



**Educrat IAS**

India's Premier Institute for Civil Services



सत्यमेव जयते

# SUMMARY OF PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU OCTOBER, 2022

# PIB COMPILATION

27/09/2022

**Dadasaheb Phalke award :** The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest award in the field of cinema. It is presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The recipient is honoured for their "outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema"[1] and is selected by a committee consisting of eminent personalities from the Indian film industry.[2] The award comprises a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of ₹1,000,000.

**Integrated Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing :** President of India Inaugurates Integrated Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing Facility of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. Sincere efforts and dedication of ISRO have made India emerge as the sixth country in the world to have Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing Capabilities.

**Exercise Kakadu:** P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft of the Indian Navy participated in the Multinational Maritime Exercise Kakadu 2022 hosted by Royal Australian Navy in Darwin along with INS Satpura.

**VSHORADS ( very short range air defence system):** VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) designed and developed indigenously by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry Partners.

VSHORADS missile incorporates many novel technologies including miniaturized Reaction Control System (RCS) and integrated avionics. The missile, meant for neutralizing low altitude aerial threats at short ranges is propelled by a dual thrust solid motor. The design of the missile including launcher has been highly optimized to ensure easy portability.

**SymphoNE:** The Game-Changer For Tourism Sector in North Eastern Region Concludes. Sympho-NE will serve as a milestone in the development of tourism potential in the region. Sympho-NE is a great platform to assimilate the best of ideas and best practices that would boost and unleash the potential of tourism sector in the north-eastern region.

29/09/2022

**Council of scientific and industrial research (CSIR):** CSIR was set up in 1942. It is one of the largest R&D organisations of India. This year the council is celebrating its 81st Foundation Day. CSIR covers a wide spectrum of science and technology – from oceanography, geophysics, chemicals, drugs, genomics, biotechnology and nanotechnology to mining, aeronautics, instrumentation, environmental engineering and information technology. It is under the ministry of science and technology.

**India- Singapore bilateral ties:** Singapore has emerged as the top source nation in terms of foreign direct investment (FDI) equity flows into India for the financial year 2021-22. They both are part of numerous groupings like G20, Commonwealth, IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association), East Asia Summit, and IONS (Indian Ocean Naval Symposium). Following the conclusion of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) of 2005, this robust relationship was elevated to a Strategic Partnership in 2015.

**AMRUT 2.0:** Hon'ble Prime Minister launched AMRUT 2.0 in 2021 with a vision to make all cities water secure and provide universal coverage of water supply services in all the urban areas of the country. One of the

outcomes of AMRUT 2.0 is to provide 24x7 water supply with drink from tap facility in at least one ward or one DMA in all 500 AMRUT cities.

The Ministry has constituted National Task Force (NTF) on 24x7 water supply systems at National level and State-level Task Force (STF) on 24x7 water supply systems at State level respectively.

**Electoral bond scheme 2018:**As per provisions of the Scheme, Electoral Bonds may be purchased by a person who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India.

An individual can buy Electoral Bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals. Only the Political Parties registered under Section 29A of the RPA, 1951 and which secured not less than one per cent of the votes polled in the last General Election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State, shall be eligible to receive the Electoral Bonds.

State Bank of India (SBI), has been authorised to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorized Branches.

The Electoral Bond deposited by an eligible Political Party in its account shall be credited on the same day.

**Senior citizens saving schemes:**Launched in 2004 is a scheme of Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and is operated through post offices or designated branches of banks.

It assists senior citizens in saving for retirement and receiving quarterly interest payments. SCSS offers an interest rate of 7.4% for the quarter ending 31 March 2022. You can open an SCSS account with a minimum deposit of Rs.1,000.

**1/10/2022**

**ULIP:**Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP), launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, as part of the 'National Logistics Policy (NLP)' is the promising initiative in the logistics sector that aims to bring ease of doing business in the logistics sector by simplifying the logistics processes, improving its efficiency, bringing in transparency and visibility, and reducing logistics cost & time. ULIP to provide direct and indirect benefits like monitoring of cargo movement, consignment tracking, inventory management thereby helping in structured planning to the stakeholders.

**Technology telecom development fund:**Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), a body under the Department of Telecommunications, officially launched Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) Scheme. The scheme is aligned with Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi's clarion call of adding Jan Anusandhaan in the new phase of Amrit Kaal.

Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) aims to fund R&D in rural-specific communication technology applications and form synergies among academia, start-ups, research institutes, and the industry to build and develop the telecom ecosystem.

**SPARSH:** SPARSH is a web-based system for processing the pension claims and crediting the pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners without any external intermediary. It is an end-to-end solution to all pension-related processes, from claim initiation to disbursement. Pensioners can log on to the portal and get their pension-related issues resolved.

**DARPAN:**The Defence Accounts Receipts and Payment System is a unified solution for third party bill payment and accounting. Its real-time processing will provide comprehensive insights into various accounting and financial performances of the defence sector.

**Essential commodities:**There is no specific definition of essential commodities in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Section 2(A) of the Act states that an "essential commodity" means a commodity specified in the Schedule of the Act. The Centre, if it is satisfied that it is necessary to do so in the public interest, can notify an item as essential, in consultation with state governments.

The ECA 1955 is used to curb inflation, prevent hoarding and blackmarketing of foodstuffs.

**3/10/2022**

**National Means-cum-Merit scholarship scheme:** Under the 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme' scholarships are awarded to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue their education at secondary stage. One lakh fresh scholarships are awarded to selected students from class IX every year and their continuation / renewal in classes X to XII for students studying in State Government, Government-aided and local body schools. The amount of scholarship is Rs. 12000/- per annum.

The National Means cum Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) is boarded on the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) - a one stop platform for scholarship schemes given to students.

NMMSS scholarships are disbursed directly into the bank accounts of selected students by electronic transfer through Public Financial Management System (PFMS) following DBT mode. This is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme.

**Network planning group:** Infrastructure projects, entailing investment of over ₹500 crore, would now route through the network planning group (NPG) constituted under the PM Gati Shakti initiative with the Finance Ministry issuing the necessary instructions and creation of the national masterplan digital platform. NPG consists of heads of the network planning wing of respective infrastructure ministries.

**Khadi and Village industries commission:** The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory body formed in April 1957 by the Government of India, under the Act of Parliament, 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956'. It is an apex organisation under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, with regard to khadi and village industries within India, which seeks to - "plan, promote, facilitate, organise and assist in the establishment and development of khadi and village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary."

**YUVA 2.0:** YUVA 2.0 - Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors, an Author Mentorship programme to train young and budding authors (below 30 years of age) in order to promote reading, writing and book culture in the country, and project India and Indian writings globally. In view of the significant impact of the first edition of YUVA with large scale participation from young and budding authors in 22 different Indian languages and English, YUVA 2.0 is now being launched.

The national book trust, India, under the ministry of education as the implementing agency will ensure phase-wise execution of the scheme under well-defined stages of mentorship.

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**Operation sewa:** With a view to provide safe and comfortable journey, RPF personnel assist the elderly citizens, women, physically disabled and provide amenities like wheelchairs, stretchers, medical help, ambulances, Infant food etc. under operation "SEWA".

In furtherance of the pledge of "Sewa Hi Sankalp" by RPF, a pan India month long drive under the code name SAMSAR (SAMAJIK SAROKAR) incorporating the elements of several focused operations namely Operation "SEWA", Operation "Dignity", Operation "Nanhe Fariste", Mission "Jeewan Raksha" and Operation "Matrishakti" was conducted in the month of September 2022.

**SFURTI:** The Ministry of MSME is implementing a Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) with a view to organize traditional industries and artisans into clusters to make them competitive and increase their income. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is the nodal Agency for promotion of Cluster development for Khadi as well as for Village Industries products.

**Dholera:** Dholera to become Semicon hub, will usher in for Gujarat's Techade. Shri Narendra Modi is building a New India for Young India with reimagined ambitions so that we can achieve our target of One Trillion USD Digital economy/ 5T USD Economy and also emerge as a trusted partner in technology.

**Pakhwada:** Pakhwada includes variety of activities such as Rallies, Prabhat Pheri, Distribution of Pamphlets, Wall Writing, Seminars, Lectures by Resource Persons, and other community activities.

Swachhta pakhwada is an occasion to pledge the support of the higher educational institutions for spreading the message of cleanliness not only among the students but also in the surrounding areas. This is one of the key programmes under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

**NAFED:** National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) was established on Gandhi Jayanti on 2 October 1958. NAFED is registered under the Multi State Co-operative Societies Act. It was setup with the object to promote co-operative marketing of agricultural produce to benefit the farmers. Agricultural farmers are the main members of NAFED, who have the authority in the form of members of the General Body in the working of the body.

Recently MoU signed between Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and NAFED to boost International Year of Millets (IYOM)-2023.

**5/10/2022**

**Quality council of India:** Quality Council of India was set up in 1997, jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry represented by the three premier industry associations i.e. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), with Mr Ratan Tata as its first Chairman.

It is an autonomous body attached to the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Chairman of QCI is appointed by the Prime Minister on recommendation of the industry to the government.

**Sugar production:** India emerges as the world's largest producer and consumer of sugar and world's 2nd largest exporter of sugar.

Sugar is a labour-intensive industry. Sugar production is a seasonal industry with a short crushing season varying normally from 4 to 7 months in a year. Rangarajan committee (2012) was set up to give recommendations on regulation of sugar industry.

**US-INDIA strategic clean energy partnership:** The revamped USISCEP was launched in accordance with U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership at the Leaders' Summit on Climate held in April 2021.

The partnership continues to advance energy security and innovation; scaling up emerging clean energy technologies; and deploying technical solutions through 5 pillars:

(i) Responsible Oil and Gas Pillar (ii) Power and Energy Efficiency Pillar (iii) Renewable Energy Pillar (iv) Sustainable Growth Pillar (v) Emerging Fuels and technologies.

**Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yoiana:** PMKSY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (Core Scheme) launched in 2015. Centre- States will be 75:25 per cent. In the case of the north-eastern region and hilly states, it will be 90:10.

Its objectives are:

Convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level.

To expand the cultivable area under assured irrigation (Har Khet ko pani).

To improve on-farm water use efficiency.

To enhance the adoption of precision-irrigation.

**Port Al-Shuwaikh:** The ships of First Training Squadron (1TS) comprising INS Tir, Sujata and CGS Sarathi arrived at Port Al-Shuwaikh, Kuwait. The ships are deployed in the Persian Gulf as part of their training deployment.

The ships of 1TS, based at Kochi, are part of the Southern Naval Command, Indian Navy's Training Command.

**6/10/2022**

**Hydrogen cofiring:** State-run National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has signed an MoU with GE Gas Power to explore the feasibility of hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) co-firing blended with natural gas in GE's gas turbines installed at NTPC's Kawas gas power plant in Gujarat.

Co-firing is the combustion of two different types of materials at the same time. One of the advantages of co-firing is that an existing plant can be used to burn a new fuel, which may be cheaper or more environmentally friendly.

**Ayushman Bharat scheme:** The government-sponsored health insurance scheme will provide free coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year at any government or even empanelled private hospitals all over India for secondary and tertiary medical care facilities.

There is no restriction on the basis of family size, age or gender.

Ayushman Bharat is unlike other medical insurance schemes where there is a waiting period for pre-existing diseases. All kinds of diseases are covered from day one of the Ayushman Bharat policy. The benefit cover includes both pre and post hospitalization expenses.

**Lok Adalat:** NALSA along with other Legal Services Institutions conducts Lok Adalats. Lok Adalat is one of the alternative dispute redressal mechanisms, it is a forum where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Lok Adalats have been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

Under the said Act, the award (decision) made by the Lok Adalats is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal against such an award lies before any court of law.

**Bureau of Indian Standard:** The Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) Act 2016 establishes the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as the National Standards Body of India.

BIS act provides enabling provisions for making hallmarking of precious metal articles mandatory.

The Act enables the Central Government to appoint any authority/agency, in addition to the BIS, to verify the conformity of products and services with the established standard and issue certificate of conformity.

**International film festival of India:** It is biggest state-backed international film festival in India. It is conducted jointly by Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Directorate of Film Festivals and Government of Goa.

It was started in 1952 and since then held annually in Goa. It aims at providing common platform for cinemas of world to project the excellence of the film art. It also seeks to contribute to create awareness for understanding and appreciation of film cultures of different nations.

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**Artificial Intelligence:** Recently 3rd edition of Global Artificial Intelligence Summit & Awards was held. It was proclaimed that Artificial Intelligence to act as a catalyst in India's development journey and help realise goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

'Make in India' initiative juxtaposed with AI technology, will enable India to become the factory of the world.

AI being used to effectively distribute food to the poor under PMGKY, monitor performance of fair price shops, help map needs of the poor.

**Credit guarantee scheme for startups:** The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry has notified the establishment of the Credit Guarantee Scheme for startups (CGSS) for providing credit guarantees to loans extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies and Securities and

Exchange Board of India (SEBI) registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).

CGSS is aimed at providing credit guarantee up to a specified limit against loans extended by Member Institutions (MIs).

The credit guarantee cover under the Scheme would be transaction based and umbrella based.

**Cheetah task force:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has constituted a Task Force for monitoring Cheetah introduction in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh and other suitable designated areas.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) would facilitate the working of Cheetah Task Force and render all necessary help. The Task Force shall be in-force for a period of two years. This task force may appoint a subcommittee to regularly visit the Cheetah introduction area as and when decided by them.

**Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Purushkar Award:**The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (Prime Minister's National Award for Children) is a civilian honour in India. It is administered by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

The award has two categories: Bal Shakti Puraskar, awarded to Indian citizens under the age of 18 for outstanding achievement in innovation, scholastic achievements, social service, arts and culture, bravery, or sports, and Bal Kalyan Puraskar, to individuals or organisations that have made outstanding contributions in child development, child protection, or child welfare. It is conferred by the President of India in the week preceding Republic Day.

**Cyber Jagrukta Diwas:**Cyber Jaagrukta Diwas is an initiative launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs that requires all government organizations to spread cybersecurity awareness. It is observed on first Wednesday of every month. The purpose is to create awareness and sensitize the Internet users on safeguarding against cyber frauds and cybercrimes.

**8/10/2022**

**Weapon system branch:**In a historic step for the Indian Air Force (IAF), Government has approved the creation of a new branch, called the Weapon Systems (WS) branch. The creation of WS branch would entail unification of all weapon system operators under one entity dedicated to the operational employment of all ground-based and specialist airborne weapon systems.

The branch would encompass operators in four specialised streams of Surface-to-Surface missiles, Surface-to-Air missiles, Remotely Piloted Aircraft and Weapon System Operators in twin/multi-crew aircraft.

**Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine:**Pneumonia is one of the major causes of child mortality. Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) was introduced by Govt. of India in 2017 in a phased manner across the most affected five states of India viz., Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Thereafter, the PCV under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) has been expanded throughout the country.

The PCV is now an integral part of India's Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) and is available free of cost to the entire birth cohort of 27.1 million. It is given in three dose schedule (6 weeks, 14 weeks and booster at 9-12 months).

**Agni tattva campaign:**Power Foundation of India in association with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) is currently running a campaign to create awareness on Agni Tattva under LiFE - Lifestyle for environment. This campaign includes conferences, seminars, events, and exhibitions across the country involving educational institutions, communities, and relevant organisations to create awareness of the core concept of Agni Tattva, an element that is synonymous with energy and is amongst the five elements of Panchmahabhoot.

The first conference of the Agni campaign was organised in Leh on the theme of 'Sustainability and Culture'. The Agni Tattva campaign - Energy for LiFE, an initiative under the umbrella campaign of Sumangalam, was launched by Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, in New Delhi.

**Indian Air Force Day 2022:** IAF Marks 90 Years With Celebration In Chandigarh. Indians proudly celebrate October 8 as the day to pay tribute to the air warriors of the Indian Air Force (IAF) who tirelessly defend the nation by securing the Indian airspace and conducting rescue operations during natural calamities

**Aspirational district programme:** It was launched in 2018 which aims to transform districts that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas.

Aspirational Districts are those districts in India, that are affected by poor socio-economic indicators.

It is based on-

Convergence (of Central & State Schemes)

Collaboration (of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers & District Collectors),  
Competition among districts through monthly delta ranking.

**10/10/2022**

**National conference on skilling in non traditional livelihood for girls:** Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) will organize National Conference on Skilling in Non- Traditional Livelihood (NTL) for Girls "Betiyan Bane Kushal" under the banner of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child on 11th October, 2022.

The conference will emphasize convergence between ministries and departments to ensure that girls build their skills and enter the workforce in a diverse set of professions, including science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), where girls have historically been under-represented.

The event will witness signing of MoUs with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Ministry of Minority Affairs for Skilling of young Girls for their increased, equal and empowered participation in the workforce.

**Handicraft online portal:** The Office of the Development Commissioner (handicrafts) has initiated the process of inviting applications to participate in the marketing events through online portal. This provides fully digitized marketing platform to handicraft artisans.

The online process starting from application to selection and finally stall allotment is completely computerised, without any human interface. The online process will provide equal, fair and transparent opportunity to all artisans.

**Quantum entanglement:** Experiments on the quantum entanglement (where several particles behave like a single unit even when they are separated), which received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2022 has seen a major achievement by Indian scientists, who have found a simpler way to quantify the amount of entanglement in higher dimensional systems. Entangled state is a crucial state of quantum mechanics and can be used as a resource for quantum communication, quantum computation and information processing tasks that are impossible for classical systems.

**Tele-MANAS:** Establishing a new milestone in the field of mental health on the occasion of World Mental Health Day, Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) initiative of Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare was launched. Tele-MANAS aims to provide free tele-mental health services all over the country round the clock, particularly catering to people in remote or under-served areas. The programme includes a network of 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence, with NIMHANS being the nodal centre. The Union Government aims to open at least one Tele-MANAS Cell in each State/UT.

**4th heli-India summit 2022:** Ministry of civil aviations inaugurated 4th Heli-India Summit 2022 with the theme 'Helicopters for last Mile Connectivity' at Sher-e-Kashmir International Conference Centre, Srinagar. He announced Project Sanjeevani to be incubated by deploying a helicopter to provide emergency medical services at AIIMS Rishikesh. Jammu & Kashmir has set an example of the best use of helicopter service when it erected transmission lines and towers using heli-cranes (sky cranes) on the Peer Panjal mountain range.

**11/10/2022**

**Sanjeevani-lifestyle clinics:** An integrated facility, aptly named the "Sanjeevani – Lifestyle Clinic" to provide advice on diet, exercise and behavioural counselling thereby rendering comprehensive preventive and curative care on lifestyle diseases to all serving & retired personnel and their dependents has been inaugurated at the Armed Forces Clinic, New Delhi. The aim of "Sanjeevani - Lifestyle Clinic" is to sensitise Armed Forces personnel and dependents identified to be at risk, regarding lifestyle disorders, prevent and manage chronic disorders like diabetes, hypertension and obesity etc, without pharmacologic interventions by promoting a healthy lifestyle through dietary education, exercise and positive motivation. This novel initiative is taken by the Indian army.

**Shri Guru Ram Das:** Guru Ram Das (1534 – 1581) was the fourth of the ten Gurus of Sikhism. Guru Ram Das is credited with founding the holy city of Amritsar in the Sikh tradition. He shifted his official base to lands identified by Guru Amar Das as Guru-ka-Chak. This newly founded town was eponymous Ramdaspur, later to evolve and get renamed as Amritsar.

**United nation geospatial information congress 2022:** Recently, the second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) was held in Hyderabad, India.

About UNWGIC:

Organised By: United Nation Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)

Objective: To enhance international collaboration among the Member States and relevant stakeholders in Geospatial information management and capacities.

Timeframe: It is conducted every four years. The first UNWGIC was organized by China in October 2018.

Theme of Second UNWGIC: Geo-enabling the Global Village..

**India-UAE High level joint task force:** The tenth meeting of the UAE-India High Level Joint Task Force on Investments ('The Joint Task Force') took place in Mumbai.

The Joint Task Force was established in 2013 to promote trade, investment and economic ties between the UAE and India. This was the first meeting of the Joint Task Force since the signing of the India-UAE comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and unveiling of the Joint UAE-India Vision Statement in February 2022.

The two sides acknowledged the importance of using the Joint Task Force as a forum to address specific issues and difficulties faced by the companies when investing into each other's countries. India has set up a UAE Plus Desk in 2018 and established a Fast Track Mechanism in 2019 to identify, resolve and expedite issues faced by the UAE companies and investors in India.

**13/10/2022**

**Vande Bharat express:** Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi flagged off the inaugural run of the new Vande Bharat Express from Amb Andaura, Una to New Delhi. In the Union Budget for 2022-2023, the Finance Minister has proposed the development and manufacture of 400 new Vande Bharat trains in the next three years. It is an indigenously designed and manufactured semi high speed, self-propelled train that is touted as the next major leap for the Indian Railways in terms of speed and passenger convenience since the introduction of Rajdhani trains. The Vande Bharat was India's first attempt at adaptation of the train set technology.

**Exercise powerEX:** Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) in collaboration with Power-CSIRTs (Computer Security Incident Response Teams in Power sector), successfully designed & conducted the Cyber Security Exercise "PowerEX" for 193 invited Power Sector Utilities.

The Objective of the exercise was to "Recognize, Analyse & Respond to Cyber Incident in IT & OT Systems".

Theme: "Defending Cyber induced disruption in IT & OT infrastructure".

**Exercise Prasthan:** An offshore security exercise, 'Prasthan' was conducted in the Krishna Godavari Basin Offshore Development Area (ODA) under the aegis of Headquarters, Eastern Naval Command. Conducted every six months, this exercise is an important element of ensuring offshore security and aims to integrate the efforts of all maritime stakeholders involved in offshore defence. Led by the Navy, the exercise saw participation from the various oil operators, like ONGC, RIL, Vedanta, and other stakeholders in the domain of maritime security in the Offshore Defence Area off Kakinada.

**Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme:** The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is implementing a focused bilateral collaborative programme known as the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme (VAP), jointly with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA, since July 1987.

The current five-year VAP Joint Statement has been extended till 2027, noting the Science and Technology Agreement between United States of America and the Republic of India, with due approval from the Hon'ble Minister of Science & Technology and the Ministry of External Affairs.

**Bulk drug park:** The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Bulk Drug Park at Una, Himachal Pradesh.

The Union Cabinet has approved two schemes, namely the scheme on Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme to promote domestic manufacturing of critical Key Starting Materials/Drug Intermediates.

APIs, also called bulk drugs, are significant ingredients in the manufacture of drugs. The Hubei province of China is the hub of the API manufacturing industry.

India is heavily import-dependent for APIs from China. India's API imports stand at around \$3.5 billion per year, and around 70% come from China.

**14/10/2022**

**INS Arihant:** INS Arihant carried out a successful launch of a Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM). The missile was tested to a predetermined range and impacted the target area in the Bay of Bengal with very high accuracy. All operational and technological parameters of the weapon system have been validated.

INS Arihant is a 'Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear Submarine' (SSBN). SSBN's are those class of submarines which can go deep beneath the ocean making them virtually undetectable for months, they also carry nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles.

**East Asia Summit:** The East Asia Summit (EAS) is a regional forum held annually by leaders of, initially, 16 countries in the East Asian, Southeast Asian, South Asian and Oceanian regions, based on the ASEAN Plus Six mechanism. Membership expanded to 18 countries including Russia and the United States at the Sixth EAS in 2011.

Since its establishment, ASEAN has held the central role and leadership in the forum. EAS meetings are held after the annual ASEAN leaders' meetings, and plays an important role in the regional architecture of Asia-Pacific.

The 12th East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting was convened on 5th August 2022 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia.

**PM SHRI scheme:** 14,500 schools across states and Union Territories will be redeveloped to reflect the key features of the NEP, 2020 under the centrally sponsored scheme known as PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India).

While there are exemplary schools like Navodaya Vidyalayas, Kendriya Vidyalayas, the PM SHRI will act as "NEP labs".

PM SHRI schools will be an upgrade of existing schools run by the Centre, states, UTs and local bodies.

This essentially means that PM SHRI schools can either be KVs, JNVs, state government schools or even those run by municipal corporations.

**Coal and energy :** While addressing MINCON 2022 – a Conference on Mines, Minerals and Metals in Nagpur today, ministry said that Government's target is to produce 900 million tonnes of coal in the current year and 163 mines will be auctioned.

He added that the Foundation of the Vidarbha region's development is based on mining and forest, and only mining-based industries can accelerate the progress of the Vidarbha region. The Vidarbha region has 75% of mineral and 80% of the forest resources of Maharashtra and proper utilization of these will increase the Vidarbha region's share in the energy sector. It was also stated that Import of thermal coal in the country to be completely stopped by 2024-2025.

**SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation):** Started in 2009, as the flagship program of the ECI for voter education. Primary goal is to build an inclusive & participative democracy by encouraging all eligible citizens to vote and make an informed decision & ethical choice

**15/10/2022**

**INS SUNAYNA:** INS Sunayna entered Port Victoria Seychelles to participate in the annual training exercise Operation Southern Readiness of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). It is Indian Navy's Maiden Participation in Combined Maritime Forces Exercise.

CMF is a multinational maritime partnership, which exists to uphold the Rules-Based International Order (RBIO) by countering illicit non-state actors on the high seas and promoting security, stability, and prosperity. CMF is Commanded by a U.S. Navy Vice Admiral.

**Port Gentil :** INS Tarkash made a port call at Port Gentil, Gabon as part of her ongoing deployment in the Gulf of Guinea for anti-piracy patrol. This marks the first visit by any Indian Naval Ship to Gabon.

**PAREKH:** Union government is planning to set up a national regulator PAREKH (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) for achieving a benchmark framework to assess students at the secondary and higher secondary level.

PAREKH, is also part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. PAREKH is a proposed regulator, which will act as a constituent unit of the NCERT, and will also be tasked with holding periodic learning outcome tests like the National Achievement Survey (NAS) and State Achievement Surveys.

**Objectives:** Setting norms, standards and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognized school boards of India.

It will encourage and help school boards to shift their assessment patterns towards meeting the skill requirements of the 21st century

**Bathukamma:** It is a flower festival celebrated predominantly in Telangana and parts of Andhra Pradesh. Every year this festival is celebrated as per Sathavahana calendar for nine days usually in September–October of Gregorian calendar. PM Narendra Modi greets especially the nari shakti of Telangana on this occasion.

**Jaldoot app:** Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Panchayati Raj has jointly developed “JALDOOT App” to be used across the country, to capture the water level of selected wells in a village. The Jaldoot app will enable Gram Rojgar Sahayak (GRS) to measure the water level of selected wells twice a year (pre-monsoon and post-monsoon).

This app will be used across the country to capture the water level of selected 2-3 wells in a village. The app will work in both online and offline mode.

17/10/2022

**Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras:** The Prime Minister inaugurated 600 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras (PMKSK) under the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers. Under the scheme, the retail fertiliser shops in the country will be converted into PMKSK in a phased manner.

PMKSK will cater to a wide variety of needs of the farmers and provide agri-inputs (fertilisers, seeds, implements), testing facilities for soil, seeds, and fertilisers; generate awareness among farmers; provide information regarding various government schemes and ensure regular capacity building of retailers at block/district level outlets. More than 3.3 lakh retail fertiliser shops are planned to be converted into PMKSK.

**Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana:** The Prime Minister also launched Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana - One Nation One Fertiliser. Under the scheme, Prime Minister launched Bharat Urea Bags, which will help companies market fertilisers under the single brand name 'Bharat'.

The single brand name for UREA, DAP, MOP and NPK etc. would be BHARAT UREA, BHARAT DAP, BHARAT MOP and BHARAT NPK etc. respectively for all Fertiliser Companies, State Trading Entities (STEs) and Fertiliser Marketing Entities (FMEs). It will result in reducing the cost of fertilisers and increase their availability to the farmers.

**Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP**

**Scheme):** Under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the ADIP Scheme is in operation since 1981 with the main objective to assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhance their economic potential.

Assistive devices are given to PwDs with an aim to improve their independent functioning and to arrest the extent of disability and occurrence of secondary disability.

**Anubhav portal:** On the directions of the Prime Minister of India, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) had launched an online platform entitled 'Anubhav' in March 2015.

It is a means for retiring employees to showcase significant achievements made during their service period. It also provides them with an opportunity to convey information related to their contribution in enhancing the effectiveness of the various Government policies.

It is envisaged that this culture of leaving notes by retirees will become the foundation stone of good governance and administrative reforms in future.

**90th INTERPOL General Assembly:** The General Assembly is INTERPOL's supreme governing body and meets once a year to take key decisions related to its functioning. The INTERPOL General Assembly meeting is taking place in India after a gap of about 25 years – it was last held in 1997. India's proposal to host the INTERPOL General Assembly in 2022 at New Delhi coinciding with celebrations for 75th year of India's independence was accepted by the General Assembly with overwhelming majority. The event provides an opportunity to showcase best practices in India's law and order system to the entire world.

**18/10/2022**

**Uniform tourist police scheme:** Ministry of Tourism in co-ordination with Ministry of Home Affairs and Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) is organizing National Conference of Director Generals/ Inspector Generals (DGs/IGs) of Police Department of all States/UTs in connection with implementation of Uniform Tourist Police Scheme.

Uniform Tourist Police Scheme at pan India level for developing the tourist specific policing with suitable roles and responsibility and training aspects, to provide safer ecosystem to the foreign and domestic tourists in and around tourist destinations, as safety and security and the first & foremost priority of any tourist.

**National Metallurgists Award Scheme:** National Metallurgists Day Awards, was instituted in 1962 by the then Ministry of Steel & Mines to recognize and honor outstanding contributions of Metallurgists in the metallurgical field covering operation, research, design, education, waste management and energy conservation. The awards are given on an annual basis, only to Indian nationals. The first award was given in 1963 and subsequently every year thereafter. Over the years, the number of categories and the award money were revised upwards. Nominations for the award shall be invited online on the Ministry of Steel's Portal or the centralized portal being developed by MHA.

**WISER programme:** This is a first-of-its-kind programme, launched to promote women in the field of research and development by lateral entry. It was launched by Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC) to encourage women researchers in R&D projects.

WISER programme will enable gender equality as well as participation of women in Science & Technology through IGSTC's program. This programme was launched in addition to the ongoing flagship 2+2 program of the IGSTC. This program of IGSTC is a joint initiative of Department of Science & Technology (DST), India and Federal Ministry of Education & Research (BMBF) of Germany.

**Global Housing technology challenge(GHTC) India:** For promoting new and innovative construction technologies and systems, Global Housing Technology Challenge- India (GHTC-India) was initiated in January 2019 with an aim to identify and mainstream globally best available proven construction technologies that are sustainable, green and disaster resilient through a challenge format to bring technology transition in construction sector.

The Prime Minister has laid the foundation of LightHouse Projects (LHPs), as part of the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India) initiative. Six LHPs consisting of about 1,000 houses each with physical & social infrastructure facilities are being constructed at six places across the country.

**Increase In MSP for all rabi crops:** The increase in MSP for Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2023-24 is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times of the All-India weighted average Cost of Production, aiming at reasonably fair remuneration for the farmers. The

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2023-24.

**19/10/2022**

**HTT-40 aircraft:** Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled HTT-40, an indigenous trainer aircraft designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The aircraft has state-of-the-art contemporary systems and has been designed with pilot-friendly features. With over 60 per cent in-house parts and collaboration of private industry, it is a shining example of the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. The HTT-40 would be used for basic flight training, aerobatics, instrument flying and close formation flights whereas its secondary roles would include navigation and night flying. It is a testament to the cutting-edge technology designed to meet primary training requirements of the Indian defence services. It boasts of unique features like running change-over of pilots, hot-refuelling and short-turnaround time.

**India- Africa Security Fellowship Programme:** The India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD) was held on the sidelines of DefExpo 2022. It charted out new areas for enhancing the India-Africa defence and security partnership. During the IADD, 'India-Africa Security Fellowship Programme' was launched. The fellowship will give an opportunity to African scholars to pursue research on defence and security issues in India.

**Fit India Movement:** It was launched in 2019 to make fitness an integral part of the daily lives of the people of India. Its mission is to bring about behavioral changes and move towards a more physically active lifestyle. It is implemented by the Ministry of Youth affairs and sports.

**SATAT scheme:** The scheme sustainable alternative for affordable transportation is under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

SATAT has following four objectives:

- Utilising more than 62 million metric tonnes of waste generated every year in India,
- Cutting down import dependence,
- Supplementing job creation in the country, and
- Reducing vehicular emissions and pollution from burning of agricultural / organic waste

**20/10/2022**

**Tekhhand Waste to Energy Plant:** The Union Home and Cooperation Minister inaugurated the Tekhhand Waste to Energy Plant, which generates electricity from Municipal Corporation of Delhi waste in New Delhi. With the commissioning of this plant, the capacity for disposal of garbage per day in Delhi will further increase by 2,000 metric tonnes and this plant will also generate up to 25 MW of Green Energy.

**AMRUT Mission:** Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation was launched in 500 cities on 25 June 2015, with an aim to provide universal coverage of water supply in 500 selected AMRUT cities and substantial improvement in sewerage coverage.

Concerned Ministry: Housing and Urban Affairs.

It is a centrally sponsored scheme, it covered over 60% urban population for 5 years from FY 2015-16 to FY 2019-20. AMRUT has now been merged with AMRUT 2.0 and ongoing projects will be funded till 31st March, 2023.

**Elimination of Single Use plastics:** The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) issued Notification on August 12, 2022 banning production, sale, stocking & distribution, import and usage of identified Single Use Plastic (SUP) items including cutlery items, thin packaging films, candy & ice-cream sticks w.e.f. July 01, 2022.

The Ministry had already banned polythene bags under 75 microns in September 2021, expanding the limit from the earlier 50 microns. From December 2022, the ban will be extended to polythene bags under 120 micron.

According to the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, there is also a complete ban on sachets using plastic material for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan masala. Digital interventions including development of SUP Compliance Monitoring Portal & SUP Public Grievance App were taken up to facilitate the enforcement of ban.

**National service scheme:** Presented by president of india. Centor sector scheme, launched in 1969 under ministry of youth affairs and sports. Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Department of Youth Affairs confers every year the National Service Scheme Award to recognize and reward outstanding contributions towards voluntary community service made by the Universities/ +2 Council, Programme Officers/NSS Units and NSS Volunteers, with a view to further promote NSS in the country.

**Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-Ranking of Cities under National Clean Air Programme :**Under the guidance of the Minister for Environment, Forest and climate Change, the Ministry launched Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan that promotes ranking of 131 cities in the country for implementing City Action Plans prepared as part of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) for reducing air pollution upto 40% by 2025-26. Cities are required to do the self-assessment as per the framework provided on PRANA online portal. This assessment is carried out annually.

**21/10/2022**

**Indo-Australian bilateral Relation:**Both India and Australia are members of the G-20, Commonwealth, IOR-ARC, ASEAN Regional Forum, Asia Pacific Partnership on Climate and Clean Development, and have participated in the East Asia Summits.

Defence Cooperation between India and Australia has expanded significantly in recent years. An MoU on Defence Cooperation has been signed as well as a Joint Declaration on Security Co-operation was signed.

Australia and India concluded the Mutual Logistic Support Arrangement (MLSA) in 2020.

The agreement facilitates more sophisticated operational cooperation, enabling increasingly complex military engagement, and greater combined responsiveness to regional humanitarian disasters.

**The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH):** The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) was established under Companies Act in the year 1986-87. It is a non-profit organisation, with an object to promote, support, protect, maintain and increase the export of handicrafts.

It is an apex body of handicrafts exporters for promotion of exports of Handicrafts from the country. Indian handicrafts exports projected growth of 29 prcnt( approx) than previous year in 2021-22.

**Telecom Regulatory Authority Of India (TRAI):**The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is a regulatory body set up under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. It is the regulator of the telecommunications sector in India. It consists of a Chairperson and not more than two full-time members and not more than two part-time members.

The TRAI Act was amended by an ordinance, effective from 24 January 2000, establishing a Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) to take over the adjudicatory and disputes functions from TRAI. It is under the jurisdiction of Department of Telecommunications , Ministry of Communications , Government of India.

**Indian Meteorological Department:**The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India. It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology.

IMD is headquartered in Delhi. IMD is also one of the six Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres of the World Meteorological Organisation.

It has the responsibility for forecasting, naming and distribution of warnings for tropical cyclones in the Northern Indian Ocean region, including the Malacca Straits, the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf.

**DefEXPO 2022:**The 12<sup>th</sup> and largest-ever defence exhibition – DefExpo 2022 – has marked the emergence of India's defence industry as a sunrise sector for investment on the global scale in line with the theme of the expo – 'Path to Pride'. In line with AtmaNirbhar Bharat, The Prime

Minister Shri Narendra Modi made a number of announcements, including the 4<sup>th</sup> positive indigenisation list; laid the foundation stone of Air Force Station Deesha, unveiled the HAL-designed & developed HTT-40 trainer aircraft; launched Mission DefSpace etc

**24/10/2022**

**Chief of Defence staff:** Its creation was recommended in 2001 by a Group of Ministers (GoM) that was tasked with studying the Kargil Review Committee (1999) report. He heads the newly created Department of Military Affairs (DMA) in the Ministry of Defence. As the head of DMA, CDS is also the Permanent Chairman-Chiefs of Staff Committee. The CDS is also vested with the authority to provide directives to the three chiefs. However, he does not enjoy any command authority over any of the forces.

CDS is first among equals, he enjoys the rank of Secretary within the DoD (Department of Defence) and his powers will be confined to only the revenue budget. He will also perform an advisory role in the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA).

**SCALE (Skill Certification Assessment for Leather Employees):** The SCALE app was launched by the Minister of Education and Skill Development Dharmendra Pradhan during his visit to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) on September 20, 2022. The newly launched app provides a one-stop service for skilling, learning, assessment and job opportunities for the leather industry.

The application was developed by the Leather Skill Sector Council (LSSC). It provides online live streaming classes from a studio at the LSSC's office. These classes can be accessed by anyone interested in the leather crafts.

**Railway Protection Force:** The contingent of RPF is an Armed Force of the Union of India. It is a security force under the ownership of Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways.

The history of the RPF dates back to 1882 when various railway companies appointed their own guards for protection of railway property. The force was declared as statutory force in the year 1957 by an enactment of Parliament subsequently declared as an Armed Force of the Union of India in the year 1985.

**Windfall Tax:** Windfall taxes are designed to tax the profits a company derives from an external, sometimes unprecedented event—for instance, the energy price-rise as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. These are profits that cannot be attributed to something the firm actively did, like an investment strategy or an expansion of business.

A windfall is defined as an “unearned, unanticipated gain in income through no additional effort or expense”. Governments typically levy a one-off tax retrospectively over and above the normal rates of tax on such profits, called windfall tax.

**Central Bureau of Narcotics:** In one of the biggest destruction operations conducted over 2 weeks in Himachal Pradesh, officers of Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) destroyed 1032 hectares (12,900 bighas) of illicit cannabis (ganja) cultivation. Central Bureau of Narcotics is affiliated with India's Department of Revenue and regulated by the country's Central Board Indirect Taxes and Customs. The main function of CBN is to stop opium production and trade, and to issue licenses for production of legal synthetic drugs.

**26/10/2022**

**Blue flag certification:** Recently Minicoy, Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach both in Lakshadweep make it to coveted list of Blue Beaches, an eco-label given to the cleanest beaches in the world.

It is an internationally recognised eco-label that is accorded based on 33 criterias. These criterias are divided into 4 major heads namely, Environmental education and information, Bathing water quality, Environmental management, Conservation and safety services in the beaches. It is accorded by the international jury composed of eminent members - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), Denmark-based NGO Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

**Indian coast guard:** ICG was established in August 1978 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 as an independent Armed force of India. It is the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world.

It is an Armed Force, Search and Rescue and Maritime Law Enforcement agency under the Ministry of Defence. It is headquartered in New Delhi. The concept of forming ICG came into being after the 1971 war. For effective command and control, the Maritime Zones of India are divided into five Coast Guard Regions, namely, North-West, West, East, North-East and Andaman & Nicobar.

**The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB):** It is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia.

It is headquartered in Beijing and began its operations in January 2016.

Membership in the AIIB is open to all members of the World Bank or the Asian Development Bank and is divided into regional and non-regional members. Unlike other MDBs (multilateral development bank), the AIIB allows for non-sovereign entities to apply for AIIB membership, assuming their home country is a member. China is the largest shareholder with 26.61 % voting shares in the bank followed by India (7.6%), Russia (6.01%) and Germany (4.2 %). India is a Founding Member. India also has the largest project portfolio within AIIB.

**The 7th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting:** The 7th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting (AIMMAF) on Agriculture and Forestry was held recently.

In the meeting, the progress in implementation of various programs and activities under the Medium Term Action Plan of ASEAN-India Cooperation (Year 2021-2025) was reviewed. The meeting also welcomed the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-India relations. In the meeting, the commitment to ASEAN-India cooperation in agriculture and forestry was reaffirmed. Union Minister Shri Tomar committed to enhance India's cooperation with ASEAN in food security, nutrition, climate change adaptation, digital farming, nature-friendly agriculture, food processing, value chain, agricultural marketing and capacity building.

**Har Ghar Jal state:** Gujarat has been declared Har Ghar Jal state by Gujarat state Ministry. Goa and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (D&NH and D&D) became the first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified State and UT in the country respectively. The people from all the villages have declared their village as Har Ghar Jal through a resolution passed by Gram Sabha, certifying that all households in the villages have access to safe drinking water through taps.