

Current Affairs of January 2022

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National

Himachal Pradesh becomes 1st LPG enabled & smoke free Indian state

i. Himachal Pradesh (HP) has become the first LPG

(Liquefied petroleum gas) enabled and smoke free Indian state.

ii. This success is backed by the

Central Government's Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme and HP Government's Mukhya Mantri Grihini Suvidha Yojana (GSY).

iii. While the PMUY scheme aims to get rid of the diseases caused by smoke and freeing women of the country from indoor pollution, the GSY objective is to cover those families which are not covered under PMUY.

About Himachal Pradesh (HP):

Chief Minister— Jai Ram Thakur



Telangana Tops in Highest Number of ODF Villages; Followed by Tamil Nadu, Karnataka

Telangana has stood first among other states in India in the list of the highest number of Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus villages under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II programme till **December 31, 2021**.

- Around 13,737 villages out of 14,200 villages in Telangana are on the ODF Plus list, which stands at 96.74 percent.
- Telangana is followed by **Tamil Nadu** with 4,432 villages, next by **Karnataka** with 1,511 villages and Gujarat took the 17th position with only 83 villages (0.45 percent).

Telangana Government has taken numerous efforts for the holistic development of the villages by ensuring proper monitoring of welfare and implementation of waste management.

Kochi becomes India's First City with Water Metro Project

i. Kochi (Kerala) has become India's first city to have a Water Metro

Project after the launch of its first boat in December 2021, namely



'Muziris,' among the 23 battery-powered electric boats being manufactured by Cochin Shipyard Limited.

ii. This launch is a part of Rs 747-crore project which is operated by **Kochi Water Metro Ltd (KWML)**. The boats will be called **Water Metros**.

iii. With a total outlay of **Rs 819 crore**, project's major part is financed under Indo-German Financial Cooperation through a long-term loan agreement of 85 million Euros (Rs 579 crore) with German funding agency, KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau).

GoI to hold 35.8% Stakes of Vodafone Idea in the form of Equity

India's third largest network **Vi or Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL)** has approved the interest on spectrum and Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues into **government equity**.

VIL in the hands of GOI

i. VIL accepted a **four-year moratorium** as well as accepted the equity conversion.

ii. Which means the **Indian government will own almost 35.8%** of VIL's stake followed by **Vodafone**

Group which owns 28.5% and 17.8% by Aditya Birla Group.

iii. The net present value (NPV) of interest is expected to be about Rs 16,000 crore, final confirmation made by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT).**

Rivals of VIL

i. The rivals of VIL, i.e. Bharti Airtel have accepted for moratorium and not for equity.

ii. While JIO went for neither.

About Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL)

Establishment – 31 August 2018 (Vodafone India merged with Idea Cellular)

MD & CEO – Ravinder Takkar

Headquarters – Gandhinagar, Gujarat

HarperCollins to publish “Indomitable” the Autobiography of Arundhati Bhattacharya

HarperCollins is set to

publish “**Indomitable: A**

Working Woman’s Notes on

Life, Work and Leadership” the autobiography of **Arundhati**

Bhattacharya, retired Indian banker and former Chairperson of the State Bank of India(SBI).

The book will be published by Harper Business, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

About the book:

i. Indomitable features the story of Arundhati Bhattacharya’s life as a banker and the difficulties she faced in the male-dominated sector.

ii. The book also details her life during early education, college in Kolkata and her tenure in SBI.

About Arundhati Battacharya:

i. Arundhati Bhattacharya is the chairperson and the

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of salesforce India, a cloud-based Software as a service (SaaS) company headquartered in San Francisco, California, United States of America.

ii. She served as the first-ever woman Chairperson of the SBI, India’s largest bank and a Fortune 500 company, from 2013 to 2017.

HarperCollins to Publish “Ratan N. Tata: The Authorized Biography” by Dr Thomas Mathew

The authorized biography of Ratan Naval Tata (**Ratan N Tata**), an Indian industrialist, philanthropist, and a former chairman of Tata Sons, titled “**Ratan N. Tata: The Authorized Biography**” authored by Dr Thomas Mathew will be published in November 2022.

- On 7th January 2022, HarperCollins Publishers acquired the world rights to publish the authorized biography of Ratan N. Tata: The Authorized Biography.

The biography will be published by **HarperCollins India** in **English** and the **principal Indian languages**, by **HarperCollins Leadership** in the US and by **William Collins** in the **UK**.

About the book:

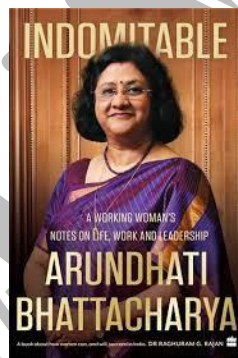
i. The biography chronicles the life of Ratan Tata, one of India’s biggest industrialists and philanthropists.

ii. The book features copious details about Ratan Tata’s childhood, college years, and early influences.

iii. This also entails formerly unreported details about events such as Tata’s Nano project, ouster of former Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry, and Tata Steel Ltd.’s acquisition of Corus.

About Dr Thomas Mathew:

i. Dr Thomas Mathew is a retired IAS officer of the 1983 batch, author, corporate strategist, and defence analyst.



ii. He has served in several important positions in the Ministries of Finance, Defence, and Industry.

Kumbalangi Village of Kerala Became India's 1st Sanitary Napkin-free Village

Arif Mohammad Khan, Governor of Kerala, declared **Kumbalangi** village (India's first eco-friendly tourist village) in the Ernakulam district of Kerala as the first-ever sanitary napkin-free village in India.

- Under the Aavakayi (for her) initiative led by Hibi Eden, Member of Parliament (MP) (Ernakulam), around 5,000 menstrual cups have been distributed to women aged 18 and above, and volunteers will train the women on how to use the menstrual cup and the advantages of using it.
- The partners of the project are HLL Management Academy through their "Thingal" scheme and Indian Oil Corporation.

Union Minister Amit Shah releases India's First 'District Good Governance Index'; J&K 1st Indian UT with GGI

i. On January 21, 2022, Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) virtually released the India's First 'District Good Governance Index (DGGI)' in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), prepared by Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with Government of J&K.

ii. It is prepared for the 20 Districts of UT of J&K.

iii. The event was organized by DARPG, GOI and J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration & Rural Development in association with the Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad.

iv. With this, J&K became the **first Indian UT** with a

Good Governance Index.

About Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA):

Union Minister– Amit Shah (Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat)

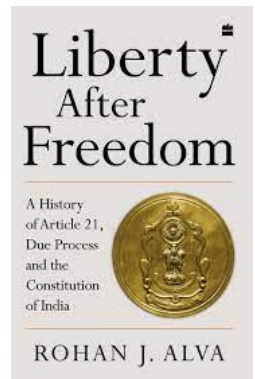
Ministers of State (MoS)– Nityanand Rai (Ujjainpur, Bihar); Ajay Kumar Mishra (Kheri, Uttar Pradesh);

Nisith Pramanik (Coochbehar, West Bengal)

New Book Titled 'Liberty After Freedom' authored by Rohan J. Alva

Rohan J. Alva, a counsel practising in the Supreme

Court of India, has authored a new book titled "Liberty After Freedom: A History of Article 21, Due Process and the Constitution of India". The book features the origin of Article 21: Protection of Life and Personal Liberty, one of the important fundamental rights in the Indian Constitution.



- The book is published by **HarperCollins India**.

About Rohan J. Alva:

i. His writings have been published in various internationally respected journals such as Statute Law Review (Oxford University Press), and Hong Kong Law Journal.

ii. He served as the professor at the Jindal Global Law School, where he was awarded the Excellence in Research Award.

73rd Republic Day 2022: Tableaux from 12 States, Flypast at Rajpath

India celebrated the 73rd Republic Day on 26th January 2022 with the annual parade held at Rajpath, New Delhi showcasing the nation's cultural diversity with a series of tableaux and cultural performances.



- The Republic Day parade witnessed the biggest fly-past with 75 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF). The flypast is showcased by Advanced Light Helicopters developed by the Army Aviation Corps.
- The number of tableaux in 2022 was reduced to **21** with States and Union territories (UTs) presenting **12** while 9 were featured by Ministries and Departments including the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The tableau of the Navy and the Air Force were also showcased.

Key Points over Tableaux:

i. India's **1st** woman Rafale fighter jet pilot **Shivangi Singh** took part in the IAF tableaux. She is the only second woman fighter jet pilot to be part of the IAF tableaux.

- In 2021, Flight Lieutenant Bhawna Kanth became the 1st female fighter jet pilot to be part of the IAF tableaux.

ii. The Department of Post's tableaux displayed the robust outreach and the modern face of India Post as well as all-women post offices to showcase the steps taken towards gender equality.

iii. Tableaux from states showcased India's cultural diversity, with themes ranging from the freedom struggle to biodiversity.

iv. The Central Public Works Development tableaux paid tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary.

v. The tableaux from Uttar Pradesh highlighted the Kashi Vishwanath Dham's history.

Ruskin Bond authors new book titled 'A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence'

A new book titled "A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence" authored by Ruskin Bond and published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI) was released on 26th January 2022, marking 75 years of India's Independence.

- The book is the blend of "physical and spiritual" attributes of India and also highlights the last 75 years of India's progress as a nation.

About Ruskin Bond:

i. Ruskin Bond, India's famous Children's book author, was born in Kasauli (Himachal Pradesh) and grew up in Jamnagar, Dehradun, New Delhi and Shimla.

Awards – Sahitya Akademi Award, Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar, Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan in Literature, Delhi government's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

Famous Books-

- The Blue Umbrella
- Delhi is not far
- A Flight of Pigeons,
- The night train at Deoli

Ruskin Bond's First Book – **The Room on the Roof**

Google to Invest Up to \$1 Billion in Airtel to Develop India's Digital Ecosystem

Bharti Airtel (Airtel) signed a long term, multi-year agreement with Google to enhance the growth of the digital ecosystem of India. Under this agreement, Google is set to invest up to USD 1 billion in Airtel. The agreement also includes an investment of USD 700 million to acquire 1.28% in Bharti Airtel at a price per share of Rs.734.

- This fund is a part of the Google for India Digitization Fund of USD 10 billion, announced by Sundar Pichai, Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Alphabet and Google.

Note: Google for India Digitization Fund includes the equity investment and a corpus for potential commercial agreements, to be identified and agreed on mutually agreeable terms within a period of 5 years.

Features of the Agreement:

- As a part of its commercial agreement, both the companies will work on building airtel's extensive offerings that cover a range of Android-enabled devices to consumers via innovative affordability programs.
- As a part of the strategic goals of this agreement, Airtel and Google will co-create India-specific network domain use cases for 5G and other standards, with cutting edge implementations.

Key Points:

- Google and Bharti Airtel have agreed to explore and invest in a wide range of areas to create digital solutions that serve the requirements of India.

About Bharti Airtel Limited:

Chairman– Sunil Bharti Mittal

Headquartered– New Delhi, Delhi

International

Shanghai Opened 2 Driverless Metro Lines; Becomes Longest Metro Line in the World

Shanghai, the biggest city in China, has opened 2 new driverless metro lines (Line 14 and Phase One of Line 18) and retained its titles as the World's longest Metro line. With the inclusion of the 2 new driverless lines, the total length of Shanghai's metro network is extended to **831 km**.



Shanghai Metro Network:

- The 2 new fully driverless metro lines take the total number of automatic lines in Shanghai to 5. At present Shanghai operates 167 km of fully automated metro lines, which makes the city the first in the World.
- Line 14 of the Shanghai metro network which operates for **38 km**, is the first fully automatic metro line for 8-car trains in the city.

Key Points:

- Shanghai is followed by Beijing(China) and Delhi(India) in the 2nd and 3rd spot on the list of cities with the largest metro network.
- Beijing has about 780 km long metro lines with 450 stations.

Apple Becomes First Company to Touch \$3 Trillion Market Cap

Apple Inc.'s stock market value raised above **USD 3 trillion** and became the first company to achieve this milestone.



Facts:

i. On the first day of trading in **2022** (i.e. On January 03, 2022), the company's shares hit an intraday record high of **USD 182.88**, putting Apple's market value just above USD 3 trillion.

ii. The stock ended the session up **2.5 percent** at **USD 182.01**, with Apple's market capitalization at **USD 2.99 trillion**.

- The stock first reached USD 1 trillion in mid-2018 and achieved USD 2 trillion in August 2020.

Key Highlights:

i. Market shares as per Refinitive's data:

- Apple shared the USD 2 trillion market value club with Microsoft Corp, which is now worth about USD 2.5 trillion.
- Alphabet Inc, Amazon.com Inc and Tesla Inc have market values above USD 1 trillion.
- Saudi Arabian Oil Co is valued at about USD 1.9 trillion.

Worlds' Five Powerful Nations Issue Pledge to Prevent Spread of Nuclear Weapons

In January 2022, the 5 most powerful nations of the world, viz **China, France, Russia, the UK** (United Kingdom) and

the **US** (United States) have agreed and signed a pledge (a joint statement) to

prevent atomic weapons from spreading and to ensure a **nuclear war** is never fought.

- The 5 nations were the nuclear weapons states recognised by the 1968 Treaty of the



Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and they were also the 5 permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. They are known as the P5 or the N5.

- The joint statement represents a renewed commitment to prevent any confrontation from turning into a nuclear war.

Note – The joint pledge was issued ahead of the 10th review of the NPT, which was postponed from its scheduled date of January 4, 2022, to later in 2022.

About Treaty of the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT):

i. It is an international treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to achieve complete nuclear disarmament.

ii. The treaty was opened for signature in 1968, and later entered into force in 1970. A total of 191 States have joined the Treaty, including the five nuclear-weapon States.

iii. 4 UN member states that have never signed the treaty were **India, Israel, Pakistan, and South Sudan**.

iv. **North Korea** is the only country to withdraw from the treaty.

China Builds an 'Artificial Moon' in Xuzhou for gravity experiment

Chinese scientists have built a research facility, "**artificial moon**", located in the city of Xuzhou, Jiangsu province, which will enable them to simulate low-gravity environments using magnetism. The research



facility will also provide valuable research for the lunar exportation activities of China.

Features of the Artificial Moon:

i.The facility will use powerful magnetic fields inside a 2-foot-diameter (60 centimeters) vacuum chamber to make gravity “disappear.” It will be officially launched in 2022.

ii.The chamber, filled with rocks and dust to imitate the lunar surface, is the “first of its kind in the world”.

iii.The facility could maintain such low-gravity conditions for “as long as you want”.

Background:

i.The idea of the artificial moon research facility was inspired by the experiment of making a frog float with a magnet.

ii.The experiment was devised by Andre Geim, a physicist at the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom(UK).

iii.The levitation trick in the artificial-moon chamber comes from an effect called diamagnetic levitation.

India’s Passport Ranked 84th on Henley’s Passport Index Q1-2022; Japan & Singapore Tops

As per the ‘Henley Passport Index: Q1 2022 Global Ranking’, released by Henley & Partners, India has been ranked

as **84th** Most Powerful Passport (with the **visa-free score – 60**).

India’s ranking has improved by 7 places from 90th in Q4 2021.



- The index has been topped by **Japan** and **Singapore** as they allow

visa-free travel to **192** countries to their passport holders. Notably, this is the 4th consecutive year that Japan has been in the top spot.

- India ranked 84 as it allows its passport holders to travel to **60 countries** without the need of a prior visa.

Henley Passport Index: Q1 2022 Global Ranking:

Rank	Country	Visa-free score	
84	India; Mauritania & Tajikistan	60	
Top 3	1	Japan; Singapore	192
	2	Germany; South Korea	190
	3	Finland; Italy; Luxembourg; Spain	189
Bottom 3	109	Syria	29
	110	Iraq	28
	111	Afghanistan	26

Torus Kling Blockchain launches Bitcoin and Ethereum Futures ETF, India's first crypto backed futures ETF at GIFT City

The **Torus Kling Blockchain IFSC**, an equal joint venture between Cosmea Financial Holdings and Kling Trading

India signed a MoU with **India INX** to launch the first **Bitcoin and Ethereum**



Futures exchange traded funds (ETFs) in India.

- These funds will become India's first crypto backed futures outside of the United States (US).
- Torus Kling Blockchain is targeting \$ 1 billion Assets Under Management (AUM) in the first two years from customers participating in blockchain backed products through ETFs and Discount certificates.

Highlights:

i. Under the agreement, Torus Kling Blockchain IFSC also launched **Metaverse US-listed large-cap discount certificates**.

- It will be the first Asian discount certificates tracking metaverse large-cap stocks in the US and Europe markets.

ii. Torus Kling Blockchain will work as a liquidity provider to India INX. While India INX will work as a trading platform and Cosmea Financial Holdings will work as the distributor.

- The ETF futures will be launched under a sandbox construct of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (**IFSCA**).

About International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA):

i. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) was established on **April 27, 2020** under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.

Objective- To develop and regulate international financial services centres in the country.

Headquarters- at GIFT City, Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

About India INX:

India International Exchange (IFSC) Limited (India INX) is India's first international exchange in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

Indonesia Replaces Sinking Jakarta with New Capital City Nusantara

The Indonesian Parliament has passed a law to relocate its capital from **Jakarta** to East Kalimantan, situated to the east of Borneo island. The new capital city of the country will be called **Nusantara**, which is a symbol of the identity of the nation, and also a new centre of economic gravity.

- The new state capital law provides a legal framework for President Joko Widodo's ambitious approximately USD 32 billion megaproject.

Key Points:

i. Cause for change in Capital: Jakarta is prone to flooding & climate change which also suffers from congestion and air pollution.

- According to the World Economic Forum (**WEF**), Jakarta is one of the fastest-sinking cities on Earth which has been dropping into the Java Sea due to the over-extraction of groundwater.

- According to United Nations (UN), Jakarta is also one of the world's most overpopulated urban regions with more than 10 million people

ii. President Joko Widodo first announced the capital would be relocated in 2019, but the move was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- The initial capital relocation will start between 2022 and 2024.

About Nusantara

i. The name of the new city Nusantara (also called IKN) has been chosen by President Joko Widodo, it is a Javanese term translated as 'archipelago' in the Indonesian language.

ii. According to data from the National Planning and Development Agency, the total land area for the new capital city will be around **256,143 hectares** (around 2,561 square kilometres), mostly converted from the forest area.

Additional info:

Other countries that have changed capitals include – (i) Brazil changed its capital city from Rio De Janeiro to Brasilia in 1960. (ii) In 1991, Nigeria changed its capital from Lagos to Abuja. (iii) Kazakhstan moved its capital city from Almaty to Nur-Sultan in 1997. (iv) Myanmar changed its capital from Rangoon to Naypyidaw in 2005.

Meta built World's Fastest AI Supercomputer 'RSC'

Meta's (erstwhile Facebook) CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Mark Zuckerberg has



announced the development of an AI (Artificial Intelligence) supercomputer i.e **AI Research SuperCluster (RSC)** to train machine learning systems across company's businesses. It will be the world's fastest supercomputer once it is completed later in 2022.

Key Points:

i. The RSC includes algorithms on content moderation for detecting hate speech and explicit content on Facebook and Instagram. It will be used to design things or run programs for the Metaverse.

ii. The Supercomputer consists of 760 Nvidia GGX A 100 systems containing 6,080 GPUs (Graphics Processing Unit) whereas Meta's RSC is already providing up to 20 times improved performance.

- It will have a total of 16,000 GPUs by the end of the second phase of its creation.

Defence

India and 5 Other Nations Begin Anti-Submarine Exercise 'Sea Dragon 22' with US Navy

The United States (US) Navy Seventh Fleet announced the beginning of the multilateral anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise, 'Sea Dragon 22' in Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, in the western Pacific.



- The six nations that are participating in the exercise are the **US, Australia, Canada, India, Japan and South Korea.**

Note – India, Japan, Australia and America are also part of the **Quad**, and also participate in the Malabar exercise.

Key Highlights:

i. The P-8 Poseidon Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft (MPRA) with Patrol Squadron (VP) – 47 and Tridents of VP- 26 will Join the exercise.

- The '**Golden Swordsmen of VP-47**', part of Commander Task Force (CTF) 72, are stationed in Whidbey Island, Washington, and are currently deployed to Misawa Air Base in Aomori, Japan.
- The '**Tridents of VP-26**', part of CTF 72, are stationed in Jacksonville, Florida, and are currently deployed to Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan.

ii. Throughout their deployment, '**Golden Swordsmen of VP-47**' & '**Tridents of VP-26**' will conduct maritime patrol and reconnaissance and theater outreach operations within the 7th Fleet area of

operations.

About Sea Dragon 22:

i. It is a US – led exercise that focuses on ASW training and maritime security challenges in the Indo – Pacific region. The exercise includes 270 hours of in-flight training.

ii. Dragon Belt Award: Under the exercise, the Dragon Belt Award will be presented to the highest point scorer from several events conducted between the military forces of the participating countries.

Note – In **2021**, the Dragon Belt Award was won by the **Royal Canadian Air Force.**

Philippines 1st country to purchase \$374.96mn BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile System from India for its Navy

i. The Philippines become the first country to buy the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system boosting India's efforts to become a major exporter of defence hardware.

ii. The Philippines recently signed the 'notice of award' or the acceptance of India's BrahMos Aerospace Private Ltd **\$374.96 million (USD 374,962,800)** proposal for supplying the missile system for the Philippine Navy's shore-based **anti-ship missile acquisition project.**

iii. As a part of approval, Philippines will acquire **three batteries** of the BrahMos cruise missile; training for operators and maintainers; along with Integrated Logistics Support (ILS) package.

About Philippines:

Capital– Manila

Appointments or Resign/Retired

Vinay Kumar Tripathi Appointed as New Chairman and CEO of Railway Board

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Vinay Kumar**

Tripathi as a **Chairman** and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Railway Board, New Delhi.



- Tripathi is currently working as the General Manager of North-Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh and has been appointed in place of outgoing Chairman and CEO **Suneet Sharma**
- The appointment has been made for six months from January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022 and the ACC has approved a six-month extension to Tripathi's tenure (i.e.) up to **December 2022**.

About Vinay Kumar Tripathi:

i. He is a **B Tech (Electrical Engineering)** graduate and has joined railways through the Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (**IRSEE**) batch of 1983.

ii. His first posting was as an Assistant Electrical Engineer on Northern Railway. He played a key role in the commissioning of state of art three-phase locomotives and their indigenization, which are now the workhorse of Indian Railways.

G Asok Kumar appointed as the new Director General of NMCG

The Additional Secretary under the Ministry of Jal

Shakti, **G Asok Kumar** was appointed as the new **Director General** of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti. He succeeded Director General, **Rajiv Ranjan Mishra**.

- He is popularly known as '**the Rain Man of India**' for his excellent work in rainwater harvesting under the "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign.

About G Asok Kumar:

i. Prior to this appointment, he served in various positions such as Executive Director Projects in NMCG, Mission Director for National Water Mission (NWM),

Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Director in the Ministry of Power ministries etc.

Awards –

- SKOCH Award for Public Services 2021,
- Jal-Mitra award from the Government of Andhra Pradesh,
- 1st 'Telangana Excellence Award' for outstanding work done in Public Administration.

About National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG):

i. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was registered as a society in 2011 under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, towards purification of River Ganga.

- **Aim-** to clean river Ganga by providing financial and technical assistance.
- **Ganga** is India's longest river of length 2,525 Kms.

Veteran Chinese Diplomat Zhang Ming appointed as new Secretary General of SCO

The senior Chinese diplomat, **Zhang Ming** was appointed as the new secretary general (SG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization



(SCO). Zhang Ming succeeded the former diplomat from Uzbekistan, **Vladimir Norov**, who completed his term on 31st December 2021.

- Zhang Ming will hold the post of SG of the SCO for a term of **3 years**.

i. Prior to this appointment, Zhang Ming served for four years as the head of the Chinese mission to the European Union (EU).

Note- 21st Summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State (**HoS**) was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in 2021.

ii. For the first time, **India will assume the presidency** of SCO for the period of 2022-2023 after the end of Uzbekistan's Presidency.

In line with the Presidency, India will host the SCO Summit in 2023.

About Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):

i. The creation of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was announced in 2001 and entered into force in 2003.

ii. India and Pakistan joined as the permanent members of SCO in the **Astana summit in 2017**.

Member countries (8)– Kazakhstan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India.

ONGC appoints Alka Mittal as its 1st Woman CMD

The Human Resources (HR) Director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), **Alka**

Mittal was appointed as the **1st woman Chairman and**

Managing Director (CMD) of ONGC, on additional charge.



- Alka Mittal succeeded Subhash Kumar who retired on December 31 2021.

note

i. She will hold the position as the CMD for 6 months or until a regular appointment for the post is announced.

Note – Previously, in January 2021, **Soma**

Mondal became the 1st Women Chairperson of Steel Authority of India Limited (**SAIL**)

About Alka Mittal:

i. Alka Mittal is a postgraduate in Economics and a Doctorate in Commerce and Business Studies.

She joined ONGC as a graduate trainee in 1985.

ii. She was appointed HR Director of ONGC in December 2018 and she was also the **1st woman to hold the post as a full-time director** in the board of ONGC's history.

About Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC):

ONGC is a **Maharatna** company, which is the highest order for categorization of the CPSEs (Central Public sector Enterprises).

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Ownership- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG)

Eminent rocket scientist S Somanath appointed as new ISRO Chairman

The **Appointments Committee of Cabinet**

(ACC) approved the appointment of rocket scientist S

Somanath as the **Chairman** of



the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) and The Space Secretary, Department of Space (**DoS**). He will succeed K Sivan, who is set to retire on 14th January 2022.

i. Mr Somanath, will be the **10th Chairman** of ISRO.

ii. Mr Somanath, the senior space scientist is also taking part in the **Gaganyaan** – India's 1st Human spaceflight mission.

Appointments of S Somanath

i. Mr Somanath, is currently the **Director** of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (**VSSC**) and Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) since 2018

ii. Before becoming the director of VSSC, he served as the director of **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)**

Achievements of S Somanath:

i. Somanath is the recipient of the 'Space Gold Medal' from the Astronautical Society of India.

ii. He received 'Merit Award' and 'Performance Excellence Award' from ISRO.

iii. 'Team Excellence Award' from ISRO, for development of GSLV Mk-III.

About ISRO:

Established – 1969

Founder & 1st Chairman – Dr. Vikram

Sarabhai (also known as the 'Father of Indian Space Program')

Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel appointed as Vice President of AIIB for 3-Year Term

Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI),

Urjit Patel is appointed

as a **Vice President** of the Asian Infrastructure

Investment Bank (AIIB)

for a three year tenure

(2022-2025) starting from

1st February.



- Urjit Patel will succeed previous Vice President **D J Pandian**.
- Currently, DJ Pandian oversees all sovereign and non sovereign lending in South Asia, the Pacific Islands and South East Asia
- He will be one of the five Vice Presidents of the AIIB, which is headed by the **President** and **Chair** of the Board of Directors **Jin Liqun** (China).

Note – **AIIB** (\$500 million) along with **Asian**

Development Bank (\$1.5 Billion) are providing **\$2**

Billion loan for COVID-19 vaccine procurement under

the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (**APVAX**)

initiative

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

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced the

appointment of Rakesh Anand as **India's Chef de**

Mission for

Commonwealth

Games 2022 (**CWG**

2022) and

Bhupender Singh



Bajwa was appointed as the **India's Chef de Mission for Asian Games 2022.**

Highlights:

i.The CWG 2022 games will be organized in **Birmingham, United Kingdom (UK)** from July 28 to August 8, 2022 and Asian Games 2022 will be organized in **Hangzhou, China** from September 10 to 25, 2022.

ii.The Chef de Mission leaders help in ensuring the responsibility of athletes and the coaching staff so that they can perform best.

iii.Rakesh Anand is IOA senior vice-president ; Bhupender Singh Bajwa is President of the Wushu Association of India.

About Commonwealth Games 2018 (CWG 2018):

i.CWG 2018 is officially known as the XXI Commonwealth Games or Gold Coast 2018.

ii.At the CWG 2018, India stood at third on the medals table with 66 medals – 26 gold, 20 silver and 20 bronze.

Location-Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia,

Motto-Share the Dream

About Indian Olympic Association (IOA):

President- Narinder Batra

Secretary General- Rajeev Mehta

Headquarters- New Delhi

Senior Bureaucrat Vikram Dev Dutt Appointed as CMD of Air India

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Vikram Dev Dutt**, a 1993-batch IAS officer of **AGMUT** (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre as the Chairman and Managing Director(CMD) of Air India.

- He has been appointed in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary, in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- Vikram Dev Dutt will succeed **Rajiv Bansal**, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, who was holding the additional charge of Air India CMD.
- Vikram Dev Dutt is serving as the Principal Secretary- Tourism in the Government of Delhi.

Additional info:

i.In October 2021, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of 100% equity shares of **Air India** and **Air India Express** along with its 50% stake in ground-handling company AISATS by Talace Private Limited, a subsidiary of Tata Sons, investment holding company and promoter of Tata companies, for Rs 18000 crore.

ii.The company would pay Rs 2700 Crore cash and takeover Rs 15300 crore of airline debt.

Other Appointments:

i.**Chanchal Kumar**, a 1992 batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre, presently Principal Secretary of Bihar's Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has been appointed as the Managing Director(MD), National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd(NHIDCL), under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways(MoRTH). He is appointed in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary.

ii.The ACC has also approved the extension in the central deputation tenure of **Ashutosh Jindal**, Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat for 1 year beyond 16th February 2022 to 16th February 2023.

Roberta Metsola Elected as the New President of EU Parliament

On 18 January 2022, **Roberta Metsola** from Malta was elected as the new President of the European Union (EU) Parliament, she is also the youngest-ever President & only the third woman to head the EU Parliament.



- She succeeded David Sassoli, who passed away at the age of 65.

Key points:

- Roberta Metsola is a 43-year-old politician from the European Union's smallest nation 'Malta'.
- She was first elected as a Member of the European Parliament in 2013, representing Malta, and became the First Vice-President of the European Parliament in November 2020.
- In the Presidential election, she defeated Alice Bah Kuhnke, who got 101 votes and Sira Rego, who got 57 votes.

About European Union (EU):

- The European Union is a political and economic union of 27 member countries located primarily in Europe.
- The EU is a single market that trades globally and between its member countries.

6 Founding Members- Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg

RBI Approves Ex-CAG Vinod Rai as Independent Chairman of Unity SFB

On 20th January 2022, the Reserve Bank of India

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

- **Other appointed board members** – Former central bank official **Sandip Ghose**; former chairman and managing director of Syndicate Bank and former deputy managing director of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) **Basant Seth**; and former RBL Bank chairman **Subhash Kutte**.

About Vinod Rai:

i. Prior to the appointment as the independent chairman of Unity SFB, Vinod Rai, who is a former IAS officer has been the chairman of **Banks Board Bureau**, a body that advises the central government on top-level appointments at public sector banks and ways to address bad loans.

Justice Ayesha Malik Sworn in as 1st female judge of Pakistan's Supreme Court

Justice Ayesha Malik has been sworn in as Pakistan's first female Supreme Court judge in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Pakistan's Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed



administered the oath of office to Ayesha Malik. Justice Ayesha Malik has served as the judge at the Lahore High Court, the second-highest court in the judicial system for around 2 decades.

- In 2021, she outlawed the use of "virginity tests" during rape examinations of sexual assault victims.
- She has been elevated from the Punjab provincial high court. She has been serving

at the Punjab provincial high court since 2012.

- The promotion was recommended by a 9-member judicial commission.
- According to Human Rights Watch, Pakistan is the only South Asian country that never had a female Supreme Court judge and only 4% of the High Court judges of Pakistan are women.

Govt appoints Anantha Nageswaran as Chief Economic Advisor of India

The Union government appointed **Dr V Anantha Nageswaran** as the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) for the Ministry of Finance. He will succeed **K V Subramanian**, who left the office of CEA vacant in December 2021 after completing his 3 year term.

- His appointment as CEA comes days ahead of the release of the 2022 Economic Survey on 31st January.
- This year the economic survey will be presented as a Single part, instead of the normal 2 part report.

Note – Economic Survey is an annual document that details sector wise economic development in India in the previous budget year. **CEA** is the principal author of the Economic Survey.

Work & function of Chief Economic Advisor (CEA):

- The CEA examines national and international economic trends and also undertakes research studies focusing on economic policies and management of the economy.
- Based on the research, the CEA provides advice to the Government of India regarding economic policy and reforms.
- The CEA helps in preparing the government's

annual Economic Survey preceding the Union Budget.

About V Anantha Nageswaran:

i. He is a Postgraduate in Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A) and holds a doctoral degree from the **University of Massachusetts** in Amherst (United States).

- He has also been a part-time member of the **Economic Advisory Council** to the Prime Minister (PM) of India from 2019 to 2021.

ii. Prior to this appointment, he has worked as a writer, author, teacher and consultant and also served as the Dean of the IFMR Graduate School of Business and a distinguished Visiting Professor of Economics at Krea University in Andhra Pradesh.

Honours/ Awards

Captain Harpreet Chandi becomes 1st Woman of Colors to make solo trip to South Pole

The Indian-origin British Sikh Army officer,

Captain **Harpreet**

Chandi became the 1st woman of colour to make a solo unsupported trek to the earth's **South Pole**.



i. Captain Harpreet Chandi is a 32 years old physiotherapist, who was popularly known as 'Polar Preet'.

ii. She completed her 700 miles solo expedition to the South Pole in 40 days.

About South Pole:

i. Antarctica is the southernmost continent where the Earth's magnetic South Pole is located. it's a completely ice-covered landmass.

ii. **Mount Erebus** is the southernmost active volcano on Earth situated in Antarctica.

iii. India's bases at Antarctica:

There are three permanent research base stations in Antarctica, named **Dakshin Gangotri** (1983), **Maitri** (1988) and **Bharati** (2012).

Overview of 79th Annual Golden Globe Awards® 2022 held in California

On 9th January 2022, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) announced the winners of the **79th edition of the Annual Golden Globe Awards (2022)** in Beverly Hilton, Beverly Hills, California, United States of America (USA).

The 2022 awards recognized and honoured the talents of film and television (American production or co-

production between the USA and foreign partner) for 2021

- The Golden Globe awards are annually presented by the HFPA.

Highlights:

i. **Jane Campion** won the Best Director Motion Picture for "The Power of the Dog". She became the 3rd female director ever to win the Best Director award at the Golden Globes.

ii. The Power of the Dog, West Side Story, and Succession has won three awards each.

iii. Actor **Will Smith** won the "Best Actor-Motion Picture Drama", his first-ever Golden Globe, for his performance in "King Richard."

iv. **Michaela Jaé Rodriguez** won the Best Television Actress – Drama Series for Pose and became the 1st transgender actress to win a Golden Globe.

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

On 12 January 2022, the **HDFC Bank** was named as the 'Best Private Bank' in India at the '**Global Private Banking Awards 2021**' which was organised by Professional Wealth Management (PWM) in a virtual ceremony.

- PWM is a wealth management Magazine, published by the Financial Times Group.

Highlights:

i. The award was given for contributing to accelerate key trends, including digitalisation, communication and investment in environmental, social and governance (ESG) strategies.

The PWM received over 120 submissions which were reviewed by a panel of 16 judged from four continents.

About HDFC Bank:

CEO & MD- Sashidhar Jagdishan

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

Founded- 1994

Tagline- We Understand Your World

Former West Indies Cricketer Clive Lloyd Receives Knighthood

The Former West Indies Captain Clive Lloyd received Knighthood from Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge at Windsor Castle, for his services towards the game of cricket.



Achievements of Lloyd

i. Clive Lloyd led the West Indies to victory over Australia at Lords in the final of the **inaugural Cricket World Cup** tournament in **1975**.

ii. In **1979**, he again led West Indies to the world title for the second time where they beat England at Lords.

iii. During his captaincy, Cricket West Indies (CWI) holds the record of 27 Test matches without defeat – which included 11 wins in a row.

iv. In 2009 he was inducted into the **ICC Cricket Hall of Fame**. Lloyd was also a former West Indies team manager and selector, and ICC (International Cricket Council) Match Referee.

Eoin Morgan awarded with CBE: On the same day, England's world cup-winning captain **Eoin Morgan** was awarded with CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) by Prince William for his services towards the game of cricket.

Note – The CBE is the highest-ranking Order of the British Empire award, followed by OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) and then MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire).

About Knighthood

Knighthood: A knighthood is a title that is given to a man by a **British king or queen** for his achievements or his service to his country. A man who has been given a knighthood can put 'Sir' in front of his name instead of 'Mr'.

Lewis Carl Davidson Hamilton, Formula One Racing Driver won Knighthood in 2021 for service to Motorsports.

Overview of The Best FIFA Football Awards 2021

On 17th January 2022 The Best Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Football Awards 2021

ceremony was held as a virtual TV show from the Home of FIFA in **Zurich, Switzerland**.



- It has crowned Bayern Munich's Polish striker **Robert Lewandowski** as Best FIFA Men's Player 2021 and Barcelona's Spanish midfielder **Alexia Putellas** as Best FIFA Women's Player 2021.

About The Best FIFA Football Awards 2021:

Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) conducted the FIFA Football Awards 2021 virtually in Zurich, Switzerland for the 6th Time on 17th January 2022 and The first award ceremony was held in 2017.

About Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA):

President – Giovanni Vincenzo Infantino

Establishment – 21st May 1904

Headquarters – Zurich, Switzerland

USA's Shaylyn Ford wins Mrs World 2022

Shaylyn Ford from the United States of America (USA) was chosen as the winner of Mrs World 2022. She was crowned by the 2020 Mrs World – Kate Schneider from Ireland. Mrs Jordan – Jaclyn Stapp & Mrs UAE – Debanjali Kamstra were named as the runners up of the competition.



- The event was organized in Las Vegas, Nevada, United States (US)

Highlights:

i. Shaylyn Ford is a 37 years old contestant, represented America in the pageant and fought with 57 contestants.

ii. She became the **8th American woman** to win the title of Mrs. World.

Shaylyn Ford hails from Granville, Ohio, USA.

In **2021**, she won the annual **Mrs America** pageant.

iii. She is a professional makeup artist by profession. She also serves as a charitable director and performs volunteer services for poor families.

About India in Beauty Pageant:

- Harnaaz Sandhu** was named as the 2021's Miss Universe.
- Reita Faria** became the first Asian to be crowned as Miss World.

Smriti Mandhana named in 2021 ICC T20I women's Team of the Year

On 19 January 2022, Indian cricketer Smriti Mandhana was named in **2021 ICC** (International Cricket Council) **Women's T20I team of the year**.

- No Other Indian Player named in Men's as well Women's List.

Highlights:

i. Smriti Mandhana is India's highest scorer who scored 255 runs at an average of 31.87 in 2021.

ii. She scored two fifties in the nine matches with the strike-rate of 131.44.

iii. It is also the 3rd time Smriti Mandhana won the title for the T20I team of the year after **2018** (opener) and **2019** (number three).

iv. 2021 ICC Women's T20I Team of the

Year: Smriti Mandhana (India), Tammy Beaumont (England), Danni Wyatt (England), Gaby Lewis (Ireland), Nat Sciver (c) (England), Amy Jones (England), Laura Wolvaardt (South Africa), Marizanne Kapp (South Africa), Sophie Ecclestone (England), Loryn Phiri (Zimbabwe), Shabnim Ismail (South Africa).



Dr Albert Bourla Chairman & CEO of Pfizer Won 2022 Genesis Prize

The Genesis Prize Foundation has named Dr Albert Bourla, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chairman of Pfizer as the 2022 Genesis Prize Laureate for his efforts in leading the development of the COVID-19 vaccine.

- The Genesis Prize, dubbed the “Jewish Nobel”, carries a cash prize of USD 1 Million.
- The prize is awarded to the winner for their professional achievements and contribution towards humanity and their commitment to Jewish Values.

The President of Israel **Isaac Herzog** will present the Genesis Prize to Dr Albert Bourla at a ceremony in Jerusalem which is set to be held on 29th June 2022.

Note:

Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine was the first to win U.S. approval for emergency use in December 2020, and Israel quickly became one of the first countries to inoculate its population with the vaccine.

About Genesis Prize:

i. The Genesis Prize was inaugurated in 2013. The prize is funded by a USD 100 million endowment established by the Foundation.

ii. It was inaugurated in partnership between Genesis Prize Foundation and the Chairman’s office of the Jewish Agency, a non-profit group associated with the Israeli Government.

About Dr Albert Bourla:

i. Dr Albert Bourla was born in Thessaloniki, Greece.

ii. He was the son of Holocaust Survivors, who were a part of Thessaloniki’s Jewish community.

iii. He is set to donate his prize to the projects aimed at preserving the memory of Holocaust victims (particularly in Greece).

iv. Albert is a member of the Business Roundtable, the Business Council and the New York City Mayor’s Corporate Council.

PM Modi Tops List of Most Popular World Leaders with 71% Rating

On 20th January 2022, According to the global rating

survey released by the Morning Consult Political Intelligence, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has topped the list of Most Popular World Leaders. He topped the global rating amongst world leaders with an approval rating of 71%. Andrés Manuel López Obrador, President of Mexico has ranked 2nd with 66% rating, followed by Mario Draghi Prime Minister of Italy with a 60% rating.

- The list features 13 World Leaders including Joe Biden, President of United States, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada with 43% (ranked 6th) and Scott Morrison, Prime Minister of Australia with 41%.

ICC Men’s Test Team of the Year 2021: Rohit Sharma, Ravichandran Ashwin, Rishabh Pant Included

Indian opener **Rohit Sharma**, wicketkeeper-batter **Rishabh Pant**, and off-spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** were included in the ICC Men’s Test team of 2021 by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

- New Zealand’s **Kane Williamson**, who led the side to victory in the inaugural World Test Championship, will be the captain of the team.

About the Team:

ICC Men’s Test Team of 2021 – Dimuth Karunaratne (Sri Lanka), Rohit Sharma (India), Kane Williamson (New Zealand), Marnus Labuschagne (Australia), Joe Root (England), Fawad Alam (Pakistan), Rishabh Pant (India), Ravichandran Ashwin (India), Kyle Jamieson (New Zealand), Shaheen Shah Afridi (Pakistan), and Hasan Ali (Pakistan).

Note – Rohit Sharma was recently elevated as India's white-ball captain.

Jahnvi Dangeti from AP becomes 1st Indian to complete NASA's International Air and Space Program

Jahnvi Dangeti (19 years old), an Engineering Student, from Palakollu, West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh (AP), has become the first Indian to undergo and complete the International Air and Space Program (IASP) at the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Launch Operations' Kennedy Space Centre in Alabama, in the United States of America (USA).



- She has previously served as the mission director for 'Team Kennedy,' a group of 16 persons from different countries, that launched and landed a tiny rocket.
- She is the vice-president of Space Magica, a new astronaut training facility for kids and the public.
- The International Organization of Aspiring Astronauts (IOAA) has Dangeti as a member.

Indian Movie Koozhangal Won the Best Film (Asian) Award at 20th Dhaka International Film Festival



Indian movie titled **Koozhangal** (Tamil) directed by **P S Vinothraj** has won the best film award in the Asian Film Competition category at the 20th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) 2022 in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 15th to 23rd January 2022.

- The 20th DIFF 2022 was organised by the Rainbow Film Society established in 1977.
- The best film award carries Taka 1 lakh along with a crest and certificate.

Hasan Mahmud Bangladesh's Information and Broadcasting Minister, Chief Guest of the concluding session of the 20th DIFF, presented the award to the winners.

Other awards to the Indian film fraternity:

i. Malayalam Actor Jayasurya won the Best Actor award in the Asian Film Competition Section for the film titled "Sunny" directed by Ranjith Sankar.

ii. Indian Film, Semkhor (Dimasa language), directed by Assamese actor Aimee Baruah, has won the Special Audience Award.

- Semkhor was the first-ever film in the **Dimasa language** to be screened in the Indian Panorama Section of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2021

iii. Indranil Roychowdhury and Sugata Sinha have won the Best Script Writer for the India-Bangladesh film Mayar Jonjal, directed by Indranil Roychowdhury.

About DIFF:

- The 20th DIFF 2022 featured more than 225 films drawn from 70 countries across the globe.
- The 20th DIFF also hosted the 8th edition of the 'Women in Cinema' international conference, and the 4th edition of the 'West meets East' screenplay lab.

Note:

The Dhaka International Film Festival (**DIFF**) was started in 1992.

ICC Awards 2021: India's Smriti Mandhana grabs Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy

i. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the 2021 edition of ICC awards where India's Smriti Mandhana (25) won Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year.

ii. Pakistan's wicketkeeper **Mohammad Rizwan** (29) named ICC Men's T20I (Twenty 20 International) Cricketer of the Year 2021 while England's **Tammy Beaumont** (30) named the ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year. She finished the year as the third-highest run-getter in women's T20Is.

iii. Babar Azam (27) of Pakistan named ICC Men's ODI (One Day International) Cricketer of the Year while Lizelle Lee (29) of South Africa (SA) named ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year.

MHA Announced Padma Awards 2022; Gen Bipin Rawat, Vaccine Makers, Google's Sundar Pichai Named for Padma Awards

On January 25, 2022, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has announced the Padma Awards 2022. The

Padma Awards, one of the highest civilian Awards of India are



conferred under 3 categories namely, **Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.**

- On the occasion of 73rd Republic Day (on January 26, 2022), the President (Ram Nath

Kovind) has approved conferment of **128 Padma Awards** including 2 duo case (in a duo case, the award is counted as one).

- The list includes **4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri Awards.**

Key Personalities:

i. **Padma Vibhushan:** Kalyan Singh (the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister) and General Bipin Rawat, India's 1st Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of Indian Armed Force, who died in a helicopter crash in December 2021, were conferred with Padma Vibhushan.

ii. Padma Bhushan:

- Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Chairperson of Tata Group Natarajan Chandrasekaran.
- Covid-19 Vaccine makers:** Cyrus Poonawalla of the Serum Institute of India, which manufactured COVID-19 vaccine **Covishield**, and Krishna Ella and Suchitra Ella of Bharat Biotech, which produced India's indigenous coronavirus vaccine **Covaxin.**

iii. Padma Shri:

- Olympians Neeraj Chopra, who won India's first-ever track-and-field gold in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Pramod Bhagat, and Vandana Kataria, and singer Sonu Nigam were named for the award Padma Shri.
- Prominent athlete Sumit Antil, who won the gold medal with a world record throw of 68.55m in the javelin F64 event at the 2020 Summer Paralympics also comes under the list.

About Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA):

Union Minister – Amit Shah (Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat)

Minister of State – Nityanand Rai (Ujjarpur, Bihar);

Ajay Kumar Mishra (Kheri, Uttar Pradesh); Nisith Pramanik (Coochbehar, West Bengal)

Maharashtra NCC Directorate Won PM's Banner at the Republic Day Camp

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi honoured the Maharashtra Directorate of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) with



the Prime Minister's Banner at the Republic Day Camp (RDC).

Major General Y P Khanduri, Additional Director General, NCC Directorate, Maharashtra received the PM Banner from PM Modi.

- Senior Under Officer Siddhesh Jadhav was the banner bearer and Cadet Captain Nikita Khot was the trophy bearer.
- The 2022 RDC for NCC culminated with a rally at the Cariappa Parade Ground, Delhi.

Key Points:

- Cadets of 17 NCC directorates from various states participated in the month-long 2022 Republic Day camp.
- The Maharashtra Directorate fielded a contingent of 57 cadets (boys and girls) from various districts of Maharashtra.
- Various competitions like, drill, marching on Rajpath, guard of honour to PM, PM's rally line layout, flag area briefing and cultural events were conducted during the RDC.

Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi wins Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2021

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the winners of the 2021 ICC Awards, which recognise

and celebrate the achievement of players and teams over the year 2021.

Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi has been awarded the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2021.

- Mohammad Babar Azam, captain of Pakistan's cricket team has been honoured with the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2021 and Joe Root, Test Captain of England has won the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2021.

Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy:

The Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy is named after Sir Garfield Sobers, former captain of West Indies.

The inaugural Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy was awarded to India's Rahul Dravid in 2004.

Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy 2021:

Smriti Mandhana of India won the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2021.

- She has become the 2nd woman cricketer to win the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy more than once after Australian all-rounder Ellyse Perry.
- Previously she has won the trophy in 2018.

About Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy:

The ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year award instituted in 2006 has been named after Rachael Heyhoe-Flint, the erstwhile English Women's cricketer and administrator.

Sports

South African Cricketer Quinton de Kock Announced Retirement from Test Cricket

South African cricketer (wicketkeeper & Batsman) **Quinton de Kock** (29 years old) has announced his retirement from Test Cricket with immediate effect. He has committed to play international limited-overs cricket (white-ball cricket).



About Quinton de Kock:

- i. Quinton de Kock hails from Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa.
- ii. He has been twice named the South African Cricketer of the Year in 2017 and 2020.
- iii. He has Captained the South African Cricket team (the Proteas) in One Day International (ODI) and T20I between 2018 and 2021.
- iv. He has also played in the Indian Premier League (IPL) representing Sunrisers Hyderabad, Delhi Daredevils, Royal Challengers Bangalore, and Mumbai Indians.

Highlights:

- i. He scored 3300 runs at an average of 38.82 in 54 Tests, with six centuries and 22 fifties. He took 221 catches and made 11 stumpings.
- ii. He is one of the 12 wicket-keepers with more than 3000 runs and 232 dismissals (including 221 catches and 11 stumpings) in tests.

Pakistan all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez announces retirement from International Cricket

Veteran Pakistan all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez (41),

who captained his national team in every format of the game, has announced his retirement from international cricket.

- He represented Pakistan in 392 international matches in which he scored 12,789 runs and took 253 wickets.
- He has played 55 Tests, 218 ODIs (One Day International) and 119 T20Is (Twenty20 International) including three ICC (International Cricket Council) ODI World Cups and six T20 World Cups.
- He won 32 Player-of-the-Match awards, the fourth-highest among Pakistan players in all international cricket, after Shahid Afridi (43), Wasim Akram (39) and Inzamam-ul-Haq (33).
- Overall, Hafeez played in three 50-over World Cups (2007, 2011 and 2019), six 20-over World Cups (2007, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2021) and three ICC Champions Trophies (2006, 2013 and 2017).

Currently he signed up with **Lahore Qalandars** for the upcoming edition of the Pakistan Super League and will be available for global franchise cricket.

Highlights of 2022 Adelaide International

The 3rd edition of Adelaide International 2022 is being held at **The Memorial Drive Tennis Centre, Adelaide, Australia** as two events, from **3rd January 2022 to 15th January 2022**. The Tournament is majorly sponsored by Adelaide South Australia & Government of South Australia.

- The 2022 Adelaide International's, **first** event, (Adelaide International 1) was hosted from **3rd to 9th January 2022** and featured a WTA 500 and ATP 250 combined tournament, followed by the **2nd** Adelaide International event,

(Adelaide International 2) a WTA 250 and ATP 250 tournament from **9th to 15th January 2022**.

- The event is part of the lead-up to the first **Grand Slam** tournament of the season, the **Australian Open**.

Category	Winners	Runners
Men's Singles	Gael Monfils (France)	Karen Khachanov (Russia)
Women's Singles	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan)
Men's Doubles	Rohan Bopanna & Ramkumar Ramanathan (India)	Ivan Dodig (Croatia) and Marcelo Melo (Brazil)

About Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP):

Chairman – Andrea Gaudenzi

Establishment – 1972

Headquarters – London, United Kingdom

About Women's Tennis Association (WTA):

Chairman – CEO – Steve Simon

Established – 1973

Headquarters – Florida, United States (US)

Tennis-Rafael Nadal wins Melbourne Summer Set 1 trophy 2022

Rafael Nadal, World No.6 & the 20-time Grand Slam champion from Spain defeats



American Maxime Cressy, (7-6), (6-3) in the **Men's Singles** final of the Melbourne Summer Set 2022 Set 1, ATP 250 in "Hard-Court" at Rod Laver Arena, Melbourne.

2022 Melbourne Summer Set was a series of two simultaneous tennis tournaments organized by Tennis Australia at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia. The Melbourne Summer Set 1 featured an ATP Tour 250 tournament and a WTA 250 tournament, both played on hard courts. The Melbourne Summer Set 2 was a WTA 250 tournament played on hard courts.

Key Points:

- This is Nadal's **89th career singles title** and first title in Australia since 2009.
- Rafael Nadal has won a record 20 Grand Slam singles titles which ties him with Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic. Nadal has also won 36 Masters 1000 titles.

	Melbourne Summer Set 1	
CATEGORY	WINNERS	RUNNERS UPS
MEN'S SINGLES	Rafael Nadal (Spain)	Maxime Cressy (USA)
WOMEN'S SINGLES	Simona Halep (Romania)	Veronika Kudermetova (Russia)

Karnataka to Host Khelo India Games in 2023

Karnataka Minister for Youth Empowerment and Sports, K.C. Narayana Gowda announced that Karnataka will host the next Khelo India Games in 2023. He also announced that over 75 sports students are being trained in the State to take part in the next Olympics.

i. Khelo India Games for 2021 is scheduled to be held in February 2022 at **Panchkula, Haryana**.

India Open 2022: Lakshya Sen Wins Mens Singles Title

The Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2022 was held from 11th to 16th January 2022 at the K.D.Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi, India that had a total prize pool of USD 400,000.



- India's 20 year old Lakshya Sen secured his maiden Super 500 title by winning the India Open 2022 against world champion Loh Kean Yew (Singapore) in the men's singles final.
- In the Men's doubles final, top doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won Men's doubles against three-time world champions Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan of Indonesia to become the first men's team from India to win the Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2022.

About Badminton Association of India (BAI):

President – Himanta Biswa Sarma

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

About Badminton World Federation (BWF):

President – Poul-Erik Høyer Larsen

Headquarters – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Padma Awardee Sania Mirza Announced Retirement at the End of 2022 Season

Padma Awardee **Sania Mirza** (35-year-old), an Indian professional tennis player, has announced that she will retire at the end of the 2022 season. She made the announcement following her defeat in the Australian Open Women's double first round with partner Nadiia Kichenok (Ukraine).

About Sania Mirza:

- Sania Mirza, currently ranked 68th (Doubles) in the world is a former World's No. 1 in Doubles and had a career-best ranking of 27 in Singles.
- She is one of the 2 Indian female tennis players to win a Women's Tennis Association (WTA) title of any kind and the only player to reach the top 100 singles ranking, Ankit Raina was the 2nd woman to win the WTA title.
- She won the 2005 AP Tourism Hyderabad Open and became the first Indian woman to win a WTA singles title.
- Her first-ever Grand Slam match was in the 2005 Australian Open against Cindy Watson. She has won six Grand Slam titles (3 in Women's doubles and 3 in Mixed Doubles) in her career.

- 2015 Wimbledon, 2015 US Open and 2016 Australian Open with Martina Hingis and 2009 Australian Open and 2012 French Open with Mahesh Bhupathi, and 2014 US Open with Bruno Soares.

Awards and honours:

- 2004 Arjuna Award for Tennis
- 2006 Padma Shri for sports
- 2015 Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award (now Major Dhyani Chand Khel Ratna Award)
- 2016 Padma Bhushan for sports

Syed Modi International Badminton Championship 2022: India's PV Sindhu, Ishaan Bhatnagar & Tanisha Crasto Wins Title

Badminton World Federation (BWF) organised **Syed Modi International Badminton Championship 2022** at the Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium, **Lucknow**, Uttar Pradesh (UP) with the prize money of USD 150,000 from 18th – 23rd January 2022.

Winners:

i. PV Sindhu

won the women's singles



final whereas the men's singles final was declared as 'No match'.

ii. Man Wei Chong (Malaysia) & Kai Wun Tee (Malaysia) won the Men's Doubles championship and Anna Ching Yik Cheong & Teoh Mei Xing (Malaysia) emerged as the women's doubles champions.

iii. The Indian duo of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto won Mixed doubles title

About Badminton World Federation (BWF):

BWF is registered under the International Organisations (Privileges and Immunities) Act 1992 in Malaysia

Establishment – 1934 (London)

Headquarters – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

President – Poul-Erik Høyer Larsen

Cricket: Overview of India Tour of South Africa 2021-22

The Indian cricket team toured South Africa from 26th December 2021 to 23rd January 2022 to play 3 Tests and 3 One Day International (ODI) matches. In the test series, South Africa defeated India by winning the 3 match series by 2-1 and in the ODI series, South

Africa defeated India by winning the 3 match series by 3-0.

- South Africa's Test Cricket Team was captained by Dean Elgar and India's Team was captained by Virat Kohli.
- The three-match Test series commenced at the SuperSport Park in Centurion, Gauteng Province of South Africa.
- South Africa won the 3 matches One Day International (ODI) series defeating India. South Africa's ODI team was captained by Temba Bavuma and India's team was captained by KL Rahul.

Hockey: Women's Asia Cup Muscat 2022: India won Bronze; Japan won Gold

Indian National Women's Hockey Team captained by Savita Punia has won the bronze medal in the Women's Asia Cup Muscat 2022 defeating China in the bronze match held on 28th January 2022.

India lost to South Korea in the semi-final.

- Women's Asia Cup Muscat 2022 hosted by Oman was held at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex, Muscat, Oman from 21st to 28th January 2022.

2022 Winner:

i. Japan won the Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2022 defeating three-time champions South Korea.

ii. This marks the 3rd title of Japan which has previously won the title in 2007 and 2013.

Note: Previously India won the championship in 2004 and 2017

Women's Asia Cup Muscat 2022:

i. Women's Asia Cup Muscat 2022 is the 10th edition of the Women's Hockey Asia Cup.

ii. It is the quadrennial international women's field

hockey championship of Asia organized by the **Asian Hockey Federation**.

Participants: India, China, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia

About Asian Hockey Federation:

President– Dato’ Fumio Ogura(Japan)

Headquarters– Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Obituaries

Social worker & Padma Shri awardee Sindhutai Sapkal passed away

Renowned social worker and Padma Shri recipient Sindhutai

Sapkal passed away at the age of 74 years in Pune, Maharashtra.

She was popularly known as the ‘mother of orphaned children’.



i. Sindhutai Sapkal was born on 14 November 1948 in Wardha, Maharashtra.

ii. She was also a social activist, fought against the exploitation of local women.

iii. A biographical movie was made on her in Marathi titled ‘**Mee Sindhutai Sapkal**’.

Welfare organisations:

- ‘Maai’ or Sindhutai Sapkal has adopted around 1,500 children and founded the orphanage ‘**Sanmati Bal Niketan Sanstha**’.

Awards-

- **Ahmadiyya Muslim Peace Prize** (2014),
- **Mother Teresa Awards** for Social Justice (2013),
- **Nari Shakti Puraskar** (2017) which is India’s highest civilian award dedicated to women.
- **Padma Shri** (2021) in the Social Work category.

Sidney Poitier First Black Actor to Win Best Actor Oscar Award Passed Away

Sidney Poitier is a Bahamian-American actor, the first black actor and the first Bahamian to win the Oscar Award for Best Actor Award, has passed away at his residence in Los Angeles, United States of America. He was born on 20th February in 1927 in Miami, Florida, United States of America.

- Until his death, he was the oldest surviving male Academy Award winner.

About Sidney Poitier:

i. Sidney Poitier is an actor, film director, activist, and ambassador.

ii. He is well known for his films like The Defiant Ones, A Raisin in the Sun, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, and In the Heat of the Night.

iii. He served as the Bahamian ambassador to Japan from 1997 to 2007 and he has also served as the ambassador of the Bahamas to UNESCO.

iv. He published his autobiography titled "The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography" in 2000.

v. He has authored several books including Montaro Caine; This life; and Life Beyond Measure.

Awards & honours:

i. Sidney Poitier received an Academy Award for Best Actor for Lilies of the Field (1963) and an Honorary Award presented in 2001.

ii. He has also received a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II in the 1960s.

iii. He has also received several awards including, the Lifetime achievement award from the American Film Institute.

iv. In 2009, then President of America, Barack Obama, honoured Poitier with the Presidential Medal of

Freedom, the highest civilian honour of the USA, for his artistic and humanitarian achievements.

David Sassoli President of European Parliament Passed Away

David Sassoli the President of the European Parliament (since 2019), one of three legislative branches of the European Union, has passed away in Aviano,



Italy. He was born on 30th May 1956 in Florence, Italy.

He was a member of the centre-left Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats.

- He has worked as a journalist and television anchor for around 3 decades.
- He became a member of the European Parliament in 2009 and later became the speaker in 2019.

Padma Vibhushan Awardee & Kathak Dancer – Birju Maharaj Passed Away

Legendary Kathak dancer Birju Maharaj, popularly known as "Maharaj-ji" from Handia, Uttar Pradesh, died at the age of 83.



Maharaj-ji was a lifelong Kathak guru as well as a talented Hindustani classical singer and percussionist.

i. Maharaj-ji, was the pioneer for the initial Lucknow gharana dance styles.

ii. He was the Director of the Shriram Bharatiya Kala

Kendra and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Kathak Kendra till 1998.

Achievements of Birju Maharaj

i. He was a recipient of the country's second highest civilian honour, **Padma Vibhushan**-1986 (under Art Category).

ii. He was also honoured with **Ustad Chand Khan** Lifetime Achievement award.

iii. He had also won the National Award for choreographing 'Unnai Kaanadhu Naan' in vishwaroopam and the Filmfare Awards for the Bajirao Mastani 'Mohe Rang Do Laal'.

Works of Birju Maharaj:

i. He is also known for two period dance sequences in historical drama 'Shatranj Ke Khiladi' and 'Kaahe Chhed Mohe'.

ii. A book on his life was published by Nandkishore Kapote, titled "Nriya Samrat Pt. Birju Maharaj" a compilation from his disciples.

Padma Shri Awardee Major Ahluwalia Passes Away

Founder of the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC) that was set up at **Vasant Kunj**, Delhi in 1993, a professional mountaineer, and Padma Shri recipient, **Major HPS Ahluwalia** (Retired) passed away at the age of 85.

About HPS Ahluwalia:

i. At the age of 26, Major Ahluwalia was part of the first Indian expedition to summit Mount Everest in 1965, and he climbed the summit on May 29, 1965.

ii. He received an early discharge from the Army in 1968 with the honorary rank of Major.

iii. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan (2002) and Padma Shri (1965) for his contributions and received India's second-highest sporting honour, the Arjuna

Award (1965). He also received the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award (2009).

iv. He has written over 13 books including his autobiography 'Higher Than Everest'.

Legendary Hockey Player, Padma Shri Charanjit Singh Passed Away

Padma Shri Charanjit Singh, who was the Captain of India's Hockey team that won the gold medal in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics has passed away at his residence in the Una



District of Himachal Pradesh. He was born on 20th November 1929 in Una, Himachal Pradesh.

About Charanjit Singh:

i. He was also a part of the Indian hockey team that won the silver medal in the 1960 Olympics held in Rome and part of the team that won the silver medal in the 1962 Asian Games held in Jakarta.

ii. After retiring from the Indian hockey team, he worked as the Director of the Physical Education department at Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla.

iii. The Government of India honoured him with the Padma Shri in 1964 in Sports and Arjuna Award in 1963 for hockey.

Important Days with theme

GOI proclaims 26th December as Veer Baal Diwas

The Government of India (GoI) has decided to proclaim **December 26th** of every year from **2022** as the **Veer Baal Diwas** to honour the sacrifice of Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh, the 3rd and 4th sons of the 10th Sikh Guru, “Guru Gobind Singh”, to defend the dignity and honour of Sikhism.



- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi made the announcement regarding the observance of Veer Baal Diwas on 9th January 2022, the **355th birth anniversary (Parkash Purab)** of the 10th Sikh Guru, “**Guru Gobind Singh**”.

The **first** ever Veer Baal Diwas will be observed on **26th December 2022**.

Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas – 9th January 2022

Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (**PBD**), also known as the “Non-Resident Indian (**NRI**) Day” is annually celebrated on **9th January** to mark the contribution of the Overseas



Indian community to the development of India. This is 17th PBD.

The first ever Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas was celebrated

on **9 January 2003**.

Why January 9?

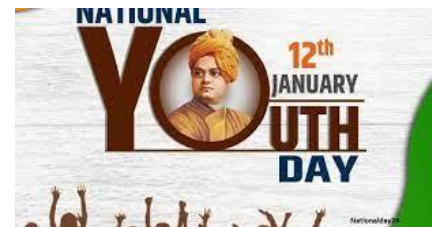
On 9th January 1915, Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa and became **the greatest ‘Pravasi’**.

Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas Conference 2022:

1. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs addressed the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas Conference 2022 focused on “Role of Diaspora Youth in Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav – Innovation and New Technologies”..

National Youth Day 2022 – January 12

National Youth Day, also known as Rashtriya Yuva Diwas, is annually celebrated across India on 12th January to commemorate the birth anniversary of the social reformer, great thinker and



philosopher, **Swami Vivekananda**. The day aims to highlight the teachings and philosophy of Swami Vivekananda.

- The theme of National Youth Day 2022 is “**It’s all in the mind.**”
- 12th January 2022 marks the observance of the **159th birth anniversary** of Swami Vivekananda.

25th National Youth Festival, Puducherry:

On the occasion of the National Youth Day 2022, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 25th National Youth Festival in Puducherry. The virtual edition of the National Youth

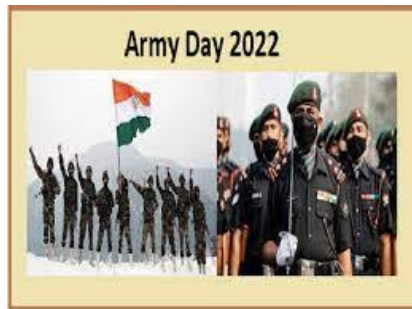
Festival, organised by the Department of Youth Affairs, will be held from 12th and 13th January 2022.

About Ministry of Youth Affairs And Sports:

Union Minister– Anurag Singh Thakur
(Constituency- Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh)

Indian Army Day 2022 – January 15

Indian Army Day is annually observed across India on January 15th to commemorate the day on which Field Marshal Kodandera M Cariappa (KM Cariappa) took charge as the first Indian Commander in Chief (C-in-C) of the Indian Army.



- **15th January 2022** marks the observance of the **74th Indian Army Day**.

Note:

The Indian Army's theme for the year 2022 is **“In Stride with the Future.”**

Background:

- i.** Following India's Independence in 1947, on 16th January 1949, India got the first-ever Indian chief.
- ii.** In 1949, Lt Gen KM Cariappa succeeded General Francis Butcher, the last British commander-in-chief of the Indian Army, as commander-in-chief of the Indian Armed Forces.
- iii.** The day on which the British handed over the authority to India is observed as **Indian Army Day**.

1st Ever National Startup Day – January 16, 2022

India celebrated the first-ever National Startup Day on 16th January 2022, with an aim to support the startup culture spread across India.

16th January 2022 also marks the 6th anniversary of the Startup India initiative.

Why January 16?

- i.** 16th January was chosen to mark the anniversary of the launch of the Startup India initiative.
- ii.** The Startup India initiative was launched on 16th January 2016.

Background:

- i.** On 15th January 2022, As a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, a week-long event, “Celebrating Innovation Ecosystem”, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually interacted with around 150 startups across India.
- ii.** While interacting with the startups PM Modi declared the **16th January** of every year as the National Startup Day.

National Girl Child Day 2022 – January 24

National Girl Child Day (NGCD) is annually observed across India on 24th January to support and provide opportunities to the girls in India. The day aims towards promoting awareness about the rights of the girl child and to increase awareness on the importance of girls' education, and their health and nutrition.

Background:

- i.** The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) initiated the observance of National Girl Child Day in 2008.
- ii.** The first ever National Girl Child Day was observed on 24th January 2008.

Parakram Diwas 2022 – January 23

Parakram Diwas also known as Courage Day is annually observed across India on 23rd January, the birth

anniversary

of Netaji

Subhas

Chandra Bose

to honour and

remember the efforts and contribution of Netaji

Subhas Chandra Bose.

23rd January 2022 marks the observance of the **2nd Parakram Diwas**.

Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan

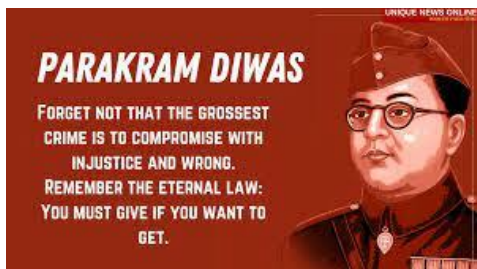
Puraskar 2022:

Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM) and **Professor Vinod Sharma** of Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority has been honoured with the Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2022 for their excellent work in disaster management.

- GIDM has been selected for the award under the Institutional category and Prof Vinod Sharma won the award under the individual category.

ECI celebrated 12th National Voters' Day on 25th January 2022

On 25th January 2022, the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** celebrated the **12th** edition of **National Voters' Day (NVD)** across India, to spread awareness about the importance of voting, and participating in the electoral process.



- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, the Chief Guest of the National level function on NVD, made his presence.
- Union Minister for Law and Justice **Kiren Rijju** is the Guest of Honour for the function.

Theme of 2022 NVD – ‘Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative.’

Historical background:

i. The ECI was founded on **January 25, 1950**, as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Law and Justice, to give every Indian citizen the right to vote in the country's democratic election process.

ii. National Voters Day was **first celebrated in 2011**, to encourage active participation in India's electoral process.

Note- The Constitution (**61st Amendment**) Act, 1989, lowered the voting age of elections to the Lok Sabha and to the Legislative Assemblies of States from **21 years to 18 years**.

About Election Commission of India (ECI):

ECI administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies in India, and for the offices of the President and Vice President of India.

- Article 324 to 329** of the constitution deals with powers, function, tenure, eligibility, etc of ECI.

Election Commission is a **3 member** body, consisting of the CEC and 2 Election Commissioners.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) -Sushil Chandra

Election Commissioner– Anup Chandra Pandey and Rajiv Kumar

India's 73rd Republic Day – 26th January 2022

India celebrated the **73rd Republic Day** on **26th January 2022**. The celebration of Republic Day 2022 is observed during the 75th year of Independence, celebrated as

Azadi ka
Amrit
Mahotsav.

On the
occasion of
Republic Day,



President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, the first citizen of India unfurls the National flag on Rajpath before presiding over a parade that showcases the military strength and cultural diversity.

Highlights:

- i.** Squadron Leader Suraj Nair has been honoured with the Vayu Sena Medal to recognise his courage and disregard to personal safety in a hostile combat zone. He took part in the Casualty Evacuation Mission to the ambush site in Naxalite infested area.
- ii.** President also awarded the President's Tatrakshak Medals (PTM)/ **Tatrakshak Medal (TM)** to the Indian Coast Guard Personnel for their act of "conspicuous gallantry, exceptional devotion to duty" and distinguished or meritorious service.
- iii.** The President has also approved awards for 384 Gallantry and other Defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel and others.