

Weekly One Liners 21st to 27th of February 2022

THE CONFLICT OF UKRAINE-RUSSIA EXPLAINED

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

Background:

Since the **invasion of Crimea in 2014**, Ukraine has been living in fear of war with Russia for nearly eight years. **Russia and Ukraine** have been at odds for a long time, with Russia claiming Ukraine as a part of its country and opposing Ukraine's developing ties to the West. **Russian President Vladimir Putin** wants to recapture the former Soviet Union Republic.

He requested that the **Ukrainian military** put down their weapons. Prior to its **cessation in 1991**, Russia and Ukraine were both members of the **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)**, which consisted of 15 republics.

Genesis of the Conflict:

- The heat between Russia and Ukraine, a former Soviet republic, have existed for a decent amount of time, they began to escalate out of control in early 2021. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukraine's President hinted the US President Joe Biden to allow Ukraine to join the NATO forces in January of last year.
- This Russia is highly infuriated, which began sending soldiers near the Ukrainian border for "training exercises" in the spring of last year and boosted the number in the fall. The US began to hype that there is a deployment of Russian troops, and Vice President Joe Biden had threatened Russia with heavy sanctions if Russia attacked Ukraine.
- Russia wants a legally enforceable promise from the US that NATO forces will not conduct any military operations in eastern Europe, especially in Ukraine. According to the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, Ukraine is merely a puppet of the US and was never a real sovereign country in the first place.

- This isn't the first time that conflicts between Russia and Ukraine have erupted. Russia had previously invaded Ukraine in 2014, it happened when pro-Putin separatists captured major swaths of eastern Ukraine, and they have been fighting the Ukrainian army since the invasion. Russia also annexed Crimea at that time.
- Ukraine has extensive social and cultural ties with Russia, and Russian is widely spoken there, but those ties have deteriorated since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014.
- When Ukraine's pro-Russian president lost in early 2014, Russia came to an offensive. It is estimated that more than 14,000 people have died as a result of the continuous war happening in the east.
- The Minsk peace agreement was signed by Russia and Ukraine to end the ongoing violent armed conflict which was going on in east Ukraine, including Donbas region. However, as the armed conflict continues, Russia said that it will be sending "peacekeepers" to the affected region. According to the, Moscow is using it as a cover to occupy sovereign Ukrainian country.
- The rising tension between Russia and Ukraine, which shares a border with the European Union, has ramifications for the European Union. This is why the European Union has joined the US in declaration of the penalties against Russian firms, the majority of which the NATO members.
- Just a few weeks back, French President Emmanuel Macron had travelled to Moscow to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in an effort to calm down the ongoing tensions.
- India is also suggesting for a diplomatic solution, through talks to the present Russian-Ukraine violent conflict.



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Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022

The prestigious ceremony of **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022** was held on February 20. The event was held in **Mumbai** and the best performances from last year were honoured in the event this time. This year Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022 celebrated the opulence of Indian Cinema and also commemorated the **75 years of Independence or Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**.

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 Gumjadi 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

Winter Olympics Games 2022 in Beijing concludes

The closing ceremony of the **2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games** was held on February 20, 2022, at **National Stadium (known as the Bird's Nest) in Beijing**. The 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China, was held from 4 to 20 February 2022. The Games featured a record 109 events across 15 disciplines in 7 sports. The venues of the Games were distributed across three zones- Beijing, Yanqing and Zhangjiakou. The Presidency of the Games was formally handed over to **Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, in Italy**, to host the **2026 Winter Olympics**.

The top country in Winter Olympics 2022 in Beijing:

- **Norway** has topped the medal table for the second successive Winter Olympics, winning a total of **37 medals, including 16 golds**. This is a new record for the most amount of gold medals won at a single Winter Olympics.
- **Germany** finished second with 27 medals overall, while the host nation **China** finished third with 15 medals.

India at the 2022 Winter Olympics:

- The Indian team at the game was represented by one male alpine skier, Arif Khan.
- He was the country's flagbearer during the opening ceremony, meanwhile, a volunteer was the flagbearer during the closing ceremony. India could not win any medal at the games.

International IP Index 2022: India ranks 43rd

India has improved its overall IP score from 38.4 per cent to 38.6 per cent, and the country is ranked 43 out of 55 countries on the **International Intellectual Property Index 2022**. This index was released by the **Global Innovation Policy Center of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce**. In July 2021, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce released a Review of the Intellectual Property Rights Regime in India. This review is a welcome development and offers a comprehensive and detailed study of the strengths and weaknesses of India's national IP environment.

The top five countries in the ranking are:

- Rank 1- United States
- Rank 2- United Kingdom
- Rank 3- Germany
- Rank 4- Sweden
- Rank 5- France

National Affairs

- The **Government of India**, the **State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha** and the **World Bank** have signed a \$115 million (INR 869 crore) **Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD) Programme**. This programme will help national and state institutions adopt improved watershed management practices to help increase farmers' resilience to climate change, promote higher productivity and better incomes.
- The **government of India** will be promoting the **'Heal by India' initiative** to improve India's educational institutions in the health sector. 'Heal by India' initiative is meant to generate job opportunities abroad for India's trained professionals in the health sector and enhance education to churn out quality human resources in health, thus helping them become eligible to work anywhere in the world.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated a 550-tonne capacity **"Gobar-Dhan (Bio-CNG) Plant" in Indore, Madhya Pradesh**, through video conferencing. This is the biggest Bio-CNG plant in Asia. It has been set up at a cost of **Rs 150 crore**. The gobardhan plant is based on the concept of waste-to-wealth innovation. Wet urban household waste and waste from cattle and farm is Gobar Dhan.
- Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, **Bharati Pravin Pawar** has inaugurated India's first **Biosafety level-3 containment mobile laboratory in Nashik, Maharashtra**. The mobile laboratory will help to investigate newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections, by specially trained scientists from ICMR.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **'Kisan Drone Yatra'**, an initiative by **Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd** and flagged off **100 'Kisan Drones'** in various cities and towns across India to spray pesticides in farms across the states of India. The 100 Kisan Drones were set off in 100 villages in 16 states across India which includes **Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Goa**.
- **Giriraj Singh**, who is the Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, has released the Rural **Connectivity GIS Data in Public Domain**. This data includes the GIS data for more than **8 lakh** rural facilities which have been collected and digitised using the GIS platform developed for the PM-GSY scheme.
- The **Indian Institute of Technology** will establish its first branch outside India in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** as part of the **India-UAE trade deal signed**. The **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** signed between the UAE and India will usher in a new phase of joint strategic cooperation in all sectors.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission** has achieved the significant milestone of providing tap water to every home of 100 districts across the country. **Chamba, in Himachal Pradesh**, has become the **100th 'Har Ghar Jal' district**, the fifth aspirational district to be covered under the initiative. The other four Har Ghar Jal Aspirational districts are **Bhadradri Kothgudem, Jayashankar Bhupalpalli, Komram Bheem Asifabad (all in Telangana) and Mewat in Haryana**.
- **Sarbananda Sonowal** who is India's union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH has inaugurated **Nikarshan Sadan" - The Dredging Museum at DCI campus in Vishakhapatnam**. This museum displays models of different types of **dredgers, vintage photos & historical milestones** from the Eastern Port City of Vizag.
- Minister of State for Culture & External Affairs, **Meenakshi Lekhi** has released a signature tune for **'Vande Bharatam'**. The tune is composed by Grammy Award winner **Ricky Kej** and Oscar contender **Bickram Ghosh**. It was produced for **Vande Bharatam, Nritya Utsav of Ministry of Culture** presented at Rajpath, New Delhi for Republic Day event 2022. It was followed by the fascinating live performance by composers of Vande Bharatam song Ricky Kej and Bikram Ghosh.
- Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, **Giriraj Singh** has launched **Ombudsperson App for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA**. Ministry of Rural Development has developed an Ombudsperson App for smooth reporting and categorization of grievances by Ombudsperson based on complaints he received from various sources viz. physical, digital and mass media, related to the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Scheme in the States/UTs.

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- Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), **Narayan Rane** has announced the establishment of **MSME-Technology Centre** with an outlay of **Rs. 200 Crore**, in **Sindhudurg, Maharashtra**. The MSME-Technology Centre will provide the best of technology, incubation as well as advisory support to the industry, especially MSMEs, to enhance their competitiveness and provide skilling services for the employed and unemployed youth of the area to enhance their employability.

States in the News

- Northern States **Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh** celebrate their Foundation Day on **February 20, since 1987**. Arunachal Pradesh is the extreme northern part of the country, which is also known as the '**land of the rising sun**'. The state at the edge of the Himalayas is proud to be called the land of dawn and lit mountains. Arunachal Pradesh became the 24th state of India.
- Madhya Pradesh Governor, **Mangu Bhai Patel** has inaugurated the **48th 'Khajuraho Dance Festival-2022'** at world-famous tourist destination Khajuraho on the occasion of '**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**'. The event will be organized till **26 February**. This year a 5-km '**Dil Khel Ke Ghoomo**' **marathon** was also organized under the banner of 'Safe Tourism Project for Women' at the event. It aims to create a sense of security among women in tourist destinations with the slogan '**Hindustan Ke Dil Mein Aap Safe Hain**'.
- **Himachal Pradesh** gets the **first biodiversity park** to make its contribution towards the conservation of endangered **Himalayan herbs**. This park is set to come up at **Mandi's Bhulah valley**. With the cost of Rs 1 crore, the biodiversity park is set up under the **National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)** by HP's forest department.
- International Chess Player woman FIDE Masters, **Tanishka Kotia** and her sister **Riddhika Kotia** are appointed as Brand Ambassadors of '**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**' scheme for the **Gurugram District of Haryana**. Tanishka Kotia won the Limca Book of Records for being the youngest chess player in 2008. They belong to the Haryana state.
- Chief Minister of Assam, **Himanta Biswa Sarma** has launched **India's first Night Navigation mobile application** for ferry services on the **Brahmaputra River in Guwahati, Assam**. It was developed by the State Transport Department in association with K Raju, the principal scientist of **IIT Madras**. The first night journey of the IWT (Inland Water Transport) ferry between Guwahati and North Guwahati was started on 19 February 2022.

- **Nagaland** is all set to host the **South Asian Athletic Federation (SAAF)** cross country championship and **56th National Cross-Country athletics championships** from 26th of next month in **Kohima**. Meanwhile, the official mascot of the South Asian Cross Country Championships and 56th National Cross Country is a joyous happy running '**Hornbill**'. The name of the Mascot is **Akimji** – a connotation of the word **AMBITION** derived from Sumi dialect of Naga tribe which exemplifies the ambition of the new generation of **Naga youth**.

International Affairs

- French president, **Emmanuel Macron** has announced that **France** and its **European** partners will start the military withdrawal from **Mali** after more than nine years fighting a jihadist insurgency.
- **Israel** successfully tested a new naval air defence system "**C-Dome**," to be used on the **Israeli Navy's Sa'ar 6-class corvettes**. C-Dome is the naval version of the Iron Dome, an all-weather air defence system of Israel to intercept and destroy short-range rockets and missiles, from the Gaza Strip.
- Russian President, **Vladimir Putin** has recognised the independence of separatist regions in eastern Ukraine – **Donetsk and Luhansk**. Putin's announcement paved the way for Russia to openly send troops and weapons to the long-running conflict pitting Ukrainian forces against Moscow-backed rebels. Russian-backed rebels have been fighting Ukrainian troops in Donetsk and Luhansk since 2014, with regular violence despite a ceasefire agreement.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **TransUnion CIBIL** has partnered with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)** to launch a unique nationwide MSME consumer education program to support MSME. This program will kick off with MSME clusters in **Maharashtra, Assam and Tripura** and aims to reach thousands of MSMEs across key MSME clusters in India.
- **India and France** have inked a roadmap to enhance their bilateral exchanges on the **blue economy and ocean governance**. **Dr S Jaishankar** is on a three-day visit to France, from February 20 to 22, 2022, to attend EU Ministerial Forum for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific scheduled for February 22. The agreement on 'Roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance' was signed between India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar's and his French counterpart **Jean-Yves Le Drian**.

- During the ‘**Huddle Global 2022**’, the **Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)** has entered into a collaboration with technology major **Google** that will enable start-ups in the State to join a wider global network that provides mentorship and training. This wider network enables local startups to leverage Google’s programme comprising mentorship and training of startup teams to help scale up their solutions.
- **World Economic Forum (WEF)** and the **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to collaborate on a jointly designed ‘**Sustainable Cities India program**’. The program aims to create an enabling environment for cities to generate decarbonization solutions across the energy, transport, and built environment sectors.

Books and Authors

- The book titled “**A Nation To Protect**” authored by **Priyam Gandhi Mody** was launched by Union Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya**. The book highlights the role of **PM Narendra Modi** during the Covid crisis in the past two years. The book documents the Centre’s leadership in this unprecedented time and how it tided the nation through the crisis.
- The book titled “**A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore’s Pioneering Work in Rural Construction**” was authored by **Uma Das Gupta** and published under Niyogi Books ‘Paper Missile’ released. The book contains Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore’s work in ‘village reconstruction’ by setting up ‘Sriniketan’, a wing of his Visva Bharati International University at Santiniketan in 1922, which is also popularly known as a university town. It is situated in West Bengal.



- A new book titled “**The Founders: The Story of Paypal and the Entrepreneurs Who Shaped Silicon Valley**”, authored by **Jimmy Soni** and published by Simon & Schuster released soon. It highlights the story of multinational digital-payments company **PayPal** and how it covered the journey of a start-up that turned into one of the most successful companies of all time, worth over USD 70 billion today.
- Indian author, **Anirudh Suri** has come out with his new book titled “**The Great Tech Game: Shaping Geopolitics and the Destinies of Nations.**’ It has been published by HarperCollins India. In this book, the author lays out a roadmap for how any country must develop its own strategic plan to succeed in this technology-dominant era.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Bank of Baroda (BoB), Union Bank of India (UBI), Canara Bank, and Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** have announced their subscription to the shares of **India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL)**. Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Public FIs will hold a maximum of **49%** in stake of IDRCL while the remaining stake will be with private-sector lenders. The NARCL has been incorporated under the Companies Act, and public sector banks will hold **51 per cent in NARCL**.
- **Mastercard**, as an extension of its flagship campaign ‘Team Cashless India’ along with **State Bank of India Payments** partnered with the in **Lucknow, Guwahati and Varanasi** to boost the digital payments infrastructure. During these engagements, Mastercard Team Cashless India volunteers and SBI Payments spoke to micro-merchants about the convenience, safety, and other benefits of accepting digital payments.
- **Reserve bank of India (RBI)** has cautioned the public against carpooling app **sRide**. The caution against sRide App, stating that this firm was operating a semi-closed pre-paid instrument, without receiving authorization from the central bank, under **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced a **US Dollar/Rupee** two-year sell-buy swap auction with a view to elongating the maturity profile of its forward book and smoothening the receivables relating to forwarding assets. The Central bank will undertake a sell/buy swap auction of \$5 billion, which will enable access to a wider set of market participants.

- On 24th of February 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that it had cancelled the certificate of registration which was issued to **PC Financial** that uses an app called **Cashbean** to carry out the lending operations. This is the first time a regulatory action has been taken against an organisation in response to a surge in complaints about multiple digital lenders' usurious and unjust recovery tactics.
- The Reserve Bank of India recently directed to all the **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** – in the middle and upper layers with 10 or more '**Fixed point service delivery units**' as of October 1, 2022 must implement **Core Financial Services Solution (CFSS)** by **September 30, 2025**, similar to the **Core Banking Solution (CBS)** used by banks.
- Telecom operator, **Bharti Airtel Ltd** has announced that it has joined **South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe 6 (SEA-ME-WE-6)** undersea cable consortium, in a bid to scale up its high-speed global network capacity and serve India's fast-growing digital economy. It shall be anchoring **20 per cent** of the overall investment in the cable system.
- **Tata Power** has collaborated with **Germany-based RWE Renewable GmbH** to explore the potential for joint development of offshore wind projects in India. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard was signed between **Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, and RWE, one of the world's leaders in offshore wind.
- **Paytm Payments Bank Limited** has announced that it is an official acquiring partner for '**e-RUPI vouchers**'. e-RUPI, which is a government initiative, is a cashless prepaid voucher that beneficiaries can present via **SMS or QR Code**. Paytm's merchant partners can then scan, enter the amount to be paid and receive the payment directly in their bank account.
- **India Ratings** has revised downwards its GDP growth forecast for 2021-22 to **8.6 per cent** from the consensus **9.2 per cent** projected earlier. According to an India rating analysis, National Statistical Organisation (NSO) is likely to peg the FY22 real gross domestic product growth at Rs 147.2 lakh crore.
- **Moody's** has revised India's economic growth estimates in the Current Year **2022** upwards to **9.5 per cent** from **7 per cent** on stronger than expected recovery after a lockdown in 2020 and Covid-19's Delta wave in 2021. It maintained a forecast for **5.5 per cent** growth in **CY2023**.
- The **Union Bank of India** has launched the '**Union MSME RuPay Credit Card**' in association with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**. It is a first of its kind initiative in the industry, to provide simplified and digital delivery of Finance to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), to meet their business-related operational expenses.
- **Brickworks Ratings** has revised downwards India's GDP growth forecast to **8.3 per cent** in the current fiscal **2021-22 (FY22)**. Earlier in January 2022, the rating agency had estimated this between **8.5-9 per cent**. Brickwork Ratings is one of the seven Sebi-registered credit rating agencies (CRA).
- Global banking group **Standard Chartered** has partnered with the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)** to launch a payment platform for the **airline industry in India**. IATA Pay will be a new payment option that enables participating airlines to offer instant payment options such as **UPI Scan and Pay and UPI Collect (Request to Pay)**. Standard Chartered will be supporting the rollout of IATA Pay in other markets as well.
- **Bharti Airtel** has decided to acquire an additional **4.7 per cent** stake in **Indus Towers** from **Vodafone Group**, the company announced. The two companies signed an agreement on the condition that Vodafone will use the proceeds to invest in Vodafone Idea (Vi) and the latter will clear its pending dues with **Indus Towers**.

Appointments/Resignations

- Table Tennis player, **Manika Batra** was named as the brand ambassador of **Adidas**. The partnership focuses on empowering women to realize their dreams, cheering for women to break barriers and boosting participation in sports.
- **International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission** re-elected ice hockey player **Emma Terho** of Finland as its Chair and table tennis player **Seung Min Ryu** of the Republic of Korea as its First Vice-Chair. The commission also elected cyclist **Sarah Walker** of New Zealand as the second VC of the Commission.
- Japanese auto major **Honda Motor Co. Ltd.** has announced the appointment of **Takuya Tsumura** as the new **President & CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL)** with effect from 1 April 2022. The appointment comes as part of the management changes announced annually by the company.
- The Centre government has nominated **Sanjay Malhotra**, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, as a Director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The nomination of Malhotra, a 1990 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre, is effective from February 16, 2022, and until further orders.

- Executive Director of the Indian Rubber Board, **K.N. Raghavan** has been elected the new **Chairman** of the **International Rubber Study Group (IRSG)**. He will officiate as Chairman of the group for the next two years. He will preside over the meeting of the heads of delegation scheduled for March 31 at Singapore.
- Finance Ministry's Principal Economic Advisor, **Sanjeev Sanyal** has been inducted as a full-time member of the **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)**, the panel's chairman **Bibek Debroy** announced. The appointment is for a tenure of **two years**.
- **Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL)** has announced the separation of the position of Chairman of the Board and the CEO & Managing Director of the company. **Nitin Paranjpe** has been appointed as the Non-Executive Chairman of the company with effect from March 31, 2022. He is currently serving as Chief Operating Officer of Unilever, the parent company of HUL. **Sanjiv Mehta** will continue to be the Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director (CEO & MD) of the company.
- Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI Bank) has informed the stock exchanges that its board has approved the reappointment of **Rakesh Sharma** as the **managing director and chief executive officer** of the bank for a period of three years, effective March 19, 2022. Sharma's reappointment as the MD&CEO of the bank has received the banking regulator, Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) nod.
- **Dish TV India**, has announced the appointment of Indian cricketer **Rishabh Pant** as brand ambassador. Pant will feature in the brand's 360-degree communication for the next two years.
- 1995-batch IAS officers and Digital India Corporation CEO, **Abhishek Singh** as new **National e-Governance Division chief**. The 1995-batch IAS officer from Nagaland cadre will hold the position in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary.



Defence News

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO)** have organised a bilateral air exercise named **Eastern Bridge-VI** from February 21 to 25, 2022 at Air Force Station Jodhpur in Rajasthan. Eastern Bridge-VI is the sixth edition of the exercise. The exercise will provide an opportunity to enhance operational capability and interoperability between the two Air Forces.
- **Indian Air Force** will participate in a multi-nation air exercise named '**Exercise Cobra Warrior 22**' at Waddington, in the **United Kingdom** from **March 06 to 27, 2022**. IAF Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) **Tejas** will participate in the exercise along with fighter aircraft of the UK and other leading Air Forces.
- **The Indian Navy** has received the **12th anti-submarine warfare aircraft P-8I** from the US-based aerospace company Boeing. This is the fourth of four additional aircraft, for which the contract was signed in 2016. The Ministry of Defence had signed a contract for eight P-8I aircraft in 2009. However, later in 2016, it signed a contract for four additional P-8I aircraft.
- Three more **Rafale fighter aircraft** landed in **India from France**, with Indian specific enhancements. With this new arrival of the three jets, the total Rafale fleet with Indian Air Force (IAF) has reached **35**. The 36th and final aircraft will arrive in India from France by March- April 2022, and will be a trainer aircraft.
- The latest edition of the Indian Navy's multilateral exercise **MILAN 2022** is commencing from 25 Feb 22 in the '**City of Destiny**', **Visakhapatnam**. MILAN 22 is being conducted over a duration of 9 days in two phases with the harbour phase scheduled from 25 to 28 February and Sea Phase from 01 to 04 March.
- Chief of Army Staff General **MM Naravane** has presented **Presidential Colours** to four parachute battalions at **Parachute Regiment Training Centre in Bengaluru**. The four battalions are the **11 Para (Special Forces), 21 Para (Special Forces), 23 Para, and 29 Para battalions**. The award of President's Colours or the '**Nishan**' is one of the highest honours bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of its exceptional service to the nation, both during the war and in peace.
- The **third edition** of the joint military exercise "**EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022**" between **India and Japan** will be conducted from 27 February to 10 March 2022, at **Belagavi (Belgaum), Karnataka**. The 15th Battalion the **Maratha Light Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army** and 30th Infantry Regiment of **Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF)** are participating in this 12 days long joint exercise.

Awards and Recognitions

- **Microsoft** founder and philanthropist, **Bill Gates** has been conferred with **Hilal-e-Pakistan**, the second-highest civilian honour in the country, for his efforts to **help eradicate polio in Pakistan**. Gates is on a day-long visit to Pakistan and has met with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. He also visited the National Command and Control Centre (NCOCC) that oversees efforts to curb Covid-19.
- Maharatna company of the Government of India, **Coal India Limited** has been awarded the **'India's Most Trusted Public Sector Company'** award. Coal India received this honour at the **"Energy Meet and Excellence Award"** function organized by **Industry Chamber "ASSOCHAM"** in Kolkata. The company has got this honour at a time when Coal India has not allowed the situation of power crisis in the country by significantly increasing coal production and supply in the last few months to meet the increased demand for coal for the power sector.

Summits and Conferences News

- **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) of Ministry of Culture, Government of India** is organizing a two-day international conference **'Devayatanam - An odyssey of Indian temple architecture'** on 25th - 26th February 2022 at **Hampi, Karnataka**. The Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER, G Kishan Reddy inaugurates the conference. The conference aims to deliberate upon the philosophical, religious, social, economic, technical, scientific, art and architectural aspects of the temple. It also intends to initiate a dialogue on the evolution and development of the various styles of temple architecture such as the Nagara, Vesara, Dravida, Kalinga and others.

Schemes and Committees News

- **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** will launch **'Meri Policy Mere Hath'** which is a doorstep distribution drive to deliver crop insurance policies to farmers under the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**. The campaign aims to ensure all farmers are aware with all information on their policies, land records, the process of claim and grievance redressal under PMFBY.
- **The Ministry of Education** has approved the continuation of the **Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) scheme** till **31st March 2026** with an expenditure of **12,929.16 crores**. The new phase of the scheme would support around 1,600 projects. Out of Rs 12,929.16 crores of expenditure, the centre will share Rs 8,120.97 crores, and the state will share Rs 4,808.19 crores.

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** has reconstituted its alternative investment **policy advisory committee**, which advises the capital markets regulator on a range of issues that impact further development of the **(Alternative Investment Fund) AIF space**. The committee has now 20 members. The panel, which was constituted by Sebi in March 2015, earlier had 22 members. Till now, the committee has submitted three reports on the AIF industry.
- **The PM Cares for Children Scheme** has been extended by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** of the Government of India till **February 28, 2022**. Previously, the scheme was applicable till December 31, 2021. A letter has been written in this respect to all Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries, Women and Child Development, Social Justice & Empowerment Departments of all States and UTs, with a copy to all District Magistrates/District Collectors.
- **About 11.78 crore farmers** as of February 22, 2022, have been benefitted under the **PM Kisan scheme**. The amount worth **Rs.1.82 lakh crore** have been disbursed to eligible beneficiaries across India in various intervals. During the current Covid 19 epidemic period, **Rs. 1.29 lakh crore** has been released.

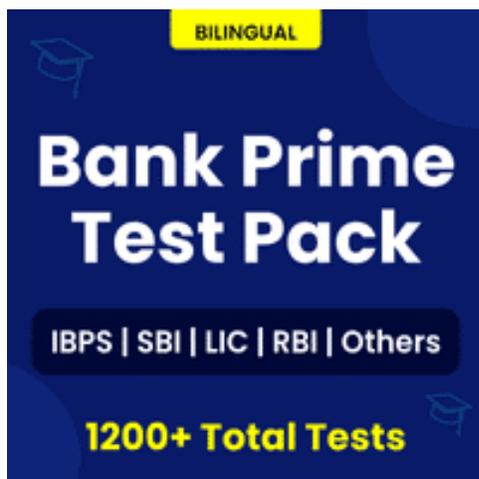
Science and Technology News

- The **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** has approved the **Corona Vaccine Biologicals E Ltd's Corbevax** for children in the age group of **12 to 18 years**. Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company **Biological E Ltd** said its coronavirus vaccine Corbevax, is also India's third homegrown vaccine. Bharat Biotech's Covaxin is being given to children aged 15 to 18 years from January 3.
- The **Government of India** has organised a week-long science exhibition titled **'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate'** from February 22 to 28, 2022, as part of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav commemoration**. It will be conducted simultaneously at 75 locations across the country through a hybrid model. The inaugural programme was held at **Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on the 22nd of February**.
- India's largest 4G mobile broadband and digital service provider, **Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.** will land the next generation multi-terabit **India-Asia-Xpress (IAX)** undersea cable system in Hulhumale, **Maldives**. The high capacity and high-speed IAX system will connect Hulhumale directly with World's major internet hubs in **India and Singapore**.

- The **Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee** has organized a regional farmers' awareness programme as part of the '**Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) project** and launched **KISAN mobile application for the farmers**. The app will provide agro-meteorological services to the farmers. Farmers from **Haridwar, Dehradun, and Pauri Garhwal** districts participated in the program.
- **International Business Machines Corp. (IBM)** has launched a **cybersecurity hub** in **Bengaluru** to address the concerns of its clients across the **Asia Pacific (APAC) region**. The multi-million dollar IBM Security Command Center will be located at the IBM office in Bengaluru in Karnataka. It is the first of its kind facility in the region. The IBM global analysis report for 2022 states that Asia emerged as the top-most targeted region for cyberattacks, representing 26% of attacks analyzed in 2021.

Ranks and Reports

- According to the latest **Hurun India Wealth Report 2021**, the number of dollar-millionaire households in India increased by **11 per cent to 4,58,000 households in 2021**, as compared to 2020. A household having a net worth of at least INR 7 crore (\$1 million), is referred to as a dollar-millionaire household. Meanwhile, in the list of cities with the most millionaires, Mumbai has topped with 20,300 millionaires households. Mumbai is followed by Delhi with 17,400 and Kolkata with 10,500 millionaire households, respectively.
- **As per the 'Deloitte 2022 CxO Sustainability Report: The Disconnect Between Ambition and Impact'**, Indian businesses **rank 5th** in their concern for climate change. According to the report, 80 per cent of Indian executives see the world at a tipping point for responding to climate change compared with just 53 per cent eight months ago.



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Sports News

- **Mumbai, India** will host the **International Olympic Committee session in 2023**. The IOC Session for 2023 will be held at **Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai**. The last such session was hosted by India in the year 1983 in New Delhi. In 2022, the IOC session was held in **Beijing, China**.
- Bihar's **Sakibul Gani** become the first player in the history of the game to score a triple century on his **first-class debut**. He scored **341 off 405 balls**, hitting 56 fours and two sixes, in the Plate Group Ranji Trophy fixture against **Mizoram** at the **Jadavpur University Campus ground, Jadavpur, Bengal**.
- India's teen chess Grandmaster, Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa has created history as he defeated world number one chess champion, Magnus Carlsen, of Norway in an online chess tournament. The Airthings Masters is the first of the nine events of the 2022 Meltwater Champions Chess Tour, being held from February to November 2022.
- The 18-year-old Spaniard **Carlos Alcaraz** has clinched the **Rio Open tennis title** after defeating **Diego Schwartzman** in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**. The seventh-seeded Alcaraz defeated third-seeded Schwartzman 6-4, 6-2 to become the **youngest ATP 500 champion** since the category was created in 2009.
- Indian weightlifter and 2020 Tokyo Olympics silver-medallist, **Mirabai Chanu** has won the **gold medal** in the 55kg weight category at the **Singapore Weightlifting International 2022** on February 25, 2022. Chanu lifted **191kg (86kg+105kg)** to stand on top of the podium.

Important Days

- The **International Mother Language Day (IMLD)** is observed annually on the **21st of February**. The day aims to raise awareness regarding linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. The 2022 theme is "**Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities**". The UN mentioned in its statement that this year's theme raises the potential role of technology to advance multilingual education and support the development of quality teaching and learning for all.
- **World Thinking Day**, originally known as **Thinking Day**, is celebrated annually on **22 February** by all Girl Scouts, Girl Guides and other girl groups worldwide. The day is observed to think about fellow brothers and sisters around the world, address their concerns and understand the true meaning of guiding. The theme for World Thinking Day 2022 is **Our World, Our Equal Future**.

- **Central Excise Day**, which is observed on **February 24** commemorates the **Central Excise and Salt Act** which was enacted on **24th February 1944**. This annual event is celebrated to highlight the essential role played by the Central Excise Department in the industrial development of the country.
- **World NGO Day** is celebrated every year on **27th February** globally. World NGO Day aims to inspire people to become more actively involved within NGOs (Charities, NPOs, CSOs) and encourage a greater symbiosis between NGOs and both the public and private sector.
- **World Sustainable energy day 2022** is observed on **27th February** across the world. It hosts events centered on sustainable energy production and use, which covers energy efficiency and renewable energy sources for buildings, industry, and transport.

Obituaries

- Senior journalist, **Ravish Tiwari** has passed away. He was the national bureau chief of Indian Express. He was popular for his political news reporting. Before this, he had also served as **Senior Assistant Editor at Economic Times, Associate Editor at India Today and Senior Assistant Editor at the Indian Express**.
- Noted freedom fighter and Gandhian social worker, **Shakuntala Choudhary** has passed away. She was 102-year-old. She was popularly known as '**Shakuntala Baideo**'. She was felicitated with the **Padma Shri award** in 2022 by the Government of India.
- Andhra Pradesh Industries Minister **Mekapati Goutham Reddy** has passed away. The 50 years old Minister returned to India from Dubai Expo. Reddy, was a two-time MLA from the Atmakur Assembly constituency in the Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh. He was the Minister for Industries, Commerce, and Information Technology in Andhra Pradesh Government.
- Veteran Malayalam film and stage actress, **KPAC Lalitha** has passed away at 74. In a career spanning five decades, she starred in over 550 films in Malayalam and Tamil. Born as Maheswari Amma in Kayamkulam of Alappuzha, the actress had joined K.P.A.C (Kerala People's Arts Club), a prominent drama troop in Kerala.
- Odisha's first tribal chief minister as well as last Congress chief minister of the state, **Hemananda Biswal** passed away. He was 82. Biswal, a Bhuyan tribal from Jharsuguda district, served as the chief minister twice from 1989 to 1990 and 1999 to 2000.

Miscellaneous News

- The **Indian Railways** has shared new images of the country's first cable-stayed bridge on the **Anji river in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district**. The under-construction Anji Khad bridge, part of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project**, will connect Katra and Reasi areas through rail links. The bridge will stand at a height of 331 metres above the river bed – higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris. The total length of the bridge is 473.25 metres and it is supported by 96 cables.
- The Union Minister of Science & Technology, **Dr Jitendra Singh**, chaired the **District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee (DISHA)** meetings of several districts in Jammu & Kashmir recently. A key decision taken during the meeting was to designate Lavender as a Doda brand product, to promote lavender under the 'One District, One Product' initiative of the Modi Government.
- The Central Government launched the "**Janbhagidari Empowerment**" portal in the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir**, in line with the government's digital mission. The portal was hosted on a different server with higher bandwidth, in order to provide easy and ready accessibility to the general public.
- **Home Ministry** has declared Delhi headquarters of **Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL)** as a '**prohibited place**' under Section 2 of the **Official Secrets Act, 1923**. This prevents the entry of unauthorized persons into it. It is the only currency and banknotes manufacturer of India, that printed new series of notes of denomination Rs 2,000 and Rs 500 in 2016.

Static Takeaways

- **World Bank Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., United States.
- **World Bank Formation:** July 1944.
- **World Bank President:** David Malpass.
- **Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd Founder and CEO:** Agnishwar Jayaprakash
- **Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd Headquarter:** Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- **Chief Minister of Mizoram:** Pu Zoramthanga;
Governor: P.S. Sreedharan Pillai.
- **Arunachal Pradesh Chief minister:** Pema Kha;
Governor: B.D. Mishra.
- **Himachal Pradesh Capital:** Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)
- **Himachal Pradesh Governor:** Rajendra Arlekar
- **Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister:** Jai Ram Thakur.
- **Chief Minister of Haryana:** Manohar Lal Khattar
- **Haryana Capital:** Chandigarh
- **Haryana Governor:** Bandaru Dattatreya.
- **Assam Capital:** Dispur

- Assam Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi.
- Chief Minister of Nagaland: Neiphiu Rio; Governor of Nagaland: Jagdish Mukhi.
- Mali Capital: Bamako; Currency: CFA Franc
- Niger Capital: Niamey; Currency: West African CFA franc.
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem
- Israel President: Isaac Herzog
- Israel Prime minister: Naftali Bennett
- Israel Currency: Israeli Shekel.
- Russia Capital: Moscow
- Russia Currency: Ruble
- Russia President: Vladimir Putin.
- FICCI Founded: 1927
- FICCI Headquarters: New Delhi
- FICCI President: Sanjiv Mehta
- FICCI Secretary General: Arun Chawla.
- TransUnion CIBIL Founded: 2000
- TransUnion CIBIL Managing Director: Rajesh Kumar
- TransUnion CIBIL Chairman: M.V.Nair (Chairman).
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998
- Google Headquarters: California, United States
- Google CEO: Sundar Pichai
- Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin.
- Mastercard Founded: 16 December 1966, United States
- Mastercard Headquarters: New York, United States
- Mastercard CEO: Michael Miebach
- Mastercard Executive Chairman: Ajay Banga.
- Bharti Airtel CEO: Gopal Vittal
- Bharti Airtel Founder: Sunil Bharti Mittal
- Bharti Airtel Founded: 7 July 1995.
- Tata Power CEO: Praveer Sinha
- Tata Power Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Paytm Payments Bank Founded: 2015
- Paytm Payments Bank Headquarters: Noida, UP
- Paytm Payments Bank Founder & CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma.
- International Olympic Committee Founded: 1894
- International Olympic Committee Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- International Olympic Committee President: Thomas Bach.
- International Rubber Study Group Secretary-General: Salvatore Pinizzotto
- International Rubber Study Group Formed: 1944
- International Rubber Study Group Headquarters: Singapore.
- Hindustan Unilever Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai
- Hindustan Unilever Ltd Founded: 17 October 1933.
- IDBI Bank Owner: Life Insurance Corporation
- IDBI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Oman Capital: Muscat
- Oman Currency: Omani rial.
- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral R Hari Kumar
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.
- Microsoft Founded: 4 April 1975, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States
- Microsoft CEO: Satya Nadella
- Microsoft Chairperson: John W. Thompson.
- Chairman of Central Board of Excise and Custom: Vivek Johri.
- Headquarters of Central Board of Excise and Custom: New Delhi.
- Central Board of Excise and Custom Founded: 1 January 1964.
- Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor: Manoj Sinha.
- Maldives Capital: Male
- Maldives Currency: Rufiyaa
- Maldives President: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.
- IBM CEO: Arvind Krishna
- IBM Headquarters: New York, United States
- IBM Founder: Charles Ranlett Flint
- IBM Founded: 16 June 1911.
- Union Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai
- Union Bank of India CEO: Rajkiran Rai G.
- Union Bank of India Founded: 11 November 1919, Mumbai.
- Standard Chartered CEO: Bill Winters (10 Jun 2015-)
- Standard Chartered Founded: 1969, London, United Kingdom.
- International Air Transport Association Headquarters: Montreal, Canada
- International Air Transport Association DG: Willie Walsh
- International Air Transport Association Founded: 19 April 1945, Havana, Cuba.
- Bharti Airtel CEO: Gopal Vittal
- Bharti Airtel Founder: Sunil Bharti Mittal
- Bharti Airtel Founded: 7 July 1995, India.

