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# **CSEET**

## ***Reference Reading Material - II***

### ***Current Affairs***



**THE INSTITUTE OF  
Company Secretaries of India**

**भारतीय कम्पनी सचिव संस्थान**

**IN PURSUIT OF PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE**

Statutory body under an Act of Parliament

(Under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Corporate Affairs)

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**As on March 15, 2022**

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*Published by :*

**THE INSTITUTE OF COMPANY SECRETARIES OF INDIA**

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# **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

## *Lesson*

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## SYLLABUS

<i>S. No. Lesson</i>	<i>Topics Covered</i>
<b>1. International and National Affairs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International bodies (ASEAN, BRICS, SAARC, G-20, BIMSTEC, International Finance Corporation, etc.)</li> <li>• Organizations like, RBI, NABARD, CCI, IBBI, IMF, OECD, ADB, World Bank, etc.</li> <li>• Summits and Conferences</li> <li>• Business Personalities and Leaders</li> <li>• Books and their Authors</li> <li>• Sports</li> <li>• Language and National Symbols</li> <li>• Awards and Honours</li> <li>• International Diplomacy</li> <li>• Art and Culture</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul>
<b>2. Financial Affairs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current development in Banking and Finance (digital banking, govt. initiatives, financial inclusion, etc.)</li> <li>• Current Development in Stock Markets</li> </ul>
<b>3. Political Affairs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Political Scenario</li> <li>• Committees and Appointments</li> <li>• Initiatives/ Schemes of the Government</li> <li>• Governance and Ethics</li> </ul>
<b>4. Legal and other Affairs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent important judgments passed by Supreme Court and High Courts of India, Tribunals</li> <li>• Current affairs related to CS Institute/Profession and Regulatory Bodies</li> <li>• Current updates on Environment, Bio-diversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development</li> <li>• Latest Developments in Science and Technology, IT, Computers and Space Science</li> </ul>

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***Lesson 1***

**INTERNATIONAL  
AND  
NATIONAL AFFAIRS**

## INTERNATIONAL BODIES

### INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)

#### **About IMF**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 190 countries, working to foster global monetary co-operation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.

The IMF was established in 1944 in the aftermath of the Great Depression of the 1930s. 44 founding member countries sought to build a framework for international economic cooperation. Today, its membership embraces 190 countries, with staff drawn from 150 nations. The IMF is governed by and accountable to the 190 countries that make up its near-global membership.

The IMF's primary purpose is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system—the system of exchange rates and international payments that enables countries (and their citizens) to transact with each other. The Fund's mandate was updated in 2012 to include all macro-economic and financial sector issues that bear on global stability.

The IMF's fundamental mission is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system. It does so in three ways:

- (i) keeping track of the global economy and the economies of member countries;
- (ii) lending to countries with balance of payments difficulties; and
- (iii) giving practical help to members.

#### **The IMF Surveillance**

The IMF monitors the international monetary system and global economic developments to identify risks and recommend policies for growth and financial stability. The Fund also undertakes a regular health check of the economic and financial policies of its 190 member countries. In addition, the IMF identifies possible risks to the economic stability of its member countries and advises their governments on possible policy adjustments.

#### **The IMF Capacity Development**

The IMF provides technical assistance and training to governments, including central banks, finance ministries, revenue administrations, and financial sector supervisory agencies. These capacity development efforts are centered on the IMF's core areas of expertise ranging from taxation through central bank operations to the reporting of macro-economic data. Such training also helps countries tackle cross-cutting issues, such as income inequality, gender equality, corruption, and climate change.

#### **Fast Facts**

- **Membership** : 190 countries
- **Headquarters** : Washington, D.C.
- **Executive Board** : 24 Executive Directors each representing a single country or groups of countries.
- **Amount available for lending** : \$ 1 trillion
- **Recipient Countries of emergency pandemic financing** : 76

### Objectives

The primary aims of IMF to:

- Promote international monetary cooperation;
- Facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of international trade;
- Promote exchange stability;
- Assist in the establishment of a multilateral system of payments; and
- Make resources available (with adequate safeguards) to members experiencing balance-of-payments difficulties.

### IMF in News

- **First Deputy Managing Director Geoffrey Okamoto to Leave IMF, Gita Gopinath to Be IMF's New First Deputy Managing Director (FDMD)**

Ms. Gopinath, who is a U.S. national and overseas citizen of India, has joined IMF in her new position as FDMD w.e.f. January 21, 2022. On her new appointment, Ms. Gopinath said: "I am honored and humbled to become the IMF's next FDMD. Over the past three years, I have had the opportunity to experience first-hand and be a part of the hugely important work done by the IMF at the intersection of rigorous economic analysis and public policy. It has been so gratifying to see the positive impact of our work on economies and on the lives of so many people worldwide. As the pandemic continues its grip on us, the work of the Fund has never been more critical and international cooperation is never more important. I am very thankful to Kristalina and the Board for this opportunity, and so look forward to collaborating closely with all the incredibly brilliant and committed colleagues at the Fund, working with whom has been an absolute privilege."

### India at a Glance

**2022 Projected Real GDP (% Change) : 9.0\***

**Date of Membership** : December 27, 1945

**Article IV/Country Report** : October 15, 2021

**Special Drawing Rights (SDR)** : 13656.65 million

**Quota (SDR)** : 13114.4 million

**Number of Arrangements since membership** : 7

*\*GDP Data from January 2022 World Economic Outlook Update*

*(For more information, students may visit <https://www.imf.org/external/>)*

### THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

#### About ASEAN

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding countries of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The current members of the group include Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. Brunei Darussalam joined on 7 January 1984, Vietnam on 28

July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999, making up ten Member States of ASEAN.

H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi is the Secretary General of ASEAN.

### ***Aim and Purpose***

As set out in the ASEAN Declaration, the aims and purposes of ASEAN are:

1. To accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnership in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian Nations;
2. To promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries of the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter;
3. To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, cultural, technical, scientific and administrative fields;
4. To provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities in the educational, professional, technical and administrative spheres;
5. To collaborate more effectively for the greater utilisation of their agriculture and industries, the expansion of their trade, including the study of the problems of international commodity trade, the improvement of their transportation and communications facilities and the raising of the living standards of their peoples;
6. To promote Southeast Asian studies; and
7. To maintain close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organisations with similar aims and purposes, and explore all avenues for even closer cooperation among themselves.

### ***ASEAN Member States***

- Brunei Darussalam
- Malaysia
- Singapore
- Cambodia
- Myanmar
- Thailand
- Indonesia
- Philippines
- Vietnam
- Lao PDR

### ***ASEAN Charter***

The ASEAN Charter serves as a firm foundation in achieving the ASEAN Community by providing legal status and institutional framework for ASEAN. It also codifies ASEAN norms, rules and values; sets clear targets for ASEAN; and presents accountability and compliance. The ASEAN Charter entered into force on 15 December 2008 at the presence of ASEAN Foreign Ministers at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta.

With the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN will henceforth operate under a new legal framework and establish a number of new organs to boost its community-building process. In effect, the ASEAN Charter is the legally binding agreement among the 10 ASEAN Member States. It will also be registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations, pursuant to Article 102, Paragraph 1 of the Charter of the United Nations.

The importance of the ASEAN Charter can be seen in the following contexts:

- New political commitment at the top level

- New and enhanced commitments
- New legal framework, legal personality
- New ASEAN bodies
- Two new openly-recruited DSGs
- More ASEAN meetings
- More roles of ASEAN Foreign Ministers
- New and enhanced role of the Secretary-General of ASEAN
- Other new initiatives and changes.

### **About ASEAN Summit**

The ASEAN Summit is the highest policy-making body in ASEAN comprising the Head of States or Government of ASEAN Member States. The ASEAN Summit is held twice annually at a time to be determined by the Chair of the ASEAN Summit in consultation with other ASEAN Member States. The summit is to be hosted by the ASEAN Member State holding the ASEAN Chairmanship. The First ASEAN Summit was held in Bali, Indonesia on 23-24 February 1976.

*(For more information, students may visit <https://asean.org/about-us>)*

### **ASEAN in News**

- **US Government Sets Date for Special ASEAN Summit in Washington**

President Joe Biden will host the leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) – most likely minus Myanmar – at a special summit in Washington, D.C. later this month, the White House announced.

In a statement, White House press secretary Jen Psaki announced that the previously announced summit had been scheduled for March 28-29, and is viewed by Biden's team as a way of demonstrating the U.S. commitment to the bloc on the 45th anniversary of U.S.-ASEAN relations.

"It is a top priority for the Biden-Harris Administration to serve as a strong, reliable partner and to strengthen an empowered and unified ASEAN to address the challenges of our time," Psaki said.

- **18th India-ASEAN Summit**

The 18th India-ASEAN summit was held on 18 October 2021 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Summit was held virtually and saw participation from the Leaders of ASEAN Member States.

The leaders exchanged views on enhancing India-ASEAN connectivity in broadest terms including physical, digital and people to people. To further strengthen India-ASEAN cultural connectivity, Prime Minister announced India's support for establishing the ASEAN Cultural Heritage List. On trade and investment, he underlined the importance of diversification and resilience of supply chains for post-COVID economic recovery and in this regard, the need to revamp the India-ASEAN FTA.

The ASEAN leaders appreciated India's role as a trusted partner in the region especially during the current Covid-19 Pandemic with its supply of vaccine. They also welcomed India's support to ASEAN centrality in the Indo-Pacific and looked forward to greater India-ASEAN cooperation in the region through the Joint Statement.

The discussions also covered regional and international issues of common interest and concern, including South China Sea and terrorism. Both sides noted the importance of promoting a rules-based order in the region including through upholding adherence to international law, especially

the UNCLOS. The leaders affirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, stability, safety and security in the South China Sea, and ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight.

## **BRICS**

### **About BRICS**

BRICS is an informal group of states comprising the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa.

On 20 September 2006, the first BRICS Ministerial Meeting was held at the proposal of Russian President Vladimir Putin on the margins of a UN General Assembly Session in New York. Foreign Ministers of Russia, Brazil and China and the Indian Defence Minister took part in the meeting. They expressed their interest in expanding multilateral cooperation.

In 2016, India became the head of the Association. The culmination of its presidency was the eighth summit of BRICS, which was held in the Indian state of Goa on 15-16 October. Its motto was 'The Formation of popular, inclusive and collective decisions'. The leaders of five countries signed the Declaration of Goa, which expressed a coherent position on issues related to the development of the Association and critical issues.

At the summit in Goa, the issues of energy, trade, banking cooperation, agriculture, space utilization and other common spaces, health, education, development of humanitarian contacts and tourism, the fight against poverty and social inequality were discussed. In addition to the Declaration was signed a number of sectoral agreements.

BRICS is an important grouping bringing together the major emerging economies from the world, comprising 41% of the world population\*, having 24% of the world GDP\* and over 16% share in the world trade\*. BRICS countries have been the main engines of global economic growth over the years. Over a period of time, BRICS countries have come together to deliberate on important issues under the three pillars of political and security, economic and financial and cultural and people to people exchanges.

***The World must unite as one to decisively confront global challenges. Corrective action must begin with the reform of institutions of global governance. This has been on the BRICS agenda since its inception.***

***Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India***

### **BRICS in News**

- **13th BRICS Summit**

The 13th BRICS Summit was held under India's Chairship on 09 September 2021. It was third time that India hosted the BRICS Summit after 2012 and 2016. The theme of the Summit, chosen by India, was, **BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus.**

The Summit saw the participation of all other BRICS Leaders - President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil, President Vladimir Putin of Russia, President Xi Jinping of China, and President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa.

Highlighting the leading role that BRICS countries can play in the post-COVID global recovery, Prime Minister called for enhanced BRICS cooperation under the motto of 'Build-back Resiliently, Innovatively, Credibly and Sustainably'.

Elaborating on these themes, Prime Minister stressed the need for accelerating 'build-back' by enhancing speed and accessibility of vaccination, creating 'resilience' by diversifying pharma and

vaccine production capacities beyond the developed world, fostering 'innovation' by creatively using digital tools for public good, ensuring reform of multilateral institutions to enhance their 'credibility', and promoting 'sustainable' development by articulating a common BRICS voice on environmental and climate issues.

The leaders also discussed important regional and global issues, including recent developments in Afghanistan. There was convergence of views on the threat posed by growth of terrorism and extremism, and all BRICS partners agreed to accelerate implementation of the BRICS Action Plan on Counter-Terrorism.

*(For more updates, students may visit <https://brics2021.gov.in/>)*

### **SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (SAARC)**

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter in Dhaka on 8 December 1985. SAARC comprises of eight Member States: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Secretariat of the Association was set up in Kathmandu on 17 January 1987.

The objectives of the Association as outlined in the SAARC Charter are: to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life; to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potentials; to promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia; to contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems; to promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields; to strengthen cooperation with other developing countries; to strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interests; and to cooperate with international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes.

Decisions at all levels are to be taken on the basis of unanimity; and bilateral and contentious issues are excluded from the deliberations of the Association.

H.E. Esala Ruwan Weerakoon of Sri Lanka assumed office of the Secretary General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on 01 March 2020.

### **SAARC Chairmanship**

**Current Chair** : Nepal

**From Date** : 2014-11-26 (Till Date)

*(For more updates, students may visit <http://saarc-sec.org/>)*

### **THE GROUP OF TWENTY (G-20)**

#### **About G-20**

The G20 is a strategic multilateral platform connecting the world's major developed and emerging economies. The G20 holds a strategic role in securing future global economic growth and prosperity. Together, the G20 members represent more than 80 percent of world GDP, 75 percent of international trade and 60 percent of the world population.

Starting in 1999 as a meeting for the finance minister and central bank governors, the G20 has evolved into a yearly summit involving the Head of State and Government. In addition to that, the Sherpa meetings (in charge of carrying out negotiations and building consensus among Leaders), working groups, and special events are also organized throughout the year.



The members of the G20 are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union. Spain is also invited as a permanent guest.

Each year, the Presidency invites guest countries, which take full part in the G20 exercise. Several international and regional organizations also participate, granting the forum an even broader representation.

### **How the G-20 works?**

The presidency of the G20 rotates every year among its members, with the country that holds the presidency working together with its predecessor and successor, also known as Troika, to ensure the continuity of the agenda. Currently Italy, Indonesia, and India are the Troika countries.

The G20 has no permanent secretariat. Agenda and the work coordination are completed by G20 leaders' personal representatives, known as sherpas together with finance ministers and central bank governors.

The pinnacle of the G20 work in each cycle is a communiqué expressing members' commitments and vision for the future, drafted from the chosen recommendations and deliverables from ministerial meetings and other work streams.

### *Origin of the G-20*

The G20 was formed in 1999 with the aim of discussing policies in order to achieve international financial stability. This forum was formed as an effort to find a solution to the global economic conditions hit by the global financial crisis in 1997-1999 by involving middle-income countries and having systemic economic influence, including Indonesia.

On the advice of the G7 Finance Ministers, the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors began holding meetings to discuss the response to the global financial crisis that occurred. After that, the Minister of Finance level meeting is held regularly in the fall.

Nine years later, on November 14-15, 2008, the leaders of the G20 countries gathered for the first G20 Summit. On that occasion, the country's leaders coordinated the global response to the impact of the financial crisis that occurred in the US at that time and agreed to hold a follow-up meeting.

To prepare for the annual summit, the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, together with Sherpas meet several times a year.

### **G-20 in News**

- **G20 Leaders' Summit 2022**

The 17th Group of 20 (G20) Heads of State and Government Summit will take place in October 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. Under the Indonesian Presidency, the G20 in 2022 will focus on the theme "Recover Together, Recover Stronger".

The Leaders' Summit is the climax of the G20 process and the intense work carried out over the year through Ministerial Meetings, Working Groups, and Engagement Groups.

Recognizing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on every aspect of society and many countries' lack of capacity to address the crisis, the Indonesian Presidency will focus on three main pillars for its G20 2022 Presidency:

- global health architecture;
- sustainable energy transition; and

- digital transformation.

Through these pillars, Indonesia aims to continue leading on ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development through participation of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and digital economy.

(For more updates, students may visit <https://g20.org/>)

## **THE BAY OF BENGAL INITIATIVE FOR MULTI-SECTORAL TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (BIMSTEC)**

### **About BIMSTEC**

BIMSTEC is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity. This sub-regional organization came into being on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration. It constitutes seven Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand. Initially, the economic bloc was formed with four Member States with the acronym 'BIST-EC' (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation). Following the inclusion of Myanmar on 22 December 1997 during a special Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok, the Group was renamed 'BIMST-EC' (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation). With the admission of Nepal and Bhutan at the 6th Ministerial Meeting (February 2004, Thailand), the name of the grouping was changed to 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation' (BIMSTEC).

The regional group constitutes a bridge between South and Southeast Asia and represents a reinforcement of relations among these countries. BIMSTEC has also established a platform for intra-regional cooperation between SAARC and ASEAN members. The BIMSTEC region is home to around 1.5 billion people which constitute around 22% of the global population with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of 2.7 trillion economy. In the last five years, BIMSTEC Member States have been able to sustain an average 6.5% economic growth trajectory despite global financial meltdown.

The objective of building such an alliance was to harness shared and accelerated growth through mutual cooperation in different areas of common interests by mitigating the onslaught of globalization and by utilizing regional resources and geographical advantages. Unlike many other regional groupings, BIMSTEC is a sector-driven cooperative organization. Starting with six sectors including trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries for sectoral cooperation in late 1997, it expanded to embrace nine more sectors including agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, counter-terrorism, environment, culture, people to people contact and climate change in 2008.

Being a sector-driven grouping, cooperation within BIMSTEC had initially focused on six sectors in 1997 (trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism, and fisheries) and expanded in 2008 to incorporate agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, counter-terrorism, environment, culture, people-to-people contact, and climate change. Subsequently, following steps to rationalize and reorganize sectors and sub-sectors, cooperation was reorganized in 2021 under the following sectors and sub-sectors led by the respective Member States:

### **Sector led by Member States**

**Bangladesh** : Trade, Investment and Development

**Bhutan** : Environment & Climate Change

**India** : Security

*Sub-sectors* : Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Disaster Management, Energy

**Myanmar** : Agriculture and Food Security

*Sub-sectors* : Agriculture, Fisheries & Livestock

**Nepal** : People-to-People Contact

*Sub-sectors* : Culture, Tourism, People-to-People Contact (forums of think tanks, media etc.)

**Sri Lanka** : Science, Technology & Innovation (Sri Lanka)

*Sub-sectors* : Technology, Health, Human Resource Development

**Thailand** : Connectivity

H. E. Mr. Tenzin Lekphell assumed office as the Secretary-General of BIMSTEC on 06 November 2020. He is the third BIMSTEC Secretary-General.

### ***Purpose of BIMSTEC***

- To create an enabling environment for rapid economic development through the identification and implementation of specific cooperation projects in the already agreed areas of cooperation and such other areas that may be agreed upon by the Member States. Member States may periodically review the areas of cooperation.
- To accelerate the economic growth and social progress in the Bay of Bengal region through joint endeavours in a spirit of equality and partnership.
- To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance on matters of common interest in the economic, social, technical and scientific fields.
- To provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities in the educational, professional and technical spheres.
- To cooperate more effectively in joint efforts that are supportive of and complementary to national development plans of the Member States which result in tangible benefits to the people in raising their living standards, including generating employment and improving transportation and communication infrastructure.
- To cooperate in projects that can be dealt with most productively on a regional basis among the BIMSTEC Member States and that make best use of available synergies.
- To maintain peace and stability in the Bay of Bengal region through close collaboration in combating international terrorism, transnational organized crimes as well as natural disasters, climate change and communicable diseases.
- To maintain close and beneficial cooperation with existing international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes.
- To endeavour to eradicate poverty from the Bay of Bengal region.
- To establish multidimensional connectivity, promote synergy among connectivity frameworks in the region, as a key enabler to economic integration for shared prosperity.
- To promote trade and investment as a major contributing factor for fostering economic and social development in the region.

## **BIMSTEC in News**

### **Government aims at industry integration with East, South-East Asia**

As per the Ministry of External Affairs, the Centre seeks to ensure that industries, especially those located near the Bay of Bengal, become a part of the regional value chains that are in operation the east and south-east Asia. Such integration is the best way to leverage the advantage of the North-eastern part of the country and foster rapid industrialisation.

Ref: <https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/govt-aims-at-industry-integration-with-east-south-east-asia-official/2419608/>

### **BIMSTEC has to stir itself up (February 14, 2022)**

The 5th Summit of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is to be held at the end of March in Colombo. It is expected to be an in-person Summit in which Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to participate.

The seven-nation BIMSTEC, comprising Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand, has bright prospects if the members pull together on well-thoughtout schemes. But going by experience since its founding in 1997, BIMSTEC has inherent problems, preventing it from realizing its potential. Though better placed than SAARC to coalesce into a conflict-free group, BIMSTEC has been showing many warts characteristic of SAARC, namely, mutual suspicion, rivalry and distrust. Both organizations lack commitment at the very top level. While SAARC summits have been postponed many times, BIMSTEC has had only four summits since 1997.

Ref: <https://newsin.asia/bimstec-has-to-stir-itself-up/>

(For more information, students may visit <https://bimstec.org/>)

## **INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION (IFC)**

### **About IFC**

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is a sister organization of the World Bank and a member of the World Bank Group is the largest global development institution focused exclusively on the private sector in developing countries. The Bank Group has set two goals for the world to achieve by 2030:

1. End Extreme Poverty; and
2. Promote shared prosperity in every country.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is an international financial institution that offers investment, advisory, and asset-management services to encourage private-sector development in developing countries.

Since 2009, the IFC has focused on a set of development goals that its projects are expected to target. Its goals are to increase sustainable agriculture opportunities, provide healthcare and education, increase access to financing for microfinance and business clients, advance infrastructure, help small businesses grow revenues, and invest in climate health.

The IFC is owned and governed by its member countries but has its own executive leadership and staff that conduct its normal business operations. It is a corporation whose shareholders are member governments that provide paid in capital and have the right to vote on its matters. Originally, it was more

financially integrated with the World Bank Group, but later, the IFC was established separately and eventually became authorized to operate as a financially autonomous entity and make independent investment decisions. It offers an array of debt and equity financing services and helps companies face their risk exposures while refraining from participating in a management capacity. The corporation also offers advice to companies on making decisions, evaluating their impact on the environment and society, and being responsible. It advises governments on building infrastructure and partnerships to further support private sector development.

### **Functions of IFC**

- It provides a wide range of investment and advisory services that help businesses and entrepreneurs in the developing world meet the challenges they face in the marketplace.
- It offers innovative financial products to private sector projects in developing countries. These include loans for IFC's own account (also called A-loans), equity financing, quasi-equity financing, syndicated loans (or B-loans), risk management products, and partial credit guarantees. IFC often provides funding to financial intermediaries that on-lend to clients, especially small and medium enterprises.
- It also provides advisory services that help build businesses. Much of IFC's advisory work is conducted by facilities managed by IFC but funded through partnerships with donor Governments and other multilateral institutions. Other sources of funding include donor country trust funds and IFC's own resources.
- It can provide a mix of financing and advisory services that are tailored to meet the needs of each project. But the bulk of the funding, as well as leadership and management responsibility, lies with private sector owners and investors.

### **ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)**

#### **About ADB**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) was conceived in the early 1960s as a financial institution that would be Asian in character and foster economic growth and co-operation in one of the poorest regions in the world.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) envisions a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty in the region.

ADB assists its member and partners, by providing loans, technical assistance, growth and other equity investments to promote social and economic development ADB is composed of 68 members 49 of which are from Asia and the Pacific region.

#### **Areas of Work**

The ADB is committed to achieve a prosperous and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. It assists its members and partners by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development. ADB supports projects in developing member countries that create economic and development impact, delivered through both public and private sector operations, advisory services, and knowledge support.

ADB in partnership with member governments, independent specialists and other financial institutions is focussed on delivering projects in developing member countries that create economic and developments impact.

As a multilateral development finance institution, ADB provides:

- loans
- technical assistance
- grants

ADB maximizes the development impact of its assistance by:

- facilitating policy dialogues, providing advisory services, and
- mobilizing financial resources through co-financing operations that tap official, commercial, and export credit sources.

## NATIONAL BODIES

### NITI AAYOG

#### **About NITI Aayog**

The NITI Aayog's precursor, the Planning Commission was established in March 1950 by a Government of India resolution with the Prime Minister as Chairperson. The initial mandate was to establish heavy industries through public investment as a means for achieving rapid industrialization. The functions assigned to the Planning Commission were to assess and allocate plan resources, formulate plans and programs for area development, determine implementation methodology, identify resource constraints and appraise & adjust implementation. The Planning Commission from 1950 to 2014 formulated twelve five year plans. The Prime Minister announced the closure of the Planning Commission from the ramparts of Red Fort on August 15, 2014.

The Government of India, in keeping with its reform agenda, constituted the NITI Aayog to replace the Planning Commission. This was done in order to better serve the needs and aspirations of the people of India. An important evolutionary change from the past, NITI Aayog acts as the quintessential platform of the Government of India to bring States to act together in the national interest, and thereby fosters Cooperative Federalism.

The NITI Aayog, established in 2015, is one of Indian democracy's youngest institutions. It has been entrusted with the mandate of re-imagining the development agenda by dismantling old-style central planning. The NITI Aayog was mandated to foster cooperative federalism, evolve a national consensus on developmental goals, redefine the reforms agenda, act as a platform for resolution of cross-sectoral issues between Center and State Governments, capacity building and to act as a Knowledge and Innovation hub. It represented a huge mandate for a nascent organization.

NITI Aayog is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs. While designing strategic and long-term policies and programmes for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant technical advice to the Centre and States.

NITI Aayog's entire gamut of activities can be divided into four main heads:

1. Policy and Programme Framework
2. Cooperative Federalism
3. Monitoring and Evaluation
4. Think Tank, and Knowledge and Innovation Hub

#### **Objective**

- To evolve a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of States.
- To foster cooperative federalism through structured support initiatives and mechanisms with the States on a continuous basis, recognizing that strong States make a strong nation.
- To develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of government.
- To ensure, on areas that are specifically referred to it, that the interests of national security are incorporated in economic strategy and policy.

- To pay special attention to the sections of our society that may be at risk of not benefiting adequately from economic progress.
- To design strategic and long-term policy and programme frameworks and initiatives, and monitor their progress and their efficacy. The lessons learnt through monitoring and feedback will be used for making innovative improvements, including necessary mid-course corrections.
- To provide advice and encourage partnerships between key stakeholders and national and international like-minded think tanks, as well as educational and policy research institutions.
- To create a knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurial support system through a collaborative community of national and international experts, practitioners and other partners.
- To offer a platform for the resolution of inter-sectoral and inter-departmental issues in order to accelerate the implementation of the development agenda.
- To maintain a state-of-the-art resource centre, be a repository of research on good governance and best practices in sustainable and equitable development as well as help their dissemination to stake-holders.
- To actively monitor and evaluate the implementation of programmes and initiatives, including the identification of the needed resources so as to strengthen the probability of success and scope of delivery.
- To focus on technology upgradation and capacity building for implementation of programmes and initiatives.
- To undertake other activities as may be necessary in order to further the execution of the national development agenda, and the objectives mentioned above.

### **Present Constitution of NITI Aayog**

*Chairperson* - Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister

*Vice Chairperson* - Dr. Rajiv Kumar

*Full-Time Members* - Shri V.K. Saraswat, Prof. Ramesh Chand, Dr. V. K. Paul

*Ex-officio Members* - Shri Raj Nath Singh, Minister of Defence; Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation; Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs; Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

*Special Invitees* - Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways; Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Minister of Textiles; Dr Virendra Kumar, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment; Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways, Minister of Communications, and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology; Shri Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning, and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

*Chief Executive Officer* - Shri Amitabh Kant

The Governing Council of NITI Aayog has been reconstituted w.e.f February 19, 2021 as under:

1. *Chairperson* - Prime Minister of India
2. *Ex-Officio Members* - NITI Aayog
3. *Vice Chairperson* - NITI Aayog



4. *Full Time Members - NITI Aayog*
5. *Chief Ministers of All States and UTs*
6. *LGs of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ladakh*
7. *Special Invitees of NITI Aayog will be special invitees of Governing Council*
8. *Administrators of UTs of Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep will be special invitees of Governing Council.*

### **Relevance of NITI Aayog**

- *Competitive Federalism* : Various reports of NITI Aayog like Healthy states Progressive India etc, which give performance-based rankings of States across various verticals to foster a spirit of competitive federalism. It helps to identify the best practices in different States in various sectors and then try to replicate them in other States.
- *Cooperative federalism* : Due to the composition of NITI Aayog, it gives a better representation of states in this body which facilitate direct interactions with the line ministries, also helps to address issues in a relatively shorter time.
- *Greater Accountability* : NITI Aayog has established a Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office which collects data on the performance of various Ministries on a real-time basis. The data are then used at the highest policy making levels to establish accountability and improve performance. Earlier, India had 12 Five-Year Plans, but they were mostly evaluated long after the plan period had ended. Hence, there was no real accountability.
- *Think tank of innovative ideas* : NITI Aayog is visualised as a funnel through which new and innovative ideas come from all possible sources — industry, academia, civil society or foreign specialists — and flow into the government system for implementation.
- *Convergence for resolution* : Being a common point for similar issues faced by different sectors, states etc., it acts as a convergence point and platform to discuss these issues.

### **NITI Aayog in News**

- **Niti Aayog developing National Gender Index (Economic Times dated March 01, 2022)**

Niti Aayog is in the process of developing a National Gender Index to measure the progress and identify the persisting gaps in gender equality to make informed policy decisions. In its latest annual report, Niti Aayog said the index will serve as a tool to map the progress of states and Union Territories (UTs) on defined gender metrics and build the foundation for positive change.

The index will support policy action and advocacy around gender and will be aligned to the framework of Sustainable Development Goals.

Niti Aayog has also developed a draft State Energy and Climate Index to assess the performance of states on indicators such as discoms' viability and competition; access, affordability and reliability of energy; clean energy initiatives; energy efficiency; generation capacity; and environmental sustainability and new initiatives.

The index will help states to efficiently manage their energy resources and provide better access to energy to the people.

## RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI)

### About RBI

The Reserve Bank of India was established on April 1, 1935 in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

The Central Office of the Reserve Bank was initially established in Calcutta but was permanently moved to Mumbai in 1937. The Central Office is where the Governor sits and where policies are formulated. Though originally privately owned, since nationalisation in 1949, the Reserve Bank is fully owned by the Government of India.

The basic function of the apex bank is described in its Preamble as "to regulate the issue of Bank notes and keeping of reserves with a view to securing monetary stability in India and generally to operate the currency and credit system of the country to its advantage; to have a modern monetary policy framework to meet the challenge of an increasingly complex economy, to maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth."

### RBI in News

*Policy Rates as on March 03, 2022*

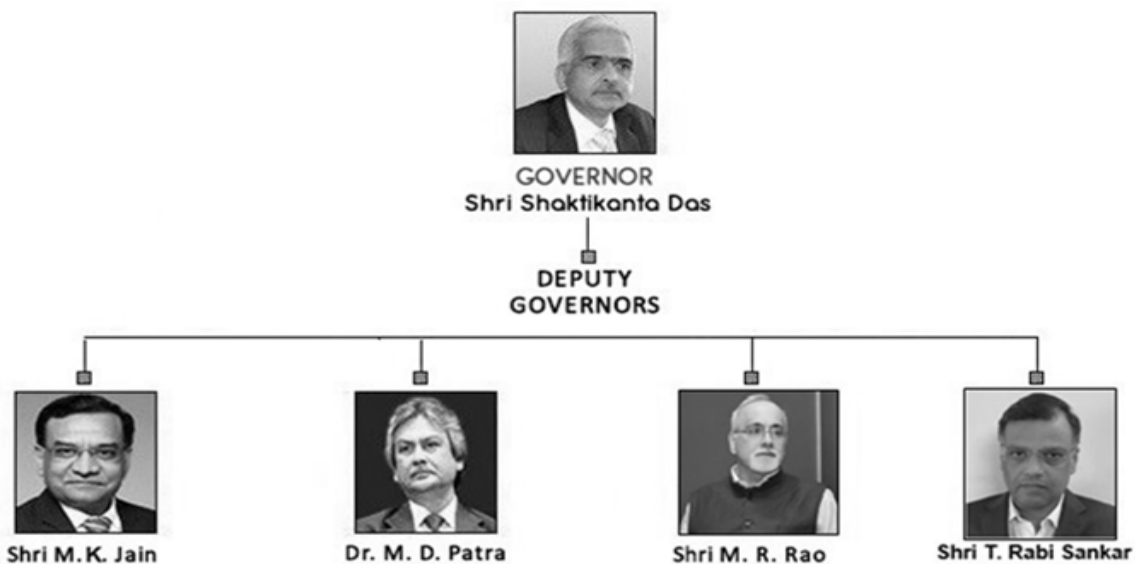
Policy Repo Rate	4.00%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	4.25%
Bank Rate	4.25%

*Reserve Ratios as on March 03, 2022*

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.00

### Governors and Deputy Governors

(For more information, students may visit <https://www.rbi.org.in/>)



## **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (SEBI)**

### **About SEBI**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India was established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

The Preamble of the Securities and Exchange Board of India describes the basic functions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India as "...to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto"

Ms. Madhabi Puri Buch is the present Chairperson of Securities and Exchange Board of India. Shri S. K. Mohanty and Shri Ananta Barua, are the Whole Time Members.

### **SEBI in News**

#### **Investor Charter issued by SEBI**

##### *Background*

With an objective to provide protection to investors, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget 2021-22 had proposed to introduce an investor charter as a right of all financial investors across all financial products. Since then, SEBI worked on framing a charter for investors in the securities market, which aimed not only to bring in more transparency in the investment process but also encourage investors in the market to invest with better knowledge. The charter focuses on the rights and responsibilities of investors and also the investor grievance redressal mechanism.

##### *About Investor Charter*

The Investor Charter was released for investors in Indian securities market in 2021. It comprises of rights & responsibilities of investors as well as do's & don't's of investing in securities market. The SEBI has brought out the Investor Charter with a vision to protect the interests of investors by enabling them to understand the risks involved and invest in a fair, transparent, secure market, and to get services in a timely and efficient manner. The charter will ensure that SEBI-registered intermediaries or regulated entities stick to their investor charters including grievance redressal mechanism.

The Charter is a brief document containing details of service provided to investors, their rights, do's and don't's, responsibilities, investor grievance handling mechanism and timelines thereof etc., at one single place, in a lucid language, for ease of reference.

##### *Rights of Investors*

According to Investor Charter, investors will get the right to:

1. Get fair equitable treatment
2. Expect redressal of investor grievances filed in 'SEBI Complaints Redress System (SCORES)' in timely manner.
3. Get quality services from SEBI recognised Market Infrastructure Institutions and SEBI registered intermediaries / regulated entities/ Asset Management Companies.

##### *Responsibilities of Investors*

Investors will have the responsibilities to:

1. Deal with SEBI-recognised market infrastructure institutions as well as SEBI-registered regulated entities or intermediaries.

2. Update their contact details like address, email id, mobile number, nomination and other KYC details.
3. Ensure grievances are taken up by concerned entities in time bound manner.
4. Ensure that their accounts are operated for their own benefits only.

*DO's for Investors:*

- Read and understand the documents carefully before investing.
- Know about the Investor Grievance Redressal Mechanism.
- Know the risks involved before investing.
- Keep track of account statements and promptly bring any discrepancy noticed to the concerned stock exchange, intermediary or Asset Management Company.
- Know about various fees, charges, margins, premium, etc. involved in the transactions.
- Preserve relevant transaction related documents.

*DONT's for Investors:*

- Don't make payments in cash while making any investment in securities market, beyond the prescribed limit.
- Don't share your critical information like account details, login ids, passwords, DIS, etc. with anyone.

SEBI has also created a separate investor charter for stock exchanges, clearing corporations, and depositories; entities which together are known as market infrastructure institutions (MIIs).

This charter will also be applicable to the SEBI-registered intermediaries that play a role in channelling investor funds in capital markets, as well as other SEBI-regulated entities. The Charter issued by SEBI for various intermediaries are available on its website. The brief about the Investor Charter issued by SEBI for various intermediaries are given below:

- **Publishing of Investor Charter and disclosure of complaints by Debenture Trustees (DTs) on their Websites**

In order to facilitate investor awareness about various activities where an investor has to deal with DTs for availing various services, SEBI has developed an Investor Charter for DTs, inter-alia detailing the services provided to Investors, timelines for various DT services provided, Rights and Obligations of Investors and Grievance Redressal Mechanism.

In this regard, all the registered DTs shall take necessary steps to bring the Investor Charter as per prescribed format to the notice of investor in non-convertible debt securities by way of:

- a. disseminating the Investor Charter on their websites/through e-mail;
- b. displaying the Investor charter at prominent places in offices etc.

- **Publishing Investor Charter and Disclosure of Investor Complaints by Merchant Bankers on their websites for public offers by REITs and InvITs**

With a view to provide investors relevant information about the primary market issuances by REITs and InvITs, an Investor Charter has been prepared by SEBI in consultation with Merchant

Bankers. This charter is a brief document containing different services to investors at a single place for ease of reference. All registered Merchant Bankers have to disclose on their websites, the Investor Charter for each of the following categories as per specified format:

- a. Public offer of units by REITs
  - b. Public offer of units by InvITs
- **Publishing investor charter and disclosure of investor complaints by Merchant Bankers on their websites for private placements of Municipal debt securities**

With a view to provide investors relevant information about the primary market issuances of municipal debt securities, the SEBI has brought out an Investor Charter in consultation with Merchant Bankers. This charter is a brief document containing different services to investors at one single place for ease of reference. All registered Merchant Bankers have to disclose on their websites, the Investor Charter for private placements of municipal debt securities, as per the specified format.

- **Publishing Investor Charter and Disclosure of Complaints by Registrar and Share Transfer Agents (RTAs) on their Websites**

In order to facilitate investor awareness about various activities where an investor has to deal with RTAs for availing Investor Service Requests, SEBI has developed an Investor Charter for RTAs, inter-alia, detailing the services provided to Investors, Rights of Investors, various activities of RTAs with timelines, Do's and Don'ts for Investors and Grievance Redressal Mechanism. In this regard, all the registered RTAs shall take necessary steps to bring the Investor Charter, as per the specified format, to the notice of existing and new shareholders by way of:

- a. disseminating the Investor Charter on their websites/ through e-mail;
  - b. displaying the Investor charter at prominent places in offices etc.
- **Publishing Investor Charter and Disclosure of Complaints by Merchant Bankers on their Websites – Debt Market**

With a view to provide investors relevant information about the various activities pertaining to primary market issuances in the debt market, the SEBI has brought out an Investor Charter in consultation with Merchant Bankers. This Charter is a brief document containing details of services provided to investors, their rights, do's and don'ts, responsibilities, investor grievance handling mechanism and timelines thereof etc., at one single place, in a lucid language, for ease of reference. All registered Merchant Bankers have to disclose on their websites, the Investor Charter for each of the below mentioned categories, as per specified format:

- o Public issue of debt securities;
  - o Public issue of non-convertible redeemable preference shares; and
  - o Private placement of debt securities and non-convertible redeemable preference shares.
- **Publishing Investor Charter and Disclosure of Complaints by Merchant Bankers on their Websites**

With a view to provide investors an idea about the various activities pertaining to primary market issuances as well as exit options like Takeovers, Buy-backs or Delistings, an Investor Charter has been developed in consultation with the Merchant Bankers. This charter is a brief document in an easy to understand language and contains different services to the investors at one single

place for ease of reference. All the registered Merchant Bankers have to disclose on their website, Investor Charter for each of the following categories, as prescribed by SEBI:

1. Initial Public Offer (IPO) and Further Public Offer (FPO) including Offer for Sale (OFS);
2. Rights Issue;
3. Qualified Institutions Placement (QIP);
4. Preferential Issue;
5. SME IPO and FPO including OFS;
6. Buyback of Securities;
7. Delisting of Equity Shares;
8. Substantial Acquisitions of Shares and Takeovers.

Further, the SEBI has also issued the Investor Charter for Investment Advisers, Research Analysts, Portfolio Managers, Mutual Funds, AIFs, Stock Brokers etc.

*(For more updates, students may visit <https://www.sebi.gov.in/index.html>)*

## **COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA (CCI)**

### ***The Competition Act***

The Competition Act, 2002, as amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007, follows the philosophy of modern competition laws. The Act prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates combinations (acquisition, acquiring of control and M&A), which causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India.

### ***About the Competition Commission of India***

The Competition Commission of India has been established by the Central Government with effect from 14th October 2003 to achieve the objectives of the Competition Act. CCI consists of a Chairperson and six Members appointed by the Central Government.

It is the duty of the Commission to eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.

The Commission is also required to give opinion on competition issues on a reference received from a statutory authority established under any law and to undertake competition advocacy, create public awareness and impart training on competition issues.

Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, a 1981 Batch IAS officer, joined the Competition Commission of India as Chairperson in November, 2018. Dr. Sangeeta Verma and Shri Bhagwant Singh Bishnoi are the members of the Commission.

### ***CCI in News***

- **7th National Conference on Economics of Competition Law on 4th March, 2022**

The Competition Commission of India holds the 7th National Conference on Economics of Competition Law on 4th March in virtual mode.

CCI has been organizing the conference every year since 2016. Neelkanth Mishra, who is a Member of, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister delivered the keynote address in

the inaugural session. The Plenary at this year's conference is on the topic 'Reforms and Deepening of Markets'.

The Conference is an endeavour to develop and sustain interest in the Economics of Competition Law and create a critical mass of antitrust economists. It brings together scholars, practitioners, academicians, and experts working in the area of economics of competition law.

*(For more information, students may visit <https://www.cci.gov.in/>)*

## **THE INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY BOARD OF INDIA (IBBI)**

### **About IBBI**

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India was established on 1st October, 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code). It is a key pillar of the ecosystem responsible for implementation of the Code that consolidates and amends the laws relating to reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner for maximization of the value of assets of such persons, to promote entrepreneurship, availability of credit and balance the interests of all the stakeholders.

It is a unique regulator which regulates a profession as well as processes. It has regulatory oversight over the Insolvency Professionals, Insolvency Professional Agencies, Insolvency Professional Entities and Information Utilities. It writes and enforces rules for processes, namely, corporate insolvency resolution, corporate liquidation, individual insolvency resolution and individual bankruptcy under the Code. It has recently been tasked to promote the development of, and regulate, the working and practices of, insolvency professionals, insolvency professional agencies and information utilities and other institutions, in furtherance of the purposes of the Code. It has also been designated as the 'Authority' under the Companies (Registered Valuers and Valuation Rules), 2017 for regulation and development of the profession of valuers in the country.

Shri Ravi Mittal currently serves as Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India. Dr. Navrang Saini, Dr. (Ms.) Mukulita Vijayawargiya and Sh. Sudhaker Shukla are the Whole Time Members of the IBBI.

### **IBBI in News**

- **Insolvency regulator IBBI issues FAQs on IBC (February 08, 2022)**

Insolvency regulator IBBI has released a publication titled Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). The main objective of the publication, is to create awareness and disseminate knowledge about the code in easy-to-understand FAQs format. The revised edition covers the developments in the code and subordinate legislation during the period. It also presents thematic, topic wise jurisprudence for a comprehensive understanding of the legal position with respect to various issues under the Code. The book is expected to provide useful guidance to the professionals and other stakeholders of the IBC ecosystem for clear interpretation and enhanced understanding of the insolvency law.

*(For more updates, students may visit <https://ibbi.gov.in/>)*

## **THE INSTITUTE OF COMPANY SECRETARIES OF INDIA (ICSI)**

### **About the ICSI**

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) is the only recognized professional body in India to develop and regulate the profession of Company Secretaries in India. It is a premier national professional body set up under an act of Parliament, the Company Secretaries Act, 1980. ICSI functions under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. The Institute provides top-quality

education to the students of Company Secretaries (CS) Course and best quality set standards to CS Members. At present, there are more than 65,000 members and around 2.5 Lakhs students on the roll of ICSI.

ICSI has its headquarters at New Delhi, four Regional Offices at New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and 72 Chapters across India.

ICSI has been contributing to the initiatives of Government of India that have potential to excel the social-economic growth of India.

Presently, CS Devendra V. Deshpande is the President and CS Manish Gupta is Vice President, of the ICSI.

#### **Motto**

“सत्यं वद । धर्मं चर ।  
*Speak the truth above by the law*”

#### **Vision**

*To be a global leader in promoting Good Corporate Governance*

#### **Mission**

*To develop high calibre professionals facilitating good Corporate Governance*

### **ICSI in News**

- **49th National Convention of Company Secretaries**

The 49th National Convention of Company Secretaries was inaugurated on 6th January, 2022, at The Bangalore Palace, Bengaluru, on the theme “Good Governance: The Universal Dharma” in the august presence of Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Hon’ble Governor, Karnataka as the Chief Guest, Shri Basavaraj Bommai, Hon’ble Chief Minister, Karnataka as the Guest of Honour and Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Hon’ble Minister, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, as Special Guest.

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India organized the 21st edition of ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance, 2021, in Mumbai on 18th December 2021. Shri Amit Shah, Hon’ble Home Minister and Minister for Cooperation, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Hon’ble Justice, P Sathasivam, Jury Chairman and Former Chief Justice of India, was the Guest of Honour.

*(For more details: please visit <https://www.icsi.edu/media-centre/press-releases/>)*



## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

### G7 SUMMIT

#### **About G7**

- G7 originally came into being in 1975 when the heads of the world's six leading industrial nations- the US, UK, France, Germany, Japan and Italy decided to hold a meeting in the wake of the oil shock of 1973 and the following financial crisis.
- The six countries were joined by Canada in 1976.
- Russia joined the group, which then became known as the G8, in 1998 but was suspended in 2014 after it annexed Crimea from Ukraine.
- Current members are - US, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan. The group regards itself as "a community of values", with freedom and human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and prosperity and sustainable development as its key principles.

#### **G-7 Summit 2021**

The UK hosted the G7 Summit as part of its 2021 G7 Presidency. The G7 Summit was held in Carbis Bay, Cornwall on 11-13 June 2021. The Agenda for the summit was – Global Action to Build Back Better. Prime Minister Boris Johnson brought the world's leading democracies together to reach major new agreements to help the world fight, and then build back better from coronavirus and create a greener, more prosperous future.

The UK invited Australia, India, South Korea and South Africa as guest countries to this year's G7. This was the second time that India participated in a G7 meeting. India had been invited by G7 French Presidency in 2019 to the Biarritz Summit as a "Goodwill Partner".

#### **Key Highlights of the Summit**

- The UK had outlined four priority areas for its Presidency. These are:
  - leading the global recovery from coronavirus while strengthening resilience against future pandemics;
  - promoting future prosperity by championing free and fair trade;
  - tackling climate change and preserving the planet's biodiversity; and
  - championing shared values and open societies.
- The G7 countries signed the Carbis Bay Declaration, mainly aimed at preventing future pandemics. It contained many other thematic areas like COVID-19: Vaccines, Climate Change, Build Back Better for the World, taxation etc.

#### **India's Stand at The Summit**

- Underscoring the need for genuine global solidarity and leadership, India gave the mantra of "One Earth One Health". It was based on the idea that no one is safe until everyone is safe.
- PM Modi sought the strong support of G7 leadership for India and South Africa's proposal for a TRIPS waiver at the WTO. TRIPS waiver is an important element of his "Global Vaccination Plan", a roadmap to vaccinate the entire global population by doubling vaccine production.

- On the issue of Climate Change, India highlighted the fact that it is the only G20 country on track to meet its Paris commitments. India called on the G7 to meet their unfulfilled promise of \$100 billion annually in climate finance.
- During the session pertaining to open societies and open economies, India underscored the vulnerabilities inherent in open societies.
- India signed off on a joint statement by G-7 and guest countries (together these countries were called as Democracies 11 by the PM of UK) on “open societies”.
- The statement reaffirmed and encouraged the values of “freedom of expression, both online and offline, as a freedom that safeguards democracy and helps people live free from fear and oppression”.
- It also referred to “politically motivated internet shutdowns” as one of the threats to freedom and democracy.
- It should be noted that another G-7 statement criticising China was not signed by India.

*For details: please refer <https://www.g7uk.org/>*

### **G7 Summit 2020**

The G7 Summit 2020 was scheduled to take place in the US from 10th to 12th June 2020, however, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, it had been cancelled.

### **G-7 Summit 2019**

#### *Key Highlights*

- The 45th G7 summit, also known as Group of Seven, was held in Biarritz, France on 24–26 August 2019 on the theme “combating inequality” and its main focus was on the climate and biodiversity.
- Following five objectives were identified by the France for this Summit:
  - fighting inequality of opportunity, promoting in particular gender equality, access to education and high quality health services;
  - reducing environmental inequality by protecting our planet through climate finance and a fair ecological transition, preserving biodiversity and the oceans;
  - strengthening the social dimension of globalization through more fair and equitable trade, tax and development policies;
  - taking action for peace against security threats and terrorism which weaken the foundations of our societies; and
  - tapping into the opportunities created by digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI).
- G7 summit was hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron, the annual meet was attended by the seven state members.
- This year, France had also invited non-member countries who are playing an important part in world politics. The invited guest nations included India, Australia, Spain, South Africa, Senegal and Rwanda. These countries were invited as “Biarritz partner country”.
- The US took over the G7 Presidency from 1 January 2020.

**India in G7 Summit**

- India has been invited to attend the G7 summit after a gap of almost 10 years.
- The last time India was invited to the summit was in 2005, when the then British Prime Minister Tony Blair had invited the then Indian PM Manmohan Singh to attend the G7 summit in Gleneagles, Scotland.

**G20 SUMMIT****About G20**

The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier international forum for global economic cooperation. The participants are leaders from 19 countries and the European Union (EU). The members of the G20 are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Republic of South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, and the European Union (EU). In addition, leaders of invited guest countries and representatives of invited guest international organizations participate in the summit along with leaders from the G20 members.

The G20 Summit is formally known as the “Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy”. As the “premier forum for international economic cooperation” (agreed by leaders at the Pittsburgh Summit in September 2009), representing more than 80% of the global GDP, the G20 has made continuous efforts toward achieving robust global economic growth. As globalization progresses and various issues become more intricately intertwined, the recent G20 summits have focused not only on macro economy and trade, but also on a wide range of global issues which have an immense impact on the global economy, such as development, climate change and energy, health, counter-terrorism, as well as migration and refugees. The G20 has sought to realize an inclusive and sustainable world through its contributions towards resolving these global issues.

The host country of the G20 summit leads the group over the course of one year from December through the following November as the G20 presidency. The G20 presidency also organizes relevant ministerial and working group meetings.

**History of G20 Summit**

After the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997-1998, it was acknowledged that the participation of major emerging market countries is needed in discussions on the international financial system, and G7 finance ministers agreed to establish the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in 1999.

The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meetings were centered on major economic and monetary policy issues amongst major countries in the global financial system and aimed at promoting cooperation towards achieving stable and sustainable global economic growth for the benefit of all countries. The participating members in the meetings were the same as the current G20 members.

In November 2008, the inaugural G20 Summit was held in Washington, D.C. in response to the global financial crisis that occurred in the wake of the collapse of the Lehman Brothers. The G20 Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors was upgraded to the head of the state level, as a forum for leaders from major developed and emerging market countries. In September 2009, the third summit was held in Pittsburgh where the leaders designated the G20 as the “premier forum for international economic cooperation.” From thereon, the summit meetings were held semi-annually until 2010 and annually from 2011 onwards.

**G20 Summit 2022**

The 17th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit will take place in 15-16 November 2022 in Bali. The

Summit will be the pinnacle of the G20 process and intense work carried out within the Ministerial Meetings, Working Groups, and Engagement Groups throughout the year.

### **Priority Issues**

Recognition of the importance of collective action and inclusive collaboration among major developed countries and emerging economies around the world has always been the core purpose of the G20.

Today, the world needs it more than ever. The global pandemic has affected every aspect of the society, from health, education, to international trade. At the same time, gaps in countries' capacities to address the crisis continue to prevent the world from fully controlling the common problems and crises facing us right now.

Understanding the challenges and the need for collective action, Indonesia will focus on three main pillars for its G20, 2022 Presidency namely: Global Health Architecture, Sustainable Energy Transition, and Digital Transformation. Through these pillars, Indonesia will continue to take the lead on ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development through MSMEs participation and digital economy. While also maintaining the aspiration to continue to improve our collective capacity in securing the shared prosperity among nations, through various reform efforts in global taxation, stronger cooperation in fighting corruption, deepening of infrastructure financing, and pushing for a more democratic, and representative international cooperation. Following three priority issues to be taken up are as under:

- Global Health Architecture
- Digital Transformation
- Sustainable Energy Transition

### **How the G20 Works?**

The presidency of the G20 rotates every year among its members, with the country that holds the presidency working together with its predecessor and successor, also known as Troika, to ensure the continuity of the agenda. Currently Italy, Indonesia, and India are the Troika countries.

The G20 has no permanent secretariat. Agenda and the work coordination is completed by G20 leaders' personal representatives, known as sherpas together with finance ministers and central bank governors.

The pinnacle of the G20 work in each cycle is a communiqué expressing members' commitments and vision for the future, drafted from the chosen recommendations and deliverables from ministerial meetings and other work streams.

*(For more updates about G20, students may visit <https://g20.org/en/>)*

### **G20 in News**

- **Cabinet approves setting up of G20 Secretariat ahead of India's Presidency (February 15, 2022 Business Standard e-paper)**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat which will be responsible for the implementation of overall policy decisions and arrangements needed for steering India's upcoming G20 Presidency.

G20 is the premier forum of the 20 largest economies of the world for international economic cooperation that plays an important role in global economic governance. India will hold the Presidency of the G20 for the first time from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023, culminating

with the G20 Summit in India in 2023. The country has been a member of the G20 since its inception in 1999.

As per the practice, the government is establishing a G20 Secretariat to handle work relating to knowledge, technical, media, security and logistical aspects of India's G20 Presidency. "It will be manned by officers and staff from the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and other relevant line Ministries/Departments and domain knowledge experts. The Secretariat will be functional till February 2024," the Cabinet Secretariat said in a statement.

The Secretariat will be guided by an apex committee headed by Prime Minister Modi with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Home Minister Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and G20 Sherpa Piyush Goyal to provide overall guidance to India's G20 Presidency. Further, a coordination committee will also be set up to oversee all G20 preparations and report to the apex committee. "The G20 Secretariat will enable long term capacity building, including knowledge and expertise, for India's leadership on global issues in multilateral fora," the statement added.

- **India enters G20 Troika (December 01, 2021; Press Release – Ministry of External Affairs)**

India has joined the G20 Troika which consists of Indonesia, Italy, and India - the current, previous and incoming G20 Presidencies, respectively.

Indonesia has assumed the G20 Presidency and will convene various G20 meetings throughout the year culminating with the G20 Leaders' Summit on 30-31 October 2022 under the overall theme of "Recover Together Recover Stronger". As a Troika-member, India will work closely with Indonesia and Italy to ensure consistency and continuity of the G20's agenda.

India will assume the G20 Presidency on 1 December 2022 from Indonesia, and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in India in 2023.

## **INDIA RUSSIA SUMMIT 2021**

### ***About the Summit***

- The countries agreed to extend the military technical cooperation by another ten years. Currently, the indigenous production under this cooperation includes T – 90 tanks, MiG 29K aircraft, Su – 30 MKI, upgrade of MiG and supply of Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher Smerch. Both India and Russia are currently developing fifth generation Fighter Aircraft and Multi – Role Transport Aircraft.
- Reserve Bank of India and Bank of Russia signed a pact to respond to cyberattacks.
- The leaders agreed that both the countries share common perspectives on the situation in Afghanistan. They agreed to implement a bilateral roadmap created to act upon Afghanistan.
- The Inter – Governmental Commission on Military and Military – Technical Cooperation was held. This commission was established in 2000.

### ***Discussions during the summit***

- The leaders discussed on International North – South Transport Corridor and also about the Chennai – Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor (which is under proposal).
- Russia welcomed the "Delhi Declaration on Afghanistan".
- India congratulated Russia on joining as an observer in NAM and Russia congratulated India for its membership at the United Nations Security Council.

### **Inference**

- The “Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership” between the countries is getting stronger.
- The visit of Russian President is a reflection of the country’s commitment to its ties with India. This is in need of the moment. Because, the ties between India and Russia were buffeted by New Delhi’s ties with the US. Also, Russia was getting closer with China on the back of US sanctions, CAATSA and its annexation of Crimea in 2014.
- Also, ahead of Putin’s visit, India and Russia held the 2+2 dialogue. It was held between the external affairs minister and defence ministers of the countries. During the dialogue, the countries signed several military agreements. Under the agreement, India and Russia agreed to manufacture the Russian AK-203 in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh. Around 6 lakh rifles are to be manufactured. Through this, India will move ahead in its self – reliant path.

Ref: <https://www.gktoday.in/topic/india-russia-summit-2021/>

### **24TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON E-GOVERNANCE 2021**

The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, in association with the State Government of Telangana organized the 24th Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2021 on 7th – 8th February 2022 at Hyderabad, Telangana. The theme of this Conference was “India’s Techade: Digital Governance in a Post Pandemic World”. At the Valedictory Session ‘Hyderabad Declaration’ on e-Governance was adopted after intensive deliberations during the sessions held over two days.

The Conference was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office, Minister of State of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Government of India and presided by Shri K. T. Rama Rao, Cabinet Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Industries, Information Technology Electronics and Communications, Government of Telangana.

The 24th NCeG represented a platform for constructive exchange of ideas on some of the latest technologies for promoting e-Governance. The Distinguished speakers invited for the Conference shared their knowledge and insights on the themes identified for the Conference. The 24th NCeG 2021 provided all participating State and UT Government teams with a detailed view of the latest concepts and technologies to promote e-Governance and enable them to go back with useful takeaways for being implemented in their respective States and UTs.

Over the two days, discussions were held on six sub-themes in Plenary sessions- AatmaNirbhar Bharat: Universalization of Public Services; Innovation– Platformization, Emerging Technologies; Ease of living through Technology Interventions for Good Governance; Government Process Re-engineering and Citizen’s participation in Government Processes; India’s Techade – Digital Economy (Digital Payments – Building Citizen’s Confidence). There were also parallel breakout sessions where the awardees of National e-Governance Awards 2021 from Centre, State and District showcased their award winning entries. These sessions were on the themes : Unicorns of 2021: Demonstrating Power of Innovation, Digital Excellence at District level; Seamless, Creating a technology Innovation Ecosystem, End to End service delivery without human interference through technological interventions; Replicability and sustainability in e-Governance-Best Practices. An Exhibition including a Wall of Fame was also organized during the event to showcase India’s achievements in the field of e-Governance.

To recognise the implementation of e-Governance initiatives, the National e-Governance Awards 2021 were presented during the Inaugural Session. 26 awards were presented under the 6 categories of the

Award Scheme to Central Ministries/Departments, State/UT Governments, Districts, Local Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings and Academic & Research Institutions. This includes 12 Gold, 13 Silver and 1 Jury Award.

The 24th NCeG provided a platform for the delegates, including senior Government officers from across the country, industry stalwarts and researchers, to share best practices, latest technology developments, thus leveraging them for achieving effective governance and public service delivery. The focus of all the sessions was on learning by experience sharing effective e-governance tools for benefits of the citizen and achieving Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'.

### **Hyderabad Declaration**

The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DAPRG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India in collaboration with the Government of Telangana organized the 24th National Conference on e-Governance at Hyderabad during 7-8 January 2022.

Under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister, the e-Governance landscape of India has radically changed in scale, scope and learning paradigms. As India celebrates 75th year of Independence as Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Prime Minister's clarion call for the adoption of Next Generation Administrative Reforms for bringing citizens and government closer was the focus of the Conference deliberations. Secretariat Reforms, Swachhta Campaign, Redressal of Public Grievances and Improving Service Delivery which form the core of India's good governance model were deliberated. During the pandemic, the widespread adoption of e-Office helped create paperless offices in the central secretariat and enabled smooth governance functioning. CPGRAMS helped redress 20 lac public grievances in 2021. The National e-Governance Awards were conferred in the Inaugural Session. The Two-day Conference held exchanges of views between the Award winners and Unicorns.

The Conference has unanimously adopted the Hyderabad declaration outlined below after intensive deliberations during the sessions held over two days.

The Conference resolved that Government of India and State Governments shall collaborate to:

1. To bring citizens and government closer through digital platforms.
2. Transform citizen services through the use of technology by leveraging the artifacts of India Stack that include Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, UMANG, e Sign and consent framework.
3. Fast track the implementation of the national level public digital platforms in key social sectors viz. Health, Education, Agriculture, etc by adopting open interoperable architecture for joined up connected services.
4. Operationalize the data governance framework to facilitate data sharing within Government entities and also make available all data on data.gov.in except for a negative list. Enable protocols for data collection, data harvesting, data privacy, data anonymization, data security, and data preservation that can help build a data economy.
5. Foster responsible use of emerging technology such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Blockchain, 5G, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, etc for Social Empowerment.
6. Make India the global hub for emerging technology through creation of a large pool of skilled resources on futuristic technologies.
7. Ensure resilient Government Infrastructure with robust technological solutions to withstand pandemic like disruptions.

8. Foster a spirit of research and development and process reengineering in ongoing government services.
9. Uplift good governance to a higher level through healthy competition among States and UTs and among Central Ministries by benchmarking services.
10. NeSDA 2021 to be adopted in collaboration with MeITY for improving e-Governance landscape.
11. Integration of all State/District portals with CPGRAMS for seamless Redressal of Public Grievances.
12. Replication of awarded projects under National Awards for e-Governance 2020 – 21 and their nomination for dissemination of best practices through regional conferences.
13. Adoption of e-office version 7.0 in all ministries and departments.
14. Use technology for propagating end to end service delivery without human interference to the citizen at the grass root level.
15. Make “digital” the primary aspect of government service design and delivery and provide the requisite infrastructure to achieve that.

### **WORLD INVESTOR WEEK**

The International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) launched its fifth annual World Investor Week (WIW) on October 04, 2021, a global campaign supported by securities regulators and IOSCO stakeholders around the world.

The G-20 Italian Presidency has endorsed the IOSCO WIW for 2021. From 4 to 10 October 2021, securities regulators, stock exchanges, global and regional financial organizations and other stakeholders conducted an array of educational activities. The aim was to raise awareness of the importance of investor education and protection in participants’ jurisdictions. The activities, which started in New Zealand (in a symbolic gesture to mark the opening of the financial markets activity of the day), range from publishing investor focused material to organizing online webinars, virtual or in person conferences, and other events, depending on the prevailing pandemic-related circumstances. The dedicated 2 campaign website ([www.worldinvestorweek.org](http://www.worldinvestorweek.org)) offered additional information on local and regional/global events. The key messages of the IOSCO WIW campaign in 2021 were based on two themes: 1) sustainable finance and 2) frauds and scams prevention. These messages complement those of previous IOSCO WIW editions, regarding online investing, digital learning and the basics of investing.

Ashley Alder, Chair of the IOSCO Board and the Chief Executive Officer of the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission, said, “Financial education is key to supporting investor protection locally and worldwide. The 2021 WIW underscores IOSCO’s firm commitment to financial educational initiatives which enable retail investors to have the confidence to participate in financial markets on a properly informed basis. This is particularly important during these challenging times.” Martin Moloney, Secretary General of IOSCO, said, “Retail investor protection cuts across many of the issues covered by IOSCO work streams. It is a cornerstone of all IOSCO’s work that our Committee on Retail Investors work continuously to promote the enhancement of financial education and retail investor protection.”

### **About IOSCO**

IOSCO is the leading international policy forum for securities regulators and is recognized as the global standard setter for securities regulation. The organization's membership regulates more than 95% of the world's securities markets in some 130 jurisdictions, and it continues to expand.



## **BUSINESS PERSONALITIES AND LEADERS**

### **BUSINESS PERSONALITIES**

#### **Mukesh Ambani**

Mr. Mukesh D. Ambani is the Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Ltd. is a Chemical Engineer from the Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai (erstwhile the University Department of Chemical Technology, University of Mumbai). He pursued an MBA from Stanford University in the US. He has been on the Board of Reliance since 1977. Mr. Mukesh Ambani is a member of The Foundation Board of the World Economic Forum. He is an elected Foreign Member of the prestigious United States National Academy of Engineering. He is a member of the Global Advisory Council of Bank of America. Among others, he is also a member of International Advisory Council of The Brookings Institution.

#### **Azim Premji**

Azim Premji is an Indian business entrepreneur who served as chairman of Wipro Limited, guiding the company through four decades of diversification and growth to emerge as a world leader in the software industry. By the early 21st century, Premji had become one of the world's wealthiest people. Despite his vast personal wealth, Premji continued to be recognized for his modesty, lack of extravagance, and charity. In 2001, he established the non-profit Azim Premji Foundation, through which he aimed to improve the quality of elementary education in rural regions throughout India. By the end of the first decade of the 21st century, the foundation had extended computer-aided education to more than 16,000 schools, with child-friendly content increasingly available in local languages. Premji's reputation remained that of a highly ethical entrepreneur whose operation served as a model for other Indian firms.

#### **Kumar Mangalam Birla**

Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla is the Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group. He is on the National Council of the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Apex Advisory Council of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India. Mr. Birla holds several key positions on various regulatory and professional Boards. He was a Director on the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India. He was Chairman of the Advisory Committee constituted by the Ministry of Company Affairs and also served on The Prime Minister of India's Advisory Council on Trade and Industry. Mr. Birla has won recognition for his exemplary contribution to leadership processes and institution/systems building. SEBI had constituted a Committee on Corporate Governance under the Chairmanship of Shri Kumar Mangalam Birla, Member, SEBI Board to promote and raise the standard of Corporate Governance in respect of listed companies. The SEBI Board in its meeting held on January 25, 2000 considered the recommendation of the Committee and decided to make the amendments to the listing agreement.

#### **Tim Cook**

Tim Cook is the CEO of the most valuable company in the world, Apple. He took over Apple after the company's founder, Steve Jobs, succumbed to cancer in 2011. Cook has helped navigate Apple through the transition after Jobs' death as well as developing new product lines and opening Apple retail stores in China. He has also led a very public battle against the FBI and their demand that Apple creates a backdoor for users' iPhones.

#### **Bill Gates**

Gates founded Microsoft, the world's largest PC software company, and each year, he is consistently near the top of the list of the world's wealthiest people. Over the years, Gates has slowly transitioned away from Microsoft and into philanthropic ventures. His foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is working to provide clean water and sanitation (among other things) to third-world countries. Like Warren Buffett, Gates has also promised to leave the vast majority of his wealth to charity.

**Elon Musk**

Elon Musk was born in South Africa and is a businessman, inventor, and investor. Musk is most widely known for his founding of PayPal and SpaceX and his heavy involvement in Tesla Motors. His vision and passion for pushing the boundaries of technology and consumer integration have led to increased exposure to solar power, high-speed transportation, and artificial intelligence.

**Warren Buffett**

Warren Buffett is one of the most successful investors in the world. Some people have referred to him as the “Wizard of Omaha” (his birthplace is Omaha, Nebraska) and he is consistently named as one of the wealthiest people in the world. He has also pledged to give away nearly 99% of his accumulated wealth to philanthropic causes after his death.

**LEADERS****Narendra Modi**

Shri Narendra Modi was sworn-in as India’s Prime Minister on 30th May 2019, marking the start of his second term in office. The first ever Prime Minister to be born after Independence, Shri Modi has previously served as the Prime Minister of India from 2014 to 2019. He also has the distinction of being the longest serving Chief Minister of Gujarat with his term spanning from October 2001 to May 2014.

Beyond politics, Narendra Modi enjoys writing. He has authored several books, including poetry. He begins his day with Yoga, which strengthens his body and mind and instills the power of calmness in an otherwise fast-paced routine.

*(For more updates, please refer <https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/pms-profile/>)*

**Joe Biden**

Joe Biden is an American politician and also the 46th and current president of the United States. A member of the Democratic Party, he served as the 47th vice president from 2009 to 2017 under Barack Obama and represented Delaware in the United States Senate from 1973 to 2009. He contested the 2020 Presidential polls against Donald Trump, along with Kamala Harris as his running mate.

Biden, 77, was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in 1942. In 1972, at the age 29, he became one of the youngest people ever elected to the US Senate. He went on to serve as a six-term senator from Delaware.

His early presidential activity centered around proposing, lobbying for, and signing into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to speed up the United States’ recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing recession, as well as a series of executive orders. Biden’s orders addressed the pandemic and reversed several Trump administration policies, which included rejoining the Paris Agreement on climate change and reaffirming protections for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. In April 2021, Biden announced the withdrawal of all US troops from Afghanistan by September 2021.

*(For more updates, please refer <https://www.business-standard.com/about/who-is-joe-biden#collapse>)*

**Vladimir Putin**

Vladimir Putin has served three terms and is currently in a fourth as President of Russia (2000–2004, 2004–2008, 2012–2018 and May 2018 to present) and served as Acting President from 1999 to 2000, succeeding Boris Yeltsin after Yeltsin’s resignation. Putin was also Prime Minister for three months in 1999 and served a full term from 2008 to 2012.

*For more updates, please refer [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia\\_under\\_Vladimir\\_Putin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia_under_Vladimir_Putin)*

## BOOKS AND THEIR AUTHORS

- **World Book Day, 2022**

World Book Day was created by UNESCO on 23rd April 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading. It is marked in over 100 countries around the globe.

The first World Book Day in the UK and Ireland took place in 1997 to encourage young people to discover the pleasure of reading.

As World Book Day founder, Baroness Gail Reubuck, recalls “We wanted to do something to reposition reading and our message is the same today as it was then – that reading is fun, relevant, accessible, exciting, and has the power to transform lives.”

This year is the 25th year there’s been a World Book Day, and on 3rd March 2022, children of all ages will come together to share the joy of reading for pleasure.

- **Gandhi Topi Governor**

Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu has released the Telugu book titled ‘Gandhi Topi Governor’ by Padma Awardee Dr. Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad, Chairman, Official Language Commission, Andhra Pradesh on December 15, 2021. The book chronicles the life of barrister Edpuganti Raghavendra Rao. Shri Rao was a prominent freedom fighter, legislator, and governor of the Central Provinces in the British administration. Shri Raghavendra Rao, even while working in the British government, continued his struggle for self-governance and Swaraj. As a governor, he also promoted khadi by using it himself and served as an exemplar for others.

Releasing the book ‘Gandhitopi Governor’ by the Chairman, Official Language Commission, Andhra Pradesh, Shri Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad at Upa Rashtrapati Nivas, the Vice President said “distortions” about India’s history need to be removed and a faithful dispassionate recounting of facts is needed for the younger generation to know about real history in its authentic form.

For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1781847>

- **‘Karmayoddha Granth’ on the life of PM Narendra Modi**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah released the book 'Karmyodha Granth', written on the life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on January 07, 2020. The book explains various works by PM Narendra Modi during his tenure. As per the book, Narendra Modi gave the states 10% of more budget which reflects the fulfilment of Antyodaya resolution of Pandit Deendayal.

The book informs that Health facilities are being provided to the people under Ayushman Yojana which was a dream project of Narendra Modi.

- **Turbulence and Triumph: The Modi Years by Rahul Agarwal and Bharathi S Pradhan**

A pictorial book traces the journey of Narendra Modi from his days as a young boy from Vadnagar in Gujarat to New Delhi's 7, Lok Kalyan Marg as the 14th Prime Minister of India. The book titled Turbulence and Triumph: The Modi Years authored by Rahul Agarwal and Bharathi S Pradhan is replete with anecdotes from family, friends, colleagues, associates, testimonials of leaders from India and the world across party lines. It is published by Om Books International. The politician, the leader, the orator and the ascetic committed to the idea of a new India composed into a single frame by the authors.

- **Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924 by Vikram Sampath**

Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924 book describes the life of freedom fighter and Philosopher Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. He was popularly known as Veer Savarkar.

The first volume of the two-volume series covers the life of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (Veer Savarkar). It expresses and explains the incidents from his birth in 1883 to his conditional release to Ratnagiri in 1924. The uniqueness of the new book is the historian Vikram Sampath brought out the often missed aspects of politician Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's life and times.

- **Listening, Learning and Leading by Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu**

The book 'Listening, Learning and Leading' was launched by Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah on August 11, 2019 at Chennai. This book is based on the Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu's two years in office. The book captures glimpses of the Vice President's 330 public engagements across the country during this period. This book gives a glimpse of his life after assuming the office of the Vice President of India.

- **Vivekadeepini by Adi Shankaracharya**

Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled Vivekadeepini, a concise book of aphorisms on July 07, 2019. It was initially written by Adi Shankaracharya who is one of India's greatest spiritual and literary geniuses.

Vivekadeepini is a summary of Prashnottara Ratnamalika written by Adi Shankaracharya. The book has compiled a select 36 verses drawn from 67 verses of Prashnottara Ratnamalika. The verses are written in Question-Answer format. It contains universal truths and is the starting point for reflection. The book has been translated into ten languages namely English, Hindi, Bengali, Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Marathi Gujarati and Odia. It has shown glimpses of India's wisdom in most lucid language. The Vice President in the book has stressed the need to create a society that actually demonstrates 'share and care', which was the core of Indian philosophy.

## SPORTS

### NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS 2021

Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced the National Sports Awards 2021 on November 02, 2021. The awardees received their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at the Darbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan on 13th November, 2021 (Saturday). National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports.

**'Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award'** is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of the previous four years.

**'Arjuna Award for outstanding performance in Sports and Games'** is given for good performance over a period of the previous four years and showing qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.

**'Dronacharya Award for outstanding coaches in Sports and Games'** is given to coaches for doing outstanding and meritorious work on a consistent basis and enabling sportspersons to excel in International events.

**'Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime achievement in Sports and Games'** is given to honour sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and continue to contribute to the promotion of sports events after their retirement.

**'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar'** is given to corporate entities (both in private and public sector), sports control boards, NGOs including sports bodies at the State and National level who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.

#### Key Highlights

- Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2021 was given to 12 Sports persons
- 35 Sports persons received Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2021
- Overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments is given Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy.

#### (i) Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2021

S. No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Neeraj Chopra	Athletics
2.	Ravi Kumar	Wrestling
3.	Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing
4.	Sreejesh P.R	Hockey
5.	Avani Lekhara	Para Shooting
6.	Sumit Antil	Para Athletics
7.	Pramod Bhagat	Para Badminton
8.	Krishna Nagar	Para Badminton
9.	Manish Narwal	Para Shooting
10.	Mithali Raj	Cricket
11.	Sunil Chhetri	Football
12.	Manpreet Singh	Hockey

**(ii) Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2021**

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Sportsperson</i>	<i>Discipline</i>
1.	Arpinder Singh	Athletics
2.	Simranjit Kaur	Boxing
3.	Shikhar Dhawan	Cricket
4.	Bhavani Devi Chadalavada Anandha Sundhararaman	Fencing
5.	Monika	Hockey
6.	Vandana Katariya	Hockey
7.	Sandeep Narwal	Kabaddi
8.	Himani Uttam Parab	Mallakhamb
9.	Abhishek Verma	Shooting
10.	Ankita Raina	Tennis
11.	Deepak Punia	Wrestling
12.	Dilpreet Singh	Hockey
13.	Harman Preet Singh	Hockey
14.	Rupinder Pal Singh	Hockey
15.	Surender Kumar	Hockey
16.	Amit Rohidas	Hockey
17.	Birendra Lakra	Hockey
18.	Sumit	Hockey
19.	Nilakanta Sharma	Hockey
20.	Hardik Singh	Hockey
21.	Vivek Sagar Prasad	Hockey
22.	Gurjant Singh	Hockey
23.	Mandeep Singh	Hockey
24.	Shamsher Singh	Hockey
25.	Lalit Kumar Upadhyay	Hockey
26.	Varun Kumar	Hockey
27.	Simranjeet Singh	Hockey
28.	Yogesh Kathuniya	Para Athletics

29.	Nishad Kumar	Para Athletics
30.	Praveen Kumar	Para Athletics
31.	Suhash Yathiraj	Para Badminton
32.	Singhraj Adhana	Para Shooting
33.	Bhavina Patel	Para Table Tennis
34.	Harvinder Singh	Para Archery
35.	Sharad Kumar	Para Athletics

**(iii) Dronacharya Award for outstanding coaches in Sports and Games 2021**

**A. Life-Time Category**

S. No.	Name of the Coach	Discipline
1.	T. P. Ouseph	Athletics
2.	Sarkar Talwar	Cricket
3.	Sarpal Singh	Hockey
4.	Ashan Kumar	Kabaddi
5.	Tapan Kumar Panigrahi	Swimming

**B. Regular Category**

S. No.	Name of the Coach	Discipline
1.	Radhakrishnan Nair P	Athletics
2.	Sandhya Gurung	Boxing
3.	Pritam Siwach	Hockey
4.	Jai Prakash Nautiyal Para	Shooting
5.	Subramanian Raman	Table Tennis

**(iv) Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime achievement in Sports and Games 2021**

S.No.	Name	Discipline
1.	Lekha K.C.	Boxing
2.	Abhijeet Kunte	Chess
3.	Davinder Singh Garcha	Hockey
4.	Vikas Kumar	Kabaddi
5.	Sajjan Singh	Wrestling

**(v) Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2021**

S.No.	Category	Entity recommended for Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar, 2021
1.	Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent	Manav Rachna Educational Institution
2.	Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility	Indian Oil Corporation Limited

**(vi) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2021**

*Panjab University - Chandigarh*

- **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 Schedule: India to open T20 WC campaign against Pakistan on October 23 at MCG**

ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 schedule has been released and India will begin its ICC T20 World Cup 2022 campaign against Pakistan on October 23, 2022, at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

As per the fixture of ICC Men's T20 World Cup released by the International Cricket Council (ICC), the Rohit Sharma-led Indian squad will face the runner-up of Group A and South Africa on October 27 and October 30, 2022, respectively. Indian team's last league games will be against Bangladesh on November 2 and the winner of Group B on November 6, 2022.

The upcoming T20 World Cup 2022 will follow the same format as the 2021 edition where the Australian team had emerged victorious, beating New Zealand in the finals in Dubai in November 2021.

In Men's T20 World Cup 2022, 45 matches will be played with 16 teams in contention for the silverware across the seven venues in Australia- Melbourne, Perth, Hobart, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Geelong.

The Super 12s will conclude on November 6, 2022. The first semi-final of the T20 World Cup 2022 will be played at the Sydney Cricket Ground on November 9 and will be followed by the second semi-final in Adelaide on November 10.

Melbourne will host the final match of ICC T20 World Cup 2022 on November 13, 2022.

Ref: <https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/icc-mens-t20-world-cup-2022-check-full-schedule-fixture-groups-super-12-stages-1642756937-1>

- **Women's Cricket World Cup, 2022**

The 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup is the twelfth edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup, which is being held in New Zealand in March and April 2022. It was originally scheduled for 6 February to 7 March 2021 but was postponed by one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On 15 December 2021, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that the tournament would start on 4 March 2022, with the final scheduled for 3 April 2022.

New Zealand qualified automatically as hosts, with all other qualification places determined by the ICC WODI Rankings. Originally, it was announced that three more teams would qualify from the 2017–2020 ICC Women's Championship, but in 2018 this was changed to four teams plus the hosts. It was intended that the remaining three places would be determined through the 2021



Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier, which was postponed from 2020. However, the tournament was cancelled midway through and the remaining places allocated based on WODI rankings.

### Qualification

On 27 November 2021, the ICC announced that the 2021 Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier had been called off due to concerns of a new COVID variant and travel restrictions. Per the ICC's playing conditions, the three remaining qualification slots were based on the team's rankings, therefore Bangladesh, Pakistan and the West Indies progressed to the 2022 Women's Cricket World Cup.

<i>Team</i>	<i>Mode of Qualification</i>
New Zealand	Hosts
Australia	Women's Championship
England	Women's Championship
South Africa	Women's Championship
India	Women's Championship
Bangladesh	ICC ODI Rankings
Pakistan	ICC ODI Rankings
West Indies	ICC ODI Rankings

Ref: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022\\_Women%27s\\_Cricket\\_World\\_Cup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022_Women%27s_Cricket_World_Cup)

### List of Indian Medallists at Tokyo Paralympics (September 05, 2021)

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi said that in the history of Indian sports, the Tokyo Paralympics will always have a special place. He said every member of our contingent is a champion and source of inspiration.

The Prime Minister appreciated the coaches, support staff and families of our athletes for their constant support to the players. He also lauded the people of Japan, particularly Tokyo and the Japanese Government for their exceptional hospitality, eye for detail and spreading the much needed message of resilience and togetherness through these Olympics.

(Ref: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1752321>)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Sport</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Medal</i>
Sumit Antil	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw - F64	GOLD
Pramod Bhagat	Badminton	Men's Singles SL3	GOLD
Krishna Nagar	Badminton	Men's Singles SH6	GOLD
Manish Narwal	Shooting	P4 - Mixed 50m Pistol SH1	GOLD
Avani Lekhara	Shooting	R2 - Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1	GOLD
Yogesh Kathuniya	Athletics	Men's Discus Throw - F56	SILVER
Nishad Kumar	Athletics	Men's High Jump - T47	SILVER
Mariyappan Thangavelu	Athletics	Men's High Jump - T63	SILVER

Praveen Kumar	Athletics	Men's High Jump - T64	SILVER
Devendra Jhajharia	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw - F46	SILVER
Suhas Yathiraj	Badminton	Men's Singles SL4	SILVER
Singhraj Adhana	Shooting	P4 - Mixed 50m Pistol SH1	SILVER
Bhavina Patel	Table Tennis	Women's Singles - Class 4	SILVER
Harvinder Singh	Archery	Men's Individual Recurve - Open	BRONZE
Sharad Kumar	Athletics	Men's High Jump - T63	BRONZE
Sundar Singh Gurjar	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw - F46	BRONZE
Manoj Sarkar	Badminton	Men's Singles SL3	BRONZE
Singhraj Adhana	Shooting	P1 - Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1	BRONZE
Avani Lekhara	Shooting	R8 - Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions SH1	BRONZE

For details:

<https://scroll.in/field/1004597/tokyo-paralympics-full-list-of-indias-medals-from-an-unprecedented-campaign>

### Common Wealth Games Federation

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) is the organisation responsible for the direction and control of the Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games, and for delivering on the vision of the Commonwealth Sports Movement to build peaceful, sustainable and prosperous communities globally by inspiring Commonwealth Athletes to drive the impact and ambition of all Commonwealth Citizens through Sport.

It is an organisation headquartered and incorporated in the UK, but working across 71 member nations and territories. The CGF is based at Commonwealth House on London's Pall Mall alongside, and working closely with, colleagues from the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Royal Commonwealth Society and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum.

Next Commonwealth games will be hosted by England (July 28-August 08) at Birmingham. The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games will demonstrate the very best of Global Britain to the world, showcasing the region's strengths of being connected and accessible; youth and inclusivity; and a focus on regeneration and rejuvenation. Birmingham is perfectly positioned to attract people to the Games and to ensure that the benefits of hosting extend from the city and region, to the UK and the Commonwealth.

### Key Facts

**Host** - England

**Countries** - 72 (TBC)

**Events** - 283 medal events

**Athletes** - +4500

(For more updates, please visit <https://thecgf.com/games/birmingham-2022>)

### Olympic Games

#### Winter Olympic Games February 4-20, 2022 in Beijing, China

The 2022 Winter Olympics, officially called the XXIV Olympic Winter Games and commonly known as Beijing 2022 was an international winter multi-sport event held between 4 and 20 February 2022 in Beijing, China, and surrounding areas with competition in selected events beginning 2 February 2022.

Beijing was selected as host city in 2015 at the 128th IOC Session in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, marking its second time hosting the Olympics, and the last of three consecutive Olympics hosted in East Asia. Having

previously hosted the 2008 Summer Olympics, Beijing became the first city to have hosted both the Summer and Winter Olympics. The venues for the Games were concentrated upon Beijing, its suburb Yanqing District, and Zhangjiakou, with some events (including the ceremonies and curling) repurposing venues originally built for Beijing 2008 (such as Beijing National Stadium and the Beijing National Aquatics Centre).

The Games featured a record 109 events across 15 disciplines, with big air freestyle skiing and women's monobob making their Olympic debuts as medal events, as well as several new mixed competitions. A total of 2,871 athletes representing 91 teams competed in the Games, with Haiti and Saudi Arabia making their Winter Olympic debut.

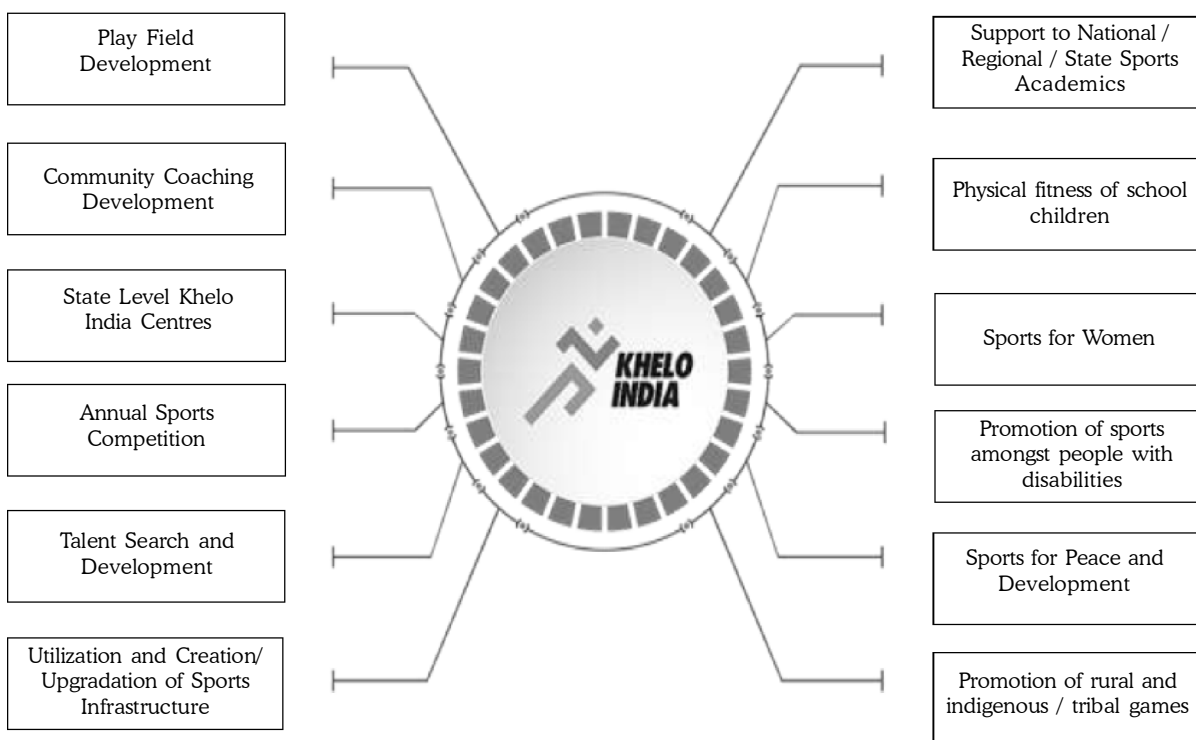
Beijing's hosting of the Games was subject to various concerns and controversies including those related to human rights violations in China, such as the Uyghur genocide, which led to calls for a boycott of the games.<sup>[2][3]</sup> Like the Summer Olympics held six months earlier in Tokyo, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the implementation of health and safety protocols, including restrictions on public attendance at the Games, as well as the non-participation of some nations.

Norway finished at the top of the medal table for the second successive Winter Olympics, winning a total of 37 medals, of which 16 were gold, setting a new record for the largest number of gold medals won at a single Winter Olympics. The host nation China finished third with nine gold medals (albeit eleventh by total medals), marking their most successful performance in Winter Olympics history.

### **Khelo India Youth Games Programme**

The Khelo India programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in our country and to establish India as a great sporting nation.

To accomplish the above objectives, Khelo India programme has been divided into 12 verticals, namely:



(For more information, please visit <https://kheloindia.gov.in/about>)

## LANGUAGES AND NATIONAL SYMBOLS

### LANGUAGES

Today, 7,151 languages are spoken in the world and interestingly, just 23 languages account for more than half the world's population.

#### **Languages in India**

##### **Official Language or Languages of a State (Article 345 of Constitution of India)**

Subject to the provisions of articles 346 and 347, the legislature of a State may by law adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the State or Hindi as the Language or Languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes of that State: Provided that, until the Legislature of the State otherwise provides by law, the English language shall continue to be used for those official purposes within the State for which it was being used immediately before the commencement of this Constitution.

The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution consists of the following 22 languages:-

(1) Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Gujarati, (4) Hindi, (5) Kannada, (6) Kashmiri, (7) Konkani, (8) Malayalam, (9) Manipuri, (10) Marathi, (11) Nepali, (12) Oriya, (13) Punjabi, (14) Sanskrit, (15) Sindhi, (16) Tamil, (17) Telugu, (18) Urdu (19) Bodo, (20) Santhali, (21) Maithili and (22) Dogri.

Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution. Sindhi language was added in 1967. Thereafter three more languages viz., Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were included in 1992. Subsequently Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added in 2004.

##### **Official languages for Communication between one State and another or between a State and the Union (Article 346 of Constitution of India)**

The language for the time being authorised for use in the Union for official purposes shall be the official language for communication between one State and another State and between a State and the Union: Provided that if two or more States agree that the Hindi language should be the official language for communication between such States, that language may be used for such communication.

##### **Special provision relating to language spoken by a section of the population of a State (Article 346 of Constitution of India)**

On a demand being made in that behalf the President may, if he is satisfied that a substantial proportion of the population of a State desire the use of any language spoken by them to be recognised by that state, direct that such language shall also be officially recognised throughout that State or any part thereof for such purpose as he may specify.

As per Ethnologue, the number of individual languages listed for India is 460. Of these, 447 are living and 13 are extinct. Of the living languages, 419 are indigenous and 28 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 64 are institutional, 119 are developing, 138 are vigorous, 112 are in trouble, and 14 are dying. Hindi is one of the main language of India and is spoken by around 40% of the Indian population.

*(For the country wise details of languages and other statistical information, please visit <https://www.ethnologue.com/browse/countries>)*

#### **Languages in News**

- **International Mother Language Day, 2022**

International Mother Language Day is celebrated across the globe on 21st February to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. Every year a unique

theme is chosen by UNESCO to celebrate this special day. The theme of 2022 is: "Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities", it focuses on the potential role of technology to advance multilingual education and support the development of quality teaching and learning for all.

UNESCO has identified over 7000 languages that are used (read, written and spoken) in different countries across the world and 21st February has been marked to celebrate this 'Multilinguism'. MHRD also observed Matribhasha Diwas on 21st Feb to highlight the linguistic diversity of our country.

- **Ministry of Culture celebrates International Mother Language Day as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

Ministry of Culture, Government of India in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and UNESCO New Delhi Cluster Office organised a two-day event on the occasion of International Mother Language Day, under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at Indira Gandhi National Center of Arts, New Delhi.

*Importance for India*

India celebrated its cultural heritage under the aegis of 'Unity in Diversity' principle and languages are not an exception to this. India has 22 officially recognised languages, 1635 rationalised mother tongues, 234 identifiable mother tongues, according to Census 2001. This makes International Mother Language Day especially significant in the Indian context. Especially, with this year's theme being 'Languages without borders', it gives the diverse linguistic heritage of India to showcase its strength of how it has managed to house so many languages within the same geographic boundaries and used it as a tool to facilitate dialogue for conflict resolution.

- **National Hindi Divas**

Hindi Diwas is celebrated every year on September 14, marking the significance of the day when the country's Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi as the official language of India. Hindi, which is written in the Devanagiri script, is one of the 22 scheduled languages of the country. Hindi is one of the official languages of the Union Government, with the other being English. Hindi Diwas is celebrated across the country by schools through poems, stories and cultural as well as literary programmes held to educate children. Social media users also take the opportunity to share quotes and poems to celebrate Hindi Diwas.

According to the organization Ethnologue, Hindi is the third most spoken language in the world.

The President of the country on this day presents the Rajbhasha awards in Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan to those who have contributed immensely to the growth and promotion of Hindi.

*Inclusion of Nepali and Santhali languages in the Scheme for grant of Senior/Junior Fellowships of Ministry of Culture and Tourism*

The Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism Shri Prahlad Singh Patel informed that 2 languages- Nepali and Santhali from the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution will be included in the Sub-Field of Field 'Literature' in the scheme component 'Award of Senior/Junior Fellowships to Outstanding Artistes in the Fields of Culture'. The Ministry of Culture regulates a scheme component namely Award of Senior/Junior Fellowships to Outstanding Artistes in the Fields of Culture. The Nodal Institute for handling the Scheme of Sr. /Jr. Fellowship till selection process is the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT), Dwarka, Gujarat.

## NATIONAL SYMBOLS

National Symbols are intrinsic to the Indian identity and heritage. Indians of all demographic backgrounds across the world are proud of these National Symbols as they infuse a sense of pride and patriotism in every Indian's heart.



### **National Flag**

The National Flag is a horizontal tricolour of deep saffron (kesaria) at the top, white in the middle and dark green at the bottom in equal proportion. The ratio of width of the flag to its length is two to three. In the centre of the white band is a navy-blue wheel having 24 spokes which represents the chakra.

The top saffron colour, indicates the strength and courage of the country. The white middle band indicates peace and truth with Dharma Chakra. The green shows the fertility, growth and auspiciousness of the land.

Its design is that of the wheel which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka. Its diameter approximates to the width of the white band and it has 24 spokes. The design of the National Flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on 22 July 1947.

### **National Currency**

Indian Rupee is the official currency of the Republic of India and controlled by the Reserve Bank of India. The new symbol was officially adopted in 2010 and started in circulation on 8 July 2011.



### **State Emblem**



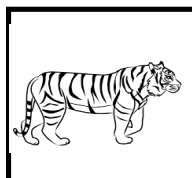
The state emblem is an adaptation from the Sarnath Lion Capital of Ashoka. In the original, there are four lions, standing back to back, mounted on an abacus with a frieze carrying sculptures in high relief of an elephant, a galloping horse, a bull and a lion separated by intervening wheels over a bell-shaped lotus. Carved out of a single block of polished sandstone, the Capital is crowned by the Wheel of the Law (Dharma Chakra).

### **National Bird**

The Indian peacock, *Pavo cristatus*, the National Bird of India, is a colourful, swan-sized bird, with a fan-shaped crest of feathers, a white patch under the eye and a long, slender neck. The male of the species is more colourful than the female, with a glistening blue breast and neck and a spectacular bronze-green tail of around 200 elongated feathers. The female is brownish, slightly smaller than the male and lacks the tail. The elaborate courtship dance of the male, fanning out the tail and preening its feathers is a gorgeous sight.



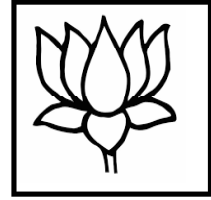
### **National Animal**



The magnificent tiger, *Panthera tigris* is a striped animal. It has a thick yellow coat of fur with dark stripes. The combination of grace, strength, agility and enormous power has earned the tiger its pride of place as the national animal of India.

### **National Flower**

Lotus (*Nelumbo Nucifera Gaertn*) is the National Flower of India. It is a sacred flower and occupies a unique position in the art and mythology of ancient India and has been an auspicious symbol of Indian culture since time immemorial.

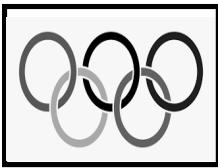


India is rich in flora. Currently available data place India in the tenth position in the world and fourth in Asia in plant diversity. From about 70 per cent geographical area surveyed so far, 47,000 species of plants have been described by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI).

(For more details, please visit, <https://knowindia.gov.in/national-identity-elements/>)

### **Olympic Symbol**

#### *Definition*



“The Olympic symbol consists of five interlaced rings of equal dimensions (the Olympic rings), used alone, in one or in five different colours. When used in its five-colour version, these colours shall be, from left to right, blue, yellow, black, green and red. The rings are interlaced from left to right; the blue, black and red rings are situated at the top, the yellow and green rings at the bottom in accordance with the following graphic reproduction.” (Olympic Charter, Rule 8)

#### *Meaning*

“The Olympic symbol expresses the activity of the Olympic Movement and represents the union of the five continents and the meeting of athletes from throughout the world at the Olympic Games.” (Olympic Charter, Rule 8).

Some other symbols used in Olympic are as under :



## AWARDS AND HONOUR

### History and Relevance

The Government of India instituted two civilian awards-Bharat Ratna & Padma Vibhushan in 1954. The latter had three classes namely Pahela Varg, Dusra Varg and Tisra Varg. These were subsequently renamed as Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri vide Presidential Notification issued on January 8, 1955.

### Bharat Ratna

Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the country. It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour. It is treated on a different footing from Padma Award. The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister to the President of India. No formal recommendations for Bharat Ratna are necessary. The number of Bharat Ratna Awards is restricted to a maximum of three in a particular year. Government has conferred Bharat Ratna Award on 48 persons as on September 25, 2019. Shri Pranab Mukherjee (Veteran Leader and Statesman-13th President of India and Former Minister of Finance, Defense and External Affairs), Shri Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumously) (Veteran Social Worker whose work in the fields of education, health and particularly rural development built a new paradigm for empowering our villages), Shri Bhupen Hazarika (posthumously) (Legendary singer, lyricist, and poet whose music radiated the message of justice, harmony and brotherhood- popularised India's musical traditions globally) were the recipient of the Award for the year 2019.

### Padma Awards

The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honours of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day. The award seeks to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.

The Padma Awards are conferred on the recommendations made by the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year. The nomination process is open to the public. Even self-nomination can be made.

Padma Awards, which were instituted in the year 1954, is announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day except for brief interruption(s) during the years 1978 and 1979 and 1993 to 1997.

The award is given in three categories, namely,

- Padma Vibhushan *for exceptional and distinguished service;*
- Padma Bhushan *for distinguished service of a high order;* and
- Padma Shri *for distinguished service.*

All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these awards. However, Government servants including those working with PSUs, except doctors and scientists, are not eligible for these Awards.

The award seeks to recognize works of distinction and is given for distinguished and exceptional achievements/service in all fields of activities/disciplines.

These awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year. In the year 2022, the President has approved conferment of 128 Padma Awards including 2 duo case (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one) as per list below. The list comprises 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri Awards. 34 of the awardees



are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 Posthumous awardees.

The complete list is placed below:

#### **Padma Vibhushan (4)**

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>State / Country</i>
1	Ms. Prabha Atre	Art	Maharashtra
2	Shri Radheyshyam Khemka <b>(Posthumous)</b>	Literature and Education	Uttar Pradesh
3	General Bipin Rawat <b>(Posthumous)</b>	Civil Service	Uttarakhand
4	Shri Kalyan Singh <b>(Posthumous)</b>	Public Affairs	Uttar Pradesh

#### **Padma Bhushan (17)**

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>State / Country</i>
1.	Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad	Public Affairs	Jammu and Kashmir
2.	Shri Victor Banerjee	Art	West Bengal
3.	Ms. Gurmeet Bawa <b>(Posthumous)</b>	Art	Punjab
4.	Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee	Public Affairs	West Bengal
5.	Shri Natarajan Chandrasekaran	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
6.	Shri Krishna Ella and Smt. Suchitra Ella* (Duo)	Trade and Industry	Telangana
7.	Ms. Madhur Jaffery	Others-Culinary	United States of America
8.	Shri Devendra Jhajharia	Sports	Rajasthan
9.	Shri Rashid Khan	Art	Uttar Pradesh
10.	Shri Rajiv Mehrishi	Civil Service	Rajasthan
11.	Shri Satya Narayana Nadella	Trade and Industry	United States of America
12.	Shri Sundararajan Pichai	Trade and Industry	United States of America
13.	Shri Cyrus Poonawalla	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
14.	Shri Sanjaya Rajaram <b>(Posthumous)</b>	Science and Engineering	Mexico

15.	Ms. Pratibha Ray	Literature and Education	Odisha
16.	Swami Sachidanand	Literature and Education	Gujarat
17.	Shri Vashishth Tripathi	Literature and Education	Uttar Pradesh

**Padma Shri (107)**

S.No.	Name	Field	State / Country
1.	Shri Prahlad Rai Agarwala	Trade and Industry	West Bengal
2.	Prof. Najma Akhtar	Literature and Education	Delhi
3.	Shri Sumit Antil	Sports	Haryana
4.	Shri T Senka Ao	Literature and Education	Nagaland
5.	Ms. Kamalini Asthana and Ms. Nalini Asthana* (Duo)	Art	Uttar Pradesh
6.	Shri Subbanna Ayyappan	Science and Engineering	Karnataka
7.	Shri J K Bajaj	Literature and Education	Delhi
8.	Shri Sirpi Balasubramaniam	Literature and Education	Tamil Nadu
9.	Srimad Baba Balia	Social Work	Odisha
10.	Ms. Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay	Science and Engineering	West Bengal
11.	Ms. Madhuri Barthwal	Art	Uttarakhand
12.	Shri Akhone Asgar Ali Basharat	Literature and Education	Ladakh
13.	Dr. Himmatrao Bawaskar	Medicine	Maharashtra
14.	Shri Harmohinder Singh Bedi	Literature and Education	Punjab
15.	Shri Pramod Bhagat	Sports	Odisha
16.	Shri S Balleash Bhajantri	Art	Tamil Nadu
17.	Shri Khandu Wangchuk Bhutia	Art	Sikkim
18.	Shri Maria Christopher Byrski	Literature and Education	Poland
19.	Acharya Chandanaji	Social Work	Bihar
20.	Ms. Sulochana Chavan	Art	Maharashtra
21.	Shri Neeraj Chopra	Sports	Haryana
22.	Ms. Shakuntala Choudhary	Social Work	Assam
23.	Shri Sankaranarayana Menon Chundayil	Sports	Kerala
24.	Shri S Damodaran	Social Work	Tamil Nadu

25.	Shri Faisal Ali Dar	Sports	Jammu and Kashmir
26.	Shri Jagjit Singh Dardi	Trade and Industry	Chandigarh
27.	Dr. Prokar Dasgupta	Medicine	United Kingdom
28.	Shri Aditya Prasad Dash	Science and Engineering	Odisha
29.	Dr. Lata Desai	Medicine	Gujarat
30.	Shri Malji bhai Desai	Public Affairs	Gujarat
31.	Ms. Basanti Devi	Social Work	Uttarakhand
32.	Ms. Lourembam Bino Devi	Art	Manipur
33.	Ms. Muktamani Devi	Trade and Industry	Manipur
34.	Ms. Shyamamani Devi	Art	Odisha
35.	Shri Khalil Dhantejvi <b>(Posthumous)</b>	Literature and Education	Gujarat
36.	Shri Savaji Bhai Dholakia	Social Work	Gujarat
37.	Shri Arjun Singh Dhurve	Art	Madhya Pradesh
38.	Dr. Vijaykumar Vinayak Dongre	Medicine	Maharashtra
39.	Shri Chandraprakash Dwivedi	Art	Rajasthan
40.	Shri Dhaneswar Engti	Literature and Education	Assam
41.	Shri Om Prakash Gandhi	Social Work	Haryana
42.	Shri Narasimha Rao Garikapati	Literature and Education	Andhra Pradesh
43.	Shri Girdhari Ram Ghonju <b>(Posthumous)</b>	Literature and Education	Jharkhand
44.	Shri Shaibal Gupta <b>(Posthumous)</b>	Literature and Education	Bihar
45.	Shri Narasingha Prasad Guru	Literature and Education	Odisha
46.	Shri Gosaveedu Shaik Hassan <b>(Posthumous)</b>	Art	Andhra Pradesh
47.	Shri Ryuko Hira	Trade and Industry	Japan
48.	Ms. Sosamma Iype	Others - Animal Husbandry	Kerala
49.	Shri Avadh Kishore Jadia	Literature and Education	Madhya Pradesh
50.	Ms. Sowcar Janaki	Art	Tamil Nadu
51.	Ms. Tara Jauhar	Literature and Education	Delhi
52.	Ms. Vandana Kataria	Sports	Uttarakhand
53.	Shri H R Keshavamurthy	Art	Karnataka

54.	Shri Rutger Kortenhorst	Literature and Education	Ireland
55.	Shri P Narayana Kurup	Literature and Education	Kerala
56.	Ms. Avani Lekhara	Sports	Rajasthan
57.	Shri Moti Lal Madan	Science and Engineering	Haryana
58.	Shri Shivnath Mishra	Art	Uttar Pradesh
59.	Dr. Narendra Prasad Misra <b>(Posthumous)</b>	Medicine	Madhya Pradesh
60.	Shri Darshanam Mogilaiah	Art	Telangana
61.	Shri Guruprasad Mohapatra (Posthumous)	Civil Service	Delhi
62.	Shri Thavil Kongampattu A V Murugaiyan	Art	Puducherry
63.	Ms. R Muthukannammal	Art	Tamil Nadu
64.	Shri Abdul Khader Nadakattin	Others - Grassroots Innovation	Karnataka
65.	Shri Amai Mahalinga Naik	Others - Agriculture	Karnataka
66.	Shri Tsering Namgyal	Art	Ladakh
67.	Shri A K C Natarajan	Art	Tamil Nadu
68.	Shri V L Nghaka	Literature and Education	Mizoram
69.	Shri Sonu Nigam	Art	Maharashtra
70.	Shri Ram Sahay Panday	Art	Madhya Pradesh
71.	Shri Chirapat Prapandavidya	Literature and Education	Thailand
72.	Ms. K V Rabiya	Social Work	Kerala
73.	Shri Anil Kumar Rajvanshi	Science and Engineering	Maharashtra
74.	Shri Sheesh Ram	Art	Uttar Pradesh
75.	Shri Ramachandraiah	Art	Telangana
76.	Dr. Sunkara Venkata Adinarayana Rao	Medicine	Andhra Pradesh
77.	Ms. Gamit Ramilaben Raisingbhai	Social Work	Gujarat
78.	Ms. Padmaja Reddy	Art	Telangana
79.	Guru Tulku Rinpoche	Others - Spiritualism	Arunachal Pradesh
80.	Shri Brahmanand Sankhwalkar	Sports	Goa
81.	Shri Vidyanand Sarek	Literature and Education	Himachal Pradesh

82.	Shri Kali Pada Saren	Literature and Education	West Bengal
83.	Dr. Veeraswamy Seshiah	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
84.	Ms. Prabhaben Shah	Social Work	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
85.	Shri Dilip Shahani	Literature and Education	Delhi
86.	Shri Ram Dayal Sharma	Art	Rajasthan
87.	Shri Vishwamurti Shastri	Literature and Education	Jammu and Kashmir
88.	Ms. Tatiana Lvovna Shaumyan	Literature and Education	Russia
89.	Shri Siddhalingaiah <b>(Posthumous)</b>	Literature and Education	Karnataka
90.	Shri Kaajee Singh	Art	West Bengal
91.	Shri Konsam Ibomcha Singh	Art	Manipur
92.	Shri Prem Singh	Social Work	Punjab
93.	Shri Seth Pal Singh	Others - Agriculture	Uttar Pradesh
94.	Ms. Vidya Vindu Singh	Literature and Education	Uttar Pradesh
95.	Baba Iqbal Singh Ji	Social Work	Punjab
96.	Dr. Bhimsen Singhal	Medicine	Maharashtra
97.	Shri Sivananda	Others - Yoga	Uttar Pradesh
98.	Shri Ajay Kumar Sonkar	Science and Engineering	Uttar Pradesh
99.	Ms. Ajita Srivastava	Art	Uttar Pradesh
100.	Sadguru Brahmeshanand Acharya Swami	Others - Spiritualism	Goa
101.	Dr. Balaji Tambe <b>(Posthumous)</b>	Medicine	Maharashtra
102.	Shri Raghuvendra Tanwar	Literature and Education	Haryana
103.	Dr. Kamlakar Tripathi	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
104.	Ms. Lalita Vakil	Art	Himachal Pradesh
105.	Ms. Durga Bai Vyam	Art	Madhya Pradesh
106.	Shri Jyantkumar Maganlal Vyas	Science and Engineering	Gujarat
107.	Ms. Badaplin War	Literature and Education	Meghalaya

Note: \* In Duo case, the Award is counted as one.

- **Awards in the field of Cinema**

- **Dadasaheb Phalke Award**

To honour the Father of Indian Cinema, Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, the National Film Awards named the most prestigious and coveted award of Indian Cinema after him. He is the man who made the first Indian Feature film Raja Harishchandra in 1913. Popularly known as Dadasaheb Phalke, he then went on to make 95 films and 26 short films in a span of 19 years. The Dadasaheb Phalke Award was introduced in 1969 by the government to recognise the contribution of film personalities towards the development of Indian Cinema. The first recipient of this award was Devika Rani.

Dadasaheb Phalke Award is given to a film personality for his/her outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian Cinema. The award comprises of a Swarna Kamal, a cash Prize of Rs. 10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs) certificate, silk scroll and a shawl.

Best Film, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Role, and Best Negative Role, were among the other titles that were given to the personalities of the Indian film fraternity.

Here is a complete list of winners of Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022:

- Film of the Year Award: Pushpa: The Rise
- Best Film Award: Shershaah
- Best Actor Award: Ranveer Singh for film 83
- Best Actress Award: Kriti Sanon for film Mimi
- Outstanding Contribution to Films: Asha Parekh
- Critics Best Actor Award: Sidharth Malhotra
- Critics Best Actress Award: Kiara Advani
- Best Actor in Supporting Role Award: Satish Kaushik for film Kaagaz
- Best Actress in Supporting Role Award: Lara Dutta for film Bell-Bottom
- Best Actor in Negative Role Award: Aayush Sharma for film Antim: The Final Truth
- 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 Playback Singer Male Award: Vishal Mishra
- Best Playback Singer Female Award: Kanika Kapoor
- Critics Best Film Award: Sardar Udham Singh
- 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 Actor in Web Series Award: Manoj Bajpayee for The Family Man 2
- Best Actress in Web Series Award: Raveena Tandon for Aranyak
- Best Web Series Award: Candy
- Best Actor in Television Series Award: Shaheer Sheikh for Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi
- Best Actress in Television Series Award: Shraddha Arya for Kundali Bhagya

- Television Series of the Year Award: Anupama
- Most Promising Actor in Television Series Award: Dheeraj Dhoopar for Kundali Bhagya
- Most Promising Actress in Television Series Award: Rupali Ganguly for Anupama
- **ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance 2021**

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India organized the 21st edition of ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance, 2021, in Mumbai on 18th December 2021. Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Home Minister and Minister for Cooperation, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Hon'ble Justice, P Sathasivam, Jury Chairman and Former Chief Justice of India, was the Guest of Honour.

Acknowledging the efforts of the Institute for playing a pivotal role in promoting the cause of Good Corporate Governance, Shri Amit Shah said that "The growth of any nation depends on its strong governance structure and Company Secretaries have played a seminal role in India's growth trajectory". He further added that "the Government is reposing its faith and is giving the responsibility to Company Secretaries to establish a strong culture of Good Governance in India Inc. Hence, their role is more than just a job position. They have to be the important drivers in structuring the governance framework of the country".

Hon'ble Justice, P Sathasivam said "Appreciation is the greatest motivator and keeps the Corporates on its toes. ICSI has been doing a commendable job in ensuring that a strong governance culture permeates all across by introducing new categories every year".

Appreciating the ICSI for weaving in Good Governance in the Indian Corporate Sector, Mr. Deepak Parekh said "ICSI has raised the bar of Governance by imbibing good governance through the professional competence of its members. With the intent of creating an all-pervasive awareness for good governance in India INC., the award awakens, promotes and recognizes the exemplary performance of businesses and professionals in the field of corporate governance".

Acknowledging the leadership in promoting best Corporate Governance principles, the Institute conferred the ICSI Lifetime Achievement Award on Dr. Prathap C. Reddy, Founder Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited. The 21st ICSI National Award for Excellence in Corporate Governance for Best Governed Large Medium and Emerging Company in Listed and Unlisted Category, was presented to the following Companies:

- 1) HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited (Listed Company: Large Category)
- 2) Syngene International Limited (Listed Company: Medium Category)
- 3) EPL Limited (Listed Company: Emerging Category)
- 4) Mahindra Intertrade Limited (Unlisted Company: Medium Category)
- 5) Tata Consulting Engineers Limited (Unlisted Company: Emerging Category)

The 6th ICSI CSR Excellence Award for innovation and sustainability in managing Corporate Social Responsibility was presented to:

- 1) ITC Limited (Large Category)
- 2) Havells India Limited (Medium Category)
- 3) Minda Corporation Limited (Emerging Category)

The 3rd ICSI Best Secretarial Audit Report Award, recognizing the importance of the Secretarial

Audit Report as an effective tool of corporate compliance management, was awarded to CS Pramod Prasad Agarwal, for Secretarial Audit Report of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited.

This year the Institute introduced the ICSI Best PCS Firm Award to acknowledge professional excellence, based on efforts, ethics and efficiency, of a Company Secretary in Practice. The 1st ICSI Best PCS Firm Award was presented to SVJS & Associates.

The event also witnessed an insightful panel Discussion on “Good Governance – A Business Mandate” with Mr. Ashok Soota, Executive Chairman, Happiest Minds Technologies Limited, Prof. M.K. Chouhan, Chairman Mahindra & Young Knowledge Foundation and Ms. Shyamala Gopinath, former Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India.

- **Miss Universe 2021**

Miss Universe 2021 was the 70th Miss Universe pageant, held on December 12, 2021, at Universe Dome in Eilat, Israel. Andrea Meza of Mexico crowned Harnaaz Sandhu of India as her successor at the end of the event. This is India's first victory in 21 years, and its third in the history of the pageant.

The Miss Universe Organization (MUO) is a global, inclusive organization that celebrates women of all cultures and backgrounds and empowers them to realize their goals through experiences that build self- confidence and create opportunities for success.

*For details:*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miss\\_Universe\\_2021](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miss_Universe_2021)

<https://www.missuniverse.com/about>



## INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY

- **Quad Leaders' Summit**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited US in September 2021 for the first in-person Quad Leaders' Summit. During his visit, a bilateral meeting was held with US President Joe Biden. PM Modi was on a three-day visit to the United States, his first official visit to the country since Biden took the office. The Prime Minister of India held separate meetings with US vice-president Kamala Harris, Australian counterpart Scott Morrison, Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga, and the CEOs of five multinational companies. On the final day of the three-day visit, PM Modi addressed the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly before leaving for India.

On September 24, President Biden hosted Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, and Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga of Japan at the White House for the first-ever in-person Leaders' Summit of the Quad. The leaders had put forth ambitious initiatives that deepen our ties and advance practical cooperation on 21st-century challenges: ending the COVID-19 pandemic, including by increasing production and access to safe and effective vaccines; promoting high-standards infrastructure; combatting the climate crisis; partnering on emerging technologies, space, and cybersecurity; and cultivating next-generation talent in all of our countries.

### *COVID and Global Health*

Quad leaders recognized that the most immediate threat to lives and livelihoods in our four countries and the world is the COVID-19 pandemic. And so in March, Quad leaders launched the Quad Vaccine Partnership, to help enhance equitable access to safe and effective vaccines in the Indo-Pacific and the world. Since March, the Quad has taken bold actions to expand safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing capacity, donated vaccines from our own supply, and worked together to assist the Indo-Pacific in responding to the pandemic. The Quad Vaccine Experts Group remains the heart of our cooperation, meeting regularly to brief on the latest pandemic trends and coordinate our collective COVID-19 response across the Indo-Pacific, including by piloting the Quad Partnership COVID-19 Dashboard. We welcome President Biden's September 22 COVID-19 Summit, and acknowledge that our work continues.

### *Infrastructure*

Building on the G7's announcement of Build Back Better World (B3W)—an infrastructure partnership focused on digital connectivity, climate, health and health security, and gender equality infrastructure—the Quad will rally expertise, capacity, and influence to strengthen ongoing infrastructure initiatives in the region and identify new opportunities to meet the needs there.

### *Climate*

Quad countries share a serious concern with the August Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's report findings on the latest climate science, which has significant implications for climate action. To address the climate crisis with the urgency it demands, Quad countries will focus their efforts on the themes of climate ambition, including working on 2030 targets for national emissions and renewable energy, clean-energy innovation and deployment, as well as adaptation, resilience, and preparedness. Quad countries commit to pursue enhanced actions in the 2020s to meet anticipated energy demand and decarbonize at pace and scale to keep our climate goals within reach in the Indo-Pacific. Additional efforts include working together on methane abatement in the natural-gas sector and on establishing responsible and resilient clean-energy supply chains.

### *People-to-People Exchange and Education*

The students of today will be the leaders, innovators, and pioneers of tomorrow. To build ties among the next generation of scientists and technologists, Quad partners are proud to announce the Quad Fellowship: a first-of-its-kind scholarship program, operated and administered by a philanthropic initiative and in consultation with a non-governmental task force comprised of leaders from each Quad country. This program will bring together exceptional American, Japanese, Australian, and Indian masters and doctoral students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to study in the United States. This new fellowship will develop a network of science and technology experts committed to advancing innovation and collaboration in the private, public, and academic sectors, in their own nations and among Quad countries. The program will build a foundational understanding among Quad Scholars of one another's societies and cultures through cohort-wide trips to each Quad country and robust programming with each country's top scientists, technologists, and politicians.

### *Critical and Emerging Technologies*

Quad leaders are committed to working together to foster an open, accessible, and secure technology ecosystem. Since establishing a new critical and emerging technologies working group in March, we have organized our work around four efforts: technical standards, 5G diversification and deployment, horizon-scanning, and technology supply chains. Today, the Quad leaders launch a statement of principles on technology, along with new efforts that together will advance critical and emerging technologies shaped by our shared democratic values and respect for universal human rights.

### *Cybersecurity*

Building on longstanding collaboration among our four countries on cybersecurity, the Quad will launch new efforts to bolster critical-infrastructure resilience against cyber threats by bringing together the expertise of our nations to drive domestic and international best practices.

### *Space*

Quad countries are among the world's scientific leaders, including in space. Today, the Quad will begin space cooperation for the first time with a new working group. In particular, our partnership will exchange satellite data, focused on monitoring and adapting to climate change, disaster preparedness, and responding to challenges in shared domains.

- **PM inaugurates 'Maitri Setu' between India and Bangladesh**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Maitri Setu' between India and Bangladesh on March 09, 2021 through a video conference. He also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple infrastructure projects in Tripura. The Prime Minister informed that in the past 6 years, the central government has taken care of every requirement for the development of Tripura. He said there has been a significant hike in the central allocation for the state.

The Prime Minister dwelled on the benefits of 'double engine' governments. He pointed out that the states where there is no 'double engine' government, are witnessing non implementation of very slow progress of schemes for strengthening the poor, farmers and women. He asserted that the 'double engine' government is working to strengthen Tripura. He said that the 'double engine' government has transformed Tripura from a power deficit state to a power surplus one.

The Prime Minister said that the connectivity is not only strengthening the friendship between India and Bangladesh but also proving to be a strong link of business too. He informed that the entire region is being developed as a trade corridor between Northeast India and Bangladesh.

*For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1703457>*

- **Prime Minister Visit to Bangladesh**

At the invitation of Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had visited Bangladesh on March 26 & 27, 2021.

This visit was in connection with the commemoration of three epochal events - Mujib Borsho, the birth centenary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman; 50 years of the establishment of diplomatic ties between India and Bangladesh; and 50 years of Bangladesh's war of liberation. Prime Minister had last visited Bangladesh in 2015.

During the visit, Prime Minister attended the National Day programme of Bangladesh on March 26, as the guest of honour.

The programme of the Prime Minister, apart from holding bilateral consultations with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also included a call on the President of Bangladesh H.E. Md. Abdul Hamid. Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr A.K. Abdul Momen called on the Prime Minister.

The visit of the Prime Minister to Bangladesh was the first visit to a foreign country since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic. This highlights the priority India attaches to Bangladesh.

- **India hosts First Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies**

India hosted a meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies virtually on February 24, 2021 and was co-Chaired by Shri. Tarun Bajaj, Secretary Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and Dr. Michael Patra, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India. Other participants included BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies of Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa.

India assumed the BRICS Chairship in 2021, at a time when BRICS is celebrating its 15th anniversary. Under the theme BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation, India's approach is focused on strengthening collaboration through Continuity, Consolidation and Consensus.

This was the first meeting on the BRICS Financial Cooperation under India Chairship in 2021. During the meeting, India shared priorities under financial cooperation agenda and issues for discussion during 2021 such as Global Economic Outlook and Response to COVID-19, Social Infrastructure Financing and Use of Digital Technologies, New Development Bank (NDB) Activities, Fintech for SME and Financial Inclusion, BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), among others.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700502>

## ART AND CULTURE

- **Statue of Equality -Inspiring Greater Compassion**

Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India dedicated to the nation the 'Statue of Equality' in Hyderabad on February 05, 2022. The 216-feet tall Statue of Equality commemorates the 11th century Bhakti Saint Sri Ramanujacharya, who promoted the idea of equality in all aspects of living including faith, caste and creed. On the one hand, he is a saint of rich 'Sanyaas' tradition, he presents the importance of action in Gita Bhashya, on the other.

The Prime Minister in his address called Sri Ramanujacharya a 'shining inspiration for the unity and integrity of India'. "He was born in the South, but his influence is on the whole of India from South to North and East to West". Sri Ramanujacharya worked tirelessly for the upliftment of people with the spirit of every human being equal regardless of nationality, gender, race, caste or creed. The inauguration of the Statue of Equality is a part of the 12-day Sri Ramanuja Sahasrabdi Samaroham, the ongoing 1000th birth anniversary celebrations of Sri Ramanujacharya.

### **About the Statue of Equality**

The Statue of Equality is the second tallest sitting statue in the world. The base building hosts a vedic digital library, research centre, ancient Indian texts, theatre and a gallery. Ramanuja's works are presented in the gallery. The Statue is made of 'panchaloha', a combination of five metals: gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc and is among one of the tallest metallic statues in sitting position, in the world. It is mounted on a 54-ft high base building, named 'Bhadra Vedi', has floors devoted for a Vedic digital library and research centre, ancient Indian texts, a theatre, an educational gallery detailing many works of Sri Ramanujacharya. The statue has been conceptualised by Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swami of Sri Ramanujacharya Ashram.

### **Ramanujacharya Swamy – The Icon of Equality**

*'To alleviate the misery of others, I don't mind facing the throes of Hell.'*

*'All are eligible to enter a temple. The Creator showed no partiality, nor should we.'*

*'All are equally qualified to chant the name of God.'*

*'All are equal in the eyes of God.'*

*-Sri Ramanujacharya Swami*

Born in 1017 CE, at Sriperumbudur, India, Ramanujacharya, is revered worldwide as a Vedic philosopher, social reformer and one of the most important exponents of Sri Vaishnava tradition. In his 120 year life, travelled across Bharat, understanding the way of life of all sections, at the same time, focusing on individual needs. His ultimate objective was to inculcate vedic way of life into society. He was a saint who propagated universal brotherhood. He embraced the untouchables and treated them on par with the elite. Seeing His compassion towards the oppressed, His delighted guru honoured him with the coveted title "Em-perum- anar" you are ahead of us. Sri Ramanuja named subjugated classes Thirukkulathar-Born Divine.

It would not be wrong to acclaim Him as a legendary personality who revolted against the inhuman practices inflicted on the less privileged. He gave the secretly guarded mantra to the oppressed and allowed them to enter temples at a time when it was strictly forbidden! He was a great visionary and free thinker, who revived society on the grounds of universal salvation through Bhakti, compassion, humility, equality and mutual respect! He spread the Divine message of God to the common man, irrespective of caste, gender or creed.

The Sri Vaishnavam Sampradaya is a genius system designed as a dissoluble tie by Ramanujacharya to unite the heterogeneous population of the universe through mutual respect, equality and thereby, the whole world in one spiritual bond. The social philosophy of Ramanujacharya was designed to cross the boundary of caste system and embrace the whole of humanity. He has thus been acclaimed as a great religious and social genius, and has been rightly given the title "Bhagwad".

He disclosed the secret, quintessential knowledge and true essence of the Vedas to the common man from temple tops. He established the correct procedures for rituals performed in temples throughout India, the most famous being Tirumala and Srirangam. He composed numerous commentaries on our Vedic scriptures. He was a great philosopher-Saint, theologian, social reformer and chief exponent of the Visishtadvaita School of Vedanta or qualified non-dualism.

Bhagawad Ramanujacharya made strenuous journeys in His lifetime, to distant places across the Indian subcontinent and taught that the social order is actually a moral order (rule of conduct) and the crux of all values is man's desire for the better. 2017 marks the 1000th year since Bhagawad Ramanujacharya's birth. To honor His contributions to society and India as a whole, a 216 feet tall statue will be erected and consecrated.

#### **Bhagawad Ramanujacharya's Messages**

- Shed your ego. Serve all beings as service to God.
- Serve society which is the universal form of God.
- Nobody is infallible.
- Do not humiliate anyone.
- What is of supreme importance is purity of mind and deed

#### **Sri Ramanujacharya- A Spiritual Revolutionary**

- Brought the treasure of Vedic literature to the doorsteps of the common man.
- Advocated the philosophy of Visistadvaita, qualified monism.
- Dispelled the Mayavada concept, the world is illusionary.
- Became the preceptor of the Bhakthi movement and the source for all other Bhakthi Schools of thought.
- Was an inspiration for mystic poets like Kabir, Meerabai, Annamacharya, Bhaktha Ramdas, Thyagaraja and many others.
- Initiated the concept that Nature and her resources like Water, Air, Soil, Trees etc., are sacred and should be protected from pollution.

#### **Sri Ramanujacharya -An Erudite Scholar**

Sri Ramanujacharya wrote 9 scriptures, the Navrathnas.

1. Vedartha-Sangraha – A treatise presenting the tenets of Visishtadvaita, a reconciliation of different conflicting srutis.
2. Sri Bhashya – A detailed commentary on the Vedanta Sutras. Sri Bhashyam is Sri Ramanuja's magnum opus, which is the greatest commentary on Bramha Sutras. This monumental contribution was part of the 3 wishes Sri Ramanujacharya fulfilled for His revered master and Guru Sri Yamunacharya, who breathed His last even before meeting Sri Ramanuja in person.

3. Gita-Bhasya – A detailed commentary on the Bhagavad-Gita.
4. Vedanta-Dipa – A brief commentary on the Vedanta Sutras.
5. Vedanta-Sara – Another brief commentary on the Vedanta Sutras meant for beginners.
6. Saranagati-Gadya – A prayer of complete surrender to the lotus feet of Lord Srimannarayana.
7. Sriranga-Gadya – Manuals of self surrender to Lord Vishnu.
8. Shri Vaikuntha-Gadya – Describes Shri Vaikuntha-loka and the position of the liberated souls.
9. Nitya-Grantha – A short manual intended to guide the devotees about day to day worship and activities.

For details:

<https://statueofequality.org/>

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1795830>

- **India nominates Hoysala Temples for inscription in the World Heritage List**

On 31st January 2022 three Hoysala temples - Chennakeshava Temple (Belur), Hoysaleswara Temple (Halebidu), and the Keshava Temple (Somanathapura) in Karnataka were nominated by India for consideration as World Heritage for the year 2022-2023.

- The 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala' are on UNESCO's Tentative list since 15th April, 2014 and represent one of the highest points of human creative genius and stand testimony to the rich historical and cultural heritage of our country.

### **Hoysala Empire**

- The Hoysala Empire ruled most of what is now Karnataka between the 10th and the 14th centuries. The capital of the Hoysalas was initially located at Belur but was later moved to Halebidu.
- The Hoysala era was an important period in the development of art, architecture, and religion in South India. The empire is remembered today primarily for Hoysala architecture.

### **Few Distinguished Features of Hoysala Architecture**

- Hoysala temples are hybrid or vesara in nature as their unique style seems neither completely Dravida nor Nagara, but somewhere in between.
- Vimana (shikara) in pyramidal shape.
- They are made out of soapstone which is a relatively soft stone that gives artists room for intricate design.
- The temples come with star-like ground-plans and a profusion of decorative carvings.
- The jagati around the temple is the open pradakshinapatha.

## EDUCATION

- **Pariksha Pe Charcha, 2021**

'Pariksha Pe Charcha' is an event where the Prime Minister responds to questions related to examination stress and related areas posed by students in his uniquely engaging style in a live programme.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 07, 2021 interacted with students, teachers and parents. This year's Pariksha Pe Charcha was the fourth edition of the event and PM Modi interacted with all of them in virtual mode due to the pandemic.

*Key takeaways from Prime Minister Interaction on Parkisha Pe Charcha, 2021*

1. Not to fear exams but to see them as a test to improve themselves. Social and family environment creates pressure around students that is not desirable. The family members or relatives create pressure on the students that board exam is very important that makes the students over conscious and stressed. The exam is not the end of your life. It is just a milestone that you have to cross. Ignore the external pressure which will boost your confidence.
2. The parents to work on the strengths and weaknesses of their children and be actively involved in their preparation for board exams. The busy life of parents restricts them from getting involved with them during their exam preparation.
3. The students should attempt the tougher questions first while writing the exam. It is said that students should attempt the easier subjects or easier questions first. But, it is advisable to attempt the tougher questions first because your mind is fresh and your ability to solve the tough questions will be more. Later, after your mind is tired, students can solve the easier questions.
4. Not to run away from any subject even it is difficult.
5. Free time should be valued as without it life will be like a robot. One values free time more when it is earned. Free time is the best opportunity to learn new skills. Free time should be used in the activities which bring out the uniqueness of an individual.
6. Life is very long and examinations are just a stage of life. Parents, teachers, and peers should not put pressure on students. Exams should be treated as merely a good occasion to test oneself and not be turned into a question of life and death.
7. Go to the exam hall with full confidence and a cool mind to avoid stress. If you are stressed inside the exam hall, you will forget everything you have learned. You should remember that you have prepared for the exam very well and you will be able to write your paper smoothly. Leave your stress outside the exam hall.
8. Sharpen your memory- When you are fully involved with 100% focus on a topic you will be able to memorize it. When you associate yourself and visualize everything you read, it will be easier for you to memorize the topics.
9. Parents should not try to raise their children like they were raised. The world is constantly changing and the up-bringing should be done accordingly. You should not pressurize your children to be like you. This will create conflicts between you and your children.
10. The students have lost a year of their lives due to COVID-19, but due to the pandemic, they have also learned a lot of lessons. People have realized the importance of people around us

during the lockdown. This lesson should be learned and one should never forget it after the pandemic is over. Coronavirus forced us to maintain social distancing but brought family members together. People have understood the importance of their family members and their contributions to our lives.

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2. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/education/news/pariksha-pe-charcha-2021-live-updates-pm-to-address-students-teachers-at-7pm-101617791018853.html>
3. <https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/education/pariksha-pe-charcha-2021-highlights-12-important-advice-of-pm-modi-for-students-teachers-parents.html>

### • Highlights of New National Education Policy (NEP)

The special features of NEP 2020 includes:-

- i. Ensuring Universal Access at All Levels of schooling from pre-primary school to Grade 12;
- ii. Ensuring quality early childhood care and education for all children between 3-6 years;
- iii. New Curricular and Pedagogical Structure (5+3+3+4);
- iv. No hard separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams;
- v. Establishing National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy;
- vi. Emphasis on promoting multilingualism and Indian languages; The medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be the home language/mother tongue/local language/regional language.
- vii. Assessment reforms - Board Exams on up to two occasions during any given school year, one main examination and one for improvement, if desired;
- viii. Setting up of a new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development);
- ix. Equitable and inclusive education - Special emphasis given on Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs);
- x. A separate Gender Inclusion fund and Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups;
- xi. Robust and transparent processes for recruitment of teachers and merit based performance;
- xii. Ensuring availability of all resources through school complexes and clusters;
- xiii. Setting up of State School Standards Authority (SSSA);
- xiv. Exposure of vocational education in school and higher education system;
- xv. Increasing GER in higher education to 50%;
- xvi. Holistic Multidisciplinary Education with multiple entry/exit options;



- xvii. NTA to offer Common Entrance Exam for Admission to HEIs;
- xviii. Establishment of Academic Bank of Credit;
- xix. Setting up of Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities(MERUs);
- xx. Setting up of National Research Foundation(NRF);
- xxi. 'Light but Tight' regulation;
- xxii. Single overarching umbrella body for promotion of higher education sector including teacher education and excluding medical and legal education- the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)-with independent bodies for standard setting- the General Education Council; funding-Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC); accreditation- National Accreditation Council (NAC); and regulation- National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC);
- xxiii. Expansion of open and distance learning to increase GER.
- xxiv. Internationalization of Education
- xxv. Professional Education will be an integral part of the higher education system. Stand-alone technical universities, health science universities, legal and agricultural universities, or institutions in these or other fields, will aim to become multi-disciplinary institutions;
- xxvi. Teacher Education - 4-year integrated stage-specific, subject-specific Bachelor of Education;
- xxvii. Establishing a National Mission for Mentoring;
- xxviii. Creation of an autonomous body, the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration. Appropriate integration of technology into all levels of education;
- xxix. Achieving 100% youth and adult literacy;
- xxx. Multiple mechanisms with checks and balances will combat and stop the commercialization of higher education;
- xxxi. All education institutions will be held to similar standards of audit and disclosure as a 'not for profit' entity;
- xxxii. The Centre and the States will work together to increase the public investment in Education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest;
- xxxiii. Strengthening of the Central Advisory Board of Education to ensure coordination to bring overall focus on quality education;
- xxxiv. Ministry of Education: In order to bring the focus back on education and learning, it may be desirable to re-designate MHRD as the Ministry of Education (MoE).

The NEP 2020 has been finalised after a detailed consultation process with all stakeholders including State/UT Governments. NEP 2020 recognizes that the vocational education is perceived to be inferior to mainstream education. Hence, this policy aims to overcome the social status hierarchy associated with vocational education and requires the integration of vocational education programmes into mainstream education in all educational institutions in a phased manner. Towards this, secondary schools will also collaborate with ITIs, polytechnics, local industry, etc. Skill labs will also be set up and created in the schools in a hub and spoke model which will allow other schools to use the facility.

Improving the quality of education across all levels from primary to university level is a continuous and ongoing process. Several initiatives are currently being undertaken in this direction. The Samagra Shiksha, an integral scheme for School Education as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. It envisages the 'school' as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior secondary levels. In higher education also, various schemes, namely, Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Scheme for promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC), Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN), Impacting Research, Innovation & Technology (IMPRINT), Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP), Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), National Digital Library, campus connect programme, Uchchatar Avishkar Abhiyan, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Impactful Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS), Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA), National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) are being implemented to improve the quality of higher education.

Ref: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1654058>

- **Government is working to create greater synergy between education and skills for making a future-ready workforce – Union Education Minister**

Addressing the CII's virtual special plenary session on 'Job Creation & Entrepreneurship – Way Ahead for Livelihood Generation', Union Education and Skill Development Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the economy is growing at a rapid pace and the future of India is looking very promising. He added that building skill capacity is a key to enhance productivity and drive the economy ahead.

Shri Pradhan highlighted that continuous efforts are being made to equip our youth with the 21st Century Skills. He said that as envisioned in the National Education Policy (NEP) -2020, the Government is working to create greater synergy between education and skills for making a future-ready workforce. NEP will contribute in creating a robust education ecosystem and eventually facilitating economic growth, he added.

For details:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1745099>

## SAMPLE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQS)

1. **Frank-Walter Steinmeier has been re-elected as the President of which country?**
  - a) Denmark
  - b) Finland
  - c) Sweden
  - d) Germany**
2. **Dr. Alka Mittal has been appointed as which company's first woman Chairperson and Managing Director?**
  - a) Indian Oil
  - b) ONGC**
  - c) Bharat Petroleum
  - d) Hindustan Petroleum
3. **Who was the most expensive player to be sold in IPL Mega Auction 2022?**
  - a) Deepak Chahar
  - b) Shreyas Iyer
  - c) Shikhar Dhawan
  - d) Ishan Kishan**
4. **PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Statue of Equality in which city on February 5?**
  - a) Lucknow
  - b) Pune
  - c) Hyderabad**
  - d) Bhopal
5. **India has finalised Hoysala Temples located in which state as its nominations for World Heritage Sites List for 2022-23?**
  - a) Madhya Pradesh
  - b) Karnataka**
  - c) Telangana
  - d) Tamil Nadu

*(For more MCQs, please refer CSEET Guide - II on Current Affairs)*

***Lesson 2***

**FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

## CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BANKING

### Brief about Reserve Bank of India

The Reserve Bank of India was established on April 1, 1935 in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

The Central Office of the Reserve Bank was initially established in Calcutta but was permanently moved to Mumbai in 1937. The Central Office is where the Governor sits and where policies are formulated.

Though originally privately owned, since nationalisation in 1949, the Reserve Bank is fully owned by the Government of India.

### Main Functions of RBI

- Monetary Authority
- Regulator and supervisor of the financial system
- Manager of Foreign Exchange
- Issuer of Currency
- Development Role
- Regulator and Supervisor of Payment and Settlement System
- Related Functions

*Some of the main functions of RBI are as under:*

- i. Monetary Authority
  - Formulates, implements and monitors the monetary policy.
  - *Objective* : maintaining price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth.
- ii. Regulator and supervisor of the financial system
  - Prescribes broad parameters of banking operations within which the country's banking and financial system functions.
  - *Objective* : maintain public confidence in the system, protect depositors' interest and provide cost-effective banking services to the public.
- iii. Manager of Foreign Exchange
  - Manages the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.
  - *Objective* : to facilitate external trade and payment and promote orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in India.
- iv. Issuer of currency
  - Issues and exchanges or destroys currency and coins not fit for circulation.

- *Objective* : to give the public adequate quantity of supplies of currency notes and coins and in good quality.
- v. Developmental role
  - Performs a wide range of promotional functions to support national objectives.
- vi. Regulator and Supervisor of Payment and Settlement Systems
  - Introduces and upgrades safe and efficient modes of payment systems in the country to meet the requirements of the public at large.
  - *Objective* : maintain public confidence in payment and settlement system.
- vii. Related Functions
  - Banker to the Government: performs merchant banking function for the central and the state governments; also acts as their banker.
  - Banker to banks: maintains banking accounts of all scheduled banks.

RBI has 27 regional offices, most of them are in state capitals and 04 Sub-offices.

### **Union Budget 2022: Digital Rupee to be introduced by RBI, says FM Sitharaman**

Presenting the Union Budget 2022-23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the introduction of Digital Rupee by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2022 to boost the Indian economy. It will lead to a more efficient and cheaper currency management system. The announcement on the launch of a Digital Rupee using blockchain issued by the RBI will familiarize Indians with the benefits and efficiency of virtual currency, building an appetite for the crypto, blockchain and the multitudes of innovations and employment opportunities that these technologies are capable of fostering.

For details: <https://www.livemint.com/budget/budget-2022-digital-rupee-to-be-introduced-by-rbi-says-fm-sitharaman-11643697051976.html>

### **Banking Sector in News**

- **BE(A)WARE – A Booklet on Modus Operandi of Financial Frauds**

The Reserve Bank of India, on March 07, 2021 has released a booklet, “BE(A)WARE” on the common modus operandi used by fraudsters and precautions to be taken while carrying out various financial transactions.

The surge in the digital modes of payments witnessed in the past few years gained further momentum during the COVID-19 induced lockdowns. Digital payments enhance customer convenience by improving the ease of doing financial transactions. They also contribute to the promotion of financial inclusion. However, fraudsters are finding new ways to defraud the gullible public through various ingenious methods. A root cause analysis of the complaints received at Ombudsmen Offices and the Consumer Education and Protection Cells (CEPCs) of RBI revealed, inter alia, that sharing of confidential information by the customers, knowingly or unknowingly, is one of the major causes leading to the financial frauds.

Accordingly, the booklet aims to enhance public awareness about various types of financial frauds perpetrated on gullible customers while carrying out digital payments and other financial transactions. The booklet elaborates on safeguards against commonly used fraudulent techniques, such as, SIM swaps, vishing/phishing links, lottery, etc., including fake loan websites and digital apps. Part A and B of the booklet detail the commonly observed modus operandi and precautions

to be taken against fraudulent transactions relating to banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), respectively. Part C of the booklet explains the general precautions and digital hygiene to be followed by the public.

The final section contains a glossary of commonly used terminologies in the performance of financial transactions with banks and other regulated entities of RBI to improve understanding thereof among the public. The booklet emphasises the need for keeping one's personal information confidential at all times, being mindful of unknown calls/ emails/ messages, etc., and also outlines the due diligence measures to be followed while undertaking financial transactions.

Ref: <https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/PressRelease/PDFs/PR1817F4A7B3662BEC4AD7AC6A2D85EAF937ED.PDF>

(For further details, please visit <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx>)

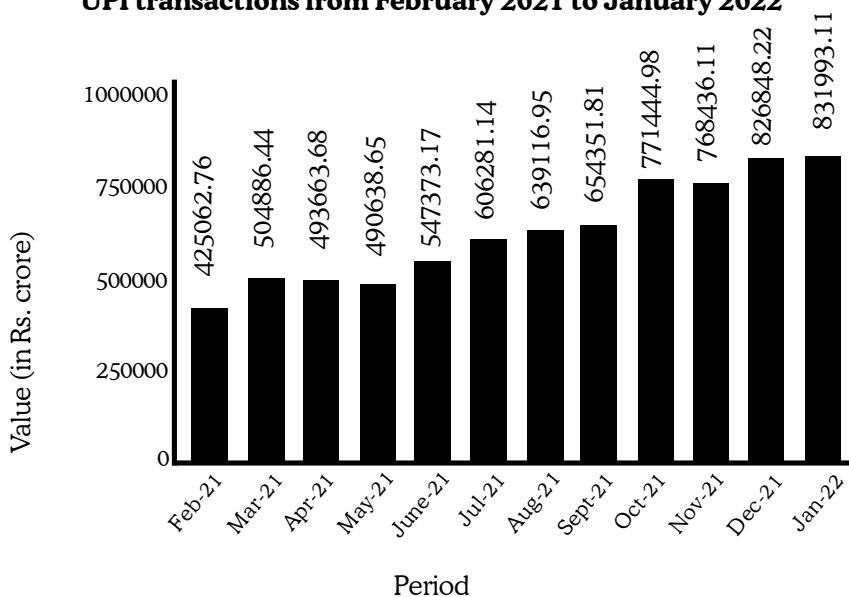
- **Digital payments through UPI kickstart 2022 on strong foot with transactions worth Rs 8.32 lakh crore in January**

UPI transactions kickstarted the new year 2022 on a strong note with the highest ever monthly value recorded at Rs 8.32 lakh crore in January. This is significantly higher than the monthly average of Rs 6.3 lakh crore in the trailing 12-month period, the data from country's flagship payments processor NPCI showed. Higher transaction figures reflect faster adoption of digital mode of payments in the country, further solidifying the government's push to make the economy paperless.

UPI payments have gained much faster adoption in the country after April 2020, owing to the pandemic-induced shift to contactless payments, according to the data published in the Ministry of Finance's Economic Survey.

The National Payments Corporation of India also reported record yearly transactions worth Rs. 75.6 lakh crore through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for the trailing 12-month period from February 2021 to January 2022. In terms of volumes, a total of 4,106 crore transactions were made in the same 12-month period. Out of this, an aggregate of 462 crore transactions were done in January.

**UPI transactions from February 2021 to January 2022**



According to the Reserve Bank of India's Digital Payments Index (RBI), which was constructed last year to capture the extent of digitization of payments across the country, the DPI rose from 100 in March 2018 (base period) to 304.06 in September 2021.

For details: <https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/digital-payments-through-upi-kickstart-2022-on-strong-foot-with-transactions-worth-rs-8-32-lakh-crore-in-jan/2425088/>

- **Inclusion of Sikkim State Co-operative Bank Ltd. in the Second Schedule of the RBI Act**

The RBI has included the name of 'Sikkim State Co-operative Bank Ltd.' in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 published in the Extraordinary Gazette of India (Part III – Section 4) dated January 18, 2022. Now 'Sikkim State Co-operative Bank Ltd' would be considered as a scheduled commercial bank.

Ref: <https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=12246&Mode=0>

- **RBI releases framework for facilitating small value digital payments in offline mode**

The Reserve Bank has issued the 'Framework for facilitating small value digital payments in offline mode'. The framework incorporates the feedback received from the pilot experiments on offline transactions conducted in different parts of the country during the period from September 2020 to June 2021. Offline mode of payment can be enabled only after obtaining the specific consent of the customer. Customers shall enjoy protection under the provisions of circulars limiting customer liability issued by Reserve Bank (as amended from time to time). Customers also have recourse to the Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme for grievance redress. Offline transactions are expected to give a push to digital transactions in areas with poor or weak internet or telecom connectivity, particularly in semi-urban and rural areas.

For details: [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=53038](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=53038)

- **Launch of digital payment solution e-RUPI (July 31, 2021)**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched e-RUPI, a person and purpose specific digital payment solution on 2nd August 2021 via video conferencing.

e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment. It is a QR code or SMS string-based e-Voucher, which is delivered to the mobile of the beneficiaries. The users of this seamless one-time payment mechanism will be able to redeem the voucher without a card, digital payments app or internet banking access, at the service provider. It has been developed by National Payments Corporation of India on its UPI platform, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Health Authority.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1741110>

- **Reserve Bank of India introduces the Financial Inclusion Index (August 17, 2021)**

RBI Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies announced various developmental and regulatory policy measures on April 07, 2021. One of the measures was to construct and periodically publish a "Financial Inclusion Index" (FI Index). Accordingly, the RBI introduced 'Financial Inclusion Index' on August 17, 2021 to measure and improve the extent of access, usage and quality of financial inclusion in the country. It has been conceptualised as a comprehensive index, incorporating details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector in consultation with the government and respective sectoral regulators. The key features of FI-Index are as under:



- The FI Index will be published annually in July every year.
- The index will capture information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value ranging between 0 and 100, wherein value 0 will represent complete financial exclusion and 100 would indicate full financial inclusion.
- The FI-Index comprises of three broad parameters (weights indicated in brackets) viz., Access (35%), Usage (45%), and Quality (20%) with each of these consisting of various dimensions, which are computed based on a number of indicators.
- The Index is responsive to ease of access, availability and usage of services, and quality of services, comprising all 97 indicators.
- A unique feature of the Index is the Quality parameter which captures the quality aspect of financial inclusion as reflected by financial literacy, consumer protection, and inequalities and deficiencies in services.
- The FI-Index has been constructed without any 'base year' and as such it reflects cumulative efforts of all stakeholders over the years towards financial inclusion.

The annual FI-Index for the period ending March 2021 is 53.9 as against 43.4 for the period ending March 2017.

*For details: [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=52068](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=52068)*

- **Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Shri Anurag Singh Thakur launches IEPFA's 6 modules of short films titled "Hisab Ki Kitaab"**

Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Shri Anurag Singh Thakur launched the six modules of short films of Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) titled "Hisab Ki Kitaab" on June 03, 2021.

"Hisab ki kitab" is a series of 6 short films, developed by CSC eGov as a part of their training tool. There are 6 short films/ modules of 5 minutes duration each. The various modules highlights the importance of budget, saving, importance of Insurance schemes, various social security schemes of the government etc.

Launching the short films, Shri Thakur said that financial inclusion is one of the top-most policy priorities of the Government of India. Financial literacy and education, plays a crucial role in financial inclusion, inclusive growth and sustainable prosperity. In financial inclusion, a number of steps have been taken by the Government. As a result a large, sections of the population have been brought into the formal financial fold. In this context, promoting and deepening financial education would play a very important part in our endeavour to realise our collective potential.

*For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1724103>*

## CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FINANCE/STOCK MARKETS

- **Announcement in Union Budget 2022-23**

One of the pillar on which Union Budget 2022-23 is based is Financing of Investment as announced by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Finance Minister in her budget speech. Key highlights related to it are as under:

- Outlay for capital expenditure stepped up sharply by 35.4% to Rs. 7.50 lakh crore in 2022-23 from Rs. 5.54 lakh crore in the current year.
- Effective Capital Expenditure' of Central Government estimated at Rs. 10.68 lakh crore in 2022-23, which is about 4.1% of GDP.
- World-class foreign universities and institutions to be allowed in the GIFT City.
- An International Arbitration Centre will be set up in the GIFT City for timely settlement of disputes under international jurisprudence.
- Services for global capital for sustainable & climate finance in the country will be facilitated in the GIFT City.
- Data Centres and Energy Storage Systems to be given infrastructure status.
- Venture Capital and Private Equity invested more than Rs. 5.5 lakh crore last year facilitating one of the largest start-up and growth ecosystem. Measures are to be taken to help scale up this investment.
- Blended funds to be promoted for sunrise sectors.
- Sovereign Green Bonds to be issued for mobilizing resources for green infrastructure.
- Introduction of Digital Rupee by the Reserve Bank of India starting 2022-23.
- Enhanced outlay for 'Scheme for Financial Assistance to States for Capital Investment', i.e., from Rs. 10,000 crore in Budget Estimates to Rs. 15,000 crore in Revised Estimates for the current year.
- Allocation of Rs. 1 lakh crore in 2022-23 to assist the states in catalysing overall investments in the economy: fifty-year interest free loans, over and above normal borrowings.
- In 2022-23, States will be allowed a fiscal deficit of 4% of GSDP, of which 0.5% will be tied to power sector reforms.
- Budget Estimates 2021-22: Rs. 34.83 lakh crore.
- Revised Estimates 2021-22: Rs. 37.70 lakh crore.
- Total expenditure in 2022-23 estimated at Rs. 39.45 lakh crore.
- Fiscal deficit in current year: 6.9% of GDP (against 6.8% in Budget Estimates).
- Fiscal deficit in 2022-23 estimated at 6.4% of GDP.

- **Investor Charter issued by SEBI**

With an objective to provide protection to investors, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget 2021-22 had proposed to introduce an investor charter as a right of all financial

investors across all financial products. Since then, SEBI worked on framing a charter for investors in the securities market, which aimed not only to bring in more transparency in the investment process but also encourage investors in the market to invest with better knowledge. The charter focuses on the rights and responsibilities of investors and also the investor grievance redressal mechanism.

The Investor Charter was released for investors in Indian securities market in 2021. It comprises of rights & responsibilities of investors as well as do's & don'ts of investing in the securities market. The SEBI has brought out the Investor Charter with a vision to protect the interests of investors by enabling them to understand the risks involved and invest in a fair, transparent, secure market, and to get services in a timely and efficient manner. The charter will ensure that SEBI-registered intermediaries or regulated entities stick to their investor charters including grievance redressal mechanism.

The Charter is a brief document containing details of service provided to investors, their rights, do's and don'ts, responsibilities, investor grievance handling mechanism and timelines thereof etc., at one single place, in a lucid language, for ease of reference.

### ***Rights of Investors***

According to Investor Charter, investors will get the right to:

1. Get fair equitable treatment
2. Expect redressal of investor grievances filed in 'SEBI Complaints Redress System (SCORES)' in timely manner.
3. Get quality services from SEBI recognised Market Infrastructure Institutions and SEBI registered intermediaries / regulated entities/ Asset Management Companies.

### ***Responsibilities of Investors***

Investors will have the responsibilities to:

1. Deal with SEBI-recognised market infrastructure institutions as well as SEBI-registered regulated entities or intermediaries.
2. Update their contact details like address, email id, mobile number, nomination and other KYC details.
3. Ensure grievances are taken up by concerned entities in time bound manner.
4. Ensure that their accounts are operated for their own benefits only.

### ***DO's for Investors***

- Read and understand the documents carefully before investing.
- Know about the Investor Grievance Redressal Mechanism.
- Know the risks involved before investing.
- Keep track of account statements and promptly bring any discrepancy noticed to the concerned stock exchange, intermediary or Asset Management Company.
- Know about various fees, charges, margins, premium, etc. involved in the transactions.
- Preserve relevant transaction related documents.

**DONT's for Investors**

- Don't make payments in cash while making any investment in securities market, beyond the prescribed limit.
- Don't share your critical information like account details, login ids, passwords, DIS, etc. with anyone.

(For more information, students may visit <https://www.sebi.gov.in/index.html>)

- **Framework for operationalising gold exchange**

SEBI came out with a framework for operationalising the gold exchange, wherein the yellow metal will be traded in the form of electronic gold receipts (EGRs). The stock exchange desirous of trading in EGRs may apply to SEBI for approval of trading in the new segment. The bourses can launch contracts with the different denominations for trading or conversion of EGR into gold. Under the new framework, the entire transaction has been divided into three tranches— creation of EGR; trading of EGR on the stock exchange and conversion of EGR into physical gold. A common interface will be developed by depositories, which will be made accessible to all the entities — vault managers, depositories, stock exchanges and clearing corporations.

For details:

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/markets/sebi-puts-in-place-framework-for-operationalising-gold-exchange-7920661.html>

- **National Stock Exchange launches NSE Prime**

NSE launched a new corporate governance initiative – 'NSE Prime', that NSE listed companies can adopt voluntarily. NSE Prime is a framework that prescribes higher standards of corporate governance for listed Companies than those required by regulations. Additional disclosure requirements have also been prescribed to provide for a higher quality of public information and greater transparency. Listed companies that voluntarily choose to be part of NSE Prime will need to comply with pre-defined norms on an ongoing basis, which will be monitored by NSE.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/national-stock-exchange-launches-nse-prime/articleshow/88416821.cms>

- **SEBI Chairman launches “Saaṛthi”**

With a view to empowering investors with knowledge about securities market, SEBI launched “Saaṛthi” – SEBI's Mobile App on Investor Education. With the recent surge in individual investors entering the market, and more importantly a large proportion of trading being mobile phone based, this App will be helpful in easily accessing the relevant information. The SEBI Mobile App aims to create awareness among the investors about the basic concepts of Securities Market, KYC Process, trading and settlement, mutual funds, recent market developments, investor grievances redressal mechanism, etc. The App is available in Hindi and English. The Android and iOS versions of the App can be downloaded from Play Store and App Store respectively.

[https://www.sebi.gov.in/media/press-releases/jan-2022/sebi-chairman-launches-saa-thi-sebi-s-mobile-app-on-investor-education\\_55384.html](https://www.sebi.gov.in/media/press-releases/jan-2022/sebi-chairman-launches-saa-thi-sebi-s-mobile-app-on-investor-education_55384.html)

## SAMPLE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQS)

1. **Which UT has become the first one to be integrated with the National Single Window System?**
  - a) New Delhi
  - b) Puducherry
  - c) Ladakh
  - d) Jammu and Kashmir**
2. **Which bank has enhanced its free IMPS transactions limit to Rs 5 lakh from earlier Rs. 2 lakh?**
  - a) State Bank of India**
  - b) Punjab National Bank
  - c) Canara Bank
  - d) Bank of Baroda
3. **Indian economy is expected to grow at how much percent in 2021, as per IMF's World Economic Outlook October 2021?**
  - a) 9.5%**
  - b) 10.5%
  - c) 8.7%
  - d) 7.8%
4. **Former SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar has been appointed as the economic advisor of which Indian state?**
  - a) Madhya Pradesh
  - b) Karnataka
  - c) Andhra Pradesh**
  - d) Telangana
5. **RBI has introduced Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index). What is the base year of FI-Index?**
  - a) 2014
  - b) 2005
  - c) 1947
  - d) No base year**

(For more MCQs, please refer CSEET Guide - II on Current Affairs)

***Lesson 3***

**POLITICAL AFFAIRS**

## CURRENT POLITICAL SCENARIO

### Union Council of Ministers (as compiled on March 11, 2022)

<b>Shri Narendra Modi</b>	<p><b>Prime Minister</b> and also in-charge of:</p> <p>Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions;</p> <p>Department of Atomic Energy;</p> <p>Department of Space; and</p> <p>All important policy issues; and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.</p>
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### Cabinet Ministers

1.	Shri Raj Nath Singh	Ministry of Defence
2.	Shri Amit Shah	Ministry of Home Affairs
		Ministry of Cooperation
3.	Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
4.	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman	Ministry of Finance
		Ministry of Corporate Affairs
5.	Shri Narendra Singh Tomar	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
6.	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Ministry of External Affairs
7.	Shri Arjun Munda	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
8.	Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani	Ministry of Women and Child Development
9.	Shri Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
		Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
		Ministry of Textiles
10.	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	Ministry of Education
		Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
11.	Shri Pralhad Joshi	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
		Ministry of Coal
		Ministry of Mines

- |     |                               |  |
|-----|-------------------------------|--|
| 12. | Shri Narayan Tatu Rane        | Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises  |
| 13. | Shri Sarbananda Sonowal       | Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)                        |
| 14. | Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi      | Ministry of Minority Affairs   |
| 15. | Dr. Virendra Kumar            | Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment   |
| 16. | Shri Giriraj Singh            | Ministry of Rural Development<br>Ministry of Panchayati Raj  |
| 17. | Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia  | Ministry of Civil Aviation   |
| 18. | Shri Ramchandra Prasad Singh  | Ministry of Steel  |
| 19. | Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw         | Ministry of Railways<br>Ministry of Communications<br>Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology |
| 20. | Shri Pashu Pati Kumar Paras   | Ministry of Food Processing Industries   |
| 21. | Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat | Ministry of Jal Shakti   |
| 22. | Shri Kiren Rijju              | Ministry of Law and Justice  |
| 23. | Shri Raj Kumar Singh          | Ministry of Power<br>Ministry of New and Renewable Energy  |
| 24. | Shri Hardeep Singh Puri       | Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas<br>Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs                           |
| 25. | Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya     | Ministry of Health and Family Welfare<br>Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers                           |
| 26. | Shri Bhupender Yadav          | Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change<br>Ministry of Labour and Employment                  |
| 27. | Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey      | Ministry of Heavy Industries   |
| 28. | Shri Parshottam Rupala        | Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying   |
| 29. | Shri G. Kishan Reddy          | Ministry of Culture<br>Ministry of Tourism<br>Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region            |
| 30. | Shri Anurag Singh Thakur      | Ministry of Information and Broadcasting<br>Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports                         |
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**Ministers of State (Independent Charge)**


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|----|-------------------------|--|
| 1. | Shri Rao Inderjit Singh | Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation;<br>Ministry of Planning |
| 2. | Dr. Jitendra Singh      | Ministry of Science and Technology<br>Ministry of Earth Sciences             |
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**Ministers of State**


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- |     |                             |   |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|
| 1.  | Shri Rao Inderjit Singh     | Ministry of Corporate Affairs   |
| 2.  | Dr. Jitendra Singh          | Prime Minister's Office<br>Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension<br>Department of Atomic Energy<br>Department of Space |
| 3.  | Shri Shripad Yesso Naik     | Ministry of Tourism   |
| 4.  | Shri Faggansingh Kulaste    | Ministry of Steel<br>Ministry of Rural Development  |
| 5.  | Shri Prahalad Singh Patel   | Ministry of Jal Shakti<br>Ministry of Food Processing Industries  |
| 6.  | Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey  | Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution<br>Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change                      |
| 7.  | Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal      | Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs<br>Ministry of Culture  |
| 8.  | General (Retd.) V.K. Singh  | Ministry of Road Transport and Highways<br>Ministry of Civil Aviation   |
| 9.  | Shri Krishan Pal            | Ministry of Power<br>Ministry of Heavy Industries   |
| 10. | Shri Danve Raosaheb Dadarao | Ministry of Railways<br>Ministry of Coal<br>Ministry of Mines   |

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|-----|-------------------------------|--|
| 11. | Shri Ramdas Athawale          | Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment                 |
| 12. | Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti         | Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution |
|     |                               | Ministry of Rural Development                              |
| 13. | Shri Sanjeev Kumar Balyan     | Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying       |
| 14. | Shri Nityanand Rai            | Ministry of Home Affairs                                   |
| 15. | Shri Pankaj Chaowdhary        | Ministry of Finance  |
| 16. | Smt. Anupriya Singh Patel     | Ministry of Commerce and Industry                          |
| 17. | Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel      | Ministry of Law and Justice                                |
| 18. | Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar     | Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship         |
|     |                               | Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology         |
| 19. | Sushri Shobha Karandlaje      | Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare                  |
| 20. | Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma | Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises            |
| 21. | Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh  | Ministry of Textiles                                       |
|     |                               | Ministry of Railways                                       |
| 22. | Shri V. Muraleedharan         | Ministry of External Affairs                               |
|     |                               | Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs                          |
| 23. | Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi         | Ministry of External Affairs                               |
|     |                               | Ministry of Culture  |
| 24. | Shri Som Parkash              | Ministry of Commerce and Industry                          |
| 25. | Smt. Renuka Singh Saruta      | Ministry of Tribal Affairs                                 |
| 26. | Shri Rameswar Teli            | Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas                      |
|     |                               | Ministry of Labour and Employment                          |
| 27. | Shri Kailash Choudhary        | Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare                  |
| 28. | Smt. Annpurna Devi            | Ministry of Education                                      |
| 29. | Shri A. Narayanaswamy         | Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment                 |
| 30. | Shri Kaushal Kishore          | Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs                      |
| 31. | Shri Ajay Bhatt               | Ministry of Defence  |
|     |                               | Ministry of Tourism  |
| 32. | Shri B. L. Verma              | Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region            |
|     |                               | Ministry of Cooperation                                    |

33.	Shri Ajay Kumar	Ministry of Home Affairs
34.	Shri Devusinh Chauhan	Ministry of Communications
35.	Shri Bhagwanth Khuba	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
36.	Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil	Ministry of Panchayati Raj
37.	Sushri Pratima Bhoumik	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
38.	Dr. Subhas Sarkar	Ministry of Education
39.	Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad	Ministry of Finance
40.	Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh	Ministry of External Affairs Ministry of Education
41.	Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
42.	Shri Bishweswar Tudu	Ministry of Tribal Affairs Ministry of Jal Shakti
43.	Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai	Ministry of Women and Child Development Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
44.	Shri John Barla	Ministry of Minority Affairs
45.	Dr. L. Murugan	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
46.	Shri Nisith Pramanik	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Source: <https://www.india.gov.in/spotlight/union-council-ministers-2019>

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### **Governors**

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<b>State</b>	<b>Governor</b>
Andhra Pradesh	Shri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
Arunachal Pradesh	Brig. (Dr.) B. D. Mishra (Retd.)
Assam	Prof. Jagdish Mukhi
Bihar	Shri Phagu Chauhan
Chhattisgarh	Sushri Anusuiya Uikey
Goa	Shri P.S. Sreedharan Pillai

Gujarat	Shri Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Shri Bandaru Dattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Jharkhand	Shri Ramesh Bais
Karnataka	Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot
Kerala	Shri Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Shri Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
Maharashtra	Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyar
Manipur	Shri La. Ganesan
Meghalaya	Shri Satya Pal Malik
Mizoram	Dr. Kambhampati Haribabu
Nagaland	Prof. Jagdish Mukhi
Odisha	Prof. Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Shri Banwarilal Purohit
Rajasthan	Shri Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	Shri Ganga Prasad
Tamil Nadu	Shri R. N. Ravi
Telangana	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan
Tripura	Shri Satyadeo Narain Arya
Uttar Pradesh	Smt. Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd.)
West Bengal	Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar

<https://www.india.gov.in/my-government/whos-who/governors>

### **Lt. Governors & Administrators**

<b>Union Territory</b>	<b>Lt. Governor &amp; Administrator</b>
Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT)	Admiral D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor)
Chandigarh (UT)	Shri Banwarilal Purohit (Administrator)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UT)	Shri Praful Patel (Administrator)
Delhi (NCT)	Shri Anil Baijal (Lieutenant Governor)
Jammu and Kashmir (UT)	Shri Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor)
Lakshadweep (UT)	Shri Praful Patel (Administrator)
Puducherry (UT)	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge) (Lieutenant Governor)
Ladakh (UT)	Shri Radha Krishna Mathur (Lieutenant Governor)

<https://www.india.gov.in/my-government/whos-who/lt-governors-administrators>

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**Chief Ministers**


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<b>State</b>	<b>Chief Minister</b>
Andhra Pradesh	Shri YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
Arunachal Pradesh	Shri Pema Khandu
Assam	Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma
Bihar	Shri Nitish Kumar
Chhattisgarh	Shri Bhupesh Baghel
Delhi (NCT)	Shri Arvind Kejriwal
Goa	Shri Pramod Sawant
Gujarat	Shri Bhupendra Patel
Haryana	Shri Manohar Lal
Himachal Pradesh	Shri Jairam Thakur
Jharkhand	Shri Hemant Soren
Karnataka	Sri Basavaraj Bommai
Kerala	Shri Pinarayi Vijayan
Madhya Pradesh	Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Maharashtra	Shri Uddhav Thackeray
Manipur	Shri N. Biren Singh
Meghalaya	Shri Conrad Kongkal Sangma
Mizoram	Shri Pu Zoramthanga
Nagaland	Shri Neiphiu Rio
Odisha	Shri Naveen Patnaik
Puducherry (UT)	Shri N. Rangaswamy
Punjab	Shri Bhagwant Singh Mann
Rajasthan	Shri Ashok Gehlot
Sikkim	Shri PS Golay
Tamil Nadu	Shri M. K. Stalin
Telangana	Shri K Chandrasekhar Rao
Tripura	Shri Biplab Kumar Deb
Uttar Pradesh	Shri Yogi Aditya Nath
Uttarakhand	Shri Pushkar Singh Dhama
West Bengal	Km. Mamata Banerjee

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## COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

- **Jack Dorsey Steps Down as Twitter CEO, Board Unanimously Appoints CTO Parag Agrawal as Successor (November 29, 2021)**

Twitter, Inc. on November 29, 2021 announced that Jack Dorsey has decided to step down as Chief Executive Officer and that the Board of Directors has unanimously appointed Parag Agrawal as CEO and a member of the Board, effective immediately. Dorsey will remain a member of the Board until his term expires at the 2022 meeting of stockholders. Bret Taylor was named the new Chairman of the Board, succeeding Patrick Pichette who will remain on the Board and continue to serve as chair of the Audit Committee. Agrawal has been with Twitter for more than a decade and has served as Chief Technology Officer since 2017.

In addition to Agrawal's appointment to the Board, the Company announced that Bret Taylor, a member of the Twitter Board since 2016, has been named Independent Chair of the Board, effective immediately. Taylor succeeds Patrick Pichette, who will remain a member of the Board and continue to serve as chair of the Audit Committee. Taylor has significant leadership experience in the technology sector, overseeing strategy and technology development, and currently serves as the President and Chief Operating Officer of Salesforce.

### **About Parag Agrawal**

Parag Agrawal joined Twitter in 2011 and has served as Chief Technology Officer (CTO) since October 2017. As CTO, he has been responsible for the Company's technical strategy, leading work to improve development velocity while advancing the state of Machine Learning across the company. Prior to being appointed CTO, Parag had risen to be Twitter's first Distinguished Engineer due to his work across revenue and consumer engineering, including his impact on the re-acceleration of audience growth in 2016 and 2017. Parag holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Stanford University and a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

*For details: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/jack-dorsey-steps-down-as-twitter-ceo-board-unanimously-appoints-cto-parag-agrawal-as-successor-301432989.html>*

- **Appointment of Election Commissioner**

The President of India, appointed Shri Anup Chandra Pandey, IAS (Retd.) (UP: 1984) as the Election Commissioner in the Election Commission of India, with effect from the dated he assumes the office. A notification in this regard was issued by Legislative Department, Ministry of Law & Justice on June 08, 2021.

*For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1725488>*

- **BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra appointed as Chairman of ITDC (December 02, 2021)**

The Central Government has appointed Sambit Patra as the Chairman of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), a Miniratna PSU under the Ministry of Tourism. According to an official order, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Tourism to split the post of Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of ITDC into two separate roles: Chairman and Managing Director (MD).

*For details: <https://psuwatch.com/bjp-spokesperson-sambit-patra-appointed-as-chairman-of-itdc>*

- **DCB Bank appoints Rupa Devi Singh as Chairman after Munjee's retirement (January 17, 2022)**

Private sector lender DCB Bank has appointed Rupa Devi Singh as its new part-time chairman following the retirement of Nasser Munjee from that position. Her appointment is subject to

approval from regulatory authorities like Reserve Bank of India and the shareholders of the Bank. Rupa Devi Singh has been a non-executive independent director of the bank since January 22, 2015. She has over 35 years of experience in various sectors viz. commercial banking, project structuring, infrastructure, etc. She was the founding managing director and CEO of Power Exchange India (PXIL). Prior to joining PXIL, she worked with CRISIL as director – Power Practice and subsequently, as director, Corporate & S E Asia at CRISIL.

For details:

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/dcb-bank-appoints-rupa-devi-singh-as-chairman-after-munjee-s-retirement-122011700237\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/dcb-bank-appoints-rupa-devi-singh-as-chairman-after-munjee-s-retirement-122011700237_1.html)

- **Government appoints former civil servant Ravi Mittal as IBBI chairperson**

The government has appointed former civil servant Ravi Mittal as the chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

The appointment comes little over four months after the post fell vacant following the retirement of M S Sahoo who completed his five-year term on September 30, 2021.

In October 2021, IBBI Whole Time Member Dr. Navrang Saini was given the additional charge as the chairperson.

For details: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/govt-appoints-former-civil-servant-ravi-mittal-as-ibbi-chairperson-122020301775\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/govt-appoints-former-civil-servant-ravi-mittal-as-ibbi-chairperson-122020301775_1.html)

- **Appointment of Dr. V Anantha Nageswaran as the Chief Economic Advisor (January 28, 2022)**

The Government has appointed Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran as the Chief Economic Advisor. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Nageswaran has worked as a writer, author, teacher and consultant. He has taught at several business schools and institutes of management in India and in Singapore and has published extensively.

He was the Dean of the IFMR Graduate School of Business and a distinguished Visiting Professor of Economics at Krea University. He has also been a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India from 2019 to 2021. He holds a Post-Graduate Diploma in Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and a doctoral degree from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

Ref: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1793311>

- **Ms. Madhabi Puri Buch takes charge as Chairperson, SEBI**

The Government of India on February 28, 2022, appointed Madhabi Puri Buch as a new Chairperson of Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Ms. Buch has also served as a Consultant to the New Development Bank in Shanghai. Ms. Buch also served as the Head of the Singapore office of the Private Equity Firm, Greater Pacific Capital. She also served as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer at ICICI Securities Limited and as Executive Director, on the Board of ICICI Bank. Ms. Buch also served as a non-executive director on the Boards of various companies. Ms. Buch holds an M.B.A. from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and is a Graduate in Mathematics from St. Stephen's College, New Delhi.

For details: [https://www.sebi.gov.in/media/press-releases/mar-2022/ms-madhabi-puri-buch-takes-charge-as-chairperson-sebi\\_56532.html](https://www.sebi.gov.in/media/press-releases/mar-2022/ms-madhabi-puri-buch-takes-charge-as-chairperson-sebi_56532.html)

## GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES/SCHEMES

### Key Highlights of Union Budget 2022-23

#### Introduction

This budget seeks to lay the foundation and give a blueprint to steer the economy over the Amrit Kaal of the next 25 years (from India at 75 to India at 100). The government aims to attain the following vision through this budget.

- Complementing the macro-economic level growth focus with a micro-economic level all-inclusive welfare focus,
- Promoting digital economy & fintech, technology enabled development, energy transition, and
- Relying on virtuous cycle starting from private investment with public capital investment helping to crowd-in private investment.

**This budget is based on the following pillars:**

- 1. PM Gati Shakti**
- 2. Inclusive Development**
- 3. Productivity Enhancement & Investment, Sunrise opportunities, Energy Transition, and Climate Action.**
- 4. Financing of investments.**

#### 1. PM GATI SHAKTI PLAN

- The PM Gati Shakti plan involves seven engines namely: Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass Transport, Waterways, and Logistics Infrastructure.
- The mentioned engines are supported by the complementary roles of Energy Transmission, IT Communication, Bulk Water & Sewerage, and Social Infrastructure.

#### Highlights

- 100 PM Gati Shakti cargo terminals will be developed during the next 3 years.
- Implementation of innovative ways for building metro systems.
- Master Plan for expressways to be formulated in 2022-23 to facilitate faster movement of people and goods.
- National highway network to be expanded by 25,000 km in 2022-23.
- Mobilisation of Rs. 20,000 crores through innovative ways of financing to complement the public resources.
- A new scheme, Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East, PM-DevINE, will be implemented through the North-Eastern Council. An initial allocation of INR 1,500 crore will be made.



- The abovementioned scheme will fund infrastructure, in the spirit of PM Gati Shakti, and social development projects based on the felt needs of the North-East.

## 2. INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

- Rs. 2.37 lakh crore direct payment to 1.63 crore farmers for procurement of wheat and paddy.
- Chemical free Natural farming to be promoted throughout the county. Initial focus is on farmer's lands in 5 Km wide corridors along river Ganga.
- **"Kisan Drones"** for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients.
- 1400 crore outlay for implementation of the Ken-Betwa link project. 9.08 lakh hectares of farmers' lands to receive irrigation benefits by Ken-Betwa link project.
- **Udyam, e-shram, NCS and ASEEM portals to be interlinked.**
- 130 lakh MSMEs provided additional credit under Emergency Credit Linked Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS). ECLGS to be extended up to March, 2023. Guarantee cover under ECLGS to be expanded by **Rs. 50,000 Crore to a total cover of Rs. 5 Lakh Crore.**
- **Rs. 2 lakh Crore** additional credit for Micro and Small Enterprises to be facilitated under the Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).
- **Raising and Accelerating MSME performance (RAMP) programme** with an outlay of Rs. 6,000 Crore to be rolled out.
- Reorientation of Skilling programmes and partnerships with the industry to promote continuous skilling avenues, sustainability, and employability.
- The National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) will be aligned with dynamic industry needs.
- 'One class-One TV channel' programme of PM eVIDYA to be expanded to 200 TV channels.
- An open platform for **National Digital Health Ecosystem** to be rolled out.
- National Tele Mental Health Programme for quality mental health counselling and care services to be launched.
- Integrated benefits to women and children through Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya, Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0.
- **Rs. 60,000 crore** allocated to cover 3.8 crore households in 2022-23 under Har Ghar, Nal se Jal.
- **Rs. 48,000 crore** allocated for completion of 80 lakh houses in 2022-23 under PM Awas Yojana.
- Vibrant Villages Programme for development of Border villages with a sparse population, limited connectivity and infrastructure on the northern border.
- Scheduled Commercial Banks to set up 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs) in 75 districts.

## 3. PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT & INVESTMENT, SUNRISE OPPORTUNITIES, ENERGY TRANSITION AND CLIMATE ACTION

- Reduction in more than 25,000 compliances and repealing of 1486 Union Laws.

- Special Economic Zones Act to be replaced with a new legislation to enable States to become partners in **'Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs'**.
- For the Amrit Kaal, the next phase of Ease of Doing Business EODB 2.0 and Ease of Living, will be launched.
- This new phase of Ease of Doing Business EODB will be guided by an active involvement of the states, digitisation of manual processes and interventions, integration of the central and state-level systems through IT bridges, a single point access for all citizen-centric services, and a standardization and removal of overlapping compliances.
- Government contribution to be provided for R&D in Sunrise Opportunities like Artificial Intelligence, Geospatial Systems and Drones, Semiconductor and its eco-system, Space Economy, Genomics and Pharmaceuticals, Green Energy, and Clean Mobility Systems.
- Expansion of the scope of the single window portal, PARIVESH to provide information to the applicants. Based on the location of the units, information about specific approvals will be provided.
- e-Passports with embedded chip and futuristic technology to be rolled out.
- A high-level committee of reputed urban planners, urban economists and institutions will be formed to make recommendations on urban sector policies, capacity building, planning, implementation and governance.
- Modernization of building bye-laws, Town Planning Schemes (TPS), and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) will be implemented.
- Battery swapping policy to be brought out for setting up charging stations at scale in urban areas.
- Additional allocation of Rs. 19,500 crore for Production Linked Incentive for the manufacture of high efficiency solar modules to meet the goal of 280 GW of installed solar power by 2030.
- Four pilot projects to be set up for coal gasification and conversion of coal into chemicals for the industry.
- Necessary amendments in the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code will be carried out to enhance the efficacy of the resolution process and facilitate cross border insolvency resolution.
- An animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comic (AVGC) promotion task force to be set up to realize the potential of this sector.
- Scheme for design-led manufacturing to be launched to build a strong ecosystem for 5G as part of the Production Linked Incentive Scheme.
- 68% of capital procurement budget earmarked for the domestic industry in 2022-23, up from 58% in 2021-22. Defence R&D to be opened up for industry, startups and academia with 25% of defence R&D budget earmarked. Independent nodal umbrella body to be set up for meeting testing and certification requirements.
- Financial support to farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who want to take up agro-forestry.

#### 4. FINANCING OF INVESTMENTS

- Outlay for capital expenditure stepped up sharply by 35.4% to Rs. 7.50 lakh crore in 2022-23 from Rs. 5.54 lakh crore in the current year.

- Effective Capital Expenditure' of Central Government estimated at Rs. 10.68 lakh crore in 2022-23, which is about 4.1% of GDP.
- World-class foreign universities and institutions to be allowed in the GIFT City.
- An International Arbitration Centre will be set up in the GIFT City for the timely settlement of disputes under international jurisprudence.
- Services for global capital for sustainable & climate finance in the country will be facilitated in the GIFT City.
- Data Centres and Energy Storage Systems to be given infrastructure status.
- Venture Capital and Private Equity invested more than Rs. 5.5 lakh crore last year facilitating one of the largest start-up and growth ecosystem. Measures are to be taken to help scale up this investment.
- Blended funds to be promoted for sunrise sectors.
- Sovereign Green Bonds to be issued for mobilizing resources for green infrastructure.
- Introduction of Digital Rupee by the Reserve Bank of India starting 2022-23.
- Enhanced outlay for 'Scheme for Financial Assistance to States for Capital Investment', i.e., from Rs. 10,000 crore in Budget Estimates to Rs. 15,000 crore in Revised Estimates for the current year.
- Allocation of Rs. 1 lakh crore in 2022-23 to assist the states in catalysing overall investments in the economy: fifty-year interest free loans, over and above normal borrowings.
- In 2022-23, States will be allowed a fiscal deficit of 4% of GSDP, of which 0.5% will be tied to power sector reforms.
- Budget Estimates 2021-22: Rs. 34.83 lakh crore.
- Revised Estimates 2021-22: Rs. 37.70 lakh crore.
- Total expenditure in 2022-23 estimated at Rs. 39.45 lakh crore.
- Fiscal deficit in current year: 6.9% of GDP (against 6.8% in Budget Estimates).
- Fiscal deficit in 2022-23 estimated at 6.4% of GDP.

## **UNION BUDGET 2022-23 - TOPIC WISE HIGHLIGHTS**

### **1. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**

- Udyam, e-Shram, National Career Service (NCS) and ASEEM portals will be interlinked **to formalise the economy and create job opportunities for all. The scope of all the portals collectively will be widened offering G2C, B2B and B2C services.**
- Revamping of Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) with the required Infusion of Funds.  
**Additional Rs 2 lakh crore under CGTMSE will increase the number of entrepreneurs on one side and will create more jobs on the other side.**
- Rs. 6,000 crore Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme will be rolled out in the next 5 years to improve the competitiveness and productivity of MSMEs.

**RAMP is an initiative to revitalize the MSME sector that has been heavily impacted by the Covid pandemic. While this is a positive measure taken by the government and will help MSMEs stand up and grow.**

- Extending Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to March 2023 and expanding its guarantee cover by Rs. 50,000 crores to total cover of Rs. 5 lakh crores with focus on hospitality and related enterprises.

## 2. Digital Innovations

### (i) Digital Innovations in education sector

- Digital University to be built for providing world-class quality universal education with personalized learning experience facilitated with door-step education facility in regional languages on hub and spoke model.
- 'One class-One TV channel' programme of PM eVIDYA to be expanded to 200 TV channels, launched in keeping view of COVID-19 impact on education and to enable supplement classes to children in remote areas from class 1 to 12 in regional languages.
- Virtual labs and skilling e-labs to be set up to promote critical thinking skills and a simulated learning environment.
- High-quality e-content will be developed for delivery through Digital Teachers.
- Digital Ecosystem for Skilling and Livelihood (DESH-Stack e-portal) will be launched to empower citizens to skill, reskill or upskill through on-line training programmes.
- Integrated benefits to women and children through Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya, Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0. Under Saksham Anganwadi Mission 2.0 around two lakh anganwadis are to be upgraded for early child education equipped with new generation virtual aids, clean energy.
- Animation, visual effects, gaming, and comic promotion task force to be set up for exploring youth employment opportunities.

### (ii) Digital Innovations in corporate sector

- As a robust step towards digitalization: Udyam, e-shram, NCS and ASEEM portals are to be interlinked. These portals will now perform as a live organic database.
- Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE) to be established for speedy voluntary winding-up of companies. Shrinking up the general time frame of voluntary winding up of company from 2 years to 6 months.
- Single-window portal for all green clearances - Parivesh launched in 2018 extension of scope related to provide information to applicants.
- Government procurement to be eased by end-to-end online e-bill system & utilizing surety bonds as a substitute for bank guarantee. The e-Bill system will enable the suppliers and contractors to submit online their digitally signed bills and claims and track their status from anywhere.

### (iii) Digital Innovation in Banking sector

- RBI will launch blockchain-based digital rupee starting from FY 2022-23, digital rupee to be rolled out by 2023.

- In order to encourage digital payment regime, 75 digital banks at 75 districts will be set up by scheduled commercial banks to encourage and facilitate digital payments.
- Digital Banking by Post Offices: 100% of post offices to come on the core banking system.

(iv) *Digital Innovation in Taxation matters*

- For FY 2022-23 the government will levy income tax from digital asset transfers at 30%.
- The budget tabled reforms in Customs Administration of Special Economic Zones will be undertaken, and it shall henceforth be fully IT driven and function on the Customs National Portal with a focus on higher facilitation and with only risk-based checks. This reform shall be implemented by 30th September 2022.

(v) *Digital Innovation in Health sector*

- Planned to launch an open platform for national digital health ecosystem, consisting digital registries of health providers and health facilities, unique health identity and universal access to health facilities.

(vi) *Digital Innovation in other matters*

- In context of economy the goal to complement macro-growth with micro all inclusive welfare, digital economy and fintech, tech-enabled development and energy transition is tabled.
- e-Passports with embedded chip and futuristic technology to be rolled out for FY 2022-23
- Technology is planned enter more into agricultural sector by way of introduction of tech-driven Kisan drones for crop assessment, spraying insecticides and land records.
- Integration of central and state-level systems proposed through I-T bridges.
- Unique land parcel identification number proposed to facilitate IT-based management of land records.

### 3. Start-ups

- 'Kisan Drones' for crop assessment, digitisation of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients. Start-ups will be promoted to facilitate Drone Shakti for Drone-As-A-Service (DrAAS). The use of drones for startups will push the start-ups for excellence. It will ensure business momentum and drive faster adoption of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAVs) in the country.
- In view of Covid-19 pandemic, it is proposed to extend the start-up tax holiday scheme to start-ups incorporated till March 31, 2023, in addition to the start-ups that had already been eligible for the exemption. These private companies were eligible for a 100% tax rebate on profit for a period of three years in the first ten years of their existence.
- NABARD to facilitate fund with blended capital to finance start-ups for agriculture & rural enterprise.

### 4. Ease of Doing Business

- With the advent of Amritkaal, the next phase of Ease of Doing Business (EODB 2.0) and Ease of Living will be launched.
- Establishment of 'One Nation, One Registration' mechanism for uniform process of registration of land records.

- Expanding scope of PARIVESH Portal by providing information to the applicants tracking of the process through Centralized Processing Centre-Green (CPC-Green).
- Integration of central and state level systems through IT bridges.
- Establishing Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE) to facilitate voluntary winding up of companies
- Issuance of chip embedded e-Passports. The new passport jacket will contain an electronic chip with security-related data encoded on it for advanced security and convenience for citizens.
- Scheme for design-led manufacturing to be launched to build a strong ecosystem for 5G as part of the Production Linked Incentive Scheme. An animation, visual effects, gaming, and comic (AVGC) promotion task force to be set-up to realize the potential of this sector.

## 5. Energy Transition and Climate Action

- Allocation of Rs. 19,500 crore for Production Linked Incentive for manufacture of high efficiency modules, with priority to fully integrated manufacturing units from polysilicon to solar PV modules, will be made.
- The Circular Economy transition is expected to help in productivity enhancement as well as creating large opportunities for new businesses and jobs. The focus now will be on addressing important cross cutting issues of infrastructure, reverse logistics, technology up-gradation and integration with informal sector. This will be supported by active public policies covering regulations, extended producers' responsibilities framework and innovation facilitation.
- **Co-firing of five to seven** per cent biomass pellets in thermal power plants has been proposed by Union Minister that will result in **CO<sub>2</sub> savings of 38 MMT annually**. *This will also provide extra income to farmers and job opportunities to locals and help avoid stubble burning in agriculture fields.*
- Four pilot projects for coal gasification and conversion of coal into chemicals to also come up.
- Energy efficiency and saving measures through **setting up of Energy Service Company (ESCO)** business model in large commercial buildings will also facilitate **capacity building** and **awareness for energy audits, performance contracts**, and common **measurement & verification** protocol.
- **Sovereign Green Bonds** will be issued for mobilizing resources for green infrastructure. The proceeds will be deployed in public sector projects which help in reducing the carbon intensity of the economy.
- Battery swapping policy and inter operability standards will be formulated.

## 6. Farmers and Agriculture related initiatives

- Rs. 2.37 lakh crore direct payment to 1.63 crore farmers for procurement of wheat and paddy.
- Railways to provide new products and efficient logistics services to small farmers.
- Financial inclusion of farmers and senior citizens in rural areas through post offices providing Core Banking System (CBS).
- Promotion of chemical-free natural farming throughout the country, with a focus on farmers' lands in 5-km wide corridors along river Ganga, at the first stage.

- Use of '**Kisan Drones**' for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides, and nutrients.
- Rationalized and comprehensive scheme to increase domestic production of oilseeds to be implemented.
- Year 2023 announced as the **International Year of Millets** for promoting post-harvest value addition, enhancing domestic consumption, and branding of millet products.
- NABARD to facilitate fund with blended capital to finance startups for agriculture & rural enterprise.
- Delivery of Digital and Hi-Tech services to farmers in PPP mode.
- Implementation of the Ken-Betwa Link Project, aimed at providing irrigation benefits to 9.08 lakh hectare of farmers' lands.
- Draft DPRs of five river links have been finalized and after consensus among beneficiary states, Centre to provide support for implementation.

## 7. Housing and Urban Development

- Innovative ways of financing and faster implementation of building metro and Multimodal connectivity between mass urban transport and railway stations to be encouraged and facilitated.
- Allocation of Rs. 60,000 crore has been made with an aim to cover 3.8 crore households in 2022-23 under the scheme **Har Ghar, Nal Se Jal**. Out of 8.7 crore 5.5 crore households were provided tap water in last 2 years.
- 80 lakh houses to be completed in 2022-23 under PM Awas Yojana, both rural and urban. Rs. 48,000 crore is allocated for this purpose.
- Central Government to work with the state governments for reduction of time required for land and construction related approvals for promoting affordable housing for middle class and Economically Weaker.
- **A high-level committee of reputed urban planners, urban economists and institutions to be formed** to make recommendations on urban sector policies, capacity building, planning, implementation and governance.
- Modernization of building byelaws, Town Planning Schemes (TPS), and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) to be implemented. Support to be provided to the states for urban capacity building.

## 8. Health

- An **open platform** for **National Digital Health Ecosystem** to be rolled out. It will consist of digital registries of health providers and health facilities, unique health identity, consent framework, and universal access to health facilities.
- To better the access to quality mental health counselling and care services, a 'National Tele Mental Health Programme' will be launched. This will include a network of 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence, with NIMHANS being the nodal centre and International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIITB) providing technology support.

## 9. Women & Children

- Recognising the importance of 'Nari Shakti', 3 schemes namely, Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya, Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 were launched to provide integrated development for women and children. 2 lakh Anganwadis to be upgraded for improving child health.
- Saksham Anganwadis are a new generation anganwadis that have better infrastructure and audio-visual aids, powered by clean energy and providing improved environment for early child development.

## Direct Tax

1. **Updated Income Tax Return [Section 139(8A)]**: New section 139(8A) proposed to be inserted to provide for updated Income Tax Return, can be filed within 2 years from the end of the relevant Assessment Year (AY). The proposal for updated return over a period longer than that is provided in the existing provisions of Income-tax Act would on the one hand bring use of huge data with the IT Department to a logical conclusion resulting in additional revenue realization and on the other hand, it will facilitate ease of compliance to the taxpayer in a litigation free environment.

Payment of additional tax by persons opting to furnish their returns in the newly provided timelines is also required and accordingly, it is proposed that an amount equal to twenty five percent or fifty percent as additional tax on the tax and interest due on the additional income furnished would be required to be paid.

2. **Clarification regarding treatment of cess and surcharge [Section 40(a)(ii)]**: For the purpose of section 40(a)(ii), the term "tax" includes and shall be deemed to have always included any surcharge or cess, by whatever name called, on such tax. Now, 'cess' has been specifically mentioned in the aforesaid provisions of section 40(a)(ii) and, therefore, cess is not an allowable expenditure while computing the Income under the head PGBP.
3. **Clarification in respect of disallowance under section 14A in absence of any exempt income during an assessment year [Section 14A]**: An Explanation to section 14A of the Act is proposed to be inserted to clarify that notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act, the provisions of this section shall apply and shall be deemed to have always applied in a case where exempt income has not accrued or arisen or has not been received during the previous year relevant to an assessment year and the expenditure has been incurred during the said previous year in relation to such exempt income.
4. **Clarifications on allowability of expenditure [Section 37]**: In order to make the intention of the legislation clear and to make it free from any misinterpretation, it is proposed to insert another Explanation to sub-section (1) of section 37 to further clarify that the expression "expenditure incurred by an assessee for any purpose which is an offence or which is prohibited by law", under Explanation 1, shall include and shall be deemed to have always included the expenditure incurred by an assessee,
  - i. for any purpose which is an offence under, or which is prohibited by, any law for the time being in force, in India or outside India; or
  - ii. to provide any benefit or perquisite, in whatever form, to a person, whether or not carrying on a business or exercising a profession, and acceptance of such benefit or perquisite by such person is in violation of any law or rule or regulation or guidelines, as the case may be, for the time being in force, governing the conduct of such person; or
  - iii. to compound an offence under any law for the time being in force, in India or outside India.



- 5. Clarification regarding deduction on payment of interest only on actual payment [Section 43B]:** It is proposed to amend Explanation 3C, Explanation 3CA and Explanation 3D of section 43B to provide that conversion of interest payable under clause (d), clause (da), and clause (e) of section 43B, into debenture or any other instrument by which liability to pay is deferred to a future date, shall also not be deemed to have been actually paid.
- 6. Extension of the last date for commencement of manufacturing or production [Section 115BAB]:** Section 115BAB of the Income-tax Act provides for an option of concessional rate of taxation @ 15 % for new domestic manufacturing companies provided that they do not avail of any specified incentives or deductions and fulfill certain other conditions. In order to provide relief to such companies, it is proposed to amend section 115BAB so as to extend the date of commencement of manufacturing or production of an article or thing, from 31st March, 2023 to 31st March, 2024.
- 7. Extension of date of incorporation for eligible start up for exemption [Section 80-IAC]:** It is proposed to amend the provisions of section 80-IAC of the Act to extend the period of incorporation of eligible start-ups to 31st March, 2023.
- 8. Rationalization of provisions of the Act to promote the growth of co-operative societies**
  - i. Reduce Alternate Minimum Tax Rate for Co-operative Society from 18.5% to 15% in order to provide parity between co-operative societies and companies.
  - ii. Reduce Rate of Surcharge for Co-operative Society from 12% to 7% in case the total income exceeds one crore rupees but does not exceed ten crore rupees. Surcharge at the rate of 12% of shall continue to be levied in case of a co-operative society having a total income exceeding ten crore rupees.
- 9. Incentives to National Pension System (NPS) subscribers for state government employees [Section 80CCD] :** It is proposed to increase the limit of deduction under section 80CCD of the Act from the existing 10% to 14% in respect of contribution made by the State Government to the account of its employee in line with central government employees.
- 10. Exemption of amount received for medical treatment and on account of death due to COVID-19:**
  - i. it is proposed to amend clause (2) of section 17 and to insert a new sub-clause in the proviso to state that any sum paid by the employer in respect of any expenditure actually incurred by the employee on his medical treatment or treatment of any member of his family in respect of any illness relating to COVID-19 subject to such conditions, as may be notified by the Central Government, shall not be forming part of “perquisite”.
  - ii. it is proposed to amend the proviso to Clause (x) of sub-section (2) of section 56 and insert two new clauses in the proviso so as to provide that-
    - (i) any sum of money received by an individual, from any person, in respect of any expenditure actually incurred by him on his medical treatment or treatment of any member of his family, in respect of any illness related to COVID-19 subject to such conditions, as may be notified by the Central Government in this behalf, shall not be the income of such person;
    - (ii) any sum of money received by a member of the family of a deceased person, from the employer of the deceased person (without limit), or from any other person or persons to the extent that such sum or aggregate of such sums does not exceed ten lakh rupees,

where the cause of death of such person is illness relating to COVID-19 and the payment is, received within twelve months from the date of death of such person, and subject to such other conditions, as may be notified by the Central Government in this behalf, shall not be the income of such person.

**11. Rationalization of provisions of TDS on sale of immovable property [Section 194-IA] :**

it is proposed to amend section 194-IA of the Act to provide that in case of transfer of an immovable property (other than agricultural land), TDS is to be deducted at the rate of one percent of such sum paid or credited to the resident or the stamp duty value of such property, whichever is higher. In case the consideration paid for the transfer of immovable property and the stamp duty value of such property are both less than 50 lakh rupees, then no tax is to be deducted under section 194-IA.

**12. TDS on benefit or perquisite of a business or profession [Section 194R] :**

it is proposed to insert a new section 194R to the Act to provide that the person responsible for providing to a resident, any benefit or perquisite, whether convertible into money or not, arising from carrying out of a business or exercising of a profession by such resident, shall, before providing such benefit or perquisite, as the case may be, to such resident, ensure that tax has been deducted in respect of such benefit or perquisite at the rate of ten per cent of the value or aggregate of value of such benefit or perquisite. For the purpose of this section, the expression 'person responsible for providing' has been proposed to mean a person providing such benefit or perquisite or in case of company, the company itself including the principal officer thereof. No tax is to be deducted if the value or aggregate value of the benefit or perquisite paid or likely to be paid to a resident does not exceed twenty thousand rupees during the financial year.

**13. Widening the scope of reporting by producers of cinematograph films or persons engaged in specified activities [Section 285B] :**

It is proposed to widen the scope of section 285B to include persons engaged in specified activities to expand the reporting requirements in Form 52A. "Specified Activities" would mean event management, documentary production, production of programs for telecasting on television or over the top platforms or any other similar platform, sports event management, other performing arts or any other activity as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf.

**14. Provisions pertaining to bonus stripping and dividend stripping to be made applicable to securities and units [Section 94] :**

it is proposed to amend sub-section (8) of section 94, pertaining to the prevention of tax evasion through bonus stripping, so as to make the said provision applicable to securities as well. It is also proposed to amend the Explanation to the said section to modify the definition of unit, so as to include units of business trusts such as InvIT, REIT and AIF, within the definition of units.

**15. Scheme for taxation of virtual digital assets [Section 115BBH] :**

- i. Gain on virtual digital assets (VDA) taxed @ 30%.
- ii. No deduction and no set off will be allowed (other than cost of acquisition) in computing gain on virtual digital assets.
- iii. TDS under section 194S @ 1% on transfer of virtual digital assets (VDA).
- iv. Further, in order to provide for taxing the gifting of virtual digital assets, it is also proposed to amend section 56 of the Act to, provide that the expression "property" shall include virtual digital asset. If gift received from non relative of VDA more than 50,000 shall be taxable under Income from Other Sources.

**16. Surcharge on LTCG capped at 15% :** In case of Individual, HUF, AOP, BOI, AJP maximum

surcharge limit is 15% on tax calculated on LTCG 112A, STCG 111A and Dividend Income. From AY 23-24 it is proposed to include LTCG 112 also, so from AY 23-24 maximum surcharge limit of 15% applicable on all type of LTCG.

17. In case of domestic company, the rate of income-tax shall be 25% of the total income, if the total turnover or gross receipts of the previous year 2020-21 does not exceed Rs. 400 crore rupees and in all other cases the rate of Income-tax shall be 30% of the total income.
18. Definition of the term “slump sale” [Section 2(42C)]: Under the Finance Act, 2021, the definition of “slump sale” was amended to expand its scope to cover all forms of transfer under slump sale. However, inadvertently, in the last sentence there is reference to the word “sales” instead of “transfer” Therefore, it is proposed to carry out consequential amendment by amending the provision of clause (42C) of section 2 of the Act, to substitute the word “sales” with the word “transfer”.
19. Condition of releasing of annuity to a disabled person [Section 80DD]: Section 80DD provides for a deduction to resident individual or HUF, in respect of
  - (a) Expenditure for the medical treatment of a dependant, being a person with disability; or
  - (b) Amount paid to LIC or any other insurer or administrator or specified company in respect of a scheme for the maintenance of a disabled dependant.

Sub-section (2) of the aforesaid section provides that the deduction shall be allowed only if the payment of annuity or lump sum amount is made to the benefit of the dependant, in the event of the death of the individual or the member of the HUF in whose name subscription to the scheme has been made.

Sub-section (3) of the aforesaid section provides that if the dependant with disability, predeceases the individual or the member of the HUF, the amount deposited in such scheme shall be deemed to be the income of the assessee of the previous year in which such amount is received by the assessee and shall accordingly be chargeable to tax as the income of that previous year.

In order to remove this genuine hardship, it is proposed to allow the deduction under the said section also during the lifetime, i.e., upon attaining age of sixty years or more of the individual or the member of the HUF in whose name subscription to the scheme has been made and where payment or deposit has been discontinued.

Further, it is proposed that the provisions of sub-section (3) shall not apply to the amount received by the dependant, before his death, by way of annuity or lump sum by application of the condition referred to in the proposed amendment.

This amendment will take effect from 1st April, 2023 and will accordingly apply in relation to the assessment year 2023-24 and subsequent assessment years.

- 20. No set off of loss with the income arising during search operation [Section 79A] :** Presently, there is no provision to restrict set-off of loss or unabsorbed depreciation against income detected owing to search & seizure or survey (other than TDS survey) though restriction is there for incomes in the nature of unexplained cash credit or investment. It is now proposed to provide that set-off of loss or unabsorbed depreciation will not be allowed against undisclosed income.
- 21. Date of tax incentive for start-up extended to March 2023 [Section 80IAC] :** The existing provisions of the section 80-IAC of the Act inter alia, provide for a deduction of an amount equal to 100% of the profits and gains derived from an eligible business by an eligible start-up for three

consecutive assessment years out of ten years, beginning from the year of incorporation, at the option of the assesses subject to the condition that,-

- (i) the total turnover of its business does not exceed one hundred crore rupees,
- (ii) it is holding a certificate of eligible business from the Inter-Ministerial Board of Certification, and
- (iii) it is incorporated on or after 1st day of April, 2016 but before 1st day of April 2022.

Due to COVID pandemic there have been delays in setting up of such units. In order to factor in such delays and promote such eligible start-ups, it is proposed to amend the provisions of section 80-IAC of the Act to extend the period of incorporation of eligible start-ups to 31st March, 2023.

### Indirect Taxes

- The Gross GST collections for the month of January 2022 are Rs. 1,40,986 crores which is highest since inception of Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- Customs Administration of SEZs to be fully IT driven and function on the Customs National Portal – shall be implemented by September 30, 2022.
- A moderate tariff of 7.5 percent on capital goods and project imports.
- A few exemptions introduced on inputs, like specialised castings, ball screw and linear motion guide - to encourage domestic manufacturing of capital goods.
- More than 350 exemption entries proposed to be gradually phased out, like exemption on certain agricultural produce, chemicals, fabrics, medical devices, & drugs and medicines for which sufficient domestic capacity exists.
- Concessions in customs duty will be given to certain consumer electronic devices to promote manufacturing of wearable devices, hearable devices and electronic smart meters.
- Duty concessions to parts of transformer of mobile phone chargers and camera lens of mobile camera module and certain other items.
- Customs duty on cut and polished diamonds and gemstones being reduced to 5 per cent and Nil customs duty to simply sawn diamond.
- Customs Duty on umbrellas raised up to 20 percent and exemption to parts of umbrellas being withdrawn.
- Customs duty exemption given to steel scrap last year extended for another year to provide relief to MSME secondary steel producers.
- Certain Anti-Dumping Duties and Countervailing Duties on stainless steel and coated steel flat products, bars of alloy steel and high-speed steel are being revoked – to tackle prevailing high prices of metal in larger public interest.
- Unblended fuel to attract additional excise duty of Rs. 2/litre from October 1, 2022 to promote blending biofuels in petrol and diesel.

### Some Key Launches in 2021

- **PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (October 25, 2021)**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission on October 25, 2021.

The aim of PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission is to strengthen the critical healthcare network from village to block to the district to the regional and national level in the next 4-5 years. Describing the initiative taken by the government under the new Mission, the Prime Minister said that there are 3 major aspects of the Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission to address the different gaps in the health sector of the country. The first is related to the creation of elaborate facilities for diagnostics and treatment. Under this, Health and Wellness Centers are being opened in villages and cities, where there will be facilities for early detection of diseases. Facilities like free medical consultation, free tests, free medicine will be available in these centres. For serious illness, 35 thousand new critical care-related beds are being added in 600 districts and referral facilities will be given in 125 districts.

The second aspect of the scheme is related to the testing network for the diagnosis of diseases. Under this mission, the necessary infrastructure will be developed for the diagnosis and monitoring of diseases. 730 districts of the country will get Integrated Public Health labs and 3 thousand blocks will get Block Public Health Units. Apart from that, 5 Regional National Centers for Disease Control, 20 Metropolitan units, and 15 BSL labs will further strengthen this network.

The Third aspect is the expansion of existing research institutions that study pandemics. Existing 80 Viral Diagnostic and research labs will be strengthened, 15 Biosafety level 15 labs will be operationalized, 4 new National institutes of Virology and a National Institute for One Health are being established. WHO regional research platform for South Asia will also strengthen this network. "This means, through PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission an entire ecosystem for services from treatment to critical research will be created in every corner of the country".

The Prime Minister highlighted the employment potential of these measures and said that PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, along with health, is also a medium of *aatmnirbharta*.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1766289>

- **PM Gati Shakti (October 13, 2021)**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on October 13, 2021 launched PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity. While addressing Hon'ble Prime Minister said that PM Gati Shakti National Master plan will take the confidence of India to the pledge of *aatmnirbharta*. "This Masterplan will give impetus (Gati Shakti) to 21st century India.

The Prime Minister stressed that the people of India, Indian industry, Indian business, Indian manufacturers, Indian farmers are at the center of this great campaign of Gati Shakti. It will give new energy to the present and future generations of India to build the India of the 21st century and will remove the obstacles in their path.

PM Gati Shakti will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN etc. Economic Zones like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, agri zones will be covered to improve connectivity & make Indian businesses more competitive. It will also leverage technology extensively including spatial planning tools with ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) imagery developed by BiSAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics).

PM Gati Shakti is based on six pillars

*Comprehensiveness* : It will include all the existing and planned initiatives of various Ministries and Departments with one centralized portal. Each and every Department will now have visibility of each other's activities providing critical data while planning & execution of projects in a comprehensive manner.

*Prioritization* : Through this, different Departments will be able to prioritize their projects through cross-sectoral interactions.

*Optimization* : The National Master Plan will assist different ministries in planning for projects after identification of critical gaps. For the transportation of the goods from one place to another, the plan will help in selecting the most optimum route in terms of time and cost.

*Synchronization* : Individual Ministries and Departments often work in silos. There is lack of coordination in planning and implementation of the project resulting in delays. PM Gati Shakti will help in synchronizing the activities of each department, as well as of different layers of governance, in a holistic manner by ensuring coordination of work between them.

*Analytical* : The plan will provide the entire data at one place with GIS based spatial planning and analytical tools having 200+ layers, enabling better visibility to the executing agency.

*Dynamic* : All Ministries and Departments will now be able to visualize, review and monitor the progress of cross-sectoral projects, through the GIS platform, as the satellite imagery will give on-ground progress periodically and progress of the projects will be updated on a regular basis on the portal. It will help in identifying the vital interventions for enhancing and updating the master plan.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1763576>

<https://www.india.gov.in/spotlight/pm-gati-shakti-national-master-plan-multi-modal-connectivity>

- **Indian Space Association (October 11, 2021)**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched Indian Space Association (ISpA) on October 11, 2021 and interacted with representatives of the Space Industry on the occasion.

He remarked that the Government's approach to space reforms is based on 4 pillars. First, the freedom of innovation to the private sector. Second, the role of the government as an enabler. Third, preparing youth for the future. And fourth, to see the space sector as a resource for the progress of the common man. The Prime Minister said that the space sector is a major medium for the progress of 130 crore countrymen. He remarked that for India, the space sector means better mapping, imaging and connectivity facilities for the common people. Also, the space sector means better speed from shipment to delivery for entrepreneurs, this also means better security and income for fishermen and better forecast of the natural calamity.

The Prime Minister remarked that a self-reliant India campaign is not just a vision but also a well-thought, well-planned, integrated economic strategy. A strategy that will make India a global manufacturing powerhouse by enhancing the skills capabilities of India's entrepreneurs and India's youth. A strategy that will make India a global centre of innovations, based on India's technological expertise. He added that it is a strategy, which will play a big role in global development, enhancing the prestige of India's human resources and talent, globally.

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1762890>

- **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 (October 01, 2021)**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 on October 01, 2021.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said, in 2014, the countrymen took a pledge to make India Open Defecation Free (ODF) and they fulfilled this pledge with the construction of

more than 10 crore toilets. Now the goal of 'Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0' is to make the cities Garbage-Free, completely free of garbage, he said. The Prime Minister underlined the scope of the country's target in the next phase of Mission AMRUT as 'Improving sewage and septic management, making our cities water safe cities and ensuring that no sewage drains anywhere in our rivers'.

The Prime Minister dedicated the successes of transformation in the urban regeneration and cleanliness to Mahatma Gandhi. He said these missions are the result of inspiration by Mahatma Gandhi and is being realized through his ideals only. He also highlighted the ease for mothers and daughters due to the construction of toilets.

Saluting the spirit of the nation, the Prime Minister remarked that the journey of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and AMRUT Mission so far makes every countryman proud. He encapsulated the feeling when he said "In this, there is a mission, there is respect, there is dignity, there is also the ambition of a country and there is also unmatched love for the motherland".

For details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1759913>

- **National Single Window System – A Giant Leap towards making India Aatmanirbhar**

### **Background**

The continuous improvement of India's business climate improvement is one of the key focus areas of the Government of India. Reiterating its commitment to "Make in India, make for the world", the government has launched several initiatives recently, including the flagship Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) and the India Industrial Land Bank System. The PLI schemes have been announced for 13 sectors with an overall outlay of USD 27 billion and is set to create manufacturing global champions for an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

One such crucial initiative, announced by the Finance Minister in the Union Budget speech 2020, was the ambitious Investment Clearance Cell (ICC). While presenting Budget 2020-21, the Finance Minister announced plans to set up an Investment Clearance Cell (ICC) that will provide "end to end" facilitation and support to investors, including pre-investment advisory, provide information related to land banks and facilitate clearances at Centre and State level. The cell was planned as a One-stop digital platform to obtain all requisite central and state clearances/approvals required to start business operations in India. The purpose of Investment Clearance Cell, a National portal, is to integrate the existing clearance systems of the various Ministries/ Departments of Govt. of India and of State Governments without disruption to the existing IT portals of Ministries and will have a single, unified application form.

### **Preparatory Work**

Subsequent to the announcement in Union Budget 2020-21, DPIIT along with Invest India initiated the process of developing the portal as a National Single Window System (NSWS), which will provide a single platform to enable investors to identify and obtain approvals and clearances needed by investors, entrepreneurs, and businesses in India.

The system is envisioned to address information asymmetry, duplication of information submitted across platforms and authorities and inefficient tracking of approvals and registration faced by investors.

Extensive consultations were held with Central departments and States, especially the ones with effective Single Window Systems. Furthermore, discussions were undertaken with Industry associations, professional bodies, and legal firms to understand the expectations from the envisioned single window system. This was followed by the creation of Ministry-wise information docket

comprising of respective approvals and registrations along with relevant trigger conditions and policies. Each ministry undertook an extensive review and validation exercise to ensure all relevant approvals and registrations were covered in the scope of the National Single Window System.

While this exercise was conducted by the stakeholders, Invest India undertook the design of overall technology architecture suitable for a system scalable across Ministries & States. Invest India evaluated and selected technology implementation partners and started developing the system.

In January 2021, Know Your Approval module was opened for feedback from Industry associations. Meanwhile, Ministries & States started integration with core modules of NSWS for seamless exchange of information. After incorporation of feedback in the KYA module, it was launched in July 2021. While extensive testing and trials were undertaken to test the robustness of NSWS and its integration with Central Departments and States.

### **Launch of National Single Window System (NSWS)**

Despite the presence of several IT platforms for investing in India such as in departments of the Government of India and State Single Window Clearances, investors need to visit multiple platforms to gather information and obtain clearances from different stakeholders. To address this, the Government of India on September 22, 2021 launched the much-awaited National Single-Window System for investors and businesses. The portal integrates the existing clearance systems of the Centre and states. The launch of this portal will help in eliminating the need for investors to visit multiple platforms/ offices to gather information and obtain clearances from different stakeholders and provide time-bound approvals and real time status updates to investors.

Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution Shri Piyush Goyal, while launching the portal informed that NSWS will usher in Azadi from a legacy of running to Govt. offices for approvals and registrations i.e. Ease of doing business & Ease of living Azadi from paperwork, duplication & information asymmetry Azadi from Windows within Window. NSWS to have solutions for all at one click of the mouse through 'End to End' facilitation which will bring Transparency, Accountability & Responsiveness in the ecosystem and all information will be available on a single dashboard.

This single window portal is a one-stop shop for investors for approvals & clearances. Services include Know Your Approval (KYA), Common Registration & State registration Form, Document repository & E-Communication. NSWS will provide strength to other schemes e.g. Make in India, Startup India, PLI scheme etc. As per the press release issued by PIB vide dated September 22, 2021, the portal hosts approvals across 18 Central Departments & 9 States, another 14 Central departments & 5 states will be added by Dec'21. NSWS has been designed keeping the needs of entrepreneurs and investors at the center.

### **Services under the umbrella of NSWS**

NSWS provides following online services: -

- *Know Your Approval (KYA) Service* : An intelligent information wizard that generates a list of approvals required by any business to commence operations. It does so by asking the investor a series of dynamic questions about their planned business activities and identifies the applicable approvals basis the responses provided. The questionnaire, simple and user friendly on the surface, has a complex, automated logic built into it to sieve through hundreds of approvals, and shortlists only those relevant to the specific investor or entrepreneur. This service was launched on 21.07.2021 with over 500 approvals across 32 Central Departments and over 2000 approvals across 14 states. This service is only for guidance purposes and does not constitute any legal advice.



- *Common Registration Form* : To ensure a single point of submission of information and documents across Ministries and States, a unified information capturing system along with a common registration form has been introduced. Information is auto-populated on forms, eliminating the need to fill in the same information again.
- *State registration form* : Enables the investor to have seamless single- click access to respective State Single Window System.
- *Applicant dashboard* : Provides a single online interface to apply, track and respond to the queries pertaining to approvals and registrations across ministries and States.
- *Document repository* : An online centralized storage service for investors to enable one-time document submission and use the same across multiple approvals. This eliminates the need to submit documents at multiple portals.
- *E-Communication module* : Enables online response to queries and clarification requests related to applications by Ministries and States.

The beta version of the portal has now been completed and opened to all stakeholders and the public as a trial soft launch. The portal will progressively onboard a greater number of approvals and licenses, based on user/industry feedback.

For details: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1756966>

## GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS

### **Brief on Ashneer Grover and the BharatPe tussle**

#### **What is BharatPe?**

BharatPe was founded in 2018 and offers a range of fintech products that cater to small merchants and also helps them accept digital payments.. BharatPe has facilitated the disbursement of loans totalling over Rs 3,000 crore to its merchants since its launch.

Grover had spent his initial years as an investment banker at Kotak Bank and later served as the chief financial officer at Grofers. Coming from an investment banking background, Grover scaled his fintech's valuation to almost \$2.85 billion within four years of launch and raised more than \$600 million in equity funding from top funds, including Sequoia Capital India, Coatue Management Insight Partners, Dragoneer Investment Group, Steadfast Capital and Tiger Global. Bharatpe has also got an in-principal small finance bank licence, through a joint venture with Mumbai-based Centrum Financial Services to take over the cooperative lender Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank and relaunch a small finance bank.

*So what really happened?*

It all began with an audio leak

On January 19, Ashneer Grover, co-founder and managing director of BharatPe, took voluntary leave until the end of March. The voluntary leave came two weeks after a recording of a phone conversation was leaked online in which a man, alleged to be Grover, could be heard abusing and threatening an employee of Kotak Mahindra Bank after missing out on the IPO allotment for Nykaa's initial public offering despite being promised one. While Ashneer first termed it as a "fake audio by some scamster trying to extort funds," he later deleted the tweet. Kotak Mahindra Bank is now pursuing legal action against Ashneer over "inappropriate language" used against their employee.

*Toxic work culture*

Industry experts were quick to point out that apart from the Kotak controversy, concerns were growing about the toxic work culture at Bharatpe, along with Grover's presence on start-up TV show Shark Tank when some of his comments to entrepreneurs pitching for funds sounded rather rude and harsh. Reports also said that due to his headstrong personality, he was made to step back from his role as the CEO and made the MD. Some media reports also suggested that due to foul and aggressive language becoming the norm at Bharatpe, there was an exodus of top-level talent from the company.

*God syndrome*

Industry experts call this the God syndrome, when one man is single-handedly driving a company's growth and arrogance gets the better of him. What happens is that whatever they (founders) want should (happen many times. But when it doesn't, it comes out as extreme anger and frustration.... Ashneer's alleged remarks over the call are a typical example of this, the founder of a leading startup was quoted as saying by Economic Times.

"Grover has been allowed to get away with this so far. As long as he was getting new investors at a higher valuation, the board ignored everything else. It all boils down to money," a VC who wanted to invest in Bharat Pe but backed out in the last leg of due diligence told ET.

In August 2020 Grover also had a spat with Harshjit Sethi, a managing director at Sequoia Capital India, which holds more than 19% stake in the company after Bharatpe's Series B funding was delayed

due to Sequoia not committing to the round. Sequoia had also raised concerns about Grover wanting to partially sell shares in a secondary transaction.

"Messages and threats from you (Grover) over the last few days and months have been hurtful and disappointing....."

Specifically, we have heard your message of not wanting us on the cap table. [...] We need to have a decisive conversation about how the relationship between Sequoia and BharatPe changes going forward" Sethi wrote in a mail to Grover in August 2020.

### ***The financial irregularities angle***

About a week after Grover went on leave, his wife Madhuri Jain Grover - who is Group Head - Controls at the company followed suit as the firm decided to take an independent audit of its internal processes and systems. The company appointed Alvarez and Marsal to conduct the independent audit after BharatPe came under intense media scrutiny.

Signalling bigger problems surrounding the Board of Directors and the Founder,

*Allegation 1:* BharatPe routed money through fake HR consultant firms that were linked to each other and to Madhuri Jain's brother that were linked to each other and Madhuri Jain's brother Shwetank Jain.

*Allegation 2:* BharatPe inflated transaction values by some merchants and that some of these vendors were fake.

Select screenshots of Alvarez and Marsal early reviews that were leaked on social media show inconsistencies in dealings with vendors and have flagged payments to vendors and consultants that are non-existent. The screenshots show that payments of Rs 53.25 crore were made towards vendors that do not exist and the company incurred a loss of Rs 10.97 crore in these dealings. The report also states that BharatPe claims to pay recruitment fees to consultants for the employees they recruit for the company. Although Alvarez and Marsal could confirm that some of the employees, as claimed to be hired through consultants, were brought on board the said employees have revealed that they had no interaction with any consultants in the process and have no knowledge of their existence.

The report mentions Madhuri Jain received at least three of these invoices herself and forwarded them to the company for payments. The invoices were created by Shwetank Jain, Jain's brother.

The review also found spending of Rs 3.77 crore on vendors with a connection to Panipat, which is Madhuri's home town. These vendors all had commonalities such as similar email addresses, similar physical addresses, similar formats, same bank branches, etc. and were all based in Panipat.

### ***This is not the first instance of financial irregularity***

BharatPe's dealings with non-existent vendors were also highlighted after an investigation undertaken by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) in 2021 when it conducted a search operation in the company's head office on October 21, last year. At the time, DGGI found close to Rs 51 crore was paid to 30 non-existent vendors. It issued a summons to a BharatPe official on November 1, 2021 on this matter, to which the company responded with a request to waive the show cause notice in lieu of paying the dues and necessary penalties. This letter to DGGI was signed by Deepak Jagdishram Gupta. The Alvarez & Marsal report says Gupta is Madhuri's brother-in-law.

In addition to correct its accounts post DGGI's investigation, BharatPe reversed input credit of Rs 9.54 crore and additionally paid a penalty of Rs 1.54 crore. One of the questions raised in Alvarez & Marsal's report is why BharatPe settled this matter, causing a loss of Rs. 10.97 crore, without legal

representation. A&M also recommended to the board that this requires a deeper probe as to why the company was dealing with 'non-existent vendors'.

### **What did BharatPe have to say about these leaks?**

On February 4, BharatPe issued a statement saying it was yet to receive a final report from Alvarez & Marsal.

"We are deeply pained that the integrity of the BharatPe board or individual board members is being questioned time and again through misrepresentation facts and baseless allegations. The board in all its actions has followed due process in the best interest of the company. We would urge that the confidentiality and integrity of the governance review and board meetings is maintained by all. We request everyone, including the media, to show restraint and allow the governance review to take place in a thorough manner," it said in a statement, it said in a statement.

### **What does Grover have to say about these financial irregularities?**

Reports suggest that Grover could be asked to leave the company permanently, and hence it is not surprising that he has hired lawyers too. In an interview with money control, he claims "What am I scared of? I am the only startup in India which has built \$6 billion of value by spending less than \$150 million. Forget the audit, forget the allegations, just put the numbers of Razorpay, Paytm and CRED, any fintech which is valued higher than me. How much money have they spent and what's the value being created? So by that logic, anyone who spent more money than me has done a fraud."

He also claimed that the company board is trying to 'arm twist' him to negotiate and take lesser money for his shares. "If you don't need me, I don't want to make value for you either. I have created two unicorns already, I have the capacity to create three more. So make me an offer, I'll move my way, you move yours," he said.

### **In comes another accounting firm**

BharatPe board has now reportedly decided to rope in accounting firm PwC for an independent audit. The move is aimed at terminating the services of Grover and his wife since as per an MOU clause they can only be ousted after a report by a Big 4 audit firm indicts them.

Alvarez and Marsal are separately conducting a thorough probe into the company's practices, including accounting, approval processes, expenses, and hiring.

BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover has demanded a payout of Rs 4,000 crore from investors to buy out his stake if they want him to exit the company despite being accused of financial fraud.

The latest is that he has already held talks to sell his 9.5% stake in the fintech startup, which could pave the way for his full exit rather than being embroiled in a long, legal battle with the board members. Sequoia Capital India, Coatue Management and Ribbit Capital are the three largest shareholders of BharatPe and hold the right of first refusal (rofr) on founder's shares and tag along with rights.

For details: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/ashneer-grover-and-the-bharatpe-tussle-explained/articleshow/89425048.cms>

- **India's growth in next 25 years will be clean, green, sustainable and reliable: PM Narendra Modi (January 17, 2022)**

Asserting that India is making its policies today while focussing on requirements for not just the present but also for the next 25 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said this period of

growth would be 'green and clean' as well as 'sustainable and reliable'. In a special address at the World Economic Forum's online Davos Agenda 2022 summit, Modi said India has set goals of high growth as well as saturation of welfare and wellness for the next 25 years.

He also said India is fighting another COVID-19 wave with full alertness and caution while also maintaining economic growth. India is focused on reforms in the right direction and the global economic experts have praised India's decisions.

*For details: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/indias-growth-in-next-25-years-will-be-clean-green-sustainable-and-reliable-pm-narendra-modi/articleshow/88958221.cms>*

- **All independent directors of PTC Financial Services resign citing governance issues (January 19, 2022)**

All independent directors of PTC Financial Services, NBFC arm of PTC India Ltd, resigned on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 citing corporate governance lapses at several occasions on part of the company management. The three independent directors – Kamlesh Shivji Viakmsey, Thomas Mathew T and Santosh B Nayar - have flagged serious concerns on conduct on the management of the PFS India led by managing director and CEO Pawan Singh.

*For details: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporate-trends/all-independent-directors-of-ptc-financial-services-resign-citing-governance-issues/articleshow/89003274.cms>*

- **SEBI notifies stricter norms for appointment of MD at listed companies (January 25, 2022)**

Putting in place stringent norms, SEBI has said that a person rejected by shareholders at a general meeting can be appointed or re-appointed as a managing director or whole time director or manager, only after providing detailed justifications and ensuring compliance with various conditions. "The appointment or a re-appointment of a person, including as a Managing Director (MD) or a Whole Time Director (WTD) or a Manager, who was earlier rejected by the shareholders at a general meeting, shall be done only with the prior approval of the shareholders".

For considering the appointment or re-appointment of such a person earlier rejected by the shareholders, there should be a detailed explanation and justification by the company's nomination and remuneration committee and the board of directors for recommending the person.

*For details: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/sebi-notifies-stricter-norms-for-appointment-of-md-at-listed-cos/articleshow/89119176.cms>*

- **JSW Group joins World Business Council for Sustainable Development (February 7, 2022)**

JSW Group, one of the country's leading business houses, has joined over 200 forward thinking Companies as the newest member of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). JSW will be represented in WBCSD by Seshagiri Rao, Joint Managing Director and Group CFO, who also sits on the board of directors of JSW Steel. He will also take part in the WBCSD CFO network, which is driving higher ESG performance within companies, and more effective disclosure to capital markets, JSW Steel said in a filing to BSE.

*For details: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporate-trends/jsw-group-joins-world-business-council-for-sustainable-development/articleshow/89404607.cms>*

## SAMPLE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQS)

1. **Which state has topped the Good Governance Index 2021?**
  - a) Kerala
  - b) Karnataka
  - c) Gujarat**
  - d) Uttar Pradesh
2. **Who has been appointed as Deputy National Security Adviser of India?**
  - a) General MM Naravane
  - b) Admiral R Hari Kumar
  - c) Pradeep Kumar Rawat
  - d) Vikram Misri**
3. **Who among the following is newly appointed Twitter CEO?**
  - a) Sundar Pichai
  - b) Nikesh Arora
  - c) Parag Aggarwal**
  - d) George Kurian
4. **Who has been appointed as the new Director-General of Narcotics Control Bureau?**
  - a) Atul Karwal
  - b) R Hari Kumar
  - c) Sheel Vardhan
  - d) SN Pradhan**
5. **Who has been appointed as the next Chief of Naval Staff?**
  - a) Ajit Kumar P
  - b) Atul Kumar Jain
  - c) R Hari Kumar**
  - d) Ajendra Bahadur Singh

*(For more MCQs, please refer CSEET Guide - II on Current Affairs)*

***Lesson 4***

**LEGAL AND OTHER  
AFFAIRS**

## RECENT IMPORTANT JUDGMENTS PASSED BY SUPREME COURT, HIGH COURTS AND TRIBUNALS IN INDIA

- **Supreme Court**

The Supreme Court of India is the highest judicial Court and the final Court of appeal under the Constitution of India, the highest Constitutional Court, with the power of judicial review.

India is a federal state and has a single and unified judicial system with three tier structure, i.e. Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts.

### *Constitutional Provisions*

The Indian constitution provides for a provision of Supreme Court under Part V (The Union) and Chapter 6 (The Union Judiciary).

Articles 124 to 147 in Part V of the Constitution deal with the organisation, independence, jurisdiction, powers and procedures of the Supreme Court.

The Indian constitution under Article 124(1) states that there shall be a Supreme Court of India constituting of a Chief Justice of India (CJI) and, until Parliament by law prescribes a larger number, of not more than seven other Judges.

The Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India can broadly be categorised into original jurisdiction, appellate jurisdiction and advisory jurisdiction. However, there are other multiple powers of the Supreme Court.

### *Organisation of Supreme Court*

- Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Bill of 2019 has added four Judges to strength. It increased the judicial strength from 31 to 34, including the CJI.
- Originally, the strength of the Supreme Court was fixed at eight (one Chief Justice and seven other judges).
- The Parliament is authorised to regulate them.

The Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President. The CJI is appointed by the President after consultation with such Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts as he deems necessary.

The other Judges are appointed by the President after consultation with the CJI and such other Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts as he deems necessary. The consultation with the Chief Justice is obligatory in the case of appointment of a Judge other than Chief Justice.

### **Some recent important judgement by Supreme Court of India**

In 2021, the Supreme Court issued two important judgments on Statutory Tribunals. In July, it struck down certain provisions of the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021 on the grounds that they negatively affected the independence of the Tribunals. In October, the Court recognised the suo moto powers of the National Green Tribunal, as its mandate to protect the environment is within the Right to Life.

#### *1. Madras Bar Association v Union of India*

In July, a three-Judge Bench consisting of Justices Nageswara Rao, Ravindra Bhat and



Hemant Gupta struck down provisions of the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021 related to terms of services of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other members of statutory tribunals.

The Ordinance stated that the Central Government would be responsible for making rules on the appointments, salaries, tenures of the members of tribunals. It set the tenure of members of the tribunals to four years, and set the minimum age for an appointment at 50 years.

The Ordinance was challenged on the grounds that allowing the Executive to make rules on tenure, salary and appointment would violate the principle of separation of powers and adversely affect the independence of judicial bodies. Further, the amendments on tenure were contrary to Madras Bar Association III.

A 2:1 majority struck down the amendments on the minimum age limit on the grounds that it violated Madras Bar Association III. Gupta J dissented, writing that an Ordinance could not be invalidated merely on the grounds that they contradicted a prior judgment of the Court. The Court also struck down the provision that set the tenure of members to four years on the grounds that the security of tenure and salary for tribunal members is key to their independence. The provisions violated the principle of separation of powers.

## 2. *Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai v Ankita Sinha*

16 appeals were filed before the Supreme Court against Orders of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) by various State Governments and corporations. These Orders were issued by the NGT in exercise of suo moto powers. The appeals challenged the NGT's suo moto powers on the basis that the NGT was a statutory tribunal, and did not inherently have suo moto powers as they were not explicitly mentioned in the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

On October 7th, 2021, a three-Judge Bench held that the NGT may exercise suo moto powers to execute its functions under the NGT Act, 2010. The Bench emphasised that the main aim of the NGT was to protect the environment; a purpose covered by the right to a healthy environment within the constitutionally guaranteed Right to Life. In order to protect the Right to Life, the statutory provisions should be amplified to serve this purpose. Hence, the NGT may exercise suo moto powers to better serve its mandate.

### **Looking Ahead 2022: SC on Special Investigative Bodies**

In 2022, the Supreme Court will engage with three important cases that deal with the independence of special investigative bodies.

The right to fair investigation is not only a fundamental right, but is also a principle of natural justice. Since the investigation of some crimes requires expertise and dedicated attention, special investigative bodies are often given special powers to ensure a thorough investigation. Since these powers are similar to police powers, it is essential that these bodies remain free from Executive interference to protect the rights of the accused.

In 2022, the Supreme Court will engage with three important cases concerning the independence of special investigative bodies.

#### **1. Powers of Agencies Investigating Economic Offences**

*Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v. Union of India*

Specialized agencies which investigate economic offences, such as the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), are empowered to issue the summons, record statements, make arrests and search and seize property. Despite having 'police powers', these agencies are not bound to follow the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

A group of over 200 petitions seeking judicial intervention into the lack of procedural checks and balances against the misuse of the wide powers of these agencies are pending. These are likely to be heard by Justice Khanwilkar in January 2022. The powers of the agencies are often seen to be used against political opponents. In this case, the Court is set to define the nature and limits of these powers.

## 2. **Executive Discretion in CBI and ED Director Term Extension**

*Mahua Moitra v Union of India*

In 2022, Justice Rao is likely to hear Trinamool MP Mahua Moitra's petition challenging amendments that allow the Executive to extend the term of the Directors of the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation. Mitra argues that the amendments empower the Executive to wield excessive power and control over investigative agencies. The Court will consider if this violates the right to a fair investigation and fair trial in 2022.

## 3. **Zakia Jafri's Protest Petition Against the Gujarat Riots SIT**

*Zakia Ehsan Jafri v State of Gujarat*

A three-Judge Bench comprising Justices Khanwilkar, Maheshwari and Ravikumar is expected to deliver judgment on a protest petition filed by Zakia Jafri, the widow of Ehsaan Jafri who was killed in Gulberg Society during the 2002 Gujarat riots.

During the course of 14 days of hearings in November 2021, Mrs. Zafri argued that the Supreme Court's Special Investigation Team (SIT) had acted with bias while giving a 'clean chit' to all 63 people accused of conspiring to cause the riots.

Khanwilkar J's judgment will determine whether the SIT had investigated all key pieces of evidence before closing the investigation. If the Bench finds bias or lack of thorough investigation, it will reopen the investigation in the contentious Gujarat riots case. This could have consequences for the top political leadership of the country, who are accused in the case.

### • **High Courts in India**

India has a cohesive judiciary system and the Supreme Court is the apex court. The High Court is the supreme judicial body in a state. According to Article 214, each state of India shall have a High Court. It is the final interpreter of the constitution. Article 215 and 26 of the India Constitution states that every High Court shall be a Court of record and shall have all the powers of such a Court including the power to punish for contempt of itself. Every High Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and such other Judges as the President may from time to time deem it necessary to appoint.

There are following 25 High Courts in India, three having control over more than one State. Delhi has a High Court of its own among the Union Territories.

Allahabad	Delhi	Jharkhand	Manipur	Rajasthan
Andhra Pradesh	Gujarat	Karnataka	Meghalaya	Sikkim
Bombay	Gauhati	Kerala	Orissa	Telangana
Calcutta	Himachal Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	Patna	Tripura
Chhattisgarh	Jammu & Kashmir	Madras	Punjab and Haryana	Uttarakhand

- **Administrative Tribunals**

The enactment of Administrative Tribunals Act in 1985 opened a new chapter in the sphere of administering justice to the aggrieved government servants. Administrative Tribunals Act owes its origin to Article 323-A of the Constitution which empowers Central Government to set-up by an Act of Parliament, Administrative Tribunals for adjudication of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to the public service and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union and the States. In pursuance of the provisions contained in the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985, the Administrative Tribunals set up under it exercise original jurisdiction in respect of service matters of employees covered by it. As a result of the judgement dated 18 March 1997 of the Supreme Court, the appeals against the Orders of an Administrative Tribunal shall lie before the Division Bench of the concerned High Court.

The Administrative Tribunals exercise jurisdiction only in relation to the service matters of the litigants covered by the Act. The procedural simplicity of the Act can be appreciated from the fact that the aggrieved person can also appear before it personally. The Government can present its case through its departmental officers or legal practitioners. Thus, the objective of the Tribunal is to provide for speedy and inexpensive justice to the litigants.

The Act provides for establishment of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and the State Administrative Tribunals. The CAT was set up on 1 November 1985. There are 17 Benches and 21 Circuit Benches in the Central Administrative Tribunal all over India. In addition to the Ministries and Departments of Central Government, the Government of India has notified about 214 organizations under section 14 (2) of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 to bring them within the jurisdiction of the Central Administrative Tribunal, from time to time. In addition the Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench is dealing with the matters of Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

- **National Company Law Tribunal**

The Central Government has constituted National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) under section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013) w.e.f. 01st June 2016.

In the first phase the Ministry of Corporate Affairs have set up eleven Benches, one Principal Bench at New Delhi and ten Benches at New Delhi, Ahmadabad, Allahabad, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai. These Benches will be headed by the President and 16 Judicial Members and 09 Technical Members at different locations.

- **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal**

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), with effect from 1st June, 2016.

NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC), with effect from 1st December, 2016. NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.

NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) – as per the amendment brought to Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 by Section 172 of the Finance Act, 2017, with effect from 26th May, 2017. Hon'ble Justice Shri S.J. Mukhopadhyaya, former Judge of the Supreme Court, is now the Chairperson of NCLAT.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS RELATED TO ICSI

### About the Institute of Company Secretaries of India

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) is the only recognized professional body in India to develop and regulate the profession of Company Secretaries in India. It is a premier national professional body set up under an act of Parliament, the Company Secretaries Act, 1980. ICSI functions under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. The Institute provides top-quality education to the students of Company Secretaries (CS) Course and best quality set standards to CS Members. At present, there are more than 65,000 members and around 2.5 Lakhs students on the roll of ICSI.

ICSI has its headquarters at New Delhi, four Regional Offices at New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai; one ICSI - Centre for Corporate Governance, Research and Training (CCGRT), Navi Mumbai, one ICSI Centre of Excellence, Hyderabad and 72 Chapters across India. ICSI has been contributing to the initiatives of Government of India that have potential to excel the social-economic growth of India.

### ICSI in News

- **The ICSI elects its New President and Vice President for the year 2022**

CS Devendra V. Deshpande, elected as President and CS Manish Gupta, elected as Vice President of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India for the year 2022 w.e.f. 19th January 2022.

*For details: [https://www.icsi.edu/media/filer\\_public/cf/ac/cfacfbcb-db61-41e2-8247-81b6168937d0/press\\_release\\_-\\_the\\_icsi\\_elects\\_its\\_new\\_president\\_and\\_vice\\_president\\_for\\_the\\_year\\_2022.pdf](https://www.icsi.edu/media/filer_public/cf/ac/cfacfbcb-db61-41e2-8247-81b6168937d0/press_release_-_the_icsi_elects_its_new_president_and_vice_president_for_the_year_2022.pdf)*

- **Celebration of 53rd Foundation Day of ICSI**

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), incorporated by the Government of India on 4th October, 1968, is country's premier professional body promoting good corporate governance, risk management and compliances - completed 53 years of its establishment on 4th October, 2021. To mark the 53rd Foundation Day of the ICSI, a commemoration event was organised on Monday, the 4th of October, 2021, on the theme "Powering Atmanirbhar Bharat through Entrepreneurship and Innovation" at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, Government of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and appreciated the Institute for attuning the celebration with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and choosing the theme "Powering Atmanirbhar Bharat through Entrepreneurship and Innovation" in tandem with this vision.

- **22nd National Conference of Practising Company Secretaries on the theme 'Passion for Profession: Empowering Entrepreneurship & Excellence' inaugurated on December 03, 2021 at Kolkata (December 03, 2021)**

The 22nd edition of the National Conference of Practising Company Secretaries, being organised on the theme 'Passion for Profession: Empowering Entrepreneurship & Excellence' was inaugurated in Kolkata on December 03, 2021, in the benign presence of Dr. Navrang Saini, Chairperson (Designate) & Whole Time Member, IBBI, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest along with Swami Suparnananda ji, Secretary, The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, as the Special Guest. In alignment with Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative of Government of India, the National Conference is aimed at bringing together a plethora of innovative ideas that will narrate the outline of governance and provide variables of powering Atmanirbhar Bharat.

*For details: [https://www.icsi.edu/media/webmodules/03122021\\_PRESS\\_RELEASE.PDF](https://www.icsi.edu/media/webmodules/03122021_PRESS_RELEASE.PDF)*

- **Celebration of 49th National Convention of Company Secretaries**

The Institute organizes every year an annual mega congregation of Company Secretaries National Convention of Company Secretaries, to deliberate on the National and International development in corporate & industry arena, topics of national importance, social & cultural issues, exemplified the role of professionals in carrying forward the legacies of systems, processes aligning with the growth mantra.

This year, 49th National Convention of Company Secretaries on 'Good Governance: The Universal Dharma' was organised during January 6-8, 2022 at The Bangalore Palace, Bengaluru. The Convention was inaugurated by Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Hon'ble Governor, Karnataka as the Chief Guest, Shri Basavaraj Bommai, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Karnataka as the Guest of Honour and Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, as Special Guest.

*(For more information, students may visit <https://www.icsi.edu/media-centre/press-releases/>)*

## CURRENT UPDATES ON ENVIRONMENT, BIO-DIVERSITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- **India, Pakistan most vulnerable to climate change: IPCC Report (March 02, 2022)**

The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report has cautioned that the extreme climatic conditions are threatening the food security in South Asia with escalated droughts and floods making India and Pakistan the most vulnerable to climate change. The second installment of the IPCC Report titled 'Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptations, and Vulnerability' was released on February 28, 2022.

The report stated that the climate-related risks to the agriculture and food systems in Asia will intensify with the changing climate, with differentiated impacts across the region. It also further mentioned that the temperatures enhance not only the ozone production but also the ozone uptake by plants, exacerbating yield and quality damage.

IPCC report explained that in South Asia, extreme climatic conditions are threatening food security, thus agro-based economies such as India and Pakistan have become the most vulnerable to climate change.

The report warned that the major projected impacts of climate change in the food and agriculture sector will include a decline in fisheries, crop production, aquaculture, particularly in South and Southeast Asia.

### **Impact on India**

Due to the extreme climatic condition and its impact, the rice production in India can decrease from 10 percent to 30 percent, whereas the maize production can decrease from 25 percent to 70 per cent., assuming the range of temperature increases from 1 degree to 4 degree Celsius.

*For details: [https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/ipcc-climate-report-india-pakistan-most-vulnerable-to-climate-change-1646225718-1?ref=list\\_ca](https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/ipcc-climate-report-india-pakistan-most-vulnerable-to-climate-change-1646225718-1?ref=list_ca)*

- **National Energy Conservation Day 2021**

National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated across India every year on December 14th to raise awareness about energy conservation. The day is also known as Energy Efficiency Day.

The Union Ministry of Power celebrated National Energy Conservation Week under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav from December 8-14, 2021. Various programmes were organised as a part of the celebration including workshops and discussions on the outcomes of Energy and Resource Mapping of MSME Clusters.

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) of India, which spearheads the National Energy Conservation Day celebrations every year, had implemented the Energy Conservation Act in 2001. The BEE is a constitutional entity that assists the government in the creation of energy-saving policies and programmes.

*For details: [https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/national-energy-conservation-day-2021-1639425385-1?ref=list\\_ca](https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/national-energy-conservation-day-2021-1639425385-1?ref=list_ca)*

- **India launched e-AMRIT Portal on electric vehicles at COP26**

India on November 10, 2021, launched an electric vehicle awareness web portal called e-Amrit at the ongoing COP26 Summit in Glasgow, UK. NITI Aayog Adviser Sudhendu Jyoti Sinha and the UK High-Level Climate Action Champion Nigel Topping attended the launch of e-Amrit. The 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) Summit began on October 31, 2021 and will go on till November 12, 2021, in Glasgow, UK.

### **e-AMRIT Portal Significance**

The e-AMRIT portal aims to accelerate the initiatives of the government on raising awareness of electric vehicles and sensitizing consumers on the benefits of adopting electric vehicles.

The e-AMRIT portal aims to be an accelerator of change and influence millions of users and stakeholders to adopt electric vehicles. The portal has been built to address the needs and priorities of future electric vehicle users, early electric vehicle adopters, academia, government, industry, research community, businesses.

India has been implementing various initiatives for accelerating the decarbonization of transport and increasing the adoption of electric mobility in the country. PLI and FAME are some of the schemes that are significant in the creation of an ecosystem for the early adoption of electric vehicles.

- **Clean Ganga Mission registered in Guinness Book of World Records on Day 1 of river festival (Nov.02, 2021)**

The National Mission of Clean Ganga (NMCG) has been registered in the Guinness Book of World Records on the first day of Ganga Utsav- the River Festival 2021 for the highest number of photos of handwritten notes that were uploaded on Facebook in an hour.

*About Ganga Utsav 2021*

The Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on November 1, 2021, inaugurated the fifth edition of Ganga Utsav. The three-day festival is being organized from November 1 -3, 2021.

The Ganga Utsav 2021- The River Festival will not only celebrate the glory of the River Ganga but all the rivers of India. Taking inspiration from PM Modi's call for 'Nadi Utsav', the aim of the festival is to take Ganga Utsav to all the river basins in India.

The Jal Shakti Minister also launched the Continuous Learning and Activity Portal (CLAP) on the inaugural day of Ganga Utsav- the River Festival 2021.

The National Mission for Clean Ganga celebrated Ganga Utsav annually to mark the anniversary of the announcement of River Ganga as the National River.

- **India's first green hydrogen-based microgrid project in Andhra Pradesh (December 15, 2021)**

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited, a state-run power giant, announced on February 15, 2021, that it has awarded **a standalone fuel-cell based green hydrogen microgrid project at Simhadri in Andhra Pradesh**. A statement by Power Ministry stated that a project of fuel-cell-based Micro-grid with hydrogen production using electrolyzer in NTPC guest house has been awarded at Simhadri (near Vishakhapatnam).

India's first green hydrogen-based microgrid project is in line with PM Modi's vision of the country becoming carbon neutral by 2070 and for making Ladakh a carbon-neutral territory.

The green hydrogen-based microgrid project will also be India's first green hydrogen-based energy storage project and one of the largest in the world.

The hydrogen at India's first hydrogen-based microgrid project will be produced using the advanced 240 kW Solid Oxide Electrolyser by taking the input power from the nearby floating solar project.

The hydrogen which will be produced during sunshine hours will be stored at high pressure and will be electrified using a 50 kW Solid Oxide Fuel Cell. As per the official notification, the system will work in standalone mode from 5 PM in the evening to 7 AM in the morning.

## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMPUTERS AND SPACE SCIENCE

- **Chandrayaan-3 launch scheduled for August 2022: Union Minister Jitendra Singh (Feb. 03, 2022)**

The much-awaited Chandrayaan-3 mission is scheduled for launch in August 2022, informed Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, in a written to the Lok Sabha on February 2, 2022.

The Union Minister said that the realization of the Chandrayaan-3 mission is in progress, based on the learnings from Chandrayaan-2 and suggestions made by the national level experts. Many related hardware and their special tests have been completed successfully and the launch is scheduled for August 2022.

The Chandrayaan 3 mission is the third planned lunar exploration mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It follows ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 mission, which though successfully deployed its orbiter around the Moon but failed to soft-land its lander and deploys its rover after a last-minute glitch in soft landing guidance software.

Similar to Chandrayaan-2 mission, Chandrayaan-3 will also include a modified lander and rover. The mission will not include an orbiter, due to the success of the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter. It will use the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter to communicate with the earth.

For details: [https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/chandrayaan-3-launch-scheduled-for-august-2022-1643882099-1?ref=list\\_ca](https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/chandrayaan-3-launch-scheduled-for-august-2022-1643882099-1?ref=list_ca)

- **New ISRO Chief: S Somanath appointed as new Chairman of ISRO, succeeds K Sivan (January 13, 2022)**

S Somanath has been appointed as the new Chief of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of S Somanath to the post of Secretary, Department of Space and ISRO Chairman on January 12, 2022 for a combined tenure of three years from the date of joining of the post.

Prior to joining ISRO, S Somanath was Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC). He succeeded K Sivan as the new ISRO Chairman on completion of his tenure on January 7, 2022.

For details: [https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/s-somanath-appointed-as-new-isro-chairman-succeeds-k-sivan-1642051361-1?ref=list\\_ca](https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/s-somanath-appointed-as-new-isro-chairman-succeeds-k-sivan-1642051361-1?ref=list_ca)

- **Digital Sansad app launched to make live proceedings accessible to citizens (Jan. 28, 2022)**

Indian Parliament has launched the 'Digital Sansad App' to make the Parliament proceedings accessible not just to the members but also to the public at large. With this move, Parliament has expanded its digital footprint. The Digital Sansad App is an initiative of Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla who has been constantly working to make the Parliament proceedings more accessible.

Through Digital Sansad App, citizens will be able to watch the Parliamentary proceedings activities in the Parliament as well as the initiatives taken by the temple of democracy at the click of a button on the phone.



The app will also contain the speeches of the Parliament members and their participation in all the proceedings including the Budget session from 1947 onwards. The archive will be from the 12th to the 17th Lok Sabha session.

For details: [https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/digital-sansad-app-launched-to-make-live-proceedings-accessible-to-citizens-1643360809-1?ref=list\\_ca](https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/digital-sansad-app-launched-to-make-live-proceedings-accessible-to-citizens-1643360809-1?ref=list_ca)

- **Continuation of O-SMART scheme (November 25, 2021)**

The Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART) is a government scheme that aims at promoting ocean research and setting up early warning weather systems. The scheme also aims at addressing ocean development activities such as technology, services, resources, science, and observations as well as offering required technological assistance for implementing aspects of Blue Economy.

The O-SMART scheme was approved by the Cabinet Committee chaired by PM Narendra Modi on August 29, 2018. The Ministry of Earth Sciences works on the implementation of the scheme O-SMART.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 24, 2021, approved for continuing the umbrella scheme 'Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART)' of the Ministry of Earth Sciences during 2021-26 at a cost of Rs 2,177 crores.

[https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/cabinet-approves-continuation-of-osmart-scheme-know-significance-milestones-objectives-1637823714-1?ref=list\\_ca](https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/cabinet-approves-continuation-of-osmart-scheme-know-significance-milestones-objectives-1637823714-1?ref=list_ca)

- **Indian scientists discover exoplanet 1.4 times bigger than Jupiter (November 18, 2021)**

A new exoplanet with a mass of 1.5 times that of the Sun and about 1.4 times bigger than Jupiter has been discovered by the exoplanet search and study group at the Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL). Professor Abhijit Chakraborty led the discovery team comprising students and international collaborators from the US and Europe. The exoplanet located at 725 light-years away is the second discovery by the PRL scientists, the first exoplanet K2-236b at 600 light-years away was discovered in 2018.

For details: [https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/indian-scientists-discover-exoplanet-14-times-bigger-than-jupiter-all-you-need-to-know-1637233147-1?ref=list\\_ca](https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/indian-scientists-discover-exoplanet-14-times-bigger-than-jupiter-all-you-need-to-know-1637233147-1?ref=list_ca)

- **Samudrayaan Mission: India's first unique manned ocean mission (October 30, 2021)**

Samudrayaan mission is India's first unique manned ocean mission that aims to send men into the deep sea in a submersible vehicle for deep-ocean exploration and mining of rare minerals. The 200-crores Samudrayaan Mission will send three persons in a manned submersible vehicle MATSYA 6000 to a depth of 6000 metres into the sea for deep underwater studies. Submarines go only about 200 metres.

The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) had announced the Samudrayaan mission in sync with the Gaganyaan mission of ISRO that aims to send a manned mission into space by 2022. The NIOT had announced the Samudrayaan Mission in 2019 and its launch was expected by 2021-22.

The Samudrayaan mission is a part of the Rs 6000-crores Deep Ocean Mission. The proposal of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) on the 'Deep Ocean Mission' was approved on June 16, 2021, by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. The Deep Ocean Mission aims to explore

the deep ocean for resources, develop deep-sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources, and support the Blue Economy Initiatives of the Indian Government.

Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh on October 29, 2021, launched India's first manned ocean mission Samudrayaan at the National Institute of Ocean Technology in Chennai. With this launch of the Unique Ocean Mission, India joined the elite club of nations such as the US, Russia, France, Japan, and China to have niche technology and vehicles to carry out subsea activities. This will open up more growth avenues to explore ocean resources for clean energy, drinking water, and blue economy.

*For details: [https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/samudrayaan-mission-indias-first-unique-manned-ocean-mission-all-you-need-to-know-1635580050-1?ref=list\\_ca](https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/samudrayaan-mission-indias-first-unique-manned-ocean-mission-all-you-need-to-know-1635580050-1?ref=list_ca)*

## SAMPLE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQS)

1. **India's first Biomass-based hydrogen plant will be built in which state?**
  - a) **Madhya Pradesh**
  - b) Uttar Pradesh
  - c) Gujarat
  - d) Telangana
2. **Which state's High Court has asked students not to wear 'religious things' till the disposal of the Hijab matter?**
  - a) Telangana
  - b) Kerala
  - c) **Karnataka**
  - d) Tamil Nadu
3. **Which country is organising the One Ocean Summit?**
  - a) India
  - b) United States of America
  - c) **France**
  - d) Australia
4. **Kalpna Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science & Technology has been inaugurated in which university?**
  - a) Madras University
  - b) **Chandigarh University**
  - c) Allahabad University
  - d) Delhi University
5. **Who has been appointed as the new Chief of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)?**
  - a) **S Somanath**
  - b) T. S. Tirumurti
  - c) V Muraleedharan
  - d) S Vijayakumar

*(For more MCQs, please refer CSEET Guide - II on Current Affairs)*