

Weekly One Liners 07th to 13th of February 2022

RBI Monetary Policy: RBI keeps Repo Rate unchanged at 4.0 per cent

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das** kept the repo rate unchanged at **4 per cent** for the **10th** consecutive time while maintaining an 'accommodative stance' as long as necessary. The reverse repo rate will continue to be **3.35 per cent**. The central bank had last revised the policy rate on May 22, 2020, in an off-policy cycle to perk up demand by cutting the interest rate to a historic low. Reserve Bank of India conducted the 6th and the last Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting for 2021-22 between **February 8-10, 2022**. The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during **April 6-8, 2022**.

The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and bank rates remain unchanged:

- Policy Repo Rate: 4.00%
- Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 4.25%
- Bank Rate: 4.25%
- CRR: 4%
- SLR: 18.00%

RBI Monetary Policy Highlights & Key Decisions:

- The MPC decided to continue with the **accommodative stance**.
- RBI has projected the real **GDP growth for 2022-23 at 7.8 per cent**.
- For the current fiscal year, RBI projected real GDP growth of **9.2 per cent** and expects that it will take the economy above the pre-pandemic level.
- For the current fiscal year, RBI retained its retail inflation projection at **5.3 per cent**.
- MPC has been given the mandate to maintain annual inflation at 4 per cent until March 31, 2026, with an upper tolerance of 6 per cent and lower tolerance of 2 per cent.



U19 World Cup 2022: India beat England in final to win 5th title

India defeated **England** by four wickets to clinch a record-extending **fifth title** at the **Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua**. India added the fifth title to their collection, having previously won the trophy in **2000, 2008, 2012, 2018**. **Yash Dhull** becomes the fifth Indian captain to win the title after **Mohammad Kaif, Virat Kohli, Unmukt Chand and Prithvi Shaw**. Earlier, England opted to bat after winning the toss but they were shot out by India for **189 in 44.5 overs**. India chases down the target of 190 with 2.2 overs to spare.

Player of the Match:

India's **Raj Angad Bawa** was announced **Player of the Match of the ICC Under19 World Cup 2022** Final between India and England. The Indian all-rounder picked 5/31, the best bowling figures for any final in the history of the championship and also scored crucial 35 runs with the bat to help his team in its 4 wicket win.

Player of the series:

South Africa's **Dewald Brevis** who broke all records to score **506 runs** in only six innings, the most for any batter in any **Under19 World Cup ever**, was named Player of the Series for his record-breaking showing.

India U19 Playing XI:

Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Harnoor Singh, Shaik Rasheed, Yash Dhull (c), Nishant Sindhu, Raj Bawa, Kaushal Tambe, Dinesh Bana (wk), Rajvardhan Hangargekar, Vicky Ostwal, Ravi Kumar

National Women's Day of India 2022

Indian National Women's Day is observed every year on **13 February** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Sarojini Naidu**. This year Nation celebrates its 143rd Birth Anniversary. She was born on February 13, 1879. She was famous for her nickname '**Nightingale of India**' or '**Bharat Kokila**' because of her poems. Sarojini Naidu is well-known across the globe for her contributions to literature.

About Sarojini Naidu:

- Sarojini Naidu, born in Hyderabad and educated in Cambridge was the powerful face of Women in the Indian Independence struggle.
- Anti-imperialistic, Universal Suffragist, Women rights activist Mrs. Naidu paved the path for women's movements in India.

- Indian Nightangle Sarojini Naidu shines both as an activist and as a poet.
- In 1925 Sarojini Naidu became the **president of the Indian National Congress**.
- Sarojini Naidu was one of the forefront leaders who led the **Civil Disobedience Movement and the Quit India Movement**.
- When she graces the **United Provinces as Governor in 1947**, she rewrites the history by becoming the first woman to hold the office of Governor in the Dominion of India.
- For Women's Rights, suffrage and representation in organizations and assemblies she established the Women's India Association in 1917

National Affairs

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **50th Anniversary celebrations of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)** in Patancheru, Hyderabad. During the occasion, PM also inaugurated two research facilities of ICRISAT, which were Climate Change Research Facility on Plant Protection and Rapid Generation Advancement Facility.
- **India** has become the first country in the world to administer a **DNA vaccine against COVID-19**. The **ZyCoV-D** which is the World's first plasmid DNA vaccine has been produced by Ahmedabad-based vaccine manufacturer **Zydus Cadila** and it was administered for the first time in Patna.
- **Indian Railway Protection Force** has launched a nationwide operation to curb human trafficking. As part of "**Operation AAHT**", special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes with a focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers.
- India's first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant will come up at the **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** with an investment of **Rs 24 crore**.
- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has launched the '**JIVA programme**' to promote natural farming under its existing watershed and wadi programmes in 11 states. To effectively implement the principles of agroecology long-term sustainability and transform the pre-existing social and natural capital towards efficient farming.

States in the News

- The **government of India (GoI)** has approved the renaming of 3 places in Madhya Pradesh, **Hoshangabad Nagar as "Narmadapuram", Shivpuri as "Kundeshwar Dham" and Babai as "Makhan Nagar"**.
- **West Bengal government** has launched an open-air classroom programme **Paray Shikshalaya** (Neighbourhood Schools) for primary and pre-primary students. Under the 'Paray Shikshalaya' project, primary and pre-primary students of government schools will be taught in open spaces.
- **Kerala Government** has signed an MoU with the **Social Alpha's Energy Lab - "Clean Energy International Incubation Centre (CEIIC)"** to support innovative and clean energy technology programmes in Kerala. The Government of Kerala signed this agreement through **Kerala Development & Innovation Strategy Council (KDISC)** and **Energy Management Centre (EMC)**.
- Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, **Pushkar Singh Dhama** has appointed Bollywood actor **Akshay Kumar** as the brand ambassador of **Uttarakhand ahead of the 2022 Assembly Elections**. In 2017, Akshay Kumar was appointed as Uttarakhand's brand ambassador for '**Swachhata Abhiyan**'.
- Chief Minister of Gujarat, **Bhupendra Patel** has announced a new **IT/ITeS policy** for the next five years. This policy will provide financial incentives up to **Rs 200 crore** to the entities willing to incur capital expenditures. It will also generate employment of about **1 lakh youths**.
- The **Government of Telangana** and the **British Council**, an international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural exchange, have signed a 3-year MoU to renew the partnership in **education, English and arts**. To facilitate research between institutions and assist to expand higher education globally, to offer global opportunities for the youth of Telangana.

International Affairs

- The **United Kingdom** has marked the **70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's rule**, the queen looked to the future of the monarchy. She surpassed **Louis XIV of France** as the longest-reigning monarch of a sovereign state. She became the longest-lived British monarch on 21 December 2007.

- **Instagram** has announced the launch of 'Take a Break' in all countries, including India, to empower people to make informed decisions about the way they are spending their time. This feature will be promoted in India through a campaign, in partnership with 'We The Young', called 'Break Zaroori Hai'. 'Take a Break' was first launched in the US, UK, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, and it is now available for everyone globally.
- **India** has agreed to provide a grant to **Sri Lanka** to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity framework', apparently modelled on the **Aadhaar card**. The Rajapaksa government will "prioritise" the implementation of the Framework as a national-level programme.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company** has signed an agreement with **Cars24 Financial Services Private Limited (CARS24 Financial Services)** to provide motor insurance services to used car buyers. Under the partnership, used car buyers from Cars24 will be directly provided with Kotak General Insurance's comprehensive motor insurance plans.
- **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has tied up with **Policybazaar** to digitally offer a wide range of Life Insurance and investment products to its customers across India. This is LIC's first association with a private insurance aggregator, which has mainly relied on its 1.33 million agents for distributing products. To facilitate seamless digital distribution of life insurance products and boost financial inclusion across 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.
- A global IT Services, and Technology Solutions Company, **Sonata Software** has announced its partnership with **Microsoft** for its launch of 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail'. The company has been a partner with Microsoft for over three decades. The 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail' collaboration is expected to further strengthen the relationship.

- **Amazon India** signed an MoU with **Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS)** to support the growth of women entrepreneurs. Amazon India will launch 'Sanjeevini-KSRLPS' in its platform and extend benefits of the 'Saheli' Programme to train and empower thousands of rural women entrepreneurs and also provide online access to a wider market for their products. The Saheli Programme offers training and skill development workshops to help women entrepreneurs.

Books and Authors

- A book titled "Atal Bihari Vajpayee" authored by **Sagarika Ghose** has been launched. It is a biography of the former Prime Minister of India. Sagarika Ghose is a journalist. She has also authored a book titled "Indira: India's Most Powerful Prime Minister".
- Ambassador **Rajiv Kumar Bhatia**, a Distinguished Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies Programme at Gateway House, has authored a new book (his 3rd book) titled "India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons" which explores the emergence and assertion of Africa as a significant actor and stakeholder in global affairs and the transformation of the relationship between India and Africa.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The **Government of India** has done a conversion switch transaction of its securities with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for an amount of **1,19,701 crores (face value)**. The transaction involved buying back securities that are being matured in **FY 2022-23, FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25** from the RBI and also issuing fresh securities for equivalent market value, to make the transaction cash neutral.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** will observe **February 14-18, 2022** as **Financial Literacy week 2022**. 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.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** had introduced the **Voluntary Retention Route (VRR)** for investments by **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** in debts in 2019 with an investment limit of Rs 1,50,000 crore. Out of this, around **Rs, 1,49,995 crore** have been availed so far in three tranches. Now RBI has increased this investment limit in VRR from **Rs. 1,50,000 crore to Rs. 2,50,000 crore**.

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has announced a partnership with **NSE Academy** to launch five online courses that promote financial literacy as a necessary life skill. The courses curated by SBI are a good blend of theory and operational aspects which will enable learners to have a deeper understanding of the fundamentals of banking, compliance, lending norms and a host of other topics.
- The largest buyer, the **Central Bank of Thailand**, bought **90 metric tonnes of gold** while RBI bought 77.5 metric tonnes taking its total gold reserve to 754.1 tonnes at the end of December 2021. When it comes to gold buying, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) emerged as the second-largest buyer of yellow metal among the world's Central Banks in 2021.
- As per the data official released by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, it provided a record **USD 4.6 billion** in sovereign lending to India in 2021. This included USD 1.8 billion towards coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic response. The ADB's regular funding programme to India is made to support transport, urban development, finance, agriculture, and skills building.
- **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** has partnered with **Airtel Payments Bank** to offer cyber insurance to customers of the bank. This Cyber Insurance policy provides financial protection to customers against potential financial fraud relating to banking, credit or debit card; identity theft; phishing or email spoofing etc. Airtel Payments Bank customers can purchase this cyber insurance policy within minutes using the Airtel Thanks app.
- **Razorpay** has expanded into South-East Asia with the acquisition of a majority stake in a Malaysian fintech firm **Curlec**, valuing the company between **\$19-20 million**. Razorpay expects to complete the full acquisition in the next one-and-a-half years. The Kuala Lumpur-based, Curlec builds solutions for recurring payments for businesses. This marks Razorpay's fourth acquisition overall and its first in the international markets.



Appointments/Resignations

- Professor **Dinesh Prasad Saklani** has been appointed as the new **Director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**. He has replaced **Hrushikesh Senapaty**, who finished his term a year ago.
- The **Ministry of Education (MoE)** has appointed **Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit** as the new **Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)**. She is the first women Vice-Chancellor of JNU.
- **S. R. Narasimhan**, Director (System Operation) has assumed the additional charge of the post of **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO)** w.e.f. 1st February 2022 at New Delhi.
- Scientist and launch vehicle specialist, **Dr S Unnikrishnan Nair** took charge as the director of **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**. VSSC is a key space research centre of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro)** and specialises in rocket and space vehicles for satellite programs.
- **MediBuddy**, one of India's largest digital healthcare platforms, has signed legendary Bollywood star **Amitabh Bachchan** as the official brand ambassador. As part of the deal, Bachchan will be seen endorsing various services available on the platform, while highlighting the need to prioritise one's health.
- **Bata India Limited** has appointed Bollywood actress, **Disha Patani** as its Brand Ambassador. She will promote the brand and strengthen the youth connection to enhance footwear fashion among them.
- **Pfizer India** has appointed **Pradip Shah** as the chairman of its board following the resignation of **RA Shah**. He is the ex-managing director and a founding member of **Crisil**. Prior to founding Crisil, he assisted in founding HDFC in 1977. He has also served as a consultant to USAID, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank.
- **Sanjay Malhotra** has been named 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.
- Senior bureaucrat **S. Kishore** has been appointed as Chairman, **Staff Selection Commission (SSC)**. Presently, he is serving as **Special Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

- According to the Law Ministry, Justice **Munishwar Nath Bhandari** has been appointed Chief Justice of the **Madras High Court**. Justice Bhandari had taken over as the Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court after the transfer of Justice **Sanjib Banerjee** to the Meghalaya High Court in November last year.
- The board of **Tata Sons Pvt Ltd** has approved the re-appointment of **N Chandrasekaran** as the Executive Chairman of the company for the **second five years term**.

Schemes and Committees News

- The **Central Government of India** has decided to continue the scheme of **“Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK)”** for another **5 years** from 2021 -22 to 2025-26 with an outlay of **Rs. 2,710.65 crore**. To develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation-building activities. Beneficiaries of this scheme are the youth in the age group of 15 to 29 years (according to the definition of ‘youth’ in the National Youth Policy, 2014).
- 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 government has used a part of the money to buy medical equipment, including ventilators, to boost the battle against the COVID-19 and has also provided relief to migrants.
- 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 the overall growth and development of the 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.
- **Securities and Exchange Board of India** has restructured its advisory committee on **Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF)**, under the chairmanship of **G Mahalingam**. The committee is mandated to recommend investor education and protection activities for the utilization of the **SEBI Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF)**.

Defence News

- **India’s Goa Shipyard Ltd** delivered the 5th and final vessel of the **5 Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vehicle (CGOPV) Project** ahead of contractual schedule. The vessel was named **ICGS ‘Saksham’**. The point to be underlined- all 5 vessels have been delivered before time to the Indian Coast Guard. The contract for 5 CGOPVs was signed by GSL with the Ministry of Defence on 26 August 2016.

Awards and Recognitions

- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari** will be facilitated for the first time with the **18th late Madhavrao Limaye award** in the category of Karyakram Khaasdar (Efficient Member of Parliament) for the year 2020-21. This award will be facilitated by Nashik Public Library, **Sarvajanik Vachanalay**. Earlier, the award was given to **Karyaksham Aamdaar**, an efficient Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Maharashtra.

Summit and Conference

- **NITI Aayog**, in collaboration with **PhonePe, AWS and EY**, has organized a three-week-long virtual summit, **‘Fintech Open’, from 7-28 February**. The summit was inaugurated by Union Minister for Railways, Communications, and Electronics and IT, **Ashwini Vaishnaw** in the presence of NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar.
- The Union Ministry of Culture will organize a first-of-its-kind **Global Summit on ‘Reimagining Museums in India’** on February 15-16, 2022. The summit will be inaugurated by Union Culture Minister **G. Kishan Reddy**. The Global Summit is being organised in partnership with **Bloomberg**. The virtual summit will be conducted with four broad themes: **Architecture and Functional Needs, Management, Collections Curation & Conservation practices) and Education and Audience Engagement**.
- Union Minister of Power, **R K Singh** has launched **Powerthon-2022**, a hackathon competition to find technology-driven solutions to solve the complex problems in power distribution and to ensure quality and reliable power supply. The competition will bring together qualified mentors with TSPs, innovators, and other participants to create teams for efficient electricity networks.

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has addressed the high-level segment of the **One Ocean Summit**. The high-level segment of the summit will also be addressed by several other heads of states and governments including **Germany, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan and Canada**.

Ranks and Reports

- The **India Press Freedom Report 2021** was recently released by the **Rights and Risks Analysis Group**. According to the report, 13 media houses and newspapers were targeted in the country, 108 journalists were attacked, and 6 journalists were killed. **Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura** topped the list of States and Union Territories where journalists and media houses were targeted in 2021.
- **Salesforce**, a leading player in **Customer Relationship Management (CRM)**, published the **Global Digital Skills Index 2022** which highlights the growing global digital skills crisis and the need for action. **India** has scored **63 out of 100**, leads the digital skills readiness, and has the highest readiness index among the 19 countries. The average global readiness score was 33 out of 100.
- In accordance with the **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**, **Gautam Adani** net worth reached **\$88.5 billion** overtaking **Mukesh Ambani's \$87.9 billion** becoming Asia's richest person as on 8th February 2022. With a nearly \$12 billion jump in his personal wealth, he has become the 10th richest person in the world. Globally **Elon Musk** was named as the world's richest person with a total net worth of **\$235 Billion**. He was followed by **Jeff Bezos** with a total net worth of **\$183 Billion & Bernard Arnault** with a total net worth of \$168 Billion.
- As per the **TomTom Traffic Index Ranking 2021**, **Mumbai** has been ranked at 5th, **Bengaluru** at 10th in terms of the most congested cities in the world in 2021. Delhi and Pune ranked 11th and 21st among 404 cities across 58 countries, according to TomTom Traffic Index's global top 25 lists. **Istanbul, Turkey** has been declared as the most congested city in the world as per the ranking. while Moscow came in second.

Science and Technology News

- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Hyderabad)** has launched the beta version of '**Swarajability**', a job portal powered by artificial intelligence that helps people with disabilities acquire relevant skills and find jobs. The platform will analyse the profiles of the job seekers and suggest the skills they would require to become eligible. A platform that addressed this challenge would help this vulnerable section of the population.
- According to **NASA**, the **International Space Station** will continue its operation until **2031** and then crash into an uninhabited area in the Pacific Ocean known as Point Nemo. It will be replaced with three free-flying space stations to continue the work after ISS's retirement. NASA also selected Houston-based Axiom Space to provide the ISS's first commercial module.
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has decommissioned the **INSAT-4B**, an Indian communications satellite that forms part of the **Indian National Satellite System**. The INSAT-4B underwent **Post Mission Disposal (PMD)** at the end of its service, followed by decommissioning on January 24. INSAT-4B is the 21st Indian Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO) satellite to undergo post-mission disposal, the required propellant for such re-orbiting was included in the initial fuel budget as a part of standard practice followed in ISRO's GEO mission planning.

Sports News

- Rajasthan Chief Minister, **Ashok Gehlot** and BCCI President **Sourav Ganguly** laid the foundation stone of the world's third-largest cricket stadium in **Jaipur**. The International Cricket Stadium in Jaipur will be the second-largest cricket stadium in India and the third-largest in the world. Currently, **Narendra Modi Stadium (former Motera Stadium)** in Ahmedabad is the world's largest stadium with a capacity of 132,000 spectators. The second-largest stadium is **Australia's Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)** which has a capacity of 1,00,024 spectators.
- **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has approved a proposal to include **Surfing, Skateboarding and Sport Climbing** for the **2028 Summer Olympics Games** that will be organized in **Los Angeles, United States**. The 2028 Summer Olympics are officially known as the Games of the XXXIV Olympiad, or Los Angeles 2028 is a forthcoming event scheduled to take place from July 21 – August 6, 2028, in Los Angeles, California, US.

- **China PR (People's Republic)** defeated **South Korea** (Korea Republic), 3-2, to win the **AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 final title** at the D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai. This is the record-extending 9th AFC Women's Asian Cup title won by China.
- Veteran **Sri Lankan** fast bowler **Suranga Lakmal** has announced to retire from international cricket, after Sri Lanka's upcoming tour of India. The 34-year-old right-arm fast bowler and right-handed batsman aim to join the **English county club Derbyshire** after retirement.
- **Senegal** has defeated **Egypt** in the **Africa Cup of Nations championship** winning the continental championship for the first time on penalty kicks at **Olembe Stadium in Yaoundé, Cameroon**.
- **Gujarat Titans** is the official name of the new **Ahmedabad franchise** owned by CVC Capital as **Hardik Pandya** is all set to lead the franchise in the **Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022**. The naming of the Ahmedabad franchise comes days after Lucknow, owned by RPSG Group, announced its official name as **Lucknow Super Giants**. The Lucknow team will be led by **KL Rahul**.
- The United Nations designated **World Pulses Day** is observed every year on **10 February**. The day has been established by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations to recognize the importance of pulses (dry beans, lentils, dry peas, chickpeas, lupins) as a global food. This year World Pulses Day's theme: "**Pulses to empower youth in achieving sustainable agrifood systems**".
- **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** is observed globally on **11 February**. The **7th International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly**, taking place on **11 February 2022**, aims to recognize the role of women and girls in science, not only as beneficiaries but also as agents of change, including in view of accelerating progress towards the achievement of SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). The 2022 theme of the Day is "**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Water Unites Us**".
- **World Unani Day** is observed on **February 11** every year to mark the birth anniversary of "**Hakim Ajmal Khan**", an eminent Indian Unani physician. The first Unani Day was celebrated in **2017** at the **Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine (CRIUM), Hyderabad**.
- **National Deworming Day** is observed on **February 10**, to make people aware of the importance of deworming, particularly for children **from 1 to 19 years of age**, who are the most vulnerable. The Day was launched by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015**.
- **National Productivity Day** is observed every year in India on **February 12**. The objective of the National Productivity Council is to stimulate and promote productivity and quality consciousness across all sectors in the country. The main observance of the day is to encourage all stakeholders in the implementation of productivity tools and techniques with contemporary relevant themes.

Important Days

- **International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female** is observed on **6th February** globally. This day is sponsored by the United Nations for their efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation. It was first introduced in 2003. This year theme of International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female: **Accelerating Investment to End Female Genital Mutilation**.
- **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, where every user gets to use the internet responsibly and without getting their data leaked. This year **February 8** is being celebrated as Safer Internet Day across the world. This year marks the **19th edition** of Safer Internet Day with actions taking place right across the globe. This year, the occasion is being marked under the theme "**Together for a better internet**", calling upon all stakeholders to join together to make the internet a safer and better place for all, and especially for children and young people.



- **World Radio Day** is celebrated on **13 February** each year to recognize radio as a powerful medium, which brings people together from every corner of the globe, to promote diversity and help build a more peaceful and inclusive world.

Obituaries

- Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, **Chandupatla Janga Reddy** has passed away in Hyderabad following health issues. He was a native of Warangal and a former MLA in Andhra Pradesh. He is best known for his time as a Member of Parliament in the **8th Lok Sabha in 1984**, which also marked the BJP's debut in the Lok Sabha, following Indira Gandhi's assassination.
- Former Greek President **Christos Sartzetakis** has passed away at the age of 92 years due to respiratory failure in Athens, Greece. He was a Greek jurist and a judge of the Supreme Court, who resisted against the militants during the **1967-1974 Rule of the Colonels**.
- Professor **R Rajamohan**, who was an astronomer at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, for decades, passed away. He is best known for his **Kalki Project**, which aimed to discover asteroids using the 48-cm Schmidt telescope in Kavalur VBO and discovered a new asteroid, number 4130, from India. This was the first asteroid discovered in **India in 104 years**.
- Padma Shri awardee and social worker, **Ibrahim Sutar** has passed away in Karnataka following a cardiac arrest. Fondly referred to as the "**Kabir of Kannada**", Sutar was known for his work towards spreading social and communal harmony.
- Actor-athlete **Praveen Kumar Sobti**, best known for playing **Bheem** in the TV series "**Mahabharat**" and for winning an Asian Games gold medal, passed away. He represented the country across various athletic events in hammer and discus throw and even won four medals at the Asian Games, including two gold medals in 1966 and 1970.
- Legendary singer **Lata Mangeshkar** has passed away at the age of 92 after suffering a multi-organ failure. The Bharat Ratna awardee was admitted to the hospital after being diagnosed with pneumonia and tested positive for the coronavirus disease in January. She is survived by her 3 sisters – **Usha Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Meena Khadikar** and brother **Hridaynath Mangeshkar**.

Miscellaneous News

- **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** has cancelled the "**Khadi Certification**" of its oldest Khadi Institution named **Mumbai Khadi & Village Industries Association (MKVIA)**. This MKVIA was running the popular "**Khadi Emporium**" at Metropolitan Insurance House, Mumbai since 1954.
- The ancient **festival of Kanchoth** is annually celebrated, mainly by the Nag followers, during the **Shukla Paksha of Magh** month which usually falls in January or February. The festival is celebrated with religious fervour across the Chenab valley region of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- The **Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project** will be India's first bullet train route. While **Surat** city will get **India's first bullet train station**. National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) will be constructing this project that is scheduled to be completed by December 2024. The cost of the project is estimated to be more than Rs 1 lakh crore of which Rs 88,000 crores will be funded by the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**.
- **Jammu & Kashmir** has become the **first Union Territory** to integrate with the **National Single Window System (NSWS)** which marks a major leap in **Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)** in the UT. Lieutenant Governor of J&K **Manoj Sinha** launched the J&K Single Window Clearance System integrated with NSWS. NSWS is linked with the **India Industrial Land Bank (IILB)** which hosts 45 industrial parks of J&K that will help Investors to discover available land parcels in J&K.
- **Atal Tunnel** has been officially certified as '**World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 Feet**' by the **World Book of Records**. Atal tunnel is a Highway tunnel built under Rohtang Pass in eastern **Pir Panjal Himalayan range on Leh-Manali Highway**.

Static Takeaways

- ICRISAT Headquarters: Patancheruvu, Hyderabad;
- ICRISAT Founded: 1972;
- ICRISAT Founders: M. S. Swaminathan, C. Fred Bentley, Ralph Cummings.
- Indian Railway Founded: 16 April 1853, India;
- Indian Railway Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Minister of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- Madhya Pradesh Capital: Bhopal;

- Madhya Pradesh Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel;
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- Chief Minister of West Bengal: Mamata Banerjee; Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar.
- Kerala Capital: Thiruvananthapuram;
- Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan;
- Kerala Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan.
- Gujarat Capital: Gandhinagar;
- Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat;
- Gujarat Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel.
- Prime minister of United Kingdom: Boris Johnson.
- Capital of the United Kingdom: London.
- Instagram launched: 6 October 2010;
- Instagram Owner: Meta;
- Instagram Founder Kevin Systrom.
- Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- Kotak Mahindra General Insurance MD & CEO: Suresh Agarwal.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India Founded: 1956;
- Life Insurance Corporation of India Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- Life Insurance Corporation of India Chairperson: M R Kumar.
- Sonata Software Headquarters: Bengaluru;
- Sonata Software Founded: 1986;
- Sonata Software MD & CEO: P. Srikar Reddy;
- Microsoft CEO and Chairman: Satya Nadella;
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.
- Amazon CEO: Andrew R. Jassy;
- Amazon Founded: 5 July 1994;
- Karnataka Capital: Bengaluru;
- Karnataka Chief Minister: Basavaraj S Bommai;
- Karnataka Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot.
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikanta Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955;
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai;
- SBI Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara.
- World Gold Council CEO: David Tait;
- World Gold Council Headquarters: London, United Kingdom;
- World Gold Council Founded: 1987;
- World Gold Council President: Kelvin Dushnisky.
- Asian Development Bank Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines;
- Asian Development Bank President: Masatsugu Asakawa (from 17 January 2020);
- Asian Development Bank Membership: 68 countries;
- Asian Development Bank Founded: 19 December 1966.
- Airtel Payments Bank's MD and CEO: Anubrata Biswas;
- Airtel Payments Bank Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Airtel Payments Bank Founded: January 2017;
- ICICI Lombard General Insurance Headquarter: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- ICICI Lombard General Insurance MD & CEO: Bhargav Dasgupta.
- Razorpay CEO: Harshil Mathur;
- Razorpay Founded: 2013;
- Curlec was founded by Zac Liew and Steve Kucia in 2018.
- NCERT Headquarters: New Delhi;
- NCERT Founder: Government of India;
- NCERT Founded: 1961.
- POSOCO Founded: March 2010;
- POSOCO Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre Founded: 21 November 1963;
- Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre Parent organization: ISRO;
- Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Bata India Limited Founded: 1931;
- Bata India Limited Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana;
- Bata India Limited CEO: Gunjan Shah.
- Staff Selection Commission Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Staff Selection Commission Formation: 4 November 1975.
- International Olympic Committee Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland;
- International Olympic Committee President: Thomas Bach;
- International Olympic Committee Founded: 23 June 1894, Paris, France.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Head: Qu Dongyu.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters: Rome, Italy.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Established: 16 October 1945.
- KVIC Founded: 1956;
- KVIC Headquarters: Mumbai;
- KVIC Chairperson: Vinai Kumar Saxena;

- KVIC Parent agency: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- J&K Lieutenant Governor: Manoj Sinha;
- J&K Formation (Union territory): 31 October 2019.
- NASA administrator: Bill Nelson;
- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States;
- NASA Founded: 1 October 1958.
- Chairman and Space Secretary of ISRO: Dr S Somanath;
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka;
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.
- Director-General of National Productivity Council: Arun Kumar Jha;
- National Productivity Council of India established: 1958;
- National Productivity Council of India HQ: New Delhi.
- Telangana Capital: Hyderabad;
- Telangana Governor: Tamilsai Soundararajan;
- Telangana Chief minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao.
- NABARD Formation: July 12, 1982;
- NABARD Headquarters: Mumbai;
- NABARD Chairman: Govinda Rajulu Chintala.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Founded: 12 April 1992.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Agency executive: Ajay Tyagi.

