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**MONTHLY UPDATES ON
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

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- © India Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman has presented Economic Survey 2021-22 in the Parliament on 31st January 2022. The pre-budget Economic Survey, which is tabled in Parliament ahead of the Union Budget to present the state of the economy and suggest policy prescriptions. The pre-Budget Economic Survey is authored by a team led by Chief Economic Advisor (CEA). Days before the presentation, the Centre appointed economist V Anantha Nageswaran as the new CEA.

Key highlights from the Economic Survey 2021-22:

The government sees the Indian economy growing at 8-8.5 per cent in the financial year 2022-23 (FY23). The GDP growth rate for the ongoing financial year 2021-22 (FY22) is estimated at 9.2 per cent. In order to achieve USD 5 trillion GDP by FY'25, India needs to spend about USD 1.4 trillion over this period on infrastructure, according to the Economic Survey.

The main reason for the lower forecast is the non-availability of significant base effects in 2022-23 as compared to 2021-22. In fact, when these base effects were absent in Q3 and Q4 of 2021-22 and economic activities had started to normalize, the average growth in the second half of 2021-22 was only 5.6%.

The theme of Economic Survey 2021-22 is the "Agile approach".

State of the Economy:

Indian economy is estimated to grow by 9.2 per cent in real terms in 2021-22 (as per first advanced estimates) subsequent to a contraction of 7.3 per cent in 2020-21.

- GDP is projected to grow by 8- 8.5 per cent in real terms in 2022-23.
- The year ahead is poised for a pickup in private sector investment with the financial system in a good position to provide support for the economy's revival.
- The projection was comparable with World Bank and Asian Development Bank's latest forecasts of real GDP growth of 8.7 per cent and 7.5 per cent respectively for 2022-23.

- As per IMF's latest World Economic Outlook projections, India's real GDP is projected to grow at 9 per cent in 2021-22 and 2022-23 and at 7.1 per cent in 2023-2024, which would make India the fastest-growing major economy in the world for all 3years.
- Agriculture and allied sectors are expected to grow by 3.9 per cent; industry by 11.8 per cent and the services sector by 8.2 per cent in 2021-22.
- On-demand side, consumption is estimated to grow by 7.0 percent, Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) by 15 per cent, exports by 16.5 percent and imports by 29.4 percent in 2021-22.
- Macroeconomic stability indicators suggest that the Indian Economy is well placed to take on the challenges of 2022-23.
- Combination of high foreign exchange reserves sustained foreign direct investment, and rising export earnings will provide an adequate buffer against possible global liquidity tapering in 2022-23.
- The economic impact of the "second wave" was much smaller than that during the full lockdown phase in 2020-21, though the health impact was more severe.
- Government of India's unique response comprised of safety-nets to cushion the impact on vulnerable sections of society and the business sector, significant increase in capital expenditure to spur growth and supply-side reforms for a sustained long-term expansion.
- The government's flexible and multi-layered response is partly based on an "Agile" framework that uses feedback-loops, and the use of eighty High-Frequency Indicators (HFIs) in an environment of extreme uncertainty.

Fiscal Developments:

- The revenue receipts from the Central Government (April to November 2021) have gone up by 67.2 per cent (YoY) as against the expected growth of 9.6 per cent in the 2021-22 Budget Estimates (over 2020-21 Provisional Actuals).
- Gross Tax Revenue registers a growth of over 50 per cent during April to November 2021 in YoY terms. This performance is strong compared to pre-pandemic levels of 2019-2020 also.



- During April–November 2021, Capex has grown by 13.5 per cent (YoY) with a focus on infrastructure-intensive sectors.
- Sustained revenue collection and a targeted expenditure policy have contained the fiscal deficit for April to November 2021 at 46.2 per cent of BE.
- With the enhanced borrowings on account of COVID-19, the Central Government debt has gone up from 49.1 per cent of GDP in 2019–20 to 59.3 per cent of GDP in 2020–21 but is expected to follow a declining trajectory with the recovery of the economy.

External Sectors:

- India's merchandise exports and imports rebounded strongly and surpassed pre-COVID levels during the current financial year.
- There was a significant pickup in net services with both receipts and payments crossing the pre-pandemic levels, despite weak tourism revenues.
- Net capital flows were higher at US\$ 65.6 billion in the first half of 2021–22, on account of continued inflow of foreign investment, revival in net external commercial borrowings, higher banking capital and additional special drawing rights (SDR) allocation.
- India's external debt rose to US \$ 593.1 billion at the end-September 2021, from the US \$ 556.8 billion a year earlier, reflecting additional SDR allocation by IMF, coupled with higher commercial borrowings.
- Foreign Exchange Reserves crossed US\$ 600 billion in the first half of 2021–22 and touched the US \$ 633.6 billion as of December 31, 2021.
- As of end-November 2021, India was the fourth-largest forex reserves holder in the world after China, Japan and Switzerland.

Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation:

- The liquidity in the system remained in surplus.
- Repo rate was maintained at 4 per cent in 2021–22.
- RBI undertook various measures such as G-Sec Acquisition Programme and Special Long-Term Repo Operations to provide further liquidity.

The economic shock of the pandemic has been weathered well by the commercial banking system:

- YoY Bank credit growth accelerated gradually in 2021–22 from 5.3 per cent in April 2021 to 9.2 per cent as on 31st December 2021.
- The Gross Non-Performing Advances ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) declined from 11.2 per cent at the end of 2017–18 to 6.9 per cent at the end of September 2021.
- Net Non-Performing Advances ratio declined from 6 per cent to 2.2 per cent during the same period.
- The capital to risk-weighted asset ratio of SCBs continued to increase from 13 per cent in 2013–14 to 16.54 per cent at the end of September 2021.
- The Return on Assets and Return on Equity for Public Sector Banks continued to be positive for the period ending September 2021.

Exceptional year for the capital markets:

- Rs. 89,066 crores were raised via 75 Initial Public Offering (IPO) issues in April–November 2021, which is much higher than in any year in the last decade.
- Sensex and Nifty scaled up to a touching peak at 61,766 and 18,477 on October 18, 2021.
- Among major emerging market economies, Indian markets outperformed peers in April–December 2021.

Prices and Inflation:

- The average headline CPI-Combined inflation moderated to 5.2 per cent in 2021–22 (April–December) from 6.6 per cent in the corresponding period of 2020–21.
- The decline in retail inflation was led by easing of food inflation.
- Food inflation averaged at a low of 2.9 per cent in 2021–22 (April to December) as against 9.1 per cent in the corresponding period last year.
- Effective supply-side management kept prices of most essential commodities under control during the year.
- Proactive measures were taken to contain the price rise in pulses and edible oils.
- Reduction in central excise and subsequent cuts in Value Added Tax by most States helped ease petrol and diesel prices.



Wholesale inflation based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) rose to 12.5 per cent during 2021-22 (April to December). This has been attributed to:

- Low base in the previous year,
- Pick-up in economic activity,
- The sharp increase in international prices of crude oil and other imported inputs, and
- High freight costs.

The divergence between CPI-C and Wholesale price index Inflation:

- The divergence peaked to 9.6 percentage points in May 2020.
- However, this year there was a reversal in divergence with retail inflation falling below wholesale inflation by 8.0 percentage points in December 2021.

This divergence can be explained by factors such as:

- Variations due to base effect,
- The difference in scope and coverage of the two indices,
- Price collections,
- Items covered,
- The difference in commodity weights, and
- The wholesale price index being more sensitive to cost-push inflation led by imported inputs.

With the gradual waning of the base effect in WPI, the divergence in CPI-C and WPI is also expected to narrow down.

Sustainable Development and Climate Change:

- India's overall score on the NITI Aayog SDG India Index and Dashboard improved to 66 in 2020-21 from 60 in 2019-20 and 57 in 2018-19.
- The number of Front Runners (scoring 65-99) increased to 22 States and UTs in 2020-21 from 10 in 2019-20.
- In North-East India, 64 districts were Front Runners and 39 districts were Performers in the NITI Aayog North-Eastern Region District SDG Index 2021-22.
- India has the tenth largest forest area in the world.
- In 2020, India ranked third globally in increasing its forest area from 2010 to 2020.
- In 2020, the forests covered 24% of India's

total geographical, accounting for 2% of the world's total forest area.

- In August 2021, the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, was notified which is aimed at phasing out single-use plastic by 2022.
- Draft regulation on Extended Producer Responsibility for plastic packaging was notified.
- The Compliance status of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) located in the Ganga main stem and its tributaries improved from 39% in 2017 to 81% in 2020.
- The consequent reduction in effluent discharge has been from 349.13 million litres per day (MLD) in 2017 to 280.20 MLD in 2020.
- The Prime Minister, as a part of the national statement delivered at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP 26) in Glasgow in November 2021, announced ambitious targets to be achieved by 2030 to enable further reduction in emissions.
- The need to start the one-word movement 'LIFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) urging mindful and deliberate utilization instead of mindless and destructive consumption was underlined.

Agriculture and Food Management:

- The Agriculture sector experienced buoyant growth in past two years, accounting for a sizeable 18.8% (2021-22) in Gross Value Added (GVA) of the country registering a growth of 3.6% in 2020-21 and 3.9% in 2021-22.
- Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy is being used to promote crop diversification.
- Net receipts from crop production have increased by 22.6% in the latest Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) compared to SAS Report of 2014.
- Allied sectors including animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries are steadily emerging to be high growth sectors and major drivers of overall growth in agriculture sector.
- The Livestock sector has grown at a CAGR of 8.15% over the last five years ending 2019-20. It has been a stable source of income across groups of agricultural households accounting for about 15% of their average monthly income.



- Government facilitates food processing through various measures of infrastructure development, subsidized transportation and support for the formalization of micro food enterprises.
- India runs one of the largest food management programmes in the world.
- The government has further extended the coverage of food security networks through schemes like PM Gareeb Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY).

Industry and Infrastructure:

- Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew at 17.4 per cent (YoY) during April-November 2021 as compared to (-)15.3 per cent in April-November 2020.
- Capital expenditure for the Indian railways has increased to Rs. 155,181 crores in 2020-21 from an average annual of Rs. 45,980 crores during 2009-14 and it has been budgeted to further increase to Rs. 215,058 crores in 2021-22 – a five times increase in comparison to the 2014 level.
- The extent of road construction per day increased substantially in 2020-21 to 36.5 Kms per day from 28 Kms per day in 2019-20 – a rise of 30.4 per cent.
- Net profit to sales ratio of large corporates reached an all-time high of 10.6 per cent in the July-September quarter of 2021-22 despite the pandemic (RBI Study).
- Introduction of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, the major boost provided to infrastructure-both physical as well as digital, along with measures to reduce transaction costs and improve ease of doing business, would support the pace of recovery.

Services:

- GVA of services crossed pre-pandemic level in July-September quarter of 2021-22; however, GVA of contact intensive sectors like trade, transport, etc. still remain below pre-pandemic level.
- Overall service Sector GVA is expected to grow by 8.2 per cent in 2021-22.
- During April-December 2021, rail freight crossed its pre-pandemic level while air freight and port traffic almost reached their pre-pandemic levels, domestic air and rail

passenger traffic are increasing gradually – shows the impact of the second wave was much more muted as compared to during the first wave.

- During the first half of 2021-22, the service sector received over US\$ 16.7 billion FDI – accounting for almost 54 per cent of total FDI inflows into India.
- IT-BPM services revenue reached US\$ 194 billion in 2020-21, adding 1.38 lakh employees during the same period.
- Major government reforms include removing telecom regulations in the IT-BPO sector and opening up of space sector to private players.
- Services exports surpassed the pre-pandemic level in January-March quarter of 2020-21 and grew by 21.6 per cent in the first half of 2021-22 – strengthened by global demand for software and IT services exports.
- India has become 3rd largest start-up ecosystem in the world after US and China. The number of new recognized start-ups increased to over 14000 in 2021-22 from 733 in 2016-17.
- 44 Indian start-ups have achieved unicorn status in 2021 taking the overall tally of unicorns to 83, most of which are in the services sector.

Social Infrastructure and Employment:

- 157.94 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered as on 16th January 2022; 91.39 crores first dose and 66.05 crores second dose.
- With the revival of the economy, employment indicators bounced back to pre-pandemic levels during the last quarter of 2020-21.
- As per the quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PFLS) data up to March 2021, employment in the urban sector affected by pandemic has recovered almost to the pre-pandemic level.
- According to Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) data, formalization of jobs continued during the second COVID wave; the adverse impact of COVID on the formalization



of jobs was much lower than during the first COVID wave.

- Expenditure on social services (health, education and others) by Centre and States as a proportion of GDP increased from 6.2 % in 2014-15 to 8.6% in 2021-22 (BE).
- Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), 83 districts have become 'Har Ghar Jal' districts.
- Increased allotment of funds to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) to provide a buffer for unorganized labour in rural areas during the pandemic.

As per the National Family Health Survey-5:

- Total Fertility Rate (TFR) came down to 2 in 2019-21 from 2.2 in 2015-16;
- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), under-five mortality rate and institutional births have improved in 2019-21 over the year 2015-16.

- ⊙ Every year the International Customs Day is celebrated on January 26. The day is celebrated by the United Nations and several other international organizations. The day is celebrated to acknowledge the role of custom officials in the flow of goods. The Theme was "Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by embracing a data culture and building a data ecosystem". The celebration of International Customs Day dates back to 1953 and was announced by Custom Cooperation Council in Brussels, Belgium. The main objective of celebrating the day is to boost guidance, leadership and support to customs administrations.
- ⊙ The first geological park of India will be built in Lamheta, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. Approval for the park was given by Geological Survey of India, under ministry of mining. Park will be constructed with an investment of Rs 35 crores, over five-acre land.
- ⊙ The Delhi Government recently approved Rs 20,000 per acre to farmers. These farmers incurred losses due to unseasonal rainfall. Rainwater logged in their fields and damaged the crops that were to be harvested. The state government allocated Rs 53 crores in all for around 29,000 acres. If the loss incurred is 70% or less, then the compensation is to be paid at the rate of 70%. If the loss incurred is more than 70% then 100% compensation is to be paid.
- ⊙ The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy recently launched the AP Seva Portal 2.0. The portal will offer better services to the citizens. The portal is also called Citizen Service portal. The portal will offer digital services to citizens in a transparent manner. The portal will help the public track their application without any hassle. The updates of the applications are provided through SMS as well.
- ⊙ Andhra Pradesh State Forest Department has approached experts from Wildlife Institute of India (WII-Deharadun), Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI-Kolkata), for preventing mass mortality of spot-billed pelicans in Naupada swamp at Telineelapuram, Srikakulam district. Telineelapuram is a designated Important Bird Area (IBA), where pelicans have been succumbing to 'Nematode infestation' since December 2021. It is also home to painted stork. However, Stork has not been infected with Nematode infestation so far.
- ⊙ The Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) has created a committee to look into the concerns raised by students. The RRB released an employment notification for the Non – Technical category in 2019. The exam got postponed because of COVID. The exam was recently held on January 14 – 15, 2022. The candidates are not satisfied with the results and are raising concerns. According to them, the results are inaccurate.
- ⊙ The governments of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh signed an agreement to build a dam at Adi Badri in Yamunanagar district. The Dam will rejuvenate the mythical Saraswati River. It is situated in Haryana near Himachal Pradesh border. The place is considered as river's origin point. With the rejuvenation of Saraswati River, religious beliefs will also be revived. The area will also be developed as a pilgrimage site. The Dam will be built on 31.66 hectares of land in Himachal Pradesh. It has a width of 101.06 metres and height 20.5 metres. Total cost of the project is Rs 215.33 crore. Dam at Adi Badri will also get water from the Somb river, which falls in Yamuna River near Adi Badri in Yamunanagar.
- ⊙ The Delhi Government is to begin a redeveloping, streetscaping and beautification project. Around 540 km of roads in the national capital are to be beautified. Under the project, the roads in the



country capital will be redeveloped to European standards, that is, 30 metres or above. Also, the project will make the roads safe for the pedestrians. The project will make the roads balanced for the transit vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. The project is to be implemented in Hybrid Annuity Mode. It is to be implemented by the Public Welfare Department of Delhi.

- ⊙ Recently, Central government rejected the contention that Amar Jawan Jyoti has been extinguished. Government further asserted that Amar Jawan Jyoti has been merged with the flame at “National War Memorial” in the vicinity. They are of the view that, this merger will mark a tribute to the fallen soldiers befitting their sacrifice. India Gate is a memorial, honouring the fallen heroes of the First World War. Amar Jawan Jyoti was added to it in 1972 because India did not have another memorial.
- ⊙ The Government of India recently proposed to change the rules of appointing IAS officers. The changes were proposed by the Ministry of Personnel and Training on behalf of the Government of India. The ministry has stated that the states are not providing enough number of officers to be appointed centrally. It is mandatory for the states to contribute to the central deputation reserve. Because of this reason, there is shortage of officers at the centre.
- ⊙ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recently released commemorative postal stamp on COVID-19 vaccine. The stamp was launched to mark the first anniversary of the National COVID Vaccination Programme or the COVID vaccination drive. The stamp has a health care worker vaccinating a senior citizen. The stamp also shows the image of COVAXIN vial. The stamp was launched to signify the works done by the community workers and frontline health care workers, especially during the COVID-19 times.
- ⊙ The Election Commission of India has increased the existing election expenditure limit for candidates in Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies, due to the rise in inflation. The new limits will be applicable in all upcoming elections in the country. The previous major revision in the election expenditure limit was done in 2014. It was further increased by 10% in 2020. EC had formed a Committee to study the cost factors and other related issues, and make suitable recommendations.

Parliamentary constituencies poll expenditure ceiling:

- The ceiling on parliamentary poll expenditure has been raised from 70 lakh to 95 lakh rupees in bigger states and 54 lakh to 75 lakhs in smaller states.
- The bigger states include Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Karnataka.
- The smaller states include Goa, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and UTs.
- The ceiling on poll expenditure in UT of Jammu and Kashmir has been raised to 95 lakhs.

ECONOMY

- ⊙ The rating agency India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has downgraded the GDP of India for the current fiscal FY 2021-2022. Ind-Ra expects the GDP to clock a growth rate of 9.3% y-o-y in FY22. Earlier this estimate was 9.4%. Meanwhile, Brickworks Ratings has also revised India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal (FY22) to 8.5-9%. Earlier this was estimated at 10%. The rapid spread of the Omicron variant is the main driver to downgrade GDP growth projections.
- ⊙ Total assets managed under NPS and APY, the two flagship pension schemes of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), have crossed ₹6.99 lakh crore. Total assets under management (AUM) as on January 1, 2022, stood at Rs 6,99,172 crore. Total AUM under the National Pension System and Atal Pension Yojana was at Rs 5,78,025 crore as of March 31, 2021.
- ⊙ The economic research team of the State Bank of India (SBI) released its Ecowrap report. In the report, SBI researchers have revised upwards the real GDP of India to around 9.5 per cent in 2021-22 (FY22) on a year-on-year (YoY)
- ⊙ As per the latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, the foreign currency reserves of India declined by \$1.466 billion to \$633.614 billion, in the last week of 2021, which ended December 31, 2021. Gold reserves rose by USD 14 million to USD 39.405 billion. India's forex touched a lifetime high of USD 642.453 billion in the week ended September 03, 2021.

- ③ National Statistical Office (NSO) has estimated India's GDP to grow at 9.2 per cent in the current fiscal, 2021-22. NSO released its first advance estimates of economic output on January 07, 2022. The GDP estimate for the 2020-21 fiscal was projected at a contraction of 7.3 per cent by NSO.
- ③ According to the finance ministry, the deposits in bank accounts opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) scheme have crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore mark. The total balance in accounts under the Jan Dhan scheme was recorded at Rs 1,50,939.36 crore as of December-end 2021. The data revealed that over 44.23 crore accounts have been opened under the scheme.
- ③ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has approved a testing kit for detecting the Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. The covid kit developed by Tata is called 'OmiSure' and will be an enhancement for the detection of the Omicron variant. The kit is manufactured by Tata Medical and Diagnostics. The tests have been performed as per the manufacturer's instructions. Responsibility for batch-to-batch consistency lies with the manufacturer.
- ③ Jahnavi Dangeti, a young girl from Andhra Pradesh, has just completed NASA's International Air and Space Program (iasp nasa) at the Kennedy Space Centre in Alabama, US, making her the first Indian to accomplish this feat.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- ③ The Drug controller General of India has approved the COVAXIN booster trials. These boosters were produced by Bharat Biotech, the same company that produces COVAXIN. The boosters are being introduced for the vulnerable population. The booster doses will provide the strength to fight against the third wave that is violently spreading the Omicron.
- ③ Scientists and experts in France have reportedly identified a new variant of COVID-19 termed 'IHU'. The new variant is said to be a more mutated strain than Omicron. The B.1.640.2 or IHU variant was first identified by the academics at institute IHU Mediterranee Infection and contains 46 mutations, which is more than Omicron. Nearly 12 cases of this new variant have been reported near Marseilles and has been linked to the African country Cameroon. But, the Omicron strain is still dominating in most parts of the world.
- ③ CryptoWire, a global crypto super app that is a special business unit of TickerPlant, announced the launch of India's first index of Cryptocurrencies – IC15, which is a rule-based broad market index by market capitalisation. The IC15 tracks and measures the performance of the top 15 widely traded liquid cryptocurrencies listed on leading crypto exchanges of the world, the company stated.
- ③ Union Minister of State (I/C) Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh has launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven Start-Up by Indian Institute Technology (IIT) alumni for water purification through innovative technology with financial support from Technology Development Board (TDB). The facility aims to provide clean drinking water at a price much lesser than the market price.
- ③ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully test-fired the Vikas engine that would power India's first human-carry rocket (Gaganyaan human space mission). This qualification test of the Vikas Engine for the Gaganyaan human space mission was conducted by ISRO at Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. More such tests on Vikas Engine will be conducted in the future by ISRO.
- ③ CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) has developed an indigenous RT-PCR diagnostic kit, 'Om', for the testing of the Omicron variant of coronavirus. It is the first kit made by any government institution, and the third to be made indigenously, for specific testing of Omicron. Currently, two more such kits developed by private players are available in the market. The kit will give test results in around two hours.

SPORTS

- ③ Veteran New Zealand batter, Ross Taylor has announced retirement from international cricket at the end of the ongoing domestic season.

- ③ South Africa's wicketkeeper-batter Quinton de Kock has announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect late. His announcement came just hours after South Africa's 113-run defeat to India in the first Test of the threematch series.
- ③ India has lifted the under-19 Asia cricket Cup by defeating Sri Lanka by nine wickets in a rain interrupted One-Day International final in Dubai through the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method. In the match, Sri Lanka opted to bat first and scored 106 for nine in the stipulated 38 overs. India, who have won a record seven Asia Cup titles, looked a far superior team.
- ③ Pakistani all-rounder, Mohammad Hafeez has announced his retirement from international cricket on January 03, 2022, to end his career spanning more than 18 years. The 41-year-old Hafeez retired from Test cricket in December 2018. He has played 55 Tests, 218 ODIs and 119 T20Is for Pakistan, scoring 12,780 runs across formats. He is nicknamed "The Professor".
- ③ Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra will continue to train with his German coach Klaus Bartonietz, whose contract has been extended till the 2024 Paris Games, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) confirmed. Bartonietz took charge as Chopra's coach from compatriot and former world record holder javelin thrower Uwe Hohn.
- ③ Sports Ministry's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) of India has approved the inclusion of Alpine Skiing athlete Md Arif Khan in the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) Core group, until the Winter Olympics, scheduled this February in Beijing, China. The feat earned Khan the unique distinction of becoming the first Indian to win direct quota spots in two different Winter Olympics events, besides being the first athlete from the country to seal a berth at the Winter Olympic games 2022.
- ③ Legends League Cricket (LLC) has appointed Jhulan Goswami as an ambassador to its All Women Match Official Team to promote Women's Empowerment initiatives of the LLC and to increase participation of women in cricket.

PERSONS IN NEWS

- ③ Baldev Prakash has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of Jammu & Kashmir Bank for three years. His appointment will be effective from the date of taking charge or April 10, 2022, whichever is earlier. Apart from him, R K Chhibber has been appointed as an additional director on the board of the bank.
- ③ 1983 Batch of Indian Railway Service, Vinay Kumar Tripathi has been appointed as new Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Railway Board. He is presently working as General Manager, Northeastern Railway to the post of Chairman of Railway Board.
- ③ V.S. Pathania took over as the 24th Director General (DG) of the Indian Coast Guard from Krishnaswamy Natarajan who retired from service. He is an alumnus of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and National Defence College, New Delhi.
- ③ Vinod Kannan took over as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Vistara Airlines. He replaced Leslie Thng who was the CEO from July 16, 2017, to December 31, 2021. It added that Deepak Rajawat has been elevated to take up the role of Vistara's Chief Commercial Officer. Vistara, is a 51:49 joint venture between Tata Sons Private Limited and Singapore Airlines.
- ③ Tesla founder and CEO Elon Musk, who has been using social media to recruit people, has disclosed that Indian-origin Ashok Elluswamy was the first employee to be hired for his electric vehicle company's Autopilot team. Before joining Tesla, Mr Elluswamy was associated with Volkswagen Electronic Research Lab and WABCO Vehicle Control System.
- ③ Director HR in ONGC, Alka Mittal has been given the additional charge as the new interim chairman and managing director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), the largest oil and gas producer in India. She is the first woman to head the top post at the Maharatna company. She replaces Subhash Kumar who superannuated on December 31. He was also serving as an interim head.



- ⊙ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Deepak Kumar and Ajay Kumar Choudhary as new executive directors (ED) with effect from 03 January. Prior to being promoted as ED, Deepak Kumar was heading the department of information technology of RBI, while Ajay Choudhary was Chief General Manager-in-Charge, Department of Supervision.
- ⊙ Indian-origin American diplomat Atul Keshap has been appointed as the President of the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) by the US Chambers of Commerce.



His term is effective from January 05, 2022. The US Chambers of Commerce is the parent body of USIBC. Atul Keshap replaces Nisha Desai Biswal.

- ⊙ Additional Secretary under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, G Asok Kumar was appointed as the new Director-General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti. He succeeded Director-General, Rajiv Ranjan Mishra. Kumar is popularly known as 'the Rain Man of India' for his excellent work in rainwater harvesting under the "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign.
- ⊙ State-owned Bank of Baroda has signed cricketer Shafali Verma as its brand endorser. The Bank continuously supports the youth of the country through its various banking and non-banking initiatives and this announcement reflects the bank's ethos of adding value to its customer experience by choosing youth-icons like Shafali to inspire them."

PLANS AND POLICIES

- ⊙ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj recently revised the Rural Area Development Plan Formulation and Implementation. The plan has been revised to increase rural prosperity. The town areas are increasing. The spatial development in gram panchayats is not planned well. The census towns are increasing. It is essential to link the agro – climatic regions with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- ⊙ The Delhi Government recently launched the one-stop website to promote electric vehicles. The website is ev.delhi.gov.in. The website is open for manufacturers, buyers, charging station explorers. The main features of the website are EV search, EV calculator and EV dashboard. The website provides information about increasing charging infrastructure and the potential EV consumers. The website is responsive. It acts as a major information resource for the electric vehicle buyers and manufacturers. The website also provides information about the public charging stations in the capital. So far, Delhi has installed 377 charging points. They are spread across 170 locations.
- ⊙ The Digital Government Mission was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The mission will deliver government services to the citizens. It will use machine learning and artificial intelligence to deliver the services. It imbibes automatic processes. For instance, a student applying for scholarship will get an alert from the concerned department directly. He or she need not enquire. It also provides easy access to food grains under the public distribution system. It includes renewal of driver licenses, reminders for renewal of government issued documents.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- ⊙ The Union ministry of home affairs announced the Padma awards on the eve of the country's 73rd Republic Day. The Awards are given in three categories: Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher-order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service).

The award seeks to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved. These awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year.

This year the President has approved conferment of 128 Padma Awards including 2 duo cases (in a

duo case, the Award is counted as one) as per list below. The list comprises 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri Awards. 34 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 Posthumous awardees. In Duo case, the Award is counted as one.

List of Padma Vibhushan awardees:

S. No.	Name	Field	State / Country
1.	Ms. Prabha Atre	Art	Maharashtra
2.	Shri Radheyshyam Khemka (Posthumous)	Literature and Education	U.P.
3.	General Bipin Rawat (Posthumous)	Civil Service	Uttarakhand
4.	Shri Kalyan Singh (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Uttar Pradesh

List of Padma Bhushan awardees:

S. No.	Name	Field	State / Country
1.	Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad	Public Affairs	Jammu and Kashmir
2.	Shri Victor Banerjee	Art	West Bengal
3.	Ms. Gurmeet Bawa (Posthumous)	Art	Punjab
4.	Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee	Public Affairs	West Bengal
5.	Shri Natarajan Chandrasekaran	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
6.	Shri Krishna Ella and Smt. Suchitra Ella* (Duo)	Trade and Industry	Telangana
7.	Ms. Madhur Jaffery	Others-Culinary	USA
8.	Shri Devendra Jhajharia	Sports	Rajasthan
9.	Shri Rashid Khan	Art	Uttar Pradesh
10.	Shri Rajiv Mehrishi	Civil Service	Rajasthan
11.	Shri Satya Narayana Nadella	Trade and Industry	USA
12.	Shri Sundararajan Pichai	Trade and Industry	USA
13.	Shri Cyrus Poonawalla	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
14.	Shri Sanjaya Rajaram (Posthumous)	Sci and Engg	Mexico
15.	Ms. Pratibha Ray	Literature and Education	Odisha
16.	Swami Sachidanand	Literature and Education	Gujarat
17.	Shri Vashishth Tripathi	Literature and Education	Uttar Pradesh

List of Padma Shri awardees:

S. No.	Name	Field	State / Country
1.	Shri Prahlad Rai Agarwala	Trade and Industry	West Bengal
2.	Prof. Najma Akhtar	Literature and Education	Delhi
3.	Shri Sumit Antil	Sports	Haryana
4.	Shri T Senka Ao	Literature and Education	Nagaland
5.	Ms. Kamalini Asthana and Ms. Nalini Asthana* (Duo)	Art	Uttar Pradesh
6.	Shri Subbanna Ayyappan	Science and Engineering	Karnataka
7.	Shri J K Bajaj	Literature and Education	Delhi
8.	Shri Sirpi Balasubramaniam	Literature and Education	Tamil Nadu
9.	Srimad Baba Balia	Social Work	Odisha
10.	Ms. Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay	Science and Engineering	West Bengal
11.	Ms. Madhuri Barthwal	Art	Uttarakhand
12.	Shri Akhone Asgar Ali Basharat	Literature and Education	Ladakh
13.	Dr. Himmatrao Bawaskar	Medicine	Maharashtra
14.	Shri Harmohinder Singh Bedi	Literature and Education	Punjab
15.	Shri Pramod Bhagat	Sports	Odisha
16.	Shri S Balleash Bhajantri	Art	Tamil Nadu
17.	Shri Khandu Wangchuk Bhutia	Art	Sikkim
18.	Shri Maria Christopher Byrski	Literature and Education	Poland
19.	Acharya Chandanaji	Social Work	Bihar
20.	Ms. Sulochana Chavan	Art	Maharashtra
21.	Shri Neeraj Chopra	Sports	Haryana
22.	Ms. Shakuntala Choudhary	Social Work	Assam
23.	Shri Sankaranarayana Menon Chundayil	Sports	Kerala
24.	Shri S Damodaran	Social Work	Tamil Nadu
25.	Shri Faisal Ali Dar	Sports	J&K
26.	Shri Jagjit Singh Dardi	Trade and Industry	Chandigarh
27.	Dr. Prokar Dasgupta	Medicine	U.K.
28.	Shri Aditya Prasad Dash	Science and Engineering	Odisha
29.	Dr. Lata Desa	Medicine	Gujarat
30.	Shri Malji bhai Desai	Public Affairs	Gujarat
31.	Ms. Basanti Devi	Social Work	Uttarakhand
32.	Ms. Lourembam Bino Devi	Art	Manipur
33.	Ms. Muktamani Devi	Trade and Industry	Manipur
34.	Ms. Shyamamani Devi	Art	Odisha
35.	Shri Khalil Dhantejvi (Posthumous)	Lit. and Education	Gujarat
36.	Shri Savaji Bhai Dholakia	Social Work	Gujarat

S. No.	Name	Field	State / Country
37.	Shri Arjun Singh Dhurve	Art	Madhya Pradesh
38.	Dr. Vijaykumar Vinayak Dongre	Medicine	Maharashtra
39.	Shri Chandraprakash Dwivedi	Art	Rajasthan
40.	Shri Dhaneswar Engti	Lit. and Education	Assam
41.	Shri Om Prakash Gandhi	Social Work	Haryana
42.	Shri Narasimha Rao Garikapati	Lit. and Education	Andhra Pradesh
43.	Shri Girdhari Ram Ghonju (Posthumous)	Lit. and Education	Jharkhand
44.	Shri Shaibal Gupta (Posthumous)	Lit. and Education	Bihar
45.	Shri Narasingha Prasad Guru	Lit. and Education	Odisha
46.	Shri Gosaveedu Shaik Hassan (Posthumous)	Art	Andhra Pradesh
47.	Shri Ryuko Hira	Trade and Industry	Japan
48.	Ms. Sosamma Iype	Animal Husbandry	Kerala
49.	Shri Avadh Kishore Jadia	Lit. and Education	Madhya Pradesh
50.	Ms. Sowcar Janaki	Art	Tamil Nadu
51.	Ms. Tara Jauhar	Lit and Education	Delhi
52.	Ms. Vandana Kataria	Sports	Uttarakhand
53.	Shri H R Keshavamurthy	Art	Karnataka
54.	Shri Rutger Kortenhorst	Lit and Education	Ireland
55.	Shri P Narayana Kurup	Lit and Education	Kerala
56.	Ms. Avani Lekhara	Sports	Rajasthan
57.	Shri Moti Lal Madan	Sci and Engineering	Haryana
58.	Shri Shivnath Mishra	Art	Uttar Pradesh
59.	Dr. Narendra Prasad Misra (Posthumous)	Medicine	Madhya Pradesh
60.	Shri Darshanam Mogilaiah	Art	Telangana
61.	Shri Guruprasad Mohapatra (Posthumous)	Civil Service	Delhi
62.	Shri Thavil Kongampattu A V Murugaiyan	Art	Puducherry
63.	Ms. R Muthukannammal	Art	Tamil Nadu
64.	Shri Abdul Khader Nadakattin	Grassroots Innovation	Karnataka
65.	Shri Amai Mahalinga Naik	Agriculture	Karnataka
66.	Shri Tsering Namgyal	Art	Ladakh
67.	Shri A K C Natarajan	Art	Tamil Nadu
68.	Shri V L Nghaka	Lit. and Education	Mizoram
69.	Shri Sonu Nigam	Art	Maharashtra

S. No.	Name	Field	State / Country
70.	Shri Ram Sahay Panday	Art	Madhya Pradesh
71.	Shri Chirapat Prapandavidya	Lit and Education	Thailand
72.	Ms. K V Rabiya	Social Work	Kerala
73.	Shri Anil Kumar Rajvanshi	Sci and Engineering	Maharashtra
74.	Shri Sheesh Ram	Art	Uttar Pradesh
75.	Shri Ramachandraiah	Art	Telangana
76.	Dr. Sunkara Venkata Adinarayana Rao	Medicine	Andhra Pradesh
77.	Ms. Gamit Ramilaben Raysingbhai	Social Work	Gujarat
78.	Ms. Padmaja Reddy	Art	Telangana
79.	Guru Tulku Rinpoche	Spiritualism	Arunachal Pradesh
80.	Shri Brahmanand Sankhwalkar	Sports	Goa
81.	Shri Vidyanand Sarek	Lit and Education	Himachal Pradesh
82.	Shri Kali Pada Saren	Lit. and Education	West Bengal
83.	Dr. Veeraswamy Seshiah	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
84.	Ms. Prabhaben Shah	Social Work	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
85.	Shri Dilip Shahani	Lit and Education	Delhi
86.	Shri Ram Dayal Sharma	Art	Rajasthan
87.	Shri Vishwamurti Shastri	Lit. and Education	J&K
88.	Ms. Tatiana Lvovna Shaumyan	Lit. and Education	Russia
89.	Shri Siddhalingaiah (Posthumous)	Lit. and Education	Karnataka
90.	Shri Kaajee Singh	Art	West Bengal
91.	Shri Konsam Ibomcha Singh	Art	Manipur
92.	Shri Prem Singh	Social Work	Punjab
93.	Shri Seth Pal Singh	Agriculture	Uttar Pradesh
94.	Ms. Vidya Vindu Singh	Lit. and Education	Uttar Pradesh
95.	Baba Iqbal Singh Ji	Social Work	Punjab
96.	Dr. Bhimsen Singhal	Medicine	Maharashtra
97.	Shri Sivananda	Yoga	Uttar Pradesh
98.	Shri Ajay Kumar Sonkar	Sci and Engineering	Uttar Pradesh
99.	Ms. Ajita Srivastava	Art	Uttar Pradesh
100.	Sadguru Brahmeshanand Acharya Swami	Spiritualism	Goa
101.	Dr. Balaji Tambe (Posthumous)	Medicine	Maharashtra
102.	Shri Raghuvendra Tanwar	Lit and Education	Haryana
103.	Dr. Kamlakar Tripathi	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
104.	Ms. Lalita Vakil	Art	Himachal Pradesh
105.	Ms. Durga Bai Vyam	Art	Madhya Pradesh
106.	Shri Jyantkumar Maganlal Vyas	Sci and Engineering	Gujarat
107.	Ms. Badaplin War	Lit and Education	Meghalaya

© The Indian Express Group has announced the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards (RNG Awards) for journalists across the country, for their work done in 2019. RNG awards are one of the most prestigious awards in India in the field of journalism, held annually since 2006. The photo stories of our winners appeared in our print and digital editions between December 24, 2021, and January 4, 2022.

List of winners:

- Hindi (Print): Anand Choudhary, Dainik Bhaskar
- Hindi (Broadcast): Sushil Kumar Mohapatra, NDTV India
- Regional Languages (Print): Aniket Vasant Sathé, Loksatta
- Regional Languages (Broadcast): Sunil Baby, Media One TV
- Environment, Science And Technology Reporting (Print): Team Pari (People's Archive Of Rural India)
- Environment, Science And Technology Reporting (Broadcast): Team Scroll
- Uncovering India Invisible (Print): Shiv Sahay Singh, The Hindu
- Uncovering India Invisible (Broadcast): Tridip K Mandal, The Quint
- Business And Economic Journalism (Print): Sumant Banerji, Business Today
- Business And Economic Journalism (Broadcast): Ayushi Jindal, India Today TV
- Reporting On Politics And Government (Digital): Dheeraj Mishra, The Wire
- Reporting On Politics And Government (Broadcast): Seemi Pasha, Thewire.in
- Sports journalism (Print): Nihal Koshie, The Indian Express
- Sports journalism (Broadcast): Team NewsX
- Investigative Reporting (Print): Kaunain Sheriff M, The Indian Express
- Investigative Reporting (Broadcast): S Mahesh Kumar, Manorama News
- Reporting On Arts, Culture And Entertainment: Uday Bhatia, Mint
- Prakash Kardaley Memorial Award for Civic Journalism: Chaitanya Marpakwar, Mumbai Mirror
- Photojournalism: Zishaan A Latif, The Caravan
- Books (Non-Fiction): Arun Mohan Sukumar

© Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has declared the winners of the third National Water Awards for the year 2020. Uttar Pradesh has been adjudged as the Best State in water conservation efforts in the National Water Awards 2020. It is followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu respectively. The award comes with a citation, trophy and cash prize. Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh received the best district award in the northern zone followed by Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar in Punjab.

3rd National Water Awards 2020 list is given below:

Category	Winners
"Best State"	Uttar Pradesh
"Best District" – North Zone	Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh
"Best District" – South Zone	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
"Best District" – East Zone	East Champaran, Bihar and Godda, Jharkhand
"Best District" – West Zone	Indore, Madhya Pradesh
"Best District" – North-East Zone	Goalpara, Assam
"Best Village Panchayat" – North Zone	Dhaspad, Almora, Uttarakhand
"Best Village Panchayat" – South Zone	Yelerampura Panchayat, Tumakuru District, Karnataka
"Best Village Panchayat" – East Zone	Telari Panchayat, Gaya District, Bihar
"Best Village Panchayat" – West Zone	Takhatgadh, Sabarkantha, Gujarat
"Best Village Panchayat" – North-East Zone	Sialsir, Sirchip, Mizoram
"Best Urban Local Body"	Vapi Urban Local Body, Gujarat
"Best Media (Print & Electronic)"	Mission Paani (Network 18)
"Best School"	Govt. Girls Hr. Secondary School, Kaveripattinam, Tamil Nadu

Category	Winners
"Best Industry"	Welspun India Textile Ltd., Gujarat
"Best Water User Association"	Panchgachiya MDTW WUA, Hooghly, West Beng
"Best Industry for CSR activities"	ITC Limited, Kolkata, West Bengal

- © The Golden Globe Awards 2022 ceremony was held to recognise excellence in film, both American and international, and American television. This was the 79th edition of the annual event, which honoured the best in American television, as well as film in 2021 as chosen by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. Two of the films namely The Power of the Dog and the West Side Story, won the most number of awards with 3 each.

List of winners in the Motion Picture category:

Category	Winners
Best Film (Drama)	The Power of the Dog
Best Film (Musical or Comedy)	West Side Story
Best Actor (Drama)	Will Smith for King Richard as Richard Williams
Best Actress (Drama)	Nicole Kidman for Being the Ricardos as Lucille Ball
Best Actor (Musical or Comedy)	Andrew Garfield for tick, tick... BOOM! as Jonathan Larson
Best Actress (Musical or Comedy)	Rachel Zegler for West Side Story as María Vasquez
Best Supporting Actor	Kodi Smit-McPhee for The Power of the Dog as Peter Gordon

Category	Winners
Best Supporting Actress	Ariana DeBose for West Side Story as Anita
Best Director	Jane Campion for The Power of the Dog
Best Screenplay	Kenneth Branagh for Belfast
Best Original Score	Hans Zimmer for Dune
Best Original Song	"No Time to Die" (Billie Eilish and Finneas O'Connell) – No Time to Die
Best Animated Feature	Encanto
Best Non-English Film	Drive My Car (Japan)

- © Government of Assam conferred its highest civilian award 'Assam Baibhav' on Ratan Tata, on January 24, 2022.

However, Ratan Tata did not attend the event personally because of Covid-19 situation. Award was received by his representative during a programme held in Guwahati.

- © Kerala Arts and Crafts Village Organization (KACV) from Kovalam, Kerala was awarded the 'International Craft Award for 2021' for the best craft village in the world by the World Crafts Council International. It is the only award India received in the non-individual category. The KACV was established by the Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society (UL CCS) for the State Tourism Department of Kerala. In 2021, the Village of the Year award was won by 'Kraf Komuniti Ku' in Malaysia.

