

# Weekly One Liners 28th March to 03rd of April 2022

## Oscars Awards 2022: 94th Academy Awards 2022 announced

The **94th Academy Awards** returned to the **Dolby Theater in Hollywood** as the top films from the last year were honoured by the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences**. The show was hosted by **Regina Hall, Amy Schumer and Wanda Sykes**, the first time the award ceremony has had multiple hosts since Anne Hathaway and James Franco co-hosted the 83rd instalment in 2011.

### Key points:

- The 94th Academy Awards are honouring the films released between **January 1 and December 31, 2021**. The nominations were announced on February 8, by actors Tracee Ellis Ross and Leslie Jordan.
- Netflix's **The Power of the Dog** leads the race with **12 nominations** followed by sci-fi epic Dune, with 10 nods. Indian documentary Writing With Fire is also nominated for Best Documentary (Feature).
- Awards will be presented across **23 categories**, which are determined based on voting by members of the Academy.
- This time, there are two new categories- Oscars Fan Favorite Award and Oscars Cheer Moment, which will be decided by fan voting, which was done online between February 14 and March 3, 2022.

### Check out the full list of winners

- Best Actor in a Leading Role: **Will Smith**, "King Richard"
- Best Actress in a Leading Role: **Jessica Chastain** (The Eyes of Tammy Faye)
- Best Picture: **CODA**
- Best International Feature Film: **Drive My Car**
- Documentary Short Subject: The Queen of Basketball
- Best Directing: **Jane Campion** (The Power of the Dog)
- Best Actress in a Supporting Role: Ariana DeBose (West Side Story)
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role: Troy Kotsur (CODA)
- Best Makeup & Hairstyling: The Eyes of Tammy Faye
- Best Cinematography: Dune
- Best Original Score: Hans Zimmer (Dune)
- Best Visual Effects: Dune
- Best Animated Feature Film: Encanto
- Best Animated Short Film: The Windshield Wiper
- Best Costume Design: Cruella
- Best Original Screenplay: Kenneth Branagh (Belfast)
- Best Adapted Screenplay: Sian Heder (Coda)
- Best Live Action Short Film: The Long Goodbye

- Best Sound: Dune
- Best Documentary Feature: "Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)"
- Best Original Song: "No Time To Die" from "No Time to Die," music and lyric by Billie Eilish and Finneas O'Connell
- Best Production Design: Dune
- Best Film Editing: Dune

## President Kovind Confers National Water Awards 2022

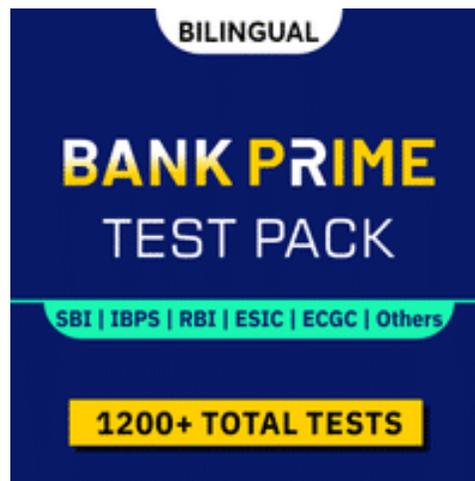
The President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind** has presented the **3rd National Water Awards** in New Delhi. National Water Awards is given for exemplary work in the field of water resource management. The first National Water Award was launched in 2018, by the Jal Shakti Ministry. A total of **57 National Water Awards for 2022** have been conferred to states, organizations and others in 11 different categories.

### In the Best State category:

- **Uttar Pradesh** has been awarded first prize, followed by **Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu**.

### In the Best District category:

- The 'Best District' awards for the north zone was bagged by **Muzaffarnagar** (Uttar Pradesh) and **Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar** (Punjab);
- For the south zone, it was Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) and Kadapa (Andhra Pradesh);
- For the east zone, East Champaran (Bihar) and Godda (Jharkhand) won the award;
- Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Vadodara (Gujarat) and Banswara (Rajasthan) won the awards in the west zone.
- Goalpara (Assam) and Siang (Arunachal Pradesh) won the awards for the northeast zone.



**BILINGUAL**

**BANK PRIME**

**TEST PACK**

SBI | IBPS | RBI | ESIC | ECGC | Others

**1200+ TOTAL TESTS**

### In the “Best Village Panchayat” Category

#### North Zone

- Dhaspad, Almora, Uttarakhand
- Jamola, Rajouri, J&K
- Balua, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

#### South Zone

- Yelerampura Panchayat, Tumakuru District, Karnataka
- Vellaputhur Panchayat, Chengalpattu District, Tamil Nadu
- Elappully Grama Panchayat, Palakkad District, Kerala

#### East Zone

- Telari Panchayat, Gaya District, Bihar
- Chhindiya Panchayat, Surajpur District, Chhattisgarh
- Guni Panchayat, Khunti District, Jharkhand

#### West Zone

- Takhatgadh, Sabarkantha, Gujarat
- Kankapar, Kachchh, Gujarat
- Surdi, Solapur, Maharashtra

#### North-East Zone

- Sialsir, Sirchirip, Mizoram
- Aminda Simsangre, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya
- Chambagre, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya

### In the “Best Urban Local Body” Category

- Vapi Urban Local Body, Gujarat
- Dapoli Nagar Panchayat, Maharashtra
- Madurai Municipal Corporation, Tamil Nadu

### In the “Best Media (Print & Electronic)” Category

- Agrowon, Sakal Media Pvt. Ltd. (Adinath Dattatray Chavan)
- Sandesh Daily Bhuj Edition

### In the “Best School” Category

- Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kaveripattinam in Tamil Nadu, Amalorpavam Lourds Academy, Thiruvallur, Puducherry and Amity International School, Noida, Uttar Pradesh won the awards in the Best School category.

### In the “Best Institution/RWA/Religious organization for Campus usage” Category

- Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Jammu
- IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Indian Oil Corporation Limited Faridabad

### In the “Best Industry” Category

- Trident (Textile) Ltd., Punjab
- Steel Authority of India Ltd., New Delhi

### In the “Best NGO” Category

- Gramvikas Sanstha, Aurangabad
- Vivekananda Research and Training Institute, Bhavnagar

### In the “Best Water User Association” Category

- Panchgachiya MDTW WUA, Hooghly, West Bengal
- Hatinada Champa Purulia, West Bengal
- Amtore Mini River Lift Irrigation WUA, Purulia, West Bengal

### In the “Best Industry for Corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities” Category

- HAL, Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Dharampal Satyapal Ltd., Noida, Uttar Pradesh

### Apart from this President Kovind launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan:

Catch the Rain campaign 2022, which is an expansion of the water campaign launched in 2021 March, to underline the importance of water in our daily life and on the planet Earth. The 2022 ‘Catch the Rain’ campaign will be implemented till November 30, 2022.

### Virat Kohli tops in Duff & Phelps Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2021

According to the **Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2021 (7th Edition)** titled **“Digital Acceleration 2.0.”** released by **Duff & Phelps (Now Kroll)**, Indian Cricketer **Virat Kohli** was ranked as the most valued celebrity for the 5th consecutive time in 2021. The brand value of Virat Kohli has dropped from **USD 237.7 million in 2020 to USD 185.7 million in 2021.** **Alia Bhatt** has ranked 4th with a brand value of USD 68.1 million and has become the most valued female celebrity. She is the youngest celebrity among the top 10 and she is the most valued brand amongst female Bollywood actors.

### Here is the list of the Top 10 most valued celebrities:

Rank	Name	Brand Value (In Millions)
1	Virat Kohli	USD 185.7
2	Ranveer Singh	USD 158.3
3	Akshay Kumar	USD 139.6
4	Alia Bhatt	USD 68.1
5	MS Dhoni	USD 61.2
6	Amitabh Bachchan	USD 54.2
7	Deepika Padukone	USD 51.6
8	Salman Khan	USD 51.6
9	Ayushmann Khurrana	USD 49.3
10	Hrithik Roshan	USD 48.5

**National Affairs**

- The **Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has designated the **5th of October** to be celebrated as **National Dolphin Day** every year as a historic step in creating awareness for the conservation of Dolphins, beginning from 2022.
- Union Minister of Women and Child Development, **Smriti Irani** has inaugurated the ten-day mega Red Fort Festival, '**Bharat Bhagya Vidhata**' at Red Fort in Delhi. The Red Fort festival has been organised by the Union Ministry of Culture, as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. The ministry has collaborated with the **Dalmia Bharat Group (DBG)** to organise the event as DBG has adopted the Red Fort as its Monument Mitra. The festival will commemorate the heritage, culture and diversity of every part of India.
- **Aadi Bazaars** – A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture and Cuisine, a new one opened on **March 26th, 2022 in Ekta Nagar, Kevadia, Statue of Unity in Gujarat's Narmada district**. More than 100 exhibitors will represent more than 10 states from throughout the country at the bright 11-day exhibition offering organic tribal goods and handcrafted wares at the landmark monument, Statue of Unity.
- **Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2022** was started in Arts College Ground, RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, Andhra Pradesh by **Governor of Andhra Pradesh Shri Biswabhusan Harichandan**, in the presence of **Union Minister for Culture, Tourism, and DoNER G. K Reddy**, as part of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**. The Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see all of India's folk, traditional, tribal, classical, and popular art forms under one roof, with over 1000 artists performing. Aangans are put up to represent regional cultures and to showcase traditional Arts & Crafts, with craftsmen setting up stalls to sell their items and demonstrate their excellent skills.
- Union Minister for Culture, Tourism & DoNER, **G Kishan Reddy** has inaugurated the three-day North-East festival called '**Ishan Manthan**' at the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in New Delhi**. The three-day Ishan Manthan programme will celebrate the rich ethnicity and colours of North East India, from **March 25 to 27, 2022**.
- **Surat, Gujarat**, features a road created entirely of steel waste, which is one of the best instances of sustainable development. **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India** collaborated on the steel slag road with the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** India, the **Central Road Research Institute (CRRI)**, and the government think tank **Niti Aayog**.
- The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, **Piyush Goyal** has inaugurated the **Indian Jewellery Exposition Centre (IJEX) building in Dubai, UAE**, during his visit to Dubai to participate in the **India Pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020**. During the launch of IJEX, the minister called upon the export members of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) to go for a USD 100 billion export target annually from the current USD 35 billion.
- A museum of all former Prime Ministers, **Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya** (the Museum of Prime Ministers), has been built at **Teen Murti Estate, in Delhi**. The Rs. 270 crore project will be inaugurated on April 14, 2022, at the Teen Murti Bhavan complex which was the residence of ex-PM Jawaharlal Nehru. The Museum will showcase the life, times and contribution of all 14 Prime Ministers of India so far, except for the collections and works on **Jawaharlal Nehru**, who has a separate Nehru Memorial Museum, which was also his residence.
- **Chief Justice of India NV Ramana** unveiled the '**Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records (FASTER)**', a digital platform that allows the supreme court to send interim orders, stay orders, and bail orders to the appropriate authorities via a secure electronic channel. The online introduction of the **FASTER** programme was attended by **CJI Ramana, Justices AM Khanwilkar, DY Chandrachud, and Hemant Gupta**, as well as Chief Justices and Judges of High Courts.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, **Narendra Modi** has approved a hike in **Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners by 3 per cent to 34%**, over the existing rate of **31% of the Basic Pay/Pension**. The hike announced will be effective from January 1, 2022, to compensate for the price rise.
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports **Anurag Singh Thakur** and Governor of Karnataka, **TC Gehlot** launched the logo, jersey, mascot and anthem of the **Khelo India University Games 2021 (KIUG 2021)** on April 01, 2022, at the **Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru**. The theme song has been composed by **Kannada rapper Chandan Shetty**. The KIUG 2021 will be held in Karnataka between April 24 and May 3, 2022.
- The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)**, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced an extension in the existing **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20** by another six months till **September 30, 2022**, to ensure policy continuity in external trade. This is the fourth extension given to the existing FTP policy.

### States in the News

- **Pramod Sawant** took oath as the **Chief Minister of Goa** on March 28, 2022, for the second straight **five-year term**. Sawant led the BJP in the recently concluded 2022 Goa Assembly elections and won 20 seats in the 40-member Goa Assembly. Mr Sawant was administered the oath by Governor **PS Sreedharan Pillai** at the Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee stadium near Panaji.
- The **Basavaraj Bommai government** announced the **Vinaya Samarasya Yojana** as a public awareness campaign against caste prejudice in the state's gramme panchayats. It will be formally launched on April 14, the birth anniversary of **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**.
- The **Maharashtra government** has introduced a scheme that allows prisoners to obtain personal loans from banks of up to **Rs. 50,000** to help their families improve their living conditions and meet expenses related to their legal matters. It will be a first of its kind initiative in our country. The Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank would provide loans up to **50,000** under the scheme at a **7% interest rate**. The scheme would be implemented in Yerawada Central Jail in Pune, Maharashtra, on a pilot basis. This type of loan is called a "**khavti**" loan, and benefits approximately **1,055 prisoners**.

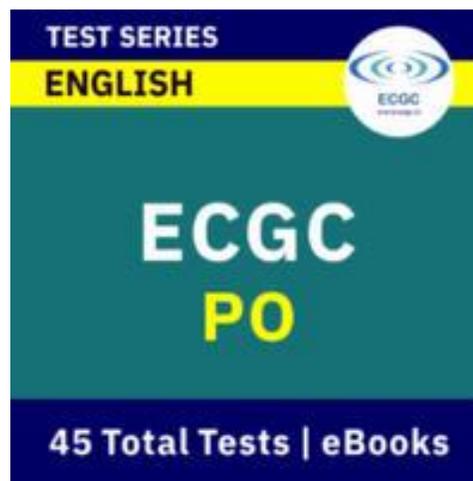
### International Affairs

- The Prime Minister of Malta, **Robert Abela** has been sworn in for a second term after his ruling **Labour Party won the 2022 general election** in a landslide victory. He was administered the oath of office by President **George Vella**. Abela was first sworn in as prime minister in January 2020 after the former Labour Party leader and prime minister **Joseph Muscat** resigned.
- The world's largest express transportation company **FedEx** has announced that its new **Chief Executive Officer** will be Indian American **Raj Subramaniam**. He has more than 30 years of global experience across strategy and operations and has led the company through a period of tremendous growth.
- The largest electric cruise ship in the world has returned back to port in **Yichang in central Hubei province, China** after travelling up and down the **Yangtze River** for its maiden voyage. This cruise ship has been powered by a **7,500-kilowatt-hour massive-sized marine battery**. This battery has been provided by **Contemporary Ampere Technology**, the No. 1 battery manufacturer for electric cars in the world.

- The Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC is all set to be admitted as the seventh member of the East African Community(EAC). Democratic Republic of Congo comes into the bloc with a huge market of 90 million people and the potential to contribute to an expanded market and investment opportunities.

### Agreements/MoUs Signed

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **Government of India** signed a memorandum of understanding to create the **Global Centre for Traditional Medicine** in Gujarat. According to a **WHO** statement, the onsite opening of the new **WHO global centre for traditional medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat, India**, will take place on **April 21, 2022**.
- **Assam and Meghalaya** agreed to resolve their five-decade-long border dispute in six of the 12 contested places that have frequently sparked tensions between the two states, with **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** hailing the decision as a "**historic day for the Northeast.**" **Chief Ministers of Assam and Meghalaya, Himanta Biswa Sarma and Conrad Sangma**, respectively, inked the agreement in the presence of Shah.
- The state government of **Manipur** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Samsung Data System India Pvt Ltd and Abhitech IT Solutions Pvt Ltd** for setting up a world-class "**Sports Digital Experience Centre**" as a domain of **Manipur Olympian Park and Khuman Lampak Sports Complex**. The MoU was exchanged in the presence of chief minister N Biren Singh at the cabinet hall of the Chief Minister's Secretariat.



- **IBM India** has collaborated with the **Nagaland school education department** to introduce digital training for girl students in more than 250 secondary and higher secondary schools across 15 districts of the northeastern state. The programme, **IBM Stem (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) for Girls**, aims to provide 21st century skills to more than 12,000 girls.

### Books and Authors

- Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu**, released a book titled '**Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya**' authored by **Syam Prasad**. The book is based on the life story of late Shri Somepalli Somaiah, a social worker from Andhra Pradesh. He inspired youth to dedicate their lives to social welfare.
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW), **Narendra Singh Tomar** has released a book titled "**Indian Agriculture towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers' Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems**", at an event organized by NITI Aayog and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

### Banking/Economy/Business News

- Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), **Shaktikanta Das** has laid the foundation stone for the establishment of a **Learning and Development Centre (LDC)** of the Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) in **Mysuru, Karnataka**. Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of RBI.
- **Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL)** has set up an Ink Manufacturing Unit named "**Varnika**" at **Mysuru, Karnataka**, with an annual ink manufacturing capacity of 1,500 MT to enhance the security of banknotes.
- On March 21, the **Bank of India (BoI)** announced a Rs 109 crore investment in **National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. (NARCL)**. In a regulatory statement, the bank stated, "We thus announce that on March 21, 2022, the bank invested Rs 108.81 crore in **National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL)** under preferential share issue."

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released the framework for **geo-tagging of payment system touchpoints**. The framework is part of the central bank's focus for deepening digital payments and providing inclusive access to all citizens of the country. Geo-tagging of payment system touchpoints will enable proper monitoring of the availability of payment acceptance infrastructure like **Points of Sale (PoS) terminals, Quick Response (QR) codes, etc.**
- **According to Reserve Bank of India data**, in the nine months ending December, 96 incidences of fraud were recorded by 27 scheduled commercial banks and financial institutions, **totaling Rs 34,097 crore. Punjab National Bank had the greatest amount of frauds at Rs 4,820 crore**, while Bank of India had the highest number of frauds at 13.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has delayed the deadline for banks to use **lockable cassettes** in their **ATMs** that can be swapped during cash replenishment by a year, **till March 31, 2023**. The decision was made after the **RBI** received representations from various banks and the **Indian Banks' Association** noting difficulty in achieving the deadline, according to a notification released yesterday.
- **Central Bank of India** partnered with ID to implement digital Know Your Customer (KYC), video KYC and eKYC for its network across India. The aim of the partnership is to bring seamless onboarding and provide efficient digital facilities to the customers across India.
- Rating agency **ICRA** has lowered the growth forecast for India's **GDP in 2022-23 (FY23) to 7.2 per cent**. Earlier this rate was **8 per cent**. The ICRA Ltd. has projected the GDP growth forecast for 2021-22 (FY22) at **8.5%**, lower than the official advance estimate from the National Statistical Office of **8.9%**.
- **India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)** has revised downwards the GDP growth forecast for India in FY23 to **7-7.2 per cent**. Earlier in January, the rating agency Ind-Ra had forecast this rate at **7.6 per cent**.
- The **Ministry of Finance** has decided to keep the interest rates unchanged on small savings schemes or post office schemes for the **Quarter -1 of FY2022-23 (April-June 2022)**. The interest rates on the various instruments for April-June 2022 range from **4.0 per cent to 7.6 per cent**. It must be noted that the Government notifies the Interest rates for small savings schemes on a quarterly basis. This is the **eighth consecutive quarter** when the interest rates on small savings instruments remained unchanged.

- Multiplex companies **INOX Leisure Ltd and PVR Ltd** have announced the merger of their two companies. Inox will have a **16.66% stake** in the new firm and PVR will have a **10.62% stake**. After the formalities of the merger, the company will be known as **PVR Inox Limited**. **Ajay Bijli** will be Managing Director of PVR Inox Limited, **Sanjeev Kumar** will be executive director and **Pavan Kumar Jain** will be non-executive chairman of the consolidated board.
- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, a financial institution for **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**, has announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of **Meghalaya's Meghalaya Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd. [MiDFC]** to develop the state's MSME ecosystem.
- **Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd** has announced the debut of the **Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan** via the **PhonePe app**, a non-linked non-participating individual pure risk premium life insurance plan aimed at digitally savvy customers.
- **Google Pay** has launched **'Tap to Pay for UPI'**, new functionality to bring the seamless convenience of Tap to Pay to **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**. The initiative has been launched in collaboration with **Pine Labs**. To complete a payment, all a user will need to do is tap their phone on the POS terminal and authenticate the payment from their phone, using their UPI PIN, making the process virtually instantaneous, as compared to scanning a QR code or entering the UPI-linked mobile number.
- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company** has launched its **VAULT program**. It is India's first industry-based digital customer engagement and rewards program. This program is an experiment to test a new idea under the Regulatory Sandbox of **IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India)**. The testing period will be till 14th May 2022 and further continuance of the product beyond the testing period will be subject to IRDAI approval.
- **Citigroup** has announced that **Axis Bank** will be acquiring **Citibank's India consumer business** for an amount of **USD 1.6 billion (Rs 12,325 crores)** in an all-cash deal. This transaction will be including Citibank India's consumer banking businesses, which include retail banking, credit cards, consumer loans, and wealth management.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has turned **87 year**. The **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (II of 1934)** establishes the legal framework for the Bank's operations, which began on April 1, 1935. The Central Office of the Reserve Bank was initially established in Kolkata but was permanently moved to Mumbai in 1937.
- The gross collection of **goods and service tax (GST)** soared to an all-time high of over **Rs 1.42 lakh crore in March** aided by the rationalization of rates and aggressive anti-evasion measures. GST cess collections amounted to Rs 9,417 crore (including Rs 981 crore collected on import of goods).

### Appointments/Resignations

- **Gilbert Hougbo** from Togo will be the next **Director-General** of the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**. Hougbo was elected by the UN agency's governing body, comprising representatives of governments, workers and employers during their meeting in Geneva.
- The board of **Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India** has elected IPG Mediabrands India CEO **Shashi Sinha** as the new chairman. He will take over from Punit Goenka, who served as chairman of the TV viewership measurement agency for the last three years. Sinha, who also represents the Advertising Agencies Association of India as its board member, has played a key role in the formation of BARC.
- **Uday Kotak** has announced to step down as the Chairman of the board of **the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS)**, after his term ends on April 2, 2022. **CS Rajan**, Managing Director, IL&FS has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director for six months with effect from April 3 by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- The incumbent president of the Badminton Association of India (BAI), **Himanta Biswa Sarma** has been re-elected unopposed for a second four years term, from **2022 to 2026**. He was elected during the General Body Meeting of BAI in Guwahati on **March 25, 2022**.
- **Dr Renu Singh** has been appointed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) as the next director of the **Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun**. She will be the institute's second woman director. Singh joined as FRI director after **AS Rawat**, director-general, ICFRE, handed over his additional charge of director FRI to her.

- **Vishwas Patel** has been re-elected as the **Chairman of Payments Council of India (PCI)** for the second time in 2022, previously he was elected as a Chairman of PCI in the year 2018. In 2013, he served as Co-Chairman of PCI. PCI is a payment ecosystem industry body and is a part of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). PCI aims to promote a cashless transaction society and vision to grow digital payment in India.
- **Dr S Raju** has taken over as the **Director-General of the Geological Survey of India (GSI)** with effect from April 01, 2022. He succeeds **R. S. Garkhal** who superannuated on March 31, 2022. Prior to this, Dr Raju was holding the post of Additional Director General and National Head, Mission-III & IV at GSI HQ.
- Vice-Chancellor of Indraprastha University, **Mahesh Verma** has been appointed as the new chairperson of the **National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH)**. NABH is a constituent board of the **Quality Council of India (QCI)**.
- **Kalyan Jewellers** has announced the appointment of former Comptroller and Auditor General of India **Vinod Rai** as the chairman and independent non-executive director on the company's board. TS Kalyanaraman will, however, continue as the Managing Director.
- **Aprajita Sharma**, an **Indian Post & Telecom Account and Finance (IP&TAF)** Service officer from 1995 batch, has been appointed as the vice-chairperson of Council Standing Committee on **Administration and Management of International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**. Aprajita Sharma will remain as vice chair for the years 2023 and 2024. After that she will assume the role of Chairperson for the years 2025 and 2026.



## Defence News

- The first edition of the **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22)** was held from March 26 to 30, 2022, in **Goa** and in the **Arabian Sea**. The objective of the exercise was to enhance the interoperability of the navies of member nations in **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations**. The exercise is seen as a significant stepping stone for regional navies to collaborate and respond collectively to natural disasters in the region and paves way for further strengthening regional cooperation.
- The **20th edition** of the Bilateral Naval Exercise between the **Indian Navy and French Navy** named **'VARUNA'** is being conducted in the **Arabian Sea** from **March 30 to April 03, 2022**. The Bilateral Naval Exercises between the two Navies is being held since 1993 and the exercise was christened as 'VARUNA' in 2001. Various ships, submarines, maritime patrol aircraft, fighter aircraft and helicopters of the two navies will be participating in the VARUNA-2022 exercise.
- During an amazing **Color Presentation Parade** held at the **Dogra Regimental Centre, Faizabad (UP)**, **General MM Naravane, Chief of the Army Staff**, gave the prestigious **President's Colours** to two battalions of the **Dogra Regiment**, namely **20 DOGRA and 21 DOGRA**.
- The **Ministry of Defence** has formally placed an order with **Goa Shipyard Limited** for 8 fast patrol vessels for the Indian Coast Guard. GSL was awarded the Rs 473 cr contract after the Vasco-based shipyard emerged as the lowest bidder for the project. The ministry is expected to ink two contracts with GSL for 8 fast patrol vessels & 7 next generation off-shore patrol warships.

## Awards and Recognitions

- The **Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL)** has won the **'Covid champion'** award at **Wings India 2022**. CIAL has been awarded for the successful implementation of a meticulous project named 'Mission Safeguarding' during the pandemic time to ensure safe travel at Kochi Airport. The Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru won two the 'Best Airport' under the General Category and the 'Aviation Innovation' Award at the event. **Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA)** won the **'Aviation Sustainability & Environment'** award by Wings India Awards 2022 for its efficient green practices.

- Professor Emeritus **Wilfried Brutsaert** has been named as the **Stockholm Water Prize Laureate 2022**. He has been awarded for his groundbreaking work to quantify environmental evaporation. Wilfried Brutsaert is Professor in **Engineering Emeritus at Cornell University, USA**.
- Bollywood actress **Deepika Padukone** has been named as one of the awardees of the **TIME100 Impact Awards 2022**. The actress has got featured on the inaugural **TIME100 Impact Awards list** for her work in mental health struggles and raising awareness, through her **LiveLoveLaugh Foundation**.
- Olympic silver medallist weightlifter, **Mirabai Chanu** won the 3rd edition of the **BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year award 2021**. The **BBC Emerging Player award** was presented to 18-year-old cricketer **Shafali Verma**, who has recently been playing at the Women's World Cup in New Zealand. The first Indian woman to have won a medal at the Olympics in 2000, former weightlifter **Karnam Malleswari** was presented the '**BBC Lifetime Achievement**' award.

### Summit and Conference

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has participated in the **5th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit** through virtual mode. The Summit was hosted by the Government of **Sri Lanka**, which was the chair nation of BIMSTEC. At the conclusion of the Summit, **Thailand** took over as chair nation of BIMSTEC. The year 2022 marks the **25th year** of the establishment of BIMSTEC. The theme of the Summit was "**Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies, Healthy People**".

### Schemes and Committees News

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**, has extended the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY)** scheme for another six months, till **September 2022**, in order to show care and compassion towards the underprivileged and vulnerable parts of society (**Phase VI**). So far, the government has spent over **Rs. 2.60 lakh crore**, with another **Rs. 80,000 crore** set to be invested over the next six months through September 2022, bringing the total expenditure under **PM-GKAY** to roughly **Rs. 3.40 lakh crore**.

- The government authorised a **World Bank**-backed programme costing **USD808 million** on Wednesday to aid and improve the functioning of the country's **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**. The government said in an official statement that it would support various **COVID-19** pandemic-related resilience and recovery interventions of the enterprises and that it would begin in financing at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, which envisions a programme called '**Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance**' (**RAMP**) and is supported by a World Bank-assisted central sector scheme

### Ranks and Reports News

- **Dhaka**, the capital city of **Bangladesh**, has been ranked as the most noise polluted city globally, according to the recent '**Annual Frontier Report, 2022**' published by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**. **Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad** came second in the list with noise pollution of 114 decibels. **Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan is third**, with maximum noise pollution of 105 dB. The quietest cities in the world as per the report are Irbrid at 60 dB, Lyon at 69 dB, Madrid at 69 dB, Stockholm at 70 dB, and Belgrade at 70 dB. The other four most noise polluted cities in India in the list are Kolkata (89 dB), Asansol (89 dB), Jaipur (84 dB), and Delhi (83 dB).
- **Hurun Research Institute** has released the **Hurun Global Forty and Under Self-Made Billionaires 2022**, which ranks the self-made billionaires in the world (in terms of US dollars) aged forty years and under. The USA leads the list with 37 self-made billionaires. China is second with 25 billionaires, followed by the United Kingdom (8), India (6) and Sweden (3) respectively in the top five. Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg is the world's richest self-made billionaire aged 40 and under with a total wealth of \$76 billion. He is followed by ByteDance CEO Zhang Yiming, FTX CEO Sam Bankman-Fried, Airbnb CEO Brian Chesky, and Facebook co-founder Dustin Moskovitz, respectively.
- **Uttar Pradesh** at 29.58 mt has become the **top producer of vegetables**, getting back its first position by demoting **West Bengal** at 28.23 mt to the second position, with a difference of a million tonnes in production in 2021-22 Crop Year (CY) (July-June), after two years since 2020. Other top producers of vegetables as per the data in the current year 2021-22 include Madhya Pradesh at 20.59 mt, Bihar at 17.77 mt and Maharashtra at 16.78 mt.

- **Andhra Pradesh** remains the **top fruit producer**. India's horticulture output is likely to drop marginally by 0.4% to 333.25 mt in 2021-22 from the previous year (2020-21) as production of vegetables, spices, and plantation crops is set to decline. In 2021-22, Andhra Pradesh is expected to produce 18.01 million tonnes of fruit, up from 17.7 million tonnes in 2020-21. Maharashtra is anticipated to produce 12.3 million tonnes of fruit, up from 11.74 million tonnes in 2020-21.

### Sports News

- **India's P.V. Sindhu** has defeated **Busanan Ongbamrunphan of Thailand** to win the women's singles title at the **Swiss Open Super 300 badminton tournament**. Playing her second successive final in the tournament, Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist, took 49 minutes to get the better of the fourth-seeded Busanan 21-16, 21-8 at the St. Jakobshalle.
- **India** has been declared the winner of the **3rd edition of the SAFF U-18 Women's Football Championship**. The 2022 edition of the international football competition for women's under-18 national teams was held in **Jharkhand at JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur**. The valuable player of the tournament and the highest goal scorer was **Lynda Kom** who scored five goals in total.
- **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull – Netherlands) has won the **Formula One 2022 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix at Jeddah Corniche Circuit, Saudi Arabia**. **Charles Leclerc** (Ferrari- Monaco) came second and **Carlos Sainz Jr.** (Ferrari – Spain) came third.
- In **Kohima, Darshan Singh** of the Services and **Varsha Devi** of the Railways finally defended their **men's and women's titles** in the National Cross Country Championships by winning their **10 Km** events on the picturesque but difficult course, which was made more difficult by **60 per cent** humidity and wind gusts.
- **Canada** has qualified for the **Qatar 2022 football World Cup** for the first time in **36 years**, after thoroughly beating Jamaica 4-0 in Toronto. The North American nation have booked their place at the finals for the first time since Mexico in 1986. Canada is top of the CONCACAF qualifying group and has now secured its place at a World Cup finals tournament for the first time since 1986.

- **Al Rihla** – the Official Match Ball for the **FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022** has been revealed by Adidas. It is **Adidas' 14th World Cup ball**, and it is designed to accommodate the fastest game speeds possible, since it flies quicker in flight than any other **World Cup ball**.
- **Indian Railways' men Hockey** team won the prestigious **Obaidullah Khan Heritage Hockey Cup** held at Bhopal (MP) from 21.03.2022 to 27.03.2022. In the final match held on Sunday, Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) team beat Army XI by 2. The prestigious hockey tournament was played at Major Dhyanchand Stadium, Bhopal.
- **Meghalaya** is all set to host the **83rd National Table Tennis Championship 2022** scheduled to begin from April 18th till 25th, 2022 at **SAI Indoor Training Centre, NEHU in Shillong**. This is the second time the biggest table tennis event is being hosted in the Northeast.

### Science and Technology News

- **Microsoft** launched a new digital and inclusive platform for startup founders in India. The platform called as '**Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub**' in India, will support startup founders in India at every stage of their startup journey. This platform will offer over **USD 300,000 worth** of benefits and credits to startups, including free access to the technology, tools, and resources from the tech giant and partners. The initiative will help the Startups to gain mentorship and skilling opportunities with industry experts and Microsoft Learn.
- The **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)**, a collaborative project of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and the Department of Science and Technology, has dedicated **PARAM Shakti**, a Petascale Supercomputer, to the country at **IIT Kharagpur (DST)**.



## Important Days

- Every year, the Earth Hour is celebrated worldwide on the **last Saturday of March month** to show support for the fight against climate change and commitment towards a better planet. Earth Hour 2022 is being marked on **March 26, 2022**. The Earth Hour 2022 theme will focus on **'Shape Our Future**.
- The **International Day of Drug Checking** takes place on **March 31** every year since 2017 to ensure people are educated on drugs and aware of their effects. The day aims to promote harm reduction initiatives of drugs and reduce drug-related risks.
- **World Backup Day** is marked every year on **March 31**. The day reminds us to protect our precious digital documents as we've become more reliant on technology. It is a day for people to learn about the increasing role of data in our lives and the importance of regular backups. Originally, World Backup Day began as **World Backup Month**, by a hard drive company named **Maxtor** which was later acquired by Seagate Technology.
- The **International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV)** occurs annually on **March 31** to raise awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, while also celebrating their contributions to society. The day is dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as celebrating their contributions to society.
- **Utkal Divas or Utakala Dibasha or Odisha Day** is celebrated on **April 1st** every year to remember the formation of the Odisha state after a struggle to be recognised as an independent state. The state was originally called Orissa but the Lok Sabha passed the **Orissa Bill, and Constitution Bill (113rd amendment)**, in March 2011 to rename it Odisha.
- **World Autism Awareness Day** is observed annually on **2nd April** by the member states of the **United Nations**. The theme for 'World Autism Awareness Day 2022' is **"Inclusive Quality Education for All"**. Access to education that was made easy for years, especially for autistic persons was disrupted after 2020 with the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **World Theatre Day** is celebrated annually on **March 27**, promoted by the **International Theatre Institute (ITI)** through its centres, and supported by theatre communities all over the world.

- The **International Children's Book Day (ICBD)** is organised annually on the **2nd of April since 1967**, by the **International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY)**. IBBY is an international non-profit organization, to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children's books. In 2022, **Canada** is hosting International Children's Book Day with this chosen theme: **"Stories are wings that help you soar every day."**

## Obituaries

- Veteran Belgian footballer, **Miguel Van Damme** has passed away aged 28 after a long battle with leukaemia. Van Damme was diagnosed with leukaemia in 2016 and was undergoing treatment for cancer for over five years. During his eight-year professional career, Van Damme played for Cercle Brugge and made 40 appearances for the team.
- The 3rd Chief Minister of Sikkim, **Bhim Bahadur Gurung** has passed away at his residence in **Lumsui in Gangtok, Sikkim**. B. Gurung served as a teacher and a staff reporter in a Calcutta (Kolkata)-based newspaper the **Amrita Bazar Patrika** and he also edited the first news-based Nepali Journal of Sikkim, called **Kanchenjunga**. Gurung started his political career with **Sikkim Rajya Congress Party in 1947** and was later appointed as the General Secretary in 1958. He served as the 3rd CM of Sikkim from 11 May to **24 May 1984**, the shortest term in the history of Sikkim. Between 2014 and 2015 he served as the political advisor to the CM of Sikkim.

## Miscellaneous News

- The granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi **'Sumitra Gandhi Kulkarni'** has inaugurated the web portal **'Modi Story'**. The Modi story website is a volunteer-driven initiative which aims to bring together "inspiring" stories related to Prime Minister Narendra Modi from those who have interacted with him during his life journey over the decades. The portal can be accessed at **modistory.in**
- This year's Oscars was named to **Dune as the Timothee Chalamet and Zendaya** starrer sci-fi thriller bagged six wins. Dune was nominated in 10 categories and it won in 6 of them. This win was a proud moment for India as **Namit Malhotra**, the CEO and Chairman of **Double Negative (DNEG)**, the studio that did the VFX for the film, brought home this honour.

- The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** conducted **Yamunotsav at ASITA East River Front, ITO Bridge**, as part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** celebrations, in collaboration with a number of **NGOs**, to celebrate the splendour of **Yamuna** with a “pledge to keep it clean.”
- **‘Jingkieng Jri or Living Root Bridge’**, found in over 70 villages in **Meghalaya** highlighting the socio-cultural, social and botanical links between people and nature, has been included in the tentative list of **World Heritage Sites of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)**.
- **Konkan Railway** accomplishes **‘Mission 100% Electrification. Indian Railways** is on a mission mode to **electrify its entire Broad Gauge network** to provide environment friendly, green & clean mode of transport to its people under the ‘Mission 100% Electrification – Moving towards net Zero Carbon Emission’ plan. The foundation stone for the Electrification of the entire 741 kms route work was laid in November 2015.
- The first forest fire was recorded in **Chandrapur district, the third hottest place in the entire world**. The fire was witnessed in the **area of Irai dam**. The fire was seen at the border of Regional forest area, private farms, and buffer zone of national tiger project.
- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company** Founded: 2002.
- **International Labour Organisation** Founded: 1919;
- **International Labour Organisation Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Broadcast Audience Research Council** Founded: 2010;
- **Broadcast Audience Research Council Headquarters:** Mumbai;
- **Broadcast Audience Research Council CEO:** Nakul Chopra.
- **Badminton Association of India** Founded: 1934;
- **Badminton Association of India Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Stockholm International Water Institute** Headquarters location: Stockholm, Sweden;
- **Stockholm International Water Institute Executive Director:** Torgny Holmgren;
- **Stockholm International Water Institute** Founded: 1991.
- **United Nations Environment Programme** Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya.
- **United Nations Environment Programme Head:** Inger Andersen.
- **United Nations Environment Programme Founder:** Maurice Strong.
- **World Wide Fund Headquarters:** Gland, Switzerland.
- **World Wide Fund** Founded: 29 April 1961, Morges, Switzerland.
- **World Wide Fund President and CEO:** Carter Roberts.
- **Odisha Capital:** Bhubaneswar;
- **Odisha Governor:** Ganeshi Lal;
- **Odisha Chief Minister:** Naveen Patnaik.
- **World Autism Organisation:** 1998;
- **World Autism Organisation President:** Dr Samira Al Saad;
- **World Autism Organisation** Founded: Luxembourg.
- **Double Negative (DNEG) Headquarters:** London, United Kingdom;
- **Double Negative (DNEG)** Founded: 1998, London, United Kingdom.
- **UNESCO** Founded: 16 November 1945;
- **UNESCO Headquarters:** Paris, France;
- **UNESCO Members:** 193 countries;
- **UNESCO Head:** Audrey Azoulay.
- **International Board on Books for Young People** Founder: Jella Lepman.
- **International Board on Books for Young People** Founded: 1953, Zürich, Switzerland.
- **International Board on Books for Young People** Headquarters: Basel, Switzerland.

### Static Takeaways

- Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai;
- Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari;
- Maharashtra Chief minister: Uddhav Thackeray.
- Malta Capital: Valletta; Currency: Euro
- Manipur Capital: Imphal; Governor: La. Ganesan.
- Central Bank of India Founded: 21 December 1911;
- Central Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- Central Bank of India MD & CEO: Matam Venkata Rao;
- Central Bank of India Tagline: ‘Central’ to you since 1911.
- PVR Cinemas Founded: June 1997;
- PVR Cinemas Headquarters: Gurugram;
- PVR Cinemas Founder & CEO: Ajay Bijli.
- Google CEO: Sundar Pichai;
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998;
- Google Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States.
- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company** CEO: Ritesh Kumar;
- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company** Headquarters: Mumbai;

- National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers Founded: 2006, India;
- National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers 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.
- China Capital: Beijing;
- China Currency: Renminbi;
- China President: Xi Jinping.
- Microsoft CEO and Chairman: Satya Nadella;
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.

