

Weekly One Liners 02nd to 08th of May 2022

RBI Monetary Policy: RBI hikes Repo Rate by 40 bps to 4.40 percent

In an unscheduled meeting of the **Monetary Policy Committee**, the central bank, however, retained the accommodative monetary policy. The sudden RBI move — the first hike after August 2018 — is expected to push up interest rates in the banking system. Equated monthly instalments (EMIs) on home, vehicle and other personal and corporate loans are likely to go up. Deposit rates, mainly fixed term rates, are also set to rise.

All six members of the MPC unanimously voted for a rate hike while maintaining the accommodative stance. RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das** said the decision was taken in view of rising inflation, geopolitical tensions, high crude oil prices and shortage of commodities globally, which have impacted the Indian economy.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting held between May 2-4, 2022 has decided to increase the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by **40 basis points (bps) to 4.40 per cent** with immediate effect from 4.00% earlier. RBI has also hiked the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by **50 basis points to 4.50 per cent** effective from **May 21, 2022**.

Consequently, the various rates are as under:

- Policy Repo Rate: 4.40%
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)= 4.15%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 4.65%
- Bank Rate: 4.65%
- CRR: 4.50% (Effective from **May 21, 2022**.)
- SLR: 18.00%

The Government Securities (G-Sec) market reacted negatively to the rate hike. The price of the 10-year benchmark G-Sec crashed about **Rs 1.90 intraday**, with its yield shooting up by **28 basis points**.



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World Food Prize 2022 received by NASA's Cynthia Rosenzweig

A senior research scientist and head of the Climate Impacts Group at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) in New York City, **Cynthia Rosenzweig** has received the **2022 World Food Prize** from the **World Food Prize Foundation**. Rosenzweig was selected for the award for her research to understand the relationship between climate and food systems and forecast how both will change in the future.

Her modelling work has provided a foundation for decision-makers around the world to create strategies to mitigate climate change and adapt our food systems to a changing planet, which has helped communities worldwide address the consequences of Earth's changing climate.

About the Cynthia Rosenzweig

- Rosenzweig has been a research scientist at NASA GISS and head of the Climate Impacts Group since **1994**. Her research focuses on improving models and assessments of how climate change will affect agriculture and the food supply in the future.
- She uses data from NASA satellites and models to study agricultural regions around the world and how they are changing.
- Rosenzweig has previously served as coordinating lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II Fourth Assessment Report in 2007 and the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land in 2019.

About the World Food Prize:

According to the World Food Prize Foundation, the World Food Prize is a prestigious international award conceived as the **"Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture"** with a mission to elevate innovations and inspire action to sustainably increase the quality, quantity and availability of food for all.

Reward(s): A diploma, a commemorative sculpture and a monetary award of **US\$ 250,000**.

World Press Freedom Index 2022: India ranked 150th

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has released the **20th World Press Freedom Index 2022**, which assesses the state of journalism in 180 countries and territories. The Index highlights the disastrous effects of news and information chaos – the effects of a globalised and unregulated online information space that encourages fake news and propaganda.

Key points of the Index:

- **India's ranking** in the Index has fallen down to **150th position** from last year's 142nd rank.
- The ranking of India's neighbours, except that of Nepal, has also slid down, with the index placing **Nepal** has climbed up by 30 points in the global ranking at **76th position**.
- **Pakistan at 157th position, Sri Lanka 146th, Bangladesh 162nd and Maynmar at 176th position.**
- **Norway (1st) Denmark (2nd), Sweden (3rd) Estonia (4th) and Finland (5th)** grabbed the top positions, while **North Korea** remained at the bottom of the list of the 180 countries and territories.
- Russia was placed at 155th position, down from 150th last year, while China climbed up by two positions with the Reporters Without Borders placing it at 175th position. Last year, China was placed at 177th position.
- **The invasion of Ukraine (106th) by Russia (155th)** at the end of February reflects this process, as the physical conflict was preceded by a propaganda war.

National Affairs

- **Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways**, announced that the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** would develop and build **India's first indigenous hydrogen-fueled electric vessels** at **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)**, kicking off the country's efforts toward **green shipping**.
- **Home Minister, Amit Shah** inaugurates the **National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)** campus in **Bengaluru**. According to **Home Minister Amit Shah**, the **Narendra Modi government** has had a **zero-tolerance** attitude toward **terrorism** since the beginning. According to him, **legal and security authorities** require **automated, secure, and quick access to data** gathered from **credible sources**.
- Union Minister for **Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur** has announced that India will be the official Country of Honour at the upcoming Marche' Du Film, organized alongside the 75th edition of the Cannes Film Festival, in France. The Country of Honour Status thereby ensured India's presence as Focus Country at the Opening Night of Marche Du Films being organized at the Majestic Beach with a spotlight on India, its cinema, its culture & heritage.

- The **Supreme Court of India** formed a high-level committee, headed by retired Bombay High Court Judge **Pradeep Nandrajog**, for recovery of money from the defaulters against whom the **National Spot Exchange (NSEL)** has secured money decrees. NSEL has already secured decrees and arbitration awards of **Rs 3,534 crores** against the defaulters. Further, defaulters' liabilities of **Rs 760 crores** have already been crystallised by the committee appointed by the Bombay High Court.
- Information and Broadcasting Minister, **Anurag Thakur** said that an amount of **Rs 363 crore** has been allotted for the **world's largest film restoration project** under the **National Film Heritage Mission**. The mission was launched in 2016 with an outlay of 597 crore rupees. It aims at preserving, restoring and digitizing the cinematic heritage. The Minister informed that the process of restoring over **5900 short films, documentaries and features is underway**.

States in the News

- **Maharashtra and Gujarat** celebrated their statehood day on **1st May 2022**. On May 1st, 1960, the bilingual state of Bombay was divided into two separate states by the Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960: Maharashtra for Marathi speaking people and Gujarat for Gujarati speaking people. Gujarat was established as the 15th state of the Indian Union.
- **Maharashtra Cabinet** approved the '**Maharashtra Gene Bank**', a first-of-its-kind project in India. To conserve genetic resources in Maharashtra including marine diversity, seeds of local crops, and animal diversity. In the next five years, an amount of **Rs 172.39 crores** will be spent on these seven focus areas.
- Bihar's Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** has inaugurated India's first ethanol plant in **Purnia district, Bihar**. The plant has been set up by Eastern India Biofuels Private Limited at a cost of **Rs 105 crores**. Bihar came up with an ethanol production promotion policy in the first half of 2021. It is the country's first grain-based ethanol plant.
- Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, **Bhupesh Baghel** has launched '**Mukhyamantri Mitaan Yojana**' (Mitaan stands for a friend), which will be implemented on a pilot basis in 14 municipal corporations including the cities like **Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur and Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh**. Under the Scheme, the residents of Chhattisgarh can avail around 100 public services at their doorstep.

- According to **Mercom's India Solar Project Tracker**, **Rajasthan** became the first state in India to reach 10 GW of cumulative **large-scale solar installations**. The state has a total installed power capacity of **32.5 GW**, with renewables accounting for 55 percent, thermal energy for 43 percent, and **nuclear energy** accounting for the remaining 2%. Solar is the most common energy source, accounting for roughly **36 percent of total capacity and 64 percent of renewables**.
- At **Dr. Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences (DRILS)**, a multi-industry-supported **Flow Chemistry Technology Hub (FCT Hub)** has been launched. While inaugurating the hub, **Jayesh Ranjan**, Principal Secretary of the **Industries and Commerce (I&C)** and **Information Technology (IT)**, said that this is the first of its kind in our country and an enabler for the **pharma business in India**.
- **Odisha** is planning to create **India's only observatory**, which will house data on the **state's indigenous population's health**. The **ST and SC Development Department** and the **RMRC**, a regional institution of the **Indian Council of Medical Research**, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in this regard.
- A loan scheme named **Jivhala** has been launched by the **Maharashtra Department of Prisons** for the inmates who are serving sentences in various jails across **Maharashtra**. The scheme, implemented by the **Department of Prisons and Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank**, has been started in **Pune's Yerawada Central Jail**. Bank and prison officials believe the credit scheme could be the first of its kind in India for inmates who are still serving their sentences.
- **Telangana State Government** has announced the extension of insurance coverage to handloom and power loom weavers under the '**Nethanna Bima (Weaver's Insurance) Scheme**'. The State Government has issued orders to extend insurance coverage of **5 lakh rupees** for weavers under the Insurance Scheme on par with farmers' insurance schemes.
- Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** has launched a **Vehicle Movement Tracking System (VMTS) mobile app** to track the vehicles carrying sand and other mining material. The app will be used at different checkpoints in all the districts of Haryana.
- **Uttar Pradesh government** will provide free wi-fi facilities at more than **58 thousand places** in the villages of the state. This internet facility will be available for the people within **50 meters of the Gram Sachivalaya (village secretariat)** building which is being built in every Gram Panchayat of the state.

International Affairs

- **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)** exercise, **Defender Europe 2022 (DE22)** and **Swift Response 2022 (SR22)** began on May 01, 2022, aimed at building preparedness and interoperability between Allies and partners of the United States (US) and NATO. The exercises are scheduled from May 01 to May 27, 2022.
- **The inauguration of a statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, the first in North America, in Canada was praised by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** as "a benchmark for relations between the two countries." The bronze monument was unveiled at a ceremony at the **Sanatan Mandir Cultural Centre in Markham, Ontario**. It is a wonderful opportunity to recognise the **longstanding and dynamic relationship that exists between India and Canada**, as well as the significant contributions to the Indo-Canadian community - **numbering over 1.4 million**.
- The **State of the World's Forests 2022** explores the significance of three forest pathways for achieving **green recovery and addressing environmental crises such as climate change and biodiversity loss**, against the backdrop of the **Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use** and 140 countries' pledge to **end forest loss by 2030 and support restoration** and sustainable production and consumption.
- With the launch of a **UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025**, the UN took a major step towards **catalyzing the large-scale action and support needed for the transition to clean, affordable energy for all and net-zero emissions** against the backdrop of a global energy crisis and **worsening climate emergency**.



Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Qualcomm India Private Limited**, a subsidiary of **Qualcomm Inc.**, proposes to launch and run the **Qualcomm Semiconductor Mentorship Program 2022** for selected semiconductor startups in India, with the goal of providing **mentorship, technical training, and industry outreach**. **Qualcomm India** has established a partnership with the **C-DAC**, an autonomous scientific society within the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Government of India**, which will serve as an outreach partner for the programme and help participating **entrepreneurs** gain exposure.
- The **Ministry of Railways** and the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** to form a strong collaborative working partnership for coordination and resource sharing in the provision of **telecommunication facilities** in the delivery and implementation of **C-Telecom DOT's Solutions and services in railways**.
- Union Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy, **R.K Singh** and German Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Change **Dr Robert Habeck** virtually signed a **Joint Declaration of Intent** on an **Indo-German Hydrogen Task Force**. India has emerged as a global leader in the energy transition, with the world's highest pace of expansion in renewable energy capacity.

Books and Authors

- **"Leaders, Politicians, Citizens: Fifty Figures Who Influenced India's Politics"** authored by author-journalist **Rasheed Kidwai** compiles stories of 50 personalities who influenced India's political landscape. The book is published by Hachette India. The foreword of the book is written by Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha). The 50 personalities featured in the book include Teji Bachchan, Phoolan Devi, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Jayalalithaa, APJ Abdul Kalam, and Karunanidhi among others.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **ICICI Bank** has launched India's first 'open-for-all' comprehensive digital ecosystem for all **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** in the country, which can also be used by the customers of other banks. Anyone can use the benefits of digital solutions on the **InstaBIZ app**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** changed the **rules for banks** to claim the **amount of interest subsidies** paid to **farmers** under the **short-term crop credit plan** via the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** during the previous fiscal year.

- **Union Bank of India** became the first public sector bank to go live on the **Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem**. The framework facilitates sharing of financial information on a real-time basis between regulated entities. AAs are licensed by the **Reserve Bank of India** to enable the flow of data between Financial Information Providers (FIPs) and Financial Information Users (FIUs).
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in its latest report said India was one of the **worst-hit nations during the Covid-19 pandemic** and that it will take up to **13 years for India** to fully recover from the scars of the Covid-19 pandemic. India suffered among the biggest pandemic induced losses in the world in terms of output, lives and livelihoods, which may take years to recover. Economic activity has barely recovered to pre-COVID levels even after two years.
- **HDFC Life** has joined the **UN-backed Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)**, demonstrating its commitment to long-term value creation and sustainable growth. **HDFC Life** is dedicated to the **Responsible Investment principles (RI)**. The Group feels that it is its moral duty as an **active asset manager for policyholders** who have entrusted their funds to **HDFC Life** to deliver maximum risk adjusted returns in the long run.
- The public sector bank, The **Indian Bank** has presented a pre-approved personal loan product under **Project WAVE**. The Chennai-based bank announced the **World of Advance Virtual Experience, WAVE digital transformation project** in January 2022 to introduce its first digital product, the **Pre-Approved Personal Loan (PAPL)**, which intends to give consumers with **rapid loan disbursements**.
- India got its **100th unicorn** when **neobanking fintech portal, "Open"**, raised fresh capital to push up its value to over a billion dollars. The five-year-old Bengaluru-based neobank raised **\$50 Mn** in a Series D funding round from IIFL, Singaporean state holding company Temasek, American investment firm Tiger Global and another Indian firm 3one4 Capital. This helped its valuation cross the **\$1 bn mark**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India's Central Board of Directors met for the 595th time**. The meeting was held through video conferencing under the **chairmanship of RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das**, according to the RBI. The Board approved the appointment of **Executive Director Dr. Rajiv Ranjan to the Monetary Policy Committee** as an ex-officio member. **Ranjan** replaced **Mridul Saggur**, who retired on April 30. **Ranjan is the MPC's third (ex-officio) internal member**.

Appointments/Resignations

- **Canara Bank** has launched 'skill loans' in association with the **Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP)**, Kerala, the government company under the Higher Education Department. Under this facility, the loan is ranging from **Rs 5,000 to Rs 1.5 lakh**. This loan can be availed of by students who are pursuing skill training programmes which are offered by ASAP Kerala or any other Central or State government-recognised agencies.
- **Bharti Airtel**, India's second-largest telecom operator, announced that the **Airtel Startup Accelerator Program** has acquired a **7% investment** in cloud-based networking solutions firm **Cnergee Technologies**. Cnergee, situated in **Navi Mumbai**, specialises in **cloud-based comprehensive networking solutions** for enterprises of all kinds.
- **Jeff Bezos**, who established Amazon exactly 27 years ago on July 5, 1994, has stepped down as **CEO**, and **Andy Jassy**, a longtime **AWS executive**, has taken over as the company's new **CEO**. Jassy is currently identified as **President and CEO of Amazon.com**, as well as a member of the **Board of Directors**, on the **Amazon** investor relations website.
- **India's payments system** has been bolstered by the fact that it registered the highest number of **real-time transactions** in the world last year, with **48 billion**. **India surpassed China, which had 18 billion real-time transactions**, and was **6.5 times larger than the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany combined**.
- **Goods and services tax (GST)** collections hit an all-time high of **Rs 1.68 lakh crore** in April, indicating strong economic activity despite multiple headwinds and better tax compliance. The April number is up 20% from the year-earlier and **Rs 25,000 crore** more than the previous highest of **Rs 1.42 lakh crore** in March this year.
- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** increased insurers' maximum investment limit in **banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI)** companies from **25% to 30% of their assets**. The threshold for **financial and insurance actions** will now be **30 percent of investment assets** for all insurers, according to the most recent modifications to **IRDAI's investment Regulations, 2016**. This will include investments in home finance companies and infrastructure finance companies.
- **Vinay Mohan Kwatra** took charge as **India's new Foreign Secretary**. A 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Mr Kwatra succeeded **Harsh Vardhan Shringla** who retired from service. Mr Kwatra was serving as India's envoy to Nepal before assuming the charge of the Foreign Secretary.
- The Indian Army's Director General of Military Operations, Lieutenant General **Baggavalli Somashekar Raju** has been appointed as the **Vice Chief of the Army Staff** from May 1.
- **Andy Jassy** will officially become the **CEO of Amazon** on July 5th, the company announced at a shareholder meeting. Amazon announced that Jassy, who is the current CEO of Amazon Web Services (AWS), would replace **Jeff Bezos** as CEO of the entire company in February.
- **JioSaavn** has named **Sahas Malhotra**, a former **Amazon Music director** and **entertainment industry expert**, as its new **CEO**. Previously, **Sahas Malhotra** worked for **Sony Music India** and **Tips Industries**. **Sahas Malhotra** was the business leader at **Tips Music** and the **marketing director for Tips Film Production at Tips Industries**.
- **Sangeeta Singh**, a 1986 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer has been given **additional charge of Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**, after incumbent **JB Mohapatra** retired as the head of the direct taxes administration body on April 30. Currently, the board has four members including Sangeeta Singh.
- Former petroleum secretary **Tarun Kapoor** has been appointed as an **advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, according to a government order issued. Kapoor, a 1987-batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, superannuated as the secretary of the ministry of petroleum and natural gas on November 30, 2021.
- Indian-Origin, **Nand Mulchandani** has been appointed as the first-ever **Chief Technology Officer (CTO)** of the **Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)**, the first line of defence for the **United States**. Prior to this, he served as the CTO and acting director of the Joint Artificial Intelligence Centre under the US Department of Defence. He served as the CEO of multiple successful startups like Oblix (acquired by Oracle), Determina, OpenDNS, and ScaleXtreme.
- IBM Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, **Arvind Krishna** has been elected to the **Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York**. He will fill the vacancy in the office for the remaining portion of a three-year term ending December 31, 2023.

- **InterGlobe Aviation** announced that **Venkataramani Sumantran** has been named chairperson of the **IndiGo board**. **Sumantran** is a corporate leader, technocrat, and **academician** with a 37-year career spanning the **United States, Europe, and Asia**. **Sumantran** is the managing director and chairperson of **Celeris Technologies**, a strategic advising firm. At **IndiGo**, he will succeed **Meleveetil Damodaran**.
- **Sudarshan Venu** has been appointed as the new **Managing Director of the TVS Motor Company**. He is the son of Venu Srinivasan, who has now become the Chairman Emeritus. Prior to this, Sudarshan was the Joint Managing Director of the company. TVS has also announced the appointment of Prof. Sir **Ralf Speth** as the Chairman of the company.

Defence News

- **Red Shield Division** of the **Indian Army** under the aegis of Spear Corps entered into a tripartite agreement with the **State Bank of India Foundation (SBIF)** and the **National Integrity and Educational Development Organization (NIEDO)** to establish 'Red Shield Centre for Excellence and Wellness' in Manipur's Bishnupur district. The project '**Manipur Super 50**' is expected to be fully functional for the first batch of 50 students by the first week of July 2022.
- The second sea trials of **India's first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) Vikrant** began, ahead of her anticipated induction into the **Indian Navy** in August next year. In August, the **40,000-tonne aircraft carrier**, India's largest and **most sophisticated warship**, successfully conducted a **five-day maiden sea cruise**.



- Air Marshal **Sanjeev Kapoor** has assumed the appointment of **Director General (Inspection and Safety) of Indian Air Force** at Air HQ New Delhi. The Air Marshal is a graduate of the National Defence Academy and was commissioned in the Flying branch of IAF in December 1985 as a Transport Pilot.
- The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** was founded on **7th May 1960** as a leading road construction agency under the Ministry of Defence with Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam (everything is achievable through hard work) as its motto. On **7 May 2022** BRO celebrated its **62nd** Raising Day (foundation day).

Awards and Recognitions

- **Doordarshan** has won **ENBA Award 2021** for the best in-depth Hindi series for its TV series based on pet care '**Best Friend Forever**' at the **14th edition** of the **Exchange4media News Broadcasting Awards (ENBA)**. The show is aired every Sunday at 7 pm and is also available on the YouTube channel of DD National.

Summit and Conference

- The **Semicon India Conference-2022** will be inaugurated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**. **Bengaluru** will host this three-day conference. According to a **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** statement, the three-day conference is being held to advance **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** objective of making India a leader in **electronics manufacturing, semiconductor design, production, and innovation**.
- Union Minister for MSME **Narayan Rane** and Minister of State for MSME **Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma** along with other State Ministers and senior officials inaugurated the '**Enterprise India National Coir Conclave 2022**' being organised under the "**Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**" at **Coimbatore**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the inaugural session of Jain International Trade Organisation's '**JITO Connect 2022**'. Jain International Trade Organisation (JITO) is a global organisation connecting Jains worldwide. JITO Connect is an endeavour to help business and industry by providing an avenue for mutual networking and personal interactions.

Ranks and Reports

- The **Times Higher Education (THE)** has released the **2022 edition of its Impact Rankings**. 8 Universities from India are placed in the top 300 universities in the world. The ranking is topped by **Western Sydney University (Australia)**; followed by **Arizona State University (The US)**, **Western University (Canada)**. India is the joint fourth most-represented nation across the rankings, with 64 universities featuring in total (the same number as Turkey). In South Asia, India breaks through into the world's top 50, with Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham claiming 41st place in the overall table. Lovely Professional University makes the top 100 at joint 74th place in the overall table. **Calcutta University** has been ranked first among all the central and state-aided public universities in the country by Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2022.
- According to the data released by crypto analytics firm **Chainalysis**, investors around the world realized total Crypto gains of **\$162.7 billion in 2021**, compared to **\$32.5 billion in 2020**. This is 2nd consecutive data by Chainalysis. Ethereum is the most noteworthy gainer among the crypto assets. The report highlights that **Ethereum edged** out Bitcoin in total realized gains globally at **\$76.3 billion to \$74.7 billion**. However, **India ranked lowly at 21st** with realized gains of around \$1.85 billion while it is topped by the **United States** with an estimated realized Crypto gain of \$49.95 billion.

Science and Technology News

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Bombay)** has partnered with the **Ministry of Earth Sciences' India Meteorological Department (IMD)** to develop climate solutions for stakeholders at the **village, city, and district levels**. The partnership will aid the institute in the development of sensors and drone-based smart monitoring systems, climate-smart agriculture technology for water and food security, intelligent and automated early warning systems, climate and health, smart power grid management, wind energy forecasting, and heat wave forecasting.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation** will send a spacecraft to orbit **Venus** to study what lies below its surface, the space body's Chairperson **S Somnath** announced. ISRO is expecting to launch the mission by **December 2024** with an orbital manoeuvre planned for a year after that. The orbital manoeuvre is the use of propulsion systems to change the orbit of a spacecraft. It enables a spacecraft to enter a planet's orbit.

- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** signs an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the **Indian Space Research Organisation** with the goal of upskilling the technical workforce at the **Department of Space of ISRO**. **Shri Rajesh Aggarwal**, Secretary MSDE, and **Shri S. Somanath**, Secretary Department of Space/ Chairman **ISRO**, signed the MoU.

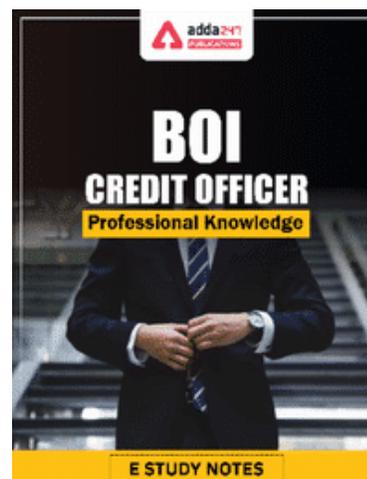
Sports News

- In Asia Badminton Championships, India's **P.V. Sindhu** won her second Asian bronze medal after a heartbreaking three-game loss to top-seed and defending champion **Akane Yamaguchi** of Japan in the semifinal in Manila. She had won her first bronze in the Asia Badminton Championships 2014 Gimcheon edition.
- **Kerala beat West Bengal 5-4** in the penalty shootout to win the **75th Santosh Trophy 2022** at the Manjeri Stadium in Malappuram, Kerala. The teams were level 1-1 after extra time in a pulsating encounter in which plenty of chances were created at both ends with the finishing being astray.
- Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** has announced that a stadium will be built in Olympic gold-medallist **Neeraj Chopra's** native village in Panipat. A stadium would be built in Neeraj Chopra's village for Rs 10 crore. Last year, Chopra became the first Indian to win a gold medal in the Olympic track and field.
- **Real Madrid** clinched a record-extending **35th Spanish league** title after its reserve squad comfortably defeated **Espanyol 4-0**. Rodrygo scored twice and Marco Asensio and substitute Karim Benzema added a goal each to give Madrid its second league title in three seasons, and third in six years.
- **JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)** with 20 gold, 7 silver and 5 bronze medals has won the 2nd edition of the **Khelo India University Games 2021**. **Lovely Professional University (LPU)** with 17 golds has placed second and **Punjab University** placed third with 15 gold medals. **Siva Sridhar** has emerged as the star swimmer by winning 11 gold. The closing ceremony of KIUG was held at Sri Kanteerava Outdoor Stadium, Bengaluru. Veera was the mascot of KIUG 2021.
- **Ronnie O'Sullivan (England)** has won the **2022 World Snooker Championship** by defeating **Judd Trump** (England) against 18-13 in the finals, which were held from April 16 to May 2, 2022 at the **Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England**. The tournament was organised by the World Snooker Tour and sponsored by sports betting company Betfred. The Total prize money is 2,395,000 Euros and the Winner gets a share of 500,000 Euros.

- **Harshada Sharad Garud** made history by being the first Indian woman to win a **gold medal** at the **IWF Junior World Championships** in **Heraklion, Greece**. She won the **45-kilogram weight category** with a total of **153 kilograms lifted, including 70 kilograms in Snatch** and **83 kilograms in Clean and Jerk**.
- Olympian discus thrower **Kamalpreet Kaur** has been provisionally suspended by **Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU)** for testing positive for a banned substance. Kamalpreet, who was tested on March 29, was suspended for the presence/use of the prohibited substance **stanozolol** in her sample, a breach of the **World Athletics anti-doping rules**. Kaur had made it to the Tokyo Olympics final, finishing sixth with a throw of **63.7m**.
- Shooter **Dhanush Srikanth** has won gold and **Shourya Saini** has won the bronze in the men's 10m air rifle competition in the **24th Deaflympics** at Caxias do Sul, **Brazil**.
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has banned journalist **Boria Majumdar** for two years after an internal inquiry found him guilty of an attempt to **"threaten and intimidate"** wicketkeeper **Wriddhiman Saha**.
- The **Asian Games 2022**, due to be held in Hangzhou, China in September, has been **postponed to 2023** due to rising **COVID-19 cases** in the country, the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)** announced. The OCA also announced that the third edition of the Asian Youth Games, scheduled to be held in Shantou in December, have been cancelled. The World University Games 2021, to be held from June 26 to July 27 in Chengdu this year, have also been pushed to 2023.
- **World Laughter Day** is celebrated on the **first Sunday of every May** to remind people to laugh and make those around them laugh. This year the day is celebrated on **1st May**.
- **World Press Freedom Day** is observed globally on **3rd May** every year. It is also known as World Press Day. The day also pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives. This year's World Press Freedom Day theme **"Journalism under digital siege,"**.
- **World Asthma Day** is observed every year on the **first Tuesday of May** to spread awareness and care about asthma in the world. This year it falls on **3rd of May 2022**. An annual event is organised by the Global Initiative for Asthma. This year the theme is **'Closing Gaps in Asthma Care'**.
- International Firefighter's Day is observed every year on May 4th to pay respect to those firefighting experts who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The main aim of this day is to recognise and honour professional firefighters across the world. They keep the community and the environment safe by sacrificing their lives for the riskiest jobs.
- The date of **5 May** was officially established in **2009** by the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) – an intergovernmental organization that has been in official partnership with UNESCO since 2000, and which brings together peoples with the Portuguese language as one of the foundations of their specific identity – to celebrate the Portuguese language and Lusophone cultures. In 2019, the 40th session of UNESCO's General Conference decided to proclaim 5 May of each year as **"World Portuguese Language Day"**.
- **Coal Miners Day** is observed on **4th May** every year to honour the **coal miners**. The day is celebrated to highlight the contributions of coal miners in meeting our energy demands. Below, we share a bit of the history of coal mining, the current energy scenario, and the role of coal miners in India.

Important Days

- **International Labour Day** is observed globally on **1st May** every year. It is also known as **International Worker's Day and May Day**. The day is celebrated to spread awareness about Labour's rights and mark their achievements. The day aims to pay tribute to workers' sacrifices in achieving economic and social rights all over the world.
- **World Tuna Day** is observed globally on **2nd May** every year. This day is established by the United Nations (UN) to raise awareness about the importance of tuna fish. Tuna is a significant source of food for humans as the fish has several rich qualities such as **Omega 3, Vitamin B12, proteins and other minerals**.



- **'International No Diet Day 2022'** is celebrated all over the world on **6 May**. On this day, people are made aware of body acceptance, leaving aside behaviour like body shaming, which includes people of all shapes and sizes. Forgetting problems like obesity, increasing weight, weakness, and belly fat, people express their love towards themselves on this day.
- **World Hand Hygiene Day (WHHD)** is annually observed across the globe on the **5th of May** to maintain global promotion, visibility, and sustainability of hand hygiene in health care. This year, WHO is marking the day with the theme – **Unite for safety: clean your hands**, with a focus on encouraging people to clean their hands at the right times with the right products that will help lead to high quality safer care everywhere.
- **World Athletics Day** is celebrated every year globally on the **7th of May** to raise awareness about the importance of fitness and encourage them to play sports, especially athletics. The basic objective of World Athletics Day is to boost the participation of youths in athletics. The World Athletics Day gave a chance to schools, colleges and various other institutions to promote their children's interests in various other sports from running to shot put and various other sports which require stamina.
- **World Athletics Day** is celebrated every year globally on the **7th of May** to raise awareness about the importance of fitness and encourage them to play sports, especially athletics.
- Every year during **May 8-9**, the **United Nations** marks the **Time of Remembrance and reconciliation for those who lost their lives during the Second World War**. The day pays tribute to all the victims of the Second World War. This year is the **77th Anniversary of World War II**.
- **World Red Cross Day** is observed globally on **8th May** every year. The day aims to broaden the public's understanding of the **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**. Red Crescent Societies are affiliated and work in cooperation with the World Red Cross to assist in the activities of the movement. National Red Crescent societies and Red Cross Societies are found in almost every nation worldwide.

Obituaries

- **Tony Brooks**, a British racing driver who won six Formula One Grand Prix in the 1950s and was nicknamed the "Racing Dentist", has passed away. He was born in the United Kingdom in 1932. Tony retired from the sport at the age of just 29 after driving for four teams – BRM, Vanwall, Ferrari, and Cooper.

Miscellaneous News

- **'Miyan Ka Bada' railway station** in the Balotra area of Rajasthan's Barmer district was renamed "**Mahesh Nagar Halt**." Since Independence, the people of Mian Ka Bada in Rajasthan have demanded that the village's name be changed, claiming that the village's original name was Mahesh Ro Bado.
- On **Satyajit Ray's 101st birthday**, the **Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry's National Museum of Indian Cinema in Mumbai** will conduct a **three-day film festival** at various locations across India to screen films by the **iconic filmmaker**. It will also show movies about **Satyajit Ray**.
- **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** has recently started "**Operation Satark**". Focused effort under "Operation Satark" was launched from **5th April to 30th April 2022** wherein 26 cases of transportation of illegal tobacco products were detected with seizure of tobacco products worth more than Rs 44 Lakhs and arrest of 14 persons involved.
- **The RailTel Corporation of India Ltd** had designed and established a "**Health Cloud**" at Visakhapatnam premises of **Andhra Pradesh Med Tech Zone (AMTZ)**. The Andhra Pradesh Med Tech Zone (AMTZ) is the world's first integrated medical device manufacturing hub. The "Health Cloud" at AMTZ has been inaugurated by **Louise Agersnap**, Head of WHO Innovation Hub, WHO-Geneva.
- The **National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)** will be receiving India's first semi-high speed train set for **Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)** at **Alstom's Savli plan in Gujarat**.

Static Takeaways

- Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways: Sarbananda Sonowal
- Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai;
- Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari;
- Maharashtra Chief minister: Uddhav Thackeray.
- Bihar Capital: Patna;
- Bihar Governor: Phagu Chauhan;
- Bihar Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar.
- Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare: Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar
- Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment: Shri Virendra Kumar
- Mo School' Abhiyan chairman: Smt. Sushmita Bagchi
- Poland Capital: Warsaw;
- Poland Currency: Polish zloty;
- Poland President: Andrzej Duda.
- External Affairs Minister: S Jaishankar
- Gujarat Chief Minister: Bhupendra Patel

- Headquarters of FAO: Rome, Lazio
- Director-General of FAO: Qu Dongyu
- Parent organization of FAO: United Nations Economic and Social Council
- Minister of Railways: Shri Ashwini Vaishnav
- Executive Director and Chairman of the C-DOT Board: Rajkumar Upadhyay
- Additional Member, Telecom and Railway Board: Aruna Singh
- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Vadodara;
- ICICI Bank MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi;
- ICICI Bank Chairperson: Girish Chandra Chaturvedi;
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.
- Union Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Union Bank of India CEO: Rajkiran Rai G.;
- Union Bank of India Founded: 11 November 1919, Mumbai.
- Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of HDFC Life: Vibha Padalkar
- Indian Bank's managing director and CEO: S L Jain
- Anish Achuthan, co-founder and chief executive of Open.
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikanta Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- Canara Bank Establishment: 1 July 1906;
- Canara Bank Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka;
- Canara Bank CEO & MD: Lingam Venkat Prabhakar;
- Canara Bank Tagline: Together we can.
- Chief investment officer, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Co. Ltd: Sampath Reddy
- Co-founder and chief operating officer of Zopper: Mayank Gupta
- Amazon.com Inc Founded: 5 July 1994.
- Amazon.com Inc Headquarters: Seattle, Washington, United States.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes Formation: 1964;
- Central Board of Direct Taxes Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Central Intelligence Agency Founder: Harry S. Truman;
- Central Intelligence Agency Founded: 26 July 1947;
- Central Intelligence Agency Headquarters: Langley, McLean, Virginia, United States;
- Central Intelligence Agency Director: William J. Burns;
- Central Intelligence Agency Deputy Director: David S. Cohen.
- Federal Reserve Bank of New York Established: 1913;
- Federal Reserve Bank of New York President & CEO: John C. Williams;
- Federal Reserve Bank of New York Headquarters: New York, USA.
- Minister of Electronics and Information Technology : Rajeev Chandrasekhar
- World Athletics Headquarters: Monaco;
- World Athletics Founded: 17 July 1912, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Railway Protection Force Founded: 27 July 1872;
- Railway Protection Force Headquarters: New Delhi, India;
- Railway Protection Force Director-General: Sanjay Chandar.
- World Athletics Headquarters: Monaco;
- World Athletics Founded: 17 July 1912, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Border Roads Organisation Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Border Roads Organisation Director-General: Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary;
- Border Roads Organisation Founded: 7 May 1960.
- Uttar Pradesh Capital: Lucknow;
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath;
- Uttar Pradesh Governor: Anandiben Patel.
- International Committee of the Red Cross Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- International Committee of the Red Cross Founder: Henry Dunant;
- International Committee of the Red Cross Founded: 17 February 1863, Geneva, Switzerland;
- International Committee of the Red Cross President: Peter Maurer.

