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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

IMPORTANT DAYS

Global Day of Parents- 1st June

- Every year on June 1st, the world celebrates **Global Day of Parents**.
- The Global Day of Parents is an annual event that honors the role of parents in the lives of their children.
- The theme for Global Parent Day 2022 is “**Appreciate all parents throughout the world**”.
- The goal of the Global Day of Parents is to raise awareness and appreciation for the important role that parents play in their children's lives.
- It also strives to increase awareness about the value of good parenting and happy family life.

HISTORY:

- During the **1980s**, the **United Nations** began to pay attention to family-related concerns.
- In its resolution on the Role of the Family in the Development Process (1983/23) in 1983, the Commission for Social Development requested the Secretary-General to increase awareness among decision-makers and the general public of the problems and needs of the family, as well as effective ways to meet those needs, based on the recommendations of the **Economic and Social Council**.
- The **United Nations General Assembly** declared **1 June 2012** to be the **Global Day of Parents**, to be commemorated yearly to honor parents all across the world.

World Milk Day -1st June

- The **United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization** designated **June 1** as **World Milk Day**.
- The purpose of the day is to recognize milk as global food and to honor the dairy sector.
- The purpose of the day is to draw attention to activities related to the dairy industry.
- **Since 2001**, the day has been celebrated on **June 1** every year.

The theme for world milk day:

- The theme for **World Milk Day 2022** is to draw the world's attention to the climate change crisis and highlight how the dairy industry could minimize its impact on the planet.
- The focus is on achieving a "**Dairy Net Zero**" by cutting down on the greenhouse gas emissions of the industry over the next 30 years.

Significance Of World Milk Day

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- World Milk Day's main purpose is to increase awareness about the importance of milk and dairy products in our lives.
- Milk and dairy products are not only a terrific source of nutrition, but they also provide income to roughly a billion people worldwide.

About FAO

- Headquarters: Rome, Italy
- Director-General: Qu Dongyu
- Established: 16 October 1945

Telangana Day or Telangana Formation Day is observed on June 2.

- The state of Telangana was officially formed on 2 June 2014 from the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao was elected as the first chief minister of Telangana.
- **Telangana, the 28th state of India.**
- Telangana celebrates its founding to mark the people's contribution to forming a separate state outside of Andhra Pradesh.
- The **30 districts of Telangana** honor this day by raising the national flag.

History:

- **On November 1, 1956, Telangana merged with Andhra Pradesh** to form a unified Telugu state by inscribing it from ancient Madras.
- In **1969**, the Telangana region saw a protest demanding a new state and in **1972** a separate state of Andhra Pradesh was created.
- Various civil society organizations, student unions, and government employees all played an important role in the 1969 unrest.
- After nearly **40 years** of opposition, the Telangana Bill was approved by the Parliament Labor Committee and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) passed it in the Lok Sabha in **February 2014**.
- The Bill was introduced in the **Indian Parliament in 2014** and the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act was passed**. It was approved the same year.
- Under the bill, Telangana would include **10 districts** in northwest Andhra Pradesh.

World Bicycle Day - 3rd June

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- **World Bicycle Day** is celebrated on **June 3rd each year**, celebrating cycling as a way to find a sustainable form of travel that guarantees physical health.
- This day celebrates the cycling tradition and its important role in maintaining our health.
- Cycling is a multifaceted exercise and has many health benefits.

HISTORY:

- **World Cycling Day** was first celebrated on **June 3, 2018**, when the **United Nations** first adopted the resolution during the **72nd regular session** of the **United Nations General Assembly in New York on October 4**.
- The Declaration has been adopted by more than 193 Member States, which encourages them to include bicycles in their regional, international and local development policies and programs.

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression- June 4th:

- The **International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression** is an annual United Nations observance day on **June 4th each year**.
- According to recent statistics, 536 million children live in countries affected by conflict or disasters.
- About 50 million children have been displaced from their homes.
- When these children get displaced, it increases their vulnerability to violence and exploitation.
- The **UN's Sustainable Development Goal 16** promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.
- As part of this goal, the UN hopes to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against children by **2030**.

HISTORY:

- On **August 19, 1982**, the **UN General Assembly** declared that **June 4th** would be observed as the **International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression**.
- The UN decided during an emergency special session on the question of Palestine.
- The day originally focused on the children affected by the **1982 Lebanon War**.
- The day also focused on Palestinian children that were victims of other conflicts in the Middle East.

World Environment Day- 5th June

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- Every year on June 5, the globe celebrates **World Environment Day**.
- The day's goal is to raise awareness and action for environmental conservation.
- In the year 2022, **Sweden is the host of world environment day**

World Environment Day 2022 Theme

- The theme of **World Environment Day 2022** is "Only One Earth."
- It advocates for policy and lifestyle reforms that will enable cleaner, greener, and more sustainable living in harmony with nature.

World Environment Day History

- The **United Nations created World Environment Day in 1972** during the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.
- The topic of World Environment Day in 1974 was 'Only One Earth.'
- World Environment Day was first recognized in the **United States in 1974**.

World Environment Day Significance

- World Environment Day has served as a forum for bringing attention to environmental concerns such as marine pollution, overcrowding, global warming, sustainable consumerism, and wildlife crime.
- The purpose of the day is to raise awareness about the significance of the environment and to remind people that nature should not be taken for granted.
- As to the United Nations: "The celebration of this day provides us with an opportunity to broaden the basis for an enlightened opinion and responsible conduct by individuals, enterprises, and communities in preserving and enhancing the environment."

World Food Safety Day- June 7

- **World Food Safety Day (WSFD)** is observed annually on **7 June** to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks.
- The objective of celebrating the day is to focus on food security and highlight different areas relating to **human health, economic prosperity agriculture, market access, tourism, and sustainable development**, according to the **World Health Organisation**.

History

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- The **United Nations General Assembly** proclaimed in 2018 that June 7 would be regarded as **World Food Safety Day** every year.
- This came into effect after the intergovernmental organization noted that the burden of foodborne diseases was affecting children under the age of 5 and persons living in low-income countries.
- Last year, the **World Health Assembly** passed a resolution to further strengthen global efforts of food safety to reduce the burden of foodborne disease.

Russian Language Day-6th June

- **United Nations Russian Day** is celebrated every year on **June 6**.
- It is one of the **six official languages** used by the United Nations throughout the Organization.
- The day was created by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** in 2010.
- On June 6, the birthday of the great **Russian poet A.S. Pushkin**, as part of its program to support and develop multilingualism and cultural diversity, the United Nations celebrates Russian Language Day.
- One of the goals of this program is to maintain equality of the six official languages of the United Nations: **English, Arabic, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, and French**.
- The decision to organize language day was made by the Ministry of Public Information (now the Department of Global Communications) on the eve of **International Mother Language Day**, which is celebrated every year on **February 21** on the initiative of UNESCO.

International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing: June 5

- The **International Day to Fight Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing** is celebrated every year on **5 June**.
- This day is an opportunity to draw attention to the threats posed by activities.
- **IUU fishing** activities have on the sustainable use of fishery resources as well as the unremitting efforts to combat these practices.
- According to the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**, IUU fishing activities cause between 11 and 26 million tons of fish loss each year, with an **estimated economic value of 10 to 23 billion USD**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- IUU fishing practices threaten the sustainable management of our marine resources, a situation exacerbated by overfishing.

History:

- In **2015**, **FAO's Joint Fisheries Commission** for the Mediterranean proposed that an initiative be launched to declare an International Day to Fight Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing.
- After extensive consultation, a proposal was submitted for consideration at the **Thirty-second Session of the FAO Fisheries Committee**.
- In December **2017**, the **United Nations General Assembly**, in its annual resolution on sustainable fisheries, declared June 5 as "**International Day to Fight Illegal, Unreported and Unreported Fishing**" according to the law.

World Oceans Day- June 8

- **World Oceans Day** is celebrated every year on **June 8** to ponder upon the role and importance of the oceans.
- This day provides a platform to inspire action and sustainable use of marine resources available to our planet.
- World Oceans Day reminds us of the role oceans play in our everyday life.

World Oceans Day 2022 Theme

- This year the UN has planned an annual event on World Oceans Day coordinated by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs and supported by the nonprofit Oceanic Global will focus on the theme of "**Revitalization: Collective action for the ocean**".
- This year, the **United Nations will host the first hybrid celebration** of the annual event on June 8, 2022, hosted in-person at the UN Headquarters in New York to be broadcasted live.

History

- The concept of World Oceans Day was first proposed by the **UN in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro**.
- It was suggested that a day be observed to raise awareness about the crucial role oceans play in our lives and ways in which people can help protect them.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- Since 2002, the World Ocean Network has built support for ocean awareness events on June 8 with the help of sponsorship from UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.
- On December 5, 2008, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution to designate this day.
- Apart from UNESCO, other agencies under the aegis of the UN such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and FAO also work to protect marine and coastal ecosystems.

World Brain Tumor Day- June 8

- World Brain Tumor Day is observed every year on June 8 as a day dedicated to creating awareness about brain tumors.
- A brain tumor occurs in brain cells that multiply abnormally and in an uncontrolled way.
- They can be cancerous or non-cancerous depending on their location and grading.
- The grading is given based on the pace at which cells multiply and spread to the adjacent areas.

THEME

- The theme for World Brain Tumor Day 2022 is “Together We Are Stronger.”

HISTORY

- World Brain Tumor Day was first observed on June 8, 2000, by the German Brain Tumor Association (Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe e.V.), a non-profit organization for serving and offering support to brain tumor patients.
- The day came into existence with the idea of paying tribute to brain tumor patients and their families by educating people about the disease.
- According to the International Association of Cancer Registries (IARC), over 28,000 cases of brain tumors are reported in India every year.
- Of these, 24,000 succumb to the deadly disease.

International Sex Workers' Day: June 2

- International Sex Workers Day is observed on 2 June every year across the world.
- This day is celebrated to highlight the rampant exploitation of sex workers and the terrible conditions they live in.
- It aims to raise awareness about the abuse and victimization of sex workers.

History:

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- It was on **2 June 1975** that approximately 100 sex workers gathered at **Saint-Nizier Church in Lyon, France**, expressing their frustration and fury over their criminalized and exploitative living conditions.
- They also hung a banner from the steeple, which read '**Our children don't want their mothers to go to jail,**' and also launched a media campaign to voice their grievances.
- This event made news on TV channels and newspapers, and soon, strikes were launched all over France by sex workers, creating a legacy of activism.
- Sex workers at Saint-Nizier Church demanded an end to police harassment, reopening of hotels for their work, and proper investigation into sex worker murders.
- French sex workers participated in the event and the strike was eight days long.
- This event was a spark that ignited the rights movement in Europe.

World Day Against Child Labour- June 12

- **World Day Against Child Labour 2022** is observed all over the world on **June 12th** as an awareness event to protect children against labor.
- Every year on June 12th, around 100 countries throughout the world commemorate World Day Against Child Labour.
- **The International Labour Organization** established the **World Day Against Child Labour** in 2002.

Theme

- World Day Against Child Labour **Theme 2022** "**Children Shouldn't work in fields, but on dreams**".
- World Day Against Child Labor this year will concentrate on the effect of emergencies on child work.

History

- In **1919**, **The International Labour Organization (ILO)** was founded to promote social justice and establish International Labor Standards.
- ILO has 137 states as members.
- Since then, the ILO has enacted additional agreements aimed at improving labor conditions across the world.
- In **1973**, The International Labor Organization (ILO) enacted Convention Number. 138 which focused on the minimum age for work.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- In 1999, The ILO convention number 182, often known as the "**Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention,**" was approved.
- Its goal is to take the required and quick steps to end the worst type of child labor.
- In 2002, The World Day Against Child Labor was founded by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations entity that oversees the worldwide community of labor.

World Blood Donor Day 2022: June 14

- **On June 14th every year, World Blood Donor Day** is observed all over the world as an awareness event to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood.
- The day is observed **to promote blood donation and to encourage people to donate blood to save lives.**
- The purpose of the event is to raise awareness about the need for safe blood and blood products, as well as to thank unpaid blood donors for saving lives.

Theme

- For 2022, the World Blood Donor Day slogan is **"Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives"** to draw attention to the roles that voluntary blood donations play in saving lives and enhancing solidarity within communities.

History:

- **World Blood Donor Day was established in 2004** by the World Health Organization (WHO) to bring awareness to the ongoing need for blood donations to save lives.
- June 14 also marks **the birth anniversary of Karl Landsteiner who won the Nobel Prize for Medicine** in 1930 for his work in classifying blood types.
- It was his work that revolutionized blood transfusions and led to the practice of transfusing blood between people with compatible blood types.

Global Wind Day 2022: June 15

- **Global Wind Day 2022** is observed all over the world on **15th June.**
- On June 15, this day is celebrated all over the world annually and it is marked as a day of discovering the possibilities of wind power.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- The purpose of the day is to increase public knowledge of wind energy and its uses. On this day, people all across the world celebrate the importance of wind energy and how it can change the world.

Theme

- Global Wind Day 2022 is based on the theme is **celebrate to enjoy the benefits of wind energy and providing education to the individual about the power and potential of wind energy to change the world.**

History

- In 2007, The European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) organized the first Wind Day.
- In 2009 the EWEA joined forces with the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and made it a worldwide event.
- In recent years, WindEurope and the GWEC have organized the day together.
- In 2012, the organizations sponsored a photo competition.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2022: June 15

- On June 15th, every year the world commemorates **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.**
- This day is marked to raise awareness about the plight of the elderly who are abused and harmed.
- The primary goal of this day is to provide communities all around the world a chance to develop a better understanding of elder abuse and neglect by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic factors that influence senior abuse and neglect.

Theme:

- The theme for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2022 is **“Digital Equity for All Ages”**.
- Adult children and other family members are the leading abusers of the elderly, according to current studies, demonstrating that violence against the elderly happens mostly at home.

History:

- In 1978, **SAGE was formed and the Advocacy and Services for LGBT elders were created.**
- In 1983, The first book on elder abuse, “Abuse and Maltreatment of the Elderly: Causes and Interventions”, was published.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- In 1988, The National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) was established by the U.S. Administration on Aging.
- In 2003, A group of UCI professors created the nation's first-ever Elder Abuse Forensic Center
- The day was officially recognized by the **United Nations General Assembly** in December 2011 bypassing the resolution 66/127 of the United Nations following a request by the **International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA)**, which first established the commemoration in **June 2006**.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought- June 17

- On June 17th of every year, the **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought** is observed all over the world as an awareness event.
- This World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2022 aims to inspire people **to believe that the land degradation problem can be solved** with collaboration and constructive participation on their part.

Theme

- The theme of the International Day Against Desertification, and Drought 2022 is **“Rising from drought together”**, which emphasizes the need for early action to avoid disastrous consequences for humanity and the planetary ecosystems.

History

- On January 30, 1995, the **United Nations General Assembly** declared June 17th as World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.
- This day has been observed every year **since 1995** to raise public awareness about the importance of reaching land degradation neutrality across the world.
- This day raises awareness that desertification and drought may be combated via community collaboration and participation, as well as a variety of alternatives.
- Furthermore, this day strives to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in countries that are experiencing severe drought, land degradation, and desertification.

Autistic Pride Day 2022: June 18

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- Every year on June 18th, the globe celebrates **Autistic Pride Day** to raise awareness that autism is a condition, not a disease.
- The day is celebrated annually and “**Autistic pride**” stands for pride in autism, about shifting views of autism from “**disease**” to “**difference**”.
- It observes the diversity various neurological types express.

Theme

- This year's World Autistic Awareness Day topic is '**Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World,**' and the event will include a moderated roundtable discussion with people on the autism spectrum who have directly experienced the challenges and observed these new possibilities in the workplace.

History

- The very first autistic pride day was observed in Brazil in 2005.
- This day was founded by **Gareth and Amy Nelson**, and it has now become known as Autistic Pride Day across the world.
- **Aspies for Freedom** established **Autistic Pride Day in 2005 by Aspies for Freedom** to improve public awareness and celebrate the similarities and differences among persons with autism.
- It swiftly grew into a worldwide phenomenon that is extensively seen both online and offline.
- **Aspies For Freedom (AFF)** is a grassroots advocacy and solidarity organization dedicated to increasing public awareness of the autism rights movement.

World Sickle Cell Awareness Day 2022: June 19

- Every year on June 19th, **World Sickle Cell Day** is commemorated to raise awareness of the human Sickle Cell illness.
- The UN declared the day, and it has served to raise awareness of the condition, its organization, the care and measures that should be taken, and the treatment that should be given to someone who is suffering from it.

Theme:

- '**Shine the Light on Sickle Cell**' is the theme for World Sickle Cell Awareness Day 2022.
- Sickle Cell Illness Day is observed on this day to promote awareness about the condition's treatment options and to achieve successful control of the disease across the world.

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History:

- The United Nations General Assembly declared World Sickle Cell Day in 2008 to promote awareness of sickle cell illness.
- As a result, on June 19, 2009, World Sickle Cell Day was commemorated for the first time.
- Sickle cell disease has spread throughout the world and has gradually evolved into a hereditary and genetic illness.
- Furthermore, correct diagnosis and early therapy aid in the better management and treatment of the condition.
- In addition to the UN, the WHO now offers several options for treating illness patients more humanely.

World Fathers' Day: 19 June

- Every year, World Fathers' Day is celebrated globally on every 3rd Sunday of June.
- Father's Day always falls on the third Sunday in June which means its actual date changes from year to year.

History:

- Sonora Smart Dodd is credited for establishing this lovely day in memory of those who gave up their present for our future (our parents, mom, and dad).
- Dodd was born in the United States of America, in the state of Arkansas.
- Sonora Smart's father, William Jackson Smart, was a Civil War soldier who raised his six children as a single parent.
- Dodd praised her authoritarian father as a "very rigorous man," claiming that his strictness was the primary cause for her family's cohesion.
- Father's Day was originally observed in the state of Washington on June 19, 1910, largely to the efforts of Sonora Smart Dodd.
- President Richard Nixon designated Father's Day a permanent national holiday in 1972.
- The Father's Day Council named "Father's Day" a Second Christmas for all men's gift-oriented sectors by the mid-1980s.

World Sauntering Day 2022: June 19

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- On the 19th of June every year, **World Sauntering Day** is observed each year all over the world to encourage people to slow down and appreciate the world around them and connect with nature.
- World Sauntering Day, sometimes also known as **International Sauntering Day**.
- The purpose of this day is to remind the public to slow down and enjoy their life.
- Everyone is busy these days, and their frantic daily schedule hurts people.

Theme:

- The theme of World Sauntering Day 2022 is **"Everyone is busy these days, and their daily hectic routine impacts adversely on people"**.
- Life nowadays is full of hustle and bustle

History:

- In 1979, **W.T. Rabe** established World Sauntering Day.
- He was the one who started this holiday in the **1970s**.
- This day was created in response to jogging's growing popularity. W.T. Rabe, it appears, has also devised a few sauntering norms.
- This act must be performed in comfortable clothing, and **"some people are just born with it," according to W.T. Rabe.**
- The purpose of commemorating this day is to encourage people to take a break, enjoy life, and appreciate what they have.

World Refugee Day 2022: June 20

- Every year on **June 20th**, **World Refugee Day** is commemorated to raise awareness of the plight of refugees and the difficulties they face.
- The major goal of World Refugee Day 2022 is to foster empathy and acknowledge their commitment and courage in helping people rebuild their lives.
- The **UN General Assembly** first commemorated World Refugee Day on June 20, 2001, on the **50th Anniversary of the 1951 Convention**.

Theme

- **"Together we heal, learn, and shine"** is the theme for World Refugee Day 2022.

History:

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- In 1914, **World Day of Migrants and Refugees** is established by Pope Pius X and is celebrated in January.
- On December 4, 2000, Resolution 55/76 ie **The United Nations General Assembly** decides to observe **World Refugee Day** from June 2001.
- In 2000, the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees is observed.

World Hydrography Day 2022: June 21

- **Every year on June 21st, World Hydrography Day** is commemorated to promote awareness about the importance of hydrography, safe navigation, and maritime environmental conservation.
- World Hydrography Day 2022 was established by the **International Hydrographic Organization** as an annual celebration to increase awareness about the work of hydrographers and give education about the field of hydrography and its relevance in people's lives.

Theme:

- The World Hydrography Day 2022 Theme is **“Awareness is spread to protect marine life and safe navigation”**.
- It intends to display the past, present, and future of Hydrography, as well as explore and raise awareness about the role performed by hydrographers in keeping our nation's waterways secure, safe navigation, and economy robust during the past 100 years.

History:

- **The International Hydrographic Bureau was founded in 1921** to provide a forum for states to confer on issues such as safe navigation, technical standards, and the conservation of the maritime environment.
- In 1970, the name was changed to the **International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)**.
- In 2005, the **United Nations General Assembly** passed a resolution calling for the International Hydrographic Organization to commemorate **World Hydrography Day on June 21st**.
- The international commemoration of **World Hydrography Day began in 2006**.
- The day honors hydrographers' efforts and raises awareness about the vital importance of hydrography in people's lives.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

World Music Day 2022: June 21

- On 21st June of this current year, World Music Day 2022 is celebrated all over the globe to celebrate music among the public.
- World Music Day, also known as the Fete de la Musique in French, is then observed.
- The importance of music in our lives is highlighted on this day, which honors musicians.

Theme

- The theme for the day this year is "Music at Intersections."
- Those who enjoy listening to music might mark the occasion by listening to music and songs.
- It should be highlighted that France's Minister of Culture, Jack Lang, as well as music composer Maurice Fleure, were among the first to organize music celebrations.

History

- Fête de la Musique was held in Paris in 1982 to commemorate World Music Day.
- This day was arranged by two members of the French Minister of Culture, Jack Lang, a French politician, and Maurice Fleuret, a composer, music journalist, radio producer, and arts administrator.
- Maurice Fleuret was asked by Jack Lang to become Director of Music and Dance at the French Ministry of Culture. Maurice Fleuret researched musical practice and evolution.
- Following that, he investigated the French population, discovering that one out of every two individuals was interested in learning to play musical instruments. As a result, he began to mark the Summer Solstice as World Music Day to recognize the people and their interests.
- Maurice Fleuret researched the cultural habits of the French and discovered that one out of every two young people played a musical instrument.
- He intended to get people out of their houses and into the streets by proposing that the summer solstice (June 21) be designated as World Music Day.

International Yoga Day 2022: June 21

- On June 21st of this current year, International Yoga Day 2022 is celebrated and observed all over the world as an awareness program.
- Every year on the 21st of June, International Yoga Day is commemorated to create awareness about the relevance and advantages of yoga in everyone's life.

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

Theme

- This year, India will have specific events for children, women, individuals with disabilities, and transgender people under the theme "Yoga for Humanity."
- Thanks to **Common Service Centres (CSC)** that are promoting the **Common Yoga Protocol (CYP)** to disseminate awareness about the advantages of yoga among the masses, a big turnout is predicted in villages/gram panchayats as well.

History

- On **December 27, 2014**, The Prime Minister proposed that the **UN General Assembly** commemorate **International Yoga Day** to boost public awareness about the relevance of yoga around the world.
- Finally, on **December 11, 2014**, the **United Nations General Assembly** recognized International Yoga Day, and 170 member states accepted the proposed draught resolution.
- On **June 21, 2015**, the first **International Yoga Day** was observed all around the world.

International Widow's Day 2022: June 23

- **International Widow's Day** is observed all over the universe each year on the **23rd of June** to draw attention to **widows' voices and experiences** and **galvanize the exceptional support they need**.
- International Widows' Day was introduced to address the poverty and injustice faced by widows and their children in many countries.

Theme

- The theme of International Widow's Day this current year is "**Invisible Women, Invisible Problems**".
- The theme tends to highlight the fact that for many societies a woman's identity is attached to her partner and after his death, the problems faced by her are ignored by policymakers who don't give any special attention to the widowed woman.

History

- Widows had to immolate themselves on their late husband's funeral pyre before **1827**.
- In **2005**, the **Loomba Foundation** established the International Widow's Day in honor of Loomba's mother, who became a widow on **June 23, 1954**.

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- Women in diverse countries, according to Loomba, had to fight for their basic wants and rights.
- They are ignored by all organizations, and societies have cursed them for the loss of their husband.
- Finally, the **United Nations General Assembly recognized it on June 23, 2010.**
- The main aim of International Widow's Day is to provide education to the widows' children, provide them with healthcare facilities, and develop various resources and policies to empower widows.

United Nations Public Service Day 2022: June 23

- The **United Nations Public Service Day is celebrated on June 23** of every year to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community; highlight the contribution of public service in the development process; recognize the work of public servants, and encourage young people to pursue careers in the public sector.

Theme

- The theme of United Nations Public Service Day 2022 is '**Innovating the Future Public Service: New Government Models for a New Era to Reach the Sustainable Development Goals.**
- People work or volunteer in the public sector for a variety of reasons. Some people do it because they want to help the general public.

History

- Every year on June 23rd, the United Nations Public Service Day is observed to emphasize the importance and virtue of public service to the community, to acknowledge their commitment to the development process through public service, and to encourage youngsters to choose a career in the public sector.
- By approving resolution 57/277 on **December 20, 2002**, the **United Nations General Assembly declared June 23rd as United Nations Public Service Day.**
- Every year, a host country is chosen to recognize contributions to the development and strengthening of government institutions and administration.

International Olympic Day 2022: June 23

- **Olympic Day Run or International Olympic Day is celebrated on June 23** all around the world.

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- The day embraces all through pure Olympic values. Athletes from every nation participate in sports activities, such as runs, exhibitions, music, and educational seminars on this day.

Theme:

- The theme of International Olympic Day 2022 is **"Stay healthy, stay strong, and stay active with the Olympic Day workout on June 23"**.
- The day is observed to encourage more people to attend the Olympic Games, to raise knowledge about the event, and to promote the Olympic Movement.

History:

- Venezuela, Belgium, Canada, Switzerland, Portugal, Greece, Austria, the United Kingdom, and Uruguay commemorated the **first Olympic Day on June 23, 1948**.
- The origins of Olympic Day can be traced back to 1948.
- In 1947, IOC members in Czechoslovakia presented Doctor Gruss with a report on commemorating Olympic Day.
- The study was delivered at the **International Olympic Committee's 41st Session** in Stockholm, which was supposed to be a day dedicated to promoting the Olympic concept.
- The idea was approved in the IOC's next session, which was held in **St Moritz in January 1948**.
- The National Olympic Committees picked June 23 to commemorate the **International Olympic Committee's (IOC) formation on the same day in 1894**.

International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking: June 26

- Every year on **June 26th**, the **International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2022** is commemorated to raise awareness about the impact and negative consequences that drugs have on society.

Theme

- The theme of this year's International Day Against Drug Abuse is **"Share Drug Facts, Save Lives."**
- The goal, according to the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, is to counteract misconceptions about drugs by disseminating facts about them, ranging from health dangers and remedies to evidence-based prevention, treatment, and care.

HISTORY:

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- **International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking** is a United Nations observation that takes place internationally.
- On this day, the agenda is to advocate against drug abuse and the illegal drug trade.
- It has been observed **annually since 1989**.
- The date **June 26 commemorates Lin Zexu's** dismantling of the opium trade in **Humen, Guangdong**.
- This incident took place on **June 25, 1839, just a few days before the First Opium War in China**.
- The United Nations instituted the observation on **December 7, 1987**.
- **On June 26, 1987, at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Vienna**, it was recommended that an annual day should be observed to commemorate the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

World Asteroid Day: June 30

- As the anniversary of the **Tunguska event in 1908 approaches, June 30th** is designated as **International Asteroid Day**.
- This World Asteroid Day 2022 is commemorated to promote awareness about how asteroids will be used in the future, how asteroids will pave the path for future exploration, and how we can protect our planet from asteroid collisions.

Theme:

- The theme of International Asteroid Day 2022, is **"small is beautiful,"**.

History:

- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** passed a resolution A/RES/71/90 in **Dec 2016** and designated **30 June as International Asteroid Day** to mark every year the Tunguska impact over Siberia, Russian Federation (30 June 1908) across the globe to bring awareness about the hazardous impact of Asteroids.
- The decision of the General Assembly was made based on a proposal made by the Association of Space Explorers, which was espoused by the **COPUOS (Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space)**.
- Asteroid Day was co-founded by astrophysicist and a British musician **Dr. Brian May** together with **Danica Remy**, President of B612 Foundation, **Rusty Schweickart**, Apollo 9 Astronaut, and

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filmmaker Grig Richters, to bring attention and provide knowledge to the global public about the significance of asteroids in the formation of our universe and the role they play in our solar system

IMPORTANT BANKING & ECONOMY NEWS

LIC introduces savings life insurance plan Bima Ratna

- The largest insurer in India **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has launched a non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings life insurance plan called **Bima Ratna** which offers a combination of protection and savings.
- The product can be purchased through **Corporate Agents, Insurance Marketing Firms (IMF), Brokers, CPSC-SPV, and POSP-LI** engaged by these intermediaries viz. **Corporate Agents, Insurance Marketing Firms (IMF), and Brokers**

About Bima Ratna plan:

- LIC's Bima Ratna plan offers financial support for the family in case of the **unfortunate death** of the policyholder during the policy term.
- Also, it provides for periodical payments for the survival of the policyholder at specified durations to meet the various financial needs.
- The plan takes care of liquidity needs through a loan facility.

Key features of the plan:

1. Death Benefit
2. Survival Benefit
3. Maturity Benefit
4. Guaranteed Addition
5. Eligibility Conditions and Other Restrictions
6. Date of commencement of risk
7. Settlement Options
8. Premiums Payment

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9. Grace Period

10. Revival

About LIC :

- Founded: 1 September 1956
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairperson : M R Kumar
- Managing Directors: BC Patnaik, Smt. Ipe Mini, Siddharth Mohanty, Rajkumar

IMF raises the weighting of the dollar and yuan in the SDR basket

- The International Monetary Fund(IMF) has increased the yuan's weighting in the Special Drawing Rights(SDR) currency basket, prompting the Chinese central bank to pledge to push for a further opening of its financial markets.
- The IMF raised the yuan's weighting to **12.28 percent from 10.92** in its first regular review of the SDR evaluation since the Chinese currency was included in the basket in **2016**.
- The weighting of the **US dollar rose to 43.38 percent from 41.73 percent**, while those of the **euro from 30.93 to 29.31**, the **Japanese yen from 8.33 to 7.59**, and the **British pound from 8.09 to 7.44 declined**.
- The change will be effective **Aug 1, 2022**, and the next review will be in **2027**.

About IMF :

- Established: 27 December 1945
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., U.S
- Managing Director: Kristalina Georgieva
- Chief Economist: Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas
- Membership: 190 countries (189 UN countries and Kosovo)

Neobanking platform Stashfin introduces a credit line card LiveBoundless for women

- A neo banking platform, Stashfin has launched a **credit line card**, especially for women called **LiveBoundless**.

Key Benefits of LiveBoundless :

- **1% cashback** on every online spend and POS transaction

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- Free credit period up to **30 days**
- Receive 2000 welcome stashcash and benefits worth ₹5000+ in the first year
- Exclusive offers on dining, shopping, travel, and more
- Instant approvals on personal loans or credit lines. Borrow any amount ranging from ₹1000 to ₹5,00,000
- Minimum documentation is required. You only need to fill a KYC in digital or physical form, at your convenience
- No hidden costs at all.
- Free ATM cash withdrawals
- Instant disbursal
- 24*7 access to funds
- According to a Statista study, the Indian credit card market volume was at **37.5 million in FY2018** and reached **57.7 million in FY2020** & in FY2021, the numbers hit 62 million.

Tata AIA Life debts industry launches first Smart Value Income Plan

- **Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited (Tata AIA Life)** has launched a '**Smart Value Income Plan**', a non-linked, participating life insurance savings plan where the bonus can be adjusted against premium payments.

Unique Features :

Cash bonus from Month 1:

- Consumers can choose to receive cash bonuses from the very first month of policy purchase and continue to accrue bonuses, even if they are unable to pay premiums in case of loss of pay/income.

Premium Offset feature:

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- A policyholder who has chosen a regular premium payment option will be able to adjust the premium payable against cash bonuses, provided that the frequency and timing of bonus payments match premium payment.

In-built Sub-Wallet:

- It allows consumers to accrue cash bonuses and facilitates withdrawal of the bonus amount, as per needs.
- The amount in the sub wallet further accrues returns as **daily loyalty additions**, which can also be used to offset upcoming premium payments.

Life Protect feature:

- Tata AIA Smart Value Income Plan comes with a Life Protect feature that allows consumers to continue with their life covers even if they must postpone premium payments due to **loss of income** or when faced with a financial crunch.
- Under this feature, Tata AIA will continue to offer the Sum Assured chosen by the consumer if the policy becomes paid up due to non-payment of premiums.

A special benefit for SME owners and Women Entrepreneurs:

- A first-of-its-kind feature for small and medium businesses, Tata AIA Life Smart Value Income Plan offers the additional benefit of a preferential rate on loans against the policy.
- For **women entrepreneurs**, the policy offers a further special discount of **1% on policy loan interest rates**.
- The plan also offers an attractive **maturity benefit**.
- Individuals between the **age group of 1 and 65** can buy the Smart Value Income Plan, with a maximum maturity age of **100 years**.
- The policyholder may also be eligible for tax advantages under **Sections 80 C and 10 (10 D) of the Income Tax Act of 1961**.

About Tata AIA Life :

- Founded: 23 August 2000
- MD & CEO : CEO: Naveen Tahilyani
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- Tata AIA Life is a joint venture company established by Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd. and AIA Group Ltd. (AIA).

SEBI alters Risk Management Review Committee

- Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has restructured its committee, which reviews the risk management framework for the cash and derivatives, including commodity derivatives.
- The **14-member committee** will be headed by **IIM Ahmedabad Professor JR Varna**.

Members of the Committee :

- Managing directors of NSE Clearing, Indian Clearing Corporation, Metropolitan Clearing Corporation of India, Multi Commodity Exchange Clearing Corporation, National Commodity Clearing, Clearing Corporation of India, and the president of Commodity Participants Association of India.
- Other members of the committee are: **Sriram Krishnan**, Managing Director, Head of Securities Services at Deutsche Bank, **Anup Bagchi**, Executive Director, ICICI Bank, **Kuryan G Stephanos**, Vice President – Finance and MIS at ITC Ltd and **Gopalarethinam**, Head Commercial and Bullion Management of Titan Company Ltd.

The committee has been entrusted with the task of

- Recommending changes if required in the margin system
- Consider and suggest measures in reducing the transmission of risk from other segments and review the investor protection measure in the stock exchanges related to risk management.
- It will be responsible for recommending changes if required in the regulatory framework related to risk management for the cash and derivatives segment.

About SEBI :

- Established: 12 April 1988 and given Statutory Powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch

The US overtakes China to become India's largest trading partner in fiscal year 22:

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- The **United States** has surpassed **China** to become **India's largest trading partner** in 2021-22, reflecting the strong economic ties between the two countries.
- According to Commerce Department data, in 2021-22 two-way trade between the United States and India will reach 119.42 billion USD compared to 80.51 billion USD in 2020-21.
- Exports to the **United States** and imports increased to **76 .11 billion USD in 2021-2022** from 51.62 billion USD in the previous fiscal year, while imports reached 43.31 billion USD from about 29 billion USD in 2020-21.
- According to the data, in 2021-22, India's two-way trade with China will reach 115.42 billion USD, up from 86.4 billion USD in 2020-21.
- Exports to **China** increased slightly to **21.25 billion USD** in the last fiscal year from 21.18 billion USD in 2020-21, while imports increased to 94.16 billion USD from about 65.21 billion USD in 2020-21.
- The trade deficit increased to 72.91 billion USD in 2021-22 from 44 billion USD USD in the previous year.

India's Top Trading Partners 2021-22:

China was India's top trading partner from 2013-14 to 2017-18 and also in 2020-21.

Before China, the **UAE** was India's largest trading partner.

- In 2021-22, the **United Arab Emirates** is India's **third-largest trading partner** with \$72.9 billion.
- Followed by Saudi Arabia (\$42.85 billion) in fourth place, Iraq (\$34.33 billion) in fifth place, and Singapore (\$30 billion) in sixth place among trading partners

Govt collects Rs 1.41 lakh crore GST in May:

- GST collection in May at Rs 1.41 lakh crore; **16% lower than April**.
- According to the **Ministry of Finance**, GST revenue in May stood at nearly Rs 1.41 lakh crore, up **44%** from the same month last year.
- Revenue from **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** lagged April's record collection at Rs 1.68 lakh crore.
- In **March**, GST turnover was Rs 1.42 lakh crore, while in February it was Rs 1.33 lakh crore.
- The May collection of the April declarations, the first month of the fiscal year, is always lower than the April ones, which are related to the declarations for March, the end of the fiscal year.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

Key Points:

- Total GST revenue collected in May 2022 is Rs 1,40,885 where CGST is Rs 25,036, SGST is Rs 32,001, IGST is Rs 73,345 (of which Rs 37,469 is obtained on import of goods) and tax is Rs 10,502 crore (including Rs 931 obtained when importing goods).
- This is the **fourth time the monthly GST collection has crossed the Rs 1.40 lakh crore** mark since the introduction of the GST and the third consecutive month since March 2022.
- The total number of way invoices generated in April 2022 was 7.4 crores, 4% less than the 7.7 crores of way invoices generated in March 2022.

IDFC First Bank Partners with CarTrade Tech to offer financing solutions for used-cars

- Multi-channel automobile buying and selling platform **CarTrade Tech Ltd** has allied with **IDFC First Bank** to offer **easy and smart financing for used cars**.
- **CarWale abSure** is the used car platform of CarTrade Tech.

About the Partnership :

- Under the partnership, IDFC First Bank will become the **preferred financier for customers** purchasing used vehicles from CarWale abSure's dealers with customized offerings to suit their needs.
- It will ensure a **hassle-free experience** backed by trust and reliability.
- IDFC First Bank's scorecard-based loan sanctioning and end-to-end digitized and automated loan onboarding journey will empower CarTrade/CarWale abSure dealers.
- It will also offer a seamless loan processing experience to customers.

About IDFC First Bank :

- Founded: October 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Non-Executive Chairman: Rajiv Lall
- MD & CEO : V. Vaidyanathan

SBI General Insurance launches a new health vertical

- **SBI General Insurance** has launched a **new health insurance vertical**, through which the company plans to focus on **new innovative health products**, and an **in-house claim settlement process**, among others, to **boost customer experience**.

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Objective :

- To make health care available across the length and breadth of the country at an affordable cost.
- To rank SBI General to be among the top three general insurance companies for health in the **next 3 years**.
- The company intends to use its parent company State Bank of India's extensive reach and network to further establish health insurance penetration in **Tier 3 and 4 markets** across India.
- Through the vertical, it will manage in-house servicing of all health insurance claims to deliver a superior and hassle-free customer experience.
- It has also recorded a strong performance in the health insurance segment with a **50 percent** growth in GWP in FY 21-22.

About SBI General Insurance :

- Founded: 2009
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Prakash Chandra Kandpal

India's GDP grows 4.1% in Q4; expands 8.7% in FY22

- According to the data released by the **Statistics Ministry**, India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed to **4.1 percent** in January-March 2021-22 period.
- The growth in the financial year 2021-22 stood at **8.7%**.
- In its second advance estimate, the government had estimated the GDP to grow at **8.9%** in **FY22**.
- GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q4 2021-22 is estimated at **Rs 40.78 lakh crore**, as against Rs 39.18 lakh crore in Q4 2020-21, showing a growth of 4.1 percent.
- In the previous fiscal 2020-21, the economy had contracted by **6.6 percent** as the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted business activities.

Key Highlights :

- In FY22, all sectors except trade, hotels, and communication services were above the pre-pandemic levels of FY20.

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- Growth in private final consumption expenditure, or private spending, decelerated sequentially in Q4 to **1.8 percent**, proving to be the weakest link.
- Government spending, however, picked up to grow at **4.8 percent**, supporting overall growth.
- Gross fixed capital formation, which represents investment demand in the economy, slowed to **5.1 percent**.
- On the supply side, the manufacturing sector contracted **0.2 percent** in the March quarter due to supply chain disruptions
- Agriculture growth of **4.1 percent** remained robust despite the third advance estimates projecting a decline in wheat output due to the ongoing heat wave.
- The labor-intensive construction sector returned to positive growth in the March quarter (2 percent).
- Growth in services output slowed to 5.5 percent as a result of sluggish performance of trade, hotel transport, and communications services (5.3 percent), signaling the pent-up demand did not quite translate to higher growth.
- Gross value added (GVA) at basic prices grew at **3.9 percent** in the fourth quarter and 8.1 percent in FY22.
- Real GDP or Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Constant (2011-12) Prices in the year 2021-22 is estimated to attain a level of **Rs 147.36 lakh crore**, as against the first revised estimate of Rs 135.58 lakh crore for the year 2020-21.
- Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in the year 2021-22 is estimated to attain a level of Rs 236.65 lakh crore, as against Rs 198.01 lakh crore in 2020-21, showing a growth rate of 19.5 percent.

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HDFCLtd Partners with Accenture to digitally transform the lending business

- India's largest housing finance company, **HDFCLtd.**, has collaborated with global information technology services firm **Accenture** to digitally transform its **lending business**.

Aim :

- To make HDFC create a paperless lending experience through a new analytics-powered cloud-native lending platform.

About the Partnership :

- The collaboration is powered by **cloud-native applications, machine learning, automation, and advanced analytics**.
- The tie-up will revamp HDFC's customer experience and business processes to provide greater operational agility and efficiency, and drive business growth.
- The platform also includes a mobile application and a web-based portal for customers, which is developed using **human-centric design principles** to **enable digital-native experiences and reduce the time taken** for customer onboarding.
- It will also offer **customers real-time visibility** into their home loan application status and other related service requests anytime, anywhere.
- The mobile application with a specially designed, the gamified user experience would help HDFC's large sales field force and channel partners track business leads and service customers in real-time.

About HDFC Ltd :

- Founded: 1977
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD: Renu Sud Karnad

About Accenture :

- Founded: 1989
- Headquarters: Dublin, Ireland
- CEO: Julie Sweet

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

ToneTag emerges the winner in 2 categories in RBI's first global hackathon

- A brand of Naffa Innovations Pvt Ltd, Tone Tag, has been declared the winner in two categories in the RBI's first global hackathon Harbinger 2021.

Aim of hackathon Harbinger 2021 :

- To encourage entrepreneurs to suggest innovative solutions for smarter digital payments.
- The Reserve Bank had launched its first global hackathon - "Harbinger 2021 – Innovation for Transformation" with the theme 'Smarter Digital Payments' in November 2021.

About Harbinger 2021 :

- The hackathon had received an encouraging response with **363 proposals** submitted by teams from within India and **22 other countries, including the US, UK, Sweden, Singapore, Philippines, and Israel.**
- The hackathon ran in three phases, with shortlisting of proposals in the first phase, solution development in the second phase, and the final evaluation in the third phase.
- The third phase of the final evaluation was held on **May 26-27, 2022, in Bengaluru, Karnataka.**
- The winners in each category were selected based on problem comprehension, inventiveness, solution comprehensiveness, ease of implementation, demonstration/user experience, etc.
- ToneTag won in **two categories**, namely:
 1. Innovative, easy-to-use, non-mobile digital payment solutions for converting small-ticket cash transactions to digital mode'
 2. 'Context-based retail payments to remove the physical act of payment'.
- In all, there were four categories.
- **napID Cybersec Pvt Ltd (INDIA)** and **TrustCheckr (INDIA)** were the winners of the other two categories.
- The runner-ups were Extolabs LLC (USA); neoEYED (USA); Sperotel Technologies LLP (INDIA); Ezetap Mobile Solutions Pvt Ltd (India); and Lalit Kumar Pagaria (India).

About Tone Tag :

- Founded: September 2013
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- CEO: Kumar Abhishek

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- ToneTag is a voice-based commerce and payments, solution provider.

State Bank of India revises up FY23 economic growth forecast to 7.5%

- The **SBI Research** has projected the **Indian economy** to grow at **7.5 percent in 2022-23**, an upward revision of **20 basis points** from its earlier estimate.
- The real GDP will incrementally increase by **Rs 11.1 lakh crore in FY23**.

Key Highlights :

- The economy grew by **8.7 percent in FY22**, net adding **Rs 11.8 lakh crore** in the year to **Rs 147 lakh crore**, & this was however only **1.5 percent higher than** the pre-pandemic year of FY20.
- On rising corporate growth, the report notes that in FY22, around **2,000 listed companies** reported 29 percent top-line growth and a 52 percent jump in net profit over FY21.
- Construction sectors including cement, steel, etc reported impressive growth in both revenues as well as net income with a 45 percent and 53 percent, rise respectively in revenue.
- Nominal GDP expanded by ₹ 38.6 lakh crore to ₹ 237 lakh crore, or 19.5 percent annualized & In **FY23**, as inflation remains elevated in the first half, nominal GDP will grow 16.1 percent to ₹ 275 lakh crore
- Given the higher crude prices, trading over \$120 a barrel, the report sees inflation averaging at 6.5-6.7 percent in FY23.

Govt ratifies 8.1 pc EPF interest rate for 2021-22:

- The government has approved an **8.1 percent** rate of interest on **employees' provident fund (EPF)** deposits for 2021-22 - an over four-decade low - for about five crore subscribers of retirement fund body EPFO.
- Earlier in March this year, the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** had decided to lower the interest on provident fund deposits for 2021-22 to 8.1 percent from **8.5 percent provided in 2020-21**.
- the Ministry of Labour and Employment has conveyed the approval of the central government to credit an 8.1 percent rate of interest for 2021-22 to each member of the EPF scheme.
- Now, after the ratification of the interest rate by the government, the EPFO would start crediting the fixed rate of interest for the fiscal into the EPF accounts.
- The 8.1 percent EPF rate of interest is the lowest since 1977-78 when it stood at 8 percent.

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- The 8.5 percent interest rate on EPF deposits for 2020-21 was decided by the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) in March 2021.

About EPFO:

- The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is the statutory body under the Government of India's Ministry of Labour and Employment, which is responsible for the regulation and management of provident funds in India.
- The EPFO administers the mandatory provident fund.

Govt releases Rs 86,912 crore to states & clears GST compensation dues

- The **Government of India** has released the entire amount of **GST compensation payable to States** up by **releasing an amount of Rs.86,912 crores**.
- It was taken to assist the States in managing their resources and ensuring that their programs, especially the expenditure on capital are carried out successfully during the financial year.
- This decision has been taken although only about **Rs.25,000 crore** is available in the GST Compensation Fund.
- The balance is being released by the Centre from its resources pending collection of Cess.

Dues	Amount (in Rupees)
Dues for April & May, 2022	Rs.17,973 crores
Dues for February and March 2022	Rs.21,322 crores
Balance of compensation payable up to January 2022	Rs.47,617 crores

Key Highlights :

- As per current rules, New Delhi is mandated to compensate states until **June 30** for any loss in revenue under the GST.
- Following the adoption of the GST on July 1, 2017, the government expected a yearly **revenue increase of 14%**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- To compensate governments for lost income, a cess was imposed on a variety of luxury commodities and so-called sin goods to raise funds.
- Due to the pandemic, economic recovery slowed down & which impacted the cess collections, resulting in an inadequate balance in the cess fund.
- To meet the resource gap of the states due to the short release of compensation, the Centre has borrowed and released ₹1.1 lakh crore in 2020-21 and ₹1.59 lakh crore in 2021-22 as back-to-back loans to meet a part of the shortfall in cess collection.

About Ministry of Finance :

- Cabinet Minister : Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State : Bhagwat Karad, Pankaj Choudhar

Kotak Investment Advisors launches 'Kotak Cherry'

- Kotak Investment Advisors Ltd, a subsidiary of Kotak Mahindra Bank, has launched a curated tech-led investment management platform, **Kotak Cherry**.
- It will help investors in choosing from a wide array of offerings beyond the ones manufactured by Kotak group companies.
- It is a one-stop solution for all investments and has a target to onboard **10 lakh customers** in a year.

About Kotak Cherry :

- Kotak Cherry provides investment solutions ranging from stocks, bonds, mutual funds, fixed deposits and **National Pension Scheme (NPS)** to progressive investment opportunities like **Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)**."
- It is designed to offer holistic investing solutions to users via a robust digital app backed by experienced investment managers.
- It is enabled as a **Do It Yourself (DIY)** execution platform with plans to turn it into a subscription fee-based model in the future.
- The platform also plans to add other financial solutions like stock baskets, Robo advisory, life, medical, and general insurance, and enable international investing.

About Kotak Mahindra Bank :

- Founded: February 2003

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- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Uday Kotak

Kiya.ai launches India's first banking metaverse - Kiyaverse

- A digital solutions provider serving financial institutions and governments globally, **Kiya.ai**, has launched **India's first-ever banking metaverse - Kiyaverse**.

About Kiyaverse :

- Kiyaverse will be used by banks and **non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)** to enable virtual interactions.
- Through Kiyaverse, **Kiya.ai** enables consumers to transact, access banking information, and avail of various banking products virtually from the comfort of their homes.
- It will offer services such as virtual relationship managers, peer avatars, and virtual advisors called Robo-advisors.
- Kiyaverse plans to have tokens as NFTs and support **central bank digital currencies (CBDCs)** to enable open finance in a **Web3.0 environment**.
- Kiyaverse will interface its **Open API connectors** with Aggregators, and Gateways to enable a Super-App and Marketplace on the metaverse.
- Kiyaverse provides **3-dimensional analysis** of data for Banks including CMO Insights, Product Performance, Risk Analysis, and Channel Analytics.
- It will also interface open API connectors with aggregators and gateways, creating a banking super app and a marketplace in the Kiyaverse.

About Kiya.ai :

- Founded: 1995
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Rajesh Mirjankar

India's forex reserves rise above USD 600 billion

- According to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** data, India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves for the week ended May 27 rose from **USD 3.854 billion** to **USD 601.363 billion** led by a sharp increase in the country's foreign currency assets.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- The country's forex reserves have risen sharply for the second consecutive week after falling for **10 straight weeks**.
- The forex reserves had jumped by **USD 4.23 billion** during the week ended May 20.
- According to the Reserve Bank of India's weekly statistical supplement, all the components of the forex reserves rose during the week ended May 27 led by a sharp jump in the foreign currency assets.
- India's foreign currency assets, which are the biggest component of the forex reserves, rose by USD 3.610 billion to USD 536.988 billion during the week under review, the RBI data showed.
- The **foreign currency assets** had increased by **USD 3.825 billion** in the previous week.
- The foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-dollar currencies like the Euro, UK's Pound Sterling, and Japanese Yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.
- The value of gold reserves rose by **USD 94 million to USD 40.917 billion** during the week under review.
- The value of gold reserves had increased by **USD 253 million** during the week ended May 20.

Easy Home Finance partners with ICICI HFC to Offer Home loans

- **Easy Home Finance Ltd (EASY)**, a tech-based mortgage company, has partnered with **ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd. (ICICI HFC)** have entered into a **co-lending partnership** to disburse **affordable home loans** in India.

About the Partnership :

- The co-origination, underwriting, and disbursement activities from both parties together will enable a seamless process for new home buyers.
- The Partnership will leverage ICICI HFC's expertise in the affordable housing segment and EASY's tech capabilities to enable quick disbursement of affordable home loans and make the dream of owning a home come true, for millions of Indians.
- ICICI HFC has been instrumental in providing a range of Regular Home loans, Affordable Home loans, **Loan Against Property (LAP)**, **Micro LAP**, **Home Improvement Loans**, and Construction Finance to developers.
- The partnership **eradicating** the hassle of long home loan procedures and paperwork.

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Additional Info :

- Easy Home Finance had earlier announced a **MaaS (Mortgage as a Service)** partnership with **ESAF Bank** as it expands as a mortgage tech company.
- The EHFL had raised a Series-A round from domestic private equity Xponentia Capital, as well as Harbourfront Japan, Finsight VC, RaSa Future Fund, Navida Capital Sweden & Integra Software.

About Easy Home Finance Limited :

- Founded: 2017
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD: Mr. Rohit Chokhani

About ICICI Home Finance :

- Founded: 1999
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Anirudh Kamani
- ICICI Home Finance is a **wholly-owned subsidiary of ICICI Bank** and is registered with the regulatory authority of India - **National Housing Bank (NHB)**.
- It provides home and commercial loans, loans against property, gold loans, and accepts fixed deposits

Rubber Board's electronic trading platform 'mRube' to go live:

- **mRube**, the e-commerce platform promoted by Rubber Board, will go live on June 8.
- Ahmedabad-based ISourcing Technologies is the technology partner.
- mRube follows simple one-time registration.
- KN Raghavan, Executive Director will launch the beta version of the electronic platform at a function in the presence of the Rubber Producer Society and other industry representatives.

Key Points:

- The **e-rubber market** will be a game-changer in the **rubber marketing system**.
- Although the rubber business has an innate advantage of high business efficiency, the trading system has not been improved with the changing needs of the consumer sector.
- The rubber market will turn a game into a rubber marketing and advertising system.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- Although the rubber trade has the inherent advantage of being an **over-efficient period**, the **buying and selling system** has not been improved to meet the changing needs of the customer sector.
- The e-commerce platform is designed to complement the existing buying and selling system by providing greater transparency and market visibility.
- **E-commerce** is expected to bring additional business to existing rubber sellers, processors, and producers by reaching new sellers/customers even in remote locations.

About the Rubber Board:

- The Rubber Board is a statutory body constituted by the Government of India, under the Rubber Act 1947, for the overall development of the rubber industry in the country.
- Headquarters: Kottayam, Kerala
- Founded: 18 April 1947.

MS Dhoni invests in Chennai drone company Garuda Aerospace:

- **Former Indian cricket captain MS Dhoni** has invested an undisclosed amount in **Chennai-based Garuda Aerospace**, India's leading provider of drones (DaaS).
- He will also be the **face and brand ambassador of the company**.
- The investment is part of a seed round, ahead of a \$30 million Series A round, which the company is currently in the process of closing at **the end of July at a \$250 million valuation**.

About the Garuda Aerospace:

- **Launched in 2015**, Garuda Aerospace has made significant inroads into the drone startup ecosystem.
- The company provides **low-cost drone-based solutions** and has designed drones for **38 diverse applications**, including sanitation, agricultural spraying, mapping, industrial, security, delivery, and monitoring.
- Garuda has also made a breakthrough in the defense sector when it won a large order for **33 anti-drone systems for the Ministry of Defense**.
- **In Uttar Pradesh**, under Svamiva, a land survey was carried out to map 1,000 villages.
- This is done to create a digital ownership record, which is made available online.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

RBI issues standard assets provisioning norms for upper-layer NBFCs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a new set of norms for provisioning for standard assets by large Non-Banking Financial Companies-Upper Layer (NBFC-UL) because of the increasing role played by such entities in the financial system.
- The new norms on standard asset provisioning will come into effect from **October 1, 2022**.
- In the case of individual housing loans and loans to **Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs)**, the rate of provision has been specified at **0.25 percent** and for housing loans extended at teaser rates, it has been fixed at **2 percent**.
- NBFC-UL shall maintain provisions in respect of 'standard' assets at the following rates for the funded amount outstanding:

Category of Assets	Rate of Provision(%)
Individual housing loans and loans to Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs)	0.25
Housing loans extended at teaser rates	2.00%, which will decrease to 0.40% after 1 year from the date on which the rates are reset at higher rates (if the accounts remain 'standard')
Advances to Commercial Real Estate – Residential Housing (CRE - RH) Sector	0.75
Advances to Commercial Real Estate (CRE) Sector (other than CRE-RH)	1.00
Restructured advances	As stipulated in the applicable prudential norms for restructuring advances
All other loans and advances not included above, including loans to Medium	0.40

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

Enterprises	
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- In October 2021, RBI issued a framework for scale-based regulation for NBFCs.
- The regulatory structure for NBFCs comprises **four layers** based on their **size, activity, and perceived riskiness**.

About RBI:

- Founded: 1 April 1935
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Deputy Governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain¹ M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

DBS Bank India launches its 1st credit card in partnership with Bajaj Finance Limited - Bajaj Finserv

DBS Bank SuperCard

- **DBS Bank India** has launched its **first-ever credit card** in India in partnership with **Bajaj Finance Limited**, co-branded as '**Bajaj Finserv DBS Bank SuperCard**', powered by **Visa**.
- Designed to de-clutter customers' wallets, the SuperCard eliminates the need for having multiple credit cards.
- The Bajaj Finserv DBS Bank SuperCard was unveiled in the presence of **Piyush Gupta** (DBS Group CEO), **Surojit Shome** (DBS India CEO), and Bajaj Finserv leadership **Rajeev Jain** (BFL CEO) and **Anup Saha** (BFL Deputy CEO), Visa leadership **Sandeep Ghosh** (Group Country Manager, India, and South Asia).

Features of Bajaj Finserv DBS Bank SuperCard :

- SuperCard will provide its customers with benefits and rewards across different product categories and exclusive benefits on Bajaj Finserv's range of products and services available across the country.
- The SuperCard will be available in **6 variants**, offering a welcome bonus of up to **20,000 Cash Points**.
- It also multiplies customers' cash points up to **10x every month** on achieving monthly milestone spending.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- The customers can also enjoy up to 20X accelerated cash points on spending via DBS Card+ mobile app and Bajaj Finserv app.
- Customers can apply for the card from the comfort of their homes through all the digital channels of Bajaj Finance Limited and get their paperless KYC completed on the same day, allowing them to start using their Card instantly
- It allows customers to receive up to **5% cashback (up to INR 500 per transaction)** on the down payment of consumer durable loans at Bajaj Finance EMI network stores
- Also, It allows customers to subscribe to various memberships like **Disney Hotstar, and Zomato Pro via DBS Card mobile app** and get up to 40% cash back in form of Cash Points
- Other card benefits include a special health plan on Bajaj Finserv Health which offers deeply discounted teleconsultations from physicians across India, airport lounge access, interest-free cash withdrawal for up to 50 days, fuel surcharge waiver, and easy to convert spending to EMI starting from INR 2500

About Bajaj Finserv Limited :

- Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra, India
- MD: Rajeev Jain
- Bajaj Finance Limited (BFL), a **subsidiary of Bajaj Finserv**, is an Indian non-banking financial company.

RBI imposes a Rs 27.5 lakh penalty on Punjab & Sind Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **penalty of Rs 27.5 lakh** on Punjab & Sind Bank for **non-compliance** with certain directions issued by it on 'external benchmark-based lending'.
- The penalty comes after RBI had carried out a statutory inspection for Supervisory Evaluation of the bank concerning its financial position as of **March 31, 2020**.
- The bank linked certain floating rate retail loans and floating rate loans to **Micro and Small Enterprises**, extended by it on or after October 01, 2019, to the **Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate (MCLR)** instead of an external benchmark.
- This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

About Punjab & Sind Bank :

- Founded: 24 June 1908
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Shri Swarup Kumar Saha

Suryoday SFB partners with Mobisafar Services for banking services across India

- **Suryoday Small Finance Bank**, one of India's leading small finance banks, has partnered with **Mobisafar Services Private Limited** to provide banking services through all Mobisafar's franchises and Business Correspondent networks across India.

Aim :

- To strengthen financial inclusion by providing key banking services, digitally to the underbanked customers even in the remotest parts of the country.
- Mobisafar through its presence in **13000+ pin codes** would help facilitate onboarding new customers in Suryoday Small Finance Bank, digitally through eKYC and enable banking services like savings to account opening, deposit/withdrawal of money, balance inquiry, etc.
- Through this partnership, Mobisafar would further enable more underbanked customers to take benefit of schemes like **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**, and **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** & **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**.

About Suryoday Small Finance bank :

- Founded: 2017
- MD & CEO : Baskar Babu Ramachandran
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

SEBI restructures mutual fund advisory committee

- Markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has restructured its advisory committee on mutual funds.
- The **25-member advisory committee** will be chaired by former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **Usha Thorat**.
- The regulator has inducted Chairman of NJ India Invest **Neeraj Choksi** into the advisory committee

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Other members include

- Independent Trustee at SBI Mutual Fund Sunil Gulati
- Independent Trustee at DSP Mutual Fund Dharmishta Narendraprasad Raval.
- Tata Asset Management MD and CEO Prathit D Bhohe
- SBI Funds Management MD and CEO Vinay Tonse
- Mirae Asset Investment Managers (India) CEO Swarup Mohanty
- Sundaram Asset Management Company MD Sunil Subramaniam
- Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company MD and CEO Navin Agarwal Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) Chairman A Balasubramanian
- Also, chiefs of BSE, NSE, Computer Age Management Services (CAMS), KFin Technologies as well as representatives of the finance ministry, and Sebi are part of the committee.
- The committee is mandated to advise Sebi on issues related to regulation and development of the mutual fund industry.
- It can also advise the SEBI on disclosure requirements and measures required for a change in the legal framework to introduce simplification and transparency in mutual fund regulations.

About SEBI :

- Established: on 12 April 1988 and given Statutory Powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch

'Har Time EMI on Time' is a financial education initiative launched by Bajaj Finance:

- **Bajaj Finance Limited, the lending arm of Bajaj Finserv Limited**, a global financial services group, has launched **Har Time EMI On Time**, a digital campaign to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of good financial habits for a secure financial future.
- The campaign aims to educate the public about the benefits of making their monthly EMI loan payments on time, as well as the long-term consequences of underpayments on their overall financial health.

Key Points:

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- The advertisement also emphasizes the importance of developing a disciplined habit of following through on payment commitments to benefit from the diverse financial products on the market.
- The brand campaign featuring the adorable Gupta Ji of the famous **Savdhaan Rahein Safe Rahein is teaching Tinku Ji**, in a catchy and musical style, a simple way to pay his monthly EMI on time.
- **Tinku Ji** educates consumers and the public about the various effects of non-payment or late payment, as well as the importance of paying on time to improve one's credit rating, which can affect future loan opportunities.
- The multilingual digital campaign will be viewed on the **Bajaj Finance Limited website**, social media platforms, customer portal, **interactive voice response (IVR)**, mobile app, and other multimedia infotainment.

World Bank lowers India's GDP growth to 7.5% for FY 23

- The **World Bank** In its latest **Global Economic Prospects report**, lowered its 2022-23 (FY23) real gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for India to **7.5 percent, from 8 percent**, on the back of inflationary pressures, supply-chain pressures, and geopolitical tensions due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- This is the **second time** the World Bank has revised its GDP growth forecast for India in FY23.
- Earlier in April 2022, WB had trimmed the forecast from **8.7 percent to 8 percent**.
- The World Bank also lowered its global growth forecast for the calendar year 2022 to 2.9 percent from 4.1 percent.
- Further, the Growth is expected to slow to **7.1 percent in 2023-24**.
- For FY25, GDP growth has been pegged at **6.5 percent**.
- A rise in prices across all items from fuel to vegetables and cooking oil pushed **WPI or wholesale price-based inflation** to a record high of **15.08 percent in April** and **retail inflation** to a nearly eight-year high of **7.79 percent**.

Other global rating agencies Projections :

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- In May 2022, **Moody's Investors Service** trimmed the GDP projection to **8.8 percent** for the calendar year 2022 from 9.1 percent earlier, citing high inflation.
- **S&P Global Ratings** too had cut India's growth projection for 2022-23 to **7.3 percent**, from 7.8 percent earlier, on rising inflation and longer-than-expected Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- In March 2022, **Fitch** had cut India's growth forecast to **8.5 percent**, from 10.3 percent, while IMF had lowered the projection to 8.2 percent from 9 percent.
- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has pegged India's growth at **7.5 percent**, while RBI in April cut the forecast to **7.2 percent** from 7.8 percent

About World Bank :

- Established: July 1944
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., U.S
- President : President: David Malpass

Axis Bank and Indian Oil launches co-branded RuPay Contactless credit card

- **Axis Bank** and **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** in partnership with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, have announced the launch of a **co-branded contactless INDIAN OIL AXIS BANK RuPay Credit Card**.

Aim :

- To offer innovative as well as customized benefits on the card backed by cutting-edge technology to provide a safe and rewarding experience to millions of customers.

About INDIAN OIL AXIS BANK RuPay Credit Card :

- Users of this card will receive a **100 percent cashback** of up to **Rs 250** as an onboarding reward on all fuel purchases made within the first 30 days of the card.
- It provides a **surcharge waiver of 1 percent** on fuel spent between **INR 200 to INR 5000** and reward points worth **4 percent** for every Rs 100 spent on fuel at Indian Oil fuel outlets.
- Also, this card users will be eligible to receive a
 - **10 percent** instant discount on movie tickets purchased through the BookMyShow website or app
 - **20 percent** discount at partner restaurants,

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- 1 percent reward points for every Rs 100 spent on online shopping, groceries, and utility payments, as well as 1 reward point for every Rs100, spent on all other expenses.
- An annual fee waiver is also attainable if the cardholder spends more than **Rs 50,000** in a year.
- The card also offers customers loyalty points in the form of **1 EDGE REWARD point** on every ₹100 spent with the card.

About Axis Bank Limited :

- Founded : 3 December 1993
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry
- Axis Bank Limited, formerly known as UTI Bank

About IOCL :

- Founded: 30 June 1959
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Chairman : Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- IOCL is an Indian government-owned oil and gas explorer and producer.
- It is under the ownership of the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, GoI.**

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Gets approval from Sebi to Float IPO

- Private sector lender **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB)** has received capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI)** nod to launch and raise funds through an **initial public offering (IPO)**.
- According to the **Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP)**, The public issue comprises a fresh issue of **1,58,27,495 equity shares** and an **Offer For Sale (OFS)** of up to **12,505 equity shares** by shareholders.
- The OFS consists of the sale of equity shares by **D Prem Palanivel, Priya Rajan, Prabhakar Mahadeo Bobde, Narasimhan Krishnamurthy, M Malliga Rani, and Subramanian Venkiteshwaran Iyer.**
- The bank, which filed its preliminary IPO papers with Sebi in September 2021, obtained its observations on May 30, 2022.

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About Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd :

- Founded: 11 May 1921
- Headquarters: Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: K. V. Rama Moorthy
- It offers a wide range of banking and financial services primarily to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), agricultural and retail customers.

SBI Foundation partners with Khan Academy to launch UpSchool

- SBI Foundation has launched UpSchool, a digital learning program for students from classes 1 to 10 in partnership with Khan Academy, an educational nonprofit in India.
- This program will be available in English, Hindi, and Kannada languages.

Aim :

- To reduce learning gaps and build a solid foundation in math and reading for their current academic year.

About the Program :

- Students or their parents can register for the program for free by visiting learn.khanacademy.org/upschool and will receive learning links on WhatsApp for 4-6 weeks.
- The program focuses on revising important concepts from the previous year in Math and language comprehension, helping them narrow the knowledge gap and build a strong foundation for the new class.
- Recently, SBI Foundation and Khan Academy partnered to localize high-quality math learning content so that students can learn in their preferred language.
- The initiation of this partnership took place in Punjab.
- SBI Foundation funded the localization project for creating new math lessons consisting of videos, articles, and practice exercises in Punjabi aimed at all learners in Punjab's public schools.

About SBI Foundation :

- Established: 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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- President: Lalit Mohan

CoinSwitch Launches India's First Crypto Rupee Index CRE8

- India's largest crypto investing app, CoinSwitch, launched the Crypto Rupee Index (CRE8), which is the country's first benchmark index to measure the performance of the rupee-based crypto market.
- It is owned and administered by CoinSwitch.

About CRE8 :

- CRE8 tracks the performance of **8 crypto assets** that represent over **85%** of the **total market capitalization** of cryptos traded in the Indian rupee.
- The index constituents are **Bitcoin (BTC), Ethereum (ETH), Binance Coin (BNB), Ripple (XRP), Cardano (ADA), Solana (SOL), Polkadot (DOT), and Dogecoin (DOGE)**.
- It is available at coin.switch.co/crypto-index is based on real trades on the CoinSwitch app that has **18 million registered users**.
- The CRE8 index is calculated on the weighted market capitalization (square root) methodology.
- It is indicative of the total market value of all the crypto assets relative to a certain **base period (1 October 2020)** and **base value (₹1,000)**.
- The coins in the index are decided based on the fulfillment of the following criteria:
 - **Listed and Trading:** The crypto asset must have traded for at least six months on CoinSwitch's platform.
 - **Currency:** They must be available for trading in INR on the CoinSwitch platform.
 - **Liquidity:** The crypto asset should have a minimum daily trading value of Rs 5 lakh for each day during the last 3 months.

Note :

- In March 2022, **CryptoWire** launched **India's first crypto index, IC 15**, which tracks the market capitalization and liquidity of the top 15 global digital currencies in dollar terms.

About CoinSwitch :

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- Founded: 2017
- Co-founder and chief executive officer: Ashish Singhal
- It is a single-window platform to trade in cryptocurrency.
- It expanded into rupee-based crypto trading in 2020.

OECD Slashes India Growth Forecast To 6.9% In FY23

- According to the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**'s latest report, it has **forecast India's GDP progress at 6.9 percent for FY23 & which is 120 basis points lower than the 8.1 percent** projection made in **December 2021**.
- It is due to the Indian financial system is progressively dropping momentum as inflationary expectations stay elevated due to rising international vitality and meals costs, financial coverage normalizes, and international circumstances deteriorate
- **Russia's war in Ukraine** is also adversely impacting India's growth prospects as the country is a major importer of energy, fertilizers, and edible oils.
- The RBI hiked the key repo rate by **50 basis points (bps) to 4.9%** in a bid to tame soaring inflation in the country.
- In **2021-22, India's Gross domestic product (GDP) was 8.7%**, which made India the fastest-growing major economy worldwide.
- OECD expects the policy rate to rise to **5.3%** by the end of 2022 and remain there in 2023.

Forecast for various nations by OECD (FY 22-23) :

- Saudi Arabia – 7.8 percent
- India – 6.9 percent
- China – 4.4 percent
- United States – 2.5 percent
- United Kingdom – 3.6 percent

Other Projections in India's GDP :

- The **World Bank** estimates, in its recent report, that India's GDP will grow by **7.5%** in 2022-23.
- The **Reserve Bank of India**, in its monetary policy announcement also retained its GDP growth forecast at **7.2%** for FY23.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- International organizations like the **International Monetary Fund** and the **United Nations** had projected India's GDP FY23 growth at **8.2%** and **6.4%**, respectively.

About OECD :

- Established: 16 April 1948
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Secretary-General: Mathias Cormann
- Membership: 38 countries

WhatsApp launched SMBSaathi Utsav to support small businesses:

- **WhatsApp India** announced **SMBSaathi Utsav** - an initiative that aims to support small businesses by helping them adopt digital mediums such as the WhatsApp Business App to run their business.
- **SMBSaathi Utsav** has kicked off with a pilot in Jaipur's Johri Bazaar and Bapu Bazaar where over 500 small businesses are being trained on various aspects of running their business online.
- The SMBSaathi Utsav is the second phase of the SMBSaathi campaign.
- **Launched in collaboration with Josh Talks** this initiative intends to educate and help small businesses unlock the potential of their business through WhatsApp.

About WhatsApp

- Founded: 2009
- CEO: Will Cathcart
- Headquarters: California, United States
- Acquisition date: 19 February 2014
- Founders: Jan Koum, Brian Acton
- Parent organization: Facebook

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launches EASE 5.0 'Common reforms agenda' for PSBs

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled EASE 5.0 - 5th edition of Enhanced Access and Service Excellence, a common reform agenda for public sector banks (PSBs).
- EASE 5.0 'Common reforms agenda' of the **EASENext** program has been developed for Public Sector Banks and was launched through video-conferencing by the **Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

About EASE 5.0 :

- Enhanced Access and Service Excellence-EASE evolved for **four annual editions** from Financial Year 2019 to Financial Year 2022.
- Under EASE 5.0, PSBs will continue to invest in new-age capabilities and deepen the ongoing reforms to respond to evolving customer needs, changing competition, and the technology environment.
- EASE 5.0 will focus on digital customer experience, and integrated and inclusive banking, with emphasis on supporting small businesses and agriculture.
- Simultaneously, all PSBs will also create a bank-specific **three-year strategic roadmap**.
- It will entail strategic initiatives beyond EASE 5.0.
- The initiatives will be across diverse themes of business growth, profitability, risk, customer service, operations, and capability building.

About EASENext :

- The EASENext would comprise **2 major initiatives: EASE 5.0 (common PSB reforms agenda) and Bank specific strategic 3-year roadmap (based on individual bank's business priorities)**.
- It is well-positioned to channel reforms with a specific focus on **customer-centric initiatives**.
- To develop a customer-centric approach banks should engage with their customers to understand their needs and expectations.
- While upgrading technology initiatives robust security mechanisms should be developed.

About EASE Agenda :

- EASE Agenda was launched by the government in collaboration with PSBs in **January 2018**.
- It was authored by **Boston Consulting Group** and commissioned through **Indian Banks' Association**.

About Ministry of Finance :

- Cabinet Minister : Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State : Bhagwat Karad, Pankaj Choudhary

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

Fino Payments Bank partners with Go Digit General Insurance Limited for Shop Insurance Policy

- **Fino Payments Bank** has partnered with one of India's fastest-growing general insurers, **Go Digit General Insurance Limited**, to offer shop insurance policies to small and medium business owners.
- Fino serves as a **corporate representative** for Go Digit.

About the Partnership :

- The partnership will allow small and medium businesses to take advantage of Digit's My Business Policy in the case of a catastrophe.
- The policy, which will be **valid for one year**, will cover loss or damage to the inventory or stock due to burglary, earthquake, fire, lightning, storm, flood, or riots, among others.
- It will also include in-built coverages like Money in a safe, transit money, and other coverages that will be integrated into the policy.
- Customers of Fino Bank will be able to join Go Digit's coverage for **Rs 550 per year (for a sum insured of Rs 3 lakh)**, which will rise to **Rs 2,600 per year (for a sum insured of Rs 15 lakh)**.
- As per their requirements, shopkeepers can directly enroll under **Digit's My Business Policy** (shop insurance policy) in real-time through a paperless process.

About Fino Payments Bank Limited :

- Founded: 4 April 2017
- Headquarters: Juinagar, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Rishi Gupta

About Go Digit General Insurance Limited :

- Founded: 2016
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

ICICI Bank Collaborates with ZestMoney to expand 'Cardless EMI' facility

- **ICICI Bank** has partnered with **ZestMoney**, a digital EMI/ pay-later platform, to expand its 'Cardless EMI' facility for purchases at **retail and e-commerce platforms**.

About the Partnership :

- Through this Partnership, Customers can convert transactions up to **Rs 10 lakh** into EMIs.

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- The partnership will enable the bank's customers to use ZestMoney's wide merchant base and the latter's 'Pay-in-3' offering, where they can split the bill into **3 EMIs** without any extra cost.
- Moreover, ICICI Bank's pre-approved customers can avail themselves of the facility for the brands like Xiaomi, OnePlus, Sugar, Mamaearth, Decathlon, Boat, Yatra, Urban Ladder, and Vijay Sales, and Titan Eye Plus among others.
- The facility can also be availed across categories such as electronics, home appliances, laptops, mobile phones, travel, fashion apparel, sportswear, education, and home décor.
- It will enable pre-approved cardless EMI customers to experience ZestMoney's seamless, all-digital products and convenience.

Note :

- **ICICI Bank** was the **first bank** to introduce the 'Cardless EMI' facility in **2020** to offer cashless purchases.

About ICICI Bank :

- Established: 5th January 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi

About ZestMoney :

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- CEO & Co-Founder: Lizzie Chapman

Ather Energy partners with SBI for customer retail finance

- Electric two-wheeler manufacturer Ather Energy has partnered with the State Bank of India to provide customers with vehicle financing.
- The partnership will enable Ather Energy customers to get pre-approved loan offers from SBI to avail of **instant loans at low-interest rates starting from 9.55% p.a** depending on customer credit profile.
- The loan can be availed on **YONO SBI**, without a branch visit.
- With this collaboration, the OEM aims to accelerate the growth of the electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem in the country.

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About Ather Energy :

- Founded: 2013
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Founder: Tarun Mehta & Swapnil Jain
- Ather Energy is an Indian electric vehicle company.
- It manufactures two electric scooters - the Ather 450X and the Ather 450 Plus.

About SBI:

- Founded: 1 July 1955
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara

RBI cancels certificate of registration of 3 NBFCs

- The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has canceled the Certificate of Registration (CoR) of three Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) including 2 Housing Finance Companies (HFCs).
- CoR of Noida-based Malik Motor Finance Limited, Uttar Pradesh has been canceled.
- The Malik Motor Finance Limited shall not transact the business of a Non-Banking Financial Institution, as defined in clause (a) of Section 45-I of the RBI Act, 1934.

Housing finance companies whose registrations have been canceled are:

- Aizawl-based North East Region Housing Finance Company Limited, Mizoram
- Gurgaon-based Aryarth Housing Finance Limited, Haryana
- As such, the above companies shall neither transact the business of a Housing Finance Institution nor of a Non-Banking Financial Institution as defined in the National Housing Bank Act, 1987 and Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, respectively.

2 NBFCs that surrendered the CoR granted to them by the RBI are :

1. Ernakulam-based Empower India Capital Investments Private Limited, Kerala
2. Kolkata-based Mangalmayee Garments Private Limited (presently known as Abhijeet Ferrotech Limited), West Bengal

RBI cancels license of Mudhol Co-operative Bank, Bagalkot, Karnataka

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has canceled the license of “The Mudhol Co-operative Bank Limited, in Bagalkot, Karnataka” citing an inadequate capital situation.

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The Reserve Bank canceled the license of the bank as:

- The bank **does not have adequate capital** and earning prospects.
- The bank has failed to comply with the requirements of Section 22(3) (a), 22 (3) (b), 22(3)(c), 22(3) (d), and 22(3)(e) read with **Section 56** of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949;
- The continuance of the bank is prejudicial to the interests of its depositors;
- The bank with its present financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in full;
- The public interest would be adversely affected if the bank is allowed to carry on its banking business any further.
- The bank is prohibited from conducting the business of 'banking' which includes, among other things, acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits as defined in **Section 5(b)** read with **Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949** with immediate effect.
- On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of **₹5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh only)** from the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** subject to the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961.

Bharat BillPay onboards CRED as a key agent institution

- **Bharat BillPay system (BBPS)**, the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI), has on-boarded **CRED** as a **key agent institution (AI)** to provide **bill payment solutions to CRED users**.
- AIs are entities that offer or wish to offer bill payment, collection, and aggregation services to their customers through physical or digital channels.
- With this collaboration, CRED users can make **recurring payments on utility bills** including electricity, telecom, DTH, water and gas, education fees, municipal taxes, NETC FASTag recharge, loan EMIs, insurance premiums, subscription fees, and mobile prepaid recharge, among other payments by logging into the CRED app.
- This will also be able to check transaction history, set transaction alerts and reminders, and raise or track complaints about Bharat BillPay transactions using the app.

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- As an Agent Institution, CRED will create member touchpoints, provide member assistance (registration, Quickpay, complaint resolution), instant confirmation, awareness (payment and charges), BBPS brand visibility, etc.

About NPCI :

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Non-Executive chairman: Biswamohan Mahapatra
- MD & CEO: Dilip Asbe

Public Sector Banks doubled their Net Profit to record almost Rs 66,500 crore in FY22

- Public sector banks (PSBs) have doubled the collective profit of 12 state-owned banks during the financial year 2021-22 to Rs 66,539 crore, an increase of 110% over Rs 31,816 crore in FY21.
- Despite the record performance, PSBs continue to lag behind their private peers, which reported a net profit of over Rs 91,000 crore, 29% higher than the previous year's Rs 70,435 crore.

Reasons for the rise in collective profits of these state-owned banks:

- Bad loans pressure has gone down which has increased profitability
- Easy liquidity during the pandemic by RBI improved opportunities to earn in treasury operations.
- Economies of scale after 10-state owned banks amalgamated
- The rise in high-growth segments like retail has also helped in driving the profits up
- All 12 state-owned banks reported a net profit for the first time in several years.

List of Banks that generated the highest profit:

- The State Bank of India recorded the highest profit of Rs.31,675 crore accounting for 47% of the total profits of PSBs.
- After SBI, Bank of Baroda, with a net profit of Rs 7,272 crore generated 10% of PSBs' profits, followed by Canara Bank, which at Rs 5,678 crore was at 8%.
- The highest revenue growth was reported by Bank of Baroda, followed by UCO Bank.
- Bank of Maharashtra became the first bank to record net non-performing assets (NPAs) below 1% followed by the highest growth in deposits & advances driven by the retail sector.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- According to an analysis of key financial parameters of PSBs done by bank unions, the **Bank of Maharashtra** has shown the **highest improvement in deposits**.
- It has also recorded the highest growth in advances of 25%, driven by the retail segment, which grew 23%.
- Private banks were led by **HDFC Bank (Rs 36,961 crore)**, **ICICI Bank (Rs 23,339 crore)**, **Axis Bank (Rs 13,025 crore)**, **Kotak Mahindra Bank (Rs 8,572 crore)**, **IndusInd Bank (Rs 4,611 crore)** and **Federal Bank (Rs 1889 crore)**.
- In FY21, **Central Bank** and **Punjab & Sind Bank** are the two banks that reported a loss dragging down the overall profits of the public sector banks.

PhonePe Pulse & BCG Report - Digital payments in India projected to reach \$10 trn by 2026

- India's leading digital payments company, **PhonePe** in collaboration with **Boston Consulting Group (BCG)**, unveiled a report titled, "Digital payments in India: A \$10 trillion opportunity"
- As per the report, India's digital payments market is at an inflection point and is expected to increase more than threefold from the current **US\$3 trillion to US\$10 trillion by 2026**.
- This would translate to digital payments (non-cash) constituting **2 out of 3 payment transactions by 2026**.

Highlights of the report :

- **Digital payments** will constitute nearly **65% of all payments by 2026**, up from 40%.
- **UPI adoption** will surge from **35% in FY 21 to 75% in the next five years**
- This will mean **7x growth** from **\$0.3-0.4 trillion** digital merchant payments to **\$2.5-2.7 trillion by 2026**.
- The report also talks about how the digital payments ecosystem has been positively disrupted by the entry of multiple new players with diverse offerings driving digital payments adoption at scale.
- Leading global and Indian fintech players have been key drivers of UPI adoption in India among end-users.
- This is further supported by user-friendly interfaces, innovative offerings, and an open API ecosystem.

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- The upcoming tech innovations and upgrades including the **Internet of Things (IoT)**, **5G**, and the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) initiative of a **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** will help increase the adoption of digital payments.
- UPI has supercharged India's transition to non-cash payments when it comes to both **person-to-person (P2P)** and **person-to-merchant (P2M)** transactions.
- UPI saw about a **9x** transaction volume increase in the past 3 years, increasing from 5 billion transactions in FY19 to about 46 billion transactions in FY22.
- It accounted for over **60 percent** of non-cash transaction volumes in FY22.
- PhonePe alone enjoys a share of **47 percent** in UPI volumes.
- While Tier 1-2 cities have witnessed the high acceptance of digital payments, penetration in Tier 3-6 cities shows headroom for growth.

About the report :

- The report is an in-depth commentary on the growth of digital payments in India and looks at factors and enablers that will help unlock the massive growth potential going forward.

Airtel Payments Bank Collaborates With Muthoot Finance To Offer Gold Loans

- **Airtel Payments Bank** has partnered with **Muthoot Finance** to offer gold loans through the **Airtel Thanks app**.

About the Partnership :

- With this partnership, Airtel Payments Bank customers can get **hassle-free gold loans** with Zero processing fees from Muthoot Finance.
- There will be **no-processing charge** on the loan and Muthoot Finance will provide up to **75 percent** of the pledged gold value as a loan.
- The partnership will give access to secured and affordable credit to customers looking for quick liquidity against their gold assets.

Key Highlights :

- The loan amount can be used for **any personal or work-related requirement**.
- Through the Airtel Thanks app, customers can apply for small loans for a small duration starting from a **minimum of seven days**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- The flexible payment option allows the customer to make part payments or complete payments before the maturity date with no additional charges.
- The loan facility will be available at the **5 lakh** banking points for Airtel Payments Bank.
- The gold is kept safe by the institution until the loan is paid off.

About Airtel Payments Bank :

- Founded: 2017
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Anubrata Biswas
- Airtel Payments Bank is a **subsidiary of Bharti Airtel**.
- On 5 January 2022, it was granted the **scheduled bank status by the Reserve Bank of India** under the second schedule of the **RBI Act, 1934**.

About Muthoot Finance :

- Founded: 1939
- Headquarters: Kochi, Kerala, India
- Chairman: M. G. George Muthoot
- MD: George Alexander Muthoot
- Muthoot Finance Ltd. is an Indian financial corporation and the **largest gold loan NBFC in the country**.

Tencent bought a stake in Flipkart worth Rs 2,060 crore:

- Chinese technology major **Tencent** has bought a stake worth **\$264 million (Rs 2,060 crore)** in **Walmart-owned Flipkart** from co-founder Binny Bansal, through its European subsidiary.
- **Binny Bansal** holds around a **1.84% stake in Flipkart** after selling part of his stake to **Tencent Cloud Europe BV**.
- The transaction was completed on October 26, 2021, and was shared with government authorities at the beginning of the current financial year,
- Post the transaction, **Tencent's arm** holds a **0.72% stake in Flipkart**, which is valued at around **\$264 million**, as per the last valuation of **\$37.6 billion** disclosed by the e-commerce firm in July 2021.

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- **Flipkart** had raised **\$3.6 billion** at that time in a funding round led by Singapore's sovereign wealth fund **GIC, CPP Investments, SoftBank Vision Fund 2, and Walmart.**

About Tencent:

- Founded: 11 November 1998
- Headquarters: Shenzhen, Guangdong, China
- Chairman, CEO: Pony Ma
- President: Martin Lau

About Flipkart:

- Founded: October 2007
- CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- Headquarters: Bengaluru

Xpay.life launches India's 1st blockchain-enabled UPI services targeting Rural areas

- **Fintech startup XPay.Life** launched India's first blockchain-enabled transaction framework and launched its **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services** targeted at rural India, as it completes **three years** of operations.

Aim :

- To make financial facilities accessible for people in rural areas who need financial support the most.
- To digitize various financial offerings and strengthen the Indian financial sector, especially that of rural India.
- The launch of its UPI services is expected to benefit XPay.Life's **4 million consumers** across **more than 15 states** and **1 lakh villages.**
- XPay.Life is working closely with the **regional rural banks** and **district co-operative banks** to help them bank better and enable true financial inclusion of the rural populace with security and no disruption.
- The fintech startup said it works on **three models: Software-as-a-Service (SaaS)** which includes their mobile app, **Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS)** which includes their website, and **Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS)** which refers to their mobile vans.

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- Currently, the company has about **100 active mobile vans** that facilitate digital banking and aims to increase it to 200 soon.
- The fintech company along with the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**, **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, and the state government is working towards strengthening digital banking and payments by enabling the last-mile link.

About Xpay. life :

- Founded: 2019
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Founder & CEO: Rohit Kumar

OmniCard launches cash withdrawal facility across all ATMs PAN India

- Payment solutions provider OmniCard became the first Reserve Bank of India (RBI) licensed PPI (prepaid instruments) to provide cash withdrawal service using a RuPay-powered card from any **Automated Teller Machine (ATMs)** throughout the country.
- The move came in after RBI permitted the non-bank licensed entities to enable cash withdrawals from the digital wallet.
- OmniCard users can withdraw cash from any ATM at their convenience with full security from frauds like card theft, and card cloning, as the withdrawal facility comes with high safety and security features and protects the user from exposing their money and bank account details.
- The company started work with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** team to enable the facility.

About OmniCard :

- Founded: 2018
- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Co-Founder and CEO: Sanjeev Pandey
- Omnicard is a **RuPay-powered prepaid card** with a mobile app where the users can spend using swipe, scan, tap, and pay online, avail of in-app offers from partner brands, and get rewarded on every spends.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

HSBC India to offer USD 250 million to startups

- Mumbai-based retail banking and financial services provider, Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, India (HSBC India) announced to lend \$250 million to startups in the country.
- The bank did not specify the timeframe for disbursement of the amount.
- HSBC stated that the lending will be done to high-growth, tech-led startups in the **3rd largest startup ecosystem in the world.**
- The announcement comes at the time when startups' debt needs by financial intermediaries locally have accelerated amidst 'funding winter' impacting equity funding to the sector.
- HSBC has prepared a credit model and offerings to suit the specific requirements of a wide spectrum of startups and new-age entities, ranging from growth stage to unicorns.
- In 2021, HSBC's commercial banking vertical in India had registered a **growth of 42%** in its profit to \$265 million compared to \$187 million in 2020.
- Further, the lender's loans to small and medium enterprises have tripled to around \$1 billion as compared to \$300 million in 2018.

About HSBC India :

- Founded: 1853
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- CEO: Hitendra Dave
- It is a foreign bank under the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, and thus is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Retail inflation for May matches estimates at 7.04%:

- According to data released by the **Department of Statistics and Program Implementation**, India's headline retail inflation rate fell to **7.04 percent in May** from an almost eight-year high to **7.79% in 2018.**
- April thanks to a favorable base effect. May's drop in inflation is unlikely to slow the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rate hike cycle.
- Inflation according to the **consumer price index (CPI)** in April was **7.79%.**
- In May 2021, retail price inflation stood at **6.3%.**

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Key Points:

- Meanwhile, price increases on everything from fuels to vegetables and cooking oils pushed **WPI, or wholesale price inflation**, to a record high of **15.08% in April** and retail inflation at the highest level in **8 years is 7.79%**.
- Retail inflation is tracked by the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** which measures price changes from the retail buyer's perspective.
- The Reserve Bank, which takes into account the CPI in its monetary policy, earlier this month raised its inflation forecast for the **current financial year to 6.7% from its previous estimate of 5.7%**.

BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center signs MoU with BRICS NDB

- The **BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) Innovation Center** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **BRICS New Development Bank (NDB)** to facilitate **bilateral cooperation** and promote the common development of BRICS countries.

Aim :

- To promote the sustainable development agenda, including the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, in BRICS as well as other emerging markets and developing countries.
- The MoU was signed during a conference in **Xiamen, East China's Fujian Province**.
- On behalf of the two sides, **Huang Wenhui, executive vice chairman of the BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center council**, and **Marcos Troyjo, president of the NDB**, signed the MoU.
- According to the MoU, the two sides will give priority to cooperation in such fields as artificial intelligence, the industrial internet, energy conservation, and environmental protection through joint research, personnel training, and information sharing on infrastructure and sustainable programs.

About BRICS :

- BRICS is the acronym for an emerging-market bloc that groups **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**.
- It is home to over **40 percent of the world's population** and about a quarter of the global economy.
- The **BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center** was launched in Xiamen in **December 2020**.

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About NDB :

- Formally opened: July 2015
- Headquarters: Shanghai, China
- President : Marcos Prado Troyjo

HDFC Bank signs MoU with 100X.VC to collaborate on start-up support

- Private sector bank, **HDFC Bank** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a leading early-stage venture capital firm, **100X.VC** to support start-ups.
- The Bank will extend its full suite of specialized services and facilities tailored for start-ups, known as Smart-Up, to all the firms associated with 100X.VC.
- It will also extend additional credit facilities and evaluate investment opportunities in these start-ups.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of **Abhishek Deshmukh**, Branch Banking Head - Maharashtra, and **Yagnesh Sanghrajka**, Founder & CFO, 100X.VC and **Sanjay Mehta**, founder & Partner, 100X.VC; **Ninad Karpe**, Partner, 100X.VC, among other senior bank officials.

About the agreement :

- Under the agreement, HDFC Bank and 100X.VC will work together in **mutually beneficial areas**.
- The bank will also assess 100X.VC-recommended start-ups for investment and loan extension opportunities.
- HDFC Bank and 100X.VC will also collaborate on initiatives such as **Master Classes for start-up enterprises** in the country.
- India is among the largest and fastest-growing start-up ecosystems in the world.
- In the first half of 2022 alone, **15 start-ups** emerged as unicorns.

About HDFC Bank :

- Founded: August 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

About 100X.VC :

- Founded: 2019
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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The trade deficit of India broadens to \$24.29 billion in May 2022:

- Trade data released by the **Ministry of Trade and Industry** showed that **India's trade deficit in May widened to \$24.29 billion from \$6.53 billion a year ago.**
- May's trade deficit widened due to a sharp increase in imports, up 62.83% year-on-year to \$63.22 billion, **while exports increased 20.55% to \$38.94 billion.**
- Despite the uncertainty and volatility caused by the war in Europe, exports of technical goods increased 12.65% year-on-year, reaching \$9.71 billion in May 2022.
- India's merchandise exports in May rose by 20.55% to \$38.94 billion.
- Imports grew by **62.83% to \$63.22 billion.**
- The trade deficit stood **at \$6.53 billion in May 2021.**
- Cumulative exports in April-May 2022-23 rose by about 25% to \$78.72 billion.
- Imports in April-May 2022-23 rose 45.42% to \$123.41 billion.

WPI inflation spiked to 15.88% in May 2022:

- **Wholesale price inflation peaked at 15.88% in May**, the highest since **September 1991**, as pressures on rising food and fuel prices outpaced moderation in the dominant manufactured goods segment position.
- In April, **WPI inflation was recorded at 15.08%.**
- Inflation based on the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** has remained in double digits for 14 months now, reflecting high global commodity prices, particularly oil, according to official data releases.

WPI-based Wholesale inflation in India:

- January: 12.96%
- February: 13.11%
- March: 14.55%
- April: 15.08%

Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance rebranded as Canara HSBC Life Insurance

- **Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance rebranded and renamed itself as Canara HSBC Life Insurance** and launched its first brand campaign **#PromisesKaPartner** aligned to its new positioning - **'Powering India to re-imagine their dreams and aspirations.**

Aim :

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- To increase financial inclusion, insurance awareness, and accelerating wealth generation for the clients.
- All existing policyholders will continue to enjoy the benefits of its existing policies under the new brand identity.
- The new logo is based on **3 pillars** of the **Company's strong parentage, technology, and people.**
- Canara HSBC Life Insurance's product suite offers more than 35 plans under child savings, long-term savings, retirement solutions, etc

About Canara HSBC Life Insurance :

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana, India
- MD & CEO: Anuj Mathur

RBI lifts restrictions on Mastercard 2022

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), lifted the restrictions imposed on Mastercard Asia/Pacific Pte Ltd on onboarding new domestic clients.
- The RBI has barred Mastercard Asia/Pacific Pete from onboarding **new domestic customers (debit, credit, or prepaid)** onto its card network from **July 22, 2021.**
- The move was a major hit for the US-based company which had earlier commanded roughly **33 percent** market share in India.
- The RBI had given almost **three years** for Mastercard to comply with the regulatory directions, but it was unable to complete the process

Key Highlights :

- The Central bank had announced restrictions on Mastercard in 2021 for **failing to comply** with the **local data storage norms.**
- Under RBI Mastercard restrictions, the US-based payment gateway was barred from onboarding the new customers until it complies with the Storage of Payment System Data norms.
- Debit and credit card funds are handled through systems such as **Mastercard, Visa,** and the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).**

Additional Info :

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- Mastercard is a payment system operator authorized to operate a card network in the country under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act)**.
- Mastercard, a major card issuing entity in the country, was the **third company** to have been barred by RBI from acquiring new customers after **American Express Banking Corp** and **Diners Club International** over data storage issues.
- In April 2022, the Central Bank had also imposed similar restrictions on the global card networking giants American Express Banking Corp and Diners Club International Ltd.

About RBI:

- Founded: 1 April 1935
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Deputy Governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar.

Adani Transmission's \$700 million loan gets a 'green loan' tag:

- **Adani Transmission Limited's \$700 million** turnaround facility has been labeled a "green loan" by Sustainalytics.
- This ensures a green lending framework for a revolving facility. Sustainability analysts have independently published **SPOs on the relevance of the revised framework to current market standards** and the extent to which qualifying project items are credible and impactful.

About the project:

- A revolving loan facility is a flexible financing instrument that provides the borrower with the option of withdrawing or withdrawing, repaying, and withdrawing.
- **\$700 million** revolving facility-related projects are underway in **Gujarat and Maharashtra**.
- In October 2021, the company, in a regulatory filing, announced **it had raised \$700 million for a transmission asset system** under construction through definitive agreements signed with banks major international.
- **MUFG Bank acts as a green loan** coordinator together with the issuer to organize the SPO on the green lending framework prepared by Adani Transmission.

About Adani Transmission Limited:

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- CEO: Anil Kumar Sardana
- Founder: Gautam Adani
- Founded: 9 December 2013
- Headquarters: Ahmedabad

CASHe has launched an industry-first credit line service on WhatsApp:

- Financial wellness platform, **CASHe** has launched the industry's **first line of credit** that uses **AI-powered chat on WhatsApp** to provide customers with a fast, seamless, and convenient way to **access instant lines of credit by simply entering their name.**
- The company offers instant lines of credit without the need for documents, downloading apps, or filling out tedious application forms.

About CASHe's WhatsApp chat service:

- **CASHe's WhatsApp chat service** is based on the **WhatsApp Business Platform**, an enterprise solution that allows businesses to communicate with new and existing customers on **WhatsApp easily, securely, and reliably.**
- Beneath this is an AI-powered bot that matches customer input and automatically facilitates a formal claim with **KYC verification** and, once verified, establishes a credit limit with just a few clicks through a guided conversation flow.
- Borrower details will be generated and displayed based on the name entered - the only key input the borrower needs to enter at the start of a conversation.

About WhatsApp

- Founded: 2009
- CEO: Will Cathcart
- Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, United States
- Parent organization: Facebook.
- Acquisition date: 19 February 2014
- Founders: Jan Koum, Brian Acton

Female labor participation increased to 25.1% in 2020-2021

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- According to the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** report for July 2020 to June 2021, the female **labor force participation rate (LFPR)** across India has increased from 2.3% to **25.1% in 2021**, compared with **22.8% last year**.
- In rural areas, the female labor force participation rate increased by **3% to 27.7%**, while in urban areas, the female labor force participation rate increased by **0.1% to 18.6 %**.
- The labor force participation rate (LFPR) is the proportion of people who work in the population.

Key Points:

- A person's customary status was defined as the activity status on which he or she spent the majority of his or her time in the 365 days leading up to the survey date.
- At the same time, India's **worker population ratio (WPR)** for people of all ages in **normal status is 39.8%**.
- The **Workforce Participation Rate (WPR)** is the proportion of the population that works.
- Finally, India's regular **unemployment rate (UR)** for persons of all ages is 4.2 percent; in rural regions, it is 2.1 percent for women and 3.9 percent for males.
- UR, on the other hand, is higher among women in urban areas, **at 8.6%, than among men, at 6.1 percent**.

47th meeting of GST Council to be held in Srinagar:

- The **GST Council's 47th meeting** will take place in **Srinagar on June 28 and 29, 2022**.
- **Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the GST Council**.
- The GST Council meeting is being held in **Srinagar for the second time**.
- The 14th meeting of the Council was conducted in the city on May 18 and 19 before the **implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on July 1, 2017**.
- Last year, the Council established a seven-member council of state ministers, led by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, to recommend measures to increase revenue by lowering tax rates.
- The last time the **GoM met was in November 2021**.

The following are the main topics to be discussed during the meeting:

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- The 47th GST Council meeting is significant because it is likely to debate the report of the state ministerial panel on rate rationalization, as well as the tax rate on casinos, racetracks, and online gaming.
- The Group of Ministers (GoM) is expected to debate prospective adjustments in tax slabs, according to sources, adding that the panel's final report will take some time.
- The Council may also propose making changes to the GSTR-3B summary return and monthly tax payment form to detect bogus input tax credit claims and speed up the processing of legitimate ones.
- The updated form, according to sources, will provide clarity on the gross input tax credit owing to the taxpayer, the amount claimed in a given month, and the net amount remaining in the taxpayer.

Ministerial meeting on GST rationalization fails to reach agreement:

- A team of **state ministers working on GST** rate rationalization was **unable to reach an agreement**, according to insiders, since certain members were opposed to changes to tax slabs and rates.
- They indicated that the GST Council will receive a status report from the Group of Ministers on the agreement made at the previous meeting on **November 20, 2021**.

Key Points:

- The GoM will seek an extension to present its final report, and tax rate issues will be reviewed at the Council meeting later this month, they said.
- On June 28 and 29, the GST Council, which is chaired by Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman will meet in Srinagar.
- Last year, the Committee established a seven-member council of state ministers, led by Karnataka Chief Minister Shri Basavaraj Bommai, to consider tax-rate reductions as a means of increasing revenue.
- The GoM has been charged with assessing items with an inverted duty structure to limit rebate payouts and with revising the GST exempt list to increase the tax base and avoid ITC chain breakage.

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- GST has a four-tier system that exempts or taxes basic items at a low rate of 5%, while vehicles and depreciating products are taxed at a high rate of 28%.
- 12 and 18 percent are the other two tax brackets.

World's central banks launch their most hawkish campaign: Since 1980

- As they attempt to deal with an unexpected jump in inflation, **central bankers around the world are conducting** what could be the **most dramatic tightening of monetary policy since the 1980s**, triggering recessions and disturbing financial markets.
- The week began with an unexpected move on **Wall Street to price in a 75-basis-point Federal Reserve rate hike**.
- Chairman Jerome Powell stated unequivocally that he is dedicated to lowering inflation, the most significant move by the **US central bank since 1994**.
- Part of the reason policymakers are being driven to act is that they underestimated the persistence with which inflation has climbed to multi-decade highs.
- They were hesitant to respond even when they saw the price pressures were not **"transitory"**.
- Interest rates in the **United States remained at zero in 2022**, with the **Federal Reserve gobbling up Treasuries** and mortgage-backed securities.

Key Points:

- Switzerland unexpectedly raised rates, while the Bank of England raised rates for the fifth time, this time by 25 basis points, and signaled that the rate will be doubled soon.
- The bond market reacted so forcefully to the concerted removal of stimulus that the European Central Bank convened an emergency meeting on Wednesday to address increasing yields in some euro-zone countries.
- From Brazil to Taiwan to Hungary, borrowing costs have risen, with Australia, South Korea, India, New Zealand, and Canada among those planning further action.
- Only the Bank of Japan rejected the trend, maintaining its ultra-easy monetary policy in the face of market pressure to join the global bandwagon.
- Inflation expectations in the United States have risen 75 basis points. Interest rates are being raised by the Federal Reserve.

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- Although China is an exception, traders all across the world are bracing for a series of rate hikes that many will have never seen before.
- The Federal Reserve intends to hike its benchmark rate to 3.8 percent by the end of 2023, up from the 1.5 percent to 2% range it established last week, and many Wall Street businesses believe it will reach even higher levels.

Govt to take additional efforts to reduce inflation if required: Mr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad

- **India's State Minister for finance, Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad**, declared that the Finance Ministry will take **additional steps to control inflation if necessary**.
- Inflation is a global phenomenon, and India fared better than other nations.
- **Inflation is being closely monitored by the government**, which is doing everything it can to keep it under control.
- The crisis between Russia and Ukraine, according to the minister of state, has had a substantial impact on India's inflation.

Key Points:

- To reduce the retail impact of **fuel inflation on customers**, the Finance Ministry has already decreased excise duty.
- Crude oil prices have been continuously rising over the world.
- Following the federal government's drop in excise charges, some states reduced their fuel VAT.
- India has increased the fertilizer subsidy for the **Kharif season to help farmers cope with rising global costs**.
- To prevent internal inflation, the government also barred wheat exports.
- The food ministry capped sugar supplies to 100 LMT in anticipation of a shortage in October and November.
- In April, the **Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose to 7.9%**, significantly beyond the **government-mandated threshold of 4% (+2%)**.
- The Reserve Bank of India and the Finance Ministry collaborated to bring the CPI inflation rate down to nearly 7% in May.
- The **RBI raised the repo rate twice, the first by 40 basis points** and the second by 50 basis points, to limit liquidity and manage inflation.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

China Becomes the Largest Importer of Indian Broken Rice:

- China has surpassed India as the largest importer or buyer of broken rice.
- China has surpassed African countries as the leading importer of broken rice in India.
- China became the leading importer of broken rice in India during the pandemic.
- In the year 2021-2022, 7.7% of India's exports were imported to China, totaling 16.34 lakh metric tonnes, and India's total exports were 212.10 lakh metric tonnes.
- According to the trade research, broken rice accounted for 96 percent of the 16.34 LMT of rice exported to China.
- China has overtaken India as the world's largest buyer of broken rice.
- In 2021-2022, overall exports of basmati and non-basmati rice were 212.10 LMT, up 19.30 percent from 177.79 LMT in 2020-2021.
- During this period, India's broken rice exports to China climbed from 3.31 LMT to 16.34 LMT.

Rice exports from India in 2020, 2021, and 2022:

- In the years 2021-2022, India's total rice exports for Basmati rice were 38.48 LMT, down from 46.30 LMT in the previous two years.
- non-basmati rice accounts for the majority of Indian rice exports.
- Other than Basmati rice, rice exports in 2021-2022 totaled 172.56 LMT, up from 131.48 LMT in 2020-2021, a 31.27 percent rise.
- In the years 2021-2022, India sold 38.64 LMT of broken rice to 83 countries, while China imported 15.76 LMT from these 83 nations, a 476.40 percent increase over 2.73 LMT.

Analysis by Trade Experts

- The unexpected surge in rice imports from China from India, according to trade analysts, is due to an increase in the manufacturing of noodles and wine.
- Before the outbreak of Covid-19, China sent a delegation to India and visited numerous rice mills, according to the former president of the All-India Rice Exporters Association, to promote the import of broken rice from India.
- Other causes for the increase in rice imports from India, according to experts, could be the rising price of maize.

RBI raises the limit of e-mandates for transactions up to ₹15,000

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- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised the Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) limit from Rs 5,000 to Rs 15,000 per transaction for e-mandates on cards, Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs), and UPI for recurring transactions.
- It means that **One-Time Passwords (OTPs)** or any extra step of authentication would no longer be required for recurring payments of up to Rs 15,000 made with cards, UPIs, or other prepaid payment instruments (PPIs).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has put in place various safety and security measures for card payments, including the requirement of AFA, especially for **'card-not-present' transactions**.
- Under e-mandate, an individual can give standing instruction to the bank to debit a specific amount automatically regularly.

What is an e-mandate for recurring payments?

- An e-mandate on a debit or credit card means that the cardholder has given a particular business platform, such as a website or a mobile application, a legal authority to deduct a specified amount of money for recurrent payments.
- It covers **online subscriptions, bill payments, and insurance premiums**, among other things.
- A consumer authorizes a business to charge his-her credit or debit card for recurring payments through an e-mandate.

About RBI:

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

Equitas Small Finance Bank Launches Savings Account For Kids - ENJOI

- Equitas Small Finance Bank announced the launch of an **exclusive savings account called ENJOI for kids**.
- This account introduces **"young kids"** to the financial world & encouraging them to develop an early habit of saving.
- The ENJOI account holders will also have access to exclusive deals from **ed-techs** and **online learning providers**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- ENJOI will allow kids of 0-18 years to open savings accounts under the supervision of their parents.
- Minors aged 10 and above will also get an option for a personalized Debit Card.

Benefits of ENJOI :

- The account offers "best-in-class" 7 percent interest for savings balances between Rs 5 lakh to R 2 crore.
- The account will offer flexibility to choose the mode of savings either as a savings account, balance starting as low as Rs 1,000; RD (Recurring Deposit) for Rs 500 monthly; FD (Fixed Deposit) for Rs 10,000.
- These offers and tie-ups have been exclusively sourced by the bank to offer maximum advantages to the account holders.
- The Personalised Debit Card is complimentary for the 1st year and can be enjoyed free for a lifetime by maintaining the required balances
- ENJOI account will also help the kids to take their first step towards a new age and technology-oriented banking experience

Tamil Nadu becomes the largest State with outstanding microfinance loans Portfolio

- According to MFIN Micrometer Q4 FY21-22, a quarterly report published by Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN), the gross loan portfolio (GLP) of Tamil Nadu as of March 31, 2022, stood at ₹36,806 crore.
- Tamil Nadu has replaced West Bengal to emerge as the largest State in terms of the outstanding portfolio of microfinance loans.
- It was followed by Bihar (₹35,941 crores) and West Bengal (₹34,016 crores).
- At the end of Q3FY22, West Bengal topped the chart with the highest outstanding portfolio of loans at ₹32,880 crores, followed by Tamil Nadu (₹32,359 crores).
- The Top 10 States (based on the total microcredit universe) constitute 82.4 percent of the total GLP of the industry.
- West Bengal was followed by Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra.
- As per the report, around 64 percent of the microfinance portfolio is concentrated in the East, Northeast, and Southern regions

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- The **41st** issue of the Micrometer report stated the microfinance industry served **5.8 crores**, **unique borrowers**, through **11.3 crore loan accounts**.

Lender-wise distribution :

- Lender-wise distribution of micro-loans shows that 12 banks held the largest share of the portfolio in micro-credit with a total loan outstanding of **₹1,14,051 crore**, or **40 percent** of the **total microcredit universe**.
- **NBFC-MFIs** are the **second-largest providers** of micro-credit with a loan amount **outstanding of ₹1,00,407 crore**, accounting for 35.2 percent of the total industry portfolio.
- Small finance banks (SFBs) have a total loan amount outstanding of **₹48,314 crores**, accounting for 16.9 percent, followed by non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) at 6.9 percent share.
- **Other MFIs account for 1 percent of the universe**.
- The report noted that the proportion of NBFC-MFI portfolios in the universe portfolio increased by 4.1 percent to 35.2 percent as of March 31, 2022, though banks continued to be the main contributors.
- The geographical distribution of the portfolio also witnessed a change with a decrease in the share of the east and northeast by 3.3 percent, while the share of the south and north regions increased by 1.3 percent each.

About MFIN :

- Founded: 2009
- Located at: Gurugram, Haryana, India
- Chairperson: Manoj Kumar Nambiar
- MD & CEO: Alok Misra

Kotak General Insurance Collaborates with PhonePe to offer Motor Insurance

- Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited (Kotak General Insurance) has partnered with PhonePe Insurance Broking Services Pvt. Ltd (PhonePe), a digital payments platform to offers motor insurance to 380 million customers on the PhonePe platform.

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- Through PhonePe, Kotak General Insurance will provide quick and seamless **car and two-wheeler insurance policies** to its customers.
- This tie-up will empower PhonePe customers to buy the car and two-wheeler insurance end-to-end online in just a few clicks from the comfort of their smartphones.

About Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Ltd :

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Managing Director & CEO: Suresh Agarwal

BOB Financial and Nainital Bank launch co-branded contactless RuPay credit card

- A wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda, BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL) & Nainital Bank launched the Nainital Bank – BoB co-branded Contactless RuPay Credit Card during the centenary year of Nainital Bank
- The card is designed to reward customers for everyday spending categories like **grocery and departmental stores**.

About co-branded contactless RuPay credit card :

- Cardholders of Nainital Bank – BoB RuPay Contactless Credit Card will be able to earn **5X i.e. 5 reward points (per Rs. 100 spent)** for spending on grocery, departmental stores, and movies.
- For all other spending, cardholders will earn **1 reward point per Rs. 100 spent**.
- In addition, cardholders will also benefit from a **1% Fuel Surcharge Waiver on fuel purchases**.
- The co-branded credit card offers complimentary Personal Accidental Death insurance.
- The card is offered at **zero joining fee** and a nominal annual fee that is waived on spends of Rs. 25,000 per year.
- To ensure the quick and simple acquisition of the co-branded card, customers can apply using a 100% digital process.

About BFSL :

- Founded: 29 September 1994
- MD & CEO : Shailendra Singh
- It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda and a Non-Deposit Accepting Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC).

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About Nainital Bank :

- Founded: 1922
- Headquarters: Nainital, Kumaon, India
- Chairman & CEO: Dinesh Pant
- The bank is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda which is under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance of the Govt.

RBI Suspends license of millath co-operative bank due to inadequate capital

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the license of Davangere-Karnataka-based Millath Co-operative Bank Ltd due to inadequate capital and lack of earning prospects.
- The Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Karnataka, has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank.
- On liquidation, every depositor will be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), subject to the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961.

The RBI has canceled the license as :

- The bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
- As such, it does not comply with the provisions of Section 11(1) and Section 22 (3) (d) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- The Bank has failed to comply with the requirements of Sections 22(3) (a), 22 (3) (b), 22(3)(c), 22(3) (d), and 22(3)(e) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.”
- The continuance of the bank is prejudicial to the interests of its depositors
- The bank with its present financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in full;
- The public interest would be adversely affected if the bank is allowed to carry on its banking business any further.
- Millath Co-operative Bank Limited, Davangere, Karnataka’ is prohibited from conducting the business of ‘banking’ which includes, among other things, acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits as defined in Section 5(b) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 with immediate effect.

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- Recently, the RBI also canceled certificates of registration (CoR) of 3 NBFCs, including 2 housing finance companies.
- CoR of Noida-based Malik Motor Finance Limited has been canceled & Housing finance companies whose registrations have been canceled are Aizawl-based North East Region Housing Finance Company Limited and Gurgaon-based Aryarth Housing Finance Limited.

Govt declares ICICI, HDFC, and NPCI's IT resources as 'critical information infrastructure'

- The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) announced the IT resources of private sector lender ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, and UPI managing entity National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) as 'critical information infrastructure' under Section 70 of the IT Act, 2000 indicating that any harm to it can influence the national security and any unpermitted person accessing it may be imprisoned for up to 10 years.
- The Central Government hereby declares the computer resources relating to the Core Banking Solution, Real Time Gross Settlement, and National Electronic Fund Transfer comprising Structured Financial Messaging Server.
- The computer resources of its associated dependencies to be protected systems.
- The persons authorized to access IT resources of ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, and NPCI are their designated employees, authorized team members of contractual managed service providers, or 3rd-party vendors who have been authorized by them for need-based access and any consultant, regulator, government official, auditor and stakeholder authorized by the entities on a case-to-case basis.

What is critical information infrastructure?

- The Information Technology Act of 2000 defines "Critical Information Infrastructure" as a "computer resource, the incapacitation or destruction of which shall have a debilitating impact on national security, economy, public health or safety".
- The government, under the Act, has the power to declare any data, database, IT network, or communications infrastructure as CII to protect that digital asset.
- Any person who secures access or attempts to secure access to a protected system in violation of the law can be punished with a jail term of up to 10 years.

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How are CII's protected in India?

- Created in **January 2014**, the **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)** is the nodal agency for taking all measures to protect the nation's critical information infrastructure.
- NCIIPC will monitor and forecast national-level threats to CII for policy guidance, expertise sharing, and situational awareness for early warning or alerts.

About Ministry of Electronics and IT :

- Cabinet Minister: Ashwini Vaishnav
- Minister of State : Rajeev Chandrasekhar
- Secretary : K. Rajaraman

ONDC Partners With NABARD to Initiate E-Commerce In Agritech

- The **Government's Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** has partnered with **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** to bring e-commerce to agriculture.

Aim :

- To establish market linkages for the enabled players with market-ready **farmers' producer organizations (FPOs)** in the country.
- It also focuses on promoting the development of innovative solutions that are likely to aid the adoption of e-commerce in the agriculture domain.
- This is the **first initiative** to introduce FPOs to technology.
- The hackathon will witness 400 participants, out of which 250 are agritech startups and the rest are non-agritech ventures.

About ONDC :

- Founded: April 2022
- CEO: T Koshy
- Open Network for Digital Commerce, is a private non-profit Section 8 company established by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** of the Government of India under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- The pilot phase was launched on 29 April 2022 in five cities; Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Shillong, and Coimbatore.

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About NABARD :

- Established: 12 July 1982
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Govinda Rajulu Chintala
- NABARD is an apex regulatory body for the **overall regulation of regional rural banks and apex cooperative banks in India.**

About RBI :

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governor: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

UPI, Rupay to Soon Be Available In France: NPCI Signs MoU With Lyra Network

- **Union Communications and Electronics and Information Technology Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** announced, that **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** the international arm of NPCI has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **France-based payments solution provider Lyra Network** to accept **UPI and Rupay cards in France.**
- The deal will allow Indians to pay using UPI and Rupay cards at terminals and machines offered by Lyra Networks, making it easier for Indian students and tourists to make payments.

Other Countries :

- In **July 2021**, **NIPL** (the foreign arm of NPCI) partnered with **Bhutan's central bank** to launch a QR code-based UPI payment solution.
- In **February 2022**, **NIPL** partnered up with **Manam Infotech** to enable UPI-based payments in **Nepal.**
- In **April 2022**, **NIPL** partnered with **NeoPay**, which is a payments service subsidiary of **United Arab Emirates (UAE)-based Mashreq Bank.**

Recent News :

- In April 2022, **NPCI** signed a deal with **NeoPay**, a payments subsidiary of **UAE's Mashreq Bank**, allowing Indians in the UAE to make payments using UPI on the payment provider's terminals across the country.

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- Recently, RBI allowed linking RuPay credit cards with UPI to help boost the usage of both payment offerings in the country.

About NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) :

- Founded: April 3, 2020
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

About NPCI :

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Non-Executive Chairman: Biswamohan Mahapatra
- MD & CEO: Dilip Asbe

RBI spent more to print ₹20, ₹50, ₹100, and ₹200 notes in FY22

- The selling price of banknotes in the denomination of ₹20, ₹50, ₹100, and ₹200 have gone up in FY22 vs the previous financial year.
- However, for notes in the denomination of ₹500, the prices have remained unchanged.

Key Highlights :

- According to information sourced through RTI from the Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Ltd (BRBNML), the Selling price for 1,000 pieces of ₹50 recorded a maximum increase of around 23 percent in FY22 over FY21, while that of ₹20 registered the lowest increase of a little over 1 percent.
- Although notes of ₹500 denomination are the highest in terms of volume (34.9 percent of all denominations) among all the paper notes in circulation, and also in terms of value (73.3 percent of the value of all denominations), their selling price has not seen any change in FY22 and FY21.
- RBI spent ₹4,984.8 crore, which is 24 percent more than it did in FY21 (₹4,012.09 crores), and the total supply was lower.

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- The overall cost of printing currency in FY22 was the second-highest, after an all-time high of around ₹8,000 crores during the year of demonetization (2016-17).

Reducing import dependency :

- According to RBI's annual report, BRBNML achieved production of 13,350 million pieces of banknotes in FY22.
- The two-fold increase in direct remittances by BRBNML to currency chests aided the unfettered availability of banknotes during the pandemic.

Additional info :

- Selling price refers to the price at which printing presses supply paper currency to their sole buyer, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- There are 4 presses, of which two are owned by the RBI through its wholly-owned subsidiary, BRBNML, while the remaining two come under the ownership of the Central government, operated through its wholly-owned company, Security Printing & Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL).
- BRBNML presses are situated in Mysuru and Salboni (eastern India).
- The government-owned presses are at Nasik and Dewas (central India).
- Coins are minted in four mints owned by the Centre, located in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Calcutta, and Noida.

About RBI:

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

SEBI forms an advisory committee on 'hybrid' securities Chaired by KV Kamath

- The Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted an advisory committee on 'hybrid' securities to make recommendations to promote the

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development of such instruments including measures focusing on ease of issuance and attracting domestic and global capital.

- The **20-member committee** will be chaired by **K V Kamath, Chairperson of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development.**

About the Committee :

- The committee includes top officials of **Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)** and **Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT)** and finance as well as legal experts and representatives of SEBI.
- It has been entrusted with the task of advising SEBI on issues relating to the development and regulation of the primary and secondary markets of hybrid securities in the country.
- It will identify aspects related to the use of hybrid securities in the context of infrastructure financing needs of the Indian economy and make recommendations for developing instruments to meet the needs of the infrastructure sector.
- The panel will also make recommendations on the financing of infrastructure through capital markets.
- The panel will also make recommendations for facilitating greater retail participation in hybrid securities and creating greater awareness about hybrid securities among investors while ensuring the protection of the interests of investors.

Other members of the Committee :

- Apart from Kamath, the committee has members including **Harsh Shah**, CEO and Whole-time Director, India Grid Trust; **Sanjay Grewal**, CEO and Executive Director, Virescent Renewable Energy Trust; **Tushar Kawedia**, CFO, IRB Infrastructure Developers; **Mathew George**, CFO, National Highways Infra Investment Managers; **Preeti Chheda**, CFO, Mindspace REIT; and **Aravind Maiya**, CFO, Tata Realty and Infrastructure.
- **Samarth Jagnani**, Managing Director at Morgan Stanley; **Kranti Mohan**, Partner at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas; **Pratichi Mishra**, Associate at S&R Associates; **Rakesh Vyas**, Fund Manager at HDFC Mutual Fund; and **Gopikrishnan M S**, Finance Professional are the other members of the committee.

Key Highlights :

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- Besides, Sebi has reconstituted its research advisory committee, which is responsible for the promotion, development, and maintenance of databases relevant to capital market regulation research.
- The **16-member panel** will be headed by **V Ravi Anshuman, Professor at IIM Bangalore.**

Other members of the panel :

- **Madan Sabnavis**, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda; **Pawan Agrawal**, Chief Risk Officer at Crisil; **Sudhir Bassi**, Executive Director at Khaitan & Co; and **H K Pradhan**, Professor of Finance and Economics at Xavier School of Management (XLRI)

About SEBI :

- Established: 12 April 1988 and given Statutory Powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch
- SEBI is the **regulatory body** for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Beneficiaries of the PFRDA pension scheme increased by 24%:

- As of May 31, 2022, the two major pension plans of the PFRDA had **5.32 crore subscribers**, an increase of more than 24% year over year.
- The number of subscribers to the various NPS plans increased to **531.73 lakh** by the end of May 2022 from **428.56 lakh** in May 2021, a jump of 24.07 percent year over year, according to the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

Key Points:

- The Atal Pension Yojana (APY), which has contributed the most subscribers to date, increased to **3.72 crores** at the end of May of this fiscal year.
- NPS subscribers increased from 22.97 lakh to 5.28 lakh among federal government employees, while they increased from 56.40 lakh to 7.70 lakh among state government employees.
- The results show that by the end of May, there were 14.69 lakh NPS subscribers in the business sector and 23.61 lakh in the category of all citizens.

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- The corporate sector's number of subscribers increased by 26.83 percent and 39.11 percent, respectively.
- The number of subscribers in the NPS Lite category declined by 2.7 percent to 41.85 lakh in April 2015, when no new registrations were allowed.
- As of May 31, 2022, the two plans' total **assets under management (AUM)** had increased by 21.5 percent to Rs 7.38 lakh crore.

About Atal Pension Yojana (APY):

- Atal Pension Yojana, formerly known as Swavalamban Yojana is a government-backed pension scheme in India, primarily targeted at the unorganized sector.
- It was mentioned in the year 2015 Budget speech by Finance Minister Mr. Arun Jaitley.
- It was launched by Shri Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9 May 2015 in Kolkata.
- Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is open to all bank account holders.
- The scheme is available to any citizen of India with ages 18-40 Years.
- The subscribers would receive the fixed minimum pension of Rs. 1000 per month, Rs. 2000 per month

Max Life Insurance Company Ltd Collaborates with Policybazaar to launch life insurance savings plan

- Max Life Insurance Company Ltd has partnered with Policybazaar.com to launch the 'Max Life Smart Fixed-return Digital Plan', a non-linked, non-participating, individual life insurance savings plan.
- The offer helps customers meet short-term financial goals with a **minimum policy tenure of 5 years.**

About 'Max Life Smart Fixed-return Digital Plan' :

- The plan offers guaranteed **tax-free returns** up to **6.14%** along with **life cover protection** at monthly premiums as **low as ₹3000.**
- It is also available to purchase on Max Life's website and Policybazaar.com

Key features :

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- Simplified on-boarding process along with instant confirmation of issuance after journey completion
- Fully guaranteed returns payable as a lump sum at maturity
- Flexibility to pay premiums monthly or annually for **just 5 years**
- Flexibility to choose between different variants, tailored to meet different financial security needs
- Higher benefits offered for higher premiums paid, as per the chosen goals
- Special benefits for women customers: **0.25% additional maturity benefit for 5 years' policy term; 0.5% for 10 years policy term**
- Option of taking a loan against policy to help in case of financial emergencies
- Tax benefits on premiums paid and tax-free maturity benefits, depending on the chosen variant, as per prevailing tax laws.

About Max Life Insurance Company Ltd :

- MD & CEO: Prashant Tripathy
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana

About Policybazaar.com :

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana
- CEO: Sarbvir Singh

Freo tie-up with Equitas small finance bank to launch digital savings account

- **Freo, one of India's leading consumer neo banks, in partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank launched its digital savings account 'Freo Save'.**

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- With this launch, it has become the **first consumer neo bank** in the country to provide **full-stack neo-banking products**, including smart savings accounts, credit and payments products, cards, and wealth-growth products.
- The neo bank is planning to open **one million new accounts** in the next ten months.

About 'Freo Save' :

- Freo's digital savings account has been integrated with Equitas' infrastructure on the Freo Save App and has seamless UPI integration, making it a **100 percent digital experience**.
- Freo Save will offer quick access to credit & shopping and through its partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank.
- It will provide up to **7 percent** interest on customer savings for balances above **₹5 lakh up to ₹2 crores**.
- Freo Save will be available in multiple Indian languages, including **English, Hindi, and Tamil**.

About Freo :

- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka
- Co-Founder : Anuj Kacker
- Freo is India's first credit-led neo bank.
- Earlier it was Started as **MoneyTap** in **2016**.
- Currently, it offers a wide range of financial products, including credit lines, credit cards, EMI cards, deposits & savings, and **buy now, pay later (BNPL)** products in partnership with banks and financial institutions.

About Equitas Small Finance Bank :

- Founded: 2016
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: Vasudevan P N

RBI extends the date for implementing provisions on cards by 3 months to Oct 1, 2022

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- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the deadline to implement three provisions by three months, as part of new regulatory guidelines for issuing credit and debit cards from July 1, 2022, to October 1, 2022.
- Regarding card issuers being mandated to seek **one-time password**-based consent from the cardholder for activating a credit card, if not activated by the customer for more than 30 days from the date of issuance
- Card issuers will have to ensure that the credit limit as sanctioned and advised to the cardholder is not breached at any point in time without seeking explicit consent from the cardholder.
- The issuers shall not capitalize on unpaid charges for the compounding of interest.
- The deadline extension specifically for the aforementioned provisions comes in the wake of RBI receiving various representations from the industry stakeholders.

Additional Info :

- The central bank had issued the “**Master Direction – Credit Card and Debit Card – Issuance and Conduct Directions, 2022**” in April 2022 & the Directions are effective from July 1, 2022.

About RBI:

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

CARD91 enters a strategic partnership with YES BANK and RuPay to help simplify payment management

- **CARD91** is a global payment infrastructure powering Business Business (B2B) payments announced a strategic partnership with **YES BANK** and **RuPay**, the flagship product of the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

About the Partnership:

- Through this partnership, **CARD91** will create a card management system that will allow companies to launch a variety of co-branded card instruments as well as **maintain a real-time dashboard** to generate insights.

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- It will enable CARD91 to expand its presence in the **Indian payments market**.
- The Partnership will enable the company to provide businesses of all kinds across various sectors with a range of card instruments for managing and securing payments.
- Businesses will now have an option to choose from co-branded or non-branded card instruments, thereby giving them an innovative solution to address specific use.

Key Features :

- CARD91 is a **plug-and-play Payment Issuance Infrastructure** designed to help businesses launch co-branded cards and simplify payments.
- By managing compliance, regulation, infrastructure, lending, issuance, and customer service, the company offers a seamless process for the launch of co-branded payment cards.
- CARD91 optimizes costs, decreases launch time, and provides real-time insights and data on card instruments.
- It allows businesses to monitor their payment flows, from onboarding to processing transactions and data reconciliation.
- Banks can offer their customers access to new-age payment services, as well as support card-based lending.

About CARD91 :

- Founded: 2020
- Founders : Ajay Pandey, Kush Srivastava, Vineet Saxena
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka

South Indian Bank Launches EXIM Trade Portal - 'SIB TF Online'

- The **South Indian Bank (SIB)** has launched a **new portal** called 'SIB TF Online' for its corporate **EXIM (Export-Import) customers**.
- The portal provides the customers with a platform for trade-related payments and remittances to foreign entities without visiting the bank's branches.
- The customer can initiate the payment request over SIB TF Online after uploading the supporting documents for the transaction.
- Recently, the bank launched an **internet banking facility** specifically to enable retail **savings bank (SB)** and NRE SB customers to initiate foreign remittances without visiting the branch.

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- Similar to the internet banking facility, SIB TF Online would offer customers a simplified transactional experience.

Key Highlights :

- SIB plans to launch SIB TF Online in phases with the initial version allowing for **3 types of import remittances**, namely
 1. Advance Remittance for Imports
 2. Remittance against Import Bill received from overseas Bank for Collection (Bank-to-Bank Foreign Inward Collection Bill) and
 3. Payment against Import documents received by Importer directly from overseas suppliers
- In the launch of subsequent phases, the portal will facilitate all other forex transactions as well.
- SIB TF Online has been hosted on the home page of Corporate Internet Banking (SIBerNet) and would allow corporates to transact on the portal digitally and **24x7**, in a safe and paperless manner.

About South Indian Bank :

- Founded: 29 January 1929
- Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala, India
- MD & CEO: Murali Ramakrishnan

Liberty General Insurance partners with Peerless Financial Products Distribution

- **Liberty General Insurance (LGI)**, one of the fastest growing General Insurance companies in India recently entered into a **Corporate Agency agreement with Peerless Financial Products Distribution Ltd (PFPDL)**.
- The collaboration will enable the distribution of Liberty's retail and commercial line of products through Peerless' extensive network of **42 branches** across India.

About the Partnership :

- The Partnership offers a wide range of health products including Liberty Complete Protect Group Policy Insurance, which provides annual benefit cover, if the insured is hospitalized with vector-

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borne diseases such as dengue fever, malaria, chikungunya, Japanese encephalitis, kala-azar, lymphatic filariasis, and Zika virus.

- It also covers up to **60 critical illnesses** including major and minor health conditions under Liberty Health Connect, Health Prime Connect, and Individual Personal Accident Policy, Comprehensive Insurance with add-ons for Private car, two-wheeler and commercial vehicles among others is available under motor insurance policy.
- Liberty will also work with PFPDL to provide training and operational expertise, through marketing, manpower support and regular insurance and product training.

About LGI:

- Founded : 2013
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- LGI is a joint venture between **Liberty Citystate holdings PTE Ltd, Enam Securities, and Diamond Dealtrade.**

Aim :

- To provide comprehensive retail, commercial and industrial insurance solutions.

About PFPDL :

- Founded : 1932
- Headquarters : Kolkata, West Bengal
- CEO : Satyaki Bhattacharya

AU Small Finance Bank launches industry's first customisable Credit Card, AU Bank LIT

- **AU Small Finance Bank** has launched an innovative Credit Card named **AU Bank LIT (Live-It-Today)** which allows customers to **choose the features they want in their card** and also decide the time period they want those features for.
- Instead of buying multiple cards for different categories, such as **travel, shopping** etc, the customer can opt for the categories of their preference under this offering and can also switch any of these features when they want

Features of AU Bank LIT (Live-It-Today) Credit Card :

- LIT credit card provides a higher degree of engagement to customers, through the **AU0101 app** as they can track their savings/earnings daily to maximize their benefits.

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- The card hosts multiple benefits and customers can activate any feature on-the-go in **real time for a small convenience fee**.
- LIT provides the cardholder a complete control on its offers and fee that they pay for those offers in a **clear, transparent manner** and saves the cardholders multitudes of **annual/renewal fee for benefits they don't use**.
- Cardholders can avail the best of both Cashbacks and Reward Points, using the features that are offered.
- The **default validity period** for each feature is **90 days**.

LIT Credit Card offers five categories of features, namely:

- **Lounge Access:** Wherein customers can opt for one or two lounge access per quarter
- **Milestone Benefits:** By which, one can get more reward points or cashbacks
- **OTT & Lifestyle Memberships:** Wherein they can get free membership to various platforms and services
- **Accelerated Rewards (Online/Offline):** Customers can get higher reward points for online and POS transactions
- **Other Features:** Including fuel surcharge waiver, cashback on grocery, and much more
- Since the launch of their first credit card in 2021, the bank claims to have enrolled over **2.3 lakh credit card customers** from over 200 districts of Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

About AU Small Finance Bank :

- Headquarters : Jaipur, Rajasthan, India
- MD & CEO : Sanjay Agarwal
- It was founded as vehicle finance company AU Financiers (India) Ltd in **1996** and converted to a **small finance bank on 19 April 2017**.
- AU Small Finance Bank is the **largest small finance bank** and one of the fastest-growing retail banks in India.

Karnataka Bank launches Online SB Account opening facility using V-CIP

- Karnataka Bank has launched Online SB Account opening facility through 'Video based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP)'.
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- The facility, enabled in the corporate website of the bank, empowers prospective customers to open an SB account through an online process and complete **KYC (know your customer) verification** through a video call at their place of convenience.
- The end-to-end paperless digital process leverages the bank's **API (Application Programming Interface)** that auto fills the account opening form, validates PAN/Aadhaar number instantly and completes the KYC process through a video call.
- The bank is now focusing on taking the digital initiatives to the next level by focusing on 'KBL Nxt' concept under wave 2.0 of our transformation journey 'KBL-VIKAAS', and many more initiatives are in the offing to evolve as the 'digital bank of future'

About Karnataka Bank :

- Founded : 18 February 1924
- Headquarters : Mangaluru, Karnataka, India
- MD & CEO : Mahabaleshwara M. S

Centre mandates 3-yr health insurance plan for surrogate mothers

- The **Central government** has made it mandatory for couples planning to become parents through **surrogacy** to buy a health insurance plan for 36 months (three years) for surrogate mothers.
- As per the **Surrogacy Regulation Act 2021**, insurance means an arrangement by which a company, individual or intending couple undertakes to provide a guarantee of compensation for medical expenses, health issues, specified loss, damage, illness or death of a surrogate mother and such other prescribed expenses incurred on such surrogate mother during the process of surrogacy.

About Surrogacy Rules 2022 :

- Under the Surrogacy Rules 2022, a surrogate mother has to give her consent through an agreement for giving up all her rights over the child and shall hand over the child/children as soon as she is permitted to do so by the hospital.

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- A surrogate mother may be allowed for abortion during the process of surrogacy in accordance with the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971** in case of any complication as advised by the doctors.
- As per new rules, the insurance plan should be availed from an insurance company or an agent recognized by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.

Provisions :

- **Limited attempts:** The government has ensured that the number of attempts of any surrogacy procedure on the surrogate mother shall **not be more than three times**.
- **Allowed abortion:** A surrogate mother may be allowed for abortion during the process of surrogacy in case of any complication as advised by the doctors
- **Regulation of private clinics:** Every private surrogacy clinic has to file an application for registration with a fee of **₹2 lakh** which is non-refundable.
- However, facilities under government-run institutes are exempt from such fees.
- **Specialist availability:** Surrogacy clinics shall have at least one gynaecologist, one anaesthetist, one embryologist and one counsellor.
- **Marriage period:** The couple should be married for **more than five years**.

Additional Info :

- **Globally One in six couples** have difficulty in conceiving such as medication, IVF and surrogacy.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) forms Building Advisory Committee to advise on premises related matters.

- **Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has formed a Building Advisory Committee, which will advise and assist it in all the premises related matters such as planning, acquisition and furnishing.

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- **The 7 member committee will be headed by B K Katyal**, former Chief General Manager at Reserve Bank of India (RBI), a latest update with Sebi showed.
- The other members of the committee are K. V. Krishna Rao, former head of department Civil Engineering at Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai; Rajiv Mishra, Principal, Sir JJ College of Architecture, Mumbai; K M Soni, former ADG, Central Public Works Department, Delhi; and Rajesh Bhagwani SE (Electrical), Central Public Works Department.

About Securities and Exchange Board of India SEBI:

- Founded: 12 April 1992
- Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch
- Headquarters: Mumbai

Exim Bank estimates India's merchandise exports at USD 117.2 bn in Q1FY23

- **India's total merchandise export valuation** is expected to reach **USD 117.2 billion** in the first quarter of FY23 as per India Export import (Exim) Bank.
- The valuation of the total merchandise exports was US\$ 95.5 billion in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.
- The increase in exports is attributed to the continued rise of global commodity prices, driven by supply shocks, increased price competitiveness due to exchange rate movements, and advantages from trade diversions.
- **Non-oil exports will amount to US\$ 93 billion, growing at 12.6%**, in the first quarter (April-June) of 2022-23 as compared to US\$ 82.6 billion in the previous year.
- However, the growth forecast is subject to commodity price volatility and uncertainties in the global economy driven by geopolitical tensions.

About EXIM Bank:

- Founded: 1982
- CEO: Harsha Bangari
- Headquarters: Mumbai

Govt collaborates with SBI to create an integrated pension portal

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- The Centre's Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, GoI, will collaborate with the State Bank of India (SBI) to create an integrated pension portal to enhance the ease of living of pensioners.
- The announcement was made at a two-day Bankers' Awareness Program organized by DoPPW in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

About the Program :

- The program is mainly for officers of the State Bank of India handling pension-related work, covering the Northern Region of India.
- The program was the first in a series of Awareness Programs for Central Pension Processing Centers and field functionaries handling pension-related work in various banks.
- A team of officers from DoPPW took sessions on Pension policy reforms & digitization regarding the disbursement of pensions to Central Government pensioners, to update the field functionaries of the State Bank of India.
- Special sessions were organized on Income Tax matters related to pensioners as well as Digital means of submitting the Annual Life Certificates.
- Digital life certificate and face authentication technology would be a game-changer for pensioners and banks in the submission of life certificates.
- Along similar lines, awareness programs will be conducted in collaboration with other Pension Disbursing Banks in the year 2022-23.

About SBI:

- Established: 1 July 1955
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara

LIC introduces 'Dhan Sanchay' savings life insurance plan

- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a Dhan Sanchay Savings scheme, which is a non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings life insurance plan that combines life protection and savings.
- The plan provides guaranteed income benefit during the pay-out period from the date of maturity and guaranteed terminal benefit.

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About Dhan Sanchay's plan :

- The Dhan Sanchay plan is available for a term of a **minimum of 5 years to a maximum of 15 years** depending on the option chosen by the policyholder.
- Policy Term for Option A & B: 10 and 15 years
- Policy Term for Option C & D: 5, 10, and 15 years
- In case of the unfortunate death of the policyholder during the term policy, after the commencement of the policy, the plan will provide financial support to the family.
- The death benefits can be paid in a lump sum and/or in installments **over 5 years**, depending on the option chosen by the policyholder.
- The installments shall be paid in advance at **yearly or half-yearly or quarterly or monthly intervals**, as opted by the policyholder (subject to minimum installment amount).
- **Optional riders** are available on payment of additional premium subject to conditions.

Key Highlights :

- Under the LIC Dhan Sanchay plan, **4 types of plans** have been introduced; these are options **A, B, C, and D**.
 - The minimum sum assured under the option **A & B** of the plan is **Rs 3,30,000**.
 - For option **C** it is **Rs 2,50,000**
 - For option **D** it is **Rs 22,00,000**.
- The minimum age at entry is **3 years** (complete) and the maximum entry age is as follows:
 - Options **A & B**: 50 years (nearer birthday)
 - Option **C**: 65 years (nearer birthday)
 - Option **D**: 40 years (nearer birthday)
- There is no maximum limit on premium contributions.
- However, the Minimum Annualized / Single Premium limit for different options of the plan is as follows.
 - Option **A & B**: Rs 30,000
 - Option **C & D**: Rs 2,00,000

Where to buy LIC's Dhan Sanchay Plan :

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- LIC's Dhan Sanchay Savings Life Insurance plan can be purchased offline through agents or other intermediaries including **Point of Sales Persons-Life Insurance (POSP-LI)**, **Common Public Service Centres (CPSC-SPV)**.
- The plan can be purchased online directly through LIC's official website www.licindia.in.

About LIC :

- Founded: 1 September 1956
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairperson : M R Kumar
- Managing Directors: B C Patnaik, Smt. Ipe Mini, Siddharth Mohanty, Rajkumar

ICICI Bank Launches 'Campus Power' Digital Platform for The Student Ecosystem

- Private sector lender **ICICI Bank** has launched a digital platform **Campus Power**

Aim :

- To address the **needs** of the **students** aspiring to **pursue higher education** in India and abroad.
- The platform caters to the varied needs of the entire student ecosystem comprising students, parents, and institutes.

About Campus Power :

- Campus Power assists users to explore financial products matching their needs ranging from bank accounts including overseas accounts, education loans, and its tax benefit, foreign exchange solutions, payment solutions, cards, other loans, and investments.
- The platform provides information regarding a host of value-added services related to higher studies in **India** and **foreign countries** including Canada, the UK, Germany, the USA, and Australia.
- The impaneled partners provide value-added services on courses/ universities, destinations, admission counseling, test preparation, overseas accommodation, and travel assistance.
- The **first branch** has been set up at **IIT Kanpur** and seven more will be added to the campus of top premier institutes across India.
- The 'Campus Power' offers a host of banking as well as value-added features to students, parents, and institutes:

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- It offers **360-degree curated solutions** to students who are aspiring to go for higher studies in India and abroad.
- The services include funding education, assistance in finding out the course and the university, helping students to prepare themselves for tests, offering debit/credit cards, and creating overseas student accounts.
- To support the child's education journey, 'Campus Power' offers parents **education loans and remittance services**.
- Moreover, it has other solutions for them in terms of savings accounts, investment products, travel, and health insurance.
- It provides institutes and international schools with various products and services under one umbrella to facilitate all the financial needs including funding, payments, collections, investments, and insurance
- The private sector lender has collaborated with reputed companies like **IDP Education** (for admission counseling, information on universities, and online test prep), the **British Council** (for IELTS preparation and English language improvement courses), **Casita** (for accommodation solutions), and **EaseMyTrip** (for travel booking).

About ICICI Bank :

- Founded: 5 January 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi

Bharti Airtel (Airtel), has launched Xstream multiplex, India's first multiplex in the metaverse on the Partynite Metaverse platform

- **Bharti Airtel** has launched **India's first multiplex** on the **Partynite Metaverse platform**.
- The Airtel Xstream multiplex is an extension of **Airtel's Xstream Premium offering**.
- It is a 20-screen platform with access to content portfolios from leading OTT partners available on the application.
- Airtel has released a YouTube video for users to check out the multiplex experience.
- Users can download the "**Partynite Metaplex**" app on **Windows and Android devices** from their respective app stores.

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- The multiplex will enable sampling of top original shows and movies with content pieces such as the first episode of an OTT original or the initial minutes of a movie in regional languages, besides English and Hindi.
- Viewers can get complete access to the subscription with a paid plan.
- According to the company, Xstream Premium recently witnessed a 2-million subscriber milestone within 100 days of its launch.

IRDAI Extends Use & File Procedure for Life Insurance Products

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has extended the 'use and file' procedure for most life insurance products, thereby allowing insurers to launch new products without prior approval of the regulator.
- For the use and file procedure for products launching into the market, insurance companies will have to adopt a **board-approved product management and pricing policy (BAPMPP)**.
- This comes after the insurance regulator extended similar relaxations for all health insurance products and almost all the general insurance products.
- Previously, it was made mandatory for the insurance companies to take prior approval before launching any life insurance product

Key Highlights :

- According to the dynamic needs of the market, it will enable **life insurers** to launch most of the products (except individual savings, individual pensions, and annuity) promptly
- This will result in **improving 'the ease of doing business'** for the insurers & also lead to the expansion of the choices available to the policyholders.
- The board shall also constitute a **Product Management Committee (PMC)**, which shall have an appointed actuary, chief risk officer, chief marketing/distribution officer, chief technology officer, and chief compliance officer of the insurance company as members.
- Also, it will have an option to include other members of the senior management as invitees.
- The PMC shall review and approve the products/riders in line with BAPMPP.

About IRDAI :

- Founded: 1999
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana

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- Chairperson: Debasish Panda
- IRDAI is a regulatory body under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, GoI & it is tasked with regulating and licensing the **insurance and reinsurance industries** in India.

Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI) launches out-of-network cash advance facility

- **Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI)** has launched an **out-of-network cash advance facility** to help customers with monetary support at any hospital that is not part of EGI's network.

About the Cash Advance :

- Under the new "Cash Advance" facility, customers will receive money up to **Rs. 10,000** to take care of admission charges or other expenses during the hospitalization.
- The advance is then adjusted at the time of claim.
- The launch of this service has been based on the insights gained from qualitative research conducted by EGI across **4 cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru & Kolkata**.
- Steps to follow in case of any hospitalization to avail of the Out-of-Network Cash Advance:
 - The insured gets admitted to the nearest available hospital
 - Insured will then intimate EGI's customer care team on toll-free number **180012000**, select Option 2, and share all medical details of the case
 - The EGI claims team gets into action immediately and connects with the hospital
 - Depending on the case and policy terms, EGI will endeavor to provide a Cash Advance facility for admissible claims

About EGI :

- Founded: 2017
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO & Executive Director: Shanai Ghosh

Tata Projects to construct Noida International Airport at Jewar, UP

- The **Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL)** has selected **Tata Projects Limited** as its **engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC)** for the **Noida International Airport (NIA)** at **Jewar, Uttar Pradesh**.

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- As part of the agreement, Tata Projects will construct the terminal, runway, airside infrastructure, roads, utilities, landside facilities, and other ancillary buildings at Noida International Airport
- The new airport is expected to be functional by **2024**, as per the developer.
- The **Uttar Pradesh government** signed the concession agreement with YIAPL on **October 7, 2020**, to commence the development of the NIA.

About YIAPL :

- CEO : Christoph Schnellmann
- YIAPL is a **100 percent subsidiary of Swiss developer Zurich Airport International AG** and has been incorporated as a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** to develop Noida International Airport.

About NIA :

- The greenfield facility, spread over **1,334 hectares**, will have a single-runway operation in the first phase with a capacity to handle 12 million passengers per annum at an investment of ₹5,700 crores.

RBI approves SBI's establishment of operations support subsidiary

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has received **in-principle approval** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for its proposed operations support subsidiary aimed at bringing down the **cost-to-income ratio**.
- The pilot will be launched soon within a quarter or so in a few circles and once the results are seen, it would be rolled out across India.
- This subsidiary is expected to provide support services mainly for agriculture, micro, small and medium enterprises, other micro-loans, data entry operations, and activities that can be undertaken as allowed for Business Correspondents, among others.

Key Highlights :

- SBI's cost-to-income ratio stood at **53.3 percent in FY22**, an improvement of **240 basis points** over FY19 levels.
- In comparison, the cost-to-income ratio of the top 3 private banks is well below SBIs, at **35-40 percent**.
- The subsidiary aimed at bettering the operating efficiencies can help India's largest bank significantly improve its profitability over time.

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- In FY22, SBI's net interest margin stood at **3.15 percent**, while the average for private banks topped 4 percent in FY22.
- The cost-to-income ratio of SBI has declined to 53.31 percent in 2021-22 from 53.5 percent in 2020-21 and 55.7 percent in 2018-19.

About RBI:

- Founded: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

Bajaj Finance partners with Worldline India for POS payments

- **Bajaj Finance Limited**, the lending arm of Bajaj Finserv Limited, has partnered with **Worldline**, a global firm in payment services, to develop **point-of-sales (POS) payments** acquiring solutions for its merchant network.

About the Partnership :

Aim :

- To enhance its relationship with both existing and new networks of merchant partners, by providing point-of-sale terminals and enabling acceptance of a wide range of payment instruments such as **equated monthly installments (EMI) cards**, credit cards, UPI, and wallets on those terminals.
- The tie-up will provide services like billing integrations, EMI offerings, transactions processing, data analytics, and fraud management services

About Bajaj Finance :

- Founded: 1987
- Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman & Managing Director: Sanjiv Bajaj

About Worldline India Pvt. Ltd :

- Worldline India Pvt. Ltd., is a global leader in the payments industry and the technology partner of choice for merchants, banks, and acquirers.

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- It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Worldline and is a partner to over 40 banks and over 5000 marquee clients comprising e-commerce giants, leading insurance players, and D2C players across sectors.

SEBI imposes a Rs 30 lakh fine on RIL and two of its compliance officers

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹30 lakh on Reliance Industries (RIL) and two of its compliance officers, Savithri Parekh and K. Sethuraman, for failing to clarify on news or promptly disclose information about stake purchases in the company's subsidiary Jio Platforms by FaceBook, Silver Lake and Vista equity partners.
- The fine need to be paid jointly and severally by them within 45 days
- Accordingly, Sebi held them liable for the violation of the provisions of principles of fair disclosure for purposes of the code of practices and procedures for Fair Disclosure of unpublished price sensitive information (UPSI) under Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) Regulations.

About SEBI :

- Established: 12 April 1988 and given Statutory Powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch
- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Gol.

IRDAI Reduces Solvency Margin Requirement For General Insurers doing Crop Business

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) reduced the solvency margin requirement for general insurers providing crop insurance, a decision expected to unlock Rs 1,400 crore of funds for them to undertake more business.
- The decision is part of a series of reforms it has undertaken to increase insurance penetration in the country.
- Since fiscal 2017-18, it has been relaxing the period of admissibility of premium due from the government for solvency calculation purposes from 180 days to 365 days.

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- It has been decided to extend the above relaxations from FY 2022-23 onwards till further orders.

About IRDAI:

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is a regulatory body under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance, Gol.**
- It is tasked with regulating and **licensing the insurance and re-insurance industries in India.**
- IRDAI is a 10-member body including the chairman, five full-time and four part-time members appointed by the Gol.
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairperson: Debasish Panda

Tata Power commissions India's largest floating solar power project:

- **In Kayamkulam, Kerala, Tata Power Solar Systems, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, has achieved an amazing achievement by putting India's largest floating solar power plant online.**
- The backwaters region has a **101.6-Megawatt Peak installed capacity on a 350-acre water body.**
- To make the complete solar plant float on water, Tata Power Solar successfully constructed a scaffolding platform on the water body.

About The Project:

- **The Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) via Power Purchase Agreement initiative is the first of its kind.**
- This facility has a platform for floating inverters with a **5-Megawatt (MW) capacity.**
- The solar modules were subjected to strong gusts and gushing tides that frequently reached a height of roughly 3.5 meters while being hauled for 3 kilometers on a sea-linked National canal that was 15 meters deep.
- To operationalize the project, Tata Power Solar's execution team was successfully able to synchronize the **33/220 Kilovolts Air Insulated Substation (AIS) with 220 Kilovolts existing Gas Insulated Substation (GIS).**

About Tata Power Solar Systems

- Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Founded: 1989.

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NASSCOM: By 2025, AI can boost GDP by \$500 billion:

- An integrated AI and data usage strategy, according to NASSCOM, an Indian non-governmental trade organization and advocacy group, may increase India's GDP by \$500 billion by 2025.
- The Nasscom has created an AI Adoption Index to measure sectoral progress on AI adoption in the country, with help from EY, Microsoft, EXL, and Capgemini.

About NASSCOM:

- India's non-governmental National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) strives to advance the technology industry there.
- NASSCOM is a nonprofit organization that was established in 1988.
- By 2023, 10,000 Indian enterprises will get help under a program that NASSCOM established in 2013.
- Activities focused on Indian startups are supported by NASSCOM.

Key Points:

- The index, which began with four significant industries—**banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI), consumer packaged goods (CPG), retail, healthcare, and industrials & automotive**—was the first thorough review of AI adoption trends in India.
- **By 2025, when the GDP** of the country is expected to reach between \$450 and \$500 billion, these sectors might together provide more than **60% of the potential value that AI could offer to the economy.**
- The top organization claims that over the last two years, investments in AI have grown dramatically, going from \$36 billion in 2020 to a peak of \$77 billion in 2021.
- Even though it was predicted that India's current rate of **AI investments would increase at a CAGR of 30.8 percent and reach \$881 million by 2023**, it would still only represent 2.5 percent of the \$340 billion in total global AI expenditures.
- Encouraging equal growth across all sectors would create a significant opportunity for Indian enterprises to enhance their investments in and use AI.

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RBI grants semi-closed prepaid payment instruments license to Mufin Finance Limited

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted Mufin Finance Limited, a subsidiary of Hindon Mercantile Limited one of the leading Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC) in principal approval for the issuance of semi-closed prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) to customers in India.
- A semi-closed PPI license allows digital banks, fintech firms, and large consumer-facing applications to roll out features such as digital payment solutions for lending.
- With this license, the company can now offer a wider range of complementary products for customers and build deeper partnerships with consumer companies and corporations.

About PPI:

- PPI can come in the form of digital wallets, smart cards, magnetic chips, and vouchers.
- PPI acts as a store of value against which goods and services can be bought and used to transfer funds.
- Gift cards, payment wallets, smart cards, and vouchers are all forms of PPIs.
- However, Debit cards need an open PPI license and are issued only to banks.

Note:

- Mufin Finance is the 4th NBFC to receive such a license from the RBI, after leading brands such as Bajaj Finserv, Manapurram, and Paul Merchants.

Recent News:

- Mufin Finance has acquired APM Finvest, a BSE-listed NBFC, for over Rs 76 crore in a bid to create India's first financing ecosystem for the fast-growing electric vehicles(EVs) market.
- This comes after Mufin Finance acquired Rupee Circle, a P2P (peer-to-peer) non-banking financial company, in June 2021.

About RBI:

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- Founded: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor: Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

About Muffin Finance Limited :

- Established: 2016
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Founders : Kapil Garg and Rajat Goyal

World Bank approves \$250 mn loans for India's road safety program

- The **World Bank's Board of Executive Directors** has approved the financing of \$250 million to support the **India State Support Program for Road Safety**, and the **Government of India's Program for Strengthening Road Safety**.
- The India State Support Program for Road Safety, financed by the World Bank, will be implemented in the states of **Andhra Pradesh (AP), Gujarat, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal**.
- The variable spread loan from the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** has a **maturity of 18 years** including a **grace period of 5.5 years**.

Aim :

- To help participating states reduce road crash fatalities and injuries through improved road safety management and institutional reform, and results-based interventions on high-risk roads.
- It will also strengthen emergency medical and rehabilitation services for post-crash care.

Key Highlights :

- The project will establish a national harmonized crash database system to analyze accidents and use that to construct better and safer roads.
- It will fund network expansion of basic and advanced life support ambulances and training of first responder caregivers to road crash victims on the spot.

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- The project will also provide incentives to the States to leverage private funding through **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) concessions** and pilot initiatives.
- With only **1% of the world's vehicles, India** accounts for almost **10% of all crash-related deaths**.
- Poor households account for a higher proportion of the socio-economic burden of road crashes due to loss of income (over 70 percent of crash victims in poor households), high medical expenses, and limited access to social safety nets.
- According to a **World Bank study**, road crashes are estimated to cost the Indian economy between **5% and 7% of GDP a year**.
- As per Official government data show that each year road accidents in India kill about **1,50,000 people** and injure another 4,50,000.
- More than half of the victims are pedestrians, cyclists, or motorcyclists and almost **84%** of all fatalities are among road users between the working ages of 18-60 years.

About World Bank :

- Established: July 1944
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States of America
- President : David Malpass
- Membership: 189 member countries

Protean and PayNearby tie-up to offer paperless PAN services

- Protean eGov Technologies Ltd (formerly NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Ltd) and PayNearby (Nearby Technologies Private Limited) have announced a partnership to offer **Permanent Account Number (PAN)** related services for **PayNearby's retail partners** through **Aadhaar** and biometric or **SMS-based One Time Password (OTP)** authentication for their customers.
- The partnership will help improve service delivery for millions of citizens as they enter the formal financial sector.

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- It will facilitate quick and easy access to online PAN services in neighborhood stores at affordable rates, thus eliminating the submission of physical applications and supporting documents.
- This partnership is designed to make the entire process seamless, hassle-free, and accessible across **17,600+ PIN codes** in the country through **PayNearby's DaaS (Distribution as a Service)** network of **50+ lakh micro-entrepreneurs**.

About Protean eGov Technologies Ltd :

- Founded: 1995
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

About PayNearby :

- Founded: 2016
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Founder, Managing Director, and CEO: Anand Kumar Bajaj
- PayNearby is a **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) certified company** and India's leading branchless banking and digital payments network.

IMPORTANT STATE NEWS

Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai launches health & wellness app AAYU

- Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai launched a new health and wellness app AAYU to address and help heal chronic diseases and lifestyle disorders through yoga and meditation.
- The app has been developed by Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA) in partnership with RESET TECH, an AI-driven integrated health-tech platform.

Aim :

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- To address and help heal chronic diseases and lifestyle disorders through the right approach to yoga and meditation.
- To reach and impact over five million chronic disease patients within **five years**.

About AAYU :

- The app AAYU would effectively provide users with personalized wellness solutions and offer doctor consultations based on individual's personal history and monitor its progress enabling them to accelerate healing and recovery
- The app is available in **multiple languages**.
- It addresses the root cause of the diseases goes beyond temporary care and helps restore lost health

About Karnataka :

- Chief minister: Basavaraj Bommai
- Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
- Capital: Bengaluru

Skill India International Centre is to be established in Varanasi to prepare a skilled workforce for global markets

- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and UAE's DP World for the development of Skill India International Centre at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh in the presence of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and UAE minister Dr. Ahmad Belhoul in New Delhi.
- It will impart skilling as per international standards, preparing the candidates for global markets.
- It will provide high-quality training to the Indian youth to skill in various fields like logistics and port operations and other allied areas to pursue overseas employment.
- The centers will host training facilities, providing skills as per the demand of international employers in countries like the **United Arab Emirates (UAE), Canada, Australia**, and other GCC regions.
- Services like mobilization, counseling, skill training, pre-departure orientation, and many others will also be provided by the centers.

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About NSDC :

- Established: 2008 under the Companies Act, 1956.
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- CEO: Mr. Manish Kumar

Maharashtra re-emerges as top sugar producer in India

- After a five-year gap, **Maharashtra** has overtaken **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** to regain its position as **India's top sugar producer**.
- Maharashtra's output for the **2021-22 crushing year (October-September)** at **138 lakh tonnes (lt)** & is an all-time high, beating the previous 107.21 in 2018-19.
- The first is the bountiful rainfall Maharashtra has been receiving since the 2019 southwest monsoon season (June-September).
- The filling up of reservoirs and recharge of groundwater aquifers has induced farmers to plant more area under sugarcane, which is a 12-18 months duration crop.
- The second is higher yields from farmers taking extra care of their crops.
- The third factor is a huge jump in “**unregistered**” cane cultivation.
- The sugarcane crushing season in Maharashtra generally lasts for **120 to 140 days** and a **maximum of 145 days**.
- In 2022 around **20 sugar factories** in the state will run for 160 days due to the high sugarcane production.

Additional Info :

- MD of National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories: Mr. Prakash Naiknavare

About Maharashtra :

- Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- Chief minister: Uddhav Thackeray
- Capital: Mumbai

Punjab govt launches e-stamp facility Instead Of Paper Stamp

- Punjab Revenue Minister Mr. Bram Shanker Jimpa launched the ‘e-stamp facility to abolish physical stamp papers to bring more efficiency and check the pilferage of state revenue.

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- The stamp paper of any denomination can now be obtained via e-stamp (computerized print-out) from any stamp vendor or banks authorized by the state government.
- Earlier the e-stamping facility applied only to values **above Rs.20,000**.
- As per the new rules, this facility has been extended for all denominations starting from **Rs One**.
- The decision taken by the Punjab government led by **Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann** will at least save **Rs 35 Crore annually**, which is incurred on printing of stamp papers, besides facilitating the common public to obtain stamp papers in a hassle-free manner.
- The Punjab government will pay a commission of **2%** to the stamp vendors on e-stamps ranging from **Rs 1 to Rs 19,999**, while the general public would get stamp paper at the actual rate.
- For instance, they will have to pay **only Rs 100** for a stamp paper of Rs 100 and no extra commission will be levied.
- Also, this step will help in curbing the stamp paper-linked fraud.
- The department has also launched **5 more e-facilities** including
 1. Loan/Hypothecation Agreement
 2. Agreement of Pledge
 3. Affidavit & Declaration
 4. Demand Promissory Note
 5. Indemnity Bond.
- Now, these documents can also be issued through the computer directly.
- This facility has been started with the help of the Union government's **National e-Governance Services Ltd. (NeSL)**.

About Punjab :

- **Capital:** Chandigarh
- **Governor:** Banwarilal Purohit
- **Chief minister:** Bhagwant Mann

Special Health Care Abhiyan 'Anchal' launched for pregnant women in Rajasthan

- A Special Health Care Abhiyan 'Anchal' has been launched in the Karauli district of Rajasthan for pregnant women.
- More than 13,000 women have benefited from this Abhiyan.

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Aim :

- To ensure all necessary medical aid to pregnant women at the pre and post-natal stage so that maternal and infant mortality rates could be reduced.

About the 'Anchal' Campaign :

- During the campaign, **13,144 pregnant women** were tested for their **hemoglobin levels**, out of which **11,202** were found to be **anemic**.
- Tested anemic women were advised to take the right medicine and necessary nutritious diet & also advised to keep themselves stress-free.
- Under this campaign, it also ensured that the **Auxiliary Nurse Midwife and ASHA workers** in the district will keep in constant contact with the pregnant women of their respective areas and provide them with necessary counseling and treatment as and when required.

About Rajasthan :

- Governor: Kalraj Mishra
- Capital: Jaipur
- Chief minister: Ashok Gehlot

Delhi to rename streets and colonies after Babasaheb Ambedkar

- The **Delhi** government is set to **replace the word 'Harijan'** from the **names of colonies & streets** and name them after **Babasaheb Ambedkar** instead.
- The proposal has come in the wake of the central government's guideline advising against the use of the word "**Harijan**", considered derogatory by scheduled caste communities.
- A proposal to this effect has been tabled by **Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam**.
- The Delhi government under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Arvind Kejriwal strives to uplift the SC (scheduled caste), ST (scheduled tribe), and OBC (other backward class) communities living in the national capital.

Additional Info :

- Delhi will be **one of the first states** in the country to curb the use of the word which many people claim is "**offensive and derogatory**."

About Delhi :

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- Lt. Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena
- CM: Arvind Kejriwal

Andhra Pradesh CM Launches "ACB 14400" App To File Corruption Complaints

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the ACB '14400' app developed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), to register corruption-related complaints against officials in the state.
- The application can be downloaded from **Google's Play Store**.

About ACB 14400 :

- Once the app is downloaded, an OTP will be sent to the user's phone to authenticate the mobile number.
- The "ACB 14400" application, once opened, will feature **two categories**
 1. "Live Report"
 2. "Lodge Complaint".
- In the "Live Report" section, users can click photographs, record audio or videos of live acts of **corruption** using their mobile phones, and submit complaints instantaneously.
- In the "Lodge Complaint" section, users can prepare a complaint by attaching existing **documents, photos, audio, or video files** before submitting it.
- The app gives an in-built feature to ensure the evidence is recorded and attached with the complaint.
- Just like the **Disha App**, the ACB app is designed to aid people in registering complaints through the use of modern information technology and also maintain transparency.

About ACB :

- Established: 2 January 1961
- Headquarters: Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

About AP :

- Chief minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
- Capital: Amaravati
- Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan

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Blue Duke Declared as State Butterfly Of Sikkim

- On the occasion of World Environment Day on June 05, 2022, Sikkim Chief Minister Shri Prem Singh Tamang has declared Blue Duke the state butterfly.
- Of the 720 species of butterflies found in Sikkim, Blue Duke was selected as the state butterfly securing 57% votes in a recent online poll conducted by the Forest Department & while Krishna Peacock (Papilio Krishna) secured 43% votes.
- The idea of a state butterfly was brought by butterfly enthusiast Nosang M Limboo from Darap as part of The Butterfly Society of Sikkim (TPCF) in 2018.

About Blue Duke :

- Scientific name of Blue Duke - *Bassarona durga durga*
- It is unique to Sikkim and the eastern Himalayas.
- It was discovered in Sikkim in 1858.
- Blue Duke falls in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and is a protected species in the Himalayas.
- Blue Duke is found at an altitude below 1500 meters in the Himalayas and is commonly found in places like Pakyong, Passingdong, and Hee Gyathang in Dzongu, Lingee in South Sikkim, and Yangsum in West Sikkim and closer to the State capital in places like Tadong-Ranka.

Additional Info :

- Nosang M Limboo is also known as the Butterfly Man of Sikkim.

About Sikkim :

- Governor: Ganga Prasad
- Chief minister: Prem Singh Tamang
- Capital: Gangtok

Tamil Nadu CM Flags off Luxury Cruise liner Empress From Chennai Port

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Shri MK Stalin flagged off the luxury cruise liner “Empress” from Chennai port.
- Tourism Minister Shri M Mathiventhan and Tourism department secretary Shri B Chandra Mohan participated in the inaugural function.

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- This is considered the **first luxury cruise liner** to be operated from Tamil Nadu.

About luxury cruise liner “Empress” :

- It is Operated by **Cordelia Cruises**.
- It is an **11-story tourist vessel** that can accommodate up to 2000 passengers and about 800 crew members.
- It has **three different packages** consisting of two, three, and five days.
- The Empress has 11 decks with 796 cabins, several food pavilions, a dive-in theater, a swimming pool, and a marquee theater.
- The packages include sailing to the high seas from the city port and returning, as well as anchoring at the ports of Puducherry and Visakhapatnam.

About Tamil Nadu :

- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Capital: Chennai
- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin

Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot announces Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for sportspersons

- While addressing the inauguration and the player award ceremony at **Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur**, The Chief Minister of Rajasthan Shri Ashok Gehlot announced the **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** will be introduced for **sportspersons in Rajasthan**.
- He inaugurated Rajasthan High-Performance Sports and Rehabilitation Centre, Renovated Synthetic Hockey Astro Turf and Badminton Indoor Hall, Olympic and also awarded Para Olympic medalists, Asian Games-2022 and Commonwealth Games-2022 players.
- He also announced that the **Rajiv Gandhi Rural Olympics** will start on **August 29, 2022**, & more than 27 lakh players of all ages will take part in **Rajiv Gandhi Rural Olympics**.
- The event will become a big platform for the talent hunt in Rajasthan.
- The winners in the Rural Olympics would also be given priority in the recruitment of vacant posts in the Panchayat cadre.
- He released the **torch of Rural Olympics** at the ceremony.
- Also, a provision of a **2 percent reservation** has been made for the players.

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- The pension will be awarded to Arjuna and Dronacharya awardees along with Olympic, Para Olympic, Asian, and Commonwealth Games medal-winners

About Khel Ratna Award :

- Khel Ratna Award which is formally known as Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in sports and games is the **highest sporting honor in India**.
- It is awarded annually by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**.
- As of 2020, Khel Ratna Award comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of Rs. 25 lakh.

Arignar Anna Zoological Park Introduces Use of Plastic Bottles in a Unique Way

- The Arignar Anna Zoological Park (Vandalur Zoo), Chennai, Tamil Nadu has introduced a new method to **check the littering of plastic bottles** inside its premises.
- The Park is one such park that is worried about the increasing pollution near the park which is threatening the animals.
- Meanwhile, the state environment minister Shri **Siva. V. Meyyanathan** and health minister Shri **Ma. Subramanian** in Chennai distributed the traditional cloth bags called "**Manchapai**," which means '**yellow bags**,' to promote the use of environmentally friendly carry bags instead of harmful plastic bags.

Key Highlights :

- To encourage the visitors to return these bottles to designated disposal points, **Rs. 10/-** will be collected at entry and the same will be refunded once they return the bottle without throwing it into the zoo premises.
- The zoo officials organized a mass tree-planting event involving **350 zoo employees** with a slogan of '**one person, one tree**', to add to the green cover inside the zoo premises.
- To encourage sustainable management practice, the park has introduced **fish culture** in the existing deep-water troughs.

About Arignar Anna Zoological Park

- It is the first public zoo in India and was established in **1855** to flourish the **flora and fauna** of the state.
- It is the **second wildlife sanctuary** in Tamil Nadu after the Mudumalai national park.

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- It is spread around **1265 acres** and has 2553 species of flora and fauna.
- The park has more than 1500 wild species which includes 46 endangered species.

Govt of TN launches Nalaya Thiran skilling program for college students:

- Under the **Tamil Nadu Govt's Naan Mudhalvan (I am the first)**, it launched the program called **Nalaya Thiran (Tomorrow's ability)**.

About Nalaya Thiran (Tomorrow's ability) :

- Under this Programme, the Tamil Nadu government will train **nearly 50,000 college students** with knowledge in computer science, electronics, and IT domains, skilling them in problem-solving using technologies.
- It is **not a pilot program** & this will help companies to get a skilled workforce.
- This multi-agency program has been co-created by Nasscom, ICT Academy, and Skill Development Corporation, giving students access to much-needed cross-cutting skills.

About TN :

- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin
- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Capital: Chennai

Goa CM launches Beach Vigil App for Beach Management:

- The **chief minister of Goa Shri Pramod Sawant** launched a "**Beach Vigil App**".

Aim :

- To benefit both the travelers as well as those working in the tourism sector, for holistic management of the beaches.
- Goa IT and Tourism Minister Shri **Rohan Khaunte** was also present at the occasion.

About Beach Vigil App" :

- Using the app **Drishti** workers, police and other stakeholders will be able to raise issues safeguarding the interest of the travelers.

Benefits :

- The application would redress issues from illegal hawkers, encroachment, and massage services to cleanliness.

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- According to the Public Health Foundation of India, India's tally of rape-related crimes rose by 70.7 percent over the past decades, and Goa recorded the highest increase of 559.4 percent and 5.6 times the national average.

About Goa :

- Governor: P. S. Sreedharan Pillai
- Chief minister: Pramod Sawant
- Capital: Panaji
- Airport: Goa International Airport
- National Park: Bhagwan Mahavir (Mollem) National Park

Maharashtra gets 12 new conservation reserves and 3 wildlife sanctuaries:

- The 18th Maharashtra State Board for Wildlife (MSBWL) chaired by Chief Minister Shri Uddhav Thackeray approved 12 new conservation reserves & 3 wildlife sanctuaries in Maharashtra.
- It will have an area of almost 1,000 sq km (around 692.74 sq km for conservation reserves and 303 sq km for wildlife sanctuaries) which is twice the size of Mumbai city's 482 sq km.

List of 12 new conservation reserves :

Districts	Conservation Reserves	Area (sq km)
Dhule	Chivatibawri	66.04
Dhule	Aladari	100.56
Nashik	Kalvan	84.12
Nashik	Muragad	42.87
Nashik	Trimbakeshwar	96.97
Nashik	Igatpuri	88.499
Raigad	Raigad	47.62

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Raigad	Roha	27.30
Pune	Bhor	28.44
Satara	Dare-Khurd for butterflies	1.07
Kolhapur	Masai Plateau	5.34
Nagpur	Mogarkasa	103.92

- So far, **15 conservation reserves** have been notified in Maharashtra.
- With these new additions, the number will rise to **27**.

List of 3 new wildlife sanctuaries :

1. The extension of the Lonar wildlife sanctuary (0.8694 sq km),
 2. Kolamarka in Gadchiroli (180.72 sq km)
 3. Muktai Bhawani in Jalgaon (122.74 sq km).
- Kolamarka, which is affected by the presence of Left-wing extremists, has **endangered Asiatic wild buffaloes (Bubalusamee)** & the area was notified as a conservation reserve in 2013.
 - Besides, **10 spots** have been designated as 'endangered wildlife habitats' in different parts of Maharashtra.

There are :

1. Mayureshwar-Supe (5.15 square km)
2. Bor (62 square km)
3. Navin Bor (61 square km)
4. extended Bor (16 square km)
5. Narnala (12 square km.)
6. Lonar (3.65 square km)
7. Gugamal National Park (361 square km)

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8. Yedshi Ramalingaghat Wildlife Sanctuary (22.37 square km)
 9. Naigaon-Mayur Wildlife Sanctuary (30 square km)
 10. Deulgaon-Rehekuri Antelope Sanctuary (2.17 square km).
- As per the **provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972**, the consent of the wildlife board is a must before notifying any fresh PAs in the state.
 - Meanwhile, the board also approved a **4.5 km** elevated corridor from Hotel Fountain on Ghodbunder road to Gaimukh and the proposal will now be sent to the **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** for its consent.

Additional Info :

- Currently, Maharashtra has **6 national parks, and 50 sanctuaries**.
- It has **6 tiger projects**, namely, Melghat, Tadoba-Andhari, Pench, Sahyadri, Navegaon-Nagzira, and Bor.
- As per the **National Tiger Conservation Authority's (NTCA) 'Status of Tigers in India, 2018'** report, the estimated number of tigers in Maharashtra was **312 as against 190 in 2014**.

About Maharashtra :

- Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- CM: Uddhav Thackeray
- Capital: Mumbai

Sital Sasthi festival is being celebrated in Odisha

- A **week-long special sacred Hindu festival, Sital Sasthi** is being celebrated in Odisha.
- The festival highlights the **marriage of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati**.
- According to the Hindu calendar, Sital Sasthi is observed on the **6th day of the Jyestha month** during the Shukla Paksha.
- After a gap of two years, In 2022, an assembly of more than **6,000 artists** across Odisha as well as other states are likely to perform at the cultural extravaganza.
- Events like folk music, dance, and other such festivities form the chief attraction of this carnival.

About the Festival :

- Sital Sasthi is a celebration wherein Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati are adopted by two families, and their wedding is solemnized with the involvement of rituals.

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- People observing this festival believe that Lord Shiva represents the scorching heat of summer while Goddess Parvati signifies the first rain.
- So, this holy and lavish wedding is observed for a good monsoon.

About Odisha :

Chief minister: Naveen Patnaik

- Governor: Ganeshi Lal
- Capital: Bhubaneswar

AP CM Jagan Launches YSR Yantra Seva Scheme & flags of the state-level distribution of tractors

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched YSR Yantra Seva Scheme and flagged off the mega distribution of tractors and combine harvesters at Chuttugunta Centre in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.
- Minister Thaneti Vanita, Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, Ambati Rambabu, and other officials were present at the events.
- A total of 3,800 tractors along with 1,140 other farm machinery have been distributed at Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) level - Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs).
- A subsidy of Rs 175.61 Crore was also deposited in 5,262 farmer group bank accounts.
- In that, the government is providing a 40 percent subsidy and providing loans for 50 percent of the machinery cost, and the remaining 10 percent can be paid by the farmer's group.
- The 10,750 RBKs were brought to assist the farmer fraternity from seed to sale, and farm equipment like tractors, and harvesters were also made available.
- Also 10,750 YSR Yantra Seva Centres will be set up at each RBK level at Rs 2,016 crore and 1,615 harvesters will be made available at the cluster level where the paddy cultivation will be high.
- Meanwhile, the Chief Minister also inaugurated the Jindal Waste to Energy Plant in Kondaveedu of Palnadu district and unveiled the pylon installed at the plant.
- Further, he unveiled a pylon of Jagananna Haritha Nagaralu in Kondaveedu.

About AP :

- CM : Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy
- Governor : Biswabhusan Harichandan

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- Capital: Amaravati

Assam celebrates the Baikho festival for good rain and harvest

- People in India's northeastern state of **Assam** celebrated the **Baikho festival** which is called the gateway to northeast India.
- The Baikho festival is celebrated by the **Rabha tribes** in India.

About Baikho festival :

- The Baikho festival is annually celebrated to bring in an auspicious harvest season filled with abundant crops and good health.
- This is a celebration of a **good harvest**.
- The tribe smear their faces with rice flour and pour rice beer stored in earthen pots for others.

Who are the Rabhas?

- Rabhas are a **Tibeto-Burman community** who reside majorly in Lower Assam, Garo Hills, and West Bengal's Dooar region.
- They are among the plains tribe in Assam.
- They are an agriculture-based community who have distinctive culture and celebrations.

About Assam :

- Governor: Jagdish Mukhi
- Chief minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Capital: Dispur

J&K rolls out accidental insurance cover of Rs 15 lakh for govt employees

- Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha rolled out the 'Accidental Insurance Scheme' for employees of the J&K Government.

About 'Accidental Insurance Scheme' :

- Under the scheme, Jammu & Kashmir Bank will extend free group personal insurance cover of **Rs 15 lakh** to all the employees.

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- The free group personal insurance cover is extended to **all permanent employees in J&K**, in addition to the offers that they are entitled to under an agreement between the bank and the Jammu and Kashmir government.
- The policy for group accidental insurance shall cover personal accidental deaths under all circumstances including terrorism, on an anytime and anywhere basis.
- The insurance company will be required to settle the claims within **15 working days** of submission of all requisite papers.
- He directed the bank to enhance the insurance amount from **Rs.15 Lakh to Rs.25 Lakh** from the next financial year 2022.
- The Lt Governor also launched J&K Bank's '**Phone Pe Loan**' facility for the government employees.
- Under the 'Phone Pe Loan' scheme, the salaried employees can avail of personal consumption loans and cash credit facilities at a discounted rate of interest.
- 'Phone Pe Loan' & Accidental Insurance Cover' will ensure **hassle-free credit flow and social security net for employees.**

About J&K :

- Capital: Srinagar, Jammu
- LG: Manoj Sinha
- Dance forms: Kud Dance, Dumhal Dance, Rouf Dance, Bhand Pather, Bachha Nagma, Hafiza Dance, Bhand Jashan

About J&K Bank :

- Founded: 1 October 1938
- Headquarters: Srinagar, J&K
- MD & CEO : Baldev Prakash

NABARD Chairman launches My Pad My Right program in Leh

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Chairman Dr. GR Chintala launched the **My Pad My Right** program, in Leh

- The program was launched by Nabard's NabFoundation with machinery and materials for **Seven and a half Lakh rupees.**

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- Dr. GR Chintala announced to sanction of One more lakh to upgrade the machinery to make sanitary pads suitable to the demands of women of different age groups.
- It will also help women to participate in the country's economic development.
- Under this unique project, award-winning sanitary pad-making machines will be established through the network of self-help groups.

About NABARD :

- Established: 12 July 1982
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Govinda Rajulu Chintala
- NABARD is an apex regulatory body for the overall **regulation of regional rural banks** and apex cooperative banks in India.
- It is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India.

Kerala CM inaugurates cancer research center in Kochi

- Karkinos Healthcare, a technology-driven, oncology focussed managed health care platform, has launched the 'Advanced Centre for Cancer Diagnostics and Research' in Kochi.
- The center was inaugurated by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

About 'Advanced Centre for Cancer Diagnostics and Research' :

- The center will serve as a central lab for the Karkinos' global oncology network, analyzing specimens at the molecular and genomic level to aid in personalized targeted therapy, predicting possible responses to treatment as well as evaluating response by liquid biopsy.
- It is on **early diagnostic tools, and molecular assays for precision medicine**, which are not readily available in the country.

About Karkinos Healthcare :

- Founded: 2020
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Vision :

- To improve the cancer care experience and cure.

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- Karkinos Healthcare has installed the most advanced high-throughput HPV assay equipment Cobas 6800 with the ability to test over 1200 Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) assays of all high-risk types.
- It has partnered with professional organizations such as the Kerala Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecologic (KFOG) to support the World Health Organization's mission of eliminating cervical cancer by 2030.
- It started its oncology services in the Idukki district in Kerala in April 2021 and since then has expanded to Ernakulam, Thrissur, Thiruvananthapuram, Malappuram, and Kasaragod.

About Kerala :

- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- CM: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Capital : Thiruvananthapuram

Delhi government Partners with the UNDP to set up an oxygen generation plant at G B Pant Hospital

- Delhi Government in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India, has set up an oxygen generation plant at G. B. Pant Hospital in Delhi to augment the oxygen supply capabilities.
- United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, Kanni Wignaraja inaugurated the oxygen plant in the presence of Medical Director G. B. Pant Hospital Dr. Anil Agarwal.
- The oxygen plant utilizes pressure swing adsorption (PSA) technology to produce over one thousand liters of oxygen per minute.
- It will serve approximately 750 hospital beds, including those supported by ventilators and the Intensive Care Unit.
- The hospital is a super-specialty tertiary care center and manages referrals from across the country.

About UNDP :

- Established: 22 November 1965
- Headquarters: New York, United States

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- Administrator :Achim Steiner
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a UN agency entrusted with assisting countries in eradicating poverty and achieving long-term economic and human development.
- It is the largest UN development aid agency, with operations in 170 countries.
- UNDP has worked in India since 1951

Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin launches Ennum Ezhuthum scheme

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched the State government's ambitious Ennum Ezhuthum Mission, to bridge the learning gap that was caused due to the COVID pandemic among students aged below 8 at an event in Azhinjivakkam panchayat union middle school, Tiruvallur.

Aim :

- To ensure foundational literacy and numeracy by 2025.

Objective :

- To make the classroom suitable for conducting lessons. Lessons have been designed in the format of dance, songs, storytelling, and puppetry, among others.

About Ennum Ezhuthum Mission :

- Under the program, the education department will distribute workbooks to **students from Classes 1 to 3** to assess and bridge the learning gap.
- The program is designed to help each child individually and a high-level committee has been formed for the purpose.
- The children will be trained in **3 subjects - Tamil, English, and Mathematics**.
- A total of **92,386 primary teachers** participated in the session organized to provide their opinions on the scheme.

Recent News :

- Recently Tamil Nadu conducted a **special training program for teachers** and handbooks were distributed & teachers were advised to opt for interactive learning methods and encourage students to read newspapers and books in the school library.

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- The CM of TN had announced a **free breakfast scheme** for primary school children and a **nutrition scheme** for malnourished children
- He also announced a Rs 1,000 incentive for girl students pursuing higher education.

About Tamil Nadu :

- Chief minister: M. K. Stalin
- Governor: R. N. Ravi
- Capital: Chennai

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar launches pilot project for 'Sujal' initiative to conserve water

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched a pilot project the 'Sujal' initiative for Panchkula to monitor the water supply and control its flow in the region.

About 'Sujal' :

- Under the initiative, a device will be installed in every drinking water meter, tube well, and connection of Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) that will store the water usage data online.
- With this technology, it will become easy to estimate the flow of water in every house and at every commercial site that falls under HSVP.
- The initiative was unique and environment-friendly, & will prove to be a benchmark in the field of water conservation by helping them save precious resources.
- It will also help in detecting inactive connections and meters so that they can be turned off.

About Haryana :

- Governor : Bandaru Dattatreya
- CM : Manohar Lal Khattar
- Capital: Chandigarh

UP govt to prioritize 'Agniveers' for recruitment in police, related services

- Uttar Pradesh chief minister Shri Yogi Adityanath announced the government will give priority to 'Agniveers'—soldiers recruited in the Army, Navy, and the Air Force on short-term contracts under the special 'Agnipath' scheme.
- The Agniveers will get priority in recruitment to **police and related services** in the state.

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- Before this, **Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh** had unveiled the '**Agnipath scheme**' of short-term contractual recruitment, extending a maximum of four years, of soldiers in the tri-services that include the Army, the Navy, and the Air force.
- The **ministry of home affairs (MHA)** has decided to give priority to Agniveers who complete 4 years under this scheme for recruitment in **CAPFs (central armed police forces)** and **Assam Rifles**

About UP :

- Governor : Anandiben Patel
- CM: Yogi Adityanath
- Capital: Lucknow

Himachal Pradesh becomes the 1st Indian state to approve a policy for drones

- **Himachal Pradesh** has become the **first state** in the country to **formally acknowledge the public use of drones**.
- The '**Himachal Pradesh Drone Policy 2022**' was approved by the **chief minister Shri Jai Ram Thakur**.

Aim :

- To propagate the use of drone-enabled technology in different sectors such as defense, transport, health, agriculture, and more.

About 'Himachal Pradesh Drone Policy 2022' :

- The policy envisions creating a holistic drone ecosystem built upon the foundation of **Governance and Reforms Using Drones (GARUD)**.
- The policy mainly focuses on creating drone-enabled technology, the creation of manpower through the establishment of training schools, startup and innovation schemes, and more.

About drone technology :

- Drone technology will be used by the police department for surveillance in remote areas, which is crucial, especially for a hilly state like Himachal Pradesh.
- The government also will allow the **mining, forest, and horticulture departments** to use drones for their respective needs.

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- The **Department of Information Technology** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Indian drone companies such as **Skye Air** and **TechEagle** to deliver medical and Agri commodities within the HP.

About Himachal Pradesh :

- Governor : Rajendra Arlekar
- CM: Jai Ram Thakur
- Capital: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)

MIAL Launches Vertical Axis Wind Turbine & Solar PV System

- **Mumbai International Airport, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA)** has become **India's first airport** to launch a one-of-its-kind **Vertical Axis Wind Turbine (VAWT) & Solar PV hybrid (Solar Mill)** to explore the possibility of utilization of wind energy at the airport.

Key Highlights :

- CSMIA has introduced this pilot program in collaboration with **WindStream Energy Technologies India Pvt Ltd**, which ensures 24/7 energy generation, harnessing maximum energy through wind power systems, while enabling a highly efficient and **low carbon future for aviation**.
- This initiative is expected to reduce the airport's dependence on conventional electricity and help meet its **net-zero emission goals**.
- As per reports, The plant will need minimal maintenance of installation, unlike any other machines for electrical supply.

Note :

- With this, **Mumbai** will become the **first city in India** to establish a one-of-its-kind hybrid power project at its airport.

About Windstream Energy Technologies India Pvt Ltd :

- Founded: 2013
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Directors: Daniel Louis Bates, Rishi Raj Rishabh, Bhaskar Reddy Dasari, Naga Venkata Kameswara Kumar Tangirala
- It is classified as a **Subsidiary of a Foreign Company** and is registered at the Registrar of Companies

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- Windstream Energy Technologies has developed the patented 10 kW hybrid power system that consists of a 2 kW vertical axis wind turbine and an 8 kW solar photovoltaic (PV) system with an estimated minimum energy generation of **36 kWh/day**.
- The hybrid power system aims for 24/7 energy generation based on the airport's requirements.

Assam Govt joins hands with NLC India to Set Up 1 GW Solar Power Plant

- The state-run thermal energy giant NLC will set up a **1 GW solar project** in the Indian state of **Assam** in a joint venture with the state government.
- The PV installation will entail an investment of **INR 5,000 crore**.
- NLC India has been in touch with the State government in connection with the sale of power from the Ghatampur thermal power project, which is being put up by a joint venture of NLC India and the Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd in Kanpur district.
- NLC India would hold a **51 percent** stake in the solar joint venture.
- The electricity from the plant would be bought by Assam at a tariff that would give a **12 percent** return on equity.

Recent News :

- On May 31, 2022, The Assam CM inaugurated a **solar power project at Amguri** in the **Sivasagar district** with a generation capacity of **70 MW**.

About Assam :

- Governor : Jagdish Mukhi
- Chief minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Capital: Dispur

About NLC India Ltd :

- Founded: 1956
- Headquarters: Neyveli, Tamil Nadu, India
- NLC India Limited (NLC) (formerly **Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited**) is a government-owned-fossil fuel miner and thermal power generator under the ownership of the Ministry of Coal, Government of India.

PM Shri Modi inaugurates B R Ambedkar School of Economics campus in Bengaluru

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- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **new campus of Dr. B R Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE) University**.
- He also unveiled a **statue of the architect of the Indian Constitution** installed on the campus.
- During the event, he also unveiled **150 Technology Hubs'** that have been developed by transforming the **Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)** across Karnataka.
- Karnataka Governor **Thaawarchand Gehlot**, Chief Minister **Basavaraj Bommai**, Union Minister **Pralhad Joshi**, and several Ministers of the state cabinet were among those present.

About the Technology Hubs :

- The Technology Hub has developed at a cost of over **Rs 4,700 crore**, & is supported by many industry partners.

Aim :

- To create a skilled workforce to address **Industry 4.0 manpower needs**.
- Out of the total cost, the state government has contributed **Rs 657 crore** while **Tata Technologies Limited (TTL)** and its industry partners contributed **Rs 4,080 crore**.
- The state has also spent an additional **Rs 220 crore** to create dedicated workshops and technology labs at these **150 ITIs**.
- The residential **BASE University** was set up in **2017** in recognition of the exemplary contributions made by **Ambedkar** to the development of Independent India and as a tribute to his memory on the occasion of his **125th birth anniversary**.
- The **BASE University** was established in 2017 on **43.45 acres** of **Bengaluru University** land and the Congress government had allocated **Rs 350 crore** for the land and infrastructure.

About Karnataka :

- Chief minister: **Basavaraj Bommai**
- Governor: **Thawar Chand Gehlot**
- Capital: **Bengaluru**

UPEIDA signs MoUs with PSBs to boost investment in UP Defense Industrial Corridor

- **Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA)** has signed MoUs with the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, **Bank of Baroda (BOB)**, **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, and **Small**

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Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to boost investment in the UP Defense Industrial Corridor.

- As per the agreement, the bank will provide financial assistance in the form of ease of doing business to investors in the UP Defense Industrial Corridor.

Key Highlights :

- UPEIDA has also signed an MoU with IIT Kanpur Research and Technology Park Foundation (Technopark@iitk) to address the growing R&D requirements and opportunities for collaboration of IIT Kanpur with the domestic Aerospace and Defence ecosystem.
- Companies in the defense sector are preparing to set up their production and manufacturing units in the state as part of the Defence Industrial Corridor.
- Technopark@iitk is reaching out to companies to set up their R&D units on its premises and support them in the areas of innovation and research.
- As private investors get support and assistance from the state, there will be an even greater surge in private participation in the sector & this contributes greatly to India's goal of achieving the Defence production target of **\$25 billion by 2025**.

About UPEIDA :

- Founded: 27 December 2007
- Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Cabinet Minister: Nand Gopal Gupta
- CEO: Awanish Awasthi

About UP :

- Governor : Anandiben Patel
- CM: Yogi Adityanath
- Capital: Lucknow

World Bank approves project to promote rain-fed farming in Uttarakhand

- The World Bank has approved a project named Uttarakhand Climate Responsive Rain-fed Farming worth Rs 1,000 crore to promote rain-fed farming in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand.
- The Project will be implemented by the watershed department.

Aim :

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- To **reduce greenhouse gas emissions** for funding by the World Bank.

About the Project :

- The project will help in **springshed management**, boosting agricultural productivity, controlling migration, and promoting cluster-based agriculture.
- It will also boost **climate-friendly activities** in the agriculture sector so that it becomes an economically viable option for the youth and farmers.

About World Bank :

- Established: July 1944
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., U.S
- President : David Malpass
- MD & CEO: Anshula Kant

About Uttarakhand :

- Governor: Gurmit Singh
- CM: Pushkar Singh Dhami
- Capital: Bhararisain (summer) Dehradun (winter)

Gujarat becomes 1st state to launch 'Balika Panchayat'

- Gujarat has become the **first state** to launch **Balika Panchayat (girl Panchayat)** in India.

Aim :

- To promote the **social and political development** of the **girls** and ensure their active participation of girls in politics.

About Balika Panchayat (girl Panchayat) :

- This is a unique initiative of the **Women and Child Development Welfare department** of the Gujarat Government under the '**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**' campaign.
- It has been started in **Kunaria, Maska, Motagua, and Vadsar** villages of the Kutch district.

Objective :

- To promote the social and political development of the girl child and to remove the evil practices from the society such as child marriage, and the dowry system.
- Balika panchayat is a panchayat of girls between the **age of 10 and 21 years**

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- 20-year-old Urmil Ahir has been named the sarpanch of the Balika Panchayat.

About Gujarat :

- Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- Capital: Gandhinagar

Gujarat CM launches 17th 'Shala Praveshotsav'

- The Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Bhupendra Patel launched the 17th edition of 'Shala Praveshotsav', an annual drive to enroll students in Class 1 in Gujarat.

Aim :

- To increase the enrollment of students in primary schools in Gujarat.
- The 3 day enrollment drive begins from Memadpur primary school in Vadgam taluka of Banaskantha district.

Key Highlights :

- During this 3-day drive, Officials and elected representatives would cover nearly 32,000 government primary schools.
- As part of this enrollment for the first time, Vice Chancellors of universities will also be roped in for Praveshotsav drive.
- The dropout rate of students' reduced drastically following the mass enrolment drives of the children.
- Gujarat's dropout ration was 64.48 percent in 1990-91 & the ratio came down to 3.7 percent in 2020-21.
- Similarly, gross enrollment ratio has gone up to 99.02 in 2020-21 from 95.65 per cent in 2004-05.

Background :

- The Shala Praveshotsav was started by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in the year 2003 to change the status of school education in Gujarat and to accelerate the elementary education of the children.

About Gujarat :

- Governor : Acharya Dev Vrat

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- CM : Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Capital : Gandhinagar

Karnataka CM Shri Basavaraj Bommai inaugurates India's largest IKEA store

- Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri Basavaraj Bommai inaugurated IKEA's Nagasandra store, a leading Swedish home furnishing retailer in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The Bengaluru store is IKEA's 3rd outlet in India after the ones in Hyderabad and Mumbai.
- Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani, Ambassador of Sweden Klas Molin, IKEA India CEO Susanne Pulverer were among others present at the inaugural session.

About IKEA's Nagasandra store :

- The store is Spread over 12.2 acres, 4,60,000 sq. ft.
- The store is the largest IKEA outlet in the country and is located close to the Nagasandra station of Bengaluru Namma metro.
- With a planned investment of Rs 3,000 crore in Karnataka, IKEA is expecting to attract close to 5 million visitors in 2022.
- IKEA has employed 1,000 co-workers with 72 percent local co-workers and plans to hire more people from the local neighbourhood.

Features of the Store :

- The store will have over 7,000 home furnishing IKEA products along with home sets.
- The store will also house one of the largest children's play areas 'Småland' along with a 1,000-seater restaurant and a bistro serving a mix of Swedish and Indian delicacies.

About IKEA :

- Founded : 28 July 1943
- Founder : Ingvar Kamprad
- Headquarters : Delft, Netherlands

About Karnataka :

- Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
- Chief minister: Basavaraj Bommai
- Capital: Bengaluru

Karnataka govt signs MoUs to help women SHGs, promote organic farming

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- The Government of Karnataka signed 2 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) to strengthen economic activities of women self-help groups and facilitate organic farmers to sell their produce directly to consumers.
- The MoUs were exchanged in the presence of Minister for Livelihood C N Ashwath Narayan.
- On behalf of the government, Sanjeevini – Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS) and National Rural Economic Transformation Programme (NRETP), exchanged MoUs with the institutions.

About the MoUs :

- Out of the 2 MoUs, one was with IIM-B a business school to help women self-help groups.

Aim :

- To scale up at least 100-150 existing women-owned/women-led growth-oriented enterprises in Karnataka.
- The MoU would facilitate creating business models for generating local employment, improving the creditworthiness of enterprises, enabling access for credit from formal financial institutions, and allowing women entrepreneurs to run businesses themselves.
- Another one signed with Subhiksha, a vertically integrated multi-state co-operative society which promotes organic farming.
- It would create a direct linkage with the consumers through the online marketing platform 'Subhiksha Farmers to Consumers' App.
- It would fetch 73 percent of the MRP directly to the farmers' account.
- It also provides traceability to consumers of every item that is procured through the platform along with a 'Note from the Farmer' to introduce the farmer's family to the consumer.

Other advantages :

- It would assist in high-order food processing, supply quality inputs to farmer members at reasonable costs, provide farm advisory services, incentivise farmers for adopting 'Good Agricultural Practices' and enable access to farm data on soil fertility, and moisture levels

Delhi International Airport Limited introduces RFID-enabled baggage tag "BAGG TRAX" at Delhi Airport arrivals

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- **Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL)** has introduced **Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID)-enabled personalized Baggage Tag “BAGG TRAX”**, a first-of-its-kind facility in the country that will share details in real-time about when and on which belt a passenger’s luggage is arriving.
- The unique BAGG TRAX tags will soon be commercially launched for flyers at Delhi airport. Presently, as part of the pilot project, BAGG TRAX tags are given to select frequent flyers at Terminal 3 only. Once commercially launched, flyers can buy it at the Departures.
- It is yet another passenger-friendly initiative by DIAL that will significantly enhance the passenger experience at the airport. BAGG TRAX will not only help the domestic and international arrival passengers but also those in transit to track their checked-in baggage.

About Delhi:

- Chief minister: Arvind Kejriwal
- Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena

26th Sindhu Darshan Yatra begins in Leh, Ladakh

- The 4-day 26th Sindhu Darshan Yatra began with festive fervor in **Leh, Ladakh**.
- Taking forward the theme of “**Unity & Integrity**” of the nation and the concept of “**Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat**”, this national Sindhu festival was inaugurated by **Union Territory of Leh-Ladakh Lieutenant Governor His Excellency Radha Krishna Mathur**.

About Sindhu Darshan Yatra :

- On the first day of Yatra, hundreds of pilgrims took a dip in the **Sindhu river**.
- The Sindhu Darshan Yatra would help in understanding the Ladakh region and the people and the Army who are guarding the country’s boundaries in the toughest climatic conditions.
- On the occasion, Mr. Mathur also released **50 rupees worth of commemorative envelopes** with Sindhu Ghat and snow-covered mountains.

About Ladakh :

- Lieutenant Governor: Radha Krishna Mathur
- Capital: Leh, Kargil

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

BLS International inks pact with West Bengal for computerization, e-governance of registration offices

- **BLS International Services**, a tech-enabled services partner for governments and citizens, has entered into an **agreement** with the **West Bengal** government for the computerization and e-governance of registration offices in the **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** model in the Presidency Zone.
- BLS International Services has been selected by the **Directorate of Registration and Stamp Revenue, Govt. of West Bengal**.

Key Highlights :

- In this project, the company will procure, install & commission the hardware for 81 offices under the Presidency Zone.
- Deployment of manpower, management, and maintenance of manpower & hardware will be done for 5 years.
- In this project, BLS will process **700,000 transactions per annum**.

About BLS International :

- Founded: 2005
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- MD: Nikhil Gupta
- The company provides services in the domain of visa, passport, consular, citizen, e-governance, attestation, biometric, e-visa, and retail services

About West Bengal :

- Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar
- Chief minister: Mamata Banerjee
- Capital: Kolkata

Syngenta India launches price guarantee insurance scheme for chili farmers

- **Syngenta India** has entered into an exclusive **agreement** with the **Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC)**.

Aim :

- To safeguard Chili farmers from **unfavorable price fluctuations** due to unpredictable market conditions.

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- This is considered to be the **first initiative** in the market to ensure the crop against the fluctuation of prices.

About the agreement :

- The agreement will facilitate guaranteeing a **fair price to farmers** for their produce by indemnifying them for losses incurred due to a fall in market prices.
- Guntur is the best place to launch the scheme since around **80%** of the red dry chili is auctioned at the **Agricultural Product Marketing Committee in Guntur**.
- About **2,000 farmers** of Atchampet in the Guntur district have been given the insurance cover for about **Rs.1.5 lakh per acre**.
- The insurance offered by AIC would protect policyholders against unexpected falls in market prices.

About Syngenta India :

- Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra
- MD: Susheel Kumar
- Syngenta India Ltd. manufactures seeds and crop protection products.
- The Company develops new varieties of **hybrid seeds** for crops such as rice, corn, cotton, oilseeds, and vegetables.

About AIC :

- Founded: 2002
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman & Managing Director: Sh, Malay Kumar Poddar
- AIC is a nationalized insurance company under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance, GoI**.

Israel & Government of Haryana Sign Joint Declaration On Water Cooperation

- **Israel** and the **Haryana government** signed a **joint declaration** on **integrated water resources management** and **capacity building**.
- The joint declaration was signed by **Ambassador Eynat Shlein**, Head of MASHAV- Israel's **Agency for International Development Cooperation**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, and the **Irrigation and Water Resources Department**, Government of Haryana.

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- This is a significant milestone as India & Israel are celebrating **30 years** of full diplomatic relations and water security has always been one of the most important pillars of our relations.

About the agreement :

- Under the agreement, Israel will share advanced and cutting-edge **water technologies**, know-how, and expertise with the government of Haryana, and work closely with all our partners in India as we continue enhancing the strategic partnership between our two nations.
- Through this declaration, both sides expressed their willingness
 - To strengthen their existing friendly relations in the **water management sector**
 - **Preserve water resources** in public water areas in Haryana
 - Improve public health in the region, and cooperate and coordinate efforts to protect the water resources.
- As part of this joint declaration, Mashav will share knowledge, capacity building, and Israeli technologies for the development of Haryana in the water management sector.

About Israel :

- President: Isaac Herzog
- Prime minister: Naftali Bennett
- Capital: Jerusalem
- Currency: Israeli Shekel

About Haryana :

- Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya
- Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar
- Capital: Chandigarh

Uttarakhand govt Presents Rs 65,571.49 crore budget

- The Uttarakhand Finance Minister Shri Prem Chand Aggrawal has tabled a Rs 65,571.49 crore budget for 2022-23 in the state assembly in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Highlights of the Budget :

- The proposed Rs 65,571.49 crore budget includes Rs 49,013.31 crore of revenue expenditure and Rs 16,558.18 crore of capital expenditure.
- The total estimated receipts during the financial year stood at Rs 63,774.55 crore.

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- A provision of **Rs 17,350.21 crore** has been made in the budget for **salaries and allowances** of state government employees, **Rs 6,703.10 crore** for **pensions**, and **Rs 6,017.85 crore** for **payment of interests**.
- The highest allocation of **Rs 1,500 crore** was proposed in the budget for payment of pensions to the old, widows without anyone to depend on, abandoned women, differently-abled, and economically weak farmers.

Budget Allocations for Yojanas :

- The budget proposal has allocated **Rs 500 crore** for **Nanda Gaura Yojana**.

Aim :

- To improve the **gender ratio**.
- Under the scheme, the government seeks to pay **Rs 51,000** to the parents of a daughter in 7 installments, starting with the year of her birth till she is married.
- The state government also made a provision of **Rs 300 crore** for the **Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana**.
- **Rs 311.76 crore** was allocated for **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (rural)**
- **Rs 205 crore** allocated for **Smart City Yojana**
- **Rs 112.38 crore** allocated for **Rashtriya Gramin Ajivika Mission**
- **Rs 105.41 crore** was allocated for **Deendayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushal Yojana**.
- A provision of **Rs 25 crore** has been made for a scheme meant to **stop migration** from the hills and **Rs 20 crore** for the **development** of the **border areas**.
- The budget has also proposed **Rs 15 crore** for building sheds to shelter stray cows
- **Rs 12.28 crore** was allocated to set up **Atal Utkrish Vidyalayas** for making quality education affordable for children from weaker sections.

About Uttarakhand :

- Governor: Gurmit Singh
- Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami
- Capital: Bhararisain (summer) Dehradun (winter)

Assam Cabinet approves JV company with Railways to boost network

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- The Assam Cabinet approved the formation of a joint venture **Assam Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (ARIDCL)** between the Assam government and the railway ministry to increase the railway network in Assam.
- The meeting was chaired by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.
- The state government will hold a share of **51 percent** and the railway ministry will hold the remaining **49 percent**.
- The ARIDCL will ensure speedy implementation of ongoing projects, besides working out possible financing avenues.
- During this, they discussed the issue of resolving the boundary dispute between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Other Cabinet Approvals :

- The cabinet also approved an additional **Rs 126.75 crore** for the implementation of the relief package for **ex-employees** of Nagaon and Cachar paper mills of Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited (HPCL).
- The cabinet approved a one-time scheme for reducing the late payment of fitness fees for vehicles as a Covid relief measure for the transport sector and the owners can apply online within three months to avail of the benefits.
- It also approved the **Assam Motor Vehicle Taxation (Amendment), 2022** for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and streamlining the existing taxation regime by incorporating 'Green Tax' on older vehicles.
- The Council of Ministers also approved the procurement of handloom items directly from indigenous weavers without involving middlemen through a specially developed portal.
- The Cabinet decided to launch a program 'Arohan' for classes **9 to 12** from **2022-23** with an **allocated budget of Rs 5.96 crore** to guide talented students in the 13-18 age group.

About Assam :

- Governor : Jagdish Mukhi
- CM : Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Capital: Dispur

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

BSE collaborates with MACCIA to create awareness on SME listing across Maharashtra

- Leading stock exchange **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** has collaborated with the **Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (MACCIA)** to promote and create awareness in **Maharashtra** on the benefits of listing on its **Small & Medium Enterprise (SME)** platform.

About the Partnership :

- Through this partnership, BSE will provide **intellectual and manpower support to enterprises** registered with the MACCIA to get listed on the BSE SME platform.
- The BSE SME will provide training and capacity-building programs to MACCIA officials.
- The exchange will appoint a nodal person as single point contact in Maharashtra for providing an end-to-end solution for registration or listing on its SME platform.

Recent News :

- Recently, **BSE** signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with **Federal Bank** to promote the listing of **SMEs** and **startups**.
- To date, **375 companies** have been listed on the BSE SME Platform and have raised a little over **Rs 3,997 crore** from the market.

About BSE :

- Founded: 9 July 1875
- Chairman: S.S. Mundra
- MD & CEO : Ashish Chauhan
- Located at: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- As of **January 2022**, the **BSE** is the **8th largest stock exchange** with an overall market capitalization of more than **₹276.713 lakh crore**.

About MACCIA :

- Founded: 1927
- President: Lalit Gandhi
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

Karnataka Govt Launches 'Kashi Yatra' Scheme for Pilgrims

- The Karnataka government launched the Kashi Yatra project offering cash assistance of Rs 5,000 to each of the 30,000 pilgrims willing to take up a pilgrimage to Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.
- For this scheme, the government will be using funds of up to ₹7 crores from the accounts head of 'Assistance to Manasa Sarovara Pilgrims'.

Eligibility to apply for the scheme:

- The beneficiary should be a native of Karnataka
- Applicant should be above 18 years old
- Beneficiaries who have already availed of the subsidy once are not eligible

Documents required:

- Proof of beneficiaries' domicile of origin in Karnataka - voter ID, Aadhaar card, or ration card.
- Age proof - Aadhaar card, voter ID, etc.
- Any pilgrim taking up the government-sponsored 'Kashi Yatra' would get the benefit only once in a lifetime.
- Those who took up pilgrimage from April 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022, & want to take benefit of the 'Kashi Yatra' scheme would have to furnish proof that they visited Kashi Vishwanath Temple such as their darshan ticket, waiting list, or their pooja receipt, and submit it to the commissioner of religious endowment department.

About Karnataka :

- Governor: Thawarchand Gehlot
- CM: Basavaraj Bommai
- Capital: Bangalore

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Punjab FM presents Rs 1,55,860 crore for Budget 2022

- Punjab finance minister Shri Harpal Singh Cheema presented the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's first budget a ₹1,55,859.78-crore which reflects 14.20 percent growth as compared to 2021-22.
- The state's outstanding debt would rise to ₹305361.44 crores in the 2022-23 financial year.
- The revenue deficit and fiscal deficit have been pegged at 1.99% and 3.78%, respectively.
- This was for the first time that Punjab presented a paperless budget.
- The government's focus in the first year will be threefold.
 1. To restore deteriorating fiscal health
 2. To Deliver on the promises of good governance by ensuring effective use of public funds
 3. To Concentrate on health and education.
- The finance minister stated that the Janta budget (people's budget), which has been prepared after receiving 20,384 suggestions on the government portal and through emails, will focus on various areas, including health and education.
- The revenue expenditure of the state at Rs 1,07,932 crore shows an incremental growth of 5.35% over the previous year.
- Out of this, Rs 66,440 crore is proposed for the committed expenditure
- The capital expenditure is pegged at Rs 10,981 crore showing a growth of 8.95% over the previous year.

Key highlights of the budget:

- The AAP government is fulfilling its first guarantee (promise) made to the people of Punjab by providing 300 units of domestic power supply per month free to all citizens from July 1, 2022.
- The state government will provide seed money of Rs 2,000 per student under this program.
- He also announced that the government will set up 16 new medical colleges making a total of 25 such colleges in Punjab over the next 5 years.
- The government has decided to approve fresh recruitment of 26,454 people and regularization of 36,000 contractual employees
- ₹450 crores will be given as an incentive to paddy growers who adopt non-conventional methods of direct seeding rice, aimed at saving groundwater by at least 20%.

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- On the **stubble burning issue**, various possibilities and solutions will be explored and for this **Rs 200 crore** has been earmarked in the budget.
- The finance minister proposed a budgetary allocation of **₹11,560 crores** for the **agriculture sector** and **₹6,947 crores** for **free power to agriculture tube wells**.
- The budget outlay for the **health sector** with an allocation of **₹4,731 crores** is an **increase of 23.80%** over that of FY 2021-22.
- The government plans to set up **117 mohalla clinics** for which an initial allocation of **₹77 crores** has been proposed & 75 of these mohalla clinics will be operational by Independence Day on August 15, 2022.
- **₹100 crores** have been allocated for the **installation of the rooftop solar panel system in government schools**.
- To help road accident victims, the government proposed a scheme in Punjab on the pattern of the Farishtey scheme in New Delhi whereby anyone can take a road accident victim(s) and get them admitted to any hospital.
- The government proposed **₹1,170 crores** for the **cooperative sector**, an **increase of 35.67%** compared to the last financial year.

About Punjab :

- Governor : Banwarilal Purohit
- CM: Bhagwant Mann
- Capital: Chandigarh

IMPORTANT NATIONAL NEWS

India's foremost documentary film festival MIFF 2022 begins:

- The **17th edition** of the **Mumbai International Film Festival** for Documentary, Short Fiction, and Animation Films (MIFF-2022) kicked off with a colorful **opening ceremony at Mumbai's Nehru Centre in Worli**.
- MIFF 2022 has received a tremendous response from filmmakers all over the world, with a total of **808 film entries from 30 countries**.

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- Out of these, one hundred 2 films will be screened under the Competition Category -35 in international competition and 67 in the national competition.
- 18 Films will be screened under the 'MIFF Prism Category'.

About the Best Film:

- **The Golden Conch award**, together with a monetary reward of Rs 10 lakhs, will be given to the **Festival's Best Film**.
- Other prizes include cash prizes ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000, as well as a Silver Conch, trophy, and certificate.
- At the festival, 11 Bangladeshi films will be screened.
- The 17th MIFF festival is also available to view online, and it is completely free.
- This award was established in honor of great filmmaker V Shantaram, who served as Honorary Chief Producer for the Films Division during the 1950s.

The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme extended through FY26:

- The **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP)** has been extended for **another five years, until fiscal year FY26**.
- The PMEGP has been approved for continuation during the **15th Finance Commission Cycle for five years**, from 2021-22 to 2025-26, with a budget of Rs 13,554.42 crore.
- The new scheme will be modified as a result of the extension.
- The government has increased the maximum project cost for manufacturing units from \$25 lakh to \$50 lakh, and for service units from \$10 lakh to \$20 lakh.
- For the scheme, the definitions of village industry and rural areas have also been altered.
- Territories under **Panchayati Raj institutions** will be classified as rural, while areas under municipal jurisdiction will be classified as urban.

About the Program:

- The Government of India has approved the introduction of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), a new credit-linked subsidy program that combines two schemes that were in operation until 31.03.2008, namely the **Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY)** and the **Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP)**, to create employment opportunities through the establishment of micro-enterprises in rural and urban areas.

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- Its objectives are to establish micro-enterprises in rural and urban areas of the country, to provide long-term employment to a large segment of traditional and prospective artisans, to provide long-term employment to rural and urban unemployed youth in the country, and to encourage financial institutions to participate in the micro sector by increasing credit flow.

Prime Minister Modi to deliver the 11th installment of PM-KISAN benefits:

- Under the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** project, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will give the **11th tranche of financial benefits of Rs 21,000 crore** to over 10 million farmers in **Shimla, Himachal Pradesh**.
- Shri Narendra Modi would interact with beneficiaries of **16 schemes and programs run by nine central ministries** via video conferencing as part of a statewide event called Garib Kalyan Sammelan.
- The national event is part of the year-long Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
- The 11th tranche of the **Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, worth Rs 21,000 crores**, will be released by the PM.
- The PM-KISAN program provides qualifying farmer families with a financial incentive of Rs 6,000 per year, payable in three equal installments of Rs 2,000.
- The funds are deposited immediately into the beneficiary's bank accounts.
- The PM has distributed the tenth installment of over Rs 20,000 crore to over 10 crore farmer families.

About PM- KISAN:

- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) or **Prime Minister's Farmer's Tribute Fund**, is an Indian government initiative that will provide all farmers with minimum income assistance of up to 6,000 rupees per year (equal to \$6,300 or US\$83 in 2020).
- Each year, the scheme, which launched in December 2018, costs 75,000 crores.
- Each qualifying farmer will get \$6,000 per year in three installments, which will be deposited directly into their bank accounts.

EKA launches its First Electric Bus EKAE9

- EKA, an electric vehicle manufacturing, and technology company, and a **subsidiary of Pinnacle Industries** have launched its **first 9-meter pure electric and zero-emission bus, EKA E9**, in Pune.

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- EKA E9" is the first electric bus with the "Made-in-India" tag.
- The EKA E9 was unveiled by **Aaditya Thackeray**, minister of tourism, environment & protocol, the government of Maharashtra, and Mehta at the **Pune Alternate Fuel Conclave**.

About the EKA E9 bus :

- The E9's **Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)** is a lot slower than the current generation of buses that are combustion engine-powered (ICE) and can be seen abundantly on Indian streets.
- The E9 electric bus is powered by an electric motor that delivers maximum energy of **200 KW**.
- It is also supported by a **2500 Nm torque** with a "regenerative braking system."

Note :

- Chairman of EKA and Pinnacle Industries Ltd: Dr. Sudhir Mehta

Additional Info :

- EKA is a subsidiary of Pinnacle Industries and is one of the only commercial vehicle manufacturers approved under the **Champion OEM Scheme & EV component manufacturing scheme** of the Government of India's Auto PLI policy.
- EKA will design, manufacture, and supply a complete range of Electric Vehicles, Fuel Cell Electric vehicles, and alternative fuel vehicles

About the Pune Alternate Fuel Conclave 2022 :

- The **Pune Alternate Fuel Conclave (AFC)**, is an initiative of the **Government of Maharashtra**.
- It is being organized by **Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC)** and **Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB)**, in association with the **Maratha Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture (MCCIA)** in Pune.

PM announces, The Union Ministry of Ayush has 'Yoga for Humanity' as the theme for the International Day of Yoga, 2022:

- The theme of the **ninth International Day of Yoga**, which will be held on **June 21** in India and around the world, is 'Yoga for Humanity'.

The **eighth edition** of the International Day of Yoga will be organized on June 21, with the main event being held in **Mysuru, Kamataka**.

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- The theme was chosen after considerable thought and discussion, and it accurately depicts how yoga assisted humanity in easing pain during the pandemic's peak.
- In his "Maan Ki Baat" broadcast, **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** declared the subject.

Objective:

- This year's International Day of Yoga main event will take place in **Mysuru, Karnataka**.
- This year's theme is '**yoga for humanity**,' and specific programs have been created for persons with disabilities, transgender people, women, and children.
- Human values, which are a key component of yoga instruction in schools, are also stressed.

Additional Info:

- The **8th edition of the International Day of Yoga (IDY)** will feature several firsts, one of which is an innovative program called "**Guardian Ring**," in which people practicing yoga will participate in time with the sun's movement across the globe, commencing in the east and marching west.

NCTE launches online portal to Simplify Process of Teacher Education Programme:

- The **National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)** has launched an online site to help **higher education institutions recognize teacher education programs**.
- The portal, which was created to help speed the process, aims to assist students from the time they are invited to apply for courses until they are issued recognition orders, which include inspection of schools.
- This portal will be used to process applications for the recently introduced four-year **integrated teacher education programs (ITEP)**.

About the National Council for Teacher Education:

- According to NEP 2020, the NCTE, which is under the Ministry of Education, has designed the curriculum for this course in such a way that a student-teacher can earn a degree in education as well as a specialized discipline such as History, Mathematics, Science, Arts, Economics, or Commerce.

About National Council for Teacher Education

- Founded: 1995
- Chairperson: Shri Santosh Sarangi
- Headquarters: New Delhi.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announces PM CARES program for children:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi revealed the benefits of the PM CARES for Children program for children orphaned by the Covid19 pandemic.
- Prime Minister Shri Modi pledged **Rs 4,000 per month** for basic needs, financial support for tuition fees, postgraduate scholarships, and free treatment up to Rs 5.
- The Prime Minister has transferred scholarships to students.
- Children's PM CARES booklet and health card by **Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana** was given to children during the program.

Objective:

- The goal of the program is to ensure sustainable all-round care and protection of children by providing them with food and shelter, empowering them through education and scholarship, and equipping them with giving the children a self-sufficient existence with the **financial support of Rs. 10 lakhs** when they reach the age of 23 and secure their welfare through health insurance.
- Through the scheme, children are being provided an Ayushman Health Card that will cover health expenses up to **five lakh rupees**.
- The portal is a one-stop system that supports the approval process and any other support for children.

About the PM CARES program:

- The PM CARES for Children program was launched by the Prime Minister on May 29, 2021.
- The goal is to support children who have lost both parents or legal guardians or adoptive or surviving parents due to the Covid19 pandemic, between March 11, 2020, and February 28, 2022.

Instagram starts rolling out AMBER alerts to help locate missing children:

- Instagram has launched an "alert" function to assist in the search for missing children.
- The photo-sharing app has partnered with various organizations around the world to set up this feature.
- This feature will display details of missing children on a user's Instagram feed if they are in a specific area where the search is being conducted.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- In addition to the photo and video sharing platform, Amber Alerts has been on Facebook since 2015.
- Instagram has already started rolling out the Alerts feature and it will be available in **25 countries** in the coming weeks.

About the New Features:

- Alerts on the Metaowned platform will include details such as a child's photo, description, and location of abduction.
- Instagram will show warnings to users based on information like their IP address and location services (if enabled), he noted.
- The social media platform says it developed the emergency alert feature for children in partnership with organizations like the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) in the US, The International Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the National Crime Agency in the UK, the Attorney General's Office in Mexico, the Australian Federal Police, and others.

Union Sports Minister Shri Anurag Thakur Launches Nationwide Fit India Freedom Rider Cycle Rally:

- Union Minister of Youth and Sports Shri **Anurag Thakur** launched the "**National Cycling Race for Indian Freestyle Cyclists**" on World Cycling Day.
- Mr. Thakur says that by cycling we can achieve the goals of it India Movement, Khelo India Movement, Clean India Movement, and **Healthy India Movement**.
- You can complete The Fit India movement, Khelo India movement, Clean India, and Healthy India movement while cycling.
- This will also reduce pollution levels.
- Notably, **World Bicycle Day is celebrated on June 3 every year** to promote the use of bicycles and their benefits.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** believes that providing bicycles to the world's poorest people and communities will help prevent **1.5 million premature deaths and 5 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions** each year.

President Inaugurates the Akhil Bhartiya Ayurved Mahasammelan's 59th Maha Adhiveshan:

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- **Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, President of India inaugurated the **59th Maha Adhiveshan** of **Akhil Bhartiya Ayurved Mahasammelan** in **Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh**.
- Ayurveda means the science of life in Sanskrit.
- The term "**pathy**" is used to describe many types of health systems around the world.
- It refers to the method of treating the disease when the disease has already manifested.
- However, in Ayurveda, disease prevention comes first along with the cure.

Additional Info.

- The Government of India has taken many measures to protect and promote the Indian health system over time.
- However, this initiative received even more impetus following the establishment of a separate **Department of AYUSH in 2014**.
- Various research councils affiliated with the Government of India have accomplished remarkable things. in the field of Ayurveda.
- Our health is influenced by our diet, lifestyle, and even our daily habits. Ayurveda explains what should be our daily routine, what should be a seasonal routine, and what to diet before taking the medicine.
- Mahaadhiveshan, the topic of "**Ayurveda Diet – The Foundation of a Healthy India**" will be covered.

Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar launched the Scheme "SHRESHTA":

- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, **Dr. Virendra Kumar** launched the "**SHRESHTA**" program for boarding education for high school students in the targeted areas.
- **The Student Boarding Education in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA)** program was built to provide quality education and opportunities even to the poorest.

Objectives:

- **Scheduled Caste students, as per the Constitutional mandate.**
- Students from Scheduled Caste communities, long-standing victims of inequality, are left out of quality education and disadvantaged across generations due to a lack of education complete.
- Government efforts to expand non-discriminatory educational institutions have worked well to achieve near-universal access.

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- However, the goal of providing access to quality education on a level playing field is still far from reality.
- Accordingly, the Department, as a new initiative, has introduced a program to provide quality education in primary boarding schools to deserving SC students who cannot afford to attend school. fees for these schools.

About SHRESHTA

- The government has approved a new scheme named SHRESHTA (**Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas**) to provide seats for the meritorious SC boys and girls in the best private residential schools in the country.
- Every year, **it is expected that about (3000)** students would be selected for admission in **Class 9 and Class 11 under the scheme**.
- The objective of the Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA) is as follows:
 - ✓ To enhance the reach of the development initiative of the government.
 - ✓ To fill the gap in service-deprived Scheduled Castes (SCs) dominant areas in the sector of education by collaborating with voluntary organizations.
 - ✓ To provide an environment for socio-economic upliftment and overall development of the Scheduled Castes (SCs).
 - ✓ To provide access to high-quality education to bright Scheduled Caste (SC) students so that they can explore future opportunities.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has launched the Lifestyle for Environment movement:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has launched the **Global Initiative Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE)** movement and said his vision is to live a lifestyle that is in harmony with our planet and without harming it.
- The launch launched the "**LiFE Global Call for Papers**", inviting ideas and suggestions from academics, universities and research institutes, and more. to influence and persuade individuals, communities, and organizations worldwide to adopt environmentally respectful lifestyles.

Attendees:

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- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.
- The program also witnessed the participation of Co-Chairman Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Bill Gates.
- Climate economist Lord Nicholas Stern.
- Author of Nudge Theory Prof. Cass Sunstein.
- CEO and President of World Resources Institute Aniruddha Dasgupta.
- UNEP Global Head Ms. Inger Andersen.
- UNDP Global Head Achim Steiner.
- World Bank President David Malpass among others.

Key Points:

- The idea of LiFE was brought up by the **Prime Minister at the 26th Conference of the Parties COP26 in Glasgow 2021.**
- This idea promotes an eco-friendly lifestyle, focusing on conscious and intentional use instead of mindless and destructive consumption.
- The LiFE mission borrows from the past, operates in the present, and focuses on the future.

President Kovind has Inaugurated Sant Kabir Academy and Research Centre in UP:

- **President Shri Ram Nath Kovind** has paid tributes to **Sant Kabir** and inaugurated Sant Kabir Academy and Research Centre and **Swadesh Darshan Yojana** at **Kabir Chaura Dham, Maghar, Uttar Pradesh.**
- He stated the lifestyle of Kabir is an epitome of human distinctive features and his teachings are nevertheless applicable **even after 650 years.**
- He defined Kabir's lifestyle as a perfect instance of communal solidarity.

Additional info:

- Earlier, the President paid tribute to the great poet and saint of the **Bhakti movement** at his Samadhi mausoleum in **Maghar.**
- He also supplies chadar for his shop and planted a sapling on the grounds of **Kabir Chaura Dham. Governor Anandiben Patel and Premier Yogi Adityanath** accompanied the President.

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National Food laboratory of FSSAI Inaugurated in Raxaul, Bihar:

- In Raxaul in Bihar, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mr. **Mansukh Mandaviya**, inaugurated the FSSAI National Food Laboratory.
- As part of a bilateral agreement between Indo-Nepal, this laboratory was established to reduce the testing time of food samples imported from Nepal to Raxaul.
- Food analysis takes a long time because food samples that comply with the law are sent to the **National Food Laboratory in Kolkata**.
- The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development of the Government of Nepal, **Mahendra Rai Yadav**, was also present at the inauguration of the food laboratory.

Key points:

- The opening of the food laboratory would increase **Nepal's ability to import** more food products to India and connect the two countries through more efficient trade.
- The food laboratory will be accredited in **July-August** this year by the **National Accreditation Board of Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)**.
- The lab will soon begin testing samples of cereals, fats and oils, spices, fruits, vegetables, and packaged drinks.
- India would assist to achieve **National Accreditation Board of Testing and Calibration Laboratory (NABL)** accreditation for Kathmandu Food Laboratory if required.
- The inauguration of the **food laboratory in Raxaul** is a frequent request of exporters in Nepal, which the Indian government is currently **meeting in 2022**.

Prime Minister Modi Virtually Addressed Rotary International Convention 2022:

- Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi**, India is the land of **Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi**, who set an example of what it means to live for others.
- While giving an electronic speech about the **International Rotary Convention**, the Prime Minister made comments.
- The Rotaries have been described as a true union of many **“Every Rotary gathering of this scale is like a mini-global assembly”**.

Key Points:

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- “There is diversity and vibrancy,” the prime minister said of Rotary’s two mottos, “Serving Yourself” and “One who gives the most profit to who serves the best”.
- According to the Prime Minister, these are principles important to the well-being of all humanity and resonate with “the teachings of our saints and sages”.
- India is home to one-seventh of the world's population, and any achievement by India will have a beneficial impact on the rest of the world.
- For example, he references the history of the Covid19 vaccine and the plan to eliminate tuberculosis by 2025, five years ahead of the global target of 2030.
- Prime Minister Modi urged the Rotary family to support these grassroots activities and celebrate Yoga Day in large numbers around the world.

Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurates 15 National Highway projects worth over Rs.13,000 cr in Bihar:

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid foundation stones of 15 National Highway projects in Patna and Hajipur in Bihar with a total cost of Rs.13,585 crores.
- Mr. Gadkari, Mahatma Gandhi Setu over river Ganga in Patna is the lifeline of Bihar, which connects North Bihar with South Bihar.
- With this superstructure replacement project, the time taken to cross Mahatma Gandhi Setu has been reduced from 2 to 3 hours to 5 to 10 minutes.
- Chhapra-Gopalganj section being 2-lane with 4 bypasses will allow the traffic of the highway to pass through the bypass and the city will get rid of traffic jams.

PM Shri Narendra Modi to inaugurate Biotech Startup Expo - 2022 in New Delhi:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Biotech Startup Expo - 2022 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi and address the gathering.
- The Biotech Startup Expo - 2022 is a two-day event to be held on the 9th and 10th of this month.
- It is being organized by the Department of Biotechnology and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council BIRAC.
- It is being held to mark the completion of ten years of setting up of BIRAC.
- The theme of the Expo is ‘Biotech Startup Innovations: Towards AatmaNirbhar Bharat’.

About the Expo:

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- The Expo will act as a platform to connect entrepreneurs, investors, industry leaders, scientists, researchers, bio-incubators, manufacturers, regulators, government officials, etc.
- About **300 stalls will be set up at the Expo**, which will showcase the applications of biotechnology in various fields such as healthcare, genomics, biopharma, agriculture, industrial biotechnology, waste-to-value, and clean energy, among others.

AB PM-JAY Public Dashboard of NHA updated with new features:

- **The National Health Authority (NHA)** announced the release of its newly revamped public under its flagship scheme of **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** dashboard that provides a granular view of the **PM-JAY scheme implementation data comprehensively**.
- The dashboard will serve as a single source of truth for public and PM-JAY stakeholders providing a comprehensive view of the scheme's progress.
- The dashboard is another step in the evolution of the **PM-JAY scheme** that provides a transparent view of the **scheme's progress from a state/UT vantage point**.

About the Dashboard:

- The newly updated dashboard provides detailed information about the number of **Ayushman Bharat Cards** created, empanelled hospitals, and authorized hospital admissions amongst others at both national and state levels.
- It allows users to further view the data distributed according to gender and age.
- E.g., in the 'Age Group' category under the '**Ayushman Cards Created**' panel, the pie chart reveals that the highest number of Ayushman Card holders are between the age group of 30 to 44 years while the age groups fall between 15 to 29 years and 45-59 years are trailing close behind.

PM Modi launches new series of coins with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav design:

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has launched a special series of coins that are also '**visually impaired friendly**'.
- **The coins of Re 1, Rs 2, 5, 10, and 20 denominations** will have the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) design.
- They are not commemorative coins and will be part of the circulation.

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- These new series of coins will remind people of the goal of Amrit Kal and motivate people to work towards the development of the country.
- Meanwhile, lenders like **HDFC Bank** and **Axis Bank**, these special coins will be distributed through select branches.
- Mr. Modi also launched the '**Jan Samarth portal**' -- a credit-linked portal of 12 government schemes.
- AKAM is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independence.

Govt hikes insurance premiums under PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Suraksha Bima Yojana:

- The government has hiked the insurance premium rates for **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** and **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**.
- The new rates will be **effective from June 1, 2022**.
- This is the first time the premium rates have been increased since the schemes were launched seven years ago in 2015.
- The premium rates of both schemes have been revised, with **PMJJBY being increased from Rs 330 to Rs 436** and **PMSBY being increased from Rs 12 to Rs 20**.
- The PMJJBY coverage is only for death, therefore the benefit will only go to the nominee.
- PMJJBY is a pure term insurance policy with no investment component that covers solely mortality.

PMSBY:

- The **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)** is a type of personal accident insurance that protects you from death or disability as a result of an accident.
- The insurance coverage is for a year, starting on **June 1** and ending on **May 31**.
- The scheme covers a **total sum insured of Rs.2 lakh**.

PM Shri Narendra Modi opens world's first nano urea plant:

- PM Shri Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **world's first nano urea liquid plant** by **Indian Farmers' Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)** at Kalol in Gujarat.

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- The virtual inauguration took place at a ceremony held in **Gandhinagar** in the presence of Union home minister Shri Amit Shah, Union minister of chemicals and fertilizers, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, along with the chief minister, Bhupendra Patel.
- The first IFFCO nano urea (liquid) production unit at Kalol has been made with an investment of **Rs 175 crore**.
- At present, it can produce 1.5 lakh bottles of 500ml capacity of nano urea per day.

About IFFCO:

- Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited, also known as IFFCO, is a multi-state cooperative society.
- IFFCO is wholly owned by Cooperative Societies of India. Society is engaged in the business of manufacturing and marketing fertilizers.
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: 3 November 1967
- Chairman: Dileep Sanghani
- MD & CEO: Dr. U S Awasthi

Cabinet approves Expanding the mandate of Government e-Marketplace:

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, has approved the expansion of the mandate of GeM to allow procurement by Cooperatives as buyers on GeM.
- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, inaugurated the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM) on August 9, 2016**, to develop an open and transparent procurement platform for Government buyers.
- **A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** by the name of Government e-Marketplace (GeM SPV) was set up as the **National Public Procurement Portal on May 17, 2017**.
- All government purchasers can use the platform right now, including central and state ministries, departments, public sector businesses, autonomous institutions, and local governments.

About GeM:

- GeM is not available to private sector buyers under the existing mandate.
- Suppliers (sellers) might come from **any sector: public or private**.

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- This initiative **will assist more than 8.54 lakh** registered cooperatives and approximately 27 crore members.
- The GeM site is available to all buyers and merchants in the country.
- The move will help over 8.54 lakh registered cooperatives, like Amul and IFFCO, and their 27 crore members, as they would get products at competitive rates from the GeM portal.

NTPC releases 'biodiversity policy 2022'

- **Power giant NTPC** has come out with its "**biodiversity policy 2022**" for the conservation and restoration of a balanced ecosystem.
- The power major aims to mainstream the concept of **biodiversity across its value chain and adopt a precautionary** approach for sustainable management of biodiversity in all the decision-making processes to ensure the earth's variety of life in and around the business units of NTPC.
- The policy also aims to adopt systematic consideration of local threats to biodiversity beyond the company's business activities.
- As part of its capacity building, NTPC is raising awareness among local communities, employees, and its associates across the supply chain about **biodiversity through project-specific and national level training in collaboration with experts.**
- Further, NTPC will be adhering to legal compliances concerning biodiversity by complying with rules and regulations related to the environment, forest, wildlife, coastal zone, and green cover during the planning and execution of its projects.

Related Agreement Signed:

- NTPC has signed a five-year agreement with the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department for the conservation of Olive Ridley Turtles on the coastline of Andhra Pradesh.

About Biodiversity:

- It refers to the variety of living species on Earth, including plants, animals, bacteria, and fungi.
- While Earth's biodiversity is so rich that many species have yet to be discovered, many species are being threatened with extinction due to human activities, putting the Earth's magnificent biodiversity at risk.

Significance:

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- **Biodiversity Hotspot:** India is home to nearly 8% of global biodiversity on just 2.3% of global land area and contains sections of four of the 36 global biodiversity hotspots.
- **Staggering Economic Value:** While the precise economic value of all ecosystem services provided by biodiversity may not be known, estimates suggest that India's forests alone may yield services worth more than a trillion rupees per year.

About NTPC:

- **Founded:** 7 November 1975
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India

SC bans mining within a 1-km radius of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries:

- **The Supreme Court** has ordered that mining within the **national parks and wildlife sanctuaries shall not be permitted.**
- Besides this, the top court also directed that each protected forest, that is a national park or wildlife sanctuary, must have an **eco-sensitive zone of a minimum of one kilometer** measured from the demarcated boundary of such protected forest in which the activities proscribed and prescribed in the Guidelines of **February 9, 2011**, shall be strictly adhered to.
- For the **Jamwa Ramgarh wildlife sanctuary**, it shall be 500 meters so far as subsisting activities are concerned.
- These directions were passed by a **Bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, BR Gavai, and Aniruddha Bose.**
- The Court directed the **Principal Chief Conservator of Forests** for each State and Union Territory to make a list of subsisting structures and other relevant details within the respective **ESZs** and file a report before it **within three months.**

Shri Amit Shah inaugurates the new building of the National Tribal Research Institute in New Delhi:

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister **Shri Amit Shah** have inaugurated the **National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI)** in Delhi.
- It is being established for **10 crore rupees.**
- The NTRI will be the premier national institute for the promotion and preservation of tribal heritage and culture and the nerve center of tribal research issues and matters in academic, executive, and legislative fields.

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- The institute will collaborate and network with reputed research institutes, universities, and organizations as well as academic bodies and resource Centres.

About the Tribal Research Institute (TRI):

- **Tribal Research Institute (TRI)** is the studies frame of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** on the national level.
- There are 26 Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) supported via way of means by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- It will collaborate and community with reputed studies institutes, universities, and groups in addition to instructional our bodies and aid centers.
- It will reveal the tasks of **Tribal Research Institutes**, Centres of Excellence, and installation norms for development withinside the first-rate studies and training.

Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan urges Students to be Nurtured as Future Entrepreneurs:

- **Union Education Minister Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan** stated that the technology of incremental extrude is over and entreated better **instructional establishments to recognition on exponential improvement** to expand future-prepared workers.
- India has confirmed its technical functionality in lots of programs which includes **UPI, Direct Benefit Transfer, and Aadhar**, and that we should construct in this electricity and create a future-prepared team of workers to just accept the modifications on account of **Industrial Revolution 4.0**.

Key Points:

- The developing range of unicorns withinside the state is proof of a wholesome entrepreneurial environment, and he encouraged college students to be organized to be process vendors instead of process seekers.
- The government's virtual training plans, emphasize the want of harnessing generation to similarly decolonize training.
- A more potent alumni community and greater participation in tries to internationalize Indian training, inclusive of the Study in India program.
- The convention become commenced via way of means of India's President, Ram Nath Kovind.

Presidential Election 2022 to be held on 18 July:

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- The **Presidential election 2022 will be held on July 18** and the counting of votes, if required, **will be conducted on July 21**, the Election Commission announced.
- The last date of nomination has been set for June 29, the poll panel said at a press conference held at 3 pm to announce the schedule.
- **The term of President Ram Nath Kovind ends on July 24** and an election for the next president is to be held before that day.
- The new president has to be **sworn in by July 25**.
- Ram Nath Kovind received over **65% of the votes in 2017**.
- The electoral college for **President's Election** comprises **776 MPs and 4033 MLAs, a Total of 4809**.

Presidential Election 2022: Full Schedule

- Last date for nomination: June 29
- Last date for withdrawal of candidature: July 02
- Date of election: July 18
- A total of 4,809 electors to vote in the Presidential elections in 2022.
- No political party can issue a whip to its member Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar
- Commission has also directed to ensure the use of eco-friendly and biodegradable materials and eliminate the use of prohibited plastic/materials, as a part of its endeavor to make elections eco-friendly.

About Election Commission:

- Formed: 25 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chief Election Commissioner: Rajiv Kumar

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched a new Logo for 'Ayurveda Aahar':

- The **"Ayurveda Aahar"** Logo become released with the aid of using Health Minister **Mr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, at the event **World Food Safety Day**.
- The Ayurveda Aahar Logo will permit smooth identification.
- Thus, it'll assist in growing a unique Identity of "Ayurveda Aahar".
- The Logo may even improve the best of Ayurvedic products.

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- As consistent with the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**, Ayurveda Aahar is meals organized consistent with the recipes or components or strategies given withinside the **authoritative books of Ayurveda**.

Key Points:

- According to FSSAI, the layout of the Ayurveda Aahar brand is such that it consists of preliminary letters of phrases Ayurveda and Aahar in English and Devanagari.
- In this brand, the Hindi letter Aa, and English letter `A` had been merged in a manner that they appear like unmarried forms.
- It consists of symbolic five leaves, that represent 5 factors namely; ether, water, air, fire, and Earth.
- The green color stands for natural, biotic, wholesome, natural, and herbal.

About FSSAI:

- Founded: August 2011
- Headquarters: New Delhi

NHAI set a Guinness World Record for constructing a 75-kilometer motorway in 105 hours:

- State-owned NHAI has created a **Guinness World Record** for the longest continuously laid bituminous lane of 75 kilometers in 105 hours and 33 minutes on the national highway between **Amravati and Akola districts in Maharashtra**.
- The total length of the 75 kilometers of single-lane continuous bituminous concrete road is equivalent to 37.5 kilometers of two-lane paved shoulder and the work started on June 3 and was completed on June 7.
- The previous Guinness World Record for the longest continuously laid bituminous was for building 25.275 kilometers of the road which was **achieved in Doha, Qatar in February 2019**, and that task was **completed in 10 days**.
- Mr. Gadkari commended **NHAI and Raj Path Infracon Pvt Ltd engineers**, contractors, consultants, and workers for the project's efficient execution, which contributed to the world record's successful completion.

Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan launches Polyversity:

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- **IDS launched Bharat Blockchain Network (Academic Blockchain Consortium) & Polyversity (Educational Metaverse)** in the presence of **Dharmendra Pradhan – Minister for Education and Skill and Entrepreneurship**, Govt. of India, and AICTE officials at an event organized at **AICTE Auditorium**.

About Polyversity:

- Polyversity is India's largest educational metaverse, with over 100 academic partners setting up virtual campuses to make education more accessible, immersive, and meaningful.
- Land parcels will be allotted to academic partners in the polyversity.

Key points:

- **IDS is building Bharat Blockchain Network (BBN)**- India's Nationwide hybrid blockchain Network visioned to enable blockchain projects of academic interest around Governance, Issuance of verifiable credentials, Skill badges, Student transfer & Audit Trail along the lines of **NEP (National Education Policy) 2020**.
- IDS is working with 100 plus academic partners.
- The Bharat Blockchain Network (BBN), India's first nationwide hybrid blockchain network, is built by IDS.
- Polyversity, a virtual university, is India's Largest Educational Metaverse, with over 100 Academic Partners establishing virtual campuses, including the AICTE's campus.

About AICTE:

- Founded: November 1945
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairman: Anil Sahasrabudhe.

Government announces hike in MSP for Kharif season:

- The **Union Cabinet** hiked the minimum support price (MSP) for paddy by ₹100 per quintal for the **2022-23 Kharif season**.
- The rates for 14 Kharif crops have been increased, the **hikes ranging from 4% to 8%**.
- This is similar to the MSP hike given in 2021-22, which was in the range of 1% to 7%.

About the Minimum Support Price policy:

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- MSPs are the prices at which the government procures certain crops from farmers to insure them against any sharp fall in prices.
- It is an integral component of the Agriculture Price Policy and it strives to ensure support prices for farmers and affordable prices for the consumer.
- Therefore, an MSP provides a powerful signal to the farmer to exercise the choice of sowing a particular crop because the farmer can back-calculate the expected margin.
- On the other hand, we can stretch the market argument to the limit, we can argue that we do not even need a token MSP.

Key points:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has authorized a hike in MSP for all mandatory **Kharif crops for the crop year 2022-23**.
- The MSP of 14 Kharif crops was decided in the cabinet meeting.
- The support price for 'A' quality paddy has been **increased from 1,960 to 2,060 per quintal**.
- The main Kharif crop is paddy, which has already begun to be sown.
- The meteorological authority predicts that the Southwest monsoon in 2022 will be normal, with a long-term average of 99 percent.
- For the 2022-23 crop year, the MSP for common grade paddy has been increased to 2,040 per quintal, up from 1,940 the previous year.

PM Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates IN-SPACE in Ahmedabad:

- **The Indian National Center for Space Promotion and Authorization (IN-SPACE)** was inaugurated in Ahmedabad by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- Shri Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, was also present at the ceremony.
- PM Shri Narendra Modi, India is poised to increase its share in the global space industry from 2%.
- Inaugurating the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE)** headquarters in **Bopal, Ahmedabad**, the PM termed the launch as a '**watch this space**' moment for the Indian space industry as it would be a precursor to many developments and opportunities.

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- The Union cabinet headed by the Prime Minister approved the establishment of IN-SPACE in **June 2020**.
- The aim behind setting up this center was to **enable non-government entities to use the facilities of the Department of Space** for greater participation of private players in space technology and related activities.
- Before becoming Prime Minister in 2014, PM Shri Modi held the title of Gujarat's longest-serving Chief Minister, holding the position from October 2001 to May 2014.
- According to PM Shri Narendra Modi, the administration has prioritized the poor's upliftment during the last eight years.
- Prime Minister Shri Modi lay the foundation stone for several development projects in Gujarat totaling Rs 3,050 crores.

Smt Nirmala Sitharaman established the National Museum of Customs and GST in Goa:

- **Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman** will dedicate to the nation 'Dharohar', the **National Museum of Customs and GST in Goa** here as part of the Centre's 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic Week' celebrations
- As per a release of the Press Information Bureau, 'Dharohar' is housed in Panaji's famous Blue Building on the banks of the **Mandovi River**.
- The **two-story building**, which was earlier known as **Alfandega during Portuguese rule**, is **400 years old**.
- Dharohar is one of its kind museums in the country that showcases not only the artifacts seized by Indian Customs across the country but also depicts basic Customs procedures for the knowledge of the general public

About Dharohar:

- Dharohar is a museum like no other in the country that not only displays items seized by the Indian Customs but also describes various aspects of the work that the Customs Department does while protecting the economic borders, heritage, flora, and fauna of the country. and social.

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- Dharoohar has 8 galleries, namely: Introductory Gallery, Tax History Gallery, Guardians of our Economic Borders, Defenders of our Art and Heritage, Guardians of the Lives plants, Guardians of our social welfare, indirect taxes on GST, and GST galleries.
- The museum offers a rare opportunity to gain insight into the work of the Department over the years, resulting in a change in its methodology to meet the challenges that have arisen while providing exceptional service to the community Nation.

Railways Minister Mr. Ashwini Vaishnaw launches “Start-Ups for Railways” in New Delhi:

- Railways Minister Mr. Ashwini Vaishnaw launched “Start-Ups for Railways” in New Delhi.
- This **Start-Ups** policy aims to leverage innovative technologies developed by **Indian Startups, MSMEs, Innovators, and Entrepreneurs** to improve the operational efficiency and safety of Indian Railways.
- The policy which is part **Indian Railways Innovation Programme** will bring scale and efficiency in the field of operation, maintenance, and infrastructure creation through the participation of a very large and untapped startup ecosystem.

Key Points:

- Mr. Vaishnaw, through this platform, start-ups will get a good opportunity to connect with Railways.
- Out of over 100 problem statements received from different divisions, field offices, or zones of Railways, 11 problem statements like rail fracture and headway reduction have been taken up for phase 1 of this program.
- These will be presented before the start-ups to find innovative solutions.
- He requested the startups to use this opportunity and ensured them of support from Railways in form of a 50 percent capital grant, assured market, scale and ecosystem.

Union Cabinet approves to conduct 5G spectrum auction to be held by end of July:

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved a proposal from the **Department of Telecommunications** to **conduct a 5G spectrum auction** to be held by the end of July 2022.
- The spectrum will be assigned to the successful bidders for providing 5G services to the public and enterprises.

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- A total of over **72 thousand Mega Hertz of the spectrum** with a validity period of 20 years will be put to auction.
- The auction will be held for spectrum in various **Low, Medium, and High-frequency bands**.
- It is expected that the spectrum will be utilized by **Telecom Service Providers** for the roll-out of 5G technology-based services capable of providing speed and capacities which would be about **10 times higher than the current 4G services**.
- The Cabinet also decided to enable the development and setting up of Private Captive Networks to spur a new wave of innovations in **Industry 4.0** applications such as machine-to-machine communications, Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI) across automotive, health care, agriculture, energy, and other sectors.

Key Points:

- Digital connectivity has been an important part of the policy initiatives of the Government through its flagship programs such as Digital India, Start-up India, and Make in India. Broadband, especially mobile broadband, has become an integral part of the daily lives of citizens.
- This received a big boost through the rapid expansion of 4G services across the country **since 2015**.
- Eighty-crore subscribers have broadband access today compared to ten-crore subscribers in 2014.
- Spectrum is an integral and necessary part of the entire 5G eco-system.
- The upcoming 5G services have the potential to create new-age businesses, generate additional revenue for enterprises, and provide employment arising from the deployment of innovative use-cases and technologies.
- The 4G eco-system created in the country is now leading to 5G indigenous development.
- The 5G test bed set-up in eight top technology institutes of India is speeding up the launch of domestic 5G technology in India.

Cabinet approves development of new Dholera greenfield airport in Gujarat:

- **Union Cabinet** has approved the development of a **new Dholera greenfield airport in Gujarat**.
- The Airport is planned for **operationalization from 2025 to 2026**.

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- Information and Broadcasting Mr. Minister Anurag Thakur, this airport will be connected through multi-model connectivity like railways and highways.
- Over one thousand 305 crore rupees will be spent on the first phase and it will be completed **within 48 months.**
- The initial passenger traffic is estimated at **three lakh passengers per annum.**
- The passenger traffic is expected to up to **23 lakh in 20 years.**
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has directed to recruit ten lakh people in government jobs in a mission mode in the next 18 months.

Gol launched Agnipath military recruitment scheme:

- **The Government of India** has introduced the **Agnipath Recruiting Plan**, a 4-year plan for military defense.
- The program will facilitate the introduction of additional troops in a shorter time frame.
- The program is planned and organized by the **Department of Military Training.**

About the Scheme:

- 'Agnipath' is a short-term service youth recruitment scheme for the armed forces that operate across India.
- Women will be inducted into the 'Agnipath' scheme.
- Approximately 45,000 people between the ages of 17.5 and 21 will be inducted into the service for four years under the scheme.
- The recruitment process will begin in the next 90 days, with the first batch expected to be completed by July 2023.
- The selection will be made using a centralized online method.
- Agniveers will be required to have the same educational requirements as normal officers in the armed forces.

India's first centralized AC railway terminal in Bangalore becomes operational:

- The ultra-luxurious **Sir M Visvesvaraya railway station** in Bangalore, the capital of Karnataka, **has opened.**
- The **Ernakulam Tri-Weekly Express** train passed through the station to mark the special occasion.

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- According to railway officials, the air-conditioned SMV railway station is a project of Rs 314 crore.
- It has solar panels on the roof and a rainwater collection mechanism.

Key Points:

- The railway station in the city's **Baiyappanahalli district**, named after Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya, is equipped with modern facilities and is claimed to have an airport-like atmosphere.
- It was a moment of joy for crew and passengers as the first to use the city's third main terminal, located between Banaswadi and Baiyappanahalli in the city.
- The other two major stations in Bangalore are **Bangalore Railway Station** and **Yashwanthpur Railway Station**.

First Display Manufacturing Plant in India to Be Set Up In Telangana worth Rs 24,000 Crore:

- **Elest**, a subsidiary of gold retailer **Rajesh Exports**, will be setting up the country's first display fab facility in Telangana with investments worth Rs 24,000 crore.
- Telangana IT Minister **K T Rama Rao** along with Chairman of **Rajesh Exports Rajesh Mehta** announced the setting up of **Generation 6 AMOLED Display FAB**.
- The **Telangana government** signed an **MoU** with **Karnataka-based Elest** for the proposed fabrication unit which will manufacture next-generation displays for smartphones, tablet computers, and laptops.
- **Rajesh Exports (Elest)**, a Fortune-500 company, set up India's first Display FAB to manufacture the most advanced **AMOLED displays**, with an investment of **Rs 24,000 crore**, making it one of the largest investments in the high-tech manufacturing sector in India.

PM Shri Modi inaugurates Jagatguru Shri Sant Tukaram Maharaj Shila Mandir in Pune:

- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Jagatguru Sreesanth Tukaram Maharaj Shila Mandir** in Dehu village near **Pune**, dedicated to the 17th-century prophet.
- **Sant Tukaram** was a saint and poet of **Warkari**, known for his devotional poetry **Abhanga** and his devotion to **Community worship** through spiritual songs known as **Kirtans**.
- He lives in **Dehu**.

About Shila Mandir:

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- The Shila Mandir was built after his death, but it is not formally structured like a temple.
- It was rebuilt in masonry with 36 peaks and also bears the image of Sant Tukaram.
- Earlier, the prime minister visited the Vitthal-Rukmini statues in the main Dehu temple.
- He also worships the iconic Bhagwat Dharma pillar built in front of the Shila Mandir.
- `Palkhi Marg`, which has been granted national road status, will have lanes dedicated to “warkaris”
- The Prime Minister also announced the upgrading of highways that access the temple town from all directions, for **1,180 crores**.

Rashtriya Puruskar Portal launched by the government:

- To encourage openness and public cooperation, **the Union government has developed the Rashtriya Puruskar portal**, which invites nominations for a variety of awards from **different ministries, departments, and sectors**.
- The portal aims to facilitate the public to nominate individuals and organizations for various awards conferred **by the Government of India**.

Key Points:

- The Rashtriya Puruskar portal has been developed by the government to invite nominations for various awards.
- These awards include various awards such as Padma Award, Sardar Patel National Unity Award, Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award, Jeevan Raksha Padak Award Series Award, and Pandit Telecom Skills Award Deendayal Upadhyaya, etc.
- This will bring together all the awards from different Government of India Ministries/Boards/Agencies under one digital platform, ensuring transparency and public partnership.
- This portal strives to facilitate the public nomination of individuals and organizations for various awards conferred by the Government of India.

India's 1st private train service flagged off under 'Bharat Gaurav Scheme':

- **Union Railways Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched 'StartUps for Railways', a major innovation initiative.

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- Aiming to provide innovative solutions to problems such as railway faults, shortening the time between trains, and other passenger-related problems.
- The innovation policy is expected to bring scale and **efficiency to the operation, maintenance, and creation of infrastructure** through the participation of a very large and untapped startup ecosystem.
- Indian Railways launched the operation of the **theme-based Bharat Gaurav train in November 2021**.
- The objective of this theme is to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places to the people of India and the world, through Bharat Gaurav Trains.

About the Bharat Gaurav train:

- Indian Railways launched the **Bharat Gaurav theme train in November 2021**.
- This theme aims to introduce India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical landmarks to the people of India.
- Degree and world through Bharat Gaurav Train.
- The program also aims to leverage the core strengths of tourism professionals to operate themed trains to tap into India's vast tourism potential.

PM Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates Jal Bhushan Building and Gallery of Revolutionaries in Mumbai:

- Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Jal Bhushan building at Raj Bhawan in Mumbai**.
- Maharashtra Minister Mr. Udhav Thackeray, Dy CM Ajit Pawar, Environment Minister Mr. Aaditya Thackeray, and State Governor Mr. Bhagat Singh Koshyari also attended the event.
- The Prime Minister also inaugurated an underground museum "**Gallery of the Revolutionaries**" dedicated to celebrities of the struggle for freedom, at **Raj Bhavan**.

About the gallery:

- The gallery has come up in the subterranean network of 13 pre-World War-I British era bunkers, discovered in the Raj Bhavan campus in August 2016 during the tenure of the then Governor C. Vidyasagar Rao.
- The gallery includes information on the freedom movement heroes, their role in the movement, sculptures, rare photographs, murals, and details on tribal revolutionaries drawn by school kids.

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Government extends upper age limit for Agnipath recruitment scheme from 21 to 23 years:

- The **Central government** has extended the **upper age limit** for the **Agnipath recruitment scheme** from **21 years to 23 years**.
- The age waiver will be given only "**one time**" for the proposed recruitment cycle for 2022, informed the Defence Ministry.
- The decision has been taken as no recruitment had taken place in the **last two years**.
- Agniveers will be given priority in the recruitment of Central Armed Police Forces and State Police.

Key Points:

- For the agniveers, who wish to study further, a **12th class equivalent certificate** will be given.
- Opportunities for youth to serve in the armed forces will increase through the Agnipath scheme.
- In the coming years, recruitment of Agniveers will be around triple of the current recruitment in armed forces.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the Agnipath recruitment scheme which provides an opportunity for **Indian youth to serve in the regular cadre of the Army for four years**.
- Under the scheme, over forty-six thousand youth will be recruited in 2022.
- The Agnipath Scheme has been designed to enable a youthful profile of the Armed Forces.
- The **Director-General of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry Arun Chawla** has said that Agnipath Scheme is an innovative scheme that will strengthen the Armed Forces.
- Under the scheme, **over forty-six thousand youth** will be recruited this year.

IIT Madras creates robots to clean septic tanks without humans:

- **IIT Madras** has developed a **robot that can clean septic tanks** without the use of people.
- Under the moniker "**HomoSEP**," ten units are intended to be disseminated across **Tamil Nadu**, with researchers in contact with sanitation workers to select where they would be placed.

About Septic tanks:

- The septic tank is a dangerous environment because it is filled with semi-solid and semi-fluid human feces, which make up around two-thirds of the tank's content.

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- Despite bans and prohibition orders, hundreds of people die each year in India as a result of manual scavenging in septic tanks.

Key Points:

- Gujarat and Maharashtra, according to IIT Madras, are being examined for the deployment of robots that are supposed to eliminate manual scavenging in the future.
- **The first two HomoSEP units were presented to self-help groups led by Nagamma and Ruth Mary**, whose husbands sadly died during sanitation work, thanks to the sponsorship of the NGO Safai Karamchari Andolan.
- According to Rajagopal, the HomoSEP may use a custom-developed rotating blade mechanism to homogenize resistant sludge in septic tanks and an integrated suction mechanism to pump the tanking slurry.

PM Shri Narendra Modi launches torch relay for 44th Chess Olympiad:

- At Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi started the historic torch relay for the 44th Chess Olympiad.
- The International Chess Federation, FIDE, has instituted the Chess Olympiad Torch, a component of the Olympic heritage, for the first time this year.
- The Chess Olympiad Torch Relay is being held for the first time in India.

Key Points:

- **FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich** passed the torch to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who then passed it on to Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand.
- In 40 days, the torch will travel to **75 cities before arriving in Mahabalipuram, near Chennai**.
- The torch will be presented to state chess grandmasters in each venue.
- From July 28 to August 10, 2022, the 44th Chess Olympiad will take place in Chennai.

About FIDE:

- The International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation, commonly referred to by its French acronym FIDE, is an international organization based in Switzerland that connects the various national chess federations and acts as the governing body of international chess competitions.
- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

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- President: Arkady Dvorkovich
- Founded: 20 July 1924, Paris, France

Education Minister Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates National Yoga Olympiad 2022:

- **National Yoga Olympiad 2022** and quiz competition was inaugurated in **New Delhi** by **Education Minister Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan**.
- The Ministry of Education and the **National Council of Educational Research and Training** are collaborating to **host the National Yoga Olympiad**.
- Around 600 kids from 26 states and UTs, as well as Demonstration Multipurpose Schools of Regional Institutions of Education, will compete in the National Yoga Olympiad this year.

Highlights:

- Mr. Pradhan stated that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has appropriately picked **Yoga for Humanity as this year's theme** to encourage healthier choices and bring people closer together.
- Yoga is connecting the world in the pursuit of good health and wellness, according to the Minister.
- The Minister emphasized that NEP 2020 places a strong emphasis on both students' and teachers' physical and emotional well-being.
- Mr. Pradhan proposed that **NCERT incorporate Yoga's ancient wisdom** into the educational curriculum.
- Yoga, according to **Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar**, must be popularised as part of the **National Education Policy 2020**.

New Delhi to host National summit on cyber security and National security:

- The Ministry of Home Affairs will host a **National Conference on Cyber Safety and National Security at Vigyan Bhawan**, New Delhi (Cyber Apradh Se Azadi, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav).
- According to the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, **Union Minister Shri Amit Shah** will serve as the **conference's Chief Guest**.
- The lecture is part of the country's efforts to enhance public awareness regarding the prevention of cybercrime.

Key Points:

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- **The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, organized functions on Cyber Hygiene, Cyber Crime Prevention, Cyber Safety, and National Security at 75 venues across the country from June 8 to 17 under the name "**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**".
- Mr. **G Kishan Reddy**, the union minister for Culture, Tourism, and Development of the North Eastern Region, will attend the conference, as will **Ajay Kumar Mishra**, the Minister of State for Home Affairs, as well as top officials from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Culture, States and Union Territories, and members from other organizations.

DST launches Geospatial Self Certification Portal:

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Earth Science; MoS of Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr. Jitendra Singh** has released a book and its e-Version on **8 Years of Administrative and Pension reforms (2014-2022)**.
- In what can be called a massive step toward liberalization of the Geospatial industry in India, the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** launched the Self Certification Portal for conveying adherence to provisions of Geospatial Guidelines by **Individuals, companies, organizations, and government agencies**.
- The Government of India, under the aegis of the Prime Minister, has been taking concrete steps to foster ease of doing business and entrepreneurship in the country, with a focus on data and technology-driven development.
- The release of new **Geospatial Data Guidelines on February 15, 2021**, by DST, was part of this vision and introduced much-needed changes to liberalize the Geospatial industry.

Key Points:

- One of the key developments brought in by the Guidelines was the replacement of the process of prior approvals, security clearances, licenses, and other restrictions for the collection, generation, preparation, dissemination, storage, publication, updating, and/or digitization of Geospatial Data and Maps within the territory of India with a Self-Certification Regime for

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conveying adherence to provisions of Geospatial Guidelines by Individuals, companies, organizations, and government agencies.

- The transformative idea was realized by the **Department of Science and Technology with the launch of the Self-Certification portal**
- Using the Portal will essentially cut down time spent on obtaining clearances and approvals drastically for Geospatial companies, researchers, academia, and innovators for carrying out Geospatial-related activities.
- The Portal launch is in line with the transformative ideas & announcements in the new Geospatial Data Guidelines released by DST on February 15, 2021.
- The Portal has been developed in collaboration with NIC.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launches NIPUN for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman workers:

- **Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri**, the minister for housing and urban affairs, has introduced in **New Delhi** the **National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman Workers (NIPUN)**.
- NIPUN is a project of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under its flagship program, the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission DAY-NULM**, which aims to train over one lakh construction workers through new skill-upgrading and job-opportunity-providing programs.

About NIPUN Project:

- The NIPUN Project will give construction employees the ability to look for better employment possibilities, earn more money, and even explore abroad placements a sign of a new eco-system.
- By offering upskilling and employment possibilities to urban people, especially the youth, the National Urban Livelihoods Mission has significantly reduced the vulnerability of urban poor households.
- The implementation of the NIPUN project is broken up into three phases: international placement through businesses, developers, and contractors; training through **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** at construction sites and training through Fresh Skilling by Plumbing and Infrastructure SSC.

IISc Centre for Brain Research officially opened by PM Shri Narendra Modi:

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- At IISc Bengaluru, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the cornerstone for the **Bagchi Parthasarathy Multispeciality Hospital** as well as the **Centre for Brain Research**.
- According to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tweet, the government is happy to open the Centre for Brain Research at **IISC Bangalore**.
- The fact that the Prime Minister had the honor of laying the project's foundation stone adds to the satisfaction.
- This center will be at the forefront of investigations into brain disorders.

Key Points:

- The PM added that projects like the **Bagchi Parthasarathy Multispeciality Hospital** are crucial at a time **when every country must prioritize healthcare**.
- It will increase healthcare capabilities and support ground-breaking research in the future.
- The Centre for Brain Research is a pioneering research facility committed to conducting vital studies to create evidence-based public health interventions for the treatment of age-related brain disorders.
- With its eighty-two beds, the **Bagchi Parthasarathy Multispeciality Hospital** will be constructed on the campus of IISc Bengaluru, aiding in the combination of science, engineering, and medicine at the prestigious university.
- It will greatly advance clinical research in the nation and attempt to find innovative solutions that will help the country's healthcare systems advance.

'Single-Use Plastic' use to be banned by Union Govt. from 1st July 2022:

- The Union government will ban "Single-Use Plastic" starting on July 1st, 2022.
- Starting on July 1, 2022, all single-use plastics, especially those composed of polystyrene and expanded polystyrene will be prohibited from **being produced, imported, stored, distributed, sold, and used**.
- The Environment Ministry has also established a **national task force to make coordinated efforts in this area**.

Background Decision:

- According to Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi's** announcement in June 2018, India will phase out single-use plastics by 2022.

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- At the fourth United Nations Environment Assembly in 2019, India took the lead in crafting a resolution that acknowledged the pressing need for the international community to pay attention to this issue.
- Plastic carry bags will be **75 microns thick starting on September 30, 2021**, and **120 microns thick by December 31, 2022**.
- Companies are required to manage the disposal of their products once customers have deemed them worthless under a policy concept called "**extended producer responsibility**."
- The Center had previously asked that states and union territories establish a special task force under the leadership of the chief secretary or the administrator **to get rid of SUP and successfully implement the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016**.

Identified SUP items list:

- Among the 19 items categorized as SUP are earbuds, plastic balloon sticks, flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene (thermocool), plates, cups, glasses, forks, spoons, knives, and trays, as well as wrapping or packaging films around sweets boxes, invitation cards, cigarette packets, and plastic or PVC banners that are less than 100 microns thick.

Key Points:

- **Mr. Ashwini Choubey**, the minister of state for the environment, stated in a statement to Parliament that by July 23, fourteen states and UTs have joined the special task force.
- The national capital's **19 single-use plastics ban** will be enforced by the **Delhi Environment Department starting on July 1**.
- Any manufacturers, suppliers, stockists, dealers, or vendors found to be in breach of the rules would have their businesses shut down.
- **The Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021**, published by the Center, prohibit the production, importation, stocking, distribution, sale, and use of certain **single-use plastic (SUP)** products, including candy sticks, plates, glasses, and cutlery, as of July 1, 2022.

Investment of Rs 7,243 billion made through PMMSY's fisheries program; dashboard launched by the government:

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- The government has made a project investment of Rs 7,242.90 crore has been made in the last two years under **Padhan Mantri Matsya Samapada Yojana (PMMSY)** while announcing the launch of a dashboard of this flagship scheme.
- The total project investment of **Rs 7,242.90 crore (FY 2020-22)** has been done under PMMSY.
- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Mr. **Parshottam Rupala** unveiled the dashboard recently keeping in view the vast scope of PMMSY

Key Points:

- A **Management Information System (MIS)** dashboard for PMMSY has been put in place for aggregating information on one platform.
- The dashboard aims at effective monitoring of PMMSY activities and their progress in all participating states.
- It also helps strategically utilize the information for informed decision-making.
- As the data is fed into the MIS system at the district level by each participating states/union territory, the platform is a true indicator of PMMSY's progress.
- With many other technological development activities in the pipeline for MIS dashboard improvement, the Department of Fisheries and PMC (**project management consultant**) team has been simultaneously making efforts to onboarding all states/UTs through hands-on training on the platform and creating awareness

About PMMSY:

- **PMMSY, launched in May 2020**, is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the country with an **estimated investment of Rs 20,050 crore** for its implementation during a period of **five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25**.

UDAN celebrating its 5th anniversary in the year 2022:

- The Central Government's dream project, **Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN)** is five years old in 2022.
- Newer airlines, like Star Air, started to investigate this enormous untapped market, which helped the initiative gain popularity after a sluggish start.

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- Analysts claim that UDAN is a game-changer for the aviation industry since it makes it possible for the common individual to move between smaller cities for a fair price and in minutes as opposed to hours.
- **Over 92 lakh people benefit** from the **over 415 UDAN routes** that connect 66 underserved/unserved airports, including heliports and water aerodromes.

About UDAN:

- The **Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN)** project of the Government of India is a regional airport development program that is a component of the **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)** for improving underserved air routes.
- Its goals include promoting inclusive **national economic development, job creation, and the growth of air transportation** infrastructure throughout all of India's regions and states while also making air travel more affordable and pervasive.
- At the commencement of the initiative, **12 out of 18 participating under-served regional operational airports** with regular fixed-wing scheduled flights were operational airports, **27 out of 97 non-RCS airports** were well-served airports, and 406 out of 486 airports were participating under-served airports.

Culture Minister Mr. G Kishan Reddy launched the “Jyotirgamaya” festival in New Delhi:

- Union Culture Minister Mr. **G. Kishan Reddy** inaugurated **Jyotirgamaya**, a festival honoring the talent of unappreciated performers, **in New Delhi**.
- To showcase the skill of rare musical instruments from all across the country, including street performers and train entertainers, **Sangeet Natak Akademi** organized this event as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and **on the occasion of World Music Day**.
- The event wants to make participants more conscious of the need of maintaining both the making and using of unique musical instruments.
- The **Sangeet Natak Akademi's** initiative to preserve India's disappearing performing arts is exceptional.

Key Points:

- Music is a universal language, according to Cultural Minister Mr. Reddy, and Indian music is incredibly diversified, much like its culture.

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- The Cultural Minister asserts that music is an essential component of Indian culture.
- Folk music and its instruments should be preserved with the utmost care, and this festival will help with that effort.

PM Shri Narendra Modi to inaugurate Vanijya Bhawan and the NIRYAT Site:

- The "National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Commerce" (NIRYAT) portal, which will give information on India's foreign trade, and the new office complex for the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, "Vanijya Bhawan," will both be formally opened by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- The building, which will act as an integrated and modern office complex, will be used by both the department of commerce and the department for the development of industry and internal trade.

About Vanijya Bhawan:

- Vanijya Bhawan is a smart structure that includes sustainable architectural concepts with an emphasis on energy saving.
- It is being constructed near India Gate on a 4.33-acre land.
- During the building's development, 214 trees—or more than 56 percent of them—were either left unattended or newly planted.
- The 1,000-person facility has modern conveniences including smart access control, central air conditioning, video conferencing, and fully networked systems.

About NIRYAT:

- NIRYAT was developed as a "one-stop platform" to provide stakeholders access to all the data they need on the nation's foreign trade.

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has introduced the "Surya Nutan," a unique indigenous solar cooktop:

- The "Surya Nutan," a patented indigenous solar cooktop created by the oil refiner's Faridabad R&D center, has been revealed by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).
- India's CO₂ emissions will be significantly reduced because of Surya Nutan, which will also protect our people from the whims of volatile global fossil fuel costs.
- The product was displayed in front of the Uttar Pradesh Minister of Finance and Parliamentary Affairs Suresh Khanna, Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj HS Puri, Minister of

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State for Commerce & Industry Som Prakash, Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore, and Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) Som Prakash.

About the Surya Nutan:

- The solar cooktop is fixed, portable, and integrated into the kitchen's indoor solar cooking equipment.
- While charging, it provides an online cooking mode.
- Surya Nutan operates in hybrid mode, allowing it to utilize both solar and backup energy sources at once. Radiative and conductive heat losses are minimized by the solar cooktop's insulating design.
- The product was initially priced at **Rs 12,000 for the entry-level model and Rs 23,000 for the top model.**
- But with economies of scale, the price is anticipated to drop significantly.
- To determine different operational and commercial elements associated with its implementation, pilot projects are now being conducted in over 60 locations, including Leh (Ladakh).

About Indian Oil Corporation

- Chairperson: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: 30 June 1959

Union Minister unveiled Seismology Observatory in Udhampur:

- The **Seismology Observatory** in the **Dandayal** neighbourhood of the **Udhampur district** was formally inaugurated by **Dr Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister for **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The **third such Center** was established in **J&K for 20 lakh rupees** by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
- India is on the approach of becoming a significant force in the growth and understanding of seismology.
- These observatories have been built up in J&K, especially in South and North Kashmir, which lies in the seismic zone.

Key Points:

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- The observatory will gather a thorough seismic record for the districts of Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, and many more.
- The federal government intends to open 152 earthquake observatories over the following four months, including three more in the Kashmir region, according to Dr Jitendra Singh.
- Over the following five years, 100 more such seismological centres will open around the country, enhancing the collecting and monitoring of real-time data.

High carbon emitters to receive incentives to reduce footprint:

- India is putting up several policies to support the construction of carbon capture facilities by high carbon emission industries including steel, cement, and thermal plants.
- The utilisation of viability gap finance, carbon credits, or production-linked incentive programmes might all be employed as incentives.
- The government may issue carbon credits that may be traded on carbon markets or a PLI programme that links incentives to how much carbon is captured and utilised.

Key Points:

- The nation's policy think-tank, Niti Aayog, will soon publish a policy prescription for carbon capture and use of carbon dioxide generated by the industry as part of the goal to attain Net-Zero by 2070.
- 6–10% of total carbon dioxide emissions come from these businesses.
- For the carbon dioxide that polluting companies release to be caught, used, and stored for a range of industrial applications, several ways are being investigated to incentivize them to develop carbon capture facilities.

RPF rescues 150 girls/women during pan India drive "Operation Mahila Suraksha":

- Railway Protection Force (RPF) and frontline railway staff are relentlessly working to ensure safe & secure travel of women over the Indian railways.
- Dedicated to this objective of women's security a pan India drive "Operation Mahila Suraksha" was launched from 3rd to 31st May 2022.
- During this drive, RPF has arrested more than 7000 persons who were travelling unauthorizedly in the coaches reserved for women.
- RPF also rescued 150 girls/women from becoming the victims of human trafficking.

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- To provide enhanced safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey a pan India initiative "Meri Saheli" is also operational.

Key Points:

- **283 teams (covering 223 stations) of trained Mahila officers** and personnel with an average total deployment of 1125 lady RPF personnel per day, are deployed across **the Indian railways who interacted with more than 2 Lakh 25 thousand ladies** during this period and provided them end to end security.
- Train escort duties with a mixed composition of male & female RPF personnel were also widely deployed during this period.
- To educate the rail users regarding their safety and Dos & Don'ts during their journey, **5742 awareness campaigns were organized.**

Centre to set up model schools, to be called 'PM Shri schools:

- **Union education minister Mr Dharmendra Pradhan** announced that the government is in the process of establishing model schools that will be called 'PM Shri Schools'.
- PM Shri Schools will be the laboratory of **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.**

Attendees:

- Among those present at the conference were **Gujarat chief minister Bhupendra Patel, Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant**, union minister of state for education and skill development, education ministers of several states, **chairperson of the steering committee for developing a new National Curriculum Framework K Kasturirangan** and senior officials from the education ministry and state governments.

Key Points:

- The minister highlighted **the 5+3+3+4 approach of NEP** covering pre-school to secondary, emphasis on ECCE, teacher training & adult education, integration of skill development with school education and prioritising learning in mother tongue which are steps for preparing global citizens of the 21st century.

'Vivatech 2020' Conference: India recognized as 'country of the year':

- India has been named the "nation of the year" at Europe's largest startup conference, "Vivatech 2020."

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- Being chosen "**nation of the year**" at Vivatech 2020 is a great honour for India.
- This is a result of what Indian startups have given the globe.
- This is how Indian startups are recognised.
- **Mr Ashwini Vaishnav**, the minister of railways, communications, electronics, and information technology, opened the India pavilion at the **Vivatech 2020 technology expo in Paris, France**.
- With government assistance, some **65 start-ups from India will attend Vivatech 2022**.

Key Points:

- The Indian startup environment has been expanding quickly.
- They currently have over 100 unicorns, which demonstrates the size and recognition of Indian ecosystems.
- It has been evolving quickly.
- A new set of use cases for technology development in India is made possible by the combination of billions of cellphones, billions of bank accounts, and billions and billions of digital identities.

Union Minister Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurates the National Conference on Millets:

- The **National Conference on Millets** was launched by **Mr Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State for M/o Food Processing Industries**.
- The symposium in **New Delhi**, organised by the business association **ASSOCHAM** with assistance from M/o Food Processing Industries, has as its **topic "The Future Super Food for India."**
- The purpose of the conference is to examine ways to ensure food and nutritional security as well as obstacles in the way.
- According to the union minister, the nation would produce 17.96 million tonnes of coarse grains in 2020–21, up from 14.52 million tonnes in 2015–16, and 10.86 million tonnes of bajra (pearl millet) over the same period.
- Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana are some of the major millets-producing states in India.

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- Millets are grown all over the world because India is currently the fifth-largest exporter of millets worldwide.
- The worldwide year of millets in 2023 will generate value and promote the use of sustainable goods in dietary choices.

Government to transfer NDPS from Ministry of Finance to Ministry of Home Affairs:

- The government is reportedly considering moving the administration of the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985**, and the **Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988**, from the finance ministry to the Ministry of Home Affairs to consolidate all matters relating to narcotics under one department.

Key Points:

- The **Department of Revenue (DoR)** under the finance ministry is now responsible for administering the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act of 1985** and the **Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act of 1988**, with the **Narcotics Control Bureau** falling under the jurisdiction of the home ministry.
- There is currently discussion about DoR handing over management of the two Acts to MHA.
- The **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)**, significant law enforcement and intelligence agency tasked with combating drug usage and trafficking, was established by the NDPS Act.

The Transfer's details:

- According to the Rules, DoR is in charge of "all matters about international treaties, accords, conventions, etc. about narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and precursor chemicals," except those delegated to MHA.
- The **Narcotics Control Bureau** is located at MHA, even though it has a drug section.
- By Section 4(3) of the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act of 1985**, the MHA is in charge of "all matters relating to **Narcotics Control Bureau** established under Section 4(3) of the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985** and coordination of all measures for preventing and combating abuse of and illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances."

About NDPS:

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- The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act of 1985, or NDPS Act, prohibits the production, manufacturing, cultivation, holding, sale, purchase, transportation, storage, use, and possession of any narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances.
- The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act of 1988 provides for incarceration in certain situations to suppress the illegal trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
- The 1961 Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules were followed when considering the transfer.

Delhi airport becomes India's first to run entirely on hydro and solar energy:

- In a significant step toward realizing the ambitious aim of being a **Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport by 2030**, Delhi Airport, also known as **Indira Gandhi International Airport**, became the first airport in the nation to function totally on hydro and solar power as of this month.
- A long-term **power purchase agreement (PPA)** was signed with a hydropower-producing company in **Himachal Pradesh** for the supply of hydroelectricity for the airport until 2036 by **Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL)**, a consortium led by **GMR Infrastructure Limited** that manages and operates the **Delhi Airport**.

Key Points:

- Since June 1, the hydropower plant has been providing up to 94 percent of the airport's total electrical needs, ending its reliance on non-renewable sources of energy.
- Currently, the airport receives around **6 percent of its electricity needs from onsite solar power plants**.
- The **Delhi International Airport will be a Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport by 2030**, far ahead of the worldwide objective of 2050.
- To do this, DIAL recently approved a program for green transportation, and we have already reached another milestone for the program for green energy.

7th Anniversary to commemorate the launch of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban celebrated by MoHUA:

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- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) organized a virtual event to celebrate 7 years of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), which was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 25th June 2015.
- The event was presided by Shri Manoj Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and attended by senior officials of the Ministry, Principal Secretaries of States/UTs, MDs of States/UTs, and stakeholders from Central and State Governments.

Key Points:

- Seventh-anniversaries celebrations highlighted the important initiatives implemented under the PMAY-U Mission, which is one of the largest urban housing programs in the world.
- At the outset, a video depicting the glorious 7 years of journey of PMAY-U was showcased depicting how the Mission is fulfilling the dream of a pucca house for millions of Indians.
- An e-Book encapsulating achievement of the Mission was then released by Secretary, MoHUA.
- The book takes the readers through the initiatives and reforms that have been undertaken by the Mission to transform the urban landscape of India and more importantly, the impact it has had on the lakhs of beneficiaries of PMAY-U, who are proud owners of a pucca house with all basic amenities.

About PMAY:

- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is an initiative by the Government of India in which affordable housing will be provided to the urban poor with a target of building 2 crore affordable houses by 31 March 2022.
- Launch year: 2015
- Launched by (prime minister): Shri Narendra Modi

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya chairs the inaugural session of the Seminar on Production & Use of Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia in Process Industry:

- Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers and Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya addressed a two-day seminar being organized on the subject 'Production and use of Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia in Process Industry' by the Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Delhi, New Delhi.

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- Shri Bhagwant Khuba, Minister of State for Chemical & Fertilizers was also present at the meeting.

Key Points:

- Under the visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, we have observed the proliferation and promotion of usage of non-fossil fuel.
- Hon'ble Prime Minister launched the National Hydrogen Mission on India's 75th Independence Day.
- The Mission aims to aid the government in meeting its climate targets and making India a green hydrogen hub.
- The world is looking toward us for our green hydrogen policy and we will soon launch the document with production, heavy transport logistics industries, and shipping details.
- The main aim is to achieve a 500Gigawatt production target capacity of non-fossil fuel by 2030

India's 1st Government MLD Desalination Plant for Industrial Use inaugurated in Dahej, Gujarat:

- Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has inaugurated India's first government desalination plant only for industrial use at Dahej in Bharuch with a capacity of 100 MLD (million liters per day), set up for Rs 881 crore.
- The price of 1000 liters of treated water will be Rs 26.
- Bharuch(Bharuch) In dowry (Dahej) Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel (CM Bhupendra Patel)Of the country's first 100 MLD desalination plant for industrial purposes(Desalination plant)Dedicated.
- The plant will be able to purify seawater and use it for industrial purposes.
- The plant will purify 30,000 TDS of seawater and make it 200 TDS drinkable.
- The state's industries have a great contribution to making Gujarat the growth engine of the country's development.
- The first 100 MLD of the newly constructed country for industrial purposes was installed at Dahej-2 Industrial Estate in Wagra Taluka of Bharuch District by Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation.

Gol Reconstitutes Committee to Examine the Representation of Officials Sacked for Alleged Corruption:

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- In New Delhi, **Chemical and Petrochemicals Secretary Arti Ahuja** will now be part of a committee to examine the representation of **officials sacked for alleged inefficiency or corruption in the government service.**
- The **three-member panel** has been reconstituted by the ministry.

PANEL MEMBERS:

- **Ahuja** has been appointed in place of **Leena Nandan**, Secretary of the ministry of environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- **Puneet Kansal**, Joint Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat has replaced **Ashutosh Jindal**, Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat in the panel.
- One member nominated by the cadre controlling authority (under whose administrative control the alleged corrupt officials come)

Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated nine National Highway Projects in Rajasthan worth over 1,300 crore rupees:

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Shri Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of **nine National Highway Projects in Rajasthan** costing **1,357 crore rupees.**
- **11 hundred crore rupees** have been sanctioned for the repair of the **Delhi-Jaipur-Kishangarh highway.**
- An allocation of nine hundred crores in **CRIF for Rajasthan** and **700 crore rupees** for the **Setu Bandhan Scheme** has been approved by the Central Government.

Key Points:

- The projects include a road project in **the Sri Ganganagar district** worth **753 crore rupees**, under which, a **two-lane road will be constructed on NH 911 from Sri Ganganagar to Raisinghnagar with 102.76 km pave shoulder** at a cost of about **670.38 crore rupees.**
- It will be built as a bypass road of **41.52 km** in **Sriganganagar, Srikaranpur, Gajsinghpur, and Raisinghnagar.**
- Construction of **four-lane flyover with approach road in Bikaner-Suratgarh section** of National Highway 62 at Suratgarh for **26.61 crore rupees**
- About **77.90 km** of **Suratgarh-Sriganganagar section** for **56.20 crore rupees** is also a part of these projects.

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- These include four National Highway projects in Jalore Sirohi Parliamentary Constituency costing 247 crore rupees.
- These projects also include the construction of 14 overbridges on the Jaipur-Ajmer-Beawar Highway, which will reduce the number of accidents on this highway.

Shri Nitin Gadkari approves Draft GSR Notification to introduce Bharat NCAP:

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Shri Nitin Gadkari** has approved the **Draft GSR Notification to introduce Bharat NCAP** (New Car Assessment Program), wherein automobiles in India shall be accorded **Star Ratings based upon their performance in Crash Tests**.
- **Bharat-NCAP** will serve as a consumer-centric platform allowing customers to opt for safer cars based on their star ratings while promoting healthy competition among OEMs in India to manufacture safer vehicles.

Key Points:

- Star Rating of Indian Cars based on Crash Tests is extremely crucial not only to ensure structural and passenger safety in cars but to also increase the export-worthiness of Indian automobiles.
- **The testing protocol of Bharat NCAP** shall be aligned with Global Crash Test Protocols factoring in the existing Indian regulations, **allowing OEMs to get their vehicles tested at India's in-house testing facilities**.
- Shri Gadkari said Bharat NCAP will prove to be a critical instrument in making our automobile industry Aatmanirbhar with the mission of making India the Number 1 automobile hub in the world.

About NCAP:

- A New Car Assessment Program is a government car safety program tasked with evaluating new automobile designs for performance against various safety threats
- The overall objective of the NCAP is comprehensive mitigation actions for the prevention, control, and abatement of air pollution.

Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan completes two years:

- Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA) has completed two years.

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- The government of India launched GKRA in 2020 for 125 days with a resource envelope of 50,000 crore rupees to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for returnee migrant workers in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A total of 12 Ministries and Departments of the Government of India participated in the Abhiyaan.
- A total of 50.78 crore person-days employment was generated during the Abhiyaan.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic period, Union Government has taken several additional measures for the benefit of workers, such as an increase of wage under MGNREGA to 202 rupees a day from 182 rupees to benefit nearly 13.62 crore families.

The Objective:

- The objectives of the Abhiyaan were to provide immediate employment and livelihood opportunities to the distressed, saturate the villages with public infrastructure and create public assets to boost the income generation activities and enhance long-term livelihood opportunities by giving focus on 25 works in 116 selected districts across six states Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- The Government also created 39.51 lakh new job opportunities by crediting 2,583 crores in EPF accounts under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY).

Centre mandates 3-yr health insurance plan for surrogate mothers:

- The government has issued fresh surrogacy rules, making it mandatory for couples who wish to become parents through surrogacy to buy health insurance plans for surrogate mothers for 36 months.

Under the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules 2022, the Union Health Ministry has published a new notification:

- The intended partners must get a general health insurance policy from an insurer accredited by India's Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority for 36 months in favor of a surrogate mother.
- It must include a sum large enough to pay for all costs associated with pregnancy-related difficulties as well as postpartum delivery-related issues.

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- The government has also made sure that no surrogacy process may be attempted more than three times on the surrogate mother.
- According to the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1971**, a surrogate mother may be permitted to have an abortion during the surrogacy process if a medical professional recommends it.
- Every private surrogacy clinic is required to submit an application for registration along with a fee of 2 lakh, which is non-refundable.
- Facilities owned and operated by government-run institutions are free from these charges.
- If a woman has an atypical or absent uterus, or if the uterus has been surgically removed due to a medical illness such as gynecological cancer, she may choose surrogacy.

About Surrogacy:

- A woman (the surrogate) agrees to bear and give birth to a child on behalf of another person or couple (the intended parent(s), or parents), under the terms of a surrogacy agreement.
- Surrogate moms suffer some difficulties, including exploitation, unsanitary living circumstances, and unjust treatment, hence surrogacy has to be regulated.

Prime Minister to participate in 'Udyami Bharat' program in New Delhi:

- Prime Minister Mr. **Narendra Modi** will participate in the 'Udyami Bharat' program in New Delhi.
- During the event, Prime Minister will launch the 'Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance' Scheme, 'Capacity Building of First-Time MSME Exporters' Scheme, and new features of the 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme', PMEGP.
- Prime Minister will also digitally transfer assistance to beneficiaries of PMEGP for 2022-23.
- He will announce the results of the MSME Idea Hackathon-2022 and distribute National MSME Awards.
- Mr. Modi will also issue **Digital Equity Certificates to 75 MSMEs** in the Self-Reliant India Fund.
- 'Udyami Bharat' is reflective of the continuous commitment of the government, right from day one, to work towards the empowerment of MSMEs.

Key Points:

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- The government has launched several initiatives from time to time like **MUDRA Yojana**, **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme**, and Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries.
- This has been done to provide necessary and timely support to the MSME sector, which has helped benefit crores of people across the country.
- The Prime Minister will launch the '**Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance**' (RAMP) scheme, with an outlay of around 6,000 crore rupees.
- It aims to scale up the implementation capacity and coverage of MSMEs in the states, with impact enhancement of existing MSME schemes.

Arjun Meghwal presented with the holy Kapilvastu relics brought back from Mongolia:

- The **four Holy Relics of the Lord Buddha** were returned to India after a 12-day exposition at the **Batsagaan Temple** on the grounds of Gandan Monastery, Mongolia, in honor of **Mongolian Buddha Purnima**.
- In Ghaziabad, the holy relics were given to Union **Minister Shri Arjun Meghwal**.
- The presentation of the sacred relics had to be delayed by a few days because of the strong demand from the Mongolian people.

Key Points:

- During a 12-day exhibition at the **Gandan Monastery**, thousands of people paid their respects to the revered artifacts, including the President of Mongolia, the Speaker of the Mongolian Parliament, the Foreign Minister, the Ministers of Culture, Tourism, and Energy, more than 20 Members of Parliament, and High Abbots from more than 100 Monasteries in Mongolia.
- The celebrations on the closing day were attended by the interior minister of culture for Mongolia.
- Between 18 and 20 thousand worshippers bowed down before the Holy Buddha Relics on the first day of the exhibition.
- On working days, 5–6 thousand devotees visited Gandan Monastery on average, and 9–10 thousand on closed days.
- On the last day, some 18,000 worshippers came to Gandan to honor the holy relics.
- The last day's rites were witnessed by the interior minister of culture.

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- Since they were discovered in Bihar in 1898 and are believed to be from the ancient city of Kapilvastu, the Holy Buddha Relics are frequently referred to as Kapilvastu Relics.
- The Relics have the same climate-controlled case as they have in the National Museum right now after being granted the status of a State Guest.
- In a special C-17 Globemaster airplane, the sacred relics were brought back to India.

IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bangladesh top recipient of Covid vaccines under COVAX- UNICEF

- UNICEF has delivered over 190 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Bangladesh through COVAX in one year, with Bangladesh being the top recipient of doses under COVAX.
- COVAX is a global initiative that is led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the World Health Organization with UNICEF.
- Under the COVAX program, more than 62% of the doses have been delivered to Bangladesh.
- More than 117 crore individuals, or 69 percent of Bangladesh's population, have received two doses of the vaccine

The goal of COVAX :

- To ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines globally
- COVID-19 vaccinations started in Bangladesh in February 2021.
- UNICEF delivered the first COVAX shipment of vaccines to Bangladesh on June 1, 2021, at a time when only 4.0 percent of the population in the country was fully vaccinated.

Note :

- UNICEF representative to Bangladesh: Mr. Sheldon Yett
- WHO Representative to Bangladesh: Dr. Bardan Jung Rana

About Bangladesh :

- President: Abdul Hamid
- Prime minister: Sheikh Hasina
- Capital: Dhaka
- Currency: Bangladeshi taka

About UNICEF :

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- Headquarters: New York City, USA
- Head: Catherine M. Russell

UN Approves changing Turkey's official name to 'Türkiye'

- **The United Nations** has changed the Republic of Turkey's country name the organization from "Turkey" to "Türkiye" after a request from the country's government.
- **In December 2021, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan** ordered the use of Türkiye to better represent Turkish culture and values, including demanding that "Made in Türkiye" be used instead of "Made in Turkey" on exported products.
- UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric stated that a letter had been received from the Turkish foreign minister Mevlut Cavusoglu addressed to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, requesting the use of "Türkiye" instead of "Turkey" for all affairs.

About Türkiye :

- President : Recep Tayyip Erdogan
- Currency : Turkish lira
- Capital :Ankara

Canadian PM Trudeau announces new law to "freeze" sales on handgun

- **Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's** government introduced **new legislation** that would put a **freeze on importing, buying, or selling handguns**.
- Trudeau invoked a string of mass shootings in Canada over the past decades, as well as recent attacks in the United States, as part of his government's impetus to introduce **Bill C-21**.

About 'freeze' handgun ownership :

- The bill would allow for the **removal of gun licenses** from people involved in **acts of domestic violence or criminal harassment**, such as **stalking**.
- The bill would create a **new red flag law** allowing courts to require that people considered a danger to themselves or others surrender their firearms to police.
- The measure would guard the safety of those applying through the process, often **women in danger of domestic abuse**, by protecting their identities.

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- The law will require rifle magazines to be permanently altered so they can never hold more than five rounds and will ban the sale and transfer of large-capacity magazines under the Criminal Code.

Additional Info :

- In 2020, Trudeau's government **banned more than 1,500 models** and variants of **"assault-style" firearms** which include **AR-15 & Ruger Mini-14**.
- **Canada has stronger gun ownership laws** than the **United States**.
- According to the **Statistics Canada report, since 2009**, the per capita rate of firearms being pointed at someone in the commission of a crime has nearly **tripled**, and the rate at which guns are fired with intent to kill or wound is up **fivefold**.

About Canada :

- PM: Justin Trudeau
- Capital: Ottawa
- Currency : Canadian dollar (\$) (CAD)
- Canada is the **world's second-largest country by total area (First-Russia)**

NATO Holds Naval Exercise BALTOPS on Baltic Sea With Finland & Sweden

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) launched a naval exercise BALTOPS 22 on the **Baltic Sea**.
- **14 NATO allies** (Türkiye, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the UK, and the US.), **2 NATO partner nations** (Finland and Sweden), over 45 ships, more than 75 aircraft, and approximately 7,000 personnel will participate in the **51st iteration** of the premier maritime-focused exercise from **June 5-17, 2022**.
- BALTOPS 22 is scheduled to end in the German port of Kiel on June 17, 2022.

Aim :

- To develop the interoperability of the United States, Nato, and partner countries in joint air and maritime operations and amphibious operations
- As NATO's close partners, **Finland and Sweden** have participated in the naval drill since the mid-1990s.

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About the BALTOPS exercise :

- BALTOPS exercise, which was initiated for the first time in **1972**.
- BALTOPS is an annual exercise that visibly demonstrates NATO's commitment to preserving regional peace and security by exercising a team of international forces that can rapidly respond in a time of crisis

About NATO :

- Established: 4 April 1949
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium
- Secretary-General: Jens Stoltenberg
- Member States: 30 (27 European, one transcontinental, and two North American)

New York in US Passes World's First Electronics Right to Repair Law for Digital Electronics

- The **New York State Legislature in the United States** has passed the **world's first 'Right to Repair' law** that will allow **digital electronics manufacturers** to make parts, tools, information, and software available to consumers and independent repair shops.

About Digital Fair Repair Act :

- The **"Digital Fair Repair Act"** passed by New York would require manufacturers of digital electronics like cellphones and computers to make diagnostic and repair information and parts available for sale to independent repairers.
- This will prevent manufacturers from creating a **monopoly on repair services** and forcing consumers to pay, often inflated prices.
- This bill covers most products containing electronics but has some notable carve-outs.
- It **does not include motor vehicles**, home appliances, medical devices, public safety communications equipment like police radios, agricultural equipment, and off-road equipment.

About the US :

- President: Joe Biden
- Capital: Washington, D.C.
- Currency: United States Dollar

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Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland elected non-permanent members of the UNSC

- Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland were elected non-permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for a two-year term.
- The newly elected members will take up their new responsibilities on **January 1, 2023**, and serve till **December 31, 2024**.
- The newly-elected countries will **replace India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, and Norway**.

About Selecting Council members :

- The Security Council consists of **15 countries** & 5 of them are **China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States** – which are **permanent members** with the right to veto.
- The General Assembly, which comprises all **193 UN Member States**, elects the 10 non-permanent members who serve for two-year terms.
- To secure a place on the Council, countries must receive a **two-thirds majority, or 128 votes**, even if they run uncontested.

About UNSC Election 2022 :

- Overall, **192 UN Member States** participated in the election.
- The **five new non-permanent members** ran largely uncontested.
- In the African and Asia-Pacific groups, Mozambique received 192 votes, marking its first time serving on the Council. Japan garnered 184 votes, and Mongolia three.
- **Ecuador**, the **sole candidate** from Latin America and the Caribbean, obtained 190 votes, with two countries abstaining.
- **Switzerland** will also be a **newcomer** to the Council.
- The country received 187 votes, and Malta 185 votes, again with two countries abstaining.
- The five **newly-elected countries** will join Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, and the United Arab Emirates around the Security Council's signature horseshoe table.

About UNSC :

- Established: 1945
- Headquarters: New York, USA
- The council is tasked to maintain **international peace and security**.
- The UNSC is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states.

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- It is one of the **six principal organs** of the United Nations.
- The other 5 organs of the United Nations are the General Assembly (UNGA), the Trusteeship Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat.

UNGA adopts resolution on multilingualism, mentions Hindi for the first time

- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** has adopted an **India-sponsored resolution on multilingualism that mentions the Hindi language for the first time.**
- The UN resolution also mentions **Bangla and Urdu for the first time.**
- The resolution encourages the United Nations to continue disseminating important communications and messages in official as well as non-official languages, including in the Hindi language.
- **Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish** are the **six official languages** of the United Nations; English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat.

India's contribution to UN Multilingualism mentions Hindi:

- **India has been partnering with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC) since 2018** by providing an extra-budgetary contribution to the mainstream and consolidating news and multimedia content in the Hindi Language.
- As part of these efforts, the **'Hindi@UN' project was also launched in 2018.**

Objective :

- To enhance the public outreach of the United Nations in the Hindi Language, and to spread greater awareness about the global issues among millions of Hindi-speaking populations around the world.

About Multilingualism :

- Multilingualism is an essential factor in **harmonious communication among peoples** and an enabler of multilateral diplomacy.
- It ensures effective participation of all in the Organization's work, as well as greater transparency and efficiencies and better outcomes.

Note :

- India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations: TS Tirumurti

About UNGA :

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- Established: 1945
- President: Abdulla Shahid
- Headquarters: New York City
- It is one of the **six principal organs** of the United Nations (UN)
- The UNGA is the **only UN organ** wherein all member states have equal representation

India's EXIM Bank extends Sri Lanka USD 55 million credit line for fertilizer imports

- The Indian government has decided to **extend a Line of Credit (LOC) of USD 55 million to Sri Lanka** for the **procurement of Urea Fertilizer**.
- A LOC agreement was signed between **GOSL** and the **Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM bank)** at **Colombo**, in the presence of the **Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe**, the **Minister of Agriculture Mahinda Amaraweera**, and the **High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay**.
- The credit line was extended in response to an urgent request from the **Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL)**, amid the ongoing economic crisis.
- This credit line will help the Sri Lankan government secure urea fertilizer for the ongoing paddy sowing '**Yala**' season.
- The LOC will be in line with its '**Neighborhood First**' policy and as an earnest friend and partner of Sri Lanka, India has extended multi-pronged assistance to the people of Sri Lanka in the last few months.
- The support from India ranges from economic assistance of close to **USD 3.5 billion** to helping secure Sri Lanka's food, health, and energy security by supplying essential items like food, medicines, fuel, kerosene, etc.

About Sri Lanka :

- President : Nandasena Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- Prime Minister : Ranil Wickremesinghe
- Capital : Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- Currency : Sri Lankan Rupee

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The central African Republic becomes 2nd country to adopt bitcoin as legal tender

- The **Central African Republic** has become the **2nd country in the world** to adopt **bitcoin** as its **official currency**, after **El Salvador**.
- The **CAR** is the **first country in Africa** to adopt **Bitcoin** as legal tender
- This move places the Central African Republic on the map of the world's boldest and most visionary countries.
- President **Faustin Touadera** had signed a bill into law to make **Bitcoin** a legal tender alongside the **CFA franc**.
- Currently, The country uses the **French-backed CFA franc** as its currency, along with most other former French colonies in Africa.

About Central African Republic :

- **Président** : Faustin-Archange Touadéra
- **PM** : Félix Moloua
- **Capital** : Bangui
- CAR is one of the **world's poorest countries** but is rich in diamonds, gold, and uranium.

BIMSTEC celebrates its 25th anniversary in Dhaka, Bangladesh

- The **Secretariat** of the **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** in **Dhaka** celebrated the **25th Anniversary** of the regional organization on **BIMSTEC Day** on **June 06, 2022**.
- The event included the launch of a publication titled “**25 Years of BIMSTEC – Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region**”.

Background of BIMSTEC :

- On **6 June 1997**, a new sub-regional grouping was formed in **Bangkok** under the name **BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand Economic Cooperation)**.
- Following the inclusion of **Myanmar** on **22 December 1997** during a special Ministerial Meeting in **Bangkok**, the Group was renamed ‘**BIMST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand Economic Cooperation)**’.
- In **1998**, **Nepal** became an **observer**.
- In **February 2004**, **Nepal** and **Bhutan** became **full members**.

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About BIMSTEC :

- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an international organization of **seven South Asian and Southeast Asian nations**.
- Establishment: 6 June 1997
- Secretary General : Tenzin Lekphell
- Chair: Thailand (2022-23)
- Membership: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar & Thailand

India-EU First-ever Security and Defence Consultations held in Brussels

- The **first-ever India-European Union (EU) Security and Defence Consultations** took place in **Brussels, Belgium**.
- The consultations were held by the decision taken at the India-EU Summit in July 2020.

Key Highlights :

- The consultations were **co-chaired** by the Ministry of Defence Joint Secretary (IC) **Somnath Ghosh** and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Joint Secretary (Europe West) **Sandeep Chakravorty** from the Indian side and **Joanneke Balfort**, Director of Security and Defence Policy, from the EU.
- The wide range of discussions covered the evolving security situation in Europe, India's neighborhood, and the **Indo-Pacific**.
- The two sides noted several positive developments in the area of security and defense cooperation in recent years, including the establishment of a **regular maritime security dialogue**.
- During the consultations, the two sides also discussed various means of increasing India-EU cooperation on maritime security, implementation of the European code of conduct on arms export to India's neighborhood, cooperation in co-development, and co-production of defense equipment including India's participation in **Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)**.

Maritime Security Dialogue :

- **First-ever joint naval exercises** between India and the EU were held in **June 2021**.
- For the second time, the Maritime Security Dialogue met in **February 2022**.

Note :

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- The **European Union** is India's **third-largest trading partner**, it accounted for 1% of total Indian trade, followed by China (12%) and the US (11.7%).
- The EU is the **second-largest destination** for Indian exports, after the USA.
- India is the **10th largest trading partner** of the European Union, accounting for 1.8% of the total trade of EU in goods in 2020.

About European Union :

- The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of **27 member states**.
- It has **24 Official languages**.

EU Parliament passes ban the sale of new petrol & diesel cars by 2035

- **Members of the European Parliament** have voted to **ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2035**.

Aim :

- To step up the fight against climate change through the faster development of electric vehicles.
- The voting was held on an amendment that would have allowed some auto emissions from new vehicles after **2035**, which was rejected by Members of Parliament.
- The vote upholds a key pillar of the EU's plans to **cut net planet-warming emissions by 55% by 2030**, from 1990 levels a target that requires faster emissions reductions from industry, energy, and transport.
- The European Union assembly voted in Strasbourg, France to require automakers to cut carbon-dioxide emissions by 100 percent by the middle of the next decade.
- The mandate would amount to a prohibition on the sale in the **27-nation EU** of new cars powered by gasoline or diesel.
- To weaken the target to cut **CO2 by 90% by 2035** was rejected by some lawmakers.

About European Parliament :

- Founded: 19 March 1958
- Headquarters: Strasbourg, France
- President: Roberta Metsola
- Secretary-General: Klaus Welle
- The Parliament comprises **705 members**.

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- It represents the **second-largest democratic electorate worldwide**.

India and Sweden host Industry Transition Dialogue in Stockholm, Sweden

- **India and Sweden** hosted the **Industry Transition Dialogue in Stockholm**, as a part of their joint initiative i.e. **Leadership for Industry Transition (LeadIT)**.
- This high level of dialogue has contributed to the **UN Conference 'Stockholm+50': a healthy planet for the prosperity of all –our responsibility, our opportunity**, taking place on **2 & 3rd June 2022** and setting the agenda for **COP27**.
- The event was opened by an address from the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India, **Shri Bhupender Yadav**, and Minister for Climate and the Environment, Sweden, **Ms. Annika Strandhäll**.

About LeadIT :

- The LeadIT initiative lays a specific focus on hard-to-abate sectors that are key stakeholders in the **global climate action** and **require specific interventions**.
- It gathers countries and companies that are committed to action to achieve the **Paris Agreement**.
- It was launched by the governments of Sweden and India at the **UN Climate Action Summit in Sep 2019** and is supported by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
- LeadIT members subscribe to the notion that energy-intensive industries can and must progress on low-carbon pathways, aiming to achieve **net-zero carbon emissions by 2050**.

Members :

- **Japan and South Africa**, are the **latest members** of the initiative.
- Now the **total membership of LeadIT is 37** including countries and companies together.

Key Highlights :

- During the event, **India chaired the roundtable dialogues on Priorities for implementation 2022-23**.
- The need for speed and scale in climate action was echoed by all the speakers.
- The countries and companies shared their initiatives, success stories, and plans for the future.

About Stockholm+50 :

- Stockholm+50 is an international meeting convened by the **United Nations General Assembly** being held in **Stockholm, Sweden** from **June 2-3, 2022**.

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- The meeting is commemorating **50 years of the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.**

About Sweden :

- PM : Magdalena Andersson
- Capital: Stockholm
- Currency: Swedish krona

Japan to participate in NATO summit for the first time:

- **Mr. Fumio Kishida, Japan's prime minister**, will attend the **NATO summit in Madrid** later in June, making him the country's first leader to attend a top meeting of the transatlantic alliance.
- **Four months into Russia's war in Ukraine**, the gathering on June 28-30 is considered a turning point for the 30 members of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization.**
- In coordination with the other **Group of Seven countries**, **Japan, a critical US ally** but not a NATO member, has provided defensive equipment to Ukraine and imposed strong penalties on Russia.
- Sweden and Finland are sending delegates to the summit, and **South Korea's new President Yoon Suk-yeol** will be the first leader from his country to attend.

About NATO

- Formation: 4 April 1949
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium
- Secretary-General: Jens Stoltenberg
- Total Member: 30
- Last member of NATO: North Macedonia.

About Japan:

- Capital: Tokyo
- Currency: Japanese yen
- Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida
- Emperor of Japan: Naruhito

Russia Becomes India's 2nd Biggest Crude Oil Supplier overtakes Saudi Arabia

- **Russia** has overtaken **Saudi Arabia** to become **India's second-biggest supplier of oil** behind Iraq as refiners snap up Russian crude available at a deep discount following the war in Ukraine.

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- In May 2022, Indian refiners bought about 25 million barrels of Russian oil or more than 16 percent of all their oil imports.
- For the first time, Russian-origin crude hit 5 percent of India's total seaborne imports in April 2022 rising from under 1% throughout 2021 and Q1 2022.
- As per data, India imported about 819,000 barrels of Russian oil per day, which accounts for roughly 16.5% of its total imports.
- Iraq remained the top supplier to India & Saudi Arabia is now the third biggest supplier.

Note :

- After the U.S. and China, India is the world's third-largest consumer of oil, over 85 percent of which is imported.

About Russia :

- President: Vladimir Putin
- Prime minister: Mikhail Mishustin
- Capital: Moscow
- Currency: Russian ruble

Nearly 5 million people in India displaced due to climate change, disasters in 2021: UNHCR

- According to the annual Global Trends Report by the UN Refugee Agency United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), nearly 5 million people in India were internally displaced due to climate change and disasters in 2021.
- Asylum seekers submitted 1.4 million new claims i.e The United States of America was the world's largest recipient of new individual applications (188,900), followed by Germany (148,200), Mexico (132,700), Costa Rica (108,500), and France (90,200).
- The latest global trends report reflects the period of January 2021 to December 2021.

Key Highlights :

- The report highlighted that globally 100 million people were forced to flee their homes by 2021 due to violence, human rights abuses, food insecurity, the climate crisis, war in Ukraine, and other emergencies from Africa to Afghanistan.

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- According to the **Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)**, in 2021, there were **23.7 million** new internal displacements globally due to disasters.
- This represented a **decrease of seven million, or 23 percent**, compared to 2021.
- The largest displacements in the context of disasters in 2021 occurred in **China (6.0 million)**, the **Philippines (5.7 million)**, and **India (4.9 million)**.
- As per the report, at the end of 2021, **89.3 million people** were forcibly displaced worldwide, including **27.1 million refugees**, **21.3 million refugees** under UNHCR's mandate, **5.8 million Palestine refugees** under **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East's (UNRWA)** mandate, **53.2 million internally displaced people**, **4.6 million asylum seekers** and **4.4 million Venezuelans displaced abroad**.

About UNHCR :

- Established: 14 December 1950
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Head: Filippo Grandi
- UNHCR is a United Nations agency mandated to aid and protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people, and to assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement to a 3rd country.

Delhi's IGI airport best in India and South Asia, 37th among the world's top 50

- The **Skytrax World Airport Awards** named Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport the **finest in India and South Asia** for the **4th consecutive year**.
- The airport raised its overall ranking to **37th from 45th in 2021**, and it is the **only airport from India** to be featured in the world's top 50 airports.
- The **GMR Infra-led airport** has also been declared "**the cleanest airport**" in India and South Asia.

About Skytrax World Airport Awards :

- The Skytrax World Airport Awards are based on an **annual global airport customer satisfaction survey** that evaluates customer service and amenities at **500 airports**.
- Over 100 nationalities of airport consumers filled out survey questionnaires over 9 months from **September 2021 to May 2022**

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- It assessed customer satisfaction with airport services and products, including check-in, arrivals, transfers, shopping, security, immigration, and exit, among others.

About Skytrax :

- Established: 1989
- Headquarters: London, UK
- CEO: Edward Plaisted

Mongolia's Khuvsgul Lake added to the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves list

- **Mongolia's Khuvsgul Lake National Park** has been added to the **World Network of Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO**.
- The decision of adding Khuvsgul Lake National Park to the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves was made during the **34th session** of the **International Coordinating Council of the Man and Biosphere Programme** taking place in **Paris, France**.

About Khuvsgul Lake :

- Khuvsgul Lake National Park is located in the **Northern Mongolian Province of Khuvsgul near the Russian border**.
- Khuvsgul Lake in Mongolia holds nearly **70 percent of the country's freshwater** or **0.4 percent of the world's total**.
- Khuvsgul Lake is **1,645 meters above sea level, 136 km long, and 262 meters deep**.
- It is the **largest freshwater lake in Mongolia, by volume & in terms of area, it is the second-largest lake in Mongolia**.
- The lake is located about **200 km west of Lake Baikal**.
- It is nicknamed as **"Younger sister" of two "sister lakes"**.
- The lake is drained at the southern end by the **Egiin Gol**, which connects to the **Selenge** and ultimately flows into **Lake Baikal**.

Note :

- A total of **9 sites from Mongolia** have so far been registered in the network

UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves:

- The World Network of Biosphere Reserves consists of a dynamic and interactive network of sites of excellence.

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- The network fosters the harmonious integration of the people and nature for sustainable development through participatory dialogue; knowledge sharing; poverty reduction and human well-being improvements.
- UNESCO World Network is one of the main international tools to develop and implement the sustainable development approaches in a wide array of contexts

About Man and the Biosphere Programme :

- The Man and the Biosphere Programme is an **intergovernmental scientific program** set up by UNESCO in the **early 1970s**.

Aim:

- To establish a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments.

About UNESCO:

- Founded: 16 November 1945
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Director-General: Audrey Azoulay
- Membership: 193 member states and 11 associate members
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization is a specialized agency of the **United Nations (UN)**.

Aim :

- To promote world peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences, and culture

Pakistan stays on FATF 'Grey List' subject to on-site verification

- **Pakistan** will continue to be on the “**Grey List**” of countries under increased monitoring of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**, during a **4-day plenary session** of the FATF underway in **Berlin, Germany**.

Key Highlights :

- In June 2022 Plenary, the FATF made the initial determination that Pakistan has substantially completed its two action plans, covering **34 items**, and warrants an on-site visit to verify that the implementation of **Pakistan's AML/CFT reforms** has begun and is being sustained and that the

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necessary political commitment remains in place to sustain implementation and improvement in the future.

- The 'Grey List' implies "**strategic deficiencies**" detected in a jurisdiction's policies to prevent money laundering and terror financing.
- This makes it difficult for a country to get financial aid from world bodies like the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
- **Only North Korea and Iran are black-listed.**
- At the meeting, Malta was removed from the "Grey List" and Gibraltar was added to it.

About FATF :

- Founded: 1989
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- President: Dr. Marcus Pleyer
- Membership: 39
- The Financial Action Task Force is an intergovernmental organization on the initiative of the **G7** to develop policies to **combat money laundering**.
- The FATF is a global body that focuses on "setting standards and promoting effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system".

About Pakistan :

- Prime minister: Shehbaz Sharif
- President: Arif Alvi
- Capital: Islamabad
- Currency: Pakistani rupee

Union Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurates 'Mango Festival' in Belgium

- **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal**, has inaugurated a "**Mango Festival**" in Brussels to raise awareness among Europeans and establish a market for Indian mangoes in Europe.

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- India is a big supplier of mangoes to the rest of the globe, but most of the mangoes end up in the Middle East rather than Europe.
- This is the **first time** being held in Belgium.
- 7 varieties of mangoes were displayed at the event Banganapalli from Andhra Pradesh, Malihabad Dasherri from Uttar Pradesh, Amrapali from Odisha, Lakshman Bhog, Himsagar, Jardalu mango, Langra mangoes, and 12 GI-tagged products.
- The event drew a large number of Europeans, including agricultural attaches and European and Indian merchants, businessmen, as well as commoners.

About Belgium :

- Prime Minister : Alexander De Croo
- Capital: Brussels
- Currency: Euro

India & Poland signed a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) on Criminal Matters

- India and Poland have signed a **mutual legal assistance treaty on criminal matters (MLAT)** to help both countries in the investigation and prosecution of crimes, related to **terrorism**.
- The treaty aims to enhance the effectiveness of both countries in the investigation and prosecution of crime, through cooperation and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.
- For India, the special secretary (internal security), **Ministry of Home Affairs, VSK Kaumudi**, signed the cooperation agreement while for Poland, its ambassador to India, **Adam Burakowski**, was the signatory.
- **Poland** became the **45th country** with which New Delhi has signed an MLAT on criminal matters, other others being Australia, Canada, France, Iran, Israel, Russia, Singapore, Ukraine, the UK, and the US.

Background :

- In **December 2021**, the Union cabinet had approved the proposal & however, the signing of the formal agreement was delayed due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine crisis.

About Poland :

- President: Andrzej Duda
- PM : Mateusz Morawiecki

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- Capital: Warsaw
- Currency: Polish złoty

US announces \$122 million funds for India to address challenges posed by infectious diseases

- The **Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**, United States has announced a funding of USD 122 million (USD 122,475,000) to the top 3 Indian medical research institutions i.e. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in New Delhi, National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune, Maharashtra and National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu for five years.

Purpose :

- To prevent avoidable epidemics, early detection of disease threats, and rapid and effective response.
- To detect and control **zoonotic disease** outbreaks through a 'one health' approach; evaluating vaccine safety monitoring systems; capacitating the public health workforce in field epidemiology and outbreak response, and combating antimicrobial resistance
- The fund will accelerate the progress towards an India which is safe and secure from infectious disease threats through ICMR institutions' **focus on emerging and re-emerging pathogens.**

Eligibility :

- Eligibility for funding beginning from **September 30, 2022, to Sep 29, 2027.**
- The eligibility is limited to ICMR, and ICMR institutions, including the **National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, and the National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), Chennai.**
- These institutions are mandated by the **Ministry of Health of Family Health and Welfare (MoHFW)** to provide oversight for laboratory confirmation of priority pathogens in India.
- They will collect and analyze surveillance data for public health actions and work closely with the state governments where these institutes are located

About Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) :

- Established: July 1, 1946
- Headquarters: Atlanta, Georgia
- Director: Rochelle Walensky
- Parent Agency: United States Department of Health and Human Services
- It is a United States federal agency, under the **Department of Health and Human Services.**

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Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh arrives in Vietnam on a three-day visit to strengthen defense

- Defence Minister **Shri Rajnath Singh** went on a **3-day official visit to Vietnam** at the invitation of Vietnam's Minister of National Defence General Mr. Phan Van Giang.

Aim :

- To consolidate the bilateral defense ties as well as the comprehensive strategic partnership.

Key Highlights :

- The defense minister will hold extensive talks with his Vietnamese counterpart, General Phan Van Giang, with a focus on exploring new initiatives to further **strengthen the defense engagements**, besides exchanging views on regional and global issues of shared interest.
- At the Hong Ha Shipyard in Hai Phong, the defense minister will preside over the handing over ceremony of **12 high-speed guard boats** constructed under the government of India's **USD 100 million** defense line of credit to Vietnam.
- During his Vietnam tour, Singh will also visit training institutions of the country at **Nha Trang**, including the **Telecommunication University** where an Army Software Park is being established with a **USD 5 million** grant from India.
- He will also attend a community event organized by the **Embassy of India in Hanoi** and interact with the Indian diaspora.
- The relations between the two countries were elevated to the level of a "**strategic partnership**" during the visit of Vietnam's then-prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung to India in July 2007.
- In 2016, during Prime Minister Shri Modi's visit to Vietnam, the bilateral relations were further elevated to a "**comprehensive strategic partnership**".
- Vietnam has become an important partner in **India's Act East policy** and the Indo-Pacific vision.
- India has oil exploration projects in the Vietnamese waters in the South China Sea.

Note :

- India's Ambassador to Vietnam: Pranay Verma
- Vietnam, an important country of the **ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)**, has territorial disputes with China in the strategic South China Sea region.

Recent News :

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- Recently, **Mr. Saurabh Kumar**, Secretary (East) in the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, visited **Vietnam** for the **12th round** of political consultations and the ninth round of strategic dialogue in Hanoi.

About Vietnam :

- President : Nguyễn Xuân Phúc
- PM: Phạm Minh Chính
- Currency: Vietnamese dong
- Capital: Hanoi

Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu to visit Gabon, Senegal and Qatar

- Vice President **Shri M Venkaiah Naidu** visited a **three-nation** tour to **Gabon, Senegal and Qatar**.
- He was on the trip accompanied by a high-level delegation including Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare **Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar** and three Members of Parliament, **Sushil Kumar Modi, Vijay Pal Singh Tomar and P Ravindhranath**.
- This will be the **first visit from India** at the level of Vice President to all three countries.
- This will also be the **first-ever high-level visit from India to Gabon and to Senegal**.

Key Highlights :

VP in Gabon :

- During his visit to Gabon the Vice President will hold delegation-level talks with Prime Minister of Gabon **Mr Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda**.

VP in Senegal :

- He visited Senegal and held delegation-level talks with President of Senegal **Mr Macky Sall**.
- The Vice President will meet the **President of the National Assembly Moustapha Niasse** and other dignitaries.
- He will also attend a business round table and address the Indian community.

VP in Qatar :

- The visit to Qatar, as both sides prepare to celebrate the **50th anniversary** of the establishment of diplomatic relations, will further enhance the bilateral ties.

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- During his visit to Qatar the Vice President will hold delegation-level talks with **Qatar's Deputy Amir, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani** and review bilateral cooperation.
- Mr Naidu will meet several other Qatari dignitaries during this visit.
- He will also address a business round table in Qatar.
- The Vice President launched the “**India-Qatar Start-Up bridge**” to link the start-up ecosystems of the two countries at the India-Qatar Business Forum in Doha.
- He also addressed members of the business community at **India-Qatar Business Forum** and highlighted the strength of India-Qatar ties and called for building an enabling environment and forging more collaborations for mutual benefit.
- Both sides expressed satisfaction at the continued engagement at the highest levels between both countries since the landmark visits of Qatar’s Amir to India in **2015** and Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi to Qatar** in **2016**.

About Gabon :

- President: Ali Bongo Ondimba
- Capital: Libreville
- Currency: Central African CFA franc

About Senegal :

- President: Macky Sall
- Capital: Dakar
- Currency: West African CFA franc

About Qatar :

- Capital: Doha
- Currency: Qatari Riyal

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar Visits Slovakia and the Czech Republic

- External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar had an official visit to **Slovakia** and the **Czech Republic**.

Key Highlights :

EAM visits in Slovakia :

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- Jaishankar's visit to Slovakia was the **first ever visit** at the level of EAM since its creation in **1993**.
- India and Slovakia share close and friendly ties based on common values of democracy, rule of law, freedom and equality.
- He will attend the **GLOBSEC 2022 Forum** and speak on the topic '**Taking Friendship to the Next Level: Allies in the Indo-Pacific Region**'.
- He also appreciated the mutual recognition of vaccine certificates between India and Slovakia which has greatly facilitated travel between the two countries.
- Both sides discussed the expanding cooperation in trade, investment and defence sectors.
- He also invited Slovakia to join the **International Solar Alliance**.
- Both sides also exchanged views on regional as well as multilateral issues, including Ukraine, the EU and the Indo-Pacific.

EAM visits in Czech Republic :

- During his visit to the Czech Republic Jaishankar will hold discussions with **Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky**.
- During the meeting they discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including political, economic, defence and security.
- Both sides exchanged views on the **Indo-Pacific** and the **Ukraine conflict**.
- The meeting will provide an opportunity for a comprehensive review of the bilateral cooperation.
- During the delegation level talks, Jaishankar and Lipavsky discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including political, economic, defence & security, S&T, cultural and people to people ties.
- Discussions were also held on India-EU relations, including the upcoming Czech Presidency of the EU and both sides agreed to work towards an early conclusion of the **India-EU FTA**
- The Czech Republic will be taking over the EU Presidency from **01 July 2022**.

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- Both sides appreciated that bilateral trade had crossed over **USD 2 billion**.
- Jaishankar also interacted with Czech Members of the European Parliament and discussed India's strong ties with the EU, as well as the Czech Republic.

About Slovakia :

- President : Zuzana Čaputová
- PM : Eduard Heger
- Capital : Bratislava
- Currency : Euro

About Czech Republic :

- President : Miloš Zeman
- PM : Petr Fiala
- Capital : Prague
- Currency : Czech koruna

12th WTO Ministerial Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland

- The 12th WTO Ministerial Conference co-hosted by **Switzerland** and **Kazakhstan** at World Trade Organization headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- This was taking place after a gap of almost five years and that was attended by the Trade ministers of 164 nations.
- **This conference was chaired by Timur Suleimenov**, First Deputy Chief of Staff of Kazakhstan's President. Kazakhstan was originally scheduled to host MC12 in June 2020 but the conference was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Focus:

- The key areas of discussions and negotiations at this year's conference include WTO's response to the pandemic, Fisheries subsidies negotiations, Agriculture issues including Public Stockholding for Food security, WTO Reforms and Moratorium on Custom Duties on Electronic Transmission.
- To review the functioning of the multilateral trading system, to make general statements and to take action on the future work of the WTO and to negotiate deals.

About World Trade Organization (WTO):

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- Director-General: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Establishment: 1995
- The WTO members: 164 members (including European Union)

The European Commission granted candidate status to Ukraine and Moldova

- The European Commission has made a historic step in recommending that **Ukraine and Moldova be granted European Union (EU) candidate status.**
- This recommendation was announced by **European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.**
- The decision paves the way for EU government leaders to sign off on the recommendation at a Brussels summit next Thursday and Friday.
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy welcomed the Commission's move, calling it a **"historic decision."**
- "I commend the positive EU Commission conclusion on Ukraine's candidate status. It's the first step on the EU membership path that'll certainly bring our victory closer," he wrote on Twitter.

About Republic of Moldova:

- President: Maia Sandu
- Capital: Chisinau
- Currency: Moldovan Leu (MDL)

About Ukraine:

- President: Volodymyr Zelenskyy
- Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia
- Prime minister: Denys Shmyhal

J&K to host G-20 meetings in 2023

- The **union territories of Jammu and Kashmir** will host the **2023 meetings of the G20 summit.**
- The J & K government has set up a **5 member high-level committee** for overall coordination of G20 meetings to be held in the Union Territory.

Members of the Committee :

- The committee was established in response to a notification from the **Ministry of External Affairs.**

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- **Principal Secretary** to the government, **Housing, and Urban Development department**, has been nominated as **chairman** of the committee.
- He is also nominated as a UT-level nodal officer to coordinate the arrangements for G-20 meetings in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The 4 members of the committee are the Commissioner, Transport Department; Administrative Secretary, Tourism Department; Administrative Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol Department; and Administrative Secretary, Culture Department.

Key Highlights :

- This will be the **first major international summit** in J&K after the state's special status guaranteed under **Article 370 of the Constitution** was withdrawn.
- India's representation at G20 summits has been led by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** since **2014**.
- As per the Ministry of External Affairs, India will hold the **G-20 presidency from December 1, 2022**, and convene the first G20 leaders' summit in 2023.
- In **September 2021**, Union Commerce and Industry Minister **Shri Piyush Goyal** were appointed as **India's Sherpa** for the **G20**.

Note :

- **G20, 2024** will be hosted by **Brazil**
- **G20, 2025** will be hosted by **South Africa**

About G20 :

- The G20 brings together **19 of the world's leading economies** and the **European Union**.
- **India** has been a **member** of the G20 since its inception in **1999**.
- The G20 countries include **Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United States**, and the **United Kingdom**.

About J&K :

- Lieutenant Governor: **Manoj Sinha**
- Capital: **Srinagar, Jammu**

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Israel signs first Arab free trade agreement with UAE

- Israel signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), its first such deal with an Arab state.

Signatories :

- Israel's Minister of Economy and Industry Ms. Orna Barbivay and the UAE Minister of Economy Mr. Abdalla Bin Touq Al-Marri signed the agreement in Dubai.
- With this agreement, the UAE was the first Gulf country to normalize ties with Israel and only the third Arab nation to do so after Egypt and Jordan.
- For the UAE, the deal with Israel is its second bilateral free trade agreement after signing a similar accord with India in February 2022.

About the free trade agreement :

- The agreement, which is comprehensive, significant, and ground-breaking, is expected to increase bilateral trade in goods and services, increase Israeli exports to the United Arab Emirates and provide customs exemption immediately or gradually on 96% of trade between the countries: food, agriculture, cosmetics, medical equipment, medication &, etc.
- It also relates to regulatory and standardization issues, customs, collaboration, government procurement, e-commerce, and intellectual property rights.
- The agreement will accelerate economic growth and strengthen the common belief that the only way to build durable and sustainable economies in the complex world is together.

About Israel :

- President : Isaac Herzog
- PM: Naftali Bennett
- Capital: Jerusalem
- Currency: New shekel

About UAE :

- President: Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- Capital: Abu Dhabi
- Currency: UAE dirham
- The UAE is the second-largest economy in the Arab world (after Saudi Arabia)

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Nearly 5 mn in India displaced due to Climate Change, Disasters in 2021

- As per **United Nations**, **Five million people in India** were internally displaced due to climate change and disasters in 2021
- Another report by the UN Refugee Agency highlighted that globally **100 million people were forced to flee their homes last year** due to violence, human rights abuses, food insecurity, the climate crisis, etc.
- In addition to that, there were 23.7 million new internal displacements globally **due to disasters which resulted in to decrease of by 23%**, compared to the previous year.
- The main cities which observed the largest displacements in the context of disasters in 2021 occurred were China, the Philippines, and India.
- Apart from that, it has also been observed that the **number of people forced to flee their homes has increased every year over the past decade**.
- It has been estimated that by the end of 2021, **89.3 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide, including 27.1 million refugees, and 21.3 million refugees** under UNHCR's mandate.
- While considering the latest figures as of May 2022, more than 100 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide by persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, etc

China Builds a naval facility in Cambodia

- **China** is secretly building a **naval facility in Cambodia** that would help extend its **military's currently limited reach in foreign waters**.
- With **more than 350 vessels**, Beijing commands the world's largest naval fleet, by comparison, the **US Navy has 296 ships and submarines**.
- However, **China** currently has **only one foreign naval base in Djibouti in East Africa**.
- The project in Cambodia would give China a foothold in Southeast Asia and a position in the western region of the South China Sea, part of Beijing's ambition to grow its military influence worldwide.

About Cambodia :

- Prime Minister: Hun Sen
- Capital: Phnom Penh
- Currencies: United States Dollar, Cambodian riel

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India to host Special ASEAN- India foreign ministers meeting (SAIFMM) 2022

- India hosted the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers and Secretary-General for a Special ASEAN India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (SAIFMM) 2022 in New Delhi to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the India-ASEAN dialogue relations and the 10th anniversary of the country's strategic partnership with ASEAN.
- External Affairs Minister Shri S Jaishankar and Singapore Foreign Minister Shri Vivian Balakrishnan, who is India's Country Coordinator, will co-chair the meeting.
- Foreign Ministers of Brunei, Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Malaysia, besides the representatives of Foreign Ministers from Lao PDR, Thailand, and the Philippines also attend the event.

Key Highlights :

- The Ministers reviewed the status of the ASEAN-India Partnership and set out the path for the coming decade.
- Deliberations were held on COVID-19 & Health, Trade & Commerce, Connectivity, Education, and Capacity Building as well as the implementation of the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.
- The Ministers also exchanged views on important regional and international developments and post-pandemic economic recovery.

ASEAN-India relations :

- The ASEAN-India dialogue relations began in 1992 with the establishment of sectoral partnership which graduated to full dialogue partnership in December 1995, Summit level Partnership in 2002, and Strategic partnership in 2012.
- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- The SAIFMM will be accompanied by the 12th edition of Delhi Dialogue, a premier Track 1.5 Dialogue in the ASEAN-India calendar, which will be hosted by India.
- The theme of DD-XII is 'Building Bridges in the Indo-Pacific'.

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About ASEAN :

- It is a political and economic union of **10 member states in Southeast Asia**.
- These member states promote intergovernmental cooperation and facilitate economic, security, political, educational, military, and sociocultural integration between member countries and Asia-Pacific countries.

Objective :

- To accelerate economic growth, social progress as well as cultural development.
- It seeks to promote regional peace and stability following rule of law and the United Nations charter.

West African states Gabon & Togo join Commonwealth Group of Nations

- At the **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2022**, the Commonwealth has admitted **two West African states Gabon and Togo** as its **55th and 56th members** respectively held in **Rwanda's capital of Kigali** with **new chairperson Rwandan President Paul Kagame**.
- Both countries are former French colonies & they were never British colonies.
- The **Central African nation's** process of formally joining the Commonwealth started in **2017**, while **Togo**, located in West Africa, began in **2014**.
- **Rwanda** became a member of the group in **2009**.
- While the Commonwealth is an association of former British colonies, Rwanda, like Mozambique, which joined in **1995**, also was never colonized by the British.
- Gabon is a sparsely populated country of 2 million people, bordering Cameroon, also a member of the Commonwealth and Equatorial Guinea, and the Republic of Congo.
- Togo is bordered by Ghana, a Commonwealth member, and Benin and Burkina Faso. It has a population of approximately 7.8 million people.

About CHOGM 2022 :

- The 2022 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, also known as CHOGM 2022, was the **26th Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Nations**.
- It is held under the theme: "**Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming**".

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- Commonwealth Secretary-General: Rt Hon Patricia Scotland

IMPORTANT MOUs & AGREEMENTS

The Gujarat government has signed a soil conservation deal with Isha Outreach:

- Gujarat's Climate Change Department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to participate in the global "Save Soil" program.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Ahmedabad by Sadhguru, the Founder and Spiritual Leader of Isha Outreach, and Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel.
- Jaggi Sadguru has embarked on a 100-day motorcycle journey around the world to raise awareness about the soil regeneration initiative.
- The 30,000-kilometer trek through Europe, Central Asia, and the Middle East aims to raise awareness about the importance of soil among policymakers.
- As part of this tour, Shri Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev visited Gujarat to sign an MOU on 'Save Soil.'
- On the occasion of the signing of the MOU, members of the State Cabinet, office bearers, senior secretaries, and members of the Isha Foundation, as well as Shri Sadhguru's followers, were present.

Key points:

- Gujarat has become the first state in the country to join this international movement to safeguard soil.
- To raise awareness about the global loss of soil fertility, the Isha Foundation has launched the 'Save Soil' campaign. Because soil quality has such a big impact on human and other organisms' health, this movement can help solve the problem by bringing people together from all over the world.
- Furthermore, excellent soil is necessary for life on Earth to survive. Several micronutrients in the soil are essential for agricultural crop growth and development.

Additional info:

- In this regard, when Shri Narendra Modi was Gujarat's Chief Minister in 2006-07, the state initiated a foresight initiative called the "Soil Health Card" to maintain the state's soil's health and condition.

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- There are 115 soil health laboratories in the state that monitor nutrient levels in the soil.

Tata Motors signs potential deal to acquire Ford India plant in Gujarat:

- **Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Limited (TPEML)**, a subsidiary of Tata Motors Ltd and **Ford India Private Limited (FIPL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the **Government of Gujarat (GoG)** for the potential acquisition of the manufacturing plant of **Sanand's FIPL car**.
- The Memorandum of Understanding includes the potential acquisition of the facility's land and buildings, the plant for the production of vehicles, machinery, and equipment, and the transfer of all qualified employees involved in the manufacturing operations.
- Vehicle of FIPL Sanand, subject to execution of final agreements and receipt of relevant approvals.

About Tata Motors Ltd

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founder: J. R. D. Tata
- Established: 1945.

T.N. signs MoU with IPPB for pensioners' digital life certificate:

- The **Tamil Nadu government** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** for obtaining life certificates from pensioners through the doorstep services of the Postal Department.
- Recently, the **State government** issued orders for five modes of the annual mustering of **pensioners** from July to September this year, including the doorstep services of the IPPB, for obtaining a digital life certificate through **Jeevan Pramaan Portal** to the void hardship of coming in person for aged pensioners/family pensioners.

Key Points:

- As per the agreement, **the IPPB** would render the doorstep services at a **cost of ₹70 per digital life certificate**.
- Over 7.15 lakh State government pensioners/ family pensioners submit the certificates During July, August, and September every year for annual mustering.

Attendees:

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- The MoU was signed in the presence of Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Finance Secretary N. Muruganandam, Commissioner of Treasuries and Accounts T.N. Venkatesh, Chief General Manager of IPPB Limited Gurusharan Rai Bansal, Chief Postmaster General- Tamil Nadu Circle B. Selvakumar, Assistant General Manager, IPPB Ltd- Tamil Nadu Circle N.R. Divakara, Postmaster General- Chennai City Region G. Natarajan and other senior officials.

India inx and luxse signs agreement to strengthen cooperation:

- **BSE's international arm India International Exchange (India INX) and Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSE) has signed a cooperation agreement through which the two bourses will enhance the visibility of listed Indian securities** to international investors by facilitating admission of such securities on LuxSE.
- The agreement builds on the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two institutions in **November 2020**, which placed a specific focus on advancing green finance in India

About the Agreement:

- Also, the parties announced the admission on **LuxSE of a green bond issued by Power Finance Corporation.**
- The EUR 300 million green bonds, which are already listed on India INX, are now registered on LuxSE's Securities Official List and displayed on the Luxembourg Green Exchange, the world's leading platform for sustainable securities.
- **The green corridor opportunity established** with this dual listing cooperation agreement between India INX and LuxSE will go a long way in attracting more issuers from India and the region and provides access to green capital from international investors.

IAF signs Mou with Chandigarh govt for Indian Airforce heritage center:

- The UT Administration and the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** signed an MoU on the **Indian Air Force Heritage Centre** coming up at the Government Press building in Sector 18.
- A heritage center to showcase the role of the Indian Air Force in its various wars and joint operations will be held in **Chandigarh.**
- **The "IAF Heritage Center"** will be jointly established by the Chandigarh force and government.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the **Chandigarh Territorial Union** and the IAF on the establishment of the center has been signed.

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- The ceremony was attended by Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit and Air Force Chief VR Chaudhari.

About the Heritage Centre:

- This heritage center will feature artifacts, simulators, and interactive whiteboards to showcase different aspects of the IAF.
- It will also highlight the important role this service plays in various wars and the support provided for humanitarian aid and disaster relief.
- This joint project by the UT Chandigarh administration and the IAF is expected to be completed by October.

India & Canada signed MoU on Climate Action for Stronger Cooperation:

- India and Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen bilateral cooperation on climate change, conservation, and environmental conservation.
- On the sidelines of the Stockholm+50 summit, EU Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and his Canadian counterpart Steven Guilbeault signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- The Stockholm+50 Summit, which will take place in Stockholm in June 2022, will bring together leaders of state and government to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Stockholm Conference.
- This summit, which is based on the Decade of Action, comes after months of deliberations and talks with governments, organizations, and civil society participants.

Key Points:

- The gathering was organized to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Stockholm Summit, the first world conference on the environment.
- Under the terms of the agreement, the two countries will work together, share information, and expertise and support each other in their goals in various areas, including increasing renewable energy capacity decarbonizing heavy industries, reducing plastic pollution, promoting chemical safety, and ensuring sustainability consumption.

Stashfin introduced #LiveBoundless, a credit line card for women”

- A neo banking platform Stashfin has introduced a credit line card, especially for women named #LiveBoundless.

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- The **#LiveBoundless** card aims to give women greater financial freedom.
- It also offers cashback rewards, welcome credits, Free ATM Withdrawals, and deals.
- In recent years, credit card usage in India has grown dramatically.
- According to a Statista study, the Indian credit card market volume was at **37.5 million in FY2018 and reached 57.7 million in FY2020.**
- A similar northward trend was witnessed in FY 2021 when the numbers hit 62 million.

Features:

- The card acts as a virtual and physical vehicle for shopping, travel, and dining and includes a **1% cashback on every spend on benefits worth Rs 5,000 for the first year**, and a credit period Free for certain customers.
- The company also says the card acts as a virtual and physical vehicle for shopping, travel, and dining, setting it apart from existing players in the market.

Blue Dart signs UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now pledge:

- **Logistics services provider Blue Dart** has signed the “**Climate Neutral Now (CNN)**” pledge by the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).**
- The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now to achieve a **climate-neutral world by 2050, as per the Paris Agreement.**
- The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change, Blue Dart, which is a part of the **Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group.**

Key Points:

- The pledge highlights the organization’s commitment to ambitious **carbon emission reduction targets**
- The Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to **7-billion Euros** to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by **2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement**, primarily to expand the use of sustainable technologies and fuels in its fleets and buildings.
- Its long-term goal is to reduce **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to net-zero by 2050.**

Tamil Nadu government signs MOUs to convert 71 ITIs into tech centers:

- To provide enhanced training to students at government **Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)**, the **State Employment and Training Department** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

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with Tata Technologies Ltd, Pune, in the presence of Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Mr. MK Stalin at the Secretariat.

- During the recent Budget session of the Assembly, Labour and Skill Development Minister CV Ganesan, that infrastructure at government ITIs will be improved, turning them into 'technology centers' in collaboration with leading industries, to improve students' employability.

About the MoUs:

- The MoU with Tata Technologies is aimed at enhancing infrastructure and bridging the gap between job seekers' and employers' needs.
- The MoU will help turn 71 government ITIs into level 4.0 technology centers, and Rs 2,877.43 crore will be spent to provide machinery, tools, equipment, and software at these institutes.
- Students will be trained in disciplines such as robotics, industrial automation, manufacturing process control, advanced manufacturing, electric vehicle mechanism, industrial painting, and advanced welding.
- The department expressed hope that students from these ITIs would get jobs in top firms.

Pontaq Organises Investors Summit, Signs MoU with Tamil Nadu Government to Encourage Budding Start-Ups:

- **Pontaq**, an innovation fund that invests in early-stage technology businesses in the UK, India, US, and Canada, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission, which is backed by the state government.
- Under the terms of the MoU, the government will help **Pontaq-supported companies expand business operations in the State.**
- As part of this, Pontaq organized an investors summit in the state.
- **Fifty tech-based start-up founders participated in the event.**
- Some presented their business ideas during the four-pitch sessions and shared their start-up journey, vision, and how they are solving a real-world problem using new-age technologies like AI and IoT.
- **KT Rama Rao, IT Minister, Telangana**, virtually attended the event and answered the questions of entrepreneurs related to the business opportunities in the State.

LinkedIn tie-up with UN Women to create employment opportunities for women:

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- **LinkedIn**, the world's largest professional network, is partnering with the **United Nations Women** to invest **USD 5,00,000 (Rs 3.88 crore)** towards **advancing women's economic empowerment**.
- Through job fairs, mentorship sessions, and peer-to-peer networks, the project will **launch a pilot in Maharashtra** to cultivate the digital, soft, and **employability skills of 2,000 women** and present them with a variety of career-building options.
- The three-year regional collaboration will digitally upskill women, allowing them to access more employment and fully engage in the formal economy.

About the collaboration:

- **The Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs)**, a collection of effective, actionable principles that guide businesses on how to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace, marketplace, and community, will serve as the foundation for the relationship.
- The online platform and institutional experience of **UN Women and LinkedIn** will be used to bring together partners to boost women's economic empowerment.
- They will collaborate on advocacy campaigns and events, as well as bring together key partners from their separate networks, to promote broadly equitable opportunities and outcomes for men and women in the workplace.

About LinkedIn Corporation

- Founded: 5th May 2003
- Headquarters: California, United States (US)
- CEO: Ryan Roslansky

Zomato tie-up with Jio-bp to accelerate EV adoption:

- **Zomato and Jio-bp** have agreed to support Zomato's commitment to "The Climate Group's **EV100 program**, which aims to have a 100 percent electric fleet by 2030."
- The partnership is expected to hasten the adoption of electric vehicles in India's fast-increasing delivery and transportation sector.
- **Jio-bp, Reliance Industries Ltd's and bp's fuel and mobility joint venture**, would provide **Zomato with EV mobility services** as well as access to 'Jio-bp pulse' battery swapping stations for last-mile delivery.
- Last year, Jio-bp built and inaugurated India's two largest EV charging hubs.

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- The company has been collaborating with construction firms and electric vehicle companies to improve the battery charging environment.
- Customers can use the pulse mobile app to locate nearby charging stations and charge their electric vehicles.

About Zomato:

- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana.
- CEO: Deepinder Goyal

DBT and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have renewed MoU to Speed Innovation for Global Health:

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), originally signed in 2012, to support innovative approaches for developing new preventions, therapies, and interventions needed to solve health (human and animal), food and nutritional inequities.
- DBT and the Gates Foundation had in 2012 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of health and development for five years, which was further renewed for 5 years till July 17, 2022.
- Under this joint partnership, in the last 10 years, programs in diverse areas under maternal and child health, nutrition, sanitation, infectious disease, and data science approaches have been undertaken.
- The renewed MoU partnership pledged a combined \$50 million investment to the joint initiative, to continue to explore and expand funding arenas and mechanisms to support innovators, focused on early-mid stage research and product development to tackle health and developmental issues.

NHIDCL and IIT Roorkee sign MoU for sharing knowledge in the field of highway engineering:

- An MoU was signed between MD, NHIDCL, and Director, IIT, Roorkee for sharing knowledge on innovative ideas and technologies in the field of highway engineering.
- The purpose of this MoU is to establish the basis of collaboration between both the parties such that the NHIDCL and IIT, Roorkee can take up various activities of common interest such as

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sharing knowledge on innovative ideas and technologies in the field of highway engineering and other infrastructure works as per mutually agreed terms and conditions.

- The MoU provides a formal basis for **initiating interaction between NHIDCL and IIT, Roorkee**, and will play a significant role in realizing the aims and objectives of **Prime Minister's GatiShakti, National Master Plan** launched recently.

Key Points:

- **National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL)** promotes surveys, establishes, designs, builds, operates, maintains, and upgrades National Highways and Strategic Roads including interconnecting roads in parts of the country that share international boundaries with neighboring countries including the **UTs of J&K, Ladakh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, West Bengal, and the seven northeastern states**.
- IIT, Roorkee is a premier institute in the country with a vision to be a center of excellence in education and research, producing global leaders in science, technology, and management
- To be a hub of knowledge creation and technology development that prioritizes the frontier areas of national and global importance to improve the life of every citizen of the country.
- Both **NHIDCL and IIT, Roorkee** are leading premier national organizations in their respective fields and are desirous of working together to work as a team to achieve national objectives, undertaken with their best abilities and maximum cooperation with the intent of helping each other.

Spices Board to enable market access to farmers through Flipkart:

- **Spices Board**, a Ministry of Commerce and Industry establishment, under its initiative **Flavourit Spices Trading Limited (FSTL)**, has signed a **Terms of Understanding (ToU)** with e-commerce platform **Flipkart** to enhance market access and help promote farmers and grassroots organizations working in the spices sector.
- The ToU was signed under the **Flipkart Samarth Program**, which aims to empower MSMEs, artisans, entrepreneurs, and rural seller and **farmer communities selling products** associated with rich cultural heritage through Flipkart's e-commerce platform

About Flipkart:

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- Founded: October 2007
- CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- Headquarters: Bengaluru

NCMRWF and Indian Navy signs MoU for “Cooperation on Numerical Model-Based Applications in Meteorology and Oceanology.”

- The Indian Navy and the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), signs MoU for “Cooperation on Numerical Model-Based Applications in Meteorology and Oceanology.”
- The MoU was signed in a ceremony at NCMRWF in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, by Dr. Ashis K. Mitra, Head of NCMRWF, and Commodore G. Rambabu, Head of the Indian Navy’s Directorate of Naval Oceanology and Meteorology (DNOM), Integrated Headquarters, Ministry of Defence (Navy).

Significance of this MoU:

- The Indian Navy and NCMRWF under this collaboration will share expertise in the domains of weather and ocean modelling, coupled modelling, data assimilation, ensemble forecasting, and satellite data utilisation, with the intent of keeping both organisations up to date with rapid development.
- This would also promote meaningful interactions that leverage on the professional strengths of both organisations.

Features of this MoU:

- The NCMRWF, with its highly skilled scientists and cutting-edge facilities, would render support to two of the Indian Navy’s premier establishments in Kochi, Kerala:
 - The Naval Operations Data Processing and Analysis Centre (NODPAC), and
 - The Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC)
- This will help to develop advanced numerical weather prediction systems, including coupled models that will have greater reliability and accuracy over the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and global regions.
- This MoU would benefit both NCMRWF and the Indian Navy in the future by fostering meaningful interactions and professional exchanges.

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Bharat Electronics signed an MoU with Belarusian Company for the supply of Airborne Defence Suite :

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** and **Defense Initiatives Aero Pvt Ltd. of India and Belarus** (a subsidiary of DI Belarus).
- The MoU was inked to foster collaboration between the three businesses for the delivery of the **Airborne Defense Suite (ADS)** for the helicopters of the **Indian Air Force**.
- Helicopter protection is achieved via ADS.
- To meet the requirements of the "**Make in India**" initiative, BEL will serve as the prime contractor and DI will assist it with manufacture and maintenance.
- The MoU also intends to investigate other commercial possibilities for India and international ADS markets.
- The alliance has developed under the direction of the **Indo-Belarusian Joint Commission (IBJC)** on **Military Cooperation** and **Sanjay Jaju**, Additional Secretary, Department of Defense Production.

About Bharat Electronics Limited

- Founded: 1954
- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Chairman & Managing Director: Anandi Ramalingam
- Executive Director: Vinay Kumar Katyal.

IMPORTANT MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

Adani Group buys Ambuja Cements & ACC for \$10.5 billion

- The **Adani Group** has agreed to buy **Swiss building materials maker Holcim Ltd's India assets Ambuja Cements and ACC Ltd** for **\$10.5 billion (₹80,000 crores)** in one of the largest ever acquisitions by an Indian group.
- With this, the Adani Group became the **second-largest cement producer** in the country after the **Aditya Birla Group-owned UltraTech Cement**.
- **Holcim** owns **63.19 percent** in **Ambuja Cement** and **4.48 percent** in **ACC**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- Ambuja Cement, in turn, owns **50.05 percent** of ACC.

About Adani Group :

- Founded: 20 July 1988
- Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
- Chairman & MD: Gautam Adani
- CEO : Karan Adani

Ruchi Soya Acquires Patanjali's Food Retail Business For Rs 690 Crore

- Edible oil major Ruchi Soya Industries acquired Patanjali Ayurved's food retail business for Rs 690 crore as part of its strategy to focus on non-food, traditional medicine, and wellness business.
- The acquired food business comprises **21 major products** namely ghee, honey, spices, juices, atta, etc., the company informed in an exchange filing.
- This is expected to fast-track Ruchi Soya's shift to the **fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) category**.
- The food retail business consists of manufacturing, packaging labeling, and retail trading of certain food products along with manufacturing plants located at Padartha, Haridwar, and Newasa, Maharashtra.
- The board also approved the change in the company's **name from 'Ruchi Soya Industries Limited' to 'Patanjali Foods Limited'**.

Key Highlights :

- Ruchi Soya will pay an annual royalty to Patanjali Ayurved, estimated at **1 percent** of the gross turnover of the products under the transfer agreement

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- It's a debt-free transfer and Ruchi Soya will fund the acquisition through internal accruals.
- Ruchi Soya's stock closed **10 percent higher at Rs 1,192.15**

About Patanjali Ayurved :

- Founded: 2006
- Headquarters: Haridwar, Uttarakhand, India
- Chairperson, MD & CEO: Balakrishna

About Ruchi Soya :

- Founded: 1985
- Headquarters: Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India
- Ruchi Soya would focus on **four business verticals** - edible oil, food and FMCG, nutraceuticals, and oil palm plantation.

Abu Dhabi's ADIA invests Rs 2,200 cr in IIFL Home Finance for a 20% stake

- The sovereign wealth fund **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)** has picked up a **20 percent stake in IIFL Home Finance** for Rs 2,200 crore.
- The deal completion is subject to regulatory approvals.
- It will be **one of the largest equity investments** in the affordable housing finance segment in India by a financial investor.
- Avendus Capital and IIFL Securities were **financial advisors** to IIFL Home Finance for the deal.
- IIFL Home Finance Limited proposes to use the additional capital to continue its granular expansion strategy into new markets to address the significant and growing demand for housing loans.

About ADIA :

- Founded: 1976
- Headquarters: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

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- Chairman: Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- MD: Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

About IIFL Home Finance Limited :

- Established in 2006 as a wholly-owned subsidiary of IIFL Finance.
- Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana
- CEO: Monu Ratra

CCI approves the acquisition of a shareholding in Hitachi Construction Machinery Co., Ltd

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves the acquisition of a shareholding in Hitachi Construction Machinery Co., Ltd. by HCJI Holdings G.K., Citrus Investments, HCJ Holdings 2 G.K., Japan Industrial V – GP K.K., and other investors.
- Citrus Investments LLC (Citrus), a wholly-owned subsidiary of ITOCHU Corporation ("Itochu"), HCJ Holdings 2 G.K. (HCJ Holdings/HCJ HD2), Japan Industrial - GP, Manalsu, Primrose GP, Shepherds Hill Partners III Ltd., and Sonora Partners III Ltd. through HCJI Holdings G.K. (HCJI).
- The investors propose to acquire **26%** in the Hitachi Construction Machinery Co., Ltd. (HCM/Target) from Hitachi Ltd., on a fully diluted basis.
- Currently, HCJI is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Japan Industrial Partners Inc.
- HCJI was established as a limited liability company to hold shares in Target and undertake all business incidental to the same.
- Before the Proposed Transaction, HCJI will be jointly held on a **50:50 basis by (a) Citrus; and (b) HCJHD2**, and will change its corporate form to a stock company.
- The ITOCHU Group operates in a comprehensive array of business domains, from upstream areas, such as transactions involving raw material, to downstream domains, such as retail.
- Itochu does not have any subsidiaries/ investee companies active in India
- HCM is listed on the **Tokyo Stock Exchange**.
- Its major shareholder and controlling parent company is Hitachi (holding 51.5 % of the shares in HCM).
- HCM is engaged in the manufacturing of mining and construction machinery and solution business (such as development, production, distribution of parts, and service solutions as part of the after-sales services for mining facilities and equipment) globally.

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HCM also operates in India through the following subsidiaries and affiliates:

- Tata Hitachi Construction Machinery Company Pvt Ltd
- H-E Parts International LLC
- Bradken India Private Limited.

About CCI :

- Established: 14 October 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Ashok Kumar Gupta
- Secretary : P K Singh
- CCI is the chief national competition regulator in India.
- It is a statutory body within the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** and is responsible for enforcing the **Competition Act, 2002**

Tencent Acquires stake worth \$264 mn in Flipkart from Binny Bansal

- **Tencent, a Chinese technology conglomerate, has bought a stake worth USD 264 million (approx. Rs2,060 crore) in Flipkart.**
- Tencent has bought this stake from Flipkart's co-founder **Binny Bansal** via its European subsidiary.
- Binny Bansal now holds about **1.84 percent** in Flipkart after selling part of his stake to Tencent Cloud Europe BV.
- After this transaction, the Tencent arm holds **0.72 per stake in Flipkart**, valued at around **\$264 million**.
- The corporate's valuation surged to **USD 37.6 billion** after elevating **USD 3.6 billion (about ₹26,805.6 crores)** in funding spherical led by Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC, CPP Investments, SoftBank Imaginative and prescient Fund 2, and Walmart.
- Flipkart stated that the transaction does not fall under the purview of '**Press Note 3,**' which calls for scrutiny of investment that any Indian company receives from countries sharing a land border with India.
- **Singapore-headquartered e-commerce agency Flipkart** has operations in India solely.
- Tencent has invested over **\$2 billion** in Indian startups since 2016.

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- In 2021, Tencent invested over **\$200 million** in the Indian social media platform ShareChat.
- The Indian government has prohibited using specific gaming applications, including **PUBG Mobile** and **PUBG Mobile Lite**, both of which were published by Tencent Group.

About Tencent:

- Founded: 11 November 1998
- Headquarters: Shenzhen, Guangdong, China
- Chairman & CEO: Pony Ma
- President: Martin Lau

About Flipkart :

- Founded: 2007
- Founder : Sachin Bansal, Binny Bansal
- CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- Flipkart is an Indian e-commerce company, headquartered in Bangalore, Karnataka, India, and incorporated in Singapore as a private limited company.

DBS Bank India acquires 9.9% stake in NBFC Svakarma Finance

- **DBS Bank India Ltd (DBIL)** has acquired a **9.9% stake in Svakarma Finance**, a non-banking financial company, for delivering financial solutions to micro-enterprises through a combination of direct lending and co-lending.
- DBS will continue to identify opportunities to support lending to micro-enterprises in a cost-efficient manner through its own expanded franchise as well as through partners.

About Svakarma Finance:

- Svakarma Finance is a non-deposit-taking non-banking financial Company (NBFC), set up by former bankers to target **Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs)** using an industry segment and cluster-focused delivery model leveraging smart technology and data.
- It is currently present across Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu.

Mission :

- To democratize access to cash and information to empower businesses.

About DBS Bank India Ltd :

- Establishment: 1994

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- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Surojit Shome
- DBS Bank India Ltd is among the **first foreign banks in India** to start operating as a wholly-owned, locally incorporated subsidiary.

CCI approves a 24.98% stake acquisition in IIFL Wealth Management by BC Asia Investments

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the acquisition of up to **24.98 percent** shareholding of **IIFL Wealth Management Limited** by **BC Asia Investments X Limited**.

Key Highlights :

- The fair trade regulator has cleared the transaction involving the sale of the global biosimilars portfolio of Viartis Inc (parent entity of Mylan) to **Biocon Biologics Limited** and its subsidiary.
- It also approved the proposed equity infusion in Biocon Biologics by **Biocon and Serum Institute**.
- The transaction involves cash and stock consideration and the acquisition of one common equity share and compulsorily convertible preference shares convertible into common equity shares, representing at least **12.9 percent** of the fully diluted equity of Biocon Biologics by Mylan.
- In addition, the antitrust watchdog has approved the corporate restructuring of GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Holdings Ltd (JVCO) under a green channel route.
- The proposed combination involves the corporate restructuring of JVCO through acquisition by Haleon via demerger and the share exchange steps, involving the JVCO shareholders.
- Following the completion of the demerger and share exchange steps, the shareholding of Haleon will be held by a combination of GSK, its affiliates, and **GSK's shareholders** (together representing **68 percent of Haleon's voting rights**) and **Pfizer** (representing **32 percent of Haleon's voting rights**).

Note :

- **JVCO** was established in **2019**, combining the respective legacy consumer healthcare business worldwide of GSK and Pfizer.
- Haleon is a newly incorporated entity and at present does not have any business operations.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- GSK is involved in the research, development, manufacturing, and marketing of prescription pharmaceuticals, vaccines, and consumer healthcare products.
- Pfizer is a **US-based biopharmaceutical company**.

About IIFLWM :

- IIFL Wealth Management Limited is a private wealth management firm in India.
- IIFLWM serves the highly specialized and sophisticated needs of high net-worth and ultra-high-net-worth individuals, affluent families, family offices, and institutional clients through a comprehensive range of tailored wealth management solutions.

About BC Asia :

- BC Asia is an investment holding company incorporated under the **laws of Mauritius**.
- **Objective:** To hold long-term investments.
- It is indirectly held by funds or vehicles controlled by Bain Capital Investors, Bain Capital Credit Member, Bain Capital Member II, and the **Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB)**.

About CCI :

- Established: 14 October 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Ashok Kumar Gupta
- Secretary : P K Singh
- CCI is the chief national competition regulator in India.
- It is a statutory body within the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**.

Zomato to acquire Blinkit for Rs 4,447 crore in an all-stock deal

The **Board of the food delivery company Zomato** approved the **acquisition of quick commerce start-up Blink Commerce Pvt Ltd (formerly known as Grofers India Pvt Ltd)** for Rs 4,447.5 crore (\$570 million) for Rs 13.45 lakh per equity share in an all-stock deal.

- Zomato would acquire up to **33,018 equity shares** of Blink Commerce Pvt Ltd.
- Zomato also acquired Blinkit warehousing and ancillary services business HOTPL for **\$8 million**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- In August 2021, Blinkit (then Grofers) had raised \$100 million from Zomato in a round that gave the company a Unicorn status.

Key Highlights :

- The latest filing by Zomato has revealed Blinkit annual turnover in the last **three fiscals: Rs. 263 crores in FY22, Rs. 200 crores in FY 21, and Rs. 165 crores in FY20.**
- Blinkit's largest shareholder SoftBank will receive 28.71 crore shares of Zomato, Tiger Global will take home 12.34 crore shares, BCCL will get 1.5 crore shares, and South Korean investors DAOL will get 3.66 crore shares of the food delivery major.
- Zomato had also a lifeline to cash-strapped Blinkit through a loan of \$150 million to parent company **Grofers India Private Limited (GIPL).**

About Zomato :

- Founded: July 2008
- Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana
- CEO: Deepinder Goyal

About Blinkit :

- Founded: December 2013
- Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana, India
- CEO: Albinder Dhindsa

IMPORTANT APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS NEWS

Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain elected as IBA's Athletes' Committee Chair

- International Boxing Association (IBA) announced that Indian boxer and Tokyo Olympics Bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain has been elected as the chair and a voting member on the Board of Directors for the Athletes' Committee
- Borgohain received the highest number of votes during the election held at the 2022 Women's World Championships.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- **Indian male boxer Shiva Thapa** has also been elected as a member of the IBA Athletes Committee, during the corresponding elections held during the 2021 IBA Men's World Championships.
- The duo, who are both under the **Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)** have confirmed that they have accepted their roles and look forward to representing India and other boxers at the Board of Directors' meeting.

About Lovlina Borgohain :

- Borgohain was born on 2 October 1997 and hails from the Golaghat district of **Assam**.
- She is the **first female athlete** and the **second boxer from Assam** to represent the state in the Olympics.
- She won the bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 in the women's welterweight event, becoming only the third Indian boxer to win a medal at the Olympics.
- She has been appointed as **Deputy Superintendent of police by Assam Government**.

Awards & Honors :

- **Asom Sourav**, 2nd highest civilian award of Assam, 2021
- **Arjuna Award**, presented by President Ram Nath Kovind virtually for her outstanding performance in boxing.
- **Khel Ratna Award** in 2021, the highest sporting honor in India

About IBA :

- Founded: 1946
- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- President : Umar Nazarovich Kremlev
- The International Boxing Association (IBA), previously known as the **Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur (AIBA)**, is an independent sports organization that sanctions amateur (Olympic-style) boxing matches and awards world and subordinate championships.
- It was recognized by the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**.

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- IBA consists of five continental confederations : AFBC, AMBC, ASBC, EUBC, OCBC.

Indian-origin academic Dr. Swati Dhingra was appointed as an External Member of the Bank of England

- Leading UK-based Indian-origin academic Dr. Swati Dhingra has been named as the **first Indian-origin woman** to be appointed as an **external member of the Bank of England's interest rate-setting committee, Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**.
- On August 9, 2022, she will join the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) for a **three-year term**.
- Dhingra will replace current external member, **Michael Saunders**, who has been on the MPC since August 2016.

Role of MPC :

- The MPC is responsible for deciding what monetary policy action the Bank of England will take to keep inflation low and stable.
- It meets **eight times** a year to set the Bank of England's interest rate.
- Each member of MPC specializes in the **field of economics and monetary policy**.

About Dr. Swati Dhingra :

- Dr. Swati Dhingra is an Associate Professor at the London School of Economics.
- She is an elected member of the Council of the Royal Economic Society.
- She is on the Editorial Board of the Review of Economic Studies and is an Associate Editor for the Journal of International Economics.
- She is a Research Associate in the Trade Programme at the Centre for Economic Performance and a Research Fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research.
- She was a member of the UK's Trade Modelling Review Expert Panel and LSE's Economic Diplomacy Commission.
- Currently, she is a **Director of The Royal Mint Museum and a member of the Steering Group for The Economy 2030 Inquiry**.

About Bank of England :

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- Established: 27 July 1694
- Headquarters: London, England, United Kingdom
- Governor: Andrew Bailey

Vandita Sharma appointed as Karnataka's new Chief Secretary

- The Karnataka government appointed senior IAS officer Ms. Vandita Sharma as the state's new Chief Secretary till November 2023.
- Ms. Sharma took over from P. Ravi Kumar, who retired on May 31.

About Ms. Vandita Sharma :

- Ms. Sharma, a 1986-batch IAS officer.
- Currently, She is the Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner.

Note :

- Ms. Sharma will be Karnataka's 39th chief secretary and will be the fourth woman to occupy the post, after Teresa Bhattacharya in 2000, Malathi Das in 2006, and K Ratna Prabha in 2017.

Ex SBI senior executive Mr. Natarajan Sundar appointed as CEO of NARCL

- Former State Bank of India (SBI) executive Mr. Natarajan Sundar has been appointed managing director and CEO of National Assets Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL).

Other Appointments :

- NARCL has also appointed former MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank Kamam Sekar as the independent director and non-executive chairman of the board.
- Also, the retired executive director of RBI Malvika Sinha joined the board as an independent director.

About Mr. Natarajan Sundar :

- In his career spanning over 40 years, Mr. Sekar served in SBI for over three decades.
- He has rich experience in corporate banking policies and products.
- Before this new post, Sundar was deputy managing director and chief credit officer of SBI.

About Mr Kamam Sekar :

- Mr. Kamam Sekar was MD and CEO of Dena Bank from Sep 2018 until its merger in April 2019.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- From July 2019 to June 2020, he was the MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank.

About NARCL:

- NARCL has been incorporated under the Companies Act and it has applied to the Reserve Bank of India for the license as an **Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC)**.
- It has been set up by banks to aggregate and consolidates stressed assets for their subsequent resolution.
- PSBs will maintain **51%** ownership in NARCL.
- It is a special purpose vehicle set up as a joint initiative of Public and Private Sector Banks and is expected to take over bad loans from banks and focus on resolution and recoveries.
- NARCL has shareholding from **15 Indian Banks** and **Canara Bank** is the sponsor bank of this ARC.

Mr. Rajesh Gera was appointed as DG of the National Informatics Centre

- According to the order issued by the **Personnel Ministry**, Senior scientist Mr. Rajesh Gera has been appointed as the **Director-General, National Informatics Centre (NIC)**.
- Currently, Gera is **Deputy Director-General** in the NIC.

Other Appointments :

- Kimbuong Kipgen has been appointed as **Secretary, Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)** post-retirement on a contractual basis for one year up to May 31, 2023
- The central deputation tenure of **Lav Agarwal**, Joint Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare has been extended for a period up to August 2023 or until further.
- Agarwal is a 1996 batch IAS officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre.

About National Informatics Centre(NIC) :

- Established: 1976
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director-General: Dr. Neeta Verma
- The NIC, under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.

Aim :

- To provide technology-driven solutions to central and state governments.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

Center appoints DFS Joint Secretary Mr. Pankaj Sharma as a part-time member of PFRDA

- The Center has appointed **Mr. Pankaj Sharma** the Joint Secretary in the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** as a part-time member of the **Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA)**.
- Sharma has come in the place of erstwhile DFS Additional Secretary **Vandita Kaul**.
- PFRDA has a **Chairman besides three full-time members and three part-time members (only two are filled up posts)**.
- **Anne George Matthew**, Additional Secretary in the Finance Ministry is the other part-time member of the PFRDA Board.

Other Appointments :

- The Center has appointed **Suchindra Mishra**, Additional Secretary in the **Department of Financial Services** as a member of the **Board of International Financial Services Authority (IFSCA)**.
- Also, it has appointed **Shashank Saxena**, Senior Economic Advisor in the Department of Economic Affairs as a member of IFSCA, which is currently the Gift City regulator.

About PFRDA :

- Founded: 23 August 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Chairman: Supratim Bandyopadhyay
- PFRDA is the regulatory body under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Government of India for the overall supervision and regulation of pensions in India.

S L Thaosen was appointed as Director-General of Sashastra Seema Bal

- **Senior IPS officer S L Thaosen** has been appointed as the **new Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** up to **Nov 30, 2023**.
- Dr. **Sujoy Lal Thaosen** is the **21st Director General of SSB**.
- The post of SSB chief has been lying vacant after incumbent **DG Kumar Rajesh Chandra** retired on **December 31, 2021**.

Other appointments :

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- Also Senior IPS officer Zulfiqar Hasan has been appointed as the new director-general of the **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)**.
- **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) DG Sanjay Arora** has been holding the additional charge of the SSB.
- Hasan, a West Bengal-cadre IPS officer, has been serving as the special director-general of the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** in Delhi.

About S L Thaosen :

- Thaosen, a **Madhya Pradesh-cadre IPS officer**, has been serving as the Special Director General of the **Border Security Force (BSF)**.
- Dr. Thaosen also served the United Nations as part of the **International Police Task Force (IPTF)**.
- He was deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1999 to 2000.
- He supervised important events like Republic Day, Independence day celebrations in Delhi, and Commonwealth Games 2010.

About SSB:

- Established: 20 December 1963
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Director-General: Sanjay Arora
- Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB) is a border guarding force of India deployed along its border with **Nepal (1,751 km) and Bhutan (699 km)**.
- It is one of the five Central Armed Police Forces under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.

About BCAS :

- BCAS is the regulatory authority for **civil aviation security in India**.
- It is headed by an officer of the **rank of Director General of Police**
- The DG of BCAS is responsible for the development, implementation, and maintenance of the **National Civil Aviation Security Programme**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

Ex SBI MD Ashwani Bhatia appointed as Whole Time Member at SEBI

- Former managing director at the State Bank of India (SBI), Ashwani Bhatia was appointed as a whole-time member (WTM) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- With this appointment at SEBI, the regulatory body now has three WTM.
- He took charge as a WTM after the post remained vacant for nearly 7 months.
- He will handle the department of debt and hybrid securities (DDHS), alternative investment fund and foreign portfolio investors department (AFD), market intermediaries regulation and supervision department (MIRSD), corporation finance investigation department (CFID), and office of investor assistance & education (OIAE).

About Ashwani Bhatia :

- In August 2020, he was elevated to MD of SBI, where he joined as a probationary officer in 1985.
- Also, he was working as the MD and chief executive officer of SBI Mutual Fund.
- He has vast experience in Treasury Operations, Retail Banking, Credit, Investment Banking, and Asset Management.

Additional Info :

- For the last 7 months, the regulator had operated with only two full-time members, S K Mohanty and Anant Barua.

About SEBI :

- Established: April 12, 1988, & given Statutory Powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch

Sachin Tendulkar to continue as UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador for the 20th year

- The legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar will continue as UNICEF's 'Goodwill Ambassador' for a record 20th year, working for the welfare of underprivileged children.
- In 2003, he was chosen to take lead in the initiative to create awareness and promote polio prevention in India.
- In 2008, he was roped in to create and promote hygiene and sanitation among communities

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- In 2013, he was appointed **UNICEF Ambassador for South Asia** to advocate good hygiene and sanitation across the region.
- In 2019, he went on a three-day trip to Nepal to raise awareness for **UNICEF Nepal's 'Bat for Brain Development'** campaign.
- He had a two-decade-long partnership with UNICEF, he has been vital in furthering the campaigns, especially the ones aimed at providing a better future for underprivileged children.
- He was awarded the “Most Effective Swachh Bharat Ambassador” award by the President of India during an awards function in 2020.

About UNICEF :

- Founded: 11 December 1946
- Headquarters: New York, USA
- Head: Catherine M. Russell
- UNICEF is an agency of the United Nations responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide.

Govt appoints A Manimekhalai as MD of Union Bank

- The government has appointed **Canara Bank executive director A Manimekhalai as managing director (MD) of Union Bank of India (UBI)**.
- Manimekhalai replaced **Rajkiran Rai G**, who retired on May 31 after a five-year stint.

About A Manimekhalai :

- Manimekhalai, a Master of Business Administration degree holder from Bangalore University, joined erstwhile Vijaya Bank as Officer in 1988.
- She was also **General Manager of Vijaya Bank** and headed the Bangalore north region.
- She was instrumental in devising and implementing strategic policies, covering core areas like strategic planning, setting organizational goals, growth strategies, action plans, compliance, internal control, etc

Note :

- Manimekhalai became the **first woman managing director of Union Bank of India**.

Other Appointments :

- **Swarup Kumar Saha** has been appointed as the **MD & CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank**.

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- Saha, who is the **executive director of Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, replaced S Krishnan, who also superannuated on May 31.

About Swarup Kumar Saha :

- Saha, is a graduate of Science from the University of Calcutta, Kolkata.
- He started his career in banking in the erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce in the year 1990 as Probationary Officer.
- In a career spanning over three decades, he has vast experience and expertise in Human Resource Development, Treasury, International Banking, Credit, Risk Management, Organization Restructuring, and Board matters.
- Executive Director of the **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been appointed as **MD & CEO of IOB**.
- He will **succeed Partha Pratim Sengupta** who retires at the end of 2022.
- The **Banks Board Bureau (BBB)**, had recommended their names for the appointment of MD & CEO.

About BBB :

- Founded: 28 February 2016
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairperson: Bhanu Pratap Sharma

About UBI :

- Founded: 11 November 1919
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Rajkiran Rai G

About PNB :

- Founded: 19 May 1894
- Headquarters: Dwarka, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Atul Kumar Goel

About IOB :

- Founded: 10 February 1937
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- MD & CEO: Partha Pratim Sengupta J

EC appoints Cricketer Yash Dhull as State Icon

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has appointed cricketer Yash Dhull as the "state icon" for the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi to motivate youngsters to get enrolled to exercise their right to vote.
- During the meeting, various issues related to electoral registration, especially for young and new voters, and the role of Yash Dhull to educate and motivating the youngsters to enroll themselves in the electoral roll were discussed.
- Dhull made his first-class cricket debut for the Delhi Cricket Team in the 2021-22 Ranji Trophy.
- He was also the Captain for India for the 2022 ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup in the West Indies.

Note :

- Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Delhi: Dr. Ranbir Singh

About ECI :

- ECI is a constitutional body under the ownership of the Ministry of Law and Justice, Gov.
- Established: 25 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chief Election Commissioner of India: Rajiv Kumar
- Election Commissioner of India: Anup Chandra Pandey

SAI DG Sandip Pradhan gets another tenure extension of 2 years till 2024

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has been granted to extend the service center of Sports Authority of India (SAI) Director General Sandip Pradhan to another two years till September 30, 2024.
- It's the second extension granted to Pradhan.
- In May 2020, his tenure was extended by two years.
- The deputy director-general of SAI, Pradhan replaced Neelam Kapoor as DG on August 1, 2019.

About Sandip Pradhan :

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- Pradhan, an Indian Revenue Services officer of the **1990 batch**, was to end his current tenure on July 6 but he has been granted the extension.

About Sports Authority of India :

- Established: 1984
- Headquarters: Delhi, India
- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is the apex national sports body of India under the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of Gol.**

Punjab & Sind Bank MD & CEO Shri S Krishnan retires

- An Indian nationalized bank, **Punjab & Sind Bank Limited**, announced that its **Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer Shri S Krishnan to retire** from the role.
- He took charge as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of Punjab & Sind Bank on **4th September 2020**.
- Punjab & Sind Bank MD, CEO Swarup Kumar Saha

About Shri S Krishnan :

- Shri S Krishnan is a post-graduate in Commerce (M.Com) and qualified Cost Accountant (ICMA).
- He started his career in **Indian Bank in January 1983**.
- He has a long and varied field of banking and administrative experience of **nearly 38 years**.
- Before joining Punjab & Sind Bank as MD & CEO, Krishnan was **Executive Director of Syndicate Bank and Canara Bank**.
- His experience in Risk Management is for over a decade and was the Chief Risk Officer of the Indian Bank.
- He was the **head of the HR Department at Indian Bank**.
- He was also a member of IBA's Sub-Committee on Performance Management System in Public Sector Bank.
- He is the **Alternate Chairman of the IBA Standing Committee on Agri & Allied Activities**.

About Punjab & Sind Bank :

- Founded: 24 June 1908

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- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Founder: Vir Singh
- MD & CEO: Swarup Kumar Saha

Mr. Javier Olivan becomes Meta's next COO

- **Meta Platforms veteran Mr. Javier Olivan** is taking over as the company's chief operating officer (COO).
- He will **replace Ms. Sheryl Sandberg** & however, and she will continue to serve on **Meta's board of directors**.
- He was appointed after playing a crucial but largely behind-the-scenes role in stoking the social media company's explosive growth for 15 years.
- In his new job, he will be responsible for **advertising and business products** while continuing to **head infrastructure and corporate development**.
- Before his promotion as COO, Mr. Olivan's designation was **chief growth officer in Meta Platforms**.

About Mr. Javier Olivan :

- Mr. Olivan grew up in a small town in the Pyrenees Mountains of northern Spain but now lives in **Palo Alto, California**.
- He studied electrical and industrial engineering at the University of Navarra and also holds a Master's degree in business administration from Stanford University.
- Before joining Facebook, he worked with several companies such as **Siemens, NTT Data**, etc.
- He also worked for **Japan's NTT Data**.
- Also, Mr. Olivan pushed Facebook's expansion into countries such as **India, Japan, Russia, Indonesia, and Brazil**.

About Meta :

- Founded: January 4, 2004
- Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, U.S.
- Chairman & CEO: Mark Zuckerberg
- The company is the **parent organization** of Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, among other subsidiaries.

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General-Major Bajram Begaj elected as the new Albanian president

- Albanian lawmakers elected **General-Major Bajram Begaj**, as the country's **new president** after no candidates were nominated in three rounds of voting.
- He won the post after the 140-seat Parliament voted 78 in favor, four against and one abstained.
- He will take the oath as the new president on **July 25, 2022**, to replace **Ilir Meta**, who will be in office until July 22, 2022.

Note :

- **General-Major Bajram Begaj** is post-communist Albania's **8th president** and the **3rd** from the military ranks.

About General-Major Bajram Begaj :

- Born in Rrogozhina on March 20, 1967.
- He graduated from the Medical Faculty of the University of Tirana.
- He served as the **26th Chief of General Staff of the Albanian Armed Forces** from July 2020 to June 2022.

About Albania :

- President: Edi Rama
- Capital: Tirana
- Currency: Albanian lek

International Aluminium Institute appoints Mr. Satish Pai as the new Board Chairman

- The **International Aluminium Institute (IAI)**, the only body representing the global primary aluminum industry, has appointed **Mr. Satish Pai** as its new Chairman.
- Earlier serving as Vice Chairman, he succeeded **Ben Kahrs**, Chief Innovation Officer, Alcoa Corporation.

About Mr. Pai :

- Mr. Pai became the **Managing Director of Hindalco Industries** (one of the world's largest integrated producers of aluminum) in August 2016.
- He took over as the **CEO of Hindalco's Aluminium Business** in August 2013.
- In February 2014, he was appointed as the **Deputy Managing Director of Hindalco Industries** & was also entrusted with Hindalco's copper business.

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- He serves as Director on the boards of Aditya Birla Management Corporation Pvt. Ltd. and ABB, Zurich.
- He is the Chairman of the International Aluminium Institute, the Vice President and Chairman - of Non-Ferrous, Indian Institute of Metals, and Vice President & Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee of the Aluminium Association of India.
- He worked with **Schlumberger**, based out of Paris, where he was responsible for Schlumberger's operations globally.

Awards & Honors :

- He received the 'Distinguished Alumni Award' by IIT Madras in 2017.
- He was conferred the **Doctor of Letters Honoris Causa (D. Litt)** by Ajeenkya DY Patil University in 2020.

About International Aluminium Institute :

- Founded: 1972
- Headquarters: London, UK

Purpose :

- To promote the sustainable development of the aluminum industry and to **increase demand** for aluminum products by raising awareness of their unique and valuable properties
- IAI members are engaged in the production of bauxite, alumina, aluminum, the recycling of aluminum, or the fabrication of aluminum in all major producing regions.

Alok Kumar Choudhary appointed as SBI Managing Director

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the **proposal of the Department of Financial Services** for the appointment of **Shri Alok Kumar Choudhary** as the new **Managing Director (MD)** of **State Bank of India (SBI)** for a two-year term with effective from **30th June 2022 to 30th June 2024**.
 - He succeeds former **MD Ashwani Bhatia**, who was appointed to the **Securities and Exchange Board of India** as a full-time member (SEBI).
 - As the new MD of SBI, he will be handling the **Retail Business & Operations** of the lender.
 - With this new appointment, SBI will have **4 MDs**
1. CS Setty, MD in charge of retail banking

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2. Swaminathan Janakiraman, MD in charge of stressed assets, risk, and compliance;
3. Ashwini Kumar Tewari, MD in charge of international banking

About Shri Alok Kumar Choudhary :

- Choudhary has been associated with SBI for three and a half decades.
- He started his career with SBI in 1987 as a Probationary Officer.
- He has worked as DMD (HR) & Corporate Development Officer at SBI.
- Previously, He was Deputy Managing Director (Finance) at the SBI.
- He had a stint as the Chief General Manager (CGM) of the SBI's Delhi Circle for 3 years.
- His past roles and profiles at SBI include GM, Network I, Ahmedabad; DGM, B&O, Delhi; as well as DGM & CDO, North-East Circle.

About SBI:

- Founded: 1 July 1955
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara

Former registrar of MSU Mr. N J Ojha appointed MGNERGS ombudsman

- The former in-charge registrar and university engineer for MS University, Mr. N J Ojha has been appointed as ombudsman under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNERGS) for a 2-year term.
- An ombudsman has the power to receive complaints from MGNREGA workers, consider such complaints, pass awards within 30 days from the date of receipt of the complaint, and issue directions for conducting a spot investigation.
- Based on the recommendation of the ombudsman state selection committee, the state government approved Ojha's appointment for Vadodara district, Sajjansinh Amarsinh Padwal's appointment for neighboring Panchmahal district, as well as Dr. Ranjitsinh Nayak and Bhargav Trivedi for Dahod and Chhota Udepur districts of Central Gujarat.

About MGNERGS :

- National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 or NREGA was later renamed as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act or MGNREGA in 2009.
- It is a demand-driven wage employment scheme under the Ministry of Rural Development

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- Women are guaranteed one-third of the jobs made available under the MGNREGA

Indian national Mr. Krishna Srinivasan appointed as director of IMF's Asia-Pacific department

- International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Mr. Kristalina Georgieva has appointed Indian national Krishna Srinivasan as Director of the Asia and Pacific Department (APD) from June 22, 2022.
- He will succeed Mr. Changyong Rhee.

About Mr. Krishna Srinivasan :

- Mr. Srinivasan holds a **Ph.D. (Honors) in Economics** from Indiana University, a **Master's in Economics** from the Delhi School of Economics, and a Bachelor's (Honors) in Economics from the University of Delhi.
- He was an **Assistant Professor of Economics and International Finance** at Indiana-Purdue University and a consultant at the **World Bank** in DC and the Center for Policy Research and Planning Commission in New Delhi.
- His wide research on Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, climate, and other economic and development issues has appeared in books, academic journals, and media publications.
- He has more than **27 years of Fund experience**, starting in 1994 in the Economist Program.
- Currently, he is a **Deputy Director in APD** where he oversees the department's surveillance work on some large and systemically important countries such as China and Korea, and smaller states in the Pacific such as Fiji and Vanuatu.

About IMF :

- Established: 27 December 1945
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., U.S
- MD : Kristalina Georgieva
- Membership: 190 countries (189 UN countries and Kosovo)

Doordarshan's DG Mr. Mayank Agrawal appointed as CEO of Prasar Bharti

- The director-general of Doordarshan & Doordarshan News, Mr. Mayank Kumar Agrawal, has been given additional charge as the CEO of the public broadcaster Prasar Bharati.

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- He succeeded Mr. **Shashi Shekhar Vempati**, who stepped down as CEO following a five-year tenure.

About Mr. Mayank Kumar Agrawal :

- Mr. Mayank Kumar Agrawal is a **1989-batch Indian Information Service (IIS) officer**.
- He has over a three-decade-long experience in the field of public communication with broadcast and digital media being his strong suits.
- He was appointed as **CEO of the public broadcaster in June 2017**, on the recommendation of a **three-member committee headed by the then Vice-President**.

Note :

- Mr. Vempati was the **youngest and first non-bureaucrat** to hold the **Prasar Bharti public office** since its creation in 1997.

About Prasar Bharti :

- Established: 23 November 1997
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Prasar Bharati is **India's public broadcaster** & It is a statutory autonomous body set up by an Act of Parliament and comprises the Doordarshan Television Network and All India Radio

Mr. AR Rahman appointed as ambassador of India-UK culture platform

- **Legendary musician Mr. A R Rahman** has been appointed as the **ambassador of the British Council's 'India-UK Together Season of Culture**, which marks the **75th anniversary of India's independence**.
- It was officially launched by **Britain's Deputy High Commissioner to India Jan Thomson** and **Director (India) of the British Council Barbara Wickham**.

About Season of Culture' :

Aim

- To build on the British Council's work in India and strengthen India-UK collaboration in the areas of arts, English, and education.
- Over **1,400 artists** will showcase their collaborations to millions of audiences across India, Britain, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, through a variety of arts such as theatre, dance, visual arts, literature, music, architecture, design, fashion, tech-art, and new media art.

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UN Chief Appoints Indian Diplomat Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill As Envoy On Technology

- Senior Indian diplomat Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill was appointed as the United Nations Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres's envoy on technology to coordinate programs for international digital cooperation
- The UN described Amandeep Singh Gill as a “thought leader on digital technology”.

About Amandeep Singh Gill :

- Amandeep Singh Gill joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1992.
- He holds a Ph.D. in Nuclear Learning in Multilateral Forums from King's College, London, a Bachelor of Technology in Electronics and Electrical Communications from Panjab University in Chandigarh, and an Advanced Diploma in French History and Language from Geneva University.
- He has been India's permanent representative at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva from 2016-to 2018.
- He was the Executive Director and Co-Lead of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation (2018-2019).
- Currently, Gill is serving as the Chief Executive Officer of the International Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence Research Collaborative project, based at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.

Mr. Subramaniakumar appointed as new MD & CEO of RBL Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Mr. R Subramaniakumar as Managing Director and CEO of RBL Bank for three years.
- The announcement comes nearly 6 months after RBL Bank's long-term MD & CEO Mr. Vishwahir Ahuja had stepped down.
- Following Ahuja's exit, Mr. Rajeev Ahuja was appointed to helm the lender for an interim period which was scheduled to expire on June 24, 2022.
- Mr. Subramaniakumar's tenure will begin from the date of his taking charge, under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act 1949.

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- His appointment as the RBL Bank chief comes in the **backdrop** of the RBL bank reporting a net loss of Rs 74.74 crore in FY2022, as against a profit of Rs 50.77 crore in FY2021.

About Mr R Subramaniakumar :

- Mr. R Subramaniakumar is a veteran Banker with 40 years of experience.
- His career started with **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** in 1980, where he worked for 35 years & he has eventually elevated to the **bank's general manager** a position he held for three years between 2013 and 2016.
- He joined the **Indian Overseas Bank** in October 2016 as its **MD and CEO** and continued to hold the charge till June 2019.
- He served as an **executive director** at Indian Bank.
- In November 2019, Subramaniakumar served as **administrator of Dewan Housing Financial Corporation Limited (DHFL)**.
- He is currently a **non-executive chairman** of India1 Payments Ltd, one of the country's largest **ATM services providers**.
- He is also an **independent director** of the LIC Pension Fund Ltd.

About RBL Bank :

- Founded: 1943
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Ambassador Ms. Rabab Fatima appointed as UNs Under-Secretary-General

- **Secretary-General Ms. Antonio Guterres** announced the appointment of the **Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, Ambassador Ms Rabab Fatima**, has been appointed as the **Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations** and also the **High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)**.
- She succeeds **Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica** who was appointed as the **Chef de Cabinet**.

Note :

- Ambassador Ms. Rabab Fatima is the **first woman diplomat from Bangladesh** to be appointed as a UN Under-Secretary-General.

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- With her appointment as Assistant Secretary-General to the UN, Rabab Fatima has become the highest-ranking official of Bangladesh under the UN system.

About Rabab Fatima :

- Ambassador Rabab Fatima is a career diplomat from Bangladesh.
- Rabab Fatima, a career diplomat, joined the **Bangladesh Foreign Service** in 1989.
- Earlier, she served as the **Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan** from 2016 to 2019.
- She was the **Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangladesh (2015-2016)**, **Regional Representative for South Asia (2007-2011)** and **Regional Adviser for South and South-West Asia, and Regional Advisor for Climate Change and Migration (2012-2015)** of the **International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva**, and **Head of Human Rights at the Commonwealth Secretariat, London (2006-2007)**.
- She also served as **co-chair of the LDC-5 Preparatory Committee, President of the UNICEF Executive Board, and Vice President of UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS**.
- Currently, She is **Bangladesh's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York**.

About United Nations :

- Established: 26 June 1945
- Headquarters: New York, USA
- Secretary General : António Guterres
- Membership: 193 member states & 2 observer states

Justice Bhimanagouda Sanganagouda Patil sworn in as Karnataka Lokayukta

- On a recommendation by Karnataka Chief Minister Shri Basavaraj Bommai, Former Karnataka high court judge Mr. Justice B S Patil has been appointed as the new Lokayukta of Karnataka.
- Governor Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot administered the oath of office to the new Lokayukta at a ceremony in Raj Bhavan, Bengaluru.
- The post was vacant for the last 5 months after the retirement of Mr. Justice Vishwanath Shetty.
- Chief Minister Shri Basavaraj Bommai, Opposition leader Siddaramaiah, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, and others were present on the occasion.

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About Mr Justice Bhimanagouda Sanganagouda Patil :

- Mr Bheemanagouda Sanganagouda Patil was born on June 1, 1956.
- He enrolled as an advocate on September 5, 1980, and has practiced at trial courts and the High Court as well.
- He was appointed as a **Permanent Judge of the Karnataka High Court on October 21, 2004**, rendered service for 14 years, and retired from the post in 2018.
- Mr. Justice Patil, who served as the **Upalokayukta of Kamataka**, was elevated to the post of Lokayukta on June 14, 2022.

Indian Origin Miss Aarti Prabhakar to be appointed as US President Mr. Joe Biden's new science advisor

- **United States President Ms. Joe Biden** will nominate Indian-origin physicist Ms. Aarti Prabhakar as his **science adviser** and nominate her as **director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)**.
- The 63-year-old Aarti Prabhakar will **replace Eric Lander**, who resigned on February 7 on grounds of bullying his staff and creating a hostile work environment.
- Her responsibilities as science advisor include addressing problematic science policy issues, such as how best to position the United States to compete with China.

Note :

- Once the Senate approves the appointment, Ms. Arati would be the **first woman** and the **first person of color** to serve as **science adviser to the President of the United States**.

About Ms. Aarti Prabhakar :

- Ms. Aarti Prabhakar was Born on February 2, 1959, in New Delhi, Delhi, India.
- She completed her Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology in 1984 following which she spent 7 years as a program manager at DARPA.
- She is the **founder and CEO of Actuate**, a non-profit organization.
- She headed the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) from 1993 to 1997 and was the first woman to head the NIS.
- Former US President Barack Obama selected Aarti Prabhakar to head the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

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- She served as the head of the United States Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) from July 30, 2012, to January 20, 2017.
- In 2012, Prabhakar became the **second woman** to lead DARPA serving a five-year stint.
- She also spent more than a decade as a venture capitalist in Silicon Valley.
- She is a founder and the CEO of Actuate, a nonprofit organization.

Government appoints 4 non-official directors to RBI central board

- The Central Government has nominated Shri Anand Gopal Mahindra, Shri Venu Srinivasan, Shri Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel, and Dr. Ravindra H. Dholakia as part-time non-official Directors on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India.
- The nominations have been made for **four years** with effect from June 14, 2022, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

About Shri Anand Gopal Mahindra :

- Shri Anand Mahindra is the **chairman of the Mahindra Group**, the non-executive chairman of Mahindra & Mahindra and Tech Mahindra.
- He has served on several bodies globally, including the Global Board of Advisors of the Council on Foreign Relations, New York, and the International Advisory Council of Singapore's Economic Development Board.
- Currently, he is on the board of Invest India, the **National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency**.

About Shri Venu Srinivasan :

- Shri Venu Srinivasan is **chairman emeritus of two-wheeler maker TVS Motor Company**.
- In 1979, TVS Motor Company was born and under Srinivasan's leadership grew to be the **third-largest two-wheeler manufacturing unit in India**.

About Shri Pankaj R Patel :

- Shri Pankaj Patel is on the board of various institutions, including Invest India, a **member of the Mission Steering Group (MSG)** the highest policy-making and steering body constituted under the National Health Mission (NHM), and of the **Drug Technical Advisory Board** by the ministry of health & family welfare.
- He is **chairman and managing director of Zydus Lifesciences**.

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About Dr. Ravindra H Dholakia :

- Dr. Ravindra H Dholakia was the economics area faculty at IIM Ahmedabad from September 1985 to April 2018 when he superannuated.
- He was a regular visiting faculty at the European Management Institute (ESCP-EAP), Paris from 2002 to 2005.
- He received the Most Distinguished Faculty Award for the year 2017-18 at IIM-A
- With the appointments, the RBI's central board now consists of 5 official members and 10 non-official members.
- Revathy Iyer, Sachin Chaturvedi, Satish Kashinath Marathe, Swaminathan Gurusurthy, Ajay Seth, and Sanjay Malhotra are non-official directors of the central bank.

About RBI:

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

Somalia's President appoints lawmaker Mr. Hamza Abdi Barre as Prime Minister

- Somalia's President Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud appointed lawmaker Mr. Hamza Abdi Barre as the country's prime minister.
- Mr Hamza Abdi Barre replaces Mr Mohamed Hussein Roble.

About Hamza Abdi Barre :

- The 48-year-old Hamza Abdi Barre is from the southern state of Jubaland.
- Hamza, who served as the chairperson of the Jubaland Independent Boundaries and Electoral Commission in 2019-20 and worked in the federal government for four years before that, is the first prime minister to emerge from Somalia's Ogaden clan.
- He has served in several public and political roles and from 2011 to 2017 he was secretary-general of the Peace and Development Party (PDP), the precursor to the Union for Peace and Development (UDP) now led by Mohamud.

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- The new premier has also been involved in the education sector, co-founding Kismayo University and leading a community-based network that aimed to rebuild the country's schooling system after it was battered by the civil war.

About Somalia :

- President: Hassan Sheikh Mohamud
- PM: Hamza Abdi Barre
- Capital: Mogadishu
- Currency: Somali shilling

Former SC judge Ms Ranjana Prakash Desai to Be New PCI Chief

- Justice Ms. Ranjana Prakash Desai, a former judge of the Supreme Court, is to be the next Chairperson of the Press Council of India (PCI).
- The post was lying vacant since Mr. Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad (retd) completed his term as the PCI chairperson and demitted office in November 2021.
- A committee comprising vice president Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla, and PCI member Mr. Prakash Dubey approved her appointment as the PCI chairperson.

About Ms Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai :

- Ms. Justice Desai, 72, was a public prosecutor for the State of Maharashtra.
- She is also a former judge of the Bombay high court.
- After she retired from the Supreme Court, she was appointed the Chairperson of the Indian Appellate Tribunal for Electricity as well as that of the Advance Ruling Authority (Income Tax).
- She also headed the Search Committee for the Lokpal Chairperson and members.
- Recently, Ms. Justice Desai had headed the Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir, which was set up to redraw the assembly constituencies of the Union Territory.

About PCI:

- Established: 1966
- The Press Council of India is a statutory, adjudicating organization in India formed by its parliament.

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- The Council has a chairman traditionally, a **retired Supreme Court judge**, and **28 additional members** of which 20 are members of the media, nominated by the newspapers, television channels, and other media outlets operating in India.
- The PCI has issued the "**Norms of Journalistic Conduct**", which is one of two journalism-related codes in use in India.

Sowmyanarayan Sampath, an Indian-American, named CEO of Verizon Business:

- **Sowmyanarayan Sampath**, an Indian American, will be the **new CEO of Verizon Business**.
- **Sampath joined Verizon in 2014** and will stay on as **Chief Revenue Officer for Verizon Business until June 30th**.
- Sampath has exhibited strategic planning prowess in many roles during his time with the organization.

Key Points:

- **Hans Vestberg, Chairman and CEO of Verizon**, will report directly to **Sampath**.
- With more than two decades of experience in core network infrastructure and digital transformation, Sampath has a deep understanding of Verizon's products and the company's role in enabling enterprise expansion and global security.
- Before joining Verizon, **Sampath worked at KPMG and Boston Consulting Group**.
- He earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from St. Xavier's College in Kolkata, as well as a Chartered Accountancy from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and an MBA from Boston University.
- Verizon Business is at a crossroads, as the firm recently stated that its customers would soon benefit from increased capacity and better speeds on the 5G Ultra-Wideband network, thanks to the inclusion of 5G service using the CBRS spectrum.

COAI Names Jio's President Mr. Pramod Mittal as Chairperson for 2022-23

- Industry body Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) named Mr. Pramod K Mittal, President of Reliance Jio Infocomm, as the new Chairperson of the association for 2022-23.
- He will be taking over Mr. **Ajai Puri** as the chairperson of COAI, who held the for two consecutive terms.

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Roles & Responsibilities :

- To work closely with the members to strengthen the sector, especially for the launch of 5G to fulfill the vision of **Honorable Prime Minister's Digital India initiative**".

About Mr. Pramod Mittal :

- Mr. Mittal has 42 years of extensive experience in telecommunications.
- Before joining India's leading telecommunications operator, Reliance President Jio Infocomm also worked for the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** for over 37 years.
- Previously, Mr. Mittal was the **Vice-Chairperson of the Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI)**, whose members include Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea (VIL).

Other Appointments :

- **Mr. P Balaji, Chief Regulatory and Corporate Affairs Officer of Vodafone Idea (VIL)**, will be the **Vice-Chair of the association**.

About Mr. P Balaji:

- Mr. Balaji, who is a member of the core leadership team of Vodafone Idea, leads the telco's Regulatory, Public Policy, and Government Relations activities along with Industry advocacy, Corporate Communications, Reputation Management, and CSR.
- Balaji is the **Chairman of the Assocham National Digital Communications Council**.
- Also, he is a **Member of the National Council of apex industry chambers CII, Ficci, Assocham, and All India Management Association**.
- He has the unique experience of holding leadership positions in multiple telecom verticals, with leading technology, devices companies, and telecom operators.

About COAI :

- Established: 1995
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Ajai Puri
- Director-General: Dr. S.P. Kochhar
- The COAI is an Indian non-governmental trade association and advocacy group focused mainly on the telecommunications industry.

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RBI approves the reappointment of Mr. P.N. Vasudevan as MD & CEO of ESFB

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved a proposal of Equitas Small Finance Bank (SFB) to reappoint Mr. Pathangi Narasimhan Vasudevan as managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) for one year effective from July 23, 2022.
- Earlier in May 2022, ESFB founder and CEO Mr. Vasudevan P N had asked the lender to look for his successor as he wanted to step down to pursue "a distinct set of goals".

About Mr P.N. Vasudevan :

- Mr. P.N. Vasudevan holds a bachelor's degree in science (physics) from the University of Madras.
- Earlier he was working as the MD of Equitas Holdings Limited.
- He is the Managing Director of Equitas, which began as a microfinance institution in 2007 and was later converted into a bank in 2016.
- He was also the chairman of the Managing Committee of the South India Hire Purchase Association for Fiscal 2006.
- Mr. Vasudevan & his wife have created a public charitable trust in their daughter's name, Varshini Illam Trust, and they have launched a project in the trust to take quality medical and therapy treatment to rural and semi-urban areas at their doorstep to those in the age group of 0-3 years.

About ESFB :

- Founded: 2016
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: Vasudevan P N
- Equitas Small Finance Bank is a small-cap company with a market cap of Rs 4,833 crore.

Center Clears Appointment of Chief Justices in Six High Courts

- A month after the Supreme Court Collegium had recommended appointments of new chief justices to the high courts of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gauhati, and Telangana, the Union Government has approved the proposal of the Collegium.
- 4 of these high courts, including Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gauhati, lack full-time chief justices and are led by acting chiefs.

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- The recommendations proposed by the collegium led by **Chief Justice of India NV Ramana** were made on May 17, 2022.

Appointments of 6 new chief justices :

- **Justice Vipin Sanghi** of the Delhi High Court will be appointed as the **Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court** while **Justice Rashmin M Chhaya** of the Gujarat High Court has been appointed as the **Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court**.
- **Telangana High Court Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma** will be appointed to the **Delhi High Court**.
- **Two judges of the Bombay High Court Justice Amjad A Sayed and Justice SS Shinde** will be elevated as the **Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court and Rajasthan High Court respectively**.
- Meanwhile, **Justice Ujjal Bhuyan** of the Telangana High Court (whose parent high court is Gauhati High Court) will take over as the **Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court**.

Mr. Gustavo Petro wins Colombian election to become 1st leftist president

- A former rebel and a longtime legislator, Mr. **Gustavo Petro** became **Colombia's first leftist president**.
- He defeated Mr. **Rodolfo Hernández Suárez** in the second round of the 2022 Colombian presidential election.
- Petro's vice-president will be Ms. **Francia Márquez**, a prize-winning defender of human and environmental rights marking the first time that a **black woman** fills the post.
- Mr. Petro, 62, received more than **50 percent of the vote**, with more than 99 percent counted.

About Mr Gustavo Petro :

- Mr Gustavo Francisco Petro Urrego is a Colombian economist, politician, former guerrilla fighter, senator.
- Mr. Petro had been part of a different rebel group, called the **M-19**, which demobilized in 1990, and became a political party that helped rewrite the country's constitution.
- He served as a senator and a **member of the Alternative Democratic Pole (PDA)** party following the 2006 Colombian parliamentary election with the second-largest vote.

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- He also pledged to fully implement a 2016 peace deal that ended a 50-year-long conflict with the communist guerrilla group, Farc, and to seek negotiations with the still-active ELN rebels.
- On 30 October 2011, he was elected **Mayor of Bogotá** in the local elections, a position he assumed on 1 January 2012.
- He received the worldwide “**Climate and City Leadership**” in 2013 for his achievements while in office.

About Colombia :

- President : Iván Duque Márquez
- Capital : Bogotá
- Currency : Colombian peso

Ms. Ruchira Kamboj appointed Permanent Representative of India to the UN

- Senior diplomat **Ms. Ruchira Kamboj** has been appointed as the **next Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in New York.**

About Ms Ruchira Kamboj :

- Ms. Kamboj is a 1987-batch **Indian Foreign Service (IFS)** officer.
- She was the **All India women's topper of the 1987 Civil Services batch** and the **topper of the 1987 Foreign Service batch.**
- She began her diplomatic journey in Paris, France, where she was posted as the **3rd Secretary** in the Indian Embassy to France from 1989-91.
- She was posted as a **Counselor at India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York from 2002-2005.**
- In December 2014, she was part of the G-4 team that worked on the reform and expansion of the United Nations Security Council.
- From 2011-2014, she was **India's Chief of Protocol**, the **first and only woman diplomat** so far in the Indian government to have held this position.
- She has also served in Mauritius, Cape Town in South Africa as India's Consul General, and at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.
- Presently, She is serving as **India's envoy to Bhutan.**

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- Ruchira Kamboj is the **first female Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bhutan.**

About UN :

- Founded: 24 October 1945
- Headquarters: New York, New York, United States
- Secretary General : António Guterres
- Membership: 193 member states & 2 observer states
- The United Nations (UN) is an intergovernmental organization whose purpose is to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, and achieve international cooperation.

Mr. P Udayakumar assumes office as Chairman-cum-Managing Director, NSIC

- Mr. P.Udayakumar, Director (Planning & Marketing) National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) assumes an **additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director, NSIC.**

About Mr. P.Udayakumar :

- He is a Mechanical engineer from College of Engg, Guindy with post-graduation from IIM Bangalore with 12 years of Board experience.
- He is an expert in the **MSME domain.**
- He was part of many initiatives of the Ministry of MSME.
- He is an **Investment Committee member** of the PE growth fund namely the SRI Fund, the Fund of the Ministry of MSME.
- He will be **Chairman of NSIC Venture capital fund Ltd.**
- He writes on MSME development issues.

About NSIC :

- Founded: 1955
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) is a Mini Ratna government agency established by the **Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), GoI.**

Former Australia Cricketer Lisa Sthalekar Becomes First Woman President Of FICA

- **Legendary Australian cricketer Lisa Sthalekar** has become the **first woman president of the Federation of International Cricketers' Association (FICA).**

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- Her appointment was made at a meeting of the organization's executive committee in **Nyon, Switzerland**, the first in-person meeting since the start of the Covid pandemic.
- Earlier, Sthalekar had been on the board of FICA as an **independent director**.
- Notably, former **West Indies batter Jimmy Adams** and **ex-South Africa batter Barry Richards** have also served as president of FICA in the past.

About Lisa Sthalekar :

- Sthalekar represented Australia in **187 international matches** across the 3 formats.
- She was part of the Australian teams that won the **ODI World Cups in 2005 and 2013 and the T20 World Cups in 2010 and 2012**.
- The all-rounder scored **2,728 runs** in ODIs besides picking 146 wickets, and 769 runs in T20Is apart from claiming 60 wickets.
- Lisa, who received **Australia's best woman international cricketer award** in both 2007 and 2008, played 187 matches for the national side from 2001 to 2013.
- She was the **first woman** to score 1,000 runs and take 100 wickets in ODIs.
- She played 8 Tests and 54 T20 International matches.
- In 2021, she became **only the fourth woman** to be inducted into the **Australian Cricket Hall of Fame**.
- She has also worked with the Australian Cricketers' Association and has experience in player welfare.

About FICA :

- Founded: 1998
- The Federation of International Cricketers' Associations (FICA) is an organization that coordinates the activities of all the national players' associations that represent professional cricketers.

NDB appoints Dr D J Pandian appointed to lead India Regional Office in Gift City

- The **New Development Bank (NDB)** of the BRICS countries has appointed former bureaucrat **Dr D J Pandian** as the **Director-General** of its **India Regional Office (IRO)** in **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**.
- The New Development Bank has approved **20 projects** in India.

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- The IRO will assist in the effective implementation of these projects and work closely with the project implementing agencies.
- IRO would play a key role in developing new projects and providing capacity building and technical assistance to government agencies.

About Dr D J Pandian :

- Earlier he was the **Vice President and Chief Investment Officer of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** in which India is the 2nd largest shareholder after China.
- During his tenure at the AIIB, he was instrumental in securing USD 6.7 billion in funding for 28 projects in India, stated to be the highest project finance extended by the bank.
- He served as **IAS officer of Gujarat cadre and Chief Secretary of Gujarat.**
- He was instrumental in establishing the **Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute** and served as **chairman and director.**

About NDB :

- Establishment : 2014
- Headquarters : Shanghai, China
- President : Marcos Prado Troyjo
- The New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the **BRICS Development Bank**, is a multilateral development bank established by the **BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).**

Senior IPS Officer Mr Dinkar Gupta appointed as Director General of NIA

- Senior IPS officer Mr Dinkar Gupta was appointed as **Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).**
- The **Appointments Committee** has approved the appointment of Mr Gupta as the NIA chief till **March 31, 2024**, the date of his retirement.

Other Appointments :

- Mr Swagat Das was appointed **Special Secretary (Internal Security)** in the Home Ministry till **November 30, 2024.**
- He is an **IPS Officer of 1987-batch** and at present posted as **Special Director** in the **Intelligence Bureau**

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About Mr Dinkar Gupta :

- Mr Gupta is a 1987-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Punjab cadre.
- He has also served as DIG (Jalandhar Range), DIG (Ludhiana Range), DIG (Counter-Intelligence), Punjab and DIG (Intelligence), Punjab till 2004.
- He was the only officer from Punjab to be empanelled for appointment to Additional Director General level post at the Centre in 2018.
- He was on central deputation with the MHA for 8 years, from June 2004 to July 2012.
- He held the position of the Director General of Punjab Police in 2019.
- He also held the post of Director General of Police, Intelligence, Punjab, which involved the direct supervision of the Punjab State Intelligence Wing, Organised Crime Control Unit (OCCU), and State Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS).

Awards & Honors :

- Mr Dinkar Gupta was decorated with two Police Gallantry Medals in 1992 and 1994.
- He was decorated with the Police Medal for the Meritorious Services by the President and the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (2010)
- In 1999, he was awarded the British Chevening Gurukul Scholarship by the British Council at London School of Economics, London.

About NIA :

- Founded : December 31, 2008
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- NIA is an anti-terror probe agency that was formed after the 26/11 attack in Mumbai.

Mr Ranjit Bajaj appointed as chairman of the Advisory Committee to run All India Football Federation (AIFF)

- I-League club Minerva Punjab's former owner Mr Ranjit Bajaj has been appointed as the chairman of the advisory panel formed by the Committee of Administrators (CoA) to oversee the functioning of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).
- The 12-member advisory committee was appointed by the CoA to oversee the day-to-day matters of various departments of the AIFF & send regular reports to all the members of the CoA for their information and approval.

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Complete list of the advisory committee with their roles:

- Ranjit Bajaj - Chairman of the Advisory Committee and Integrity matters
- GursImran Brar - Admin, Legal and Government Liaison matters
- Manoj Gupta - Accounts and Finance matters
- Akshay Rohatgi - Tournament and Logistics matters
- Sankalp Pujari - Player status and Registration matters
- Indranil Oas - Club Licensing and Academy Accreditation matters
- S. Suresh - Refereeing matters
- Savio Medeira - National Teams (men and women) and Coaching matters
- Richard Hood - Grassroots and Futsal matters
- Jaydeep Basu - Media and Communication matters
- Pushpargha Chatterjee - HR matters
- Oebashis Dey - Member of the Advisory Committee.

About AIFF :

- Founded : 23 June 1937
- Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi, India
- President : Praful Patel
- AIFF, is the governing body of football in India under jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Gol.**

RBI appoints Mr. Venkat Nageswar Chalasani as a member of the advisory committee of SIFL & SEFL

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed Mr. Venkat Nageswar Chalasani, former Deputy Managing Director of SBI, as a member of the Advisory Committee of Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) and Srei Equipment Finance Limited (SEFL).
- He Succeeds Former MD & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank, R Subramaniakumar.
- The Advisory Committee shall advise the Administrator on the operations of the SIFL and SEFL during the corporate insolvency resolution process.
- The other 2 members of the committee are **T T Srinivasaraghavan** (former Managing Director, Sundaram Finance Limited) and **Farokh N Subedar** (former Chief Operating Officer and Company Secretary, Tata Sons Limited).

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- In October 2021, the RBI filed applications for initiation of the corporate insolvency resolution process against SIFL and SEFL at the **Kolkata Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal**.
- The RBI had decided that the **three-member committee** "shall continue as the advisory committee" constituted under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency and Liquidation Proceedings of Financial Service Providers and Application to Adjudicating Authority) Rules, 2019**.

About Venkat Nageswar Chalasani :

- He holds a Bachelor of Science in Botany, PGDJ from Bhavan's Institute and CAIIB.
- Nageswar has served as the **Chairman of the board of directors of the State Bank of India (California) since 2018**.
- He is also **Deputy Managing Director of the International Banking Group (IBG)**, with the bank.
- With over 34 years of banking experience, He has held various positions across a wide range of domains including Corporate Banking, Retail Banking, Treasury, Trade Finance, Risk, and Compliance.

About Srei Group :

- Srei Group, which mainly caters to the **MSME and infrastructure sectors**, owes around Rs 18,000 crore to around 15 lenders, including Axis Bank, UCO Bank, and State Bank of India, and another nearly Rs 10,000 crore of external commercial borrowings and bonds.
- Founded: 1989
- Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal

Former Foreign Secretary Mr. Shyam Saran appointed as President of the India International Centre

- **Mr. Shyam Saran**, a former Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Nuclear Affairs and Climate Change has taken over as the **President of the India International Center**.
- He succeeds **Mr. N N Vohra**.

About Mr. Shyam Saran :

- He headed the **Research and Information System for Developing Countries**, a prestigious think-tank focusing on **economic issues (2011-2017)**.
- He was **Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board** under the National Security Council (2013-15).

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- He is a **member** of the governing board of the **Centre for Policy Research and the Institute of Chinese Studies**.
- His first **book**, '**How India Sees the World**', was published in **2017**.
- Recently, he has published his second book, '**How China Sees India and the World**'.

Awards & Honors :

- Saran was awarded the **Padma Bhushan**, the third-highest civilian award in India, in **2011** for his contributions in the field of civil service.
- In May 2019, he was conferred the **Spring Order Gold and Silver Star** by the Emperor of Japan for promoting India-Japan relations.

Mr. Parameswaran Iyer to take over as CEO of NITI Aayog

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of **Mr. Parameswaran Iyer** as the new **Chief Executive Officer** of the **National Institution for Transforming India Aayog (NITI Aayog)** for **2 years**.
- He Succeeds **Mr. Amitabh Kant**, after a 6-year-long stint, as **NITI Aayog CEO**

About Mr. Parameswaran Iyer :

- Mr. Iyer had joined the **Civil Services** in **1981** in the **Uttar Pradesh** cadre.
- He had held various prominent posts and led the **World Bank-assisted Uttar Pradesh Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project**, popular as **Swajal**.
- He took **voluntary retirement** from the **IAS** in **2009**, after **17 years** in service.
- In **2016**, he was appointed as **Secretary to the Government of India for Drinking Water and Sanitation** and led the **Open Defecation Free India** movement.
- He spearheaded the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**, a campaign to eradicate open defecation by constructing over **90 million toilets** in rural India.
- Earlier he worked as a **Senior Rural Water Sanitation Specialist** at the **United Nations**.
- He worked with the erstwhile Mayawati government in Uttar Pradesh in the field of education.
- He was also the **chairman of Empowered Group-3**, one of the **11 groups** set up by the Centre to tackle the spread of the **Covid-19** pandemic.

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- Mr. Kant is a 1980-batch retired IAS officer (Kerala cadre), who took over as the NITI Aayog CEO in 2016 & he last got an extension, by a year, in June 2021.

About NITI Aayog:

- Established: 1 January 2015
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi
- Vice Chairperson : Suman Bery
- NITI Aayog comes under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

IRARC's Mr. Avinash Kulkarni appointed as CEO of IDRCL

- The chief govt of India Resurgence Asset Reconstruction Firm (IRARC), Mr. Avinash Kulkarni has been appointed as the CEO of the India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL) for 3 years.
- The IDRCL board has accepted his appointment.
- He joined Piramal Enterprises and Bain Capital-promoted IRARC in 2018.
- Kulkarni's appointment follows another SBI veteran Mr. Natarajan Sundar being selected as CEO of the NARCL in April 2022 & he took over as the CEO at the end of May 2022.

About IDRCL :

- IDRCL is a personal sector firm managed by non-public sector banks that own a 51% share.
- Its 7-member board is chaired by former SBI govt Diwakar Gupta.

Mr. Tapan Kumar Deka appointed as Director of the Intelligence Bureau

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. Tapan Deka as the new Chief of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) for a tenure of two years from June 30, 2022.
- He will succeed incumbent Intelligence Bureau Director Mr. Arvind Kumar.

About Mr. Tapan Deka :

- Tapan Kumar Deka, a 1988 batch Himachal Pradesh cadre IPS officer.
- He is an expert on North-East Affairs and was sent by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Assam after the anti-CAA violence broke out in the state in 2019.
- He was an Additional Director in the Intelligence Bureau when he was promoted to the rank of Special Director in the Wing in June 2021.
- Currently, Mr. Tapan Deka is the head of the Operations Desk of the Intelligence Bureau

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- He has been tracking the terrorists and religious radicalization for the past two decades.

About IB :

- Founded: 1887
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- IB is India's domestic internal security and counter-intelligence agency under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

Mr. Anil Khanna appointed as the acting President of IOA

- The **Delhi high court**-appointed Mr. Anil Khanna as the acting president of the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**.
- He will replace Mr. **Narinder Batra**.
- On May 25, 2022, Batra was removed as IOA chief after the Delhi High Court struck down the post of '**life member**' in **Hockey India**, courtesy which he had contested and won the apex body elections back in 2017.
- The order of the court was following a contempt petition moved by former hockey player **Aslam SherKhan**

About Anil Khanna :

- Khanna had served as **Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) President** from 2005 to 2019 and also **ITF Vice President** from 2015-19.
- Also, he was nominated as the **honorary Life President** of the **Asian Tennis Federation (ATF)**.
- He has been appointed as the **Chairman of the finance committee** as well as the **co-chairman of the ATF foundation**.

About IOA :

- Established: 1927
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- IOA is the body responsible for selecting athletes to represent India at the **Olympic Games**, **Asian Games**, and other international athletic meets

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Mr. Samant Kumar Goel was re-appointed as Chief of R&AW

- The **tenure of the current chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), Mr. Samant Kumar Goel, was extended by one year up to June 30, 2023.**
- It is the **second extension** of service for Mr. Samant Kumar Goel.
- He is the **third RAW chief**, to get a tenure of over 3 years & before him, the founder chief of RAW R N Kao served for **9 years** & N F Suptnook served for **6 years**.

About Mr. Samant Kumar Goel :

- Mr. Samant Kumar Goel is an **IPS officer** from the **Punjab cadre** class of 1984.
- Earlier he was appointed as the **Chief of R&AW on 26 June 2019** replacing **Anil Dhasmana**.
- He is a recipient of the **Police Medals for Gallantry and Meritorious Service**.
- He also served as **Chief of Station, Europe Desk, and as Chief of Station in London**.

About RAW :

- **Established: 21 September 1968**
- **Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India**
- **RAW is the foreign intelligence agency of India.**
- **Function: To gather foreign intelligence, counter-terrorism, counter-proliferation, advise Indian policymakers, and advance India's foreign strategic interests.**
- It is also involved in the security of India's nuclear program.

IRS officer Mr. Nitin Gupta appointed as the new CBDT Chairman

- The **Appointment Committee of Cabinet (ACC)** approved the appointment of **Shri Nitin Gupta as Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**.
- He will replace **Ms. Sangeeta Singh**.
- **Ms. Sangeeta Singh is a 1986 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer** who had been given additional charge of **Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**, after incumbent **JB Mohapatra** retired as the head of the direct taxes administration body on **April 30**.

About Shri Nitin Gupta :

- **Shri Nitin Gupta is an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the 1986 batch of the Income Tax cadre.**
- He is currently a **Member of CBDT** handling the charge of **Investigation**.

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- Shri Gupta is the first CBDT Member after 3 years who gets the independent charge of Investigation.

About CBDT :

- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- CBDT is the **administrative body** for the Income Tax department.
- It is a statutory body established as per the **Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963**.
- It is administered by the **Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance**.
- It is headed by a Chairman and can have six members who are in the rank of special secretary.
- There are **five members** on the Board at present with 1985-batch IRS officer Anuja Sarangi being the senior-most.
- The other members are Pragma Sahay Saksena and Subashree Anantkrishnan, both from the 1987 batch of the IRS.

Mr. Mohammed Jalood was elected as the new President of the International Weightlifting Federation

- Mr. Mohammed Jalood was elected as the new President of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) at the 2022 IWF Special & Electoral Congress in Tirana, Albania.
- He Succeeds the incumbent interim leader, Michael Irani.

Note :

- Mohammed Jalood is the first Asian became President of IWF.

Other Members of IWF :

General Secretary-Treasurer

- José Quinones (Peru)*

1st Female Vice President

- Ursula Papandrea (United States) (She is the **first & only woman to attain USA Weightlifting's highest coaching level**)

Vice Presidents

- Attila Ádámfi (Hungary)
- Doris Marrero (Venezuela)
- Petr Krol (Czech Republic)
- Pyrrros Dimas (Greece)

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Executive Board Members

- Fathi Masmoudi (Tunisia)
- Florian Sperl (Germany)
- Gardencia Du Plooy (South Africa)
- Hiromi Miyake (Japan)
- Matthew Curtain (Great Britain)
- Mohammed Ahmed Alharbi (Saudi Arabia)
- Sam Coffa (Australia)
- Tom Liaw (Singapore)
- Wen Shin Chang (Chinese Taipei)
- Yassiny Esquivel (Costa Rica)
- Forrester Christopher Osei (Ghana)

About IWF :

- Founded: 1905
- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- The IWF is the international governing body for the sport of Olympic weightlifting.

Justice Shri Satish Chandra Sharma takes oath as Chief Justice of Delhi HC

- **Justice Shri Satish Chandra Sharma** took oath as Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.
- Lieutenant Governor of Delhi **Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena** administered the oath to justice Sharma at a ceremony held in the Raj Niwas.
- The post of Delhi High Court Chief Justice was lying vacant after the retirement of **Justice Shri Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel**.
- The ceremony was attended by Delhi Chief Minister Shri Arvind Kejriwal, Aam Aadmi Party MLAs Somnath Bharti, and Madan Lal.

About Justice Satish Chandra Sharma :

- Justice Satish Chandra Sharma was born on November 30, 1961, in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.

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- He became an **advocate** in 1984 and practiced in Constitutional, Service, Civil and Criminal matters before the Madhya Pradesh High Court in Jabalpur.
- He was appointed as the **Additional Central Government Counsel** in May 1993.
- He was appointed as **senior panel counsel** by the Government of India in June 2004.
- He was designated as a **Senior Advocate** by the Madhya Pradesh High Court in 2003 at the age of 42 years & he was **one of the youngest among the senior advocates** of the High Court.
- He was elevated as a **Judge of Madhya Pradesh HC** on January 18, 2008, and was appointed as a **Permanent Judge** on January 15, 2010.
- He was transferred to **Karnataka High Court** in January 2021 & later he became the **Acting Chief Justice of the Karnataka HC** on August 31, 2021.
- On **October 11, 2021**, he took oath as the **Chief Justice of Telangana HC**.
- He is associated with **National Law University** and is also on the **Advisory Board of National Law Institute University, Bhopal**, and has published numerous research articles and papers.
- Recently, the **Supreme Court Collegium** had recommended **Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court**, as the **new Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court**.
- The Collegium had recommended the elevation of Justice Vipin Sanghi, Acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, as the Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court.
- The Collegium further recommended the elevation of Justice AA Sayed, SS Shinde, Rashmin M Chhaya, and Ujjal Bhuyan as Chief Justices of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gauhati, and Telangana High Courts respectively.
- The decision was taken by the Collegium headed by **Chief Justice of India NV Ramana**.

IMPORTANT AWARDS & HONOURS NEWS

West Indies cricketer Darren Sammy Honored with Sitara-e-Pakistan award

- West Indies captain Darren Sammy has been awarded Pakistan's third-highest civilian award, **Sitara-e-Pakistan**, for his "excellent contribution" to the revival of international cricket in Pakistan.

About Darren Sammy :

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- Darren Sammy has represented West Indies in all three formats of the game, scoring 1,323 runs and taking 84 wickets in 30 Tests, including a century and five half-centuries.
- He represented the West Indies in **38 Tests, 126 ODIs, and 68 T20Is**.
- He is a **two-time T20 World Cup-winning captain**.
- Sammy is the **only captain** to have won the World T20 twice.
- He made his Test and ODI debut for the national team in 2004 and last represented the West Indies in a T20I match against Pakistan in September 2017.
- In June 2021, Sammy was appointed as a **member of the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Board of Directors** as an independent non-member director.
- So far as the IPL is concerned, between 2013 and 2017, Darren Sammy played for franchises such as SunRisers Hyderabad, Royal Challengers Bangalore, and Kings XI Punjab in the IPL.

Awards & Honors :

- On 23 March 2020, Sammy received the highest civilian medal of Pakistan, **Nishan-e-Pakistan**.
- He was also awarded honorary Pakistani citizenship by the **President of Pakistan Arif Alvi**.

About Sitara-e-Pakistan :

- The Sitara-e-Pakistan or the Star of Pakistan is a civilian award given by the government of Pakistan for its service to the state.
- It recognizes individuals who have made an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of Pakistan, **world peace, and cultural** or other significant public endeavors.

Previous Recipients of Sitara-e-Pakistan

- **Akhtar Hameed Khan**, a social scientist who pioneered microcredit, microfinance, and rural development initiatives
- **Sandy Gall** - British journalist
- **Habibullah Khan Khattak** - For action in Burma during World War II
- **Bronte Clucas Quayle** CB, OBE, QC - For drafting the Constitution of Pakistan.
- **Greg Mortenson** - Humanitarian, Central Asian Institute

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Young women entrepreneur Mrs. Rashmi Sahoo wins Times Business Award 2022

- At the 3rd Times Business Awards, Director of Ruchi Foodline, Eastern India's leading food brand and Odisha's No.1 spices company, young and dynamic women entrepreneur Mrs. Rashmi Sahoo has been awarded the prestigious Times Business Award 2022.
- Mrs. Sahoo received the award from renowned Bollywood actor and social activist Sonu Sood.
- The award was given in the category of Eastern India's Leading READY -TO-EAT brand.

About Mrs. Rashmi Sahoo :

- While working as director of Ruchi Foodline, she started and established Odisha's first frozen food company Frozit.
- She changes the lives of thousands of women by providing them employment opportunities.
- Sahoo and Frozit have won various accolades across the world for their innovative food product line, quality, and hygiene standards.
- Frozit serves various food from India as well as traditional Odia foods like Biryani, Pasta, Ghee-Rice, Mutton Kasa, Laccha Paratha, Mughlai Chicken, Veg Pulao, Kadai Soyabin, Chana Masala, Fried Rice, Tandoori Mushroom, Garlic Mushroom, Zeera Rice, Mix Veg, Pada Pitha, and Kheer.

Queen's Birthday Honours list 2022: Salman Rushdie and Quentin Blake made Companions of Honour

- The author of the Booker Prize-winning novel 'Midnight's Children', Sir Ahmed Salman Rushdie leads a list of over 40 professionals and community champions of Indian origin to be honored in the Queen's Birthday Honours list 2022.
- In the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours list, Mr. Rushdie is named a Companion of Honour & the list was released to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years of service to the UK.

About Sir Ahmed Salman Rushdie :

- Salman Rushdie was born in **Bombay**, India.
- He is also a storied author of non-fiction, an essayist, co-editor, and a noted humanist.
- He is the author of **14 novels** & Beginning his career in advertising, 'Midnight's Children' was twice (1993 and 2008) voted Best of the Bookers by the public.
- He was knighted for services to literature in 2007.

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About Companion of Honour (CH) :

- The Companion of Honour is a special award granted to those who have made a major contribution to the **arts, science, medicine, or government** lasting over a long period.
- CH is an exclusive club with membership limited to just 65 people at any given time, for services to literature.

About Queen's Birthday Honours list 2022: :

- The honors list is annually published to coincide with the **Queen's official birthday celebrations in early June 2022.**
- A total of **1,134 candidates** have been named for honors across different fields by the UK Cabinet Office - which compiles the list, with 13.3 percent of the successful candidates from an ethnic minority background.

Meghalaya Wins Best Project Award at UN World Summit

- At the **United Nations World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2022**, an initiative of the Meghalaya government's primary e-proposal system (part of the Meghalaya Enterprise Architect) received the **prestigious UN Award** in the category of "the role of governments in the promotion of ICTs for development".
- Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), **Houlin Zhao** presented the award to the **Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma** during the **World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS) Prizes 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland.**
- Meghalaya was named the finest project in the category, and **Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture (MeghEA)** was the **only initiative from India** to earn the Winner Award in 2022.

Key Highlights :

- The E-Proposal system, which is part of the Government-to-Government component, allows projects to be processed and tracked more quickly.
- According to the study, a total of **360 projects** from various countries passed the UN jury's test.
- Projects from **Australia, China, Argentina, and Tanzania** competed against Meghalaya.

About the MeghEA project :

- MeghEA represents a shift in service delivery from a departmental to a citizen-centered approach.

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- MeghEA is all about providing citizen-centric services and reforming internal scheme processing to be as efficient as possible.
- The **Planning Department of the Government of Meghalaya** is in charge of implementing the MeghEA project.
- The initiative contains various components, including services from the government to citizens or businesses, services from the government to employees, and services from the government to the government.

About World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2022 :

- The World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2022 represents the world's largest annual gathering of the ICT for development community under the theme of **ICTs for Well-Being, Inclusion, and Resilience: WSIS Cooperation for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs**.
- The WSIS Forum, co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, and UNCTAD, is in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line Facilitators/Co-Facilitators.
- It will provide structured opportunities to network, learn and participate in multi-stakeholder discussions and consultations on WSIS implementation.

About Meghalaya :

- Capital: Shillong
- Governor: Satya Pal Malik
- Chief minister: Conrad Sangma

Dutch Film 'Turn Your Body To The Sun' Bags Golden Conch Award For Best Documentary at Mumbai International Film Festival

- The Dutch documentary film "Turn Your Body to the Sun" has won the prestigious Golden Conch award for the Best Documentary Film at the 17th edition of the Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF).
- The Golden Conch award was presented by the Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari at the closing ceremony, held at the Nehru Centre, Mumbai, in presence of the Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting L Murugan and other dignitaries.
- The award carries a golden conch, a certificate, and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh.

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- **18 documentary films** from Australia, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Panama, South Korea, UK, and India were in the International Competition section of MIFF 2022.

About Turn Your Body to the Sun” :

- The film was directed by **Aliona van der Horst**.
- The film Turn Your Body to the Sun” brings to light the **incredible life story of a Soviet soldier of Tatar descent**, who was captured by the **Nazis during World War II**.

Other Categories :

Best Short-fiction: ‘Saakshatkaaram’ (Malayalam) & ‘Brother Troll’

- In the Short Fiction category, the Malayalam film ‘**Saakshatkaaram**’ shares the **Silver Conch award** with Gudmund Helmsal’s ‘**Brother Troll**’, a film from the Faroe Islands of Denmark.
- Saakshatkaaram (Malayalam) filmmaker is a Communication Design faculty member at the IDC School of Design in IIT Bombay, of which he is also an alumnus.
- Saakshatkaaram is a very moving and emotive story that cements humanity by crossing religious boundaries.
- Faroese language film ‘Brother Troll’ portrays the struggle of two brothers to save their fragile relationship after the sudden loss of their older brother.
- The awards carry a **Silver Conch, a certificate, and a cash prize of Rs. 2.5 lakhs**, to be shared equally between the director and the producer.

Best Animation Film: ‘Prince in a Pastry Shop’ (Poland)

- Prince in a Pastry Shop’ directed by Polish filmmaker Katarzyna Agopsowicz, won the **Silver Conch for Best Animation Film in the International Competition category**.
- It is a seemingly humorous story about happiness.
- The award carries a **Silver Conch, a certificate, and a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakhs**, to be shared equally between the director and the producer.

Pramod Pati – Most Innovative / Experimental Film - Closed to the Light’

- Italian director and producer **Nicola Piovesan** won the ‘Pramod Pati – most innovative /experimental film’ for his movie ‘**Closed to the Light’ Nicola Piovesan**”.
- Nicola Piovesan will get **Rs. 1,00,000 cash prize** along with a trophy and certificate.

Special mention by International Jury :

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- “Ghar Ka Pata” by Madhulika Jalali and Films Division production “Who Says The Lepchas Are Vanishing?” by Abhuydaya Khaitan received special mentions from the international jury.
- Best animation film in the national competition section was awarded to director Adithi Krishnadas for “Kandittundu” (Seen It)’.
• Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari award for best debut director was awarded to Bimal Poddar for his film “Radha”.
- The IDPA award for best student film went to “Megha”, a Bengali film directed by Rishi Bhaumik.

About MIFF 2022 :

- The 17th Mumbai International Film Festival 2022 was held from **May 29 to June 4** at **Nehru Centre Auditorium** in Mumbai.
- The festival featured **400 films** from across the world, out of which **102 titles** were screened under the Competition Category 35 in international competition and 67 in the national competition.

Indian Railways have been awarded in the category of “Best use of Zero-Carbon Technology”

- Indian Railways have been awarded by the **UIC International Sustainable Railway Awards (ISRA)** in the category of “Best use of Zero-Carbon Technology” for feeding Solar Energy directly to a 25 KV AC Traction System in Berlin, Germany.

UIC International Sustainable Railway Awards 2022 winners :

Overall Winner - Dutch Railways (NS)

- 99% circular train modernization and on track for 100% circular trains in Europe

Outstanding Contribution to Sustainable Rail - Vera Fioriani, CEO, RFI (Italian Rail Network)

IRS 11 Participants Award - Swiss Federal Railways (SBB) Inclusive

Best Diversity & Inclusion Initiative - Network Rail

- Project/Initiative Title - Rough sleeping on rail outreach pilot

Best Contribution to COVID Emergency - French National Railways (SNCF)

- Project/Initiative Title - Medical TGV trains: transport for patients suffering from COVID-19

Best Use of Zero-Carbon Technology - Indian Railways

- Project/Initiative Title - Solar energy directly feeding 25 AC traction system

Best Green Corridor - Network Rail

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- Project/Initiative Title - Delivering innovative biodiversity measurement for the benefit of people, wildlife, and the planet

Best Circular Economy Project - Dutch Railways (NS)

- Project/Initiative Title - 99% circular train modernization and on track for 100% circular trains in Europe

Best Multimodal Partnership - Italian Rail Network (RFI)

- Project/Initiative Title - StationLAND

Rebuilding Confidence in Railways - Network Rail

- Project/Initiative Title- King's Cross seating

Best Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience - Indian Railways

- Project/Initiative Title- Indian Railways Mission Electrification
- Railways are an environmentally friendly means of bulk transportation.
- For environment protection, Railways have been continuously taking major initiatives that have a positive impact on the environment by way of reducing pollution/GHG emissions, promoting resources and energy efficiency, and contributing to sustainability.

Some of these initiatives are briefly reproduced below: -

- Increasing modal share of Railways in the overall land-based freight transport through network augmentation and setting up of **Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs)**
- Improving energy efficiency through energy-efficient technologies and energy-efficient measures like the use of LEDs
- Increasing the share of renewable energy in the energy mix.
- Use of alternate fuels like **CNG**.
- Improving water use efficiency through measures like **water recycling** and **rainwater harvesting**.
- Afforestation at railway land to increase carbon sink.
- Installation of Bio Toilets on the entire fleet of BG coaches.
- Green Certifications of industrial units, railway stations, and other railway establishments.
- Environment Management System (EMS): ISO 14001 certification of railway stations.
- Consent to Operate (CTO)/Consent to Establish (CTE) for railway stations from CPCB.
- Solid Waste Management.

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About UIC International Sustainable Railway Awards :

- The UIC International Sustainable Railway Awards (ISRA) promote and celebrate innovation in mobility that delivers **social** ('people'), **environmental** ('planet'), and **economic** ('prosperity') **sustainability**.

About Ministry of Railways :

- Minister of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnav
- Minister of State: Raosaheb Danve, Darshana Jardosh
- Chairman and CEO of Railway Board: Vinay Kumar Tripathi

IIFA Awards 2022: Vicky Kaushal and Kriti Sanon win top acting honors

- The 22nd edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2022 was held in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates hosted by Salman Khan, Maniesh Paul, and Riteish Deshmukh.
- Sidharth Malhotra's Shershaah won as many as **five categories** & dominated the awards in 2022.

Complete List of Winners in IIFA Awards 2022 :

- Best Actor (Male) - Vicky Kaushal for Sardar Udham
- Best Actor (Female) - Kriti Sanon for Mimi
- Best Director - Vishnuvaradhan for Shershaah
- Best Film - Hiroo Yash Johar, Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, Shabbir Boxwala, Ajay Shah, Himanshu Gandhi for Shershaah.
- Best Playback Singer Female - Asees Kaur for 'Raataan Lambiyan', Shershaah.
- Best Playback Singer Male – Jubin Nautiyal for the song 'Raataan Lambiyan', Shershaah.
- Best Lyrics – Kausar Munir for 'Lehra Do', 83.
- Best Music Direction – A R Rahman for Atrangi Re and Jasleen Royal, Javed-Mohsin, Vikram Montrose, B Praak, Jaani for Shershaah
- Best Male Debut – Ahan Shetty for Tadap
- Best Female Debut – Sharvari Wagh for Bunty Aur Babli 2
- Best Story Adapted – Kabir Khan, Sanjay Puri for 83.
- Best Original Story – Ludo by Anurag Basu

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- Best Supporting Actor Female – Sai Tamhankar for Mimi
- Best Supporting Actor Male – Pankaj Tripathi for Ludo

Mr. Ramkrishna Mukkavilli becomes First Indian to be recognized as a Global SDG Pioneer by UNGC

- **Mr. Ramkrishna Mukkavilli** has become the **first Indian** to be recognized as the **Global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Pioneer** for **water stewardship** by the **United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)**.
- The United Nations Global Compact has announced **10 new SDG Pioneers** business leaders who are doing an exceptional job to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the implementation of the UN Global Compact **10 Principles on human rights, environment, labor, and anti-corruption**.
- The 2022 SDG Pioneers were announced during the **UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2022**.

Role of Ramkrishna Mukkavilli's firm in water stewardship :

- Ramkrishna Mukkavilli's company's unique solution- **Meghdoot**, is based on an **alternative water concept** which is known as **Atmospheric Water Generation**
- This concept taps into a vast, renewable water resource- **AIR**, which contains **six times** as much fresh water as all the rivers on the planet combined.
- The proven technology has already met the requirements of the domestic consumers in water-scarce locations, top Fortune 500 companies, large-public sector companies, schools, hospitals, under-served communities, and many others.
- To date, **Maithri Aquatech** has generated **over 100 million liters of fresh water** from the air and has **saved an estimated 200 million liters of crucial groundwater resources** from exploitation.

About Ramkrishna Mukkavilli :

- Ramkrishna Mukkavilli is the **founder and the Managing Director** of **Maithri Aquatech**, a **Make-in-India company**.
- He has been recognized for his work in building water security with nature-based water solutions across India and 27 countries spanning the Middle East, South East Asia, and Africa.
- Also, he was recognized as one of the **10 new SDG pioneers for 2022**.

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- He has more than 28 years of experience in sales, marketing, and product development, & also runs GrowthMode and Kistler-Morse Automation, sister companies to Maithri Aquatech.

About UNGC :

- Established: 26 July 2000
- CEO & Executive Director : Sanda Ojiambo
- Headquarters: New York, US

WHO awards PGI Chandigarh Centre for tobacco control:

- The WHO has given the **Resource Centre for Tobacco Control (e-RCTC)** of the Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health at the **Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh** the **Regional Director Special Recognition Award** in recognition of its efforts in advancing tobacco control.
- According to **e-RCTC Director Sonu Goel**, the Resource Centre provides information on tobacco control in India, including circulars and directives, policies and legislations, and interdisciplinary publications.

Key points:

- The Resource Centre for Tobacco Control was established in **2018 by 25 organizations engaged in tobacco control in India**, as a collaborative project of the **PGIMER and the Union-SEA**, to showcase tobacco control initiatives.
- Besides being a resource hub, the center has achieved heights in capacity building by organizing more than 50 workshops and webinars for around 3,500 program managers and academicians.
- The portal has attracted **4.2 lakh visitors from 100 countries in three years**.

2nd Edition of the DSDP Excellence Awards held in New Delhi:

- The **2nd edition** of Awards for Excellence in **District Skill Development Planning, DSDP** was organized in **New Delhi**.
- Where the top 30 districts were awarded for their innovative best practices in skill development in the region.
- **Rajkot in Gujarat, Cachar in Assam, and Satara in Maharashtra** ranked top three among all participating districts.

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- District Collectors, District Magistrates, and other representatives from **across 30 states** attended the award ceremony and shared their ideas and experiences, and presented the skill development work done at the grassroots level in their districts.
- **Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** asked the District Collectors, District Magistrates, and other officials to carry out demand-mapping of the skilled workforce and drive awareness about skill development initiatives at the local level.
- District Collectors should further the entire continuum of skill development and work towards strengthening the skill development ecosystem through innovative planning at the district level.

Hamad International Airport named World's Best Airport 2022:

- For the second year in a row, **Qatar's Hamad International Airport** has been crowned the **World's Best Airport**.
- The announcement was made at the **Passenger Terminal EXPO** in Paris, France, at the **Skytrax 2022 World Airport Awards**.

The World's Top 20 Airports:

- 1) Hamad International Airport
- 2) Tokyo International Airport
- 3) Singapore Changi Airport
- 4) Narita International Airport
- 5) Incheon International Airport
- 6) Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport
- 7) Munich Airport
- 8) Istanbul Airport
- 9) Zurich Airport
- 10) Kansai International Airport
- 11) Helsinki-Vantaa Airport
- 12) Central Japan International Airport
- 13) London Heathrow Airport
- 14) Dubai International Airport
- 15) Amsterdam Schiphol Airport

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- 16) Madrid-Barajas Airport
- 17) Copenhagen Airport
- 18) Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport
- 19) Vienna International Airport
- 20) Hong Kong International Airport

LIST OF OTHER WINNERS:

- Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (BLR Airport) was named the finest regional airport in India and South Asia.
- Singapore Changi Airport (World's Best Airport Staff Service and World's Best Airport Dining).
- Istanbul Airport (World's Best Airport Shopping and Most Family-Friendly Airport).
- Tokyo Haneda Airport won awards as the World's Cleanest Airport, the World's Best Domestic Airport, the Best Airport in Asia, and the Best Airport PRM & Accessible Facilities.
- King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh secured the award as the World's Most Improved Airport.
- Nagoya's Chubu Centrair International Airport was named the World's Best Regional Airport.
- Copenhagen Airport won the World's Best Airport Immigration Processing award.
- Zurich Airport repeated its success by winning the World's Best Airport Security Processing award.

Prime Minister's award for outstanding contribution to the promotion of Yoga announced:

- On the occasion of International Yoga Day, the AYUSH ministry announced that two individuals and two organizations will be honored with the 'Prime Minister's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Development and Promotion of Yoga' in 2022.

Award winners:

- Two individuals **Bhikkhu Sanghasena** from Ladakh, **Marcus Vinicius Rojo Rodrigues** from Brazil, and two organizations, "**The Divine Life Society**" from Uttarakhand and the British Wheel of Yoga from the United Kingdom have been chosen for the award.
- They will also receive **₹25 lakh as a cash prize**, a trophy, and a certificate.

About the Awards:

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- On the second International Yoga Day, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi presented these prizes to individuals and organizations who have had a long-term positive impact on society via the promotion and growth of yoga.
- On the occasion of the **2nd International Day of Yoga celebrations in Chandigarh on June 21, 2016**, the Prime Minister of India awarded the prizes for Outstanding Contribution to the Development and Promotion of Yoga.
- The winners were chosen through a two-stage process that evaluated the contributions made by the selected institutions and individuals.
- International individual, international organization, national individual, and national organization were the four categories in which the selections were made.

Key Points:

- Sanghasena is a social and spiritual worker who founded the Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre in Leh.
- In 2004, the Gandhi Peace Foundation bestowed upon him the World Peace Award.
- Rojo received his education at Swami Kavalayananda's Kaivalyadhama School in Lonavla.
- When he returned to Brazil, he became the country's leading proponent of yoga, emphasizing Swami Kavalayananda's scientific teachings.

US-Canadian author Ruth Ozeki wins Women's Prize for Fiction:

- **Ruth Ozeki, a US-Canadian author, filmmaker, and Zen Buddhist priest** has been awarded this year's **Women's Prize for Fiction** for her book "**The Book of Form and Emptiness.**"
- The Book of Form and Emptiness, **Ozeki's fourth book**, is the tale of a 13-year-old boy who, following the terrible loss of his father, begins to hear the voices of objects communicating to him.
- She knocked out other nominees **Elif Shafak, Meg Mason, and Louise Erdrich** to receive the **£30,000 prize at a ceremony in London.**
- The **2013 Booker Prize finalist A Tale for the Time Being**, as well as the books **My Year of Meats** and **All Over Creation**, are among Ozeki's earlier works.
- She is associated with the **Brooklyn Zen Center** and the **Everyday Zen Foundation** and teaches creative writing at **Smith College** in Massachusetts.

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Shanan Dhaka Of Rohtak Secured 1st Rank in the First Women's NDA Batch

- Shannain Dhaka, daughter of Sundana village of Rohtak, has secured the 1st rank in the examination for admission to the country's first woman NDA batch.
- In the NDA merit list, Shanan has got an All India Rank (AIR) overall of 10 while she is AIR 1 among girls.
- Selected for lieutenant, Shanan Dhaka, inspired by grandfather Subedar Chandrabhan Dhaka and father Nayak Subedar Vijay Kumar Dhaka, joined the army and chose to serve the country.

About Shannain Dhaka :

- Shanan attended Army School, Roorkee for four years, Jaipur for three years, and Army School in Chandimandir for five years.
- Shanan enrolled for an undergraduate course at Delhi University in 2021.

About NDA :

- Established: 7 December 1954
- Located in: Pune, Maharashtra, India
- Commandant: Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar
- The National Defence Academy (NDA) is the joint defense service training institute of the Indian Armed Forces, where cadets of the three services i.e. the **Indian Army, the Indian Navy, and the Indian Air Force** train together.
- It is the **first tri-service academy in the world.**

Union Aviation Minister awards the first Type Certificate under Drone Rules, 2021 to Gurugram-based IoTechWorld:

- **Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, Union Minister of Civil Aviation, has awarded the **first Type Certificate (TC) under Drone Rules, 2021** to IoTechWorld Avigation Pvt Ltd.
- Gurugram-based company was **established in April 2017** and is one of India's leading manufacturers of Kisan drones.
- IoTech has received the Type Certify barely 34 days after submitting its online application on the DGCA's Digital Sky Platform.

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- The Drone Rules, 2021 were notified on 25 Aug 2021 and the 'Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (CSUAS)' for obtaining Type Certificate (TC) for drones was notified on 26 Jan 2022.
- There are three globally-renowned Certification Bodies (CB) approved by QCI namely – TQ Cert, UL India and Bureau Veritas.
- Drone manufacturers are free to approach any Certification Body for testing their drone prototype.
- The drone certification scheme of January 2022 was developed by the Quality Council of India in consultation with drone startups, industry, academia and defence experts.
- The Government played the role of that of a facilitator and problem solver.

Global drone hub by 2030:

- Drones offer tremendous benefits to almost all sectors of the economy.
- These include- agriculture, mining, infrastructure, surveillance, emergency response, transportation, geo-spatial mapping, defence, and law enforcement to name a few.
- Drones can be significant creators of employment and economic growth due to their reach, versatility, and ease of use, especially in India's remote and inaccessible areas.
- Given its traditional strengths in innovation, information technology, frugal engineering; supportive policies, monetary incentives and a huge domestic demand base, India has the potential of becoming a global drone hub by 2030.

The renowned UN Public Service Award was given to the Odisha "Mo Bus" Service:

- A prominent United Nations award has been given to Mo Bus, an Odisha-based public transportation company, in recognition of their contributions to the global Covid19 response.
- Awarded for "promoting gender-responsive public services to fulfill the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)" is the public transportation system.
- Public service initiatives from Thailand, Brazil, Canada, Ireland, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, and Ukraine were among the other winners of this year's awards, which were announced by Liu Zhenmin, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, during a virtual event to commemorate the United Nations Public Service Day (celebrated on June 22).

Odisha receives UN recognition:

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- According to the UN recognition, the "issue" was that "Bhubaneswar's bus services needed upgrading," which led to "the majority of people using private automobiles, two-wheelers, and auto-rickshaws to commute instead of utilizing public transit."
- The Odisha government "reorganized the city's public transport systems to establish an integrated, dependable, and inclusive public bus service system" as the "solution" in 2018.
- The UN stated that Mo Bus has integrated "**real-time technology including live tracking, route planner, and e-ticketing**" and that a last-mile feeder e-rickshaw system dubbed "**Mo E-Ride**" has been deployed.

About Odisha

- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik
- Governor: Ganeshi Lal

Award program for Hindi-language authors of books Results for 2020–21:

- An award scheme for writing books originally in Hindi on Economics/Banking/Financial issues was introduced by the Reserve Bank of India.
- Its results are declared.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a press release inviting applications for the program described in the caption.
- It was decided to honor both **Dr. Sagar Sanwariya**, an assistant professor at Government Girl's College in **Nathdwara**, Rajasthan, and Professor **Renu Jatana**, a former dean of **Mohanlal Sukhadia** University in Udaipur, Rajasthan, for their book **Vittiye Prabhand**.

Key Points:

- The Reserve Bank of India established an award program for authors of works on banking, economics, and financial topics that were initially written in Hindi.
- The purpose of this program is to encourage original research and writing in Banking Hindi.
- A similar awards program was also launched in 2018.
- Working or retired academics (including assistant and associate professors, etc.) in Indian universities recognized by the UGC may be qualified to earn one of three awards for

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\$125,000.00 for writing works on economics, banking, and finance that were initially published in Hindi.

Well known filmmaker Sanjit Narwekar was conferred with the V Shantaram Lifetime achievement award at MIFF 2022

- Noted author and documentary filmmaker Shri Sanjit Narwekar, was conferred Dr. V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award at the 17th edition of the Mumbai International Film Festival of India (MIFF 2022).
- He was honored for his exquisitely deep, remarkably diverse, and inspiring body of work.
- The V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award carries a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, a golden conch, and a citation.
- The award is instituted in memory of legendary filmmaker V Shantaram, who was closely associated with the Films Division as Honorary Chief Producer during the 1950s.

About Shri Sanjit Narwekar :

- Shri Narwekar is a National award-winning film historian, author, publisher, and documentary filmmaker with more than 4 decades of cross-media experience in Journalism, Public Relations, Publishing, and Filmmaking.
- Narwekar has written and edited more than 20 books on cinema, including 'Marathi Cinema: In Retrospect', which won him the Swarna Kamal at the National Film Awards in 1996.

Additional Info :

- The Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, flagged off the 17th edition of the Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF), with Bangladesh as the 'Country of Focus' at the Nehru Centre in Worli, Mumbai.

About Ministry of Information & Broadcasting :

- Cabinet Minister : Anurag Thakur
- Minister of State : L. Murugan

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

Kashmiri RJ Umar Nisar receive a UNICEF award

- Radio Jockey Umar Nisar (RJ Umar), who hails from south Kashmir, has been awarded the '01 Greatest Content material Award' and the Immunization Champion award by UNICEF at the annual Radio4Child 2022 Awards in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The award was offered by multi-Grammy Award-winning music composer, environmentalist, and UNICEF superstar supporter Ricky Kej, OIC UNICEF, UP Dr. Zafrin Chowdhury, chief of communications and advocacy and partnerships, UNICEF India; Dr. Sachin Desai, State Immunization Officer, Authorities of Maharashtra; Dr. Sachin Desai, State Immunization Officer, Authorities of Maharashtra.
- The award has been conferred on him for his excellent work during the Covid pandemic in building awareness and countering rumors to reach audiences.
- The Radio4Child felicitated radio professionals from non-public FM and All India Radio from throughout the nation for their commendable work through the COVID-19 pandemic in addition to routine vaccination.

Note :

- RJ Umar is the only RJ from Jammu and Kashmir to be selected for the UNICEF award.

Utama won the Transylvania Trophy at the 21st TIFF Edition

- At the Awards Ceremony held in Cluj-Unirii Napoca's Square, the 21st edition of the Transylvania International Film Festival's winners received cheers.
- The filmmaker Alejandro Loayza Grisi's first film, Utama, was selected as this year's main winner and given the 10,000-euro Transylvania Trophy.
- The Bolivian production also won over the TIFF audience and received the MasterCard Audience Award, which is worth 2,000 euros and is chosen by festival attendees.

Other Winners:

- Best Director Award went to filmmaker Guomundur Arnar Guomundsson, awarded for the "credible, original and brilliant universe" he created in Beautiful Beings.

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- For their exceptional roles in *The Night Belongs to Lovers*, actors Laura Müller and Schemci Lauth, were awarded the Best Performance Award by Conceptual Lab by Theo Nissim.

Odisha govt bags first prize in National MSME Award 2022:

- Awarded first place in the category "**National MSME Award 2022 to States/UTs for Outstanding Contribution in the Promotion and Development of MSME Sector**" is the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Department of the Government of Odisha.
- This is due to the numerous developmental activities that have been undertaken to advance MSMEs.
- **Second and third place, respectively, went to Bihar and Haryana.**

Regarding the awards:

- Awards to States, UTs, and Aspirational Districts for their contribution to the MSME were given based on factors including sector-specific policies and their performance, the effectiveness of the Facilitation Council, the resolution of grievances, the year-over-year growth in MSME budget and credit, the use of the cluster approach, Udyam Registration, skill development initiatives, and awareness campaigns, among others.

Other Winners:

- Kalahandi has been awarded third prize in the category "**National MSME Award 2022 to Aspirational districts for outstanding contribution in the promotion and development of MSME Sector**" as the sectoral development was in the line of award parameters, according to an official statement issued by the state government.
- Similarly, **Sumeet Mohanty M/s Saferisk Insurance Brokers Private Limited**, Bhubaneswar has been awarded first prize in the category "Award for Service Entrepreneurship – Service Small Enterprise (Overall)".
- In addition, **Sibabrata Rout M/s Amarnath Pest Management Technology**, Cuttack has also been awarded third prize in the category "Award for Service Entrepreneurship – Service Micro Enterprise (Overall)".

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IMPORTANT DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Navy decommissions INS Gomati at Naval Dockyard in Mumbai

- The Indian Navy decommissioned the Indian Navy Ship (INS) Gomati from the naval dockyard in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India after 34 years of service.
- It was designed by the Indian Navy and built in an Indian shipyard, and these were initial steps toward an Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).

About INS Gomati :

- INS Gomati was named after the vibrant river Gomti.
- INS Gomati was commissioned on April 16, 1988, by then-defense minister K C Pant at the Mazgaon Dock.
- It was the third ship of the Godavari class guided-missile frigates & also it was the oldest warrior of the western fleet.
- The ship participated in numerous operations including Cactus, Parakram, and Rainbow, and several bilateral and multinational naval exercises.
- For remarkable spirit and stellar contribution to national maritime security, INS Gomati was twice awarded the coveted Unit Citation, in 2007-08 and again in 2019-20.

Russia successfully test-fires Zircon hypersonic cruise missile

- The Russian defense ministry has successfully test-fired a hypersonic Zircon cruise missile over a distance of about 1,000 km (625 miles) from the Admiral Gorshkov frigate of the Northern Fleet in the Barents Sea of the Arctic Ocean.
- The hypersonic missile can travel at 9 times the speed of sound.
- Zircon is intended to arm Russian cruisers, frigates, and submarines and could be used against both enemy ships and ground targets.
- Additionally, Russian President Putin has emphasized that its deployment will significantly boost the capability of Russia's military.
- As part of a new generation of unrivaled arms systems, Russia conducted the first Zircon test in October 2020.

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Recent News :

- In April 2022, **Russia** test-launched a new nuclear-capable intercontinental missile, the **Sarmat**, capable of carrying **10 or more warheads** and striking the **United States**...

About Russia :

- President: Vladimir Putin
- PM: Mikhail Mishustin
- Capital: Moscow
- Currency: Russian ruble (₽) (RUB)

Bharat Dynamics signs deal with Defence Ministry for ASTRA MK-1 BVR missile

- The **Ministry of Defence** has signed a deal worth **₹2,971 crore** with **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** for the supply of **Astra Mk-1 Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Air to Air Missile (AAM)** and associated equipment for the **Indian Air Force & Indian Navy**.

Note :

- Astra Mk-1 is the **first such indigenous missile** to enter the **service of the Indian armed forces**, which has always depended on **Russian (mainly R 73 and R 77)** and **French (Mica and Meteor)** air-to-air missiles.

About Astra Mk 1 :

- Astra Mk 1 has a range of about **110 kilometers**
- The missile, which cost about **Rs 7-8 crore** each & has been developed by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- It has a maximum speed of **Mach 4.5 (over 5,500 kmph)**.
- It is fully integrated into the **Su 30 MK-I fighter aircraft**.
- The Defence Ministry has cleared the acquisition of **248 Astra Beyond Visual Range air-to-air missiles (200 for the IAF and 48 for the Navy)** marking the first acquisition of the indigenous **DRDO-developed missiles in July 2020**.

Additional Info :

- The test for **Mk 2**, which will bring back **India's air-to-air combat superiority over Pakistan**, is expected will take place within this month.

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- For the Astra Mk 2, the DRDO has developed a **dual-pulse rocket motor** to extend the range to about **160 kilometers**.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Dr. Ajay Kumar

About BDL :

- Founded: 1970
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairman & MD: Commodore Siddharth Mishra

Indian Navy commissions naval air squadron comprising ALH MK III

- **Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 325**, operating the indigenously built **ALH MK III aircraft**, was commissioned into the **Indian Navy** by **Lieutenant General Ajai Singh**, **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal holder and Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar** at an impressive ceremony held at **INS Utkrosh, Port Blair of Andaman & Nicobar island**.
- The state-of-the-art multi-role helicopter has been developed and manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL)**, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The newly-inducted helicopters flew for the first time over the Andaman Islands earlier in 2022 and were officially inducted on **January 28, 2022**.

Key Highlights :

- The squadron derives its name from the nocturnal bird of prey, the '**Eagle Owl**'.
- It is commanded by **Commander (Cdr) Avinash Kumar Sharma**.
- The ALH MK III aircraft is equipped with a glass cockpit, Shakti engines, advanced Maritime Patrol Radar, Electro-optical payload, and Night Vision Device.
- The helicopter has surveillance radar, EO/FLIR, a homer, a high-intensity searchlight, and a removable Medical Intensive Care Unit for the Air Ambulance role.

Uses :

- Long-range SAR and maritime recce role
- Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in the islands

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Additional Info :

- Until Now, over **300** of these aircraft have been delivered by **HAL** and are being flown by the Armed Forces.

India-Bangladesh joint military exercise SAMPRITI-X to commence in Bangladesh:

- A joint military training exercise between India and Bangladesh Ex SAMPRITI-X is being conducted at **Jashore Military Station** in Bangladesh from **05 June to 16 June 2022**.

Aim :

- To **strengthen and widen the aspects** of interoperability and cooperation between **India & Bangladesh armies** & to understand each other's tactical drills and operational techniques.
- The **Indian contingent** is represented by a **battalion of the Dogra regiment**.

About Ex SAMPRITI-X :

- During the joint military exercise, both armies of the Nations will share expertise in multiple simulated scenarios of **Counter-Terrorism, Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief, and the UN Peacekeeping Force under the UN mandate**
- As the exercise progresses, joint tactical exercises will be conducted wherein the joint battle drills of both contingents will be practiced.
- This exercise is an opportunity for greater cultural understanding to **strengthen trust and cooperation** between the armies of both Nations.
- It will benefit both the armies by gaining from each other's vast experience which will further contribute to peace and stability in the region

INS Akshay, INS Nishank decommissioned after 32 years

- The Indian Navy decommissioned its two ships, **INS Akshay** and **INS Nishank**, after **32 years of service**.
- The decommissioning event was conducted at **Naval Dockyard, Mumbai** in a traditional ceremony wherein the national flag, the naval ensign, and the decommissioning pennant of the two ships were lowered for the last time at sunset.

About the Ships :

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- **INS Nishank** is a high-speed missile craft, that was commissioned on **September 12, 1989**, & **INS Akshay** was commissioned a year later on **December 10, 1990**, at **Poti, Georgia**
- **INS Nishank** and **INS Akshay** were **part of the 22 Missile Vessel Squadron and 23 Patrol Vessel Squadron**, respectively, under the operational control of **Flag Officer Commanding, Maharashtra Naval Area**.
- Both ships participated in several naval operations, including **Op Talwar** during the **Kargil War** and **Op Parakram** in **2001**.
- **INS Nishank** was also deployed post the **Uri attacks** when tensions between **India and Pakistan** were high.
- **Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar**, who commanded **INS Nishank** from **1995-to 96**, also took part in the event.
- **Vice Admiral RK Pattnaik (Retd)** and **Vice Admiral SPS Cheema (Retd)**, the **first Commanding Officers of INS Akshay and INS Nishank**, were **Guests of Honour** for the event.

Recent News :

- Recently, the **Indian Navy decommissioned INS Gomti** after **34 years** in service.

About the Indian Navy :

- **Founded:** 26 January 1950
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, Delhi, India
- **Chief of the Naval Staff:** Admiral R. Hari Kumar

About Ministry of Defence :

- **Defence Minister:** Rajnath Singh
- **Minister of State:** Ajay Bhatt

Indian Army Participates In Multinational Joint Exercise “Ex Khaan Quest 2022” Commenced in Mongolia

- A **Multinational Peacekeeping exercise “Ex Khaan Quest 2022”** featuring participation from military contingents from **16 countries** has commenced at the **Five Hills Training Area** near **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.
- The **Hon’ble President of Mongolia, Mr. Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh**, inaugurated the Exercise.
- The **Indian Army** is represented by a contingent from the **LADAKH SCOUTS**.

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Aim :

- To enhance interoperability, building military to military relationships, developing peace support operations, and military readiness among participating nations.

About the exercise :

- Ex Khaan Quest 2022 is the **14-day exercise** held from June 6 to June 20, 2022.
- The exercise will enable sharing of best practices between the Armed Forces of participating nations and will include field training exercises, combat discussions, lectures, and demonstrations.
- It will enhance the level of defense cooperation between the Indian Army and participating countries, especially with the Mongolian Armed Forces which will enhance bilateral relations between the two countries.

Additional Info :

- 2021 marked the **66th** anniversary of diplomatic ties between **India and Mongolia**

About the Indian Army :

- Founded: 26 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chief of the Army Staff (COAS): General Manoj Pande

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt

Shri Rajnath approves funding under DRDO's TDF scheme to Rs 50 crore for MSMEs, startups

- Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh has approved the enhancement of funding under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme of the Ministry of Defence to Rs 50 crore per project from Rs 10 crore.
- The TDF scheme, executed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), supports the indigenous development of components, products, systems, and technologies by MSMEs and start-ups.

About TDF Scheme :

Aim :

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- To provide a major fillip to the defense manufacturing sector by encouraging the industry to innovate and develop defense technologies to place India on the self-reliance trajectory.
- The scheme facilitates up to **90 percent** of the total project cost and allows the industry to work in consortium with another industry/academia.
- The enhanced funding is in line with the budget announcement and it will further boost the vision of 'Atma Nirbharta in defense.
- To date, **56 projects** have been sanctioned under the TDF scheme.

Additional Info :

- In the Union Budget for 2022-23, the government had set aside **25 percent** of the defense R&D budget for private industry, start-ups, and academia.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Dr. Ajay Kumar

Indian Navy Commissioned Advanced Light Helicopter MK III Squadron INAS 325

- Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 325, operating the indigenously built ALHMK III aircraft, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in an impressive ceremony held at INS Utkrosh, Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC).
- The INAS 325 squadron was commissioned into the Navy by Lieutenant General Ajai Singh, the Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command.
- The newly inducted aircraft flew for the **first time** over the Andaman Islands earlier in 2022 and were officially inducted on **28 Jan 22**.
- The unit is the **second ALHMK III Squadron** commissioned into the Indian Navy.
- The state-of-the-art multi-role helicopter has been developed and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL), Bangalore, Karnataka.

About ALHMK III aircraft :

- The squadron derives its name from the nocturnal bird of prey, the 'Eagle Owl'.

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- The keen sense of observation and tracking of the eagle exemplifies the sensors and advanced avionics of the helicopter akin to the nocturnal prowess of the owl, personifying the night vision capabilities of the aircraft.
- These helicopters come with the latest-generation avionics and role equipment.
- They are primarily meant for use in long-range SAR and Maritime recce roles.
- They can be used for **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief in the Islands**.
- The helicopter has surveillance radar, EO/FLIR, a homer, a high-intensity searchlight, and a removable Medical Intensive Care Unit for the Air Ambulance role.
- The squadron is commanded by **Cdr Avinash Kumar Sharma**.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister: **Rajnath Singh**
- Minister of State: **Ajay Bhatt**

About the Indian Navy :

- Founded: **26 January 1950**
- Headquarters: **New Delhi, Delhi, India**
- Chief of the Naval Staff: **Admiral R. Hari Kumar**

38th India-Indonesia CORPAT begins in the Andaman Sea

- The **38th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT)** between the Indian Navy Units of Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) and the Indonesian Navy is being conducted in the **Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca** an **11-day coordinated patrol** from **June 13 to 24, 2022**.
- The 38th CORPAT is the **first post-pandemic Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)** between the two countries.

About 38th INDIA-INDO CORPAT :

- As part of the exercise, Indonesian naval units will visit the ANC headquarters at **Port Blair** from **June 13-15, 2022**, followed by a **sea phase** in the **Andaman Sea** and then a visit by Indian Navy units at **Sabang** in Indonesia from **June 23-24, 2022**.
- As part of the Government of India's vision of **SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region)**, the Naval Component under the aegis of HQ ANC undertakes coordinated patrols with

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other littoral countries of the Andaman Sea along respective **Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)** towards enhancing regional maritime security.

- The IND-INDO CORPAT contributes toward forging strong bonds of friendship across the Andaman Sea and Malacca Strait
- The two Navies have been carrying out CORPAT along their **International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL)** since 2002.

About CORPAT :

- CORPATs help build understanding and interoperability between navies and facilitate the institution of measures to prevent and suppress **Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU)** fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery, and piracy.

Other Exercises held between India and Indonesia:

- Samudra Shakti: A bilateral maritime exercise.
- Garuda Shakti: A joint military exercise.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt

About the Indian Navy :

- Founded: 26 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chief of the Naval Staff: R. Hari Kumar

About Indonesia :

- President: Joko Widodo
- Capital: Jakarta
- Currency: Indonesian rupiah

India - Israel adopts vision statement' to enhance defense cooperation

- To commemorate **30 years of diplomatic ties** between the two countries, India and Israel adopted a "vision statement" which will pave the way for **strengthening defense cooperation in the future.**

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- Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and his Israeli counterpart **Shri Benny Gantz** held bilateral talks in New Delhi, Delhi.
- The two leaders discussed defense cooperation and the prevailing global and regional scenario.
- The year **2022 marks 30 years of diplomatic relations** between India and Israel.

Additional Info :

- External Affairs Minister **Shri S Jaishankar** paid an official visit to **Israel from 17-21 October 2021** & during the visit, Israel signed the instrument of ratification of the International Solar Alliance.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Israeli Prime Minister Shri Naftali Bennett on the sidelines of the **COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow on 2 November 2021**.
- The **annual India-Israel Joint Working Group (JWG) on Defence** was held in Israel on **October 26-27, 2021**.

About Israel :

- President : Isaac Herzog
- PM: Naftali Bennett
- Capital: Jerusalem
- Currency: New shekel

Indian Coast Guard inducts New Advanced Light Helicopter Squadron 840 CG

- The Indian Coast Guard inducted the new air squadron known as **840 Squadron** with an **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mark-III aircraft** into the **Coast Guard Region East**.
- While this is the first induction into the newly created '840 Squadron' that is to be based in **Chennai**, 3 more choppers of the same variant are to follow.
- The first chopper was received at Coast Guard Air Station, Chennai with a traditional 'water cannon salute', in the presence of **Inspector General AP Badola, Commander, Coast Guard Region East**.
- An indigenous aircraft designed and developed by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**,

Key Highlights :

- The ALH Mk3 aircraft represents a tremendous leap toward self-reliance in the field of Coast Guard aviation.
- The aircraft are having **Beyond the Visual Range detection**, using modern radars.

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- It is equipped for target neutralization operations, using its mounted Heavy Machine Gun.
- The Squadron's operations area will encompass the entire Eastern Region due to its strategic importance and geographical location and will boost the air arm of the Indian Coast Guard Region East.
- Until Now, **13 out of 16 ALH choppers** have been delivered by M/s HAL to the ICG This is the first ALH MK III aircraft to be positioned in Coast Guard Region East.

Defence Ministry approves to establish of 'BRO Cafes' at 75 border locations across 12 states/UTs

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has approved the setting up of wayside amenities under the brand of '**BRO Cafes**' at **75 locations** on different sections of roads with **Border Roads Organisation** across **12 states** and **Union territories**.

Aim :

- To provide basic amenities and comfort to tourists and lead to boosting of economic activities in border areas, besides generating employment for the local people.
- The contract will have a **15-year term** that may be later extended for an **additional five years**.

Key Highlights :

- The BRO has reached the remotest border areas and besides addressing strategic needs, it has been instrumental in the **socio-economic upliftment** of the northern and eastern borders.
- The scheme provides for the development and operation of wayside amenities in a public-private partnership mode with agencies, on a license basis, which will design, build and operate the facility as per guidelines of BRO.
- Amenities like parking for **two** and **four-wheelers**, a food plaza, a restaurant, separate restrooms for men, women, and differently-abled, first-aid facilities, MI rooms, etc. are proposed to be provided.
- The selection of licensees will be done through a **competitive process**.

About BRO :

- Established: 7 May 1960
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director-General: Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary

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IAF participates in a tactical leadership program in Egypt

- Indian Air Force (IAF) would be participating in a month-long tactical leadership program at the Egyptian Air Force Weapon School in Cairo west Airbase.
- Three Su-30MKI fighters, two C-17 transport aircraft, and 57 IAF personnel are participating in the program.

Aim of the exercise :

- To enhance defense cooperation and exchange of best practices between India and Egypt.

Key Highlights :

- It is a unique exercise with air assets in a **large force engagement environment, simulating various conflict scenarios.**
- In the present geopolitical scenario, this exercise provides a unique opportunity to showcase the reach and capability of the IAF.
- The program will also provide an opportunity to showcase the Su-30 MKI manufactured in India and the country's expertise in the deeper indigenization of spares and components.

About the tactical leadership program:

- Tactical Leadership Programme, also known as the **Pilot School of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**, is an international military organization formed by **10 permanent member countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom, and the United States).**
- It is a multinational center of advanced training for pilots and crews.
- **Aim:** To improve the operability and effectiveness of the Allied Air Forces

About NATO :

- Established: 4 April 1949
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium
- Membership: 30 member states (28 European and two North American.)
- Secretary-General: Jens Stoltenberg

About IAF :

- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chief of the Air Staff: Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari

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IMPORTANT SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

Two-day National Education Ministers' Conference begins in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- The **National Education Ministers' Conference** will be held in Gujarat for two days.
- Union Education Minister Shri **Dharmendra Pradhan**, as well as other union ministers and state and union territory education ministers, will attend the meeting.
- During this conference, there will most likely be discussions about how to improve the country's educational ecology.
- It will focus on the **National Education Policy 2020** implementation, school skilling, and digital projects such as the **National Digital Education Architecture** and the **National Educational Technology Forum**, among others.

ATTENDEES:

- Vidya Samiksha Kendra, BISAG (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics), NFSU (National Forensic Science University), and the International Automobile Centre of Excellence will also be visited by state education ministers.
- Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship as well as Electronics and Information Technology, was joined by Rajiv Chandrasekhar, Annapurna Devi, Dr. Subhash Sarkar, Minister of State for Education, and senior officials from the Ministry of Education.

The revenue of Jan Aushadhi outlets topped Rs 100 crore:

- For the first time, **Jan Aushadhi outlets exceeded Rs 100 crore** in sales.
- Jan Aushadhi locations stock over 1,600 generic medications, 250 surgical equipment, nutraceuticals, Ayush products, and Suvidha Sanitary pads.
- The **Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau (PMBI)** of India implements the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**

Key Points:

- In May 2021, total sales were **Rs 83.77 crore**.
- The government has established a goal of raising the number of **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs)** to 10,000 by **March 2024**, to provide high-quality drugs at low prices to the general public, especially the poor.

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- Currently, there are 8,735 such businesses dispersed across 739 districts in the country.

Border coordination conference between BSF and BGB begins in Bangladesh:

- The **India-Bangladesh Border Coordination Conference** was opened in **Sylhet** by Inspector General **BSF Regional Commander BGB**.
- According to an official press release from the **Bangladesh Border Guard (BBG)**, the four-day workshop will **end on June 2**.
- The Indian team traveled to **Bangladesh through the Integrated Testing Station (ICP)** in Dawki, Meghalaya, where they met with senior BGB staff.

Key Points:

- The conference will feature a five-member BSF team led by **IG BSF Sumit Sharan**.
- **Brigadier General Tanvir Gani Chowdhury**, Commander of the Chittagong Region, led the **Bangladesh delegation**.
- The Bangladesh delegation also included representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the **Bureau of Land Surveys and Records**, in addition to BGB staff.
- The conference will cover all aspects of border security and administration.
- **Illegal entry, trafficking in drugs and other goods, trafficking in women and children, development activities within 150 meters of international borders**, and efforts to improve mutual trust between the BGB and the BSF will all be discussed.

IIT Madras develops robot to eliminate Manual Scavenging in India

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras' 'HomoSEP,'** a Robot developed by the Institute's **Researchers to eliminate manual scavenging in India**, is all set for field deployment.
- A total of 10 units are planned to be deployed across Tamil Nadu with the Researchers already in touch with Sanitation Workers to identify locations.
- The robot has been developed over the last several years by a team led by **Prof. Prabhu Rajagopal**, Center for Nondestructive Evaluation, IIT Madras, and Faculty, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Madras together with IIT Madras-incubated start-up Solinas Integrity Private Limited.

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About 'HomoSEP :

- The HomoSEP Robot can homogenize the hard sludge in septic tanks through a custom-developed **rotary blade mechanism** and pump the tanking slurry using an integrated suction mechanism.
- Sanitation Workers will be able to operate the HomoSEP on their own, after being provided with the relevant training and appropriate guidance along with necessary safety measures.

IMPORTANT SCHEMES NEWS

IRDAI eases capital norms for insurers to offer PMJJBY

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai)** has reduced the capital required by insurance companies offering policies under **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** by almost 50 percent.
- It will enable life insurers to offer more policies under the scheme, and provide financial security through life insurance.
- Recently, the government has hiked the premium rates for the **two flagship schemes – PMJJBY and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)** to make these schemes economically viable
- The easing of capital requirements by Irdai will accelerate the penetration of life insurance in India and will support the life insurers in achieving the target set by the government.
- The premium for PMJJBY would increase from **Rs 330 to Rs 436 a year effective June 1**, and the PMSBY premium would rise from **Rs 12 to Rs 20**.
- The premium rate of PMJJBY has been revised upward to **Rs 1.25 per day**.

About PMJJBY:

- PMJJBY provides life insurance cover worth **Rs 2 lakh** to all account holders aged 18-50 years.
- According to government data, the number of active subscribers enrolled under PMJJBY as of March 31, 2022, is **64 million**.
- The claims ratio (percentage of the number of claims paid to the premium earned) for PMJJBY was **145.24 percent** as of March 31, 2022.

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- Under the PMJJBY as of March 31, 2022, some Rs 9,737 crore has been collected by the implementing insurers towards premium, and claims of Rs 14,144 crore have been paid.

About IRDAI:

- Established: 1999
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairperson: Debasish Panda
- IRDAI is a **10-member body** including the chairman, five full-time and four part-time members appointed by the Gol.
- IRDAI is a regulatory body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance & is tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and **reinsurance** industries in India.

Karnataka govt launches 'FRUITS' software for farmer schemes

- The Karnataka government has launched the **Farmer Registration & Unified Beneficiary Information System or FRUITS software** for farmers.
- The FRUITS software facilitates single registration utilizing an Aadhar card and Karnataka's Bhoomi digitized land record system for authenticating ownership.
- The software was developed by **National Informatics Centre, Karnataka unit** while the crop survey application has been developed by **Karnataka State Electronics Development Corporation**.

About FRUITS software :

- Through FRUITS software, farmers can access benefits of hosts of schemes such as Direct Benefit Transfer under **PM Kisan**, payment for **Minimum Support Prices (MSPs)** for crops, special financial assistance, caste certificate authentication, and ration cards.
- **More than 7.8 million farmers** have signed up for FRUITS software, with over 6.2 million of them registering their land information.
- The state departments of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, revenue, food, civil supplies, and fisheries departments of the state government are covered under the initiative.
- The software allows several departments to access information on farmers through a single platform, ensuring greater targeting and efficiency in the implementation of the schemes.

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- It reduces the number of registration requirements for farmers for various schemes and improves targeting.
- It was also integrated with **Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre**, from which daily weather and rainfall data were provided to farmers based on their locations.
- The **horticulture department of Karnataka** started to use the **software** in 2017-18.

About Karnataka :

- Governor: Thawarchand Gehlot
- CM: Basavaraj Bommai
- Capital: Bangalore

PMBI and PMBJP have for the first time crossed Rs. 100 Crore sales:

- **Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI)**, the implementing agency of **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)** has for the first time crossed 100 crore rupees sales in May.
- The government has set a target to increase the number of **Jan Aushadhi Kendras** to 10,000 by **March 2024** with a vision to provide quality medicines at an affordable rate for the common man, especially the poor.
- More than 15,000 crore rupees have been saved by the general public under this Pariyojana in the last five years.
- Under the PMBJP, 739 districts of the country have been covered.
- PMBI is committed to **ensuring the uninterrupted availability of essential medicines at the PMBJKs.**
- In its journey of the last eight years, starting from the annual turnover of eight crore rupees in the year 2014-15, PMBI has clocked its highest monthly sales turnover of 100 crore rupees this month.
- The scheme provides for incentives of five lakh rupees and **special incentives of up to two lakh rupees** for various categories including women, SC/ST, Hill districts, Island districts, and the **North-Eastern States.**
- Accordingly, PMBI has **strengthened the supply chain system** by setting up four warehouses at Gurugram, Chennai, Guwahati, and Surat.

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Indian Bank launches KCC Digital renewal scheme

- Public sector Indian Bank has launched Kisan Credit Card (KCC) digital renewal scheme enabling eligible customers to renew their Kisan Credit Card accounts via digital modes.
- The initiative is part of the bank's digital transformation under project 'WAVE' - World of Advanced Virtual Experience.
- The account renewals can be done using Indian Bank's IndOASIS mobile app, internet banking, and via its website.
- The facility is available through **SMS for feature phone users** with no internet or with limited internet access.

About KCC Digital renewal scheme :

- Currently, it is being offered to customers having outstanding **loans below ₹1.60 lakh**.
- The scheme eliminates the need to visit a branch or submit added physical documents and would be beneficial to customers unable to renew their KCCs due to paucity of time due to harvest season.

Recent News :

- In April 2022, the Indian bank launched its first end-to-end digital product - **A pre-Approved Personal Loan**.

About Indian Bank :

- Founded: 15 August 1907
- MD & CEO: Shanti Lal Jain
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

IMPORTANT SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

World's Fastest Supercomputer 'Frontier' overtakes Japan's 'Fugaku'

- On the **59th** TOP500 list published by an international conference of computer experts, the **United States of America** has built a supercomputer titled 'Frontier' as the world's fastest machine with **1.1 exaflops** of performance that dethroned **Japan's 'Fugaku'**.
- Frontier was built using **Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE)** architecture and equipped with

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Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) processors.

- The Frontier supercomputer was built for the U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and is the first to achieve an unprecedented level of computing performance known as exascale, a threshold of a quintillion calculations per second.
- The Frontier ranks as the fastest AI system in the world, giving 6.88 ExaFlops of mixed-precision performance.
- Also, the Frontier is number one on the Green500 list, i.e. the most power-efficient supercomputer in the world.

Key Features of Frontier:

- Frontier is more than **twice as fast as Fugaku**
- Frontier's nearest competitor, Fugaku, has a performance score of **442 petaflops**.
- Fugaku was based on Arm's core designs, US's Frontier is powered by **AMD**.
- It is **10 times more powerful than ORNL's Summit system** (which is also housed at ORNL's Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility)
- It Will enable scientists to develop critically needed technologies for the country's energy, economic, and national security & also help researchers address problems of national importance that were impossible to solve just five years ago.

Additional Info :

- One ExaFlop equals **one quintillion floating points operations per second**.

PARAM ANANTA Supercomputer commissioned at IIT, Gandhinagar

- Indigenously developed **PARAM ANANTA** supercomputer under **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)** has been commissioned at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Gandhinagar, Gujarat** by **Smt. Sunita Verma, Group Coordinator & Scientist 'G', MeitY**.
- **60 percent** of the Param Ananta capacity will be used by IIT Gandhinagar and the rest will be open for use by nearby academic institutes for various research purposes.
- On 12th October 2020, A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed between **IIT Gandhinagar** and the **Centre for Development in Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** to establish this **838 TeraFlops Supercomputing Facility** under NSM.

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- The system is equipped with a mix of CPU nodes, GPU nodes, High Memory nodes, High throughput storage, and high-performance Infiniband interconnect to cater to the computing needs of various scientific and engineering applications.

About PARAMANANTA :

- PARAMANANTA system is based on **Direct Contact Liquid Cooling technology** to obtain a high power usage effectiveness and thereby reduce the operational cost.
- It provides a benefit to IIT Gandhinagar Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Data Science, Fire Dynamics Simulation; Nanotechnology; Robotics; Applied mathematics; Astronomy and Astrophysics; Material Sciences; Quantum Mechanics; Studies on Civil Engineering, etc...

About NSM :

- National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) - is a joint initiative of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.
- In **2015**, The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the launch of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
- It is an estimated cost of **Rs 4,500 crore** for seven years.
- It was implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru
- Under NSM, to date **15 supercomputers** have been installed across the nation with an aggregate compute capacity of 24 petaflops.

About Ministry of Electronics & IT :

- Cabinet Minister: Ashwini Vaishnav
- Minister of State : Rajeev Chandrasekhar
- Secretary : K. Rajaraman

Instagram Introduces AMBER Alerts to help find missing children

- Meta-owned photo-sharing platform Instagram has launched **AMBER(America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response) Alerts** on the platform that will allow people to see and share notices of missing children in their area.

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- It was developed in partnership with organizations like the **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)** in the US, the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, the National Crime Agency in the UK, the Attorney General's Office in Mexico, the Australian Federal Police and more.

About AMBER Alerts :

- AMBER Alerts are authorized by law enforcement and broadcast to the general population via TV, radio stations, and text messages.
- The system was named after **Amber Rene Hagerman**, a nine-year-old girl abducted and murdered in 1996 in Arlington, Texas.
- This feature will be fully available in **25 countries**, including South Africa, Taiwan, Ukraine, the UK, the UAE, the US, and more in the coming weeks.
- The alert will include the name and description of the missing child, a description of the suspected abductor, and a description and license plate number of the abductor's vehicle, if applicable.
- Also, People can share the alert with friends to further spread the word.

Background :

- Since **2015**, AMBER Alerts on Facebook has been successful in helping authorities find and quickly locate missing children.

Note :

- President and CEO of the NCMEC: Michelle DeLaune

About Instagram :

- Founded: 2010
- Founder : Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger

India's 1st Liquid Mirror Telescope comes up in Uttarakhand

- The **1st International liquid mirror telescope (ILMT)** in the country the **largest in Asia** - was commissioned over **Devasthal**, a hill in **Uttarakhand**.
- It will identify transient and variable objects such as **supernovae, gravitational lenses, space debris, and asteroids**.

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- The observatory has been built at an altitude of **2450 meters** at the **Devasthal Observatory campus of Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)**.
- The telescope was designed and built by the **Advanced Mechanical and Optical Systems (AMOS) Corporation** and the **Centre Spatial de Liege** in Belgium.

Features of ILMT :

- The observatory has been developed by scientists from **India, Belgium, and Canada** and employs a **4-meter-diameter** rotating mirror made up of a thin film of liquid mercury to collect and focus light.
- Another thin transparent film of mylar protects the mercury from the wind.
- The reflected light passes through a sophisticated multi-lens optical corrector that produces sharp images over a wide field of view.
- Meanwhile, a large-format electronic camera located at the focus records the images.
- Devasthal Observatory now hosts **two four-meter class telescopes - the ILMT and the Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT)**.
- The 3.6 meter DOT, with the availability of sophisticated back-end instruments, will allow rapid follow-up observations of the newly-detected transient sources with the adjacent ILMT.

About ARIES :

- Established: 20 April 1954
- Director : Prof. Dipankar Banerjee
- Location: Nainital, Uttarakhand
- ARIES is a research institute in Nainital, Uttarakhand which specializes in astronomy, solar physics, astrophysics, and atmospheric science.
- It is an autonomous body under the **Department of Science and Technology**, Government of India.

About Uttarakhand :

- Governor: Gurmit Singh
- CM: Pushkar Singh Dhami
- Capital: Bhararisain (summer) Dehradun (winter)

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India's 1st private spacecraft manufacturing facility launched in Bengaluru

- The chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Dr. S Somanath inaugurated the Ananth Technologies Private Limited (ANANTH) Technologies' spacecraft manufacturing unit at Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) Aerospace Park, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- It will make the private manufacturing of spacecraft in India easier in terms of infrastructure.
- The new state-of-the-art spacecraft manufacturing facility can conduct assembly integration and testing of four large spacecraft simultaneously.
- The 15,000 sqm facility is capable of conducting the assembly, integration, and testing of four large spacecraft at the same time, with four separate units present within the facility.
- Since, ISRO establishment in 1992, Ananth Technologies has contributed to the manufacturing of 89 satellites and 69 launch vehicles built/launched by ISRO, including two satellites for European customers that ISRO had built in collaboration with Airbus, France.
- Ananth Technologies Private Limited is the leading aerospace and defense manufacturer in India.

About ISRO :

- Established: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: Sreedhara Panicker Somanath
- It operates under the Department of Space (DOS)

Bengaluru-based Ambee Joins NASA's Pace Mission as an Early Adopter

- Datair Technology Pvt Ltd (Ambee), has joined the National Aeronautics & Space Administration's (NASA's) PACE elongates to the Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem mission as an early adopter.
- Ambee's air quality datasets are primed to become more accurate with access to NASA's hyperspectral and polarimetric PACE data.

About NASA's Pace Mission :

- According to the National Aeronautics Space Administration (Nasa), PACE is currently in the design phase of mission development.

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- It is scheduled to launch in **2024**, extending and improving Nasa's over 20-year record of satellite observations of global ocean biology, aerosols, and clouds.
- The data collected will be utilized by the scientific community, including universities and government agencies, to forecast weather and carry out research that can aid in mitigating climate change.
- PACE's data assessment on **aerosol suspension** can also **calculate emissions, forecast visibility, understand extreme weather events, and account for climate risks.**

Additional Info :

- According to the **Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air**, as of January 2022, 132 cities have pollution levels **below national standards.**
- **More than 90%** of the country breathes **air quality below World Health Organization's standards.**

About Dair Technology Pvt Ltd (Ambee) :

- Founded: 2017
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka
- CTO and co-founder: Madhusudhan Anand
- Dair Technology Pvt Ltd (Ambee) is a **global platform for hyperlocal and geospatial datasets on air quality, weather, pollen, soil, water vapor, fire, and more**

India successfully tests nuclear-capable Agni-4 missile from Odisha

- **India** successfully carried out a night launch of the **nuclear-capable Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM), Agni-4** from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.
- The successful test of Agni-4 reaffirms India's policy of having a '**credible minimum deterrence capability.**

About the Agni-4 missile :

- Agni-4 is the fourth in the Agni series of missiles earlier known as Agni II prime - developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**
- It is a **two-stage surface to surface missile** & it has a range of around **4,000 kilometers.**
- It can carry a **1,000-kg payload** and can go as high as **900 km.**
- The test of the Agni-4 Ballistic Missile was part of the routine user training launches that were carried out under the aegis of the **Strategic Forces Command (SFC).**

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- In 2021, India successfully test-fired the nuclear-capable strategic Agni Prime missile with the capability to hit targets between 1,000 to 2,000 kilometers.

Recent News :

- In May 2022, India successfully test-fired an extended range version of the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a Sukhoi fighter jet** & it was the **first launch** of the extended range version of the BrahMos missile from a Su-30MKI aircraft.

U.S., and South Korea fire missiles to sea, matching North Korea's launches

- The **United States and South Korean militaries** launched **8 ballistic missiles** into the sea in a show of force matching a **North Korean missile display**.
- The allies' live-fire exercise involved **eight Army Tactical Missile System** missiles, **one American and seven South Korean** that were fired into South Korea's eastern waters over **10 minutes**.
- The South's military detected North Korea firing eight short-range missiles over 35 minutes from at least **four different locations**, including **western and eastern coastal areas** and **two inland areas north of and near the capital, Pyongyang, North Korea**.
- It was **North Korea's 18th round of missile tests** in 2022 alone & the country's first launch of intercontinental ballistic missiles in nearly five years.
- U.S. and South Korean forces conducted a similar live-fire drill involving an **Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)** flown on a medium-range trajectory and two short-range weapons.

About South Korea :

- President: Yoon Seok-youl
- Prime minister: Han Duck-soo
- Capital: Seoul
- Currency: South Korean won

China successfully launches a crewed mission to build the Tiangong Space Station

- The China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) announced China successfully launched the **Shenzhou 14 crewed mission** to the Tiangong space station, where the 3 astronauts went on a 6-month mission to complete its construction.
- The astronauts lifted off on the Shenzhou 14 spacecraft propelled by a Long March 2F rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre located in the Gobi Desert of Inner Mongolia in

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northwest China.

Name of the 3 Astronauts :

Crew Member	Position
Chen Dong, PLAAC Second spaceflight	Commander
Liu Yang, PLAAC Second spaceflight (first Chinese woman in space)	Operator
Cai Xuzhe, PLAAC First spaceflight	System Operator

- Shenzhou 14 crewed mission marks the ninth crewed Chinese spaceflight and the fourteenth flight of the Shenzhou program.
- China began constructing its three-module space station in April 2021 with the launch of Tianhe, the first and biggest of the station's three modules.
- The 3-member mission will cooperate with the ground team to complete the assembly and construction of the Tiangong space station, developing it from a single-module structure into a national space laboratory with three modules: the core module, Tianhe, and two lab modules Wentian and Mengtian.

Note :

- Once completion of space station construction, China will be the **only country to own a space station.**

About Tiangong space station :

- Tiangong space station was constructed by China in **low Earth orbit** between 340 and 450 km (210 and 280 mi) above the surface.

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- The construction of the station is based on the experience gained from its precursors, **Tiangong-1** and **Tiangong-2**.
- The first module, the **Tianhe** ("Harmony of the Heavens") core module, was launched on 29 April 2021.

NASA launches DAVINCI Mission in 2029

- NASA is set to launch a mission called **Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry and Imaging Mission (DAVINCI Mission)** to Venus is scheduled for launch in 2029.
- DAVINCI is set to enter the Venusian atmosphere in **June 2031**.
- The mission has been named after the Renaissance artist and scientist **Leonardo da Vinci**
- NASA scientists and engineers revealed new details about the mission in a paper recently published in **The Planetary Science Journal**.

Aim of the mission :

- To unravel long-standing mysteries around Venus, especially whether it had water and was habitable like Earth.

About DAVINCI Mission :

- The DAVINCI Mission will be the first mission to **study the origin, evolution, and present state of Venus** using both spacecraft flybys and a descent probe.
- The mission will be able to grab measurements of undiscovered gases, which will hopefully reveal the history of water on the planet, either as oceans or steam.
- The spacecraft will first conduct two gravity assist flybys, during which the mission will study the cloud tops in ultraviolet light and also examine the heat emanating from the Venus surface on the planet's night side
- It will be looking for geological clues of the planet's mysterious past by exploring the top of Venus's atmosphere and the composition of a mountainous region known as the **Alpha Region**.
- The DAVINCI spacecraft will thereafter act as a **telecommunications hub** and will relay information from the probe to the Earth.
- It will also use its **two onboard instruments** to study Venusian clouds and map its highland areas as it flies by the planet.

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China releases the world's 'most detailed' map of the Moon

- China has released a **new comprehensive geologic map of the moon**, the “most detailed” to date, which is expected to make a great contribution to **scientific research, exploration, and landing site selection on the moon**.
- The map was published by **Science Bulletin** on May 30, 2022.

About the Map :

- The new comprehensive geologic map of the moon is on a **scale of 1:2,500,000**.
- The moon map includes the **12,341 impact craters, 17 rock types, 81 impact basins, and 14 types of structures**.
- The new significant details of the moon map have provided abundant information about the geology of the moon and its evolution.
- The **Institute of Geochemistry of the Chinese Academy of Sciences** has led the project, along with other organizations such as the Chinese Academy of Geological Science, China University of Geosciences, and Shandong University.
- Chinese scientists from multiple research institutes and universities have created the high-resolution topographic map based on data from China's lunar exploration Change project and other data and research findings from international organizations.

Note :

- For the **first time**, the entire surface of the moon was completely mapped and was uniformly classified by the scientists.
- Earlier in 2020, the **United States Geological Survey (USGS) Astrogeology Science Centre** released the map of the moon on a scale of 1:5,000,000.

About China :

- President: Xi Jinping
- Capital: Beijing
- Currency: Renminbi

India set to launch 1st human space & ocean missions in 2023

- Addressing the **World Ocean Day (June 08)** celebrations in Delhi, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth

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Sciences India Dr. Jitendra Singh will achieve the unique distinction of simultaneously launching the first Human Space Mission “Gaganyaan” as well as the first manned Human Ocean Mission in 2023.

- He also stated that the Government will soon unveil the “Blue Economic Policy” and added that an estimated 40 million people will be employed by ocean-based industries by 2030.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh stated that trials for both the Space and Ocean manned missions have reached an advanced stage and the unique feat will be achieved, most likely, in the second half of 2023.
- The sea trials of 500 meter rated shallow water version of the manned submersible are expected to take place in the early part of 2023, followed by the MATSYA 6000, the deep-water manned submersible which will be ready for trials by the second quarter of 2024.

For Gaganyaan, the major missions viz.,

- Test vehicle flight for the validation of Crew Escape System performance and the 1st Uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan (G1) are scheduled in the 2nd half of 2022 and to be followed by a second uncrewed mission at the end of 2022 carrying “Vyommitra” a spacefaring human-robot developed by ISRO and finally the first crewed Gaganyaan mission in 2023.

About Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) :

- The Government had approved the Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) in June 2021 to be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences at a total budget of Rs. 4,077 crore for 5 years.
- To develop niche technology and collaborate with Industries in carrying out deep ocean exploration of the non-living resources such as polymetallic manganese nodules, gas hydrates, hydro-thermal sulfides, and cobalt crusts, located at a depth between 1000 and 5500 meters.

Additional Info :

- India has a long coastline of 7,517 km, contributing to the ecological richness, biodiversity, and economy.

India's First COVID Vaccine For Animals Ancovax Launched

- Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has launched India's first indigenously developed COVID-19 vaccine for animals, Ancovax

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- Anocovax has been developed by the ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE) in Haryana.
- ICAR Director General Trilochan Mohapatra, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Secretary Atul Chaturvedi, and ICAR Deputy Director General (Animal Science) Bhupendra Nath Tripathi were also present.

About Anocovax :

- Anocovax contains inactivated **SARS-CoV-2 (Delta)** antigen and uses Alhydrogel as an adjuvant.
- According to the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**, the immunity elicited by Anocovax neutralizes both the **Delta** and **Omicron** versions of **SARS-CoV-2**.
- It is **safe** for dogs, lions, leopards, mice, and rabbits.
- He also launched the '**CAN-CoV-2 ELISA kit**', an antibody detection kit against SARS-CoV-2 for animals.

About Antibody Detection Kits for Animals

- It is a sensitive and specific nucleocapsid protein-based indirect ELISA kit.
- The antibody detection kit has also been indigenously developed in India and a patent has been filed for it.
- Also, the **Surra ELISA kit** – a suitable diagnostic assay for “**Trypanosoma evansi**” infection in multiple animal species was also launched.
- An Equine DNA parentage testing kit, which is a powerful genomic technology for parentage analysis among horses, has also been developed.

About NRCE :

- Established: 7 January 1986
- Located at: Hisar, Haryana
- Director: B.N. Tripathi
- The National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE) was established during the **7th five-year plan** under the aegis of the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** for research on equine health and production considering the importance of equines in India.

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About ICAR :

- Established: 16 July 1929
- Director : Trilochan Mohapatra
- Located at: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- ICAR is the country's premier agri-research institute that functions under the **Union Agriculture Ministry**.

Maruti Suzuki installed Asia's largest 20 MWp solar plant at Manesar, Haryana

- **Maruti Suzuki India** has installed **Asia's Largest 20 MW solar carport type solar power plant** at its facility in **Manesar, Guragam, Haryana**.
- The project is expected to contribute **28,000 Megawatt Hour (MWh) per annum** to the company's energy requirements.
- The power generated from this project will be equivalent to the energy required to produce over **67,000 cars** annually.
- The power generation from this initiative will constitute over **11.5 %** of the power requirement of the facility at Manesar.

About solar carport :

- The solar carport is designed with the **lowest area per unit of power** generation using the **East-West direction** concept.
- With the East-West direction concept, the developers can add more rows and panels, providing greater generation capacity in minimum land area.
- The facility has space to park about **9,000** of the company's finished vehicles.

Key Highlights :

- With this addition, the company's cumulative solar power capacity across its plants stands at **26.3 MW**, including the **1.3 MW solar plant** installed in **2014**.
- The expansion will ensure that the company steers clear of at least **20,000 tons of CO2 emissions annually**.
- In **2020**, Maruti Suzuki commissioned a **5 MW solar carport** at its Gurugram facility.

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- In March 2022, Maruti Suzuki India's parent company Suzuki Motor Corporation signed a memorandum of understanding with Gujarat to invest approximately 150 billion yen (~\$1.13 billion) in local manufacturing of battery electric vehicles (BEV) and BEV batteries.
- In June 2022, Suzuki Motor Gujarat, a subsidiary of Suzuki, began procuring power from a 17.6 MW hybrid wind and solar power project installed by ReNew Power through an offsite corporate power purchase agreement.

India successfully test-fires short-range nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile from Odisha

- India successfully test-fired indigenously developed nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile during night time as part of a user training trial from an integrated test range, Chandipur, Odisha.
- The Missile was developed by DRDO (Defence Research & Development Organisation) under the flagship of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).
- It is considered extremely successful and is capable of hitting the target with a very high degree of accuracy.
- The missile met all the prescribed operational and technical parameters during the test.

About the Prithvi-II missile :

- Prithvi-2 is a single-stage missile that falls under the liquid fuelling category and is known to have a maximum warhead mounting capability of 500 kg and a range of 250 km (160 mi).
- It can be launched from a mobile launcher.
- It was developed for the Indian Air Force (IAF) being the primary user.
- The Prithvi-2 missile can carry a weapon ranging from 500 to 1000 kg and is powered by a two-engine liquid propellant.

About Prithvi missiles :

- It was first test-fired on January 27, 1996, and the development stages were completed in 2004.
- India has 3 Prithvi missiles with Prithvi-1 having a range of 150 km, Prithvi-2 with 250 km range, and Prithvi-3 with a 350 km range.
- Earlier on February 21, 2018, Prithvi-II also was successfully test-fired during nighttime from ITR at Chandipur.
- On November 20, 2019, two trials consecutively of Prithvi-II were conducted successfully during the nighttime from the same base.

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About DRDO :

- Founded: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy

About IGMDP :

- The Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) was an Indian Ministry of Defence program for the research and development of a comprehensive range of missiles.
- The program was managed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **Ordnance Factories Board** in partnership with other Indian government political organizations.

China launches 3rd & most advanced & domestically built aircraft carrier named 'Fujian'

- **China** launched its 3rd aircraft carrier named 'Fujian' the country's most advanced as well as the first "fully domestically-built" naval vessel, as an aggressive Beijing sought to project its naval power in the strategic **Indo-Pacific region**.
- The 3rd aircraft carrier was built by **China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited** & it was launched at a brief ceremony held at **Shanghai's Jiangnan Shipyard**.
- **Xu Qiliang**, a member of the Political Bureau of the ruling Communist Party of China Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission, attended the ceremony.

Note :

- The **Fujian** is **China's first domestically designed and built catapult aircraft carrier**.

About Fujian :

- Fujian is the name of China's eastern coastal province of Fujian.
- It has a **displacement of more than 80,000 tonnes** and is equipped with electromagnetic catapults and arresting devices
- After the launch, the carrier will start mooring trials and sea trials
- China plans to have around five aircraft carriers & the next aircraft carrier China plans to build is expected to be nuclear-powered.

Background :

- The launch of the ship was delayed by two months due to the COVID lockdown of Shanghai.

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- It was due to be launched on April 23 around the 73rd anniversary of the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN).

Additional Info :

- China's first aircraft carrier, the 'Liaoning', was a refit of the Soviet-era ship commissioned in 2012 followed by the indigenously built 2nd aircraft carrier 'Shandong' in 2019.
- Liaoning and Shandong are the names of the two provinces of China.

About China :

- President: Xi Jinping
- Capital: Beijing
- Currency: Renminbi

India's hyper-sensitive airports to install Perimeter Intrusion Detection System (PIDS) by 2023

- The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has issued a circular that all hyper-sensitive airports in India will have to install a perimeter intrusion detection system by December 2023.
- As per the circular, the Greenfield Airports that are not part of the government's Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) will also install the Perimeter Intrusion Detection System.
- The Perimeter Intrusion Detection System is a sensor that helps in alerting the security agencies of any form of intrusion through the boundary walls of the airport.
- The system monitors the network traffic for suspicious activity and alerts when such activity is discovered.
- While anomaly detection and reporting are the primary functions of the Intrusion Detection System.
- Further, non-RCS greenfield airports shall plan the installation of PIDS at the design stage itself to obtain clearance of design stage security vetting in terms of rule 5 (3) of the Aircraft (Security) Rules 2011.
- The circular that the directions are being issued to ensure the safety and security of passengers, crew, ground personnel, and the general public in all matters relating to safeguarding against acts of "unlawful interference" with civil aviation.

List of Hypersensitivity airports in India :

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S.No	Airports
1	Amritsar
2	IGI Delhi
3	Jaipur
4	Varanasi
5	Lucknow
6	Agartala
7	Bagdogra
8	Guwahati
9	Imphal
10	Kolkata
11	Raipur
12	Bengaluru
13	Chennai
14	Hyderabad
15	Mumbai
16	Pune
17	Jodhpur
18	Ahmedabad

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About BCAS :

- The BCAS was initially set up as a Cell in the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation(DGCA)** in January 1978 on the recommendation of the **Pande Committee**.
- The BCAS was reorganized into an independent department in April 1987 under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director-General: Zulfiquar Hasan

Technology Development Board (TDB) set to launch a Rs 1000 crore fund under a Public-Private Partnership(PPP) model

- The **statutory body** under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science & Technology**, and the **Technology Development Board (TDB)** are set to launch a **₹1,000 crore startup fund** under a **public-private partnership (PPP) model**.
- The fund that will be live in a month will be launched in **two phases**.
- In the first phase, a corpus of **₹400 crores** will be set up, of which **₹200 crores** will be contributed by a private limited company that has not been named yet.
- In the later phase, TDB will partner with more companies to raise money for the fund and invest an equal sum of money in tandem with the companies.

About TDB:

- **Technology Development Board (TDB)**, is a **statutory body** established by the Government of India under the **Technology Development Board Act, 1995**.

Purpose :

- To promote the development and commercialization of indigenous technology and adaptation of imported technology for much wider applications.
- The board consists of **11 Board members**.

South Korea 'successfully' launches homegrown space rocket Nuri

- **South Korea** has successfully launched its **first domestically developed space rocket**, the **Korea Satellite Launch Vehicle II** called **Nuri**, lifted off from the **Naro Space Center** at a launch site in **Goheung Jeollanam do Province, South Korea**.
- The three-stage Nuri rocket has been in development for a decade for **2 trillion won (\$1.5bn)**.

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- The launch would make South Korea become the **7th country** in the world to have developed a space launch vehicle that can carry a more than 1-tonne satellite, after Russia, the US, France, China, Japan, and India.
- South Korea has also launched a preliminary feasibility study for the successor to the Nuri intending to send a lunar landing module to the moon in **2031**

About Nuri :

- Nuri is the **first space launch vehicle** developed with domestic technology.
- A total of **300 South Korean companies** took part in developing the rocket.
- It is a three-stage rocket, more than **47 meters (154 feet)** long and **weighing 200 tons**.
- It is Loaded with a **162.5-kilogram (358-pound)** performance-verification satellite, as well as 4 cube satellites for academic research and a 1.3-ton dummy satellite &, and reached its target orbit of 700 kilometers (435 miles) above the Earth.
- It was topped with five satellites that will carry out Earth observation missions, such as monitoring the atmosphere, for up to two years.
- South Korean researchers and engineers have developed all parts of the Nuri, including **75-ton and 7-ton liquid fuel engines** and pairings, a cover to protect satellites mounted on the launch vehicle.

Additional Info :

- Director of the Korea Aerospace Research Institute: Lee Sang-ryul

About Naro Space Center :

- The Naro Space Center is a South Korean spaceport in South Jeolla's Goheung County, operated by the **state-run Korea Aerospace Research Institute**.

About South Korea :

- President: Yoon Suk-yeol
- PM: Han Duck-soo
- Capital: Seoul
- Currency: the Korean Republic won

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

India's communication satellite NSIL' GSAT-24 successfully launched from French Guiana

- The **GSAT (Geosynchronous Satellite)-24** satellite, for **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**, was successfully launched on-board **Ariane-V VA257** flight by French company **Arianespace** from **Kourou** in French Guiana (South America).
- GSAT-24 is a **Ku-band 4-tonne class communications satellite** built for NSIL by ISRO.
- It is configured on ISRO's proven I-3k Bus with a mission life of **15 years**.
- The satellite was injected into the desired orbit along with **Malaysian communication satellite MEASAT-3D** by Ariane-V VA257 flight.

Features of GSAT-24 :

- GSAT-24 is a 24-Ku band communication satellite weighing **4180 kg** with pan-India coverage for meeting DTH (Direct to Home) application needs
- GSAT-24 is the **25th indian satellite** to be launched by **Arianespace** and the **11th of the GSAT series**
- The launcher carried a **total payload** of approximately **10,863 kg**
- It was the **first demand driven communication satellite** mission undertaken by NSIL post space sector reforms.
- The satellite will provide high-quality television, telecommunications and broadcasting services and will meet the DTH needs of Indian customers.

About NSIL :

- Established : 6 March 2019
- Headquarters : Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- Chairman & Managing Director : Radhakrishnan Durairaj
- NSIL, a Government of India company under the **Department of Space**, has leased the entire satellite capacity to Tata Play.

Objective :

- To scale up industry participation in Indian space programmes.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

Oracle launches OCI dedicated region for India market

- US-based technology major Oracle's cloud services platform, Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) has launched 'OCI dedicated region' for the India market.

Aim :

- To enable customers to leverage public cloud services on their premises while meeting strict latency, data residency, and data sovereignty requirements.

About 'OCI dedicated region' :

- The new OCI Dedicated Region requires **60%-75%** less data center space and power on average, with a significantly **lower entry price of around \$1 million** a year for a typical customer.
- The new offering will help customers meet latency, data residency, and data sovereignty requirements that are key to many IT modernisation efforts.
- It will allow Oracle to offer customers nearly **100 services** within their premises, which were earlier available only to public cloud consumers.
- It will also help boost the adoption of public cloud in the public sector, banking and other sectors that were so far restricted to do so due to regulatory and other requirements.

About Oracle :

- Founded : June 16, 1977
- Founders : Larry Ellison, Bob Miner, Ed Oates
- Headquarters : Austin, Texas, United States
- CEO : Safra Catz
- Executive Chairman & CTO : Larry Ellison

China launches new batch of Yaogan-35 Remote Sensing Satellites

- China successfully launched the **2nd batch of the Yaogan-35 series, 3 new remote sensing satellites** by a Long March-2D carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province.
- The satellites will be mainly used to conduct **science experiments, land resource surveys, yield estimation of agricultural products, and disaster prevention and reduction.**
- This launch marked the **424th mission** for the Long March series carrier rockets.

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- The Long March carrier rocket series, developed by the **China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation**, is responsible for about **96.4%** of all the launch missions in China.
- China launched the **first batch of three Yaogan-35 satellites** on **November 6, 2021**.

About China :

- President: Xi Jinping
- Capital: Beijing
- Currency: Renminbi

Ship-borne weapon system VL-SRSAM successfully flight-tested off the Odisha coast

- The indigenously developed **shipborne weapon system, Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM)**, was successfully **flight-tested** by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **Indian Navy** off the coast of **Chandipur** in Odisha.
- VL-SRSAM is developed by the **Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)** and **Research Centre Imarat (RCI)**, both from **Hyderabad**, and **Research & Development Establishment (Engineers)** based in **Pune**.
- The launch of the system was conducted against a **high-speed aerial target mimicking aircraft**, which was successfully engaged.

About VL-SRSAM :

- The VL-SRSAM, a ship-borne weapon system, is meant for neutralizing various aerial threats at close ranges including sea-skimming targets.
- The system has been designed to strike the **high-speed airborne targets** at the range of **40km to 50km** and an **altitude** of around **15km**
- Its design is based on the **Astra missile** which is a **Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile**.
- Two key features of the VL-SRSAM are **cruciform wings** and **thrust vectoring**.
- VL-SRSAM is a **canisters system**, which means it is stored and operated from specially designed compartments.
- The weapon system will prove to be a **force-multiplier** for the Indian Navy and is another milestone towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat**'.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh

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- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Dr. Ajay Kumar

About DRDO :

- Established: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy

C-DOT collaborates with Galore Networks to develop 5G RAN Products & solutions

- **Center for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** has signed an agreement with Galore Networks for the collaborative development of end-to-end **5G Radio Access Network (RAN)** products and solutions.

Key Highlights :

- This collaborative approach based on achieving synergy and harmony amongst multiple ecosystem partners will facilitate the evolution of mutually productive and sustainable alliances.
- It will act as a catalyst resulting in indigenous design, development, manufacturing, and deployment of cost-effective 5G products and solutions.
- This will bring the technical competencies and complementary strengths of Indian R&D and industry into a single unified platform leading to the creation of **indigenous Intellectual Property (IP)** assets that can generate new avenues for wider reach and commercialization of home-grown technologies at the global level.
- Galore has collaborated with C-DOT to offer its entire suite of commercially field-deployable **4G/5G NSA & SA Macro/Micro Base stations** integrated with **C-DOT 4G/5G NSA & SA Next-Generation Core**.

About C-DOT :

- Established: August 1984
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- The Center for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) is the premier R&D center of the **Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India**.

About Galore Networks :

- Established: 2013

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- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Director & MD : Balaji Kulothungan

NASA successfully launches 1st commercial rocket from the Australian spaceport

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** successfully launched a rocket from the **Arnhem Space Center** on the **Dhupuma Plateau**, near the township of **Nhulunbuy, Australia**.
- It is NASA's **first launch** from a commercial spaceport outside the United States and Australia's first launch in **more than 27 years**.
- NASA launched rockets from Australia in **1995**, from the **Royal Australian Air Force Woomera range complex** in **South Australia**.
- The inaugural launch was the first of three scheduled launches to take place in **June and July 2021**, and the next rocket launch is expected to blast off on **July 4, 2022**.

About the rocket :

- The rocket is expected to travel more than **300 kilometers (186 miles)** into space on its mission to observe the **Alpha Centauri A and B** constellations, the nearest star systems to the Earth.
- It will enable astrophysics studies that are only possible in the **Southern Hemisphere**.
- The rocket is carrying an **X-ray quantum calorimeter**, which will help scientists at the University of Michigan to measure interstellar X-rays with precision.
- It will provide new data on the structure and evolution of the cosmos.
- The mission's X-ray camera at that time will help illuminate the secrets of Alpha Centauri A and B, the closest double-star system to Earth that is located just **4.3 light-years away**.

About Arnhem Space Centre :

- The Arnhem Space Centre is being operated by **Equatorial Launch Australia**.
- It is the **first and only commercially owned and run equatorial launch site** in the world.

About NASA :

- Established: July 29
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C, US
- Administrator: Bill Nelson
- NASA is an independent agency of the U.S. federal government responsible for the **civil space program, aeronautics research, and space research**.

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IN-SPACe authorizes India's 1st set of Space StartUps to Launch Payloads

- Indian Space Promotion and Authorisation Center (IN-SPACe) has approved 2 space startups Dhruva Space Private Limited in Hyderabad, Telangana, and Digantara Research & Technologies Private Limited in Bangalore, Karnataka to launch their payloads in space.
- This is the **first time** that two privately-owned Indian enterprises will be launching payloads in space.
- The payloads would fly onboard the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) of PSLV-C53 scheduled to be launched on June 30.
- Dhruva Space's Dhruva Space Satellite Orbital Deployer (DSOD 1U), a technology demonstration payload, and Digantara's ROBust Integrating Proton Fluence Meter (ROBI), a Proton dosimeter payload, were authorized.

About PSLV-C53 :

- PSLV-C53 is the **55th mission of ISROs** scheduled to be launched on **June 30, 2022 IST** from **Satish Dhawan Space Center, Sriharikota**.
- The mission will demonstrate the in-house developed CubeSat Deployers ahead of the launch of our Satellite Missions, **Thybolt-1** and **Thybolt-2**, onboard the PSLV C54 Mission.
- This will also enable Dhruva Space to support international clients with CubeSat Deployers, Integration, and Launch Services

About IN-SPACe :

- Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
- Chairman : Pawan Kumar Goenka
- Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Center (IN-SPACe or INSPACE) is a **single-window autonomous agency** under the **Department of Space** of the Gol.
- IN-SPACe is an **autonomous**, formed to promote, authorize, monitor, and supervise the space activities of **non-governmental private entities (NGPEs)** in India.

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About Dhruva Space :

- Founded: 2012
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana, India
- CEO : Sanjay Srikanth Nekkanti
- Dhruva Space is a space technology start-up focused on building full-stack space engineering solutions, involved in building application-agnostic satellite platforms.

About Digantara :

- Digantara offers end-to-end solutions for carrying out sustainable space operations.
- To reduce waste in space, it has developed a space network called Space Situational Awareness along with platform and data products.
- Co-Founder & CEO: Anirudh Sharma

Bengaluru's ADTL delivers Gaganyaan Crew module fairing to ISRO

- The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) has acquired the **crew module fairing (CMF)**, a crucial construction that may defend the Gaganyaan module carrying the astronauts throughout the launch, from an **Alpha Design Technology Limited's (ADTL)**, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The CMF was manufactured by **Alpha Design Technology Limited's (ADTL)** owned subsidiary Alpha Tocol Engineering Services in Peenya, whereas the design and specs got here from Isro.
- Adani Group holds the bulk stake in ADTL.

Key Highlights :

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- ADTL is working with Isro on satellites (large and small), floor stations, together in **Bhutan, Andaman, and Nicobar, northeast India**, and on launchers equivalent to **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** and **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)**.
- Further, Alpha is scheduled to sign a settlement for a switch of expertise of the small satellite platform **Indian Mini Satellite-1 (IMS-1) Bus**.
- The bus is the infrastructure of the spacecraft that gives places for payload.
- The IMS-1, developed by Isro's **UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC)**, would allow low-price entry to the area by offering a devoted platform for payloads for earth imaging, ocean, and atmospheric research, microwave distant sensing, and area science missions with a fast turnaround time.

About ISRO :

- Founded: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: Sreedhara Panicker Somanath

About VSSC :

- Established: 21 November 1963
- Headquarters: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India
- Director: Dr. S. Unnikrishnan Nair
- **Vikram Sarabhai** is often regarded as the **father of the Indian space program**.

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IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENT NEWS

World's 1st Fishing Cat Survey Pegs Its Population at Chilika Lake At 176:

- A new survey at the **Chilika Lake**, Asia's largest brackish water lagoon in **Odisha**, has provided the world's first population estimation of the fishing cat.
- Conducted outside the protected area by the **Chilika Development Authority** in collaboration with **The Fishing Cat Project (TFCP)**, the survey stated that the lake has **176 fishing cats**.
- This is the world's longest-running research and conservation project on fishing cats.
- It began in 2010 and is currently underway in two states in India: **West Bengal and Odisha**.
- **West Bengal declared fishing cats the state animal in 2012**.
- And the Chilika authorities announced in 2020 that the fishing cat was the lake's ambassador, according to The Fishing Cat Project.
- The Fishing Cat Project conducted the census in two phases.
- For the first phase in 2021, surveyors focused on the 115 sq. km marshland in the north and north-eastern section of the lake.
- The second phase was conducted this year on the Parikud side along the coastal part

About Fishing Cat:

- Fishing cats, according to the Chilika Development Authority, are endangered worldwide.
- Within their range of countries, they are classed as vulnerable on the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List** of Threatened Species.
- Fishing cats, unlike most felines, enjoy being around water and are noted for their exceptional hunting abilities in watery environments.
- The fishing Cat is a Schedule I species and deserves conservation measures of the highest accord in India like the Tiger and Elephant.
- Unfortunately, marshland and mangrove ecosystems, which are Fishing Cat habitats are in decline

The Marsh's Original Fishermen:

- The fishing cat, which is twice the size of a house cat, is exactly what its name implies: a cat with excellent fishing skills and, as a result, an agile swimmer.

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- It has black markings — spots and stripes — all over its body, and its paws are somewhat webbed to help propel it through water and for prowling on muddy, rocky terrain.
- Its principal food source is, once again, fish.
- They are, however, not picky eaters.
- They are referred to as ‘generalists’ by wildlife experts since they graze on whatever is available.
- So, anything available nearby, including fish, small animals, water insects, shellfish, amphibians, and even lizards, is on the menu.

Huge Stingray breaks the record for the Biggest Freshwater Fish:

- The hunter knew he had never seen a **fish bigger than the gigantic stingray Moul Thun** had captured on the end of his line.
- **The 42-year-old fisherman** from the secluded island of **Kaoh Preah** in the Mekong River in **northern Cambodia** was unaware that the ray would later be named the largest documented freshwater fish in the world.

About Fish Population:

- Many factors, such as dam construction, overfishing, and climate change, contribute to the frequent decline of large freshwater fish populations.
- Several huge fish species are also in danger of going extinct.
- Thankfully, recent reports of large fish have not only included stingray information.
- **In 2021**, a lake sturgeon with a **world record weight of 240 pounds** was caught and released in the **Detroit River**.
- An alligator gar that weighed **nearly 300 pounds** in May may have broken the Texas state record for freshwater fish, but the angler chose to release the fish rather than kill it and bring it in to be weighed.

Key Points:

- The Wonders of the Mekong Project, which is supported by the **US Agency for International Development** and aims to preserve the aquatic diversity of the Southeast Asian River, was initially notified by **fishermen in Cambodia** that they had caught the largest stingray ever seen.
- Team members went to the little river island known as **Koh Preah** and lined up **three industrial scales**.

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- To weigh the stingray, they pulled it out of the water and placed it on the scales.
- The discovery was made less than a month after another large stingray, weighing 400 pounds, was also collected and released nearby.
- Two additional enormous rays were also caught this year.

India finalized deals for cheetahs from South Africa & Namibia:

- The world's fastest creatures, **cheetahs**, which **went extinct in India**, have been acquired by the **Indian government** through agreements with **South Africa and Namibia**.
- They will be reintroduced into the wild at **Kuno Palpur, Madhya Pradesh, by the end of 2022**.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed initially for **ten years, with an option for an additional five years**.
- There will be **8 cheetahs from Namibia and 12 from South Africa**, with more to come in succeeding years.

Key Points:

- The environment ministry is working with the **Wildlife Institute of India** to carry out a lengthy, one-time initiative to bring cheetahs from Africa to India to bring back the wild cat, which went extinct in **India in the 1950s**.
- **Kuno Palpur** was approved as a potential place for the translocation of cheetahs by the expert team that the Supreme Court had formed.
- The **Madhya Pradesh Forest Department** has been preparing a **10 sq km enclosure** with 24-hour surveillance for the reintroduction of cheetahs for the past six months.

India's newest recorded snail named after the Western Ghats:

- A **carnivorous land snail** discovered in **Maharashtra's western Ghats** has made scientific history.
- It has been named after the original site of the species in the northern portion of the Western Ghats, which is **Sahyadri in Sanskrit**.
- The **Haploptychius sahyadriensis** is endemic to the Vishalgad Conservation Reserve in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district.
- The **Haploptychius sahyadriensis**, recorded from the northern **Western Ghats of Maharashtra**, is the third member of the genus **Haploptychius**.

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- The other two – *H. andamanicus* and *H. pfeifferi* – were recorded in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the 1860s.

About the snail:

- The 'Sahyadri snail' is distinguished from other Indian and Southeast Asia's Haploptychius in having a sub-oblique helical shell, low spire, and presence of a strong parietal lamella.
- The new species also has a unique genital anatomy.
- *Haploptychius sahyadriensis* is different from the other Indian and South-East Asian species.
- India has 1,450 snails and slugs with the highest diversity in north-eastern India.

Glischropus meghalayanus: New Species of Bamboo-Dwelling Bat Found in Meghalaya

- Scientists have discovered a new species of bamboo-dwelling bat in the Ri Bhoi district of Meghalaya.
- It is the first report of a thick-thumbed bat not only from India but also from South Asia.
- The species, found near the forested patch of Nongkhyllam Wildlife Sanctuary, has been named *Glischropus meghalayanus*.
- The newly discovered species is small in size and has a dark brown color with a sulphur-yellow bell. Some bats are a particular kind of bats living in the internodes of bamboos with specialized morphological characteristics that help them to adapt to the life inside a bamboo.
- With this discovery, the total number of bat species known from India stands at 131.
- Meghalaya, a state with a small geographical area, harbors the highest bat diversity in the country with 67 species, which is about 51% of the total bat species in the country.
- Dhriti Banerjee, Director of the ZSI, Meghalaya, because of its unique terrain, vegetation, and climate condition, was a haven for both flora and fauna.

Thiomargarita Magnifica: World's biggest bacterium found in Caribbean mangrove swamp:

- Scientists have discovered the world's largest bacterium in a Caribbean mangrove swamp - and it is so big that you can see it with the naked eye.
- The thin white filament, which is approximately the size of a human eyelash, is "by far the largest bacterium known to date," Jean-Marie Volland, a marine biologist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

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- The bacterium is named **Thiomargarita Magnifica** or "magnificent sulfur pearl" and can reach a length of **2 centimeters**.
- It is roughly **50 times larger than all known giant bacteria**.
- **Olivier Gros**, a co-author and biologist at the University of the French West Indies and Guiana found the first example of this bacterium clinging to sunken mangrove leaves in the archipelago of Guadeloupe in 2009.
- Gros also found the bacterium attached to oyster shells, rocks, and glass bottles in the swamp.
- However, Gros immediately did not know that **it was a bacterium because of its size**.
- Genetic analysis performed later revealed that the organism was a single bacterial cell.
- The researchers have not been able to grow the bacteria in lab culture yet.
- One key difference is that **Thiomargarita Magnifica** has a large central compartment, or vacuole, that allows some cell functions to happen in that controlled environment instead of throughout the cell.

New spider from Thar desert named after Malayali arachnologist:

- A new species of spider discovered in the **Thar desert of Rajasthan** has been named after a **Malayalee arachnologist**.
- The new species of jumping spider, **Pseudomogrus sudhii**, has been named after **Sudhikumar A.V.**, Head, Department of Zoology, Christ College, Irinjalakuda, and founder of the **Centre for Animal Taxonomy and Ecology (CATE)** in recognition of his contributions to the field of Indian arachnology.
- The jumping spider was discovered during a joint exploration by **Dmitri Logunov** **Rishikesh Balkrishna Tripathi** and **Ashish Kumar Jangid** of Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
- This species inhabits the **dry grass blades of the desert**.
- It is the first report of this genus from India.
- So far 35 species of spiders of this genus have been discovered worldwide.
- The spider is **only 4 mm long**.
- The dark brown colored head of the male is covered with small white hairs and has a black eye region.
- The spider is named after Dr. Sudhikumar for his contributions to the field of Indian arachnology.

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- He has published more than 200 research articles on the Indian spider diversity in various international and national journals.
- He is the author of Keralathile Chilanthikal published by the Kerala Bhasha Institute.

IMPORTANT APPS & SERVICES NEWS

Govt launches Rashtriya Puruskar Portal for inviting nominations for various awards:

- **The Union Government** has launched the **Rashtriya Puruskar Portal** for inviting nominations for various awards from the various Ministries, Departments, and agencies to ensure transparency and public partnership.
- This common portal has been developed by the government to bring together all the awards under one digital platform.
- The Portal aims to facilitate citizens to nominate individuals and organizations for various awards instituted by the Government of India.
- Presently nominations and recommendations for **Padma Awards** are open till the 15th of September this year for **Sardar Patel National Unity Awards**, nominations will be open till the 31st of July.
- Nomination for **Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award** will remain open till the 16th of June and nomination for the **Jeevan Raksha Padak** series of Awards will be open till the 30th of September 2022.
- The individual can be nominated for **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Telecom Skill Excellence Award**.
- Individuals and organizations can visit www.awards.gov.in

NCPCR launches “CiSS application” under Baal Swaraj portal to help the rehabilitation of children in street situations:

- **The National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** has launched a “CiSS application” under the Baal Swaraj portal to help in the rehabilitation process of Children in Street Situations. (CiSS)
- Baal Swaraj is a portal launched by NCPCR for online tracking and digital real-time monitoring mechanism of children in need of care and protection.

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- The portal has **two functions- COVID care and CiSS.**
- COVID Care link caters to the children who have lost either or both parents due to COVID-19 or otherwise post-March 2020.
- It follows **six stages framework for the rehabilitation of children.**
 - ✓ The first stage is the collection of the child's details, which is accomplished through the portal.
 - ✓ The second stage is Social Investigating Report (SIR) i.e. investigating the child's background. This is done under the supervision of the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) by the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) by conversing and counseling the child.
 - ✓ The third stage is formulating an Individual Care Plan (ICP) for the child.
 - ✓ The fourth stage is the order of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) based on the SIR submitted to the CWC.
 - ✓ The fifth stage is allocating the schemes and benefits that the beneficiary can avail of.
 - ✓ And in the sixth stage, a checklist is made for the evaluation of the progress.

About the Portal:

- This portal, **developed by, NCPDR** is a first-of-its-kind initiative in India to help children in street situations.
- The CiSS application is used for receiving data of children in street situations from all the states and union territories, tracking their rescue and rehabilitation process.
- The initiative is taken under the direction of the Supreme Court of India.
- The program embodies **Article 51 (A) of the Constitution of India**, as it provides a platform to the public and organizations catering to the welfare of the children to report any child in need of assistance.
- The platform serves to collect data and report to the **District Child Protection Officer (DCPO)** for them to take necessary action.

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw launches Policy & Portal of e-auction for Commercial earning, Non-Fare Revenue (NFR) contracts:

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- **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched an e-auction for Commercial earning, Non-Fare Revenue (NFR) contracts in Rail Bhavan.
- This will not only increase Railway's earnings but also bolster efforts being taken by the Government for ease of doing business.
- This policy is in line with the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to change the experience of the common man by the use of technology.
- With this new policy, the tedious process of tendering would get simplified.
- Also, it would give opportunities for youth to join the e-auction process.
- This policy enhances ease of living, promotes transparency, and adds to Digital India initiatives in Railways

Salient Features of New System:

- The Auction will be conducted online through the 'E-Auction Leasing' module of IREPS: www.ireps.gov.in
- Policy for e-Auction and Standard Conditions of Auction issued by Railway Board:
- The earlier system of physical registration of contractors Division-wise has been done away with, only financial criteria – based on self-declaration of past turnovers by contractors
- Financial turnover criteria rationalized and standardized – **No turnover requirement up to Rs. 40 lacs annual contract estimates**
- One-time online self-registration of contractors
- No geographical restrictions for participation in any auction of any Division

PM Shri Narendra Modi to launch national portal for credit-linked government schemes:

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** will launch the national portal for credit-linked government schemes- **Jan Samarth Portal** in New Delhi.
- It is a **one-stop digital portal** linking Government credit schemes.
- The portal is also a first-of-its-kind platform that directly connects beneficiaries to lenders.
- The main purpose of the Jan Samarth portal is **to encourage inclusive growth and development of various sectors** by guiding and providing them with the right type of government benefits through simple and easy digital processes.

Key Points:

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- Mr. Modi will inaugurate the **Iconic Week Celebrations of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.**
- This week is being celebrated as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav **from 6th to 11th June.**
- Prime Minister will inaugurate a Digital Exhibition which traces the journey of the two Ministries over the past eight years.
- Prime Minister will also release special series of one, two, five, ten- and twenty-rupees coins.
- These special series of coins will have the theme of the logo of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and will also be easily identifiable to visually impaired persons.
- The program will also be organized simultaneously at 75 locations across the country and each location will be connected through virtual mode with the main venue.

IMPORTANT RANKING & INDEX NEWS

Bloomberg Billionaire Index: Mukesh Ambani Becomes Asia's Richest Man Surpasses Gautam Adani

- According to **Bloomberg Billionaire Index As of June 3, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani has regained the position of India as well as Asia's richest man, replacing Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani.**
- Mukesh Ambani's net worth has risen to **USD 99.7 billion**, while Gautam Adani's net worth stood at **USD 98.7 billion.**
- As per the index, Mukesh Ambani is ranked the **8th richest person in the world & Adani is ranked 9th position.**

Top 5 in Bloomberg Billionaire Index, As of June 3 :

1. **Tesla CEO Elon Musk - \$227 billion**
2. **Amazon's Jeff Bezos - \$149 billion**
3. **LVMH's Bernard Arnault - \$138 billion**
4. **Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates - \$124 billion**
5. **Legendary investor Warren Buffett - \$114 billion.**

About Bloomberg Billionaire Index :

- The Bloomberg Billionaires Index, launched in **March 2012**, is a daily ranking of the world's 500 richest people based on their net worth.

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- The index is updated every day at the close of trading in New York.

7th Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list 2022 Released by Forbes Magazine

- The 7th edition of the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia List 2022 has released by Forbes magazine features 30 notable honorees selected for each of the 10 categories, under the age of 30 who are inspiring change and driving innovation in their respective fields amid the challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The list was edited by Rana Wehbe Watson.
- The 2022 list features a diverse set of 30 Under 30 honorees, with 22 countries and territories represented across the Asia-Pacific region.
- In terms of the number of entries, India tops the list with 61, followed by Singapore (34), Japan (33), Australia (32), Indonesia (30), and China (28).

List of 10 Categories :

1. The Arts (Art & Style, Food & Drink)
2. Entertainment & Sports
3. Finance & Venture Capital
4. Media, Marketing & Advertising
5. Retail & Ecommerce
6. Enterprise Technology
7. Industry, Manufacturing & Energy
8. Healthcare & Science
9. Social Impact

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10. Consumer Technology.

Several Indians from various fields have been included in this list they are:

- Shiv Parekh, Founder - hBits
- Samyak Jain and Sowmay Jain, Cofounders - Instadapp Labs
- Lavika Aggarwal and Sajal Khanna, Cofounders - Akudo
- Rohan Nayak, Cofounder - Pocket FM
- Trinetra Haldar Gummaraju, Content creator
- Vivan Marwaha, Author
- Masoom Minawala, Content creator
- Ranveer Allahbadia and Viraj Sheth, Cofounders - Monk Entertainment
- Soniya Kundnani and Darshan Shah, Cofounders - NewsReach
- Niharika NM, Content creator
- Shreya Patel, Founder - Window Dreams Productions
- Shlok Srivastava, Founder - Tech Bumer
- Ravish Agrawal, Swatantra Kumar, and Siddharth Srivastava, Cofounders - Able Jobs
- Shreyans Sancheti and Harish Uthayakumar, Cofounders - Bluelearn
- Jhansi Elango, Co-CEO - Chutney
- Shourya Agarwal, Rajat Gupta, and Malhar Patil, Cofounders - Flam
- Hardik Bansal, Harsh Vardhan Chhangani, and Bhanu Pratap Singh Tanwar, Cofounders -

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FRND

- Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash Jonnalagadda, Founder - Bhanzu
- Harshit Awasthi, Ahmad Faraaz, and Sashakt Tripathi, Cofounders - Kalam Labs
- Javed Khatri, Chief Product Officer - eBikeGo
- Arnav Kishore, Founder - Firebolt
- Bhavya Gohil and Atur Mehta, Cofounders - Square Off
- Sujay Suresh Kumar, Cofounder - Lilu
- Pubarun Basu, Photographer
- Alfiya Attarwala and Sarrah Kapasi, Cofounders - D-Alive Health
- Vidur Gupta, Cofounder - Third Eye Distillery
- Harsh Kedia, Founder - A Diabetic Chef
- Osheen Siva, Artist
- Pallav Bihani, Founder - Boldfit
- Raunaq Singh Anand and Rhea Singh Anand, Cofounders - Flexnest
- Anik Bhandari, Siddhant Bhargava, Anirudh Ganeriwal and Devaj Jhunjhunwala, Cofounders - Food Darzee
- Abhishek Negi, Cofounder - Eggoz
- Stuti Gupta, Cofounder - Amrutam
- Vedant Lamba, Founder - Mainstreet
- Dawn Thomas, Cofounder - V&RO Hospitality

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- Aadit Palicha and Kaivalya Vohra, Cofounders - Zepto
- Kirti Jangra and Neetu Yadav, Cofounders - Animall
- Shaily Garg, Founder- GlobalFair Technologies
- Ben K George and Nanma Gireesh, Cofounders - NestAbide
- Manav Garg and Kunal Jain, Cofounders - Nexprt
- Anshu Abhishek and Vikram Singh Meena, Cofounders - Techeagle Innovations
- Nikhil Tripathi, Cofounder - Bijak
- Suvrat Bhooshan, Founder - Gan Studio
- Rajit Bhattacharya, Ankit Das, and Aisik Paul, Cofounders - Data Sutram
- Saya Date, Cofounder - Linecraft AI
- Prashant Kumar, Cofounder - BarRaiser
- Milan Singh and Apoorva Verma, Cofounders - Rattle
- Rashid Khan, Cofounder - Yellow.AI
- Namya Mahajan, Siddhant Sachdeva, and Vishal Sunil, Cofounders - Rocket Learning
- Aditi Arora, Country Manager - India, Girl Up
- Abhishek Bhattacharya, Cofounder - Whrrl
- Sahil Bansal and Aayush Goel, Cofounders - Kosh
- Jigyasa Labroo, Founder - Slam Out Loud
- Shubham Gupta and Rahul Kumar, Cofounders - ConnectedH

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- Prasanna Date, Research Scientist - Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- Aman Bhandula and Kaishu Sahu, Cofounders - Farmako
- Prasanth Ganesan, Postdoctoral Researcher - Stanford Medicine
- Shrey Jain, Cofounder - HempStreet Medicare
- Mehak Malik, Cofounder - Uvi Health
- Vivek Jaiswal, Anurag Savarnya and Shivansh Shrivastava, Cofounders - Saveo Healthtech

US surpasses China as India's largest trading partner in FY22

- The **US surpassed China** to become **India's top trading partner in 2021-22**, reflecting strengthening economic ties between the two countries.
- According to commerce ministry data, in 2021-22, bilateral trade between the US and India stood at **US\$ 119.42 billion** as against **US\$ 80.51 billion** in 2020-21.
- Exports to the US increased to **US\$ 76.11 billion** in 2021-22 from **US\$ 51.62 billion** in the previous fiscal, while imports rose to **US\$ 43.31 billion** as compared to around **US\$ 29 billion** in 2020-21.
- Exports to China increased marginally to **US\$ 21.25 billion** in the last fiscal from **US\$ 21.18 billion** in 2020-21, while imports increased from around **US\$ 65.21 billion** in 2020-21 to **US\$ 94.16 billion**.
- The trade gap widened to **US\$ 72.91 billion** in 2021-22 from **US\$ 44 billion** in 2020-21.

India's trade surplus with the US :

- The US is one of the few countries with which India has a trade surplus.
- In 2021-22, India had a trade surplus of **US\$ 32.8 billion** with the US.

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- Trade experts believe that bilateral trade with the US will continue to grow in the coming years as New Delhi and Washington continue to strengthen economic ties.

Top trading partners of India :

- China was India's top trading partner from 2013-14 to 2017-18 and also in 2020-21.
- In 2021-22, the **United Arab Emirates** was India's **third largest trading partner** with **US\$72.9 billion** followed by Saudi Arabia (US\$ 42.85 billion) as 4th, Iraq (US\$ 34.33 billion) as 5th and Singapore (US\$ 30 billion) as 6th position.

Forbes Global 2000 list - RIL top-ranked Indian firm

- The **20th annual Forbes Global 2000 list** of public companies was released, according to that Billionaire **Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)** climbed **two spots** to **No. 53** followed by **State Bank of India** at **No. 105**, **HDFC Bank** at **No. 153** and **ICICI Bank** at **No. 204**.

Top 10 Indian Companies in Forbes Global 2000 list :

1. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)
2. State Bank of India (SBI)
3. HDFC Bank Limited
4. ICICI Bank Limited
5. Oil & Natural Gas Corp. Ltd. (ONGC)
6. Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited
7. Indian Oil Corp. Ltd.
8. Tata Consultancy Services Limited (TCS)
9. Tata Steel Limited
10. Axis Bank Limited

Top 5 Global companies on the Forbes list :

1. Berkshire Hathaway, USA
2. Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), China
3. Aramco, Saudi Arabia
4. JP Morgan Chase, USA

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5. China Construction Bank.

Note :

- In 2021, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) Beijing, China was ranked 1st position.

Key Highlights :

- Reliance, which recorded sales of **USD 104.6 billion** between April 2021 and March 2022, became the **first Indian company** to generate over USD 100 billion in annual revenue.
- With a market cap of **USD 56.12 billion**, **SBI** grabbed the **No. 2 spot** on the list.
- Globally State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) at 228 rank, Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC) at No. 268, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) at No.357, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) at No. 384, Tata Steel at No. 407 and Axis Bank at No. 431.
- Some notable newcomers to the list include billionaire **Gautam Adani's companies**: Adani Enterprises Limited, Adani Transmission Ltd and Adani Total Gas Ltd.
- Meanwhile, oil, gas and metal conglomerate **Vedanta Limited** jumped **703 spots** on the list, the highest leap among all Indian companies.

About Forbes Global 2000 list :

- The Forbes Global 2000 is an annual ranking of the top 2000 public companies in the world by Forbes magazine.
- The ranking is based on a mix of **four metrics**: sales, profit, assets and market value.
- The list has been published since **2003**.

THE Asia University Rankings 2022: IISc Bangalore emerges top Indian University

- According to the **2022 edition of the Asia University Rankings** released by the **Times Higher Education (THE)**, India is the **third most-represented country**, with **71 institutions**.
- In 2021, a total of 62 Indian institutions participated in the rankings.
- The 2022 rankings comprise **616 universities from 31 countries** and territories across Asia.

Indian Universities Rankings in THE Asia University Rankings 2022:

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- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, is the only institute to make the top-50 list with 42 ranks.
- In the top 100 rankings, 4 Indian Universities have been placed i.e. Mysore-based JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research on 65th, IIT Ropar on 68th, IIT Indore on 87th position, and IISc Bangalore on 42nd.
- As compared to the 2021 rankings, all the Indian institutes in top-100 have slipped down & there are 17 Indian universities in the top 200 as compared to 18 in 2021.
- Of the 14 that have made it to the ranking in both years, 8 have risen.

Key Highlights :

- The top two universities on this list are from China for the third consecutive year.
 1. Tsinghua
 2. Peking universities
- In 2022, Japan is the most-represented nation again, with 118 institutions, up from 116 in 2021.
- Overall, there are 97 mainland Chinese universities in the ranking, up from 91 in 2021, making it the second most-represented nation on the table.
- A Palestinian university is ranked for the first time and Saudi Arabia has increased its representation in the top 100 from four to six institutions.

Asia University Rankings 2022: Top Indian universities.

Institution	2022 Rank	2021 Rank
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	42	37
JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research	65	NR
Indian Institute of Technology Ropar	68	55

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Indian Institute of Technology Indore	87	78
Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar	120	137
Alagappa University	122	NR
Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology	127	144
Saveetha University	131	401-450
Mahatma Gandhi University	139	154
Delhi Technological University	149	201-250
Banaras Hindu University	153	172
Institute of Chemical Technology	158	122
Jamia Millia Islamia	160	180
Jawaharlal Nehru University	167	187
International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad	174	NR
Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi	177	143
Panjab University	197	175

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TCS retains 10th position among global BPM providers in 2021

- According to Everest Group, Tata Consultancy Service (TCS) has retained its 10th position among the top global BPM (business process management) providers in 2021.
- The ranking is based on a composite score of revenue (more than US\$ 3 billion for TCS) and revenue growth (14-16% over 2020).

Key Highlights :

In terms of revenue, the top five BPM players :

1. ADP
2. Teleperformance
3. Accenture
4. Concentrix
5. Sitel Group.

Top five fastest-growing companies YoY (Year on Year)

1. Tech Mahindra
 2. Telus International
 3. Majorel
 4. Teleperformance
 5. Comdata
- Also, Infosys, Wipro, and Tech Mahindra's BPM businesses were ranked 20, 21, and 22, respectively, with revenue of US\$ 1.3 billion, US\$1.4-1.5 billion, and US\$ 675 million.
 - The Everest Group's top 50 rankings are based on both revenue and year-on-year growth.
 - In that Revenues comprise 75% of the composite score, and growth 25%.

Growth has two sub-parameters:

1. **Absolute growth** (measured as change in revenue in US dollar million and accounting for 12.5% of the composite score)
 2. **Percentage growth** (measured as a percentage change in BPM revenue and accounting for the other 12.5%).
- The top 50 providers added \$11.8 billion in incremental revenue in 2021, an 8-fold increase from 2020.

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- The top 10 providers contributed about 60% of the total incremental revenue, the providers ranked from 11 to 50 added more than \$5 billion in revenue in 2021.

About TCS:

- Founded: 1968
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- MD & CEO : Rajesh Gopinathan

India Ranks Lowest Among 180 Countries - Environmental Performance Index 2022

- In the 2022 Environment Performance Index (EPI), India has been ranked lowest among 180 countries with a total score of 18.9.
- Denmark topped the 2022 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) followed by the UK and Finland.
- China is placed 161st, with an overall EPI score of 28.4.

Top 5 Countries in Environmental Performance Index 2022:

Rank	Country	Score	10 Year Change
1	Denmark	77.90	14.90
2	UK	77.70	23.00
3	Finland	76.50	21.00
4	Malta	75.20	25.20
5	Sweden	72.70	15.80

Bottom 5 Countries :

Rank	Country	Score	10 Year
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			Change
176	Sri Lanka	34.70	-2.60
177	Nepal	28.30	-10.30
178	Pakistan	24.60	1.40
179	Bangladesh	23.10	-1.90
180	India	18.90	-0.60

- Only a handful of countries, including Denmark and the UK, are currently slated to reach greenhouse gas neutrality by 2050.
- EPI projections indicate that **four countries** i.e. **China, India, the US, and Russia** will account for over **50 percent of residual global greenhouse gas emissions in 2050** if current trends hold.

About Environmental Performance Index 2022 :

- The Environmental Performance Index 2022 was published by the **Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy** and the **Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Columbia University**.
- The EPI provides a data-driven summary of the state of sustainability around the world.
- Using **40 performance indicators** across **11 issue categories**, the EPI ranks **180 countries** on **climate change performance, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality**.

Note :

- **India** has a **19.3 EPI score** on the **ecosystem vitality** on the index & **12.5 on health, and 21.7 on Climate Policy**.

Elon Musk Tops in Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List

- According to **Forbes real-time billionaires list**, **Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk** continues to be the richest person in the world with a net worth of **\$233.7 billion**.

Top 5 in Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List:

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Rank	Name	Net Worth	Country
1	Elon Musk	\$233.7 billion	United States
2	Bernard Arnault	\$157 billion	France
3	Jeff Bezos	\$151.2 billion	United States
4	Bill Gates	\$129.1 billion	United States
5	Warren Buffett	\$113.9 billion	United States

- As per the list, **Mukesh Ambani** has ranked **6th position** with a **net worth of \$104.7 billion** & meanwhile, **Gautam Adani**, is the **9th largest richest man** in the world with a total net worth of **\$99.9 billion**.
- Google's **Larry Page** is the **world's 7th richest person** with his wealth summing up to **\$100.9 billion**, while **Larry Ellison**, co-founder of Oracle, is in the **8th spot** with a net worth of **\$100.8 billion**.
- Google's **Sergey Brin** is the **10th world's richest person** with a net worth of **\$97.1 billion**.

Note :

- Only **2 Indians** are there on the **Forbes real-time billionaire list** - **Reliance Industries chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani** and **Adani Group's chairman Gautam Adani**.

Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya releases the 4th State Food Safety Index 2021-22

- On the occasion of **World Food Safety Day**, Union Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** released the **4th State Food Safety Index (SFSI)** by **FSSAI** to measure the **performance of States across five parameters of food safety** and felicitated the winning State/UTs based on the ranking for the year 2021-22.
- Among **large States**, **Tamil Nadu** topped the list followed by **Gujarat & Maharashtra**.
- Among the **smaller states**, **Goa** stood first followed by **Manipur and Sikkim**.
- Among **UTs**, **Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi** and **Chandigarh** secured first, second and third rank

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- Dr. Mandaviya further launched various innovative initiatives by FSSAI including the **Eat Right Research Awards and Grants – Phase II. Eat Right Creativity Challenge – Phase III**, a competition at the school level
- He released a **logo for AyurvedaAahar** which contains the initials of Ayurveda and Ahara with 5 leaves symbolizing five elements of nature.
- This logo would be beneficial in creating a unique identity, easy identification, and proven benefits to improve health and wellbeing.
- He released various **ebooks** that advocate and capture innovative recipes about oil-free cooking and sugarless desserts.
- He launched various resource books including Khadyanjali, a quarterly magazine published by the Rajbhasha Division of FSSAI; Guidance Document on Food-Borne Disease Outbreak Investigation and Microbiological Process Control, Sampling and Testing of Fish and Fishery Products, etc.
- He also felicitated **11 winning smart cities** of the EatSmart Cities Challenge, launched by FSSAI last year in association with the Smart Cities Mission under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

About State Food Safety Index (SFSI) :

- SFSI was started in **2018-19**.

Aim :

- To create a competitive and positive change in the food safety ecosystem in the country.
- The index will help in providing safe and nutritious food to our citizens.
- The index is developed by **FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India)** to measure the performance of states on five significant parameters of Food Safety.

5 Parameter :

1. Human Resources and Institutional Data
2. Compliance
3. Food Testing – Infrastructure and Surveillance
4. Training & Capacity Building
5. Consumer Empowerment.

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- The Index is a dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model that provides an objective framework for evaluating food safety across all States/UTs.

Note :

- World Food Safety Day 2022, is observed on **June 7** every year.

IIM Ahmedabad launches India's First Agri Land Price Index

- The Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) in collaboration with Indian agri-land marketplace SFarmsIndia has launched the IIMA-SFarmsIndia Agri Land Price Index (ISALPI), a first-of-its-kind land price index that will record and present 'quality controlled' data of prices of agricultural land across India.
- Presently, ISALPI is based on land listing data from **six states: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh.**
- The index could be more valuable in two ways.
 1. It will offer a superior representation of the national context.
 2. It will offer a more granular index at regional levels.

Benefits of the Index :

- The index can greatly benefit stakeholders across the spectrum including policymakers, local governments, environmentalists, investors, real estate developers, and financiers.
- It is particularly important in terms of benchmarking land prices in **rural and semi-urban areas.**
- Investors could use this information to assess the historical risk and return in the past and predict these metrics for the future to decide on their investment positions.
- Fund managers and producers could use this information to broadly benchmark their performance.
- Financiers and insurers could use this information to assess the risk in the company related to the asset class reflected in the index.
- Researchers could use this information to study how economic events and factors are associated with price movements in a specific asset class.

Additional Info :

- Out of **200 million hectares**, India houses **just 2% of the world's cropped land**; but feeds over **15% of the world's population.**

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About SFarmsIndia :

- Established: 2018
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- CEO: Kamesh Mupparaju
- SFarmsIndia has a strong focus on data warehousing and mining aimed at bringing cutting-edge agri-realty domain-specific AI capabilities to the market.

QS World University Rankings 2023: IISc Bengaluru Fastest Rising South Asian University, 4 IITs In Top 200

- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru has emerged as the highest-ranked Indian institute with the rank of 155 rising 31 places since the 2022 ranking and also the fastest rising South Asian University in the 2023 edition of the QS World University rankings.

Top 10 Universities :

Rank	Name of University	Overall Score
1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, United States (for the 11th consecutive year)	100
2	University of Cambridge Cambridge, United Kingdom	98.8
3	Stanford University Stanford, United States	98.5
4	University of Oxford Oxford, United Kingdom	98.4
5	Harvard University Cambridge, United States	97.6

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6	California Institute of Technology (Caltech) Pasadena, United States	97
6	Imperial College London London, United Kingdom	97
8	UCL, London, United Kingdom	95
9	ETH Zurich Zürich, Switzerland	93.6
10	University of Chicago Chicago, United States	93.2

India's Position in QS World University Rankings 2023:

- According to the rankings, **13 Indian universities** have improved their research impact relative to global competitors, seeing a rise in the **Citations per Faculty (CpF) score**.
- A total of **41 universities from India** have been ranked & of these, 12 improve, 12 remain stable, 10 declines, and 7 are new entries.
- Among the **8 public IoEs**, 5 (IISc, IIT-B, IIT-D, IIT-Madras, and IIT-Kharagpur) improved their rankings, while the **University of Delhi** and **University of Hyderabad** slipped & **Banaras Hindu University**, the only other public IoE, has been ranked outside the top 1,000, in the 1,001-1,200 band.
- **30 of India's 41 ranked universities** have suffered declines in QS' Faculty and Student Ratio (FSR) indicator, with only four recording improvements
- IISc Bengaluru is the world's top research university, achieving a perfect score of **100/100** for this metric.
- IIT Guwahati (37th for CpF), IIT Roorkee (47th for CpF), and the new entry University of Madras (48th for CpF) are also global top-50 research institutions.

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- The number of Indian institutes among the top 1,000 globally has risen to **27** from 22.
- **OP Jindal Global University** is the **highest-ranked private university** for the third year.
- IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi are the only two national universities to feature among the world's top-100 in this crucial metric, ranking 59th and 72nd respectively.

Top Indian Universities in QS World University Rankings 2023:

Name of University	QS World Ranking 2023
IISc Bangalore, Karnataka	155
IIT Bombay, Mumbai, Maharashtra	172
IIT Delhi, New Delhi, Delhi	174
Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM), Chennai, Tamil Nadu	250
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK), Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh	264
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT-KGP), Kharagpur, West Bengal	270
Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR), Roorkee, Uttarakhand	369
Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG), Guwahati, Assam	384
Indian Institute of Technology Indore (IIT Indore), Indore, Madhya Pradesh	396

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About QS World University Rankings 2023:

- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), the **London-based** global higher education analyst, released the **19th edition** of the world's most consulted international university ranking.
- This year's QS World University Rankings is the largest ever, with **1,418 institutions** across one hundred locations, up from 1,300 the previous year.
- QS uses **6 parameters** to rank institutions which include
 1. Academic Reputation (40%)
 2. Employer Reputation (10%)
 3. Faculty/Student Ratio (20%)
 4. Citations per faculty (20%)
 5. International Faculty Ratio (5%)
 6. International Student Ratio (5%).

UNCTAD's World Investment Report: India ranked 7th, US Tops

- The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** has released the **annual World Investment Report**, as per this **India is ranked 7th position** among the top recipients of foreign direct investment (FDI).
- As per the report, FDI inflows into India reduced to **USD 45 billion in 2021** from **USD 64 billion in 2020**.
- Among the top **10 economies**, **only India** witnessed a **decline** in its FDI inflows.
- However, outward FDI from India rose **43 percent to \$15.5 billion in 2021**.
- The **United States** remained the **top recipient** of FDI with an FDI inflow of **\$367 billion** followed by **China** with USD 181 billion and **Hong Kong** with USD 141 at second and third positions.

Top 10 FDI Recipients :

Rank	Country	FDI Inflow(\$billion)
1	United States	367

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2	China	181
3	Hong Kong	141
4	Singapore	99
5	Canada	60
6	Brazil	50
7	India	45
8	South Africa	41
9	Russia	38
10	Mexico	32

Key Highlights :

- As per the report, FDI Flows into India declined to **\$45 billion** however, several new international projects were announced
- The **largest number of projects (23)** was in renewables.
- Large projects include the construction in India of a steel and cement plant for **\$13.5 billion** by ArcelorMittal-Nippon Steel (Japan) and the construction of a new car manufacturing facility by Suzuki Motor (Japan) for \$2.4 billion.
- **China, Hong Kong, Singapore, India, the United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia** accounted for **more than 80%** of FDI to South Asia.

About FDI :

- A foreign direct investment (FDI) is an investment in the form of controlling ownership in a business in one country by an entity based in another country.
- With FDI, foreign companies are directly involved with day-to-day operations in the other country.

About UNCTAD :

- Established: 30 December 1964

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- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Secretary-General : Rebeca Grynspan
- It is an intergovernmental organization intended to promote the interests of developing states in world trade.
- It is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the **United Nations General Assembly**.

Note :

- **Rebeca Grynspan** is the **first woman** to serve as **Secretary-General** of UNCTAD.

India among 12 economies on currency 'Monitoring List' - US treasury report

- As per the **United States Department of Treasury's** semi-annual report to Congress on **Macroeconomic and Foreign Exchange Policies of Major Trading Partners of the United States**, **India** remained on the **US treasury department's** currency "Monitoring List" along with 11 other major economies that merit close attention to their **currency practices** and **macroeconomic policies**.
- The countries are **China, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Italy, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Mexico** are placed on the Monitoring List.
- **All except Taiwan and Vietnam** (which were subject to enhanced engagement) were on the Monitoring List in the December 2021 Report.
- India met two of the three criteria in the December 2021 and the April 2021 Reports.
- India will remain on the Monitoring List until it meets fewer than two criteria for two consecutive Reports.

Key Highlights :

- According to the report, **India (with \$569.9 billion)** has the **fourth largest foreign exchange** after **China (\$3.2 trillion)**, **Japan (\$1.2 trillion)**, and **Switzerland (\$1 trillion)**.
- RBI foreign exchange purchases in recent years have resulted in an elevated level of reserves.
- As of December 2021, foreign exchange reserves totaled **\$570 billion**, equivalent to **18 percent of GDP** and **209 percent of short-term external debt** at the remaining maturity.
- In the 2021 External Sector Report, the IMF judged that India's reserves at the time stood at 197 percent of the IMF's reserve adequacy metric as of end-2020.

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Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh releases the 2nd edition of the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment 2021, NeSDA 2021 - Kerala topped among states

- Union Minister of State, the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions **Dr. Jitendra Singh** released the **second edition of the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment 2021, NeSDA 2021**.

About NeSDA 2021 :

- The NeSDA 2021 framework was finalized after multiple consultative workshops with States, UTs, and Central Ministries from **March 2021 to May 2021**.
- The NeSDA 2021 Portal was formally launched in **June 2021** to conduct the entire assessment process online.
- These portals were assessed on **4 parameters, viz., accessibility, content availability, ease of use, and information security and privacy**.
- The Services Portals were assessed on an **additional 3 parameters, viz., End-service Delivery, Integrated Service Delivery, and Status and Request Tracking**.
- The report covers services across **7 sectors**: finance, labor, and employment, education, local governance and utility services, social welfare, environment, and tourism sectors.
- The assessment covered **56 mandatory services for each state and UT** and **27 services** for the focus Central Ministries.
- The report has been prepared covering the assessment of States, and UTs, and focuses on Central Ministries on their effectiveness in delivering online services to citizens.
- The report also provides suggestions for governments to further enhance their e-Governance service delivery systems
- NeSDA has followed the Good Governance Index 2021 grouping of the **States and UTs**.
 - 1st group: North-East and Hill States
 - 2nd group: Union Territories
 - 3rd group: Remaining States Group A
 - 4th group: Remaining States Group B.

Overall Ranking :

- **Kerala** had the **highest overall compliance score** among all states and UTs.

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- Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Kamataka, and Uttar Pradesh had a compliance of more than 85 percent among the Remaining States category.
- Among the Remaining States, the overall score of Tamil Nadu increased the most in 2021 compared to 2019.
- Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Goa, and Odisha also improved the compliance of their Services Portals by 100 percent.
- Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan are the leading states with compliance of more than 75 percent across all parameters for their Services Portals.

North-East and Hill States :

- Meghalaya and Nagaland are the leading State Portals with an overall compliance of more than 90 percent across all assessment parameters among the northeast and hill states.
- Among the Services Portals for North-East and Hill States, the highest-ranking states of Meghalaya and Tripura showed improvement across all six sectors compared to NeSDA 2019

Union Territories :

- Jammu and Kashmir, assessed for the first time, ranked the highest among Union Territories with an overall compliance of nearly 90 percent for the national e-governance service delivery assessment (NeSDA).

Ranking of central ministries:

- Home Affairs, Rural Development, Education, and Environment, Forest & Climate Change are the leading Ministry Portals with an overall compliance of more than 80% across all assessment parameters.
- The Central Public Procurement Portal, Digital Police Portal, and Bhavishya Portal are the leading Ministry Services Portals with an overall compliance of more than 85% across all assessment parameters.

About NeSDA :

- NeSDA is the biennial study that provides suggestions for governments to further enhance their e-Governance service delivery systems.
- It is Constituted in 2019 by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG).

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IMD World Competitiveness Index 2022: India's rank 37 Denmark Tops

- According to the International Institute for Management Development's annual World Competitiveness Index 2022 India has witnessed the sharpest rise among the Asian economies, with a 6th position jump from 43rd in 2021 to 37th rank in 2022.
- Denmark topped the 2022 IMD World Competitiveness Index featuring 63 economies followed by Switzerland and Singapore.

Top 10 Countries in IMD World Competitiveness Index 2022:

1. Denmark
2. Switzerland
3. Singapore
4. Sweden
5. Hong Kong SAR (Special Administrative Region)
6. Netherlands
7. Taiwan
8. Finland
9. Norway
10. USA

In 2021 ranking:

- Denmark - 3rd Position
- Switzerland - 1st Position
- Singapore - 5th position

Key Highlights:

- China ranked 17th and Australia ranked 19th in the index.
- With the improvement in the ranking, India's economic performance has improved from 37th in 2021 to 28th position in 2022.
- The government efficiency improved from 46 in 2021 to 45 in 2022, while business efficiency saw a huge improvement from 32nd rank in 2021 to 23rd in 2022 & Infrastructure, India remains 49.

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- The challenges that India's faces include managing trade disruptions and energy security, maintaining high GDP growth post the pandemic, skill development and employment generation, asset monetization, and resource mobilization for infrastructure development.
- The top 5 attractive factors of India's economy for business are
 1. A skilled workforce
 2. Cost competitiveness
 3. The dynamism of the economy
 4. High educational level
 5. Open and positive attitudes.

About the World Competitiveness Index 2022:

- The 2022 World Competitiveness Ranking was released by the **IMD business school in Switzerland and Singapore.**
- Its think-tank, IMD World Competitiveness Center, ranks 63 economies and assesses the extent to which a country promotes the prosperity of its people by measuring economic well-being via hard data and survey responses from executives.

About IMD :

- Established: 1990
- Location : Lausanne, Vaud, Switzerland
- Chairman: Michel Demaré
- President : Jean-Francois Manzoni

Transport Research Wing (TRW) Road accidents in India 2020 report: Road Accidents Significantly Declined by 13% In 2020

- According to the report 'Road accidents in India 2020', prepared by the Transport Research Wing (TRW) of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), the number of road accidents has been on the decline since 2016 except for a marginal increase of 0.46 percent in 2018.

Key Highlights of the report :

- Road accident parameters registered a significant decline in 2020 compared to 2019.
- As per data, Total accidents decreased on an average by 18.46 percent, the number of persons killed decreased by 12.84 percent and the number of injuries decreased by 22.84 percent.

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- For the **second consecutive year**, the total number of road accident fatalities has declined in 2020.
- Similarly, the number of persons injured has been on the decline since 2015.
- For the 3rd consecutive year in 2020, the fatal road accident victims largely constitute **young people in the productive age groups**.
- Young adults in the age group of **18 - 45 years** accounted for **69 percent of victims in 2020**.
- People in the working-age group of **18 – 60 years share 87.4 percent of total road accident fatalities**.
- A total of **3,66,138 road accidents** have been reported by **States and Union Territories (UTs)** during the calendar year 2020, which claimed 1,31,714 lives and caused 3, 48,279 injuries.
- A total of 1, 20,806 fatal accidents were reported in 2020, which is 12.23 percent lower than the 2019 figure of 1, 37,689.

The Major States that achieved a significant reduction in road accidents in 2020:

- Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.

The major States that achieved a significant reduction in road accident fatalities in 2020 :

- Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh.

About 'Road accidents in India 2020' :

- The 'Road accidents in India 2020' provides information on various facets of road accidents in the country during the calendar year 2020.
- It has **10 sections** and covers information relating to road accidents in the context of road length and vehicular population.
- Data/information provided in this report is sourced from police departments of States/Union Territories collected on a calendar year basis in standardized formats as provided by the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)** under the **Asia Pacific Road Accident Data (APRAD)** base project.

4 Indian companies join Apple, Google, and Amazon as the world's 100 best brands

- According to the top 100 'Most Valuable Global Brands' report released by data analytics and brand consulting company Kantar, 4 Indian companies namely Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Infosys, and LIC were featured.

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- By 2021, the combined value of the world's Top 100 most valuable brands has increased by **23% to \$8.7 trillion**, highlighting the importance of brand strength in navigating an uncertain global economy.

Indian Companies in top 100 'Most Valuable Global Brands' report:

- Among the Indian companies, **TCS** was ranked as the **most firm in the country**.
- In the overall rankings, **TCS** was ranked at the **46th spot**, with an **estimated brand valuation of \$50 billion**.
- **HDFC Bank** was ranked **61st** as the second-largest brand in India with a brand value of **\$35 billion**.
- **Infosys**, the latest entrant to the list, was in **64th place**, while brand value hovered at **\$33 billion**.
- **LIC** which recently had India's largest public issuance of ₹21,000 crores was ranked **92nd**, with a brand value of **\$23 billion**.
- **TCS** was the 2nd biggest brand in the Asia Pacific Region, second only to Samsung which has a brand value of \$54 billion.
- **HDFC Bank** and **Infosys** stood at the 3rd and 4th positions on the list, while **LIC** was in the 8th spot.

Rank	Company	Value
46	TCS	\$50 billion
61	HDFC Bank	\$35 billion
64	Infosys	\$33 billion
92	LIC	\$23 billion

Ranking in World:

- **Apple** was the **most valuable brand in the world**, with a **brand value of \$947 billion**, followed by Google, Amazon, and Microsoft.
- **Facebook**, which recently changed its name to **Meta**, stood at the eighth position as its brand value was nearly a fifth of Apple's.

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- Kantar Brandz's 2022 Most Valuable Global Brands also included IBM, Coca-Cola, Adobe, Oracle, Starbucks, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, Adidas, and Ikea in the top 100.

Top 10 Brands :

Rank	Brands	Value
1	Apple	\$947 billion
2	Google	\$819 billion
3	Amazon	\$705 billion
4	Microsoft	\$611 billion
5	Tencent	\$214 billion
6	McDonald's	\$196 billion
7	Visa	\$191 billion
8	Facebook	\$186 billion
9	Alibaba	\$169 billion
10	Louis Vuitton	\$124 billion

About Kantar Group :

- Founded: 1992
- Headquarters: London, England, UK
- CEO: Chris Jansen
- Kantar Group is a data analytics and brand consulting company.

Coursera Global Skills Report 2022: Switzerland tops, India ranked 68th position

- According to Coursera's latest Global Skills Report (GSR) 2022, India's overall skills proficiency has slipped **four places** to be ranked at the **68th position** globally.
- In Asia, India stands at the **19th position**.

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- For the **second consecutive year**, **Switzerland** had the **highest-skilled learners** followed by Denmark, Indonesia, and Belgium.

Key Highlights of Coursera Global Skills Report 2022 :

India's Scenario :

- The report shows an increase in **India's technology proficiency levels** from **38% to 46%**, with the country strengthening its position by **6 spots**.
- Meanwhile, **proficiency in data science** has dipped from **38% in 2021 to 26% in 2022**, leading to a **12-rank drop**.

Indian learners are focusing on building technology skills :

- With strong proficiency in key tech skills like cloud computing, theoretical computer science, and web development, India now ranks **56th globally** in the domain compared to the 66th ranking in 2021.
- Cloud Computing is India's strongest technology skill with **74% proficiency**.

Indian learners continue to lag in data science skills :

- Slipping by 12 ranks, India scores low on foundational and specialized data science skills
 - Data Visualization (10%)
 - Statistical Programming (14%)
 - Data Management (22%) among others.
 - The strongest skill in the domain for India continues to be Machine Learning (41%).

Learners in India are concentrating on financial skills :

- The government, along with online learning platforms, fin-techs, and experts in the financial sector, have been emphasizing the need for new-age financial skills.
- According to the GSR, learners in India are over-indexed in skills such as investment management (1.38x), blockchain (1.33x), and risk management (1.22x).
- **West Bengal leads** the Indian states in terms of skills proficiency with the state showing the highest levels of digital skills proficiency in the country.
- Andhra Pradesh is among the **top three performing states** with high proficiency in business and technology skills.

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- The report mentions the government's efforts toward skill development, public-private partnerships, and synergy through **Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC)** as the learners in AP have **100 percent proficiency** in security engineering, operating systems, and computer networking.
- **Industry reports** estimate that **28 million new technology jobs** will be created in India by 2025.

Global trends in the report:

- Wealthier countries scored higher in overall skills proficiency, matched by those with high levels of internet access.
- Learners in developing countries were more focused on digital skills through courses like supply chain systems and mobile architecture.
- Learners also focused on courses that develop the skills needed to understand the COVID-19 pandemic.

About Coursera Global Skills Report :

- The Global Skills Report draws data from **100 million learners in more than 100 countries** who have used Coursera to develop a new skill during the past year.
- The report benchmarks 3 of the most in-demand skill areas driving employment in the digital economy
 1. Business
 2. Technology,
 3. Data science.
- For the **1st time, the 2022 report also highlights changes in ranking for each country, and state-specific data** for the U.S. and India, where regional variations are notable.
- According to the report, Indian learners in southern states perform better than those in states in the north across all three domains.

About Coursera :

- Founded: April 2012
- Headquarters: California, USA
- CEO : Jeff Maggioncalda

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Renewables 2022 Global Status Report (GSR 2022) - India Ranks 3rd in Renewable Energy

Installations in 2021

- According to a report titled **Renewable Energy 2022 – Global Status Report**, published by REN21 (Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century), India ranked 3rd globally for total renewable power capacity additions with 15.4 GW in 2021, following only China (136 GW) and the US (43 GW).
- For the **first time**, the **GSR 2022** provides a **world map of renewable energy shares** by country and highlights progress in some of the leading countries.

Key Highlights of the Report :

- **India** has added **843 MW** to its hydropower capacity by 2021, bringing the **total capacity up to 45.3 GW**.
- **India** was **Asia's second-largest market** for solar PV capacity, and **third worldwide** (13 GW additions in 2021).
- For the **first time**, it **surpassed Germany (59.2 GW)** for fourth place in total installations (60.4 GW).
- **India** was rated **third** in the world for a total installed wind power capacity (40.1 GW), behind China, the US, and Germany.
- The **overall share of renewables in the world's final energy consumption** has stagnated rising **only minimally** from **10.6 percent** in 2009 to **11.7 percent** in 2019 & the global shift of the energy system to renewables is not happening.
- In the **electricity sector**, record additions in renewable power capacity (314.5 gigawatts, up 17 percent from 2020) and generation (7,793 terawatt-hours) were unable to meet the overall increase in electricity consumption of 6 percent.
- In **heating and cooling**, the renewable share in final energy consumption increased from **8.9 percent** in 2009 to **11.2 percent** in 2019.
- In the **transport sector**, where the renewable share went from **2.4 percent** in 2009 to **3.7 percent** in 2019, the lack of progress is particularly worrying, as the sector accounts for nearly a third of global energy consumption.

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- In the lead-up to the **United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26)** in November 2021, a record **135 countries** pledged to achieve **net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050**.
- However, only 84 of these countries had economy-wide targets for renewable energy, and only 36 had targets for 100 percent renewables.
- For the **first time** in the history of **UN climate summits**, the **COP26 declaration** mentioned the need to reduce coal use, but it failed to call for targeted reductions in either coal or fossil fuels.
- The GSR 2022 makes clear that meeting countries' net-zero pledges will require massive efforts, and that the momentum associated with Covid-19 has passed untapped.

About REN21's Renewables 2022 Global Status Report :

- REN21's Renewables 2022 Global Status Report (2022 GSR) warns that the global clean-energy transition is not taking place and that it is unlikely that the world can meet its critical climate goals in this decade.
- The 2022 report is the **17th consecutive edition** annual report.

Mercom India Solar Open Access Market Report Q1 2022

- According to the report titled '**Mercom India Solar Open Access Market Report Q1 2022**,' India added **513 MW** of solar open access capacity, **58 percent higher QoQ** compared to 324 MW installed in Q4 2021.
- Year Over Year (YoY), the installations **increased 22 percent** compared to 422 MW in Q1 2021.
- As of March 2022, the cumulative installed solar capacity in the open-access market was over **5.7 GW**.

Key Highlights :

- The **top 5 states** contributed **86 percent** of all open access installations in Q1 2022.
- According to the report, **Karnataka topped** in additions by accounting for **30 percent** of installations during the quarter.
- **Maharashtra** with a **131 percent QoQ** rise in installations surpassed **Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh** to become the **second-largest state** for cumulative open access solar installations.

About Mercom Communications India :

- Founded: 2009
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka

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- Managing Director: Priya Sanjay
- Mercom Communications India, a **subsidiary of the US-based Mercom Capital Group**, is a clean energy research and communications firm with expertise in cleantech markets.

India ranks 4th in gold recycling with a refining capacity of 1,800 tonnes: WGC report

- The **World Gold Council** launched a report titled 'Gold refining and recycling', in which India has ranked **4th in global gold recycling in 2021** with **75 tonnes of gold recycling**.
- The report estimated that from 2013 to 2021, India's gold refining capacity increased by **1,500 tonnes, or 500%, to 1,800 tonnes**.

Top 3 in global gold recycling in 2021:

1. China - Recycled 168 tonnes of gold
 2. Italy - 80
 3. United States of America (USA)- 78
- Over the past **five years 11%** of the country's gold supply came from 'old gold'; driven by movements in the gold price, future gold price expectations, and wider economic outlook.

Key Highlights :

- In India, the informal sector accounts for as much as an additional **300-500 tonnes**
- India's gold refining landscape has changed notably over the last decade, with the number of formal operations increasing from less than **5** in 2013 to **33** in 2021.
- The country's organized gold refining capacity has surged to an estimated **1,800 tonnes** compared to just 300 tonnes in 2013.
- The gold doré's share of overall imports has risen from just **7% in 2013** to around 22% in 2021.
- India recycles little of its stock of gold, about 8 percent of the global scrap supply.
- There are three sources of gold recycling: jewelry, manufacturing scrap, and end-of-life industrial scrap.
- The report highlights that amidst India's growing demand for gold, recycling will continue to be key and the refining industry, which is currently stabilizing after a period of change, will witness steady development.

About WGC :

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- CEO: David Tait
- Headquarters: London, United Kingdom
- The World Gold Council is the market development organization for the gold industry.
- It works across all parts of the industry, from gold mining to investment, and it aims to stimulate and sustain demand for gold.

India needs USD 223 billion to meet 2030 renewable capacity goals: BNEF Report

- According to a **BloombergNEF (BNEF)**'s new report titled 'Financing India's 2030 Renewables Ambition', published in association with the **Power Foundation of India**, India will need **USD 223 billion of investment** to meet its goal of wind and solar capacity installations by 2030.
- The government has set a target of increasing non-fossil power capacity to 500 GW by 2030.
- **Shantanu Jaiswal**, lead author of the report and head of India research at BloombergNEF.

Key Highlights of the report :

- As per the report, corporate commitments from Indian companies could help India achieve **86 percent** of its **2030** goals of building **500GW** of cumulative non-fossil power generation capacity.
- The Central Electricity Authority forecasts the country's reliance on coal to **drop from 53 percent** of installed capacity in **2021** to **33 percent in 2030**, whereas solar and wind together make up 51 percent by then, up from 23 percent in 2021.
- In the short-term, **rising interest rates**, a depreciating rupee, and high inflation create challenges for the financing of renewables.
- Scaling up financing to meet 2030 goals requires Independent Power Producers to tap into new or underutilized sources of capital.
- These could be revolving around construction debt, investment infrastructure trusts, and funding from retail investors, insurance companies, and pension funds.
- Higher funding requirements also need measures that can increase the availability of financing, such as de-risking renewable projects to offering contractual terms that provide greater comfort to investors

Additional info :

- At **COP26** in **November 2021**, Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** announced that India plans to **reduce emission intensity** by more than **45 percent** by 2030 to below 2005 levels.

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- He also announced a **net-zero by 2070 target**.
- By 2021, **165 GW of zero-carbon generation** had already been installed in the country.

About BloombergNEF :

- Founded: 2004
- Headquarters: London, England

EIU Global Liveability Index 2022: Vienna named the world's most liveable city in 2022

- According to a report **Global Liveability Index 2022** published by the **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**, the **Austrian capital Vienna** is the **world's most livable city** for the **3rd time** in the past **5 years**.
- Vienna snatched the top spot from Auckland, which tumbled down to **34th place** due to coronavirus pandemic restrictions
- In **2021, Vienna** was ranked **12th** as its museums and restaurants were closed due to the pandemic & it was ranked **1st position** in **2018 & 2019**.

Top 10 Most liveable cities:

Rank	City & Country	Score
1	Vienna - Austria	99.1 points
2	Copenhagen - Denmark	98 points
3	Zurich - Switzerland	96.3 points
4	Calgary - Canada	96.3 points
5	Vancouver - Canada	96.1 points
6	Geneva -Switzerland	95.9 points
7	Frankfurt -Germany	95.7 points
8	Toronto -Canada	95.4 points

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9	Amsterdam -Netherland	95.3 points
10	Osaka - Japan & Melbourne - Australia	95.1 points

Key Highlights :

- The top 10 rankings were dominated by **western European cities** i.e. **6 cities** ranked.
- **France's capital Paris** came **19th, 23 places up** from 2021.
- The Belgian capital **Brussels** was **24th**, just behind Canada's Montreal.
- The United Kingdom's capital **London** was the world's **33rd** most liveable city, while **Spain's Barcelona** and **Madrid** came **35th** and **43rd** respectively.
- **Italy's Milan** ranked number **49**, the **US city of New York** **51**, and **China's Beijing** came **71 st**.
- As for the **bottom of the list**, **Damascus in Syria (172)**, **Lagos in Nigeria (171)** and **Tripoli in Libya (170)** continue to lag.
- The **Ukrainian capital Kyiv** was **not included after Russia** invaded the country in **February 2022**.
- While Russian cities **Moscow** and **St Petersburg** fell in the rankings over "censorship" and the impact of Western sanctions.
- **Lebanon's capital Beirut**, which was ravaged by a 2020 port explosion and is battling a crippling financial crisis, was not included in the ranking of business destinations.

About EIU Index :

- In ELU's index every city is assigned a rating for relative comfort for over **30 factors across 5 general categories**:
 1. Stability
 2. Healthcare
 3. Culture and environment
 4. Education
 5. Infrastructure.

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The rapid transition to clean energy could create 1.5 crore jobs by 2025: Report

- The report titled 'Creating Jobs and Cutting Bills: the economic opportunities of a clean energy transition', published by the 'We Mean Business Coalition' and Cambridge Econometrics released ahead of the **G-7 leaders' summit**.
- As per the report, a swift shift from fossil fuels to clean energy could lead to the creation of **1.5 crore new jobs in India by 2025** and increase savings on electricity bills.

Key Highlights :

- According to the report, India could witness an **eight dollars or 10 percent reduction** in per capita energy expenditure by 2025 when compared with a business as usual scenario.
- The **reduction in per capita energy expenditure in India** is projected to be **34 dollars or 31 percent by 2030** and **74 dollars or 52 percent by 2035** from the business as usual scenario.
- The report suggested that the governments set out national action plans in 2022 to eliminate all fossil fuel subsidies by 2025 and repurpose the monies towards energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other measures to support a people-centered and equitable clean energy transition.
- It asked G-7 nations to phase out domestic coal-fired power generation by 2030 and rapidly scale up renewable energy deployment towards achieving **70 percent** of power generation by the next 8 years.
- The report also asked G-7 nations to commit to **100 percent sales of zero emissions by 2035** for new light-duty vehicles and increase public spending for energy efficiency.

About We Mean Business Coalition :

- Founded: 2014
- Headquarters: Washington, DC, USA
- CEO: Maria Mendiluce

Startup Genome Published 2022 Global Startup Ecosystem Report at London Tech Week: Kerala ranks top in Asia

- A report released by policy advisory and research firm **Startup Genome** released the **2022 Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER)** at the **Elevating Founders** event of London Tech Week.

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Key Highlights :

- As per a report **Bengaluru** has moved up to **22** from **23** in **2021**.
- **Bengaluru's** tech ecosystem value is **\$105 billion** which is higher than that of **Singapore** at **\$89 billion** and **Tokyo** at **\$62 billion**.
- **Bengaluru** is also among the **top 15 global ecosystems** in **funding** and is among the **top 25 global ecosystems** in **performance**.
- To boost **Kerala's start-up ecosystem**, it has been ranked **1st** in **Asia** in **Affordable Talent** in **Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER)**.
- Kerala has also been ranked **4th** in **global ranking** in the **GSER**, drawn up jointly by policy advisory and research organization **Startup Genome** and **Global Entrepreneurship Network**.

About Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) :

- Startup Genome published its **first Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER)** in **2012**.
- The **GSER** is the world's most comprehensive research on startups, with data from over three million companies across **280+** entrepreneurial innovation ecosystems.
- The **2022** edition ranks the **top 30** and **10 runner-up global ecosystems** and includes a **top 100** ranking of emerging ecosystems.
- The **GSER-2022** is the **10th** edition of the report & it was created in partnership with **Crunchbase** and **Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)**.

About London Tech Week 2022 :

- London Tech Week is the **UK's flagship tech event**.
- The event will focus on the following core topics:
 - Exploring the next generation of tech innovation
 - Impactful innovation at scale
 - Building a thriving tech industry

About Startup Genome :

- Founded: **2016**
- Headquarters: **San Francisco, California**
- Founder & CEO: **JF Gauthier**

SRS Data: India's life expectancy at birth rose to 69.7

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- According to the data from the **sample registration system (SRS) abridged life tables, 2015-19** shows **India's life expectancy at birth** has increased up to **69.7** in the 2015-2019 period.
- However, India's life expectancy at birth, which has inched up after 10 years, is still well below the global average of **72.6**.
- The data was released by the demographic survey.

Key Highlights :

- The Data suggests that high infant mortality and **under-five mortality** could be one of the reasons India finds it difficult to raise life expectancy at birth.
- The gap between life expectancy at birth and life expectancy at age one or age five is biggest in states with the highest **infant mortality rate (IMR) – Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh**
- In **Madhya Pradesh**, which has the **highest IMR of 43**, surviving the first year after birth raises life expectancy by 2.7 years.
- In **Uttar Pradesh**, with the **second-highest IMR of 38**, life expectancy jumps the highest, by 3.4 years, on completion of the first year.
- Gaps between life expectancy at birth and year one can also be witnessed in states like Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Assam, Gujarat, and Odisha.

Top 5 Performers in state-wise :

1. Delhi - 74.3 years
2. Kerala - 75.2 years
3. J&K - 74.2 years
4. Himachal Pradesh - 73.1 years
5. Punjab - 72.8 years

Life expectancy at birth :

- The **highest life expectancy at birth** has been estimated for the **NCT of Delhi** at **75.9 years**.
- Meanwhile, **Chhattisgarh** has the **lowest life expectancy at birth** with **65.3**.
- India has added 20 years to its life expectancy at birth from 49.7 in 1970-75 to 69.7 in 2015-2019.
- Among states, **Odisha** has seen the highest rise from **45.7 to 69.8**, followed by **Tamil Nadu**, which has increased from **49.6 to 72.6**.

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- **Uttar Pradesh**, having had the **lowest life expectancy** at birth of just 43 years in 1970-75 has increased to 65.6 in 2015-2019.

Rural and Urban Divide :

- **Urban women from Himachal Pradesh** had the **highest life expectancy** at birth at **82.3 years**.
- **Rural men of Chhattisgarh** had the lowest life expectancy at birth, just **62.8 years**.
- There is a gap of **8 years** in life expectancy between rural and urban areas of **Assam**.
- It is followed by **Himachal Pradesh** with a gap of **five years**.
- **Kerala** is the **only state** where rural life expectancy at birth is higher as compared to urban life for both women and men.
- Bihar and Jharkhand are the only states where male life expectancy is higher than women in both urban and rural areas.

About SRS :

- SRS is a **large-scale demographic sample survey** based on the **mechanism of a dual record system**

Objective :

- To provide reliable estimates of fertility and mortality indicators at state and national levels for rural and urban areas respectively.
- In India, life expectancy in various broad age groups has been estimated through the Sample Registration System from **1970-75**.

CRISIL Report: India's data center capacity to double by fiscal 2025

- According to the **CRISIL Report Data center capacity in India** is expected to double to **1,700-1,800 megawatt (MW) by fiscal 2025** from **870 MW in fiscal 2022** powered by the data boom, digital adoption, and local data storage mandates.
- This will require investments of over **Rs 40,000 crore**.
- Of the Rs 40,000 crore investments, a **third** will be to acquire land, a fifth for substations, and the balance for civil work, purchase of equipment, and fit-outs.
- As per the agency, electricity accounts for **45-50 percent** of the operating cost of **data centers**.
- The share of renewables in data center power consumption is expected to increase to 35-40 percent by FY25 from under 15 percent in fiscal 2022.

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- This will help improve the operators' margins by 200-300 basis points by FY25, which will help sustain returns on capital employed at 13-15 percent.

About CRISIL :

- Founded: 1987
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Managing Director: Gurpreet Chhatwal
- Director: Nitesh Jain
- CRISIL is an Indian analytical company providing ratings, research, and risk and policy advisory services and is a subsidiary of American company S&P Global
- It was the **first credit rating agency in India.**

IMPORTANT BOOKS & AUTHORS

IISM Launches India's first Sports Marketing book "The Winning Formula for Success" author by Mr.

Vinit Karnik:

- India's leading sports and Management institute, the **International Institute of Sports & Management (IISM)** has launched India's first-ever Sports Academic book '**Business of Sports- The Winning Formula for Success**' by Mr. Vinit Karnik.
- Mr. Karnik is Head of Sports, Esports & Entertainment at GroupM South Asia.
- Mr. Karnik has over 25 years of experience handling affairs in Media, Entertainment, and Sports Management.
- This book is published by **Popular Prakashan**

Launchers:

- The book is launched in June 2022 in the esteemed hands of **Shri. Bhagat Singh Koshyari Ji**, Governor of Maharashtra and ((ex-officio) Chancellor of the University of Mumbai, at Raj Bhavan in the presence of **Mr. Nilesh Kulkarni**, Founder Director- IISM, the book's author **Mr. Vinit Karnik**, **Mr. Harsha Bhatkal**, Publisher at **Popular Prakashan** and other marketing heads & academicians from top B-schools of Mumbai.

Objectives:

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- The objective of publishing this book in the Indian context of sports management domain is to guide students on the right path wishing to pursue a career in sports management.
- This book explores the business side of sports and the various verticals of the industry and poses exciting new challenges for both customers and marketers.

Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan released books titled 'Loktantra ke Swar' & 'The Republican Ethic':

- Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan along with Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Sports Shri Anurag Thakur released a book 'Loktantra ke Swar' and 'The Republican Ethic' having selected speeches of the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind.
- This is the **fourth volume of the series** featuring the fourth year of the presidency of Shri Ram Nath Kovind.
- The compilation contains speeches on a wide range of subjects.
- **E-books were also released** on the occasion.

About the Book:

- This book captures the President's thoughts on varied topics such as public service, ethics, education, aspirations of our youth, and contemporary global issues.
- The book will enrich public discourse and serve as a guiding light toward taking India forward in the Amrit Kaal.

PM releases Ram Bahadur Rai's book 'Bhartiya Samvidhan: Ankahi Kahani':

- The book "Bhartiya Samvidhan: Ankahi Kahani" by Ram Bahadur Rai was published by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- Shri Ram Bahadur Rai's lifelong quest for new ideas and willingness to provide something new to society was highlighted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- He stated his hope that the book, which was issued, would present the Constitution in its entirety.

About the book:

- The book by Shri Rai will be in **the spirit of New India's commitment** to remember the forgotten thoughts to ensure that in the India of the future, a consciousness of the past stays strong.

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- The book, together with the country's history and untold chapters of the constitution, will inspire the country's youth to think differently.

A new book titled "Gautam Adani: The Man Who Changed India" by RN Bhaskar

- According to Penguin Random House (PRHI), the biography of industrialist and billionaire **Gautam Adani**, titled "Gautam Adani: The Man Who Changed India," will be available in stores in October.
- The **journalist-author RN Bhaskar's book** makes the bold claim that it is the first to reveal previously hidden facets of one of the richest individuals on earth.
- **The Ahmedabad-based industrialist** currently heads the largest private sector player in the nation in industries like **airports, city gas distribution, power transmission, thermal power, edible oil, and railway lines.**
- He is in charge of a business empire that is now India's largest player in ports and renewable energy.
- Publishers claim that the book goes in-depth and includes a variety of fascinating anecdotes from Adani's life, shedding light on his early years, his entry into the business, and the lessons and possibilities he sought.

'Shabash Mithu': A biopic on former Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj:

- The trailer for "Shabaash Mithu," a **Taapsee Pannu**-starring biopic on **former India women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj**, has been released by director **Srijit Mukherji**.
- The movie will debut in **theatres on July 15.**
- **Priyan Aven**, who makes her screenwriting debut with Shabaash Mithu, wrote the screenplay for the movie.
- With lyrics by **Swanand Kirkire**, **Kausar Munir**, and **Raghav M. Kumar** and sound design by **Academy Award winner Rasool Pookutty**, **Amit Trivedi** provided the music for the movie.
- The video provides glimpses inside the **inspirational life of Mithali**, who holds the record for most runs scored in women's international cricket and serves as an example for countless aspiring Indian women players.
- It depicts Mithali's struggle for equality in a male-dominated sport as well as her development as a cricket player.

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Haryana CM releases a book 'Ashtang Yoga' authored by Dr. Sonu Phogat:

- On the eighth International Yoga Day, Haryana Chief Minister Mr. Manohar Lal Khattar published the book **Ashtang Yoga** authored by Dr. Sonu Phogat.
- Every person, according to Manohar Lal Khattar, should have a resolution for yoga and must identify with that resolution.
- The Yog to Sehyog Mantra will illuminate a fresh path into the future.
- It is a source of pleasure that the yoga book was published on the eve of International Yoga Day, recognizing the efforts of author Dr. Sonu Phogat.
- It will help the people, he claimed.

Biography of George Fernandes to hit stands next month

- According to **Penguin Random House India**, a new biography of one of India's most outspoken union leaders and former **Central minister George Fernandes** will follow his journey from the slums of Bombay to the halls of power in **New Delhi**.
- Rahul Ramagundam's book "**The Life and Times of George Fernandes**" will be published on July 25 under Penguin's "**Allen Lane**" brand.

Regarding the George Fernandes:

- In 1974, as a trade unionist in **Mumbai**, **Fernandes** organized a nationwide rail strike that brought the nation to a stop.
- Fernandes was born on **June 3, 1930**, in **Mangalore** to a **Christian** family.
- At the age of 88, Fernandes passed away in January 2019 after a protracted illness.
- In 1989, he was appointed minister of rails in V P Singh's National Front coalition government, which was dominated by left-leaning parties.
- After the Emergency was implemented in 1975 by the then-prime minister, **Indira Gandhi**, Fernandes became a crucial player in the struggle to re-establish democracy.

IMPORTANT SPORTS NEWS

India wins first-ever medal at the IBSA Judo Grand Prix:

- **India** won its first-ever medal in the **IBSA Judo Grand Prix** in **Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan**.

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- **Judoka Kapil Parmar of the Indian Blind and Para Judo Association** deserves deep gratitude for bringing gold to the country.
- 18 of the 21 competing countries took home medals.
- As a result of these, several countries, notably **Iraq, Switzerland, and India**, received their first medals in the **IBSA Grand Prix**.
- Nur-Sultan has already established himself as a worldwide figure.

About the IBSA Grand Prix:

- The IBSA Grand Prix was held in this Kazakh city, and it was here that we saw the universality of nations come to life, as well as the struggle of winning any medal.
- The 2022 IBSA Judo Grand Prix Kazakhstan came to an end after two days of intense competition in Nur-Sultan.
- On the first day, more than a hundred judokas from 21 countries contested for gold, with Turkey, Iran, Uzbekistan, Romania, Japan, Brazil, and Kazakhstan sitting atop the podiums.
- Brazil led the final medal table with five golds and seven other medals, Turkey had three titles and three silvers, and several countries, such as Switzerland, Iraq, and India, won their first medals at an IBSA Grand Prix.

Red Bull's Sergio Perez won Monaco F1 Grand Prix 2022:

- Driver **Sergio Pérez** (Mexican) of the Red Bull team won the Monaco Grand Prix (GP) Formula One (F1) 2022 with 25 points, held at **Circuit de Monaco, Monaco, Europe**.
- With this win, **Sergio Pérez** becomes the first Mexican to win the Monaco Grand Prix, and the first North American to win it since Gilles Villeneuve in 1981.
- The second place is occupied by Ferrari driver **Carlos Sainz Jr** (Spanish) with 18 points.
- Third place was taken by **Belgian-Dutch driver Max Emilian Verstappen**, who drove for Red Bull Racing.
- **Monegasque driver Charles Leclerc** drove for Ferrari to fourth in the race.
- The win was Sergio Perez's first of the season, ending the dominance of Verstappen and Leclerc, and the third of his career, making him the most successful Mexican F1 driver ahead of Pedro Rodriguez.

Men's Hockey Asia Cup: India wins bronze with a 1-0 win over Japan

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- **India beat Japan 1-0 to win the bronze medal at the 2022 Men's Hockey Asia Cup in Jakarta, Indonesia.**
- **Japan had seven corners while India had only two**, but India came out on top in circling penetration index 11-10.
- But she managed to hold her ground and win a **second bronze at the Asian Cup.**
- This is India's 10th medal out of 11 held at the continental competition so far.
- India, 2003, 2007, and 2017 champions, **finished second five times and won bronze twice.**
- In the match against Japan, Rajkumar Pal (6') scored the only goal of the match.
- India captain Birendra Lakra was declared man of the match in bronze medal qualifying.

Finals of Asia Cup 2022:

- **South Korea has extinguished Malaysia's hopes** of the Asian Cup for the first time when they have crowned champions with a thrilling victory in Round 21 here at GBK Sports Arena.
- This is the fifth time the Korean team has won the prestigious trophy.
- They won the title in **1994, 1999, 2009, and 2013.**

Shri Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for an Olympic-level sports complex in Ahmedabad:

- The government wants world-class pitches and venues for all sports for the Ahmedabad Games with Sardar Patel Sports Complex, Narendra Modi Stadium, Naranpura Sports Complex, and three complexes for other sports.
- Shri Amit Shah, **Union Minister for Cooperation and Housing**, laid the groundwork for an Olympic-level sports complex in Ahmedabad, Gujarat for Rs 632 crore.

Key point:

- The world-class sports stadium spans 18 acres in the Naranpura district of Ahmedabad, with facilities for playing and training in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities, including swimming.
- It can also hold up to **7,000 people** at a time.
- This huge sports facility with a construction area of more than 1,150,000 square meters includes an indoor sports arena, a community sports arena, and an aquatic stadium.
- The BJP-led central and state government hopes that the presence of the world's largest cricket stadium, the **Sardar Patel Sports Complex**, and the Naranpura Sports Complex will make Ahmedabad the city where they prepare for the Olympics.

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Indian American Harini Logan Wins 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee:

- **Harini Logan** was eliminated from the Scripps National Spelling Bee once and was later reinstated.
- She missed four words during a tough match against Vikram Raju, including one that would have earned her the title.
- In the first tiebreak, **Harini finally won the championship trophy.**
- **The 13-year-old 8th grader from San Antonio, Texas**, who last entered the total bee-shooting contest 3 years ago and endured the pandemic again, spells 21 words correctly in 90 seconds and beat Vikram 6 words.

About Harini Logan:

- Harini, one of the most popular artists to come in and an audience favorite for her poise and positivity, took home more than \$50,000 in cash and prizes.
- She is the fifth Scripps champion to be **coached by Grace Walters, a former Texas hunter, fellow, and student at Rice University** who is considering retirement from coaching.

French Open Tennis Grand Slam 2022:

- **The 2022 French Open is a Grand Slam tennis tournament** played on outdoor clay courts.
- Taking place at **Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France**, from May 22 to June 5, 2022, and includes singles, doubles, and mixed doubles match.
- Iga Świątek won the women's singles title, winning the **French Open crown for a second time**, while **Rafael Nadal won the men's singles**, winning a record **14th French Open title.**

LIST OF WINNERS:

Title	Winner	Runner up
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain)	Casper Ruud (Norwegian)
Women's Singles	Iga Świątek (Poland)	Coco Gauff (US)
Men's doubles	Marcelo Arévalo (El Salvador), Jean-Julien Rojer (Netherlands)	Ivan Dodig (Croatian), Austin Krajicek (US)

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Women's doubles	Caroline Garcia (French), Kristina Mladenovic (French)	Jessica Pegula (US), Coco Gauff (US)
Mixed doubles	Ena Shibahara (Japan), Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands)	Joran Vliegen (Belgium), Ulrikke Eikeri (Norway)

Aman Sehrawat strikes gold at Bolat Turlykhanov Cup Wrestling tournament:

- National champion Aman Sehrawat clinched a gold medal while Tokyo 2020 bronze medallist Bajrang Punia settled for bronze in the 2022 Bolat Turlykhanov Cup wrestling tournament in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- With the two more medals, India concluded the United World Wrestling's ranking series with 11 medals - six golds, one silver, and four bronze.
- Five of the golds were won by women.

India ends their campaign at Bolat Turlykhanov Cup in the second position with 12 medals:

- In Wrestling, India ended their campaign at the Bolat Turlykhanov Cup at Almaty in Kazakhstan in the second position with 12 medals.
- This included a tally of six golds, one silver, and five bronze medals in total.
- Iran topped the medal tally with 14 medals.
- Out of six gold medals, five were clinched by women.
- World and Asian Championship bronze medallist Sarita Mor grabbed her first gold medal of the 2022 season in 59 kg, while Manisha won her first gold in seniors in 65 kg.

Winners List:

- Mansi Ahlawat won the yellow metal in 57 kg while Sakshi Malik grabbed gold in 62 kg.
- Divya Kakran also won the gold medal in 68 kg.
- Bipasha won Silver in 72 kg while Pooja Sihag in 76 kg and Sushma Shokeen in 55 kg bagged the bronze medal.
- In Men's category, Aman Sehrawat grabbed gold in 57 kg while Bajrang Punia in 65 kg, Mohit Grewal in 125 kg, and Neeraj in 63 kg won bronze medals.

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Union Civil Aviation Minister Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia has announced first-ever National Air Sports Policy 2022:

- Union Civil Aviation Minister Shri **Jyotiraditya Scindia** has announced **first-ever National Air Sports Policy-2022** in New Delhi.
- The objective of this policy is to include **India among the top air sporting nations by 2030**.
- It is also aimed at providing a **safe, affordable and sustainable air sports ecosystem in the country**.
- Eleven air sports including Aerobatics, Ballooning, Gliding, Parachuting, Powered aircraft, and Rotorcraft will be promoted through this policy.

Key Points:

- This policy will create a robust ecosystem of air sports activities in the country.
- This will help in the generation of one lakh jobs in the sector and increase the revenue from existing **100 crore rupees to 10 thousand crore rupees** in coming years.
- The Civil Aviation Minister, segregated air spaces will be created in certain locations to allow uninhibited air sporting activities in the designated areas.
- Domestic manufacturing of air sports equipment will be promoted through this policy.
- Mr. Scindia said a four-tier governance structure, the **Air Sports Federation of India** has been formed which will cover all aspects of air sports.

Indian shooter Avani Lekhara strikes gold at Para Shooting World Cup in France with a record score:

- Indian shooter Avani Lekhara won the gold medal at the Para Shooting World Cup in France with a record score.
- The victory assured Tokyo Olympic gold medalist Lekhara of a spot in the **2024 Paris Paralympics**.
- Avani created a **world record by scoring 250.6** in the women's 10-meter air rifle standing SH1 event.
- The 20-year-old shooter broke her **world record of 249.6**.
- The SH1 category is for athletes with lower limb impairment for competition in rifle events.

BWF confirms cancellation of US open to COVID-19:

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- **Badminton World Federation** has confirmed that the **US Open** scheduled for 4th to 9th October has been canceled.
- USA Badminton concluded that it is **no longer feasible** for them to host their tournament this year due to organizational complications coming out of COVID-19.
- The US Open is a Super 300 tournament on the BWF World Tour.
- This is the **third consecutive time** that **US Open** has been canceled.

About BWF:

- The Badminton World Federation is the international governing body for the sport of badminton recognized by the International Olympic Committee.
- It was founded in 1934 as the International Badminton Federation with nine member nations.
- President: Poul-Erik Høyer Larsen
- Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Founded: 5 July 1934

India Beat Poland 6-4 to Clinch Inaugural FIH Hockey 5s Title:

- **India** beat **Poland** 6-4 in the final to clinch the inaugural **FIH Hockey 5s** championship in **Lausanne** in **Switzerland**.
- India, who had topped the five-team league standings with three wins and one draw en route final, **ended their campaign with an unbeaten record**.
- India had beaten Poland, who had finished **second with two wins** and as many losses, 6-2 in their round-robin league match three and half hours earlier
- Earlier, **India first outplayed Malaysia 7-3**, pumping in four goals in the second half in a stunning show before beating Poland 6-2 in the second match of the day.
- **India had topped the five-team standings after the round-robin league** stage with 10 points from three wins and one draw.
- India had beaten hosts Switzerland 4-3 and drawn with arch-rivals Pakistan 2-2.

FIH World Ranking: Women's hockey team climbs to 6th position:

- The **Indian Women's Hockey team** climbed to the **sixth position** in the **FIH World Hockey Rankings**, achieving their best-ever ranking.

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- With 2029.396 points, the Indian Women's Hockey Team is now placed in the World Rankings above Spain.
- Spain dropped one place after losing both their FIH Hockey Pro League 2021-22 matches to Argentina.
- They have also lost one match each to Belgium and England.

About Ranking:

- With 2029.396 points, the Indian women's hockey team is now placed sixth behind the Netherlands (3049.495), Argentina (2674.837), Australia (2440.750), England (2204.590), and Germany (2201.085).
- Spain is seventh with a rating of 2016.149.
- The Indian women's hockey team currently sits in the third position in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2021-22 table with 22 points from 8 games.
- Australia retained the top spot in the men's rankings with 2842.258 points, with World and Olympic champions Belgium snapping at their heels with 2764.735 points.

Para-canoeist Prachi Yadav bags bronze in Paracanoe World Cup in Poland:

- Paralympian Prachi Yadav made history for India by becoming the first canoeist from the country to win a World Cup medal when she bagged a bronze in the VL2 Women's 200m in the Paracanoe World Cup held in Poznan, Poland.
- Prachi, the para-canoeist from Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh who is the first Indian to qualify for and reach the final in the Paralympic Games in Tokyo last year, finished third in the VL2 Women's 200m in 1:04.71 to finish behind Tokyo 2020 silver medallist Susan Seipel of Australia and Brianna Hennessy of Canada, who bagged gold and silver respectively.
- It was marked by the best performance by Manish Kaurav in KL3 Men 200m and Manjeet Singh in VL2 Men 200m by reaching the finals for the first time in the history of the sport in India.

Shreyas G Hosur became 1st Indian Railways officer to complete the grueling 'Ironman' Triathlon:

- Shreyas G Hosur after he created history by becoming the first officer from the Indian Railways to complete the 'Ironman Triathlon' – considered to be the toughest single-day sports event in the world.
- The event includes a 3.8 km swim, 180 km cycling, and 42.2 km running.

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- Hosur completed the event - held in Germany's Hamburg in 13 hours and 26 minutes.

About Shreyas G. Hosur:

- **Shreyas G. Hosur is the first officer from the non-uniformed Civil Services to complete the event, making this a proud moment for the Railways.**
- Shreyas G. Hosur is an **Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) officer of the 2012 Batch.**
- He is returned from deputation to National Technical Research Organization (NTRO), Delhi, and is currently serving as Dy. FA&CAO in Construction/SWR.

Virat Kohli becomes the 1st Indian to Reach 200 million followers on Instagram:

- **Indian cricketer Virat Kohli has crossed the 200 million followers mark on the social media site Instagram.**
- Former India and **Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) captain** entered the 200m club.
- With this, he became the **first Indian to have 200 million followers on Instagram.**
- Kohli is also the third most followed sportsperson on Instagram.
- The 33-year-old is only **the third athlete to touch the 200 million followers mark on Instagram after Lionel Messi (334 million) and Cristiano Ronaldo (451 million), who has the most followers on the app.**

About Kohli:

- Kohli has been the most successful Test captain India has ever produced.
- After taking over the reins from MS Dhoni, he has led India in 68 Test matches and secured 40 wins at a win percentage of 58.82.
- Kohli has 27 centuries in Test matches and 43 tons in ODI cricket.

Mithali Raj announces retirement from international cricket:

- **Mithali Raj, captain of India women's ODI and Test teams, announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket**
- Raj is regarded as one of the **top Indian players of the sport.**

About Mithali Raj:

- She made her international debut in 1999 and has played prolific cricket across all formats.
- In March 2021, she became the **first Indian woman cricketer and second internationally to complete 10,000 runs across all formats.**

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- Earlier this year, she led the Indian squad at the **ODI World Cup in New Zealand**.
- The team missed out on qualifying for the semi-finals by just one point.
- In the 2017 edition of the Women's World Cup, the team lost to England in the final by nine runs and finished second in the competition.
- Bollywood actor Taapsee Pannu will be seen portraying Raj in **Shabaash Mithu**, a biopic based on the cricketer.
- The movie is set to be released in July 2022.

Awards:

- The government of India (GoI) honored her with **Arjuna Award in 2003** for her outstanding achievement in cricket and the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2021**.
- GoI honored her with **Padma Shri in 2015** for her contribution to sports

Avani Lekhara wins gold with the world record in Para Shooting World Cup:

- Tokyo Paralympics champion Avani Lekhara won gold at the Para Shooting World Cup with a world record score of 250.6 in women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 in Chateauroux, France.
- The 20-year-old shooter broke her world record of 249.6 to secure her a spot at the **2024 Paris Paralympics**.
- Poland's Emilia Babska bagged the **silver medal** with a total of 247.6, while the **bronze** went to Anna Normann of Sweden after she shot 225.6.
- SH1 category is for athletes with lower limb impairment for competition in rifle events.
- In August last year, Lekhara bagged a **gold in the 10m air rifle standing event in the SH1 category at the Tokyo Paralympics**.
- She followed it up with a bronze in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions SH1 event, making her the **first Indian woman to win multiple medals at the Paralympics**.

Tamil Nadu CM unveils mascot & logo for FIDE Chess Olympiad to be held in Chennai:

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin unveiled the mascot and the logo named 'Thambi' for the **44th Chess Olympiad, in Chennai**.
- 'Thambi' in Tamil means **younger brother**.
- The international event will be held at **Mamallapuram near Chennai from 28th July to August 10**.
- Over two thousand players from **186 countries** will be taking part in the event.

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- The biggest ever contingent from India is playing in this edition.
- The Chess Olympiad torch will soon be taken around all the states in the country before being lit in the venue on the inaugural day of the event.

Key Points:

- This is the second major international chess event to be hosted by Chennai, after the World Championship match between India's Viswanathan Anand and Magnus Carlsen way back in 2013.
- Preparations for the international tournament are going on at a frenetic pace.
- Ministers for Health Ma. Subramanian, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments P.K. Sekarbabu, Youth Welfare and Sports Development Siva V. Meyyanathan, and Tourism Minister M. Mathiventhan were all in attendance.
- Mayor R. Priya of the Greater Chennai Corporation, Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu, and All India Chess Federation president Sanjay Kapoor, as well as other officials, were in attendance

R Praggnanandhaa won the Norway Chess Group A open chess tournament:

- India's Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa won the Norway Chess Group A open chess tournament after netting 7.5 points from nine rounds.
- The rising Indian star finished a point ahead of Marcel Efroimski and Jung Min Seo, who tied for second place.
- The 16-year-old GM, the top seed, remained unbeaten through the nine rounds.
- He finished the tournament with a win over compatriot V Praneeth.
- While, Magnus Carlsen emerged as the winner of the Norway Chess 2022, the competition celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.
- It is the World Champion's fourth straight title at his home tournament and the fifth overall.
- The 10-player round-robin took place at Finansparken in Stavanger, Norway, from May 30 to June 10.

Max Verstappen won Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2022:

- Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the Azerbaijan Formula One Grand Prix 2022 (his fifth victory of the season).
- In the process, Verstappen became the most successful driver in the Red Bull of all time.

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- Red Bull's Sergio Perez came second and Mercedes' George Russell came at the third spot.
- Lewis Hamilton finished in P4 after battling through the pain barrier caused by his porpoising car with Alpha Tauri's Pierre Gasly finishing in a season-best result of fifth.
- The win was his 66th appearance on the podium in F1, a record amongst Red Bull drivers as the Dutchman overtook Vettel in that regard.

Azerbaijan Grand Prix results

Position	Driver	Team	Points
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	25
2	Sergio Perez	Red Bull	19
3	George Russell	Mercedes	15
4	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	12
5	Pierre Gasly	AlphaTauri	10
6	Sebastian Vettel	Aston Martin	8
7	Fernando Alonso	Alpine	6
8	Daniel Ricciardo	McLaren	4
9	Lando Norris	McLaren	2
10	Esteban Ocon	Alpine	1

Angelo Mathews and Tuba Hassan crowned ICC Players:

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that Sri Lankan batting star Angelo Mathews and Pakistan's spin sensation Tuba Hasan have been selected as the ICC Men's and Women's Players for May 2022.
- Mathews has surpassed compatriot Asitha Fernando and Bangladeshi Mushfiqur Rahim to win the award, while Tuba Hasan has surpassed his captain Bismah Maroof and Trinity Smith for the jersey.
- Right-handed batsman Angelo Mathews, one of Sri Lanka's most experienced players, has been named the ICC Player of the Month (May 2022) for scoring runs during his team's impressive ICC World Test Championship series win against Bangladesh.

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- Scored 344 runs in two test matches at an average of 172.
- He played a powerful inning of 199 runs in the drawn match at Chittagong and 145 not out in Mirpur.
- The ICC Player of the Month was started in January 2021 and since then this is the first time that a Sri Lankan player has won this award.

Haryana won Khelo India Youth Games 2021 title:

- Hosts Haryana won the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2021 title with 52 gold medals, of which, 10 came in boxing.
- The late surge helped Haryana leapfrog the 2020 champions Maharashtra on the KIYG medals table.
- Haryana also won 39 silver and 46 bronze medals, taking their overall medal tally to 137 medals - the highest cumulative haul by any state.
- Maharashtra, meanwhile, managed 45 gold, 40 silver, and 40 bronze medals to come second with 125 medals.
- Karnataka, with 22 gold, 17 silver, and 28 bronze, finished third with 67 medals.

Key Points:

- The Khelo India Youth Games 2021 started on June 4 across multiple venues with Haryana's Panchkula hosting the bulk of the events.
- The Games, which are a part of the Indian government's Khelo India initiative, concluded on June 13.
- Earlier, Haryana won 16 gold medals in wrestling which proved vital in the title race. Haryana's swimmers and weightlifters also contributed with four gold medals each.
- Maharashtra's wins, meanwhile, also came in different categories.
- The state bagged eight gold medals in track and field while swimmers, gymnasts, and yogasana players clinched six each.
- The race for the title extended until the very last day with both Maharashtra and Haryana tied with 42 gold medals each going into the final day.

Teenager Rahul Srivatshav becomes India's 74th Grandmaster:

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- **Rahul Srivatshav P.** of Telangana has become **India's 74th Grandmaster**, achieving the title after breaking the **2500 (Elo points)** barrier in live FIDE ratings during the **9th Cattolica Chess Festival 2022** in Italy.
- The **19-year-old player** reached the 2500 Elo live rating mark after drawing his 8th round game against Grandmaster **Levan Pantsulaia** in the Cattolica event.
- His current Elo rating is 2468.
- **Srvatshav had already secured five GM norms** and achieved the title when he crossed the rating threshold of 2500.

Additional info:

- To become a GM, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2500 Elo points.
- **Bharath Subramaniyam** had become the country's **73rd GM** in January.
- The legendary **Viswanathan Anand** is India's first GM, which he became way back in 1988.

IWF Youth World Championships: Saanapathi Gurunaidu wins gold:

- At the **IWF World Youth Championships** in Leon, Mexico, Indian weightlifter **Saanapathi Gurunaidu** won gold in the men's 55 kg category.
- On the first day of the competition of the IWF, **two more Indian weightlifters Vijay Prajapati and Akansha Kishor Vyavhare** also won medals, they also won silver.

Key Points:

- With a total lift of 230 kg, Saanapathi won gold in the men's 55 kg event.
- He won silver medals in the 104 kg jump and gold in the 126 kg jerk and jerk events.
- With a total lift of 175 kg, Vijay placed second in the men's 49 kg event.
- In the recoil category, Vijay lifted 78 kg, while in the push and jerk category, he lifted 97 kg.
- In the women's 40 kg weight category, **Akanksha** won the gold medal.
- She won the silver medal with a total of 127 kg after finishing first in the 59 kg jerk and third place in the 68 kg lift.

Neeraj Chopra Sets New National Record With 89.30 Metre Javelin Throw:

- Indian javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** set a new national record by throwing **89.30 meters** at the **Paavo Nurmi Olympics** in Finland.

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- Chopra's previous national record was 88.07m, set by him in Patiala last March.
- He won the gold medal at the **Tokyo Olympics with a throw of 87.58m** on August 7, 2021.
- Neeraj Chopra is India's first Olympic gold medalist in athletics and a medalist. second individual gold medal at the Olympic Games.
- Chopra's 89.30m effort would put him in fifth place on the season's world-leading list.
- Neeraj Chopra won the silver medal with his throw at the event.
- This was Neeraj's first competitive outing since winning the historic gold medal at the Tokyo Games.
- **Finland's Oliver Helander** won the gold medal at the event with a throw of 89.83 meters.

Indian para-power- lifters Manpreet Kaur and Parmjeet Kumar win bronze medals in Asia Oceania

Open Championships:

- Indian para-powerlifters **Manpreet Kaur and Parmjeet Kumar** have won bronze medals on the opening day of the **World Para-powerlifting 2022 Asia Oceania Open Championships at Pyeongtaek in South Korea.**
- **Manpreet Kaur** won the bronze medal in the **41 kg category.**
- She had the best lift of 88 kg and the total lift of 173 kg.
- In the men's category, **Parmjeet Kumar** also won the bronze medal in the **49 kg category.**
- He lifted 160 and 163 kilograms in two rounds which were his lifetime best lifts.

ICC retains Nitin Menon in Elite Panel

- **Nitin Menon of India has retained his spot on the ICC Elite Panel** and will make his first appearance as a neutral umpire later this month in Sri Lanka.
- Menon has received a **one-year extension from the International Cricket Council.**
- In the **11-member Elite Panel of Umpires**, the **38-year-old from Indore** remains the only Indian.
- At the commencement of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, **Menon was promoted to the Elite Panel**, becoming the third Indian to do so after **S Venkataraghavan and S Ravi.**
- Due to travel constraints, Menon was constrained to overseeing international matches only within India, with the ICC authorizing local umpires.

Other umpires on the panel include:

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- The Elite Panel remains unchanged, with Aleem Dar of Pakistan, Chris Gaffaney of New Zealand, Kumara Dharmasena of Sri Lanka, Marais Erasmus of South Africa, Michael Gough, Richard Illingworth, and Richard Kettleborough (all from England), Paul Reiffel and Rod Tucker of Australia, and Joel Wilson of the West Indies joining Menon.

About ICC

- Founded: 15 June 1909
- Chairman: Greg Barclay
- CEO: Geoff Allardice
- Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Neeraj Chopra to lead 37-member athletics team for Commonwealth Games 2022:

- The Athletics Federation of India has announced that **Neeraj Chopra will lead a 37-member Indian athletics team** at Commonwealth Games.
- As great sprinters like **Hima Das and Dutee Chand** booked their berths for the Games, which will be held from **July 28 to August 8**, the gold medalist from the **Tokyo Olympics** will be the flag carrier in **Birmingham**.
- There were no surprises among the athletes chosen by the selection committee for the CWG.
- There are 18 women among the 37 members.
- **Hima Das and Dutee Chand, two of the best sprinters in the world, have already committed to the women's 4x100m relay team.**
- A men's 4x400m relay team was also picked by the selectors.
- **Amoj Jacob has been chosen to compete in the men's 4x400m relay.**

Men's Athlete:

- Avinash Sable (3000m Steeplechase); Nitender Rawat (Marathon); M Sreeshankar and Muhammed Anees Yahiya (Long Jump); Abdulla Aboobacker, Praveen Chithravel, and Eldhose Paul (Triple Jump); Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Shot Put); Neeraj Chopra, DP Manu and Rohit Yadav (Javelin Throw); Sandeep Kumar and Amit Khatri (Race Walking); Amoj Jacob, Noah Nirmal Tom, Arokia Rajiv, Muhammed Ajmal, Naganathan Pandi and Rajesh Ramesh (4x400m Relay).

Women's Athletes:

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- S Dhanalakshmi (100m and 4x100m relay); Jyothi Yarraji (100m Hurdles); Aishwarya B (Long Jump and Triple Jump) and Ancy Sojan (Long Jump); Manpreet Kaur (Shot Put); Navjeet Kaur Dhillon and Seema Antil Punia (Discus Throw); Annu Rani and Shilpa Rani (Javelin Throw); Manju Bala Singh and Sarita Romit Singh (Hammer Throw); Bhawna Jat and Priyanka Goswami (Race Walking); Hima Das, Dutee Chand, Srabani Nanda, MV Jilna and NS Simi (4x100m relay).

FIFA announces 2026 World Cup venues across U.S., Canada, and Mexico:

- FIFA has revealed that matches for the **2026 World Cup** will be contested in 11 US cities, as well as **three host locations in Mexico and two in Canada**.
- Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Guadalajara, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Miami, Monterrey, New York/New Jersey, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle, Toronto, and Vancouver are among the 16 cities that will host the event.

Key Points:

- It will also be the first time that the event will feature 48 teams, up from the 32 that will compete in FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which will take place from November 21 to December 18.
- **The United States will host 60 games**, including all matches from the **quarter-finals forward**, while **Canada and Mexico** will each host ten games.
- In 1970 and 1986, Mexico hosted the FIFA World Cup.

About FIFA:

- FIFA is an international governing body of association football, beach soccer, and futsal. It was founded in 1904 to oversee international competition among the national associations of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.
- President: Gianni Infantino
- Founded: 21 May 1904
- Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra wins gold at Kuortane Games in Finland:

- Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra won the javelin throw event at the Kuortane Games in Finland, defeating incumbent world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada for his first top podium result of the season.

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- **Chopra's first throw of 86.69m** proved to be the winning distance for the 24-year-old.
- **Keshorn Walcott, the 2012 Olympic champion** from Trinidad and Tobago, came in second with an 86.64m first-round throw.
- Peters finished third with a best throw of 84.75m, which he threw in the first round as well.

Additional Info.:

- Chopra established a new national record of 89.30m while competing in the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland earlier this week, in his first competitive event since winning a historic gold in Tokyo.
- He broke his mark of 88.07 meters, which he achieved in Patiala last year.

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen wins Canadian Grand Prix 2022:

- After holding off pressure from **Carlos Sainz of Ferrari** in the last laps of the **Canadian Grand Prix, Max Verstappen of Red Bull** narrowly won his sixth Formula 1 race of the year.
- For the second time this season, **Verstappen's teammate Sergio Perez** was forced to withdraw from the race owing to engine troubles, while **Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton** won his second podium this year in third.
- **George Russell, Hamilton's teammate**, continued his streak of placing in the top five in every race so far this season by taking P4, and **Charles Leclerc**, who started from the bottom of the grid, put in a tremendous performance to finish in P5.

Sunil Chhetri becomes joint 5th highest goalscorer:

- **Sunil Chhetri**, the captain of the Indian men's football team, tied **Ferenc Puskas of Hungary and Real Madrid** for most international goals with his **84th goal** against Hong Kong in the **Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers**.
- While **Ferenc Puskás** (who passed away in 2006 at the age of 79) scored 84 goals in 85 international games, **Sunil Chhetri has scored 84 goals in 129 appearances**.
- Sunil Chhetri is now the third-highest goal scorer in international football, behind **Lionel Messi (86 goals)** and **Cristiano Ronaldo (117 goals)**.
- He also has the most goals scored in a season from Asia and India.

Top 5 International Goal Scorer:

- Cristiano Ronaldo with 117 goals

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- Iran's Ali Daei managed 109 goals.
- Malaysia's Mokhtar Dahari netted 89 goals.
- Lionel Messi with 86 goals.
- Sunil Chhetri and Ferenc Puskás with 84 goals.

Matteo Berrettini defeats Andy Murray in the championship game to win the Stuttgart Open:

- **Matteo Berrettini defeated Andy Murray in the 2022 Stuttgart Open final.**
- He overcame Murray 6-4, 5-7, 6-3 in a closely fought contest.
- The Italian had earlier missed the clay season after undergoing a minor operation on his right hand in late March.
- However, he showed his class, getting to a win-loss record of 28-6 on grass.
- The **26-year-old Berrettini** now holds a **perfect 9-0 record at the ATP 250 event.**

About Berrettini :

- Berrettini has now won **six ATP titles in his career.**
- He has a 13-6 win-loss record in 2022.
- Before this, he had lost in the round of **16 at Indian Wells.**
- Notably, he had reached the semis of the 2022 Australian Open.
- He went on to win the title in his only previous appearance in Stuttgart in 2019.
- Berrettini also clinched the crown on the grass at **The Queen's Club 2021.**

Indian women's Wrestling team wins Under-17 Asian Championship:

- The **Indian women's wrestling team** won five medals in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**, to win the **Under-17 Asian Championship with a total of eight gold.**
- With a total of 235 points, including **eight gold medals, one silver, and one bronze**, India won the championship.
- With 143 points, **Japan had to settle for second place**, while Mongolia took third place with 138 points.
- Women's wrestling matches were conducted in **5 weight divisions.**

List of Winners:

- **Ritika** earned **gold** in the 43-kilogram category for Indian women
- **Ahilaya Shinde** won **gold** in the 49-kilogram category

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- **Siksha** hoisted the **gold** medal in the 57-kilogram category
- **Priya** won the **gold** in the 73-kilogram category and
- **Pulkit** won the silver in the 65-kilogram category.
- Additionally, there were three weight divisions in freestyle contests, where **Parwinder Singh** won **gold in the 80-kilogram division** while Narender took home silver in the 71-kilogram division.

Minister of Civil Aviation releases National Air Sports Policy 2022:

- The **National Air Sport Policy 2022** was introduced by **Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister of Civil Aviation (NASP 2022)**.
- **By 2023, India should rank among the top sporting nations**, according to **NASP 2022's objective**.
- The policy guarantees that there will be air sports that are entertaining, economical, accessible, and sustainable in India.
- **A variety of sporting events** that will be held in the **air were included in the air sports**.
- India, a growing nation, has the potential to overtake other nations as a leader in the field of air sports.
- India has a huge geographic area, a pleasant climate, and a sizable population, with a large proportion of young people.
- These factors can help India promote air sports.
- The upcoming young will participate more in air sports, as these sporting activities will take place in an air-conditioned environment.

Attendees:

- Several ministers assisted in organizing the event including **Shri Rajiv Bansal, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman, Airport Authority of India (AAI), and Shri Amber Dubey, Joint Secretary, MoCA, Smt. Rubina Ali, Joint Secretary, MoCA, Shri SK Mishra, Joint Secretary, MoCA, Shri Piyush Srivastava, Senior Economic Advisor, MoCA, Shri PK Thakur, Deputy Director-General, MoCA, and other dignitaries from AAI, MoCA, DGCA, and BCAS.**

Four government structures have been established for the Air sports under the Policy, and their names are as follows:

- Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) is the apex governing body

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- National associations for individual air sports or a set of air sports, as appropriate
- Regional (e.g., West/ South/ North East, etc.) or State and Union Territory level units of the national air sports associations, as appropriate; and
- District-level air sports associations, as appropriate.

India moves up two points in the FIFA rankings to 104:

- **The Indian football team** enjoyed a successful harvest as a result of their strong Asian Cup qualification campaign, moving up two spots to position 104 in the most recent FIFA global rankings.
- **The Blue Tigers** have ranked just ahead of **New Zealand (103)** who lost to Costa Rica 0-1 in the intercontinental play-off earlier this month and therefore missed out on a position in the **2022 FIFA World Cup**.
- **India's position among the AFC's members**, however, remained unchanged at **19th**.

Overall World Rankings:

- **Iran remained the top-ranked nation in the AFC** (Asian Football Confederation) (23).
- Three months after **Belgium relinquished the top rank to Brazil**, **Brazil maintained it (2nd)**.
- **Argentina moved up one spot to third**, knocking **France (4th) off the podium** as punishment for their four consecutive losses in the UEFA Nations League.
- The top 10 is completed by Denmark, England, Spain, Italy, Netherlands, and Portugal.
- On August 25, the newest FIFA global rankings will be released.

About FIFA

- President: Gianni Infantino
- Founded: 21 May 1904
 - Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland

Rumeli Dhar retires from all forms of international cricket:

- The **38-year-old Indian all-rounder and seam bowler Rumeli Dhar** has declared her retirement from international cricket.
- In the 2018 tri-nation women's T20I series between India, Australia, and England at Brabourne, Dhar competed in her final match for her country.

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About Rumeli Dhar:

- She played in four Tests, 78 ODIs, and 18 T20Is overall, totalling 1328 runs and 84 wickets across all forms.
- She also competed for India at the **2005 World Cup, which was held in South Africa.**
- When she was called up to the Indian T20 squad for their February 2018 tour of South Africa, Dhar, who made her international debut against **England in Lincoln in 2003**, made an improbable return to the Indian team.

Navjeet Dhillon wins gold medal at Qosanov Memorial 2022 athletics meet:

- Indian women's discus thrower **Navjeet Dhillon** won the gold medal at the **Qosanov Memorial 2022 athletics meet** in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- **Navjeet Dhillon**, who is looking to seal her place in the Indian team for **Commonwealth Games**, won the women's discus throw with a 56.24m effort.
- Local athlete **Karina Vasilyeva** with 44.61m and **Uzbekistan's Yulianna Shchukina** with 40.48m followed Navjeet Dhillon on the podium.
- Dutee Chand, who has been selected in the 4x100m relay team for CWG, clocked 11.49s in the 100m final to finish second behind **Olga Safronova** of Kazakhstan, who claimed gold in 11.40s.
- India's MV Jilna came third in 11.61s. India won 14 medals on the day, including seven golds.
- Tokyo Olympian **Dhanalakshmi Sekar** will also be among the top Indian athletes competing at the **Qosanov Memorial 2022 athletics**, which is a World Athletics bronze-level event.

Vijay Amritraj honored with Golden Achievement Award by ITF and International Tennis Hall of Fame:

- India's **Vijay Amritraj** has been named the **2021 recipient of the Golden Achievement Award.**
- The Golden Achievement Award is presented annually by the **International Tennis Hall of Fame and the International Tennis Federation.**
- The award is given to a person who has made important contributions internationally to tennis in the fields of administration, promotion, or education and has devoted long and outstanding service to the sport.
- The award was presented at a **special celebration** hosted in Amritraj's honor in London.
- A globally recognized and respected tennis icon as well as a national hero in his native India, **Amritraj** was the first Indian player to turn professional on the ATP Tour.

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Madhya Pradesh beats Mumbai by six wickets: Ranji Trophy 2022

- At the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, Madhya Pradesh defeated tournament giants Mumbai by six wickets to win their first Ranji Trophy championship.
- The squad, led by Aditya Shrivastava, overcame Mumbai, a 41-time winner.
- Chandrakant Pandit, a former India wicketkeeper and batsman, served as the team's coach.
- Sarfaraz Khan of Mumbai, who finished first in the batting standings with 982 runs at an average of 122.75, was named "Man of the Tournament" for his outstanding Ranji Trophy 2022 performance with the bat.
- Shahbaz Nadeem of Jharkhand, a spinner, is one of the best bowlers in the 2022 Ranji Trophy (25 wickets).

About Ranji Trophy:

- The Ranji Trophy is an Indian domestic first-class cricket competition featuring several teams representing different state and regional cricket bodies.
- There are now 38 teams participating in the league, with at least one squad from each of the 28 Indian states and four of the nine union territories.
- The event is named for Ranjit Singh, popularly referred to as "Ranji," who was the first Indian cricketer to participate in an international match.
- On November 4, 1934, Madras and Mysore played in the competition's opening game at the Chepauk field in Madras.
- With 41 victories, including 15 consecutive victories from 1958–1959 to 1972–1973, Mumbai (Bombay) holds the record for most tournament victories.

Cyclist Ronaldo, first Indian cyclist to win silver at Asian Championship:

- At the Asian Track Championship, Ronaldo Singh created cycling history by becoming the first Indian cyclist to earn a silver medal in continental competition in the senior category by finishing second in the sprint race on the penultimate day of the event in this city.
- Ronaldo's achievement was the finest one an Indian cyclist had ever made in a continental race.
- He battled skillful Japanese rider, Kento Yamasaki, valiantly, but he still came away with silver.

About the Tournament:

- The host team won one silver and two bronze medals on the last day.

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- **Birjit Yumnam, a young Indian cyclist**, came in third place overall with 23 points in the 15 km Points Race.
- Sungyeon Lee of Korea won the silver medal with 24 points, while Farrukh Bobosherov of Uzbekistan won the gold.
- The 10km Women Scratch Race finals saw Chayanika Gogoi, a 19-year-old Indian, defeat Rinata Sultanova of Kazakhstan to win bronze, which was the greatest surprise of the day.
- The gold medal went to Youri Kim, while the silver went to Japanese athlete Kie Furuyama.
- The Asian Junior and Para championships were concurrently taking place in the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium Velodrome.
- There were a few collisions on the final day, which featured 10 finals.
- Japan has won the most medals overall with 18 gold, 7 silver, and 2 bronze.
- The Indian cycling team finished sixth in the top field with 23 medals (2 Gold, 6 Silver, 15 Bronze).
- Korea finished second with 12 gold, 14 silver, and three bronze medals, while Kazakhstan finished third with 4 gold, 4 silver, and 3 bronze.

Key Points:

- **Yamasaki defeated Ronaldo** in back-to-back races to take the **first position on the podium**.
- Kazakhstan's Andrey Chugay won the bronze medal in the tournament.
- In the morning, Ronaldo defeated Kazakhstan's Chugay to get to the final.
- The Indians overcame a deficit to win the following two races and go to the championship event.
- Ronaldo advanced to the men's Elite sprint race semifinals while breaking the 10-second barrier in the 200-meter flying time trial.
- He also won the global junior championship and set an Asian record.

Dhanalakshmi becomes 3rd fastest Indian woman in 200m:

- At the **Qosanov Memorial Athletics**, champion sprinter **Sekar Dhanalakshmi** ran her **personal best time to win the 200-meter gold medal**.
- Dhanalakshmi beat her previous personal best of **23.14 seconds set last year** by running a respectable sub-23 second time of 22.89.

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- Dhanalakshmi is just the **third Indian woman to run under 23 seconds** after Hima Das and **Saraswati Saha**, who holds the record at 22.82 seconds (22.88s).
- With a time of 23.27 seconds, Dhanalakshmi won the 200-meter gold at the **national inter-state championships in Chennai** earlier this month.
- She didn't meet the automatic qualification standard of 22.80s for the **Global Championships, which will be held in Oregon, USA, from July 15 to 24.**
- However, she will have to check whether she can qualify for the competition based on her world ranking.

IWF Youth World Championships: Vizianagaram's Sanapathi Gurunaidu becomes India's first to win gold

- **Sanapathi Gurunaidu** of Chandrampeta village in Nellimarla Mandal of Vizianagaram district has become **India's first weightlifter to win gold at the IWF Youth World Championships held at Leon in Mexico.**
- The **16-year-old claimed the top slot** with a total effort of 230kg (104kg+126kg) in the boy's 55kg event.
- While **Gurunaidu, the 2020 Asian Youth Weightlifting Championships bronze medallist**, stood on top of the podium, **Saudi Arabia's Ali Majeed 229kg (105kg+124kg) came in second and Yerassyl Umrov of Kazakhstan 224kg (100kg+124kg) third.**
- Besides Gurunaidu, compatriot **Soumya S Dalvi bagged the bronze in her event on the second day of the competition.**
- **Maharashtra a two-time Khelo India Youth gold medallist**, heaved 148kg (65kg+83kg) to claim the third spot in the 45kg girl's event.
- India's tally at the word event **now stands at four medals.**
- On the opening day of the competition, Akansha Kishor Vyavhare and Vijay Prajapati won silver medals in their respective events.
- **India had not participated in the previous edition of the tournament** which was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia last year.

Deepak Punia wins bronze in U23 Asian wrestling championships 2022:

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- Tokyo Olympian Deepak Punia won a bronze medal after defeating Maksat Satybaldy in the 86kg freestyle weight category at the U23 Asian wrestling championships 2022 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- Despite a win, it was an unimpressive result from him as the Indian contingent was expecting a better outing from the world championships silver medallist in the tournament.
- In the opening two rounds, the 23-year-old Punia lost to eventual gold medallist Azizbek Fayzullaev of Uzbekistan and Nurtilek Karypbaev of Kyrgyzstan.
- However, he overpowered Satybaldy of Kazakhstan to settle for the bronze.
- India won 25 medals in the U23 meet in the event, including 10 gold medals.

IMPORTANT OBITUARIES NEWS

Bujar Nishani, the former President of Albania, has died:

- Bujar Nishani, a former Albanian President, died of a health ailment.
- He was 55.

About Bujar Nishani

- President Bujar Nishani, who was born in Durrs, Albania, on September 29, 1966, was noted for his centrist political affiliation with the communist coalition.
- From 2012 until 2017, he was the president of the United States.
- He was elected as the youngest and sixth president of post-communist Albania at the age of 45, with only parliamentarians from then-Prime Minister Sali Berisha's centre-right Democratic party supporting him.

Bollywood Singer KK dies after performing at Kolkata concert:

- KK (Krishnakumar Kunnath), a well-known Bollywood singer who has enchanted music fans for over three decades, has passed away.
- After a live performance in Kolkata, the 53-year-old singer died.
- KK was regarded as one of Bollywood's best singers.
- KK performed in Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, and Assamese, among other languages.

About Krishnakumar Kunnath Career:

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- In the various movie, KK sang several successful songs.
- Tu Hi Meri Shab Hai (Gangster), Tadap Tadap Ke Is Dil Se (Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam), Awarapan Banjarapan (Jism), Aankhon Mein Teri Ajab Si (Om Shanti Om), and Khuda Jaane are some of KK's most popular songs that remain his best tunes (Bachna Ae Haseeno).
- His song Yaaron, which was published in 1999, made him famous.

J&K National Panthers chief Bhim Singh has passed away:

- **National Panther Party Chief Professor Bhim Singh** died at his residence in **Jammu** after a long illness.
- He was **80 years old**.
- Singh is the founder and main patron of the **Jammu and Kashmir National Press Party (JKNPP)**, a political organization seeking "**ultimate revolution**", based in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir of India.

About Bhim Singh:

- Mr. Singh, a lawyer by profession, was ill for some time and was admitted to the Government Medical College, Jammu.
- Professor Singh was a secular leader who fought tirelessly for the rights of the oppressed and marginalized sections of society inside and outside the state legislature.
- At a time when polarization and division dominated politics, he campaigned for community harmony and fought hard against the forces that were trying to divide people and regions along with the front lines' community.

Santoor maestro and Padma Shri awardee, Bhajan Sopori has passed away:

- **Santoor Maestro and Padma Shri award winner Bhajan Sopori** passed away at the age of **73**.
- The santoor player was born in Sopore in the Kashmir valley in 1948 and belongs to the Sufiana Gharana of Indian classical music.
- He was the great-grandson of Pandit Shankar Pandit, who developed the popular style known as '**Sufi Baaj**' (style), based on the classical music of Sufiana Qalam and Hindustani.

About Bhajan Sopori:

- Hailed as '**Saint of Santoor**' and '**King of Strings**', Sopori won the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1992 and the Padma Shri Award in 2004.

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- In 2009, he received the **Baba Allaudin Khan Award** and the **MN Award Mathur** in 2011 for his contributions to classical Indian music.

Freedom fighter Anjalai Ponnusamy passes away:

- **Freedom fighter Anjalai Ponnusamy**, who fought for India's independence from the British colony, died aged 102.
- At the age of 21, Anjali joined the **Rani of Jhansi Regiment** - the women's regiment of the Army of The nation of India - in the hope of dispelling the yoke of **British colonialism over the people of India**.
- A prominent figure in India's struggle for independence, Bose was a contemporary of Mahatma Gandhi, who shared his dream of an India free from British domination.
- To do this, he formed the Indian National Army in 1943, albeit with Japanese support, during World War II.
- After the war ended with the defeat of Japan, the Indian National Army was disbanded and Anjali returned home to continue his life in Malaysia.

Sony ex-CEO Nobuyuki Idei passes away:

- **Nobuyuki Idei**, who led **Japan's Sony** from 1998 through 2005, steering its growth in the digital and entertainment businesses, has died.
- **He was 84.**

About Idei:

- Idei joined Sony in 1960, after graduating from Tokyo's prestigious Waseda University, and worked in its audio and video divisions.
- He was appointed president in 1995 and is credited with being behind hit products such as the **Vaio laptop**.
- He became chief executive three years later, hand-picked by **Norio Ohga**, who led Sony in the 1980s and 1990s and was a flamboyant music lover who played a key role in the company's development of the compact disc.
- After he retired from Sony, Idei established the consulting company Quantum Leaps Corp. focused on reshaping companies and nurturing the next generation of leaders.

India's Long-Distance Running Legend Hari Chand passes away

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- Two-time Asian Games gold medallist in long-distance running Hari Chand passed away at the age of 69.

About Hari Chand :

- Hari Chand hails from Ghorewaha village, Hoshiarpur district, **Punjab**.
- Hari Chand, the **winner of gold medals** in 5000m and 1000m events at the **1978 Bangkok Asian Games**, also took part in **two Olympics 1976 Montreal** and **1982 Moscow**.
- In the **1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal**, Hari Chand finished **8th** in the **10,000 m** with a time of **28:48.72**, a national record that stood for 32 years, until Surendra Singh broke it.
- In the **1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow**, he came **10th** in the 10,000-meter run.
- He also came **22nd** in the **1980 Olympic Men's Marathon** and completed the race with a timing of **2:22:08** at Lenin Stadium in Moscow.

Awards & Honors :

- For his contribution to sports, Hari Chand was also conferred with the **Arjuna Award**.

Note :

- Athletics Federation of India president: Adille Sumariwalla

Asia's Longest Tusked Elephant Bhogeshwara Dies

- The 70-year-old tusker with the **longest tusks** among Asian elephants Bhogeshwara died of **natural causes** at the age of 60.
- His body was discovered in the **D.B.Kuppe Forest Range** in the **H.D.Kote taluk** of the **Mysuru district** by forest officers.
- The viscera samples have been sent to the **Regional Forensic Science Laboratory of Mysore** & experts see no foul play and stated that it was a natural death.

About Bhogeshwara :

- Bhogeshwara, the majestic elephant, was found dead near the **Kabini reservoir** in **Bandipur-Nagarhole Reserve Forest**.
- He was known as **Mr. Kabini**.
- The elephant was given the name Bhogeshwara because it was frequently seen around the Bhogeshwara camp, which is located near the Kabini backwaters.

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- Bhogeshwar's tusks were 2.54 meters (8 feet) long on one side and 2.34 meters on the other (7.5 feet).
- He was a celebrity elephant for three decades and was the elephant with the most number of photos clicked by wildlife photographers at Kabini backwaters.

Renowned linguist and critic Professor Gopi Chand Narang passes away

- Eminent Urdu scholar, linguist, literary critic, and former Chairperson of Sahitya Akademi, Gopi Chand Narang passed away in the United States at the age of 91.

About Gopi Chand Narang :

- Gopi Chand Narang was born in Dukki, now in present-day Balochistan, Pakistan.
- He was Professor Emeritus at the University of Delhi and Jamia Millia Islamia.
- He was the president of Sahitya Akademi, which is dedicated to the promotion of Indian literature in the 24 languages of India.
- Professor Narang was Vice-chairman of the Delhi Urdu Academy (1996-1999) and the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language - HRD (1998-2004) and Vice-president (1998-2002) and President (2003-2007) of the Sahitya Akademi.
- He worked extensively on explaining and analyzing the works of Ghalib, Mir Taqi Mir, and later Faiz Ahmad Faiz and Firaq Gorakhpuri.
- He penned about 60 books, and also designed 10 books for children under the title Let's Learn Urdu in English and Hindi.
- He is the only Urdu writer to be honored by the presidents of both India and Pakistan.

Awards & Honors :

- In 1995, professor Narang won the Sahitya Akademi Award for his comprehensive work Sakhtiyat, Pas-Sakhtiyat aur Mashriqui Sheriyat (Structuralism, Post-Structuralism, and Eastern Poetics).
- He was awarded the prestigious Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Star of Excellence) (2012) by the Government of Pakistan and Padma Bhushan (2004) and Padma Shri (1990) by the Government of India.

Well-known photojournalist R Raveendran passes away

- Veteran photojournalist R. Raveendran passed away at the age of 69.

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About R Raveendran :

- He started his career as a **teleprinter operator** in AFP 1973.
- Later, he became a **photographer** in 1984.
- Presently, he was working with ANI as Photo Editor.
- He was the recipient of numerous photography awards and is known for his iconic photo of **Rajiv Goswami** setting himself on fire during the Mandal agitation in the Capital.
- Apart from this, his photographs of the Gujarat plague, the Bhopal gas tragedy, and the picture of Sonia Gandhi and children near the pyre of Rajiv Gan.

Former SAIL chairman V Krishnamurthy passes away

- **Venkatraman Krishnamurthy**, a former Chairman of steel Public Sector Unit (PSU) SAIL and Maruti Udyog Ltd (now Maruti Suzuki), passed away at the age of 97 in Chennai.

About V Krishnamurthy :

- Krishnamurthy was born on January 14, 1925, in **Tamil Nadu** & he was an Indian civil servant.
- He was the **Chairman of SAIL** from 1985 to 1990.
- He had been the chairman of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL), Maruti Udyog, and GAIL.
- He was also a former chairman of IIM Bangalore and Ahmedabad; IIT Delhi; Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar; the Centre for Organization Development, Hyderabad; and also the Technology Information, Forecasting & Assessment Council.
- From 2004-08, he became a **member of the National Advisory Council** & also served as a Member of, the Planning Commission, and Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Industry.
- He was also the **Chairman of the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council** and held the rank of **Cabinet Minister** till 2014.
- He was one of the founding trustees of the **Rajiv Gandhi Foundation**.

Awards & Honors :

- For the **civil services category**, he received **Padma Shri** in the year 1973, **Padma Bhushan** in 1986, and **Padma Vibhushan** in 2007.
- **Business Leadership Award** In 1975.
- **Businessman of the Year Award** in 1987.

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- Steelman of the Year Award in 1989.
- Lifetime Achievement Award in Management given by AIMA for the Year 2005
- He was conferred the **Special Nakajima Award** by JIPM in the year 2007 for his efforts to promote the **Total Productive Management (TPM)** Initiative in India.
- He is the recipient of " **The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun**" in 2009 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the promotion of bilateral economic relations and understanding of Japan in India. H.M.

Noted lyricist Chowalloor Krishnankutty passes away

- Noted lyricist, author, and journalist, **Chowalloor Krishnankutty** passed away in Thrissur, Kerala at the age of 86.

About Chowalloor Krishnankutty :

- Chowalloor Krishnankutty was born on July 11, 1936, at Variyath, Chowalloor in **Thrissur, Kerala**.
- He began his career as a journalist with '**Navajeevan**' which was published out of Thrissur.
- He became a lyricist by writing the famous song '**Swapnadanam njan tudarunnu**' for the movie Thulabharamin in 1975.
- He served as the **Vice-Chairman of the Kerala Kalamandalam**.
- Krishnankutty penned over 3000 devotional songs and authored more than 200 books.
- He joined **Malayala Manorama** and retired as an assistant editor in 2004.

Awards & Honors :

- He was also a recipient of numerous awards, including the **Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for Humour** and the **state award for Best song in drama**.

Chairman of Shapoorji Pallonji group, Pallonji Mistry Passes away

- **Pallonji Mistry**, chairman of Shapoorji Pallonji group, passed away in Mumbai at the age of 93.

About Pallonji Mistry :

- The **Indian-born Irish tycoon** was the richest person in his nation and had a net worth of **\$28.90 billion** as per the Bloomberg Billionaire index.

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- Pallonji was the largest individual shareholder in the Tata Group with **18.4 percent** holding in the conglomerate and is also known as the Phantom of Bombay House within the conglomerate.
- He was the **former chairman of Associated Cement Companies and Eureka Forbes.**
- Mistry's life was captured in the form of the biography **The Moguls of Real Estate** by **Manoj Namburu** in **2008.**
- He helped in the expansion of the SP Group to the Middle East countries, including Abu Dhabi, Qatar, and Dubai, in 1970.
- In 1971, the company won its first overseas project to build the palace of the Sultan of Oman, which was completed in 1976.

Awards & Honors :

- In 2016, Pallonji was conferred with the country's third-highest civilian award, **Padma Bhushan**, for his contribution to business including Real Estate, Textiles, Power, Shipping, Publications, and others.

About Shapoorji Pallonji group :

- Founded: 1865
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- The Shapoorji Pallonji Group is an Indian conglomerate company.
- It operates in construction, real estate, textiles, engineered goods, home appliances, shipping, publications, power, and biotechnology.
- The Shapoorji Pallonji Group, under Pallonji Mistry's watch, has built some of the iconic structures in Mumbai, including the Reserve Bank of India building, the State Bank of India building, and The Taj Mahal Palace hotel buildings.

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Olympic and World Cup medallist hockey player Varinder Singh Passes away

- **Legendary Indian hockey player & and Olympic and world championships medalist Varinder Singh** passed away in Jalandhar at the age of 75.

About Varinder Singh :

- Varinder Singh was an **integral member of India's dominant hockey team** in the 1970s.
- Singh was also part of the **bronze medal-winning team** at the 1972 Munich Olympics and the **silver medal** at the 1973 World Cup in Amsterdam.
- He was part of the **gold-medal-winning Indian team** at the 1975 men's Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur (India's only gold medal at the prestigious tournament).
- He also had to his credit a **silver medal** at the 1974 and 1978 Asian Games, respectively.
- The Indian hockey stalwart was also featured in the 1975 Montreal Olympics.

Awards & Honors :

- In 2007, Varinder was conferred with the prestigious **Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award**.

CABINET APPROVAL

CABINET APPROVALS:

(a) Cabinet approves MoU between India and UAE on Cooperation in the field of Industries and

Advanced Technologies:

- The government has approved a proposal for signing a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on cooperation in the field of industries and advanced technologies**.
- The decision was taken by the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- The MoU envisages cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis in areas including strengthening the supply chain resilience of industries, renewable and energy efficiency, health, and life sciences, space systems, artificial intelligence, standardization, metrology, conformity assessment, accreditation, and halal certification.
- The MoU aims at strengthening and developing industries in both nations through investments, technology transfer, and the deployment of key technologies in industries.

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Key Points:

- India-UAE bilateral trade, valued at **USD 180 million** per annum in the 1970s, has increased to USD 60 billion at present, making the **UAE India's third-largest trading partner after China and the US.**
- The UAE is the eighth largest investor in India with an estimated investment of USD 18 billion.
- Indian investments in the UAE are estimated at around USD 85 billion (Rs 6.48 lakh crore).
- Both the countries have implemented a comprehensive trade agreement to increase bilateral trade from USD 60 billion to USD 100 billion in the next five years.

(b) Cabinet approves MoU between NIES, Japan, and ARIES, India for Joint Research on Air Quality and Climate Change:

- The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the **National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES)**, Japan, and **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)**, India, a professional body for **joint research on air quality and climate change.**
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has apprised the signing of the MoU to establish **collaborative guidelines between NIES and ARIES.**
- No such MoU was signed by the ARIES, Nainital similar areas of research with any other foreign bodies in the past.

About ARIES:

- The ARIES is an autonomous research Institute established under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- ARIES is a center of excellence for research in Astronomy & Astrophysics and Atmospheric Science researchers on air pollution and climate change on earth, and the formation and evolution of the sun, stars, and galaxies.

About NIES:

- The NIES is **Japan's only research institute** that undertakes a broad range of environmental research in an interdisciplinary and comprehensive manner.
- The NIES works to produce scientific findings on environmental protection.

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- It is working on research projects that include consolidating the institute's research foundation through basic research, data acquisition, and analysis, and preservation and provision of environmental samples.

(c) Cabinet approves MoU signed between SNBNCBS, Kolkata, India, and Leibniz-IFW Dresden e.V, Germany in the Novel Magnetic and Topological Quantum Materials:

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was apprised of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS), Kolkata, India, and Leibniz-Institut für Festkörper- und Werkstoffforschung Dresden e.V. Dresden, Germany** intended to scientific cooperation in the field of "**Novel Magnetic and Topological Quantum Materials**".
- The research on Quantum Materials has received worldwide attention due to their potential for the development of future quantum technology.
- The goal of this joint venture will be to foster **Indo-German collaboration**, provide opportunities and facilitate the advancement of knowledge **in the area of magnetic and topological quantum materials**.
- The cooperation, in particular, will include, sharing of experimental and computational resources, the exchange of technical and professional support, and exchanging of faculty and researchers to carry out the collaborative research.

About SNBNCBS:

- **S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS)** is an Autonomous Research Institute established by the **Department of Science and Technology, Government of India in 1986** as a Registered Society.
- The Centre was established to honor the life and work of Professor S. N. Bose who was a colossal figure in theoretical physics and has made some of the most fundamental conceptual contributions to the development of **Quantum Mechanics and Quantum Statistics**.

About IFW:

- **IFW is a non-university research institute** and a member of the Leibniz Association.

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- **IFW Dresden** is concerned with modern materials science and combines explorative research in physics, chemistry, and materials science with the technological development of new materials and products.
- The research programs at IFW are focused on functional materials which hold a key position in many fields of application: **superconducting and magnetic materials, thin-film systems and nanostructures** as well as **crystalline and amorphous materials**.

(d) Cabinet approves MoU between India and Australia for Technical Cooperation for AIWASI:

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, was apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding between the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, Government of India and **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)**, Government of **Australia for Technical Cooperation in urban water management**.
- The MoU has been signed in December 2021.
- MoU would reinforce **bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the area of urban water security**.
 - ✓ It would strengthen institutional capacities at all levels for urban water management
 - ✓ To improve accessibility, affordability & quality of water and sanitation services.
 - ✓ To promote the circular economy of **water & water-secure cities**
 - ✓ To encourage **climate-resilient water management practices**
 - ✓ To enhance community participation in water management and improve social inclusion through **initiatives for accessible infrastructure**.
- MoU will enable both sides to learn about technological advancements gained by the two nations in key areas of urban water security and will promote the exchange of learning, best practices, and capacity building of institutions.
- This will help towards the realization of **AatmaNirbhar Bharat**.

(e) Cabinet approves MoU signed between India, US in the health sector:

- Union Cabinet, chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**, has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding among the **Department of Biotechnology, Government of the Republic of India**, and the **Indian Council of Medical Research and International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, US**.

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- It will contribute to the development of new, improved, and innovative biomedical tools and technologies to prevent and treat HIV, TB, COVID-19, and other emerging infectious and neglected diseases.
- This MoU will further strengthen relations between India and the US within the framework of international scientific and technological cooperation in fields of mutual interest.

CABINET APPROVALS:

(a) Cabinet approves Agreement between GoI and UN on a 'Way Finding Application' to be used in the Palais des Nations, UNOG:

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal for signing of an agreement between the Government of India and the United Nations on a 'Way Finding Application' to be used in the Palais des Nations, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG).
- The United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), consisting of five buildings and 21 floors, is housed at the historic Palais des Nations.
- A large number of delegates, members of civil society and the general public visit UNOG to participate in various meetings and conventions.

About the Project:

- The project of development of 'Way Finding Application' has been conceptualized as a donation from the Government of India and the UN on the occasion of its 75th anniversary in 2020.
- The estimated financial implication of the development, deployment and maintenance of the App is \$ 2 Million.
- The project consists of the development, deployment and maintenance of a software-based 'Way Finding Application' to facilitate navigation in the Palais des Nations premises of UNOG.
- The development of the App has been entrusted to the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT), an autonomous telecom Research & Development Centre of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India.
- The project will be a significant contribution from the Government of India to the UN.

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About UNOG:

- UNOG is located at Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It serves as the representative office of the Secretary-General in Geneva.
- It is the biggest department of the United Nations Secretariat outside of headquarters in New York.

(b) Union Cabinet approves Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Youth Work among the SCO

Member States

- The Cabinet was apprised of the **Agreement signed among the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO, member states on cooperation in the field of youth work among the authorized bodies of the member states of SCO.**
- Consequent to the adoption of the agreement on 17th September last year by the member states on cooperation in the field of youth work, **the agreement was signed by the Indian Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports.**
- **The official working language of the SCO Secretariat is Russian and Chinese.**
- The objective of the agreement is to strengthen mutual trust, friendly relations, and cooperation among young people of SCO member States.
- Recognizing the importance of ensuring the development of youth cooperation as an element of deepening friendly relations among the SCO Member States.
- Seeking to further improve the conditions for youth cooperation based on international experience.

(c) Cabinet approves MoA by India for the establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Centre at Colombo, Sri Lanka:

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has approved a Memorandum of Association (MoA) by India for the establishment of the **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Technology Transfer Facility (TTF)** was signed by the BIMSTEC member countries at the **5th BIMSTEC Summit** held at **Colombo, Sri Lanka.**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – June 2022

- The main objectives of the BIMSTEC TTF are to coordinate, facilitate and strengthen cooperation in technology transfer among the BIMSTEC Member States by promoting the transfer of technologies, sharing of experiences and capacity building.
- The TTF shall have a **Governing Board** and the overall control of activities of the TTF shall be vested in the Governing Board.
- The Governing Board shall consist of one nominee from each Member State.
- The expected outcomes of the BIMSTEC TTF are:
 - ✓ Databank of technologies available in BIMSTEC Countries,
 - ✓ Repository of information on good practices in the areas of technology transfer management, standards, accreditation, metrology, testing and calibration facilities,
 - ✓ Capacity building, sharing of experiences and good practices in development, and
 - ✓ Transfer and use of technologies among BIMSTEC countries.

(d) CCEA approves grant of the moratorium to Cochin Port Authority on repayment of GoI loans for 3 years:

- **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has approved a moratorium to **Cochin Port Authority** on repayment of Central government loans amounting to over 446 crore rupees for three years.
- The moratorium has been approved for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- The amount was to be repaid in ten instalments commencing from 2018-19.
- However, **Cochin Port Authority** could pay the instalments of 2018-19 and 2019-20 only.
- From 2020-21, the traffic was badly impacted due to the Covid-19 pandemic which adversely impacted the cash inflow.
- As a result, Cochin Port could not pay the instalments of 2020-21 and 2021-22.