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Maru Mahotsav: A Desert Festival Begins in Rajasthan



The renowned Jaisalmer Desert Festival, also known as Maru Mahotsav of Jaisalmer (The Golden City of India), is being held from 13th to 16th February 2022 at Pokaran village in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

- ♦ Rajasthan Minority Affairs Minister, Shale Mohammad flagged off the event organised near Salamsagar pond in Jaisalmer.
- ♦ The festival is celebrated amidst the beautiful dunes of the Thar Desert in the Sam dunes (42 kilometers from Jaisalmer).

Highlights :

It is a four day long annual event started with a colorful grand procession followed by Miss Pokaran and Mister Pokran competitions.

- ♦ It is held in the Hindu month of Magh (February), three days prior to the full moon.

- ♦ The festival is organized by the Tourism department of Rajasthan and celebrated with regional folk dance, music, heritage and various cultural festivities in the state.

GOI Approves Rs 26,275 Crore for Continuation of Modernization of Police Forces Scheme

The Government of India (GoI) has approved for continuation of the Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF) scheme for 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with the financial outlay of Rs 26,275 crores. This initiative by the Ministry of Home Affairs is to modernise and improve the functioning of Police Forces of States and Union Territories by introducing sub-schemes.

Objective :

- ♦ To maintain internal security, law and order.
- ♦ Assisting narcotics control and strengthening the criminal justice system.

Features:

- ♦ Implementation of "National Policy and Action Plan" for combating Maoists or LWE, has reduced the violence.
- ♦ An outlay of Rs 8,689 crores have been approved for six LWE schemes.
- ♦ Which includes Special Central Assistance (SCA) to most LWE-affected districts and districts of concern.

MoPSW Sanctions Rs 24.53 Crores for dredging Gomati River to Boost Indo-Bangla Waterway Project

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has sanctioned Rs 24.53 crore for dredging Gomati, a transboundary river between India and Bangladesh, and setting up 10 jetties for a waterway project to Boost Indo-Bangla Waterway Project.

- ◆ 10 floating jetties will be constructed from Udaipur in Gomati district, Tripura to Sonamura, Tripura.
- ◆ Out of 93-kilometres (km) proposed waterway from Sonamura in Tripura's Sepahijala district to Daudkandi in Bangladesh, around 15.5-km stretch requires dredging.
- ◆ Inland Waterways Authority of India will help the local administration for the strategic project.

Highlights :

Out of 15.5 km of river, only 1.5 km stretch is in India and the other 14- km is in Bangladesh

- ◆ A permanent jetty would come up near Srimantapur Land Customs Station in Sonamura, Tripura with an estimated cost of Rs 5.04 crore.
- ◆ The MoPSW, India has set a goal to bring vessels with a carrying capacity of \$200-\$ 300 tonnes from Daudkandi to Sonamura by the end of May 2022 .
- ◆ A trial run on the waterway from Bangladesh to Tripura was carried out in September 2020

About Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) :

- ◆ Union Minister - Sarbananda sonowal (Constituency-Assam(Rajya Sabha))
- ◆ Minister of State - Shripad Naik(Constituency - North Goa, Goa); Shantanu Thakur (Constituency - Bangaon, West Bengal)

ISRO Successfully Launches EOS-04 with 2 Co-Passenger Satellite on PSLV- C52



On 14th February 2022 Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISROs) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C52) successfully injected Earth Observation Satellite (EOS04), with 2 rideshare satellites viz, INSPIRESat-1 & INS-2TD into sun-synchronous polar orbit of 529 km altitude from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota Range (SHAR), Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- ◆ This was the 80th launch vehicle mission from SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota, 54th flight of PSLV and the 23rd flight of PSLV in \$X L\$ configuration (6 strap-on motors).
- ◆ The two other satellites will be a student satellite (INSPIRESat-1) and ISRO's Boulder and a technology demonstrator satellite (INS-2TD), which is a precursor to India-Bhutan Joint Satellite (INS-2B).

NSDC signs MoU with CSC for Delivery of Services to boost Skill Development in Rural Areas

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Common Service Centres (CSC) for the delivery of services related to various skill development programmes for the youths in remote and rural areas across India.

Key Points :

- ◆ The CSCs at the village level will act as a skill desk and they help in creating awareness about the various available skill development programmes.
- ◆ With the support of CSCs, the NSDC will identify skill seekers at the grass root level in rural areas and connect them with the right skilling opportunities.
- ◆ The village-level entrepreneurs (VLEs) will manage the CSCs to identify the candidates, help them in registration, and link them with training providers.

About National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) :

- ◆ NSDC is a unique public-private partnership (PPP) and works under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- ◆ Established- 31 July 2008
- ◆ Chairman- A M Naik

MoTA sanctions Rs 2.26 cr for festival of Medaram Jathara 2022 in Telangana

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has sanctioned Rs 2.26 crore for various activities related to the tribal festival of Medaram Jathara 2022, the second-largest fair of India, after the Kumbh Mela.

- ◆ It is celebrated by the second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana, the Koya tribe for four days.
- ◆ For 2022, it is being celebrated from February 16-19.

Objective :

- ◆ The festival aims to generate awareness and a harmonious bond between the visitors and the Tribal communities of Telangana.

Key Points :

- ◆ The Medaram Jathara is celebrated biennially (once in two years) in the month of February in honour of the Goddesses Sammakka and Saralamma, mother and daughter duo. The Jathara begins at Medaram (a remote place in the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary) in Tadvai Mandal in Mulugu District, Telangana.
- ◆ It commemorates the valiant fight of these Goddesses against the then Kakatiya dynasty rulers protesting exaction of land tribute even at the time of severe drought.
- ◆ It was declared as State Festival during 1998
- ◆ It should be noted that the tribal culture and heritage will be the cynosure for 2022, under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ◆ Further, the Ministry also sanctioned Rs 7.00 {Cr} in 2019-20 and Rs 5.00 {Cr} in 2021-22, under Article 271(1) for establishing infrastructure like multi-purpose buildings and surroundings of Medaram for utilising those as community shelters during the Jathara period and as agriculture godowns in other seasons by local Tribals.

Central Govt constituted Ken-Betwa link Project Authority and 20-member Steering Committee

The Central Government has constituted a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) i.e. KenBetwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA) for the implementation of the Ken-Betwa interlinking of rivers (ILRs) project. It also formed a 20-member National Steering Committee (SC) which will monitor the implementation.

- ◆ The SPV will be headed by a CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of additional secretary rank.
- ◆ On the other hand, the committee will be chaired by the Secretary (Currently Pankaj Kumar), Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Static Points about Rives Betwa and Ken:

- ◆ The river Betwa or Betravati which is also called river Vetrawati in Sanskrit one of the major river basins of Madhya Pradesh (MP). It is a tributary of the Yamuna. It rises in the Vindhya Range just north of Hoshangabad in MP and flows north-east through MP and Orchha to UP.
- ◆ Ken River is one of the major rivers in the Bundelkhand region of central India. It is also a tributary of the Yamuna. The river originates near the Village Ahirgawan in Jabalpur District of MP and joins the Yamuna River, near Chilla Village in UP.

Renault India partners CSC e-Governance Services to support PM Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan

Automaker Renault India has joined hands with CSC e-Governance Services (Common Service Centres) to support the Pradhan Mantri

Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA), a programme aimed at providing digital literacy.

Aim behind this partnership :

- ◆ To digitally empower citizens in rural areas by training them to operate computers, laptops, browse the internet, access government websites, banking service and undertake digital payments.
- ◆ The aim of the program is to empower rural citizens in the age group of 14 to 60 years.

Key Points :

- ◆ As a part of partnership, the company has handed over five cars to CSC eGovernance Services which will act as 'Knowledge Repository on Wheels' to upskill people in rural and semi-urban areas across India and help them develop financial and digital skills through information and knowledge.
- ◆ Through these cars, the VLEs (village-level entrepreneurs) will also spread awareness on the COVID-19 appropriate behaviour and protocols.
- ◆ It should be noted that CSC has a mandate of training 6 crore rural citizens in digital skills under the PMGDISHA.
- ◆ In 2021, Renault had partnered with CSC Grameen eStore, a subsidiary of CSC eGovernance Services India Ltd (CSC-SPV) to strengthen its rural presence.

India Blocks 54 Chinese Mobile Apps Over Security Threat, Privacy Risks

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued interim directions to ban 54 mobile applications of Chinese origin. The ban was recommended by the Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA), as these apps

pose a threat to India's security. The 54 apps allegedly obtain various critical permissions and collect sensitive user data.

- ◆ The banned apps include Garena Free Fire; Beauty Camera: Sweet Selfie HD; Rise of Kingdoms: Lost Crusade; Viva Video Editor; Tencent Xriver among others.
- ◆ Garena Free Fire is a Singapore-based app and the developer is not from China.
- ◆ MeitY had banned the apps under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000 which empowers to issue directions for blocking for public access of any information through any computer resource.
- ◆ India has banned a total of 321 Chinese apps since May-June 2020

India Sign MoU with WFP to Provide Wheat to Afghanistan via Pakistan

India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations (UN)'s World Food Programme (WFP) for the distribution of 50,000 MT of Wheat to Afghanistan as part of a humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan through the land bordered with Pakistan.

The shipments, eventually divided into 5 batches of 10,000 MT, will be taken to Afghanistan and handed over to WFP officials in Kandahar, Afghanistan, starting from February 22(after Punjab Elections - February 20).

- ◆ The agreement between India and WFP was announced by the Indian Embassy in Rome.
- ◆ Neena Malhotra, Ambassador of India to Italy, handed over the MoU for WFP to take charge of the wheat convoys when they reach Afghanistan.

World Sustainable Development Summit 2022: PM Modi to deliver inaugural address on February 16

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the inaugural address at The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit on February 16, 2022 through video conferencing.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to deliver the address at around 6 PM. The three-day summit will begin on February 16th and conclude on February 18th and will see participation from several heads of state, heads of various intergovernmental organisations, Ministers from over dozen countries and delegates from more than 120 countries.

February 19: Birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj



The birth anniversary of the great Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is being celebrated. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's birthday is celebrated on a grand scale on 19th February in Maharashtra. Shivaji was born on February 19, 1630 at Shivneri Fort, to Jijabai and Shahji Bhonsle. Shivaji was a great leader and builder of the Maratha nation. He established the Hindu kingdom in the Deccan against all odds, fighting against the mighty Mughals. He inspired the public mind about the atrocities of the Mughal ruler Aurangzeb.

'DefExpo-2022'

Asia's largest defense exhibition- 'DefExpo-2022' will be organized in Gandhinagar (Gujarat) from March 10-13. So far, over 900 defense firms and 55 countries have confirmed their participation in the event. The focus of India's premier defense exhibition is to project the country as an emerging defense manufacturing hub. Of the 900 participants participating in this biennial event, more than 100 are foreigners. The 1,000-drone display will be the highlight of the exhibition.

Significantly, this biennial event as 'DefExpo' was traditionally started in the year 2014 in Delhi, after which it has been organized in many new places- Goa (2016), Chennai (2018) and Lucknow (2020).

The government has taken several important measures in the last few years to promote self-reliance in the defense sector, including promoting foreign direct investment in defense manufacturing, creating a separate budget for the purchase of locally manufactured military hardware and such defense weapons/ make a list of equipment

Nepal first country to adopt UPI

Nepal will be the first country in the world to adopt India's UPI system, which will play an important role in digitizing Nepal's economy. Recently 'NPCI International Payments Limited' (NIPL), the international arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has tied up with 'Gateway Payments Service' (GPS) and Manam Infotech to provide UPI services in Nepal.

- ◆ 'Gateway Payments Service' is the authorized payment system operator in Nepal And Manam Infotech will deploy Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Nepal.

- ◆ UPI is a system that enables multiple banking facilities, seamless fund routing and merchant payments to multiple bank accounts through a single mobile application (of the participating bank). In the year 2016, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched UPI with 21 member banks.

Central Government notifies Green Hydrogen and Ammonia Policy

Recently, the central government has notified the Green Hydrogen and Ammonia Policy, in which ammonia manufacturers have been offered to buy renewable energy from electricity exchanges. The policy allows free access to power plants to purchase power within 15 days. It also allows ammonia manufacturers to preserve their unused renewable energy for up to 30 days.

The aim of this policy is to help the government to achieve its climate goals.

The government has said in this notification that hydrogen and ammonia are envisaged as fuels of the future, which will replace fossil fuels. Significantly, the production of these fuels using renewable energy, called green hydrogen and green ammonia, is one of the key requirements of the nation's environmentally sustainable energy security. This policy is an important step towards creating a conducive regulatory and enabling environment for the green hydrogen and ammonia sector.

Asia's largest Bio-CNG plant to be inaugurated in Indore

Asia's largest Bio-CNG plant will be virtually inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Indore.

Bio-CNG plant will be operated with 100% wet waste. It is estimated to produce 18,000 kg of gas

per day. According to the estimates of Indore Municipal Corporation, this Bio-CNG will help in running about 400 buses daily in the city. The total capacity of this Bio-CNG plant is 550 MT.

Counseling 2022: India's largest career counselling workshop launched

Minister of State for Culture and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal launched 'Paramarsh 2022' career counseling workshop for school children in Bikaner district area. One lakh student from more than one thousand schools of Bikaner district participated in this workshop, mostly from rural areas.

The workshop was organized by the National Institute of Career Services (NICS) of the Ministry of Labor and Employment.

Announcement of new biotechnology policy for next 5 years in Gujarat

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has announced a new Biotechnology Policy for the year 2022-27. The objective of this policy is to realize Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a self-reliant India. Policy projects and large and large projects are eligible for special package under this policy. This will lead to new investment through major units and existing industries and new employment opportunities will be created in the state.

Government Approves Continuation of RUSA Scheme till 31st March 2026

The Government has approved the continuation of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) scheme till 31st March 2026 with an expenditure of 12,929.16 crore rupees. The new phase of the scheme would support around 1,600 projects.

- ◆ Out of Rs 12,929.16 crores of expenditure, the centre will share Rs 8,120.97 crore and the state will share Rs 4,808.19 crore.

Highlights :

- ◆ The new phase of the scheme has been designed to implement some of the recommendations of the New Education Policy (NEP).
- ◆ Under the new phase of the scheme, State Governments will support Gender inclusion, Equity Initiatives, Enhances employability through vocationalisation and skill upgradation.

About Ministry of Education (MoE) :

- ◆ Union Minister - Dharmendra Pradhan (Rajya Sabha Madhya Pradesh)
- ◆ Minister of State - Annpurna Devi (Kodarma, Jharkhand) ; Dr. Subhas Sarkar (Bankura, West Bengal); Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh (Inner Manipur, Manipur)

TransUnion CIBIL Partners with FICCI to Launch Nationwide MSME Consumer Education Program

TransUnion CIBIL Limited (TransUnion CIBIL), formerly known as Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited (CIBIL), partnered with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) to launch a nationwide Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) consumer education program to support MSME's across India to get awareness about credit management, CIBIL Rank and commercial credit information.

MSME Consumer Education Program:

- ◆ The objective of the programme is to empower MSME's with knowledge on how to

build a good credit history and CIBIL Rank to avail easier and faster access to finance.

- ◆ The program will kick off with MSME clusters in Maharashtra, Assam, and Tripura and aims to reach thousands of MSMEs across key clusters in India.

Additional info :

TransUnion CIBIL offers MSME lenders solutions like CIBIL Rank and commercial credit reports for astute lending.

- ◆ CIBIL Rank assigns a rank to the MSME based on its credit history data on a scale of 1-10.
- ◆ It also publishes insight reports like the MSME Pulse in association with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) analysis report to support policymakers and the industry with market insights on the MSME sector.

What is the CIBIL score?

- ◆ CIBIL score introduced in 2007 was India's 1st generic risk scoring model for banks and financial institutions.
- ◆ A CIBIL score is a three-digit number between 300-900 being the lowest, that represents an individual's credit-worthiness. A higher CIBIL score suggests good credit history and responsible repayment behaviour.

About TransUnion CIBIL Limited:

- ◆ TransUnion CIBIL maintains one of the largest collections of consumer credit information globally.
- ◆ MD & CEO- Rajesh Kumar
- ◆ Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

Govt Enters Its 7th Year of Implementing PMFBY & To Launch 'Meri Policy Mere Hath'-Doorstep Distribution Drive

The government has successfully entered into the 7th year of implementing Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), since its launch on 18 th February 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Sehore, Madhya Pradesh (MP). PMFBY will launch 'Meri Policy Mere Hath' drive.

Launch of 'Meri Policy Mere Hath':

- ◆ The scheme will be launching a doorstep distribution drive, 'Meri Policy Mere Hath' to deliver crop insurance policies to the farmers in all implementing States in the upcoming Kharif season.
- ◆ The doorstep distribution drive aims to ensure all farmers are well aware and equipped with all information on their policies, land records, the process of claim and grievance redressal under PMFBY.

21st Edition of TERI's World Sustainable Development Summit 2022 held Virtually

The 21st Edition of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2022, held virtually from 16 th to 18 th February 2022.

- ◆ The theme of the event: 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'.

Key Points :

- ◆ Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has delivered the inaugural address at the summit virtually. Environment ministers from nearly a dozen countries took part in the event which had delegates from 131 countries.

- ◆ Vedanta has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TERI at the WSDS 2022 to 'Sustainable Use of Resources for a Resilient Planet through Transformative Actions' and improve its environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals.
- ◆ Vedanta plans to invest around Rs 200 crore over the next five to 10 years on R&D (Research and Development) and sustainability initiatives to promote and build a sustainable ecosystem.

PM Modi Virtually Inaugurates 'Kisan Drone Yatra': Flagged off 100 'Kisan Drones' To Spray Pesticides in Farms

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Kisan Drone Yatra', an initiative by Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd and flagged off 100 'Kisan Drones' in various cities and towns across India to spray pesticides in farms across the states of India. This is a special initiative aimed to support the farmers across India.

- ◆ The 100 Kisan Drones were set off in 100 villages in 16 states across India which includes Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Goa.
- ◆ The farmers can use the high capacity Kisan drones to transport their produce such as fruits, vegetables and flowers to markets in a minimal time and boost their income.

G Kishan Reddy Inaugurates 1st Global Summit on 'Reimagining Museums In India' in Hyderabad

The Minister for Culture, Minister of Tourism and Minister of Development of the North-Eastern Region, G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the first of its kind, a 2 - Day Global Summit held

virtually on 15th-16th February 2022 in Hyderabad, Telangana about 'Reimagining Museums in India'.

About the summit:

- ◆ The summit has been organised under the aegis of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', the flagship program on preserving, protecting, and perpetuating our cultural heritage to mark the 75th anniversary of India's independence.
- ◆ Four themes of the online summit - Architecture and Functional Needs;
- ◆ Management; Collections (including Curation & Conservation practises); and, Education and Audience Engagement.

India's PM Narendra Modi & UAE's Crown Prince H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan Hold India-UAE Virtual Summit 2022; India-UAE CEPA Signed



On February 18, 2022, India's Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi & United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s Crown Prince H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan Hold India-UAE Virtual Summit 2022. Historic India-UAE CEPA Signed during the summit.

- ◆ The PM and the Crown Prince issued a Joint Vision Statement 'Advancing India and UAE

Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: New Frontiers, New Milestone'.

Historic India-UAE CEPA Signed :

- ◆ India-UAE CEPA: India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed and exchanged during the virtual summit by India's Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Minister of Economy of UAE, H.E. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri.
- ◆ The India-UAE CEPA is the 1st bilateral trade accord concluded by the UAE, and it is also India's 1st bilateral trade agreement in the MENA (Middle East/North Africa) region.

MoHFW's MoS Bharati Pravin Pawar Launched India's & South Asia's 1st BSL3 Containment Mobile Laboratory in Nashik, Maharashtra

Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare(MoHFW), inaugurated India's and South Asia's first Biosafety level-3 (BSL-3) containment mobile laboratory in Nashik, Maharashtra. The mobile laboratory, which can commute to various locations, will provide a public health solution.

- ◆ This is a part of the Government of India (GoI)'s efforts to strengthen healthcare infrastructure through the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission(PM-ABHIM).

Purpose :

- ◆ To investigate the newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections that are extremely infectious and have a high potential to kill human beings.

About the Mobile Laboratory:

- ◆ The mobile laboratory was designed and built by the Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR) in collaboration with Klenzaid, Mumbai based manufacturer of Aseptic, Bioclean and Containment (bio-safety) equipment.
- ◆ The laboratory was built at a cost of Rs 25 crores.

Features:

- ◆ The mobile laboratory is an airtight, access-controlled, bio-decontaminable, fitted with safe change HEPA (High-Efficiency Particulate Absorbing) filtration and biological liquid waste decontamination system.
- ◆ The lab has every system and equipment required for full standalone operation. iii.It is controlled through an intelligent control automation system. The system maintains the working environment under negative air pressure, maintains equipment parameters and records all necessary data.

Benefits:

- ◆ The lab will be able to access remote and forested areas of India, where specially trained scientists from the Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR) can investigate outbreaks using samples from humans and animal sources.
- ◆ This will ensure timely and on-site diagnosis with a rapid turnaround time for reporting these outbreaks.

New Bent-Toed Gecko Species Discovered In Meghalaya, Named After Valour Of Indian Army



On 18 February 2022, A team of herpetologists recorded a new species of bent-toed gecko from a Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya. Its scientific name is *Cyrtodactylus Exercitus* (in Latin 'exercitus' means army) and its English name is 'Indian Army's bent-toed gecko'. The finding of the study was published in the European Journal of Taxonomy.

- ◆ The species is named to honour the valour of the Indian Army and was discovered as part of the research team's efforts to uncover herpetofaunal diversity of North East India.

Note :

- ◆ Herpetology- it is a branch of zoology that deals with the study of amphibians and reptiles.

Key Points :

- ◆ The genus *Cyrtodactylus* is represented by about 320 species worldwide and is the third most speciose vertebrate genus in the world.
- ◆ India is now home to 40 species of the bent-toed gecko with the northeast accounting for 16 of them.

- ◆ The research paper also mentioned a new bent-toed gecko, the *Cyrtodactylus siahaensis* named after Mizoram's Siaha district where it was found.
- ◆ The research team is comprised of Jayaditya Purkayastha, Sanath Chandra Bohra, Yashpal Singh Rathee, Hmar Tlawmte Lalremsanga, Vabeiryureilai Mathipi, Lal Biakzuala, Lal Muansanga and Beirathie Litho.

Additional information :

- ◆ In 2021, a team of researchers from Mizoram University also discovered a new species of *Cyrtodactylus* belonging to the family of *Cyrtodactylus khasiensis* from Lunglei, Mizoram and named *Cyrtodactylus lungleiensis*,

MP Governor Mangubhai Patel Inaugurates 48th Khajuraho Dance Festival

On 20th February 2022, Madhya Pradesh (MP) Governor Mangubhai Patel Inaugurated the Week long 48th Khajuraho Dance Festival in Khajuraho, located in Chhatarpur district, MP. The 48th edition of Khajuraho Dance Festival will be held from 20th to 26th February 2022.

- ◆ The Khajuraho Dance Festival is organised annually by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Culture Department through Ustad Alauddin Khan Sangeet and Kala Academy, Madhya Pradesh Sanskriti Parishad, Bhopal

About Khajuraho Dance Festival :

- ◆ The Khajuraho dance festival is one of the most celebrated festivals across India, which showcases various dance forms of India with the gathering of renowned dance artists from India and abroad.

- ◆ The festival will also be presenting artists with the 'National Kalidas Award' for dance for the years 2019-20 and 2020-21 and the 'MP State Rupankar Kala Award' at this ceremony.
- ◆ On the first day, disciples of the late 'Pandit Birju Maharaj' will perform which will be the centre of attraction.

DPIFF Awards 2022: Ranveer Singh, Kriti Sanon, Asha Parekh Received the Awards

On February 20, 2022, the winners of the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) Awards 2022, India's only independent international film festival, were declared in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The award was presented by Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) in memory of Dadasaheb Phalke 'Father of Indian Cinema'.

- ◆ Bollywood stars Ranveer Singh and Kriti Sanon received awards in the Best Actor and Best Actress category for their performances in movies '83 and 'Mimi'.
- ◆ Allu Arjun's movie, 'Pushpa: The rise' received the film of the year award. Actress Asha Parekh was honoured with an award for her outstanding contribution to cinema.

Note :

- ◆ The movie '83' is based on Team India's 1983 World Cup victory led by Kapil Dev. 'Mimi', which is the Hindi remake of Samroutdhi Porey's 'Mala Aai Vhhaychy', the National award-winning 2011 Marathi film.
- ◆ DPIFF Awards 2022 recognizes the outstanding efforts by international as well as national personalities from cinema.

Assam Becomes First State to launch India's First Night Navigation App for ferry services

Chief Minister (CM) of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma launched India's first Night Navigation mobile application (app) for ferry services on the Brahmaputra river in Guwahati, Assam.

- ◆ It was developed by the State Transport Department in association with K Raju, the principal scientist of IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Madras.

Central Govt approved continuation of Umbrella scheme of BIM from 2021-22 to 2025-26

On February 21, 2022, the Central Government approved the continuation of the Central Sector Umbrella Scheme of 'Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM)' over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle from 2021-22 to 2025-26, at a cost of Rs 13,020 crore.

- ◆ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is responsible for the improvement of BIM.

Key Points :

- ◆ This continuation will strengthen the border infrastructure for improving border management, policing and guarding the borders.
- ◆ The BIM scheme will help in the creation of infrastructure such as construction of border fence, border flood lights, technological solutions, border roads and Border Outposts (BOPs)/Company Operating Bases (COBs) to secure the Indo-Pakistan, Indo-Bangladesh, Indo-China, Indo-Nepal, Indo-Bhutan and Indo-Myanmar borders. iii. India's border with Pakistan is 3,323 km long, including about 775 km of the Line of Control (LoC).

- ◆ The length of the border is 4,096.7 km with Bangladesh, 3,488 km with China, 1,751 km with Nepal, 699 km with Bhutan, 1,643 km with Myanmar.

About India's International Land Border :

- ◆ India has 15,106.7 Km of land border and a coastline of 7,516.6 Km including island territories.
- ◆ In pursuance of Group of Ministers recommendations on Border Management, the Department of Border Management was created in the Ministry of Home Affairs in January, 2004.

Undersea cable systems: Airtel joins SEA-ME-WE-6 consortium; Jio's IAX project to land in Maldives

On 21st February 2022 Bharti Airtel has announced its integration in 'SEA-ME-WE6 undersea cable consortium', as a major investor while Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (RJIL), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) will introduce its next generation multi-terabit India-Asia-Xpress (IAX) undersea cable system in Hulhumale, Maldives in collaboration with Ocean Connect Maldives.

- ◆ Another subsea cable system India-Europe-Xpress (IEX) is also built by RJIL that connects Mumbai and Milan.
- ◆ Uses of undersea cable systems - Undersea cable systems along with data centres supports 5G and the digital economy that builds large integrated capacities to enable India's digital ecosystem.

Aim :

- ◆ To diversify the economy and establish it as a key communications hub in South Asia.

India, Oman bilateral Air Force Exercise 'Eastern Bridge-VI' begins in Rajasthan

A 6th edition of 5-day bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) namely 'Eastern Bridge-VI' commenced at Jodhpur Air Force Station in Rajasthan.

Objective :

- ◆ This exercise is an opportunity to enhance operational capability and interoperability between the two Air Forces.

Participants :

- ◆ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has deployed a fleet of Sukhoi-30MKIs, Jaguar and Mirage-2000 fighter jets for the sixth edition of the exercise 'Eastern Bridge'.
- ◆ The Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) has deployed its F-16 jets.

Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh launched Rural Connectivity GIS Data in Public Domain

On 22nd February 2022, Giriraj Singh, Union Minister for Rural Development, launched the Rural Connectivity GIS (Geographic Information System) Data in Public Domain in India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, Delhi.

- ◆ As a part of the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), GIS data for more than 8 lakh rural facilities as points, 10 lakh habitations and 25 lakh kilometers km of rural roads have been collected and digitised using the GIS platform developed for the PMGSY.
- ◆ These rural connectivity GIS data were made available to the public.

NRIDA signed MoU with 3 GIS Firms:

The National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA), the nodal implementing agency of PMGSY has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 3 GIS Firms.

- ◆ NRIDA is also collaborating with Gati Shakti for releasing Rural Connectivity GIS Data in Public Domain.
- ◆ The technology will be used for the improvement in planning and implementation of projects in the rural areas across India.

Objective of the collaboration :

- ◆ To exchange the data for better planning and implementation of PMGSY and Gati Shakti.

IIT Roorkee launches 'KISAN' mobile app for regional farmers of Haridwar, Uttarakhand

The Indian Institute of technology (IIT) Roorkee organized a regional farmers' awareness programme as part of the 'Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa' (GKMS) project and launched KISAN mobile application for the farmers. The app will provide agro-meteorological services to the farmers.

- ◆ Farmers from the districts of Haridwar, Dehradun, and Pauri Garhwal of Uttarakhand participated in the event.
- ◆ A book in Hindi titled 'Agrometeorological Advisory Services for Cereal Crops, Horticultural Crops, and Livestock' released at the event.

Key features of KISAN App:

- ◆ KISAN app provides farmers with easy access to weather forecasts and weather based

Agro-meteorological Advisory Bulletins for all six blocks of Haridwar district through phones.

- ◆ The app is available in bilingual, users will get the information in Hindi and English. iii. The Agro-meteorological Advisory Services are offered jointly by the AMFU (Agromet Field Unit Roorkee) IIT Roorkee and the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Developers :

- ◆ The app was developed by Dr. Khushboo Mirza, Senior Scientist, Regional Remote Sensing Centre (RRSC), National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), New Delhi under the guidance of Dr. C S Jha, Outstanding Scientist and Chief General Manager at RRSC, NRSC, ISRO, Hyderabad.

GRAMIN KRISHI MAUSAM SEWA (GKSM) : -

- ◆ issuing crop and location specific weather based agro advisories for the benefit of farming community on every Tuesday and Friday and occurrence of extreme weather - by India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities /Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) etc
- ◆ GRAMIN - rural
- ◆ KRISHI - agriculture
- ◆ MAUSAM - season
- ◆ SEWA – service

Gol Constitutes High Level Task Force to Analyse the Impact of Sanctions Against Russia

The Government of India (Gol) constituted a high level ministerial task force to analyse the impact on India by the sanctions made against Russia by the United States of America (USA), the European Union (EU), United Kingdom (UK), Japan, Canada, Taiwan, and New Zealand.

The sanctions targets Russian banks, oil refineries, and military exports.

- ◆ Russia is the 26th largest trade partner of India, with exports in 2020-21 valued at 2.6 billion and imports at 5.4 billion.
- ◆ The task force awaits the updated sanctions guidelines from the United States (US) Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

Members of the Task Force :

- ◆ The task force comprises Secretaries and senior officials from Ministries and Departments such as External Affairs, Defence, Finance, Home, Commerce & Industry and Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- ◆ The sanctions block the payments of pharmaceuticals, tea and mobile phones and imports from Russia such as crude oil, petroleum products, coal, gold, metals and fertilisers.

Cause for the Attack:

- ◆ Russia's decision to invade Ukraine was aggravated by Ukraine's decision to sign the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Note :

- ◆ Due to Western sanctions of the nuclear weapons program, India used rupee payment mechanisms with Iran.

Areas of Concern for India :

Defence Deals:

- ◆ Uncertainty over the delivery of the S-400 missile systems, the S-400 is a mobile Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) system developed by AlmazAntey, Russian enterprise.

Tea exports:

- ◆ Exports to Commonwealth of Independent State (CIS), nations nearly 23-24 per cent of total exports (of tea) at Rs 744 crore for 40.17 million Kilogram (mkg).
- ◆ Exports to the Russian Federation stood at 30.89 kg, estimated at Rs 558 crore.
- ◆ Exports to Ukraine were at 1.6 mkg Rs 30 crore.

Gol Has Launched "Operation Ganga" To Rescue Indian Citizens from War Prolonged Ukraine



The Government of India (Gol) has launched 'Operation Ganga' to evacuate Indian citizens from Ukraine, due to Ukraine's war

against Russia. The GoI has planned to help nearly 15,000 Indians to reach India with the help of Air India flights.

- ◆ There were nearly 20,000 Indians of which 5,000 Indians had already reached India before the commencement of the war.

To The Border Nations :

- ◆ With the help of International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva, the GoI have guided the Indian citizens towards the border of Ukraine.
- ◆ Due to the closing of Ukrainian airspace, the Indian evacuation flights are operating out of Romanian capital Bucharest and Hungarian capital Budapest.
- ◆ Indian teams have also been placed in Krakowiec as well as Shehyni-Medyka land border points in Poland, Vysne Nemecke in the Slovak Republic.
- ◆ India is evacuating stranded Indians from Ukraine through its land border crossings with Romania, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.
- ◆ Boeing 787 plane is the airline under operation, better known as Dreamliner, from countries including Romania and Hungary.
- ◆ The GoI will bear all the travel cost of the flights for the Indian citizens.
- ◆ The cost for operating a two-way evacuation flight will be more than Rs 1.10 crore and the amount will rise, depending on the duration of the flights.

Assignment To the Ministries :

- ◆ The Prime Minister of India has decided to send 4 Union Ministers to Poland and Romania to oversee the evacuation. i. Union

Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs and Petroleum and Natural Gas - Hardeep Singh Puri

- ◆ Minister for Law and Justice - Kiren Rijiju
- ◆ Civil Aviation Minister - Jyotiraditya Scindia
- ◆ Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Civil Aviation - General V K Singh
- ◆ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) also announced a Twitter handle 'OpGanga Helpline' to assist Indian evacuation.

The first Air India flight carrying 219 Indian evacuees from Ukraine had landed in the Mumbai airport from Bucharest.

S.Jaishankar addressed virtual 5th Asia Economic Dialogue (AED) 2021

On February 26-28, 2021, the 5th Asia Economic Dialogue (AED) 2021 was virtually convened by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India and Pune International Centre (PIC) on the theme "Post Covid-19 Global Trade and Finance Dynamics".

- ◆ Its inaugural session was addressed by Union Minister Dr.
- ◆ Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, MEA on "Resilient Global Growth in a Post Pandemic World".
- ◆ The dialogue saw the discussions between COVID-19's impact on trade and finance, on the world and on Asia as well as strategies to deal with this impact.

About Ministry of External Affairs :

- ◆ Subrahmanyam Jaishankar Constituency- Gujarat Minister of State- Vellamvelly Muraleedharan

Pandemic to leave 375 million Children in India with Health, Economic Impacts: SoE 2021 report



According to the State of India's Environment 2021 (SoE 2021) Annual report released by Down to Earth Magazine in association with Centre for Science & Environment (CSE), India is set to begin a 'pandemic generation' as 375 million children (0-14 year-olds) may suffer long-lasting impacts such as underweight, stunting & increased child mortality, to losses in education & work productivity due to pandemic.

- ◆ Over 500 million children have been forced out of school globally with India accounting for 50 % of such Children.
- ◆ 115 million people may get pushed into extreme poverty by pandemic (majority of them live in South Asia).
- ◆ India was ranked 117 out of 192 nations in terms of sustainable development behind all South Asian countries except Pakistan.
- ◆ The report also highlights Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) evaluation of 88 Major Industrial clusters in India based on which Tarapur, Maharashtra emerged the most polluted cluster in India.

ISRO Successfully Launches Amazonia-1 & 18 other Satellites from Sriharikota

On February 28, 2021, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

successfully launched 1 primary satellite 'Amazonia-1' & 18 co-passenger satellites from India (5) & USA (13) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC-SHAR), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The satellites were launched using Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C51 (PSLV-DL Variant).

- ◆ PSLV C-51/Amazonia-1 mission is the 1st Dedicated PSLV Commercial Mission for NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), which is the ISRO's commercial arm (setup in 2019).
- ◆ This is ISRO's 1st Launch of 2021. It has launched 14 Missions in 2021.
- ◆ With this India has totally launched 342 Foreign satellites from 34 countries.

Professor Deepak Dhar becomes the first Indian selected for the Boltzmann Medal

Physicist Professor, Deepak Dhar has become the first Indian to be awarded the Boltzmann Medal. The Commission on Statistical Physics of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) awards this medal once in three years for contributions to the field of statistical physics. The medal presentation ceremony will be held on the sidelines of the Statfizz28 conference to be held in Tokyo in August this year. He shared the medal with John J Hofield of Princeton University. Professor Dhar is currently Emeritus Faculty at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune.

NITI Aayog, a Government of India think tank, is developing the National Gender Index

NITI Aayog is in the process of developing a National Gender Index. The National Gender Index aims to identify persistent gaps in gender equality to measure progress and make informed policy decisions. It will serve as a tool to map the progress of the States and Union Territories of India on defined gender matrix and lay the foundation for positive change. This information has been released in the Annual Report 2021-22 of NITI Aayog.

NITI Aayog has also developed a draft State Energy and Climate Index to assess the performance of states on indicators such as viability and competitiveness of discoms; access, affordability and reliability of energy; Clean Energy Initiative; energy efficiency; production capability; and environmental sustainability and new initiatives. The index will help the states to manage their energy resources efficiently and provide better access to energy to the people.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches e-bill processing system

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the e-bill processing system on March 2. This will be another step to enhance transparency, efficiency and a faceless-paperless payment system. Suppliers and contractors will now be able to submit their claims online which will be trackable on real time basis. It was announced in this year's Union Budget. In the inaugural session of the 46th Civil Accounts Day, Smt. Sitharaman referred to the efforts of the Government with technology to facilitate the campaign of financial inclusion in the country.

46th Civil Accounts Day was celebrated on 2nd March 2022 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi.

Labour Ministry launches 'Donate-a-Pension' initiative under PMSYM



Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoL&E), has launched 'Donate-a-Pension' programme under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-SYM) for people to contribute to the pension fund to their support staff.

◆ This initiative is one of the events planned by MoL&E, for the 'Iconic Week' celebration observed from 7th to 13th March 2022, which is a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'- an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

About Donate-a-Pension initiative :

◆ An initiative under the PM-SYM pension scheme that encourages people to donate the premium contribution of their immediate support staff such as domestic workers, drivers, helpers, care givers, nurses, in their household or establishment or any other eligible unorganized workers.

- ◆ The donor can pay one year's initial contribution in one time or for more than a one-year period.
- ◆ The donation amount for a year is minimum Rs. 660 and maximum up to Rs. 2400 depending on the age of the beneficiary.
- ◆ The minimum donation period is one year. The donor can donate on <https://maandhan.in/> or visit their nearest Common Service Centre.

About Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-SYM) :

- ◆ A voluntary and contributory pension scheme launched in 2019, to ensure protection for unorganized workers, whose monthly income is below Rs. 15,000, age group of \$18-40\$ years.
- ◆ They should not be engaged in Organized Sector (member of EPFO/NPS/ESIC) or an income tax payer
- ◆ Features of PM-SYM : Each subscriber under PM-SYM shall receive, i. A Minimum Assured Pension of Rs. 3,000 per month after attaining the age of 60 years.
- ◆ If a subscriber dies during the receipt of the pension, the spouse of the beneficiary shall

be entitled to receive 50% of the pension as Family.

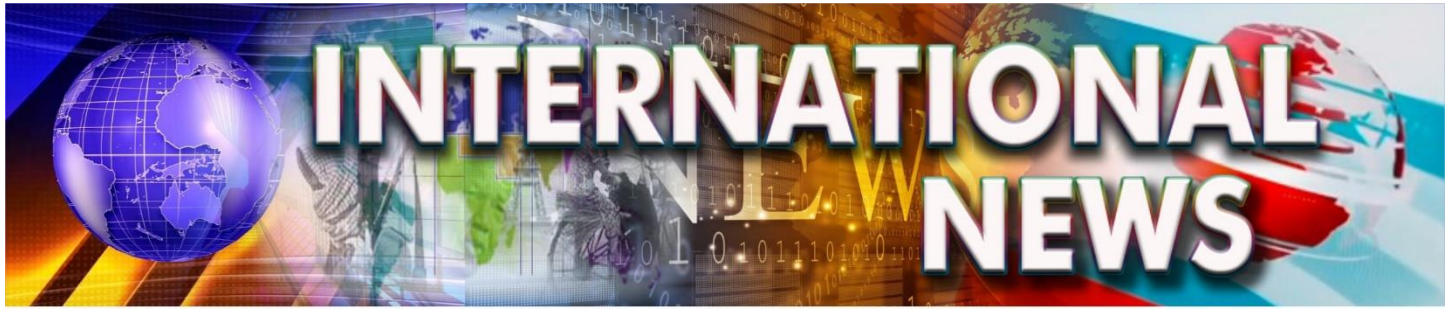
Union Minister of Fisheries, Parshottam Rupala Initiated 'Sagar Parikrama' at Gujrat

On 5th March 2022, the Union Ministry for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the 'Sagar Parikrama', an initiative to solve the concerns of the fishermen community in Gujarat.

Sagar Parikrama was flagged from the freedom fighter Shyamiji Krishna Varma Memorial at Mandvi, Gujarat, on the first day it reached Okha in Devbhumi Dwarka district, Gujarat and the first leg of Sagar Parikrama will end at Porbandar, Gujarat.

Aim :

- ◆ The Parikrama aims to understand challenges, experiences and aspirations of the fishermen community and to solve the concerns of the fishermen.
- ◆ The initiative looks at the scope of seafood exports as the Country has a coastline of 8118 kms.
- ◆ It covers 9 maritime State



The Conflict of Ukraine - Russia 2022 Explained

The attack on Ukraine by Russia is potentially the onset of war in Europe on top of Russia's behest for an end to NATO's eastward expansion. The launch of the major invasion by Russia on Ukraine, that started with air and missile assaults on Ukrainian military targets before sending troops and tanks across the country's northern, eastern, and southern borders. On many fronts, the Ukrainian military fought back. In a video speech delivered early Friday, February 25, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced that 137 people had been killed, including troops and civilians, and that hundreds more had been injured.



Background:

- ◆ Since the invasion of Crimea in 2014, Ukraine has been living in fear of war with Russia for nearly eight years. Russia and Ukraine have been at odds for a long time, with Russia claiming Ukraine as a part of its country and opposing Ukraine's developing ties to the West. Russian President Vladimir Putin wants to recapture the former Soviet Union Republic.
- ◆ He requested that the Ukrainian military put down their weapons. Prior to its cessation in 1991, Russia and Ukraine were both members of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), which consisted of 15 republics.

Genesis of the Conflict :

- ◆ The heat between Russia and Ukraine, a former Soviet republic, have existed for a decent amount of time, they began to escalate out of control in early 2021. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukraine's President hinted the US President Joe Biden to allow Ukraine to join the NATO forces in January of last year.
- ◆ This Russia is highly infuriated , which began sending soldiers near the Ukrainian border for "training exercises" in the spring of last year and boosted the number in the fall. The US began to

hype that there is a deployment of Russian troops, and Vice President Joe Biden had threatened Russia with heavy sanctions if Russia attacked Ukraine.

- ◆ Russia wants a legally enforceable promise from the US that NATO forces will not conduct any military operations in eastern Europe, especially in Ukraine. According to the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, Ukraine is merely a puppet of the US and was never a real sovereign country in the first place.
- ◆ This isn't the first time that conflicts between Russia and Ukraine have erupted. Russia had previously invaded Ukraine in 2014, it happened when pro-Putin separatists captured major swaths of eastern Ukraine, and they have been fighting the Ukrainian army since the invasion. Russia also annexed Crimea at that time.
- ◆ Ukraine has extensive social and cultural ties with Russia, and Russian is widely spoken there, but those ties have deteriorated since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014.
- ◆ When Ukraine's pro-Russian president lost in early 2014, Russia came to an offensive. It is estimated that more than 14,000 people have died as a result of the continuous war happening in the east.
- ◆ The Minsk peace agreement was signed by Russia and Ukraine to end the ongoing violent armed conflict which was going on in east Ukraine, including Donbas region. However, as the armed conflict continues, Russia said that it will be sending "peacekeepers" to the affected region. According to the , Moscow is using it as a cover to occupy sovereign Ukrainian country.
- ◆ The rising tension between Russia and Ukraine, which shares a border with the European Union, has ramifications for the European Union. This is why the European Union has joined the US in declaration of the penalties against Russian firms, the majority of which the NATO members.
- ◆ Just a few weeks back, French President Emmanuel Macron had travelled to Moscow to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in an effort to calm down the ongoing tensions.
- ◆ India is also suggesting for a diplomatic solution, through talks to the present Russian-Ukraine violent conflict.

EIU's Democracy Index 2021: India ranked 46th, Norway Topped

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) released its report titled 'Democracy Index 2021' across 165 independent countries and two territories (totally 167). India is ranked 46 on the global index with an overall score of 6.91

- ◆ Norway topped the Democracy Index 2021 with an overall score of 9.75\$ and Afghanistan is the least democratic country with an overall score of 0.32\$.

Highlights:

- ◆ The report is based on five findings - electoral process and pluralism, functioning of the

government, political participation, political culture, and civil liberties.

- ◆ Based on the indicators, Countries have been classified into four types of regime, full democracy - 21 countries; Flawed democracy
- ◆ 53 countries (India is under the 'Flawed Democracy'); Hybrid democracy - 34 countries;; Authoritarian regimes - 59 countries.

German president Frank Walter Steinmeier re-elected for the Second Term

The Incumbent President of Germany, Frank Walter Steinmeier, was re-elected by the parliamentary assembly for the next five years (2022-2027).

Key Points:

- ◆ A special parliamentary assembly meeting was organized on 13 February 2022 to elect Germany's Head of the State.
- ◆ Frank-Walter Steinmeier is a 66 years old German politician. He has been serving as President of Germany since 19 March 2017.
- ◆ Previously Frank Walter Steinmeier served as foreign minister under Chancellor Angela Merkel and also as the Chief of Staff to Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar Co-chaired the 3rd India-Maldives Defence Co-operation Dialogue in Maldives

On 14th February 2022, Dr Ajay Kumar, Defence Secretary of India co-chaired the 3rd India - Maldives Defence Cooperation Dialogue(DCD) in Maldives with Major General Abdulla Shamaal Chief of Defence Force (CDF) of Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF).

He took part in the DCD during his visit to Maldives from 13th to 14th February 2022.

- ◆ Both India and Maldives focused on the joint efforts and capacity building measures to counter trans-national crimes and enhance security in the region.

Defence Secretary of India's visit to Maldives:

- ◆ On 13th - 14th February 2022, Dr Ajay Kumar, Defence Secretary of India visited Maldives for the discussions with the Maldives National Defence Force.
- ◆ During his visit, Dr Ajay Kumar hold a meeting with Mariya Didi, Minister of Defence of Maldives at the Ministry of Defence in Malé, Maldives and discussed on the immense and expanding India-Maldives defence cooperation in the past 3 years.

Highlights of the Visit :

- ◆ Defence Secretary of India handed over 2800 kg of medical equipments to MNDF's Senahiya Military Hospital.
- ◆ He also inaugurated the Composite Training Center Phase-I Annex in the Maldives, which was built with the support of India's financial assistance.
- ◆ He also handed over the refitted Maldivian Coast Guard Ship (MCGS) Huravee, a made in India Trinkat class patrol vessel.

Additional info :

- ◆ India-Maldives relation: As a part of the Indo-Maldives relationship India provided Lines of Credit (LoC) of over USD \$1.2 billion for infrastructure and grants for community development projects in Maldives. The Maldives was the first beneficiary of India's Vaccine Maitri initiative 2021.

'Turkiye not Turkey'

The Turkish government led by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has decided to change the name of the nation from Turkey to 'Turkiye'. The move is aimed at improving the country's image at the international level and to link the country's history with its name. According to the statement issued by President Erdogan in this regard, the name 'Turkey' represents the culture and civilization of the country and best describes the values of the nation.

Bill Gates to be honored with Hilal-e-Pakistan Award

Microsoft founder Bill Gates has been awarded the Hilal-e-Pakistan, Pakistan's second highest civilian award, for his efforts to help eradicate polio in Pakistan. Lunch hosted at the Pakistani Prime Minister's residence in honor of Bill Gates Gaya, who were briefed about Pakistan's polio eradication efforts and the COVID response.

IOC Athletes' Commission Re-elected Terho as Chair ; Seung Min Ryu & Sarah Walker elected as VC & 2nd VC

On 18 February 2022, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission (AC) re-elected ice hockey player Emma Terho of Finland as its Chair and table tennis player Seung Min Ryu of Republic of Korea as its first Vice-Chair (VC).

- ◆ The commission also elected cyclist Sarah Walker of New Zealand as second VC of the Commission.

About the elected players :

- ◆ Emma Terho is a five-time Olympian and former captain of the Finland women's ice hockey team. She secured bronze medals at

both the Olympic Winter Games Nagano 1998 and Vancouver 2010

- ◆ She will be the head of the Commission until the Olympic Games Paris 2024.
- ◆ Seung Min Ryu ,the table tennis player won a gold medal in the men's singles at Athens 2004, a team silver medal at London Olympics 2012 and a team bronze medal at Beijing Olympics \$2008 .
- ◆ She was elected to the IOC AC at Rio Olympic 2016 and then as Vice-Chair in Tokyo 2020 games.

Sarah Walker is a three-time world champion in BMX (bicycle motocross) from New Zealand. In 2008 she competed in the inaugural Olympic women's BMX competition in the Beijing games. She secured a silver medal at the London Olympics 2012.

International Trade Growth to slow in 2022: UNCTAD Global Trade Update

In accordance with the Global Trade Update by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the global trade growth will slow in the Q1 (first quarter) of 2022. It is due to macroeconomic trends like persistent inflation in the United States (US) and concerns related to China's real estate sector.

In 2022 there will be an increase in global demand for environmentally sustainable products.

The value of global trade reached a record level of 28.5 trillion in 2021, which is an increase of 25 % in 2020 and 13 % higher compared to 2019 , before the COVID-19 pandemic.

About United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD):

- ◆ Establishment- 1964
- ◆ Secretary-General - Rebeca Grynspan (Hailing from Costa Rica, she is the first woman and Central American to serve as UNCTAD's secretary-general) Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland.

Singapore Air Show-2022: IAF Showcased its 'Made in India' Tejas MK-I



Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent participated in the Singapore Air Show 2022 held from 15th to 18th February 2022 at the Changi Exhibition Centre, Singapore. India showcased the IAF's 'Made in India' Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas MarkOne(MK-1), a 4th generation fighter aircraft.

- ◆ Singapore Air Show is a biennial event that provides a platform for the Global Aviation Industry to showcase its products.
- ◆ This is Asia's largest Aerospace and Defence event.

Note:

- ◆ The Tejas Aircraft has previously participated in the Dubai Airshow 2021 and Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo (LIMA-2019), Malaysia.

Singapore Air Show 2022:

- ◆ Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Defence and S Iswaran, Minister for Transport and Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations, Government of Singapore, inaugurated the Singapore Airshow 2022 on 15th February 2022.

Key Points:

- ◆ IAF's detachment of Tejas MK-1 fighters supported by a 44 member contingent performed aerobatic displays over Changi International Airport in Singapore.
- ◆ IAF's participation in the Air show will provide India with the opportunity to showcase the Tejas aircraft and to interact with counterparts from RSAF (Royal Singapore Air Force) & other participating contingents.

About Tejas LCA :

- ◆ The Indian fighter jet, Tejas, was developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the IAF and Indian Navy in collaboration with the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).
- ◆ Tejas LCA is powered by a General Electric F404-GE-IN20 engine and can carry a maximum payload of 3500.

UNEP's Frontiers 2022: Wildfires to be More Frequent, Larger and Intense

On 17th February 2022, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released the 4th edition of Frontiers report titled "Frontiers 2022: Noise, Blazes and Mismatches - Emerging Issues Of Environmental Concern" which predicts that wildfires will worsen in the upcoming years and decades. The report states that wildfires are

becoming more frequent, larger, and more intense due to climate change.

- ◆ The report has attributed this to climate change and human activities.

About Frontiers :

- ◆ The Frontiers reports of UNEP identify and draw attention to the emerging issues of environmental concern. The Frontiers report was first published in 2016.
- ◆ The Frontiers 2022 report has identified the 3 most important environmental issues that have emerged due to climate change: wildfires, noise pollution, and shifts in the biological life cycles of plants and animals.

The 3 chapters of Frontiers 2022 are,

- ◆ Listening to Cities: From Noisy Environments to Positive Soundscapes
- ◆ Wildfires Under Climate Change: A Burning Issue
- ◆ Phenology: Climate Change Is Shifting the Rhythm of Nature

India Elected for Chairmanship of IRSG; KN Raghavan to Officiate as Chairman of IRSG

India has been elected for the Chairmanship of the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG), a Singapore based inter-governmental organisation of natural rubber (NR) and synthetic rubber (SR) producing and consuming countries.

- ◆ India succeeds Cote d'Ivoire as the chairman of IRSG.
- ◆ KN Raghavan, Executive Director of Indian Rubber Board and the Head of the Indian

delegation to IRSG will officiate as the Chairman of IRSG for the next 2 years.

- ◆ KN Raghavan will preside over the meeting of the Head of Delegations which will be held on 31st March 2022 at Singapore.
- ◆ Macquarie Bank Limited, Singapore has joined the IRSG Panel of Associates.

Roles of IRSG:

- ◆ IRSG is the only forum for NR and SR producers and consumers to discuss matters affecting the world rubber industry and act as an interface between government and the Industry.
- ◆ IRSG will collect and share the statistics on the production, consumption and trade in NR and SR across the globe.
- ◆ It is the only International commodity body which is approved by the Common Fund for Commodities for development financing in rubber sector.

Additional info:

- ◆ Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC), IRSG and International Rubber Research and Development Board (IRRDB) are the 3 major rubber organisations.
- ◆ ANRPC and IRSG are inter-governmental and IRRDB is a network of research institutions.

Israel Successfully Test Fires its "C-Dome" Naval Air Defence System

On 21 February 2022, Israel successfully test fired its "C-Dome or Protective Dome" naval defence system based on Iron Dome which was tested against rockets, cruise missiles and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV).

- ◆ The C-Dome was successfully tested for the first time from Saar-6 Corvette INS Magen, Israel's Naval Warship.
- ◆ The C-Dome is installed in corvette ships to protect Israel's coastline and offshore natural gas assets in the Mediterranean.

Threat From The Above:

- ◆ The defence system has been upgraded to defend against the threat of Iranian proxies, which targeted natural gas assets of Israel.
- ◆ Also, one of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant groups, had launched a pair of drones into Israeli airspace.
- ◆ Iran made a new international nuclear deal with global powers and plans to divert newly released funds to proxies.

Note:

- ◆ Israel and Hezbollah fought a war in 2006 in which Hezbollah fired a missile that struck an Israeli warship, killing four soldiers.

India-France agree on roadmap on blue economy and ocean governance

India and France have recently agreed on the Roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance. Both countries agreed on this roadmap with the aim of contributing to scientific knowledge and ocean conservation. They ensure that We want the oceans to remain a shared globally based on the rule of law. External Affairs Minister S. The agreement was signed during Jaishankar's three-day visit to France. The roadmap covers maritime trade, maritime industry, marine technology, fisheries, scientific research, marine eco-tourism, inland waterways, integrated coastal management and

civil maritime issues. But cooperation between competent administration will be involved.

The two countries plan to hold an annual bilateral dialogue on blue economy and ocean governance to exchange views on their priorities, support ongoing and future cooperation, and share their best practices.

India-France on Blue Economy :

India and France want to make the blue economy a driver of progress in their respective societies, in addition to respecting the environment and coastal and marine biodiversity. He noted that fisheries is an important economic sector, playing a decisive role in food security and livelihood security, especially for the coastal population. According to him, the global demand for marine products has increased as a result of demographic, economic and social factors and is putting increasing pressure on the global fish stocks. Both countries will give priority to the blue economy in the development of their economic exchanges.

Japan launches hydrogen train

Japan has launched its first hydrogen-powered train. The unveiling is being seen as a step towards the country's goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050. The hydrogen-powered train will be tested in March. The two-car train, called the "Hybari", costs more than US\$35 million, or more than 4 billion yen, and can accelerate to a top speed of 100 kilometers per hour at 140 km/h when hydrogen fueled. kilometers or 87 miles. This train has been developed by East Japan Railway in collaboration with Hitachi and Toyota Motor Corporation. Japan plans to replace its diesel fleet with this hydrogen version of the trains and Japan will also consider exporting

them. In 2030, commercial services are expected to begin.

Europe has been a leader in hydrogen-powered trains. Germany launched the world's first train in 2018, which was built by Alstom SA. Special fuel stations and new regional trains are being developed by Deutsche Bahn AG and Siemens AG, and will be tested in 2024.

To achieve net-zero energy, Japan has made hydrogen a major clean-energy source. Toyota is looking to increase production of its second-generation hydrogen-fueled Mirai cars tenfold, with more commercial vehicles and fuel-cell buses hitting the road.

France announces military withdrawal from Mali after nine years

French President Emmanuel Macron has announced that France and its European allies will begin a military withdrawal from Mali after fighting a jihadist insurgency for more than nine years. France first deployed troops against jihadists in Mali in 2013 under the leadership of socialist President François Hollande.

This decision has been taken due to the breakdown of relations of France with the ruling junta government in the country. The center of this military operation will be shifted from Mali to Niger. In recent years, jihadists have taken advantage of the political turmoil, poverty and weakness of local authorities in the former French colony to occupy many areas.

Critics of French strategy in Mali have long accused policymakers in Paris of focusing military force at the expense of politics. The withdrawal applies to 2,400 French soldiers in Mali and a smaller European force of several hundred, which was created in 2020 to ease the burden on the French army.

Indian Air Force to participate in Cobra Warrior exercise in England

The Indian Air Force will participate in a multi-nation Air Force exercise named 'Ex Cobra Warrior 22' at Waddington, England from 06 to 27 March 2022. The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas of the Indian Air Force along with fighter aircraft from England and other top air forces will participate in the exercise. The objective of the exercise is to demonstrate operational performance and share best practices among the participating Air Forces, thereby enhancing combat capability and strengthening the bonds of friendship. This LCA will be a platform for Tejas to showcase its mobility and operational capability. Five Tejas aircraft will fly to England. The C-17 aircraft of the Indian Air Force will provide necessary transport support for entry (induction) and exit (de-induction).

IOC Athletes Commission re-elected Emma Terho as president

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission elected Finnish ice hockey player Emma Terho as its president and Korea Republic table tennis player Seung Min Ryu as its first vice-president. The commission also selected New Zealand cyclist Sarah Walker as the second VC of the commission. Emma Terho is a five-time Olympian and former captain of the Finland women's ice hockey team. She will head the commission for the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

Iran unveils Khyber-Buster missile

Iran unveiled a new missile called the "Khyber Buster Missile", which is capable of targeting nearby US and Israeli targets.

It has a range of 900 miles. This missile runs on solid fuel. It has high accuracy and is completely domestically manufactured.

This missile can defeat the shield system.

- ◆ Iran has about 20 types of ballistic, cruise missiles and drones. Qiyam-1 has a range of 500 miles and Ghadar-1 has a range of 1,100 miles. Iran's current priority is to increase the accuracy of its missiles.
- ◆ Before 1935, Iran was known as Persia. It was one of the greatest empires of the ancient world. It is bordered by Iraq and Turkey to the west, Azerbaijan and Armenia to the northwest, the Caspian Sea and Turkmenistan to the north, Afghanistan and Pakistan to the east, and the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf to the south. Tehran is its capital. Iran is a founding member of the United Nations, OIC, ECO and OPEC.

Multilateral exercise: 'MILAN-2022'

The latest edition of the Indian Navy's multilateral exercise 'MILAN-2022' is commencing from February 25, 2022 at Visakhapatnam, a city known as the 'City of Destiny'. MILAN-2022 is being organized in two phases over a total duration of 09 days. The objective of the exercise is to improve operational skills through professional interaction between friendly navies, assimilation of best practices and procedures and provide theoretical education on military policies in the maritime domain. MILAN is a biennial multilateral naval exercise, which was initiated by

the Indian Navy in 1995 at the Andaman and Nicobar Command. The year 2020 edition of 'Milan' exercise was postponed till the year 2022 due to Covid-19.

EU Data Act draft released

On 23 February 2022 the European Commission published its draft Data Act. The European Commission has set out a slew of new rules for data sharing. It is part of the EU's strategy to make the bloc a leader in a data-agile economy.

The purpose of this proposed law is to make data sharing and easy access and to set a standard at EU level. It asks manufacturers to allow owners of connected devices to see what data they are collecting.

It wants to give companies and consumers more control over what can be done with their data. It clarifies who can access the data and on what conditions. The new rules also mean that government bodies and public bodies will be able to request access to privately held data for legal obligations or public emergencies, but not for day-to-day law enforcement activities.

Hurricane Eunice wreaked havoc in Europe

Hurricane Eunice issued the first red weather warning in London on February 19, 2022. It was one of the most powerful storms in Europe since 1984, when the Great Storm affected Britain and northern France. At least 13 people have died in Europe due to strong winds, falling trees and debris. It has taken 1.4 million homes off the grid, with emergency workers struggling to restore power. It also severely affected travel in Britain, closing the English Channel port of Dover and the bridges connecting England and Wales. It has also stopped most trains in and out of London. It had winds of up to 200 mph. Eunice

is the second hurricane to hit Europe this week. The first storm killed at least five people in Germany and Poland.

Nepal and India Agreed to form Joint Hydro Development Committee

Nepal and India have agreed to form a Joint Hydro Development Committee during 9th meetings of the Joint Working Group (JWG, Joint Secretary level) and the Joint Steering Committee (JSC, Secretary level) on bilateral power sector cooperation in Kathmandu, Nepal on 23rd and 24th February 2022.

- ◆ The Committee will explore the development of viable hydropower projects in Nepal with a focus on storage. The task force will have maximum three members from both the countries.
- ◆ These 2 mechanisms will provide the necessary framework to support bilateral cooperation in the power sector.

Note:

- ◆ The JSC meeting was co-chaired by Alok Kumar, Power Secretary, Government of India and Devendra Karki, Energy Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Government of Nepal.
- ◆ Both India and Nepal have decided to continue the discussions on this issue towards expeditious follow-up and agreed to meet for the next sessions of the JSC/JWG meetings which is set to be hosted by India.

Key Points:

- ◆ The enhancement in the installed power generation capacity in Nepal paves way for stronger and mutually beneficial cooperation in the power sector

- ◆ Both the countries have reaffirmed that power sector cooperation plays a major role in the India-Nepal partnership and agreed to pursue along the following axes, joint development of generation projects in Nepal, joint development of crossborder power transmission infrastructure, power trade under respective domestic regulations and policy framework, and capacity building assistance
- ◆ The two countries agreed to build more transmission lines, complete the transmission lines that are under construction and proposed new cross -country transmission lines, completion of Arun-3 hydropower project and energy export and import.

Special Logo Unveiled to Mark 75 years of Diplomatic Relation of India and Belgium



During the India's "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" week of the Ministry of External Affairs(MEA), Belgian Ambassador in India Francois Delhaye along with Sandeep Chakravorty Joint Secretary and Head of Europe West Division, MEA, India released a special logo to commemorate the 75 years of diplomatic relations between India and Belgium.

- ◆ The logo features a peacock, India's national bird with national flags of both India and Belgium on either side of peacock.
- ◆ The diplomatic relations between both nations was established in January 1947. The first ambassador, Eugène de Ligne, arrived in Delhi in September 1947. Belgium was among the first European countries to have bilateral relations with India.

NASA Delays Artemis 1 Lunar Mission Test Launch

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has delayed the test launch of Artemis 1 Lunar Mission, formerly known as Exploration Mission 1 (EM-1). NASA stated that it will roll the combined Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and uncrewed Orion spacecraft out of the Vehicle Assembly Building to Launch Pad 39B at Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral in Florida, United States of America (USA) for testing in March 2022.

- ◆ During the test launch, SLS rocket will launch the uncrewed Orion spacecraft on an approximately 26-day mission.
- ◆ Artemis 1 Mission, will be the first-ever launch of NASA's new Space Launch System (SLS) mega rocket and the Orion Crew capsule.
- ◆ Through Artemis 1 missions, NASA will land the first woman and the first person of color on the surface of the Moon, paving the way for a long-term lunar presence and serving as a steppingstone on the way to Mars.
- ◆ The next test launch which was earlier scheduled in April, 2022 was also likely to be extended and to be launched in May 2022.

China's Long March-8 Rocket Launches 22 Satellites into Space - Achieves Domestic Record

On 27th February 2022 China claimed a domestic record for the most spacecraft launched by a single rocket by launching a 'Long March-8 rocket' to place 22 satellites in space from the 'Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site' in south China's Hainan Province with the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC).

- ◆ The mission marked the 409th flight of the Long March carrier rockets.
- ◆ These satellites will be mainly used for commercial remote sensing services, marine environment monitoring, forest fire prevention and disaster mitigation.
- ◆ China set a new domestic record of 55 launches in 2021, surpassing the previous record of 39 launches in 2018 and 2020.
- ◆ The Long March 8 combines the 3.35-meter-diameter new generation Long March 7 kerosene-liquid oxygen 1st stage with a 3-metre-diameter hydrolox 2nd stage from the older Long March 3A series.

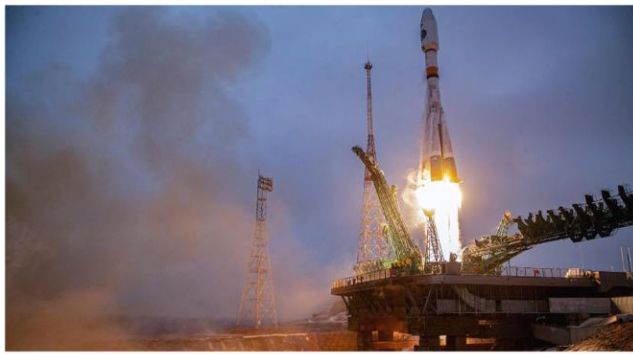
Thailand Astronomers Discovers 1st Known Quadruple Asteroid System: Asteroid With Three Moons

Team of researchers from Thailand and France led by Anthony Berdeu of the National Astronomical Research Institute, Thailand have discovered the 1st known quadruple Asteroid system in our solar system.

- ◆ The research findings have been titled 'First Observation of Quadruple Asteroid' and was published in the journal Astronomy & Astrophysics.

- ◆ The 3rd moon has been found orbiting the main-belt asteroid Elektra, which already has two moons in its orbit. The new third moonlet discovery has made Elektra, the quadruple asteroid system.
- ◆ The 3rd moon was discovered using the European Southern Observatory's (ESO's) Very Large Telescope (VLT), measuring just 1.6s kilometres across and is 15,000 times fainter than Elektra.

Russia Launches 'Arktika-M' 1st Satellite to Monitor Climate Challenge in Arctic



On February 28, 2021, Russia launched the 'Arktika-M', 1st satellite to monitor climate change in the Arctic Region. The satellite was launched from a Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan.

- ◆ Arktika is the First of two satellites launched by Russia for creating a Hydrometeorological & climate monitoring system to monitor the climate & environment in the Arctic.
- ◆ The second Arktika Satellite is set for launch in 2023

Key Points :

- ◆ The satellite will be able to monitor & take images every 15-30 minutes of the Arctic due to its highly elliptical orbit which passes over the northern latitudes.

'Worst-case climate warming Scenarios' :

- ◆ In February 2021, a team of researchers from University of Edinburgh and Leeds and University College London stated that some of the largest losses in the last 30 years were from the Arctic Sea ice.

Millennium Challenge Corporation

Nepal's Parliament has ratified the USD 500 million grant-in-aid- Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) agreement with an "explanatory declaration". Efforts were going on to get this agreement approved in the Nepalese Parliament since the year 2017. A few days back, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba US Relations had called a meeting of allies of the government to get the MCC approved.

The MCC Nepal Compact was signed between the governments of the two countries in September 2015. According to the provisions contained in this agreement, it had to be approved by the Nepalese Parliament before it could come into force. After which efforts were going on to get this agreement approved by the Nepalese Parliament since 2017.

Under this agreement, America is giving help for a project of Nepal. America had agreed to this help in the year 2017. The US was ready to help \$ 500 million while Nepal was ready to invest \$ 130 million itself. With this help, Nepal was about to upgrade a power transmission line and 300 km of roads. The goal of the MCC is for the US to reduce China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

SWISS will become the first airline in the world to use solar aviation fuel

Swiss International Air Lines AG (SWISS or Swiss Air Lines), a part of the Lufthansa Group, has signed a new strategic collaboration with Sinhelian SA (Sinhelian), a Switzerland-based solar fuel start-up, to harness its solar aviation fuel. SWISS is set to become the first airline in the world to use solar aviation fuel ("sun-to-liquid" fuel).

Solar Fuel Feature:

- ◆ Sinhelion is set to build the world's first facility to industrially produce solar fuel in Jülich, Germany.
- ◆ SWISS will become the first customer of Solar Kerosene in 2023.
- ◆ As per the agreement, SWISS and Lufthansa will also support Synhelion's commercial fuel production facility in Spain.

Solar Aviation Fuel:

- ◆ SWISS and Lufthansa Group have concluded a strategic collaboration with Synhelion, a Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich) spin-off, to bring solar aviation fuel to market.
- ◆ Sinhelian has developed a flagship technology for manufacturing sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) from renewable energy sources.
- ◆ This process uses concentrated solar heat to manufacture syngas which can be synthesized into carbon-neutral kerosene using standard industrial processes.
- ◆ This liquid fuel from the Sun will produce only as much carbon dioxide as is used in its manufacture.
- ◆ This fuel will contribute to making air transport more carbon free.

About Swiss International Air Lines AG (SWISS):

- ◆ SWISS is the largest airline in Switzerland, operating one of Europe's youngest and most fuel efficient aircraft fleets.
 - ◆ President- Reto Francioni
 - ◆ CEO- Dieter Wrenx
- It operates a global flight network from Zurich and Geneva (Switzerland).

NASA Begins Assembly of Europa Clipper Spacecraft

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has started the assembly of 'Europa Clipper Spacecraft' a new spacecraft that will carry out the Europa clipper mission.

- ◆ The Spacecraft is targeted to be launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida in October 2024.

About Europa Clipper Spacecraft :

- ◆ The spacecraft has been designed and constructed by Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).
- ◆ Most of its hardware are expected to be assembled before 2022.

Note:

- ◆ HeroX Launches NASA's Watts on the Moon Phase 2 Challenge HeroX, the leading platform and open marketplace for crowdsourced solutions, launched NASA's Watts on the Moon Phase 2 Challenge prize competition (only for US citizens or permanent residents) on behalf of NASA. This supports NASA's return to the Moon under Mission Artemis.



Australian Cricket's Legendary Spinner Shane Warne Passed Away At The Age Of 52

Shane Keith Warne, the legendary Australian spinner has passed away at the age of 52 in Koh Samui, Thailand. He was born in Ferntree Gully, Victoria, Australia. He had also contributed towards the victory of the ICC World Cup for the Australian Cricket team in the years - 1995/96 (Wills World Cup) and 1999 (ICC World Cup).

To honour Shane Warne the Australian Cricket Board decided to rename the Great Southern Stand as "Shane Warne stand" in Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).



Achievements of Shane Warne:

Warne was named one of the Five Cricketers of the Century by Wisden Cricketers (stands 4) 'Almanack in 2000 .

- ◆ Sir Donald Bradman stands first in Wisden Five Cricketers of the Century.
- ◆ Warne was named as one of the Wisden Cricketers of the Year in the 1994 Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.
- ◆ He captained Rajasthan Royals and led them to win the inaugural Indian Premier League (IPL) title in 2008.
- ◆ He was a part of five Ashes-winning teams during his career (Debut 1992 - Last test 2007).
- ◆ He is the overall leading wicket-taker in Ashes (195wickets).
- ◆ He is the Second Highest International wicket taker of all time (Test 708, ODI - 293)
- ◆ At the end of the 2003-04 season, both Warne and Muttiah Muralitharan (Sri Lanka) had broken the record (519) for Test wickets set in 2001 by Courtney Walsh of the West Indies.
- ◆ He was the First cricketer to take 700 international test wickets in 2006, later he was overtaken by Muttiah Muralitharan with 800 wickets.

- ◆ He made One Day International debut (ODI) in 1993 and played his last ODI in 2005
- ◆ He was inducted into International Cricket Council (ICC) Hall of Fame in 2013 and Australian cricket Hall of Fame in 2012.

Autobiographies:

- ◆ No Spin (co author- Mark Nicholas)
- ◆ Shane Warne's Century: My Top 100 Test Cricketers
- ◆ Shane Warne: My Illustrated Career
- ◆ Warne (co-author-Richard Hobson)
- ◆ Shane Warne: My Autobiography
- ◆ Shane Warne: My Own Story

Overview of West Indies Tour of India-2022

West Indies cricket team toured India for 3 One-Day Internationals (ODI) and 3 Twenty-20 Internationals (T20I) in February, 2022. It was a complete whitewash series win for India over West Indies.

- ◆ In the ODI cricket, India defeated West Indies by 3-0 and in the T20I cricket, India defeated West Indies by 3-0.

Records of Indian Cricket Team:

- ◆ The Indian Cricket Team is the first ever team to play 1000 ODI matches, followed by Australia which played 958 ODI matches.
- ◆ Also, the Indian cricket team became the second team to win 100 T20I matches followed by Pakistan.
- ◆ India secured International Cricket Council (ICC) No.1 Rank (10484 points) in T20I after the win against West Indies.

Man of the Series in the West Indies Tour of India - 2022:

- ◆ Prasidh Krishna was adjudged Man of the Series in ODI's.
- ◆ Suryakumar Yadav was adjudged Man of the Series for India in T20I's

Records Of Rohit Sharma Captaincy:

- ◆ Rohit equalled Sarfaraz Ahmed (Former Pakistan Captain) record of nine consecutive T20I wins as a skipper.
- ◆ Rohit hence became the first Indian captain, and fifth overall in world cricket, to win consecutive bilateral T20I series (minimum 3 matches).

Debutants For India in the West Indies Tour of India - 2022:

- ◆ Deepak Hooda, in ODI's
- ◆ Ravi Bishnoi and Avesh Khan, in T20I's.

Highlights of Winter Olympics 2022 held in Beijing China, Norway Tops

The 24th edition of winter Olympics i.e. 2022 Winter Olympics/ Beijing 2022, officially called the XXIV Olympic Winter Games was an international winter multisport event held on February 4-20, 2022 at Beijing National Stadium in Beijing, China. Beijing Organising Committee organizes the event.

- ◆ This is for the second time that Beijing hosted Olympics after 2008 when it hosted the Summer Olympics 2008. With this, Beijing becomes the first city to have hosted both the Summer and Winter Olympics. Some events were also held in its Yanqing District, and Zhangjiakou.
- ◆ Norway topped the medal tally for the second successive Winter Olympics by winning a total of 37 medals, of which 16 were gold. This win set a new record for the highest number of gold medals won at a single Winter Olympics.
- ◆ It should be noted that India launched a diplomatic boycott of the Games after a People's Liberation Army (China's Army) commander Qi Fabao involved in 2020 Galwan Valley border clashes between India-China appeared as an Olympic torchbearer in the customary torch relay.
- ◆ Beijing 2022 passes Winter Olympics to Milano and Cortina of Italy which will host the winter games in 2026 .

GM R Praggnanandhaa defeats Magnus Carlsen at Airthings Masters Chess Tournament



A 16-year old Indian Grandmaster (GM) R Praggnanandhaa defeated World Number 1 Magnus Carlsen (Norway) in the 8th round of the Airthings Masters, an online rapid chess tournament.

Key Points:

- ◆ With this victory, R Praggnanandhaa became the third Indian, after Viswanathan Anand and P Harikrishna, to accomplish the rare feat of defeating Magnus Carlsen. ii.The Airthings Masters, which is an online chess rapid tournament of 16 players, a player gets three points for a win and one for a draw in the preliminary rounds. Currently, Russian player Ian Nepomniachtchi is on top of the standings with 19 points followed by Ding Liren and Hansen (both on 15 points).

About R Praggnanandhaa:

- ◆ He is an Indian chess grandmaster and the fifth youngest grandmaster among the top 39 youngest grandmasters as of June 30, 2021 behind Abhimanyu Mishra, Sergey Karjakin, Gukesh D and Javokhir Sindarov.

- ◆ In 2016 he became the world's youngest international masters in history, at the age of 10 years, 10 months, and 19 days.
- ◆ In 2013, he also won the World Youth Chess Championships Under-8 title, which earned him the title of FIDE Master at the age of 7 years.
- ◆ He became India's youngest and world's second youngest Grandmaster in 2018.

Indian Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu Wins Gold in Singapore Weightlifting International 2022



Saikhom Mirabai Chanu, the Indian weightlifter from Manipur state wins Gold medal in 55 kg category in Singapore Weightlifting International 2022. Also secured her position for the Commonwealth Games 2022 in 49 kg and 55 kg category in Birmingham, United Kingdom.

Mirabai Chanu participated for the first time in the 55 kg category in weightlifting and lifted the total weight of 191 kilograms (86kg in snatch+105kg in clean & jerk) and placed First in the podium, under the guidance of Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF).

Tennis: Rafael Nadal Defeats Cameron Norris To Win Mexican Open Championship for 4th time

The legendary Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal defeated Cameron Norris of the United Kingdom in Mexican Open Feb 2022 (Hard court) and claimed his 4th Mexican Open ATP 500 title in Acapulco, Mexico. Nadal won the sets by (6-4,6-4) and registered his 91st ATP title win.

- ◆ Nadal became the Youngest and the Oldest champion to win the Mexican Open ATP.
- ◆ Also, he received the prize money of USD 314,455.
- ◆ Previously, Nadal had won the Mexican Open ATP in the years 2005, 2013 and 2020.
- ◆ Nadal extends his 2022 season with the undefeated record of 15-0.
- ◆ Mexican Open ATP is also called Abierto Mexicano Telcel.

Vinesh Phogat wins Gold Medal at XXIV Outstanding Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial Tournament

Indian Wrestler Vinesh Phogat won the Gold Medal in the Women's Category of XXIV Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial Tournament held at Kyiv (also known as Kiev), Ukraine. She defeated Vanesa Kaladzinskaya of Belarus in the Final.

- ◆ The Event was held from February 26-28, 2021 and was organized by United World Wrestling.
- ◆ Vinesh Phogat has already qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics (to be held in

July, 2021) after winning Bronze at the 2019 World Championships.

- ◆ She is the only Indian Woman Wrestler to have qualified for the Tokyo Games.

Odisha to host 2021 edition of Hero Indian Women's League Football

On 28th February, 2021 the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has announced that the 2020-21 edition of Hero Indian Women's League

Football tournament will be hosted by Odisha state. The event was postponed in 2020 due to Covid19 pandemic. Exact dates of the event are not yet finalised.

Note:

- ◆ India will host 2 International Women's Football events in 2022.
- ◆ Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Asian Cup - 2022



CBSE appoints IAS Vineet Joshi as new Chairman



The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) announced the appointment of Vineet Joshi, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Education, as its new Chairman with effect from February 14, 2022 in addition to his existing assignments.

- ◆ He will succeed former CBSE Chairman Manoj Ahuja, who was appointed as the OSD in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

About Vineet Joshi :

- ◆ Vineet Joshi is an Indian Administrative Services (IAS) of 1992 batch officer from Manipur cadre.

Currently, he also serves as the Director-General of the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Gol Nominates DFS Secretary Sanjay Malhotra as a Director of Central Board of RBI

The Government of India (Gol) has nominated Sanjay Malhotra (1990 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre), the Secretary of the Department of Financial Services (DFS), under the Ministry of Finance, as the Director of the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) with effect from 16th February 2022 and until further orders.

- ◆ He has also been nominated as the Director on the central board of directors of State Bank of India (SBI), with immediate effect and until further order.
- ◆ He has served as the Chairman & Managing Director of REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited).

Chetan Ghatte appointed as director of the Institute of Economic Growth

The Institute of Economic Growth has appointed Chetan Ghatte as the new director succeeding Ajit Mishra. Ghatte, who was a member of the Reserve Bank of India's first monetary policy committee between 2016-2020, is the winner of the 2014 Mahalanobis Memorial gold medal for the best research economist in the country under the age of 45.

KN Raghavan to be new chairman of International Rubber Study Group



The Executive Director, Rubber Board of India, K.N. Raghavan has been elected as the new chairman of the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG). He will serve as the group's chairman for the next two years. He will chair the Heads of Delegation meeting to be held in Singapore on March 31. India, being both a producer and consumer of rubber, would be in a good position to protect the interests of both producers and consumers in the IRSG – the only international commodity body approved by the Common Fund for Commodities for development financing in the rubber sector

Sanjeev Sanyal has been appointed as the new whole-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

Indian economist Sanjeev Sanyal has been appointed as the new full-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). Significantly, before this, Sanjeev Sanyal was working as the Principal Economic Adviser to the Ministry of Finance in the Central Government. Sanjeev Sanyal actively worked in

the financial markets since the mid nineties. He was the Managing Director and Global Strategist at Deutsche Bank until 2015. In the year 2017, he was appointed as the Principal Economic Adviser to the Government of India. He also serves as co-chair of the G20 Framework Working Group. The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) is an independent body constituted to advise the Government of India, especially the Prime Minister, on economic and related issues. Currently the economist 'Dr. Bibek Debroy is chairing the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

Madhabi Puri Buch Becomes 1st Women to Be Appointed as SEBI Chairman; Succeeds Ajay Tyagi



The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Madhabi Puri Buch as the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairman for an initial period of three years from 1st March 2022. She will be the 1st woman to head the SEBI, securities market regulator and she is also the 1st person from the private sector to head SEBI and also 1st non-IAS to be appointed as the SEBI chairman.

- ◆ She will be the 10th chair of the board.
- ◆ She succeeds Ajay Tyagi, who served as a chairman for 5 years. His tenure ends on 28th February 2022.
- ◆ Her tenure as a whole-time member of SEBI ended in October 2021.

Prof Bhushan Patwardhan named as chairman of NAAC

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has appointed educationist and research scientist Professor Bhushan Patwardhan as chairman, of the executive committee of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bengaluru. The position was vacant after Prof Jagadish Kumar was appointed as chairman of UGC.

Prof Patwardhan is currently a national research professor designated by the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, and a distinguished professor at the Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU).

About the NAAC:

- ◆ NAAC is an autonomous body established by the UGC on September 5, 1994, with Prof Ram Reddy as founding chairman and Prof Arun Nigavekar as its first director.
- ◆ NAAC undertakes assessment and accreditation of higher educational institutions (HEI) such as colleges, universities, or other recognized institutions to assess the quality status of these institutions.
- ◆ NAAC grades are based on predefined criteria of assessment of quality and performance denoting Very good (A), Good

(B), Satisfactory(C), and Unsatisfactory (D) levels respectively. NAAC accreditation is a globally accepted indicator of the credibility and quality of the institution and has bearing on the academic, financial, and perceptual benefits.

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

Junaid Kamal Ahmad, the World Bank's India Director, has been named a Vice President of the international lending agency. Ahmad, who will lead the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) as Vice President, Operations, is only the second Bangladeshi to be chosen to such a high position in the bank's history. He will start his new job on April 16, according to a press statement.

Key Points:

- ◆ On the operational side, Faisal Chaudhary was the first Bangladeshi native to hold the position of vice president.
- ◆ Ahmad will work to advance and enhance MIGA's brand partnering across the World Bank Group as well as with financial institutions, private investors, and development actors; originate and pursue meaningful, impact-driven projects; and lead the Operations team to deliver on MIGA's mandate of mobilising private finance for development projects in Emerging Market Developing Economies, according to a statement from the bank.
- ◆ "Our (Globe Bank) cooperation with India allows us to learn and share what we've learned with the rest of the world. The most crucial is that as India's economy develops, it will have a significant impact on global

growth and poverty “In an interview with PTI, Ahmad, who has been the World Bank’s country director in India since September 2016, said.

- ◆ A country director in India in charge of such a programme is someone who can later consider taking on higher leadership posts at the World Bank. In response to a query, he replied, “The experience of India has been tremendously essential in providing me with that experience and perspective.”

Ahmad’s view and importance:

- ◆ The issue in funding development, according to Ahmad, is to mobilise long-term capital markets.
- ◆ Ahmad provides substantial expertise and understanding of international development, as well as an excellent track record of thought leadership and service to World Bank Group client countries, according to the bank’s statement.

T S Ramakrishnan named as new MD and CEO of LIC Mutual Fund

LIC Mutual Fund has announced the appointment of TS Ramakrishnan as its Managing Director & CEO, effective. Ramakrishnan, as the MD and CEO, LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management, will succeed Dinesh Pangtey, its former Wholtime Director and CEO.

Ramakrishnan is a Bachelor of Commerce (Hons.) and PGDIM and has been awarded Fellowship from the prestigious Insurance Institute of India. He has experience of over 34 years at LIC and its subsidiaries/associate companies, the release said. He joined LIC Mutual Fund AMC on April 28, 2021.

About the LIC Mutual Fund:

LIC Mutual Fund is one of the oldest and leading mutual funds operating in India. offer a complete basket of 26 products covering debt, equity, hybrid, passive and solution-oriented schemes. The Average Assets under Management (AAuM) is Rs 18,625.52 crores as on January 31, 2022.

Akshaye Widhani named as Chief Executive Officer of Yash Raj Films

Film production and distribution company Yash Raj Films (YRF) has named Akshaye Widhani as chief executive officer. Widhani was serving as senior vice-president, finance and business Affairs and head of operations at YRF Studios. He used to head corporate and business development activities for YRF, including finance, business extensions, strategic alliances, joint ventures, co-productions.

About Akshaye Widhani:

- ◆ Widhani joined YRF 17 years ago, has been responsible for setting up and running several business verticals for the company. His first stint was as studio manager, in charge of setting up operations for YRF Studios in 2005. Later, he took up leadership roles in corporate finance, strategy and operations. A graduate from Kelley School of Business, Indiana University with a dual major in finance and entrepreneurship, Widhani has also been spearheading recent initiatives for The Yash Chopra Foundation.

History of Yash Raj Films:

- ◆ Yash Raj Films is one of India’s biggest film production houses. Aditya Chopra is the Chairman and MD of Yash Raj Films. Yash Raj Films was founded by Yash Raj Chopra, in the year 1970.

Jet Airways named Sanjiv Kapoor as CEO 2022

Sanjiv Kapoor has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Jet Airways. Prior to this, Kapoor was the president of Oberoi Hotels and has also worked as a chief operating officer at SpiceJet and chief strategy and commercial officer at Vistara. He has worked as the Chief Strategy and Commercial Officer of Vistara Airlines for three years, and Chief Operating Officer of SpiceJet for two years. The Jalan Kalrock Consortium is the new promoter of Jet Airways.

Vidya Balan named as Brand Ambassador of Bharti AXA Life Insurance

Bharti AXA Life Insurance has appointed National Award-winning actress Vidya Balan as its Brand Ambassador. She as the brand ambassador will help in promoting the #DoTheSmartThing champion of Bharti AXA Life Insurance. Bharti AXA Life Insurance is a joint venture of Bharti, India's leading business group and AXA, one of the world's leading organizations in financial protection and wealth management.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- ◆ MD & CEO of Bharti AXA Life Insurance: Parag Raja;
- ◆ Bharti AXA Life Insurance Founded: 2007;
- ◆ Bharti AXA Life Insurance Parent organization: Bharti Enterprises.
- ◆ SBI named ex-Ujjivan Small Finance Bank CEO Nitin Chugh as DMD
- ◆ State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed former Ujjivan Small Finance Bank CEO, Nitin Chugh as Deputy Managing Director (DMD) to drive digital banking operations.

He has been appointed for an initial term of three years. Prior to this appointment, Chugh was CEO and managing director of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank. He joined there from HDFC Bank where he served as the Group Head of Digital Banking.

- ◆ According to public notice by SBI, the position would be responsible for envisioning, developing and executing of bank's digital banking strategy and business plan for imparting digital knowledge/skills in a constructive, empowering and collaborative way.

Table Tennis Player Manika Batra Joins Adidas as Brand Ambassador

Table Tennis player, Manika Batra was named as the brand ambassador of Adidas. The partnership focuses on empowering women to realize their dreams, cheering for women to break barriers and boosting participation in sports. With this association, the duo aims to drive credibility and inclusivity in sports, further fanning the aspirations of upcoming women sportspersons across the country.

About the Manika Batra:

- ◆ Manika Batra is the first Indian woman to win gold in table tennis at the Commonwealth Games 2018. She is the first Indian p
- ◆ layer to reach the top 10 of the (International Table Tennis Federation) ITTF World rankings in women's doubles and top 15 in mixed doubles, and the first Indian woman to reach the top 50 of the ITTF Rankings.

HUL Named Nitin Paranjpe as non executive chairman

Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) has announced the separation of the position of Chairman of the Board and the CEO & Managing Director of the company. Nitin Paranjpe has been appointed as the Non-Executive Chairman of the company with effect from March 31, 2022. He is currently serving as Chief Operating Officer of Unilever, the parent company of HUL. Sanjiv Mehta will continue to be the Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director (CEO & MD) of the company.

- ◆ The Board accepted the recommendation made by the NRC and has appointed Paranjpe as a Non-Executive Chairman. The appointment is subject to approval of the shareholders which the Company will seek as per applicable regulations.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- ◆ Hindustan Unilever Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai;
- ◆ Hindustan Unilever Ltd Founded: 17 October 1933.

Rakesh Sharma again appointed as MD & CEO of IDBI Bank

Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI Bank) has informed the stock exchanges that its board has approved the reappointment of Rakesh Sharma as the managing director and chief executive officer of the bank for a period of three years, effective March 19, 2022. Sharma's reappointment as the MD&CEO of the bank has received the banking regulator, Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) nod.

Previous experience of Rakesh Sharma:

Sharma was previously the MD&CEO of Canara Bank and retired from this position in July 2018.

Prior to that, he served as the MD&CEO of Laxmi Vilas Bank from March 2014 to September 2015. He was previously associated with the State Bank of India (SBI).

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- ◆ IDBI Bank Owner: Life Insurance Corporation;
- ◆ IDBI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai.

Dish TV ropes Rishabh Pant as its Brand Ambassador

Dish TV India, has announced the appointment of Indian cricketer Rishabh Pant as brand ambassador. Pant will feature in the brand's 360-degree communication for the next two years. This investment in the D2H brand is going to make it even stronger. The close affinity between D2H brand and Rishabh Pant as brand ambassadors will enable deeper engagement of D2H with its TG.

Rishabh has quickly developed into a distinctive entertainer on the cricket field, with his boundless energy behind the stumps and innovation in shot-making. He brings a spark each time he enters the field and appeals to the huge 18-35 age group across the country, our core audience.

Digital India CEO Abhishek Singh appoints National e-Governance Division chief

1995-batch IAS officers and Digital India Corporation CEO, Abhishek Singh as new National e-Governance Division chief. The 1995-batch IAS officer from Nagaland cadre will hold the position in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary. The officer will proceed to carry the extra cost of the put up of Managing Director & Chief Government Officer, Digital India Company. The 1995-batch IAS officer from Nagaland cadre will maintain the place within the rank and pay of Extra Secretary.



List of Important Days National & International



National Women's Day 2022 -February 13

National Women's Day of India is annually observed on 13th February to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, popularly known as the "The Nightingale of India" or "Bharat Kokila".

- ◆ 13th February 2022 marks the 143rd birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu.
- ◆ National Women's Day also celebrates the economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.
- ◆ The day also recognises the powerful voices of women in India's history.

Events :

- ◆ As a part of the National Women's Day, The Films Division of India under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting streamed a biopic on her titled "Sarojini Naidu - The Nightingale of India" as a tribute to Sarojini Naidu.
- ◆ This documentary (1975/B.D. Garga), explains the versatile personality of Sarojini Naidu, who was a great freedom fighter, poet and the first women Governor of an Indian state. The film also has Sarojini Naidu's voice, addressing the Asian Relations Conference.

APEDA's 36th Foundation Day-13th February 2022

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), celebrated its 36th Foundation Day on 13th February 2022.

Background:

- ◆ The Government of India established the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the APEDA Act passed by the Parliament in December 1985.
- ◆ The Act came into effect on 13th February 1986

About APEDA :

- ◆ Chairman-Dr. M. Angamuthu, IAS
- ◆ Headquarter- New Delhi, Delhi

World Radio Day 2022- February 13

The United Nations (UN)'s World Radio Day (WRD) is annually observed across the globe on 13th February to keep the popularity of radio alive and to promote the use of it among everyone.

The day also marks the anniversary of the establishment of the UN Radio service. UN Radio was established on 13th February 1946

- ◆ 13th February 2022 marked the observance of the 11th edition of World Radio Day.

Theme & Sub Theme:

- ◆ The theme of the World Radio Day 2022 is "Radio and Trust"
- ◆ UNESCO marks the observance of the WRD 2022 with 3 sub-themes,
- ◆ Trust in radio journalism: Produce independent and high-quality content;
- ◆ Trust and accessibility: Take care of your audience;
- ◆ Trust and viability of radio stations: Ensure competitiveness.

International Childhood Cancer Day 2022- February 15

The International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) is annually observed across the globe on 15th February to create awareness about the dangers and impacts of cancer among children. The day also aims to raise awareness about childhood cancer and to offer support for children and adolescents with cancer, the survivors and their families.

The theme for 2022 is 'Better Survival' is achievable #throughyourhands. 3-year campaign for ICCD (2021-2023):

- ◆ The 3-year campaign for ICCD 2021-2023 called, 'Tree of Life', is designed to use the image of painted handprints of children to represent survival rates for childhood cancer on a national, regional and international scale.
- ◆ ICCD 2022, the 2nd year of the 3-year campaign for ICCD 2021-2023 is celebrated under the theme 'Better Survival' is achievable #throughyourhands.

Symbol:

The internationally recognised symbol for childhood cancer is the gold ribbon.

National Science Day 2022- February 28



The National Science Day (NSD) is annually observed across India on 28th February to commemorate the day (28th February 1928) on which Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (CV Raman) discovered the Raman effect.

- ◆ He won the Nobel Prize in Physics (1930) for his work on the scattering of light and for the discovery of the effect named after him, 'The Raman effect'.
- ◆ The National Science Week is celebrated from 22nd to 28th February 2022.
- ◆ The theme of NSD 2022 is "Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future".

19 February: Soil Health Card Day

Soil Health Card Day is organized across the country on 19 February every year. It is worth noting that on this day in 2015, 'Soil Health Card Scheme' was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Suratgarh, Rajasthan. Incidentally, the same year the International Year of Soils was also organized.

The Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme aims to issue 'Soil Health Card' to farmers every two years, to address nutritional deficiencies in fertilizer practices.

International Mother Language Day 2022- February 21



The United Nations(UN)'s International Mother Language Day is annually observed across the globe on 21st February to promote multilingualism and to create awareness about linguistic and cultural diversity.

- ◆ The theme of International Mother Language Day 2022 is "Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities".

Observance in India: Matribhasha Diwas:

- ◆ On the occasion of the International Mother Language Day (Matribhasha Diwas), the Ministry of Culture, Government of India has organised 2-day events (21st & 22d February 2022) under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at Indira Gandhi National Center of Arts, New Delhi, Delhi.

World Day of Social Justice 2022- February 20

The United Nations (UN)'s World Day of Social Justice is annually observed across the globe on 20th February to speak out against injustice and promote worldwide social justice.

- The day is observed to tackle the issues like poverty, exclusion, gender inequality, unemployment and human rights.

The theme of World Day of Social Justice 2022 is "Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment".

World NGO Day 2022 - February 27

World Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Day is annually observed across the globe on 27th February. World NGO Day is dedicated to recognise, celebrate, and honour all nongovernmental and nonprofit organizations that contribute to society. 27th February 2022 marks the observance of the 9th edition of World NGO Day.

- ◆ The universal concept of World NGO Day is to 'Celebrate, Commemorate and Collaborate' the NGOs across the globe.
- ◆ The first World NGO Day was observed on 27th February 2014 by the United Nations(UN), European Union(EU), Nordic Council leaders and international organizations.

Rare Disease Day 2021 - February 28

Rare Disease Day is annually observed across the globe on the last day of February every year to create awareness to the general public regarding the rare disease and their effects on the lives of the affected people. The International Rare Disease Day is organised by EURORDIS.

- ◆ The Rare Disease Day 2021 falls on 28th February 2021 which also marks the 14th Rare Disease Day.
- ◆ The rare disease day was launched by EURORDIS and its Council of National Alliances in 2008.
- ◆ The first Rare Disease Day was celebrated on 29th February 2008.

Zero Discrimination Day 2021 - March 1

Zero Discrimination Day is annually observed across the globe on 1st March to highlight the needs to take actions to end the inequalities based on income, sex, age, health status, occupation, disability, sexual orientation, drug use, gender identity race, class, ethnicity and religion.

- ◆ The UN celebrated the first Zero Discrimination Day on 1st March 2014.
- ◆ The Zero Discrimination Campaign was launched by the UNAIDS -
- ◆ United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency
- ◆ Virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) on 1st December 2013, World AIDS Day.
- ◆ "A butterfly" which is recognised as the sign of transformation is the symbol of Zero Discrimination.

About United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS):

- ◆ Executive Director-Winnie Byanyima
- ◆ Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland

World Civil Defence Day 2021- March 1

World Civil Defence Day is annually observed across the globe on 1st March to honour and signify the importance of civil protection. The aim is to bring the attention of the world public to the vital importance of Civil Protection.

The World Civil Defence Day 2021 observed on 1st March 2021 marks the 90th anniversary of the International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO).

The theme of the World Civil Defence Day 2021 is "Strong Civil Protection To Preserve The National Economy".

George Saint-Paul, a French Surgeon General created the Association des Lieux de Geneve in 1931 from which was the origin of ICDO

About International Civil Defence Organization

- ◆ Secretary-General- Njoupouo YAP Mariatou
- ◆ Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland
- ◆ Members- Member States (59 state), Observer States (16 States) Affiliated Members (22 States)

International Women's Day 2022 Celebrated on 8th March



International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated globally on March 8 every year. The day recognises the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The event celebrates women's achievements and raises awareness about women's equality and lobbies for accelerated gender parity.

The theme of 2022 International Women's Day is "gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow".

Significance of the day:

- ◆ International Women's Day is celebrated to recognise the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. Organisations like colleges and institutions across the world celebrate International Women's Day by holding public speeches, rallies, exhibitions, workshops and seminars on themes and concepts, debates, quiz competitions and lectures.

History of International Women's Day :

- ◆ International Women's Day was observed for the first time in 1911. The United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day in the International Women's Year, 1975. In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly invited member states to proclaim March 8 as the UN Day for women's rights and world peace.

No Smoking Day 2022 celebrated on 9th March 11, 2022

No Smoking Day is celebrated on the second Wednesday in the month of March every year across the world. This year No Smoking Day will be celebrated on 9th March. The day is celebrated to help those who wish to quit smoking as well as to raise awareness about the implications of smoking on an individual's health.

World Kidney Day 2022 observed globally on 10th March

World Kidney Day is celebrated on the second Thursday of March every year. This year, it is being observed on March 10. World Kidney Day is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness of the importance of our kidneys. World Kidney Day aims to raise awareness of the importance of our kidneys to our overall health and to reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide.

The Theme of the day:

- ◆ The theme for World Kidney day 2022 is "Kidney Health for All". The 2022 campaign will focus on efforts to increase education and awareness about kidney health and on reducing the stubbornly high CKD knowledge gap at all levels of kidney care.

CISF raising day observed every year on March 10

In the year 1969, the CISF was set up on March 10 and three battalions were formed under the CISF act 1968, which was passed by the Parliament of India. Since then, the day is celebrated as CISF Raising Day every year. Central Industrial Security Force, is for the central armed police force in India. It is one of the six paramilitary forces in India functioning under the Union Home Ministry.



Current Affairs Quiz - 1

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Name the scheme launched by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for the welfare of the Transgender community and the beggars.
(a) WINNER (b) PROUD
(c) VALUE (d) SMILE
2. Which state/UT has launched first-of-its-kind Quick Response (QR) Code-based mechanism to certify and label handmade carpets?
(a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Nagaland
(c) Jammu & Kashmir (d) Uttarakhand
3. CBI has recently registered the biggest ever bank fraud case by which company?
(a) Berger Paints (b) ABG Shipyard
(c) Mercator Limited (d) Shalimar Works
4. In which city, Indian Railways is setting up the country's biggest and world-class wrestling academy to support wrestling as a sports?
(a) Delhi (b) Pune
(c) Hyderabad (d) Mumbai
5. Who is the author of the book 'How to Prevent the Next Pandemic'?
(a) Tim Cook (b) Elon Musk
(c) Bill Gates (d) Warren Buffett
6. ISRO successfully launched which earth observation satellite, in its first launch of the year 2022?
(a) EOS-1 (b) EOS-2
(c) EOS-3 (d) EOS-4

7. Reliance Jio has inked an agreement with which company to offer satellite-based broadband communication services in India?
(a) Deutsche Telekom, Germany
(b) Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation, Japan
(c) SES, Luxembourg
(d) Verizon Communications, United States
8. Name the President of Germany, who has been re-elected to the post in 2022 election?
(a) Angela Merkel
(b) Olaf Scholz
(c) Christian Lindner
(d) Frank-Walter Steinmeier
9. Union Power Minister R K Singh has announced that India will achieve zero-diesel use in agriculture and replace fossil fuel with renewable energy by _____.
(a) 2023
(b) 2024
(c) 2025
(d) 2028
10. Which country has become the first-ever country to allow drone flights in civilian airspace?
(a) Russia
(b) Afghanistan
(c) Lebanon
(d) Israel
11. What is the rank of India in the 9th annual ranking of top 10 countries outside of the United States (US) for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)?
(a) 1st
(b) 2nd
(c) 3rd
(d) 4th
12. According to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2021/2022 report, unveiled at the Dubai Expo, what is the rank of India among the easiest places to start a new business?
(a) 1st
(b) 2nd
(c) 3rd
(d) 4th
13. Which bank has won the Best Technology Bank of the Year award among Large Banks segment in IBA's 17th Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021?
(a) Union Bank of India
(b) ICICI Bank
(c) State Bank of India
(d) Bank of Baroda
14. What is the most recent revised GDP growth rate of India for FY22 as per SBI's Research Report, Ecowrap?
(a) 9.3 percent
(b) 8.8 percent
(c) 8.3 percent
(d) 9.5 percent

15. The Smart Card Arms License and Shastra App has been launched by which the police department of which state/UT?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Maharashtra
(c) Delhi (d) Tamil Nadu
16. The Career Counselling Workshop 'Pramarsh 2022' has achieved the feat of becoming the first event in India. The workshop was organised at which place?
(a) Meerut (b) Nagpur
(c) Rajkot (d) Bikaner
17. Which Indian telecom company has joined the global SEA-ME-WE-6 undersea cable consortium?
(a) Airtel (b) BSNL
(c) Vodafone-Idea (d) Reliance Jio
18. India's first Biosafety level-3 containment mobile laboratory has been inaugurated in which city?
(a) Surat (b) Kolkata
(c) Ujjain (d) Nashik
19. The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in exercise Eastern Bridge-VI in 2022 with which country at Air Force Station Jodhpur?
(a) Oman (b) France
(c) Sri Lanka (d) Bangladesh
20. Noted freedom fighter and Gandhian social worker, Shakuntala Choudhary has passed away. She hailed from which state?
(a) Gujarat (b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Tamil Nadu (d) Assam
21. Government has launched Purple Revolution in Jammu & Kashmir. It is associated with the cultivation of which crop?
(a) Rose (b) Cedarwood
(c) Lavender (d) Almond
22. India has inked Roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance agreement with which of these countries?
(a) Japan (b) United States
(c) France (d) Iran

23. C-Dome is a naval air defense system, successfully tested by which country recently?
(a) Iraq (b) Israel
(c) Singapore (d) Australia
24. Which state became the first state to launch India's first Night Navigation mobile application for ferry services?
(a) Haryana (b) Bihar
(c) Rajasthan (d) Assam
25. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 'Kisan Drone Yatra', an initiative by _____.
(a) Avian Aerospace (b) ARCH drones
(c) Garuda Aerospace (d) Ziegler Aerospace

Current Affairs Quiz - 2

SPORTS APPOINTMENTS AND DAYS OF IMPORTANCE

1. Who has been appointed as the President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for the year 2022-23?
(a) Rameshwar Thakur (b) Ashok Chandak
(c) Bansi S. Mehta (d) Debashis Mitra
2. The International Epilepsy Day is observed every year on which day?
(a) Second Monday of February (b) February 12
(c) February 14 (d) Second Sunday of February
3. FICCI CASCADE has dedicated which day to be observed as the Anti-Smuggling Day every year starting from 2022?
(a) 12 February (b) 11 February
(c) 13 February (d) 10 February
4. Who among the following has been appointed as Brand Ambassador and investor of Krishi Network?
(a) Vijay Raaz (b) Varun Sharma
(c) Pankaj Tripathi (d) Smriti Mandhana

5. Which Indian cricketer has won ESPNcricinfo 'Test Batting Award' for 2021?
(a) Ambati Rayudu (b) Rishabh Pant
(c) Virat Kohli (d) Hardik Pandya
6. Who has been appointed as the new CEO and MD of Air India?
(a) Bilal Erdogan (b) Temel Kotil
(c) Ece Erken (d) Ilker Ayci
7. Which day of the year has been dedicated for commemorating the World Pangolin Day every year?
(a) February 20 (b) Third Sunday of February
(c) February 19 (d) Third Saturday of February
8. Legendary Indian player Surajit Sengupta has passed away. He had played at national level for Indian team in which sports?
(a) Cricket (b) Football
(c) Hockey (d) Tennis
9. Every year India observes the Soil Health Card Day on _____ to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme.
(a) 17 February (b) 18 February
(c) 19 February (d) 20 February
10. Who has been appointed as the new director of Institute of Economic Growth?
(a) Ajit Mishra (b) Chetan Ghatе
(c) Roshni Sharma (d) Sanjay Kumar
11. What is the theme of World Day of Social Justice 2022?
(a) International community in poverty eradication
(b) Workers on the move: the quest for social justice
(c) Closing the Inequalities Gap to Achieve Social Justice
(d) Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment
12. World Thinking Day is observed every year on which day?
(a) February 21 (b) February 22
(c) February 23 (d) February 24

13. Which country bagged the maximum number of medals at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games?
(a) Germany (b) China
(c) Norway (d) South Korea
14. Which Indian grandmaster recently achieved the feat of becoming the youngest player to beat Magnus Carlsen, of Norway in chess tournament?
(a) R. Praggnanandhaa (b) Nihal Sarin
(c) Bharath Subramaniam (d) Gukesh D
15. Tanishka Kotia and Riddhika Kotia have been appointed as the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' brand ambassadors of _____.
(a) Leh (b) Kochi
(c) Kanpur (d) Gurugram
16. Who became the youngest ATP 500 champion?
(a) John Newcomb (b) Rod lever
(c) Jimmy Connors (d) Carlos Alcarazu
17. Who among the following has been nominated by the Center as the Director of the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India?
(A) Sanjay Bandopadhyay (b) Neelam Shammi Rao
(c) G Ashok Kumar (d) Sanjay Malhotra
18. Who has been elected as the new chairman of the International Rubber Studies Group (IRSG)?
(A) Shashank Singh (b) Sonia Tiwari
(c) Vinod Sharma (d) K.N. Raghavan
19. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman and CEO of Honda Cars India Limited?
(a) Hiroyuki Shimizu (b) Katsushi Inoue
(c) Gaku Nakanishi (d) Takuya Tsumura
20. When is Janaushadhi Diwas week celebrated?
(a) 5th March to 11th March (b) 4th March to 10th March
(c) 3rd March to 9th March (d) 1st March to 7th March

21. Who has been appointed as new chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)?
(a) H R Nagendra (b) Ajay Tyagi
(c) C K Mishra (d) Madhabi Puri Buch
22. Who has become the first Indian to win a silver in an individual section of the Para Archery World Championships in Dubai, UAE?
(a) Mariyappan Thangavelu (b) Devendra Jhajharia
(c) Deepa Malik (d) Pooja Jatan
23. Legendary spinner Sonny Ramadhin passed away. He was associated with which country's cricket team?
(a) West Indies (b) India
(c) South Africa (d) New Zealand
24. Who among the following has been appointed as chairman of the executive committee of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)?
(a) Rajat Tripathi (b) Praveen Kumar
(c) Bhushan Patwardhan (d) Jitendra Verma
25. International Olympic Committee has stripped Russian President Vladimir Putin of the Olympic Order award in response to the invasion of Ukraine. Who is the present president of International Olympic Committee?
(a) Jacques Count Rogge (b) Thomas Bach
(c) Juan Antonio Samaranch (d) Lord Killanin
-



ANSWERS



Current Affairs Quiz - 1

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1.(d) SMILE

Exp The Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar launched the Central Sector scheme titled "SMILE" on February 12, 2022. SMILE stands for Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise.

2.(c) Jammu and Kashmir

Exp Lieutenant Governor of the Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha launched the Quick Response (QR) Code-based mechanism for labelling the handmade carpets in J&K, a first-of-its-kind in the country.

3.(b) ABG Shipyard

Exp Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has booked ABG Shipyard for an alleged Rs 22,842-crore financial fraud. ABG Shipyard is the flagship entity of ABG Group. This is the biggest bank fraud case ever registered by the CBI.

4.(a) Delhi

Exp. The Ministry of Railways has approved to set up a state-of-art wrestling academy in Indian Railways, at Kishanganj, Delhi.

5.(c) Bill Gates

Exp A book titled 'How to Prevent the Next Pandemic' authored by Bill Gates will be published this year in May 2022.

6.(d) EOS-4

Exp The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched an Earth Observation Satellite, EOS-04 and two small satellites into the intended orbit.

- 7.(c)** SES, Luxembourg
Exp Reliance Jio has tied-up with Luxembourg-based satellite and telecom services provider SES to provide satellite-based broadband communication services in India.
- 8.(d)** Frank Walter Steinmeier
Exp German President, Frank-Walter Steinmeier has been re-elected for a second term of five years by a special parliamentary assembly.
- 9.(b)** 2024
Exp Union Power Minister R K Singh has announced that India will achieve zero-diesel use in agriculture and replace fossil fuel with renewable energy by 2024.
- 10.(d)** Israel
Exp Israel becomes the first-ever country to allow drone flights in civilian airspace. The certification was issued to the Hermes Starliner unmanned system by the Israeli Civil Aviation Authority, and was manufactured and developed by Elbit Systems, an Israeli defense electronics company.
- 11.(c)** 3rd
Exp 9th USGBC top 10 ranking of Countries outside of US for LEED in 2021: India ranked 3rd; China topped.
- 12.(d)** 4th
Exp In ease to start a business, they had placed India 4th globally. It was topped by Saudi Arabia and followed by Netherlands & Sweden.
- 13.(d)** Bank of Baroda
Exp Bank of Baroda has won the Best Technology Bank of the Year award among Large Banks segment in IBA's 17th Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021.
- 14.(b)** 8.8 percent
Exp The State Bank of India (SBI) Research Report, Ecwrap, has revised downwards the gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of India for FY22 (2021-22) to 8.8 percent. Earlier this was estimated at 9.3 percent.
- 15.(c)** Delhi
Exp Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched 'Smart Card Arms License' and 'Shastra App' of the Delhi Police on February 16, 2022, on the occasion of 75th anniversary of the Delhi Police.

- 16.(d) Bikaner**
Exp Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal launched 'Pramarsh 2022', a mega career counselling workshop on February 15, 2022, for the students of the Bikaner District region in Rajasthan.
- 17.(a) Airtel**
Exp Telecom operator Bharti Airtel Ltd has announced that it has joined the SEA-ME-WE-6 undersea cable consortium, in a bid to scale up its high speed global network capacity and serve India's fast growing digital economy.
- 18.(d) Nashik**
Exp Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Bharati Pravin Pawar inaugurated India's first Biosafety level-3 containment mobile laboratory in Nashik, Maharashtra.
- 19.(a) Oman**
Exp The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) have organised bilateral air exercise named Eastern Bridge-VI from February 21 to 25, 2022 at Air Force Station Jodhpur in Rajasthan. Eastern Bridge-VI is the sixth edition of the exercise.
- 20.(d) Assam**
Exp Shakuntala Choudhary hailed from Kamrup in Assam and was known for her commitment and devotion to the popularization of the Gandhian way of life. She worked for the wellbeing of villagers, especially women and children.
- 21.(c) Lavender**
Exp Lavender has been designated as Doda brand product, to promote lavender under 'One District, One Product' initiative of the Modi Government.
- 22.(c) France**
Exp India and France have inked a roadmap to enhance their bilateral exchanges on the blue economy and ocean governance.
- 23.(b) Israel**
Exp Israel successfully tested a new naval air defense system "C-Dome," to be used on the Israeli Navy's Sa'ar 6-class corvettes.

24.(d) Assam

Exp Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma launched India's first Night Navigation mobile application for ferry services on the Brahmaputra River in Guwahati, Assam.

25.(c) Garuda Aerospace

Exp Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Kisan Drone Yatra', an initiative by Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd and flagged off 100 'Kisan Drones' in various cities and towns across India to spray pesticides in farms across the states of In

Current Affairs Quiz - 2

SPORTS APPOINTMENTS AND DAYS OF IMPORTANCE

1.(d) Debashis Mitra

Exp Debashis Mitra has been elected as the President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for the year 2022-23.

2.(a) Second Monday of February

Exp The International Epilepsy Day is observed every year on the Second Monday of February across the world. In 2022, the International Epilepsy Day falls on February 14, 2022.

3.(b) 11th February

Exp The FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) has taken the initiative to launch Anti-Smuggling Day, which will be marked on

4.(c) Pankaj Tripathi

Exp The Krishi Network, an agritech startup company, appointed Bollywood actor Pankaj Tripathi as its Brand Ambassador and investor.

5.(b) Rishabh Pant

Exp The 15th Edition of ESPNcricinfo Awards, India's wicket keeper batsman, Rishabh Pant wins 'Test Batting' award by scoring 89 not out, helped India to win the Border Gavaskar Trophy 2021 by (2-1) and shattered Australia's unbeaten record at Gabba after 32 years.

6.(d) Ilker Ayci

Exp Iker Ayci has been appointed as the new CEO and MD of Air India. He will assume his responsibilities on or before 1st April 2022.

7.(d) Third Saturday of February

Exp The World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the "Third Saturday of February" every year. In 2022, the annual World Pangolin Day is being celebrated on 19 February 2022. It marks the 11th edition of the event.

8.(b) Football

Exp The former India footballer Surajit Sengupta, who played as a midfielder, has passed away due to COVID-19 complications. He was 71.

9.(c) 19 February

Exp Every year India observes the Soil Health Card Day on 19 February to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, and create awareness about the benefits of the scheme.

10.(b) Chetan Ghate

Exp The Institute of Economic Growth has appointed Chetan Ghate as the new director succeeding Ajit Mishra.

11.(d) Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment

Exp World Day of Social Justice 2022 Theme: Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment.

12.(b) February 22

Exp World Thinking Day, originally known as Thinking Day, is celebrated annually on 22 February by all Girl Guides / Girl Scouts, and World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) worldwide.

13.(c) Norway

Exp Norway topped medal table for the second successive Winter Olympics, winning a total of 37 medals, including 16 golds.

14.(a) R. Praggnanandhaa

Exp India's teen chess Grandmaster Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa created history as he defeated world number one chess champion, Magnus Carlsen, of Norway in an online chess tournament.

15.(d) Gurugram

Exp International chess player women FIDE Masters, Tanishka Kotia and her sister Riddhika Kotia have been appointed as the brand ambassadors of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme for Gurugram district of Haryana.

16.(d) Carlos Alcarazu

Exp Carlos Alcaraz scored his first ATP Tour match win as an 18-year-old at the Rio Open presented by Claro two years ago.

17.(d) Sanjay Malhotra

Exp The Center has nominated Sanjay Malhotra, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the Ministry of Finance, a 1990 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre, as the Director of the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India with effect from 16th. February 2022 and till further orders.

18.(d) K.N. Raghavan

Exp The Executive Director, Rubber Board of India, K.N. Raghavan has been elected as the new chairman of the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG).

19.(d) Takuya Tsumura

Exp Japanese auto major Honda Motor Company Limited has announced the appointment of Takuya Tsumura as the new President and CEO of Honda Cars India Limited (HCIL).

20.(d) 1st March to 7th March

Exp Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers will organize the Janaushadhi Diwas from 1st March to 7th March 2022.

21.(d) Madhabi Puri Beach

Exp The government has announced Madhabi Puri Buch as new chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

22.(d) Pooja Jatyan

Exp Para-archer Pooja Jatyan scripted history as she became the first Indian to win a silver in an individual section of the Para World Championships in Dubai, UAE.

23.(a) West Indies

Exp West Indies spin legend Sonny Ramadhin has passed away at the age of 92. He was a part of the side that won its first away series in England in 1950.

24.(c) Bhushan Patwardhan

Exp The University Grants Commission (UGC) has appointed educationist and research scientist Professor Bhushan Patwardhan as chairman, of the executive committee of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bengaluru.

25.(b) Thomas Bach

Exp Thomas Bach was elected President of the IOC on 10 September 2013, as the successor to Jacques Rogge, at the 125th IOC Session in Buenos Aires.
