

Eazyprep

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

COMPILATION

JANUARY 2022

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January 17

National Affairs

Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel Appointed as Vice President of AIIB

Urjit Patel, a former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has been appointed as Vice President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for a three-year term.

He will be one of the AIIB's five Vice Presidents. From February 2022, he is likely to assume command.

He will take over for outgoing Vice President D J Pandian, who is responsible for the AIIB's sovereign and non-sovereign lending in South Asia, the Pacific Islands, and Southeast Asia.

Quick Fact: Jin Liqun is the current President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Economy

Yes Mutual Fund renamed as White Oak Capital Mutual Fund

YES Asset Management has changed its name to WhiteOak Capital Asset Management, and the YES Mutual Fund has changed its name to WhiteOak Capital Mutual Fund.

The new names will go into effect on January 12, 2022. White Oak was granted a mutual fund licence.

White Oak Capital Group provides investment management and advisory services for over Rs 42,000 crore in equity assets.

Quick Fact: Prashant Kumar is the Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer of YES Bank.

January 18

International Affairs

Abu Dhabi Airport Explosion

On January 17, 2022, a potential drone strike caused an explosion in Abu Dhabi, destroying three oil tankers, while another fire at the Abu Dhabi International Airport killed three people and injured six more.

Quick Fact: Two of the deceased were Indian nationals, while the third was a Pakistani national.

Awards

Winners of the Golden Globes in 2022

The Golden Globe Award winners for 2022 were announced at a private ceremony by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. 'The Power of the Dog,' from Netflix, won Best Film-Drama, while 'West Side Story,' from 20th Century Studios, won Best Film– Musical or Comedy.

Quick Fact: Will Smith received his first Golden Globe. He was crowned best actor in a drama film at the annual award ceremony.

January 19

International Affairs

All of Queen Elizabeth II's and Prince Philip's military and regal titles have been taken away from Prince Andrew, Duke of York, the third child and second son of the Queen and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

After being implicated in a sexual assault controversy, the Royal family member, who was ninth in line of succession to the British monarch, was obliged to surrender all ties with royal titles.

He will no longer be a member of the military or have royal patronage.

Quick Fact: The titles and patronages of Prince Andrew have been returned to his mother, Queen Elizabeth II.

National Affairs

Subhas Sarkar, Minister of State, has launched the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar.

Subhas Sarkar, Minister of State for Education, has virtually launched the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) 2021–2022. The Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar honours, motivates, and rewards schools that have excelled in the areas of water, sanitation, and hygiene, while also serving as a benchmark and road map for schools to develop in the future. The Department of School Education and Literacy first distributed the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar in 2016-17 to encourage self-motivation and raise cleanliness awareness.

Quick Fact: Under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, the prize money for the programme has been set at Rs. 60,000 per school.

Appointments

Roberta Metsola is the new president of the European Parliament.

Roberta Metsola, a Maltese Christian Democrat, has been chosen president of the European Union's parliament. Her victory comes just a week after the unexpected death of outgoing parliament president David Sassoli, who was set to stand down as part of a power-sharing agreement. She is the first woman to be elected to the position. She is the youngest president of the European Parliament. Metsola received 458 of the 616 votes cast as the nominee of the parliament's largest faction.

Quick Fact: The European Union's parliament has its headquarters in Strasbourg, France.

Sports**The Asian Cup for Women's Football will be held in India in 2022.**

From January 20th to January 20th, 2022, India will host the AFC Women's Football Asian Cup India 2022 in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, and Pune. Twelve teams will compete for the trophy in this competition. The AFC Women's Asian Cup in India will also serve as the final stage of Asian qualification for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023, which will be held in Australia and New Zealand. Five teams will automatically qualify for the main tournament, while two will go to the inter-confederation play-offs.

Quick Fact: Japan is the defending Women's Asian Cup winner, having won it in 2018.

Awards

Banking**Axis Bank & CRMNEXT won IBSi Innovation Awards 2021**

The IBS Intelligence (IBSi) Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2021 went to Axis Bank and CRMNEXT Solution for the "Best CRM (Customer Relationship Management) System Implementation." It is one of the most prestigious prizes in the world for global bankers and IT (Information Technology) consultants.

Quick Fact: The chairman of Axis Bank is Shri Rakesh Makhija.

January 20**International Affairs****The first black woman to be featured on a US coin is Maya Angelou, a poet.**

The US Treasury has produced coins honouring poet Maya Angelou, the first black woman to appear on a quarter in the United States. Poet and activist Maya Angelou was the first black woman to write and perform a poem during a presidential inauguration.

The "heads" side of the new coin still depicts George Washington, while the "tails" side pays tribute to Angelou by invoking one of her most famous writings, the autobiography **"I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings."**

Quick Fact: She has been awarded by the President Barack Obama for the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honour in the United States, in 2010.

National Affairs

The Government of India has issued a stamp to commemorate one year of Covid immunisation.

On the first anniversary of the country's national immunisation programme against the virus, India's government produced a commemorative postage stamp on the Covid-19 vaccination on January 16, 2022.

This stamp represents the outstanding work of our frontline healthcare personnel and scientific community in protecting the public from the COVID pandemic across the country.

Quick Fact: The commemorative stamp design depicts a healthcare practitioner administering COVID-19 vaccination to a senior citizen, as well as an image of a 'COVAXIN' vial.

Appointments

AEPC's new chairman is Narendra Kumar Goenka.

The Apparel Export Promotion Council, or AEPC, has named Narendra Kumar Goenka as its new chairman. Padma Dr. A Sakthivel, the previous chairman, handed him the reins.

Under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Textiles, the AEPC is India's official body of clothing exporters, providing crucial help to both Indian exporters and importers/international buyers.

Quick Fact: Mr. Goenka has been a member of the Council for well over two decades. Before becoming Chairman of AEPC, he served as Vice Chairman of the top body of Indian clothing exporters.

Sports

The AISCD has been given permission to host the first World Deaf T20 Cricket Championship in 2023.

The International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) has given the All India Sports Council of the Deaf (AISCD) permission to hold the first World Deaf T20 Cricket Championship in Kerala from January 10 to 20, 2023.

This championship was supposed to take place in 2020-21, but it was postponed first to 2022, then to 2023 owing to a coronavirus outbreak.

The tournament is projected to attract a minimum of eight countries, and it will be the first time that such an international event is hosted in India with ICSD approval."

Quick Fact : The headquarters of the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf is in Maryland, USA

Awards

Mrs. America Shaylyn Ford takes the title crown of Mrs. World 2022.

Shaylyn Ford has won the title crown of Mrs World 2022 while being 37 years old. She was crowned by **Kate Schneider of Ireland, the outgoing queen**. The second and third position went to Mrs. Jordan Jaclyn Stapp and Mrs. UAE Debanjali Kamstra, respectively.

Shaylyn Ford, who represented the United States in the pageant, defeated 57 other women from around the world to win the title.

This was the **8th time** the title Mrs. World has been won by an American representative.

Quick Fact: Shaylyn Ford's native place is in Granville, Ohio, in the United States. On November 19, 2021, she won the annual Mrs. American pageant.

January 21

International Affairs

The Arrow-3 was successfully tested in flight by Israel.

The Arrow-3, which is meant to intercept ballistic missiles beyond the earth's atmosphere, has successfully completed a flight test in Israel.

Israel Aerospace Industries led the test, which was conducted at a test location in central Israel (IAI).

The Missile Defense Organization of the Defense Ministry and the American Missile Defense Agency collaborated on the project.

After months of delays and technical difficulties, the Arrow 3 was successfully tested in February 2018.

Quick Fact: The Arrow-3 has been in development since **2008** and is thought to be one of the most powerful weapons of its kind in the world.

National Affairs

Special Repo Auction by the RBI

Instead of utilising variable rate reverse repo operations (VRRR) to suck out funds, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) performed a variable rate repo operation on January 20, 2022 to infuse liquidity.

Larger goods and services tax (GST) collections recently restricted liquidity, necessitating this action.

The Reserve Bank of India has suggested lending the banking system Rs 50,000 crore in a single day, after receiving bids for Rs 65,700 crore.

Quick Fact: There is a Rs 6 trillion surplus in total system liquidity due to this. This money is sufficient to keep money market rates low.

Sports

India Tennis Star Sania Mirza To Retire After 2022 Season

Sania Mirza, India's most successful female tennis player, will retire at the end of the 2022 season.

In 2013, the 35-year-old had already withdrawn from singles events. On September 26, 2021, she won the Ostrava Open in women's doubles with Chinese partner Shuai Zhang, earning national attention.

Quick Fact: Sania has six Grand Slam doubles and mixed doubles titles to her credit.

Awards

Albert Bourla, CEO of Pfizer, has been awarded a \$1 million Genesis Prize for his work on the COVID-19 vaccine.

Albert Bourla, Chairman and Chief Executive of global pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc., was awarded the prestigious Genesis Prize 2022 on January 19, 2022.

He was recognised for his contributions to the creation of the COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer–BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine). The prize includes a \$1 million cash prize.

Quick Fact: The Genesis Prize is commonly known as the "**Jewish Nobel Prize.**"

Appointments

Chanchal Kumar has been appointed as the new MD of NHIDCL.

Chanchal Kumar has been named Managing Director of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) (MoRTH).

He is given the title of Additional Secretary and is paid accordingly. He is a Bihar cadre IAS officer from the 1992 batch, and he is currently the Principal Secretary to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Quick Fact: The NHIDCL's headquarters are in New Delhi.

January 22

International Affairs

Nusantara is the name given to Indonesia's new capital, which will replace the sinking Jakarta.

Indonesia will relocate its capital to East Kalimantan, a mineral-rich Indonesian province on Borneo's island. It will be based in the North Penajam Paser and Kutai Kartanegara regions of Indonesia. The cost of the new project is expected to be over 466 trillion rupiah (\$32 billion).

Quick Fact: The name Nusantara means "archipelago" in Javanese.

National Affairs

PM Modi will lay the foundation stone for a 216-foot statue of Saint Ramanujacharya.

On February 5, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate a 216-foot statue of Ramanujacharya in a sitting position in Hyderabad to commemorate the saint's 1,000th birthday.

Ramanujacharya was a revolutionary social reformer who lived in the 11th century. It is housed in a 45-acre campus in Shamshabad, Telangana, on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

Quick Fact: The 'Statue of Equality' will be the name of the statue.

Appointments

The new Chairman of the IFFCO is Dileep Sanghani.

Dileep Sanghani has been overwhelmingly elected as the **17th Chairman** of the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO) by the board of directors. Balvinder Singh Nakai, who died on October 11, 2021, will be succeeded by him. Sanghani had previously served as IFFCO's vice-chairman since 2019.

Quick Fact: The Headquarters of IFFCO is in Delhi.

Sports

The Toronto Waterfront Marathon has a new title sponsor: TCS.

Through November 2026, TCS has teamed with Canada Running Series (CRS) to become the new title sponsor and official technology consulting partner of the Toronto Waterfront Marathon and Virtual Race.

Through a new official race app, Tata Consultancy Services and Canada Running Series made an effort to modernise marathon running in Canada.

Quick Fact: It will have a first-of-its-kind environmental impact calculator that will allow runners and spectators to track and offset their influence on the environment.

Awards

Sushmita Sen has been honoured by the International Association of Working Women.

At the Washington DC South Asian Film Festival (DCSAFF) 2021, Bollywood actress Sushmita Sen received the International Association of Working Women Award. For her show 'Aarya 2,' the former Miss Universe received an award for outstanding performance by a female actor in a television series.

Quick Fact: The DC South Asian Film Festival (DCSAFF) features the best in alternative cinema from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet, and Sri Lanka.

Banking

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a framework for offline digital payments.

To drive digital transactions in rural and semi-urban areas, the Reserve Bank of India has developed a framework for allowing small-value digital payments in offline mode utilising cards, wallets, mobile devices, and other methods.

Authorised Payment System Operators (PSOs) and Payment System Participants (PSPs), Acquirers and Issuers (banks and non-banks) will be allowed to undertake small value offline digital payments using the framework.

Quick Fact: An offline payment transaction's top limit was set at ₹200, with a total limit of ₹2,000 at any given moment.

January 24

International Affairs

Mia Mottley, the Prime Minister of Barbados, gets re-elected for a second term.

Following a resounding victory by her party in the 2022 election, Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley was sworn in for a second term on January 20, 2022. Since 2018, she has been the Prime Minister of Barbados. Since 2008, she has been the head of the Barbados Labour Party (BLP).

Quick Fact: Mia Mottley is the country's first female prime minister, as well as the country's first prime minister under the republican system.

National Affairs

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's hologram statue is unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

On Parakram Divas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi erected a hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate. The hologram statue has a height of 28 feet and a width of 6 feet. Once the hologram statue is finished, it will be replaced with a huge granite statue. It is a tribute to his enormous contribution to the country's independence movement and as a symbol of the country's obligation to him.

Quick Fact: The statue is made to mark Netaji's **125th birthday** and was unveiled on **January 23, 2022**.

Appointments

Neeraj Chopra joins GoodDot as a brand ambassador.

GoodDot, a plant-based meat firm, has signed Neeraj Chopra as a brand ambassador. The company hopes to raise awareness about the new category of plant-based meats through this partnership.

The company sells alternatives to mutton, chicken, and eggs. It also wishes to convey the notion that little changes in lifestyle and dietary choices may make a big difference in the world.

Quick Fact: GoodDot is a Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) player, selling through **Amazon, Flipkart, and other online marketplaces**.

Sports

PV Sindhu won the Syed Modi badminton 2022 championship.

PV Sindhu, an ace Indian shuttler, has won the Syed Modi International Tournament's women's singles title in Lucknow.

Sindhu won her second Syed Modi title after defeating fellow Indian Malvika Bansod 21-13 21-16 in 2017.

From January 18 to 23, 2022, the Syed Modi International badminton competition was held in Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Quick Fact: The Women's doubles title was won by **Anna Cheong and Teoh Mei Xing** (Malaysia)

Awards

PM Narendra Modi presented the 'Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar'

During the investiture ceremony of hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose the prime minister presented the 'Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar' for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

A total of seven awards were given out. The Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar has been awarded to **Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (in the Institutional category) and Professor Vinod Sharma (in the Individual category)** for their outstanding contributions to disaster management in the year 2022.

Quick Fact: The annual award was established by the Union government and a cash prize of **₹51 lakhs** is given if the awardee is an **institution** and **₹ 5 lakhs** for an **individual** awardee

January 25

International Affairs

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) spends USD 150 million in data center development to serve growing Asia.

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), a multilateral development bank, has pledged USD 150 million to invest in data center expansion in emerging Asia.

This will be AIIB's first data center project. India is one of AIIB's founding members. The final close of KDCF II, a development fund making strategic investments in the fast-growing data center sector with a focus on Asia Pacific, is marked by AIIB's contribution of USD 100 million through a parallel fund structure and USD 50 million through co-investments.

National Affairs

Quick Fact: in total AIIB has **105** member nations.

National Affairs

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2022 awarded to 29 children

The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) has been awarded to 29 children for the year 2022. There are 15 boys and 14 girls among the winners, representing 21 states and territories.

The PMRBP award is granted by the Indian government to children who have extraordinary abilities and achievements in six areas.

The following is a breakdown of the awards by category:

Innovation: 7
Social Service: 4
Scholastic: 1
Sports: 8
Art & Culture: 6
Bravery: 3

Quick Fact: A monetary prize of **Rs.1,00,000/-** is given out as part of the award.

Appointments

Vinodanand Jha has been appointed as the new chairperson of the PMLA Adjudicating Authority by the government.

Vinodanand Jha has been named Chairperson of the Adjudicating Authority for the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for a five-year term.

Jha is a retired IRS official from the 1983 batch who formerly served as the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax in Pune.

The PMLA Adjudicating Authority is a three-member body tasked with adjudicating attachment of assets orders granted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and ordering its continuation, seizure, or release, based on the investigation's merits.

Quick Fact: The PMLA and the Rules promulgated under it went into effect on July 1, 2005.

Sports

The Ladakh women's ice hockey team has won the 9th Women's National Ice Hockey Championship, which will be held in 2022.

In Himachal Pradesh, the Ladakh women's team won the 9th National Women's Ice Hockey Championship.

The Ice Hockey Association of India hosted the tournament at the Kaza area of Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul-Spiti district.

Six teams from Delhi, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Telangana, and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police competed in the competition.

Quick Fact : The president of Ice Hockey Association of India is **Dr Surinder Mohan Bali**.

Awards

Prajakta Koli, a YouTuber, has been named India's first UNDP Youth Climate Champion.

Prajakta Koli has been named India's first Youth Climate Champion by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). She creates material for a variety of internet platforms, including YouTube, Instagram, and others.

She was given the honour for her work on mental health, women's rights, and girl child education through numerous global social programmes.

Prajakta will now be in charge of interacting with the younger generation in order to promote awareness about the climate problem, global warming, and biodiversity loss, as well as their consequences.

Quick Fact: Prajakta Koli also serves as a global ambassador for YouTube's "**Creators For Change**" project.

January 26

International Affairs

The 26th of January is International Customs Day.

Every year on January 26th, the International Customs Day (ICD) is commemorated. The day is commemorated to honour the contributions of customs officials and agencies, as well as to highlight the working conditions and obstacles that customs officers encounter on the job.

WCO has picked the theme 'Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem' for ICD this year.

Quick Fact: The headquarters of World Customs Organization is in Brussels, Belgium.

National Affairs

The government announces the merger of PMC Bank and Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd.

The Scheme for the Merger of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank Ltd and Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd has been sanctioned and notified by the Government of India.

This means that starting January 25, 2022, all PMC Bank branches will become Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd branches.

Following the merger of PMC Bank and Unity SFB, Unity SFB would pay PMC Bank clients the sum it gets from DICGC in ten-year installments (maximum up to the amount guaranteed by DICGC, i.e. Rs 5 lakh).

Quick Fact: Unity Bank's promoters have invested **Rs 1105.10** crore in the bank's capital.

Sports

In Lucknow, India's first para-badminton academy was established.

In Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India's first para-badminton academy has been established. It features all of the latest technology and amenities.

The setup will increase India's medal chances at the 2024 Paralympics, which will be held at the Stade de France stadium in Paris, France.

Quick Fact : **Gaurav Khanna**, the head national coach of the Indian para-badminton team, has inaugurated the badminton center.

Awards

Param Vishisht Seva Medal is given to Olympian Neeraj Chopra.

On the eve of Republic Day, President Ram Nath Kovind will award Olympian Neeraj Chopra with the Param Vishisht Seva Medal.

He is India's first Olympic gold medalist in the sport of track and field. In the Indian army, Neeraj is a Subedar.

In 2016, he enlisted as a straight entry Naib Subedar in the 4 Rajputana Rifles. He was picked to train at the Army Sports Institute and the Mission Olympics Wing in Pune.

Quick Fact: Chopra was also given the Arjuna Award in 2018 and the Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) in 2020 for his sporting achievements.

Banking

Infusion of 1500 crore rupees in IREDA was approved by the Union Cabinet.

It will support the creation of 10,200 jobs per year and the reduction of 7.49 million tonnes of carbon emissions per year.

In the last six years, the IREDA's portfolio grew from Rs 8,800 crore to Rs 28,000 crore, indicating its importance in the sector of renewable energy.

IREDA is a non-banking financial institution that promotes, develops, and provides financial help for innovative and renewable energy project development.

Quick Fact : The headquarters of IREDA is located in New Delhi.

January 27

International Affairs

Russia-China-Iran conducts joint naval exercise CHIRU-2Q22

In the Gulf of Oman, the Russian, Chinese, and Iranian navies participated in the CHIRU-2Q22 naval exercises.

The maritime drills, which took place in the northern Indian Ocean, intended to strengthen practical collaboration between the three countries' navy.

As part of the simulation, the participants practised numerous tactics and operations, including rescuing afire vessels, saving hijacked vessels, shooting at targets, nocturnal firing at airborne targets, and other tactical manoeuvres.

Quick Fact: The military drills will involve at least 140 warships and over 60 planes, as well as roughly 10,000 military troops.

National Affairs

India has unveiled a five-year plan to become a \$300 billion electronics superpower.

For the electronics sector, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has produced a 5-year strategy and Vision Document 2.0.

MeitY and the India Cellular and Electronics Association collaborated on the Vision Document 2.0, titled "\$300 billion in Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing and Exports by 2026." (ICEA). It is the second of two volumes in a Vision Document.

The Vision Document 2.0 includes a year-by-year breakdown as well as production forecasts for the various items. This would aid India's transformation from a US\$75 billion electronics manufacturing powerhouse to a US\$300 billion electronics manufacturing powerhouse by 2026.

Quick Fact: In November 2021, the first section of the document, titled "Increasing India's Electronics Exports and Share in GVCs," was issued.

Sports

Charanjit Singh, the former captain of the Indian hockey team, has died.

Charanjit Singh, a former hockey midfielder, died at the age of 90 after suffering a heart arrest and a series of age-related diseases.

He was the Indian hockey team's captain. He also competed for India in the 1960 Rome Olympics and the 1962 Asian Games in Jakarta, winning silver medals in both.

Quick Fact: India won **gold in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics** under the captaincy of Charanjit Singh.

Awards

Ratan Tata received the 'Asom Baibhav Award' from the Assam government.

Ratan Tata, an industrialist, has received Assam's highest civilian honour, the 'Assam Baibhav.'

The award was given to the former chairman of Tata Sons by Assam governor Jagdish Mukhi. Ratan Tata was awarded the 'Asom Baibhav' by the Assam government for his assistance to the establishment of cancer treatment facilities in the state.

Quick Fact: The Chief Minister of Assam is **Himanta Biswa Sarma**.

Banking

In collaboration with GOQii, City Union Bank has launched a fitness watch debit card.

City Union Bank has created a wearable payment solution dubbed CUB fitness watch debit card in collaboration with smart-tech-enabled preventive healthcare platform GOQii and powered by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Customers must hold this wristwatch in front of the PoS device during payment, similar to how they would tap their card on a PoS device. Customers must tap and input their PIN for payments over Rs 5,000.

Quick Fact: The introductory price of a smartwatch debit card is **Rs 3,499**, as compared to an actual cost of Rs 6,499).

January 28

International Affairs

Apple retained the title as world's valuable brand in Brand Finance 2022

According to the Brand Finance 2022 Global 500 report, Apple will continue to be the most valuable brand in 2022.

In 2022, Apple's brand value was estimated to be \$355.1 billion, a 35 percent rise over the previous year.

In the history of the Brand Finance Global 500 list, this is the highest brand value ever recorded.

Quick Fact: The Tata Group, an Indian conglomerate, has risen to the top of the list as the most valuable brand in India and South Asia.

National Affairs

Air India was officially handed over to Tata Group in the year 2022.

On January 27, 2022, the Indian government officially turned over India's flag carrier, Air India, to the Tata Group, nearly 69 years after acquiring the conglomerate.

The deal is worth **Rs 18,000 crore (US\$2.4 billion)** in total. The transfer of a 100 percent stake in Air India by the Government of India to Tata Sons, as well as management control, is part of the strategic disinvestment transaction.

Quick Fact: The deal involves three companies: Air India, Air India Express, and Air India SATS (AI SATS).

Sports

Lucknow Super Giants will be the name of the IPL team from Lucknow.

Sanjiv Goenka's (RPSG Group) IPL franchise in Lucknow has been dubbed Lucknow Super Giants ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) mega auction in 2022.

KL Rahul was named captain of the Lucknow team, which also included Australia all-rounder Marcus Stoinis and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi.

On the 3rd of January 2022, the official IPL team of Lucknow crowdsourced its name from fans and launched a consumer engagement campaign on social media.

Quick Fact: The IPL franchise in Lucknow was purchased for **Rs 7090 crores** by the RPSG group, which is owned by **Sanjiv Goenka**.

Awards

The ICC Awards 2021 have been announced by the International Cricket Council.

The winners of the 17th edition of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Awards for the year 2021 have been announced. The ICC Awards recognise and honour the best international cricket players from January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021.

These awards, in particular, recognise players for their contributions to their respective national teams over the course of a year.

For both men's and women's cricket, the apex international cricket regulating body has announced the winners in various categories such as Emerging Cricketer of the Year, T20I Cricketer of the Year, and Associate Cricketer of the Year.

Quick Fact: India's **Smriti Mandhana** won the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for **ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year**.

Banking

The 'Platina Fixed Deposit' scheme was launched by Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) has introduced the 'Platina Fixed Deposit,' which pays 15 basis points (bps) more than Ujjivan SFB's usual term deposit rates.

The Platina FD is a non-callable deposit that does not allow partial or premature withdrawal. While the interest can be paid monthly, quarterly, or at the end of the maturity period, it is not guaranteed.

Quick Fact: Platina FD offers interest rates of 6.90 percent for general citizens and 7.65 percent for senior persons.

January 29

International Affairs

In the Netherlands, the world's largest canal lock was unveiled.

At Ijmuiden, a small port city in the Port of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, the world's largest canal lock was inaugurated.

The Ijmuiden lock was built to help huge, contemporary cargo ships reach Amsterdam's port.

The sea lock at Ijmuiden is 500 metres (1,640 ft) long and 70 metres broad. The major infrastructure project started in 2016 and was supposed to be completed in 2019. It also cost roughly €300 million (\$338 million) more than expected.

Quick Fact: Willen-Alexander, King of the Netherlands, opened the sea lock.

National Affairs

The Secretariat of the Lok Sabha has launched the Digital Sansad app.

On January 27, 2022, the Lok Sabha Speaker released the 'Digital Sansad App,' an official mobile application of the Parliament that allows users to watch live sessions of the House, including the Union Budget 2022.

The app includes information on budget speeches from 1947 to the present, as well as House debates from the 12th to the 17th Lok Sabha. A live webcast of Sansad events will also be available. This App also allows you to view the 2022 Budget Session live.

Quick Fact : The secretariat of Lok Sabha is Om Birla.

Appointments

HPCL has selected Pushp Kumar Joshi as its new chairman and CEO.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), the country's third-largest oil refining and fuel marketing corporation, has selected Pushp Kumar Joshi as its new chairman and managing

director. Joshi has been a member of HPCL's board of directors for nearly a decade. He will succeed Mukesh Kumar Surana, who is set to retire on April 30.

Quick Fact : Pushp Kumar Joshi is currently Director of Human Resources at HPCL.

Science and Technology

Gurgaon now has the country's largest electric vehicle charging station.

The Delhi-Jaipur National Highway in Gurugram now has India's largest electric vehicle (EV) charging station, with 100 charge outlets for four-wheelers.

Previously, the country's largest EV charging station, with 16 AC and 4 DC charging connections, was located in Navi Mumbai.

Quick Fact : Alektrify Private Limited, a technology startup, created the latest EV charging station.

Investments

Bharti Airtel will receive a \$1 billion investment from Google.

Bharti Airtel and Google have launched a long-term cooperation to help India's digital ecosystem grow faster. Google would spend \$1 billion in Airtel as part of the agreement.

Google would invest USD 700 million of the overall investment to acquire a 1.28 percent interest in Bharti Airtel Ltd.

The remaining USD 300 million will be used to fund multi-year commercial agreements with Airtel, including products developed in collaboration between the two tech giants.

Quick Fact: The founder of Bharti Airtel Founder is Sunil Bharti Mittal.

January 31

International Affairs

Meta joins together with the FICCI to support 5 lakh women-owned small businesses across India.

Meta, a social media company, has teamed up with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) to support five lakh women-owned small businesses across India.

This effort will be carried out by Meta as part of its #SheMeansBusiness programme, in collaboration with FICCI's 'Empowering the Greater 50%' initiative.

The effort would foster a supportive environment for women and encourage them to contribute to the country's overall growth.

Quick Fact: Meta will provide assistance through three different initiatives: **Facebook Business Coach, Grow Your Business Hub, Commerce Partners Program**

National Affairs

New bank note printing lines are being established by SPMCIL in Nashik and Dewas.

At its Currency Note Press in Nashik and Bank Note Press in Dewas, the Security Producing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) has installed 'new banknote printing lines.'

There are four printing presses in India that print and supply banknotes. These are in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra (owned by SPMCIL), Karnataka (owned by Mysore), and West Bengal (owned by Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL)).

Quick Fact: The chairman and Managing Director of SPMCIL is **Tripti Patra Ghosh**.

Science and Technology

Paytm Money introduces 'Pops,' "India's first" intelligent messenger.

'Pops,' Paytm Money's intelligent messenger, has been dubbed "India's first." The company has created 'Pops,' which allows consumers to get particular information about their stocks, portfolio analysis, market news, and major market movements in an easy-to-digest style, all in one spot.

The website will also function as a marketplace, allowing users to buy and sell advanced stock advice, news analysis, and other services.

Quick Fact: Paytm Money has partnered with InvestorAi to provide stock recommendations based on artificial intelligence-generated market movements.

Banking

SBI, BoB, and HDFC Bank were chosen by the Tata Group to finance Air India's old debt.

State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, and HDFC Bank have been picked as Air India's preferred bankers by the Tata Group. The government recently sold Air India to the Tata Group.

With an 18.6% market share, Air India is the largest foreign carrier operating out of India. Tata Sons has taken up a Rs 10,000 crore SBI credit and a Rs 5,000 crore BoB loan. The amount of the HDFC Bank loan is unknown at this time. The loans are unrated, unsecured, and have an annual interest rate of 4.25 percent.

Quick Fact: Talace, a company launched by Tata Sons, has acquired Air India for **Rs 18,000 crore**.

Sports

India wins bronze in the Women's Asia Cup Hockey 2022, defeating China.

India won the bronze medal in the 2022 Women's Hockey Asia Cup event after defeating China 2-0.

The Women's Hockey Asia Cup in 2022 was the tenth edition of the quadrennial tournament. The Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat, Oman, hosted the tournament from January 21 to 28, 2022.

Quick Fact: **Japan** won the Women's Hockey Asia Cup for the third time, defeating South Korea 4-2 in the final.