

Current Affairs:29-31.01.2022

India joins 'UN 2022 Honor Roll' with payment of \$29.9 million in regular budget assessments

India has paid its United Nations regular budget assessment for the year 2022 in full with a payment of **USD 29.9 million** on January 21, 2022. With this India joins '2022 Honour Roll' list of Member States that have paid their @UN Regular Budget Assessments in full. So far **31 Member States** out of 193 have paid their regular budget assessments in full as of 26 January 2022. Honour Roll 2022 will recognise Member States that have paid their regular budget assessments in full within the 30 day due period specified in Financial Regulation 3.5 (i.e. by 9 February 2022).

India's largest EV charging station inaugurated at Gurgaon

India's largest electric vehicle (EV) charging station has been inaugurated in Sector 52 of **Gurugram** at Delhi-Jaipur National Highway, on January 28, 2022. The charging station has been installed and operated by tech-piloting company Alekrify. The new station has a capacity of **100 charging points for four-wheelers**. This includes 72 units as AC slow chargers and 24 units as DC fast chargers. Before this, the largest EV charging station in India was located in Navi Mumbai, comprising 16 AC and 4 DC chargers.

India's first Graphene Innovation Centre to be set up in Kerala's Thrissur

India's first innovation centre for graphene is set to come up in **Thrissur, Kerala**. This will be the first graphene Research and Development (R&D) incubation centre in India. The project will be set up by the Digital University Kerala (DUK), jointly with Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET). The estimated cost of the project is Rs 86.41 crore. **Tata Steel Limited** will be the industrial partner of the centre. The new centre will accelerate the growth of the state in the knowledge industry sector.

World's-largest canal lock unveiled in Netherlands

The world's largest canal lock has been inaugurated at **Ijmuiden**, a small port city, in the **Port of Amsterdam, The Netherlands**. The sea lock was inaugurated by Dutch King Willen-Alexander on January 26, 2022. The Ijmuiden sea lock is **500-meter (1,640-foot) long and 70-meter wide**. The overall cost of constructing the project is \$338 million.

Global gold demand increases by 10% to 4,021 tonnes in 2021

The **World Gold Council (WGC)** in its 'Gold Demand Trends 2021' Report has informed that the global gold demand rose **10 percent in 2021 to 4,021.3 tonnes**.

The overall gold demand during **2020 stood at 3,658.8 tonnes**.

Meanwhile, **India's** total gold demand surged by **78.6 percent to 797.3 tonnes in 2021** from 446.4 tonnes during 2020.

Google to invest upto \$1 Billion in Bharti Airtel to boost country's digital ecosystem

Indian telecom company **Bharti Airtel and Google** have announced a long-term partnership agreement on January 28, 2022 to accelerate the growth of India's digital ecosystem. Under the deal, Google will invest **USD 1 billion** in Airtel. From the total investment, Google will invest **USD 700 million to acquire 1.28 percent stake** in Bharti Airtel Ltd. Remaining **USD 300 million** will go toward multi-year commercial agreements with Airtel, including devices built together by the two tech giants.

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The USD 1 billion funding is part of Google's USD 10 billion 'Google for India Digitization Fund', launched in 2020.

Om Birla launches 'Digital Sansad App' to make live proceedings accessible to citizens

The **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** launched the official mobile application of the Parliament named '**Digital Sansad App**' on January 27, 2022, to allow citizens to access **live proceedings of the House**, including the Union Budget 2022 live.

The app will make the Parliament and Parliamentary proceedings accessible not only to the members but also to the public of the country.

Through the Digital Sansad App, citizens can check what their members of Parliament are doing, what debates they are participating in and what they are saying.

Using the app, parliamentarians can also digitally log their attendance.

Former finance secretary Subhash Garg pens book titled "The \$10 Trillion Dream"

The former finance secretary of India, **Subhash Chandra Garg** has announced his debut book named "**The \$10 Trillion Dream**". The book is scheduled to hit stands towards the end of February 2022. The new book explores the critical policy issues that India faces today and suggests reforms for it to become a USD 10 trillion economy by the mid-2030s. It is published by **Penguin Random House India (PRHI)**.

Anantha Nageswaran appointed as chief economic advisor of Government of India

- **V Anantha Nageswaran** has been appointed as the new **chief economic advisor (CEA) to the Government of India**. This post was lying vacant since December 17, 2021, when KV Subramanian left the office.
- V Anantha Nageswaran is a former member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC).

Tamil Nadu's Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve and Bardia National Park of Nepal jointly bags TX2 Award

The **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Erode district of Tamil Nadu and Bardia National Park in Nepal** have jointly won the prestigious **TX2 Award for 2022**, for doubling their tiger populations since 2010. Sathyamangalam was designated a Tiger Reserve in 2013. The population of tigers increased from only 25 tigers in 2011 to an estimated **80 individuals currently**. Similarly, the tiger population in Bardia National Park increased by almost five-fold from less than 20 tigers in 2009 to **87 in 2018**.

Government extends deadline for PLI Scheme for Textiles till 14.02.2022

- Ministry of Textiles has extended the timeline for submission of applications under the PLI Scheme for Textiles till February 14, 2022. Earlier this deadline was 31st January 2022.

Some facts about PLI Scheme for Textiles:

- **Total financial outlay- Rs 10,683 crore.**
- This scheme envisages incentives for the production of man-made fibre (MMF) Apparel, MMF Fabrics and Technical Textiles Products manufactured in India.
- The scheme will be in operation from September 24, 2021 to March 31, 2030. The incentive under the scheme will be payable for five years.
- The **Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) chaired by the Cabinet Secretary** will monitor the progress of this PLI scheme;

SPMCIL sets up new bank note printing lines at Nashik and Dewas

Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) has set up 'new bank note printing lines' at its **Currency Note Press, Nashik and Bank Note Press,**

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Dewas.SPMCIL is a Government of India-owned Miniratna company and is engaged in the manufacture/production of Currency and Bank Notes, Security

Paper. In India, we have **four printing presses for printing and supply of Banknotes**. These are at Dewas in Madhya Pradesh, Nasik in Maharashtra (owned by SPMCIL) Mysore in Karnataka, and Salboni in West Bengal (owned by **Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL)**).

Paytm Money launches “India’s first” intelligent messenger named ‘Pops’.

Paytm Money has introduced “India’s first” intelligent messenger called ‘Pops’. Messenger ‘Pops’ will allow its user to receive specific information related to their stocks, analysis about their portfolio, market news, and important market movements, all in one place. One97 Communications Limited owns the Paytm Money platform.

Tata Group choose SBI, Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank as preferred bankers for Air India

The Tata Group has chosen **State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank as preferred bankers for Air India**. Recently Tata Group has taken over Air India from the government. **Air India is the largest international carrier out of India** with an 18.6% market share. Tata Sons have availed of a **Rs 10,000-crore loan from SBI and a Rs 5,000-crore loan from BoB**. The loan from HDFC Bank is not known yet.

Assets under management for ESG funds rose 2.5 times to USD 650 mn in FY21: Nasscom

IT industry body Nasscom has informed that the **Assets under management for Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Funds** in India increased **2.5 times to USD 650 million in the financial year 2021** on an annual basis. The assets under management for ESG funds in 2020 was USD 275 million.

ESG funds : funds whose asset allocation includes shares and bonds of those companies that are evaluated based on the factors of environmental, social, and governance to assess their sustainability.

Meta partners with FICCI to support 5 lakh women-owned SMBs across India

Social media giant Meta has partnered with industry body FICCI to support **five lakh women-led small businesses across India**. Meta will undertake this initiative under its **#SheMeansBusiness programme**, in partnership with FICCI’s ‘**Empowering the Greater 50%**’ initiative. Meta will be extending support through **three of its initiatives**:

Facebook Business Coach -to train women through an educational chatbot tool on WhatsApp;

Grow your Business Hub -to provide necessary information, tools and resources to MSMEs;

Commerce Partners Programme -to help businesses go digital and D2C using technology.

The initiative will create a supportive ecosystem for women and inspire them to become contributors to the overall development of the country.

India partners with Israel to convert 150 villages into ‘Villages of Excellence’

The Government of **India** has joined hands with the Government of **Israel** to create **150 ‘Villages of Excellence’ in 12 States** of the country, to help farmers to adopt latest technology in the farm sector. Israel would provide Technical assistance and other expertise to make agriculture a more profitable business. The initiative will be undertaken in a phased manner. 75 villages out of 150 would be taken up in 2022. The remaining villages would be taken up subsequently.

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Book titled 'A Little Book of India' authored by Ruskin Bond launched

A book titled 'A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 Years of Independence' authored by **Ruskin Bond** was launched on January 24, 2022.

The **first novel** of Ruskin Bond is 'The Room on the Roof'.

Ashleigh Barty wins 2022 Australian Open Tennis Tournament

In tennis, World Number 1 **Ashleigh Barty of Australia** defeated Danielle Collins of the US, 6-3 7-6, to win women's singles final title at the **Australian Open 2022** on January 29, 2022. With this win the 25-year-old Barty has become the first Australian woman in 44 years to win a Grand Slam title at home. Before this, Chris O'Neil was the last Australian woman to lift Australian Open in 1978. This is the 15th career title and third Grand Slam title won by Barty after French Open in 2019 and Wimbledon in 2021.

India beat China to win Bronze at Women's Asia Cup Hockey; Japan Beat Korea to win Gold

India defeated China, 2-0 to win bronze medal at the **2022 Women's Hockey Asia Cup** tournament on January 28, 2022. **Japan defeated South Korea 4-2** in the final to win their third title at Women's Hockey Asia Cup tournament. The 2022 Women's Hockey Asia Cup was the **10th edition of the quadrennial** Women's Hockey Asia Cup. The tournament was held from January 21 to 28, 2022 at the **Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat, Oman.**

World Leprosy Day 2022: 30 January (Last Sunday of January)

The World Leprosy Day is observed globally on the **last Sunday of January** every year. In 2022, the World Leprosy Day falls on **January 30, 2022**. Theme 2022: "United for Dignity". In India, the World Leprosy Day is celebrated every year on **30 January**, the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's death. The day aims to raise global awareness of this deadly ancient disease and call attention to the fact that it can be prevented, treated and cured.

World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day : 30 January

The **World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (World NTD Day)** is observed on **January 30** every year to raise awareness about neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) as a critical public health challenge so that we can progress towards their elimination. **2022 theme is 'Achieving health equity to end the neglect of poverty-related diseases'**. **2022 slogan is "From neglect to care"**. The first World NTD Day was held on 30 January 2020. The proposal to recognise the day was made by the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**

Nation Pays Homage to Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi on his 74th Death Anniversary on 30 January 2022

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his **74th death anniversary** on **January 30, 2022**. The day is also celebrated as **Martyrs' Day, also known as 'Shaheed Divas'**, to mark the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. It was on January 30, 1948 that Mahatma Gandhi, popularly known as Bapu, was assassinated by Nathuram Godse in the Birla House.

To mark the occasion, the Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is screening a documentary film 'Gandhi Rediscovered' on its Films Division website and YouTube

channel, throughout the day as a part of ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’ celebration by the Ministry.

Govt mandates storage of ISD, satphone, conference calls, messages details for 2 yrs

- The government has made it mandatory for telecom companies for storage of
 - international calls,
 - satellite phone calls,
 - conference calls and
 - messagesmade over normal networks as well as on the internet for a period of at least two years.

This comes after the Department of Telecom (DoT) made an amendment in the **unified licence (UL)** in December 2021 which extended storage of call data records as well as internet logs to two years from earlier provision of one year. UL holders are telecom companies like Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, Vodafone Idea, BSNL for providing all kinds of telecom services, except satellite phone services.

India and ASEAN nations approves Digital Work Plan 2022

India and ASEAN nations have approved a work plan titled **India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022**, during the second ASEAN Digital Ministers’ (ADGMIN) Meeting held on January 28, 2022 virtually. Under the plan, India and ASEAN will jointly work to develop a system to combat use of stolen and counterfeit mobile handsets, and WiFi Access network interface for nationwide public internet. The plan also includes capacity building and knowledge sharing in emerging areas in Information and Communication Technologies such as Internet of Things, 5G, Advanced Satellite Communication and Cyber Forensics.

The ADGMIN meeting was co-chaired by **Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State for Communications, Government of India**, and **Admiral Tin Aung San, Myanmar’s Minister of Transport and Communications**.

RBI imposes restrictions on Lucknow-based Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd with withdrawal cap of Rs 1 lakh for six months

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed certain restrictions on **Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd, Lucknow**. These restrictions came into force from the closure of business hours on January 28, 2022. The restrictions would remain in force for six months.

The withdrawal limit has been fixed at a sum not exceeding **Rs. 100,000** of the total balance across all savings bank or current accounts or any other account of a depositor. RBI has imposed the above restrictions in the exercise of powers vested in it under **subsection (1) of Section 35 A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act (AACS), 1949**.

Centre extends tenure of LIC Chairman M R Kumar by one year till March 2023

The government had extended the tenure of **M R Kumar, the Chairman of IPO-bound Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** by one year, till **March 2023**.

M.R.Kumar took charge as Chairman of LIC on March 14, 2019.

This is the **second extension** given to Mr. Kumar. Prior to this, he was given a nine-month extension on June 30, 2021, till March 13, 2022.

Book titled “Fearless Governance” authored by Kiran Bedi launched

The Book titled ‘**Fearless Governance**’ authored by **Dr Kiran Bedi** has been released. Dr. Kiran Bedi is the former Lt Governor of Puducherry and IPS (retd). This book is based on the

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ground realities of nearly five years of service of Dr. Bedi as Lt. Governor of Puducherry and her vast experience of 40 years in the Indian Police Service.



Rafael Nadal beats Daniil Medvedev to win Australian Open 2022

Rafael Nadal (Spain) defeated Daniil Medvedev (Russia) 2-6,6-7,6-4,6-4,7-5 to win the Men's Single title at Australian Open 2022. This is his **21st Major title, becoming the first male player** to do so. In women's tennis, **Margaret Court (Australian) has 24 singles majors**, an all-time record.

Complete winner list of Australian Open Tennis Title 2022:

2022 Event	Winners	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal	Daniil Medvedev
Women's Singles	Ashleigh Barty	Danielle Collins
Men's Doubles	Thanasi Kokkinakis and Nick Kyrgios	Matthew Ebden and Max Purcell
Women's Doubles	Barbora Krejčíková and Kateřina Siniaková	Anna Danilina and Beatriz Haddad Maia
Mixed Doubles	Kristina Mladenovic and Ivan Dodig	Jaimee Fourlis and Jason Kubler

Unnati Hooda and Kiran George wins 2022 Odisha Open (Badminton)

Indian teenager Unnati Hooda beat compatriot Smit Toshniwal, 21-18, 21-11, to claim the women's singles title at 2022 Odisha Open badminton tournament. The 14-year old Unnati is the youngest Indian to win the US\$75,000 tournament. In men's singles, India's 21-year-old Kiran George beat Priyanshu Rajawat 21-15, 14-21, 21-18 to emerge as the winner. The 2022 Odisha Open is a **BWF Super 100 tournament**, organised at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Cuttack**, Odisha from January 25 to 30, 2022.

Argentina beat Chile 4-2 to secure 6th Pan Am Women Cup Hockey Championship

Argentina defeated Chile, 4-2 to win its 6th women's field hockey championship title at the **2022 Women's Pan American Cup**. The Women's Pan American Cup is the **quadrennial** international championship of the Americas organized by Pan American Hockey Federation. The 2022 Women's Pan Am Cup was the **sixth edition** of the championship. It was held from January 19 to 29, 2022 in **Santiago, Chile**. With this win both Argentina and Chile has sealed automatic qualification spots at the **FIH Hockey Women's World Cup, Spain and Netherlands 2022**.

Educationist/social leader Baba Iqbal Singh Ji passes away

Shri Iqbal Singh Kingra who was an **Indian socio-spiritual leader of the Sikh community** and an educationalist passed away at the age of 95 years. He was conferred with the Padma Shri in 2022 for his contributions in the field of social work. He established Eternal University in 2008 and Akal University, Guru ki Kashi in 2015.