

Current Affairs:09.02.2022

RBI to observe February 14-18, 2022 as Financial Literacy week 2022

The Reserve Bank of India will observe **February 14-18, 2022 as Financial Literacy week 2022**. The **theme of Financial Literacy week 2022 is: "Go Digital, Go Secure"**. The theme is aligned with one of the strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025.

The focus of FLW this year will be on the following three topics with a view to ensure safe and secure Digital Transactions:

- i. Convenience of digital transactions
- ii. Security / feel secure and no fear for digital transactions
- iii. Protection to customers

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been conducting Financial Literacy Week (FLW) **every year since 2016** to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme across the country.

PM CARES Fund corpus triples to Rs 10,990.17 crore in FY 2020-21

The total corpus under the **PM CARES Funds in 2020-21 was Rs 10,990.17 crore**. While **Rs 3,976.17 crore was spent from the fund in 2020-21**, according to the latest audited statement of PM CARES Funds. As on March 31, 2021, **the Fund had an unspent balance of Rs 7,013.99 crore**. The highest amount was spent on Procurement of 6.6 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccine i.e. Rs 1,392.82 crore. The Fund was established on March 27, 2020. PM CARES fund is a dedicated national fund with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation, like posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund.

NITI Aayog and USAID announces partnership under SAMRIDH initiative to Accelerate Health Innovation and Entrepreneurship in India

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have announced a new partnership under the Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (**SAMRIDH**) initiative. **Purpose:** It aims to improve access to affordable and quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and rural and tribal regions. Under this partnership, AIM and SAMRIDH have announced a Call for Proposals for healthcare innovators and entrepreneurs in India. Through this initiative, **they will focus on innovations across the healthcare landscape**.

J&K becomes the first Union Territory to be integrated with National Single Window System

Jammu & Kashmir has become the **first Union Territory** to be **integrated with the National Single Window System (NSWS)**. National Single Window System (NSWS) was **launched in September 2021 by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry**. It is a digital platform that serves as a guide for investors to identify and to apply for approvals as per their business requirements. NSWS will eliminate the need for investors to visit multiple platforms/offices to gather information and obtain clearances from different stakeholders.

As on date **14 States/UTs have been onboarded on NSWS** These are- Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

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PMKSY extended till March 2026 with an allocation of Rs 4,600 crore

The 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)' has been extended till March 2026 with an allocation of Rs 4,600 crore. The scheme is administered by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. The scheme aims for overall growth and development of food processing sector. In May 2017, the Central Government had launched SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) with an allocation of Rs 6,000 crore. The scheme was renamed as PMKSY in August 2017.

Dr S Unnikrishnan Nair has been appointed as director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)

Dr S Unnikrishnan Nair has been appointed as the new director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC). He will replace S Somanath, who recently took over as the chairman of ISRO. VSSC is a space research center of the Indian Space Research Organisation.

Amitabh Bachchan appointed as brand ambassador of MediBuddy

Amitabh Bachchan has been appointed as the official brand ambassador of MediBuddy. MediBuddy is one of India's largest digital healthcare platforms.

Jammu and Kashmir tops India Press Freedom Report 2021

Jammu and Kashmir has topped the list of States and Union Territories where journalists and media houses were targeted in 2021 as per the India Press Freedom Report 2021. The report was released by the Rights and Risks Analysis Group (RRAG) which is a New Delhi-based rights group. The highest number of journalists or media organizations targeted was in J&K (25), followed by Uttar Pradesh (23), Madhya Pradesh (16), Tripura (15), Delhi (8), Bihar (6), Assam (5), Haryana and Maharashtra (4 each), Goa and Manipur (3 each), Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal (2 each), and Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Kerala (1 each).

India tops in terms of digital skills readiness as per Salesforce Global Index

India has scored the highest on digital readiness among the 19 countries that were surveyed as part of the Salesforce Global Index. This index measures global employee sentiments and readiness to acquire the key digital skills needed by businesses today and over the next five years. India had the highest digital readiness score of 63 out of 100, with 72% of respondents saying they were actively learning digital skills to prepare themselves for the future of work.

NASA plans to retire the International Space Station by 2031 by crashing it into the Pacific Ocean

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has announced its plan that the International Space Station will be kept operated until the end of 2030, after which the ISS would be crashed into a remote part of the Pacific Ocean known as Point Nemo. The report released by NASA said that its budget estimate assumed that the deorbit would happen in January 2031. ISS is the world's largest habitable artificial satellite in space and was launched in 2000, being managed by five space agencies- NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada).

RBI emerged as the second-largest buyer of Gold among the world's Central Banks in 2021

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has emerged as the second-largest buyer of Gold among the world's Central Banks in 2021. RBI bought 77.5 metric tonnes in 2021 taking its total gold reserve to 754.1 tonnes at the end of December 2021.

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Central Bank of Thailand (Bank of Thailand) was the highest buyer of Gold in 2021 and bought 90 metric tonnes of gold. As per Goldhub, India's

official gold reserves is ninth-largest in the world. Goldhub is the official website of World Gold Council that maintains all the data regarding precious metal.

SEBI directs AMC's to set up audit committee with minimum three directors

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has directed the mutual fund (MF) industry to set up an audit committee at the asset management company (AMC) level. The audit committee will require a minimum of three directors and at least two-third of them shall be independent directors of the AMC. Currently, such a committee is set up by the trustee of a fund house.

Instagram launches 'Take a Break' campaign to encourage breaks from social media

Instagram has announced a new campaign named 'Take a Break' that will alert users scrolling on Instagram to periodically take breaks from the platform and focus on other things. This campaign has been launched by Instagram in India and various other countries. The platform will also alert users of the new inclusion with a notification.

India's first biomass-based hydrogen plant to come up at Madhya Pradesh

India's first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant will come up at Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh. Every day this plant will produce one tonne of hydrogen, from 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock. The plant is being put up by a joint venture of Watomo Energies Ltd and Biezel Green Energy. "Thermally accelerated anaerobic digestion (TAD) reactor" is a technology that can produce hydrogen, methane and biochar from biomass.

Sanjay Malhotra appointed DFS Secretary in Finance Ministry

Sanjay Malhotra has been appointed as Secretary in the Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance. He is a 1990 batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre. Before this, Sanjay Malhotra was Chairman and Managing Director of REC Ltd. He has succeeded Debashish Panda, who completed his term as DFS Secretary on January 31, 2022.

NATO chief, Jens Stoltenberg to head Norway central bank

Jens Stoltenberg will be appointed as the Governor of Norges Bank i.e. the Central Bank of Norway at the end of 2022. Jens Stoltenberg is the Secretary-General at North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and his term at NATO ends on October 01, 2022.

Akshay Kumar appointed as brand ambassador of Uttarakhand

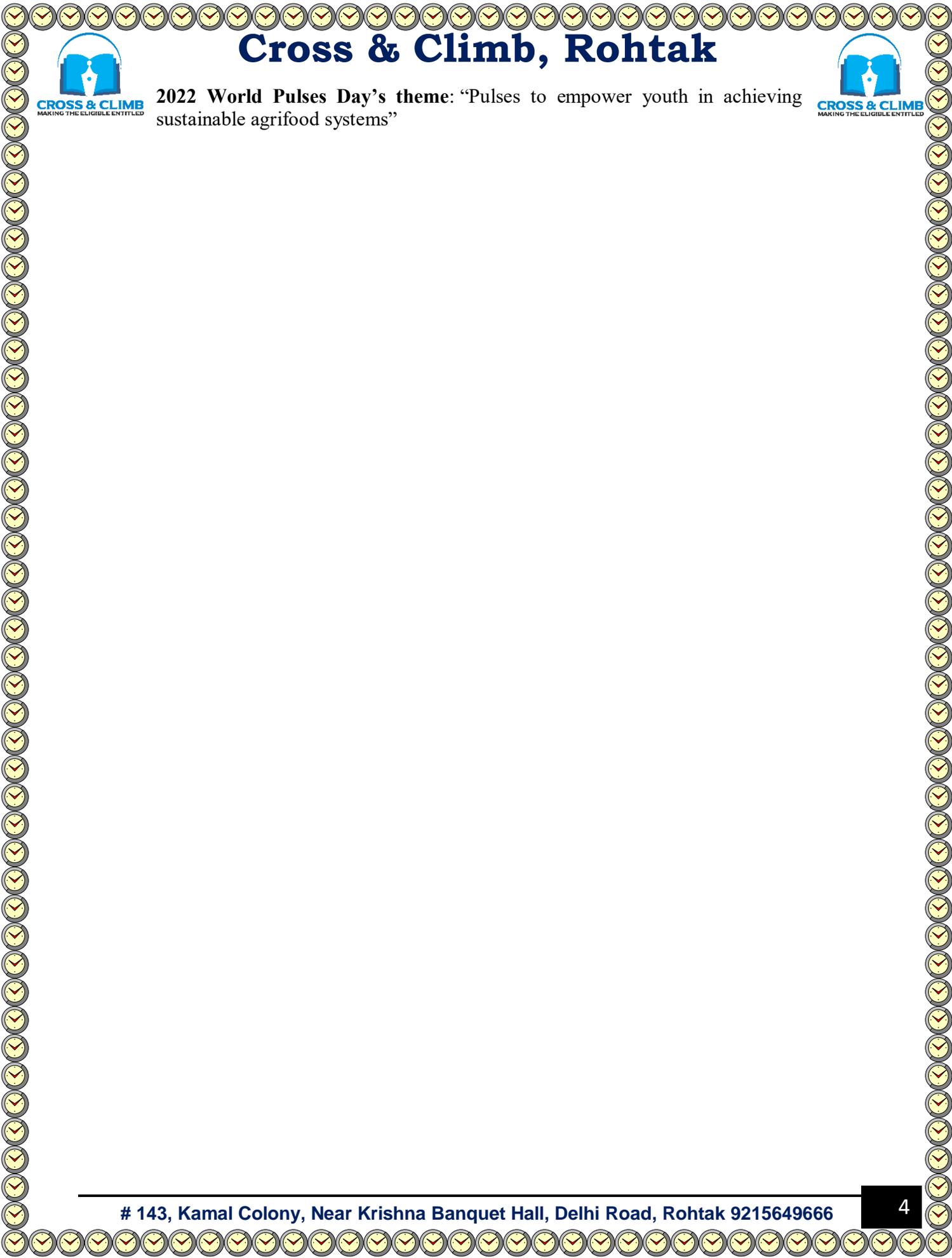
Bollywood actor, Akshay Kumar has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Indian state of Uttarakhand. This announcement was made by the chief minister of Uttarakhand Pushkar Singh Dhami ahead of Assembly Elections 2022. In 2021, cricketer Rishabh Pant was also appointed as Uttarakhand's brand ambassador.

Safer Internet Day: 08 February 2022

Safer Internet Day is observed every year on the second day of the second week of February with the aim of providing a safer and better internet. This year in 2022, Safer Internet Day falls on 08 February 2022. Theme of Safer Internet Day 2022: "Together for a better internet"

World Pulses Day: 10 February 2022

Every year World Pulses Day is celebrated on 10 February to spread public awareness of the nutritional and environmental benefits of pulses as part of sustainable food production.



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2022 World Pulses Day's theme: "Pulses to empower youth in achieving sustainable agrifood systems"