

Weekly One Liners 17th to 23rd of January 2022

RBI released Annual Report of Ombudsman Schemes, 2020-21

Reserve Bank of India has released the **Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes** for 2020-21, which has been prepared for the 9-month period (**July 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021**) in alignment with the change in the Financial Year of RBI from 'July - June' to 'April - March' with effect from July 1, 2020. The Annual Report covers the activities under the Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006 (BOS), the Ombudsman Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies, 2018 (OSNBFC) and the Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions, 2019 (OSDT).

Key Findings:

- The volume of complaints received under all the 3 Ombudsman Schemes increased by **22.27 percent** on an annualized basis and stood at 3,03,107.
- The complaints received at BOS from July 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021, stood at 2,73,204
- The complaints received at OSNBFCs stood at 26,957 during July 1, 2020-March 31, 2021
- The number of complaints received at the OSDT rose to 2,946 during July 1, 2020-March 31, 2021.

Major areas of complaints:

- Under the scheme, major areas of complaints are related to **ATM or debit cards, mobile or electronic banking and credit cards**. This area collectively accounted for **42.74 per cent** of the total complaints. This year, RBI changed the reporting period to **April-March**.

The city with maximum complaints:

- RBI data further highlights that, **Chandigarh** received the maximum complaints during the same period. Total number of complaints stand at 28019. It accounts for 10.26 per cent of the total complaints.
- Chandigarh is followed by **Kanpur** with 21,168 complaints and **New Delhi** with 18,767 complaints. Kanpur accounts for 7.75 per cent and Delhi accounts for 6.87 per cent of the total complaints.

National Startup Awards 2021 announced

National Startup Awards 2021 is the **second edition** of the award ceremony, conceived by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**. A total of 46 Startups have been recognized as winners of the National Startup Awards 2021 along with 1 incubator and 1 accelerator, by the Government of India. They have been felicitated for their contribution in their respective sectors.

Some winners in the list:

- State-wise, **Karnataka** bagged the highest number of awards, which included 14 out of 46 national startup awards.
- In **fintech category's financial inclusion sub-sector**, Bengaluru-based **Naffa Innovations Private Limited (ToneTag)** was declared the winner.
- In **fintech category's insurance sub-sector**, **Umbo Idtech Private Limited** won the award.
- In **Robotics sub-sector**, **Sagar Defence** was declared the winner.
- In the **women-led start-up category**, Jaipur-headquartered **Frontier Markets** was honoured.

Key points of the award:

- Over 2,177 applications were invited across 15 sectors and 49 sub-sectors for the award.
- These applicants were evaluated against six broad parameters namely Innovation, Scalability, Economic Impact, Social Impact, Environmental Impact, and Inclusiveness and Diversity.
- The National Startup Awards recognize and reward outstanding Startups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions and scalable enterprises.

The Best FIFA Football Awards 2021 announced

The Best FIFA Football Awards 2021 ceremony was held **virtually in Zurich, Switzerland** to crown outstanding players for excellent achievement in football. Spain midfielder **Alexia Putellas** and Poland/Bayern Munich striker **Robert Lewandowski** were awarded the Best FIFA Players in women's and men's football respectively. **Lewandowski** won the Best FIFA Men's Player Award for the second straight year, after getting the first one in 2020.



BILINGUAL

Bank Prime Test Pack

IBPS | SBI | LIC | RBI | Others

1200+ Total Tests

Here is the Complete List of Winners:

| Category | Winner |
|--|---|
| Best FIFA Men's Player | Robert Lewandowski (Bayern Munich, Poland) |
| Best FIFA Women's Player | Alexia Putellas (Barcelona, Spain) |
| Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper | Édouard Mendy (Chelsea, Senegal) |
| Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper | Christiane Endler (Paris Saint-Germain and Lyon, Chile) |
| Best FIFA Men's Coach | Thomas Tuchel (Chelsea, Germany) |
| Best FIFA Women's Coach | Emma Hayes (Chelsea, England) |
| FIFA Fair Play Award | Denmark national football team and medical staff |
| FIFA Special Award for an Outstanding Career Achievement | Christine Sinclair (Female) & Cristiano Ronaldo (Male) |

GoI merges eternal flame of Amar Jawan Jyoti with National War Memorial flame

The government of India has merged the flame of the **Amar Jawan Jyoti** at **Delhi's India Gate** with the flame at the adjoining National War Memorial on **January 21, 2022**, ahead of **Republic Day**. The ceremony was led by the Integrated Defence Staff chief, **Air Marshal Balabhadra Radha Krishna**.

Why this decision was taken?

The decision to merge the two flames was taken keeping in mind that flame at Amar Jawan Jyoti payed homage to the martyrs of 1971 but none of their names are present there, while names of all Indian martyrs from all the wars, including 1971 and wars before and after it are housed at the National War Memorial. So housing the flame at the same place along with the names will serve as a true tribute to martyrs. This will also do away with upkeeping two flames for the same purpose. This means that after 50 years of continuous lightning, the flame at Amar Jawan Jyoti will no longer be present there.

About Amar Jawan Jyoti

The Amar Jawan Jyoti was inaugurated on the Republic Day of 1972 by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The eternal flame of Amar Jawan Jyoti was lit in memory of soldiers who laid their lives during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war.

About National War Memorial

The National War Memorial was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 25, 2019. The eternal torch of this memorial burns at the heart of the Smarak Stambh, the main pillar of the memorial, inside the Amar Chakra. The names of 25,942 soldiers have been inscribed in golden letters on granite tablets.

National Affairs

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has declared to mark **16th January** as '**National Start-up Day**'. The announcement was made by PM Modi on January 15, 2022, via video conferencing during a week-long event "**Celebrating Innovation Ecosystem**" as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The Prime Minister interacted with more than 150 startups across different sectors, during the event.
- The world's largest national flag, made of **Khadi fabric** was put to display to celebrate the "**Army Day**" on January 15, 2022. It was displayed at **Longewala**, along the **India - Pakistan Border in Jaisalmer**. Longewala was the centre stage of the historic battle of 1971 between India and Pakistan. The Monumental National Flag is 225 feet long and 150 feet wide. It is approximately 1400 kgs in weight.
- The government of India has released a **commemorative postal stamp** on the Covid-19 vaccination on Sunday to mark the first anniversary of the country's national immunization programme against the virus. The commemorative stamp design features a healthcare worker inoculating a senior citizen with COVID-19 vaccine, along with an image of '**COVAXIN**' vial.
- Minister of State for Education, **Subhas Sarkar** has launched the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) 2021 - 2022 virtually. The Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar recognises, inspires and awards schools that have undertaken exemplary work in the field of water, sanitation and hygiene while also providing a benchmark and a roadmap for schools to make further improvements in future.
- **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** has virtually organised the 1st-ever '**Startup India Innovation Week**' from **10th -16th of January 2022**. The week commemorate the **75th** year of India's independence '**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**' and showcase the spread and depth of entrepreneurship across India.

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate a 216-foot statue of **Ramanujacharya** in a sitting position in **Hyderabad on February 5, 2022**, to celebrate the **1,000th birth anniversary** of the saint. Ramanujacharya was an 11th-century saint and a revolutionary social reformer. The statue will be called as the '**Statue of Equality**'. It is located in a 45-acre complex at Shamshabad on the outskirts of Hyderabad in Telangana.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated '**Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ki Ore**' programme via video conferencing. The national-level program includes seven yearlong initiatives dedicated to the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by the **Brahma Kumaris**. More than 30 campaigns and over 15000 programs and events will be conducted under these initiatives by the **Brahma Kumaris**. Brahma Kumaris is organising the event on the occasion of the 53rd Ascension Anniversary of Pitashree Prajapita Brahma, Founding Father of Brahma Kumaris.

States in the News

- In **Himachal Pradesh**, the **9th women National Ice Hockey Championship-2022** was inaugurated at **Ice Skating Rink, Kaza** in Lahaul Spiti district. For the first time in the state, Ice Hockey competition & development camp is being organized at the national level. Teams from **Himachal Pradesh, Telengana, Ladakh, ITBP Ladakh, Chandigarh & Delhi** are participating in this mega event.
- **Kokborok Day**, also known as the **Tripuri Language Day** is annually celebrated across the Indian State of Tripura on **19th January** with an aim to develop the Kokborok Language. The day commemorates the initial recognition of **Kokborok as the official language in 1979**. 19th January 2022 marks the observance of the **44th Kokborok Day**.



International Affairs

- The US Treasury has minted coins featuring poet **Maya Angelou** – the first black woman ever featured on the **US 25-cent coin** known as a quarter. Angelou, a poet and activist, was the first black woman to write and perform a poem at a presidential inauguration. In 2010, she was given a Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest US civilian award by President **Barack Obama**.
- **South Africa** has launched its first satellite constellation developed entirely in the continent of Africa. Three locally produced nanosatellites, which made up the country's first **Maritime Domain Awareness Satellite (MDASat) constellation**, were launched from Cape Canaveral in the United States, as part of American aerospace company SpaceX's Transporter-3 mission.
- **Israel** has completed a successful flight test of the **Arrow-3** which is designed to intercept ballistic missiles outside of the earth's atmosphere. The test was performed at a test site in **central Israel**, and led by **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)**. It was developed in a joint project between the Defense Ministry's Missile Defense Organization and the **American Missile Defense Agency**.
- Iconic '**Infinity Bridge**' in **Dubai, United Arab Emirates** has been formally opened to traffic for the first time on 16th January 2022. Its design resembles a mathematical sign for **infinity (∞)**. It represents the limitless, infinite goals of Dubai. It consists of six lanes in each direction and a combined 3-metre track for pedestrians and cyclists. **It is 300 meters long and 22 meters wide.**
- **Indonesia** will move its capital to mineral-rich East Kalimantan, an Indonesian province on the island of Borneo. The name of the new capital will be **Nusantara**, which means "**archipelago**" in Javanese. It will be based in the regions of **North Penajam Paser and Kutai Kartanegara**. The new project is likely to cost around 466 trillion rupiah (\$32 billion).

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- The United Nations World Food Programme and the Odisha Government joined hands to improve the food security of small and marginal farmers in India by strengthening their resilience to climate change.
- **Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode's (IIMK) Business incubator Laboratory for Innovation Venturing and Entrepreneurship (LIVE)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Bank** to financially support early-stage startups. Under the MoU, a startup funding scheme, '**IndSpring Board**' has been launched. Under this scheme loans up to **Rs, 50 Crore** will be disbursed to the startups.

Books and Authors

- A new biography titled “**Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist**” authored by **Chandrachur Ghose** will be released in **February 2022**. The book contains the thoughts and opinions of **Subhas Chandra Bose** about the development of independent India, communalism, geopolitics and political ideology. It also marked the untold and unknown stories of **Netaji (Subhas Chandra Bose)**.
- Maharashtra Governor **Bhagat Singh Koshyari** has released a book titled ‘**The Legend of Birsa Munda**’, authored by **Tuhin A Sinha** and co-authored by **Ankita Verma**. The Book is the story of a lesser-known tribal hero, Birsa Munda, who courageously fought against the oppressive British Raj for the rights of his tribal community.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The Union Cabinet approved infusion of **1500 crore** rupees in **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited**. It will help generate **10,200 jobs** a year and reduce carbon emissions equivalent to approximately **7.49 million tonnes** per year. The IREDA played a big role in the field of renewable energy and its portfolio had increased from **₹8,800 crore** to **₹28,000 crore** in the past **six years**. IREDA is a **Non-Banking Financial Institution** engaged in promoting, developing, and extending financial assistance for setting up projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy.
- The **RBI’s Digital Payment Index**, which shows the deepening of payments through digital modes in India, rose by **39.64 per cent** to **304.06** in **September 2021** against **217.74** in the year-ago month. The RBI-DPI Index continues to demonstrate significant growth in adoption and deepening of digital payments across the country. RBI has introduced Digital Payments Index in January 2021 with March 2018 as the base year to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country. This means that the DPI score for March 2018 is set at 100.
- **India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)** has projected the real gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of the Indian economy to grow at **7.6 per cent** year-on-year in 2022-23 (FY23). Ind-Ra is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the **Fitch Group**.
- The name of YES Asset Management has been rechristened as **WhiteOak Capital Asset Management** and therefore the name of **YES Mutual Fund** has been changed to WhiteOak Capital Mutual Fund. The change in the names are effective from **January 12, 2022**. White Oak got the license to run a mutual fund. White Oak Capital group provides investment management and advisory services for equity assets of over **Rs 42,000 crore**.
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and **Reliance Jio** have announced that **UPI AUTOPAY** has now been introduced for the telecom industry with Jio. Jio’s integration with UPI AUTOPAY has made it the **first player in the telecom industry** to go live with the unique e-mandate feature that was launched by NPCI.
- **MobiKwik**, one of India’s largest mobile wallets and **Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL)** Fintech companies launched ‘**ClickPay**’ for its customers, in collaboration with **NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL)**. This feature enables MobiKwik customers to pay recurring online bills (such as mobile, gas, water, electricity, DTH, insurance, and loan EMIs) with ease by eliminating the need to remember individual bill details and due dates.
- The new app aims to **empower investors** with accurate knowledge about the securities market. The app will cater largely to **individual investors**, who have recently entered the markets and carry out trading via their mobile phones. The app will be helpful in easily accessing all the relevant information like the **basic concepts** of Securities Market, KYC Process, trading and settlement, mutual funds, recent market developments, investor grievances redressal mechanism, etc. It is currently available in **Hindi and English**.
- **Microsoft Corp.** is set to acquire game making company, **Activision Blizzard Inc.**, in an all-cash transaction for **\$68.7 billion. (\$95.00 per share)**. This acquisition will boost the competitiveness of Microsoft in the mobile gaming business and virtual-reality technology, across mobile, PC, console and cloud and will provide building blocks for the metaverse.
- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** flows to India fell by **26 per cent in 2021**, compared to 2020, as per the **UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** Investment Trends Monitor published. In 2020, FDI to India was recorded at **USD 64 billion**. This was **27 per cent** more compared to **USD 51 billion in FDI in 2019**.

Appointments/Resignations

- The **Board of Directors of Adani Power Limited (APL)**, a subsidiary of Adani Group, approved the appointment of **Shersingh B Khyalia** as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Adani Powers** with effect from 11th January 2022.
- **Narendra Kumar Goenka** has been appointed as the new chairman of the **Apparel Export Promotion Council, AEPC**. Former chairman **Padma Dr A Sakthivel** handed over the charge to him. Mr. Goenka has been associated with the Council for more than two decades. He was the Vice Chairman of the apex body of Indian apparel exporters before taking charge as Chairman of AEPC.
- **Roberta Metsola**, a Christian Democrat from Malta, was elected president of the **European Union's parliament**. Her election comes a week after the shock death of outgoing parliament president **David Sassoli**, who was due to step down as part of a power-sharing pact. She is only the third woman elected to the post.
- The Government approved the proposal for appointment of Eastern Army Commander Lieutenant General **Manoj Pande** as the next Vice Chief of Army Staff. General Pande would be the successor to Lt Gen **CP Mohanty** who is scheduled to superannuate on January 31. General Pande was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers (The Bombay Sappers) in December 1982. He was Director-General at Army Headquarters dealing with subjects of discipline, ceremonial and welfare.
- Senior bureaucrat **Vikram Dev Dutt** has been appointed as the chairman and managing director (CMD) of **Air India Ltd**. Dutt is a 1993-batch IAS officer of AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre.
- The board of directors of the **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO)** has unanimously elected **Dileep Sanghani** as the **17th Chairman of the Cooperative**. He succeeds **Balvinder Singh Nakai**, who passed away earlier on October 11, 2021. Prior to this, Sanghani was serving as vice-chairman of IFFCO since 2019.
- Paytm founder **Vijay Shekhar Sharma** has been roped in as the Ambassador of **Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG)**, a community-based team of industry leaders supported by global internet body ICANN.

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

Defence News

- **Indian Navy and Russian Navy** undertook **PASSEX exercises** at the port of **Cochin**, in the **Arabian Sea**. The Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided-missile destroyer, **INS Kochi**, took part in the exercise. Russian Federation Navy was represented by **RFS Admiral Tributs**.
- The Defence Minister, **Rajnath Singh** has set up an online **Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal** to resolve pension-related grievances of ex-servicemen (ESM) and their dependents. The portal will allow them to lodge grievances directly with the **Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW)**, he stated on the occasion of Armed Forces Veterans Day.
- A Maritime Partnership Exercise was held between the **Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF)** in the **Bay of Bengal** in a non-contact mode amid COVID-19. The Indian side was represented by **Indian Naval Ships (INS) Shivalik and INS Kadmatt** while JMSDF Ships **Uruga and Hirado** participated from the Japanese side. Strengthening bilateral relations, promoting defence cooperation, enhancing mutual understanding and interoperability, and sharing best practices between IN and JMSDF.
- The launch was conducted by **Brahmos Aerospace** in close coordination with **Defence Research and Development Organisation**. This flight test was monitored by all the sensors of the range instrumentation including telemetry, radar and electro-optical tracking systems deployed across the eastern coast and the down range ships.

Awards and Recognitions

- Former West Indies **Captain Clive Lloyd** received **Knighthood** from **Prince William**, the Duke of Cambridge at Windsor Castle, for his services towards the game of cricket. On the same day, England's world cup-winning captain **Eoin Morgan** was awarded with **CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire)** by Prince William for his services towards the game of cricket.

- India's **Navdeep Kaur** has won the award for the **Best National Costume** at the prestigious **Mrs World 2022 pageant** in Nevada, Las Vegas. She is the winner of **Mrs India World 2021**, was representing the country at Mrs World 2022. Navdeep hails from a small town near **Odisha's Steel City, Rourkela**. The "**avant garde**" outfit was inspired by **Kundalini Chakra**, which "symbolises the movement of energy in chakras of the body from the base to the spine up through the crown".
- 37 Years old **Shaylyn Ford** was crowned as the winner of **Mrs World 2022**. She was crowned by the outgoing queen **Kate Schneider** from Ireland. Mrs Jordan **Jaelyn Stapp** & Mrs UAE **Debanjali Kamstra** were the runner up. **Shaylyn Ford** represented America in the pageant and battled out 57 other contestants from across the globe to claim the title. This is the 8th time an American representative won the title of Mrs. World.
- Lavni artist from Maharashtra, **Sumit Bhale** of Fulbari taluka has won a **gold medal** at the **International Folk Art Festival in Dubai**. With his splendid performance, Maharashtra's splendour has been widely appreciated at the international platform.
- **Axis Bank & CRMNEXT Solution** won the **IBS Intelligence (IBSi) Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2021** for the "**Best CRM (Customer Relationship Management) System Implementation**". It is one of the most prominent awards for global bankers and IT (Information Technology) consultants across the world.
- The global pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc.'s Chairman and Chief Executive, **Albert Bourla**, has been awarded with the **prestigious Genesis Prize 2022** on January 19, 2022. He has been awarded for his efforts in leading the development of a **COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine)**. The award comes with a cash prize of \$1 million.
- Bollywood actress **Sushmita Sen** has been conferred with the **International Association of Working Women Award** at the **Washington DC South Asian Film Festival (DCSAFF) 2021**. The former Miss Universe has been felicitated for outstanding performance by a female actor in a TV series for her show 'Aarya 2'.

Summit and Conference

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, **Piyush Goyal** virtually addressed the **16th India Digital Summit, 2022**. The two-day virtual event was organised on January 11 and 12, 2022 by the **Internet And Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)**. The theme of the summit was "**Supercharging Startups**". India Digital Summit is the oldest event of the digital industry in India. During the event, the Minister unveiled 'LEAP' as the way forward to further strengthen our Startups ecosystem. LEAP stands for "**Leverage, Encourage, Access & Promote**".
- India's Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has addressed the **World Economic Forum's (WEF's) Davos Agenda Summit 2022**, through video-conferencing. The "**Davos Agenda 2022**" summit is being held digitally from January 17 to January 21, 2022, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The theme of the event is "**The State of the World.**"
- The **first BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022** was held virtually on **January 18-19 2022**, with the members thanking India for its **BRICS chairship in 2021**. **China** has taken on the rotating chairmanship of BRICS in 2022. BRICS is a grouping of five major emerging economies — **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**.

Science and Technology News

- **Jahnvi Dangeti**, a young girl from Andhra Pradesh, has just completed **NASA's International Air and Space Program (iasp nasa)** at the Kennedy Space Centre in Alabama, US, making her the first Indian to accomplish this feat.
- Union Minister of State (I/C) Science & Technology **Dr Jitendra Singh** has launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven Start-Up by **Indian Institute Technology (IIT) alumni** for water purification through innovative technology with financial support from **Technology Development Board (TDB)**. The facility aims to provide clean drinking water at a price much lesser than the market price.



Ranks and Reports

- According to Oxfam India, “**Inequality Kills**” report, the wealth of India’s richest families reached to a record high in 2021. In the report, India was described as a ‘**very unequal**,’ country, as the top 10 people in India holds **57 per cent** of the wealth. On the other hand, the share of the bottom half is 13 per cent. The report states that **84% of Indian** households witnessed an income decline amid the covid-19 pandemic. The richest 98 Indians own the same wealth as the bottom 552 million people. The number of Indian billionaires increased from 102 to 142, during 2021. The wealth of the top 100 families is Rs 57.3 trillion.
- The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** has released its **World Employment and Social Outlook – Trends 2022 (WESO Trends) report**. The report analyses comprehensive labour market projections for 2022 and 2023 and assesses how labour market recovery has unfolded worldwide. In the WESO 2022, ILO has downgraded its forecast for labour market recovery in 2022.

Sports News

- Indian badminton player **Lakshya Sen** has defeated World Champion **Loh Kean Yew** of Singapore, in the men’s singles final of **India Open 2022** to secure his maiden **Super 500 title**.
- **Tasnim Mir** became the **first Indian** to grab **World no 1 in Under-19 (U-19) Girls Singles** category with 10,810 points in the latest **Badminton World Federation (BWF) Junior rankings**.
- Goalkeeper **Savita Punia** will lead India at the upcoming **women’s Asia Cup in Muscat as Hockey India** named a strong 18-member squad for the event, including 16 players that featured at the Tokyo Olympics.
- In tennis, **Aslan Karatsev** defeated **Andy Murray** by 6-3, 6-3, to win men’s single title at the Sydney Tennis Classic final, to claim his third ATP Tour title. The women’s single title was claimed by Spanish world number nine **Paula Badosa**, who defeated **Barbora Krejčíková** 6-3 4-6 7-6(4), to capture her third career title.

- **India** is all set to host **AFC Women’s football Asian Cup India 2022** from 20th January 2022 in **Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, and Pune**. The tournament will witness 12 teams competing for the trophy. AFC Women’s Asian Cup India will also be the final stage of Asian qualification for the **2023 FIFA Women’s World Cup in Australia and New Zealand**. Five teams will qualify for the main event directly while two of them will progress to the inter-confederation play-offs.
- TCS has partnered with Canada Running Series (CRS) to become the new title sponsor and official technology consulting partner of the Toronto Waterfront Marathon and Virtual Race through November 2026. Tata Consultancy Services and Canada Running Series aim to modernize marathon running in Canada through a new official **race app**.
- The 35-year-old had already bowed out of singles competitions in **2013**. Sania has **six Grand Slam titles** in women’s doubles and mixed doubles to her name. Her last headline-grabbing win came with Chinese partner **Shuai Zhang** in women’s doubles at the **Ostrava Open** on September 26, 2021.
- Pakistani skipper **Babar Azam** has been named as the captain of the **ICC Men’s T20I team of the year for 2021**. However, in ICC Women’s T20I Team of the Year for 2021, **Smriti Mandhana** is the only Indian women player named in the 11 member team. Smriti has made in the list for third time in the T20I team of the year after 2018 (opener) and 2019 (number three). England’s **Nat Sciver** has been made the captain of ICC Women’s T20I Team of the Year for 2021.

Important Days

- **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** celebrates its Raising Day every year on **January 19**, since it came into existence on January 19, 2006. In 2022, the NDRF is observing its **17th** Raising Day. There are 12 NDRF battalions located in different parts of the country and comprises as many as 13,000 NDRF personnel who work to build a safer country.
- **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose’s**, 126th birth anniversary on **23 January 2022** is observed as **Parakram Diwas**. The day is celebrated to honour and remember Netaji’s indomitable spirit and selfless service to the nation.

Obituaries

- Legendary Kathak dancer, **Pandit Birju Maharaj** has passed away at the age of 83. A recipient of the country's second-highest civilian award, **Padma Vibhushan**, he was fondly called Pandit-ji or Maharaj-ji by his disciples and legions of followers and was one of India's best-known artistes.
- Odisha's social worker and Padma Shri awardee **Shanti Devi**, who was remembered as the voice of the poor, has passed away. She was 88. She was also called **Lugdi Devi**.
- The former President of Mali, **Ibrahim Boubacar Keita**, who was ousted in a military coup, has passed away. Mr Keita had ruled Mali for seven years, since September 2013, till he was overthrown in a military coup in August 2020.
- The former Prime Minister of Japan, **Toshiki Kaifu** has passed away at the age of 91 years in Japan. He served as the **PM from 1989 to 1991**. He is known for sending the Maritime Self-Defense Force to the Persian Gulf in 1991.
- Legendary Bengali comics artist, writer and illustrator, **Narayan Debnath**, has passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 97. The celebrated cartoonist was the creator of popular Bengali comic strips like **Handa Bhonda (1962)**, **Bantul the Great (1965)** and **Nonte Phonte (1969)**.
- Noted environmentalist & 'Save Silent Valley' campaigner **Prof M K Prasad** passed away recently. He was a prominent figure in the historic grassroots level movement to save the evergreen tropical rain forests in Kerala's Silent Valley from destruction.
- Renowned Bengali theatre personality **Saoli Mitra** has passed away. She had acted in Ritwik Ghatak's avant garde film **Jukti Takko aar Gappo** in 1974. She also wrote, directed and acted in the hugely popular Katha Amritsamman (Words that are like Nectar) another adaptation of the Mahabharata.
- The well-known Professional mountaineer Major Hari Pal Singh Ahluwalia passed away recently. Major Hari Pal Singh Ahluwalia was the recipient of **Arjuna Award-1965 Padma Shri-1965 Padma Bhushan-2002** and **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award** for lifetime achievement in 2009.
- Guinness World Records holder for the oldest person living (male), **Saturnino de la Fuente García (Spain)** has passed away at the age of **112 years and 341 days**. Saturnino claimed the record as the oldest person living (male) in September 2021 when he was exactly 112 years and 211 days. He was born on February 11, 1909, in the Puente Castro neighbourhood of León in Spain.

Miscellaneous News

- India's "**Supermom**" **tigress**, popularly known as '**Collarwali**', has passed away at **Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR)** in **Madhya Pradesh**, due to old age. It was over 16 years old. 'Collarwali' tigress was known for giving birth to 29 cubs during her lifetime, which is believed to be a world record.
- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) announced the "Open Data Week" that will see participation from all the **100 smart cities**, a move aimed at ensuring a collaborative effort towards making Indian cities "**data smart**". The Open Data Week will be conducted during the **third week of January** from **17th January 2022 to 21st January 2022**.
- The **Oxford University Press (OUP)** has picked up '**Anxiety**' as the **Children's Word of the Year 2021**, based on their recent research. Apart from "anxiety" (21%), "Challenging" (19%), "isolate" (14%), "Wellbeing" (13%) and "resilience" (12%) were the children's top five words. In 2020, Coronavirus was the Children's Word of the Year by OUP.
- A new species of rainfrog, discovered in the **Panama jungle**, has been named after Swedish environmental activist **Greta Thunberg**. The species has been named as **Pristimantis gretathunbergae**, or popularly known as the **Greta Thunberg Rainfrog**. The frog was originally discovered in 2012 and was thought to be part of the already categorised **Pristimantis** family. However, recent DNA analysis confirmed that the frog is a new species, according to the scientific journal Zookeys.
- In the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir**, the administration has declared Jerri settlement in Reasi district as the first '**Milk Village**' of the Union Territory and sanctioned 57 more dairy farms under the **Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS)** for the hamlet. The village, which houses 73 individual dairy units with 370 cows, will give the local farmers financial security.



Static Takeaways

- ISRAEL Capital: Jerusalem
- ISRAEL Currency: Israeli New Shekel
- ISRAEL Prime Minister: Naftali Bennett
- ISRAEL President: Isaac Herzog
- World Food Programme Founded: 1961
- World Food Programme Headquarters: Rome, Italy
- World Food Programme Head: David Beasley
- Indian Bank Headquarters: Chennai;
- Indian Bank CEO: Shri Shanti Lal Jain;
- Indian Bank Founded: 15 August 1907.
- IREDA Founded: 1987
- IREDA Headquarters: New Delhi
- IREDA Chairperson: Pradip Kumar Das
- Reserve Bank of India Founded: April 1, 1935;
- Reserve Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- Reserve Bank of India Governor: Shaktikanta Das.
- National Payments Corporation of India Founded: 2008;
- National Payments Corporation of India Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- National Payments Corporation of India MD & CEO: Dilip Asbe.
- SEBI Founded: 12 April 1992
- SEBI Headquarters: Mumbai
- SEBI Chairperson: Ajay Tyagi
- Microsoft CEO and Chairman: Satya Nadella;
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.
- Apparel Export Promotion Council Established: 1978;
- Apparel Export Promotion Council HQ: Gurgaon.
- European Union's parliament Headquarters: Strasbourg, France;
- European Union's parliament Founded: 10 September 1952, Europe.
- Indian Army Founded: 1 April 1895,
- Indian Army Headquarters: New Delhi
- Indian Army Chief: Manoj Mukund Naravane
- Air India Ltd Founded: 1932, Mumbai;
- Air India Ltd Headquarters: New Delhi.
- IFFCO Headquarters: New Delhi;
- IFFCO Founded: 3 November 1967, New Delhi.
- National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd Founded: 2014;
- National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Axis Bank Founded: 3 December 1993;
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Axis Bank MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhary;
- Axis Bank Chairperson: Shri Rakesh Makhija;
- Axis Bank Tagline: Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi.
- World Economic Forum Founded: January 1971;
- World Economic Forum Founder & Executive Chairman: Klaus Schwab;
- World Economic Forum Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland.
- International Labour Organisation Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- International Labour Organisation Director-General: Guy Ryder;
- International Labour Organisation Founder: Paris Peace Conference;
- International Labour Organisation Founded: 1919.
- Badminton World Federation Founded: 5 July 1934;
- Badminton World Federation Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
- Badminton World Federation President: Poul-Erik Høyer Larsen.
- Tata Consultancy Services Founded: 1 April 1968
- Tata Consultancy Services Headquarters: Mumbai
- Tata Consultancy Services CEO: Rajesh Gopinathan
- UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi;
- UAE Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham;
- UAE President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.



TEST SERIES
BILINGUAL

ESIC 2022
UDC
Prelims + Mains

50+ TOTAL TESTS