 between August 12 and October 7, 2022, the insurance coverage mainly informed the exchanges.

About LIC:

- Founded: 1 September 1956
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairperson: M R Kumar
- Managing Director: B C Patnaik, Smt. Ipe Mini, Siddharth Mohanty, Rajkumar
- LIC is an Indian central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India.

NSDL Acquires 5.6% Stake in ONDC for INR 10 crore

- **National Securities Depository (NSDL)** has acquired a 5.6% stake in the digital commerce platform **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**.
- The NSDL has invested 10 crores to buy 1 million shares which translates to a 5.6% equity stake.

About NSDL:

- Founded: 1996
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Padmaja Chundururu
- It was the first electronic securities depository in India with national coverage.

About ONDC:

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- Founded: December 31, 2021
- ONDC is a private non-profit Section 8 company established by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) of the Government of India.

Aim:

- To provide a digital platform that aggregates sellers and buyers of various goods.

IRDAI Grants Approval to Merger of Exide Life into HDFC Life

- Insurance sector regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has granted final approval to HDFC Life Insurance Company Ltd (HDFC Life) to merge Exide Life into the company.
- This marks the completion of the first-ever merger and acquisition (M&A) transaction in the Indian life insurance sector.
- In January 2022, HDFC Life acquired a 100% stake in Exide Life Insurance Company from its parent firm Exide Industries for Rs 6,687 crore to increase its presence in the south India market.
- With the transfer of its life insurance business to HDFC Life, Exide Industries acquired a 4.12% stake in HDFC Life.
- In Sep 2022, IRDAI received approval from the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for the merger of Exide Life into itself.

About IRDAI:

- Established: 1999
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairperson: Debasish Panda
- IRDAI is a regulatory body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- It is tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and reinsurance industries in India.

About HDFC Life Insurance Company Ltd:

- Founded: 2000
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Vibha Padalkar
- It is a joint venture between Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC), one of India's leading housing finance institutions, and Abrdn, a global investment company.

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Invesco sells a 5.5% stake in Zee for Rs 1,396 cr

- Invesco and OFI Global China along with other entities sold a 5.51% stake in Zee Entertainment Enterprises (ZEEL) for \$169.5 million or up to Rs 1,396 crore in a block trade.
- According to data, it sold over 53 million shares for Rs263.7 each to raise Rs1,396 crore.
- Some of the purchases included Morgan Stanley, Citigroup, Bank of America, Abvendus, and ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund (MF).
- Before the investment, Invesco owned 10.14% of Zee.
- Zee shares increased 2.79 % to close at Rs270.65 on the BSE.
- The price for the deal was reported to be in the range of Rs 250 to Rs 263.7 per share.
- In April 2022, after withdrawing its demand for an extraordinary general meeting (EGM), Invesco sold a 7.74 pc stake in Zee Entertainment for Rs 2,092 crore.

About Invesco:

- Founded: 1978
- Headquarters: Atlanta, Georgia, United States
- Chairman: Rex Adams
- CEO: Martin L. Flanagan
- Invesco Ltd. is an American independent investment management company.

LIC increases its stake in Dr. Reddy's Laboratories to 7.7% from 5.65%

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has increased its stake to 7.7% from 5.65% in an Indian multinational pharmaceutical company Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd.
- Between June 15, 2022, and September 30, 2022, LIC purchased 33,86,486 shares of DRL, aggregating a 2.034% stake from the open market.

About LIC:

- Founded: 1 September 1956
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairperson: Mangalam Ramasubramanian Kumar
- LIC is an Indian central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Gol.

About Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd:

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- Founded: 1984
- Headquarters: Hyderabad; Telangana, India
- Chairman: Kallam Satish Reddy
- CEO: Erez Israeli

CCI imposes a monetary penalty of Rs. 1337.76 crores on Google

- The **Competition Commission of India (Commission)** has imposed a penalty of Rs. 1,337.76 crores on **Google** for **abusing its dominant position** in multiple markets in the **Android Mobile device ecosystem**, and for **violating Section 4 of the Act**.
- The fair trade regulator has also directed the tech giant to **cease unfair business practices**.
- Google has been given a time of **30 days** to provide the requisite financial details and supporting documents.
- Smart mobile devices need an **operating system (OS)** to run applications (apps) and programs. Android is one such mobile operating system that was acquired by Google in **2005**.
- The CCI also directed Google to modify its conduct within a **defined timeline**.

The CCI delineated the following 5 relevant markets in the present matter:

1. The market for licensable OS for smart mobile devices in India
2. The market for an app store for Android smart mobile OS in India
3. The market for general web search services in India
4. The market for non-OS specific mobile web browsers in India
5. The market for online video hosting platforms (OVHP) in India.

About CCI:

- Established: 14 October 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Ashok Kumar Gupta
- Secretary: P K Singh
- The CCI is the **chief national competition regulator** in India.
- It is a statutory body within the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**.

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CCI approves acquisition of stake by CA Basque Investments of Yes Bank Limited

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the acquisition of a **10% stake** of the total paid-up share capital and voting rights of the **Yes Bank Limited (Target)** by **CA Basque Investments (Acquirer)**, under **Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002**
- CA Basque is a **newly-formed special purpose vehicle** (incorporated in Mauritius) and is fully owned by **CA Marans Investments (Mauritius)**, which is ultimately controlled by the funds managed by the affiliates of **The Carlyle Group Inc.**
- It is an investment holding entity and **does not have any business activities in India.**
- The Carlyle Group Inc. is a global investment firm, which manages funds that invest globally across **3 investment disciplines**:
 1. Global private equity
 2. Global credit
 3. Global investment solutions

CCI clears Reliance Polyester's acquisition of Shubhalakshmi Polyesters, Shubhlaxmi Polytex

- Fair trade regulator **Competition Commission** cleared the acquisition of business undertakings of **Shubhalakshmi Polyesters Ltd (SPL)** and **Shubhlaxmi Polytex Ltd (SPTex)** by **Reliance Polyester Ltd (RPL)**.
- SPL and SPTex are primarily engaged in the **production and supply of polyester products** while RPL is engaged in the production and supply of certain petrochemical products and polyester yarns.

Recent News:

- **Reliance Polyester Ltd**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Reliance Industries Ltd**, executed definitive documents to acquire the polyester business of **Shubhalakshmi Polyesters Ltd** and **Shubhlaxmi Polytex Ltd** for cash consideration of **Rs 1,522 crore** and **Rs 70 crore** respectively, aggregating to **Rs 1,592 crore** by way of slump sale on a going concern basis.

CCI approves the acquisition of equity securities amounting up to 10% in YES Bank by Verventa Holdings

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the acquisition of equity securities amounting up to **10%** in **YES Bank Limited (Target)** by **Verventa Holdings Ltd. (Acquirer)**

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- Verventa Holdings Ltd is an investment holding company.
- Currently, it does not have any operations in India.

Nomura Singapore sells a 1.52% stake in CSB Bank worth Rs 61 crore

- Nomura Singapore divested a 1.52% stake in private sector lender CSB Bank Limited (erstwhile Catholic Syrian Bank Limited) for over Rs 61.31 crore through an open market transaction.

Key Highlights:

- According to the National Stock Exchange (NSE), Nomura Singapore offloaded 26,39,673 shares, amounting to a 1.52% stake in the company.
- The shares were disposed of at an average price of Rs 232.3 apiece, taking the transaction value to Rs 61.31 crore.
- The shares of CSB Bank closed 2.42% lower at Rs 228.20 apiece on NSE.

About CSB Bank Limited:

- Founded: 26 November 1920
- Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala, India
- MD & CEO: Pralay Mondal

KKR to Acquire 100% Stake in Ness Digital Engineering

- Global investment firm Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. I.p (KKR & Co.Inc) had signed an agreement to acquire a 100% stake in Ness Digital Engineering (Ness), a US-based digital services transformation company from The Rohatyn Group (TRG).
- The deal is valued at over \$500 million.

Key Highlights:

- Ness adds to KKR's global portfolio of technology investments, which includes
- **Cloudera**, a leading provider of enterprise-grade, hybrid data management software in the United States
- **Yayoi**, is a software developer, distributor, and support service provider for small-and-medium-sized enterprises in Japan
- **Probe CX**, a provider of outsourced customer experience and business process outsourcing solutions in Australia
- **MYOB**, a leading Australian online business management company

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- Jio is a next-generation technology platform that provides digital services across India.

About Ness:

- Founded: 1998
- Headquarters: Teaneck, New Jersey
- CEO: Ranjit Tinaikar
- Ness is a leading provider of **end-to-end digital transformation services** that specializes in building digital software products and platforms.

About KKR:

- Founded: 1976
- Headquarters: New York, U.S
- Co-Executive Chairman: Henry R. Kravis, George R. Roberts
- CEO of KKR India: Gaurav Trehan

About TRG:

- Founded: 2002
- Headquarters: New York, United States
- Managing Director: Tom Kucera

IMPORTANT APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS NEWS

Lt Gen Mr. Anil Chauhan appointed as the new Chief of Defence Staff

- **Lieutenant (Lt) General Mr. Anil Chauhan (Retired)**, a known China expert who retired as the Eastern Army Command chief in May 2021 has been appointed as the **next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of India**
- He will also function as **Secretary Department of Military Affairs**.
- The post of CDS was lying vacant since December 8, 2021, when the **first CDS General Mr. Bipin Rawat** was killed in a helicopter accident in Coonoor, Tamil Nadu.
- This is the **first time a retired three-star officer (Lt-Gen, Air Marshal, Vice Admiral)** will return to **active service** as a four-star officer like the Army, Navy, and IAF chiefs.

Role of CDS:

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- The CDS is responsible for **joint planning** for procurement, training, and **staffing** for the services.
- He is tasked with the facilitation of **restructuring of military commands** for optimal utilization of resources by bringing about joint efforts in operations through the establishment of theatre commands.
- He will be promoting the use of indigenous equipment by the services.

About Lt Gen Mr. Anil Chauhan:

- Lt Gen Mr. Chauhan Born on May 18, 1961, was commissioned into the **6th battalion of the 11 Gorkha Rifles Regiment** in 1981.
- He had also served on a **United Nations mission to Angola**.
- For his distinguished and illustrious service in the Army, Lt General Anil Chauhan (Retired) was awarded the **Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Sena Medal, and Vishisht Seva Medal**.
- Currently, he is the **military advisor to national security advisor Ajit Doval** and the **National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)**.

Senior Advocate Mr. R Venkataramani was Appointed As the New Attorney General of India

- The **Law Ministry** announced that Senior advocate **Mr. R. Venkataramani** has been appointed as the **current & 16th Attorney General (AG)** of India by President Droupadi Murmu for three years.
- Mr. Venkataramani will succeed **Mr. K. K. Venugopal**, whose term comes to end on September 30, 2022.
- His appointment comes just days after senior advocate **Mr. Mukul Rohatgi** declined the government's offer to become the next AG.

About Mr. Venkataramani:

- Mr. Venkataramani was born in southern **Puducherry** state on April 13, 1950.
- He has a rich experience of over 40 years as a lawyer and he was also a **former member of the Law Commission of India**.
- He was enrolled in July 1977 in the **Bar Council of Tamil Nadu** and joined the chambers of the late senior advocate in SC P.P. Rao in 1979.
- He was designated as a **senior advocate** by the **Supreme Court** in 1997.
- He also served as a **member of the Law Commission of India** in 2010 and 2013.

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About Attorney General for India:

- The Attorney General of India is the **highest law officer** in the country.
- The AG is the Indian government's **chief legal advisor** and is its principal Advocate before the Supreme Court of India.
- The AG must be a person qualified to be appointed as a **Judge of the Supreme Court**.
- AG is appointed by the President of India at the instance of the **Union Cabinet under Article 76(1) of the Constitution**.

Government reshuffles IL&FS board; Mr. CS Rajan becomes non-executive chairman & Nand Kishore as MD

- The government has reshuffled the board of **Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS)**, which is undergoing a debt resolution process, with existing board member **Mr. C S Rajan** being redesignated as the **Non-Executive Chairman**.
- **Mr. Nand Kishore**, who was serving as an executive director, has been made the **Managing Director (MD)**.
- Currently, the board has **five members**, besides **Mr. Rajan** and **Mr. Kishore**, the directors are **Mr. G C Chaturvedi, Ms. Malini Shankar, and Mr. N Srinivasan**.
- The corporate affairs ministry superseded the board of IL&FS in **October 2018**.
- The sprawling financial services group has **347 entities** under it and resolution has taken place for 246 entities after the ministry-appointed board started the resolution process.
- IL&FS's new board & management had addressed a **total debt of Rs 55,000 crore** of its overall resolution estimate of Rs 61,000 crore.

About IL&FS:

- Founded: 1987
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Data Security Council of India appoints Mr. Vinayak Godse as the new CEO

- NASSCOM-established leading industry body **Data Security Council of India (DSCI)** has appointed **senior vice president Mr. Vinayak Godse** to the position of **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**
- He will succeed **Mr. Rama Vedashree**, who served DSCI for nearly 6 years.

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About Mr. Vinayak Godse:

- Mr. Godse has been with DSCI since its founding and has over 27 years of expertise in information security, IT transformation, intelligent networking, and telecommunications infrastructure.
- He worked with the **Global Consulting Practice of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** in Information Risk Management and also worked as a **Telecom Engineer** at **Bharat Sanchar Nigam limited**.
- He also has been managing the **National Center of Excellence for Cybersecurity Technology and Entrepreneurship**, a joint initiative of DSCI and the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.

Note:

- President of NASSCOM: Debjani Ghosh

About DSCI:

- Founded: August 2008
- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Chairman: Rajendra S Pawar

Hero MotoCorp Appoints Movie Star Ram Charan as New Brand Ambassador

- The world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, Hero MotoCorp Limited has appointed Indian superstar, Ram Charan as the new brand ambassador.
- He is seen riding the gorgeous Glamor in Nexus Blue Color in the high-decibel, energizing campaign for **Glamor XTEC - Gazab Style, Gazab Technology**.

About Ram Charan:

- Konidela Ram Charan Teja is an **Indian actor, producer, and entrepreneur** who works predominantly in **Telugu cinema**.
- His notable works include **Racha (2012), Naayak (2013), Yevadu (2014), Govindudu Andarivadele (2014), and Dhruva (2016)**.

Awards & Honors:

- He is the recipient of **three Filmfare Awards** and **two Nandi Awards**, a **Special Jury Award**, and a state award Presented by the **Government of Andhra Pradesh (AP)** for **Magadheera** in 2010 & **Chiruta** in 2008.

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About Hero MotoCorp:

- Founded: 19 January 1984
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman, MD & CEO: Pawan Munjal
- It is a joint venture between the Hero Group of India and the Honda Motor Company of Japan.

Mr. Sujoy Lal Thaosen & Mr. Anish Dayal Singh were Appointed as New DGs of CRPF & ITBP

- Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officers Mr. Sujoy Lal Thaosen and Mr. Anish Dayal Singh have been appointed as the new director generals of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) respectively.
- The order for their appointment was issued by the Personnel Ministry after sanction from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by the prime minister.
- Mr. Thaosen is scheduled to retire in November 2023, while Singh will superannuate in December 2024.
- The CRPF DG post fell vacant after IPS officer Mr. Kuldip Singh (1986-batch West Bengal cadre) retired from service.
- The post of ITBP chief was also vacated with the transfer of 1988 batch IPS Mr. Sanjay Arora as Police Commissioner of Delhi.

About Mr. Sujoy Lal Thaosen:

- Mr. Thaosen, a 1988-batch IPS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre
- He served in the Border Security Force (BSF) and United Nations as part of the International Police Task Force (IPTF)
- He is currently working as the director general (DG) of the border guarding force Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and holding the additional charge of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.

About Mr. Anish Dayal Singh:

- Mr. Anish Dayal Singh, a 1988-batch IPS officer of the Manipur cadre.
- He is currently serving as a special director in the Intelligence Bureau.

About CRPF:

- Founded: 27 July 1939
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India

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- Motto: Service and Loyalty
- The CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force.
- It functions under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) of the Government of India.

Primary Role:

- To assist the State/Union Territories in police operations to maintain law and order and counter-insurgency.

About ITBP:

- Established: 1962
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- The ITBP is India's primary border patrol organization for its border with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

Shri Sunil Barthwal assumes charge as Secretary of, the Department of Commerce

- Senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Shri Sunil Barthwal was appointed as the Secretary of, the Department of Commerce under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry in New Delhi, Delhi, India.
- He replaced Shri Subrahmanyam, a 1987-batch IAS officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre.
- Shri Subrahmanyam was appointed as chairman and managing director of, the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) on a contract basis for two years following his superannuation.

About Shri Sunil Barthwal:

- He was the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) which is the largest social security organization in India.
- He has held various administrative positions in the areas of Finance, Social Security, Investment, Infrastructure, Mines, Steel, Energy, Transport, etc. in the Government at the Central and State level.
- He has also worked in the Competition Commission of India.
- He has been on the Boards of SAIL, NMDC, MECON, MSTC & NIIF.
- Before this, he was serving as Secretary of, the Ministry of Labor & Employment.

Mr. S Bharathan appointed as the new director at HPCL

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- **Mr. S Bharathan** took over as **Director-Refineries** of **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL)**, a **Maharatna Company**.
- He replaced **Mr. Vinod S Shenoy**.

About Mr. S Bharathan:

- He has worked in the **Operations and Technical Departments** of **Mumbai and Visakh Refinery** for **over 25 years**.
- He has worked in the **Corporate Office** on **Margin Management and Refinery Project Processes** for **over 4 years**.
- He is also leading **HPCL's Green R&D Centre (HPGRDC)** in **Bengaluru** for the last 3 years.
- Before taking over as **Director – Refineries**, **Bharathan** was serving as **Executive Director – Refineries Coordination** with an **Additional Charge of Research and Development (R&D)**.

About HPCL:

- **Founded: 1974**
- **Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India**
- **Chairman & Managing Director: Pushp Kumar Joshi**
- **HPCL is an Indian oil and gas refining company**
- **HPCL is the country's 3rd -largest oil refining and fuel marketing company.**

ISRO scientist **Dr. AK Anil Kumar** elected as vice president of the **International Astronautical Federation**

- **Senior scientist** in the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, **Dr. A K Anil Kumar**, was elected as the **Vice President** of the **International Astronautical Federation (IAF)** during its **Annual Conference International Astronautical Congress (IAC) 2022** held in **Paris** during **18-22 September 2022**.
- Currently, he is **Associate Director** of **ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC)**, **Bengaluru, Karnataka** has been leading the **ISRO activities** for **safe and sustainable space operations Management**.

About IAF:

- **Founded: 1951**
- **Headquarters: Paris, France**
- **President: Clay Mowry**

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- The IAF is the **world's leading space advocacy body** with 433 members in 72 countries, including all leading space agencies, companies, research institutions, universities, societies, associations, institutes, and museums worldwide.
- IAF actively encourages the development of astronautics for **peaceful purposes** and supports the dissemination of scientific and technical information related to space.

ASCI appoints Mr. N S Rajan as the next chairman; Mr. Saugata Gupta new Vice Chairman

- **Mr. N S Rajan** (Director of August One Partners LLP) has been unanimously elected as the chairman of the Board of Governors of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).
- He has replaced **Mr. Subhash Kamath**.
- **Mr. Saugata Gupta**, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Marico Limited, was elected Vice Chairman of ASCI.
- While **Mr. Shashidhar Sinha**, CEO of IPG Mediabrands India, was appointed Honorary Treasurer at the board meeting after the **36th Annual General Meeting (AGM)** from ASCI.
- The board meeting also saw the induction of **Mr. Virat Tandon**, Group CEO of Lintas India, and **Mr. Arun Srinivas**, Director, GMS India (Meta), onto the board.

About ASCI:

- Established: 1985
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- ASCI is a **voluntary self-regulatory organization** of the advertising industry in India.

Eminent Lawyer Dr. Lalit Bhasin elected as the new National President of IACC

- **Noted lawyer Dr. Lalit Bhasin** has been appointed as the national president of Indian American Chambers of Commerce (IACC).

About Dr. Lalit Bhasin:

- Dr. Bhasin is a well-known name in business and social circles.
- He is closely associated with India's apex business organizations like CII, and PHDCCI and served as chairman of its legal committees.
- He is the **54th National President of IACC**, which was set up in **October 1968** and is headquartered in **Mumbai, Maharashtra** having 14 offices all over India, with a large membership from large, medium, and small business entities.

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- Before being elected as the National President of the IACC, Bhasin was the **Executive Vice President of IACC**.

About IACC:

- Founded: 1968
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Former Brigadier Shri BD Mishra takes additional charge as Meghalaya governor in Shillong

- The former brigadier of the Indian Army & Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri B.D. Mishra (Retd.), took additional charge as the **Governor of Meghalaya** at the Raj Bhavan in Shillong.
- He succeeded **Shri Satya Pal Malik** who completed his term as the Meghalaya governor on October 3, 2022.

About Shri BD Mishra:

- Shri BD Mishra was born on 20 July 1939 in **Uttar Pradesh, India**
- He served in the **Indian Army** in three major wars in 1962 (Sino-Indian War), 1965, and 1971 (Bangladesh Liberation War)
- He retired from the Indian Army on **31 July 1995**, after a career that began as a permanent regular infantry officer, on 17 December 1961.
- He took charge as **full-fledged Governor of Arunachal Pradesh** on **October 3, 2017**.

About Meghalaya:

- Governor: Satya Pal Malik
- Chief Minister: Conrad Sangma
- Capital: Shillong

Shri Sanjeev Kishore takes over as the new Director General Ordnance

- **Shri Sanjeev Kishore**, a 1985 batch officer of the Indian Ordnance Factory Service (IOFS), has taken over as the **director general ordnance (C&S)** at the Directorate of Ordnance (Coordination & Services), Kolkata, West Bengal, upon the superannuation of **Shri M K Gag**.

About Shri Sanjeev Kishore:

- He has held many senior positions, including that of the **first CMD of Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd (AVNL)**, one of the 7 new DPSUs formed by the Government of India in 2021.

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- He has ensured a smooth transition of the Armoured group of factories from a Government department to a corporation.
- Before the appointment of CMD, Shri Kishore was also posted as the **Senior General Manager of Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF) Avadi and General Manager of Opto Electronics Factory (OLF), Dehradun, Uttarakhand.**
- He has been **awarded Santu Sahaney Memorial Shield and Ayudh Bhushan award** for his meritorious services in enhancing defense production.
- Before taking over the charge of DGO (C &S), Shri Kishore was the **Additional Director General of Ordnance at the Directorate of Ordnance (Coordination & Services), Kolkata.**

Fire-Boltt Appoints Kiara Advani as Brand Ambassador

- Homegrown wearable and audio watch brand, Fire-Boltt has appointed Indian actress Kiara Advani as its new brand ambassador.
- Kiara will be part of the marketing campaigns of the brand alongside cricketing icon **Virat Kohli** & actor **Vicky Kaushal.**
- She will participate in different marketing, advertisement, and endorsement campaigns for the homegrown brand, which as per Counterpoint research is at the no.1 spot for the smartwatches segment in India.
- The association with Kiara will help the brand to engage with the **young generation.**

About Fire-Boltt:

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Founder & CEO: Arnav Kishore

Google's India policy head Ms. Archana Gulati resigns

- **Google India's government affairs and public policy head Ms. Archana Gulati**, who joined the tech giant just five months back after quitting government service, has **resigned** from her post.
- The resignation comes at a time when Google is facing a **series of antitrust cases in India** and stricter tech-sector regulations.

About Ms. Archana Gulati:

- Ms. Archana Gulati is an **economics graduate** and a Ph.D. from IIT-Delhi.

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- She was **Joint Secretary (Digital Communications)** at NITI Aayog, a government think tank that advises the Union government on the policy before she joined Google India.
- She was a **joint administrator** in the **finance division** at the telecom ministry's Universal Services Obligation Fund of India between **May 2007 to February 2012**.
- Between 2014 and 2016, she worked as a **senior official** at the **Competition Commission of India**, in its Mergers & Acquisitions division.
- She was looking after digital communications policy matters at NITI Aayog from August 2019 to March 2021, before she took **voluntary retirement**.
- For a year she **freelanced** and joined Google in May 2021.

Gujarat IAS cadre Ajay Bhadoo appointed as Deputy Election Commissioner & Akash Tripathi MyGov's CEO

- A 1999 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Gujarat cadre, Mr. Ajay Bhadoo has been appointed as the **Deputy Election Commissioner** until July 24, 2024.
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** approved the senior bureaucrat's candidature.

GAIL appoints Mr. Sandeep Kumar Gupta as Chairman & Managing Director

- **Mr. Sandeep Kumar Gupta** has taken charge as the **chairman and managing director** of GAIL (India) Limited.
- Mr. Gupta will replace **Mr. Manoj Jain**, who has a wide experience of more than 34 years in the oil and gas industry.
- In June 2022 the **Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)** selected him for the top role at GAIL after interviewing 10 candidates.

About Mr. Sandeep Kumar Gupta:

- Mr. Gupta, 56, is a **commerce graduate** and a **fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India**.
- Before joining GAIL, he held the position of **Director (Finance)** in August 2019 on the **Board of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd**, the leading PSU integrated Energy Company in Fortune "Global 500", and several group companies.
- He has received prestigious individual recognition such as **"CA CFO- Large Corporate – Manufacturing and Infrastructure Category"** in Jan. 2021 by ICAI for Financial and Risk

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Management during the Pandemic and was adjudged among the Top 30 CFOs in India by StartupLanes.com in May 2022.

About GAIL (India) Limited:

- Founded: 1984
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- GAIL (India) Limited is a central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India.**

SBI General Insurance appoints Mr. Kishore Kumar Poludasu as MD & CEO

- **SBI General Insurance Company Limited** has appointed **Shri Kishore Kumar Poludasu** as its new **Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO).**
- He was nominated by the parent company, **State Bank of India**, for the position.

About Shri Kishore Kumar Poludasu:

- Shri Kishore Kumar Poludasu has been associated with the State Bank of India since **1991.**
- He is a seasoned BFSI professional with over **3 decades of experience** in commercial banking.
- He has also been instrumental in supervising the integration of systems & processes and human resources during the merger between the State Bank of Mysore and SBI.
- He has been associated with the setting up of the **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)** promoted by the government for enhanced focus on financing and development of the infrastructure sector in India as an **Officer on Special Duty (OSD)** from SBI till September 2022.
- Before his current role at SBI General under State Bank Group, he was the **Deputy Managing Director (DMD), of State Bank of India, Singapore Operations.**

About SBI General Insurance Company Limited:

- Founded: 2009
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Gulf Oil appoints cricketer Smriti Mandhana as Brand Ambassador

- **Gulf Oil Lubricants**, a **Hinduja Group** company, has appointed Indian women cricketing star and current Vice Captain **Smriti Shrinivas Mandhana** as its new brand ambassador

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- Smriti Mandhana will join the ranks of current brand ambassadors **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** and **Hardik Pandya**.
- Gulf Oil becomes the **first company** in the lubricant space to appoint a woman cricketer as ambassador to represent the organization.

About Smriti Shrinivas Mandhana:

- Mandhana was born on 18 July 1996 in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- In October 2013, she became the **first Indian woman** to achieve a **double hundred** in a **one-day game**.
- Playing for Maharashtra against Gujarat, she scored an **unbeaten 224 off 150 balls**.
- In June 2018, the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** named her the **Best Women's International Cricketer**.
- In 2018, the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** awarded her with the **Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award** for the **best female cricketer of the year**.
- In 2021, she became a **nominee** for the **ICC Women's T20 Player of the Year**.

Awards & Honors:

- In 2018, Mandhana received the honorable **Arjuna Award**.
- In **January 2022**, the ICC awarded her with the **Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award** for the **ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year**.

About Gulf Oil Lubricants India Limited:

- Established: 2008
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Mr. Ravi Chawla

Shri Sibi George appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Japan

- **Senior diplomat Shri Sibi George** was appointed as the **next Indian ambassador to Japan**.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs** has informed us that Shri Sibi George will take up the new assignments shortly.
- He will replace **Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma** as the representative of India to Japan.
- Meanwhile, Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma has been appointed as the **next High Commissioner of India to Canada**.

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About Shri Sibi George:

- Shri Sibi George was born in **Pala, Kerala**.
- Shri George is an **Indian civil servant** of the **1993-batch Indian Foreign Service** cadre officer.
- He previously served as **Ambassador of India to Switzerland** as well.
- Currently, he is serving as the **ambassador of India to Kuwait**.

Awards & Honors:

- In **2014**, the Government of India conferred on him the **S.K.Singh Award** for his Excellence in Indian Foreign Service.

RBI approves the reappointment of Shri Prashant Kumar as MD and CEO of Yes Bank for 3 yrs

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the **reappointment** of **Shri Prashant Kumar** as the **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **YES Bank** under **Section 35B** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** for another **3 years**.
- Meanwhile, in **September 2022** RBI approved the appointment of its **former deputy governor Shri R Gandhi** as **non-executive part-time chairman** of **Yes Bank** for **3 years**.

About Shri Prashant Kumar:

- Shri Kumar holds a degree in **Science** and a **law** from **Delhi University**.
- He joined the **State Bank of India (SBI)** as **Probationary Officer** in **1983** and during his **34 years of service** with the Bank, he has held various key assignments
- Before joining **Yes Bank**, he was **Deputy Managing Director & Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** of **SBI**.
- Shri Kumar was appointed as **MD & CEO of Yes Bank** post **Reconstruction** in **March 2020**.

About Yes Bank:

- Established: **2004**
- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra, India**
- Tagline: **Experience Our Expertise**

Bank of India Mutual Fund appoints Shri Mohit Bhatia as CEO

- **Bank of India Investment Managers Private Ltd**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Bank of India (BoI)** has appointed **Shri Mohit Bhatia** as its **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.

About Shri Mohit Bhatia:

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- Shri Bhatia started his career as a **research analyst - Equities and Investments** at **PNB Mutual Fund** in **1996** and has more than 26 years of professional experience.
- He worked with **Canara Robeco Asset Management Company Limited** as head of sales and marketing.
- He also worked as **vice president** with **Franklin Templeton Investments** and **Axis Bank, DSP BlackRock Mutual Fund, and Alliance Capital Mutual Fund India**.
- He has over **26 years of professional experience** in the mutual funds and financial services industry.

Note:

- **BOI MF Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India**

Indian-origin Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy appointed as US representative on the WHO executive board

- **US President Mr. Joe Biden** has nominated **Indian-origin Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy** to serve as **America's representative** on the executive board of the **World Health Organisation**.
- He will serve as the **US Representative on WHO Executive Board** and will continue his duties as the **US Surgeon General**.

About Dr. Vivek Murthy:

- **Dr. Vivek Murthy** was born on **July 10, 1977**, in **Huddersfield, England, the UK** to immigrants from **Karnataka, India**.
- He is a **renowned physician, research scientist, entrepreneur, and author**.
- He is an **American physician** and a **vice admiral** in the **United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corp**
- In **March 2021**, he was confirmed by the **US Senate** to serve as the **21st Surgeon General** of the country.
- He also served as the **19th Surgeon General** under **President Mr. Barack Obama**.
- He is the **first surgeon general of Indian descent** & during his first term as surgeon general, he was the **youngest active duty flag officer** in federal uniformed service.
- He also commands a uniformed service of over **6,000 dedicated public health officers**, serving the most underserved and vulnerable populations.

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Mr. Balasubramanian re-elected as chairman of the mutual fund industry body AMFI

- Mr. Balasubramanian, the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund, has been re-elected as the chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).
- The decision was taken by the industry body of SEBI-registered mutual funds at its recent board meeting after the 27th annual general meeting (AGM) held in September 2022.
- Mr. Sundeep Sikka, executive director and CEO of Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited, is the new chairman of the AMFI ETF Committee.
- While Ms. Radhika Gupta, MD, and CEO of Edelweiss Asset Management Ltd, was elected as the chairperson of the AMFI Committee on Operations, Compliance & Risk.
- Mr. Nilesh Shah, MD, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co. Ltd, was re-elected as the chairman of the AMFI Valuation Committee.
- Mr. Navneet Munot, MD and CEO of HDFC Asset Management Company Limited, was re-elected to the AMFI Equity CIO Committee.
- The board also re-elected Mr. Vishal Kapoor, chief executive officer of IDFC Asset Management Company Limited, as the chairman of the AMFI Committee of Certified Distributors (ARN Committee).

About AMFI:

- Founded: 1995
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- AMFI is the association of all the Asset Management Companies (AMCs) of Sebi-registered mutual funds in India, and as of now, 43 AMCs are its members.
- It is a division of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Walkaroo appoints Ajay Devgn as brand ambassador

- Footwear brand Walkaroo International Ltd has appointed Bollywood actor Ajay Devgn as its brand ambassador.
- The company would unveil a series of television commercials featuring the actor.

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- Havas Creative Group has taken up the marketing campaign which includes **three commercial films** of the actor on the brand theme **'Walk with Walkaroo.'**

About Ajay Devgn:

- Vishal Veeru Devgan known professionally as Ajay Devgn is an **Indian actor, film director, and producer** who works in **Hindi cinema**.

Awards & Honors:

- He has won numerous accolades, including **four National Film Awards** and **four Filmfare Awards**.
- In 2016, he was honored by the Government of India with the **Padma Shri**, the **fourth-highest civilian honor** in the country.

ESA astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti becomes the first European female ISS commander

- Italian European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti became the **first female European Commander** of the International Space Station (ISS)
- She succeeded **Russian Cosmonaut Oleg Artemyev**.
- She is the **fifth woman** after **Frank De Winne, Alexander Gerst, Luca Parmitano, and Thomas Pesquet** and the **first non-US woman** to become commander since the role was created in **2000**.
- She will also be responsible for the performance and well-being of the astronauts in orbit, according to the European Space Agency (ESA).
- ESA describes the ISS as a **"stepping stone for future exploration"**.

About Samantha Cristoforetti:

- Cristoforetti was born in 1977 in **Milan, Italy**.
- She is a **former Italian Air Force pilot and engineer**.
- She was selected by the **European Space Agency** in **2009** to become **Italy's first female astronaut**.
- She holds the record for the **longest stay in space** by a woman after spending **199 days** in orbit in **2014 and 2015**.
- Until **June 2017** she held the record for the **longest single space flight** by a woman until this was broken by **Peggy Whitson** and later by **Christina Koch**.
- She is also the **first Italian female in space**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

Omara Dates appoints Amitabh Bachchan as Brand Ambassador

- **Healthy snacks brand, Omara Dates, has appointed actor Amitabh Bachchan as a brand ambassador.**
- Through this association, Omara Dates aims to **enhance the adoption of this healthy food for daily snacking and gifting.**
- The brand has rolled out a **campaign 'Pyaar bhi, khayaal bhi' (love and also care)** urges people to include care along with their gestures of love.

About Omara Dates:

- **Founder & Managing Director: Anil Nair**

Suzlon energy appoints Mr. Vinod R Tanti as new Chairman & MD for 3 years

- **Suzlon Energy announced that Mr. Vinod R. Tanti has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) for the company for three years.**
- The announcement came after the demise of Suzlon Energy founder **Tulsi Tanti**, who was holding the position of Chairman and Managing Director, on October 1, 2022.
- Mr. Vinod R. Tanti, the Managing Director of Suzlon Energy, has resigned from his position as **Chief Operating Officer and Wholetime Director.**
- The board also approved the appointment of **Mr. Girish R Tanti** as the **Executive Director** designated as the **Executive Vice Chairman** of the company with immediate effect for a period of three) years.
- The board also approved the appointment of **Mr. Pranav Tanti** as an **Additional Director** of the company.

About Vinod R Tanti:

- He is a **founder member of Suzlon Energy Limited.**
- He has over 34 years of experience in managing key functions at Suzlon.
- He also served as **Senvion's Chief Operating Officer in Germany** from June 1, 2012, to June 15, 2013.

About Suzlon Energy Limited:

- **Founded: 1995**
- **Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra, India**

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- Suzlon Energy Limited is an Indian multinational wind turbine manufacturer.

Dr. Akhilesh Gupta was appointed as Secretary of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)

- Senior Adviser at the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Dr. Akhilesh Gupta, has been appointed Secretary of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB).
- Dr. Gupta replaced Dr. Sandeep Verma.

About Dr. Akhilesh Gupta:

- Dr. Gupta is a fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (FNAE), Indian Meteorological Society (FIMS), and Association of Agro-meteorologists (FAAM).
 - He has to his credit over 200 research articles in National & International journals as well as proceedings.
 - He joined the India Meteorological Department in 1985 & later the National Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting in 1994, both currently under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
 - He has been one of the authors of India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and head of the Secretariat which drafted India's new Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy.
 - Currently, he heads the Policy Coordination and Programme Management Division (PCPM) division and is overall in charge of 5 National Missions at DST
1. National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical System
 2. National Mission on Quantum Technology and Applications
 3. National Supercomputing Mission
 4. National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change
 5. National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem.

About SERB:

- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- SERB is a statutory body under the Department of Science and Technology, the Government of India.
- It was established by an Act of the Parliament of India in 2009 (SERB ACT, 2008).

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Mr. Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan takes charge as SEBI whole-time member

- Associate Professor, SP Jain Institute of Management & Research, Mr. Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan took charge as the 4th whole-time member (WTM) in the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Mr. Narayan will handle the Market Intermediaries Regulation and Supervision Department (MIRSD), Alternative Investment Fund and Foreign Portfolio Investors Department (AFD), Integrated Surveillance Department (ISD), Department of Economic & Policy Analysis (DEPA) and Information Technology Department (ITD).

About Mr. Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan:

- Mr. Narayan has more than two-and-a-half decades of experience in banking and financial markets.
- He has also been a member of various advisory committees constituted by SEBI and RBI.

About SEBI:

- Established: on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch
- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Gol.

Gol appoints new Chief Justices for Rajasthan, Karnataka, J-K, and Ladakh HCs

- The Central Government announced the names of new Chief Justices for the High Courts in Rajasthan, Karnataka, Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh.
- Following the Constitutional provisions:
- Justice Pankaj Mithal has been appointed Chief Justice in the Rajasthan High Court.
- Justice Prasanna B Varale has been appointed the Karnataka HC's Chief Justice.
- Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey is the Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- On September 28, 2022, the Supreme court collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India Uday Umesh Lalit in its meeting recommended the elevation & appointment of Chief Justices.

Chad's Prime Minister Mr. Albert Pahimi Padacke resigns

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- **Chad's Prime Minister Mr. Albert Pahimi Padacke** has resigned to pave the way for a new government after the Central African country decided to push back elections by 2 years.

About Mr Albert Pahimi Padacke:

- Mr. Padacké was born on 15 November 1966, in Gouin, French Equatorial Africa (now Chad)
- He is a Chadian politician who belonged to the **National Rally for Democracy**.
- He served as **Minister of Agriculture** until he was appointed as **Minister of Justice** in the government on March 4, 2007.
- Previously he served as **prime minister** from **2016 to 2018** under former president **Idriss Deby**.
- He was the **last person** to have occupied the post before the abolition of the institution in 2018.

About Chad:

- President: Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno
- Capital: N'Djamena
- Currency: Central African CFA franc

Karur Vysya Bank re-appoints Mr. KG Mohan as Non-Executive Independent Director

- **Karur Vysya Bank (KVB)** has re-appointed Mr. KG Mohan as its non-executive independent director for the **2nd term of three years** on its board.
- The **first term** of Mohan was completed on **October 11, 2022**.

About KVB:

- Founded: 1916
- Headquarters: Karur, Tamil Nadu
- MD & CEO: Mr. Ramesh Babu
- Tagline: Smart Way to Bank
- KVB is a Scheduled Commercial Bank in India.

Infosys president Mr. Ravi Kumar S resigns

- **IT services major Infosys** has announced that its **president Mr. Ravi Kumar S** has resigned from his post.

About Mr. Ravi Kumar S:

- Mr. Ravi Kumar S started his career as a **nuclear scientist** at the **Bhabha Atomic Research Center**.
- He joined Infosys in **2002** and was appointed as its **president** in **2016**.

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- In 2017, he was named the **Deputy Chief Operating Officer (COO)**.
- According to the 2021-22 annual report of Infosys, Mr. Kumar was the **third highest-paid senior executive** of the company after **CEO Mr. Salil Parekh** and former COO **UB Pravin Rao**.

About Infosys Limited:

- Founded: 2 July 1981
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- MD & CEO: Salil Parekh
- Infosys is the **second-largest Indian IT company** after **Tata Consultancy Services** by 2020 revenue figures.

Iraqi parliament elects Mr. Abdul Latif Rashid as the new president

- The **Iraqi parliament** elected **Kurdish former minister Mr. Abdul Latif Rashid** as the new **president of Iraq**.
- He became **9th president of Iraq**, following the 2022 Iraqi presidential election.
- Mr. Rashid received **162 votes** in the **second round of voting**, defeating **Mr. Barham Salih** who gained 99 votes, while 8 votes were considered invalid.
- According to the Iraqi constitution, the President-elect needs to gather at least two-thirds of the votes of the **329 parliament members**.

About Mr. Abdul Latif Rashid:

- Mr. Rashid was born in 1944 in Sulaymaniyah, Kingdom of Iraq.
- He worked as **Minister for Water Resources** from **September 2003 to December 2010**
- He is an **active member** of the **Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK)** under the leadership of **Jalal Talabani**, who became President of Iraq in 2005

About Iraq:

- Prime Minister: Mustafa Al-Kadhimi
- Capital: Baghdad
- Currency: Iraqi dinar

Bandhan Bank appoints Sourav Ganguly as brand ambassador

- **Bandhan Bank** has appointed former Indian Cricketer **Sourav Ganguly** as its brand ambassador.

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- He will help **amplify** the brand message of the Bank and endorse the products and services of the Bank.

About Sourav Ganguly:

- Sourav Chandidas Ganguly is an **Indian cricket administrator, commentator, and former national cricket team captain.**
- He is affectionately known as **Dada**
- He is the **39th and current president** of the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).**
- He is popularly called **Maharaja of Indian Cricket.**

About Bandhan Bank:

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal, India
- MD & CEO: Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- Bandhan Bank is an **Indian commercial bank** that focuses on **underbanked and underpenetrated markets.**
- It is **India's first example** of a **microfinance organization** converting into a **universal bank.**

Boult Audio appoints Saif Ali Khan and Suryakumar Yadav as brand ambassadors

- **Boult Audio Private Limited**, a company that imports and sells Chinese-made electronics products like earphones and smartwatches has roped in actor **Saif Ali Khan** and cricketer **Suryakumar Yadav** as its new brand ambassadors.
- Yadav is the **highest run-getter** in **T20Is** this year and is currently ranked **2nd** in the **International Cricket Council (ICC) T20I rankings.**

About Boult Audio:

- Founded: 2017
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi
- Co-Founder & CEO: Varun Gupta

Mr. Partha Satpathy appointed India's new envoy to Bosnia and Herzegovina

- **Mr. Partha Satpathy** has been appointed as **India's next ambassador** to **Bosnia and Herzegovina.**
- Meanwhile, **Dr. Adarsh Swaika**, joint secretary in the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, has been appointed **India's next Ambassador** to **Kuwait.**

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- **Mr. Avtar Singh**, a Director in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea.

About Mr. Partha Satpathy:

- He served as the Head of the Division in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- He is currently the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Hungary.

About Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- Capital: Sarajevo
- Currency: Convertible mark

Paytm Payments Bank appoints Mr. Deependra Singh Rathore as Interim CEO

- Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) has appointed **Mr. Deependra Singh Rathore** as the interim chief executive officer (CEO), in addition to his role as chief product & technology officer (CPTO).
- He will replace **Mr. Satish Gupta**, who was the bank's CEO and is set to retire in October 2022.

Other Appointments:

- The Bank also appointed **Mr. Sunil Chander Sharma**, a former IRS officer as a chief operating officer (COO) to oversee the functions of customer support, retail operations, legal and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA), and Human Resources and Administration.
- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** launched **75 digital banking units** across states and this means the more banking units the country has, the more transactions will take place.

About Paytm Payments Bank:

- Founded: August 2010
- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Chairman & CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Yubi appoints Mr Atanu Chakraborty as chairman

- Yubi (formerly CredAvenue) has appointed **Mr. Atanu Chakraborty** as the Independent Chairman of the Yubi board.

About Mr. Atanu Chakraborty:

- He is a 1985 batch officer of the Indian Administrative Service, of the Gujarat cadre.

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- He has served as the **Economic Affairs Secretary of India** till his retirement in April 2020.
- He was also appointed to the **Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India**.
- He also served as the **Secretary of Expenditure** as well as the **Secretary of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)**.
- Mr. Atanu Chakraborty is also currently the **Chairman of the Board of HDFC Bank**.

About Yubi:

- Founded: 2020
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Founder & CEO: Gaurav Kumar

Ms. Apoorva Srivastava appointed as India's Ambassador to the Slovak Republic

- A diplomat in the **Indian Foreign Service**, Ms. Apoorva Srivastava has been appointed to serve as **India's Ambassador to the Slovak Republic**.

About Ms Apoorva Srivastava:

- She served in various positions in the **Ministry of External Affairs** and has been posted in **Kathmandu and Paris**, among other locations.
- Currently, she serves as **Consul-General at the Consulate of India in Toronto**.

About the Slovak Republic:

- President: Zuzana Čaputová
- Prime Minister: Eduard Heger
- Capital: Bratislava
- Currency: Euro

Mr. Roger Binny elected as the 36th BCCI President replaces Sourav Ganguly

- **Former cricketer Mr. Roger Binny** has been elected as the **36th President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** at the **91st BCCI Annual General Meeting of India's top cricket body in Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- He replaces **Mr. Sourav Ganguly**, who held the post since 2019.

New Office Bearers of the BCCI:

- President: Mr. Roger Binny
- Vice President: Mr. Rajeev Shukla

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- Secretary: Mr. Jay Shah (second term)
- Joint Secretary: Mr. Devajit Saikia
- Treasurer: Mr. Ashish Shelar

Note:

- Mr. Binny was the **only candidate** to have filed a **nomination** for the top post.
- He is the **first world cup champion** to be appointed as the BCCI President.
- Mr. Binny is the **third Test cricketer** to head the BCCI after **Maharaja of Vizianagaram** and **Sourav Ganguly**, whose term ended at the BCCI AGM.

About Mr. Roger Binny:

- Mr. Binny was the **first Anglo-Indian of Scottish origin** to play cricket for India.
- He represented India in **27 Test matches** and **72 One Day Internationals (ODIs)**.
- He was one of the architects of India's **1983 World Cup triumph** and president of the **Karnataka State Cricket Association**.
- He served as a **member** of the **BCCI selection committee**.
- The BCCI general body also approved the launch of the **Women's Indian Premier League**, which is set to begin in **2023**.

About BCCI:

- Founded: 1928
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO: Hemang Amin

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud appointed as 50th Chief Justice of India

- The **President of India Droupadi Murmu** has appointed **Justice Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud** as the **50th Chief Justice of India (CJI)** with effect from **November 9, 2022**.
- He will take oath after current **CJI Uday Umesh Lalit** retires on 8 November 2022.
- He will have a term of over **2 years** as the 50th Chief Justice of India till 10 November 2024
- The CJI and the Judges of the Supreme Court (SC) are appointed by the President under **clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution**.

About Justice D.Y. Chandrachud:

- Dhananjaya Yashwant Chandrachud is a **judge** on the **Supreme Court of India**.

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- Presently, Justice Chandrachud is the **senior Supreme Court judge after Justice Lalit**.
- His father **Justice YV Chandrachud** was the **16th** and the **longest serving CJI of India**, from February 22, 1978, till July 11, 1985.
- This is also the **first time** a father and son will hold the CJI position.
- He served as a **Judge of the Bombay High Court** from March 2000 to October 2013.
- He served as the **Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court** from October 31, 2013.
- In 2016, he was appointed as a **Judge to the Supreme Court of India**.

About CJI:

- CJI is the Chief Judge of the Supreme Court of India as well as the **highest-ranking officer** of the **Indian Judiciary**.
- The CJI should be a **citizen of India**.

Qualifications of CJI:

- Have been for **at least 5 years** a **Judge of a High Court** or two or more such Courts in succession or
- Have been for **at least 10 years** an **advocate** of a **High Court** or two or more such Courts in succession, or
- CJI is, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.

Swedish parliament elects Mr. Ulf Kristersson as New Prime Minister

- The **Swedish parliament** elected Mr. Ulf Kristersson, the **conservative Moderate Party leader**, as the **new Prime Minister (PM) of Sweden**.
- A total of **176 members** of the Riksdag voted in favor of Kristersson, while 173 members voted against him.
- Mr. Kristersson will be replacing **Magdalena Andersson**, who was the **first female PM of Sweden**.

About Mr. Ulf Kristersson:

- Mr Ulf Hjalmar Ed Kristersson born on 29 December 1963 in Lund, **Sweden**.
- He is a Swedish politician serving as Prime Minister of Sweden and **leader** of the **Moderate Party**.
- He served as **Chairman of the Moderate Youth League** from 1988 to 1992.
- He served as **Minister for Social Security** from 2010 to 2014.

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- Mr. Kristersson will be leading a **three-party coalition government** with the Moderates, the Christian Democrats, and the Liberals.

About Sweden:

- Capital: Stockholm
- Currency: Swedish krona

Adani Group appoints Ericsson veteran Mr Arun Bansal as CEO Adani Airport Holdings Ltd

- The Adani Group has appointed **Mr. Arun Bansal** as **chief executive officer (CEO)** of Adani Airport Holdings Ltd, an arm of Adani Enterprises Ltd.
- He replaces **Mr. Malay Mahadevia**, who currently serves as a whole-time director at **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd** and was holding the charge of chief executive officer of Adani Airport Holdings Ltd until now.
- The appointment will help **strengthen digital transformation** and the business growth agenda.
- Mr. Bansal will join the Adani Group from Ericsson where he served as **senior vice president** and **head** of the market area in Europe and Latin America.
- **R.K. Jain** will serve as **chief executive officer of airports (aero) operations**, while **Harshad Jain** will continue to serve as **executive officer (non-aero)**.

About Adani Airport Holdings:

- Founded: 2019
- Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- In 2019, Adani Airports won the mandate to modernize and operate six airports such as Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Jaipur, Guwahati, and Thiruvananthapuram.
- Adani's airports account for 25% of airport footfalls and 40% of air cargo in India

JPMorgan appoints Mr. Navin Wadhvani as head of India's investment banking chief

- JPMorgan Chase & Co named **Mr. Navin Wadhvani**, a former Reliance Industries executive, as the **head** of its **Indian investment banking division**, as part of a spate of management changes for the **Asia-Pacific region**.
- Mr. Wadhvani served as head of M&A for oil-to-retail conglomerate Reliance for the past **10 years**.

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- He also worked as a **senior managing director** at **Rothschild India**.
- JPM also appointed **Mr. Kaustubh Kulkarni** as **senior country officer** for **India** from **Nov. 1, 2022**.
- **Mr. Kulkarni** succeeds **Mr. Madhav Kalyan**, who will now head the **U.S. banking giant's Asia Pacific Payments**.
- **Mr. Vineet Mishra** will become the **sole head of Investment Banking** for **Southeast Asia**.
- Meanwhile, JPM's head of corporate banking in India, **PD Singh** has been named **interim CEO** of **JP Morgan Chase Bank India** from **Nov. 1, 2022**.

About JPMorgan Chase & Co:

- **Founded:** December 1, 2000
- **Headquarters:** New York City, New York, United States
- **Chairman & CEO:** Jamie Dimon
- JPMorgan Chase & Co. is an **American multinational investment bank and financial services holding company**.

Former Infosys president Mr. Ravi Kumar joins as president of Cognizant Americas

- **Former Infosys President Mr. Ravi Kumar S**, who resigned from Infosys will join **Cognizant Technology Solutions Corporation** as **President of Cognizant Americas**.
- He will be reporting directly to **Brian Humphries**, **chief executive officer (CEO)** of **Cognizant**.
- **Mr. Kumar** was the **third highest-paid executive** after **CEO Salil Parekh** and **chief operating officer UB Pravin Rao**.
- **Mr. Kumar** succeeds **Mr. Dharmendra Kumar (DK) Sinha** who retired from **Cognizant** in **2021**.
- Currently, **Mr. Sinha** is the **president of the public cloud business unit** in **Rackspace Technology**.
- **Mr. Surya Gummadi** will continue to hold the post of **interim president** for **Cognizant Americas** till **Mr. Kumar** joins, after which he will move to lead **Cognizant's \$5-billion health sciences business**.
- **Roles & Responsibilities:**
- **Ravi** will be responsible for the **strategic direction** and **operational performance** of our business in the **US, Latin America, and Canada**, including our industry teams, the **Americas Consulting organization**, and the **global Large Deals team**.

Other Appointments:

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- Cognizant also announced the appointment of **Mr. Prasad Sankaran** as the **new head** of the **Software & Platform Engineering practice area**, effective November 1, 2022.
- He joins Cognizant from **Bain & Company**, where he was a **senior vice president** and leader in the firm's Enterprise Technology global practice.

About Mr. Ravi Kumar S:

- Mr. Ravi Kumar S is based in **New York City**.
- He has over 20 years of experience in the consulting, process, and technology transformation space.
- He will also serve as a close partner to Cognizant's CEO.
- He served as the **President of Infosys from 2016 to 2022**.

About Cognizant:

- Founded: 26 January 1994
- Headquarters: Teaneck, New Jersey, United States
- CEO: Brian Humphires
- Cognizant is an **American multinational information technology services and consulting company**.
- Cognizant America accounts for over **70%** of its **total annual revenues**.

GSK India appoints Mr. Bhushan Akshikar as the new Managing Director

- Drug firm **GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Limited** has appointed **Mr. Bhushan Akshikar** as **Managing Director** for its **India business** for four years effective **December 1, 2022**.
- He succeeds **Mr. Sridhar Venkatesh**.

About Mr. Bhushan Akshikar:

- Mr. Bhushan Akshikar is a **seasoned business leader** with a successful track record of over 26 years across local and area roles within the pharmaceutical industry.
- He **joined GSK India** in **September 2011** to lead the specialty and commercial excellence business units.
- In 2014, he was appointed **head** of the **mass markets business**.
- He was elevated as the **managing director (MD)** of the **publicly-listed entity** of **GSK** in **Nigeria, Africa** in end-2016.

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Senior ICAS officer Ms. Bharati Das takes charge as 27th Controller General of Accounts

- Civil Accounts Service officer Ms. Bharati Das has been appointed as the 27th Controller General of Accounts (CGA) under the Department of Expenditure
- She has replaced Mr. Sonali Singh, who had been given the additional charge of CGA, after the superannuation of Mr. Dipak Dash.

About Ms. Bharati Das:

- Ms. Das is a 1988-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer.
- She has served as Principal Chief Controller of Accounts (Pr. CCA) Central Board of Direct Taxes and Ministries of External Affairs, Home Affairs.

About CGA:

- CGA is 'the Principal Advisor' on Accounting matters to the Union Government.
- CGA is responsible for establishing and managing a technically sound Management Accounting System and preparation & submission of the accounts of the Union Government

Shri Mallikarjun Kharge becomes 1st non-Gandhi Congress President in 24 years

- Shri Mapanna Mallikarjun Kharge, a staunch Gandhi family loyalist from Karnataka, has become the Congress' first non-Gandhi president in 24 years.
- Shri Kharge secured 7,897 votes out of a total of 9,385 votes against Shashi Tharoor with 1,072 votes.
- He is the 98th and current president of the Indian National Congress
- He will take charge of Sonia Gandhi who had been serving as interim president after Rahul Gandhi stepped down from the post after the party faced a debacle in the 2019 Lok Sab.
- He is also the second AICC President from Karnataka after S Nijalingappa and also the second Dalit leader after Jagjivan Ram to hold the post.

About Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

- Shri Mallikarjun Kharge was born in the Bidar district, Karnataka.
- He first contested the Karnataka State Assembly elections in 1972 and won from the Gurmitkal constituency.
- He was the President of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee during the 2008 Karnataka State Assembly Elections.

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- He has been a **Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha** from Karnataka since 16 February 2021.
- He was also **Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha** from 16 February 2021 to 01 October 2022.
- He was the **Minister of Railways** and **Minister of Labour and Employment** in the Government of India.
- He has **won elections** a record **10 consecutive times** having won the Assembly elections an unprecedented **9 consecutive times** (1972, 1978, 1983, 1985, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2008, 2009).

ISRO named Dr. Sankarasubramanian as the Principal Scientist of the Aditya-L1 mission

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has designated senior Solar Scientist, Dr. Sankarasubramanian K, as the **Principal Scientist** of the 'Aditya-L1' Mission.

About Dr Sankarasubramanian K:

- Dr. Sankarasubramanian K. is a senior solar scientist at the **U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), Bengaluru**.
- He is also the **Principal Investigator** for one of the **X-ray payloads** onboard Aditya-L1.
- He has contributed to **AstroSat, Chandrayaan-1, and Chandrayaan-2** missions of ISRO in several capacities.
- He also heads the **Aditya-L1 Science Working Group**, which has members from several institutes in India engaged in solar science research.
- Currently, he is heading the **Space Astronomy Group (SAG)** of URSC.

About SAG:

- SAG is involved in **developing scientific payloads** for the upcoming missions of **Aditya-L1, XPoSat,** and **science payload** onboard the **Chandrayaan-3** propulsion module.

About 'Aditya-L1' Mission:

- Aditya-L1 is the **first observatory-class space-based solar mission** from India & it is planned to be launched in **February 2023**.
- The Mission duration is **5 years**.
- It carries **7 payloads** to observe the photosphere, chromosphere, and the outermost layers of the sun (the corona) using electromagnetic and particle detectors.

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- The spacecraft will be placed in a halo orbit around the **first Lagrange point, L1**, of the **Sun-Earth system**.
- A satellite around the L1 point has the major advantage of continuously viewing the **Sun without occultation/eclipses**.

About ISRO:

- Established: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka
- Chairman: Sreedhara Panicker Somanath
- ISRO is the **national space agency of India**, operating under the **Department of Space (DOS)**.

Dr. K.P Ashwini Becomes 1st Indian to Be Appointed Independent Expert on Racism by UNHRC

- The **UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** has appointed Dr. K P Ashwini as a **Special Rapporteur (SR)** on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance of the **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**.
- She will take over as the UNHCR special rapporteur in **Geneva** on **November 1, 2022**, for **3 years**.
- She is the **first Asian** as well as the **first Indian** to be appointed for the post.

About Dr. K P Ashwini:

- Dr. K P Ashwini hails from Kasaba Kurubarahalli village, Kolar district of **Karnataka**, India.
- She will work on **apartheid policy** at the global level, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and intolerance independently.
- She has conducted a special study on the effects of **mining** on the **tribals** of **Odisha** and **Chattisgarh** with **Amnesty International**.

About SR:

- Special rapporteur (or Independent Expert) are title given to **independent human rights experts** whose expertise is called upon by the **United Nations** to report or advise on human rights from a **thematic or country-specific perspective**.

About UNHRC:

- Founded: 15 March 2006
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

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- President: Federico Villegas
- Membership: 47 members
- The UNHRC is a **United Nations body** whose mission is to **promote and protect human rights** around the world.

Mr. Pradeep Singh Kharola was appointed as CMD of the India Trade Promotion Organization

- **Former Civil Aviation Secretary Mr. Pradeep Singh Kharola** was appointed as the **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of the **India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)** for two years.

About Mr. Pradeep Singh Kharola:

- Mr. Kharola is a **1985 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS)** officer of the **Karnataka cadre**.
- He has also served as **CMD Air India and Secretary, of Civil Aviation**.
- He was appointed as the **Chairman of the National Recruitment Agency (NRA)** in **March 2022**.

Recent News:

- In Sep 2022, The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** appointed **Mr. B V R Subrahmanyam** as the **ITPO chief** for two years after his retirement as the **Commerce Secretary** on **September 30**.

About ITPO:

- **Founded: 1 April 1977**
- **Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India**
- ITPO is the **nodal agency** of the **Government of India** under the aegis of the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (India)** for promoting the country's external trade.

Ministry of Corporate Affairs nominates two directors on the board of IL&FS

- The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** has nominated two directors **Mr. G Mahalingam** and **Mr. Deepak Mohanty** to the board of **Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS)**.
- The appointment of these two directors has been approved by both the **MCA** and **National Company Law Tribunal**.
- With this induction, the existing board of IL&FS now comprises **6 members** namely
 1. **Mr CS Rajan** (non-executive chairman)
 2. **Mr. Nand Kishore** (managing director)
 3. **Dr. Malini Shankar** (director)

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4. Mr. N Srinivasan (director)
5. Mr. Deepak Mohanty (director)
6. Mr G Mahalingam (director).

Key Highlights:

- Mr. Mahalingam has served as **executive director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and a **whole-time member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.
- Mr. Mohanty has served as **executive director of RBI** and a **whole-time member of the Pension Funds Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**.

About MCA:

- Union Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State: Rao Inderjit Singh

Bureaucrat Aramane Mr. Giridhar appointed as New Defence Secretary

- The **Road Transport and Highways Secretary, Mr. Aramane Giridhar** has been named the **new defense secretary** as part of a **top-level bureaucratic reshuffle** affected by the Centre.
- He will take over as Defence Secretary after the **retirement of Mr. Ajay Kumar on October 31, 2022**.
- **Mr. Alka Upadhyaya**, chairperson of the **National Highways Authority of India**, will be the **new Road and Transport Secretary** in place of Giridhar.

About Mr Aramane Giridhar:

- Mr. Aramane Giridhar is an **Indian Administrative Service (IAS)** officer of the **1988 batch** and an officer of the **Andhra Pradesh cadre**.
- He has been approved as an Officer on **Special Duty** in the **Department of Defence**.
- He has been the **Additional Secretary** of the **Cabinet Secretariat**.

Center appoints Mr. Sanjay Malhotra as new Revenue Secretary

- The government has appointed a **1990 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS)** officer of the **Rajasthan cadre, Mr. Sanjay Malhotra** as the **new revenue secretary**.
- He will succeed **Mr. Tarun Bajaj**, who is retiring on **November 30, 2022**.

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- Currently, Mr. Malhotra, serving as **secretary** in the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, will join the **Revenue Department** as an officer on special duty.

Other Appointments:

- **Mr. Vivek Joshi**, the Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs has been appointed as the **new Secretary**, of the **Department of Financial Services** in place of **Sanjay Malhotra**.
- **Mr. Mritunjay Kumar Narayan**, Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry, has been appointed as the **new Registrar General of India** and Census Commissioner in place of Joshi.
- **Mr. Nagendra Nath Sinha** has been appointed as the Officer on **Special Duty** of the **Ministry of Steel** from December 1, 2022.
- **Mr. Nath Sinha** will succeed as Secretary in the Ministry of Steel, after **Mr. Sanjay Kumar Singh** retires on December 31, 2022
- **Mr. Shailesh Kumar Singh**, Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner in the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, has been appointed as the **new Rural Development Secretary** from December 1, 2022.
- **Mr. Amrit Lal Meena**, Special Secretary (Logistics), Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, has been chosen as the **new Coal Secretary**.
- **Ms. Lal Meena** will take over as the **Secretary** after the retirement of Mr. Anil Kumar Jain on October 31, 2022.
- **Mr. Sudhansh Pant**, a 1991 batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, has been named as **Secretary** in the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**.

Pintola appoints Indian cricketer Suryakumar Yadav as its brand ambassador

- **Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG)** company **Das Foodtech Private Limited**, which owns the nut butter brand **Pintola**, has appointed Indian cricketer **Suryakumar Yadav** as a **Brand ambassador** to endorse the company's exclusive range of nut butter and rice cakes across platforms.
- Yadav has become the brand ambassador for the **second time** in a row.
- Pintola is aiming to further strengthen its market share and connect with the **young Indian consumer**.

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- The segment is committed to its vision of being present in 100 million households in the next 2 years

About Pintola:

- Founded: 2011
- Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Fire-Boltt appoints Vijay Deverakonda as its new brand ambassador

- Boltt Games Private Limited's Fire-Boltt brand has appointed actor and film producer Vijay Deverakonda as its new brand ambassador.
- Devarakonda will be part of the marketing campaign of the brand alongside cricketing legend Virat Kohli and actors Vicky Kaushal and Kiara Advani
- He will be part of the marketing, advertisement & endorsement campaigns of Fire Boltt.
- Fire Boltt has grabbed the 1st spot again in the Indian Smart Watch market with a market share of 28% from 8.9% in 2021.

Note:

- Founder and CEO of fire boltt: Arnav Kishore

Quality Council of India appoints Mr. Jaxay Shah as the new chairman

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has appointed Mr. Jaxay Shah, founder chairman of Savvy Group and former chairman of CREDAI as the chairman of the Quality Council of India (QCI) for three years.
- He will succeed former Mr. McKinsey India chief Adil Zainulbhai, who served as the chairman of QCI through 3 terms for 8 years from 2014 to 2022.

About Mr. Jaxay Shah:

- Mr. Shah founded one of India's largest infrastructure conglomerates, the Savvy Group in 1996.
- He held the position of national chairman of the Confederation of Real Estate Developers Associations of India (CREDAI), the apex body of private Real Estate developers in India.
- He also holds the position of the chairman of the Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) Western Region Development Council & serves as the Advisor at the PharmEasy Accelerator Program, which offers 1 lakh+ medicine and health products.

About QCI:

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- Established: 1997
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Secretary General: Dr. Ravi P. Singh
- QCI is mandated to **promote quality** in the country through national accreditation of testing, inspection, and certification bodies which is internationally recognized, driving third-party assessments across sectors.
- It has helped the government with various flagship schemes to **assess the quality of education, healthcare, food, sanitation, groundwater management, and natural resources like coal.**

About the Ministry of Commerce and Industry:

- Cabinet Minister: Piyush Goyal
- Minister of State: Anupriya Patel, Som Parkash

Center appoints Mr. Narayana Rao Battu as PFRDA Member (Law)

- The **Center** has appointed **Mr. Narayana Rao Battu**, an **Additional Secretary** in the **Law Ministry**, as a **Whole-Time Member (Law)** of the **Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRA)**.
- Before Mr. Battu, **Mr. Pramod Kumar Singh** was a whole-time member (Law) at PFRDA.
- His posting will be effective from the date of the assuming charge of the post till he attains the age of **62 years** or until further order, whichever is earlier.
- The position of Member (Economics) is yet vacant.
- **Mr. Manoj Anand** is holding the post of **Whole Time Member (Finance)**.
- The members can hold office for **5 years** and would be eligible for re-appointment.

PNB Housing Finance appoints Mr. Girish Kousgi as MD & CEO

- **PNB Housing Finance** has appointed **Mr. Girish Kousgi** as its **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.
- Mr. Kousgi replaces **Mr. Hardayal Prasad** who has resigned from his role as MD & CEO of PNBHF citing personal reasons.

About Mr. Girish Kousgi:

- Mr. Kousgi has over 25 years of extensive experience in the mortgage and retail lending business.
- Before joining PNB Housing Finance, Kousgi served as the **MD & CEO** of **Can Fin Homes**.

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About PNB Housing Finance Limited:

- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- PNB Housing Finance Limited (PNB Housing) is a **registered housing finance company** with **National Housing Bank (NHB)**.
- It was incorporated under the Companies Act, of **1956** and commenced its operations on **11 November 1988**.

Indian Banks' Association re-elects PNB's Mr. AK Goel as Chairman

- Indian Banks' Association (IBA) reelected Mr. A K Goel, managing director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Punjab National Bank as its **new chairman**, who will serve the industry body for the **financial year 2022-23**.
- The senior managing director of a public sector bank is generally elected as chairman for **one year**.
- **State Bank of India's (SBI) Mr. Dinesh Khara** has become **deputy chairman** along with two others including **Mr. A S Rajeev, MD & CEO of Bank of Maharashtra**, and **Mr. Madhav Nair, CEO of Mashreq Bank**, a Dubai-headquartered foreign lender.

About IBA:

- Established: **26 September 1946**
- Honorary secretary: **N Kamakodi (CEO of City Union Bank)**
- IBA is a **representative body** of management of banking in India operating in India - an association of Indian banks and financial institutions based in Mumbai.
- It is managed by a managing committee, and the current managing committee consists of **1 chairman, 3 deputy chairmen, 1 honorary secretary, and 26 members**.

Yuvraj Singh becomes the brand ambassador for the 3rd T20 World Cricket Cup for the Blind

- The **Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI)** announced Indian legendary cricketer **Yuvraj Singh** as the **brand ambassador** for the **3rd T20 World Cup for the Blind** to be held in India.

Key Highlights:

- The India squad list was announced to **me. Ajay Kumar Reddy B2 (Andhra Pradesh)** led the team as a **captain** and **Venkateswara Rao Dunna – B2 (Andhra Pradesh)** was the **vice president**.
- The World Cup matches commence from **6th December to 17th December 2022**.

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- The participating countries for the third T20 World Cup for the Blind are India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Australia, South Africa, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.
- The world cup is an initiative of the **Samarthanam Trust for the disabled**, which has been organizing this championship since 2012.
- The first World Cup was played in 2012 and the second was played in 2017.
- India has won both the T20 World Cups till now.

Awards & Honors of Yuvraj Singh:

- In 2012, Yuvraj was conferred with the **Arjuna Award**, India's second-highest sporting award by the **Government of India**.
- In 2014, he was awarded the **Padma Shri**, India's fourth-highest civilian honor
- In **February 2014**, he was honored with the **FICCI Most Inspiring Sportsman of the Year Award**.

About CABI:

- Founded: 2011
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- President: Mahantesh Kivadasannavar
- Secretary: John David Endala

About World Blind Cricket Council:

- Founded: September 1996
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- President: Syed Sultan Shah
- Secretary General: Raymond Moxly
- The WBC is an **administration of blind cricket** to manage it at the **international level**.

ICICI Bank board reappoints Mr. Sandeep Bakhshi as MD & CEO for 3 years

- ICICI Bank's board of directors has reappointed Mr. Sandeep Bakshi as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) for a period of three years up to October 3, 2026.

About Mr. Sandeep Bakshi:

- Mr. Bakhshi has been with the ICICI Group for 36 years and has handled various assignments across the group in ICICI Limited, ICICI Lombard General Insurance, ICICI Bank, and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance.

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- He was appointed as the ICICI bank's MD and CEO on October 15, 2018.
- Before his appointment, he was **Wholetime Director** and the **Chief Operating Officer (COO)**.

About ICICI Bank:

- **Founded:** 5 January 1994
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Liz Truss resigns after six weeks as UK prime minister

- The **United Kingdom (UK) Prime Minister (PM) Ms. Liz Truss** has resigned from the post after **six turbulent weeks** in office, making her the **shortest-serving prime minister (44 days)** in British history.
- She became the **4th PM of the Conservative Party** after the PMs **Mr. David Cameron, Ms. Theresa May, and Mr. Boris Johnson** resigned before the end of their term.

About Mr. Liz Truss:

- **Mr. Mary Elizabeth Truss** was the **leader of the Conservative Party** from **5 September to 24 October 2022**.
- She served as **foreign secretary** from 2021 to 2022.
- She is a British politician who has served as **Prime Minister of the United Kingdom** since **6 September 2022**.

About the UK:

- **Capital:** London
- **Currency:** Pound sterling

Kotak Mahindra Bank appoints Mr. C S Rajan as an additional and independent director

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited** has appointed **Mr. C S Rajan** as an **additional and independent director** on the bank's board for **five years**.

About Mr. C S Rajan:

- **Mr. Rajan** is a retired **IAS officer** from the **1978 Batch**
- He has over **40 years** of experience across significant government portfolios.
- He has served on several interdisciplinary teams for review of **World Bank projects**, and also as a **consultant to the World Bank** on a study on '**Farmer Participation in Agricultural Research and Extension System**.'

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- Currently, Mr. Rajan is serving as a Government of India-appointed **Non-Executive Chairman of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited** and was also its **Managing Director** from April 2019 to October 2022.

About KMBL:

- Founded: 1985
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman, MD & CEO: Uday Kotak

Mr. Rishi Sunak appointed as Britain's first Indian-origin Prime Minister

- **Mr. Rishi Sunak (42)** was appointed by King Charles III as **United Kingdom's first Indian-origin Prime Minister**.
- He is the **57th Prime Minister** of the **UK**.
- He replaced **former PM Ms. Liz Truss**, who had resigned from the post just after **44 days**.
- He is the **fifth Conservative party leader** elected to the top post in the past 6 years.
- Mr. Rishi Sunak has become **Britain's first nonwhite leader** to take the top job.
- At the age of 42, he'll also be the **youngest prime minister** in more than 200 years.
- Before him, **Mr. William Pitt** had been the youngest Prime Minister of the UK at the age of **24**.
- He is also the **first Hindu Prime Minister of Indian heritage** in the UK.

Other Appointments:

- **Mr. British lawmaker John Glen** was appointed as **Chief Secretary to the United Kingdom (UK) Treasury**, replacing **Mr. Edward Argar**.

About Mr. Rishi Sunak:

- Mr. Sunak was born on 12 May 1980 in Southampton, **Hampshire, England**.
- He became a **member of Parliament** in 2015 after he got elected from **Richmond, Yorkshire**.
- Mr. Sunak supported Boris Johnson's campaign to become Conservative leader.
- He served as **Chancellor of the Exchequer** from 2020 to 2022 and **Chief Secretary** to the Treasury from 2019 to 2020.

About the UK:

- Capital: London
- Currency: Pound sterling

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Govt appoints Ms. Sangeeta Verma as acting chairperson of CCI

- The **Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA)** has appointed **Ms. Sangeeta Verma**, as an **Acting Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)** for **three months** or till any further orders.
- She has replaced **Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta**, who relinquished office after a four-year tenure.
- Ms. Verma is from the **1981 batch of the Indian Economic Service (IES)**.
- She has earlier served as the **Principal Adviser with the Dept of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Govt of India** from January 2017 to September 2018
- Currently, she is a **member of the Competition Commission of India**.

About CCI:

- Established: 14 October 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Secretary: P K Singh
- The CCI is the **chief national competition regulator** in India.
- It is a statutory body within the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**.

About MCA:

- Union Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State: Rao Inderjit Singh

Dr. Shefali Juneja elected as chairperson of the UN's Air Transport Committee

- **Dr. Shefali Juneja**, India's representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), has been elected as the **chairperson of the United Nations specialized aviation agency's Air Transport Committee (ATC)**.
- She becomes the **first Indian** to hold the position in **28 years** & she is the **first woman** to represent **India** in the ICAO.
- ATC is a **standing committee of ICAO** created by the **Chicago Convention in 1944**.
- According to **Article 54 d) of the Chicago Convention**, the Council appoints and defines the duties of an ATC, which is chosen from among the representatives of the members of the Council.

About Dr Shefali Juneja:

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- Dr. Juneja, a 1992 batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax cadre).
- She served as the **joint secretary** in the ministry of civil aviation (MoCA) before joining the ICAO.

About ICAO:

- Founded: 4 April 1947
- Headquarters: Montreal, Canada
- Secretary General: Juan Carlos Salazar Gómez
- The ICAO is a **specialized agency** of the United Nations.

Indian-origin Ms. Navjit Kaur Brar becomes councilor of Canada Brampton

- An Indo-Canadian healthcare worker, Ms. Navjit Kaur Brar, has become the **first turban-wearing Sikh woman** to be elected as a **city councilor** of Brampton city in Canada.
- Ms. Navjit Kaur Brar defeated **Jermaine Chambers**, a former Conservative MP candidate for Brampton West, to become the next City Councillor for **Wards 2 and 6**.

About Navjit Kaur Brar:

- She is an Indo-Canadian respiratory therapist.
- She is a **former Conservative MP candidate** for Brampton West.
- Elections for municipal government are held **every four years** on the **fourth Monday of October**, which fell on October 24, 2022, this time.

Emami onboards Akshay Kumar as a brand ambassador for BoroPlus Cream

- Packaged goods company **Emami Limited** has roped in **Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar** as the **new brand ambassador** for its **BoroPlus Ayurvedic Antiseptic Cream**.
- The BoroPlus range comprises skincare products such as **antiseptic creams, body lotions, aloe vera gels, soaps, petroleum jelly, and powder**.
- He received the **Padma Shri**, India's fourth-highest civilian honor, from the Government of India in 2009.

IMPORTANT AWARDS & HONOURS NEWS

Cochin International Airport Limited has been awarded the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) award for 2022

- The **Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL)** has been awarded the **Airport Service Quality (ASQ) award 2022** by the **Airport Council International (ACI)**.

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- The award is considered to be the highest honor in the global aviation sector.
- CIAL received the award in the 5-15 million passenger category of airports operating in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The award is for its implementation of the 'Mission Safeguarding' program, which ensured seamless traffic and reinforced passenger satisfaction in the aftermath of the pandemic.
- The award was handed over to the **Managing Director of CIAL S Suhas IAS**, by the ACI World Director General Luis Felipe de Oliveira at a function held in Krakow, Poland, on September 14.
- Earlier in March of this year, CIAL received the 'Covid champion' award at Wings India 2022, for the successful implementation of 'Mission Safeguarding'.

Sunil Gavaskar has been awarded the gold medal of SJFI:

- Legendary cricketer **Sunil Gavaskar** has been awarded the gold medal by the **Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI)**.
- The SJFI gold medal was presented by former **BCCI Secretary SK Nair** and **BCCI Joint Secretary Jayesh George**.
- A citation and honorary life membership of SJFI were also awarded.
- The event was presided over by **SJFI All India President and senior journalist A. Vinod**.
- Former Indian cricketer, coach, and prominent commentator **Ravi Shastri** were also felicitated on the occasion.
- Honorary life membership was also given to **Ravi Shastri**.

About SJFI:

- SJFI was founded on 27th February 1976 at Eden Gardens, Calcutta (now Kolkata), West Bengal.

FIP 42nd Annual Awards have been Released:

- The **Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP) 42nd Annual Awards ceremony** for Excellence in **Book Production 2022** was held in **New Delhi**.
- The **directorate of the Publications Division** won **nine awards** in various categories for Excellence in **Book Production 2022**.

DPD won first prizes in the categories of the following:

- **General and Trade Books (English)** for 'Balancing the Wisdom Tree'
- **General and Trade Books (Hindi)** for 'Bharat Vibhajan Ki Kahani'

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- Art and Coffee Table Books (Regional Languages) for 'Courts of India' (Marathi)
- Reference Books (English) for 'India 2022'
- Scientific/Technical/Medical Books (Hindi) for 'Covid-19: Vaishik Mahamari'
- Journals and House Magazines (Hindi) for 'Kurukshetra'
- In the category of General and Trade Books (Hindi) for 'Loktantra ke Swar', DPD won the Second Prize.
- Directorate of Publications Division was awarded two Third Prizes in the categories of - Children's Books (General Interest) (0-10 Years) (Hindi) for 'Pinushi' and Journals and House Magazines (Regional Languages) for 'Ajkal' (Urdu).
- In 2021, the Directorate of Publications Division won ten awards for its various publications.

About Directorate of Publications Division:

- It was established in 1941.
- It is a publishing house of the Government of India.
- It publishes books in different languages with diverse themes.

India's first green hydrogen fuelling station, being set up at Leh:

- India's first green hydrogen fuelling station, being set up at Leh in the Union Territory of Ladakh, is all set to be commissioned before May 2023.
- The first-of-its-kind project is being set up by state-run NTPC.
- The power generator had awarded the contract for the project to Amara Raja Power Systems, part of the \$1.3 billion Amara Raja Group, in June.
- Under the project, green hydrogen will be produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using electrolysis powered by renewable energy.
- The project is being set up at a height of 3,600 meters above sea level with a temperature variation of minus 14 degrees to plus 20 degrees Celsius.
- The pilot project will produce 80 Kilograms per day of 99.97 percent pure hydrogen that will be compressed, stored, and dispensed.
- NTPC plans to ply five hydrogen fuel cell buses in the region.
- NTPC's wholly-owned subsidiary NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL) floated the tender for the project in July last year.

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- NTPC REL is also setting up a 1.25 Mw solar power plant to make the hydrogen Fuelling Station completely green.

Srishti Bakshi has won the 'Changemaker' award at the UN SDG Action Awards:

- Srishti Bakshi from India wins the 'Changemaker' award at UN SDG Action Awards.
- Srishti Bakshi, who traveled 3,800km in less than a year, has won prestigious honor at the UN SDG Action Awards.
- She traveled 3800 km to raise awareness of gender-based violence and inequality.
- She has got the award for "confronting gender-based violence and advocating for safe access to public spaces.
- The finalists have been selected from more than 3,000 applications from 150 countries.
- The other award winners are 'SUPvivors say NO MORE' in the Mobilise category for empowering sexual abuse survivors in Ecuador and 'The Masungi Story' in the Inspire category.
- A documentary titled 'WOMB: Women Of My Billion' has showcased her journey.
- The winners have been announced at a ceremony in Bonn, Germany.

President has presented the Dada Saheb Phalke award for 2020 to actress Asha Parekh:

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the Dada Saheb Phalke award for 2020 to actress Asha Parekh.
- In the 68th National Film Awards ceremony, the Hindi film 'Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior' has been selected for 'Best Popular Film.
- The award was introduced by the Government of India to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke's contribution to Indian cinema, who is popularly known as and often regarded as "the father of Indian cinema".
- It was first presented in 1969.
- The first recipient of the award was actress Devika Rani, "the first lady of Indian cinema".
- The award for the most film-friendly state was given to two states this year – Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Special mention was given to Uttarakhand.
- Ajay Devgn for the film, 'Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior' and Suriya for the film 'Soorai Pottru' received the best actor award.

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- **Apama Balamurali** received the Best Actress Award for Soorai Pottru.
- **Sachidanandan KR** got the Best Director Award for Malayalam Film AK Ayyappanum Koshiyum.
- Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur invited winners to guide the future filmmakers selected through 75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow.
- It is presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organization set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- The award prize consists of a golden lotus, a cash prize of ₹10 lakh, and a shawl.

Madhav Hada will be awarded the 32nd Bihari Puraskar:

- **Writer Dr. Madhav Hada** will be awarded the **32nd Bihari Puraskar** for his 2015 literary criticism book ‘Pachrang Chola Pahar Sakhi Ri’, the **KK Birla Foundation** announced.
- The book explores Meera’s life and society from a new perspective and is a new starting point for identifying her place in the field of Hindi literary criticism.
- The Bihari Puraskar is one of the three literary awards instituted by the foundation in 1991.
- Named after the famous **Hindi poet Bihari**, the award is given every year for an outstanding work published in the last 10 years by a **Rajasthani author in Hindi or Rajasthani**.
- It carries a cash prize of ₹2.5 lakh, a plaque, and a citation.
- The recipient is chosen by a **selection committee headed by chairman Hemant Shesh**.
- A literary critic and academic, Hada has written extensively on literature, media, culture, and history.
- He has also been a member of the general council of the **Sahitya Akademi and the Hindi Advisory Board**.

Right Livelihood Award known as the “Alternative Nobel” was announced:

- The **Right Livelihood Award** — known as the “Alternative Nobel” — was awarded to community activists and organizations working on **three continents**, including a **Ukrainian civil rights activist**.
- **Oleksandra Matviichuk** and the Center for Civil Liberties that she heads were honored “for building **sustainable democratic institutions in Ukraine** and modeling a path to international accountability for war crimes.”

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- Somalia human rights activists **Fartuun Adan and Ilwad Elman**, who lead community-based peacebuilding initiatives and provide support to marginalized groups, were cited “for promoting peace, demilitarization, and human rights in Somalia in the face of terrorism and gender-based violence.”
- **Cecosesola**, a Venezuelan association of cooperatives, was cited “for establishing an equitable and cooperative economic model as a robust alternative to profit-driven economies.”
- The **Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO)** won “for their courageous work for climate justice and community rights violated by extractivist energy projects in Uganda.”
- Created in 1980, the annual Right Livelihood Award honors efforts that the prize founder, **Swedish-German philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull**, felt were being ignored by the Nobel Prizes.
- The laureates will receive the awards during a ceremony on Nov. 30 in **Stockholm**.
- In 2022, 175 nominees from 77 countries were considered.

Nobel Prize in physics has been awarded to Alain Aspect, John F. Clauser, and Anton Zeilinger:

- This year's Nobel Prize in physics has been awarded to **Alain Aspect (France)**, **John F. Clauser (USA)**, and **Anton Zeilinger (Austria)** for their work on quantum information science.
- **Hans Ellegren**, Secretary General of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, **announced the winner at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm**.
- A week of Nobel Prize announcements with Swedish scientist **Svante Paabo** receiving the award in medicine for unlocking secrets of Neanderthal DNA that provided key insights into our immune system.
- **Last year the prize was awarded to three scientists — Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann, and Giorgio Parisi — whose work has helped to explain and predict complex forces of nature, thereby expanding our understanding of climate change.**

Three people have been awarded Nobel Prize in chemistry for developing a way of "snapping molecules together":

- This year's Nobel Prize in chemistry has been awarded in equal parts to **Carolyn R. Bertozzi**, **Morten Meldal**, and **K. Barry Sharpless** for developing a way of "snapping molecules together" that can be used to design medicines.

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- Their work, known as click chemistry and bioorthogonal reactions, is used to make cancer drugs, map DNA and create materials that are tailored to a specific purpose.
- Hans Ellegren, secretary general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, announced the winners at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden.
- Bertozzi is based at Stanford University in California, Meldal is at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, and Sharpless is affiliated with Scripps Research, California.
- Sharpless previously won a Nobel Prize in 2001.
- He is the fifth person to receive the award twice.

Angela Merkel has been awarded the prestigious Nansen Refugee Award by the United Nations refugee agency:

- Former German chancellor Angela Merkel received the prestigious Nansen Refugee Award from the United Nations refugee agency.
- The UNHCR selection committee praised Merkel's "leadership, courage, and compassion" for welcoming 1.2 million refugees and asylum seekers by Germany in 2015 and 2016 during the war in Syria.
- The former chancellor will be honored with the award on October 10 in Geneva.
- Angela Merkel served as Chancellor of Germany from 2005 to 2021.

About Nansen refugee Award

- It was established in 1954.
- It has been named after Fridtjof Nansen, the first High Commissioner for Refugees for the League of Nations.
- This award honors individuals, groups, or organizations working to protect refugees and other displaced and stateless people.
- It includes a commemorative medal and a monetary prize of US\$ 150,000.
- Besides Merkel, four other organizations and individuals will also be awarded worldwide.
- The award will be given to those who have gone beyond to protect refugees and other people forced to flee. UNHCR Nansen Award 2022 went to Mbera Fire Brigade, an all-volunteer firefighting group in Mauritania led by Ahmedou Ag Albohary.

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- The regional award for the Americas was given to a women's rights advocate and activist, Vicenta Gonzalez whose cacao cooperative in Costa Rica empowers asylum-seeking and local women.
- Nansen Award for Asia and the Pacific was given to Meikswe Myanmar, a humanitarian organization.
- Dr. Nagham Hasan, a gynecologist from Iraq who helps Yazidi women was the winner of the Middle East and North Africa region.

Annie Ernaux has been awarded the Noble Prize 2022 in Literature:

- The French author Annie Ernaux has been awarded the Noble Prize 2022 in Literature.
- Ernaux has been awarded for the courage and clinical acuity through which she uncovers the roots, estrangements, and collective restraints of personal memory.
- Annie was born on September 1, 1940. Being a French writer and professor of literature, her work, mostly autobiographical, is linked closely with sociology.
- The Nobel Prize 2021 for Literature was awarded to Tanzanian novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah for his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents.
- Some of his bestseller novels include Paradise, By the Sea, and Desertion.

Nobel Peace Prize won by Belarusian human rights activist Ales Bialiatski:

- The Norwegian Nobel Committee decided to give the Nobel Peace Prize for 2022 to one individual and two organizations.
- 2022 Nobel Peace Prize won by Belarusian human rights activist Ales Bialiatski, Russian human rights organization Memorial, and Ukrainian human rights organization Center for Civil Liberties on 7 October.
- They have made an outstanding effort to document power abuse, war crimes, and human rights abuses.
- Together, they demonstrated the importance of civil society to democracy and peace.
- Ales Bilyatsky was one of the initiators of the democratic movement that took place in Belarus in the mid-1980s.
- Human rights activists established the human rights organization Memorial in 1987 in the former Soviet Union.

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- In 2007, the Center for Civil Liberties was established in Kyiv to advance human rights and democracy in Ukraine.
- It was started in 1901. It is awarded annually on the death anniversary of Alfred Nobel.
- The Nobel Prizes are the most prestigious awards given for intellectual achievement in the world.
- It is awarded in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, economics, and peace.
- Rabindranath Tagore was the first Indian to win the Nobel Prize in 1913.

Three people won the 2022 Nobel Prize in Economics for research on banks and financial crises:

- Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the 2022 Nobel Prize in Economics to Ben S. Bernanke, Douglas W. Diamond, and Philip H. Dybvig.
- Ben S. Bernanke, Douglas W. Diamond, and Philip H. Dybvig won the 2022 Nobel Prize in Economics for research on banks and financial crises.
- According to the Nobel committee, the three laureates have significantly improved our understanding of the role of banks in the economy, particularly during financial crises, and an important finding in their research is why avoiding bank collapses is vital.
- Both Diamond and Dybvig worked together to develop theoretical models explaining why banks exist, how their role in society makes them vulnerable to rumors about their impending collapse, and how society can lessen this vulnerability.
- Former Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke analyzed the Great Depression of the 1930s, the worst economic crisis in modern history.
- Among other things, he showed how bank runs were a decisive factor in the crisis becoming so deep and prolonged.

Wazahat Husain has won an international award for Traditional, Alternative, and Complementary Medicine:

- Professor Wazahat Husain, a leading academic from the Aligarh Muslim University has won an international award for Traditional, Alternative, and Complementary Medicine.
- Professor Husain a retired chairman of the Department of Botany at the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has received the second Sheikh Zayed International Award in an event arranged by the Zayed Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation.

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- **Wazahat Husain** has been honored with **Lifetime Achievement Awards** twice, once jointly by the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** and the **AYUSH** ministry and then by the **Wildlife Institute of India** and the **Department of Wildlife Sciences, AMU**.
- The award aims to give recognition to renowned academics and scientists of **Traditional Complementary and Alternative Medicine (TCAM)** globally.
- It also provides significance to **TCAM** physicians from the **UAE**, for enhancing **TCAM** knowledge and practices, and contributing to improving the quality of life for humanity.

Karine Aigner was named this year's **Wildlife Photographer of the Year**

- **The American National History Museum** announced the winners of their prestigious annual **Wildlife Photographer Awards** in an awards ceremony in **London**.
- From the 19 category winners that highlight the natural world in all its wonder and diversity, **American** photographer **Karine Aigner** bagged this year's **Wildlife Photographer of the Year** for her remarkable image titled, '**The big buzz**'.
- **Karine** is just the **fifth woman** in the competition's 58-year history
- **Wildlife Photographer of the Year** is developed and produced by the **NHM, London**.
- The exhibition opens at the museum, before embarking on the **UK** and international tour.

The PMAY-U Awards 2021 are won by **Uttar Pradesh**:

- According to Union **Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri**, the majority of housing projects funded by the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U)** housing scheme has been completed.
- Every year, the **PMAY-U Awards 2021** are planned to honor the **States, Union Territories, and urban local authorities** who have contributed to the program's implementation in **Rajkot**.
- In terms of the awards, **Uttar Pradesh** came in first, followed by **Madhya Pradesh** in second and **Tamil Nadu** in third.
- **Gujarat**, which is awaiting the results of its elections, received **five special category** honors for its work in the areas of affordable rental housing complexes and "**convergence with other missions**."
- Following **Jammu and Kashmir**, which was named the "**Best Performing UT**" alongside **Dadra and Nagar Haveli** and **Daman & Diu**, **Madhya Pradesh** received three special category awards.

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- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has honored Odisha with the coveted PMAY-U Awards 2021 for the best policy innovation in a certain area.

About PMAY-U:

- The PMAY-U scheme aims to address and alleviate the lack of housing facilities in urban India for beneficiaries from the Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Low-Income Groups (LIGs), and Middle Income Groups (MIGs).
- On June 25, 2015, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched PMAY-U, a flagship Mission of the Government of India.

Karnataka Bank receives CII digital transformation awards:

- Karnataka Bank has won the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) National Digital Transformation Awards, "DX 2022 Awards," for best practices in digital transformation in the BFSI sector.
- The prizes for "Innovative Excellence" in "KBL HR NxT - Employee Engagement," "KBL Operations NxT - Operational Excellence," and "KBL Customer NxT - Customer Experience" were given to senior bank executives in New Delhi.
- KBL NxT was introduced in 2021 as part of KBL Vikas 2.0, with an emphasis on digitizing its many verticals such as operations, human resources, customer experience, digital marketing, and so on.

Highlights:

- In 2017, KBL launched its Transformation Journey 'KBL Vikaas' in Mangaluru, Karnataka, in collaboration with the Boston Consulting Group (India) Private Ltd, (BCG).
- In 2021, KBL launched the 'KBL NxT' concept to become the 'next digital bank.'
- The bank prioritizes digitization in areas such as customer experience, operations, human resources, technology, cyber security, digital marketing, and partnerships, among others.
- Digital transformation has begun to contribute a significant share to the bank through the KBL Vikaas program.

About The DX Award:

- The DX (Digital Transformation) Award is an excellent forum for enterprises to display their efforts and successes in the digital sphere.

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- DX Award 2022 is the fourth edition of the CII - Tata Communications Centre for Digital Transformation DX (Digital Transformation) Awards, which are designed to showcase the impact and advantages of digital transformation.

India Expo conferred with National Tourism Award 2018-2019 for Best Standalone Convention Centre:

- **India Exposition Mart Limited**, one of the leading venue planners and providers in India that offers technology-driven, world-class facilities and safety standards suitable for hosting international business-to-business exhibitions, conferences, congresses, product launches, and promotional events, was awarded the **National Tourism Award 2018-2019 for the "Best Standalone Convention Centre"** for its Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida at the National Tourism Awards 2022 that was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
- The event saw the presence of **Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar**, his Excellency Vice-President of India; **Shri G. Krishna Reddy**, Hon'ble Minister of Tourism, Culture and Development of North Eastern Region of India, Govt. of India, **Shri Ajay Bhatt**, Hon'ble Minister of State for Tourism, Govt. of India and **Shri Arvind Singh**, IAS, Secretary (Tourism), Govt. of India along with other dignitaries.
- **81 awards were given highlighting the achievements** of the Industry.
- India Expo Mart has approximately 16 years of operating experience in the management and organization of exhibitions and trade fairs.
- Many VVIP's including the PM of India, Union Home Minister, various cabinet Ministers, and Chief Ministers of states have visited the venue for various exhibitions and conventions including the Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair, Elecrama, Auto Expo – The Motor Show, CPHI&P-MEC and Print Pack, COP 14, Petrotech'22, and recently World Dairy Congress'22 and many more others exhibitions have been organized at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida.

Hyderabadi Haleem from Telangana receives the "Most Popular GI" award:

- **Hyderabadi Haleem from Telangana** defeated other foods including Rasgulla, Bikaneri Bhujija, and Ratlami Sev to win the title of "Most Popular GI."
- The renowned Hyderabadi Haleem has won the "Most Popular GI" title in a fierce fight against more than 15 food items with **Geographical Indication (GI)** classification across the nation.
- Products are given GI tags to ensure that only authorized users may use the well-known product name.

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- **Hyderabadi Haleem** received GI status for the first time in 2010.
- It lost validity on December 2019.
- Later on, nevertheless, the dish's tag was extended by the Geographical Indicator registrar for another 10 years.
- **Nirmal toys and crafts, Nirmal furniture, Nirmal paintings, Gadwal sari, and Banaganapalle Mangoes** are some Telangana products that have received the GI designation.

Hyderabad in Telangana received the AIPH "World Green City award 2022":

- For its initiative titled "**Green Garland to the State of Telangana**," the city of Hyderabad, Telangana, has been recognized as the **Grand Winner of the AIPH (International Association of Horticultural Producers) World Green City Awards 2022**, the most prestigious award of the inaugural AIPH World Green City awards (2022 edition).
- Hyderabad also took home the prize in the category of "**Living Green for Economic Recovery and Inclusive Growth**."
- Hyderabad has received recognition for its efforts to improve urban settings through increased use of plants and nature, which also supports local ambitions for increased economic, social, and environmental resilience.
- The prize recognized **Telangana's large-scale tree-planting initiative, Telangana Ku Haritha Haram, which was undertaken in 2015 and 2016.**
- The program intends to expand the **state's tree cover from 24% to 33%** of its overall area.

Booker Prize 2022 awarded to Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka for his novel 'The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida':

- **Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka** won the 2022 Booker Prize for his second novel 'The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida'.
- Booker Prize is one of the most prestigious literary awards in the world.
- 47-year-old **Karunatilaka becomes the second Sri Lankan to win** the prestigious 50,000 pounds literary prize at a ceremony in London, after **Michael Ondaatje** who won for 'The English Patient' in 1992.
- 'The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida' tells the story of the photographer of its title, who in 1990 wakes up dead in what seems like a celestial visa office.

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- **Shehan Karunatilaka, who was born in Galle in 1975 and grew up in Colombo, says that Sri Lankans specializes in "gallows humour" and make jokes in the face of crises as a coping mechanism.**
- His debut novel from 2011, 'Chinaman', won the Commonwealth Prize.
- The **Booker Prize is awarded annually to a book published in English in the United Kingdom and Ireland.**

Alexia Putellas and Karim Benzema have won the Ballon d'Or for 2022:

- **Karim Benzema, a professional French footballer for Real Madrid, has won the Men's Ballon d'Or (Golden Ball Award) 2022, becoming the fifth Frenchman to do so.**
- **Alexia Putellas, a Spanish professional footballer from Barcelona, has won the Women's Ballon d'Or award or Ballon d'Or Féminin Award for the second time.**
- **The 66th Ballon d'Or Ceremony (2022) was placed at the Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris in France.**
- Karim Benzema is only the second player to win the award since 2008, behind Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.
- **Lionel Messi has won the most Ballon d'Or awards.**
- He leads the list with seven awards, followed by **Cristiano Ronaldo with five.**

Award	Winner
Ballon d'Or (Men)	Real Madrid's Karim Benzema
Ballon d'Or (Women)	Alexia Putellas (Barcelona)
Kopa Award	Gavi (Barcelona)
Gerd Muller Award	Robert Lewandowski (Barcelona)
Yashin Trophy	Thibaut Courtois (Real Madrid)

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Club of the Year Award	Manchester City
Socrates Award	Sadio Mane (Liverpool)

The Ukrainian people have been awarded the EU's Sakharov freedom prize for 2022:

- The **European Parliament** has bestowed the **annual Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought on the people of Ukraine** in recognition of their **resistance to Russia's invasion**.
- Following a vote by the **Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament**, European Parliament President **Roberta Metsola** revealed the **laureate for 2022** in the Strasbourg plenary chamber (the President and political group leaders).
- The award includes **50,000 euros (\$49,100)** in prize money, which will be handed to leaders of Ukrainian civic society.
- Since 1988, the prize, named after late Soviet dissident **Andrei Sakharov**, has been given to individuals and organizations promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- **Last year, the award was handed to Alexei Navalny**, a jailed Kremlin opponent, for his attempts to challenge Russian President **Vladimir Putin's** grip on power.
- Previous recipients include **South African President Nelson Mandela**, **Pakistani education campaigner Malala Yousafzai**, and **Belarus' democratic opposition**.

IIT Madras has won the National Intellectual Property Award for 2021 and 2022:

- The **Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M)** received the **national prize for intellectual property for 2021 and 2022**.
- The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** established the prize.
- The evaluation criteria for patents were applications, grants, and commercialization. **Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal** presented the prize.
- **V. Kamakoti, director of the institute**, commended the professors, researchers, students, and other stakeholders on their **achievement after receiving the trophy, citation, and cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh**.
- This award has inspired IIT Madras to create and protect additional intellectual property with societal impact.

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- The yearly award recognizes people who have succeeded in intellectual property ideas and commercialization that support the development of the nation's IP ecosystem and foster innovation, including individuals, institutions, organizations, and corporations.

NISA receives the Union HM's award for best police training institution:

- The Union Home Minister's Trophy for the "Best Police Training Institution for Training of Gazetted Officers for the Year 2020-21" was awarded to the National Industrial Security Academy (NISA) in Hakimpet, Hyderabad.
- This amazing milestone for this Academy was accomplished during the tenure of the present Commissioner of Police (CP) Hyderabad, CV Anand, who was the Academy's prior Director during the year under consideration.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs screens several central police training institutes at the national level, and BPR&D surveys to determine the top Police Training Institution for the year.
- In several categories, all central and state government police training academies in the country are being considered.

"Pather Panchali" was named the greatest Indian film by FIPRESCI:

- The feature film "Pather Panchali" by renowned director Satyajit Ray has been named the best Indian movie of all time by the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI).
- In a list of the best ten films in Indian cinema history, which was determined following a poll by the FIPRESCI India chapter, the 1955 movie is ranked first.
- "Pather Panchali," Ray's first film as a director, was based on the 1929 Bengali novel of the same name by Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay.
- Starring in it was Chunibala Devi, Kanu Banerjee, Karuna Banerjee, Uma Dasgupta, and Subir Banerjee.
- According to FIPRESCI-India, 30 members participated in the ballot, which was done in secret.

RRR was named Best International Film at the Saturn Awards 2022:

- The film RRR, directed by SS Rajamouli and recently released in Japan, has won its first major international award.
- The biggie took home the award for 'Best International Film' at the Saturn Awards 2022, which were held in Los Angeles.

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- RRR is a period drama starring Jr NTR and Ram Charan as parallel leads.
- RRR, which earned nearly Rs 1,200 crore at the worldwide box office, has received its first major international award.
- At the Saturn Awards 2022, SS Rajamouli's magnum opus won the award for 'Best International Film.
- RRR defeated Downton Abbey: A New Era, Eiffel, I'm Your Man, Riders of Justice, and Silent Night to win the award for the best international film at the 2022 Academy Awards.
- Notably, RRR was nominated for best film direction and best action/adventure film.

In the first, SS Rajamouli was beaten by Matt Reeves, who won for The Batman.

IMPORTANT DEFENCE NEWS

India signs deal with Armenia for export of missiles & weapon systems

- India has signed an Rs. 2,000 crores (US\$ 244.78 million) million deal to export arms and ammunition to Armenia, which is currently engaged in a tense stand-off with its neighbor Azerbaijan.
- First, India will also export indigenous Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers (MBRL).
- The Pinaka system has been developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and is manufactured by Indian private firms.
- The rocket system, which is currently in service with the Indian Army, can fire a salvo of 12 rockets in 44 seconds.
- Armenia is also set to get anti-tank rockets as well as a range of ammunition from India under the bundled deal.

Key Highlights:

- The Center has set a target to sell weapon systems worth Rs 35,000 crore abroad by 2025.
- The defense exports last year stood close to Rs 13,000 crore, mainly driven by the private sector
- In 2020-21, India exported equipment worth \$90 million compared to \$23 million in 2014-15.
- In January 2022, India inked a \$375 million deal with the Philippines to provide the BrahMos cruise missile to the country's navy.

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- The central government first supplied four Swathi radars to the Asian nation in 2020 for an estimated Rs 350 crore.

IAF retires Srinagar-based MiG-21 'Swordarm' Squadron

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) retired the No. 51 'sword arms' MiG-21 fighter Squadron based in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), which had stopped its flying operations on June 30, 2022.
- With this, the IAF has 3 MiG-21 Bison squadrons, which will be phased out in the next three years.
- 51 Squadron, widely known as "Swordarms," was established in Chandigarh on February 1st, 1985 under the command of Wg Cdr VK Chawla.
- The Squadron moved to its present location at Srinagar on May 1, 1986.
- It was initially equipped with MiG-21 Type 75 aircraft and converted to the upgraded MiG-21 Bison in January 2004.
- The 51 Squadron is the same Squadron of which Group Captain (then Wing Commander) Abhinandan Varthaman was part and saw action in February 2019.

Key Highlights:

- The Primary role of the Squadron was the air defense of the Kashmir Valley and being the only fighter Squadron in the Valley, the 'sword arms' earned the title 'guardians of the valley'.
- The Squadron was tested in the 1987 Operation Brasstacks when it carried out intensive valley flying and manned operational readiness platforms from both Srinagar and Awantipur over 3 months
- The crest of the squadron portrays a pair of muscular arms firmly clasping a sword, depicting the motto "Vijaya Prakrama" which means 'Valour for Victory'
- The 'sword arms' also participated in Operation Safed Sagar in the 1999 Kargil conflict.
- The sword arms flew 194 sorties and were conferred 1 Vayu Sena medal and 3 Mention-in-Dispatches.
- For their role during Operation Parakram, the mobilization carried out post the Parliament attack, the Squadron was awarded the President's Standard on March 22, 2018.

Indian Air Force to Induct Its First Light Combat Helicopters In Jodhpur

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- The first batch of indigenously-developed Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) named "Prachand" was inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- During the ceremony newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Shri Anil Chauhan along with Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh were also present.
- LCH would join the 143 Helicopter Unit after being inducted.

Key Highlights:

- The name Prachand means "fierce" & it is the name given to Light Combat Helicopters (LCH).
- The LCH is a 5.5-tonne class dedicated combat helicopter designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL).
- The LCH assault helicopter is the only one in the world that can land and take off at 5,000 meters while carrying a sizable load of ammunition and fuel.
- LCH Limited Series Production (LSP) is an indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured state-of-the-art modern combat helicopter containing approximately 45% indigenous content by value which will progressively increase to more than 55 % for the SP Version.
- The formal induction of the LCH comes after the Cabinet Committee on Security, chaired by the Prime Minister, approved in March the procurement of 15 LCH Limited Series Production (LSP) for Rs 3,887 crore along with allied infrastructure sanctions worth Rs 377 crore.
- Of the 15 helicopters being procured from the LSP, 10 are for the IAF and 5 for the Indian Army.
- The helicopter is equipped with the requisite agility, maneuverability, extended range, high-altitude performance, and around-the-clock, all-weather combat capability to perform Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR), Destruction of Enemy Air Defence (DEAD), Counter Insurgency (CI) operations.
- It can also counter slow-moving aircraft and Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAs).
- Presently, the IAF is expected to require a total of 160 LCHs, of which 65 are for the IAF and 95 are for the Indian Army.
- According to the IAF, the induction marks India becoming the 7th country to make attack helicopters.

DRDO Tests 3 Unmanned Remote-controlled Weaponised Boats In Pune

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) tested three remotely unmanned, weaponized boats at Bhama Ashed Dam in Pune, Maharashtra.

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- The 3 remote-controlled armed boats were tested with **no man on the vessel**.
- These boats were developed by **DRDO** in collaboration with the **private start-up Sagar Defence Engineering**, a defense production start-up.
- The boats are useful for **surveillance purposes, patrols, and reconnaissance of overall maritime security**.
- Notably, the boats have an endurance of about **four hours**.
- Currently, the boat can sail at a **maximum speed of 10 nautical miles/hour** & can be further increased to **25 nautical miles**.
- Some variants of these boats use an electric propulsion system with **lithium batteries**, while others have a petrol engine on board.
- **DefExpo-2022** will be held in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat** between **October 18 and 22, 2022**.

About DRDO:

- Established: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Dr. Sameer V Kamath
- The DRDO is the premier agency under the **Department of Defence Research and Development** in the **Ministry of Defence** of the **Gol**.

INS Tarkash at Port Gentil, 1st ever visit by any Indian Navy ship to Gabon

- **INS Tarkash** has visited a **port in Gabon** as part of an ongoing deployment in the **Gulf of Guinea** for **anti-piracy patrols**.
- This marks the **“first-ever visit by any Indian naval ship to Gabon**
- During its stay in port, the ship and its crew will participate in **official and professional interactions** as well as sports fixtures.
- Their professional interactions will include discussions and drills on fire fighting and damage control, medical and casualty evacuation issues, and diving operations.
- In addition, **yoga sessions** and **social interactions** are also planned.

About INS Tarkash:

- INS Tarkash (F50) is the **second Talwar-class frigate** constructed for the **Indian Navy**.
- It was built at the **Yantar shipyard** in **Kaliningrad, Russia**.

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- It was commissioned into Navy service on **9 November 2012** at Kaliningrad and joined the **Western Naval Command** on **27 December 2012**.
- It is equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors capable of addressing threats in **all three dimensions**.

About Gabon:

- President: Ali Bongo Ondimba
- Prime Minister: Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda
- Capital: Libreville
- Currency: Central African CFA franc

Defence Ministry approves renaming of Faizabad Cantt as Ayodhya Cantt

- Defence Minister **Shri Rajnath Singh** has approved the proposal to change the name of **Faizabad Cantt** to **Ayodhya Cantt**.
- Earlier in **October 2021**, the **Uttar Pradesh** government following the Centre's nod announced the renaming of **Faizabad railway junction** as **Ayodhya Cantt** & Chief Minister **Shri Yogi Adityanath** had approved the change of name.
- In **November 2018**, the UP government changed the name of **Faizabad district** to **Ayodhya**.
- In **October 2018**, the Yogi government changed the name of **Allahabad** to **Prayagraj**.
- Earlier in **June 2018**, **Mughalsarai railway station**, one of the busiest junctions of Indian Railways was renamed after **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)** ideologue **Deen Dayal Upadhyay**.

Army's northern command adds Kalyani M4 to its fleet of armored vehicles

- Indian Army's northern command inducted **Kalyani M4**, an indigenous all-terrain high mobility combat troop carrier with armor and mine protection, in **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**.

Purpose:

- To enhance the operations capabilities in the terrains of **Jammu - Kashmir, and Ladakh**.
- **Kalyani M4**, produced by **Kalyani Group's Bharat Forge Limited**.
- The first consignment of specialized armored vehicles was formally received by **General Officer-Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) Northern Command, Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi** from officials of India's **Bharat Forge Limited** in Command headquarters **Udhampur**

About Kalyani M4:

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- The Kalyani M4 is a **multi-role platform vehicle** that aims to aid the armed forces in quick mobility in rough terrain.
- It offers best-in-class levels of ballistic and blast protection **up to 50kg TNT** side blast or IED/roadside bombs due to its innovative design, built on a flat-floor monocoque hull.
- The vehicles can carry a **maximum payload of 2.3 tonnes** and up to **8 people**.
- The Kalyani M4 weighs around **16,000 kilograms** with all the armor.
- The M4 can reach a top **speed of 140 km/h** and has a range of **800 km**.
- The vehicle can withstand three **10 kg TNT charges** under the wheels and **one 50 kg IED blast** at one side.
- Subsequently, the **Ministry of Defence** placed an order worth **Rs 177.95 crore** for the supply of Kalyani M4 vehicles.

Center approves creation of weapon system branch for IAF officers

- On the occasion of the **90th anniversary** of the Indian Air Force (IAF), the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has approved the **creation of a new branch**, called the **Weapon Systems (WS) branch**.
- This is the **first time** since Independence that a new operational branch has been created.

Key Highlights:

- The new branch will result in a saving of **more than ₹3,400 crore** due to reduced expenditure on flying training.
- It will unify all weapon systems operators of the IAF under a **single entity** for operational employment of all ground-based and specialist airborne weapons.
- The branch would encompass operators in **four specialized streams** of **Surface-to-Surface missiles, Surface-to-Air missiles, Remotely Piloted Aircraft, and Weapon System Operators** in twin/multi-crew aircraft.

About MoD:

- Union Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Dr. Ajay Kumar

About IAF:

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- Established: 8 October 1932
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chief of Defence Staff: General Anil Chauhan
- Chief of the Air Staff: Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari

US & South Korea begin joint maritime exercises

- The **South Korean and United States navies** began a **two-day combined maritime maneuvering exercise** with a **US aircraft carrier**.
- The maritime drills will take place in **waters off South Korea's east coast** on **October 7-8, 2022**.
- The drills come after North Korea launched a **pair of ballistic missiles** into the sea and later flew warplanes near the border with the South.
- The Joint drills will strengthen both countries' **operational capabilities** and **readiness** to respond to any provocation by **North Korea**.
- The exercise is being conducted after North Korea launched ballistic missiles over **Japan**.

About the US:

- President: Joe Biden
- Capital: Washington, D.C
- Currency: U.S. dollar

About South Korea:

- President: Yoon Suk-yeol
- Prime Minister: Han Duck-soo
- Capital: Seoul
- Currency: the Korean Republic won

Indian Navy to join Exercise Malabar in Japan next month

- **Japan** will host the **2022 edition** of the **Malabar naval exercise** consisting of **India, Australia, Japan, and the U.S.** in the **second week of November 2022**.
- The **Indian Navy** will also participate in the **International Fleet Review (IFR)** being hosted in the **first week of November** to commemorate the **70th anniversary** of the **Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF)**.

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- This is the latest in a series of **bilateral and multilateral exercises** in which the **Indian armed forces** have taken part recently. •
- The bilateral India-U.S. Army exercise "**Yudh Abhyas**" is scheduled to take place at the end of October in Uttarakhand's high-altitude regions, around **100 km (aerial distance)** from the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**.
- According to a statement by the **Royal Brunei Navy**, the IFR to be held in the **first week of November** is being conducted during the **18th Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS)** 'strategic discussion' and 'plenary session' being hosted by **Japan** from **November 5 to 10, 2022**.

About the Malabar Exercise:

- Malabar is a multilateral naval exercise that was first conducted in **1992**.
- It started as a bilateral training session for the Indian and American navies.
- The exercise has been carried out **annually since 2002**.
- **Australia** and **Japan** participated in the exercise for the **first time in 2007**, and since 2014, the US, India, and Japan have all taken part annually.
- In **2020**, **Australia** joined Ex Malabar as a **regular member**

About the Indian Navy:

- Founded: 26 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chief of Defence Staff: General Anil Chauhan
- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral R. Hari Kumar

About Japan:

- Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida
- Capital: Tokyo
- Currency: Japanese yen

INS Tarkash reaches South Africa for maritime exercise IBSAMAR

- **INS Tarkash** reached Port Gqeberha (also known as Port Elizabeth), South Africa to participate in the 7th edition of IBSAMAR, a joint multinational maritime exercise among Indian, Brazilian, and South African Navies.

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- The Indian Navy is represented by the Teg class guided missile frigate, INS Tarkash, a Chetak helicopter, and the personnel from the Marine Commando Force (MARCOS).

About the Exercise:

- The Exercise will **strengthen maritime security**, joint operational training, sharing of best practices, and building interoperability to **address common maritime threats**.
- The harbor phase of IBSAMAR VII includes professional exchanges such as damage control and fire-fighting drills alongside VBSS/cross-boarding lectures and interaction among special forces.
- In **Aug 2022**, INS Tarkash participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise with the **Brazilian Navy** which included operations such as cross-deck landing, **replenishment at sea (RAS)** approaches, and other tactical maneuvers.
- The warship also hoisted the Indian Tricolour on **August 15, 2022, at Rio De Janeiro**, as part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations**.
- The 6th edition of IBSAMAR (IBSAMAR VI) was conducted off **Simons Town, South Africa** from **October 1-13 in 2018** in which **INS Tarkash, INS Kolkata, BNS Barroso, SAS Amatola, SAS Protea, and SAS Manthatisi** participated.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi commissions India's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant in Kochi

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi commissioned India's first indigenous aircraft carrier Indian Naval Ship (INS) Vikrant at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) in Kochi, Kerala.
- Also, during the event, the PM unveiled the **new Naval Ensign (Nishaan)**, doing away with the colonial past and befitting the rich Indian maritime heritage.
- He dedicated the new ensign to **Chhatrapati Shivaji**.

About INS Vikrant:

- INS Vikrant is designed by the Indian Navy's in-house Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, a Public Sector Shipyard under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways.
- Vikrant has been built with state-of-the-art automation features and is the **largest ship ever built** in the maritime history of India.

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Key Features:

- The **262.5 m long and 61.6 m wide Vikrant** displaces approx **43,000 T**, having a **maximum designed speed of 28 Knots** with an endurance of **7,500 Nautical Miles**.
- The ship has around **2,200 compartments**, designed for a crew of around **1,600** including women officers and sailors.
- The ship is capable of operating an air wing consisting of **30 aircraft** comprising MiG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31, MH-60R multi-role helicopters, in addition to indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) and Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) (Navy).
- Using a novel aircraft-operation mode known as **Short Take-Off But Arrested Recovery (STOBAR)**, INS Vikrant is equipped with a ski jump for launching aircraft, and a set of 'arrestor wires' for their recovery onboard.
- With **76% indigenous content**, the construction of INS Vikrant has resulted in direct employment generation for over **2,000 employees** of CSL.
- It has resulted in indirect employment generation for approx **12,500 employees** for over 550 OEMs, sub-contractors, ancillary industries, and over **100 Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.

About New Ensign of Navy:

- The White Ensign identified nationwide with the Navy, now comprises **two main constituents** - the **National Flag in the upper left canton**, and a **Navy Blue - Gold octagon** at the center of the fly side (away from the staff).
- The Octagon is with **twin golden octagonal borders** encompassing the golden National Emblem (Lion Capital of Ashoka – undescribed with '**Satyamev Jayate**' in blue Devnagri script) resting atop an anchor; and superimposed on a shield.
- Below the shield, within the octagon, in a golden bordered ribbon, on a Navy Blue background, is inscribed the motto of the Indian Navy '**Sam No Varunah**' in golden Devnagriscrit.
- The design encompassed within the octagon has been taken from the **Indian Naval crest**, wherein the fouled anchor, which is also associated with a colonial legacy, has been replaced with a clear anchor underscoring the steadfastness of the Indian Navy.

About Ministry of Defence:

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- Union Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Dr. Ajay Kumar

Eastern Naval Command conducts offshore security exercise – Pradhan

- An offshore security exercise, 'Prasthan' was conducted in the Krishna Godavari Basin (KGB) Offshore Development Area (ODA) under the aegis of Headquarters, Eastern Naval Command.

Aim:

- To integrate the efforts of all maritime stakeholders involved in offshore defense.

About the Exercise:

- The exercise is conducted **every six months** and is an important element of ensuring offshore security.
- It was conducted onboard **Drill rigs Platinum Explorer** and **DDKG-** of ONGC and RIL located about **40 nm south of Kakinada**.
- It saw participation from the various oil operators, like **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Vedanta,** & other stakeholders in the domain of maritime security including AP Marine Police, AP fisheries department, and the Coast Guard.
- The exercise resulted in refining **standard operating procedures (SOPs)** and response actions to several contingencies in the Offshore Defence Area off Kakinada.

INS Arihant carries out successful launches of Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile

- India's first ballistic missile nuclear submarine **Submersible Ship Ballistic Missile Nuclear (SSMN)**, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Arihant successfully launched a **Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM)** validating India's second strike nuclear capability.
- The trial was significant to prove crew competency and validate the **SSBN (Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear Submarine)** program.

About INS Arihant:

- Launched in 2009, INS Arihant was commissioned in 2016.
- Builder: Shipbuilding Center (SBC), Visakhapatnam.

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- INS Arihant, a **6,000-tonne submarine** is the lead ship of India's Arihant class of nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines built under the **Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV)** project.
- The Advanced Technology Project (ATV) project began in the **1980s** and the first of them, Arihant, was launched into the water in 2009 by then **Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh**.
- Its design is based on the **Russian Akula-1 class submarines** and its **83MW pressurized light-water reactor** with **enriched uranium** has been built with significant Russian assistance.
- Under the **Rs, 90,000 crores** top-secret ATV project, India is currently building **three more SSBNs** to follow INS Arihant.
- The missile was tested to a **predetermined range** and impacted the target area in the **Bay of Bengal** with **very high accuracy** and all operational and technological parameters of the weapon system have been validated.
- A robust, survivable and assured retaliatory capability is in keeping with India's policy to have '**Credible Minimum Deterrence**' that underpins its '**No First Use**' commitment.
- The second such submarine, INS Arighat, is slated to become **fully operational in 2023**.
- The vessel will be followed by **two 7,000-tonne SSBNs** under the ATV project.
- There is also a plan to build **13,500-tonne SSBNs** with more powerful **190MW reactors**.

About SSBN:

- SSBNs are that class of submarines that can go deep beneath the ocean making them virtually undetectable for months, they also carry **nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles**.
- It is capable of carrying ballistic missiles with **nuclear warheads**.
- It is armed with the **K-15 Sagarika missiles** with a range of **750 km**.
- Later, it will also be armed with **K-4 missiles**, being developed by the **DRDO**, which are capable of striking targets at a distance of up to **3,500 km**.
- These 'K' series of missiles are named after **former President APJ Abdul Kalam**.

Note:

- Currently, **India** is the **6th country**, alongside **China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States** to have **nuclear-powered submarines armed with ballistic missiles**.

About the Indian Navy:

- Founded: **26 January 1950**

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- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi
- Chief of Defence Staff: General Anil Chauhan
- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral R. Hari Kumar

Rajnath Singh launches Maa Bharati Ke Sapoot website for citizens to contribute to the Armed Forces fund

- Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched the 'Maa Bharati Ke Sapoot' (MBKS) website (www.maabharatikesapoot.mod.gov.in) for contribution to the Armed Forces Battle Casualties Welfare Fund (AFBCWF) at a function organized at the National War Memorial Complex in New Delhi.

About AFBCWF:

- The AFBCWF is a **Tri-Service fund**, which is utilized to grant immediate financial assistance to the families of soldiers/sailors/airmen who lay down their lives or get grievously injured in active military operations.
- The website was launched to **simplify the process for patriotic Indians** to join the noble cause.
- It will enable people to contribute online directly to the fund.
- **Amitabh Bachchan** will be the 'Goodwill Ambassador' of the initiative.

About MoD:

- Union Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Dr. Ajay Kumar

NATO Neptune Strike military exercise starts in the Mediterranean Sea

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Naval Striking and Support Forces announced the launch of the **Neptune Strike (NEST 22-2)**, a **multi-domain exercise** in the **Mediterranean Sea** and are expected to be completed by **October 28, 2022**.

About NEST 22-2:

- NEST 22-2 highlights the natural evolution of NATO's ability to **integrate maritime warfare capabilities** of a carrier strike group to support Allied defense.
- Neptune Strike is the third phase of NATO's **long-planned Project Neptune series**, which was elaborated in **2020**.

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- Two previous military exercises under this project were conducted in February and May 2022.

About NATO:

- Founded: 4 April 1949
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium
- Secretary General: Jens Stoltenberg
- Chair of the NATO Military Committee: Lt. Admiral Rob Bauer
- Membership: 30 member states (28 European and 2 North American)

LT Gen PS Bhagat Memorial Chair of Excellence Instituted at the United Service Institution of India

- On the 103rd birth anniversary of late Lt Gen PS Bhagat, ex-Colonel Commandant of the Bombay Sappers and SIKHLI Regiment, the Indian Army has dedicated a Chair of Excellence in his memory at the United Service Institution of India (USI), New Delhi, Delhi.
- The announcement was made by Gen Manoj Pande, Chief of Army Staff, at a solemn ceremony organized at the USI of India, Delhi in the presence of former Army Chiefs Gen V P Malik (Retd) and Gen M M Naravane (Retd).
- During the ceremony, a Rs 5 lakhs honorarium to the nominated Chair of Excellence was handed over to Maj Gen BK Sharma (retd), Director, USI.
- Late Lt Gen PS Bhagat who served as the first General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the re-raised Northern Command was an outstanding professional and a prolific writer.
- The inaugural Chair of Excellence is being awarded to Maj Gen SG Pitre (Retd) to author a book on the “Legacy of Lt Gen Prem Bhagat: A visionary and Strategic Leader”.

C-295 military aircraft manufacturing may take place in Gujarat

- Gujarat may get the first private aircraft manufacturing facility to realize ₹22,000 crores worth of deal the defense ministry had signed with European multinational aerospace corporation Airbus 2021 for the acquisition of 56 C-295 fixed wings
- The places figured out for establishing the final assembly line for C-295 are Dhalora and Baroda.
- The C-295s will replace the Indian Air Force's (IAF's) aging AVeros.
- Under the contractual agreement signed in September of 2021, Airbus will deliver over 4 years the first 16 aircraft in 'fly-away' condition from its final assembly line in Seville, Spain.

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- The remaining 40 aircraft will be manufactured and assembled by **Tata Advanced Systems (TASL)**, the defense arm of **Tatas**, in India.

About MoD:

- Union Minister: **Rajnath Singh**
- Minister of State: **Ajay Bhatt**
- Defence Secretary: **Dr. Ajay Kumar**

India successfully tests new-generation nuclear-capable 'Agni Prime' ballistic missile

- India successfully test-fired '**Agni Prime**' - a new generation of **ballistic missiles** - from off the coast of **Odisha**.
- With this **3rd consecutive successful flight test** of the **Agni Prime** missile, the accuracy and reliability of the system have been established.

Key Highlights:

- The first test of '**Agni Prime**' was in **June 2021**, & **6 months later December 2021** the **second test** was successfully executed.
- Performance was validated using data obtained by many tracking systems, including **radar**, **telemetry**, and **electro-optical systems**.
- These systems were deployed at different locations along the flight path, including **two down-range ships** at the terminal point, and covered the entire trajectory

About Agni Prime:

- Agni Prime is a medium-range ballistic missile being developed by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- It is a **two-stage canisterised solid-propellant missile** with **dual redundant navigation and guidance system** with a **maximum range of 2,000 km**.
- It weighs **50% less** than the **Agni 3** missile and has new guidance and propulsion systems.
- Since it is canisterised, it can be launched from rail or road, stored for longer periods, and can be transported as per operational requirements.
- It is the **sixth missile** in the **Agni (missile) series** of ballistic missiles.

Indian Navy & Drone Federation joins hands to promote indigenous drone technology

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- The Technology Development and Acceleration Cell (TDAC) of the Naval Innovation Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) under the Indian Navy and Drone Federation of India (DFI) have joined hands to collaboratively work towards promoting indigenous development, manufacturing and testing of a drone, counter-drone, and associated technologies for the Navy.

Key Highlights:

- As a part of this collaboration, the Navy and the drone industry body will increase the Navy-industry-academia synergy, and source technology development challenges toward component indigenization.
- The maritime testing site being developed under this initiative will accelerate the development of versatile and reliable drone platforms for advanced maritime use cases like maritime patrol, drone landings on moving ships, ship-to-ship deliveries, and ship-to-shore deliveries.
- A special maritime drone testing site shall also be earmarked for the Indian drone industry to facilitate faster development and testing of drones, especially in maritime environments.

About the Indian Navy:

- Founded: 26 January 1950
- Chief of Defence Staff: General Anil Chauhan
- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral R. Hari Kumar

About Drone Federation of India:

- Founded: 2017
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi
- President: Smit Shah
- The DFI is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led body that promotes and strives towards building a safer and scalable unmanned aviation industry in India.

India Navy conducts Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise 'Simbex' - 2022 at Visakhapatnam

- The Indian Navy is hosting the 29th edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) from 26 to 30 October 2022 at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- Rear Admiral Sean Wat Jianwen, Fleet Commander, of the Republic of Singapore Navy called on Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, and Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet.

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About SIMBEX-2022:

- SIMBEX-2022 is being conducted in **two phases** – Harbour Phase at Visakhapatnam from **26 to 27 October 2022** followed by the **Sea Phase** in the Bay of Bengal from **28 to 30 October 2022**.
- Two ships from the **Republic of Singapore Navy**, **RSS Stalwart** (a **Formidable Class Frigate**) and **RSS Vigilance** (a **Victory Class Corvette**) arrived at Visakhapatnam for participation in the exercise
- The Harbour Phase witnessed extensive professional and sporting interactions between the two navies including cross-deck visits, **Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE)**, and planning meetings.

About SIMBEX:

- SIMBEX series of exercises began in **1994** and were initially known as **Exercise Lion King**.
- The exercise exemplifies the **high level of cooperation** between **India and Singapore** in the maritime domain.
- It also highlights the commitment and contribution of the two nations toward enhancing **maritime security** in the **Indian Ocean Region**.

About MoD:

- Union Minister: **Rajnath Singh**
- Minister of State: **Ajay Bhatt**
- Defence Secretary: **Dr. Ajay Kumar**

India & US militaries conducted the 'Tiger Triumph' exercise at Visakhapatnam, AP

- The **Second** edition of **India and the United States Tri-Service HARD (Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief) Exercise Tiger Triumph** was conducted in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP)**.
- The Indian Navy led by **Rear Admiral Manish Sharma**, Chief Staff Officer HQENC (Headquarters, Eastern Naval Command), Visakhapatnam, AP.
- The US Navy was led by **Major General Chris McPhillips**, Director INDOPACOM (Indo Pacific Command).

Aim:

- To improve interoperability between India and the US and create a **multinational command and control model** for **humanitarian assistance** in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

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About Tiger Triumph:

- It is a **joint exercise** for a comprehensive effort to provide disaster relief services to a third country hit by a super cyclone.
- It is the **first tri-services exercise** between the US and India.
- The 2022 exercise was focused on staff planning, with an emphasis on processes for **streamlining diplomatic, operational, and logistical coordination**.
- **50 individuals** from India and the United States took part in this exercise.
- The 2022 Tiger Triumph marks the **3rd time this year** that the Indian and the US militaries are involved in a joint exercise in Visakhapatnam.
- The first such exercise was conducted at Visakhapatnam in **November 2019**.

Other Exercise:

- In **February 2022**, the US participated in an **India-led bi-annual Milan exercise** for the **first time**.
- In **August 2022**, the **USS (United States Ship) Frank Cable** visited Visakhapatnam, during which time, the **US sailors** and their Indian counterparts took part in briefings.
- In **September 2022**, the **QUAD countries (US, India, Japan, and Australia)** signed the “**Guidelines for the Quad Partnership on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in the Indo-Pacific**”.

India & US to carry out mega military exercise Yudh Abhyas in Uttarakhand

- **India** and the **US** will conduct a **fortnight-long mega-military exercise Yudh Abhyas** in **Uttarakhand's Auli** in **October 2022**.
- The **18th edition** of the exercise is scheduled to take place from **October 14 to 31, 2022**.

Aim:

- To **enhance understanding, cooperation, and interoperability** between the armies of India and the US with several complex drills being planned
- The last edition of the exercise took place in **October 2021** in **Alaska** in the **US**.

About the exercise:

- The "Yudh Abhyas" exercise is taking place in the backdrop of India's lingering border row with **China** in **eastern Ladakh**.
- In **June 2016**, the US designated India a “**Major Defence Partner**”.

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Some Agreements signed between India & US:

- In 2016, the **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)** was signed between India & US which allows their militaries to use each other's bases for the repair and replenishment of supplies as well as provides for deeper cooperation.
- In 2018, **COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement)** was signed which allows for interoperability between the two militaries and provides for the sale of **high-end technology** from the US to India.
- In 2020, **BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement)** was signed to further boost bilateral defense ties.
- It provides for sharing of **high-end military technology**, logistics, and geospatial maps between the two countries.

PM Modi to lay foundation stone of C-295MW transport aircraft manufacturing project for IAF at Vadodara

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of a **C-295 MW transport aircraft manufacturing project** for the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Vadodara in Gujarat on 30 Oct 2022.
- This state-of-the-art transport aircraft of **5 to 10 tons capacity** is going to be manufactured for the **first time in India**.
- The aircraft will replace the aging **Avro aircraft** of IAF.
- This is the **first project** of its kind in which a military aircraft will be manufactured in India by a private company.
- The aircraft will **strengthen the logistic capabilities** of the IAF.

Key Highlights:

- **16 aircraft** will be handed over the **in-flight condition** and **40 such aircraft** will be manufactured in India by **Tata Advanced Systems Ltd, and Tata Consultancy Services**.
- In **September 2021**, the **Cabinet Committee on Security** approved the procurement of **56 C-295MW transport aircraft** from **M/s Airbus Defence and Space S.A., Spain**.
- The first 16 fly-away aircraft are scheduled to be delivered between **September 2023** and **August 2025**.
- The **first Made in India aircraft** is expected to be delivered in **September 2026**.

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- The total cost of the project will be Rs. 21,935 crores.
- This aircraft can also be used for civilian purposes.
- All 56-transport aircraft will have indigenous electronic warfare suites of Indian DPSUs – Bharat Electronics Ltd and Bharat Dynamics Limited.

Garuda Aerospace & Lockheed Martin Canada sign MoU to collaborate on drones, drone systems

- Garuda Aerospace and Lockheed Martin Canada CDL Systems have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to integrate Garuda Aerospace's Made-In-India drones with Lockheed Martin Canada CDL Systems' advanced uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) software solutions for defense and commercial purposes.
- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched 100 Garuda drones in 100 locations across India and MS Dhoni became its brand ambassador.

Key Highlights:

- Both companies will "work closely" to build a strong data processing capability and co-develop algorithms for drone-based applications that can be used in agriculture, mining, large-scale mapping, and industrial inspection.
- The vision is to launch 25,000 such drones in 2022 & 1,00,000 drones in 2023, and 1 drone in each village by 2024-2025.
- Garuda is also working with HiILSE Drones, a Malaysian drone company, to set up a drone factory in Malaysia.
- In August 2022 Garuda announced a partnership with Harare Institute of Technology and Nyangani Virtual University to offer drones-as-a-service (DraaS) to the agriculture sector in Zimbabwe.

About Garuda Aerospace Private Limited:

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Founder and chief executive officer: Agnishwar Jayaprakash

IMPORTANT SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated the 4th Heli-India Summit 2022:

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- **Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia recently inaugurated the 4th Heli-India Summit 2022.**
- During the summit, the Minister announced 3 new projects for enhancing the helicopter sector in the country which include HEMS and fractional ownership.

About Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS):

- It is called Project Sanjeevani by deploying a helicopter in the next few weeks to provide emergency medical services at AIIMS Rishikesh.
- The helicopter will be based at the hospital at 20-minute notice and will have a service cover to an area of 150 km radius.

About the Fractional Ownership Model:

- It helps to grow the non-scheduled operations.
- It will lower the barrier to the cost of the acquisition of helicopters and airplanes through pooled capital by multiple owners.
- This will allow companies and individuals to minimize their capital outflow by sharing the purchase cost, reducing their exposure to risks, and making it financially easier to run an NSOP business.
- Theme: 'Helicopters for Last Mile Connectivity.'

Union Environment Minister attended the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit-XI:

- **Union Environment Minister attended the inaugural session of the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit-XI (SMDS-XI) at Leh.**
- Sustainable Mountain Development Summit-XI is being organized from 10-12 October 2022.
- The theme for SMDS-XI is 'Harnessing tourism for sustainable mountain development'
- The **Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS)** is an annual event of the **Indian Himalayan Region (IHR)**.
- The summit was focused on reducing the negative impacts of tourism and using its positive contribution to building climate and socio-ecological strength and sustainability.
- As part of the SMDS, the **Mountain Legislators' Meet (MLM)** and the **Indian Himalayan Youth Summit** were also organized.

India participates at 3rd G20 Sherpa meeting in Indonesia

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- India's Group 20 (G20) Sherpa Shri Amitabh Kant led an Indian official delegation to the third G20 Sherpa meeting of Indonesia's G20 Presidency, held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 26-29 September 2022.
- The 1st Sherpa meeting under the Indonesian Presidency was held in December 2021 and the 2nd Sherpa meeting in July 2022.

About Sherpa:

- A Sherpa is a **personal representative of the leader of a member country** at an international Summit meeting such as the G8, G20, the Nuclear Security Summit, etc.
- The Sherpa engages in **planning, negotiation, and implementation tasks** throughout the Summit.
- They coordinate the agenda, seek consensus at the highest political levels, and participate in a series of pre-Summit consultations to help negotiate their leaders' positions.
- Sherpas are **career diplomats or senior government officials** appointed by the leaders of their countries.
- The term is derived from the **Nepalese Sherpa people**, who serve as guides for mountaineers in the Himalayas.
- There is **only one Sherpa per Summit** for each member country; he/she is assisted by several sous Sherpas.

Recent News:

- **Former CEO of the Government's think tank NITI Aayog, Shri Amitabh Kant, has been selected as India's new Sherpa for the G-20.**

About G20:

- The G20 or Group of Twenty is an **intergovernmental forum** comprising **19 countries** and the **European Union (EU)**.
- The members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.
- **India will be holding the G20 Presidency from 1 December 2022 and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit in 2023 for the first time**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

India participates 6th East Asia Summit Education Minister's Meeting

- India participated in the **6th East Asia Summit Education Minister's Meeting** held in Hanoi, Vietnam.
- **Ms. Neeta Prasad, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) Ministry of Education** virtually addressed the meeting.
- She informed me about the key initiatives of **National Education Policy 2020** and the efforts of India and East Asia Summit countries in the **field of education and research**.
- She also mentioned the recently-launched **PM SHRI scheme** under which **more than 14,500 schools** will be developed across India with all components of NEP 2020 as exemplar schools.
- These schools will **offer mentorship** to other schools in their vicinity.
- The Central government launched the **PM e-Vidya program** in 2020 to **boost online learning**.
- The Government had also launched various e-learning platforms like **DIKSHA, SWAYAM MOOCS platform, Virtual Labs, e-PG Pathshala, and National Digital Library**.

About NEP 2020:

- NEP 2020 encourages a **holistic, flexible & multidisciplinary approach** to education as envisioned by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** and it is based on foundational pillars of access, equality, quality, affordability & accountability & is aligned with **SDG 2030 goals**.

About EAS:

- The East Asia Summit (EAS) is the **Indo-Pacific's premier forum** for strategic dialogue.
- It was established in 2005.
- Cambodia is the current chair of the East Asia Summit.
- The EAS has **18 members**:
- It comprises the **10 member states** of the **ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)** which are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, along with **8 other countries** namely Australia, China, Japan, India, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the USA.
- It is an ASEAN-centered forum so it can only be **chaired** by an **ASEAN member**.
- It is the **only leader-led forum** at which all key partners meet to discuss political, security, and economic challenges facing the Indo-Pacific.

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- The EAS membership represents around **54%** of the world's population and accounts for **58%** of the global GDP.
- **Six priority areas** of regional cooperation within the framework of the EAS
 1. Environment and Energy
 2. Education
 3. Finance
 4. Global Health Issues and Pandemic Diseases
 5. Natural Disaster Management
 6. ASEAN Connectivity.

About the Ministry of Education:

- Cabinet Minister: Dharmendra Pradhan
- Minister of State: Subhas Sarkar, Annapurna Devi Yadav, Rajkumar Ranjan Singh

IMPORTANT SCHEMES NEWS

Govt hikes Interest Rates on Small Savings Schemes for Q3 of FY23

- The Finance Ministry hiked interest rates on 5 of 12 small savings schemes for Q3FY23 (October-December).
- The changes have come amid a **higher inflation rate** and a rising interest rate cycle.
- The recent retail inflation print for August came in at **7%**, marking the **eighth month** above the upper threshold of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) target of **4 +/- 2 %**, and almost **three years (35 months)** of staying above 4%.

Interest for small savings instruments for the Q3 (October –December) 2023:

Scheme	Rate of interest from October 2022 to December 2022	Rate of interest from July 2022 to August 2022	Interest compounded
Savings account	4.00%	4.00%	Annually
1-year time deposit	5.50%	5.50%	Quarterly

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2-years time deposit	5.70%	5.50%	Quarterly
3-years time deposit	5.80%	5.50%	Quarterly
5-years time deposit	6.70%	6.70%	Quarterly
5-years Recurring Deposit	5.80%	5.80%	Quarterly
5year Senior Citizen Saving Scheme	7.60%	7.40%	Interest paid quarterly, Quarterly
5- years Monthly Income Account Scheme	6.70%	6.60%	Interest paid monthly
5 -years NSC	6.80 %	6.80 %	Annually
PPF (Public Provident Fund)	7.10%	7.10%	Annually
KVP (Kisan Vikas Patra)	7.00 %(matures123 months)	6.90 %(matures124 months)	Annually
Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme	7.60%	7.60%	Annually

About Ministry of Finance:

- Cabinet Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State: Bhagwat Karad, Pankaj Choudhary

Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launches portal for marriage schemes

- Andhra Pradesh (AP) Chief Minister Shri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the 'YSR Kalyanamasthu' and 'YSR Shadi Tofa' marriage schemes & also launched the website about these schemes.

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Aim:

- To provide financial assistance for a daughter's wedding in poor families.
- The schemes would help in preventing child marriages and school dropouts as the eligibility for the schemes were 18 years for the bride and 21 years for the bridegroom.

Key Highlights:

- The beneficiaries must pass at least **Class X** to avail of the scheme.
- Applications can be submitted at the **village and ward secretariats** for availing of the scheme within **60 days** of the marriage.
- The amount will be credited **once a quarter**.
- The scheme would help **Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Backward Community (BC), Minorities, and construction workers**.

Financial Assistance:

- For SCs and STs - ₹1 lakh
- Inter-caste marriages - ₹1.2 lakh
- BCs - ₹50,000
- Minorities - ₹1 lakh
- Differently-abled persons - ₹1.5 lakh
- Construction workers - ₹20,000

Other Education Promoting Schemes:

- Amma Vodi, Sampurna Poshana, Goru Muddha, Vidyakanuka, English medium, CBSE syllabus, Byjus pact, Nadu-Nedu, Vidya Deevena, Vasathi Deevena, and job-oriented curriculum

About Andhra Pradesh:

- Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Chief minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
- Capital: Amaravati
- Dance: Kuchipudi, Kottam
- Zoological Park: Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park

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Chhattisgarh govt launches MGRIP scheme to develop cow sheds as rural industrial parks

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Shri Bhupesh Baghel launched a scheme named Mahatma Gandhi Rural Industrial Parks (MGRIP) under which 'gauthans' (cow shelters in villages) will be developed as 'rural industrial parks'.

About MGRIP:

- Under the scheme, around **300 gauthan cum industrial parks** will be set up.
- A total budget of **₹600 crores** has been pooled in the current financial year's budget.
- The government of Chhattisgarh has set up gauthans in over **8,000 villages** under its flagship scheme **Suraji Gaon Yojna (village good governance scheme)**.
- Cow dung procurement is being carried out in these gauthans at **₹2 per kilogram** under **Godhan Nyay Yojna** and the dung is being used to **prepare vermi-compost**.
- Under MGRIP, selected gauthans are being developed as rural industrial parks where apart from producing vermicompost, activities like **poultry farming, fisheries, and food processing** will also be carried out.

About Chhattisgarh:

- Governor: Anusuiya Uikey
- Chief minister: Bhupesh Baghel
- Capital: Raipur
- Festival: Bastar Dussehra, Bastar Lokutsab, Bhoramdeo Festival
- Dance: Raut NachaDandya Raas

Telangana govt introduces 'Aasara' pension for poor

- The **Telangana** government has introduced the '**Aasara**' pensions as a part of its **welfare measures and social safety net strategy**.

Aim:

- To ensure a **secure life for all the poor**.
- It is a welfare scheme for the **older section** of the state, **widows, physically disabled, and beedi workers to avail pension facilities**.
- Currently, the government of Telangana has sanctioned **10,000 new Aasara pensions** under the **Asif Nagar Mandal jurisdiction**.

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About the Aasara pension scheme:

- The Aasara pension scheme was launched on **8th November 2014** by the Government of Telangana.
- In **March 2022**, the Finance Minister of Telangana allocated **Rs. 11,728 crores** to the **Aasara Pension scheme**.
- The Pension has been increased from **Rs 200 to Rs 2,016 per month** by the state government given to the **elderly, widows, AIDS patients, handloom workers, and toddy tappers**.
- The pension for the **differently-abled** has been increased from **Rs 500 to Rs 3,016 per month**.
- The pension for **single women, beedi workers, and filarial patients** would be **Rs 2,016 per month**.

Gujarat Govt Announces Aatmanirbhar Gujrat Scheme for Assistance to Industries

- Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel announced the **Aatmanirbhar Gujrat Schemes 2022 for Assistance to Industries** at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Aim:

- To attract industries and investors and create **large-scale employment opportunities**.
- The scheme gives different types of incentives to mega, heavy, and micro industries as well as **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)**.
- The scheme is expected to attract a proposed investment of nearly **12.50 lakh crore rupees** in the state besides generating employment for around **15 lakh people** in the coming days.
- **9 sectors** including **green energy ecosystem, sustainability, and mobility** have been recognized as **thrust manufacturing sectors** in line with Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Incentives to MSMEs under the Aatmanirbhar Gujarat Schemes for Assistance to Industries are as under:

- Net SGST reimbursement to MSMEs up to **75% of fixed capital investment over 10 years**
- **Capital Subsidy** of up to **INR 35 lakhs** for Micro Industries
- **Interest subsidy to MSMEs** up to **INR 35 lakhs per annum** for up to 7 years
- EPF reimbursement for **10 years**
- Incremental incentives for women entrepreneurs, young entrepreneurs, startups, and differently-abled entrepreneurs
- Electricity Duty exemption for **5 years**

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- The government of Gujarat, under CM Shri Bhupendra Patel, has responded to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's call of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' on 75 years of India's independence.

Recent News:

- In **September 2022 Gujarat government** announced its partnership with **Vedanta-Foxconn group** to set up a **semiconductor plant** in Gujarat with an investment of **\$20 billion**.

About Gujarat:

- Governor: Acharya Dev Vrat
- Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Capital: Gandhinagar
- Dance: Dandya Ras, Garba
- National Park: Gir National Park, Velavadar NP, Marine NP, Vansda NP
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Jambughoda WS, Barda WS, Purna WS, Mitiyala WS, Shoolpaneshwar WS

Nagaland launches Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme

- The Nagaland Chief Minister (CM) Shri Neiphiu Rio launched the 'Chief Minister's Universal Health Insurance Scheme (CMHIS)' at Kohima, Nagaland.

Aim:

- To alleviate financial hardships due to hospitalization expenses and prevent inaccessibility to healthcare on account of inability to afford it.
- **National Health Authority CEO Shri RS Sharma** was present virtually at the program in which the scheme was unveiled.

About CMHIS:

- The scheme has been categorized into **CMHIS Employees and Pensioners (EP)**, and **CMHIS (General)**.
- The government employees, pensioners, MLAs, ex-MLAs, and staff of state PSUs and other autonomous organizations, who are eligible for monthly medical allowance or reimbursement along with their dependent family members will be part of the first category.
- The sum disbursed for this category is **Rs 20 lakh per family** on a floater basis.
- For government employees, any additional expenses beyond the sum insured shall be reimbursed on a **case-to-case basis** on the recommendation of the **State Medical Board**.

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- CMHIS (General) category will comprise all indigenous and permanent residents of the state who are not beneficiaries of the Ayushman Bharat or any other public-funded insurance scheme.
- The sum insured for this category will be **Rs 5 lakh per family per annum** on a floater basis, similar to **Ayushman Bharat**.
- The CMHIS (General) beneficiaries will be entitled to **more than 1,950 medical and surgical packages**.

About Nagaland:

- Governor: Jagdish Mukhi
- Chief Minister: Neiphiu Rio
- Capital: Kohima
- National Park: Intanki National Park

Himachal Pradesh Launches new scheme “HIMCAD” to help farmers

- The government of **Himachal Pradesh** has launched a **new scheme** named **HIMCAD** to provide **irrigation facilities** to farmers of Himachal Pradesh (HP).
- According to the latest data, about **80%** of the **agricultural area** of Himachal Pradesh is rain-fed.

About HIMCAD:

- The scheme will provide **end-to-end connectivity** of farmers' fields for **better water conservation, crop diversification, and integrated farming**.
- Under the scheme, it is planned to provide command area development activities to **23,344 hectares** of cultivable command area by **March 2024**, and the **State Technical Advisory Committee** has approved **379 minor irrigation schemes** worth **Rs 305.70 crore**.

About HP:

- Governor: Rajendra Arlekar
- Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur
- Capital: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)
- National Park: Great Himalayan National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bandli Sanctuary, Daranghati Wildlife Sanctuary, Chail Wildlife Sanctuary

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a new scheme - Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Urvarak

Pariyojana:

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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a new scheme - Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana - One Nation One Fertiliser.
- Under the scheme, companies must market all subsidized fertilizers under a single brand 'Bharat'.
- Prime Minister Modi launched the single brand Bharat under the scheme during the two-day event PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022.
- Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Chemicals & Fertilisers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya were also present at the event.
- Farmers will get quality crop nutrients at low cost under the 'One nation, One fertilizer'.
- Introduction of nano urea to ease farm process; one bottle of nano urea can replace a sackful of urea.
- The scheme is introduced to prevent the criss-cross movement of fertilizers and reduce high freight subsidies.
- All subsidized soil nutrients including urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MoP), and NPK - will be marketed under the single brand Bharat across the nation.
- PM Modi also inaugurated 600 PM-Kisan Samruddhi Kendras (PM-KSK) at the event.
- The Kendra will behave as one- a stop-shop that would provide multiple services to farmers.
- PM-KSK will not only supply agri-inputs like seeds, fertilizers, and farm implements but also provide testing facilities for soil, seeds, and fertilizers, besides information about government schemes.

IMPORTANT SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

NavIC - India's homegrown alternative to the GPS navigation system

- Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) is an indigenously developed satellite navigation system of India which is developed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
- It is also known as the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System or IRNSS.

About NavIC:

- NavIC was originally approved in 2006 at \$174 million.
- NavIC consists of 8 satellites and covers the whole of India's landmass and up to 1,500 km (930 miles) from its boundaries.

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- Currently, NavIC's use is **limited** & it is being used in **public vehicle tracking in India**, for providing emergency warning alerts to fishermen venturing into the deep sea where there is no terrestrial network connectivity, and for tracking and providing information related to natural disasters.
- Like GPS, there are three more navigation systems that have global coverage - **Galileo** from the **European Union**, **Russia-owned GLONASS**, and **China's Beidou**.
- **QZSS**, operated by Japan, is another regional navigation system covering the Asia-Oceania region, with a focus on Japan.

Chinese Scientists develops the world's first cloned wild Arctic wolf 'Maya'

- **Scientists in China** have successfully created the **world's first cloned arctic wolf (Canis lupus arctos)**, **Maya** was born to a beagle on **June 10, 2022**, in a **Beijing lab** by the **Sinogene Biotechnology Company**.
- Sinogene researchers used donor cells from a wild female Arctic wolf to construct **137 new embryos** from **canine oocytes (developing eggs)**, which they then implanted in **7 beagles**.
- Sinogene Biotechnology put her cells into an egg from a female Beagle, which shares genetic ancestry with arctic wolves.

About Arctic wolf 'Maya':

- The cloning of the Arctic wolf, also known as the **white wolf or polar wolf**, is native to the **High Arctic tundra of Canada's Queen Elizabeth Islands**.
- The cloned wolf is expected to live at the arctic-themed park Harbin Polarland and be shown to the public.
- The first animal to be cloned was **Dolly the sheep** in **1996** & it died in **February 2003**, from a lung infection.

Scientists discover new evidence for the possibility of liquid water on Mars

- An **international team of researchers** has found **new evidence** for the possible existence of **liquid water beneath the south polar ice cap** of Mars using data from the **Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter**.
- The results, published in the journal **Nature Astronomy**, provide the **first independent line of evidence**, using data other than radar.
- The team, including researchers from the **University of Nantes**, **University College, Dublin**, and the **Open University**, used a range of techniques to examine data from NASA's Mars Global Surveyor

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satellite of the surface topography of the part of Mars' south polar ice cap where the radar signal was identified.

- Like Earth, Mars has **thick water ice caps** at both poles, roughly equivalent in combined volume to the Greenland Ice Sheet.
- In **2018**, evidence from the **European Space Agency's Mars Express satellite** challenged this assumption.
- The satellite has an ice-penetrating radar called **MARSIS**, which can see through Mars' southern ice cap.
- It revealed an area at the base of the ice that strongly reflected the **radar signal**, which was interpreted as an area of liquid water beneath the ice cap.

New mobile banking Malware prowling in Indian cyberspace - SOVA Android Trojan

- A new type of **mobile banking malware** campaign called **SOVA Android Trojan** (SOVA - owl in Russian) has now reached **India**.
- SOVA, which can secretly encrypt an Android phone for ransom and is difficult to erase, is **targeting Indian users**.
- The **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** recently reported that a new type of mobile banking malware campaign that uses the SOVA Android Trojan virus is targeting Indian banking customers.
- The first version of the malware was spotted at a sale in **September 2021** in “**underground markets**”.
- Now the malware has been upgraded to its **fifth version** and is capable of doing more things than the ones mentioned above.
- The mobile banking malware campaign using SOVA Android Trojan can **harvest usernames and passwords** via keylogging, stealing cookies, and adding false overlays to a range of apps.
- It can also **target more than 200 mobile applications**, including banking apps and crypto exchanges/wallets
- The malware is distributed via smishing (phishing via SMS) attacks, like most Android banking Trojans.
- Initially, SOVA was focused on users of countries like the **US, Russia, and Spain**.

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- In **July 2022**, the virus added many more nations (including **India**) to its list of targets.

Chandrayaan-2 spectrometer maps the abundance of sodium on the moon for the first time

- In a recent work published in 'The Astrophysical Journal Letters', Chandrayaan-2 mapped the **abundance of sodium on the Moon for the first time** using CLASS (Chandrayaan-2 Large Area Soft X-ray Spectrometer).
- The new findings from Chandrayaan-2, provide an avenue to **study surface-exosphere interaction** on the moon, which would aid the development of similar models for mercury and other airless bodies in our solar system and beyond.

About CLASS:

- CLASS was built at the **U R Rao Satellite Center of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- It provides clean signatures of the sodium line thanks to its **high sensitivity and performance**
- **Chandrayaan-1 X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometer (C1XS)** detected **sodium** from its characteristic line in X-rays which opened up the possibility of mapping the amount of sodium on the Moon.
- The study finds that a part of the signal could be arising from a **thin veneer of sodium atoms** weakly bound to the lunar grains.
- These sodium atoms can be nudged out of the surface by **solar wind or ultraviolet radiation** more easily than if they were part of the lunar minerals.
- Also shown is a diurnal variation of the surface sodium that would explain the continuous supply of atoms to the **exosphere**, sustaining it.

Swedish Defence Maker Saab to Produce Carl-Gustaf M4 Rocket Launchers In India

- **Swedish defense company Saab** has announced its decision to set up a **production facility in India** for its **Carl-Gustaf M4** shoulder-fired weapon system.
- The M4 is **one of the world's most popular pieces of military equipment** utilized primarily by the **Special Forces (SF)**.

Key Highlights:

- The Carl-Gustaf M4 shoulder-fired weapon system can **fire anti-armor and illuminating rounds** as well as various other types of ammunition, with the maximum range being **1,500 meters**.

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- Neither Saab nor the GOI has stated the location of the production facility but it is supposed to go into operation in **2024**.
- For this venture – Saab FFV India will be established as a new company to make these rocket launchers for the Indian military as well as parts of other weapons platforms for foreign states.
- Carl-Gustaf was first inducted into the Indian Army in **1976**, with the previous M2 and M3 models already being license-produced under the Indian **Ministry of Defence's (MoD) Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)**.
- Currently, **India** follows a **74% foreign direct investment (FDI) model** in its defense sector and only **100% FDI** on a case-by-case basis.
- Under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat scheme**, the MoD signed more than **180 contracts** with the Indian industry between **June 2014 and December 2019**.

Russia Successfully Launches Navigation Satellite - GLONASS-K

- **Russia** Successfully launched the **Soyuz-2.1b rocket** with the **Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS-K) navigation spacecraft** from a northern cosmodrome.
- The **GLONASS-K satellite** lifted off on the **medium-class Soyuz rocket** at the **Plesetsk Cosmodrome**, about **800 km (500 miles)** north of **Moscow**.

About GLONASS-K satellite:

- The **GLONASS-K satellite** is a **third-generation Russian Global Navigation Satellite System Satellite**.
- It was designed & developed by the **Reshetnev Information Satellite System Company** a division of **Roscosmos**.
- **GLONASS-K** is a navigation satellite intended as a part of the Russian **GLONASS radio-based satellite navigation system**.
- It provides **real-time position and speed determination** for **military and civilian users** and is intended to be an alternative to the **US global positioning system (GPS)**.

About Russia:

- President: **Vladimir Putin**
- Prime Minister: **Mikhail Mishustin**
- Capital: **Moscow**

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- Currency: Russian ruble

ISRO to launch 36 OneWeb satellites onboard LVM3

- **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Department of Space and the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has signed two launch service contracts with Network Access Associated Limited (M/s OneWeb), United Kingdom, for launching OneWeb LEO Broadband Communication Satellites on-board ISRO's heaviest launcher LVM3.**
- The satellites will be launched by the ISRO as part of the 'OneWeb India-1 mission/ LVM3 M2,' which will mark LVM3's entry into the worldwide commercial launch service market
- This contract with M/s OneWeb is a historic milestone for NSIL and ISRO, as LVM3 is making its entry into the Global commercial launch service market.
- **As part of the Contract, 36 satellites will be placed into orbit by one LVM3, from Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh (AP).**

About OneWeb:

- OneWeb is a global communications network, powered from space, enabling connectivity for governments, businesses, and communities.
- It is implementing a constellation of Low Earth Orbit satellites.
- India's Bharti serves as a major investor and shareholder in OneWeb.
- With this launch, OneWeb will have over 70% of its planned 'Gen 1 LEO constellation' in orbit as it progresses to deliver high-speed, low-latency connectivity services around the world.

Note:

- CEO of OneWeb: Neil Masterson

ISRO developing new rocket NGLV to replace PSLV

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is developing a rocket named **Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)** to replace the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)**.
- This was announced by ISRO chairman **Shri S Somanath** on the sidelines of the '**Engineers Conclave 2022**' at the **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)** at **Valiyamala**.
- Currently, India has two operational launchers, **PSLV** and **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)**.

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About NGLV:

- NGLV will feature **semi-cryogenic propulsion** (refined kerosene as fuel with liquid oxygen (LOX) as oxidizer) which is both **efficient** and **cost-effective**.
- The new rocket could also be '**reusable**' and will have a smaller payload than an expendable one.
- The payload will be around five tonnes and if it's expendable, it will go up to **10 tonnes**.

About PSLV:

- PSLV is an expendable **medium-lift launch vehicle** indigenously designed and operated by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.
- It was developed in the **1980s**.
- It is the **first Indian launch vehicle** to be equipped with **liquid stages**.
- All the operations of PSLV are controlled from the **Satish Dhawan Space Center, Sriharikota, east coast, India**.
- It has a four-stage system comprising a combination of solid and liquid-fuelled rocket stages.
 1. The first stage at the very bottom is **solid fuelled**, having **six strap-on solid rocket boosters** wrapped around it. •
 2. The second stage is **liquid-fuelled**
 3. The third stage has a **solid fuelled rocket motor**.
 4. In the fourth stage, the launcher uses a **liquid propellant** to boost outer space.
- Notable payloads launched by PSLV include **India's first lunar probe Chandrayaan-1**, **India's first interplanetary mission, Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan)**, and **India's first space observatory, Astrosat**.
- Potential uses will be in the areas of launching **communication satellites**, **deep space missions**, **future human spaceflight**, and **cargo missions**.

Other Launch Vehicles Developed by ISRO:

- Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV)
- Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV)
- SLV and ASLV both could carry small satellites, weighing up to **150 kg**, to lower earth orbits
- Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)

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- GSLV is a much more powerful rocket, to carry **heavier satellites** much deeper into space.
- Until now, GSLV rockets have carried out **18 missions**, of which 4 failed.
- It can take **10,000 kg** of satellites to lower the earth's orbits.

About ISRO:

- Founded: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: Sreedhara Panicker Somanath
- ISRO is the **national space agency of India**, operating under the **Department of Space (DOS)**.

ISRO proposes dedicated satellites for the agricultural sector

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has proposed **dedicated satellites** for supporting the **country's agriculture sector**.
- In this regard, recently, ISRO held discussions with the **Department of Agriculture, Government of India**, on the proposed '**Bharat Krishi Satellite**' program.

About 'Bharat Krishi Satellite':

- 'Bharat Krishi Satellite Programme' is a proposal put forward by ISRO to the Government of India.
- The ISRO proposes that at least **two dedicated satellites** will be needed to make sure that all of the country's agricultural land is covered well.
- They will help with a wide range of farming tasks, such as **crop forecasting**, the **use of pesticides**, **irrigation**, **soil data**, and the collection of important data about drought.
- The satellites will be owned by the **Department of Agriculture** and not by ISRO.
- The ISRO will provide **technical support**.

About IRS:

- **Indian Remote Sensing Satellites (IRS)** are a **series of Earth observation satellites**, built, launched, and maintained by the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**.
- IRS data is used for the observation and management of the country's natural resources applications in **agriculture**, **hydrology**, **geology**, **drought and flood monitoring**, **snow studies**, and **land use**.

Currently used satellites for agriculture:

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- Resources at (for crop production forecast)
- Cartosat (topographic mapping)
- RISAT (weather imaging)
- To overcome the current shortcomings in **earth observation capability** and **data utilization**, the ISRO chairman has proposed the establishment of an **'Earth Observation Council.'**

About Earth Observation Council:

- Earth Observation Council was created for addressing the **current deficiencies** in earth observation capabilities and data utilization.

About Agricultural census:

- The agricultural census in India is conducted by the **Union Ministry of Agriculture.**
- This is an exercise carried out **every five years** to collect **farm-economy data critical** for policy making.
- The agricultural census is the main source of information on a variety of indicators, including the nature of operational land holdings, their size, distribution by class, land-use statistics, tenancy, and cropping patterns.
- The latest census i.e., the 11th census was launched by the **Ministry in July 2022.**
- During the 11th census, for the **first time, data collection** for the agricultural census will be conducted on smartphones and tablets.

ISRO's LVM3 to make commercial foray with launch of 36 OneWeb satellites on October 23

- The Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) heaviest rocket LVM3 will launch **British start-up OneWeb's 36 broadband satellites** from the country's only spaceport in Andhra Pradesh's Sriharikota on **October 23, 2022.**
- LVM3 was earlier called **GSLV Mk III.**

About LVM3:

- LVM3 is a **three-stage vehicle** with **two solid motor strap-ons**, a **liquid propellant core stage**, and a **cryogenic stage.**
- It is capable of launching a **four-tonne class of satellites** into a **Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).**

Key Highlights:

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- With this launch, the GSLV MKIII will enter the **global commercial launch service market**.
- As part of the contract, **36 communication satellites** will be placed into orbit by one LVM3 - ISRO's **heaviest launcher**, from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre**, under the **OneWeb India-1 Mission**.
- It will be the **first LVM3 dedicated commercial launch**
- This will be the **second flight** of the **GSLV MKIII** since it carried **India's second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2**.
- Also, this will be the **first time** a rocket other than India's workhorse - PSLV, is being used to carry out a commercial launch.
- Since its first operational flight, the PSLV has launched **at least 345 foreign satellites** from **36 countries** (PSLV-C37 - the most notable, that put 104 satellites (of which 101 were foreign commercial satellites) in orbit in 2017).
- India currently has **three operational launch vehicles** - the PSLV, GSLV, and GSLV Mk III.
- GSLV can put a **heavier payload (up to 5,000 kg up to 37,000 km)** in orbit than the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV can carry up to 2000 kg into space up to 600-900 km)**.
- PSLV is designed mainly to deliver **earth observation or remote sensing satellites**, whereas GSLV has been designed for **launching communication satellites**.

Recent News:

- Earlier the **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**, a **central public sector enterprise (CPSE)** under the **Department of Space** and the commercial arm of the space agency, had signed **two launch service contracts** with the **UK-based Network Access Associates Limited (OneWeb)** for launching OneWeb LEO (low earth orbit) broadband communication satellites on-board ISRO's LVM3.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is developing a **rocket named Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)** to replace the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)**.

About OneWeb:

- OneWeb is a **global communications network**, powered from space, enabling connectivity for governments, businesses, and communities.
- **Bharti group-backed OneWeb** is implementing a **constellation of LEO satellites**.

Center's push for indigenous navigation system on smartphones worries Samsung, Xiaomi & Apple

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- The **Union government** is pushing tech giants to make **smartphones compatible** with its home-grown navigation system **Navic** within months.
- However, companies like **Samsung, Xiaomi, and Apple** fear elevated costs and disruptions as the move will require hardware changes.
- The **Government of India (GoI)** wants to **reduce dependence on foreign systems**, including the widely used **U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS)** & informed **NavIC** provides **more accurate domestic navigation** and that its use would benefit the economy.

About NavIC:

- NavIC (**Navigation with Indian Constellation**), is also called the **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)**.
- With the launch of the constellation's satellite (**IRNSS-1G**), IRNSS was renamed **NavIC** by India's Prime Minister.
- It is an **independent stand-alone navigation satellite system** developed by the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**.
- Presently, IRNSS consists of **8 satellites, three satellites in geostationary orbit, and five satellites in geosynchronous orbit**.
- NavIC was approved in **2006**.
- It was expected to be completed by late 2011, but it only became operational in **2018**.
- NavIC covers the whole of India's landmass and up to **1,500 km** from its boundaries.
- It was recognized by the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** as a part of the **World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS)** for operation in the **Indian Ocean Region** in **2020**.
- **IRNSS-1I** to replace **IRNSS-1A**, which was rendered ineffective after its three rubidium atomic clocks failed & are developed by ISRO.

About GPS:

- The **Global Positioning System (GPS)** is a **satellite-based navigation system** owned by the **United States** government and operated by the **United States Space Force**.
- The main difference between GPS and NavIC is the serviceable area covered by these systems.
- GPS caters to users across the globe and its satellites circle the earth **twice a day**, while NavIC is currently for use in India and adjacent areas.

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- Like GPS, there are **four more navigation systems** that have global coverage
- Galileo from the European Union,
- QZSS(Quasi-Zenith Satellite System) by Japan,
- Russia-owned GLONASS
- Beidou from China.

Why is India promoting NavIC?

- India says NavIC is conceived to remove dependence on foreign satellite systems for navigation service requirements, particularly for “**strategic sectors.**”
- Relying on systems like GPS and **GLONASS** may not always be reliable as those are operated by the defense agencies of respective nations and it is possible that civilian services can be degraded or denied.
- India wants to encourage its ministries to use NavIC applications to **promote local industries** engaged in developing **indigenous NavIC-based solutions.**

NASA's Titan Dragonfly to Land on Saturn Moon's Icy Dunes

- According to a **new analysis of radar imagery** from the **Cassini spacecraft**, the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Dragonfly mission** to Saturn's largest moon will touch down on a **terrain of dunes and shattered icy bedrock.**
- The research was published in **The Planetary Science Journal**

Key Highlights:

- Dragonfly is a rotorcraft that will launch in **2026** and **arrive in 2034** and **explore Titan** from the air.
- According to NASA, the range of a wheeled rover is far smaller than that of a Dragonfly, which will be able to go around **10 miles (16 kilometers)** on each trip in a half-hour.
- Throughout its **two-year mission**, it will explore an area with a breadth of **hundreds of miles or kilometers.**
- However, before taking to the sky on its own, Dragonfly must first arrive on Titan under a parachute, soft-landing on frozen terrain that is hidden from easy viewing by the **dense hydrocarbon smog** that fills the moon's atmosphere.
- Dragonfly's landing site will be the **Shangri-Ladune field**, close to the **50-mile-wide (80 kilometers) crater, Selk.**

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- This region was imaged by **NASA's Cassini spacecraft** during its mission to Saturn between **2004 and 2017**.
- The greatest resolution for the region's radar images taken by Cassini is just **1,000 feet (300 meters) per pixel**.
- Dragonfly marks the **first time NASA** will fly a **multicopter vehicle** for science on another planet; it has eight rotors and flies like a large drone.

About NASA:

- Established: July 29, 1958
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C, United States
- Administrator: Bill Nelson

IIT Madras develops touchscreen technology 'i-Tad' enables users to feel textures

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) researchers have developed a new touchscreen display technology 'iTad,' (interactive Touch Active Display) through which a user can feel the textures from images as the finger moves across the touch surface.
- It is the next generation in touch display technology.
- The research was led by **Professor M Manivannan**, CoE on Virtual Reality and Haptics, Department of Applied Mechanics, IIT Madras.

Key Highlights:

The key applications of 'iTad':

- Automotive, Consumer Electronics, and Digital Signage
- Home automation, medical, industrial, and gaming,
- Aid for the visually challenged, among other areas
- Through software, the researchers have enabled the creation of different **on-screen textures** such as **crisp edges, switches, and smooth and gritty**.
- Through a **physical phenomenon called 'electroadhesion'**, the software controls the electric fields and modulates friction locally as the fingers travel across a smooth plane.

Iran launched a test 'tug' into suborbital space

- The Iranian government has launched a **space tug** capable of shifting satellites between orbits.

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- The **Saman test spacecraft** was built by Iran's Space Research Center and launched by the **Defense Ministry of Iran**.
- Iran unveiled the Saman test craft in **2017**.
- In **June 2022** Tehran (The capital of Iran) launched a **solid-fuel rocket into space**
- In **August 2022**, a **Russian rocket** successfully launched an **Iranian Khayyam satellite** into orbit & it's named after **Omar Khayyam**, a Persian scientist who lived in the 11th and 12th centuries.

About space tug:

- A space tug is a **type of spacecraft** used to **transfer spaceborne cargo** from one orbit to another orbit with different energy characteristics
- Also, It can transfer a satellite from one orbit to another.
- It is often used to refer to **reusable, space-based vehicles**.

About Iran:

- President: Ebrahim Raisi
- Capital: Tehran
- Currency: Iranian rial

Google to build its first cloud region in Greece

- **Alphabet Inc's Google** will set up its **first cloud region in Greece**.

Aim:

- To give a boost to the country's efforts to become a **world cloud computing hub**
- It was announced by **Adaïre Fox-Martin**, president of **Google Cloud International** at an event in **Athens, Greece**.
- A cloud region usually is based around a **cluster of data centers**.
- The deal is estimated to contribute some **2.2 billion euros (\$2.13 billion)** to Greece's economic output and create some **20,000 jobs by 2030**.
- The investment would enable organizations to better use their data, **help improve low latency** and ensure users' security in the face of cybersecurity threats.
- Amazon Inc's cloud computing division also opened its first office in Greece in **2021**.

About Google:

- Founded: September 4, 1998

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- Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States
- CEO: Sundar Pichai

About Greece:

- President: Katerina Sakellariopoulou
- Prime Minister: Kyriakos Mitsotakis
- Capital: Athens
- Currency: Euro

ISRO to Launch Its Third Moon Mission, Chandrayaan-3 In June 2023

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is set to launch its third mission Chandrayaan-3 (C-3) to the Moon in June 2023 onboard the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3).
- It will lift off with a more robust lunar rover on board which is crucial for future inter-planetary explorations.

About Chandrayaan-3:

- The Chandrayaan-3 mission is a follow-up of the Chandrayaan-2 of July 2019, which aimed to land a rover on the lunar South Pole.
- The mission will be a repeat mission of Chandrayaan-2 and will consist of a lander and rover similar to Chandrayaan-2.
- The legs to hold the body of the spacecraft while landing is designed to be more rugged and different improved sensors and algorithms have been used to identify places to land successfully.
- It will not have an orbiter but its propulsion will act like a communications relay satellite.

Key Highlights:

- ISRO has also lined up the first test flight of the 'abort mission for Gaganyaan, the country's first human spaceflight
- ISRO informed that the organization will carry out 6 test flights before actually flying humans into orbit.
- ISRO also plans to fly Indian astronauts into orbit by the end of 2024 after carrying out successful abort missions and uncrewed test flights.

Note:

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- Earlier in **September 2019**, India failed in its maiden attempt to **land a rover** on the moon after the **Vikram lander** onboard the **Chandrayaan-2 mission** crashed on the moon.

Recent News:

- On October 23, ISRO is expected to **launch 36 satellites** aboard its heaviest rocket **Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3)** earlier known as the **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk3)** from **Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**.

ISRO confirms Mangalyaan mission over, Mars Orbiter craft non-recoverable

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) confirmed that the **Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM)** has **lost communication** with ground stations, it's **non-recoverable** and the **Mangalyaan mission** has **attained end-of-life**.
- ISRO stated that the orbiter lost its communication with the ground station due to a **long eclipse** in **April 2022**.

About MOM:

- The MOM was launched on **November 5, 2013**, and after completing 300 days of interplanetary journey, it was inserted into the Martian orbit on **September 24, 2014**.
- The MOM probe lifted off from the First Launch Pad at **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (Sriharikota Range SHAR)**, Andhra Pradesh, using a **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket C25**
- Despite being designed for a **life span of six months** as a technology demonstrator, the MOM lived for about **eight years** in the Martian orbit with a gamut of significant scientific results on Mars as well as on the Solar corona.
- It was **India's first interplanetary mission** and it made ISRO the fourth space agency to achieve Mars orbit, after **Roscosmos, NASA, and the European Space Agency**.
- It made **India** the **first Asian nation** to reach the Martian orbit and the first nation in the world to do so on its maiden attempt.

About ISRO:

- Established: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka
- Chairman: Sreedhara Panicker Somanath
- ISRO is the **national space agency of India**, operating under the **Department of Space (DOS)**

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IIT Madras & NASA Researchers Study Microbial Interactions In ISS

- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT) Madras and National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Jet Propulsion Laboratory researchers have studied the interactions between microbes in the International Space Station (ISS).

About the Study:

- The study will help devise strategies for the disinfection of space stations to minimize any potential impact of microbes on the health of astronauts
- The study describing strategies to disinfect the space station was published in the journal **Microbiome**.
- It was motivated by the earlier observations of the dominance of the bacteria **Klebsiella pneumonia** on the surfaces of the ISS.

ISRO's heaviest rocket successfully places 36 broadband satellites in low earth orbit

- Indian Space Research Organizations' heaviest rocket Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3 or GSLV Mark 3) in its first commercial mission LVM3-M2 had successfully placed 36 broadband communication satellites for London-headquartered Network Access Associated Limited (OneWeb) into low earth orbit.
- The rocket of ISRO- LVM3-M2/OneWeb India-1 - blasted off from Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- This is OneWeb's 14th launch, bringing the constellation to 462 satellites.
- LVM3-M2 is a three-stage launch vehicle consisting of two solid propellants S200 strap-ons on its sides and a core stage comprising the L110 liquid stage and C25 cryogenic stage.

Key Highlights:

- The 43.5 meter LVM3 weighing around 644 tonnes carried 36 satellites weighing 5,796 kg or about 5.7 tonnes.
- With this launch, LVM3 has made its entry into the global commercial launch service market.
- The vehicle is dubbed as one of the heaviest for its ability to carry satellites up to 8,000 kg.
- This launch represents more than 70% of its planned 648 low earth orbit (LEO) satellite fleet that it said will deliver high-speed, low-latency connectivity worldwide.

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- According to ISRO, the mission has the heaviest payload with 36 satellites of OneWeb, becoming the **first Indian rocket** with a payload of 5,796 kg.
- The launch is also the **first** for LVM3-M2 to place the satellites in the **Low Earth Orbit** (up to 1,200 kms above the earth) unlike Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

About OneWeb Ltd:

- OneWeb Ltd is the **UK-based customer** of NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL), ISRO's commercial arm, and a global communication network powered from space, enabling internet connectivity for governments and businesses.
- **Bharti Enterprises** is one of the **major investors** in OneWeb.

About ISRO:

- Founded: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: S Somanath
- ISRO is the **national space agency** of India, operating under the **Department of Space (DOS)**.

Daksha's petrol-operated drones get DGCA approval

- **Director-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** has approved India's first petrol-operated drones designed and manufactured by the students' startup **Daksha Unmanned Systems (DUMS) Private Limited**.
- The DGCA issued the '**Type Certificate**' to **Daksha's** prototype **DH-Agrigator**, an agriculture sprayer drone.
- Daksha is setting up an exclusive manufacturing unit at **Ambattur in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN)**.
- While the **MIT (Madras Institute of Technology) aerospace department** is offering research and development to the Daksha unit, Anna University is offering drone pilot training courses for those who have passed **Class X**.
- Each drone costs **Rs 13 to 15 lakh**, the central government is offering a **subsidy of Rs 10 lakh** to the **Kisan Vikas Kendra** and **Rs 7.5 lakh** to **farmer-producer organizations**.

About DGCA:

- The DGCA is a statutory body of the Government of India to **regulate civil aviation** in India.
- It became a **statutory body** under the **Aircraft (Amendment) Act, of 2020**.

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- The DGCA investigates aviation accidents and incidents.
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director General: Arun Kumar

PhonePe invests \$200 million in data centers

- Walmart-owned payment services provider PhonePe invested USD 200 million (around Rs 1,661 crore) in building data centers in India.
- Out of this, USD 150 million investments will take the overall capacity to over 14 megawatts spread across three facilities in Bengaluru, and Karnataka.
- The investments are driven by the regulatory insistence on data localization, which prevents a financial sector entity from storing its data overseas.

About PhonePe:

- Founded: 2016
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Founder & CEO: Sameer Nigam
- PhonePe is an Indian digital payment and financial technology company.

MS Dhoni launches Made-in-India camera drone 'Droni'

- Indian cricket star Mahendra Singh Dhoni launched a 'made-in-India camera drone' named 'Droni' with advanced features manufactured by Garuda Aerospace.
- The product will be available in the market by the end of 2022.
- Dhoni is the brand ambassador of Garuda Aerospace.
- Garuda Aerospace also launched a new 'Kisan Drone' that is aimed at the agriculture sector, particularly in spraying applications.
- This battery-powered drone is capable of carrying out agricultural pesticide spraying over a land area of 30 acres per day

About Garuda Aerospace:

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Founder and CEO: Agnishwar Jayaprakash

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IIT Madras launches 'Punch the Plastic' campaign to spread awareness about sustainable development

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu has launched a 'Punch the Plastic' campaign, on the event of **World Sustainability Day**, being observed on **October 26, 2022**.

Aim of the campaign:

- To deploy a new method to **collect clean and dry plastic packaging** for recycling options such as **pyrolysis**.

About the campaign:

- As a part of the campaign students, faculty members, and staff at IIT Madras have formed a '**Sustainable Campus Collective**'.
- The drive is to raise awareness among the campus residents on **waste segregation and minimizing water and energy usage**.
- The **three major events** launched on the occasion include
 1. Punch the Plastic Drive
 2. Monkey Proof Food waste Dustbin Hackathon - The **Carbon Zero Challenge 2022** is set to sponsor the **winner** of a **hackathon**.
 3. Sustainability Champions Contest.

Cognizant collaborates with Qualcomm to launch 5G Experience Center for Digital Transformation

- **IT services firm Cognizant** is expanding its collaboration with chipmaker **Qualcomm Technologies Inc** to open a **5G experience center** in **Atlanta, North America**.
- The center is designed to help clients imagine, test and deploy next-generation solutions by pairing private 5G networks and **Multi-Access Edge Computing (MEC)** technologies to deliver unique advantages
- The partnership is expected to combine **Cognizant's deep experience** in **5G, IoT, cloud, and data analytics** with **Qualcomm's intelligent edge devices, AI, and 5G connectivity solutions**.

About Cognizant:

- Founded: 26 January 1994
- Headquarters: Teaneck, New Jersey, U.S
- CEO: Brian Humphries
- Cognizant is an **American multinational information technology services and consulting company**.

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Indian scientists develop first indigenous Overhauser Magnetometer

- A group of Indian scientists from the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG), an autonomous research institution under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, have developed the first indigenous Overhauser (OVH) Magnetometer, one of the most accurate magnetometers extensively used by all magnetic observatories around the world.

About Overhauser (OVH) Magnetometer:

- OVH magnetometers are known for their higher accuracy, higher sensitivity, and efficient power consumption and hence find applications in all magnetic observatories worldwide as well as in international space programs.
- It has so far been imported for such purposes in India.
- To reduce dependence on imports, the IIG has developed these magnetometers as part of its technology development program.
- Currently, the sensor is being tested for its long-term stability.
- The group is further excited to adapt their sensor for the outer space environment to support the existing Indian space research program.
- The underlying mechanism of Dynamic Nuclear Polarization (DNP), would also be of potential help to developing a sensitive magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) instrument.
- Experiments with the sensor installed at the Alibag Magnetic Observatory (MO) for geomagnetic sampling found that the sensor reproduced the geomagnetic diurnal variations accurately and precisely showed the signatures of various space weather events such as geomagnetic storms, impulses, etc.
- The performance of this magnetometer is at par with a commercial OVH sensor that is currently installed at the magnetic observatories of IIG.

Benefits of OVH magnetometers

- OVH magnetometers reduce the cost of sampling and sensing experiments essential for geomagnetic sampling.
- The sensor installed at Alibag Magnetic Observatory (MO) can absolve India's dependence on commercial OVH magnetometers for performing geomagnetic field measurements.

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New technology for retrofitting non-earthquake-resistant buildings - SC-URBM

- **Researchers** have found a **solution** for **retrofitting** old non-earthquake-resistant buildings with a **technology** that can **prevent major damage** to such buildings from earthquakes without **compromising their strength**.
- The technology called **semi-confined unreinforced brick masonry (SC-URBM)** can resolve the problem of the spread of settlements in **earthquake-prone areas** with constructions that have been built without following earthquake-preventive building codes.
- Researchers found that SC-URBM can significantly enhance the energy dissipation capacity and ductility of the retrofitted building without compromising its strength found by researchers from the **Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.
- A **Pseudo Dynamic Testing Facility (PDTF)** is used for the test of that technology by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST), GoI**.
- The technology provides **better integral action** of the confining elements and load-bearing walls to **achieve enhanced seismic performance**.
- The results were published in the **ASCE Journal of Structural Engineering**.

Serbian scientists named an insect after Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic:

- **Serbian scientists** named a new species of beetle after tennis player **Novak Djokovic** because of its speed, strength, flexibility, durability, and capacity to thrive in harsh environments.
- The new beetle belongs to the **Duvalius** genus, which is found in **Europe**.
- It was discovered in an underground hole in western Serbia several years ago.
- The bug is a specialized **underground Coleoptera beetle**, a predator that lives deep beneath and **has lost its eyes**.
- The insect, which belongs to the **Duvalius** genus of ground beetles found in Europe, was discovered several years ago in an underground trench in western Serbia.
- According to the **Tanjug news agency**, it is named **Duvalius Dokovici**.
- A new species was a specialized **underground Coleoptera beetle**, a predator that had lost its eyes and was dwelling deep beneath.

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Rajasthan unveils post-matric scholarship mobile app, revamps e-gov portals

- Government of Rajasthan, social justice and empowerment minister Shri Tikaram Jully has launched a new post-matric scholarship mobile application in a move to push e-governance initiatives in Rajasthan.
- Meanwhile, the Govt of Rajasthan revamped other online portals of Mukhyamantri Anuprati Coaching Scheme, Palanhar Yojana, and Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojana.
- Apart from these, the state government is also looking to fast-track various other e-governance schemes including Palanhar Scheme, Social Security Pension, Post Matric Scholarship, Hostel scheme, Chief Minister Kanyadan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana, Silicosis Scheme, Residential School, and Vidya Sambal Yojana.
- It will also help in notifying the status of the application while fulfilling the objections mentioned in the application immediately.
- Through this app, it will also be possible for universities and educational institutions to verify the applications immediately and forward them to the department.
- The state government earlier in a day-long orientation and training workshop showcased the ways for effective implementation of social security schemes through e-governance portals.
- The workshop was organized by the Rajasthan government in collaboration with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

About Rajasthan:

- Governor: Kalraj Mishra
- Chief minister: Ashok Gehlot
- Capital: Jaipur
- Dance: Ghumar, Chakri
- National Park: Keoladeo National Park, Ranthambore NP, Mukundara NP
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Jaisamand WL Sanctuary, Jawahar Sagar WL Sanctuary, Sajjangerh WL Sanctuary

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CASHe Partners with IRCTC Launches 'Travel Now Pay Later facility on IRCTC Rail Connect Mobile App

- India's AI-driven financial wellness platform CASHe has partnered with Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to provide a Travel Now Pay Later (TNPL) payment option on its travel app IRCTC Rail Connect.

Key Highlights:

- The new scheme will help customers to book their rail tickets instantly and pay for them later in pocket-friendly **Equated Monthly Income (EMIs)**, ranging from **3 to 6 months**.
- The EMI payment option is available on the IRCTC travel app's checkout page.
- With CASHe's payment option, booking and paying for rail tickets on the IRCTC travel app will now be **easier** and **hassle-free** for millions of Indian Railway passengers.
- The EMI payment option will be available on the IRCTC travel app's checkout page for passengers booking their **reserved** and **tatkal tickets**.
- The IRCTC travel app has over **90 million downloads** and powers over **1.5 million railway ticket bookings per day**.

About CASHe:

- Founder & Chairman: V. Raman Kumar

About IRCTC:

- Founded: 27 September 1999
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman & MD: Rajni Hasija
- IRCTC is a **wholly owned subsidiary** of the Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways, Government of India.

Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur Launches Satya Nishtha App To Aid Police

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Jai Ram Thakur launched the first-of-its-kind mobile application 'The Satya Nishtha app, in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh (HP) to help investigate and control criminal activities.
- The app was designed under the **guidance** of Kangra Superintendent of Police Kushal Sharma.
- The app has been brought out at **Rs 3.70 lakh**.

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Key Highlights:

- The app will help police prepare a **database of criminals** and also study the various offenses that take place under different police stations in the district
- With this app, a **database of information** on **migrant laborers, foreigners**, and suspicious persons can be prepared to help speed up investigations in criminal cases.
- The data available in the app can be accessed from **anywhere** and **at any time**.

About HP:

- Governor: Rajendra Arlekar
- Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur
- Capital: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)
- Festival: Kullu Dussehra, Lohri Festival
- Dance: Rakshasa (demon), Kayang, Bakayang, Chohara

Kerala govt launches mobile app to prevent cyber crimes against children

- Kerala Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan launched the 'Kunjapp', a mobile application to prevent cyber crimes against children in Kerala.
- Shri Vijayan also inaugurated the training for the newly appointed **Child Welfare Committee (CWC)** and **Juvenile Justice Board (JJB)** members at Kovalam.
- The CWC and JJB members must ensure the **safety** and **security** of the **children**.
- **Child exploitation** can be reported through the application.
- The CWC and the JJB members should ensure that the society follows the laws in connection with the children and make sure that those children who violate the law are transformed into **model citizens**.

About Kerala:

- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary
- National Park: Eravikulam National Park, Silent Valley National Park

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- Dance: Kathakali, Mohiniattam, Chakyar Koothu

Goa Govt to Launch a Common App for Entire Taxi Industry

- The Goa government will introduce a mobile application that would serve as a centralized platform for the entire taxi industry in Goa.
- The mobile app would be introduced to unite all taxi operators on a single platform.
- Earlier, the government launched a 'Multimodal transport App' to give choices to visitors at affordable rates for last-mile connectivity.

About Goa:

- Governor: P. S. Sreedharan Pillai
- Chief Minister: Pramod Sawant
- Capital: Panaji
- Airport: Dabolim International Airport

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched SPARSH mobile app:

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched several digital initiatives of the Defence Accounts Department (DAD) during its 275th Annual Day celebrations in New Delhi
- The initiatives include the System for Pension Administration (Raksha) (SPARSH) mobile app; Pay System for Agniveers; International Air Ticket booking module in Defence Travel System (DTS); Defence Accounts Receipts and Payment System (DARPAN); Defence Civilian Pay system and Defence Accounts Human Resource Management System.
- The app will ensure pensioner access and reach to important functionalities of the SPARSH portal through their mobiles.
- Ministry of Defence implemented the portal (<https://sparsh.defencepension.gov.in/>) for pensioners of the Armed Forces as well as defense civilians.
- DARPAN - The Defence Accounts Receipts and Payment System is a unified solution for third-party bill payment and accounting. Its real-time processing will provide comprehensive insights into various accounting and financial performances.

Odisha CM Shri Naveen Patnaik launches SAFAL common credit portal for farmers

- Odisha Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik launched a common credit portal SAFAL' (Simplified Application for Agricultural Loans) for the welfare of farmers.

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About SAFAL:

- The application is a **one-stop solution** for farmers and agri-entrepreneurs to avail formal sector credit from public and private sector banks, Regional Rural Banks, State Cooperative Banks, and Small Finance Banks.
- The facility will enable farmers and agri-entrepreneurs to access **more than 300 term loan products** from over **40 banks**.
- It has also been integrated with **Krushak Odisha** and will have access to **70-plus model project reports**.
- The portal will **ease the loan application process** benefiting both the farmers and banks.
- It will also **reduce information asymmetry** by sending farmers **real-time notifications** at every stage of their loan application.
- SAFAL will provide the government with **complete visibility of demand and disbursement of formal credit** across states and ensure schemes are designed in a **data-backed manner**.

About Odisha:

- Governor: Ganeshi Lal
- Chief minister: Naveen Patnaik
- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- National Park: Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Tikarpada Wildlife Sanctuary, Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary, Nandhakanan Sanctuary, Kotagarh Wildlife Sanctuary
- Airport: Biju Patnaik International Airpor

IMPORTANT RANKING & INDEX NEWS

Indian Tourism Statistics 2022 report has been released:

- Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankar, released the Indian Tourism Statistics 2022 report.
- The Vice-President also gave away the National Tourism Awards for 2018-19 with Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, and Telangana getting the top three places, respectively.
- The awards were given after a gap of two years due to the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

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- In 2020, 2.74 million foreign tourists visited India.
- In 2021, the number came down to 1.52 million.
- In 2021, the **top 15 countries** from which foreign tourists arrived in India included – the U.S., the U.K., Bangladesh, Canada, Nepal, Afghanistan, and Australia.
- However, the arrival of **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** has increased by 52.6% in 2021 as compared to 2020.
- In 2021, 8.55 million Indian nationals departed the country as compared to 7.29 million in 2020.
- The **UAE** was the top destination for Indians in 2021, followed by the U.S., Qatar, Oman, and the U.K.
- The Ministry of Tourism organized the **National Tourism awards**.
- A total of 81 awards were given away this year highlighting the achievements of the tourism industry in 2018-19.

Nikhil Kamath has topped the 'IIFL Wealth Hurun India 40 & Under Self-Made Rich List 2022:

- Stock trading platform **Zerodha's** cofounder **Nikhil Kamath** has topped the 'IIFL Wealth Hurun India 40 & Under Self-Made Rich List 2022' with a net worth of Rs 17,500 crore.
- **Ola** cofounder **Bhavish Agarwal** came second with a wealth of Rs 11,700 crore.
- The annual list saw 15 new entrants, all of whom are startup founders
- Cofounder of Confluent, a streaming data technology company, **Neha Narkhede at 37 is the youngest self-made woman entrepreneur in India** while 19-year-old **Kaivalya Vohra**, the founder of quick commerce startup **Zepto**, is the youngest self-made entrepreneur on the list.
- With a wealth of Rs 11,200 crore, **Divyank Turakhia** of **Media.net** was ranked in third place in the rich list, followed by **Nakul Aggarwal** and **Ritesh Arora** of **BrowserStack** both at fourth with Rs 9,900 crore each.
- Ecommerce **Flipkart's** **Binny Bansal** was sixth on the list with a wealth of Rs 8,100 crore.
- **Alakh Pandey**, and **Prateek Boob**, the cofounders of edtech unicorn **Physics Wallah'** made their debut on the list and both are ranked at 11th position with a wealth of Rs 4,000 crore each.
- As per IIFL, 47 of the 53 entrepreneurs reside in India, while Bengaluru, called India's silicon valley, housed the maximum (14) on the list.

Global Innovation Index: India enters the top 40 for the first time:

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- **India** has made remarkable progress in the global innovation index ranking finding a place in the top 40, in the annual report released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).
- According to the report, **Switzerland, the United States, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands are the world's most-innovative economies.**
- Earlier in 2020, **India entered the top 50 in 2020** and found a place in the top 40 in 2022.
- Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the research and development (R&D) and other investments that drive worldwide innovative activity continued to boom in 2021.
- The **GII 2022 report -- in its 15th edition this year --** is published by WIPO, in partnership with the Portulans Institute and with the support of its corporate partners including the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the Brazilian National Confederation of Industry (CNI), Ecopetrol (Colombia), and the Turkish Exporters Assembly (TIM).**
- This **edition's thematic focus on the future of innovation-driven growth provides** a stance on whether stagnation and low productivity growth are here to stay, or whether we are about to enter a new era.
- **Beyond China and India, Viet Nam (48th), the Islamic Republic of Iran (53rd), and the Philippines (59th)** are the middle-income economies with the fastest innovation catch-up to-date
- **India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and – for the first time – Uzbekistan (82nd) and Pakistan (87th) lead the Central and Southern Asia region.**

About WIPO:

- The World Intellectual Property Organization is one of the 15 specialized agencies of the United Nations.
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Founded: 14 July 1967, WIPO Director General Daren Tang.

Akash Ambani is the only Indian to feature on the prestigious list of Time Magazine's Time100 Next list:

- **The Time Magazine's Time100 Next list is out, and there is only one Indian to feature on the prestigious list and, it's Akash Ambani, whom Time calls the "scion of Indian industrialist royalty".**
- When he was 22, he became a part of the **Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd board.**
- In June, the 30-year-old replaced their father Mukesh Ambani as the **chairman of India's largest telecom company with more than 426 million subscribers.**

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- As per Time, a business career was always anticipated for Akash.
- Since joining the Jio board, Akash has been instrumental in securing multibillion-dollar investments from Google and Facebook.
- Time Magazine's emerging leaders' list includes people like Spanish tennis player Carlos Alcaraz, American singer SZA, Once Upon a Time in Hollywood Actress Sydney Sweeney, basketball player Ja Morant and TV personality Keke Palmer.

The central government's 7th edition of the annual cleanliness survey has announced:

- For the sixth consecutive time, Indore has been adjudged as India's cleanest city, followed by Surat and Navi Mumbai in the next two positions in the Central government's annual cleanliness survey.
- President Droupadi Murmu gave away the awards to the winners at an event here which was also attended by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and others.
- Madhya Pradesh has secured the first position, followed by Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra in the category of best-performing states in 'The swachh Survekshan Awards 2022'.
- Among the state having fewer than 100 urban local bodies, Tripura has bagged the top rank, according to the survey results.
- Among the cities with a population of fewer than one lakh, Maharashtra's Panchgani was ranked number one, followed by Chhattisgarh's Patan (NP) and Maharashtra's Karhad, as per PTI reports.
- Haridwar was adjudged the cleanest Ganga town in the category of more than 1 lakh population, followed by Varanasi and Rishikesh.
- Bijnor was ranked first among Ganga towns with fewer than one lakh population, followed by Kannauj and Garhmukhteshwar respectively.
- According to the survey, Maharashtra's Deolali was adjudged the country's cleanest Cantonment Board.
- The 7th edition of Swachh Survekshan was conducted to study the progress of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) and rank the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) based on various cleanliness and sanitation parameters.

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- The Survekshan has evolved from being an assessment of 73 cities in 2016 to covering 4,354 cities this year.
- In November 2021, Indore retained its position for the fifth time in a row, followed by Surat (2), Vijaywada (3), Navi Mumbai (4), and New Delhi, NDMC (5).

British aviation analytics firm OAG Delhi ranked 13th in 2022:

- The two largest airports in India — Delhi, and Mumbai — have become the biggest low-cost mega hub in the world, according to a new report by British aviation analytics firm OAG.
- The last such mega hubs report was published by the firm in 2019, when Delhi and Mumbai ranked sixth and 11th in the low-cost mega hubs list, respectively.
- Globally, among all types of mega hubs, Delhi ranked 13th in 2022, compared with 35th in 2019.
- Mumbai, on the other hand, rose to 24th in 2022 from 51st in 2019.
- In the latest rankings, Chicago's O'Hare Airport ranked as the world's biggest mega-hub, followed by Dallas Fort Worth International.
- OAG analyzed flight data for the top 100 airports as per total capacity and the top 100 largest airports as per international capacity, based on total scheduled seat allocation from September 2021 to August 2022.
- In the list of low-cost mega hubs, Delhi Airport replaced Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur Airport, which is dominated by budget carrier AirAsia.
- Both Delhi and Mumbai airports have low-cost airline IndiGo as the dominant carrier, with 34 percent and 37 percent share of scheduled flights at these airports, respectively.

QS World University Rankings: IIM Ahmedabad and IIM Bangalore have retained their slots among the top 50:

- IIM Ahmedabad and IIM Bangalore have retained their slots among the top 50 global business schools in the latest round of the QS World University Rankings: Global MBA and Business Masters.
- Other Indian institutions in the top league include IIM Calcutta, which has improved its position from 76 to 68, and the Indian School of Business in the 78th position, showing a significant rise from last year's 92.

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- Globally, for the third consecutive year, Stanford GSB's full-time MBA was named the world's number one, followed by Harvard Business School and The Wharton School.
- In the 2023 edition of the QS World University Rankings, released in June, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru emerged as the highest-ranked Indian institute, followed by IIT-Bombay and IIT-Delhi.
- These were the only Indian institutes in the global league of the top 200, in continuation of a trend since 2017.
- The total number of Indian institutes among the top 1,000 globally has risen to 27 from 22.

India ranks 4th among 12 Indo-Pacific nations in self-reliant arms production capabilities:

- India ranks fourth among 12 Indo-Pacific nations in self-reliant arms production capabilities, according to a study released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- The 12 countries in the study were selected because they have the highest military spending in the region — Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- China was the world's fifth-largest arms importer in 2016-20.
- Its self-reliance policies and its high economic growth in that period meant that the Chinese arms industry now increasingly fulfills the requirements of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).
- Its high volume of imports in absolute terms accounts for only 8 percent of total procurement for the period, the lowest share for any of the 12 governments.
- India is ranked as the second-largest importer of arms for its armed forces in 2016-20.
- India is highly dependent on imports of complete foreign major arms, including many produced under license or as components for its domestic production.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, Indian Ordnance Factories, Bharat Electronics, Mazagaon Docks, and Cochin Shipyard are among the major Indian arms servicing companies.
- Ashok Leyland, one of the largest suppliers of trucks to the Indian Army, is the only company ranked in the top 50 in the Indo-Pacific.
- India has seven Uncrewed Maritime Vessel projects ongoing.

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- In the private sector, Larsen & Toubro has been developing AUV prototypes on its own and in collaboration with foreign partners, such as Italy's EdgeLab.

World Economic Forum released the "Education 4.0 India" Report:

- World Economic Forum released the "Education 4.0 India" Report.
- As per the report, India has more than 60 million secondary and higher secondary students.
- This report has been prepared by World Economic Forum in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Education Fund and YuWaah (Generation Unlimited India).
- About 85% of the schools haven't implemented vocational courses as part of their curriculum.
- As per the report, presently school pedagogy is being designed with no reference to industry needs.
- There are no formal channels for industry participation in curriculum design.
- The report highlighted that School-to-work (S2W) transition process still faces many problems such as a lack of trainers, inadequate resources and infrastructure, and poor linkages between localized skill gaps and vocational courses.
- With conducive policies and initiatives of the Government of India, such as the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and over 5000 EdTech start-ups across the learning lifecycle, the current education environment is potent for digital transformation.
- The National Achievement Survey (NAS) of 2021 reported an average learning level of 59% in grade 3, 49% in grade 5, 42% in grade 8, and 36% in grade 10.

About WEF:

- Jeremy Jurgens, Managing Director of, the World Economic Forum.
- The World Economic Forum is an international non-governmental and lobbying organization based in Cologny, canton of Geneva, Switzerland.
- It was founded on 24 January 1971 by German engineer and economist Klaus Schwab.

World University Rankings 2023: IISc Bengaluru in Top 300

- The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023 has been released.
- A total of 75 higher education institutions got listed in the ranking this year.
- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has improved its position in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023 and was the only Indian university in the top 300 list, even as

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several IITs boycotted it for the third consecutive year raising doubts over its parameters and transparency

- A total of **75 Indian institutes were part of the rankings in 2023** as compared to 56 in 2020 and just 31 in 2017.
- **Seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)**- IIT Ropar, IIT Indore, IIT Gandhinagar, IIT Patna, IIT Bhubaneswar, IIT Guwahati, and IIT Mandi were also able to secure a position in the 500- 1200 band.
- As per the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023, IIT Ropar featured in the 501-600 band.
- Meanwhile, IIT Indore features in the 601- 800 band. IIT Gandhinagar also featured in the 801- 1000 band. IIT Patna featured in 801-1000, IIT Bhubaneswar in 1001-1200 band, IIT Guwahati- in 1001-1200 band, and IIT Mandi- in 1001-1200 band
- Central Universities such as **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Jamia Millia Islamia, Jamia Hamdard University, Benaras Hindu University, Jadavpur University, and Aligarh Muslim University** also featured in THE World University Rankings- 2023.
- Jamia Millia Islamia moved to the 501-600 ranking band this year from the 601- 800 band last year.

Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index: Iceland topped the list

- Mercer and the CFA Institute released its **14th annual Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index (MCGPI)** which comprises a list of 44 countries with the best and worst pension systems in the world.
- **India ranked 41st** and has the **forth-lowest retirement income system in the world, according to the report.**
- It comprises an earnings-related employee pension scheme, a DC employee provident fund (EPFO), and supplementary employer-managed pension schemes, which are largely DC in nature.
- According to the report, **Iceland's retirement income system has once again topped the list,** followed by the **Netherlands and Denmark respectively** while **Thailand has been ranked lowest.**

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- The **US ranked 20th** of the 44 countries surveyed, while newcomer Portugal came in at 24 and mainland China was ranked 36. Mexico, in 29th place, was singled out for improving its score significantly due to pension reforms.
- **Thailand was ranked lowest**, coming in just below the **Philippines, Argentina, and India**.
- As fertility rates decline and people live longer, the United Nations predicts the portion of the world's population aged 65 or over will rise from 9.7% this year to 16.4% in 2050.
- **Singapore's retirement system retains its top spot in Asia, ranking 9th out of 44 retirement systems** reviewed in the 14th annual Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index (MCGPI).
- Hong Kong SAR and Malaysia round out the top three in the region, while ranking 19th and 23rd, respectively, against their global peers.
- The 2022 MCGPI, which features Portugal as a new addition, measures each retirement system through three sub-indices: sustainability, adequacy, and integrity.
- This year, the Global Pension Index compares 44 retirement income systems across the globe and covers 65 percent of the world's population.
- The 2022 Global Pension index includes one **new retirement income system – Portugal**.
- The Global Pension Index is a collaborative research project sponsored by CFA Institute, the global association of investment professionals, in collaboration with the **Monash Centre for Financial Studies (MCFS)**, part of Monash Business School at Monash University, and Mercer.

FIFA/Coca-Cola Women's World Ranking India was placed at 67:

- **FIFA/Coca-Cola Women's World Ranking**, which will be used to determine the seedings for the Draw for the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia & New Zealand 2023.
- **India dropped three spots to 61st position behind Panama**, but ahead of Cameroon.
- The **three teams at the top in the August 2022 ranking** are still there, with one slight change in the order.
- Though the **USA (1st, -)** remain out front, **Sweden (2nd, plus 1)** has jumped into second place at the expense of **Germany (3rd, minus 1)**. England (4th, -) and France (5th, -) complete the top five.
- Two new teams have joined since the publication of the previous ranking in August: **Syria (157th)** and **Pakistan (160th)**.

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- This takes the total number of FIFA member associations now included in the women's ranking to 187.
- FIFA has 211 member associations in all.
- **India has 1406 points**, a total of 20 points less than last quarter and stays in **12th position in the Asian (AFC) Women's rankings**.
- In South Asia, India remains in the top spot ahead of Nepal (103rd), Bangladesh (140th), Sri Lanka (155th), the Maldives (159th), Pakistan (160th) return to the rankings and Bhutan (177th).

About FIFA:

- FIFA is an international governing body of association football, beach football, and futsal.
- It was founded in 1904.
- President: Gianni Infantino, Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland.

Union Minister has launched Logistics Ease across Different States (LEADS) 2022 survey report:

- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution, and Textiles recently launched **Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2022 survey report**.
- The LEADS is an indigenous data-driven index to assess logistics infrastructure, services, and human resources across all 36 States and UTs.
- The index is an indicator of the efficiency of logistical services necessary for promoting exports and economic growth.
- The index aims at enhancing the focus on improving logistics performance across states **which is essential for improving the country's trade and reducing transaction costs**.
- LEADS 2022 has adopted a classification-based grading, states have been now classified under four categories viz coastal states, hinterland/landlocked states, north-eastern states, and Union Territories.
- Three performance categories namely,
 - **Achievers**: States/UTs achieving 90% or more percentage,
 - **Andhra Pradesh, Assam, and Gujarat are among the 15 States and UTs categorized as achievers**.
 - **Fast Movers**: States/UTs achieving percentage scores between 80% to 90%,

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- Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Puducherry, Sikkim, and Tripura are the other States categorized as fast movers.
- **Aspirers:** States/UTs achieving percentage scores below 80% have been made.
- The 15 States and UTs ranked in the aspirers category include Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Mizoram, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Ladakh, Nagaland, Jammu and Kashmir, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- The LEADS 2022 survey report would assist PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) and National Logistics Policy (NLP).
- The first logistics report was released in 2018.
- No ranking was released last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The government is already aiming to reduce the country's logistics costs to 8% of its GDP in the next five years from 13-14% now.

CRII: India has moved up six places to rank 123 out of 161 countries

- India has moved up six places to rank 123 out of 161 countries for reducing inequality but continues to be among the lowest performers in health spending, according to the latest Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index (CRII).
- The 2022 CRII looks at government policies and actions in 161 countries to fight inequality during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Norway leads the CRII followed by Germany and Australia.
- India's overall rank has improved by six points from 129 in 2020 to 123 in 2022.
- It has moved up 12 places to rank 129 for reducing inequality through progressive spending.
- The country ranks 16 for progressive taxation, up by three.
- The Index which is prepared by Oxfam International and Development Finance International (DFI) measures government policies and actions in three areas proven to have a major impact on reducing inequality.
- The three areas are public services (health, education, and social protection), taxation, and workers' rights.
- The Oxfam report based on the index said India features among the lowest performers in health spending again.

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- The index showed that it has dropped a further two places in the rankings, to 157th, the 5th lowest in the world.
- India has dropped a further two places in the rankings, to 157th (or 5th lowest in the world).
- India's health spending is 3.64 percent of total spending.
- This is the lowest out of all BRICS and neighboring countries, the report said.
- While China and Russia are spending 10 percent, Brazil is at 7.7 percent and South Africa is highest at 12.9 percent.

Reliance Jio surpassed BSNL to become the largest landline service, provider:

- In August, **Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio** overtook the country's **largest landline service provider for the first time**.
- According to the latest data given by the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**, **Reliance Jio surpassed state-owned telecom operator** and previous market leader **BSNL's 7.13 million landline connections as of August 31**.
- **MTNL, in third place**, provided 2.6 million connections.
- This is a landmark moment in India's telecom history because fixed-line or landline connections were the final category where a state-owned provider dominated.
- Reliance Jio had been eyeing the area for several years and introduced Jio Fibre in 2019, which includes both landline and fiber-based broadband services.

About TRAI

- Founded: 20 February 1997
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Ram Sewak Sharma
- Secretary: Sunil K. Gupta

After a four-year slump, India's internet freedom has improved, according to Freedom House:

- According to the **US government-funded NGO Freedom House**, **India's internet freedom score climbed by two points to 51** in the overall ranking as a result of attempts to bridge the country's digital gap.
- After four years, India's internet freedom has improved

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- The decreased frequency and severity of nationwide internet outages also contributed to the improved score.
- **India ranked 49th in terms of internet freedom in 2021.**
- The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, among other laws permitting the government to control online content, have been challenged in court, resulting in some of the government's powers being limited.
- The US government-funded NGO discovered that internet freedom had declined globally for the 12th year in a straight, with **Russia, Myanmar, Sudan, and Libya suffering the greatest decreases.**
- According to the study, **China had the world's worst internet freedom conditions for the eighth year in a row**, while internet freedom in the **United States improved slightly for the first time in six years.**

India has dropped in the global rankings for mobile and fixed broadband speeds: Ookla report

- **India falls three places in the Global Ranking** for average mobile speed.
- In June, it jumped from 115th to 118th.
- The median mobile download speed in India has declined from 14.28 Mbps in May to 14.00 Mbps in June, according to the **Ookla Speedtest Global Index report.**
- In June, India moved up three ranks in the **global rankings for median download speeds on fixed broadband, from 75th to 72nd.**
- The overall fixed median download speed in India in May was 47.86 Mbps, down from 48.11 Mbps in June.
- Each month, **Ookla's Speedtest Global Index compares Speedtest data** from around the world.
- The data for the Global Index comes from hundreds of millions of tests performed by real individuals using Speedtest.
- **Norway is in first place and was joined by Chile in the global median mobile speed rankings.**
- Regarding overall worldwide fixed broadband speeds, Singapore takes second place.
- The fastest increases in fixed broadband and mobile download speeds were seen in **Papua New Guinea and Gabon in June.**
- Based on the median mobile download speed, India moved up three points in the global rankings in May.

India ranks third on the list of centi millionaires and will surpass China by 2032:

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- **India ranks third in the first-ever global survey on the rise of centi-millionaires – those with assets of more than Rs 830 crore (\$100 million) — despite having high levels of poverty, inflation, and hunger.**
- **India possesses 1,132 of the 25,490 centi-millionaires in the globe, outpacing Switzerland, the UK, and Russia in a rapidly expanding and powerful class of ultra-wealthy IT titans, financiers, multinational CEOs, and heirs.**
- **With an expected 80% growth rate in people worth over \$100 million by 2032, India will surpass China (number 2) as the fastest-growing market for millionaires, according to a report published by worldwide investment migration advisory firm Henley & Partners.**

Overall Ranking:

- **Despite making up only 4% of the world's population, the United States, which comes in first place, is home to 38% (9,730) of the 25,490 centi-millionaires in the globe.**
- **Large growing markets China and India, with 2,021 and 1,132 centi-millionaires, respectively, are in second and third place, closely behind it.**
- **With 968 cent millionaires, the UK is in fourth place, closely followed by Germany in fifth (with 966).**
- **The remaining top 10 nations for centi-millionaires are Switzerland (808), Japan (765), Canada (541), Australia (463), and lastly Russia (435).**

UIDAI topped the Grievance Redressal Index for the second month in a row:

- **The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which oversees Aadhaar, has once again topped the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) September rankings report for addressing the most public grievances among all government ministries and departments.**
- **UIDAI has topped the standings for the second month in a row.**
- **UIDAI has been a top performer in resolving public grievances received through the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), and it is making ongoing efforts to improve the Aadhaar holder's experience.**
- **UIDAI has a robust grievance redressal ecosystem in place, which includes the UIDAI headquarters, regional offices, a technology center, an engaged contact center, and partners.**

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- A well-coordinated mechanism enables UIDAI to resolve around 92% of CRM grievances within a week.

About UIDAI

- CEO: Dr. Saurabh Garg
- Founded: 28 January 2009
- Headquarters: New Delhi.

NSO published India's Employment Outlook:

- The **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, which is part of the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**, has issued a news release on the country's **employment outlook for the period from September 2017 to June 2022**.
- This data is based on administrative records made accessible by chosen government agencies to assess progress in specific dimensions.
- **Since April 2018**, this ministry has been publishing **employment-related statistics in the formal sector for the period September 2017 onwards**, based on data from three major schemes: the **Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme**, the **Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme**, and the **National Pension Scheme (NPS)**.
- In terms of NPS, the data also includes gender information on existing and new subscribers who contributed over the period.
- During the period from September 2017 to June 2022, a total of 36,53,544 new subscribers joined and contributed to the NPS schemes of the central government, state governments, and corporations.

IMPORTANT BOOKS & AUTHORS

Sunil Chhetri and his career have earned special recognition in the form of a series "Captain Fantastic"

- Sunil Chhetri and his career have earned **special recognition in the form of a series "Captain Fantastic"**.
- **Fifa announced to release of a series based on the player's life in a span of three episodes.**
- **The series about the life and career of Sunil Chhetri is available on FIFA+, its streaming platform.**
- **The series covers various unseen and unheard phases of a player's life.**

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- His early teenage, his debut at the age of 20, his struggling days, and reaching heights as a football player.

About Sunil Chhetri:

- Sunil Chhetri began his career in 2002.
- Sunil Chhetri has also been named AIFF Player of the Year, seven times in 2007, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2018-19, and 2021-22.
- Chhetri was awarded Arjuna Award in 2011 for his outstanding sporting achievement.
- The player also received India's fourth-highest civilian award, the Padma Shri award in 2019.
- **Sunil Chhetri became the first footballer to be honored with the Khel Ratna Award, India's highest sporting honor.**
- Sunil Chhetri was born on August 3, 1984.
- He is an Indian footballer who plays as a forward and captain for the Indian national team.
- Chhetri is the third-highest international goalscorer with 84 goals, behind Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

Yatinder Mishra authored a new book titled *Lata: A Life in Music*

- On the 93rd birthday of India's most iconic vocal artist Lata Mangeshkar, Penguin Random House India has announced the acquisition and publication of her biography titled, *Lata: A Life in Music*.
- Originally written in Hindi by writer-poet Yatindra Mishra, this is its timely and monumental translation by the award-winning writer and translator, Ira Pande.
- Celebrating art in its totality and telling the life story of India's most loved singer of all time, this book is scheduled to release in early 2023 under Penguin's Vintage imprint.
- The original Hindi version of this book, *Lata: Sur-Gatha*, won the 64th National Film Award and the MAMI Award for Best Writing on Cinema (2016–17).

Shashi Tharoor authored a book titled "*Ambedkar: A Life*:"

- Congress leader Shashi Tharoor will come out with a biography of BR Ambedkar next month in which he will provide insights into his life and also highlight the disputes the latter had with other political and intellectual giants of his era, including Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru.
- In "*Ambedkar: A Life*", Tharoor will also seek to answer the question of whether Ambedkar was the greatest Indian of modern times.

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- The Congress MP traces the arc of Ambedkar's life from his birth into a family of Mahars in the Bombay Presidency on April 14, 1891, to his death in Delhi on December 6, 1956.
- According to Tharoor, in doing so, Ambedkar "transformed the lives of millions yet unborn, heaving an ancient civilization into the modern era through the force of his intellect and the power of his pen".
- **The book is released on October 1.** Ambedkar's statues across the country are second only in number to those of Mahatma Gandhi.
- He even overtook Gandhi in a recent poll to determine the "greatest Indian" of modern times, in which over 20 million votes were cast.

EAM S Jaishankar launches book "Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery" in Auckland:

- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** attended the book launch in New Zealand of "**Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery.**"
- Jaishankar penned one of the chapters in the book **Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery**, which was released on May 11, 2022.
- He also took part in the **2022 Kiwi Indian Hall of Fame Awards**.
- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu launched the book **Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.**
- It consists of twenty chapters written by **twenty-two domain dignitaries**, ranging from Home Minister Amit Shah to National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Sudha Murty, among others.
- The book is titled after him and covers Modi Ji's accomplishments, the fundamental transformation of Gujarat at the state level, and India's development.

Bob Dylan authored a new book titled "Philosophy of Modern Song":

- A new book titled "**The Philosophy of Modern Song,**" written by Nobel winner Bob Dylan and published by **Simon & Schuster** will be released in November 2022.
- Bob Dylan's artistic journey and successes are documented in **The Philosophy of Modern Song.**
- **Bob Dylan's first book of new work since 2004**, when he released '**Chronicles, Volume One,**' and since receiving the **Nobel Prize in Literature in 2016.**
- Bob Dylan recorded a total of thirty-nine studio albums.

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- He received the Nobel Prize in Literature, as well as the French Legion of Honor, the Pulitzer Prize, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.
- Bob Dylan's most well-known books are "The Lyrics 1961-2012," "Tarantula (1971)," "Younger Than That Now," and others.

Sahil Seth, an IRS official, releases his book 'A muddled mind story':

- **Sahil Seth, an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) Joint Commissioner GST, Customs, and Narcotics and a young influencer, has released his book titled 'A Confused Mind Story.'**
- In the presence of **Union Health Minister Sh Mansukh L Mandaviya, the book was released and the first glance was revealed.**
- **Blue Rose Publishing House, one of India's leading fiction, nonfiction, and poetry book publishers, published the book.**
- The dichotomy between the spiritual and material worlds is central to the work.
- The book provides the answers to the common man's daily bewilderment and reveals the rationale behind the meaning of life and belief system.

Regarding the book:

- The book is divided into 23 life-changing chapters that cover topics such as explaining the divine god, beliefs and myths, the afterlife concept, the shunya concept, the science of god, destiny, or hard work. the genes theory- the world of infinite memory, the placebo effect- science behind prayers, and do hell or heaven exist? The existence of the world within us, where to find God- mountain or forest?, the significance of Japa, and many other fascinating issues.
- All of these themes contribute to our understanding of the significance of spirituality in our lives.

"The Corbett Papers" a new book edited and compiled by Akshay Shah and Stephen Alter:

- **The Corbett Papers: Biographical, Legal, & Contextual Material on the Life & Career of Jim Corbett of Kumaon, edited and compiled by Akshay Shah and Stephen Alter, is a new book about Jim Corbett.**
- **Black Kite Publishing is the publisher.**
- The well-known naturalist-hunter Jim Corbett has chronicled his encounters with wildlife in the North Indian woods in several best-sellers.

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- The Corbett Papers also contains infrequent excerpts from a lost work as well as Maggie Corbett's unpublished memories of her brother.

Dr. Bimal Jalan wrote the book "From Dependence to Self-Reliance."

- **Dr. Bimal Jalan**, an economist, wrote the book **"From Dependence to Self-Reliance: Mapping India's Rise as a Global Superpower,"** which takes stock of India's growth trajectory and benefits from Bimal Jalan's deep insights.
- The text is written clearly for the general reader.
- Bimal Jalan divides his work into **three sections: four chapters on economics and three each on governance and politics.**
- Bimal Jalan's principal goal is to promote India's national interests, regardless of any political platform proclaimed during elections.
- Dr. Bimal Jalan is a former governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
- He has previously held many government roles, including finance secretary and head of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri wrote, "Delhi University - Celebrating 100 Glorious Years."

- **Shri Hardeep Singh Puri**, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs in the **Government of India (GOI)**, has written a **new book titled "DELHI UNIVERSITY: Celebrating 100 Glorious Years."**
- **Rupa Publications India** is the publisher of the book.
- The **book's foreword was written by Indian actor Amitabh Bachchan.**
- This book highlights the perspectives of 15 contributors, including some of the university's most distinguished alumni and faculty.
- The book **Delhi University: Celebrating 100 Glorious Years** is an eclectic collection of personal essays and reflections from some of the university's most illustrious former students and faculty, including Amitabh Bachchan, Kiren Rijiju, Dinesh Singh, Meenakshi Gopinath, Shashi Tharoor, Bibek Debroy, Imtiaz Ali, Raian Karanjawala, Sanjeev Sanyal, Arnab Goswami

IMPORTANT SPORTS NEWS

Shivpal Singh has been suspended from competing till October 2025:

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- Shivpal Singh an Indian javelin thrower has been suspended from competing till October 2025.
- The ban comes into effect on October 21, 2021.
- He tested positive for the banned substance methandienone.
- He is an Uttar Pradesh-based athlete.
- He was a silver medalist at the 2019 Asian Championships.
- He also won the 2019 World Military Games.
- Tokyo Olympian Kamalpreet Kaur also failed a dope test earlier.
- Earlier, discus thrower Navjeet Kaur Dhillon, sprinter Dhanalakshmi Sekar, and quarter-miler MR Poovamma have been banned from competitions due to doping violations.

The USA defeated China to win FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup 2022:

- The USA defeated China by 83-61 in the FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup 2022.
- The championship was held in Australia.
- A'ja Wilson wins the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award in the tournament.
- The US finished the World Cup averaging 98.8 points.
- China won its first medal in the 1994 World Cup.

Yalemzerf Yehualaw won the women's race at the London Marathon:

- Yalemzerf Yehualaw of Ethiopia recovered from a fall to win the women's race at the London Marathon.
- The 23-year-old appeared to trip on a speed bump with six miles remaining but recovered to rejoin the leading pack and came home in two hours, 17 minutes, and 25 seconds, the third fastest time at the event.
- Defending champion Joyciline Jepkosgei of Kenya had to settle for second, with Ethiopia's Alemu Megertu third.
- The men's race finished later with Kenyan Amos Kipruto marking his London Marathon debut with a decisive victory.
- The 30-year-old Kipruto, a world bronze medallist in Doha in 2019, crossed the line in London in two hours, four minutes, and 39 seconds after breaking away late on.

Mumtaz Khan has been named the FIH Rising Stars of the Year 2021-22 in the women's category:

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- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has revealed that India's Mumtaz Khan has been named the FIH Rising Stars of the Year 2021-22 in the women's category.
- Timothée Clément of France has been named the FIH Rising Stars of the Year 2021-22 in the men's category.
- Mumtaz burst onto the international hockey scene almost out of nowhere in the FIH Junior Women's World Cup 2022, thrilling hockey fans with her incredible style of play and an eye for scoring goals that cannot be taught.
- She was the best performer for India in the Junior World Cup, scoring 8 times in 6 games. She also finished in third place on the list of top scorers in the World Cup, as India missed out on a bronze medal by a whisker finishing in 4th place.
- Mumtaz is the third Indian woman to win the award after Lalremsiami in 2019 and Sharmila Devi in 2020-21.

Saudi Arabia to host the 2029 Asian Winter Games:

- Saudi Arabia has won a bid to host the 2029 Asian Winter Games at a planned mountain resort in the Gulf Arab state's \$500 billion flagship NEOM project.
- The TROJENA development is expected to be completed in 2026 and will offer outdoor skiing, a man-made freshwater lake, and a nature reserve.
- With the unlimited support by the Saudi leadership & HRH Crown Prince to the sports, sector is proud to announce They have won the bid to host AWG TROJENA2029 as the first country in western Asia.
- NEOM is Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's most ambitious project under the kingdom's Vision 2030 development plan to reduce reliance on oil and transform the economy, including by developing sports.
- NEOM, a 26,500-square-km (10,230-square-mile) high-tech development on the Red Sea, will include zero-carbon city "The Line" as well as industrial and logistics areas.

PR Sreejesh and Savita Punia have won the FIH Men's and Women's Goalkeepers of the Year:

- India's PR Sreejesh and Savita Punia were voted the FIH Men's and Women's Goalkeeper of the Year, respectively, for the second year running.

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- Sreejesh once again showed his value to the team, playing in all 16 games in the Pro League as **India finished in the third position.**
- He also played in all **six games at the 2022 Birmingham CWG**, where **India won the silver medal.**
- **The 32-year-old Punia finished on top** of the voting with 37.6 points.
- Argentina legend Belen Succi was second with 26.4, followed by Australia stalwart Jocelyn Bartram with 16 points.
- She is now only the **third athlete to win the Goalkeeper of the Year (women) award** for two consecutive years since its inception in 2014.

The rest of India defeated Saurashtra by eight wickets to win the Irani Cup 2022:

- **The Rest of India (ROI) defeated Saurashtra by eight wickets to win the Irani Cup 2022 at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot.**
- Rest of India pacer Mukesh Kumar was adjudged Player of the Match in **Irani Cup 2022.**
- **Irani Trophy or Irani Cup** is a test match format cricket tournament in India.
- The current Ranji Trophy winners and the Rest of India's cricket team compete in it each year.
- It is organized by the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).**
- It was named after the **late Z. R. Irani.**

Graham Reid and Janneke Schopman received the FIH Coach of the Year award:

- The Indian men's and women's hockey team coaches, **Graham Reid and Janneke Schopman** received the **FIH Coach of the Year award** in their respective categories.
- This is the **second consecutive time Reid has won the award**, while Schopman won it for the first time.
- Under **Australian Reid**, the men's team reached new heights by winning a bronze — its first Olympics medal in 41 years — at the Tokyo Games last year.
- India also won a **silver medal at the 2022 Birmingham CWG.**
- The **Fédération Internationale de Hockey**, commonly known by the acronym FIH, is the international governing body of field hockey and indoor field hockey.
- Its headquarters are in **Lausanne, Switzerland.**

Harmanpreet Singh was named the FIH Player of the Year

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- India defender Harmanpreet Singh was named the FIH Player of the Year in the men's category for the second successive time.
- The 26-year-old became just the **fourth player to win the Player of the Year award** (men's category) in **consecutive years**, joining an elite list that includes Teun De Nooijer (Netherlands), Jamie Dwyer (Australia) and Arthur van Doren (Belgium).
- In the **women's category**, **Felice Albers of the Netherlands was named the FIH Player of the Year**.
- The 22-year-old became the youngest winner of the FIH Player of the Year award (women's category) since Germany's Natascha Keller (1999) and the second youngest ever, since the inception of the awards in 1998.
- She broke into the Dutch national team in 2019, on the back of great performances at the junior level where she switched between midfield and attack.
- Since making her debut for the senior team, she has scored 16 goals in her 32 international appearances thus far.

Goa government to host 37th National Games in October 2023:

- The **Goa government** has conveyed to the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** its **in-principle approval to host the 37th National Games in October 2023**.
- IOA is pleased to note the wholehearted support of the **government of Goa to host the 37th National Games in 2023**, hence conveying IOA's approval to organize the 37th National Games in Goa.
- The Goa delegation may receive the IOA flag in the closing ceremony of the **36th National Games on October 12 in Surat, Gujarat**.
- Goa had signed the contract to host the **National Games in 2011** but, technically, its turn was only after the **35th edition, which was hosted by Kerala in January 2015**.
- Since then, the state sought multiple postponements after finalizing 2016 as the year to host the Games.

Pooja Patel became the first athlete to win a gold medal in Yogasan at the 36th National Games:

- Gujarat's Pooja Patel became the **first athlete to win a gold medal in Yogasan at the 36th National Games**.

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- For the first time, five new sports have been included in the National Games, one of which is Yoga.
- Earlier this year, this Indian indigenous game was introduced at the Khelo India University Games.
- Among other events, Maharashtra won the gold medal in women's diving in the one-meter springboard event.
- 36th National Games is being hosted by Gujrat from 27 September to 10 October.

Hyderabad is set to become the first city in India to host the Formula E race in Feb 2023:

- The much-awaited Hyderabad E-Prix, the first-ever Formula E race in India, will take place for two days at Necklace Road here on February 10 and 11 next year.
- Formula E is the premier electric single-seater racing series in the world governed by the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).
- With this event, Hyderabad will join the prestigious list of E-Prix host cities such as New York, London, Berlin, Seoul, Monaco, and Rome.
- As part of this, the city will host the Hyderabad EV Summit, the Rall-E Hyderabad, and the Hyderabad E-Motor Show before closing the week with the Hyderabad E-Prix.
- Formula E, officially the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship, is a single-seater motorsport championship for electric cars.
- The series was conceived in 2011 in Paris by FIA president Jean Todt and Spanish businessman Alejandro Agag, who is also the current chairman of Formula E Holdings.

Pankaj Advani won his career's 25th world title:

- India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani won his career's 25th world title after clinching the World Billiards (150-Up) Championship here at the High-End Snooker Club.
- In the final of the best of seven games, Pankaj defeated his compatriot Sourav Kothari 4-0 in a one-sided battle.
- Thailand's Praput Chaithanasukan and S. Shrikrishna of India got the bronze medals.
- Advani's last world title came over 12 months ago in Qatar, where he won the IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Cup.

Harmanpreet Kaur became the first Indian woman to be selected for the ICC Player of the Month:

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- India Captain Harmanpreet Kaur & Pakistan player Mohammad Rizwan have been selected for ICC Player of the Month awards for September.
- Harmanpreet Kaur won the ICC Player of the Month award in the women's category.
- Mohammad Rizwan received the ICC Player of the Month award in the men's category.
- Harmanpreet Kaur won the award for her performance in the ODI series in England.
- Recently, India's women's team won its first series in England since 1999.
- Rizwan defeated Indian left-arm spinner Axar Patel and Australian allrounder Cameron Green to win this award in Men's category.
- ICC Player of the Month awards recognizes the best performances of both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket.
- The ICC Player of the Month award was introduced by ICC in January 2021.

Novak Djokovic won his 90th ATP title at the Astana Open in Kazakhstan:

- Novak Djokovic won his 90th ATP title by defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final of the Astana Open in Kazakhstan.
- 21-time Grand Slam winner Djokovic defeated Tsitsipas of Greece 6-3, 6-4.
- This is the fourth title of Wimbledon champion Djokovic this year, including in Rome and Tel Aviv.
- With this win at Astana, Djokovic joined Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer on the list of players to have won 90 or more ATP titles in the Open Era.
- Nikola Mektic and Mate Pavic registered victories in the Astana Open men's doubles match.
- They defeated the French pair of Adrian Mannarino and Fabrice Martin 6-4, 6-2.
- The Astana Open is a professional tennis tournament that is organized in Astana, Kazakhstan, in late October every year since 2020.

FIFA in partnership with AIFF launched the Football for Schools project in the country:

- FIFA in partnership with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and with the support of the Union government launched the Football for Schools project in the country, which is aimed at broad-basing the game across India.
- Football for Schools is an ambitious program run by FIFA, in collaboration with UNESCO, which aims to contribute to the education, development, and empowerment of around 700 million children.

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- According to Union Government, the “Football for Schools” movement espouses the spirit of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and promotes sports-integrated learning.
- Football for Schools is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of developing India as a sporting superpower as well as ensuring a Fit India.
- Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti will be the nodal agency on behalf of the ministry of education to take this initiative forward.

India finished fifth at ISSF World Championship Shotgun:

- India finished fifth with one gold, one silver, and two bronze medals at ISSF World Championship Shotgun.
- Italy, Great Britain, and the USA took the top three spots.
- China was in fourth place.
- It prevailed over India on the medal tally by winning a silver more.
- Both India and China had the same medal haul.
- The USA won the gold in the Women’s Skeet Team competition on the final day (12 October).
- ISSF World Championship Shotgun took place in Osijek, Croatia
- ISSF world championship now moves to Cairo, Egypt for the Rifle and Pistol leg.

About ISSF:

- International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) is headquartered in Munich, Germany.
- It is the governing body of the Olympic shooting events in rifle, pistol, and shotgun disciplines.

Jyothi Yarraji becomes the first Indian woman to run under 13 seconds in the hurdles:

- Jyothi Yarraji, an Indian sprinter, made history by becoming the first Indian woman to run a sub-13s time to win the gold medal at the Nation Games 2022.
- Jyothi Yarraji of Andhra Pradesh set a new national record by winning the final in 12.79 seconds.
- Jyothi Yarraji had earlier won the women’s 100m gold, beating out sprinters like Dutee Chand and Hima Das.
- The National Open Athletics Championships 2022 are the season’s last senior domestic tournament, held at Bangalore’s Kanteerava Stadium.
- The five-day meet will include over 800 individuals from across the country competing in 47 medal events.

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- Race walking (men's and women's), pole vault, discus throw, long jump, shot put, heptathlon, hurdles, javelin throw, and other events are included.

Tazuni has been unveiled as the mascot for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup:

- **Tazuni**, a playful, football-obsessed penguin, has been named the **Official Mascot of the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia and New Zealand 2023**.
- Tazuni will become an essential symbol for the **FIFA Women's World Cup Australia and New Zealand**, appearing on official tournament goods and media channels, as well as in person at community events leading up to the event.
- In the run-up to the **FIFA Women's World Cup**, **Tazuni**, a 15-year-old midfielder whose tale involves her falling in love with football after playing with a group of kids on a beach, will be featured on merchandise, media platforms, and community events.
- **Tazuni** is a combination of the **Tasman Sea**, the habitat of penguins, and **Unity**, the primary value of the occasion.

Regarding the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup:

- I. The **FIFA Women's World Cup in 2023** will be the **ninth in the series**, and for the first time, **two countries will co-host the event**.
- II. The 64 games will be contested across 10 different venues in 9 different cities, with the tournament **being split between Australia and New Zealand (5 in Australia and four 4 in New Zealand)**.

Meltwater Champions Chess Tour 2022 is won by Magnus Carlsen:

- **Magnus Carlsen** won the **Meltwater Champions Chess Tour** title for 2022 after easily defeating **Arjun Erigaisi** in the quarterfinals of the **eighth and final event of the tour**.
- **Carlsen** earned the title of **tour champion** and an additional \$50,000 reward on top of his total earnings (to date) of \$192,000.
- In the first game of their quarterfinal match, the 31-year-old had to put in some effort as **Erigaisi** played some of his greatest chess against the champion to grab three pawns and set up what appeared to be an easy victory.
- In the **Aimchess quick semi-finals**, **Jan-Krzysztof Duda** will play against the **World Chess Champion** after **defeating Vidit Santosh Gujrathi** in the quarterfinals.

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- **Shakhriyar Mamedyarov and Richard Rapport** will face off in the second semi-final after they defeated **Nodirbek Abdusattorov and Gukesh D** (respectively).

Madhya Pradesh will host the 5th Khelo India Youth Games:

- The 5th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games will take place in **Madhya Pradesh** from **January 31st to February 11th, 2023**.
- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports **Shri Anurag Thakur** and **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** attended the ceremony.
- The upcoming Khelo India Youth Games will include indigenous games.
- **Madhya Pradesh has designated Mallakhamb** as its state sport to promote Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aim of supporting both Olympic and indigenous sports equally.
- **Shri Anurag Thakur**, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports stated that the fifth edition of the **Khelo India Youth Games will be hosted in Madhya Pradesh**.
- The **Khelo India Youth Games will take place in eight different locales**.
- The **KIYG 2023** is scheduled to attract about **8500** sportsmen and sportspeople.
- **Khelo India Youngsters Games** began in **2016** and has since offered an effective forum for India's youth to showcase their sporting talents.

Max Verstappen wins the action-packed US Grand Prix 2022:

- The **2022 Formula 1 Aramco United States Grand Prix 2022** was won by **Belgium's Max Verstappen** of **Red Bull Racing** at the **Circuit of the Americas** in **Austin, Texas, United States (US)**.
- With this triumph, he equaled **Germany's Sebastian Vettel** and **Michael Schumacher's** **Formula One season record of 13 victories**.
- He **overcame Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton** of the **United Kingdom**.
- Mercedes' wait for a 2022 victory continues as **Hamilton settles for second place, while Leclerc rescued a podium position for Ferrari** as the Italian team mathematically slipped out of contention for the constructors' trophy.
- **Sebastian Vettel** won 13 races with **Red Bull** in **2013**, whereas **Michael Schumacher** accomplished the milestone in **2004**.
- **Red Bull Racing** also won the **2022 Constructors Championship** as a result of this victory.
- The **2022 US Grand Prix** was the **19th round** of the **Formula One World Championship**.

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Air Force Lawn Tennis Championship was won by Western Air Command:

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) Western Air Command won the Air Force Lawn Tennis Championship 2022-23, which was held at Head Quarter MC, Vayu Sena Nagar, Nagpur.
- The final team Championship match was played between Western Air Command and Training Command, and Western Air Command won.
- Corporal Pradeep of Training Command and Sergeant Manolin of Western Air Command competed in the open singles final, and Corporal Pradeep won.
- **Air Marshal Vibhas Pande**, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, HQ MC, officially launched the Championship.
- The Championship included eight teams comprised of **48 players** from the Indian Air Force's **seven commands**.
- The Championship consisted of two events:
 - Team Championship and Open Singles.
 - The matches not only displayed players' talents and considerable potential but also sparked a lot of interest among the air fighters in picking up Lawn Tennis as a sport.

Bing Jiao has won the Women's singles title at the Denmark Open:

- China's He Bing Jiao & Shi Yu Qi have ended as CHAMPIONS in Denmark OPEN 2022.
- Bing Jiao won the Women's SINGLES Title.
- She defeated compatriot Chen Yufei in 3 sets to win the BWF title after a long gap.
- In the Men's Singles FINAL, Shi Yu Qi registered 3 set victory over Lee Zil Jia of Malaysia
- Meanwhile, the Indian challenge ended in the Quarterfinals of the Denmark Open 2022.
- **Lakshya Sen** bowed out after losing to Japan's Kodai Naraoka.

Aman Sehrawat becomes the first Indian wrestler to win a gold medal at U-23 World Wrestling

Championships in Spain:

- In wrestling, teenager **Aman Sehrawat** made history as he became the first Indian wrestler to win a gold medal at the U-23 World Wrestling Championships in Pontevedra, Spain.
- The 16-year-old Aman Sehrawat beat junior European silver-medallist Ahmet Duman of Turkey 12-4 in the final to win the gold.

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- Olympic medallists Bajrang Punia and Ravi Kumar Dahiya had made the final in their categories in previous editions but could only win the silver medal.
- Aman Sehrawat won gold at the U23 Asian championship and silver at the U20 Asian championship earlier this year.
- India finished with six medals - one gold, one silver, and four bronze at the U-23 World Wrestling Championships 2022.
- Sajjan Bhanwala became the first Greco-Roman wrestler from India to win a medal bronze at the U23 world wrestling championships before Vikas and Nitesh followed suit.

The BCCI decides to end discrimination and provide equal pay for male and female cricketers:

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) made a landmark decision when it established a "pay equity policy," stating that its centrally-contracted men's and women's players would get equal match fees.
- Jay Shah, the BCCI secretary, announced the momentous development on Twitter.
- As a result, the women's players will now receive Rs. 15 lakh for each Test match, Rs. 6 lakh for each ODI, and Rs. 3 lakh for each T20 International.
- They had been paid Rs 1 lakh for a white-ball match and Rs 4 lakh for a test match up to this point.
- Women's cricket players are still paid the same annual retainer - Rs. 50 lakh for Grade A, Rs. 30 lakh for Grade B, and Rs. 10 lakh for Grade C. Depending on their classification, men who participate in more games are paid between Rs 1 and Rs 7 crore.
- At an emergency meeting of the BCCI Apex Council, a decision was made.

IMPORTANT OBITUARIES NEWS

Former MP & 1st Chairperson of National Commission for Women Jayanti Patnaik passes away

- Four-time Congress Member of Parliament (MP) & first chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) and wife of late Odisha Chief Minister Janaki Ballav Pattnaik Jayanti Patnaik passed away at the age of 90 in Odisha.

About Jayanti Patnaik:

- Jayanti Patnaik was born in 1932 in Aska, Ganjam district of Odisha.

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- She was elected from **Cuttack** and **Berhampur Lok Sabha** constituencies in 1981, 1984, and 1998 & She was nominated to **Rajya Sabha** in 1996.
- She also held the post of **president** of the **All India Mahila Congress** from 1998 to 1990.
- She was the **first chairperson** of **NCW** from **February 3, 1992, to January 30, 1995, & second chairperson** of the **All India Mahila Congress**.
- She was also known for her literary skills having translated **KM Munshi's Krishnavatara** into **Odia**.

Suzlon Energy Founder and Chairman **Tulsi Tanti** passes away

- The **Founder Chairman** and **Managing Director (CMD)** of **Suzlon Energy Limited** and renowned expert on **renewable energy** **Tulsi R Tanti** Passed away at the age of 64.

About **Tulsi R Tanti**:

- Tanti was born on **February 2, 1958**, in **Rajkot** in **Gujarat**, India
- He was known as the **Wind man of India**.
- He started his career with his textile business, **Sulzer Synthetics P Ltd** in **Surat, Gujarat**.
- He was widely known as the visionary who pioneered the renewables revolution in India.
- He spearheaded the **wind energy revolution** in India with the founding of **Suzlon Energy** in **1995**.
- He was the **chairman** of the **Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association**.
- He was also a **member** of the **Board of Management** of **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) University, New Delhi, Delhi, India**.
- He also served as the **chairman** of the **Renewable Energy Council** of the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** to provide direction to India's green energy strategies.

About **Suzlon Energy Ltd**:

- **Founded:** 1995
- **Headquarters:** Pune, Maharashtra, India
- **CEO:** Ashwani Kumar

Veteran actor Arun Bali passes away

- The **veteran actor** who predominantly worked in the **Hindi film** and television industry for over **three decades**, **Arun Bali** passed away in **Mumbai, Maharashtra** at the age of 79.

About **Arun Bali**:

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- Arun Bali was born on 23 December 1942, in **Lahore, Punjab**
- He was an Indian actor who worked in numerous films and television series.
- He played the part of King Porus in the **1991 period drama Chanakya**.
- He gradually became popular for his '**grandfatherly**' roles such as the one of Harshvardhan Wadhwa in the **popular Hindi daily soap Kumkum**.
- He is popularly known for his roles in **3 Idiots, Manmarziyaan, Kedarnath, Panipat, Samrat Prithviraj, Laal Singh Chaddha (2022)**, etc.
- Arun Bali is also a **National Award-winning producer**.

Padma Shri awardee & popular 'Villupattu' exponent Subbu Arumugam passes away

- **Popular 'Villupattu' exponent Subbu Arumugam**, who enthralled audiences for about **four decades**, passed away at the age of 94 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

About Subbu Arumugam:

- Arumugam was born on 12 July 1928 in Chathiram Puthukulam village of **Tirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu, India**.
- He was an **Indian musician, writer, and Villupattu theater art exponent**.
- He published **15 books** containing Villu Pattu narratives, songs, short stories, and novels such as **Veera Pandia Kattabomman**.

Awards & Honors:

- In **2021**, he was awarded **India's fourth-highest civilian award**, the **Padma Shri in the Arts and Literature category**.
- He was awarded the **Kalaimamani title in 1975** by the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram for excellence in the field of art and literature.
- He was honored with the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** for his contribution to the practice of Villu Paatu.

Additional Info:

- Villupattu is an **ancient form of musical story-telling** and the narration is interspersed with music.

Former UP CM and Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav passes away

- **Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) and Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav** passed away at the age of 82 in Gurugram, Haryana.

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About Mulayam Singh Yadav:

- Mulayam Singh Yadav was born on 22 November 1939 in **Uttar Pradesh**, India.
- He was an **Indian politician** and the **founder-patron** of the **Samajwadi Party**.
- He was often referred to as **Netaji** (meaning **respected leader** in Hindi) by party leaders and workers.
- He is one of the most prominent leaders of Uttar Pradesh, served as the **chief minister** of the state **thrice** (1989-91, 1993-95, 2003-07), and also as **India's defense minister**.
- He was elected **10 times** as a **member of the assembly** and 7 times as a Lok Sabha member.
- He was the **Member of Parliament (MP)**, representing the Mainpuri constituency in the Lok Sabha at the time of his death in 2022, and earlier represented **Azamgarh** and **Sambhal**.

Renowned Writer Dr. Temsula Ao Passes Away

- **Former chairperson** of Nagaland State Commission for Women, **academician**, **renowned writer**, and **Padma Shri Dr. Temsula Ao** passed away in Dimapur, Nagaland at the age of 80.

About Dr. Temsula Ao:

- Dr. Temsula Ao was born on 25 October 1945 in Jorhat, **Assam**, India.
- She was a **Naga poet**, **fiction writer**, and **ethnographer** from India.
- She served as the **Director of the North East Zone Cultural Centre** between 1992 and 1997 on deputation from **North Eastern Hill University (NEHU)**.
- She was a **Professor** of English at NEHU where she retired in 2010.
- Her literary works are reported to have been translated into German and French as well as Hindi, Assamese, and Bengali.

Awards & Honors:

- In 2007, she was awarded the **Padma Shri award** for her contribution to Literature and Education.
- In 2009, she received the **Meghalaya governor's, Gold Medal**.
- In 2013, her book **Laburnum For My Head** received the **Sahitya Akademi Award** for English writing in the short story category.
- She was a recipient of the **Nagaland Governor's Award for Distinction in Literature**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

Harry Potter actor Robbie Coltrane Passes away

- **Scottish actor and comedian Robbie Coltrane**, best known for playing the **lovable half-giant Rubeus Hagrid** in the **Harry Potter** movies, has **Passed away** at the age of 72.

About Robbie Coltrane:

- Coltrane was born on 30 March 1950 in Rutherglen, Scotland.
- He was appointed an OBE in the 2006 New Year Honors by Queen Elizabeth II for his services to drama.
- He gained worldwide recognition as **Rubeus Hagrid** in the **Harry Potter** film series (2001–2011), and as **Valentin Dmitrovich Zukovsky** in the **James Bond** films **GoldenEye** (1995) and **The World Is Not Enough** (1999).
- He gained fame for playing a crime-solving psychologist on the popular TV series **Cracker**.

Awards & Honors:

- In 1990, Coltrane received the **Evening Standard British Film Award – Peter Sellers Award for Comedy**.
- He was awarded the **OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire)** in the **2006 New Year Honors** for his services to drama.
- In 2011, he was honored for his "**outstanding contribution**" to film at the **British Academy Scotland Awards**.
- In 2017, he received the **Royal Television Society Award for Best Actor - Male** & he received **Monte-Carlo Television Festival for Long Fiction Program, Broadcasting Press Guild Award for Best Actor**.

Father of ORS, Dr Dilip Mahalanabis passes away

- **Renowned physician, Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis**, who is also known as the **father of oral rehydration therapy (ORT)**, passed away at 87 in Kolkata.
- He saved millions of lives with his **Oral Rehydration Solution**, popularly known as ORS.
- ORT was later known as ORS globally with the publication of his work in **Johns Hopkins Medical Journal** and **Lancet**.

About Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis:

- Dilip Mahalanabis was born on 12 November 1934 in **Kolkata**.

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- He was an **Indian pediatrician** known for his contribution to **oral rehydration therapy** to treat **diarrheal diseases**.
- Mahalanabis became the **first Indian** to be selected as **registrar** of the **Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children** in London.
- He also served as the **Director of Clinical Research** at the **International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research (ICDDR, B)**, Bangladesh.
- In 1994, Mahalanabis was elected a **foreign member** of the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.

Awards & Honors:

- In 2002, Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis and Dr. Nathaniel F Pierce were jointly awarded the **Pollin Prize** by **Columbia University** for their contributions to the **discovery and implementation** of oral rehydration therapy
- In 2006 Dr. Mahalanabis, Dr. Richard A. Cash, and Dr. David Nalin were awarded the **Prince Mahidol Prize**, also for their role in the development and application of oral rehydration therapy.

About Oral rehydration therapy:

- **ORT** is a **type of fluid replacement** used to **prevent and treat dehydration**, especially due to diarrhea.

Karnataka Assembly Deputy Speaker Anand Mamani passes away

- **Karnataka Assembly Deputy Speaker** and **three-time Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member** of the **Legislative Assembly (MLA)**, **Anand Mamani**, passed away at the age of 56.

About Anand Mamani:

- He was the **son of Chandrashekhar M Mamani**, who also served as the **deputy speaker** in the **1990s**.
- He was the **three-time MLA**, who represented **Saudatti legislative assembly constituency** in **Karnataka**.
- In **2020**, he was unanimously elected as the **deputy speaker** of the **Karnataka legislative assembly**.

National Film Award Recipient Bengali Film Director Pinaki Chaudhuri Passes away

- **National award recipient director** of **Bengali films**, **Pinaki Chaudhuri**, has passed away at the age of 82 in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.

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About Pinaki Chaudhuri:

- Pinaki Chaudhuri was an **Indian academic** and **film director**.
- He had varied interests in arts and music and made his foray into the world of films in **1983** when he directed 'Chena Achena' (Known and Unknown).
- He was the **Chairman of the Jury Board** for the selection of Indian films for the **National Awards**

His notable films:

- 'Kakababu Here Gelen?' (Kakababu defeated?)
- 'Ek Tukro Chand' (A slice of the moon)
- 'Arohan' (Ascension).

Awards & Honors:

- He was awarded **2 National Awards** for the **Best Feature Film in Bengali**, the first one in **1996** for 'Shanghaath' (Conflict) and again in **2007** for **Ballygunge Court**.

Red Bull Formula 1 owner Dietrich Mateschitz Passes away

- The **co-founder** of the energy drink company **Red Bull** and **founder and owner** of the **Red Bull Formula One racing team**, **Dietrich Mateschitz**, has passed away at the age of **78**.

About Dietrich Mateschitz:

- Mateschitz was born on **20 May 1944**, in **Styria, Nazi Germany** (now in **Austria**).
- He was an **Austrian billionaire businessman**.
- He was **co-founder** of the **Wings for Life foundation** which supports spinal cord research together with **Heinz Kinigadner**.
- He has also initiated the **World Stunt Awards**, an annual fundraiser to benefit his **Taurus Foundation**.
- He founded **Red Bull GmbH** in **1984** and launched it in **Austria** in **1987**.

Versatile Emmy-winning Actor Leslie Jordan Passes away

- **Veteran actor**, **Leslie Allen Jordan** has passed away at the age of **67**.

About Leslie Allen Jordan:

- Leslie Jordan was an **American actor, comedian, writer, and singer**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – October 2022

- His television roles included **Lonnie Garr** on **Hearts Afire** (1993–1995), and **Beverley Leslie** on **Will & Grace** (2001–2006, 2017–2020).
- He played various roles in the “**American Horror Story**” series.
- In April 2021, he published his autobiography, **How is Y'all Doing? Misadventures and Mischief from a Life Well Lived**.

Awards & Honors:

- He won the **Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Comedy Series**, **Will & Grace**, in 2006.

French painter Pierre Soulages Passes away

- The **French painter** who came to fame with his works reflecting on the shades and forms of black, **Pierre Soulages** passed away at the age of 102.

About Pierre Soulages:

- Soulages was born in **1919** in **Rodez, Aveyron**.
- He was a **French painter, printmaker, and sculptor**.
- He is known as "**the painter of black**," owing to his interest in the color "both as a color and a non-color."
- He was known for his "**beyond black**" works that took the monochromatic painting to the next level.
- In **1955**, he took part in the **first documenta art fair** in the **central German city of Kassel**.
- In **2014**, **François Hollande** described him as **the world's greatest living artist**
- In **December 2019**, he was honored by the **Louvre in Paris** with a solo exhibition.
- He was **only the third artist** to have a solo show at the museum during his lifetime, joining **Marc Chagall** and **Pablo Picasso**.

Popular Assamese actor Nipon Goswami passed away

- **Veteran Assamese actor, Nipon Goswami** passed away at the age of 80.

About Nipon Goswami:

- Goswami was born on **3 September 1942** at **Kolibari in Tezpur, Assam**.
- His father **Chandradhar Goswami** was also a **famous actor** and his mother **Nirupama Goswami** a **singer**.
- He was an **alumnus** of the **Film and Television Institute of India, Pune**.

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- He made his acting debut as a child actor in the Assamese film 'Piyoli Phukan'.
- He started his film career as the lead actor in the Assamese movie **Sangra**.
- He debuted in the Assamese cinema as a **child artist** in **1957**.
- His last Assamese film was '**Lankakanda**', directed by **Rajani Barman**.

The world's dirtiest man Amou Haji Passes away

- An **Iranian loner**, also popular as the "**dirtiest man in the world**" for not taking a shower for more than half a century, **Amou Haji passed away** at the age of 94 in Iran.

About Amou Haji:

- He was known to his community as **Amou Haji** or **Uncle Haji**, an Iranian term of endearment for an older person.
- He was **afraid of water** and had **not bathed** for over **60 years**.
- Owing to his unique record, a short documentary titled '**The Strange Life of Amou Haji**' was made in **2013**, describing his life.
- Following Haji's death, the unofficial title of "**world's dirtiest man**" would go to a **67-year-old Indian man** from **western Maharashtra state** who also had not bathed for **more than 30 years**.