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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

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1-28 February 2022



**GUIDANCE**  
G R O U P

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**GUIDANCE**  
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## UKRAINE-RUSSIA CONFLICT

Since the separation from the Soviet Union, there has been a conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Ukraine is part of Russia and has a separate existence, but many Russians do not accept this independent existence. Thus, the closeness of Ukraine and NATO countries has been a matter of concern for Russia. If that happens, Russia has a strong opposition to Ukraine's gain of NATO membership. Russia has such a fear.

This has been leading to tension between Russia and the NATO organization for the past few days. There is a picture of Russia taking a tough stand on the issue of Ukraine. Russia has been aggressive so that Ukraine does not get membership of the NATO organization, while Russia has been aggressive, the US and NATO should give the same written assurances. Russian President Vladimir Putin launched military action against Ukraine on February 24.

## CULTURAL HISTORY OF UKRAINE-RUSSIA

All of this began in the 9th century, when Kievan Russia, a country of Slavic ancestry, came into being in eastern Europe. People in the region believe that today's Ukraine, Russia and Belarus were born.

In the 10th century, someone was the ruler of Russia, Prince Volodymyr, who is also known as Prince Vladimir the Great.

It was also in this way that Vladimir also accepted and spread orthodox Christianity. Therefore, in many countries, including Russia and Ukraine, he is also known as Saint Vladimir.

That is, both countries have originated from the same area in terms of religion and race. Russia continues to have about four centuries.

But after the fall of Russia, the relationship was broken. Different regional powers were created in eastern Europe. Once upon a time, the Mongol Empire, Poland, etc., were influential in this region, and then in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Ukraine became part of the Russian Empire again.

## UKRAINE IN THE SOVIET PERIOD

After the Russian Revolution in 1917, monarchy came to an end. Then in 1922, the Union emerged in conjunction with the Communist ideology. At that time Ukraine was one of the founding members of the Union.

For 69 years, Ukraine and Russia have been together as part of the two countries. That is, during the Cold War between the USSR and the United States, Ukraine opposed the United States.

But that doesn't mean there is a rift between the two countries. In 1932-33 there was a great famine in Ukraine, which killed millions. Many Ukrainians today believe that the famine, known as the Holodomor, was man-made, and that the policies of the Soviet Union were to blame.

This anger grew. The poverty between soviet countries, the ill-effects of the Cold War, the rise of new ideas from the backing of communism, the changes brought about by President Mikhail Gorbachev in The Soviet Union, finally disintegrated in 15 countries in 1991. Ukraine declared independence.

This has persisted in the minds of some Russians like Vladimir Putin even after thirty years. It was also seen again in Putin's speech.

## THE GEOGRAPHICAL AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF UKRAINE

The difference between Kiev, the capital of Ukraine and Moscow, the capital of Russia, is 700-800 kilometers.

Naturally, Ukraine has always been strategically important for Russia. During the Cold War, the Soviet Union's large arsenal was also kept in Ukraine.

Ukraine has always been a priority for Russia considering its trade routes to the black sea and the Mediterranean.

After the collapse, Russia has come to see Ukraine as the main link connecting the countries of east Europe and the 'buffer zone' to keep the West away.

If NATO troops come to this buffer zone, they should directly understand the challenge to Russia and give a proper answer. They also do not agree with European nations to supply weapons to Ukraine.

It should be noted here that although Europe is a part of the partition, Ukraine is not a member of the European Union. This country is not even a NATO state. However, over the last few decades, the influence of European thought in Kiev has increased. So, two groups of Russians and Europeans fell into the country.

### LINGUISTIC EQUATIONS

According to some, this division already existed in Ukraine. Because despite being one country, Ukraine is not linguistically and culturally cohesive. The Ukrainian language is spoken in the western and central parts of Ukraine. In the southern and eastern regions, the predominantly native Russian people live.

This identity, which is in the language, was the reason for the struggle in 2014. At that time, the demonstrations took place in the Kiev plains square and came to power, and President Victor Yanukovich had left the country and took shelter in Russia. After that, the Europeans came to power in Ukraine and then the Russian-speaking The Crimean Peninsula split and decided to move to Russia.

### PUTIN'S AMBITION

Putin is keen to make such a mark as the leader who brings all the Russian people together again, and that is why Putin has been shocked by the idea of getting back to Ukraine.

It was from this that Putin attacked Georgia, which was part of the previous Soviet Union, in 2008. South Ossetia and Abkhazia in Georgia have been under The Control of Russia since then.

Putin's views on Ukraine are also more intense and he has often made them clear. He has been supporting Russian speakers in Ukraine from time to time. That is why he decided to merge Crimea into Russia.

Now, seven years later, the same situation has once again arisen. Putin has granted independence to the separatist regions of Ukraine in Donetsk and Luhanska. NATO troops are on the brink of Ukraine and alternatively on the brink of Russia.

### WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT ON INDIA?

The Russian-Ukrainian military conflict will have an impact on the movement of goods, dues and oil prices, forcing India to face a crisis of inflation.

Bilateral trade between India and Russia was \$9.4 billion so far in this financial year, up from \$8.1 billion in 2020-21.

India's main imports from Russia include mineral oil, pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, nuclear wares, boilers, machinery and mechanical equipment; The major commodities and equipment and fertilizers exported to Russia from India include pharmaceutical products, electrical equipment and equipment, sanitary chemicals and vehicles.

India's bilateral trade with Ukraine in this financial year has so far been \$2.3 billion, which was \$2.5 billion in the last financial year. The major items of Indian imports from Ukraine are agricultural products, metal products, plastics and polymers, while pharmaceuticals, machinery, chemicals and food products, etc., are the major Indian exports to Ukraine.

### THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CREATED THE G20 SECRETARIAT.

India will be the President of the G20 from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 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 the G20 Secretariat and its report composition.

The G20 Secretariat will be guided by the Supreme Committee headed by the Prime Minister and will have the following members.

Finance Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman,

Home Minister: Amit Shah,

Foreign Minister: S. Jaishankar, and

G20 Sherpa: Piyush Goyal

### WHAT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE G20 SECRETARIAT?

The G20 Secretariat will be responsible for the implementation of the entire policy decisions and for the arrangements required for the upcoming G20 Presidency of India. In 2021, the G20 Summit was held in Rome, Italy. The G20 Summit will be held in Bali, Indonesia in 2022 and in 2023 it will be held in New Delhi, India.

### STATUE OF EQUALITY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the world's number two sitting statue at Hyderabad in Telangana on February 5. This is the statue of Ramanujacharya, a saint and social reformer of the 18th century. The 216-foot-high statue has been named the 'Statue of Equality'. The statue has been installed in the 45-acre grand temple complex at Shamshabad on the outskirts of Hyderabad city.

### CHARACTERISTIC OF THE IMAGE OF EQUALITY

The construction of this temple in Shamshabad started in 2014. The statue of Ramanujacharya has been installed at a height of 64 feet. The statue of Ramanujacharya has been made from a mixture of five metals (Panchdhatu). Gold, silver, yellow, copper and zinc are used in it. The idol has been made from 120 kg of gold. The largest statue of Ramanujacharya has been made in China and has been brought to India in many parts.

### INCLUSION IN THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS

The 64-foot-high pond has been named as Bhadra Vedi. A digital library and research centre has been set up in this Bhadra Vedi. Along with this, a hall giving information about the ancient Indian texts and works of social reformer Ramanujacharya has also been prepared in the Bhadra Vedi. No saint in the Sanatan tradition has ever built such a magnificent temple. The temple is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records.

## DIVYA DESAM

There will be 108 'Divya Desam' (model temples) in the Tradition of Sri Vaishnavism like Tirumala, Srirangam, Kanchi, Ahobhilam, Bhadrnath, Muktinath, Ayodhya, Vrindavan, Kumbakonam etc. around this monument. In the existing temples, idols of gods and goddesses were also built in the shape of paintings. it was done.

The 16.5-metre-high base building has a meditation hall where the 54-inch statue of Ramanujacharya, made of 120 kg of gold, will be inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind on February 13 by performing the first puja. The atoll sanctum sanctorum deity was for the daily worship of the people.

## THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE HAS STARTED HOME DELIVERY OF MEDICINES UNDER THE SEHAT SCHEME.

In a new initiative, the Ministry of Defence will launch a 'Home Delivery' of medicines for retired soldiers and service providers in Delhi through an online medical advice platform on Tuesday.

The ministry has said that the 'home delivery' of drugs under the Service e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation (SEHAT) scheme will be launched from the base hospital of The Delhi Cantonment and the scheme will be extended to more and more centers in the future.

## SEHUT SCHEME

This is a teleconsultation service of the three branches of the Arms of the Ministry of Defense which has been designed for all the eligible army personnel and their families.

As part of the government's commitment to Digital India and e-governance, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh launched it on May 27, 2021.

The aim of this is to provide health care to the patients at their homes.

The Health Stay Home OPD is based on the free OPD services run by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) for all citizens on the basis of e-Sanjeevani.

Health Stay Home OPD (SehtOPD) is a system from the patient to the doctors where the patient can remotely consult the doctors through the internet.

### **NATIONAL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME SCHEME**

With a view to develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to keep them involved in the task of nation building, the government has decided to continue the "National Youth Empowerment Programme" scheme in the 15th Finance Commission cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26) at a cost of Rs 2,710.65 crore.

The RYSK scheme is a flagship central sector scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. As per the definition 'Youth' in the National Youth Policy, 2014, the beneficiaries of the scheme are youth in the age group of 15 to 29 years. Especially in terms of the components of the Programme for children in adolescence, the beneficiaries are in the age group of 10 to 19 years. The Programme of RYSK scheme is implemented through seven sub-schemes:

- i. Nehru Yuva Kendra Sanghatana (NYKS)
- ii. National Youth Corps (NYC)
- iii. National Youth and Adolescent Development Program (NPYAD)
- iv. International Cooperation
- v. Youth Hostels (Y.H.)
- vi. Assistance to Scouting and Guiding Institutions
- vii. National Young Leaders Programme (NYLP).

### **SAUBHAGYA SCHEME: RAJASTHAN TOPS SOLAR ELECTRIFICATION SCHEME**

Under the Saubhagya scheme, Rajasthan has the highest number of households electrified by solar-based independent systems. The hilly states of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir had zero beneficiaries under the initiative. Under the Saubhagya scheme, 2.817 crore

families had been electrified till March 31 last year, covering 4.16 lakh through solar-based independent systems.

As many as 1,23,682 houses were electrified by solar-based separate systems in Rajasthan under the Saubhagya scheme, followed by Chhattisgarh (65,373), Uttar Pradesh (53,234), Assam (50,754), Bihar (39,100), Maharashtra (30,538), Power Minister R K Singh informed the Lok Sabha that power has been supplied to Odisha (13,735) and Madhya Pradesh (12,651).

### **GOOD FORTUNE- PRIME MINISTER SAHAJ BIJLI HAR GHAR YOJANA**

The Prime Minister launched the Saubhagya Scheme for Universal Household Electrification comprising every village and every district in the country on September 25, 2017. For universal household electrification, it is necessary to create a power entry through the last mile connectivity. The cost of the scheme is Rs 16,320 crore, which includes gross budgetary support of Rs 12,320 crore.

### **SCOPE OF THE PLAN:**

- To provide last mile connectivity and power connectivity to all unelectrified families in rural areas.
- Providing an independent system based on Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) in inaccessible and inaccessibility areas/ For electrified families located in settlements, where grid expansion is not feasible or affordable.
- To provide last mile connectivity and electricity connectivity to all the economically poor families in urban areas. Non-poor urban families have been excluded from the scheme.

### **FEATURES:**

- Potential beneficiary families will be identified for non-value connections using the data of socio-economic caste census (SECC) 2011. According to SECC data, the unqualified families will also be given power addition on

payment of Rs 500 to be recovered in 10 instalments through electricity bill.

- All discoms including discoms, state energy department and RE cooperatives in the private sector are eligible for financial assistance.
- REC Limited (REC) is the nodal agency for implementing the scheme.
- A dedicated web portal has been developed for Saubhagya to capture the information and progress of household electrification.

### CENTRE LAUNCHES 'SMILE' SCHEME FOR TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY AND BEGGARS

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar has launched a central sector scheme called "SMILE". Smile is the support for neglected person for livelihood and enterprise. The new umbrella scheme aims to provide welfare measures to the transgender community and Beggars. The scheme will assure necessary legal protection, social security and safe living to the targeted group. The ministry has made a provision of Rs 365 crore for the scheme for the five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

### THE SMILE SCHEME CONSISTS OF TWO SUB-MEASURES. THEY ARE LIKE THIS:

1. **'Central Sector Scheme for Universal Rehabilitation for the Welfare of Transgender Persons'**.
  - a. Scholarship for transgender students: Scholarships for students who have studied in class IX and have studied up to post-graduation should complete their education.
  - b. Skill Development and Livelihood: Skill Development and Livelihood under pm-DAKSH scheme of the department.
  - c. Composite Medical Health: A comprehensive package in convergence with PM-JAY supporting gender-re-fixation surgery by elective patients.

- d. Construction in the form of 'GarimaGreh': Housing house 'Garima Greh' where food, clothing, business facilities, skill development opportunities, recreational activities, medical aid etc. will be provided.
- e. Provision of Transgender Protection Cell: Establishment of Transgender Protection in every State to keep a close watch on cases of crime and to record, investigate and prosecute the cases on time.
- f. e-Seva (National Portal and Helpline and Advertisement) and other welfare measures.

## **2. 'Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Beggars'.**

- a. Survey and Identification: Survey and identification of beneficiaries will be established by the implementing agencies.
- b. Gathering: Work will be done to mobilize the persons involved in begging to avail of the services available in the shelter homes.
- c. Rescue/Rescue Nirwara Griha: Education will be a facility for children engaged in begging work due to niwara houses and for the children of persons engaged in begging work.
- d. Sarvankash rehabilitation.

## **MAHARASHTRA HEALTH MINISTER ANNOUNCES 'HOPE EXPRESS' TO STOP CANCER**

Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope has announced that "Hope Express" will be started in the state to prevent cancer. It is the first such machine in India. He was speaking when the state-of-the-art Mosaic-3D Radiation Machine was launched at a private hospital in Kolhapur. The state health minister also promised to take initiative to start hope express in every district of the state through district planning.

The state health minister also assured to take initiative to start hope express in every district of the state through district planning. He also inaugurated the online carcinoma cancer centre at Hatharki Hospital in Gadhinglaj. The centre will benefit patients in rural areas.

## OPERATION AHAT

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched Operation Aahat to curb human trafficking. It will mainly focus on trains running through border countries. The action is being taken under the Ministry of Railways. The work of RPF is carried out under the Ministry of Railways.

Under this action, RPF will deploy special forces in long-term trains. The campaign will focus primarily on protecting women and children from traffickers. The action will be implemented in every train run by Indian Railways. Indian Railways runs a total of 21,000 trains. According to the RPF, the railways is the most reliable route of transport for smugglers.

Under this operation RPF will collect, match and analyze the clue. Information about routes, lights, sources, destinations, popular cars will be searched. The RPF will use all its intelligence in this operation. The details collected will be shared with other law enforcement agencies. The RPF will assist the local police and act as a bridge to interstate operations. A cyber cell will be set up under this action. More attention will be paid to trains running from Myanmar, Nepal and Bangladesh.

## BACKGROUND

The RPF rescued 2,000 women from the clutches of traffickers during the period 2017 to 2021. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, 2,200 new smuggling cases are registered every year. In 2011, the Government of India gave approval to THE UNTOC. UNTOC stands for The United Nations Conventions Against International Organized Crime. The UNTOC protocol includes the prohibition of human trafficking, repression and apprenticeship.

## NEED FOR OPERATION

Women and children are the main victims of sexual exploitation, domestic slavery and trafficking of human beings for forced marriage. As well as trafficking in human beings for organ transplants, slavery of enamel substances,

etc. Traffickers are treated as slaves. They are also trafficked for work in circuses, begging, taking illegal adoption, working in the entertainment industry, etc.

### **INDIA LAUNCHES MISSION CALLED OPERATION GANGA TO EVACUATE CITIZENS FROM UKRAINE**

The Indian government has launched an deportation drive called Operation Ganga to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine due to the Russia-Ukraine tension. Due to the ongoing tension in Ukraine and Russia, authorities have declared Ukraine as a no-fly zone for the security of nations. Due to the ongoing tension in Ukraine, many Indian citizens were stranded in Ukraine. In order to help Indian nationals, return to the country, the Indian government decided to launch a special deportation drive called Operation Ganga. The government is going to bring back Indian citizens by plane.

### **PUNJAB'S CHIEF ELECTION OFFICERS UNVEILED THE MASCOT NAMED 'SHERA'.**

The Muscat Sher, prepared by the Punjab Election Commission for the Punjab Assembly elections, was published by district election officer D.C.Vineet Kumar. Muscat's help has been taken to create creative awareness among the voters about the importance of their views under the sweep drive ahead of the Punjab Assembly elections-2022.

Vineet Kumar said that the election, which is dressed in traditional Punjabi posakh attire, is a symbol of Punjab's rich cultural heritage. Photos and large-sized cutouts are being used, especially for spreading voter awareness messages through sweep celebrities, election mascots, lion posters, photos and large size cutouts. This will ensure participation of the youth in particular to ensure 100 per cent voter turnout.

It is promoted under the Electoral Education and Electoral College (SVEEP) project in the manner of the Election Commission of India (ECI). The SVEEP project was launched in 2009 as the flagship Programme of the ECI for voter education.

## INDIA'S FIRST GEOLOGICAL PARK WILL BE BUILT AT JABALPUR IN MADHYA PRADESH.

India's first geological park will be built at Lamheta in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. The Geological Survey of India under the ministry Mines had given approval for the park. The park will be set up at an investment of Rs 35 crore on five acres of land. A geological park will be built at Lamheta as it is one of the most important places in the world from a geological point of view.

In 1928, William Henry Sleeman discovered dinosaur fossils in the area. UNESCO has also recognized Lamhet as a geographical heritage site. The Lameta Formation is also known as the Infratrapian beds. It is a geological composition of the gully found in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. It belongs to the Deccan Tropes. It belongs to the Maastrichtian era and is known for dinosaur fossils.

## INDIA WILL SET UP ITS FIRST IIT IN UAE OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.

The first Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) outside India will be launched in the United Arab Emirates and will be open to the Indian diaspora, foreign students and emirates.

The two countries had discussed the scheme under the Universal Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with an aim to drive trade between the two countries.

## SANCTUARIES IN GUJARAT, UTTAR PRADESH ARE LISTED AS RAMSAR SITES.

The Khijadia Bird Sanctuary near Jamnagar in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh have been selected as water bodies of international importance. With this, the total number of Ramsar sites in India has gone up from 47 to 49. The announcement was made by Iran's Ramsar Secretariat on the occasion of the international water storm day, which is celebrated every year on February 2.

India's Ramsar places are now the highest among the countries in South Asia.

The Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Sant Kabir Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh provides safe and suitable space in winter for the species of Central Asian birds in a big way.

The Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary, a wetland near the shores of the Gulf of Kutch, was created in 1920 after the then ruler of the former Nawanagar Sansthan built a dyke to protect farmland. It is the first marine national park in the country.

### **ARAVALI BIODIVERSITY PARK HAS BEEN DECLARED INDIA'S FIRST OECM SITE**

On World Wetlands Day, February 2, Aravali Biodiversity Park was declared as the first effective field conservation measure (OECM).

The park is spread over 390 acres. It contains semi-arid plants. It has more than 43,000 shrubs, 1,01,000 trees and 300 endemic plant species. The park was formerly a mining site. Due to the immense efforts of local environmentalists, scientists and environmentalists, it was transformed into a city forest. Aravali is considered to be the green lung of Delhi. Aravali supplies 7.07% oxygen to Delhi. The OECM tag is provided by the International Union for The Convergence of Nature (IUCN). According to IUCN, the OECM sites are not protected but are rich in biodiversity. The Aravali hills is the first OECD site in the country. The National Biodiversity Authority had proposed to convert the Aravalli's to OECM.

### **DUBAI WILL LAUNCH 'THE JET', THE WORLD'S FIRST FLYING BOAT RUNNING ON HYDROGEN.**

Dubai firm Jet Zero Emission announced the launch of 'The Jet', the world's first flying boat running on hydrogen, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The 'JET' has state-of-the-art features and technology, enabling it to fly water at a speed of 40 knots and also has the capacity to carry 8-12 passengers.

The announcement comes in the wake of an agreement between Swiss startups The JET Zero Emission, UAE-based Zenith Marine Services and US-based

DWYN to manufacture and operate 'Jet' in Dubai. Jet will be inaugurated during the COP28 to be held in Dubai, UAE in 2023.

## FIRST BIOMASS BASED HYDROGEN PLANT IN KHANDWA DISTRICT OF MADHYA PRADESH

### MAIN ISSUES OF THE SCHEME

- Each day the project will produce one ton of hydrogen from 30 tons of biomass feedstock.
- The project is being set up through a joint venture of Vatomo Energies Ltd and Bezel Green Energy with an investment of Rs 24 crore.
- Bezel Green will own 50 per cent of the joint venture, which is yet to be named; Another 50 per cent will come from interested farmers.
- Biochar and methane will also be produced.
- "Thermally Anaerobic Disease (TAD) Reactor" is a technology that can produce hydrogen, methane and biochar from biomass.

### WHAT IS BIOMASS?

- Biomass can be described as all the materials that are part of the living organisms.
- For renewable energy use, however, the interpretation of biomass is usually limited to the inclusion of plant-derived materials such as agricultural residues only.
- Biomass is a renewable sensory source.
- These include agricultural crop residues (such as wheat straw or corn stoves), special crops grown for energy use (such as switchgrass or willow trees), forest residues, animal waste and central municipal solid waste.
- This renewable resource can be used for the production of hydrogen and by-products.

## IT IS INCLUDED IN THE BIOMASS SOURCES FOR ENERGY

- Waste processed on wood and wood: wood, wood pellets and wood chips, wood and furniture mill husk and garbage and black liquor from the wood and paper mills.
- Farm crops and dumping substances: corn, soyabean, sugarcane, switchgrass, wooden plants and end and crop and food processing residues.
- Biogenic materials in municipal solid waste: production of paper, cotton and wool and food, yard and wood waste.
- Animal manure and human wastewater

## IISC. HAS IMPLEMENTED 'PARAM PRAVEGA', ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL SUPERCOMPUTERS IN INDIA.

The Indian Institute of Sciences (IISC) in Bengaluru has launched one of the most powerful supercomputers in India with a supercomputing capacity of 3.3 petaflops (1 petaflop i.e., quadrillion or  $10^{15}$  operations per second).

The facility has been designed and developed by the Centre for Development of Advance Computing (C-DAC) and most of the components used in the supercomputer have been created and combined with indigenous fabrics with software developed in India.

A supercomputer has been started in the institute under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) to drive various research and educational activities across the country.

## ISRO SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES EOS-04 EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE

The Indian Institute of Internal Research (ISRO) successfully launched the Earth Observation Satellite, EOS-04 and two small satellites in the designated orbit. This was ISRO's first launch campaign in 2022. The satellite was launched on board the PSLV-C52 rocket from the first launch platform of the Satish Dhawan Inter-Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

#### ABOUT EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE (EOS-04):

EOS-04 is a Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT) designed to provide high-quality images in all weather conditions for applications such as agriculture, afforestation and plantation, flood mapping, soil moisture and hydrology.

The satellite weighs around 1710 kg. It can generate 2280 W of power. His mission life is 10 years.

#### OTHER SATELLITES:

These two small satellites included a student satellite (INSPIREsat-1), and a technology-enabling satellite (INS-2TD).

The Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) has developed Inspire-1 in the joint association of the Laboratory of Atmospheric and Space Physics at Colorado University, Boulder.

INS-2TD is an ISRO technology-enabling satellite. This is the precursor of the India-Bhutan joint satellite (INS-2B).

#### THE PRIME MINISTER INAUGURATED THE 'KISAN DRONE YATRA' AND SHOWED THE GREEN FLAG TO 100 'KISAN DRONES'.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Kisan Drone Yatra' by the aegis of Garuda Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. and flagged off 100 Kisan Drones in various cities and villages in India to spray pesticides in farmlands across states in India. 100 farmer drones were released in 100 villages in 16 states of India, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Goa.

Farmers can use high-quality drones to bring their produce like fruits, vegetable, flowers to the market in a short period of time and increase their income.

Garuda Aerospace has set a target of making 1 lakh Made in India drones in the next 2 years.

## CANADA HAS APPROVED THE WORLD'S FIRST PLANT-DERIVED COVID-19 VACCINE.

Canada has become the first country in the world to authorize the use of plant-based COVID-19 vaccine. Medicigo Inc. Two doses of vaccine (Mitsubishi chemical and Philip Morris's owned biopharma company) can be given to adults between the ages of 18 and 64, but there is not much data available on shots received by people aged 65 and over.

The decision to authorize the vaccine was based on a study of 24,000 adults that showed a vaccine effectiveness rate of 71% to prevent COVID-19 - although tests were performed before the omicron type was discovered. Covifenz is the name given to this vaccine. Canada agreed to purchase 20 million doses of this plant-based vaccine, with the option of purchasing an additional 56 million doses.

## PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI INAUGURATED A 550 TONNE GOBAR-DHAN PLANT IN INDORE.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a 550-tonne "Gobar-Dhan (Bio-CNG) Plant" at Indore in Madhya Pradesh through video conferencing. It is the largest bio-CNG plant in Asia. It has been built at a cost of Rs. 150 crores. The Govardhan Plant is based on the concept of Waste to Wealth Innovation. Bio-degradable Urban household waste and animal and farm waste is the gobar dhan.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PLANTS?

- Reduction in greenhouse air emissions, providing green energy; And as a central compost letter.
- The Indore Gobar Dhan Bio-CNG plant will produce about 17,000 kg of CNG and 100 tons of compost per day.
- Such gobar dhan bio-CNG plants are proposed to be set up in 75 large municipal institutions in the next two years.

## COBRA WARRIOR 22: INDIA WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE MULTI-NATIONAL EXERCISE IN THE MARCH.

The Indian air force will participate in the multinational air race named 'Exercise Cobra Warrior 22' at Waddington in the United Kingdom from March 06 to 27, 2022. The IAF will be participating in the exercise along with the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Fighter. Aircraft of UK and other major air forces. Five Tejas aircraft will be bound for the United Kingdom. IAF C-17 will provide necessary transport support for aircraft induction and de-induction.

## INDIA AND OMAN LAUNCH EASTERN BRIDGE-6 AIR EXERCISE

The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) have conducted a bilateral air strike on the name of Eastern Bridge-6 at Jodhpur, the air force station in Rajasthan, between February 21 and 25, 2022. Eastern Bridge-6 is the 16th edition of this exercise. This exercise will provide an opportunity to enhance the operational capacity and interoperability of both the air forces.

## INDIAN NAVY'S MULTILATERAL EXERCISE MILAN BEGINS IN 2022

The latest edition of the Indian Navy's 'Milan 2022' multilateral exercise begins on February 25 in the City of Destiny in Visakhapatnam. Milan 22 is being held in two phases over a period of 9 days and the harbor phase will be held from February 25 to 28 and the Maritime Phase from 01 to 04 March. India celebrates the 75th year of its independence in 2022 and Milan 22 with its friends and partners. It's done. The theme of the Milan 2022 campaign is 'Camarady - Unity - Cooperation'.

## THIRD INDIA-JAPAN JOINT EXERCISE 'EX-RELIGION GUARDIAN-2022'

The third edition of the joint military exercise "EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022" between India and Japan will be held between February 27 to March 10, 2022 at Belagavi (Belgaum), Karnataka. The 15th Battalion of the Indian Army,

the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment and the 30th Infantry Regiment of the Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces (JGSDF) are participating in the 12-day joint exercise.

### **MAHARASHTRA HAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF SC ENTREPRENEURS.**

Maharashtra tops India's list in the number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) owning scheduled caste industries including 96,805 industries. Tamil Nadu with 42,997 enterprises and Rajasthan with 38,517 units are at the second and third position as per the data furnished by the office of the Development Commissioner's Office of the Union MSME Ministry.

The fourth, fifth and sixth slots belong to Uttar Pradesh (36,913 units), Karnataka (28,803 enterprises) and Punjab (24,503 units), respectively. Generally, the total national tally of MSMEs has a share of 6% of the industries owning scheduled caste industries.

### **THE US IS AGAIN AT THE TOP POSITION AS INDIA'S TRADE PARTNER IN 2021.**

The United States Calendar became India's top trading partner with \$112.3 billion in 2021. The US is second only to China. Trade between India and China is valued at \$110.4 billion. In 2020, China was India's top trading partner and the US was at the second position. In 2019, USA was India's top trading partner and China was at number two.

The main items of marine and semi-colonial parks, drugs and pharmaceuticals, petroleum products, cotton fabrics, textiles, marine products, iron and polyad products, electrical appliances and vehicle components are exported to the US.

Crude oil worth \$0.21 mid-\$ 10,395 billion dollars had the largest imports from the US. Pearls, molasses and semi-molasses, petroleum products, coal, coke, organic chemicals, gold, paper and paper board are other items of import.

## THE LIST OF INDIA'S FIRST TEN BUSINESS PARTNERS ALSO INCLUDES:

United States

China

UAE

Saudi Arabia

Switzerland

Hong Kong

Singapore

Iraq

Indonesia

South Korea

## NEPAL WILL BECOME THE FIRST COUNTRY TO ADOPT INDIA'S UPI PLATFORM

- Nepal will be the first country to adopt India's UPI system, which will play a key role in transforming the digital economy of the neighboring country, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI, has partnered with Gateway Payments Services (GPS) and Manam Infotech to provide the service.
- GPS is the authorized payment system operator in Nepal. Manam Infotech will deploy a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) at Nepal.
- The collaboration will serve the larger digital public good in Nepal and will allow interoperable real-time person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions in the neighboring country.

## PR SREEJESHANE WINS THE 2021 WORLD GAMES ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who played a key role in India's medal after four decades at the Olympics in Tokyo last year, has been declared as the World Games Athlete of the Year 2021

Rani Rampal, captain of the Indian women's hockey team in 2020 before Sreejesh, was the first Indian player to receive the award for his outstanding performance in 2019. The FIH has said that Sreejesh has become the second hockey player to win the award after his countryman and Indian woman captain Rani, who won the 2019 award.

### **CHENNAI SUPER KINGS HAS BECOME INDIA'S FIRST UNICORN SPORTS ENTERPRISE.**

Chennai Super Kings, one of the most successful teams in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and four-time champions, have done well ahead of the 15th season. With a market share of Rs 7,600 crore, CSK has become the first sports unicorn in the country.

CSK, led by Mahendra Singh Dhoni, won its fourth IPL title in Dubai last year, further enhancing its reputation. Now its market value is higher than the original unit India Cements. India Cement had a market cap of Rs 6,869 crore on Friday.

### **CHAMPION NEERAJ CHOPRA NOMINATED FOR LAUREUS WORLD BREAKTHROUGH OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Neeraj Chopra, who won India a gold medal in athletics at the Tokyo Olympics, has now received a nomination for the Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year award. He has been shortlisted along with tennis stars Daniel Medvedev and Emma Radukanu. The 23-year-old Chopra, who won the individual Olympic gold medal and became the second Indian for the first time in the Track and Field, had won the gold in Tokyo with a throw of 87.58m in the second attempt.

Neeraj Chopra is only the third Indian to receive nomination for this great award. Earlier, Sachin had received a nomination for the honor, while in 2009, women's wrestling teacher Vinesh Phogat has also been nominated for the award.

The Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award is an annual award. The award honors players who have made a name for themselves in the country with their performances. The award was started in 19 by Daimler and Resmont, founders of the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation.

### WUSHU STARS CHAMPIONSHIP: INDIA'S SADIA TARIQ WON THE GOLD MEDAL IN RUSSIA.

Indian wushu player Sadia Tariq has won the gold medal in the Junior tournament at the Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022. The 15-year-old Sadia Tariq hails from Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir. The Wushu Stars Championship was held in Moscow, Russia from February 22 to 28. 38 players from India, including 23 juniors and 15 seniors, had participated in the competition.

### DADASAHEB PHALKE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AWARD 2022

The award ceremony of the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022 was over on February 20. The event took place in Mumbai and the best performance since last year was honored at the event. This year, the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022 celebrated the splendor of Indian film industry and celebrated the Amrit Mahotsav of 75 years or azadi of independence.

Film of the Year Award: Pushpa: The Rise

Best Film Award: Sher Shah

Best Actor Award: Ranveer Singh for 83 Films

Best Actress Award: Kriti Sanon for Mimi Film

### XIAOMI KASTRO WAS SWORN IN AS THE FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT OF HONDURAS.

Castro, the left-wing candidate, won the election in November and is due to be sworn in on January 27. Castro is a social activist and a symbol of liberal political consciousness. Castro got about 53% of the vote. Castro was determined to win

by almost half the votes counted, while the ruling party's candidate and outgoing president, Juan Orlando Hernandez, was far behind.

His husband and former president Jose Manuel Jellia were removed from power in 2009 in a coup d'état by the army.

## MADHBI PURI BUCH APPOINTED AS SEBI'S FIRST WOMAN CHIEF

Former ICICI Banker, Madhbi Puri Bucha has been appointed as the Chairman of the New Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in place of Ajay Tyagi. She is the first woman head of SEBI and also the first non-IAS to head the regulatory body. She has more than three decades of experience in the financial markets and from April 5, 2017 to October 4, 2021 During this period, he was a full-time member (WTM) of SEBI. During her tenure in SEBI, she took over the portfolios of maintenance, collective investment scheme and the like.

## RAMESH DEV

Ramesh dev, breathed his last in the 93rd year of his age.

Ramesh Dev started working in the field of acting around 1950. In his film career of five to six decades, Ramesh Dev had acted in 285 Hindi films, 190 Marathi films and 30 plays. He also adapted the medium of television by changing himself over time. He was also a pioneer in TV series and film production. Ramesh Dev and Seema Dev had worked together for the first time in the film 'Jagachya Pathivar'. Seema, who is actually named Nalini Saraf, named her 'Seema' when she entered the film. Seema, who starred opposite Ramesh Dev in the first movie after that, became a storm hit.

## RAMESH DEV'S CAREER

- Ramesh Dev was born on January 30, 1929 in Kolhapur. He originally belonged to the Thakur family in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj gave this name 'Dev'.
- He played his first small role in the 1951 film 'Patalachi Por'.

- In 1962, aarti started working in Hindi from the role of a villain in the film.
- The 1996 Kolhapur Lok Sabha elections were fought on the ticket of the Shiv Sena.
- He was the president of the 88th Marathi Natya Samhela held in Solapur.
- Ramesh Dev has received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 11th Pune International Film Festival of India (PIFF) in 2013.

## LATA MANGESHKAR

- Gaan Kokila Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar passed away. She was 92 years old.
- She was born on September 28, 1929 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. her birth name was Hema. However, in one of the father's plays, Latadidi played a character named Latika.
- From then on, everyone called them as Lata and thus got the name 'Lata'.
- In 1942, Latadidi's father died of cardiac arrest when he was 13 years old. Then Master Vinayak, a close relative of Mangeshkar and owner of the Navayuga film company, took care of Latadidi's family. She started working as a singer and actress.
- Lata Mangeshkar sang for the first time for the movie 'Pahili Mangalagaur'.
- She has sung songs in 22 languages of a variety of renowned musicians, more than 1800 films, and their numbers are easily found in a household of about 25 to 30 thousand.
- Lata Didi's Guinness Book of World Records, which records all kinds of world records, mentions her as the 'singer who has recorded the most songs in the world'.
- Lata Mangeshkar has also produced films under the banner of Anand Ghan.
- Lata Mangeshkar has been honored with 45 awards ranging from Bharat Ratna to Padma Vibhushan
- 1969: Padma Bhushan

- 1989: Padma Vibhushan
- 1997: Maharashtra Bhushan Award
- 2001: Maharashtra Ratna (first recipient)
- In 2001, Lata Mangeshkar was honored with the 'Bharat Ratna' award. She was also awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1989.

## RENOWNED SINGER AND COMPOSER BAPPI LAHIRI PASSES AWAY

- Veteran singer and composer Bappi Lahiri has passed away at the age of 69. Doctors said he died due to OSA (obstructive sleep apnea).
- In the late 1970s-80s, he was lovingly referred to as Bappi Da for giving iconic songs in many films like Chalte-chalte, Disco Dancer and Sharabi. At the same time, his last song in Bollywood is said to be 'Bhankas' in the 2020 film 'Baaghi'.
- His real name was Alokesh Lahiri. Bappi da was born on November 17, 1952 at Jalpaiguri in West Bengal.
- Bappi Lahiri loved to wear gold and always wear glasses. He was familiar with wearing a chain of strong gold in the neck and many gold ornaments such as large limbs in his hand. Bappi Lahiri is also said to be the first rock star singer of Bollywood.
- He entered the BJP in 2014. He was declared as the BJP's candidate from Shrerampur (Lok Sabha Constituency) in West Bengal for the 2014 Indian general elections and he was defeated.

### OSA (OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA)

This problem related to sleep and shortness of breath is a type of sleep apnea in which a person's breathing stops for a while sleeping. This is a time when a person does not get enough oxygen.

### SYMPTOMS

- Increase in the blood pressure of the person.

- Continue to feel sluggish.
- Cannot concentrate on any work.
- The person is in a state of fear at night.
- Nature gets irritated.
- The problem of mood swings increases.
- Sleeping more than a day.
- It becomes a problem of Dizziness.

## REASONS

- Obesity can cause this problem.
- This problem can also be genetic. That is, if anyone in the family has this problem, then in the future, that person can also face this problem.
- People who have problems related to the kidneys and the heart can also face this problem.
- Neuromuscular condition is a condition in which the brain is unable to communicate to the airways and sleeping needles, which can cause this problem.

## RAHUL BAJAJ

- The country's leading industrialists and the Bajaj Group Chief Rahul Bajaj passed away on February 12. He was 83 years old.
- Rahul Bajaj was born on June 10, 1938. He completed his degree in economics and law. He later completed his MBA from Harvard University.
- After Rahul Bajaj got into Bajaj Auto, he tried to take the company forward in the industry. Rahul Bajaj took over the arm of Bajaj Auto Company for nearly 50 years, after which he resigned as the chairman of the company last year.
- Jamnalal Bajaj, who belongs to the Marwadi community in Rajasthan, was adopted by his distant relatives. This relative lived in the upper half of Maharashtra. That is why Jamnalal Bajaj started his industry from Vardhy.

He then came in contact with Mahatma Gandhiji and was given land by Jamnalal Bajaj for his ashram.

- He was honored with the Padma Bhushan award in 2001.

## ECONOMICS 2022-23

The Union Budget seeks to complement macro-economic level growth with a focus on micro-economic level all-inclusive welfare. The union minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Union Budget 2022-23 in Parliament.

### PART A

India's economic growth estimated at 9.2% to be the highest among all large economies.

60 lakh new jobs to be created under the productivity linked incentive scheme in 14 sectors.

PLI Schemes have the potential to create an additional production of Rs 30 lakh crore.

Entering Amrit Kaal, the 25 year long lead up to India @100, the budget provides impetus for growth along four priorities:

PM GatiShakti

Inclusive Development

Productivity Enhancement & Investment, Sunrise opportunities, Energy Transition, and Climate Action.

Financing of investments

#### PM GATISHAKTI

The seven engines that drive PM GatiShakti are Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass Transport, Waterways and Logistics Infrastructure.

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan

The scope of PM GatiShakti National Master Plan will encompass the seven engines for economic transformation, seamless multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency.

The projects pertaining to these 7 engines in the National Infrastructure Pipeline will be aligned with PM GatiShakti framework.

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## ROAD TRANSPORT

National Highways Network to be expanded by 25000 Km in 2022-23.

Rs 20000 Crore to be mobilized for National Highways Network expansion.

Multimodal Logistics Parks

Contracts to be awarded through PPP mode in 2022-23 for implementation of Multimodal Logistics Parks at four locations.

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## RAILWAYS

One Station One Product concept to help local businesses & supply chains.

2000 Km of railway network to be brought under Kavach, the indigenous world class technology and capacity augmentation in 2022-23.

400 new generation Vande Bharat Trains to be manufactured during the next three years.

100 PM GatiShakti Cargo terminals for multimodal logistics to be developed during the next three years.

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## PARVATMALA

National Ropeways Development Program, Parvatmala to be taken up on PPP mode.

Contracts to be awarded in 2022-23 for 8 ropeway projects of 60 Km length.

Inclusive Development

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## AGRICULTURE

Rs. 2.37 lakh crore direct payment to 1.63 crore farmers for procurement of wheat and paddy.

Chemical free Natural farming to be promoted throughout the county. Initial focus is on farmer's lands in 5 Km wide corridors along river Ganga.

NABARD to facilitate fund with blended capital to finance startups for agriculture & rural enterprise.

'Kisan Drones' for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients.

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### **KEN BETWA PROJECT**

1400 crore outlay for implementation of the Ken – Betwa link project.

9.08 lakh hectares of farmers' lands to receive irrigation benefits by Ken-Betwa link project.

### **MSME**

- Udyam, e-shram, NCS and ASEEM portals to be interlinked.
- 130 lakh MSMEs provided additional credit under Emergency Credit Linked Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)
- ECLGS to be extended up to March 2023.
- Guarantee cover under ECLGS to be expanded by Rs 50000 Crore to total cover of Rs 5 Lakh Crore.
- Rs 2 lakh Crore additional credit for Micro and Small Enterprises to be facilitated under the Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).
- Raising and Accelerating MSME performance (RAMP) programme with outlay of Rs 6000 Crore to be rolled out.

### **SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

Digital Ecosystem for Skilling and Livelihood (DESH-Stack e-portal) will be launched to empower citizens to skill, reskill or upskill through on-line training. Startups will be promoted to facilitate 'Drone Shakti' and for Drone-As-A-Service (DrAAS).

## EDUCATION

- ‘One class-One TV channel’ programme of PM eVIDYA to be expanded to 200 TV channels.
- Virtual labs and skilling e-labs to be set up to promote critical thinking skills and simulated learning environment.
- High-quality e-content will be developed for delivery through Digital Teachers.
- Digital University for world-class quality universal education with personalised learning experience to be established.

## HEALTH

An open platform for National Digital Health Ecosystem to be rolled out.

‘National Tele Mental Health Programme’ for quality mental health counselling and care services to be launched.

A network of 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence will be set up, with NIMHANS being the nodal centre and International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIITB) providing technology support.

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## SAKSHAM ANGANWADI

Integrated benefits to women and children through Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya, Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0.

Two lakh anganwadis to be upgraded to Saksham Anganwadis.

## HAR GHAR, NAL SE JAL

Rs. 60,000 crore allocated to cover 3.8 crore households in 2022-23 under Har Ghar, Nal se Jal.

## HOUSING FOR ALL

Rs. 48,000 crore allocated for completion of 80 lakh houses in 2022-23 under PM Awas Yojana.

Prime Minister’s Development Initiative for North-East Region (PM-DevINE)

New scheme PM-DevINE launched to fund infrastructure and social development projects in the North-East.

An initial allocation of Rs. 1,500 crore made to enable livelihood activities for youth and women under the scheme.

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### **VIBRANT VILLAGES PROGRAMME**

Vibrant Villages Programme for development of Border villages with sparse population, limited connectivity and infrastructure on the northern border.

#### **BANKING**

100 per cent of 1.5 lakh post offices to come on the core banking system.

Scheduled Commercial Banks to set up 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs) in 75 districts.

#### **E-PASSPORT**

e-Passports with embedded chip and futuristic technology to be rolled out.

#### **URBAN PLANNING**

Modernization of building byelaws, Town Planning Schemes (TPS), and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) will be implemented.

Battery swapping policy to be brought out for setting up charging stations at scale in urban areas.

#### **LAND RECORDS MANAGEMENT**

Unique Land Parcel Identification Number for IT-based management of land records.

#### **ACCELERATED CORPORATE EXIT**

Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE) to be established for speedy winding-up of companies.

#### **AVGC PROMOTION TASK FORCE**

An animation, visual effects, gaming, and comic (AVGC) promotion task force to be set-up to realize the potential of this sector.

## TELECOM SECTOR

Scheme for design-led manufacturing to be launched to build a strong ecosystem for 5G as part of the Production Linked Incentive Scheme.

## EXPORT PROMOTION

Special Economic Zones Act to be replaced with a new legislation to enable States to become partners in 'Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs'.

## ATMANIRBHARTA IN DEFENCE:

68% of capital procurement budget earmarked for domestic industry in 2022-23, up from 58% in 2021-22.

- Defence R&D to be opened up for industry, startups and academia with 25% of defence R&D budget earmarked.
- Independent nodal umbrella body to be set up for meeting testing and certification requirements.

## Sunrise Opportunities

Government contribution to be provided for R&D in Sunrise Opportunities like Artificial Intelligence, Geospatial Systems and Drones, Semiconductor and its eco-system, Space Economy, Genomics and Pharmaceuticals, Green Energy, and Clean Mobility Systems.

## ENERGY TRANSITION AND CLIMATE ACTION:

- Additional allocation of Rs. 19,500 crore for Production Linked Incentive for manufacture of high efficiency solar modules to meet the goal of 280 GW of installed solar power by 2030.
- Five to seven per cent biomass pellets to be co-fired in thermal power plants:
  - CO2 savings of 38 MMT annually,
  - Extra income to farmers and job opportunities to locals,
  - Help avoid stubble burning in agriculture fields.

- Four pilot projects to be set up for coal gasification and conversion of coal into chemicals for the industry
- Financial support to farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who want to take up agro-forestry.

#### PUBLIC CAPITAL INVESTMENT:

Public investment to continue to pump-prime private investment and demand in 2022-23.

- Outlay for capital expenditure stepped up sharply by 35.4% to Rs. 7.50 lakh crore in 2022-23 from Rs. 5.54 lakh crore in the current year.
- Outlay in 2022-23 to be 2.9% of GDP.

‘Effective Capital Expenditure’ of Central Government estimated at Rs. 10.68 lakh crore in 2022-23, which is about 4.1% of GDP.

#### GIFT-IFSC

World-class foreign universities and institutions to be allowed in the GIFT City. An International Arbitration Centre to be set up for timely settlement of disputes under international jurisprudence.

#### MOBILISING RESOURCES

- Data Centres and Energy Storage Systems to be given infrastructure status.
- Venture Capital and Private Equity invested more than Rs. 5.5 lakh crore last year facilitating one of the largest start-up and growth ecosystem. Measures to be taken to help scale up this investment.
- Blended funds to be promoted for sunrise sectors.
- Sovereign Green Bonds to be issued for mobilizing resources for green infrastructure.

#### DIGITAL RUPEE

- Introduction of Digital Rupee by the Reserve Bank of India starting 2022-23.
- Providing Greater Fiscal Space to States
- Enhanced outlay for 'Scheme for Financial Assistance to States for Capital Investment':
- From Rs. 10,000 crore in Budget Estimates to Rs. 15,000 crore in Revised Estimates for current year
- Allocation of Rs. 1 lakh crore in 2022-23 to assist the states in catalysing overall investments in the economy: fifty-year interest free loans, over and above normal borrowings
- In 2022-23, States will be allowed a fiscal deficit of 4% of GSDP, of which 0.5% will be tied to power sector reforms

#### FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Budget Estimates 2021-22: Rs. 34.83 lakh crore

- Revised Estimates 2021-22: Rs. 37.70 lakh crore
- Total expenditure in 2022-23 estimated at Rs. 39.45 lakh crore
- Total receipts other than borrowings in 2022-23 estimated at Rs. 22.84 lakh crore
- Fiscal deficit in current year: 6.9% of GDP (against 6.8% in Budget Estimates)
- Fiscal deficit in 2022-23 estimated at 6.4% of GDP

## PART B

#### DIRECT TAXES

- To take forward the policy of stable and predictable tax regime:
  - Vision to establish a trustworthy tax regime.
  - To further simplify tax system and reduce litigation.
- Introducing new 'Updated return'
  - Provision to file an Updated Return on payment of additional tax.

- Will enable the assessee to declare income missed out earlier.
- Can be filed within two years from the end of the relevant assessment year.
- Cooperative societies
  - Alternate Minimum Tax paid by cooperatives brought down from 18.5 per cent to 15 per cent.
  - To provide a level playing field between cooperative societies and companies.
  - Surcharge on cooperative societies reduced from 12 per cent to 7 per cent for those having total income of more than Rs 1 crore and up to Rs 10 crores.
- Tax relief to persons with disability
  - Payment of annuity and lump sum amount from insurance scheme to be allowed to differently abled dependent during the lifetime of parents/guardians, i.e., on parents/ guardian attaining the age of 60 years.
- Parity in National Pension Scheme Contribution
  - Tax deduction limit increased from 10 per cent to 14 per cent on employer's contribution to the NPS account of State Government employees.
  - Brings them at par with central government employees.
  - Would help in enhancing social security benefits.

#### INCENTIVES FOR START-UPS

- Period of incorporation extended by one year, up to 31.03.2023 for eligible start-ups to avail tax benefit.
- Previously the period of incorporation valid up to 31.03.2022.

#### INCENTIVES UNDER CONCESSIONAL TAX REGIME

Last date for commencement of manufacturing or production under section 115BAB extended by one year i.e. from 31st March, 2023 to 31st March, 2024.

#### SCHEME FOR TAXATION OF VIRTUAL DIGITAL ASSETS

- Specific tax regime for virtual digital assets introduced.
- Any income from transfer of any virtual digital asset to be taxed at the rate of 30 per cent.
- No deduction in respect of any expenditure or allowance to be allowed while computing such income except cost of acquisition.
- Loss from transfer of virtual digital asset cannot be set off against any other income.
- To capture the transaction details, TDS to be provided on payment made in relation to transfer of virtual digital asset at the rate of 1 per cent of such consideration above a monetary threshold.
- Gift of virtual digital asset also to be taxed in the hands of the recipient.

#### LITIGATION MANAGEMENT

- In cases where question of law is identical to the one pending in High Court or Supreme Court, the filing of appeal by the department shall be deferred till such question of law is decided by the court.
- To greatly help in reducing repeated litigation between taxpayers and the department.

#### TAX INCENTIVES TO IFSC

- Subject to specified conditions, the following to be exempt from tax
- Income of a non-resident from offshore derivative instruments.
- Income from over-the-counter derivatives issued by an offshore banking unit.
- Income from royalty and interest on account of lease of ship.
- Income received from portfolio management services in IFSC.

## RATIONALIZATION OF SURCHARGE

- Surcharge on AOPs (consortium formed to execute a contract) capped at 15 per cent.
- Done to reduce the disparity in surcharge between individual companies and AOPs.
- Surcharge on long term capital gains arising on transfer of any type of assets capped at 15 per cent.
- To give a boost to the start up community.

## HEALTH AND EDUCATION CESS

Any surcharge or cess on income and profits not allowable as business expenditure.

## DETERRENCE AGAINST TAX-EVASION

No set off, of any loss to be allowed against undisclosed income detected during search and survey operations.

## RATIONALIZING TDS PROVISIONS

Benefits passed on to agents as business promotion strategy taxable in hands of agents.

Tax deduction provided to person giving benefits, if the aggregate value of such benefits exceeds Rs 20,000 during the financial year.

## INDIRECT TAXES

### REMARKABLE PROGRESS IN GST

GST revenues are buoyant despite the pandemic – Taxpayers deserve applause for this growth.

### SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

Customs Administration of SEZs to be fully IT driven and function on the Customs National Portal – shall be implemented by 30th September 2022.

### CUSTOMS REFORMS AND DUTY RATE CHANGES

Faceless Customs has been fully established. During Covid-19 pandemic, Customs formations have done exceptional frontline work against all odds displaying agility and purpose.

#### PROJECT IMPORTS AND CAPITAL GOODS

Gradually phasing out of the concessional rates in capital goods and project imports; and applying a moderate tariff of 7.5 percent – conducive to the growth of domestic sector and ‘Make in India’.

Certain exemptions for advanced machineries that are not manufactured within the country shall continue.

A few exemptions introduced on inputs, like specialised castings, ball screw and linear motion guide - to encourage domestic manufacturing of capital goods.

#### REVIEW OF CUSTOMS EXEMPTIONS AND TARIFF SIMPLIFICATION

More than 350 exemption entries proposed to be gradually phased out, like exemption on certain agricultural produce, chemicals, fabrics, medical devices, & drugs and medicines for which sufficient domestic capacity exists.

Simplifying the Customs rate and tariff structure particularly for sectors like chemicals, textiles and metals and minimise disputes; Removal of exemption on items which are or can be manufactured in India and providing concessional duties on raw material that go into manufacturing of intermediate products – in line with the objective of ‘Make in India’ and ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’.

#### SECTOR SPECIFIC PROPOSALS

##### ELECTRONICS

- Customs duty rates to be calibrated to provide a graded rate structure - to facilitate domestic manufacturing of wearable devices, hearable devices and electronic smart meters.
- Duty concessions to parts of transformer of mobile phone chargers and camera lens of mobile camera module and certain other items – To enable domestic manufacturing of high growth electronic items.

## GEMS AND JEWELLERY

- Customs duty on cut and polished diamonds and gemstones being reduced to 5 per cent; Nil customs duty to simply sawn diamond - To give a boost to the Gems and Jewellery sector.
- A simplified regulatory framework to be implemented by June this year - To facilitate export of jewellery through e-commerce.
- Customs duty of at least Rs 400 per Kg to be paid on imitation jewellery import - To disincentivise import of undervalued imitation jewellery.

## CHEMICALS

Customs duty on certain critical chemicals namely methanol, acetic acid and heavy feed stocks for petroleum refining being reduced; Duty is being raised on sodium cyanide for which adequate domestic capacity exists – This will help in enhancing domestic value addition.

## MSME

- Customs duty on umbrellas being raised to 20 per cent. Exemption to parts of umbrellas being withdrawn.
- Exemption being rationalised on implements and tools for agri-sector which are manufactured in India
- Customs duty exemption given to steel scrap last year extended for another year to provide relief to MSME secondary steel producers
- Certain Anti- dumping and CVD on stainless steel and coated steel flat products, bars of alloy steel and high-speed steel are being revoked – to tackle prevailing high prices of metal in larger public interest.

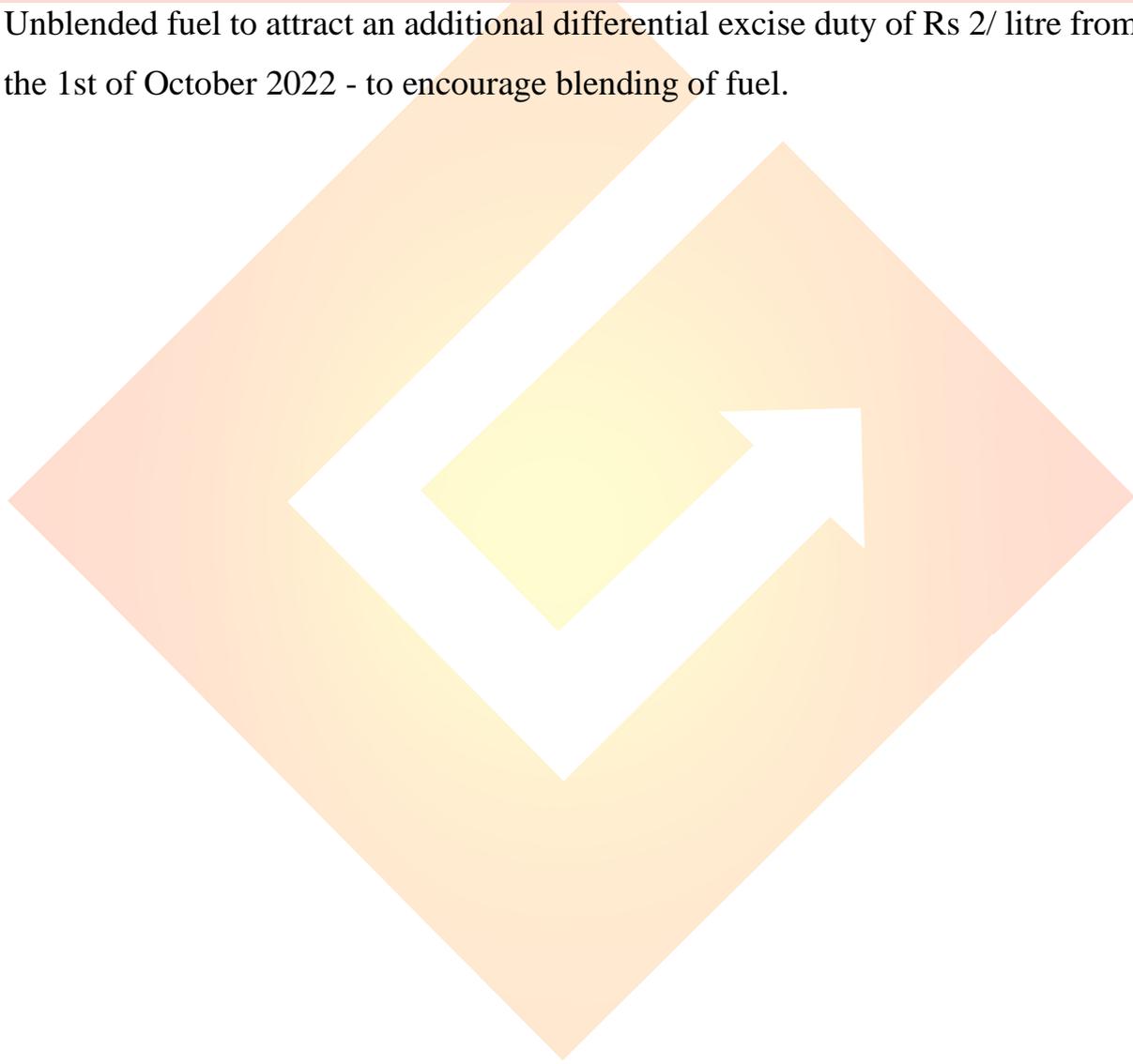
## EXPORTS

To incentivise exports, exemptions being provided on items such as embellishment, trimming, fasteners, buttons, zipper, lining material, specified leather, furniture fittings and packaging boxes.

Duty being reduced on certain inputs required for shrimp aquaculture - to promote its exports.

#### TARIFF MEASURE TO ENCOURAGE BLENDING OF FUEL

Unblended fuel to attract an additional differential excise duty of Rs 2/ litre from the 1st of October 2022 - to encourage blending of fuel.



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