

Weekly One Liners 14th to 20th of February 2022

Russia-Ukraine Border Conflict

The **Russia-Ukraine Border Conflict**, have been simmering for more than two months, with diplomatic efforts to resolve the issue showing little sign of progress. Russia has more than **100,000 troops** on its border with Ukraine, sparking Western warnings of an imminent invasion. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, meanwhile, voiced concerns that Russia continues to build up troop numbers along Ukraine's borders, including in Belarus.

Background of the Russia-Ukraine Border Conflict:

The **Border conflict** in Ukraine began with protests in the capital city of Kiev in **November 2013** against Ukrainian President **Viktor Yanukovich's** decision to reject a deal for greater economic integration with the European Union. After a violent crackdown by state security forces unintentionally drew an even greater number of protesters and escalated the conflict, President Yanukovich fled the country in February 2014.

In March 2014, Russian troops took control of **Ukraine's Crimean region**, before formally annexing the peninsula after Crimeans voted to join the Russian Federation in a disputed local referendum. Russian President Vladimir Putin cited the need to protect the rights of Russian citizens and Russian speakers in Crimea and southeast Ukraine. The **Border conflict** heightened ethnic divisions, and two months later pro-Russian separatists in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of eastern Ukraine held a referendum to declare independence from Ukraine.

In July 2014, the situation in Ukraine escalated into an international **conflict** and put the United States and the European Union (EU) at odds with Russia when a Malaysian Airlines flight was shot down over Ukrainian airspace, killing all 298 onboard.

Rishabh Pant won ESPNcricinfo 'Test Batting Award' 2021

In the 15th Edition of ESPN cricinfo Awards, India's wicketkeeper-batsman, **Rishabh Pant** wins the **'Test Batting' award** by scoring 89 not out, helped India to win the Border Gavaskar Trophy 2021 by (2-1) and shattered Australia's unbeaten record at Gabba after 32 years. Rishabh Pant was the top scorer of the series for the Indian team, scoring (274 runs).

Other awardee's:

- New Zealand skipper **Kane Williamson** was adjudged **'Captain of the Year'**.
- The Test bowling award went to **Kyle Jamieson** (New Zealand) for his 5 wickets leaving just 31 runs, which helped New Zealand in becoming the first World Test champions (2019-2021).
- England fast bowler **Ollie Robinson** was named **Debutant of the Year**.

- Saqib Mahmood's 4 for 42 in a nine-wicket win over Pakistan got him the **top ODI bowling prize**.
- Jos Buttler won the **T20I batting award**.
- The ODI batting and T20I bowling awards went to Pakistan. Fakhar Zaman won the top batting prize. Shaheen Afridi won the T20I bowling award for his annihilation of India in the 10-wicket win for Pakistan at the T20 World Cup.

17th IBA's Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021 announced

Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has announced the IBA's **17th Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021**. In total South Indian Bank has won 6 awards in the event. This year's IBA Awards celebrating "Next Gen Banking" has recognized technologies and practices in the banking industry that have demonstrated a high degree of innovation over the past year.

The list of winners in different categories is given below:

Best Technology Bank of the Year

- In Large Banks segment: Bank of Baroda
- In Small Banks segment: The South Indian Bank
- In Foreign Banks segment: Citibank N.A.
- Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin

Best Digital Financial Inclusion Initiatives

- Large Banks: State Bank of India
- Small Banks: The Jammu & Kashmir Bank
- Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin

Best Payments Initiatives

- Public Banks: State Bank of India
- Private Banks: ICICI Bank

Best Fintech Adoption

- Large Banks: ICICI Bank
- Medium Banks: Federal Bank
- Small Banks: The South Indian Bank
- Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin



Best Use of AI/ ML T & Data

- Large Banks: ICICI Bank
- Small Banks: The South Indian Bank
- Regional Rural Banks: Telangana Grameena Bank

Best IT Risk & Cyber Security Initiatives

- Large Banks: Union Bank of India
- Medium Banks: Yes Bank
- Small Banks: The South Indian Bank
- Foreign Banks: The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd
- Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin
- Co-operative Banks: The Saraswat Coop bank
- Small Finance/Payments Banks: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

Cloud Adoption

- Large Banks: Union Bank of India
- Medium Banks: Yes Bank
- Small Banks: Karur Vysya Bank
- Foreign Banks: Citi bank N.A
- Regional Rural Bank: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin

National Affairs

- President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind** has inaugurated the **Durbar Hall at Raj Bhavan**, situated at **Malabar Hill, Mumbai**. While retaining the heritage features of the old court hall, the new hall has been given additional features such as a balcony and a sea view gallery.
- **Ministry of Railways** has approved to set up a state-of-art wrestling academy in Indian Railways, at **Kishanganj, Delhi**. The wrestling academy will be the biggest in India and equipped with advanced training facilities to promote the sports of wrestling in the country. The project will be set up at an estimated cost of **Rs 30.76 crores**.
- Union Power Minister **R K Singh** has announced that **India** will achieve **zero-diesel use in agriculture and replace fossil fuel** with renewable energy by **2024**. For this, states should develop action plans to achieve the assigned targets and specific agencies dedicated to energy efficiency and conservation. This initiative is a part of the government's commitment to increase the share of non-fossil fuels by 2030 and become a net-zero emitter by 2070.
- The **government of India** has banned **54 apps of Chinese** origin citing security concerns. The apps include Sea Ltd.'s marquee game **Free Fire** and other apps related to tech firms like Tencent, Alibaba and NetEase. Under **Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000** provides government power to issue directions for blocking public access of any information through any computer resource. This section allows the government to block websites.

- **Ministry of Education** has approved a new scheme named "**New India Literacy Programme**" for the period FYs 2022-2027 to cover all the aspects of **Adult Education**. The scheme aims to align Adult Education will all aspects of National Education Policy 2020 and Budget Announcements 2021-22. The government has now replaced the term "Adult Education" as 'Education for All' in the country.
- **Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH)** has released the **FAITH 2035 vision document** containing goals and an execution path for making Indian tourism preferred and loved by the world by the year 2035. The vision document has been launched commemorating the 75th year of Indian independence. It aims to position tourism as a 'Social-Economic Job and Infrastructure creator for India' as well as 'to be a role model for creating Sustainable and Inclusive Ecosystem'.
- Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs, **Arjun Ram Meghwal** has launched '**Pramarsh 2022**', a mega career counselling workshop, for the students of the **Bikaner District region in Rajasthan**. More than one lakh students from thousands of private & government schools of Bikaner district and mainly from rural areas participated in this workshop. It is the first such incidence in India that more than 1 lakh students participated in Career Counselling in one Workshop.

States in the News

- The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari** and Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** jointly inaugurated the 14.5-kilometre long '**Rail-cum-Road-Bridge**' in Bihar. The much-awaited bridge is constructed over the River Ganga on **NH 333B** in Bihar's Munger region. The cost of the 'Rail-cum-Road-Bridge' project is **Rs 696 crore**.
- Maharashtra's Health Minister, **Rajesh Tope** has announced that "**Hope Express**" will be launched in the state to prevent cancer. This is the first such machine in India. He was speaking at the launch of a state-of-the-art **Mosaic-3D radiation machine** at a private hospital in Kolhapur.
- In **Madhya Pradesh**, the **Central Jail of Indore** has started its own radio channel '**Jail Vaani-FM 18.77**'. Through this radio channel, the jail inmates will get to know about the happening in the world. The radio channel will also provide the jail inmates with information on health and social issues.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, has sanctioned **Rs. 2.26 Crores** for **Medaram Jatara 2022 Festival** in Telangana. In 2022, the festival is being held from February 16 to 19, 2022. Medaram Jatara is the second-largest fair in India, after the **Kumbh Mela**. Medaram Jatara is conducted in honour of the Goddesses Sammakka and Saralamma. It was declared a State Festival in 1998.

- The renowned **Jaisalmer Desert Festival**, also known as **Maru Mahotsav of the Golden City** started from 13 to 16 February 2022 at **Pokaran village in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**. It is a four-day-long annual event started with a colorful grand procession followed by Miss Pokaran and Mister Pokran competitions. Regional folk dances such as Kalbelia, Kachhi Ghodi, Gair will be performed.
- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways & AYUSH, **Sarbananda Sonowal** virtually flagged off the **'Most Awaited' Water Taxi for citizens of Mumbai, Maharashtra**. The Water Taxi services will commence from the Domestic Cruise Terminal (DCT) and will also connect nearby locations at Nerul, Belapur, Elephanta island and JNPT. The service promises a comfortable, stress-free journey, is time-saving and promotes eco-friendly transport."
- **Kerala's first Caravan park** is all set to come up in **Vagamon**, a scenic hill station located in the **Idukki district**. The park, as part of the state governments new Caravan Tourism policy, would be thrown open to travellers. Caravan Tourism was introduced by the state Tourism department as a safe means for holidaying at a time when people are unable to step out or travel due to the outbreak of COVID-19.
- Canadian Prime Minister, **Justin Trudeau** has invoked never-before-used emergency powers to support provinces in ending the blockades and public disorder that have gripped Ottawa for 18 days at the hands of participants in the so-called **"Freedom Convoy."** The demonstrations shut a main economic corridor between Canada and the United States for six days before it was reopened on the **13th Feb**.
- **World Health Organization (WHO)** South-East Asia Region (SEAR) has launched a **'Quit Tobacco App'**. This application helps people to give up the use of tobacco in all forms, including smokeless and other newer products. The App was launched by Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO-SEAR, during WHO's year-long **'Commit to quit' campaign**, is the latest tobacco control initiative by the WHO South-East Asia Region.
- The air forces of **Bangladesh and the United States** will conduct a joint tactical airlift exercise **'Cope South 22'**. The six days exercise has been sponsored by **Pacific Air Forces (PACAF)**. The bilateral exercise will be held at Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) Kurmitola Cantonment, Dhaka; and Operating Location-Alpha, Sylhet, Bangladesh.
- **Nepal** will be the first country to adopt **India's UPI system**, which will play a pivotal role in transforming the digital economy of the neighbouring country, the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**. NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI, has joined hands with Gateway Payments Service (GPS) & Manam Infotech to provide the services. **GPS is the authorized payment system operator in Nepal**. **Manam Infotech** will deploy Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Nepal.

International Affairs

- In **Burkina Faso**, the military junta has appointed lieutenant colonel **Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba** as the interim President of the country following the military coup. The 2022 Burkina Faso military coup took place on January 24, 2022, which was led by Damiba.
- German President, **Frank-Walter Steinmeier** has been re-elected for a second term of five years by a special parliamentary assembly. This is also the final term for Steinmeier, which he won with **71% of the vote**.
- **Israel** becomes the first-ever country to allow **drone flights in civilian airspace**. The certification was issued to the Hermes Starliner unmanned system by the **Israeli Civil Aviation Authority** and was manufactured and developed by **Elbit Systems**, an Israeli defence electronics company.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Reliance Jio** has tied up with Luxembourg-based satellite and telecom services provider **SES** to provide satellite-based broadband communication services in India. Under the agreement, Jio Platforms has formed a joint venture with SES, named as **Jio Space Technology Ltd**.
- **Twitter Inc** has partnered with **Paytm's payment gateway** to improve the support for its **'Tips' feature in India**. With this partnership, Twitter users will be able to use the payments facility of Paytm, including its Paytm digital wallet, Paytm Postpaid (buy-now-pay-later service), debit and credit cards, and net banking. The feature was announced last year and is one of the company's many efforts to introduce monetisation on the platform.



Books and Authors

- A book titled '**How to Prevent the Next Pandemic**' has authored by **Bill Gates** will be published this year in **May 2022**. In the book Bill Gates has written about specific steps that can only stop future pandemics but, in the process, provide better health care for everyone around the world.
- A new book titled "**Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War**" authored by **Samuel Moyn** was released. Samuel Moyn is the Professor of Jurisprudence at Yale Law School and a professor of History at Yale University.
- A new book titled "**Dignity in a Digital Age: Making Tech Work for All of Us**" has authored by **Ro Khanna** released. The book highlights the effects of changing lifestyle patterns of Americans due to technological progress. It also mentioned about the digital divide i.e., unequal access to technology and revenue, as it is one of the most pressing issues faced by the United States.

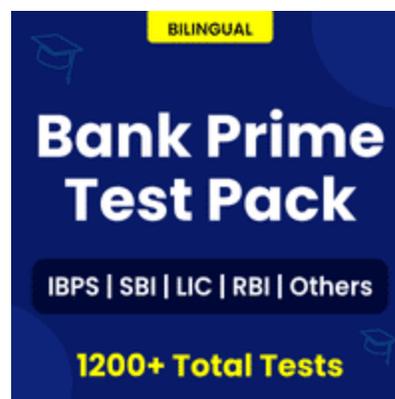
Banking/Economy/Business News

- **RBL Bank** has partnered with **Creditas Solutions** for its '**Neo Collections**' platform. The bank will utilise the SaaS-based platform to accelerate efficiency in collections across the loan cycle. The platform is built to automate strategies for reaching out to customers individually in an empathetic manner and motivate them to repay loans.
- **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** has booked **ABG Shipyard** for an alleged **Rs 22,842-crore financial fraud**. ABG Shipyard is the flagship entity of ABG Group. It has cheated a consortium of 28 banks and financial institutions of Rs. 22,842 crore. This is the biggest bank fraud case ever registered by the CBI. The case pertained to funds gotten and misused during the 2012-17 period. **Rishi Agarwal**, the then CMD of ABG Shipyard has been named in the FIR.
- **Bank of Baroda** will acquire **Union Bank of India's 21% stake** in **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company**. It is a joint venture between the **Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, and Carmel Point Investments**.
- Finance Minister, **Nirmala Sitharaman** has launched the first **colour souvenir coin** on '**Panchtantra**' on the occasion of the 17th foundation day of **Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL)**. The finance minister in her address stressed on upskilling and acquiring new skills, and up-gradation to meet the technology-driven economy.
- Private sector lender, **Yes Bank** has launched an '**Agri Infinity**' programme for digital financing solutions in the food and agriculture sector ecosystem by mentoring entrepreneurial ventures in this field. Agri-fintech start-ups working on financial innovations across the food and agriculture value chain are eligible to apply under this programme and can work with Yes Bank for digital solutions.
- **JPMorgan** has become the world's first bank to set up shop in the metaverse. The largest bank in the US has opened a lounge in the blockchain-based world **Decentraland**. Users can create their virtual avatars, build virtual spaces and roam in the lounge christened '**Onyx Lounge**' after its suit of Ethereum-based services. The lounge also features a digital image of the bank's CEO **Jamie Dimon**.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has extended the deadline for **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** to comply with new **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)** classification norms (the norms are issued by RBI in November 2021) to **September 2022** from the earlier deadline of **March 2022**.
- **Ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI)** has projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) deflator for FY23 at **3 to 3.5%**. The Government's own projection on real GDP growth for FY23 is at **7.6-8.1%** and the union budget projected nominal GDP growth rate to be 11.1% for FY23. GDP Projection in the Budget is based on advance estimates of the '**National Statistical Office (NSO)**'.
- **India's retail inflation**, as measured by the **consumer price index (CPI)**, accelerated to **6.01%** in the month of January, breaching the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** tolerance band of 6%, albeit marginally. The surge in inflation print was driven by higher consumer goods and telecom prices along with a comparatively low rate a year ago.
- With a view to provide further relief to consumers and to keep in check any further rise in the prices of domestic edible oils, the Centre has reduced the **agri-cess for Crude Palm Oil** from **7.5 per cent to 5 per cent**. The current basic rate of import duty of zero per cent on **Crude Palm Oil, Crude Soyabean oil, and Crude Sunflower Oil** up to the 30th of September this year. This will give relief to consumers and prevent a further rise in the price of domestic edible oils.
- **India's wholesale inflation** has eased to **12.96 %** in January from **13.56 %** in the previous month. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation has declined consistently in recent months. It fell from 14.87 % in November 2021 to 13.56 % in December 2021 and further to 12.96 % in January 2022. However, inflation still remains at an elevated level and is a matter of concern for economic policymakers.
- **Paisabazaar.com**, a digital platform for consumer credit, has partnered with **RBL Bank Limited** to offer '**Paisa on Demand (PoD)**', a credit card that will be exclusively available on the Paisabazaar platform. To build products that offer integrated services for the large under-served segments across India.

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has launched the **'Waste to Wealth Creation' programme** for women in the Sundarbans in **West Bengal**. In this, the women will make ornaments and showpieces from the fish scales. SIDBI will extend benefits to 50 women indirectly generating revenues from alternate livelihoods.
- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** board has decided to make provision for separation of the roles of **chairperson and MD/CEO** as **'voluntary' against 'mandatory'** earlier. The market regulator had in June 2017 set up a committee on corporate governance under Uday Kotak with a view to seek recommendations to further enhance corporate governance norms for listed companies.
- **Jio Platforms** has picked up a **25% stake** in US-based deep-tech startup company **TWO Platforms** for **\$15 million**. Two Platforms is an artificial reality company that focuses on building interactive and immersive AI experiences. The two companies have joined hands to fast track the adoption of new technologies and build disruptive technologies such as AI, metaverse and mixed realities.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** Research Report, **Ecowrap**, has revised downwards the gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of India for FY22 (2021-22) to **8.8 percent**. Earlier this was estimated at **9.3 per cent**. The report projects the GDP to grow at **5.8 per cent** in the third quarter (Q3) of FY2021-2022 (October-December).
- The Delhi High Court has appointed former Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, **Gita Mittal** as the **Chairperson of the Committee of Administrators** which will run the **Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)**.
- IAS **Vineet Joshi** has been appointed as the new Chairman of the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**. He replaces IAS Manoj Ahuja, who has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- Bhojpuri singer and BJP MP, **Manoj Tiwari** will be the brand ambassador of **Khadi and other handicrafts of Bihar**. He will be the "brand ambassador" for Khadi and other handicrafts of Bihar, state minister Syed Shahnawaz Hussain announced.
- **A23**, the gaming application owned by **Head Digital Works**, an online skill gaming company, has named in Bollywood actor **Shah Rukh Khan** as its brand ambassador. Shahrukh Khan will feature in A23's **'Chalo Saath Khele'** campaign, along with a first of its kind responsible gaming campaign, which showcases all the multi-gaming platforms of A23 such as carom, fantasy sports, pool and rummy, among others.
- Retired Vice Admiral, **G Ashok Kumar** has been appointed as **India's first national maritime security coordinator** by the government. The government of India has taken the decisive move to ensure reliability on security and its objective to strengthen the country's maritime security.
- The **Institute of Economic Growth** has appointed **Chetan Ghate** as the **new director** succeeding **Ajit Mishra**. He was a member of the Reserve Bank of India's first monetary policy committee between 2016-2020, is the winner of the 2014 Mahalanobis Memorial gold medal for the best research economist in the country under the age of 45.

Appointments/Resignations

- Veteran environmentalist **Ravi Chopra** has resigned as chairman of the **Supreme Court's High Powered Committee (HPC)** on the **Char Dham project**. His belief that the HPC could protect this fragile (Himalayan) ecology has been shattered. The Supreme Court on December 14 allowed double-lane widening of roads for the project in view of "security concerns."
- Cultino Agrotech Pvt Ltd, which runs agritech app **Krishi Network** has roped in film actor **Pankaj Tripathi** as a brand ambassador, with a view to reaching out to farmers to its app.
- **Debashis Mitra** has been elected as the **President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** for the year 2022-23. Mitra, who is serving his third term in ICAI Council, has been in the accounting profession for more than 34 years.
- **Ilker Ayci** has been appointed as the new **CEO and MD of Air India**. He will assume his responsibilities on or before 1st April 2022. Ilker Ayci is a former chairman of Turkish Airlines. Ilker is an aviation industry leader who led Turkish Airlines to its current success during his tenure there.



Defence News

- The 44-member contingents of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has reached the **Changi International Airport in Singapore** on February 12, 2022, to participate in the **'Singapore Air Show-2022'**, which is scheduled to be held from February 15 to 18, 2022. Singapore Air Show is a biennial event that provides a platform for the Global Aviation Industry to showcase its products.
- Indian army has conducted a first-of-its-kind **Hackathon** named **"Sainya Ranakshetram"**. The hackathon was conducted in the **Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE)**, Mhow under the overall guidance of the Shimla-based **Army Training Command (ARTRAC)**, one of the seven commands of the Indian Army.
- The Government has approved the continuation of the **Scheme of Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF Scheme)** for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26. Total Central financial outlay for five years is **Rs. 26,275 crores**. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) since 1969-70.
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** has launched the **'Smart Card Arms License'** and **'Shastra App'** of the **Delhi Police**, on the occasion of the **75th anniversary of the Delhi Police**. In order to provide techno-friendly digital services to the citizens of the national capital. According to Delhi Police, the smart card, with inherent security features, is easy to carry and handle. The card will be printed in-house after verification of data of the arms license holders. The card is also integrated with the 'e-Beat book' of Delhi Police through the 'Shastra mobile app' for effective policing.

Awards and Recognitions

- **Sandeep Bakhshi** has been named the **Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21**. He is the **managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO)** of **ICICI Bank**. The winner was chosen by a jury of 5 members chaired by former Reserve Bank of India deputy governor **S S Mundra**. For 2020-21, ICICI Bank reported a net profit of Rs 16,193 crore against Rs 7,931 crore during the previous financial year.
- **RailTel** has bagged the **ICAI award** for excellence in **financial reporting for the year 2020-21** in Public Sector Entities Category. The company was adjudged as the winner in the category **"plaque"**. Financial Reporting includes the preparation and presentation of financial information. Effective Financial Reporting plays a significant role in accelerating the economic growth of a country as the information provided through annual reports enables the management and other relevant stakeholders in taking various effective business, investment, regulatory decisions.

Summit and Conference

- The **4th India-Australia Energy Dialogue** was co-chaired by Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, **RK Singh** and Australian Energy and Emissions Reduction Minister **Angus Taylor**. Energy Transition was a major area of discussion in the dialogue and both the Energy Ministers. Energy Transition activities in their respective countries with a focus on renewables, energy efficiency, storage, EVs, critical minerals, mining etc.
- **India** will hold the **Presidency of the G20** from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023 and the G20 Summit will be held in **India in 2023 (18th edition)**. For its preparation, the government has approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat and its reporting structures. The G20 Secretariat will be guided by an Apex Committee headed by Prime Minister and it will have the following members: Finance Minister: **Nirmala Sitharaman**, Home Minister: **Amit Shah**, External Affairs Minister: **S. Jaishankar**, and G20 Sherpa: **Piyush Goyal**
- The **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** is organising a **"Darkathon-2022"** to find solutions to counter drug trafficking through the **darknet**. The initiative aims at involving students, youth and technical experts to find effective solutions to unravel the anonymity of darknet markets. The agency recently smashed three groups of drug peddlers that were operating on the network that is accessed through encryption software which enables anonymity of users.
- The Prime Minister, **Narendra Modi** has delivered the inaugural address at **The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit**. The theme for this year's summit is **Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future**.

Ranks and Reports

- The **Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2021/2022 report**, unveiled at the **Dubai Expo**, India is among the **top five easiest places** to start a new business. The survey of Indian respondents, who answered questions on their entrepreneurial activity, attitudes to enterprise and view of their local entrepreneurial ecosystem, found that 82% think it is easy to start a business, placing **India fourth** globally. It was topped by **Saudi Arabia** and followed by **Netherlands & Sweden**.

- The **US Green Building Council (USGBC)** has released the **9th** annual ranking of top 10 countries outside of the **United States (US) for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)** in 2021 in which India ranked **3rd** with 146 projects. It has been topped by **China** with 1,077 LEED projects certified in 2021, which is followed by **Canada** at 2nd position with 205 projects. The ranking highlights countries and regions outside the US that are doing good in healthy, sustainable, and resilient building design, construction, and operations.

Science and Technology News

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully launched an **Earth Observation Satellite, EOS-04** and two small satellites into the intended orbit. This was the first launch mission of **ISRO in the year 2022**. The satellites were launched onboard the launch vehicle PSLV-C52 rocket from the First Launch Pad of **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- The Indian mining major **Vedanta** has tied up with Taiwanese electronics manufacturing company, **Hon Hai Technology Group** (better known as **Foxconn**) to form a joint venture (JV) for **manufacturing semiconductors in India**. **Anil Agarwal**, the non-executive Chairman of Vedanta, will be the Chairman of the JV company.

Schemes and Committees News

- The Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, **Dr Virendra Kumar** has launched the Central Sector scheme titled "**SMILE**". SMILE stands for **Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise**. The new umbrella scheme aims to provide welfare measures to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging. The scheme will give the necessary legal protection, social security and a promise to a secured life to the targeted group. The Ministry has allocated **Rs. 365 crore** for the scheme for five years from **2021-22 to 2025-26**.



- Under the Saubhagya scheme, **Rajasthan** has the maximum number of households electrified through the solar-based standalone system. In hill states of **Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim** and the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir** had nil beneficiaries under the initiative. Under the Saubhagya Scheme, **2.817 crore households** were electrified up to March 31 last year, including 4.16 lakh through solar-based standalone systems.
- Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, **Dr Virendra Kumar** has launched a central sector scheme named the **Scheme for Economic Empowerment for DNTs, (SEED)** at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The total financial outlay for SEED Scheme is approximately Rs 200 crore to be spent over a period of 5 years starting Financial Year 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Sports News

- South Africa's Test sensation **Keegan Petersen** and England women's team captain **Heather Knight** were voted **ICC Players of the Month for January 2022**. In the men's category, South African batter **Keegan Petersen** was a sensation during the home Test series against India. He ended the series as the highest run-scorer with 276 runs and was named the Player of the Series.
- English club, **Chelsea** has defeated Brazilian club **Palmeiras, 2-1**, to win the 2021 FIFA Club World Cup final. Chelsea has won the FIFA Club World Cup for the first time. The decisive goal was scored by Kai Havertz with 3 minutes of extra time to go. **Kai Havertz'** nerveless 117th-minute penalty settled a gruelling Club World Cup final. The final was held at **Mohammed bin Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi**.
- **Haryana** team defeated the **Indian Railway 3-0**, to win the **Men's title in Senior National Volleyball Championship 2021-22**. Similarly, in the women's category, the **Kerala team** defeated the **Indian Railway 3-1**, to lift the trophy. The 70th Senior National Volleyball (Men & Women) Championship 2021-22 was held at the Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium, KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar.

Important Days

- **International Epilepsy Day** is observed every year on the **Second Monday of February** across the world. In 2022, International Epilepsy Day falls on **February 14, 2022**. International Epilepsy Day seeks to raise awareness and educate the general public on the true facts about epilepsy and the urgent need for improved treatment, better care, and greater investment in research.

- The FICCI's **Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE)** has taken the initiative to launch **Anti-Smuggling Day**, which will be marked on **11 February** every year. The inaugural Anti-Smuggling Day is being observed on February 11, 2022.
- Every year, **February 15** is observed as **International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD)** to raise awareness about the evil that entails this issue and the ways to deal with the same. The day is a global collaborative campaign to raise awareness about childhood cancer and to express support for children and adolescents with cancer, the survivors and their families.
- **World Pangolin Day** is celebrated on the "**Third Saturday of February**" every year. In 2022, the annual World Pangolin Day is being celebrated on **19 February 2022**. It marks the **11th** edition of the event. The day aims to raise awareness about these unique mammals and speed up conservation efforts. Pangolin numbers are rapidly declining in Asia and Africa.
- **World Day of Social Justice** is celebrated annually all over the world on **20 February**. The International Labour Organization unanimously adopted the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization on **10 June 2008**. Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. World Day of Social Justice 2022 Theme: **Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment**.
- Every year India observes the **Soil Health Card Day on 19 February** to commemorate the launch of the **Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme** and create awareness about the benefits of the scheme. 2022 marks the seventh year of the launch of the SHC Scheme.
- Legendary Bengali singer, **Sandhya Mukherjee** has passed away at the age of 90 years due to cardiac arrest. Her full name was **Geetashree Sandhya Mukhopadhyay**. She had recently refused to accept the Padma award from the central government that was awarded in January 2022.
- **Channaveera Kanavi**, an iconic poet and writer in the Kannada language, has passed away. He was 93. He was often referred to as '**Samanvaya Kavi (Poet of Reconciliation)**'. Kanavi received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1981 for his work *Jeeva Dhvani* (Poetry).
- The former India footballer **Surajit Sengupta**, who played as a midfielder, has passed away due to COVID-19 complications.

Miscellaneous News

- The 17th edition of the **Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation films (MIFF-2022)** is scheduled to take place from **29 May to 4 June, 2022** at the Films Division complex, Mumbai. Those films which were completed between September 1, 2019, and December 31, 2021, are eligible. The best documentary of the festival will receive a **Golden Conch and 10 lakh in a cash award**. As India is celebrating **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**, the current edition has instituted a special award for the best short film on the theme **India@75**.
- **Jammu and Kashmir** lieutenant governor, **Manoj Sinha** has launched a **QR code-based mechanism for certification and labelling** of handmade carpets of the union territory. With the QR-based application, which is the first of its kind in the country, customers can check and verify the authenticity and other requisite details of carpets produced in Jammu and Kashmir, read an official statement from the administration.
- **Dabur India** has become the **first Indian consumer goods company** to become completely plastic waste neutral. It has done this by collecting, processing and recycling around **27,000 metric tonnes** of post-consumer plastic waste during FY21-22. Dabur has achieved the landmark of surpassing its plastic packaging usage with recycling. Dabur's Plastic Waste Management initiative was launched in 2017-18 as part of the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rule.
- **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh** has launched **Kunsnnyoms scheme** for differently-abled persons. Kunsnnyoms meant **Equal for All, Fair for All**, aims inclusive and accessible Ladakh. Under the new scheme, Leh Hill council is providing assistive devices, technologies to needy people at **90 per cent subsidy**.

Obituaries

- Noted industrialist and former chairman of **Bajaj Auto**, **Rahul Bajaj**, has passed away, due to pneumonia and a heart problem. He was awarded the third-highest civilian award Padma Bhushan in 2001.
- Veteran singer and composer, **Bappi Lahiri** has passed away at the age of 69. He was lovingly called **Bappi Da** in the industry is known for delivering iconic songs in several films of the late 1970s-80s like **Chalte Chalte, Disco Dancer, and Sharaabi**. His last Bollywood song was *Bhankas* for the 2020 film *Baaghi 3*.

Static Takeaways

- Minister of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- Nakul Anand is the chairman of Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality.
- Bihar Governor: Phagu Chauhan;
- Bihar Capital: Patna;
- Bihar Chief minister: Nitish Kumar.
- Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai;
- Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari;
- Maharashtra Chief minister: Uddhav Thackeray.
- Madhya Pradesh Capital: Bhopal;
- Madhya Pradesh Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel;
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- Telangana Capital: Hyderabad;
- Telangana Governor: Tamilisa Soundararajan;
- Telangana Chief minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao.
- Chief Minister of Rajasthan: Ashok Gehlot; Governor: Kalraj Mishra.
- Kerala Capital: Thiruvananthapuram;
- Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan;
- Kerala Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan.
- Burkina Faso Capital: Ouagadougou;
- Burkina Faso President: Roch Marc Christian Kaboré;
- Burkina Faso Currency: West African CFA franc.
- Germany Chancellor: Olaf Scholz;
- Germany Capital: Berlin;
- Germany Currency: Euro.
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem;
- Israel Currency: Israeli Shekel;
- Israel President: Isaac Herzog;
- Israel Prime minister: Naftali Bennett.
- Canada Capital: Ottawa; Currency: Canadian dollar.
- World Health Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- World Health Organization Founded: 7 April 1948;
- World Health Organization Director-General: Tedros Adhanom.
- Russia Capital: Moscow;
- Russia Currency: Rouble;
- Russia President: Vladimir Putin;
- Ukraine President: Volodymyr Zelensky;
- Ukraine Capital: Kyiv;
- Ukraine Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia.
- Reliance Jio Founder: Mukesh Ambani;
- Reliance Jio Founded: 2007, Ahmedabad.
- Twitter CEO: Parag Agrawal;
- Twitter formed: 21 March 2006;
- Headquarters of Twitter: San Francisco, California, United States.
- RBL Bank Founded: 1943;
- RBL Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- RBL Bank CEO & MD: Rajeev Ahuja;
- RBL Bank Tagline: Apno Ka Bank.
- ABG Shipyard Headquarters: Mumbai;
- ABG Shipyard Founded: 1985.
- Bank of Baroda Founded: 20 July 1908;
- Bank of Baroda Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat;
- Bank of Baroda Managing Director & CEO: Sanjiv Chadha;
- Bank of Baroda Tagline: India's International Bank;
- Bank of Baroda Amalgamated Banks: Dena Bank & Vijaya Bank in 2019.
- Yes Bank Founded: 2004;
- Yes Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- Yes Bank CEO: Prashant Kumar;
- Yes Bank Tagline: Experience Our Expertise.
- JPMorgan CEO: Jamie Dimon (31 Dec 2005-);
- JPMorgan Founded: 1 December 2000.
- Paisabazaar.com Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana;
- Paisabazaar.com CEO & Co-founder: Naveen Kukreja.
- SIDBI Founded: 2 April 1990;
- SIDBI Headquarters: Lucknow;
- SIDBI Chairman & MD: Sivasubramanian Ramann.
- SEBI Founded: 12 April 1992;
- SEBI Headquarters: Mumbai;
- SEBI Chairperson: Ajay Tyagi.
- Tata Group Founder: Jamsetji Tata;
- Tata Group Founded: 1868, Mumbai;
- Tata Group Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Table Tennis Federation of India President: Dushyant Chautala;
- Table Tennis Federation of India Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Table Tennis Federation of India Founded: 1926.
- CBSE Head Office: Delhi;
- CBSE Founded: 3 November 1962.
- Bihar Governor: Phagu Chauhan;
- Bihar Capital: Patna;
- Bihar Chief minister: Nitish Kumar.
- Narcotics Control Bureau Director-General: Satya Narayan Pradhan;
- Narcotics Control Bureau Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Narcotics Control Bureau Founded: 1986.
- US Green Building Council President and CEO: Peter Templeton;
- US Green Building Council Headquarter: Washington, D.C., US.
- International Bureau for Epilepsy President: Francesca Sofia;
- International Bureau for Epilepsy established: 1961.
- FICCI Founded: 1927;
- FICCI Headquarters: New Delhi;
- FICCI President: Sanjiv Mehta;
- FICCI Secretary General: Arun Chawla.
- Dabur India CEO: Mohit Malhotra;
- Dabur India Headquarters: Ghaziabad;
- Dabur India Founder: S.K. Burman;
- Dabur India Founded: 1884.
- Ladakh (UT) Lieutenant Governor: Radha Krishna Mathur.
- Chairman and Space Secretary of ISRO: Dr S Somanath;

- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka;
 - ISRO established: 15 August 1969.
 - Foxconn Founder: Terry Gou;
 - Foxconn Founded: 20 February 1974;
 - Foxconn Headquarters: Tucheng District, Taipei, Taiwan.
 - Indian Banks' Association Established: 1946;
 - Indian Banks' Association currently has 247 banking companies as members;
 - Indian Banks' Association Chairman: Rajkiran Rai (MD & CEO of Union Bank of India).
 - Nepal Capital: Kathmandu;
 - Nepal Currency: Nepalese rupee;
 - Nepal President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari;
 - Nepal Prime Minister: Sher Bahadur Deuba.
- Institute of Economic Growth Chairperson: Tarun Das;
 - Institute of Economic Growth Founder: V. K. R. V. Rao;
 - Institute of Economic Growth Founded: 1952.

