

# Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest



**February 2022**

**BANK  
EXAMS  
Today**

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# MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS GK DIGEST: FEBRUARY 2022

## ECONOMIC SURVEY 2021-22

**Current Context: The Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman presented Economic Survey 2021-22.**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **It was the pre-budget Economic Survey and was authored by a team led by Chief Economic Advisor (CEA).**
- **The survey was based on the theme of the 'Agile approach'.**
- As per the GoI, India's economy is growing at 8-8.5% for FY23. For the current fiscal year i.e. FY22, the GDP growth rate is 9.2%. The GDP growth rate contracted by 7.3% in 2020-21.
- The Agriculture sector and its allied areas are expected to grow by 3.9% in 2021-22. This sector observed growth of 3.6% in the previous year.
- The priority will be given to crop diversification towards oilseeds, pulses, and horticulture.
- The Service Sector was affected by the pandemic. It is expected to grow by 8.2% this financial year following the previous fiscal's 8.4% contraction.
- The industrial sector growth is expected to be 11.2% in FY22.
- The total consumption has increased by 7% in 2021-22. Also, significant contributions were observed in the form of government spending.
- The Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) to grow by 15%, export will grow by 16.5% and imports will grow by 29.4 in 2021-22.
- **About Fiscal Developments:** The revenue receipts from the Central Government have increased by 67.2% YoY (April to November 2021) as against the expected growth of 9.6% in the 2021-22 Budget Estimates (over 2020-21 Provisional Actuals). The gross tax revenue observed a growth of over 50% YoY (April to November 2021). Capex grew by 13.5% YoY from April to November 2021, by giving focus on infrastructure-intensive sectors. The sustained revenue collection and a targeted expenditure policy have contained the fiscal deficit for April to November 2021 at 46.2% of BE. The government debt has raised from 49.1% of GDP in 2019-20 to 59.3% of GDP in 2020-21. It will observe a reduction as per the economic recovery.
- The Foreign Exchange Reserves crossed US\$ 600 billion in the first half of 2021-22 and it was the US \$ 633.6 billion as of 31st Dec 2021. India has transformed from being among the 'fragile five' nations to the 4th largest forex reserve.
- The external debt of India rose to the US \$ 593.1 billion at the end-September 2021, from the US \$ 556.8 billion a year earlier.

- **Updates on commercial banking system:** The YoY credit growth accelerated gradually in 2021-22 from 5.3 percent in April 2021 to 9.2 percent as of 31st Dec 2021. The Gross Non-Performing Advances ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks reduced to 6.9% at the end of September 2021 from 11.2% at the end of 2017-18. The net NPA ratio reduced to 2.2% from 6% for the same period. The capital to risk-weighted asset ratio of SCBs raised from 13% in 2013-14 to 16.54% at the end of September 2021.
- Around Rs, 89,066 crores were raised through Initial Public Offering (IPO) in April-November 2021.
- The Sensex and Nifty raised at 61,766 and 18,477 on 18th Oct 2021.
- **Inflation:** The average headline CPI-Combined inflation moderated to 5.2% in 2021-22 (April-December) from 6.6% in 2020-21 April-December period. The food inflation averaged at a low of 2.9% from April to December of 2021-22 as against 9.1% to December of 2020-21.
- **Sustainable Development and Climate Change:** The score of India as per the NITI Aayog SDG Index has observed improvement to 66 in 2020-21 from 60 in 2019-20 and 57 in 2018-19. The country has the tenth-largest forest area in the world and has ranked 3rd at the global level to increase its forest area from 2010 to 2020.
- The Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021 will prove helpful to the economy as it is aimed at phasing out single-use plastic by 2022.
- India has 3rd largest start-up ecosystem in the world and the number of newly recognized start-ups increased to 14000 in 2021-22 from 733 in 2016-17. Around 44 startups attained unicorn status in 2021. Therefore, there are 83 unicorns in India.
- Overall, service Sector GVA will grow to 8.2% in 2021-22.
- The IIP (Index of Industrial Production) raised by 17.4% (YoY) during April-November 2021 when compared with (-)15.3% in April-November 2020.
- The expenditure on social services which includes health, education, and others was increased as a proportion of GDP increased from 6.2 % in 2014-15 to 8.6% in 2021-22 (BE).
- As of 16th Jan 2022, 157.94 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines were administered.

## GOI APPROVED THE SALE OF NINL TO TATA STEEL

**Current Context:** The Government of India has approved the sale of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) to Tata Steel Long Products Ltd.

### KEY FACTS

- **The deal of Rs 12,100 crore was approved for the same.**
- The NINL is a joint venture of MMTC, NMDC, BHEL, MECON, and two Odisha Government PSUs, namely OMC and IPICOL (Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Limited).
- For the sale, three companies namely Consortium of Jindal Steel & Power Limited and Nalwa Steel and Power Ltd, JSW Steel Limited, and Tata Steel Long Products Limited (TSLP) had raised a bid to buy NINL.
- Among these, TSLP emerged to have the highest bid and so the NINL was sold to TSLP.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of TSLP: Odisha

## 30TH FOUNDATION DAY OF NCW

**Current Context:** The 30th Foundation Day of the National Commission of Women (NCW) was observed on 31st Jan 2022.

### KEY POINTS

- The program for the same was addressed by PM Narendra Modi.
- The theme of the program was 'She The Change Maker'.
- The program aimed to celebrate women's contributions and achievements in various fields.
- The discussions on topics like 'Women Entrepreneurs driving the change', 'Women in decision making' and 'Digital empowerment of women' took place.
- NCW is a statutory body formed under the National Commission of Women Act 1990. It was formed in Jan 1992.

## IREDA SIGNED MOU WITH GOA SHIPYARD LTD

**Current Context:** The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) signed MoU with Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

### DETAILS

- The MoU was signed to offer technical and financial expertise in developing rooftop solar power projects.
- The assistance will be provided by IREDA to GSL. It will provide techno-commercial expertise solutions.
- Due to the rooftop solar power project, there will be a reduction in the expenditure of electricity and a reduction in carbon footprint.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IREDA: New Delhi

## UNION BUDGET 2022

**Current Context:** The Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman presented Union Budget 2022 for the consecutive 4th time.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- She presented the financial statements and tax proposals for the fiscal year 2022-23 i.e. from April 2022 to March 2023.
- She mentioned that India will observe growth at 9.27%.
- She highlighted that this Union Budget aims to develop the foundation and give a blueprint of the economy over 'Amrit Kal' of next 25 years i.e. from India at 75 to India at 100.



- There will be PLI (Production Linked Incentive) schemes for 14 major sectors and it is expected to create 60 lakh new job opportunities and additional new production of Rs 30 lakh crore.
- This union budget will also prove beneficial to the startups as the startups will be promoted to facilitate Drone Shakti and make drone a service. In this regard, ITI courses in various will be held.
- The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme is extended upto March 2023 and the guaranteed cover is extended by another Rs 50,000 crore. Therefore, the total cover under the scheme becomes Rs 5 lakh crore.
- She also announced that the Ken Betwa river linking project will be allocated funds of Rs 44,605 crore.
- Around 75 digital banking units will be set up in 75 districts to support digital banking.
- The North Eastern Council will work to develop welfare and upliftment initiatives in the North Eastern States. In this, livelihood and job opportunities for women and youth will be developed.
- The issuance process of e-passports will commence in 2022-23. The passports will be having RFID and biometrics.
- In 2022, 5G spectrum auctions will be conducted which will further launch various services in 2022-23.
- An upliftment to the Animation, visual effects, gaming, and comics sector will be given and for this purpose, an AVGC promotion task force with all stakeholders will be set up.
- The Special Economic Zones Act will be replaced with new legislation. This will develop enterprises and hubs in India.
- The effective capital expenditure of the Central government will be Rs 10.68 lakh crore in 2022-23, which is 4.1% of GDP.
- The funds of Rs 19,500 crore are sanctioned to facilitate domestic manufacturing of 280 gigawatts of installed solar capacity by 2030. The funds will be used to manufacture high-efficiency modules with the major focus on fully integrated manufacturing units to solar PV modules.
- Digital rupee will be issued using blockchain and other technologies. RBI will issue the same at the start of 2022-23. Thus, there will be an introduction of central bank digital currency which will help the economy to grow fast.
- Also, Rs 1 lakh crore is allocated to help the states to catalyze overall investments in the economy. These will be 50-year interest-free loans and will be used for PM Gati Shakti-related and other productive capital investments of states.
- **The announcement in Tax:** A new tax rule for taxpayers was announced in which a taxpayer can file an updated return on payment of taxes within two years from the end of the relevant assessment year.
- The tax deduction limit for both Centre and States govt employees was increased from 10% to 14%.
- The income from Cryptocurrency will be charged with 30% tax, plus 1% tax on the transaction.
- The current tax benefits applied on startups, are being given redemption of taxes for 3 consecutive years but are now to be extended by 1 more year.
- The income coming from Long Term Capital Gains will have a tax of 15%.
- Various duty concessions will be applied to enhance electronics manufacturing, wearables and hearables devices i.e. it will be applied on the parts of mobile phones.
- The customs on polished diamonds, gemstones are reduced to 5% in which the sawn diamonds are exempted. In June, simplified regulations will be announced to have exported jewellery through e-commerce.
- The deduction for employer contribution to NPS for State govt employees on par with central govt employees will be 14%. Earlier it was 10%.

- An Alternate Minimum Tax for cooperative societies will be reduced to 15%.
- There will be reduction in the surcharge on cooperative societies. It will be to 7% from 12% for those having an income between Rs 1 crore and Rs 10 crore.
- An unblended fuel will carry an additional duty of 2 rupees per litre from October 2022.
- There is a reduction in surcharge on unlisted shares to 23% from 28.5%.
- **Announcement related to deficit and expenditure:** (a) Proposed Fiscal deficit of 4.5% of GDP by 2025-26 (b) Expected Fiscal deficit of 6.4% of GDP in 2022-23 (c) Revised Fiscal deficit for 2021-22 at 6.9% of GDP. (d) The total expenditure for 2022-23 to be at 39.45 trillion rupees (e) States are allowed with 4% fiscal deficit to GDP in FY23 (f) Scheme for financial assistance to states for capital investment outlay to be 1 trillion rupees in 2022-23.
- Around 1.5 lakh post offices are to be set up as a part of the core banking system. It will help to transfer funds between post office accounts and bank accounts in an online manner, enable financial inclusion, access to net banking, ATMs facilities.
- The fiscal deficit target for FY23 is set at 6.4%. The total expenditure for FY23 will be Rs 39.45 lakh crore.
- Total receipts except borrowing will be Rs 22.84 lakh crore.
- The revised fiscal deficit in FY22 is 6.9% of GDP as against 6.8% in Budget estimates.
- The National telehealth program was also announced. It will be an open platform for the National Digital Health Ecosystem. It will have digital registrations of health providers and health facilities. A unique health identity will be generated and it will have access to various health facilities.
- **The announcement in the Education sector:** There will be a revision of the syllabus of agricultural universities to fulfill the need for natural, zero-budget organic farming, modern-day agriculture. Also, PM eVIDYA will work to launch a 'One class, one TV channel' program, which will be extended to 200 TV channels from currently 12.
- **The announcement in the Indian Railways sector and Roads sector:** Around 25,000 km of national highways to be built in 2022-23. Around, 400 new-generation Vande Bharat trains will be developed and launched in the next three years. Also, 2,000 km of the rail network will be developed under KAWACH, which is an indigenous world-class technology to enhance safety.
- **Announcement for Indian Farmers Community:** The procurement of wheat in Rabi season 2021-22 and the procurement of paddy in Kharif season 2021-22 will cover 1,208 lakh metric tonnes of wheat and paddy from 163 lakh farmers and there will be direct payment of MSP value to their accounts of worth Rs 2.37 lakh crores.
- States should promote Chemical-free natural farming and must implement the usage of drones for crop assessment, maintaining digitized land records, spraying insecticides and nutrients, etc.
- NABARD will also support by allocating funds to the startups dealing in agriculture and rural enterprise domains.
- **The announcement in the Infrastructure sector:** Around 80 lakh houses will be built under PM Awas Yojana. 60,000 houses will be identified as beneficiaries for PM Awas Yojana in rural and urban areas.
- The tap water to 3.8 crore households will be provided with the allocation of funds of Rs 60,000 crore. In 2022-23, 80 lakh households will be identified for the affordable housing scheme.
- **The announcement in the Defence sector:** 68% of the capital procurement budget for Defence was announced, which will promote domestic industries under the Aatmanirbharta initiative. This will

reduce the country's dependence on imports of defense equipment. The 25% of the defence budget will be used to perform R&D in defence through industry, startups, and academia.

- The National Ropeways Development Program was announced. It will be executed on PPP mode. The contracts will be given for 8 ropeway projects of 60 Km length in 2022-23.
- The Digital Ecosystem for Skilling and Livelihood (DESH-Stack e-portal) will be launched which will empower youths via online training sessions.
- The startups will be promoted to have 'Drone Shakti' and for Drone-As-A-Service (DrAAS).
- The amount of Rs 200 crore will be used as development assistance to Afghanistan and Rs 100 crore for the Chabahar port project.
- The funds of Rs 17,250 crore are sanctioned to External Affairs Ministry for the next fiscal year from which Rs 6292 crore will be used as development assistance to India's neighborhood nations and Africa and Latin America.
- For Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the allocation of funds is retained at Rs 73,000 crore for the next fiscal year.
- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) was allocated more than Rs 1.85 lakh crore which is over 11% higher than the allocation of Rs 1.66 lakh crore in the last budget for the current fiscal.
- The Battery swapping policy will be introduced to promote electric vehicles.

## SBI PARTNERED WITH TATA POWER

**Current Context:** The State Bank of India (SBI) has partnered with Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd.

### KEY POINTS

- They have partnered to grant finance for setting up solar power projects.
- The SBI has also framed a dedicated centralized processing cell named as 'Surya Shakti Cell'.
- The 'Surya Shakti Cell' aims to strengthen solar power projects by making financing arrangements.
- The cell is set up in the Ballard Estate in Mumbai.
- It will process the loan applications for the solar power projects which are received from Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd and are having a maximum capacity of up to 1 MW.
- Loans for household as well as business entities will be processed by the cell.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of SBI and Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd: Mumbai

## APPOINTMENTS ON 2ND FEBRUARY 2022

**Current Context: MR Kumar:** His tenure to be the Chairman of LIC was extended beyond 13th March 2022 or till he attains the age of superannuation or until further order, whichever comes earlier.

### ABOUT

- **Static Part:**

- HQ of LIC: Mumbai
- **Sergio Matterella:** He was re-elected as President of Italy for the second term.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Italy: Rome
  - Currency of Italy: Euro
- **Xiomara Castro:** She was sworn in as the first female President of the Honduras.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Honduras: Tegucigalpa
  - Currency of Honduras: Honduran lempira

## PNB AND PAL LAUNCHED CO-BRANDED CREDIT CARDS

**Current Context:** The Punjab National Bank (PNB) partnered with Patanjali Ayurved Limited (PAL) to launch co-branded credit cards.

### KEY FACTS

- **The co-branded credit card is launched in partnership with NPCI and is offered on NPCI's RuPay Platform.**
- It is available in two variants namely PNB RuPay Platinum and PNB RuPay Select.
- Both the variants of the credit card offer a hassle-free credit service on the purchase of PAL's products.
- It also offers cash backs, loyalty points, and insurance cover.
- For the period of three months from the launch of the credit card, the cardholders can avail of a cashback of 2% for transactions over and above Rs2500, subject to a ceiling of Rs 50 per transaction at Patanjali Stores.
- A welcome bonus of 300 points will also be given on the cards upon their activation.
- Various other facilities like complimentary domestic and international airport lounge access, add-on card facility, EMI, and auto-debit facilities are linked with the credit card.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of PNB: New Delhi
  - Tagline of PNB: The Name You Can Bank Upon

## HPCL LAUNCHES RETAIL STORE 'HAPPYSHOP'

**Current Context:** The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) has launched its Retail Store under the brand name HaPpyShop.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Thus, by doing so, HPCL has marked its foray into the non-fuel retailing sector.**
- The HaPpyShop will make available daily needs to its customers.

- In September 2021, the first store was launched in Mumbai at Company's Retail Outlet at Nepean Sea Road.
- Now, HPCL has launched two more Convenience Stores at the company's Auto Care Centre, Bandra West in Mumbai and Millennium Retail Outlet in Visakhapatnam.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of HPCL: Mumbai
  - CEO and Chairman of HPCL: Mukesh Kumar Surana

## VEDANTA PARTNERED WITH UNION BANK OF INDIA

**Current Context:** Vedanta has partnered with the Union Bank of India.

### KEY FACTS

- **They have partnered with a facility of Rs 8000 crore at 7.75% to take over the majority of the syndicated facility.**
- In 2020, Vedanta Ltd had tied up a syndicated facility of Rs 10,000 crore with the State Bank of India as the lead bank at a running cost of 10.5%.
- But after various discussions with leaders, Vedanta tied up a facility of Rs 8,000 crore which is the replacement facility with Union Bank to take over the majority of the Syndicated Facility.
- **Static Part:**
  - Syndicated Facility: It is the loan granted by a number of lenders to a borrower under common norms
  - HQ of Union Bank of India: Mumbai
  - Tagline of Union Bank of India: Good people to bank with

## APPOINTMENTS ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2022

**Current Context: Lieutenant General GAV Reddy:** He was appointed as the new head of the Defence Intelligence Agency. He has succeeded Lt Gen KJS Dhillon.

### ABOUT

- **Hrithik Roshan:** He was appointed as the brand ambassador of RummyCircle by Games 24x7.
- **Urjit Patel:** He resigned from the post of non-executive and independent director of Britannia Industries Limited.

## WORLD'S FIRST HYDROGEN-POWERED FLYING BOAT WILL BE LAUNCHED IN DUBAI

**Current Context:** The World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat will be launched in Dubai, UAE.



### KEY POINTS

- It is named 'THE JET'.
- 'THE JET' will be launched by THE JET ZeroEmission, which is the firm in Dubai.
- It is having cutting-edge characteristics and is built with advanced technologies.
- It is having two fuel cells, environment-friendly technologies which will help to reduce carbon emissions.
- It can fly in silent mode over the waters at a cruising speed of 40 knots.
- It can carry 8-12 passengers.
- The announcement was made after the partnership among Swiss startup THE JET ZeroEmission, UAE-based Zenith Marine Services, and US-based DWYN.
- It will have its first flight during the COP28 which is to be held in Dubai, UAE in 2023.

### INDIA'S GDP GROWTH TO BE AT 7.8% IN FY23-- CRISIL

**Current Context:** As per CRISIL, India's real GDP growth to be at 7.8% in FY23.

### DETAILS

- This is in comparison with the 8.5% which was projected in the Economic Survey.
- The rating agency has that the growth to be slow to 7.8% in FY23 from 9.2% in FY22.
- The global growth will also be slow as major economies see a withdrawal of monetary and fiscal stimulus.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of CRISIL: Mumbai

### DUKAAN PARTNERED WITH SIMPL

**Current Context:** The startup named Dukaan has partnered with Simpl.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Dukaan supports small and medium-sized businesses (SMB) to form online stores and sell products in an online manner.
- The Simpl is a marquee buy-now-pay-later platform.
- **They have partnered to provide BNPL services to the merchants associated with Dukaan.**
- Dukaan supports SMBs with various services like logistics, build an operating system,s and many more.
- It has developed an application marketplace for further customization of online stores.
- Its best-in-class software will help to launch D2C brands on online platforms.
- This will offer various products to millions of potential customers.
- And with Simpl's partnership, there will be financial control and support to the customers.
- They will offer budget-friendly ways to enhance their shopping experience.

## NATIONAL LAND MONETISATION CORPORATION (NLMC)

**Current Context:** The Government of India will be setting up National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC).

### KEY POINTS

- The NLMC performs the monetization of the land and other non-core assets.
- Its initial authorized share capital will be Rs 5000 crores and subscribed share capital of Rs 150 crores.
- Also, until now central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) have referred nearly 3400 acres of land and other non-core assets to the government for monetization.
- The NLMC will be incorporated as a 100% GOI-owned entity.

## APPOINTMENTS ON 4TH FEBRUARY 2022

**Current Context: Ravi Mittal:** He was appointed as the Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) for the tenure of 5 years.

### ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IBBI: New Delhi
- **Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi:** He was appointed as Director-General of the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT).
- **Static Part:**
  - NIELIT comes under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology

## MOU SIGNED AMONG SBI, IGNSA AND NCF

**Current Context:** The tripartite MoU was signed among the State Bank of India (SBI), Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), and the National Culture Fund (NCF).

### KEY FACTS

- **The MoU was signed for the Development of Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design (ABCD) at L1 Barrack, Red Fort, in Delhi.**
- The Project ABCD aims to promote and celebrate the products which have GI (Geographical Indication) signs.
- This will help to enhance and boost Economic Value Addition to the GI signed products.
- The project is implemented by IGNSA through the NCF Fund.
- The SBI will sponsor the project as a CSR model.
- The SBI will grant Rs. 10 crores for the implementation of the project.

## IISC COMMISSIONED 'PARAM PRAVEGA'

**Current Context:** The IISc Bengaluru has installed and commissioned 'Param Pravega'.

### DETAILS

- The 'Param Pravega' is the most powerful supercomputer.
- It is considered to be the largest in India's academic institution.
- It is part of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
- The 'Param Pravega' supercomputer has a supercomputing capacity of 3.3 petaflops.
- It is a mix of heterogeneous nodes. It has an Intel Xeon Cascade Lake processor for the CPU nodes.
- It has NVIDIA Tesla V100 cards on its GPU node which is developed by C-DAC.
- It has the ability to perform programs of development tools, libraries, and high-performance computing applications.

## EXIM BANK EXTENDED LOC TO SRI LANKA

**Current Context:** The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has extended a line of credit support to Sri Lanka.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The EXIM Bank on behalf of Govt has extended \$500 million to the island nation.
- The funds will be used to purchase petroleum products.
- Now, the total LoC extended by Exim Bank to Sri Lanka to date has reached 10, and the total value is USD 2.18 billion.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of EXIM Bank: Mumbai
  - Capital of Sri Lanka: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
  - Currency of Sri Lanka: Sri Lankan rupee

## RBI CANCELLED THE LICENSE OF INDEPENDENCE CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

**Current Context:** The Reserve Bank of India has canceled the license of Independence Co-operative Bank Ltd.

### KEY POINTS

- The Independence Co-operative Bank Ltd. is based in Nashik, Maharashtra.
- The reason behind the cancellation of the license is that the bank was not having adequate capital and earning prospects.

- It was not abiding by the norms of Section 11(1) and Section 22 (3) (d) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- Therefore, the bank was asked to stop its operation from 3rd Feb 2022.
- The depositors will receive Rs 5 lakhs from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), after the bank's liquidation.
- More than 99% of the depositors will receive the full amount of their deposits from DICGC.

## APPOINTMENTS ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2022

**Current Context: Sonali Singh:** She was appointed to hold the additional charge of the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. She has replaced Dipak Dash.

### ABOUT

- **M Jagadesh Kumar:** He was appointed as Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC). He has replaced Prof D P Singh.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of UGC: New Delhi
- **GA Srinivasa Murthy:** He was appointed as Director of Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) of the DRDO.

## INDIA SIGNED INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH SKAO

**Current Context:** India has signed an interim agreement to offer a commitment to work on the mega-science project called Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO).

### KEY FACTS

- **The SKAO is the world's largest radio telescope.**
- It will be established in South Africa and Australia.
- The tenure of the agreement is one year.
- The agreement was signed by TIFR-National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA), on behalf of the Department of Atomic Energy and Director General of SKA.
- However, India is yet to get approval from the central government to become a Member Country in the SKA council.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of SKAO: UK

## KOTAK GENERAL INSURANCE PARTNERED WITH CARS24

**Current Context:** The Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Ltd has partnered with CARS24 Financial Services Private Ltd.

### DETAILS

- **They have partnered to grant motor insurance services to buyers of used cars.**
- The CARS24 Financial Services is a subsidiary of CARS24 and Kotak Mahindra General Insurance is the subsidiary of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.
- Under the partnership, CARS24 will be the corporate agent of Kotak General Insurance.
- It will offer motor insurance services to its consumers.
- Therefore, the customers will be able to fully insure their vehicles with the motor insurance plans of Kotak General Insurance.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Ltd: Mumbai
  - HQ of CARS24 Financial Services Private Ltd: Gurugram

### KARNATAKA SIGNED MOU WITH ATHER ENERGY

**Current Context:** The government of Karnataka has signed an MoU with Ather Energy and Electric Supply Companies (ESCOMs).

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU was signed to develop 1000 charging stations for the charging of two-wheeled electric vehicles.**
- The free charging service facility will be provided by Ather Energy.
- Hence, ESCOM will be the nodal agency for the execution of the MoU.
- All the government agencies will coordinate with ESCOMs and will share their expertise in setting up charging stations.
- The MoU was signed by the CEO and co-founder of Ather Energy, Tarun Mehta, and BESCO (Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited) MD, Rajendra Cholan in the presence of the CM of the state Basavaraj Bommai.

### 2022 GLOBAL DIGITAL SKILLS INDEX

**Current Context:** The 2022 Global Digital Skills Index was released by Salesforce which is a Customer Relationship Management platform.

### KEY FACTS

- **The index highlights the increasing global digital skills crisis and the requirement to tackle them and take appropriate actions.**
- **Among the 19 countries, India has the Index's highest digital readiness score. India has scored 63/100 on the index.**
- The average global readiness score was 33/100.



- A survey of 23000 workers in 19 countries was conducted.
- The index observed the 3 major skill gaps in the current edition of the index. The gaps are generational skills gaps, leadership skills gaps, and workforce skills gaps.
- In India, 72% of the respondents are actively taking training and learning digital skills in order to make them capable for future work.
- And 66% of respondents feel the requirement of equipped resources to learn digital skills.

## STATUE OF EQUALITY

**Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and dedicated to the nation 'Statue of Equality' in Hyderabad.**

### KEY POINTS

- **It was inaugurated to commemorate the 11th-century Bhakti saint Ramanujacharya.**
- The 'Statue of Equality' was conceptualized by Chinna Jeeyar Swami of Sri Ramanujacharya Ashram.
- The inauguration was part of the 12-day Sri Ramanuja Sahasrabdi Samaroham, which was being held as the 1000th birth anniversary celebration of the Bhakti saint.
- It is made up of 'panchaloha'. The 'panchaloha' is a mixture of five metals namely gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc.
- It is 216-feet tall and is mounted on a 54-feet high base building.
- The building is named 'Bhadra Vedi'.
- The floors of the building are dedicated to a Vedic digital library and research center, ancient Indian texts, a theatre, an educational gallery detailing works of Sri Ramanujacharya.
- The foundation stone for the statue was laid down in 2014.
- The funds of Rs 1000 crore are required to build the statue.

## PM MODI INAUGURATED THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF ICRISAT

**Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in Patancheru, Hyderabad.**

### DETAILS

- **He also inaugurated two research facilities of ICRISAT.**
- **The facilities are Climate Change Research Facility on Plant Protection and Rapid Generation Advancement Facility.**
- Both the facilities are dedicated to smallholder farmers of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
- Also, the logo of ICRISAT was unveiled by PM Modi.
- He appreciated the contributinal work of ICRISAT for the last 50 years in helping the agriculture sector.

- He appreciated their contribution in various areas like water and soil management, improvement in crop variety, on-farm diversity, and livestock integration.
- He also stressed the need for new goals and working for them.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of ICRISAT: Patancheruvu, Hyderabad

### SIDBI SIGNED MOU WITH CDAC

**Current Context:** The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed MoU with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- They signed MoU to work for innovation and make use of emerging technologies.
- They will work together in the areas of Cyber Security, AI/ML, blockchain, etc.
- They will grant training and enhance capacity building for the banking sector of India.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of SIDBI: Lucknow, UP
  - CMD of SIDBI: S Ramann

### 'SWARAJABILITY'

**Current Context:** The IIT Hyderabad launched the beta version of 'Swarajability'.

#### KEY FACTS

- **The 'Swarajability' is a job portal specifically dedicated to helping people with disabilities look for job opportunities as per their relevant skills.**
- The portal is powered by Artificial Intelligence technology.
- The portal will analyze the profiles of the job applicant and will suggest skills so that they can learn them and find jobs.
- **The portal is developed by IIT Hyderabad in partnership with Youth4Jobs, Visual Quest, and Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.**
- The expertise for AI was granted by IIT Hyderabad and the entire portal was developed by Visual Quest India.
- The Youth4Jobs will offer skilling facilities to the job applicants and the funding for the portal and its further execution will be managed by Kotak Mahindra Bank.

### 'INNOVATIONS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION' PROGRAM OF CBC

**Current Context:** The Union Minister of State (IC) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the 'Innovations in Public Administration' program of Capacity Building Commission (CBC).

### KEY POINTS

- The program belongs to Mission Karmayogi.
- It will help to identify innovations that are successful in public service pioneered by civil servants.
- The CBC Knowledge Repository will be framed which will be accessed by all for successful innovations in India.
- The portal was also launched which will be available to access upto 5th March 2022 for the employees to share their innovative ideas performed by them.
- Also, annual health of civil service reports will be released for the first time.

### APPOINTMENTS ON 7TH FEBRUARY 2022

**Current Context: Rahul Bhatia:** He was appointed as Managing Director of IndiGo.

### ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IndiGo: Gurugram.
- **Jens Stoltenberg:** He was appointed to be Norway's central bank Governor. He is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) chief.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NATO: Brussels, Belgium.
- **Captain Binesh Kumar Tyagi:** He was appointed as Chairman and Managing Director at the state-run carrier Shipping Corporation of India Ltd (SCI), PSU under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways. He has replaced HK Joshi.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ SCI: Mumbai

### 'PARAY SHIKSHALAYA' PROGRAMME—WEST BENGAL

**Current Context:** The government of West Bengal has launched Paray Shikshalaya.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Paray Shikshalaya means Neighbourhood Schools.**
- **The program is launched for primary and pre-primary students of the state.**
- **The students will be taught in an open space.**
- They will be offered with mid-day meals facility as well under the same program.
- The para teachers and primary school teachers will be part of this program.
- The elementary education to children of Class 1-5 will be granted.
- The students will also be encouraged to participate in various extra-curricular activities.

- The South 24 Parganas District's Information and Culture department is taking efforts to fulfill the objectives of this program.
- **Static Part:**
  - CM of West Bengal: Mamata Banerjee
  - Governor of West Bengal: Jagdeep Dhankhar

## BANGLADESH RAILWAY SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH HEIL

**Current Context:** The Bangladesh Railway has signed an agreement with Hindustan Engineering and Industries Limited (HEIL).

### KEY POINTS

- The HEIL is an enterprise of the Hindustan Group.
- **The agreement was signed to procure 420 broad gauge wagons from India by Bangladesh.**
- The agreement cost is Rs 200 crore approx.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Bangladesh: Dhaka
  - Currency of Bangladesh: Taka

## APPOINTMENTS ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2022

**Current Context: Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit:** She was appointed as Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). She is the first women Vice-Chancellor of JNU. She has replaced M Jagadesh Kumar, who was appointed as Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

### ABOUT

- **Prof Dinesh Prasad Saklani:** He was appointed as Director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). He has replaced Hrushikesh Senapaty.
- **Disha Patani:** She was appointed as the brand ambassador of Bata India.
- **Akshay Kumar:** He was appointed as the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand.

## ICICI LOMBARD PARTNERED WITH AIRTEL PAYMENTS BANK

**Current Context:** The ICICI Lombard General Insurance has entered into a partnership with Airtel Payments Bank.

### KEY FACTS

- **They have partnered to grant cyber insurance to the bank's customers.**
- The insurance policy will grant financial protection to customers.

- They will be protected from financial fraud which takes place in banking activities, credit or debit cards, identity theft phishing or email spoofing, etc.
- The customers of Airtel Payments Bank can opt for the insurance policy from the Airtel Thanks app.
- The insurance has zero waiting period and allows insurance holders to make multiple claims multiple times.
- It offers a 90-day discovery period followed by a 7-day reporting period.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Airtel Payments Bank: New Delhi
  - MD and CEO of Airtel Payments Bank: Anubrata Biswas
  - HQ of ICICI Lombard General Insurance: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of ICICI Lombard General Insurance: Bhargav Dasgupta

## FINTECH OPEN SUMMIT

**Current Context:** The 'Fintech Open' Summit is being organized by NITI Aayog in partnership with PhonePe, AWS (Amazon Web Services), and EY.

### DETAILS

- It is the three-week-long virtual summit that is being held from 7th Feb to 28th Feb 2022.
- It was inaugurated by Union Minister for Railways, Communications, and Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw in the presence of NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Dr. Rajiv Kumar.
- This is the first-of-its-kind initiative and it will bring together regulators, fintech professionals, enthusiasts, industry leaders, and various startups to discuss and exchange views on various topics.
- The summit will also lead to have the emergence of new innovative ideas for the welfare in various sectors and solve real-world problems.

## KERALA SIGNED MOU WITH SOCIAL ALPHA'S ENERGY LAB

**Current Context:** The government of Kerala signed MoU with Social Alpha's Energy Lab named as Clean Energy International Incubation Centre (CEIIC).

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **They have signed MoU to support innovative and clean energy technology programs in the state.**
- The MoU agreement was signed through Kerala Development & Innovation Strategy Council (KDISC) and Energy Management Centre (EMC).
- They will work to set up a clean energy incubation center which will help in enhancing green energy development and energy conservation activities in the state.
- **Static Part:**
  - CM of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan
  - Governor of Kerala: Arif Mohammad Khan



## SONATA SOFTWARE PARTNERED WITH MICROSOFT

**Current Context:** Sonata Software, which is the global IT Services, and Technology Solutions Company has entered into a partnership with Microsoft.

### KEY POINTS

- **They have partnered to launch 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail'.**
- The 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail' will enhance the decades of partnership between both entities.
- It will give major focus on leveraging data, elevating the shopping experience, building real-time, sustainable supply chains, and empowering store associates.
- The solution is available through Microsoft AppSource.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Sonata Software: Bengaluru
  - MD & CEO of Sonata Software: P. Srikar Reddy
  - HQ of Microsoft: Redmond, Washington, United States
  - CEO and Chairman of Microsoft: Satya Nadella

## INDIA PRESS FREEDOM REPORT 2021

**Current Context:** The India Press Freedom Report 2021 was released by the Rights and Risks Analysis Group.

### KEY FACTS

- **Jammu and Kashmir have topped the report among all states and UTs.**
- In J&K journalists and media, houses were targeted at the most level in 2021. The targeted count is 25.
- Then the further ranks are followed by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh respectively.
- As per the report, 13 media houses and newspapers were targeted, a total of 108 journalists was attacked, and 6 journalists were killed in India.

## AMAZON INDIA SIGNED MOU WITH KARNATAKA

**Current Context:** Amazon India has signed MoU with Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS).

### DETAILS

- **They have signed MoU to offer support to the women entrepreneurs in the state.**
- **In this regard, Amazon India will launch programs like 'Sanjeevini-KSRLPS' on its platform.**
- Under the program, the benefits of the 'Saheli' Programme will be extended to the women entrepreneurs.

- Both the entities will empower thousands of rural women entrepreneurs by giving them access to a wider market to sell their products.
- The Saheli Programme will also grant training and skill development workshops to help women entrepreneurs.
- Training in the areas like packaging, shipping, inventory, account management, customer servicing, a listing of products, and cataloging will be granted.
- **Static Part:**
  - CM of Karnataka: Basavaraj S Bommai
  - Governor of Karnataka: Thawar Chand Gehlot

## AQUAMAP CENTRE—IIT MADRAS

**Current Context:** The IIT Madras has launched the 'AquaMAP Centre'.

### ABOUT

- **The 'AquaMAP Centre' is an interdisciplinary water management and policy framing center.**
- It will offer water security solutions in India.
- It will implement sustainable water management strategies.
- It will also set up water innovation villages.
- It is thus a hydro-informatics laboratory that will develop scalable models for water conservation and allied domains.

## AIM, NITI AAYOG AND USAID ENTERED INTO PARTNERSHIP

**Current Context:** The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) entered into partnership.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **They have partnered under the Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH) initiative.**
- **Under the partnership, all the entities will offer improved affordable and quality healthcare facilities to the vulnerable populations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, rural and tribal areas.**
- They will develop a capital pool of \$100+ million which will be evolved from the private sector and bilateral organization.
- The funds will be used to offer healthcare solutions.
- They will also work for innovations across the healthcare sector and for this, a Call for Proposals for healthcare innovators and entrepreneurs in India is made.
- They will enhance the service delivery of the SAMRIDH initiative.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi

- Chairman of NITI Aayog: PM Narendra Modi
- CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant

## APPOINTMENTS ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2022

**Current Context: Amitabh Bachchan:** He was appointed as the brand ambassador of MediBuddy, which is the digital healthcare platform.

### ABOUT

- **Pradip Shah:** He was appointed as Chairman of Pfizer India. He has replaced RA Shah. He is the founding member of Crisil.
- **Sanjay Malhotra:** He was appointed as Secretary in the Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance. He has replaced Debashish Panda.
- **S. R. Narasimhan:** He was appointed as an additional charge of CMD of Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO).
- **Dr. S Unnikrishnan Nair:** He was appointed as an additional charge of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), which is the research center of the ISRO.

## UNEP SIGNED MOU WITH MAHARASHTRA

**Current Context:** The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) signed MoU with the Government of Maharashtra.

### KEY POINTS

- **They have signed MoU to grant support under the 'Majhi Vasundhara' campaign of the state.**
- The campaign aims to offer sustainable use of energy and environmental development.
- The 'Majhi Vasundhara' signifies 'My Earth' and hence deals with the protection and development of environment.
- The campaign is an initiative of the Environment and Climate Change Department of the state.
- The campaign will empower people about climate change and environmental issues and will motivate them to adopt efforts to improve, develop and protect the environment we live in.
- **Static Part:**
  - CM of Maharashtra: Uddhav Thackeray
  - Governor of Maharashtra: Bhagat Singh Koshyari
  - HQ of UNEP: Nairobi, Kenya

## L&T SIGNED MOU WITH MICROSOFT INDIA

**Current Context:** Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has signed MoU with Microsoft India.

### KEY FACTS

- **They have signed MoU to develop a regulated sector that will focus on cloud offerings.**
- They aim to fulfill customers with the best cloud computing and infrastructure services.
- They will work jointly to develop architectures that will modernize their traditional data centers.
- They will develop hybrid models and enhance digital transformation goals.
- Both the entities will frame a joint governance group that will work to design future platforms, investments and develop and set up business models to regulate emerging technology requirements.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of L&T: Mumbai
  - HQ of Microsoft India: Hyderabad

### RBL BANK PARTNERED WITH CREDITAS SOLUTIONS

**Current Context:** The RBL Bank has partnered with Credits Solutions.

### DETAILS

- **They have partnered for the purpose of the SaaS (Software as a Service) platform which is based on 'Neo Collections'.**
- **It will help to automate the loan collection procedure.**
- The platform will be managed by Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning technology.
- It will be a 'do it yourself (DIY) type of debt management platform that will allow the customer to monitor, track, manage and pay their dues.
- Thus, they will grant a convenient, seamless non-intrusive repayment experience to their customers.
- Customers will be able to schedule their EMI plan and avail payment resolution options.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of RBL Bank: Mumbai
  - Tagline of RBL Bank: Apno ka bank

### 'REIMAGINING MUSEUMS IN INDIA'

**Current Context:** The Global Summit on 'Reimagining Museums in India' will be organized from 15th Feb to 16th Feb 2022 in an online manner.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- It will be organized by the Union Ministry of Culture.
- The inauguration will be made by Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy.
- It will be organized in partnership with Bloomberg.

- **Theme of the summit is based on 4 categories namely:** (a) Architecture and Functional Needs (b) Management (c) Collections Curation & Conservation practices (d) Education and Audience Engagement.
- Around 25 museologists and museum professionals will participate in the summit. They will have discussions on reimagined priorities and practices to be implemented in museums.
- The summit will help to develop the Indian Museum.

### IIM-SAMBALPUR PARTNERED WITH FLIPKART

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**Current Context:** The IIM-Sambalpur, which is based in Odisha has partnered with Flipkart.

#### KEY FACTS

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- **They have partnered to provide market access facility to the weavers, artisans based in Odisha.**
- **Hence, due to this collaboration, the weavers and artisans will be able to sell and promote their products via the online platform of Flipkart.**
- Under the partnership, IIM-Sambalpur will identify the clusters of artisan and weavers in Odisha, they will be then given training sessions.
- Training about business management, marketing and accounting will be given.
- Then the institute will onboard the weavers and artisans on Flipkart's Samarth Programme, which will offer them business connectivity across India.
- Basically, the partnership between both entities was announced in August 2021, and the MoU for the same was signed recently.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Flipkart: Bengaluru
  - CEO of Flipkart: Kalyan Krishnamurthy

### DBS BANK INDIA PARTNERED WITH STELLAPPS DIGITAL NETWORK

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**Current Context:** The DBS Bank India has partnered with Stellapps Digital Networks.

#### KEY POINTS

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- **They have partnered to promote digital culture in the Dairy sector.**
- Stellapps Digital Networks is a major dairy-tech startup.
- The DBS Bank India will be the banking partner which will help to implement digitization in dairy industries across India.
- The partnership will help to improve productivity, improvement in the quality of milk, transparency in all operations, supply chain management, improvement in income, etc.
- Both entities will help dairy farmers access the funds required for the digitization of their dairy farming operations.
- **Static Part:**

- HQ of Stellapps: Bangalore
- HQ of DBS Bank India: Mumbai

## ASEAN INDIA HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

**Current Context:** The ASEAN-India High-Level Conference on Renewable Energy was organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of GOI.

### DETAILS

- It was organized in partnership with ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) Indonesia and The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) India.
- **Theme of the conference:** Experience and Innovations for Integrated Renewables Market.
- The dignitaries discussed achievements in ASEAN and India in the renewable energy (RE) sector and assured cooperation in the field of RE to facilitate energy transitions in both regions.
- They also discussed the development of the ASEAN Power Grid and opportunities that India can extend in the sector.
- They assured to partner in various areas like knowledge sharing, capacity building, and technical assistance and explore joint initiatives for the development of renewable energy manufacturing hubs in the region.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations): Jakarta, Indonesia

## TOMTOM TRAFFIC INDEX RANKING 2021

**Current Context:** The TomTom Traffic Index Ranking 2021 was released.

### ABOUT

- As per the index, Mumbai is ranked at 5th position in terms of the most congested cities in the world in 2021. The congestion rate for Mumbai is 53%.
- Istanbul, Turkey is ranked at 1st position as the most congested city in the world with a congestion rate to be 62%.
- Bengaluru is placed at 10th position in the index.
- The 2nd position is marked by Moscow.
- The ranking for 404 cities across 58 countries was made.
- Also, Delhi and Pune are ranked 11th and 21st positions in the index.



## 9TH ANNUAL RANKING REPORT OF USGBC

**Current Context:** The 9th edition of the annual ranking report of The US Green Building Council (USGBC) was released which featured the top 10 countries outside the US for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **In the report, India is ranked at 3rd position having 146 LEED projects.**
- The ranking is topped by China with 1077 LEED projects.
- The 2nd position is marked by Canada with 205 LEED projects.
- The countries which are performing good in areas like healthy, sustainable, resilient building design, constructions and operations are ranked in the report.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of USGBC: Washington DC, US

## SBI PARTNERED WITH NSE ACADEMY

**Current Context:** The State Bank of India (SBI) has partnered with NSE Academy. The partnership was made through SBI's Strategic Training Unit.

### KEY FACTS

- **They have partnered to launch financial literacy courses.**
- The courses will be launched through NSE Knowledge Hub Platform which is an online Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) platform
- The courses will offer banking aspects lessons to the professionals and students
- The real-time case studies will also be taught during the course
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of SBI: Mumbai
  - Chairperson of SBI: Dinesh Kumar Khara

## EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX 2021

**Current Context:** The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Democracy Index 2021 was released. As per the index, India was ranked at 46th position with a score of 6.91.

### KEY POINTS

- **The ranking list was topped by Norway with the highest score of 9.75.**
- The 2nd and 3rd positions are marked by New Zealand and Finland respectively
- The index ranking was framed for 165 independent countries and two territories.

- It was based on 5 findings namely electoral process and pluralism, functioning of the government, political participation, political culture, and civil liberties. The report has been further bifurcated into a full democracy, flawed democracy, hybrid regime, and authoritarian.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of EIU: London, UK

## J&K SIGNED MOU WITH NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT

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**Current Context:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has signed MoU with New Zealand. The MoU was signed to transform the sheep farming sector in the UT.

### DETAILS

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- The MoU will help to enhance farmer's remuneration, implement technology, R&D and add value to sheep products.
- The MoU will also help enhance relations between India and New Zealand.
- **Static Part:**
  - Lt Governor of J&K: Manoj Sinha
  - Capital of New Zealand: Wellington
  - Currency of New Zealand: New Zealand Dollar

## APPOINTMENTS ON 12TH FEB 2022

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**Current Context: S. Kishore:** He has been appointed as Chairman of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC).

### ABOUT

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- **Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari:** He has been appointed as Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.
- **N Chandrasekaran:** He has been reappointed as Executive Chairman of Tata Sons Pvt Ltd for the second five years term.
- **Pankaj Tripathi:** He has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Krishi Network.

## HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE ONE OCEAN SUMMIT

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**Current Context:** The high-level segment of the One Ocean Summit was addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi via video conference.

### HIGHLIGHTS

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- It was also addressed by several other heads of states and governments which included Germany, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan, and Canada.
- It was organized by France in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank.

- The moto behind the summit was to mobilize the international community to take actions to preserve and support healthy and sustainable ocean ecosystems.

## INDIA TO HELP SRI LANKA TO LAUNCH ITS AADHAAR CARD

**Current Context:** India has assured to grant assistance to Sri Lanka to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity framework', which is apparently modelled on the Aadhaar card.

### KEY FACTS

- In this regard, the Rajapaksa government will work to implement the framework as a national-level program.
- India will help to introduce a personal identity verification device that will be based on biometric data. It will be a digital tool that will be an identity of individuals which can be accurately verified in digital and physical environments by combining the two devices.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Sri Lanka: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, Colombo
  - Currency of Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka Rupee

## GEM 2021/22 GLOBAL REPORT: OPPORTUNITY AMID DISRUPTION

**Current Context:** The 'Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2021/22 Global Report: Opportunity Amid Disruption' report was released at Dubai Expo.

### KEY POINTS

- As per the report, India is ranked at 4th spot in Ease of starting business.
- It is topped by Saudi Arabia.
- The data for the report was gathered by conducting a survey of at least 2000 respondents from 47 high, medium, and low economies.
- As per the report, India has topped among low-income economies on various entrepreneurial standards like entrepreneurial finance, ease of access to finance, government policy, government support, taxes, and bureaucracy.
- As per the survey for India, 83% of respondents believe that there are good opportunities to start a business in their area- which placed India at second globally, and 86 % believe they have the skills and knowledge to start a business – which placed India at fourth globally.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of GEM: London, UK

## PAISABAZAAR.COM PARTNERED WITH RBL BANK

**Current Context:** Paisabazaar.com has partnered with RBL Bank to launch a credit card.

## DETAILS

- They have launched 'Paisa on Demand' (PoD), which is a credit card.
- The credit card will be available on the Paisabazaar platform.
- The PoD is the third co-created product by Paisabazaar.com.
- It is launched under the neo-lending strategy of Paisabazaar.com.
- Various options to avail of personal loans from RBL Bank using the credit card limit at a normal personal loan rate are possible.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Paisabazaar.com: Gurugram, Haryana
  - HQ of RBL Bank: Mumbai

## 'SMILE' SCHEME

**Current Context:** The Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar launched the 'SMILE' scheme.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The SMILE signifies 'Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise'.
- The scheme aims to offer welfare measures to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.
- Legal protection, social security are assured under the scheme to the beneficiaries.
- The funds of Rs 365 crores for the tenure of five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 is allocated for the scheme.
- The scheme is based on two themes namely: (a) Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons (b) Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of engaged in the act of Begging.
  - **Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons:** It includes Scholarships for Transgender Students, Skill Development and Livelihood under PM-DAKSH scheme of the Department, Medical Health package, Shelter Homes 'Garima Greh' with various facilities and Setting up of Transgender Protection cell.
  - **Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of engaged in the act of Begging:** It includes Survey and Identification of beneficiaries, mobilization of the people engaged in begging to Shelter Homes, educating children engaged in the act of Begging.

## INDIA SIGNED MOU WITH AUSTRALIA

**Current Context:** India has entered into an MoU with Australia to cooperate in the field of Tourism.

### KEY FACTS

- The MoU document was signed between Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Australian Minister of Trade, Tourism, and Investment Dan Tehan Wannan.
- The MoU will enhance tourism relations between both countries and allow the exchange of information as well.
- There will also be cooperation among stakeholders dealing in tourism and the allied sector.
- There will be cooperation between hotels and tour operators, tourism, and hospitality owners.
- The MoU will also enable opportunities for traveler education.
- Both the countries will promote safe, ethical, and sustainable tourism culture.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Australia: Canberra
  - Currency of Australia: Australian Dollar

### MOU SIGNED BETWEEN SAINT GOBAIN AND IIT MADRAS

**Current Context:** The MoU was signed between Saint Gobain and IIT Madras.

### KEY POINTS

- **The MoU was signed to help India to attain a 100% renewable energy target.**
- Saint Gobain will extend its expertise solutions to the IIT Madras Research Park. It will offer funding support of Rs 1 crore for the next 3 years.
- Both the entities will work to transform towards a low carbon future.
- They will identify energy challenges and will find solutions for them by the usage of alternate energy sources.
- They will develop sustainable energy models and will enhance energy efficiency.
- The IIT Madras will develop an energy storage mechanism on its campus.

### APPOINTMENTS ON 14TH FEBRUARY 2022

**Current Context:** Lieutenant colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba: He was appointed as the Interim President of Burkina Faso.

### ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Burkina Faso: Ouagadougou
  - Currency of Burkina Faso: West African CFA franc
- **Debashis Mitra:** He was appointed as President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

- **Aniket Sunil Talati:** He was appointed as Vice President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).
- **G Mahalingam:** He was appointed to chair the advisory committee set up by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF).
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of SEBI: Mumbai
- **Ravi Chopra:** He granted his resignation from the post of Chairman of the Supreme Court's High Powered Committee (HPC) on the Char Dham project.

## 'YES BANK AGRI INFINITY' PROGRAM

**Current Context:** The YES Bank has launched the 'YES BANK Agri Infinity' program.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- It is an annual startup enabler program that aims to co-develop digital financial solutions for the agriculture sector.
- It will grant mentorship to the entrepreneurial ventures associated with the food and agriculture sector.
- Thus, it is termed as an agri-fintech enabler program.
- The Agri based startups are invited to take the benefit of the program and the eligible ones will be granted the benefits framed under the program.
- Upon taking the benefits of the program, the Agri based startups will be able to implement solutions across the agricultural value chain.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Yes Bank: Mumbai
  - Tagline of Yes Bank: Experience Our Expertise

## NSDC SIGNED MOU WITH CSC

**Current Context:** The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has signed MoU with Common Service Centres (CSC).

### KEY POINTS

- **They have signed MoU to deliver services related to skill development programs to the youths living in remote and rural parts of India.**
- The CSC will perform the role of skill desk unit at village levels and it will generate awareness about various skills and their development programs among the youths.
- The NSDC will identify the skill seekers and will grant them opportunities to learn skills.
- The Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) will work with CSCs to identify youths, perform registration and link them to the appropriate training departments to seek skill training.



## AYANA RENEWABLE POWER PARTNERED WITH GREENKO GROUP

**Current Context:** The Ayana Renewable Power Private Ltd (Ayana) has partnered with Greenko Group.

### KEY FACTS

- The Ayana is owned by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).
- **They have partnered to provide standalone storage capacity to develop firm and dispatchable renewable energy solutions.**
- They will generate a power supply of upto 1GW.
- They will store 6GWh of power in hydro pump storage plants. These plants will be developed by the Greenko Group.
- Their partnership will provide round-the-clock green energy to user industries and electricity distribution companies.

## KOTAK FORTUNE MAXIMISER LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

**Current Context:** The Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Co. Ltd. i.e. Kotak Life has launched 'Kotak Fortune Maximiser Life Insurance Plan'.

### DETAILS

- It is a limited pay participating endowment plan.
- It can be framed as per the customer requirement and will allow the plan holders to accumulate a corpus to fulfill their dreams without taking any financial pressure.
- The customer has the freedom to select the premium amount and the term as well i.e. from 6 to 15 years.
- Three plan options can be availed like Life Goal Maximiser, Bright Future Maximiser, and Golden Years Maximiser. Each of the plans has its own importance and features.

## APPOINTMENTS ON 15TH FEBRUARY 2022

**Current Context:** Ilker Ayci: He was appointed as CEO and MD of Air India.

### ABOUT

- **Manoj Tiwari:** He was appointed as brand ambassador for Khadi and other handicraft products of Bihar.
- **Frank-Walter Steinmeier:** He was re-elected as President of Germany.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Germany: Berlin
  - Currency of Germany: Euro

## RELIANCE JIO PARTNERED WITH SES

**Current Context:** Reliance Jio has announced its partnership with Luxembourg-based firm SES.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Due to this partnership, Reliance Jio has announced its foray into satellite-based broadband communication.
- Due to this partnership, Jio will offer next-generation affordable and scalable broadband services in India.
- It will use these facilities by leveraging satellite technology.
- Both the entities will form a joint venture in which Jio Platform will own a 51% stake and SES will own 49% stakes.
- They will make use of multi-orbit space networks, which are a combination of geostationary (GEO) and medium earth orbit (MEO) satellite constellations.
- They will offer multi-gigabit links and capacity to enterprises, mobile backhaul, and retail customers across India and neighboring regions.
- The joint venture will serve SES's satellite data and connectivity services which will have up to 100 Gbps capacity.

## ISRO LAUNCHED EOS-04

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

### KEY POINTS

- They have launched on board the launch vehicle PSLV-C52 rocket.
- They were launched from the First Launch Pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- The EOS-04 is a Radar Imaging Satellite.
- It will offer high-quality images in any condition of weather. These images will be helpful for various applications like agriculture, forestry, plantations, flood mapping, soil moisture, and hydrology.
- Its weight is 1710 kg and generates 2280 W power. Its mission life is 10 years.
- The other two small satellites which were launched are a student satellite (INSPIRESat-1), and a technology demonstrator satellite (INS-2TD).
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of ISRO: Bengaluru, Karnataka
  - Chairman and Space Secretary of ISRO: Dr. S Somanath

## 3RD INDIA- MALDIVES DEFENCE COOPERATION DIALOGUE 2022

**Current Context:** The 3rd India-Maldives Defence Cooperation Dialogue 2022 was held recently.

### KEY FACTS

- **It was held in the Maldives.**
- **India was represented by Defence Secretary, Dr. Ajay Kumar.**
- And the Maldives was represented by Major General Abdulla Shamaal, Chief of Defence Force of Maldives National Defence Force.
- They discussed capacity building to tackle transnational crimes and boost the security of both regions.
- During the visit, Defence Secretary, Dr. Ajay Kumar handed over medical equipment to the Maldives National Defence Force's Military hospital.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Maldives: Male
  - Currency of Maldives: Maldivian Rufiyaa

## KARUR VYASA BANK PARTNERED WITH UNANU TECHNOLOGIES

**Current Context:** The Karur Vysya Bank has partnered with UNANU Technologies which is based in Chennai.

### DETAILS

- **They have partnered for digital freight finance to fund transport contractors.**
- They will use end-to-end logistics technology platform for the purpose of partnership.
- The UNANU has developed Freight Financing System.
- They will use the 'U-Turbo – a marketplace' module.
- Using the module, users will be able to onboard logistics companies and shippers to the Freight Financing program.
- It allows picking up the material from the shipper until it reaches the destination.
- Also, the tracking of the truck is possible using software and hardware.
- The invoices can be generated in a seamless manner by capturing the digital freight finance system.
- Due to these features, the bank will be able to fund and generate mandatory documents that are available in the system.
- Thus, KVB has become the first bank to launch digital freight financing via the marketplace in the banking domain.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Karur Vysya Bank (KVB): Karur, Tamil Nadu
  - Tagline of KVB: Smart way to bank

## VEDANTA PARTNERED WITH FOXCONN

**Current Context:** Vedanta has partnered with Foxconn which is based in Taiwan.

### ABOUT

- Foxconn is the world's largest contract electronics manufacturer.
- **They have partnered to make semiconductors in India.**
- The partnership will help to fulfill the gap of global chip shortage and will help India in chip manufacturing.
- The Vedanta will be the majority shareholder in a new joint venture company with Foxconn.
- The chairman of the company will be Anil Agarwal, who is the chairman of Vedanta.
- There will be an enhancement in the manufacturing process of electronics due to the partnership.

## 4TH INDIA-AUSTRALIA ENERGY DIALOGUE

**Current Context:** The 4th India-Australia Energy Dialogue was held recently.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **It was co-chaired by Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, RK Singh.**
- The Australian delegation was led by Energy and Emissions Reduction Minister Angus Taylor.
- The dignitaries discussed the Energy Transition topic.
- They assured to cooperate in sectors like renewables, energy efficiency, storage, EVs, critical minerals, mining, etc.
- Indian side discussed Climate Finance.
- They also signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to reduce the cost of new and renewable energy technologies and scale up their deployment to reduce global emissions.

## DMI FINANCE PARTNERED WITH GOOGLE PAY

**Current Context:** DMI Finance has partnered with Google Pay.

### KEY POINTS

- **They have partnered to offer credit to pre-qualified users of the digital wallet platform.**
- They will be launching a personal loan product on the Google Pay platform.
- The DMI Finance will distribute Rs 1 lakh of loan which will have a repayment option of over 36 months.
- The users who are eligible for loans are pre-qualified using criteria defined by DMI Finance.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IDMI Finance: New Delhi

## 'WASTE TO WEALTH CREATION' PROGRAMME

**Current Context:** The 'Waste to Wealth Creation' program was launched by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

### KEY FACTS

- **It was launched for women in the Sundarbans in West Bengal.**
- Under the program, women will make ornaments and showpieces from the fish scales.
- The SIDBI will support 50 women by generating revenues from alternate livelihoods.
- Then these 50 women will perform the role of trainer to train further participants of the program.
- The program was launched under the Swavalamban Mission of SIDBI which aims to grant support to the artisans.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of SIDBI: Lucknow
  - Chairman and MD of SIDBI: Sivasubramanian Ramann

## LKP SECURITIES LTD PARTNERED WITH HDFC BANK LTD

**Current Context:** The LKP Securities Ltd has partnered with HDFC Bank Ltd.

### DETAILS

- **They have partnered to launch a 3-in-1 online account.**
- **The account will enable the swift transfer of the funds between the account of the bank to the trading account.**
- Therefore, the user will not have to perform a lengthy authentication process.
- The account will have several benefits like zero annual maintenance charges for one year.
- It will have a waiver on brokerage charges upto Rs 500 for one month from the date of opening the Demat account.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of LKP Securities Ltd and HDFC Bank: Mumbai

## APPOINTMENTS ON 17TH FEBRUARY 2022

**Current Context: Vineet Joshi:** He was appointed as Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). He has replaced Manoj Ahuja.

### ABOUT

- **Shah Rukh Khan:** He was appointed as Brand Ambassador of A23, which is the gaming application owned by Head Digital Works.

- **Gita Mittal:** She was appointed as Chairperson of the Committee of Administrators which will run the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) by the Delhi High Court.

## **SCHEME FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF DNTS (SEED)**

**Current Context:** The Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED) was launched by Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- It was launched at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.
- The scheme aims to look after the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi Nomadic Communities i.e. DNT/NT/SNT.
- The DNT/NT/SNT is the most neglected, marginalized, and economically and socially deprived communities and so the scheme was launched to uplift the communities.
- Under the scheme, coaching about competitive examinations will be granted to the candidates of the communities so that they can appear for the exams and get jobs.
- Health insurance will be granted.
- Various livelihoods initiatives will be undertaken at the community level which will strengthen small clusters of DNT/NT/SNT Communities institutions.
- Financial support will be granted to construct houses for these communities.

### **DARKATHON-2022**

**Current Context:** The 'Darkathon-2022' will be organized by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

### **KEY POINTS**

- It will be held to develop and find solutions to tackle drug trafficking through the darknet.
- Under this event, students, youths, and technical experts will be involved who will work to find effective solutions to unravel the anonymity of darknet markets.
- The winner with the 1st rank will be awarded the prize of Rs 2.50 lakh and the runner-up will be awarded Rs 2 lakh and the third winner with Rs 1.50 lakh.
- The consolation prize for the 4th and 5th place is Rs 25,000 each.
- The interested candidates are requested to register till 31st March 2022.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NCB: New Delhi
  - Director-General of NCB: Satya Narayan Pradhan



## 'KUNSNYOMS' SCHEME

**Current Context:** The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh launched the Kunsnyoms scheme.

### KEY FACTS

- **The scheme was launched for differently-abled persons.**
- The meaning of Kunsnyom is Equal for All, Fair for All.
- The scheme aims to have inclusive and accessible Ladakh.
- The Leh Hill council will offer assistive devices and technologies to the beneficiaries at the rate of a 90% subsidy.
- Under this, 28 tri-scooters, battery-run wheelchairs, walking aids, and other required support to the differently-abled persons will be distributed.
- **Static Part:**
  - Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh: Radha Krishna Mathur

## TWITTER PARTNERED WITH PAYTM

**Current Context:** Twitter Inc has entered into a partnership with Paytm Payments Services Limited, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Paytm which is the digital payments and financial services platform.

### DETAILS

- **The partnership was made to be a payments partner for Tips in India.**
- **The partnership will enhance the support for its 'Tips' feature in India.**
- The Twitter users will be able to make use of Paytm facilities like Paytm digital wallet, Paytm Postpaid, debit and credit cards, and net banking.
- This is one of the company's many efforts to introduce monetization on the platform.
- By using the Tips feature, users will be able to send payments to their favorite content creators on Twitter. The feature is available in various languages like Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, and Tamil.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Twitter: San Francisco, California, United States.
  - CEO of Twitter: Parag Agrawal

## BOB SIGNED MOU WITH ASSAM RIFLES

**Current Context:** The Bank of Baroda (BoB) has signed an MoU with Assam Rifles.

## ABOUT

- **They have signed MoU to offer Central Forces Salary Package.**
- The package includes benefits like Personal Accident Insurance and Co-Branded Credit Card.
- The name of the package is 'Baroda Central Forces Salary Package (BCFSP).
- It will be beneficial to all personnel of the Assam Rifles, both serving and retired.
- Other facilities like free unlimited transactions at all Bank ATMs, free remittance services on NEFT/RTGS online or through branch, free debit card, free unlimited demand draft facilities, 50% discount on locker rentals, 100% waiver on Demat annual maintenance charges, and 75% waiver on issuance charges for Gift and Travelcards will be granted.

## NITI AAYOG PARTNERED WITH PHONEPE

**Current Context: NITI Aayog has entered into a partnership with PhonePe.**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **They have partnered to launch the first-ever open-to-all hackathon event for finding creative solutions for the FinTech sector.**
- The hackathon will grant opportunities to innovators, digital creators and developers to showcase their innovative ideas which will benefit the FinTech sector.
- The participants are required to make use of any open-data APIs similar to PhonePe Pulse in their innovative ideas and frameworks like account aggregator as a foundation to power some of the use cases.
- They can also make use of open data platforms like Setu AA Sandbox to develop their ideas.
- They can also make use of reports of RBI and government data platforms.
- The participated member in a group should be from 1 to 5 members.
- The 1st prize amount is Rs 1,50,000, 2nd prize amount is Rs 1,00,000 and 3rd prize amount is Rs 75,000.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NITI Aayog: New Delhi
  - Chairperson of NITI Aayog: PM Narendra Modi
  - CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant
  - HQ of PhonePe: Bengaluru

## 'FLEXI EDGE' INSURANCE PLAN

**Current Context: The Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance has launched a new insurance plan named 'Flexi Edge'.**

### KEY POINTS

- **The 'Flexi Edge' insurance plan is a non-linked participating individual savings life insurance plan.**
- The plan will help the plan holders to prioritize their long-term savings.
- It helps the customers in every stage like in savings, income, unplanned expenditure and also grants life cover to the owner of the policy.
- It offers Premium Protection Benefit, Deferred Survival Benefit facilities.
- The 'Flexi Edge' insurance plan comes in three plan options namely Flexi Savings, Flexi Income, and Flexi Care. The customer can choose any one option as per the requirement.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance: Gurugram, Haryana

### IBA 17TH ANNUAL BANKING TECHNOLOGY AWARDS 2021

**Current Context: The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) announced the winners of the 17th edition of the Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021.**

### KEY FACTS

- The awards are celebrated 'Next Gen Banking' to recognize and award the technologies and practices in the banking industry which have contributed at a high rate to the banking sector in the last year.
- **Winners in each category are:**
- **Best Technology Bank of the Year:** Bank of Baroda (Large Banks segment), South Indian Bank (Small Banks segment), Citibank N.A (Foreign Banks segment), Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin (RRB segment), Saraswat Coop bank (Co-operative Banks segment).
- **Best Digital Financial Inclusion Initiatives:** State Bank of India (Large Banks segment), Jammu & Kashmir Bank (Small Banks segment), Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin (RRB segment).
- **Best Payments Initiatives:** State Bank of India (Public Banks segment), ICICI Bank (Private Banks segment).
- **Best Fintech Adoption:** ICICI Bank (Large Banks segment), Federal Bank (Medium Banks segment), South Indian Bank (Small Banks segment), Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin (RRB segment).
- **Best IT Risk & Cyber Security Initiatives:** Union Bank of India (Large Banks segment), Yes Bank (Medium Banks segment), South Indian Bank (Small Banks segment), Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd (Foreign Banks segment), Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin (RRB segment), Saraswat Coop bank (Co-operative Banks segment), Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Small Finance/Payments Banks segment).
- **Best Use of AI/ ML T & Data:** ICICI Bank (Large Banks segment), South Indian Bank (Small Banks segment), Telangana Grameena Bank (RRB segment).
- **Best Cloud Adoption Initiatives:** Union Bank of India (Large Banks segment), Yes Bank (Medium Banks segment), Karur Vysya Bank (Small Banks segment), Citi bank N.A (Foreign Banks segment), Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin (RRB segment).
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IBA: Mumbai

## 'PROJECT AROHAN'

**Current Context:** The Government of Assam has launched 'Project Arohan'.

### DETAILS

- 'Project Arohan' is a mentorship program that has a tenure of four years.
- The program grants guidance and inducts skills in students.
- To launch this program, CM of the state Himanta Biswa Sarma has met with CEO of Tata STRIVE, Anita Ranjan. The Tata STRIVE is the skill development initiative of Tata Trusts. The meeting was made to have cooperation for the project.
- **Static Part:**
  - National Parks in Assam: Dibru-Saikhowa NP, Manas NP, The Orang NP, Nameri NP and Kaziranga NP

## MINISTRY OF TOURISM SIGNED MOU WITH ALLIANCE AIR AVIATION LIMITED

**Current Context:** The Tourism Ministry has signed MoU with Alliance Air Aviation Limited (AAAL).

### ABOUT

- **The MoU was signed to enhance the tourism sector in the country.**
- The ministry aims to enhance the position of India in the tourism sector and wants India to be the preferred destination for tourism and job opportunities in the same as well.
- The MoU will allow synergizing the activities of AAAL and tourism ministry jointly.
- **Static Part:**
  - Union Minister of Tourism: G Kishan Reddy

## 'PRAMARSH 2022'

**Current Context:** The Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal launched 'Pramarsh 2022'.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **'Pramarsh 2022' is the mega career counseling workshop launched for the students of Bikaner, Rajasthan.**
- The workshop observed the participation of more than one lakh students and it is the first such event in India that more than 1 lakh students participated in Career Counselling in one Workshop.
- The objective of the workshop was to reduce the industry-academia gap.
- It aims to grant knowledge and develop awareness about skills and career opportunities to the students.

- It was organized by The National Institute of Career Services (NICS), under the Ministry of Labour & Employment and Edumilestones (name of a startup based in Bengaluru).
- The workshop received support from the Directorate of Education, Rajasthan.
- **Static Part:**
  - Wild Life Sanctuaries in Rajasthan: Bassi WLS, Kesarbogh WLS, Sariska WLS, The Sita Mata WLS, Shergarh WLS

## 21ST TERI'S WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2022

**Current Context:** The 21st The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit was held recently in a virtual manner.

### KEY POINTS

- The inaugural session was addressed by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.
- Other dignitaries present at the event were Luis Abinader, President of the Dominican Republic, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Ms. Amina J Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations, and Union Minister Bhupender Yadav.
- **The theme of the summit:** 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future.'
- The dignitaries discussed climate change, sustainable production, energy transitions, and resource security.
- At the summit, Vedanta signed MoU with TERI to promote sustainable use of resources for a resilient planet through transformative actions.
- The strategy papers namely 'Act4Earth Manifesto' and 'Act4Earth Strategy Paper' were launched at the summit.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of TERI: New Delhi

## TRANSUNION CIBIL PARTNERED WITH FICCI

**Current Context:** The TransUnion Cibil has entered into a partnership with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

### KEY FACTS

- **They have partnered to launch the MSME consumer education program.**
- The program will help to develop awareness about credit management, Cibil Rank, and commercial credit information among small businesses.
- It will help to empower the MSME sector about how to build a good credit history and Cibil Rank so that they can opt for finances during their requirements.
- The program will be executed in Maharashtra, Assam, and Tripura and will soon reach further various MSME clusters in India.

- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of TransUnion Cibil: Mumbai
  - HQ of FICCI: New Delhi

## SBI PROJECTED INDIA'S GDP TO BE 8.8% FOR FY22

**Current Context:** As per the 'Ecowrap' report by the State Bank of India (SBI), India's GDP growth to be at 8.8% for FY22.

### DETAILS

- Earlier it had projected GDP growth to be at 9.3% for the same.
- As per the current estimations, real GDP will be around Rs 2.35 lakh crore which is 1.6% more than the pre-pandemic FY20 real GDP of Rs 145.69 lakh crore.
- The country's GDP is likely to grow at 5.8% in Q3 of FY22.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of SBI: Mumbai
  - Chairman of SBI: Dinesh Kumar Khara

## DADASAHEB PHALKE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS 2022

**Current Context:** The Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022 was held in Mumbai to honor the best performances in the film and television industry from last year.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Below is the list of winners in each category:**
  - Film of the Year Award: Pushpa: The Rise
  - Best Film Award: Shershaah
  - Critics Best Film Award: Sardar Udham Singh
  - Outstanding Contribution to Films: Asha Parekh
  - Best Actor: Ranveer Singh for film 83
  - Best Actress: Kriti Sanon for film Mimi
  - Critics Best Actor Award: Sidharth Malhotra
  - Critics Best Actress Award: Kiara Advani
  - Best Actor in Supporting Role Award: Satish Kaushik
  - Best Actress in Supporting Role Award: Lara Dutta
  - Best Actor in Negative Role Award: Aayush Sharma
  - People's Choice Best Actor Award: Abhimanyu Dasani
  - People's Choice Best Actress Award: Radhika Madan
  - Best Debut Award: Ahan Shetty for film Tadap
  - Best Male Playback Singer Award: Vishal Mishra
  - Best Male Playback Singer Award: Kanika Kapoor



- Best Director Award: Ken Ghosh for film State of Siege: Temple Attack
- Best Cinematographer Award: Jayakrishna Gummadi for film Haseena Dilruba
- Best International Feature Film Award: Another Round
- Best Short Film Award: Pauli
- Best Web Series Award: Candy
- Best Television Series of the Year Award: Anupama
- Best Actor in Web Series Award: Manoj Bajpayee
- Best Actress in Web Series Award: Raveena Tandon
- Best Actor in Television Series Award: Shaheer Sheikh
- Best Actress in Television Series Award: Shraddha Arya
- Best Promising Actor in Television Series Award: Dheeraj Dhoopar
- Best Promising Actress in Television Series Award: Rupali Ganguly

## NHPC RENEWABLE ENERGY LIMITED (NREL)

**Current Context:** NHPC Limited has set up a new wholly-owned subsidiary company.

### KEY POINTS

- **The name of the company is 'NHPC Renewable Energy Limited (NREL)'.**
- The NREL is set up to work for the development of Renewable Energy, Small Hydro, and Green Hydrogen areas related to NHPC Ltd.
- The NREL is incorporated with the Registrar of Companies, NCT of Delhi & Haryana.
- At present, NHPC has a total generation capacity of 7071 megawatts which is comprised of 100MW of projects based on solar and wind energy.
- It has 5999 megawatts of hydro plant capacity and 105 megawatts of solar plant capacity which are in the construction process.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NHPC Ltd: Faridabad, Haryana

## GOI SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH WORLD BANK FOR REWARD PROJECT

**Current Context:** The Government of India (GoI) has signed a loan agreement with World Bank to execute the 'Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development' (REWARD) Project' in Karnataka and Odisha.

### KEY FACTS

- **In this regard, the loan agreement of 115 million US dollars was signed between them.**
- The project will help the states to adopt and implement watershed management strategies and enhance farmers' resilience to climate change.
- It will also enhance productivity and income.

- The watershed management practices will boost the livelihoods in rainfed areas. It will develop a resilient food system.
- The funds are granted by International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), which is the lending arm of the World Bank.
- Out of the total funds, the Karnataka government will be granted \$60 million and Odisha government will be granted \$49 million, and the rest \$6 million will be granted to the department of land resources of the central government.

## MOHUA HAS APPROVED RS 235 CRORE TO ANDHRA PRADESH

**Current Context:** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has approved Rs 235 crore to Andhra Pradesh.

### ABOUT

- **The funds are approved under the 'Garbage Free Cities' vision.**
- It is the largest one-time approval of funds for legacy dumpsite restoration.
- The center will allot Rs 77.66 crore for this initiative and the rest will be covered by the state.
- Legacy dumpsites are a severe environmental danger and create air pollution and hence necessary to clean them.
- The legacy dumpsites are decomposed organic waste which is mixed with sand, silt, demolition, and construction waste fragments.
- **Static Part:**
  - Dams in Andhra Pradesh: Srisailem Dam (Krishna River), Dummaguden Dam (Godavari River), Tatipudi Reservoir (River Gosthani)

## 'HEAL BY INDIA' INITIATIVE

**Current Context:** The Government of India (GoI) has announced to promote the 'Heal by India' initiative.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **The initiative will help to enhance educational institutions in the health sector.**
- **It will generate job opportunities in the health sector at the international level as well.**
- It will enhance the education sector which will help to generate quality human resources in health so that the passed-out candidates will serve the health industry in an efficient manner at national as well as international levels.
- Therefore, the GoI will work to have well-qualified faculty, eradication of language barrier, usage of advanced technology, impactful government policies, etc.
- The initiative will mostly focus on those that have high demand outside India.
- It includes 50-60 streams like dieticians, nurses, lab technicians, paramedics, OT (operation theatre) attendants, physiotherapists, OT technicians, medical attendants for old age patients care, etc.
- The training will be imparted under the Skill India program.

## PM MODI INAUGURATED 550-TONNE CAPACITY OF BIO-CNG PLANT IN INDORE

**Current Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated a 550-tonne capacity of Gobar-Dhan (Bio-CNG) Plant in Indore, Madhya Pradesh via video.

### KEY POINTS

- This plant is considered to be the biggest Bio-CNG plant in Asia.
- The funds of Rs 150 crore are required to build this plant.
- It is based on the concept of waste-to-wealth innovation.
- Gobar Dhan means wet household waste and waste from cattle and farms.
- It will be around 17,000 kg per day of CNG and 100 tonnes per day of organic compost.

## 'MERI POLICY MERE HATH'

**Current Context:** The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare of the Government of India will be launching 'Meri Policy Mere Hath'.

### KEY FACTS

- The 'Meri Policy Mere Hath' is a doorstep distribution drive that will grant crop insurance to the farmers for the upcoming Kharif season.
- The drive will make sure that the farmer community is well aware and fully equipped with information about various policies, land records, claim processes, and grievances redressal.
- The fund's support will be granted under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
- Financial support to the farmers suffering from crop loss or damage arising out of natural calamities will be given.
- **Static Part:**
  - Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has recently completed 6 years of implementation on 18th Feb 2022. It was launched on 8th February 2016 at Sehore, Madhya Pradesh by PM Narendra Modi

## IRCTC BOB RUPAY CARD

**Current Context:** The Bank of Baroda (BoB) Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL) in partnership with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has launched 'IRCTC BoB RuPay Card'.

### DETAILS

- It will grant the maximum amount of saving to the frequent railway travelers.
- Also, various benefits will be granted on shopping for groceries, fuel, etc.
- It will offer a 1% transaction fee waiver to the customers on all train ticket bookings.

- It will offer a 1% fuel surcharge waiver across all petrol pumps in India.
- The rewards points upto 40 on bookings made on the IRCTS website or app will be given.
- The reward points can be redeemed on the IRCTS website or app by linking the loyalty number with the respective IRCTC login ID.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of BFSL: Mumbai

## KSUM PARTNERED WITH GOOGLE

**Current Context: The Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) has partnered with Google.**

### ABOUT

- **They have partnered to grant local startups connectivity to the global startup community.**
- The wide network will allow the local startups to explore Google's program to boost their operations.
- The local startups will receive mentorship and training which will scale up their businesses.
- The startups will be able to explore new technologies and attain a global standard.

## INDIA AND FRANCE COMMITTED TO ADOPTING A ROADMAP ON THE BLUE ECONOMY

**Current Context: India and France have committed to each other by adopting a roadmap on the blue economy and ocean governance.**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- They have enhanced their partnership to preserve marine resources. Hence, they will observe economic, infrastructure, and scientific cooperation between them.
- The discussion for the same was recently held between External affairs minister S Jaishankar and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian.
- Both the countries will make the blue economy a priority and the driver for their progress.
- They will respect the environment and coastal and marine biodiversity.
- They will jointly work in marine science research in order to understand oceans in a better way.
- The roadmap will cover areas like maritime trade, the naval industry, fisheries, marine technology, scientific research, integrated coastal management, marine eco-tourism, inland waterways, and administrations on civil maritime issues.

## TATA POWER SIGNED MOU WITH RWE RENEWABLES

**Current Context: Tata Power has signed MoU with RWE Renewables GmbH which is based in Germany.**

### KEY POINTS

- **They have signed MoU to perform joint development of offshore wind projects in India.**
- The MoU is in the line with India's objective to achieve 30 gigawatts of offshore wind installations by 2030.
- It will establish a competitive offshore wind market in India.
- The RWE Renewables will offer its support to Tata Power to enhance the offshore wind business in India.
- They will jointly perform a technical and commercial site assessment.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Tata Power: Mumbai
  - MD and CEO of Tata Power: Praveer Sinha

### JINDAL STAINLESS SIGNED MOU WITH IIT DHANBAD

**Current Context: Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL) has signed MoU with IIT Dhanbad.**

### KEY FACTS

- **They have collaborated to perform R&D projects.**
- They will collaborate to perform research, develop new products, maintain environmental safety and expand skills.
- They will enhance industry expertise and the institute's technical capacity.
- They will jointly assess physicochemical properties and combustion features of coal samples, ESG Measures, soil and geosynthetic studies.
- The partnership will ensure proper selection of coal and its proper storage.

### IIFL HOME FINANCE SIGNED LOAN AGREEMENT WITH ADB

**Current Context: The IIFL HFL has signed a loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB).**

### DETAILS

- **They have signed a loan agreement of USD 68 million.**
- **It was signed to improve funding to affordable green housing for lower-income groups in India.**
- They will support financially affordable green housing.
- The ADB will grant USD 58 million direct loans and USD 10 million concessional loans will be granted by Canadian Climate Fund for the Private Sector in Asia.
- 80% of the loan will be granted to women borrowers and the rest will be used to finance mortgages for green-certified loans for low-income houses.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of ADB: Manilla, Philippines

- President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa

## APPOINTMENTS ON 23RD FEBRUARY 2022

**Current Context: Takuya Tsumura:** He was appointed as the new President & CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) by Honda Motor Co. Ltd. He has replaced Gaku Nakanishi.

### ABOUT

- **Manika Batra:** She was appointed as the brand ambassador of Adidas.
- **NR Narayana Murthy:** He was appointed to chair the Alternative Investment Policy Advisory Committee (AIPAC) setup by SEBI. He is the co-founder of Infosys.

## JICA APPROVES RS 1,000-CRORE PROJECT TO CLEAN UP PUNE'S RIVERS

**Current Context:** The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has approved a Rs 1,000-crore project to clean up rivers in Pune.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The rivers namely Mula, Mutha, and Mula-Mutha (confluence of both rivers) will be cleaned under the project.
- It will thus improve the quality of water by augmenting sewage collection systems.
- The sewage treatment facility will be implemented and improvement in the sanitation in the Pune Municipal Corporation area will be undertaken with the help of the funds.
- The project implementation will involve 55km of trunk lines and 11 new sewage treatment plants which will have the capacity of 396 million liters per day.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of JICA: Tokyo, Japan

## IIL FOUNDATION PARTNERED WITH SVPUAT

**Current Context:** Agrochemicals company Insecticides (India) Limited (IIL)'s arm named IIL Foundation has partnered with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture & Technology (SVPUAT), Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.

### KEY POINTS

- They have partnered to educate farmers.
- The MoU was signed for dissemination of the advanced Agri-extension activities and farmer awareness activities.
- The partnership will be executed for three years.

- Under the partnership, the IIL Foundation will work with a Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) under the Directorate of Extension of the University to educate and create awareness on how to use crop protection products.
- Therefore, the farmers will get an idea about the latest products and their process to use. This will increase their farm yields.

## TWO NEW SERVICES FOR THE CUSTOMERS WERE LAUNCHED BY SIB

**Current Context:** The South Indian Bank has launched two new services for its customers.

### KEY FACTS

- **The services were launched to enhance ‘remittances to’ and ‘remittances from’ abroad.**
- The SIB has allowed online outward remittances via Net Banking and inward remittances via NPCI’s UPI mode.
- It will grant a safe and secure remittance experience to its valuable customers.
- The bank’s Internet Banking platform named ‘SIBerNet’ will be used to perform online outward remittance facilitates i.e. Foreign Outward Remittance.
- Indians will be able to perform Online Foreign Outward Remittances through SiberNet in more than 100 currencies across the globe.
- SIB has launched ‘SIB Express’ for the inward remittance service which will allow cross-border inward remittances under the Rupee Drawing Arrangement.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of SIB: Thrissur, Kerala

## RURAL CONNECTIVITY GIS DATA IN PUBLIC DOMAIN

**Current Context:** The ‘Rural Connectivity GIS Data in Public Domain’ was released by Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh.

### DETAILS

- It included GIS data for more than 8 lakh rural facilities.
- The data was collected and digitized by making use of the GIS platform, which is developed by PM-GSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana).
- The rural connectivity of the GIS Data was made available to the public.
- While addressing the event, Union Minister Giriraj Singh mentioned that more than 6.90 lakh km of roads are constructed. These roads will grant connectivity to 1,61,508 habitations.
- The funds of Rs 2.69 lakh crores were used for the same.
- He also mentioned that the data released for the public will be useful to startups, entrepreneurs, businesses, civil society, academics, and other government departments to build products, conduct research, and plan investments for quicker disaster response.



## APPOINTMENTS ON 24TH FEBRUARY 2022

**Current Context: K.N. Raghavan:** He was elected as the new Chairman of the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG) for the tenure of two years. He is an Executive Director of the Indian Rubber Board.

### ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IRSG: Singapore
- **Sanjay Malhotra:** He was nominated as a Director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). He has replaced Debashish Panda.
- **Shah Rukh Khan:** He was appointed as the brand ambassador for Thums Up.

## EDELWEISS GENERAL INSURANCE PARTNERED WITH ASHV FINANCE

**Current Context:** The Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI) has partnered with Ashv Finance.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Ashv Finance is the tech-based NBFC in India.
- **They have partnered to grant financial protection to the latter's business loan borrowers.**
- Ashv Finance will grant credit facilities to small businesses and MSMEs.
- The EGI will ensure the proper flow of funds to the small businesses and MSMEs without any brakes to achieve their goals by offering health insurance coverage to safeguard the financial interest.
- They will grant security against the business loan which is taken by the borrower, in case of any unfortunate incident like an accident or critical illness.
- The health cover depends on the loan amount and the tenure of the loan selected by the borrower.
- The loan and the policy will be processed in a simultaneous way in a digital format with zero paperwork.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of EGI and Ashv Finance: Mumbai

## EASEMY TRIP PARTNERED WITH TOFFEE

**Current Context:** An online travel platform named EaseMyTrip has partnered with Toffee Insurance.

### KEY POINTS

- **They have partnered to grant travel insurance solutions to customers.**
- The Toffee Insurance will offer all travel insurance products for added value and will grant extra protections to customers of EaseMyTrip upon canceling flight bookings due to medical emergencies.
- They will thus ensure that customers will not face any loss on cancellation of the ticket bookings.

- Customers will be granted with complete refund.
- To avail of this facility, the customer will have to select the policy while the ticket booking process.

## MOU SIGNED BETWEEN NIUA AND WEF

**Current Context:** The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and World Economic Forum (WEF) have entered into the MoU for the 'Sustainable Cities India program'.

### KEY FACTS

- **The program aims to develop an environment for cities that will have decarbonization solutions across energy, transport.**
- The partnership and the program are in line with PM's vision for India to turn net-zero by 2070 as a climate mitigation response at COP26.
- The program will guide cities to adopt a systematic and sustainable way to reduce emissions and have resilient and equitable urban ecosystems.
- Both the entities will adopt Forum's City Sprint process and Toolbox of Solutions for decarbonization.
- The City Sprint process is a series of multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder workshops that will be held for leaders of business, government, and civil society.
- The relevant policies and business models will be discussed in the workshop and the appropriate ones will be implemented to gain the objective of MoU.

## INDIA'S GDP TO BE AT 8.6% FOR FY22 — 'IND-RA'

**Current Context:** As per India Ratings (Ind-Ra), India's GDP to be at 8.6% for 2021-22 (FY22).

### DETAILS

- Earlier it had projected growth of 9.2% for the same.
- As per the rating agency, National Statistical Organisation (NSO) will estimate real gross domestic product growth at Rs 147.2 lakh crore for FY22.
- And in this regard, the GDP growth rate is expected to be 8.6% for FY22.

## INDIA'S GDP TO BE AT 9.5% FOR FY22 — MOODY'S

**Current Context:** As per Moody's Rating Agency, India's GDP growth is estimated to be 9.5% for FY22.

### ABOUT

- Earlier it had estimated it to be 7% for the same.
- It has maintained a forecast for 5.5% growth in FY2023.
- This is through the higher oil prices and supply issues which will result in growth.

- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Moody's Corporation: New York, US

## APPOINTMENTS ON 25TH FEBRUARY 2022

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**Current Context: Nitin Paranjpe:** He was appointed as Non-Executive Chairman of the Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL). Currently, he is serving as Chief Operating Officer of Unilever, which is the parent company of HUL. Sanjiv Mehta will continue to be the CEO and MD of the company.

## ABOUT

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- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of HUL: Mumbai
- **Rakesh Sharma:** He was reappointed as MD and CEO of IDBI Bank for a period of 3 years.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of IDBI Bank: Mumbai
  - LIC is the owner of IDBI Bank
- **Sanjeev Sanyal:** He was appointed as a full-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) for the period of two years.

## INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INDEX 2022

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**Current Context: The International Intellectual Property Index 2022** was released by the Global Innovation Policy Center of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

## HIGHLIGHTS

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- **As per the index, India is ranked at 43 positions out of 55 countries.**
- India has improved its overall IP score from 38.4% to 38.6%.
- The 1st position is marked by the United States with a score of 95.48%.
- The 2nd and 3rd ranks are marked by the United Kingdom and Germany respectively.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of U.S. Chamber of Commerce: Washington DC, US

## 'DEVAYATANAM – AN ODYSSEY OF INDIAN TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE

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**Current Context: A two-day international conference titled 'Devayatanam – An odyssey of Indian temple architecture' was held at Hampi, Karnataka.**

## KEY POINTS

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- **It was organized by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) of the Ministry of Culture.**

- It was inaugurated by Union Minister for Culture, Tourism, and DoNER, G Kishan Reddy.
- The conference was held to have discussions on philosophical, religious, social, economic, technical, scientific, art, and architectural aspects of the temple.
- Also, various discussions were held on how to develop various styles of temple architecture like Nagara, Vesara, Dravida, Kalinga, etc.

## STANDARD CHARTERED BANK PARTNERED WITH IATA

**Current Context:** The Standard Chartered Bank has partnered with International Air Transport Association (IATA).

### KEY FACTS

- **They have partnered to launch a payment platform for the airline industry.**
- **The name of the new platform is 'IATA Pay'.**
- The 'IATA Pay' will enable an instant airline payment facility.
- It is based on Standard Chartered's Straight2Bank Pay.
- The IATA Pay in addition to a credit card will work as a new payment option that will allow the participating airlines to offer instant payment options like UPI Scan and Pay and UPI Collect (Request to Pay).
- The IATA Pay will give simplicity to the transaction process by focusing on open banking and real-time payment solutions.
- It will also be made available in European markets which will give promotion to the UPI.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of Standard Chartered Bank: Mumbai

## EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022

**Current Context:** The joint military exercise named 'EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022' will be held between India and Japan from 27th Feb to 10th March 2022.

### DETAILS

- **This is the 3rd edition of the military exercise.**
- **It will be held at Belagavi (Belgaum), Karnataka.**
- India will be represented by the 15th Battalion the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army and Japan will be represented by the 30th Infantry Regiment of Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF).
- They will conduct joint military operations in Jungle and Semi-Urban or Urban terrains regions.
- It will help to enhance interoperability and mutual understanding between the two Armies.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Japan: Tokyo

- Currency of Japan: Yen

## APPOINTMENTS ON 26TH FEBRUARY 2022

**Current Context: K S Mani:** He was elected as board of directors of the National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India (NCDFI). He is the Chairman of the Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (KCMMF).

### ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of NCDFI: Anand, Gujarat
- **Rishabh Pant:** He was appointed as the brand ambassador of Dish TV India.
- **Abhishek Singh:** He was appointed as new National e-Governance Division chief. He is the Digital India Corporation CEO.

## NHPC SIGNED PACT WITH HDFC BANK

**Current Context:** The State-owned National Hydropower Generation Company (NHPC) Limited has signed a pact with HDFC Bank.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- They have signed the pact to securitize return on equity (RoE) of its 540-MW Chamera-I Power Plant in Himachal Pradesh for 10 years.
- The amount of securitization facility is Rs 1,016.39 crore. It is 5.24 p.c.p.a. by discounting rate linked with three-month T-bills.
- The pact follows Regulation 30 of SEBI which mentions Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements Regulations, 2015.
- About Chamera-I Power Plant: It is an underground powerhouse having an installed capacity of 540-MW. It has 3 units of 180-MW capacity each. It will generate 1664.56 million units of hydropower.
- **Static Part:**
  - HQ of HDFC Bank: Mumbai
  - Tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world
  - MD and CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhaar Jagdishan

## 28TH DST-CII INDIA SINGAPORE TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT 2022

**Current Context:** The 28th DST-CII India-Singapore Technology Summit 2022 was held in a virtual manner.

### KEY POINTS

- It was jointly organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- The theme of the summit: 'Building economies for the future'.
- The meeting was attended by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.
- Singapore side was represented by Singaporean Minister for Transport and Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations, S Iswaran.
- At the meeting, he mentioned that India is the major hub for foreign investments in the manufacturing sector.
- He mentioned that India is gaining its presence in various technologies like blockchain, Nanotechnology, quantum computing, the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, etc.
- The summit allowed the dignitaries to discuss and exchange ideas in the technology domain in order to enhance various sectors of both nations.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Singapore: Singapore
  - Currency of Singapore: Singapore Dollar

### 'BHASHA CERTIFICATE SELFIE' CAMPAIGN

**Current Context:** The Ministry of Education has launched the 'Bhasha Certificate Selfie' campaign.

#### KEY FACTS

- The campaign was launched to motivate cultural diversity environment and promote multilingualism.
- It will help to maintain and foster the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- The campaign promotes Bhasha Sangam mobile app.
- The app is developed by the Ministry of Education and MyGov India.
- The app will allow people to obtain basic conversational skills by learning various Indian languages.
- The people are asked to upload their selfies with the certificate from their social media accounts using the hashtag #BhashaCertificateSelfie.

### INDIA NEPAL JOINT HYDRO DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**Current Context:** India and Nepal have agreed to form a joint task force to develop hydropower projects from investments made by both the countries.

#### DETAILS

- The hydro development committee will be having max 3 members.

- The decision was taken during the 9th meeting of the joint working group and the joint steering committee held to discuss bilateral power sector cooperation in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Both the nations have decided to enhance their power generation projects, build more transmission lines, have policy frameworks in the power sector.
- **Static Part:**
  - Capital of Nepal: Kathmandu
  - Currency of Nepal: Nepalese rupee (NPR)

## SINGAPORE WEIGHTLIFTING INTERNATIONAL 2022

**Current Context: India won 8 medals at Singapore Weightlifting International 2022.**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The medals tally includes six golds and a silver and bronze each.
- The winners have gained their spots at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games which will be held in July-August.
- **Below is the list of India's weightlifters who are qualified for the Commonwealth Games 2022.**
  - Mirabai Chanu in the category of women's 55kg
  - Bindyarani Devi in the category of women's 59kg
  - Popy Hazarika in the category of women's 64kg
  - Usha Kumara in the category of women's 87kg
  - Purnima Pandey in the category of women's +87kg
  - Sanket Mahadev in the category of men's 55kg
  - Chanambam Rishikanta Singh in the category of men's 55kg
  - Jeremy Lalrinnunga in the category of men's 67kg
  - Achinta Sheuli in the category of men's 73kg
  - Ajay Singh in the category of men's 81kg
  - Vikas Thakur in the category of men's 96kg
  - Ragala Venkat Rahul in the category of men's 96kg

## MSME TECHNOLOGY CENTRE TO BE SETUP AT SINDHUDURG, MAHARASHTRA

**Current Context: The MSME Technology Centre will be set up at Sindhudurg, Maharashtra.**

### KEY POINTS

- **The announcement for the same was made by Union MSME Minister, Narayan Rane.**
- **It will be established with the allocation of funds of Rs 200 crore.**
- **The announcement was made at MSME Conclave 2022 held in Sindhudurg by the MSME Ministry.**
- The aim of the conclave was to promote entrepreneurship opportunities by using technology, advanced skillsets, and other allied knowledge of products and services.



- During the conclave, the union minister launched the Union MSME RuPay Credit Card, which is being offered by the Union Bank of India and NPCI.
- He announced to establishment MSME Technology Centre in Sindhudurg.
- He inaugurated KONBAC SFURTI i.e. Konkan Bamboo and Cane Development Centre- Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries, which is the bamboo cluster at Kudal. It will support 300 artisans.

## 'OPERATION GANGA'

**Current Context: The Government of India has launched 'Operation Ganga'.**

### KEY FACTS

- **'Operation Ganga' is an evacuation mission.**
- **It aims to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine because of rising Russia-Ukraine tension and conflicts.**
- Because of the Ukraine and Russia war situations, Ukraine is declared a no-fly zone by the authorities in order to maintain the safety and security of the nations.
- But due to these situations, many Indians are left stranded in Ukraine.
- Therefore, to grant them help and bring them back to India, the 'Operation Ganga' mission was launched.

## INDIA'S FIRST SMART MANAGED EV CHARGING STATION

**Current Context: India's first Smart Managed EV Charging Station was set up at Mayur Vihar in east Delhi. It is located at BYPL's 11 kV sub-station building in Mayur Vihar Extension Phase-I.**

### ABOUT

- **It is commissioned by BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL).**
- It can charge 5 electric vehicles at the same time.
- Soon numbers of such EV Charging Station will be set up in south, west, east, and central Delhi.
- Currently, it is launched as a pilot project.
- The fundings for the same were granted by Nordic Innovation.
- It will be executed by Fortum Charge and Drive.
- It can be integrated with BYPL's SCADA system and can be managed remotely. The BYPL's SCADA system is the major system of the discom.
- The user can also pre-book an appointment, find out the location and make payment of the EV Station by using the mobile application which is integrated with the EV Station itself.