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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Doctors' Day- 1st July

- India celebrates **National Doctors' Day on July 1** every year to honor the birth and death anniversary of the great physician and second chief minister of West Bengal, Dr. **Bidhan Chandra Roy (B.C Roy)**.
- This day serves to show gratitude to all those doctors who have selflessly aided us in our time of need and tirelessly worked for the health of their patients.

Theme:

- The theme of this year's National Doctors' Day is '**Family Doctor on the Front Line**'.

History:

- **National Doctors' Day was first celebrated in the year 1991** to show gratitude for the hard work and contribution of **Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy**, who was also the former Chief Minister of Bengal.
- He was born on July 1, 1882, and died on July 1 in the year 1962.
- To honor him for his contribution to the medical fraternity during his tenure July 1 has been observed as National Doctors' Day.
- The Bharat Ratna recipient played a great role in establishing medical institutions like Jadavpur TB Hospital, Chittaranjan Seva Sadan, Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital, Victoria Institution (College), Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital, and the Chittaranjan Seva Sadan for women and children.
- The first time Doctor's Day was observed was in March 1933 in the US state of Georgia. This day was celebrated by sending a card to the physicians and placing flowers on the graves of dead doctors.

National Postal Worker Day- July 1

- **National Postal Workers Day is celebrated annually on July 1** to show appreciation for the **postal workers'** hard work that they put in to deliver our mail and deliveries on time.
- Postal workers walk or travel miles a day to deliver letters and packages to our doorsteps.

HISTORY

- **July 1 was declared National Postal Worker Day in 1997** by a Seattle-area postal carrier to honor fellow employees and since then it is celebrated every year on this day.

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- In the United States, postal workers walk an average of 4 to 8 miles to deliver a full load of letters and packages.
- Approximately 490,000 postal workers work in the United States.
- No matter how the weather or condition is, postal workers deliver mail.

National Chartered Accountants Day- 1st July

- Every year on July 1, **National Chartered Accountants Day**, often known as **CA Day**, is observed.
- The founding of the Institute of **Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** by the Indian parliament in **1949** is commemorated on this day.
- Every year on the anniversary of the ICAI's founding, CA Day is observed to honor-chartered accountants.

History:

- During the British regime, all companies used to keep a firm record of their accounts **under the Companies Act of India**.
- Certified auditors, who completed a course on accountancy diploma, used to audit the books of accounts.
- In India, the accounting profession remained unregulated **till 1948**.
- In the same year, an expert committee suggested the formation of an autonomous body and the **Chartered Accountant Act in 1949**.
- The **ICAI was established on 1 July 1949** to regulate the accounting laws in India.

About the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI):

- The second-largest accounting association in the world, ICAI is the national professional accounting organization of India.
- On this day in 1949, a Parliament-passed Act created the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).
- The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), businesses, and accounting organizations all abide by the guidelines of the ICAI, which is the only licensing and regulatory authority for the financial audit and accounting profession in India.

World UFO Day- 2nd July

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- Every year, **World UFO Day** is observed on **July 2nd** to create an awareness of Unidentified Flying Objects.
- These objects are somehow related to alien life forms.
- The World UFO Day organization decided **in the year 2001** to celebrate this day for all UFO enthusiasts.

History:

- The first observation of a **UFO** was reported by aviator **Kenneth Arnold** in the **US**.
- He described the UFO as a saucer-like object or a big flat disk design.
- Now this observation has been described as the design of a UFO for decades.
- **On July 2, 1947**, an incident was reported as a crash in the desert near Roswell, New Mexico.
- Since then, this incident has been a conspiracy theory.
- It was believed the **US Air Force** was carrying out some top-secret projects.
- **William Brazel** was the only witness to this incident who explained that the wreckage of the UFO was made of rubber strips and tinfoil.

World Sports Journalists Day- 2nd July

- **World Sports Journalists Day** is observed globally on **2nd July** every year.
- The day aims to acknowledge the work of sports journalists & encourage them to do better at their work.
- Sports journalists help millions of people in the world to receive information on various sports.

History:

- It marks the anniversary of the **International Sports Press Association (AIPS)**, established in **1924**.
- Its headquarters is based in Switzerland.
- **In 1994**, **AIPS** introduced World Sports Journalists Day to celebrate the anniversary of its establishment.
- Sports journalism started in the early 1800s as an important part of the elite class and transitioned to the news business with a dedicated sports column.
- Later it also gained popularity in the middle and lower classes, which led to more content coverage in publications.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- The different forms of sports journalism include play-by-play, game recap analysis, and investigative journalism on important developments in the field of sport.

International Day of Cooperatives:

- **International Day of Cooperatives** is celebrated on the **first Saturday of every July**.
- This year the day will be celebrated on **July 2** by cooperatives all across the world.
- This celebration aims to increase awareness about cooperatives by highlighting how the **United Nations shares similar goals and objectives as the international cooperative movement**.
- This day aims to acknowledge the contributions of cooperatives to resolving some of the major international issues that have drawn the attention of the United Nations.
- The day also aims to strengthen and extend partnerships between the international cooperative movement and other outfits of social development.

Themes:

- The theme for the 2022 International Day of Cooperatives is **“Cooperatives Build a Better World”**.

History:

- **The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)** was formed on or around the 3rd of July in 1895 and since 1927 ICA has observed the **first Saturday of July** as **International Day of Co-operatives**.
- **In December 1994**, United Nations General Assembly also passed a resolution to follow the pattern of ICA and **declared that from 1995**, the first Saturday of July will be observed as **International Day of Cooperatives**.
- The UN has also acknowledged and admired the efforts of the **Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC)** for the nomination of this day’s observance at the global level.

American Independence Day- July 4

- **Independence Day**, also called the **Fourth of July** or **July 4th**, in the **United States**, is the annual celebration of nationhood.
- It commemorates the passage of the **Declaration of Independence** by the **Continental Congress** on **July 4, 1776**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- **Independence Day is celebrated on Monday, July 4, 2022, in the United States.**
- On July 4th, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, which had been written largely by **Jefferson**.
- Though the vote for actual independence took place on July 2nd, from then on, the 4th became the day that was celebrated as the birth of American independence
- **On July 4, 1776**, the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence, announcing the colonies' separation from Great Britain.

World Zoonoses Day 2022: July 6

- **Every year on June 6th, World Zoonoses Day** is commemorated as the anniversary of the first-ever vaccine given for any zoonotic disease way back in 1885.
- The purpose of this day is to raise awareness of illnesses that can spread from humans to animals.

Theme

- **"Let's Break the Chain of Zoonotic Transmission"** is the focus of this year's World Zoonoses Day, which is crucial if we are to escape the COVID-19 pandemic, which has already done too much harm.

History

- **In 2300 B.C., Rabies was first recorded** and the **Mosaic Esmuna Code of Babylon** showed the first written account of rabies causing death in humans and dogs.
- **on September 29, 1976, Ebola was Discovered.**
- It was named after the Ebola River in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- In 2009, Swine Flu Outbroke. The C.D.C. estimates that the global death toll is due to H.1.N.1. influenza is more than 284,000.
- On January 30, 2020, WHO declares the novel coronavirus outbreak a public health emergency of worldwide concern.
- On this day on 6th July 1885, a French biologist named Louise Pasteur who is also very known for his theory of pasteurization successfully administered the first-ever vaccination given for a zoonotic disease to a man named Joseph Meister who was bitten by a dog with rabies.

World Population Day: July 11

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- On July 11, 2022, World Population Day is celebrated and observed all over the world as an awareness program.
- It is observed to raise awareness among people about the impact of a growing population and issues including gender equality, the importance of family planning, poverty, maternal health, human rights, etc.
- World Population Day is observed to create awareness about **the global population issues including overgrowing population** and to take steps to control the same.

Theme

- The theme for this year is **“A world of 8 billion: Towards a resilient future for all – Harnessing opportunities and ensuring rights and choices for all”**
- World Population Day is observed every year on July 11 to raise awareness about global population issues.

History

- In 1804, The world population reached 1 billion people.
- In 1927, The world population doubled to 2 billion.
- In 1989, The world population reached 3 billion.
- In 1989, The United Nations recognized July 11 as World Population Day.
- On 11 July 1990, the day was first marked in more than 90 countries. Since then, many UNFPA country offices and other organizations and institutions commemorate World Population Day in partnership with governments and civil society.
- In 2000, Just 40 years after it reached 3 billion, the population doubles to 6 billion.
- On April 24, 2017, statistical models estimated that the world population is at 7.5 billion.

World Malala Day 2022: July 12

- On July 12th, World Malala day 2022 is celebrated and observed all over the world as an honoring event.
- The 12th of July has been designated as **World Malala Day by the UN in honor of the teenage activist Malala Yousafzai.**
- Malala Day, which honors women's and children's rights all around the world, is observed on the anniversary of **Malala Yousafzai's birth.**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- Malala, who won the Nobel Peace Prize at the age of 17, was the prize's youngest-ever winner.

History

- On July 12, 1997, Malala Yousafzai was born in Mingora, Pakistan.
- In 2007 the Taliban took over the city in which she lived and banned girls from attending school.
- In 2009, Malala writes for B.B.C. Urdu where she expresses her advocacy through the platform
- On the morning of October 9th, 2012, gunmen from the Taliban shot Malala Yousafzai in the head.
- On her 16th birthday, the young lady traveled to New York and spoke at the United Nations.
- In 2013, TIME Magazine declared Malala one of the world's most influential people.
- A year later, Malala was named a Nobel Peace Prize winner.
- Along with this prestigious honor, Malala has received the United Nations Human Rights Prize and The Liberty Medal.
- She currently resides in Birmingham and continues to fight for women's empowerment and education.

World Youth Skills Day: July 15

- World Youth Skills Day is celebrated every year on July 15.
- The sole purpose of this day is to provide essential skills to youngsters around the globe so that they can get employment.
- The day helps in disseminating awareness about the importance of skills in getting good work opportunities.
- The theme for this year is "Transforming youth skills for the future"

History:

- The United Nations General Assembly declared July 15 as World Youth Skills Day in December 2014.
- The objective was to improve socio-economic conditions for today's youth and address the challenge of unemployment.
- Since the inception of World Youth Skills Day, it has facilitated interaction among young people, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, businesses, governments, and development partners.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

World Day for International Justice 2022: July 17

- Every year on **July 17**, the day of many names, also known as **International Justice Day, World Day for International Justice, or Day of International Criminal Justice**, is celebrated to acknowledge the system of international justice.

Theme

- This year's theme for the Day of International Criminal Justice is "**Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment**", a timely topic for a modern age where criminals are increasingly relying on advanced internet-based means instead of traditional criminal tactics.

History

- Between **1945–1949**, The victorious Allied governments established an International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany, to bring justice to perpetrators of World War II — major Nazi war criminals are indicted.
- On April 29, 1946, The Tokyo Trials took place and An International Military Tribunal for the Far East (IMTFE) is created in Tokyo, Japan, to punish major war criminals in the Far East.
- On **July 17, 1998**, 120 states adopted the treaty known as the Rome Statute, thus informally establishing the **International Criminal Court**.
- On July 1, 2002, 60 countries ratified the Rome Statute, making the International Criminal Court official.
- On June 1, 2010, The Assembly of State Parties decided to celebrate the day the Rome Statute was adopted as the World Day for International Justice.
- On July 10, 2012, **Congolese criminal warlord, Thomas Lubanga Dyilo**, was the first person to be convicted and sentenced by the ICC and he was sentenced to 14 years in prison.

Nelson Mandela International Day: July 18

- **Nelson Mandela International Day, also known as Mandela Day**, is observed every year on **July 18** to mark the birth anniversary of the former South African president.
- This day is an opportunity for everyone to renew their commitment to the values that inspired Mandela.

History of Nelson Mandela International Day

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- This day was **first celebrated on July 18, 2010**, after the **United Nations** in November 2009 officially declared Nelson Mandela International Day.
- Originally, this day was Mandela's idea to celebrate his birthday as Mandela Day.
- On his 90th birthday, Mandela said, "It is time for new hands to lift the burdens. It is in your hands now."
- However, some groups started celebrating this day on July 18, 2009.
- In 2014, the **UN General Assembly** introduced the **Nelson Mandela Prize**, an award recognizing the achievements of those who dedicate their lives to the service of humanity.

National Broadcasting Day-23rd July

- **Every year on July 23rd, National Broadcasting Day** is commemorated to honor the radio, which has been a significant part of people's lives in India, both as an easy medium of pleasure and as a source of news.
- On this day in 1927, the **Indian Broadcasting Company's Bombay Station** transmitted the first radio transmission in the country.

HISTORY:

- **On July 23, 1927**, the **first radio broadcast** was made from Bombay Station.
- The station was previously owned by the Indian Broadcasting Company, a private company.
- On April 1, 1930, the government took over broadcasting and called it the **Indian State Broadcasting Service (ISBS)**.
- Initially, it was on an experimental basis.
- In 1932, it was permanently taken over by the government.
- The **Indian State Broadcasting Service** was renamed **All India Radio** on June 8, 1936.
- AIR is now one of the world's largest public broadcasting organizations.

National Thermal Engineer Day- July 24

- **Every year on July 24, National Thermal Engineer Day** is observed to mark and appreciate all thermal engineers in the country.
- The day honors the significance of thermal management in the electronics sector, as well as the engineers and businesses who make it possible.

HISTORY

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- **Advanced Thermal Solutions Inc (ATS)** established the day in **2014**.
- ATS focuses on offering efficient and cost-effective thermal energy regulation and electronic packaging solutions.
- It also attempts to emphasize the significance of the thermal energy industry.
- The day was created to showcase the efforts of thermal engineers around the nation.
- The work of thermal engineers is frequently eclipsed by other industries such as software and electronics.
- Nevertheless, it is the thermal sector that supports the electronics and software sectors.
- **July 24** was chosen as **National Thermal Engineer Day** since it is the hottest day of the year.

National Parent's Day (Fourth Sunday in July) - 24 July

- In the year 2022, the **fourth Sunday in July** will be recognized as **National Parents' Day**.
- The date for the celebration this year is **July 24**.
- On this day, parents are honored for the crucial part they play in our lives.

History:

- **President Bill Clinton 1994** signed a law and a resolution was adopted by the US Congress to establish the **fourth Sunday of every July as Parents' Day**.
- This day is similar to Mother's Day and Father's day.
- In the Congressional resolution, it is mentioned that Parents' Day is established for "recognizing, uplifting and supporting the role of parents in the rearing of children".

World Embryologist Day- July 25

- **World Embryologists' Day** in 2022 is observed on **July 25**, it is recognized.
- It honors reproductive medicine researchers on this day.
- On this day world's **first IVF baby was born**.
- Embryologists play an important role in an IVF clinic.
- They assist in conceiving children, or you would say that they have the power to create life. Because they are the ones who nurture this fresh beginning of life, they are occasionally referred to as the "**caretakers**" of patients' sperm, eggs, or embryos.
- Sperm, eggs, and embryos are the main subjects of research for embryologists.

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- They will be able to pick the healthiest sperm, eggs, and embryos for IVF therapy based on their quality.

History:

- **Louise Joy Brown on 25 July** became the first baby to be born due to **In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) method in 1978** and so every year on 25 July World Embryologist Day is observed.

Kargil Vijay Diwas- 26th July

- Since 1999, **India has observed Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26** to commemorate its victory over Pakistan in the Kargil conflict.
- The nation is commemorating the 2 years since the end of the Kargil conflict this year.
- In 1999, a high-altitude mountain conflict broke out along the **Line of Control, the de facto boundary that separates Kashmir between the two countries**, on the peaks of Kargil.

About the war:

- The war took place **between May and July of 1999** in Jammu and Kashmir's Kargil district.
- The conflict is believed to have been orchestrated by the then **Pakistan army chief General Pervez Musharraf** without the knowledge of the then **Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif**.
- It began with the infiltration of both regular Pakistani troops and terrorists into Indian territory.
- The infiltrators positioned themselves in key locations that gave them a strategic advantage during the start of the conflict. Based on information from local shepherds, the Indian Army was able to ascertain the points of incursion and launch "**Operation Vijay**".

Kargil Vijay Diwas

- The Army declared the mission successful on July 26, 1999; since then the day has been celebrated annually as Kargil Vijay Diwas.

The cost of war

- The victory came at a high price.
- The official death toll on the Indian side was 527, while that on the Pakistani side was between 357 and 453.

World Nature Conservation Day- July 28

- The **World Nature Conservation Day** is observed annually on July 28.

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- The occasion aims to create awareness about the need to **preserve the environment and natural resources to keep the world healthy.**
- Saving plants and animals that are threatened with extinction is one of the primary focuses of World Nature Conservation Day.

History:

- The history and origin of World Nature Conservation Day are unknown but the main aim of celebrating it on 28 July is to come together and support nature, don't exploit it.
- Conservation of nature is the wise management and utilization of natural resources. As we know that due to natural imbalance, we are facing several problems like global warming, various diseases, natural disasters, increased temperature, etc.
- Therefore, for the next generation, it is necessary to preserve it.
- So, it is important to raise awareness among people all over the world to understand the importance of saving resources, recycling them, preserving them, and also understanding the consequences of damaging them.

International Tiger Day- July 29

- **Global Tiger Day, often called International Tiger Day, is an annual celebration to raise awareness for tiger conservation, held annually on 29 July.**
- It was created in **2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia.**
- Tigers are unfortunately the species that are nearing extinction.
- Therefore, to spread awareness about the need to conserve tigers, International Tiger Day is marked every year.

History

- The decision to recognize this day was taken in **2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia.**
- The representatives from around **13 countries announced that the tiger-populated countries would take steps to double the tiger population by 2022.**

Significance

- In 1973, Project Tiger was launched in India with a unique plan to save tigers on the planet.

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- Since its formative years, there were 9 tiger reserves but the Tiger Project coverage has increased significantly over time.
- A conservation goal that was so ambitious was set up by the governments of the 13 range countries to double the number of wild tigers by this year.
- However, the tiger is still categorized as 'endangered'.
- It has lost 93 percent of its range and tiger numbers have dipped from 100,000 a century ago. Poaching and habitat destruction are among the leading causes.
- Observing World Tiger Day assumes importance because as per the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), there are only 3900 wild tigers present around the globe.

World Ranger Day: 31 July

- Every year on **July 31st, World Ranger Day** is commemorated.
- To recognize Park Rangers' contributions to the protection of the environment, the **International Ranger Federation** created this day.
- Supporting their essential work, which includes environmental advocacy and education, is possible on World Ranger Day.

History:

- In **1992, the International Ranger Federation** was established.
- It was founded by the SCRA (**Scottish Countryside Rangers Association**), the CMA (**Countryside Management Association**), and the ANPR (**U.S. Association of National Park Rangers**), which represents rangers in **Wales and England**.
- The goal of this agreement was to promote public support for and awareness of the critical role that rangers play in preserving our cultural and natural heritage across the world.
- The inaugural World Ranger Day was held in 2007, to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the IRF's founding.

IMPORTANT BANKING & ECONOMY NEWS

Bajaj Allianz launches 'Global Health Care'

- **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance**, one of the leading private general insurers in India, has announced the launch of a new health insurance product 'Global Health Care'.

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- The company collaborates with **Allianz Partners** to provide a seamless claims settlement experience for customers outside of India.
- The product allows insured members to plan any treatment abroad or in India worry-free, thus availing the best medical facilities anywhere across the globe.

About 'Global Health Care' :

- Global Health Care is a **first-of-its-kind health insurance product** from Bajaj Allianz the which opens up off-shore treatment facilities for Indian customers
- It is a comprehensive health indemnity insurance product that provides seamless cover to the policyholder for planned and emergency treatment availed from health care providers Internationally (outside of India) and domestically (within India).

Key Features :

- It offers policyholders the option to choose between worldwide cover including the US and worldwide cover excluding the US.
- Product available in two plans **Imperial Plan** and **Imperial Plus Plan**, both offering international and domestic covers
- The domestic cover for 'Imperial Plan' and 'Imperial Plus Plan' provides In-Patient Hospitalization treatment, Pre and Post-Hospitalization Expenses with benefits like Ambulance (Air and Road), Day Care Procedures, Living Donor Medical Costs, Modern Treatment Methods & Technological Advancement, Mental Illness treatment and Rehabilitation amongst others.
- The premium starts from **INR 39,432 excluding GST**; Sum insured ranges from **INR 37,50,000 to INR 3,75,00,000 (INR 3.75 Crores)** for **domestic coverage** and corresponding **international coverage** that ranges from **USD 100,000 to USD 1,000,000 (USD 1 Million)**.
- This product is offered to Indians residing in India with a sum insured available on an individual basis for a policy cover period of **1 year**.
- The entry age for adult members is from **18 to 65 years** and for dependent children is from 3 months to 30 years with a lifetime renewal option.
- Cashless and Reimbursement claim settlement options are available in the Global Health Care product.

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- An additional **5 percent discount** will be applicable if **two or more members** of the family opt for the policy.

About Bajaj Allianz General Insurance :

- MD & CEO: Tapan Singhel
- Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra
- Parent organizations: Bajaj Finserv Ltd., Allianz SE

Star Health, IDFC FIRST Bank announce Bancassurance tie-up

- **Star Health and Allied Insurance**, one of the leading Health Insurance companies in India, has signed a Corporate Agency agreement with **IDFC FIRST Bank**, for the **distribution of its health insurance solutions**.

About the Partnership :

- Under the agreement, Star Health will offer its health insurance products to the bank's customers using the latter's digital platform and its distribution network.
- The strategic tie-up with IDFC First Bank is a step to make health insurance more accessible to all.
- It will help reach out to IDFC First's customers and enable them to financially safeguard themselves from rising healthcare costs.
- IDFC FIRST Bank has a **digital-first approach** and serves customers through its net banking platform and a mobile app, which complement its branches, ATMs, and loan centers across India.

About Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd :

- Founded: 2006
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- Chairman & CEO: V Jagannathan
- Managing Director: Anand Roy

About IDFC FIRST Bank :

- Founded: 2018
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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- MD & CEO : V. Vaidyanathan
- IDFC FIRST Bank was formed by the merger of erstwhile IDFC Bank & Capital First.

Cashfree Payments partners EasyTransfer to offer international payments services

- Fintech company Cashfree Payments India Private Limited has partnered with EasyTransfer to offer a faster, easier, and cheaper platform for Indian students to make fee payments to universities and educational institutions abroad.

About the Partnership :

- The partnership will allow Indian students to make educational payments directly through their existing bank accounts, eliminating the need to set up a new account specifically for making such payments.
- EasyTransfer and Cashfree Payments have streamlined India's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) declaration process, allowing payments to be completed fully online.
- The EasyTransfer payments platform for Indian students will be launched by early June 2022.
- It will be fully customized for Indian international students and their families.

About EasyTransfer :

- Founded: 2013
- Headquarters: Singapore
- Co-founder and President: Tony Gao

ICICIdirect launches a learning app to help customers with investment

- ICICI Securities (I-Sec) has launched 'ICICIdirect iLearn', a learning app for customers to easily access content curated around several financial products and stock market topics.

Aim :

- To provide investors with well-researched and simplified content curated by experts to help make informed investment decisions.
- To familiarize investors with the knowledge of financial or investment tools by including both, standard and contemporary content, catering to the needs of beginners as well as evolved investors.
- As per data from BSE, the total number of investors as of June 2022 stood at around 109 million, a 51% increase Year on Year (Y-o-Y).

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- Out of the overall customer base of I-Sec, millennials and Gen Z formed more than 80% of its active customer base in the past 3 years.
- Additionally, **85% of customers** acquired by I-Sec in Q4-FY22 were from tier II & III cities.
- The app currently hosts more than **550 plus content pieces** across various sections.
- The content will be updated at regular intervals on different topics including current market developments.
- The platform iCommunity will soon enable an opportunity of learning through fellow investors.

About ICICI Securities (I-Sec):

- Establishment: 1995
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: Vinod Kumar Dhall
- ICICI Securities Limited (I-Sec) is a **subsidiary of ICICI Bank Ltd.**

Airtel Payments Bank partners with Axis Bank to digitize cash collection

- **Airtel Payments Bank** has partnered with **Axis Bank**, India's third-largest private sector bank, to **digitize the cash collection system** in India's tier III cities and semi-urban regions.
- It would leverage the wide reach of its digital-led neighborhood banking model to support Axis Bank with the digitization of last-mile cash collections.
- Axis Bank's agents will no longer have to travel back to the branch to deposit the collected EMI amount as they can deposit the amount at any Airtel Payments Bank outlet in the neighborhood, and it will be immediately transferred to the Axis Bank accounts.
- As per the reports, customers of Axis Bank will be able to make direct EMI deposits for loan payments at the **5,00,000 banking points** of Airtel Payments Bank.

About Airtel Payments Bank :

- Founded: 2017
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Anubrata Biswas
- In January 2022, it was granted the **scheduled bank status** by the **Reserve Bank of India** under the **second schedule of the RBI Act, 1934.**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

About Axis Bank :

- Founded : 3 December 1993
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry

World Bank Approves \$1 Billion to Support India's Health Sector

- The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved two complementary loans of \$500 million each to support and enhance India's health sector.
- Through this combined financing of \$1 billion, the Bank will support India's flagship Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), launched in October 2021 to improve public healthcare infrastructure across India.
- The loans will prioritize 7 states including Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.

India's performance in health :

- According to World Bank estimates, India's life expectancy at 69.8 in 2020, up from 58 in 1990 is higher than the average for the country's income level.
- The under-five mortality rate (36 per 1,000 live births), infant mortality rate (30 per 1,000 live births), and maternal mortality ratio (103 per 100,000 live births)
- The two loans, Public Health Systems for Pandemic Preparedness Program (PHSPP) and Enhanced Health Service Delivery Program (EHSDP) from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) have a final maturity of 18.5 years including a grace period of 5 years.

The PHSPP will support the government's efforts to:

- To prepare India's surveillance system to be ready to detect and report epidemics of potential international concern, ensure rapid response, and prevent the emergence of pathogens;
- To enhance India's capacity to detect pathogens, including zoonotic diseases
- To strengthen coordination and build institutional capacity

The EHSDP will support Government's efforts to:

- To strengthen service delivery through a redesigned primary health care model
- To improve the quality of care

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- To transform health sector governance and accountability

About World Bank :

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

Max Life launches Insta confirmation of insurance (Insta-COI)+ to deliver a superior customer experience

- Max Life Insurance Company Ltd, has launched a smart solution, 'Insta confirmation of insurance (Insta-COI)'+, to customers buying the 'Max Life Smart Fixed-return Digital Plan', a non-linked, non-participating, individual life insurance savings plan on the Max Life website or Policybazaar platform.

About Insta-COI :

- The Insta-COI feature enables intimation to the proposer regarding the commencement of the risk cover pending release of the policy contract ensuring a quick and **hassle-free onboarding**.
- This initiative becomes possible by digitizing processes for documentation during onboarding.
- Strengthened by AI-enabled smart underwriting, this solution is currently applicable for certain low-risk prospects choosing a sum assured of up to **INR 25 Lakh**.

Recent News :

- Recently Max Life has introduced innovative service experiences via digital interventions like **chatbot** and **WhatsApp servicing**.

About Max Life Insurance Company Ltd :

- Max Life Insurance Company Limited is a **Joint Venture between Max Financial Services Limited and Axis Bank Limited**.
- Max Financial Services Ltd. is a part of the Max Group, an Indian multi-business corporation.
- It offers comprehensive protection and long-term savings life insurance solutions, through its multi-channel distribution including agency and third-party distribution partners.
- Founded: 2001
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- MD & CEO: Prashant Tripathy

Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman announces the Business Reform Action 2020:

- Finance Minister Smt. **Nirmala Sitharaman** delivered the **Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP)-2020** speech in New Delhi.
- **Seven states** have been selected as the top performers in the report's review of the Business Reforms Action Plan's implementation.
- The states in dispute include **Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu**.
- Andaman and Nicobar, Bihar, Chandigarh, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Puducherry, and Tripura have all been included under the category of emerging business ecosystems, according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Key Points:

- The Achievers group comprises **Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh**, according to the poll.
- Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Kerala, Rajasthan, and West Bengal are included in the Aspirers group.
- According to Sitharaman, changes have changed in terms of their content after 1991.
- She made a point of stating that the federal government is pressuring the states and Union Territories to enact the necessary reforms.

About BRAP:

- The BRAP exercise aims to enhance the business environment in each State and Union Territory by fostering a culture of learning from other States' best practices.
- The overall purpose of BRAP is to make India one of the most well-liked investment locations in the globe.

100% two-wheelers to be energized by FY27:

- **100% Electric two-wheelers** would be integrated into the Indian market by FY2026-27, according to NITI Aayog and the Technology Information, Forecasting, and Assessment Council (TIFAC).

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- The autonomous TIFAC was formed in 1988 by the Department of Science and Technology to forecast technical advancements, evaluate technological trajectories and foster innovation.
- Three key aspects that affect the market of **electric two-wheelers have been used to build future scenarios.**
- Demand incentives, battery cost, and vehicle performance in terms of range and power are these factors.

Key Points:

- The title of the report was **Forecasting Electric Two-Wheeler Penetration in India.**
- It provided important information on the industry's goals for technological advancement as well as the essential industrial capacity and infrastructure.
- If an R&D program is effective in improving their range and power by **5% yearly between FY 2023–24 and FY 2025–26 and by 10% in FY 2026–27**, the penetration of electric two-wheelers may reach roughly **72 percent in FY 2031–32** even without the extension of demand-side incentives.
- Sales of electric two-wheelers may top 220 lakh units by FY2028-29.

About the Research conducted by NITI Ayog and TIFAC:

- The research's conclusions indicate that India is at a turning point and that the switch to electric mobility, particularly in the two-wheeler industry, may happen sooner than anticipated.
- Because electric car adoption was slow at first, there will need to be more charging stations than electric automobiles to build consumer confidence.
- If there is adequate infrastructure in place for charging electric two-wheelers, sales may exceed **250 lakh units.**
- The sale of electric **two-wheelers will reach 54.91 lakh units in FY 2031**, with a market penetration of **21.86 percent**, according to the Incentive Driven Scenario, which assumes that demand incentives will persist throughout but with only a **2 percent** annual reduction in battery cost and no improvement in range or performance.

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Axis Financial institution Partners with EazyDiner to launch a premium eating expertise program

- **Axis Financial institution** has partnered with **EazyDiner**, a table reservation, food discovery, and restaurant payment platform, and have launched **Dining Delights**, an eating experience program for the bank's customers.

About the Programme :

- The program will offer benefits such as the option to choose from over **10,000 premium restaurants** across **India** and **Dubai**, instant confirmation on table reservations, and offers on dining reservations made through the EazyDiner app.
- It is aligned to serve a rising variety of prospects who need alternatives, selection, and comfort.

SEBI gives UPI payment option to invest in public issues of REITs, InvITs

- Capital market regulator **Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** gave an additional option of **UPI (Unified Payments Interface)** to retail investors to apply in the public issues of **Real Estate Investment Trust (REITs)** and **Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvITs)** for application value up to **Rs 5 lakh**.
- The change will apply to public issues of units of REIT and InvITs which open from **August 1, 2022**.
- The capital markets regulator January 2019 laid down the process for payment for applications in the public issue of units of these new investment instruments through the facility of **Applications Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA)**.
- The regulator has decided to reduce the time taken for allotment and listing of units of privately placed InvIT after the closure of the issue to **6 working days** as against the present requirement of 30 working days.
- REIT comprises a portfolio of commercial real assets, a major portion of which is already leased out, InvITs comprise a portfolio of infrastructure assets, such as highways and power transmission assets.

About SEBI :

- Established: April 12, 1988, & given Statutory Powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch
- The SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Gol.

India's GST collections jump 56% to Rs 1.45 lakh crore in June:

- India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections in June this year surged 56% year-on-year to around 1.45 lakh crore rupees.
- The GST collections in June last year stood at 92,800 crore rupees.
- Economic recovery and anti-evasion activities, especially action against fake billers, have contributed to the enhanced GST collections.
- This is the fifth time the monthly GST collection has crossed the 1.40 lakh crore rupees mark since the inception of the GST and the fourth month at a stretch since March 2022.
- The average monthly gross GST collection for the first quarter of the current fiscal has been 1.51 lakh crore rupees against the average monthly collection of 1.10 lakh crore rupees in the first quarter of the last financial year showing an increase of 37 percent.

Govt imposes a tax of Rs 6 per liter on exports of petrol & Aviation Turbine Fuel:

- The Union Government has imposed a tax of six rupees per liter on exports of petrol and Aviation Turbine Fuel and 13 rupees per liter on exports of diesel.
- In separate notifications issued by the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of finance, the government has imposed an additional tax of 23 thousand 250 rupees per tonne on domestically produced crude oil to take away windfall gains accruing to producers from high international oil prices.

Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI) joins hands with Avanse Financial for student travel insurance

- Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI) has Partnered with education sector-focussed NBFC Avanse Financial Services to provide travel insurance to Indian students going abroad for higher education.
- EGI plans to offer complete coverage against medical, stay, travel inconvenience-related covers, emergencies, and losses. Students will also have the choice to customize their plan with optional covers as per their needs and requirements from universities.

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- Industry reports suggest the number of Indian students going abroad for higher studies is expected to touch **18 lakh by 2024**, leading to increased spending

About EGI :

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

About Avanse Financial Services :

- MD & CEO: Amit Gaiinda

SBI Card partners with Aditya Birla Finance to launch 'Aditya Birla SBI Card'

- **SBI Cards and Payment Services** has entered into a strategic partnership with **Aditya Birla Finance (ABFL)**, the lending subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital for the launch of '**Aditya Birla SBI Card**'.
- The card has been designed to give customers significant reward points on their spending around telecom, fashion, travel, dining, entertainment, and hotels, among others.
- The card comes in **two variants**
 1. Aditya Birla SBI Card SELECT
 2. Aditya Birla SBI card, both available on the Visa platform.
- The joining/annual renewal fee for '**Aditya Birla SBI Card**' and '**Aditya Birla SBI Card SELECT**' is **Rs 499** and **Rs 1499** respectively.
- The Aditya Birla SBI Card SELECT will award **20 reward points** on every **Rs.100** spent in any Aditya Birla store.
- Additionally, **10 points** will be rewarded for each **Rs.100** spent on dining, hotels, or entertainment.
- Meanwhile, Aditya Birla SBI Card will award 10 reward points on every Rs.100 spent in any Aditya Birla store and 5 points for the same amount spent on dining, hotels, or entertainment.
- Both cards will also offer a welcome gift to their customers 6,000 points for SELECT, and 2,000 points for the Visa card.

About SBI Cards and Payment Services :

- Founded: October 1998
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana, India

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- MD & CEO : Rama Mohan Rao Amara
- SBI Cards and Payment Services is a non-banking financial company that offers an extensive credit card portfolio to individual cardholders and corporate clients.

About Aditya Birla Finance :

- MD & CEO: Rakesh Singh
- Aditya Birla Finance (ABFL), a **subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital** is among the leading well-diversified non-banking financial services companies in India.
- ABFL offers customized solutions in the areas of personal finance, mortgage finance, SME finance, corporate finance, wealth management, debt capital markets, and loan syndication.

India reports CAD of 1.2% of GDP in FY22 on widening trade deficit: RBI

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** stated that India witnessed a **current account deficit of 1.2 percent of GDP in 2021-22** against a surplus of 0.9 percent in FY 2020-21 due to a wider trade deficit.
- For the January-March 2022 quarter, the **CAD** narrowed on a sequential basis to **USD 13.4 billion or 1.5 percent of GDP** against **USD 22.2 billion or 2.6 percent of GDP** in the December 2021 quarter.
- In FY22, the **trade deficit** widened to **USD 189.5 billion**, up from USD 102.2 billion in FY21.
- The Balance of Payments data suggested that goods imports stood at USD 618.6 billion in FY22 as against USD 398.5 billion in FY21, leading to the widening of the trade deficit.
- The **net benefit under the software services** head alone stood at **USD 109 billion**.
- **Net foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows** at **USD 38.6 billion** in FY22 were lower than USD 44 billion in FY 21, adding that there was an outflow of USD 16.8 billion by foreign portfolio investors (FPI) during the fiscal year, as against an inflow of USD 36.1 billion in FY21.
- **External commercial borrowings (ECBs)** recorded an inflow of **USD 7.4 billion** in FY22 compared to USD 0.2 billion in FY21.
- There was an accretion of USD 47.5 billion to the foreign exchange reserves on a balance of payment basis in the fiscal year.
- Private transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, increased to USD 23.7 billion, up 13.4 percent from Q4 2020-21.

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- The net foreign direct investment (FDI) at USD 13.8 billion as against USD 2.7 billion in Q4FY21 but the net foreign portfolio investment (FPI) recorded an outflow of USD 15.2 billion driven mainly by equity market pullouts.
- There was a drawdown of USD 16 billion in the foreign exchange reserves on a BoP basis in the March quarter, as against an accretion of USD 3.4 billion in Q4FY21.

About RBI:

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

Adverse global events may lead to \$100-bn portfolio outflows: RBI

- The paper, titled “**Capital Flows at Risk: India’s Experience**” was written by RBI Deputy Governor **Michael Patra, Harendra Behera, and Silu Muduli** and released in the RBI’s Bulletin.
- In that paper, there is (only) a **five percent** chance of portfolio outflows from India of the order of **3.2 percent of GDP or \$100.6 billion** in a year, in response to a Covid-type contraction in GDP growth.
- In an extreme risk scenario or a black swan event in which there is a combination of all these shocks, there is a 5 percent chance of outflows under portfolio investments of 7.7 percent of GDP and short-term trade credit retrenchment of **3.9 percent of GDP**.
- The views are personal and do not represent those of the RBI.

The capital outflows could be a response to

- A Covid-type contraction in real GDP growth or
- A Global Financial Crisis (GFC) type decline in interest rate differentials compared to the US, or
- A GFC-type surge in the VIX (Volatility Index).

RBI bars non-bank PPIs from loading credit lines

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has **barred all non-bank prepaid payment instrument (PPI) issuers from loading credit lines**.
- RBI guidelines permit PPIs to be loaded by either cash, or debit to a bank account, credit & debit cards, and other payment instruments in rupees.

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- Any non-compliance in this regard may attract penal action under provisions contained in the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.

Why did the RBI issue this notification?

- The RBI's clarification is being seen as an attempt to **stop card-based fintech and firms** operating as neo banks that have tied up with banks from offering credit lines
- For example, companies like Paytm, Amazon Pay, LazyPay, Simpl, etc., offer postpaid wallets with small credit lines.
- Others such as Slice, Uni, Fi, OneCard, etc give credit cards in partnership with banks like SBM Bank, RBL Bank, Federal Bank, etc to offer such products.
- In a credit line, the bank makes available funds to the customer, but it turns into a loan only when the borrower draws the money.

Muthoot Finance Launches Updated Version of 'Muthoot Online' Web App

- **Muthoot Finance** has launched the new upgraded version of '**Muthoot Online**' (<https://online.muthootfinance.com/>) **web application**, offering an extended range of features that promises an Omni channel experience to its customers in **Kochi, Kerala**.
- With this new upgrade, the consumers can have a **hassle-free user experience** to avail of these services at the touch of their fingertips from the comfort of their homes.
- Customers can avail and repay the **Gold loan, Home loan, Personal loan, and Vehicle Loan**, buy Insurance & **zero interest products** online along with access host of other facilities 24×7 from the comfort of their home.
- The website assures high-tech security features to ensure customers' data privacy.

About Muthoot Finance :

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

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Banking Frauds Of Over Rs 100 Crores Witness Significant Decline In Fraud Cases In FY22

- **Frauds in the banking sector** involving sums of over **Rs 100 crore** have declined significantly, with banks reporting **cases worth Rs 41,000 crore** in 2021-22 compared to **Rs 1.05 lakh crore** in the **FY21**.
- According to official data, the **number of fraud cases in the public and private sector banks** fell from **265 in 2020-21 to 118** in the financial year **2022**.
- In the case of public sector banks, the **total number of fraud cases over ₹100 crore** dropped from **167 in FY21 to 80**, and in the case of private sector banks, it fell from **98 in FY21 to 38**.
- In terms of cumulative amount, it has come down to **Rs 28,000 crore** in **FY22** from **Rs 65,900 crore** in **FY21** for **PSBs**.
- For **private sector banks**, the reduction is from **Rs 39,900 crore** in **FY21** to **Rs 13,000 crore** in **FY22**.

Steps Taken To Check Frauds :

- In a bid to check frauds, the **RBI** has been taking several steps including improving the efficacy of the **Early Warning System (EWS) framework**, strengthening fraud governance and response system, augmenting data analysis for monitoring of transactions, and introducing of dedicated **Market Intelligence (MI) Unit** for frauds.
- During 2021-22, the **Reserve Bank of India** in collaboration with the **Reserve Bank Information Technology Private Limited (ReBIT)** carried out a study on the implementation of the **EWS** framework in select Scheduled Commercial Banks.
- Also, the effectiveness of **EWS** was assessed in select banks by using **Machine Learning (ML)** algorithms.

Banking Frauds Of 2022 :

- Earlier in 2022, the **State Bank of India (SBI)** reported one of the **biggest bank frauds** in the country totaling **₹22,842 crores**, perpetrated by **ABG Shipyard** and its promoters.

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- This was much higher than the case involving Nirav Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi, who allegedly cheated **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** of around ₹14,000 crores through the issuance of fraudulent **Letters of Undertaking (LoUs)**.
- In June 2022, the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** booked **Dewan Housing Finance Ltd (DHFL)**, its former Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) **Kapil Wadhawan**, director **Dheeraj Wadhawan** and others in a fresh case involving ₹34,615 crores, making it the biggest bank fraud probed by the agency.
- **Union Bank of India**-led consortium alleged that DHFL had availed credit facility to the tune of ₹42,871 crores between 2010 and 2018 from the consortium under various arrangements.

Govt. constitutes 'FSIB' for Appointments in Financial Institutions

- The Center has decided to set up the **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)** as a single entity for making recommendations for appointments of **Wholetime Directors and Non-Executive Directors** in public sector banks (PSBs), public sector insurers (PSIs), and financial institutions (FIs).
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has asked the **Department of Financial Services** to carry out necessary modifications in the **Nationalized Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme of 1970/1980** with the approval of Finance Minister Ms. **Nirmala Sitharaman**.

Chairman & Other members of FSIB :

- The ACC has approved the appointment of former **Chairman of Banks Board Bureau (BBB)** **Bhanu Pratap Sharma** as chairperson of FSIB for two years.

Other Members :

- **Animesh Chauhan**– He was the former Chairman and Managing Director of erstwhile **Oriental Bank of Commerce** has been appointed the **ex-banker** from the **Public sector** category
- **Shailendra Bhandari**– He was former MD of erstwhile **ING Vysya Bank** has been appointed as a Member of FSIB in the **ex-banker** from the **Private sector** category

About BBB :

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** approved the constitution of **BBB** as a body of eminent officials and professionals in 2016.

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Purpose :

- To make recommendations for the appointment of whole-time directors as well as non-executive chairpersons of public sector banks (PSBs) and state-owned financial institutions.
- It was also entrusted with the task of engaging with the board of directors of all PSBs to formulate appropriate strategies for their growth and development.
- The **first Chairman** of the Banks Board Bureau was **Shri Vinod Rai (2016-2018)**.

SEBI extends the deadline for implementation of the new pledging DDPI system to Sept 1, 2022

- The **Capital Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has extended the **deadline** for the introduction of the **Demat Debit and Pledging Instruction (DDPI) system to September 1, 2022**.
- Earlier the deadline for implementation was **July 1, 2022**.
- With the implementation of the guidelines, the **Power of Attorney (PoA)** would be replaced with **Demat Debit and Pledge Instruction (DDPI) documents**.

Aim :

- To curb possible misuse of PoA given by clients to stock brokers
- This circular is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under **Section 11(1) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992** and **Section 19 of the Depositories Act, 1996**, to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of and to regulate the securities markets.

Key Highlights :

- The use of DDPI will be limited only to **two purposes**.
- One is for the transfer of securities held in the beneficial owner account of the client towards stock exchange-related deliveries or settlement obligations arising out of trades executed by such a client.
- The second purpose will be for pledging or re-pledging securities in favor of the trading member or clearing member to meet the margin requirements of the client. Once the guidelines come into force, PoA will no longer be executed for the two purposes.
- A client can use the DDPI or opt to complete the settlement by issuing a physical **Delivery Instruction Slip (DIS)** or electronic **Delivery Instruction Slip (EDIS)** themselves.

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- The existing PoAs will continue to remain valid till the time the client revokes the same.
- Thus, the stockbroker and depository participant will not directly or indirectly compel the clients to execute the DDPI or deny services to the client if the client refuses to execute the DDPI

About SEBI :

- Established: April 12, 1988, & 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**, GoI.

For June 2022, gross GST revenue was Rs. 1,44,616 crores:

- The gross GST collection in June 2022 surpasses Rs. 1.40 lakh crore for the fifth time since the introduction of GST and the fourth consecutive month since March 2022, making it the second-highest collection after the collection in April 2022.
- Following the GST collection of Rs 1,67,540 crore in April 2022, the gross GST collection in June 2022 is the second-highest collection.

Key Points:

- In June 2022, the entire amount of GST income received would be Rs 1,44,616 crore, of which the CGST would be Rs 25,306 crore, the SGST is Rs 32,406 crore, the IGST is Rs 75887 crore (together with Rs 40102 crore collected on the import of goods), and the cess was Rs 11,018 crore (along with Rs 1197 crore collected on import of goods).
- The government has settled IGST for Rs 29,588 crore to CGST and Rs 24,235 crore to SGST.
- Additionally, the center started an ad hoc settlement for Rs 27,000 crore for IGST in the same month, split 50:50 between the center and states/UTs.
- Following regular and ad hoc settlement, the center and the states' combined income in June 2022 would be Rs. 68,394 crores for the CGST and Rs. 70,141 crores for the SGST.

CRISIL cuts FY23 GDP growth estimate to 7.3% from 7.8% on high inflation:

- Domestic rating agency Crisil has lowered its real GDP growth forecast for India to 7.3 percent in FY23 from 7.8 percent estimated earlier.

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- It attributed the downward revision to higher oil prices, slowing of export demand, and high inflation.
- This is in line with the **RBI's estimate of 7.2 real GDP growth for this fiscal year.**
- There is a slew of negatives like high commodity prices, elevated freight prices, drag on exports as global growth projections get lowered, and the largest demand-side driver of private consumption remains weak.
- **Inflation**, which has been pegged to average at **6.8 percent in FY23 as against 5.5 percent in FY22**, reduces purchasing power and would weigh on the revival of consumption the largest component of GDP which has been backsliding for a while
- Factors contributing to the broad-based rise in inflation will include the impact of this year's heatwave on domestic food production, coupled with persisting high international commodity prices and input costs

About CRISIL:

- 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
- CEO: Amish Mehta
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1987

Interoperability of card tokens across payment channels introduced by Cashfree:

- Online payment processor **Cashfree Payments** announced that the interoperability would be supported by their **card tokenization solution, Token Vault.**
- The interoperability feature of Token Vault allows companies that **use multiple payment gateways to process tokenized card transactions** through any payment gateway and card network of their choosing.

Key Points:

- Businesses may connect with **Token Vault** to securely tokenize cards issued by all major card networks, including **Visa, Mastercard, and RuPay, when they utilize Cashfree's Payment Gateway.**

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- Thanks to this capability, businesses won't waste time connecting with many token service providers to tokenize cards and conduct transactions.
- With **Token Vault's interoperability functionality**, we want to empower individuals.
- Organizations and merchants may manage saved card transactions across any card network or payment gateway with a **single tokenization system**.
- They won't have to rely on a certain payment processor to use Token Vault.
- **Starting on September 30, 2022**, businesses and payment aggregators must tokenize a customer's card when offering the saved card option.

About Card tokenization

- **Card tokenization** involves replacing sensitive card information, such as the card number, expiration date, and CVV, with tokens, cryptograms, and other data that cannot be traced back to the original card information.
- This eliminates the chance of misplacing private card information when making a transaction.

RBI imposes monetary penalty on Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndusInd Bank & 3 Cooperative Banks

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a **monetary penalty of Rs 1.05 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** and **Rs 1 crore on IndusInd Bank Ltd.** for violating the provisions of its regulations.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has **failed to maintain a margin on advances to stock brokers**, and credit the amount involved in the unauthorized electronic transactions to the customers' accounts.
- IndusInd Bank has **failed to adhere to customer due diligence procedures** in the accounts opened using One Time Password (OTP) based e-KYC.
- As per the banking regulator, It has imposed a penalty on Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited for contravention of the provisions of **sub-section (2) of Section 26A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act)** read with paragraph 3 of 'The Depositor Education and Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014' and for non-compliance with the directions on 'Customer Protection – Limiting Liability of Customers in Unauthorized Electronic Banking Transactions', and 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions.

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- The RBI has also penalized Rs 1 crore on IndusInd Bank for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016'.

Penalties on 3 Cooperative Banks :

- Ulhasnagar-based Nav Jeevan Co-operative Bank - Rs 2 lakh monetary Penalty
- Odisha-based Balangir District Central Cooperative Bank - Rs 1 lakh monetary penalty
- Dhakuria Cooperative Bank Ltd, Kolkata, West Bengal - Rs 2 lakh monetary Penalty

Recent News :

- On June 27, 2022, the RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 10 lakh on Tamil Nadu-based The Tiruchengode Cooperative Urban Bank as it did not comply with directions issued on exposure norms and statutory or other restrictions of the urban cooperative bank and Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines.

Edelweiss General Insurance launches motor insurance product - SWITCH

- Edelweiss General Insurance has launched SWITCH, a comprehensive motor insurance product under Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority's (IRDAI) Sandbox initiative.

About SWITCH :

- SWITCH is a completely digital, mobile telematics-based motor policy.
- The app detects motion and automatically activates insurance when the vehicle is driven, making it convenient and hassle-free for customers.
- Moreover, it rewards policyholders if they are driving well, as it measures both the **quantity** and **quality of driving** and calculates premiums accordingly.
- Customers are given a driving score based on several parameters such as speeding, distracted driving, and sudden braking, among others.
- The policy also allows customers to pay premiums in monthly installments after the initial premium is paid to activate the policy.
- The vehicle will be covered 24/7/365 against fire and theft.
- For instance, "pay as you drive" policies charge a lower premium when the vehicle is driven less and charge higher when driven more.

About Edelweiss General Insurance:

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

RBI's DICGC to pay depositors of two co-operative banks

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) will pay the eligible depositors of Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Sahakari Bank, Ichalkaranji, and Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank, Wai in Aug 2022.

Key Highlights :

- Eligible depositors of Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Sahakari Bank will get the payment on **August 10, 2022**, and those of Harihareshwar Sahakari Bank on **August 28, 2022**.
- Depositors of the 2 Maharashtra-based banks will get the amount credited to the alternate bank account specified by them, or on their consent, to their Aadhaar-linked bank accounts.
- DICGC, a **wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI**, provides an insurance cover of up to **Rs 5 lakh** on bank deposits.
- Deposit insurance extended by the DICGC covers all commercial banks, including local area banks and regional rural banks as well as co-operative banks in all the states and UTs.
- DICGC settled aggregate claims of **Rs 8,516.6 crore** under different channels during 2021-22.
- The **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Act**, passed by Parliament in **2021**, made significant changes in the landscape of deposit insurance in India.
- Under the Act, the Corporation is liable to pay the insured deposit amount to depositors of an insured bank. Such liability may arise when an insured bank undergoes liquidation, reconstruction, or any other arrangement under a scheme, and merger or acquisition by another bank.

About DICGC :

- Established: 15 July 1978
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: M.D. Patra
- The DICGC is a specialized division of the Reserve Bank of India which is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance, GoI**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

RBI launches next round of survey of manufacturing companies

- The Reserve Bank of India has launched the 58th round of the Order Books, Inventories, and Capacity Utilization Survey (OBICUS) of manufacturing companies for the April - June 2022 period, results of which provide valuable inputs for monetary policy formulation.
- Selected manufacturing companies will be approached by the RBI for the survey.
- The RBI has also launched the 2021-22 round of its Survey on International Trade in Banking Services (ITBS).

About OBICUS :

- The RBI has been conducting the OBICUS of the manufacturing sector every quarter since 2008.
- It provides information on financial services rendered by branches/ subsidiaries/joint ventures of Indian banks operating abroad and branches/subsidiaries of foreign banks operating in India.
- The information collected in the survey includes quantitative data on new orders received during the reference quarter, backlog of orders at the beginning of the quarter, pending orders at the end of the quarter, and total inventories with a breakup between finished goods, among others.

About RBI:

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

HDFC Bank receives no objection letter from RBI for merger with HDFC

- The country's largest private sector bank, HDFC Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval for the merger of Housing Development Finance Corporation with the lender.
- Also, the merger proposal between the two entities received approval from stock exchanges BSE and NSE.
- The scheme remains subject to various statutory and regulatory approvals inter alia including approvals from the Competition Commission of India, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), other applicable authorities, and the respective shareholders and creditors of the companies involved in the Scheme, as may be required.

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- Once the deal is effective, HDFC Bank will be **100 percent** owned by public shareholders, and existing shareholders of HDFC will own **41 percent** of the bank.
- Every HDFC shareholder will get **42 shares** of HDFC Bank for every **25 shares** held.
- In **April 2022**, HDFC Bank agreed to take over HDFC in a deal valued at about **USD 40 billion**.
- The proposed combined entity will have an asset base of around **Rs 18 lakh crore**.
- The merger is expected to be completed by the second or third quarter of FY24, subject to regulatory approvals.

SBI General Insurance launches cyber insurance cover for individuals - Cyber VaultEdge

- **SBI General Insurance** has launched the **Cyber VaultEdge insurance plan**, a comprehensive cyber insurance cover for individuals that protects **against financial losses arising from cyber risks and attacks**.

Aim :

- To secure individuals by **minimizing financial losses** arising due to internet-based risk / cyber risks through a comprehensive and affordable product.
- To address the risks that individuals face **due to cybercrime** and instances of reputation damage, fraudulent transactions with credit cards, debit cards, theft of personal information, etc.,

About Cyber VaultEdge :

- SBI General Cyber VaultEdge offers a range of benefits and protects individuals against cyber risks, allowing them to be assured against any such instances while conducting activities on the internet or during digital transactions.
- It covers unauthorized e-transactions, loss of wages resulting from identity theft, and instances impacting online reputation including social media trolling, bullying, and stalking.
- The policy takes care of **legal costs and expenses** incurred in pursuing or defending legal action against/by a third party.
- The policy reimburses the expenses incurred for the services of an IT specialist or to restore data by availing services of any IT specialist.
- To ensure the mental well-being of individuals, Cyber VaultEdge also covers consultation expenses of psychologists for trauma or stress arising due to such incidents.

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- According to CERT-In, cyber security incidents jumped to Rs. 14.02 lakh in 2021 from Rs. 2.08 lakh in 2018, meanwhile, the losses due to cybercrime, ATM/debit card, credit card, and internet banking fraud were estimated at Rs. 63.4 crore in 2020-21, as per data published by private and public banks.

About SBI General Insurance :

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

Salesforce plans to offer a \$2 mn grant for education, and workforce development in India

- A US-based tech major, Salesforce has announced an investment of USD 2 million (about Rs 15.85 crore) in direct company donations to over 22 non-profit Organizations (NPO) across India.
- With a focus on education and workforce development, these grants are expected to impact 40,000 individuals across India.
- To give children access to quality education, Salesforce will partner with institutions such as Meghshala Trust, Inquilab Foundation, Learning Curve Foundation, and others.
- In this, together, students will have access to Hybrid learning spaces, Social-Emotional Learning, STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), and early education.
- Also, Salesforce in partnership with organizations such as Katalyst, Navgurukul, and Feminist Approach is equipping individuals with skills to help improve their employment opportunities, ensuring untapped talent can build social capital, excel in their careers, and the tools to potentially improve economic prosperity.

Additional Info :

- Globally, Salesforce has crossed over half a billion dollars in all-time philanthropic giving, a total of USD 532 million in grants since its founding.
- Salesforce also surpassed USD 100 million in annual giving in the 2022 fiscal year.

Note :

- CEO and Chairperson of Salesforce India: Arundhati Bhattacharya

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- Founded: February 3, 1999
- Headquarters: San Francisco, California, U.S
- Chairman & CEO: Marc Benioff
- It provides **customer relationship management (CRM) software** and applications focused on sales, customer service, marketing automation, analytics, and application development.

MoD approves 3 private sector banks HDFC, ICICI, and Axis to provide financial services in overseas procurement

- The **Ministry of Defence** approved three **Private Sector Banks (PSBs)**, namely **HDFC Bank Ltd.**, **ICICI Bank**, and **Axis Bank**, to provide the **Letter of Credit and Direct Bank Transfer business for overseas procurement**.

Purpose :

- In line with further opening of allocation of government business to private sector banks by the department of financial services.
- Till now, **only authorized Public Sector Banks** have been utilized to provide these services to MoD.
- The selected banks may be allocated with LC business of **Rs 2000 Crore**, each on the capital and revenue side, for one year on a concurrent basis (**Rs 666 Crore** for each bank under both capitals as well as Revenue).
- The performance of these Banks will be monitored regularly to take necessary further action as required.

About MoD :

- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Ajay Kumar

About HDFC Bank :

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

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

About ICICI Bank :

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

About Axis Bank :

- Founded : 3 December 1993
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry

HDFC Partners with Salesforce to 'reimagine the customer lifecycle'

- **Salesforce**, the global leader in CRM, announced that **HDFC Ltd.**, one of India's leading mortgage lenders and a well-established financial conglomerate will leverage Salesforce to **reimagine the customer lending lifecycle** and support the company's growth priorities.
- HDFC wanted to build the next generation of integration backbone, to easily connect backend and frontend systems including Salesforce.
- Mulesoft with its innovative **API-led integration approach** and low code integration capabilities will help HDFC innovate quickly around connecting systems and help create new experiences.

About HDFC Ltd :

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

Fi Money launches Ally Annexure: a financial inclusion initiative

- Bengaluru-based neo bank **Fi Money** has launched **Ally Annexure** an initiative to help **LGBTQ** (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) customers gain better access to financial services.

Aim :

- To **educate institutions** about being more accessible to queer customers' financial needs of LGBT customers.
- The initiative was launched in partnership with **Pride Circle**, a diversity and inclusion firm.
- It will be supported by Fi Money's banking partner - **Kochi-based Federal Bank**.

About The Ally Annexure :

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- The Ally Annexure', a **manual** that helps **staff self-educate** themselves on the queer community, their needs, preferences, and the problems they face daily.

Aim :

- To turn this document into a standardized guideline that banks and financial institutions can implement across the board.

Solving for financial inclusion :

- Members of the queer community highlighted branch visits and in-person interactions with institutional staff as the most commonly reported barrier to the accessibility of financial solutions.
- While the Indian constitution has decriminalized same-sex relationships, there exists no legal framework within which queer individuals can use financial services without judgment or discrimination.
- A primary cause for this was the lack of awareness and a bias-ridden system across the world of financial services.

Recent News :

- Recently, Fi Money launched multiple financial products through its neo banking app, including **mutual funds** and **Fi Jump**, a peer-to-peer investment product.

About Fi Money :

- Founded: 2019
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka
- CEO: Sujith Narayanan

Bajaj Allianz launches QR Code-enabled services for customers

- **Leading private sector non-life insurer Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance** has launched a **QR code-enabled service** to help customers **self-service** their needs offering a faster closure of their requirements.
- The QR code-enabled service is available across all the **509 branches** of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance and is designed to offer seamless service delivery.
- The service is industry-first and offers access to **15 services** on the phone.

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- All a customer has to do is scan the QR code available in the company's branches and self-service the policy.
- The service will allow customers to make premium payments online, view or download policy-related documents (such as policy bonds, IT certificates, and fund performance statements), switch funds as per their choice, and do much more.

About Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance :

- Founded: 2001
- Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra
- CEO: Tarun Chugh
- It is a joint venture between **Bajaj Finserve** and the **German financial services major Allianz**, serving millions of customers through its 509 branches and over 96,000 agents.

India's first mobile telematics-based auto insurance introduced by Edelweiss:

- **Edelweiss General Insurance** has released **SWITCH**, a complete automobile insurance policy, in compliance with the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority's (Irdai) Sandbox initiative**.
- SWITCH's auto insurance coverage is **digital and telematics-based**.
- According to the insurer, customers will find **the app convenient and hassle-free** because it quickly activates insurance when the car is driven and detects motion.

Key Points:

- If SWITCH customers drive carefully, they may save money.
- The amount and quality of driving are evaluated using this usage-based methodology, and premiums are then set in line with the results.
- Customers are assigned a driving grade based on a variety of criteria, such as speeding, distracted driving, and unexpected stops, among others.
- **SWITCH can be bought online.**
- Following a purchase, customers may examine their policy by downloading the SWITCH app from the iOS App Store or the Google Play Store.
- The whole product lifecycle is now fully digital from the time of purchase to claim notice, claim settlement, customer assistance, etc., creating a seamless consumer experience.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- Consumers may also choose to pay premiums in monthly installments after paying the initial fee to start the insurance.
- Even while the coverage covers unintentional damage when the automobile is in motion and powered on, the vehicle will be protected against fire and theft 24/7, 365 days a year.
- Customers may select from a choice of add-on coverage, including depreciation protection, engine protection, NCB protect, roadside assistance, and more, just as with a normal Edelweiss auto insurance policy, the insurer claims.

Women's World Banking & Bank of Baroda launches the 'Baroda Jan Dhan Plus' in Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand

- One of India's leading public sector banks, **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has partnered with **Women's World Banking (WWB)** to roll out the **third and broader phase of the 'Baroda Jan Dhan Plus' program across 25 districts of Uttar Pradesh and all 13 districts of Uttarakhand.**

Aim :

- To **increase access to and improve engagement of low-income women with formal financial services.**
- The 3rd & largest phase of 'Baroda Jan Dhan Plus' will reach out to a wide base of existing Jan Dhan customers of Bank of Baroda through financial literacy camps and business correspondents, to disseminate the benefit of savings and provide access to formal credit by way of **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) Overdraft facility** and other social security schemes.

About the 'Baroda Jan Dhan Plus' program:

- The program will train and work with over **2000 business correspondents (BC) and 1000 BC Sakhis (women business correspondents)** to empower them to **help women customers** in their regions.
- It builds on the robust infrastructure of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), which has brought around **25.11 crore or 251.1 million women** into the banking ecosystem with Jan Dhan bank accounts.

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- It brings a compelling proposition to encourage women to account holders to save money systematically by motivating them to deposit **Rs. 500 monthly for 5 months**, building a relationship that can lead to a PMJDY overdraft loan facility of up to **Rs. 10,000**.
- The 'Baroda Jan Dhan Plus' model rests on **3 core pillars**
- Making the bank ecosystem a welcoming one for low-income women
- Making savings relatable and rewarding for women
- Training and capacity building of business correspondent (BC) agents on soft skills with a gender focus to make them better understand and fulfill the needs of women customers.

About WWB :

- Founded: 1979
- Headquarters: New York, U.S
- President & CEO : Mary Ellen Iskenderian
- Founders: Esther Afua Ocloo, Ela Bhatt, Michaela Walsh
- Women's World Banking is a nonprofit organization.
- It is a global non-profit committed to giving **low-income women access to financial tools for long-term financial security and prosperity.**

About Bob :

- Founded: 20 July 1908
- Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat, India
- MD & CEO: Sanjiv Chadha

PNB signs MoU with Indian Air Force for 'PNB Rakshak Plus Scheme'

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, the nation's leading Public Sector Bank, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** to provide specially designed products to the defense personnel under the bank's flagship scheme of '**PNB Rakshak Plus**'.
- The agreement was exchanged between **Atul Kumar Goel, MD and CEO of PNB**, and **Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari**, on behalf of the Indian Air Force in a ceremony at the Indian Air Force Auditorium in **Delhi**.

About PNB Rakshak Plus Scheme

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- The scheme includes **personal accident insurance** as well as **air accidental insurance** for serving, retired as well as trainees of the defense forces.
- It also covers **retired defense pensioners**, along with personnel of the **central armed police forces, state police force, and metro police**

Key features of the PNB Rakshak Plus Scheme :

- **Personal Accidental (Death) cover of Rs 50 lakh.**
- **Air Accidental (Death) Insurance cover of Rs 100 lakh.**
- **Personal Accidental (Permanent Total Disability) cover of Rs 50 lakh.**
- Sweep Facility
 - Initial threshold amount - Rs 10000/-
 - Minimum Sweep In/Out - Rs 1000/-
 - Multiples of - Rs 1000/-
- **No 'Cash Handling Charges'** levied for the transaction(s) implying thereby that all branches of PNB, PAN-India, would be considered as 'Home' branch.
- Overdraft up to last 3 months Net Salary/Pension amounting from **Rs 75000 to Rs 3 lakh.**
- Concession in rate of interest and service charges under Housing, Car, Education, and Personal Loan Schemes.
- Education loan under "**PNB Pratibha**" is available forwards of a Primary Account holder who takes admitted to premier institutes and the Army Educational institutions.
- Zero balance saving account to family members.
- Concession in locker rent - **25 percent Annual Maintenance Charges (AMC)** waived off for three years from the date of issue.
- **Financial assistance of Rs. 1 lakh per year for 4 years** or the actual expenditure, whichever is less, for the education of two surviving and dependent children (Male/Female) of a PAI (Death).
- Unlimited free DDs/POs with a ceiling of **Rs 50,000 per free DD/PO.**
- Free SMS Alerts for transactions in the account and on the connected Debit/Credit card(s).

About PNB :

- Founded: 19 May 1894
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India

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- MD & CEO : Atul Kumar Goel
- Tagline: The Name You Can Bank Upon

About IAF :

- Founded: 26 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chief of the Air Staff: Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari

SBI renews MoU with Indian Air Force for defense salary package

- State Bank of India (SBI) has renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force for the Defence Salary Package (DSP) scheme.

About the DSP Scheme :

- Under this scheme, it will offer various benefits and features to all **serving and retired Air Force personnel and their families**.
- The lender offers extensive benefits to the Air Force personnel such as complimentary **personal accidental insurance, air accidental insurance, and additional cover** in case of **on-duty death (during the action)**.
- In case of death of the Air Force personnel, the family of the deceased is provided with add-on covers for child education and marriage of girl child.
- Additionally, the retired personnel will be eligible for **complimentary personal accidental insurance**, irrespective of their age.
- The families of pensioners would be entitled to some benefits.
- The MoU will be automatically extended to all the Air Force personnel who are covered under its **Defence Salary Package**.

About SBI:

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

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

RBI Cancels License of Shri Anand Co-Operative Bank Due To Lack Of Capital

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the license of Shri Anand Co-operative Bank, Chinchwad, Pune as the lender does not have adequate capital and cannot pay its present depositors in full.

The Reserve Bank canceled the license of the bank because:

- 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 Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Maharashtra has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank.
- 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.
- On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakh only from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) subject to the provisions of DICGC Act, 1961.
- As per the data submitted by the bank, more than 99% of the depositors are entitled to receive the full amount of their deposits from DICGC.
- As of May 18, 2022, DICGC has already paid Rs 9.42 crore of the total insured deposits under the provisions of Section 18A of the DICGC Act, 1961 based on the willingness received from the concerned depositors of the 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

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Samunnati Partners with SBI for Financing FPOs

- India's Open Agri network Samunnati has entered into a co-lending partnership with the State Bank of India (SBI) to expand its outreach to Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).
- Both entered into a non-financial MOU to develop the FPO Sector, mainstream FPO as an asset class, and increase awareness of this class of farmer-owned institutions in the Banking sector.

About the Partnership :

- The partnership will enable Samunnati to scale its outreach to FPOs with customized financial solutions at **affordable interest rates**, leveraging the vast resources available with SBI.
- It will enhance the outreach for SBI channel credit to the under-served segment of small-holder farmers in the agriculture sector, by leveraging Samunnati's outreach and nuanced understanding of the FPO sector.
- The initial program amount is **INR 100 Crores**.
- Samunnati works with a growing network of **3000+ Farmer Collectives** with a member base of **over 6 million farmers** with solutions spanning Agri Finance, Agri Commerce, and advisory services.
- In **November 2020**, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued **guidelines on Co-Lending Model** between Scheduled Commercial Banks and NBFCs.
- SBI is one of the **first Banks to participate** in a co-lending program aimed at mainstreaming FPOs as an asset class.

About samunnati :

- Founded: 2014
- Founder and CEO: Anil Kumar
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Power Finance Corporation inks loan pact with JBIC for JPY 30 bn

- **State-owned & the leading Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC)** in the Indian power sector, Power Finance Corporation (PFC) signed a loan agreement for Japanese Yen (JPY) 30 billion with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).
- The loan agreement was signed by **R S Dhillon**, CMD, PFC, and **Kazushige Gobe**, Director General, Social Infrastructure Finance Department, JBIC.

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- It was signed in the presence of **Parminder Chopra, Director (Finance)** at PFC, **R R Jha, Director (Projects)** at PFC, and **Toshihiko Kurihara, Chief Representative, JBIC New Delhi office.**
- JBIC provided this long-term facility to PFC under JBIC's initiative titled '**Global action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environmental preservation**' ("GREEN").
- JBIC provides financing for projects which ensure the effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and conservation of the global environment.
- The funds under the facility would be used by PFC to finance its renewable energy portfolio.
- This facility from JBIC would be a landmark transaction demonstrating the Quad partners' strong unity and robust commitment to the **Indo-Pacific region**, while also enhancing the bilateral cooperation between Japan and India.
- It would also help PFC in providing competitive rates for renewable power projects.

About PFC Limited :

- Founded: July 1986
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman & MD: Ravinder Singh Dhillon
- Power Finance Corporation Ltd. is an Indian financial institution under the ownership of the **Ministry of Power, GoI.**

About JBIC :

- Founded: 1 October 1999
- Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan
- President & CEO : Tadashi Maeda
- JBIC is a **Japanese public financial institution and export credit agency** that was created through the merger of the **Japan Export-Import Bank (JEXIM)** and the **Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF).**

Max Life launches 'Smart Capital Guarantee Solution'

- **Max Life Insurance Company Ltd.** has launched **Smart Capital Guarantee Solution**, a life insurance product solution that combines the features of **two of Max's existing products – 'Max Life Smart Wealth Plan' and 'Max Life Flexi Wealth Advantage Plan'.**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- The product will offer wealth creation through market-linked returns along with a guarantee on premiums paid at maturity with additional financial protection.

Key features of Max Life Smart Capital Guarantee Solution:

- Capital guarantee through maturity benefit of Max Life Smart Wealth Plan; market-linked returns through a part of the premium paid towards the Max Life Flexi Wealth Advantage Plan
- Unique and customized storyboards tailored to meet varied financial needs in the form of lump-sum benefits, regular income, or whole-life income benefit
- Flexibility to choose from different premium term payment options
- Comprehensive protection with death-benefits
- Tax benefits under section 80C and Section 10 (10D) of the Income Tax Act 1961

Max Life Smart Wealth Plan:

- This product offers a combination of protection and savings.
- It is a comprehensive life insurance savings product with guaranteed returns.
- It provides greater flexibility by offering **five different variants - 3 in a lump sum** and one each in regular and whole-life income.
- Depending on the variant, all five variants provide distinct living benefits as well as comprehensive life cover.

Max Life Flexi Wealth Advantage Plan:

- This plan maximizes wealth creation while providing financial protection.
- It ensures the return of eligible policy charges, loyalty add-ons, and power-packed boosters.
- Also, it allows for greater customization through unlimited switches and free premium redirection at various stages of the growth journey.

About Max Life Insurance Company Ltd :

- Founded: 2000
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- Max Life Insurance Company Limited is a life insurance company in India with a joint venture (JV) between **Max India Ltd** and **Axis Bank**.
- It is a subsidiary of the publicly listed Max Financial Services and is the largest **non-bank private-sector life insurer** in India.

Indian Bank signs MoU with Government Of Haryana for Mobile Phone Distribution

- Public sector **Indian Bank** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Government of Haryana** regarding the **distribution of mobile phones** to consumers through an **e-unified payment interface (e-upi) system**.
- The program was **flagged off by Shri. Anoop Dhanak**, Hon'ble Minister of State, Revenue and Disaster Management in the presence of **Shri. Imran Amin Siddiqui**, Executive Director, Indian Bank.
- Under this arrangement, e-upi coupons will be provided by Indian Bank to all the beneficiaries through **SMS or QR-code** on the mobile numbers of Lambardars.
- The e-coupon can be redeemed without any credit or debit card, mobile app, or internet and shall enable the holder to get the mobile phone for the eligible amount from the designated vendor.
- Under this initiative, **Mobile distribution melas** would be organized by the bank in Haryana.

About Indian Bank :

- Established: 1907
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: Shri Shanti Lal Jain

About Haryana :

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

Google launched Startup School India, which targets 10,000 startups in small cities:

- **Google**, a tech giant, established the **Startup School India** program, which intends to assist **10,000 companies** in **Tier 2 and Tier 3** towns by compiling pertinent material on startup creation into a structured curriculum.

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- Fireside conversations involving Google leaders and partners from the whole startup ecosystem will take place over the nine-week virtual program.

Key Points:

- The goal of **Company School** is to provide early-stage start-up owners with the resources, products, and information that expanding businesses require.
- It consists of a series of **guided online training**.
- The course material will include learning modules on topics like formulating a successful product strategy, delving deeply into product user value, developing a roadmap and product requirements document, creating apps for the next billion users in markets like **India**, **accelerating user acquisition**, and many more.
- **India is the third-largest country** in the world for the creation of startups, with close to 70,000 of them.
- And when more **Indian founders succeed in taking their businesses public** or reaching unicorn status, it has sparked aspirations among young Indians all around the nation, creating a positive feedback loop.

About Google

- CEO: Sundar Pichai;
- Founded: 4 September 1998;
- Headquarters: California, United States.

Govt keeps interest rates on small savings schemes unchanged for Q2FY23

- The **Central Government** kept interest rates on small savings schemes, such as the **Public Provident Fund (PPF)** and **National Savings Certificate (NSC)**, unchanged for July 1, 2022, to **September 30, 2022 quarter of FY23** amid high inflation and rising interest rate.
- In the second quarter of this fiscal, Public Provident Fund (PPF) and National Savings Certificate (NSC) will continue to have an annual interest rate of **7.1 percent** and **6.8 percent**, respectively.
- This is the **ninth quarter** in a row that small savings interest rates have not changed.
- The interest rate on small savings schemes has not been revised since the first quarter of 2020-21.

Key Highlights :

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- The interest rate on savings deposits will continue to be at 4% per annum.
- The PPF will continue to earn 7.10%.
- Term deposits of one to five years will fetch an interest rate in the range of 5.5-6.7%, to be paid quarterly while the interest rate on five-year recurring deposits will earn a higher interest of 5.8%.
- The Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana offers a 7.6%, Senior Citizen saving scheme (7.4%) and while SBI's 5-10 year fixed deposits give 5.50%.
- The finance ministry announced that the rate of interest on various small savings schemes for the first quarter of the financial year 2022-23, starting from April 1, 2022, and ending on June 30, 2022, shall remain unchanged from the current rates applicable for the fourth quarter (January 1, 2022, to March 31, 2022) for FY 2021-22.
- The country's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI) raised the interest rate on one-year fixed deposits by 5.10 percent following two consecutive increases in benchmark rate by 90 basis points to tame high inflation.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised the repo rate by 40 basis points and 50 basis points in May and June, respectively.
- Retail inflation stood at 7.04 percent in May 2022 remaining above the RBI's tolerance level for the fifth month in a row.
- Recently, the Provident Fund (PF) rate was reduced to a four-decade low of 8.1% for 2021-22 from 8.5%.
- The Shyamala Gopinath committee in 2011 recommended making small savings schemes market-linked.

Finance Minister Nirmala Ms. Sitharaman chairs the 47th meeting of the GST Council

- The 47th Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council met under the Chairmanship of Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, in Chandigarh.
- The GST rate changes will be made effective from July 18, 2022.

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- The two-day meeting of the GST Council will be attended by the Minister of State for Finance **Pankaj Chaudhary**, Finance Ministers of States and Union Territories, and Senior officers from Union Government and States.

Recommendations relating to GST rates on goods and services :

For Goods :

S.No	Description	From	To
1	Printing, writing or drawing ink	12%	18%
2	Knives with cutting blades, Paper knives, Pencil sharpeners and blades therefor, Spoons, forks, ladles, skimmers, cake servers, etc	12%	18%
3	Power-driven pumps primarily designed for handling water such as centrifugal pumps, deep tube-well turbine pumps, submersible pumps; Bicycle pumps	12%	18%
4	Machines for cleaning, sorting, or grading, seed, grain pulses; Machinery used in the milling industry or for the working of cereals, etc; Pawan Chakki that is Air Based Atta Chakki; Wet grinder	5%	18%
5	Machines for cleaning, sorting, or grading eggs, fruit, or other agricultural produce and its parts, Milking machines, and dairy machinery	12%	18%

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6	LED Lamps, lights and fixture, their metal printed circuits board	12%	18%
7	Drawing and marking out instruments	12%	18%
8	Solar Water Heater and system	5%	12%
9	Prepared/finished leather/chamois leather / composition leathers	5%	12%

For Services :

S.No	Description	From	To
1	Services supplied by the foreman to chit fund	12%	18%
2	Job work about processing hides, skins, and leather	5%	12%
3	Job work in the manufacture of leather goods and footwear	5%	12%
4	Job work about the manufacture of clay bricks	5%	12%
5	Works contract for roads, bridges, railways, metro, effluent treatment plant, crematorium, etc.	12%	18%

In the case of the following goods, the exemption in form of a concessional rate of GST is being rationalized

S.No	Description of goods	From	To
1	Petroleum/ Coal bed methane	5%	12%
2	Scientific and technical instruments supplied	5%	Applicabl

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	to public-funded research institutes		e rate
3	E-waste	5%	18%

[Click here for the complete list of the GST rate changes](#)

About Ministry of Finance :

- Cabinet Minister : Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State : Bhagwat Karad, Pankaj Choudhary
- Finance Secretary: T. V Somanathan

Bank Deposit Growth Moderates To 10% on Year In March 2022: RBI

- As per the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the share of current account and savings account (CASA) deposits in total deposits has been increasing over the years and stood at 44.8% in March 2022 as compared with 41.7% three years ago.
- These low-cost deposits accounted for 60.9% and 55.6% of incremental deposits during 2020-21 and 2021-22, respectively.
- Bank deposit growth moderated to 10% in March 2022 as compared with 11.9% a year ago.
- Current savings and term deposits increased by 10.9%, 13.3%, and 7.9%, respectively, during 2021-22.
- Metropolitan branches of banks, which account for over half of total deposits, accounted for 51.5 percent in incremental deposits during 2021-22 (59.6 percent in 2020-21).
- The household sector held the dominant share (62.6%) in total deposits followed by non-financial corporations, general government, rest of the world, and financial corporations, respectively.
- Female depositors accounted for 19.8% of total deposits in March 2022; their share in incremental bank deposits during 2021-22 increased to 34.3% from 15.2% in 2020-21.
- General government and financial corporations together account for over one-fourth of the incremental deposits during 2021-22 as compared to the 5.8% share in 2020-21.

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- **Large-size deposits** with assets of **Rs 1 crore** and above have nearly 40% share in total term deposits.
- **Seven states**, viz., Maharashtra, National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Gujarat, together accounted for **63.3% of bank deposits**.

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

SBI, KDEM partner to offer collateral-free loans to startups in Karnataka

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**, which would enable SBI to open **India's first dedicated branch for startups** in **Koramangala, Karnataka**.
- As per the MoU, the **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE)** will be utilized by the SBI to provide collateral-free loans of up to **Rs 2 crore** to startups recognized under KDEM's Elevate program.
- The emphasis is to **ELEVATE Winners** and to **AIF-supported start-ups** of Karnataka.
- The **Elevate-Idea2PoC** was launched by the **Department of Electronics, IT, BT, and S&T, Government of Karnataka** to identify and nurture innovative start-ups and provide them the necessary boost at various stages through funding or mentoring.
- With this MOU more than **1000 start-ups** are going to be supported.
- The SBI will also set up a support desk for startups at the existing K-tech center near HSR Layout in Bengaluru.
- Similar desks will be set up in the other three hubs being developed in Belagavi, Hubballi, and Mangaluru as part of the KDEM's "**Beyond Bengaluru**" initiative.
- Additionally, the SBI will also contribute to the **Rs 75-crore equity cluster fund** being accumulated to develop the **three hubs** & the Government of Karnataka will invest Rs 25 crore.

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- CGTMSE was launched by the Union government to make collateral-free credit to the micro and small enterprises sector.

About SBI:

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

RBI clears payment aggregator license for Razorpay, PineLabs & Stripe

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave payment aggregator (PA) and payment gateway (PG) licenses in principle to Razorpay, Pine Labs, and American payments player Stripe.
- The companies have become the **first players** to receive such a license.
- Payment aggregators are entities that enable e-commerce sites and merchants to accept various payment instruments from customers for completion of their payment obligations, without the need for merchants to create a separate payment integration system of their own.
- In 2020, RBI issued guidelines that stated only firms approved by the regulator can acquire and offer payment services to the merchants
- According to RBI guidelines, payment aggregators need to have a net worth of **Rs 15 crore** as of **March 2021**, and a net worth of **Rs 25 crore** by on or before FY23.

About Razorpay:

- Founded: 2013
- CEO: Harshil Mathur
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka

About Pine Labs:

- Founded: 1998
- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Executive Chairman: Lokvir Kapoor
- CEO: B.Amrish Rau

AIIB to establish an Interim Operational Hub in Abu Dhabi, UAE

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), in which India is the second-largest shareholder after China, has approved the establishment of an Interim Operational Hub, its **first**

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overseas office in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), pending formal agreement to be finalized.

- The hub will provide AIIB with a robust platform to enable effective supervision of its growing investment portfolio, and strengthen its project monitoring and implementation services across the globe.

About AIIB :

- Established: 16 January 2016
- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- President: Jin Liqun
- Membership: 105 Member States
- Former Reserve Bank Governor **Urjit Patel** is one of its five Vice Presidents.

Union Bank of India Launches Metaverse Lounge and Open Banking Sandbox Environment

- **Union Bank of India (UBI)** has announced the launch of **Uni-verse**, the bank's **Metaverse Virtual Lounge & Open Banking Sandbox environment** at an event held in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- With this launch, UBI has become the **first Indian Bank** to open a virtual shop for Publicity.
- This initiative was launched in partnership with **Tech Mahindra**.

About Uni-verse :

- Uni-verse will host product information and videos in the initial phase.
- It will deliver a unique banking experience to customers by providing them with information on the bank's deposits, loans, government welfare schemes, digital initiatives, etc.
- The bank has also launched an **Open Banking Sandbox environment** through which it will collaborate with fin-techs and start-up partners for developing and launching innovative banking products.
- UBI has a mobile banking app, '**nxt**' that provides a host of services such as balance inquiry, mini statement, paying loans EMIs, fund transfers, bill payments, and the option to make investments such as fixed deposits, PPF, etc.

About UBI:

- Founded: 11 November 1919
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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- MD & CEO : A Manimekhalai

City Union Bank partners with Shriram General Insurance for the distribution of insurance products

- Private sector lender **City Union Bank (CUB)** signed a corporate agency **agreement** with **Shriram General Insurance** to **distribute** the latter's **insurance products** through its network of branches across India.
- Under the agreement, Shriram General Insurance will offer personal insurance products such as **motor, personal accident, home, and travel** along with commercial ones such as **property, marine, and engineering** to the bank's customers.

About CUB :

- Founded: 1904
- Headquarters: Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: Dr. N. Kamakodi

About Shriram General Insurance :

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Jaipur, Rajasthan
- MD and CEO: Anil Kumar Aggarwal
- Shriram General Insurance Company is a joint venture between **Shriram Capital**, the holding company for the financial services business of the Shriram Group, and **Sanlam Limited** (headquartered in South Africa), a leading pan-African financial services group.

Axis bank signs MoU with Indian Air Force to manage salary accounts

- One of India's leading private sector banks, **Axis Bank** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** to **manage salary accounts** of the **defense personnel** with best-in-class benefits and features under its '**Power Salute**' initiative.
- The signing ceremony was held at Air Force Headquarters, with the I.A.F, represented by Air **Vice-Marshal Ashok Saini**, in the presence of Air Chief Marshal, **V R Chaudhari**, and Axis Bank representatives **Reynold D' Souza**, Executive Vice President, and **Lt Col M.K Sharma**, National Accounts Head.
- Through this **Defence Service Salary package**, the bank will offer benefits to all ranks of Indian Air Force personnel including the **veterans, and cadets/recruits**.

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- The package will reportedly include an air accident cover of up to Rs 1 crore and a personal accident cover of up to Rs 56 lakh for all personnel ranks.
- The package would also include grants for up to Rs 8 lakh for the education of servicemen's children who have a maximum total lifetime disability of Rs 46 lakh.
- There will be no processing fee to open the account, while as many as 12 EMI waivers will be given on home loans.
- It will also offer additional zero balance accounts for 3 family members with no charges.

About Axis Bank :

- Founded : 3 December 1993
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry

About IAF :

- Founded: 26 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chief of the Air Staff: Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari

Tata MF tie-up with CAMSPay to launch UPI AutoPay facility for SIPs

- Tata Mutual Fund has teamed up with Computer Age Management Services Limited CAMSPay to introduce Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Autopay for immediate Systematic Investment Plan (SIPs).
- Using this, investors in mutual funds can use their virtual payment address (VPA)/UPI handle to mandate an Autopay facility for their Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) contributions.
- The inclusion of the UPI Autopay option makes the process smoother and may increase investors' willingness to invest.
- In this process, CAMSPay's UPI AutoPay offers real-time Third-Party Payment validation (TPV) and same-day settlement hence investors receive NAV benefits.

RBI imposes restrictions and withdrawal caps on 4 Co-Operative banks

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed various restrictions on 4 cooperative banks Ramgarhia Co-operative Bank, New Delhi; Sahebrao Deshmukh Co-operative Bank, Mumbai;

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Sangli Sahakari Bank, Mumbai; and Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank Limited, Tumkur, Karnataka.

- The Central bank has put restrictions under the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** for six months and it includes a cap on withdrawals for the depositors.
- Further, a cap has also been imposed on withdrawals by depositors of these four cooperative banks.
- Ramgarhia Co-operative Bank – Depositor can withdraw a maximum of **Rs 50,000**.
- Sahebrao Deshmukh Cooperative Bank– The cap is again **Rs 50,000** per depositor.
- Sangli Sahakari Bank– The cap is **Rs 45,000** per deposit.
- Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank– a depositor can withdraw a maximum of **Rs 7,000**.

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

RBI penalizes Federal Bank and Bank of India for violating regulations

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty on Federal Bank Limited and Bank of India & Dhani Loans and Services Ltd. for violating the provisions of its regulations.

Monetary Penalty on Federal Bank Limited :

- A monetary penalty of **Rs 5.72 crore** has been imposed on Federal Bank Ltd for non-compliance with the provisions of 'Reserve Bank of India (Financial Services provided by Banks) Directions, 2016' issued by RBI.
- This penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with section 46 (4) (i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Monetary Penalty on Bol :

- A monetary penalty of **₹70 lakh** has been imposed on the Bank of India for non-compliance with certain provisions of the 'Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Direction, 2016' and circular instructions on 'Compliance Function in Banks' issued by RBI.

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- This penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with section 46 (4) (i) and Section 51 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949

Monetary Penalty on Dhani Loans and Services Limited :

- A monetary penalty of **Rs 7.60 lakh** has been imposed on Dhani Loans and Services Limited, Gurugram for non-compliance with the "Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016" issued by RBI.
- This penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 58 G read with clause (aa) of sub-section (5) of section 58 B of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

India's marine product exports hit an all-time high in FY 2021-22:

- **K N Raghavan**, Chairman, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), informed India managed to do all-time high export worth **US\$ 7.76 billion** with a volume of **13,69,264 MT of seafood**.
- India shipped **13,69,264 MT of seafood worth Rs 57,586.48 crore** (USD 7.76 billion) during 2021-22, despite heavy odds.
- During the FY 2021-22, the export improved in rupee terms by **31.71%**, in **USD** terms by **30.26%**, and in quantity terms by **19.12%**.
- In 2020-21, India had exported **11,49,510 MT of seafood worth Rs 43,720.98 crore** (USD 5,956.93 million).

Key Points:

- The overall export of frozen shrimps during 2021-22 was pegged at **7,28,123 MT**.
- **USA**, the largest market, imported (**3,42,572 MT**) of frozen shrimp, followed by **China** (**1,25,667 MT**), **European Union** (**90,549 MT**), **South East Asia** (**44,683 MT**), **Japan** (**38,492 MT**), and the **Middle East** (**37,158 MT**). Export of Frozen shrimp shows increases in all the markets by value.

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SBICAP Ventures Ltd. signs MoU with the Ministry of External Affairs for Trilateral Development Cooperation Fund

- **SBICAP Ventures Limited (SVL), a subsidiary of the State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), GoI for establishing the Trilateral Development Cooperation Fund (TDC Fund).**
- **The TDC Fund will route India's commitment of approx. INR 175 Cr to the Global Innovation Development Fund (GIP Fund)**

Key Highlights :

- **Under the India – UK World Innovation Partnership (GIP), the Global Innovation Development Fund (GIP Fund) an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) proposed to be established in partnership with the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO).**
- **The GIP Fund will invest in mainly small & medium enterprises from India that tackle development challenges in line with the goals and objectives of the GIP.**
- **The GIP Fund will target Indian innovative enterprises that are at an advanced stage but lack access to capital for expansion to other developing countries.**
- **SVL will act as the administrator-cum-advisor (Investment Manager) of TDC Fund and facilitate the GIP program for MEA.**
- **The Trilateral Development Cooperation Fund will demonstrate as well as reduce risk perception for innovation transfer.**
- **This collaboration will be a building block towards structuring investments into innovative enterprises from India and facilitate further development, transfer, and scale-up of successful innovations in developing partner countries.**

About SVL :

- **MD & CEO : Suresh Kozhikote**
- **SBICAP Ventures Ltd is an alternative asset manager based in India, belonging to the State Bank of India Group, and manages funds across private equity, real estate, and fund of funds mandates.**

About MEA :

- **Union Minister: Subrahmanyam Jaishankar**

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- Minister of State: V. Muraleedharan, Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Meenakshi Lekhi

IRDAI sets up task forces to suggest steps to resolve issues insurers & reinsurers

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up two task forces to suggest steps to sort out issues between insurers and reinsurers.
- According to reports, the task forces will file the reports within three weeks.
- A 9 member panel has been constituted to sort out the issues between non-life insurers and reinsurers under the chairmanship of Bhargav Dasgupta, MD, and CEO of ICICI Lombard General.
- The panel will suggest steps on the applicability of compliance requirements, and faster settlement and payment mechanisms among the re-insurers and cross-border reinsurers (CBRs), among others.
- The second task force, comprising 7 members, will look at the life insurance segment and re-insurers.
- It is headed by Naveen Tahilyani, CEO and MD, Tata AIA Life Insurance.
- The panel on life insurance has been asked to study and make recommendations on stabilization of reinsurance rates, capacity constraints with reinsurers, securitization of mortality risk, and financial reinsurance solutions, among others.

About IRDAI:

- Established: 1999
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairperson: Debasish Panda
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is a regulatory body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, Gov.
- It is tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and reinsurance industries in India.

TATA AIA life insurance & City Union Bank partners to offer life & health insurance

- One of India's leading life insurance companies, Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd, announced a strategic alliance with City Union Bank (CUB) to offer life and health insurance solutions to the Bank's consumers.

About the Partnership:

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- The partnership will help City Union Bank consumers (existing and new) to benefit from Tata AIA Life's diverse and innovative products and services spanning **term insurance, savings and investment, retirement, and health**.
- It will enable Tata AIA Life to expand its distribution through CUB's **700+ branches** and contribute significantly towards increasing life insurance penetration in India.
- The two entities focus on providing a digitally enabled experience and mobile-first solutions to consumers.
- Through this association, both partners will be able to promote insurance awareness and financial planning amongst consumers, with ease, across physical and digital consumer-facing platforms

About TATAAIA life insurance :

- Founded: 2001
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO: Naveen Tahilyani
- Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited (Tata AIA Life) is a joint venture company, formed by **Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd. and AIA Group Ltd. (AIA)**.

About City Union Bank :

- Founded: 1904
- Headquarters: Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: Dr. N. Kamakodi

RBI sets up a mechanism to settle international trade payments in rupees

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced a mechanism to settle payments for **invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports/imports** in **INR for international trade in rupees**.

Aim :

- To promote the growth of global trade with emphasis on exports from India and to support the increasing interest of the global trading community in the Indian Rupee.

Key Highlights :

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- Under the new guidelines, all **exports and imports** under this arrangement may be denominated and invoiced in **Rupee (INR)**.
- The exchange rate between the currencies of the two trading partner countries may be **market determined**.
- The settlement of trade transactions under this arrangement shall take place in **INR**.
- In terms of **Regulation 7(1) of Foreign Exchange Management (Deposit) Regulations, 2016**, **Authorized Dealer (AD)** banks in India have been permitted to **open Rupee Vostro Accounts**.
- For settlement of trade transactions with any country, AD banks in India may open **Special Rupee Vostro Accounts** of correspondent bank/s of the partner trading country.
- The Special Vostro Accounts can be used for payments for projects and investments, import or export advance flow management, and investment in Government Treasury Bills subject to **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)**.
- **Letter of Credit (LC)** and other trade-related documentation may be decided mutually between banks of the partner trading countries under the overall framework of **Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits (UCPDC)** and incoterms.
- Also, the bank guarantee, setting-off export receivables, advance against exports, use of surplus balance, approval process, documentation, etc., related aspects would be covered under FEMA rules.

RBI Cancels Certificate of Registration of Four NBFCs

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has canceled the **Certificate of Registration (CoR)** of four non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) under the exercise of powers conferred on it under **Section 45-IA (6) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.

List of 4 NBFCs :

1. Kanva Shree Credit Private Limited (formerly known as MCI Leasing Private Limited), Bangalore, Karnataka
2. Williamson Magor & Co. Ltd, Kolkata, West Bengal
3. Galaxy Capital Finance Limited, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
4. SRS Finance Limited, Faridabad, Haryana.

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Additional Info :

- In **May 2022**, the RBI canceled the registration of **five NBFCs** under the above clause for irregular lending practices.
- Further, 3 more NBFCs – **PKC Credit Pvt Ltd, Gajanand Lefin Pvt Ltd, and Harita Malini Private Limited** surrendered their certificate of registration to the RBI.

RBI imposes a Rs 1.7 cr penalty on Ola Financial Services for non-compliance with norms

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **penalty of Rs 1.67 crore** on **Ola Financial Services for non-compliance** with certain provisions related to **pre-paid payment (PPIs)** dated 27 August 2021 and the Master Direction Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction, 2016 dated February 25, 2016.
- The penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in **RBI under Section 30** of the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.
- The penalty is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by Ola Financial Services with its customers

About Ola Financial Services Private Limited :

- The Ola Financial Services Private Limited, a **subsidiary of ride-hailing app Ola**.
- It offers financial services such as lending for two-wheelers, four-wheelers, personal loans, and insurance products.

RBI allows Trade transactions with Lanka may be settled outside the Asian Clearing Union mechanism

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced that **all eligible current account transactions** including trade transactions with **Sri Lanka** may be settled in any permitted currency outside the **Asian Clearing Union (ACU) mechanism** until further notice.
- Under the ACU, member central banks settle payments for **intra-regional transactions on a net basis**.
- This **reduces the use of foreign exchange reserves** and transfer costs.

About ACU :

- Establishment: 1974
- Headquarters: Tehran, Iran

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- Members of the union: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Iran
- The Asian Clearing Union (ACU), is an initiative of the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)**.
- Currently, ACU settlements are done in **three currencies: the US dollar, the euro, and the Japanese yen.**

RBI Imposes Monetary Penalties On 3 Cooperative Banks Over Non-Compliance

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed monetary penalties on three cooperative banks for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.
- The banks on which the RBI imposed penalties include
 1. Nasik Merchant's Co-operative Bank Ltd in Nashik, Maharashtra
 2. Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank Ltd in Mumbai, Maharashtra
 3. National Central Cooperative Bank Limited in Bettiah, Bihar.

Nasik Merchant's Co-operative Bank Ltd :

- The RBI imposed a **Rs 50 lakh penalty** on The Nasik Merchant's Co-operative Bank for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on 'Placement of deposits with other banks and 'Interest Rate on Deposits.

Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank Ltd :

- The RBI imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 37.50 lakh** on The Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank, Mumbai for non-compliance with the directions issued by NABARD on 'Frauds - Guidelines for Classification, Reporting, and Monitoring'

National Central Cooperative Bank Limited:

- A penalty of **Rs 2 lakh** has been imposed on The National Central Cooperative Bank Limited, Bettiah for non-compliance with provisions of the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.
- In each case, the penalty is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the banks with their customers.

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RBI: Banks' gross NPAs ratio falls to a six-year low of 5.9% in March 2022

- According to the report by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Bank's gross non-performing assets (GNPA) of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) in India have hit a six-year low of 5.9 percent in March 2022 to 5.3 percent by March 2023 under the baseline scenario driven by higher bank credit growth and a declining trend in the stock of GNPA's
- The net non-performing assets (NNPA) ratio fell to 1.7 percent in March 2022.
- The provisioning coverage ratio (PCR) increased to 70.9 percent in March 2022 from 67.6 percent in March 2021.
- However, the GNPA ratio may rise under the medium/severe stress scenarios, the GNPA ratio may rise to 6.2 percent/8.3 percent, respectively.

About RBI:

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

AMFI to launch mutual fund distributor recruitment campaign 'Karein Shuru?'

- The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) has launched a new mutual fund distributor recruitment campaign "Karein Shuru?" - Can We Start?
- The campaign includes television commercial films to reinforce the need and attractiveness of Mutual Funds Distribution as a career option with long-term earning potential for individuals with entrepreneurial aspirations.
- Wunderman Thompson is the advertising agency, while Mirum has created digital campaigns for AMFI.
- The campaign targets women looking to re-enter the workforce, retired professionals, enterprising fresh graduates, and individuals with entrepreneurial aspirations.

About AMFI :

- Founded: 1995
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : A Balasubramanian

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- Director: Vishal Kapoor
- The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) is the **regulatory body** for the mutual fund sector in India.
- It is a **division** of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India, Ministry of Finance, Govt.**

RBI Extends Card Tokenization Deadline By 3 Months Till September 30, 2022

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** extended the timeline on **credit card and debit card tokenization**, by **three months till September 30 from June 30, 2022.**
- The decision was made in consultation with the stakeholders to avoid disruption and inconvenience to cardholders.
- To date, a total of **19.5 crore** tokens have been created.
- RBI stated this extended period may be utilized by the industry for
- To facilitate all stakeholders to be ready for handling tokenized transactions
- To process transactions based on tokens
- To implement an alternate mechanism(s) to handle all post-transaction activities (including chargeback handling and settlement)
- To create public awareness about the process of creating tokens and using them to undertake transactions.

RBI Guidelines for Tokenization :

- Under the framework, RBI directs cardholders to create **"tokens" (a unique alternate code)** instead of card details; these tokens can then be stored by the merchants for processing transactions in the future.
- The cardholder has to undergo a one-time registration process for each card at every online / e-commerce merchant's website/mobile application, by entering the card details and giving consent for creating a token.
- This consent is validated by way of authentication through an **Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA).**
- Thereafter, a token is created which is specific to the card and online/e-commerce merchant, i.e., the token cannot be used for payment at any other merchant.

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- For future transactions performed at the same merchant website/mobile application, the cardholder can identify the card with the last four digits during the checkout process.
- Further, RBI also issued a framework for **CoF Tokenization (CoFT) services**.
- CoFT (i.e., creating tokens) is **voluntary** for the cardholders.
- Hence, those who do not wish to create a token can continue to transact as before by entering card details manually at the time of undertaking the transaction (commonly referred to as “**guest checkout transaction**”).

Star Health partners with MeitY to reach rural India

- **Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd.**, one of the leading standalone health insurance companies in the country, and **Common Services Centers (CSC)**, under the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)**, have partnered to provide **health insurance to rural India**.
- Concurrently, the added distribution network will help Star Health expand its market share and strengthen its presence across India.

Key Highlights :

- The CSCs will provide a host of special features to rural customers including a large bouquet of e-services through a single-delivery platform, localized help-desk support, and sustainability for **village-level entrepreneurs (VLEs)** through a maximum commission sharing model of operation.
- To provide over **5 lakh CSCs** access to a select range of Star Health insurance products.
- These products have been designed to meet the needs of rural customers across **tier-II, tier-III cities**, and rural markets across India.
- Through its network, CSC will offer a series of beneficial products for the rural markets like Family Health Optima Insurance Plan, Accidental Care Individual Policy, Star Micro Rural and Farmers Care, and other such products to meet the health insurance needs in these regions.

About Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd:

- Founded: 2006
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- Chairman & CEO: V Jagannathan
- MD: Anand Roy

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About MeitY:

- Cabinet Minister: Ashwini Vaishnav
- Minister of State : Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Arohan launches digital lending app, expects to raise loan portfolio by Rs 600cr by FY23

- **Non-Banking Financial Companies - Microfinance Institutions (NBFC-MFI) Arohan Financial Services** launched a **digital lending app** for its existing customers having a good repayment track record to provide them an experience equivalent to that of privilege banking.

Objective :

- To “raise collection efficiency ratio.
- The app, **ApnaArohan**, will help its customers make repayments and other transactions through the digital mode and reduce physical interaction with the loan officers of the MFI.
- The AI-powered app will provide the microfinance company the “**first mover advantage**” and help increase the outstanding portfolio from **Rs 4,500 crore**, as of June 2022, to around **Rs 5,100 crore** by the end of the FY 2022-23.
- This will also help complete the digitalization of disbursement and collection exercise of the MFI.

About Arohan :

- Founded: 2006
- Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal
- Managing Director: Manoj Kumar Nambiar

ReNew Becomes First Indian Renewable Energy Company to Refinance Dollar-Denominated Bonds

- **Renew Energy Global plc ('ReNew')** has successfully refinanced its 2024 maturity dollar-denominated bonds with amortizing project debt from an Indian nonbank financial company.
- ReNew issued bonds worth **US\$ 525 million in 2019**, which were set to mature in 2024.
- By refinancing the dollar-denominated bonds ahead of time, ReNew has shown strong and continued access to domestic debt capital, as well as an ability to proactively manage to refinance risk
- This refinancing has cut the bonds' INR interest cost by **200 basis points**, with the interest rate fixed for three years while pushing out the maturity to the **end of the fiscal year 2027**.

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- The rate reduction, rate fixing, and tenor extension have taken place against the backdrop of a rising interest rate environment in the broader markets.
- This preemptive refinancing mitigates near-term refinancing risk for bonds and provides liquidity to bond investors.

Note :

- 'ReNew' has become the **first Indian renewable energy company** to refinance dollar-denominated bonds.

About ReNew Power :

- Founded: January 19, 2011
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana
- Chairman & CEO : Sumant Sinha
- ReNew Power is **India's largest renewable energy company** by operational capacity.
- In 2022, ReNew had a gross total portfolio of **~12.8 GW** of renewable energy projects across India.

India's retail inflation at 7.01% in June:

- **Consumer pricing index (CPI)**-based retail inflation dropped to **7.01 percent** in **June** of this year from **7.04 percent** the month before.
- According to the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**, lower prices in the "**Food & Beverages**" category were a major factor in the slight decrease in inflation.

Key Points:

- Inflation in the food basket was **7.56% in June 2022** compared to **7.84%** in **May** of this year.
- From **18.26%** in **May 2022**, the inflation rate for vegetables decreased to **17.37%** in the reporting month.
- Rising global commodity prices as a result of the **conflict in Russia and Ukraine** and high costs for crude oil have put inflation over the Reserve Bank of India's maximum tolerance limit of **6%**.
- For a **five-year term** ending in **March 2026**, the government has ordered the central bank to keep retail inflation at **4%** with a **2%** tolerance on each side.

Month-wise list of consumer price index:

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2022	CPI
January	6.01%
February	6.04%
March	6.95%
April	7.79%
May	7.04%
June	7.01%

The Paper Import Monitoring System will be operational on October 1, 2022:

- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) created the Paper Import Monitoring System (PIMS) by modifying the import policy for significant paper goods from "free" to "free subject to required registration under PIMS."
- The new regulation will go into force on **October 1, 2022**, according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The online registration option, according to a statement from the ministry, will, however, **start being offered from July 15, 2022**.

Key Points:

- A Domestic Territory Area unit must utilize the PIMS when importing several types of paper goods, such as newspaper, handmade paper, coated paper, uncoated paper, Litho and offset paper, tissue paper, toilet paper, cartons, labels, and more.
- These goods come under one of the 201 tariff lines.
- Paper products, such as bank bonds and check paper, security printing paper, and others, are exempt from the registration requirement.

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- A registration fee of Rs 500 must be paid to PIMS no earlier than the 75th day and no later than the 5th day before the expected date of arrival of the import consignment for an importer to be assigned an automatic registration number.
- Various shipments Within the registration's validity period and for the permitted amount, **Bill of Entry (BoE)** submissions are permitted under the same registration number.
- For 75 days, the automatic registration number is valid.
- When importing the goods covered by the scheme, a Unit in a Special Economic Zone/Free Trading Warehousing Zone or an Export Oriented Unit must register under the PIMS.

Agri-tech startup nurture. farm partners with SBI General Insurance & Future Generali to enhance insurance offerings to farmers

- **Agri-tech startup nurture. farm** partnered with **SBI General Insurance** and **Future Generali India Insurance Company** to expand its insurance solutions for its **1.9 million farmers**.

Aim :

- To offer insurance solutions to **nearly 2 million farmers in 2022-23**

About nurture.farm :

- Founded: 2020
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Nurture. the farm is an **open digital platform** for growers, farming communities, and food systems.
- It intends to offer remote sensing-based farm-level insurance to farmers, which is one of the missing links in increasing farmer resilience in India.
- Recently, Nurture. the farm received a corporate agency license from **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA)** & the license enables nurture. farm to help farmers access innovative insurance solutions at cost-effective price points.

About SBI General Insurance :

- Founded: 2009
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Paritosh Tripathi
- Tagline: Suraksha aur Bharosa dono

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HDFC Bank Partners With NIIT to Train and Hire Data Engineers

- National Institute of Information Technology, Institute of Finance, Banking and Insurance (IFBI), a subsidiary of NIIT Limited, has entered into a strategic partnership with HDFC Bank to build new-age Digital Talent for the banking industry.

Aim :

- To nurture talent in the new-age tech field of data science and empower them to leverage data meaningfully and deliver useful business insights.
- The learning programs will be delivered through live, instructor-led sessions, and guest lectures from senior executives of HDFC Bank.
- The first learning program to be launched is the **HDFC Bank Data Digits-Post Graduate Program in Data Engineering**.
- The program is the first of planned initiatives to raise digital skills in the BFSI industry.
- It will make learners job ready in **12 weeks**.
- Through this program, the HDFC bank hopes to hire close to **100 data scientists per year**.

About HDFC Bank :

- Founded: August 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra India
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline: We Understand Your World

Jubilant Pharma arm to raise \$400 million loan from Standard Chartered Bank to repay debt

- Jubilant Pharma Holdings Inc (JPHI) has signed an agreement with Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) for a five-year loan of USD 400 million, about Rs 3,186 crore.
- The majority of the amount will be used for the repayment of existing term loans and debt bonds.
- While the term loan and bonds aggregate to \$350 million, about Rs 2,787 crore, the company is raising another tranche of \$50 million (about Rs 400 crore) for capital expenditure.

About JPHI:

- Jubilant Pharma Limited's wholly-owned subsidiary Jubilant Pharma Limited.

About SCB:

- Founded: 18 November 1969

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- Headquarters: London England, UK
- Group Chief Executive: Bill Winters

Wholesale inflation falls slightly in June to 15.18 percent:

- According to the all-India **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)**, the annual rate of inflation for **June is 15.18%**, a slight decrease from **May when it was 15.88%**.
- The most recent number defied a three-month upward trend while continuing a 15-month streak of double-digit growth.
- Since April of last year, the numbers have been in the double digits.

Key Points:

- The increase in prices of mineral oils, food items, crude oil and natural gas, basic metals, chemicals, and chemical products, food goods, etc. in June relative to the same month the year before is the main cause of the high rate of inflation.
- The index for the category "**Fuel and Power**" went from 154.4 percent in May 2022 to 155.4 percent in June 2022, an increase of 0.65 percent.
- Mineral oil prices rose by 0.98 percent in June 2022 compared to May.
- **From 176.1 in May 2022 to 178.4 in June 2022**, the **Food Index**, which includes "Food Articles" from the Primary Articles group and "Food Product" from the Manufactured Products group, has grown.
- Based on the WPI Food Index, **the inflation rate climbed from 10.89% in May to 12.41% in June.**

List of Wholesale Price Index:

2022	CPI
January	12.96%
February	13.11%
March	14.55%
April	15.08%
May	15.88%

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June	15.18%
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Nasscom joins hand with Google for DigiVaani Call Center:

- To assist **women farmers** in growing their businesses, the Nasscom Foundation and Google have announced the opening of a contact center in partnership with the **Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP)**, a non-profit organization.
- The "**DigiVaani Call Center**" initiative is being launched as a trial and would initially serve over 20,000 rural women entrepreneurs across six states: **Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, and Rajasthan**.

About the DigiVaani:

- Rural women entrepreneurs will be able to phone **DigiVaani** and acquire information about the many programs that are accessible to them that may help them grow up their businesses, whether they are government programs or any other information that might be helpful for them.
- At the **ISAP headquarters in Delhi and Lucknow**, a DigiVaani contact center has been established.
- Through its charitable arm **Google.org**, Google is providing funding for the initiative.

About Google

- CEO: **Sundar Pichai**
- Founded: **4 September 1998**
- Headquarters: **California, United States**

About NASSCOM

- Chairperson: **Krishnan Ramanujam**
- Headquarters location: **New Delhi**
- Founded: **1 March 1988**.

Quantum Mutual Fund launches India's first Nifty 50 ETF Fund of Fund

- **Quantum Mutual Fund** launches **Quantum Nifty 50 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF Fund)**, an open-ended **Fund of Fund (FoF)** scheme that invests in the units of **Quantum Nifty 50 ETF**.
- **Quantum Nifty 50 ETF FOF** is **India's first-of-its-kind Nifty 50 ETF Fund of Fund**.
- The new fund offer opens on **July 18, 2022**, and closes on **August 1, 2022**.

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- The scheme will re-open for subscription and redemption on an ongoing basis from **August 10, 2022**.
- **Hitendra Parekh** has been the **fund manager** since its inception on **July 10th, 2008**.

Aim :

- To provide capital appreciation by investing in units of Quantum Nifty 50 ETF – Replicating / Tracking Nifty 50 Index.

Salient features of Quantum Nifty 50 ETF Fund of Fund :

- No Demat account required
- **Systematic Investment Plan (SIP)** option available
- According to the Asset Allocation Strategy, investors dedicate money worth **12 months** of their expenses to a liquid fund and **20% of their investable money to gold**, the rest **80% can be allocated to equity**.
- This fund will invest in the units of Quantum Nifty 50 ETF, a passive scheme in the array of Quantum Solutions with a track record of **14 years** and counting.
- Quantum Nifty 50 ETF FoF will have an expense ratio of about **15 basis points** for a direct plan and about **27 basis points** for a regular plan.
- Investors can allocate **85%** of their equity investments to Quantum Nifty 50 ETF Fund of Fund, while the remaining **15%** can be allocated to Quantum India ESG Equity Fund.”

Singapore & Asian Development Bank sign agreement to promote investment in the Asia Pacific

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and **Singapore** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** to promote greater **investment** in the **Asia and Pacific region** and to recognize the importance of private sector finance as well as catalyzing public sector resources for sustainable and inclusive development.
- **Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mr. Lawrence Wong** and **ADB President Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa** signed the agreement on the sidelines of the **G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Bali, Indonesia**.

Aim :

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- To build on these areas of collaboration by focusing on mobilizing investment, financing, management skills, and technologies for private sector development projects in **ADB Developing Member Countries (DMCs)**.

About the MoU :

- Through this MOU, ADB and Singapore would cooperate to support private sector development projects that contribute to the region's **infrastructure, financial, and social needs**, and help countries achieve their **Sustainable Development Goal commitments**.
- The MOU replaces a 2012 MOU between ADB and Singapore to enhance knowledge sharing and cooperation in governance and public policy, private sector development, and climate change.
- ADB and Singapore will also cooperate in promoting the use of new technologies and innovative processes in areas such as developing livable cities, addressing the challenges of climate change, and utilizing financial technology to improve financial market efficiency.
- Also, ADB and Singapore will further strengthen collaboration on digital innovation.

Additional Info :

- **Singapore was a founding member of ADB** when the bank was established in **1966**.
- It borrowed from ADB until 1980 and graduated formally from borrowing in 1998.
- Since **2001**, Singapore has contributed to **ADB's concessional fund**, the Asian Development Fund, as well as the **Technical Assistance Special Fund**.

Note :

- Singapore is also an **active participant** in the **ASEAN Infrastructure Fund** supported by ADB.

About Singapore :

- President : Halimah Yacob
- Prime Minister : Lee Hsien Loong
- Currency: Singapore dollar

About ADB :

- Founded: 19 December 1966
- Headquarters: Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa

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- Membership: 68 countries

Yes Bank signs a term sheet With JC Flowers ARC for the sale of stressed loans

- The Board of directors of Yes Bank has signed a binding term sheet with JCF ARC LLC and JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Private Limited (JC Flowers ARC) for a proposed sale of an identified stressed loan portfolio of the bank aggregating to up to Rs 48,000 crore.
- In the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), YES bank proposes to run a transparent bidding process on a Swiss Challenge basis for the sale of such portfolios using the JC Flowers ARC's bid as the base bid.

About Yes Bank :

- Founded: 2004
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Prashant Kumar
- Tagline: Experience Our Expertise

Kotak Mahindra Bank becomes the first private bank to integrate with a new income tax portal

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has completed technical integration with the new e-filing portal of the Income Tax department.
- With this Kotak Mahindra Bank has become the first private bank to fully integrate with the new e-filing portal.
- The customers can pay their direct taxes through the e-pay tax tab on the portal using Kotak net banking or by visiting a branch.
- This will make the tax payment process simple, instant, and convenient for customers.

Note :

- In October 2021, Kotak Mahindra Bank became the first scheduled private sector bank to receive approval as a collections partner for taxes, after the announcement to permit all banks to participate in government business.

About Kotak Mahindra Bank :

- Founded: February 2003
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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- Chairman, MD & CEO : Uday Kotak
- Tagline: Let's Make Money Simple

Ola introduces India's first indigenously made lithium-ion cell:

- The first locally created lithium-ion cell has been revealed by Ola Electric.
- By 2023, the Bengaluru-based two-wheeler manufacturer would start mass producing the NMC 2170 cell at its Gigafactory in Chennai.
- The cell can store more energy in a given area because of the employment of particular chemicals and materials, which also extends the cell's lifespan.

About the Ola Electric:

- Ola is constructing the most cutting-edge cell research facility in the world, which will allow us to scale and develop more quickly and produce the most cutting-edge and reasonably priced EV goods possible.
- To build advanced cells in India, the government has granted the firm 20GWh of capacity under the ACC PLI plan.
- In August 2021, Ola Electric debuted its first electric car.
- It has since built the largest two-wheeler production plant in the world in India.

About Ola Electric:

- Founder: Bhavish Aggarwal
- Founded: 2017

Trade Deficit widens to a record \$26.1 Billion in June:

- After the Commerce Ministry updated both the exports and imports data for the month upward, India's goods trade imbalance increased to a record \$26.18 billion in June, above the government's original estimate of \$25.63 billion.
- The previous record-setting month for the merchandise trade imbalance was May, at \$24.3 billion.
- The \$9.6 billion loss reported in June 2021 was virtually tripled in size by the trade imbalance that occurred last month.

Key Points:

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- Even though **June's goods exports exceeded \$40.1 billion** (the first estimate was \$38 billion), up 23.5 percent year over year, imports outperformed exports, rising by 57.5 percent to \$66.3 billion as a result of increased purchases of coal, gold, and petroleum products.
- Although there were considerable higher adjustments for each, the increase in imports was mostly caused by coal, gold, and petroleum products, as previously projected.
- Imports of gold exceeded \$2.7 billion while imports of coal increased nearly fourfold to \$6.76 billion.
- The value of **petroleum imports** increased by **99.5% to \$21.3 billion**.
- With petroleum and diamonds and jewelry excluded, imports increased by 38.3 percent in June to reach \$38.53 billion.
- When the same product categories were excluded from the export statistics, other product shipments increased by a single digit of 8.65 percent to nearly \$28 billion.

Sikkim & West Bengal sign new reciprocal transport agreement

- The **governments of West Bengal and Sikkim** have signed an **agreement to help tourists travel** between the **two neighboring states** with ease in a bid to **boost tourism**.
- The agreement was signed between **West Bengal transport minister Mr. Firhad Hakim** and **Sikkim tourism minister Mr. Sanjit Kharel**.

About the new Reciprocal Transport Agreement (2022) :

- As per the agreement, '**All-Bengal**' permits for Sikkim vehicles and '**All-Sikkim**' permits for Bengal vehicles (except for restricted and protected areas) will be issued to facilitate vehicular movement along both the states.
- Previously, Bengal vehicles had been granted permits for efficient movement along **Gangtok, Namchi, and Pelling**.
- While, vehicles from Sikkim received licenses to operate along **Kalimpong, Darjeeling, and Siliguri**.
- The demands of the transporters, from West Bengal and Sikkim, have been fulfilled after **15 years**.
- The two governments also agreed to increase the number of vehicles being operated between Siliguri and the popular tourist destinations in Sikkim

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- In the new agreement, all **Counter Signature Permits** will be issued from a **single-point office** of the **State Transport Authority in Siliguri**.
- The gross vehicle weight of vehicles plying under the Counter Signature Permits has been enhanced from **16,200 kilograms** in the previous agreement to **18500 kilograms**.

About Sikkim :

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

About West Bengal :

- Governor : Jagdeep Dhankhar
- CM: Mamata Banerjee
- Capital: Kolkata

Mumbai's CSMT becomes the first railway station to have an augmented reality experience

- The **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai** has become the **first railway station in India** to have an **augmented reality experience**.
- The project at Mumbai's busiest railway station aims to generate revenue for Central Railway and offer passengers fun and infotainment during wait periods.
- This technology will allow passengers at the station to get a **real-time digitized timetable** with a dedicated scrolling screen and railway information for an engaging experience
- The passengers will also be able to meet animals, witness magic tricks and snowfall, and visit any place in the world virtually.
- The Central Railways is looking to bring in around **Rs 50,00,000 in revenues in five years**.

About the Augmented reality :

- Augmented reality (AR) is an enhanced version of the real physical world that is achieved through the use of digital visual elements, sound, or other sensory stimuli delivered via technology.
- It creates an augmented world around the user's device to create a virtual experience.
- **AR Magic Mirror** uses the technology of Augmented Reality to create a virtual world around the person standing in front of the screen.

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Bank of India & PFRDA launches platform for opening NPS account via mobile phone

- **Bank of India (BoI) & Pension Fund Regulator & Development Authority (PFRDA)** in association with K-fintech launched a digital platform that allows customers to open **National Pension System (NPS) accounts** using mobile phones.
- It was inaugurated by **Mr. Supratim Bandhyopadhyay, Chairman, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** in the presence of **Mr. AK Das (MD and CEO) Bank of India**, and three executive directors of the Bank of India, namely, **Mr. Swarup Dasgupta, Mr. M Karthikeyan, and Ms. Monika Kalia.**

About K-fintech :

- K-fintech provides **SaaS (Software as a Service)** based end-to-end transaction management, channel management, and compliance solutions.
- It also provides data analytics and various other digital services to asset managers across segments as well as outsourcing services for global players.

Key Highlights :

- The digital process of account opening is **simple, fast, and completely paperless**, making it easier for customers to open a new account in just a few clicks.
- Further, new subscribers can also make additional contributions through QR codes.

About BoI :

- **Founded:** 7 September 1906
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- **MD & CEO :** Atanu Kumar Das
- **Tagline:** Relationship beyond Banking

About PFRDA :

- **Founded:** 23 August 2003
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, Delhi, India
- **Chairman:** Supratim Bandyopadhyay
- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority is the **regulatory body** under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, GoI for the overall supervision and regulation of pensions in India.

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Following \$100 million in investment, OneCard becomes India's 104th unicorn:

- **OneCard**, a mobile-first credit card provider, became India's 104th unicorn after raising \$100 million in a Series D round of investment supported by Temasek.
- **OneCard, Open, Oxyzo, and Yubi** are just a few of the more than 20 financial unicorns that India has so far in 2022 generated.
- The most recent round of funding for **OneCard, which is owned by Pune-based FPL Technologies**, also included investments from pre-existing investors such as **QED, Sequoia Capital, and Hummingbird Ventures**.

Key Points:

- Earlier this year, FPL Technologies raised \$75 million as a part of its Series C funding. The round was raised with assistance from previous investors QED Investors, Janchor Partners, Sequoia Capital India, Matrix Partners, and others.
- In 2015, Rupesh Kumar, Vibhav Hathi, and Anurag Sinha started the company. The trio has financial expertise.
- The ASK Private Wealth Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2022 estimates that there will be 122 new unicorns in India in the next two to four years.
- OneCard is not subject to the PPI standards, according to Mohit Bhandari, managing director, investment (India), of Temasek, because it was not a PPI issuer and like some of the other companies, which now must reorganize their business models.
- Onecard provides banks with technical solutions.
- Legitimate credit cards are produced by banks. Of course, as a supplier of technology solutions, OneCard takes part in that.

Bharti Airtel allotted 1.2% equity shares to Google for USD 1 Billion:

- **Internet giant Google** has received more than **7.1 crore equity shares** from telecom provider **Bharti Airtel, each worth Rs 734**.
- The allocation is a component of **Google's USD 1 billion** investment pledge to Airtel, which also includes an equity investment in the firm for USD 700 million (about Rs 5,224 crore).
- Currently, Google owns 1.2 percent of each of India's two telecom service providers.

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- The investment comes after Google's USD 4.5 billion purchase of Reliance Jio for the India Digitization Fund in July 2020.
- As a part of its **USD 10 billion India Digitization Fund**, Google invested. On a fully diluted basis, Google will own around 1.17 percent of the company's post-issue equity shares, or about 1.2% of the total.
- Just a few days after announcing the India Digitization Fund, **Google committed Rs 33,737 crore** (about USD 4.5 billion) to purchase a 7.73 percent share in Jio Platforms.

About Bharti Airtel

- Founded: 1995
- Founder: Sunil Bharti Mittal
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairman: Sunil Bharti Mittal
- MD & CEO: Gopal Vittal.

Center extends State and Central Tax and Levies Rebate Program:

- In an attempt to boost exports and generate employment for the textile sector, **the government is set to extend** the RoSCTL Scheme for **Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL)** through **March 31, 2024**, at the same rates stated by the Ministry of Textiles.
- RoSCTL is a growth-oriented, forward-looking initiative that has aided in boosting exports and employment by building a stable and predictable policy environment.
- The initiative improved export competitiveness and cost-effectiveness in the international market.
- It has also encouraged a large number of MSMEs to enter the garment export market and helped startups and entrepreneurs in the sector grow.
- The RoSL (Rebate of State Levies) program was succeeded by the new RoSCTL (Rebate of State and Central Taxes Levies) plan in March 2019 following the establishment of GST in 2017.

Karnataka Bank signs MoU with JCB India

- The Karnataka Bank has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **JCB India Limited**, a manufacturer of earthmoving and construction equipment in India.

About the agreement :

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- Under the agreement, JCB will be nominating Karnataka Bank as its 'preferred financier' wherein individuals, contractors, companies, and partnership firms can avail of loans from the bank at competitive interest rates for purchasing a wide range of equipment from the product line of JCB India Limited.
- The tie-up arrangement is expected to boost the lending avenues under the bank's **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) portfolio**.
- The bank provides various finance schemes for the purchase of machinery and equipment to customers with attractive rates of interest and speedy sanction of loans through digital platforms.

About Karnataka Bank :

- Founded: 18 February 1924
- Headquarters: Mangaluru, Karnataka, India
- MD & CEO: Mahabaleshwara M. S
- It is an 'A' Class Scheduled Commercial Bank.

About JCB India :

- Headquarters: Ballabgarh, Haryana
- It is India's largest manufacturer of construction equipment and is a fully owned subsidiary of JC Bamford Excavators Limited, UK.

Go Digit Insurance launches 'pay as you drive' add-on cover for motor insurance

- Go Digit General Insurance has launched 'Pay as you Drive' (PAYD) an add-on feature for motor insurance Own Damage (OD) policies.
- This makes Digit Insurance one of India's first insurers to introduce the add-on for its customers.
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) granted initial approval to add-on concepts such as 'Pay-as-you-drive', 'Pay-how-you-drive', and single floater policy for a retail policyholder's multiple two-wheelers or cars.
- Digit's new add-on offers discounts to its customers driving less than 10,000 kilometers per year on average.
- The company will use odometer reading, telematics data, and annual kilometers to offer this discount, which can go up to 25 percent.

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- It is especially beneficial to people who do not drive their car regularly but still pay the same premium as a driver with heavy usage.

About Go Digit General Insurance :

- Founded: 2016
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: Kamesh Goyal

DBS named 'World's Best SME Bank' by Euromoney for the second time

- DBS has been recognized as the 'World's Best SME Bank' by the UK-based financial publication **Euromoney** for the **second time** since 2018.
- It entrenches the bank's position as a global industry leader in partnering with **Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs)** to grow and expand their businesses across borders and digitally.
- The DBS bank also won **three first-time awards** at Euromoney's Awards for
 1. World's Best 'Financial Innovation of the year' 2022
 2. 'Asia's Best Bank for Wealth Management 2022'
 3. 'Asia's Best Bank for SME award 2022'.

Other Awards :

- The World's Best Bank for 2022: Bank of America
- The World's best investment bank 2022: Goldman Sachs
- The World's Best 'Financial Innovation of the year' to **DBS' Fixed Income Execution (FIX) Marketplace, Asia's first automated digital bond issuance platform** where issuers can directly connect with investors on the platform at their sole discretion.
- DBS has developed algorithmic models powered by artificial intelligence and advanced data analytics that alert the bank to potential signs of trouble faced by SMEs.

About FIX Marketplace :

- FIX Marketplace Launched in **2021**.

Aim :

- To propel efforts to create a more efficient and accessible capital market through digitalization, thereby creating more inclusive and accessible markets for issuers.

About DBS Bank :

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- Founded: 16 July 1968
- Headquarters: Singapore
- Chairman: Peter Seah
- CEO: Piyush Gupta
- The bank was previously known as **The Development Bank of Singapore Limited**

About Euromoney :

- Euromoney is an **English-language monthly magazine** focused on business and finance.
- First published in 1969 by **Sir Patrick Sergeant**.
- Headquarters: London, UK

Federal Bank associates with the Central Board of Direct Taxes to launch the new online tax payment service

- The **Federal Bank** partners with the **Central Board of direct taxes** to launch the **new online tax payment service**.
- With this partnership, Federal Bank became one of the pioneers to be registered under the **Tin 2.0 platform** of the **Income Tax Department**.
- The new online tax payment service will provide support to taxpayers in making their payments via the e-pay tax facility in the e-filing portal of the income tax.
- Anyone can now pay their taxes instantly via any of their payment modes such as **Debit/Credit Card, UPI, Net banking, cash, NEFT/RTGS**, etc.
- NRIs and Domestic Customers of the bank, as well as any tax-paying citizen in India, can generate a tax challan and make the payment through the Bank's branches.
- There is **no requirement for PAN/TAN registration/verification** for taxpayers and it takes away any delay in payment of tax.

About Federal Bank :

- Founded: 23 April 1931
- Headquarters: Aluva, Kochi, Kerala, India
- MD & CEO: Shyam Srinivasan

Cognizant bags multi-year contract from National Insurance Company:

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- Nasdaq-listed IT services firm **Cognizant** has been selected as a strategic technology provider by **National Insurance Company Limited (NICL)** to accelerate and help manage its digital transformation.
- NICL awarded the multi-year mandate to Cognizant to elevate its technology roadmap, help manage its centralized **web-based core insurance solution** consisting of multiple applications, underlying technology infrastructure, and security, and provide consulting services, among others.
- The IT services company will also support NICL's technology roadmap by leveraging digital technologies such as **artificial intelligence, machine learning, automation, and microservices-based architecture**.
- Cognizant's plan is designed to help NICL improve customer experience, including applications, claims processing, and underwriting, while continuing to improve ease of doing business, provide greater operational agility and efficiency, application security, financial and regulatory compliance and drive business growth.

Tata Power earmarks Rs 75,000-crore Capex for renewables in next 5 years:

- **Tata Power** has earmarked a **capital expenditure of more than Rs 75,000 crore** over the next five years, of which **Rs 10,000 crore** would be invested in this financial year.
- The company is planning to increase its **green energy share to 60%** over the next five years.
- **707 MW** capacity across renewables in FY22, has a **Rs 13,000-crore** order book in its solar engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) business.
- It would invest **Rs 14,000 crore** across segments in this fiscal.

Key Points:

- Tata Power is looking to scale its generation capacity to over 30 GW by FY27 from the current 13.5 GW with an increased clean energy portfolio from current levels of **34% to 60% by 2027 and 80% by 2030**.
- In **Transmission & Distribution (T&D) business**, the company will further optimize the **Odisha discom operations**, stabilize the new acquisition in the transmission business and deliver phenomenal customer service, enabled by digitalization

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- The firm is also setting up a **4 GW solar cell** and module manufacturing capacity in **Tamil Nadu** with an investment of **Rs 3,000 crore**.
- In addition, Tata Power is focused on growing consumer-centric and new-age energy solutions such as rooftop solar, electric vehicle chargers, solar pumps, smart metering, and energy management solutions among others.
- In FY22, Tata Power's generation **revenue rose by 28%** and the return on **capital employed rose 7.8% from 7.2% a year ago**.
- The company also declared a dividend of **Rs 1.75 per share** in FY22.
- The higher commercial and industrial activities boosted the power demand by about **8%** in FY22, with peak power demand breaching the **200 GW** mark for the first time, in July 2021
- They have set on the path to three key goals of becoming **carbon net-zero by 2045, 100% water neutral by 2030, and zero waste to the landfill before 2030**.

Govt. declares zero coupons and zero principal instruments as securities

- The **Central Government** has declared “**zero coupons zero principal instruments**” as securities for the **Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956**.

About Zero coupons zero principal instruments:

- Zero coupons zero principal instrument means an instrument issued by a **Not for Profit Organisation (NPO)** which will be registered with the social stock exchange segment of a recognized stock exchange.
- These instruments will be governed by rules made by the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.

About SSE:

- The Social Stock Exchange (SSE) is a novel concept in India and such a course is meant to serve private and non-profit sector providers by channeling greater capital to them.
- The idea was floated by **Finance Minister Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman** in her Budget Speech 2019-20.
- SSE will be a separate segment of the existing stock exchanges.
- In **September 2021**, Sebi's board cleared a framework for SSE for fund raising by social enterprises.

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- Social enterprises eligible to participate in the SSE should be entities NPOs and for-profit social enterprises having social intent and impact as their primary goal.
- The social enterprises will have to engage in a social activity out of the list of **15 broad activities** approved by SEBI.
- About fund raising, it has been proposed that eligible NPOs may raise funds through equity, zero coupons zero principal bonds, mutual funds, social impact funds, and development impact bonds.

Morgan Stanley lowers India's FY23 GDP forecast to 7.2%

- American brokerage Morgan Stanley has lowered India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to **7.2% in the 2022-23 financial year (FY23)**, 40 basis points (bps) lower than their previous estimates of **7.6%**.
- It has also cut the real GDP forecast for FY 2023-24 (FY24) by **30 bps from 6.7% to 6.4%**.
- However, Morgan expects the policy repo rate to stabilize at **6.5% by April 2023**, 160 bps higher.
- The ongoing moderation in commodity prices is improving the near-term trajectory for macro stability and also cut its FY23 average inflation target to **6.5 percent against 7 percent earlier**.
- Retail inflation fell marginally to **7.01 percent in June 2022** primarily due to a slight easing in the prices of vegetables and pulses.
- The inflation stood at 7.04 percent in the preceding month of May 2022 and 6.26 percent in June 2021.
- Global growth, Morgan Stanley stated, is expected to slow to **1.5% YoY** in the quarter ending December 2022 from **4.7%** in the quarter ended December 2021.

Three main reasons :

1. Slower trade growth
2. Tighter financial conditions
3. Changes in commodity prices.

About Morgan Stanley :

- Founded: 1935
- Headquarters: New York, U.S.
- Chairman & CEO: James P. Gorman

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Government extends levy of GST Compensation Cess till March 2026

- The **Union Finance Ministry** announced that the **Good and Services Tax (GST) Compensation levy** to states has been extended by **nearly four years** from **July 1, 2022, to March 31, 2026**.
- It recalled the **GST (Period of Levy and Collection of Cess) Rules, 2022**.
- The compensation cess is applicable on specific goods, including tobacco, cigarettes, hookah, aerated water, high-end motorcycles, aircraft, yachts, and motor cars.
- The cess is levied on notified luxury goods falling in the **28 percent GST slab**.
- The compensation cess levied on luxury and demerit goods, will continue to be collected till **March 2026** to repay the borrowings that were done in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to compensate states for GST revenue loss.
- To meet the resource gap of states due to short release of compensation, the Center has borrowed and released **Rs 1.1 lakh crore in 2020-21** and **Rs 1.59 lakh crore in 2021-22** as back-to-back loans to meet a part of the shortfall in cess collection.
- The Centre has repaid **Rs 7,500 crore** as interest cost for the borrowing in 2021-22 and **Rs 14,000 crore** is to be paid this fiscal year.

JSW Steel and BCG collaborate to quicken the decarbonization process:

- **JSW Steel and the Boston Consulting Group (BCG)** have collaborated on a **decarbonization and sustainability plan**.
- BCG will leverage its exclusive **CO2 AI platform** as well as its top-tier digital and analytics capabilities to support **JSW Steel** on its journey to being a **net-zero carbon emitter**.
- BCG will also prioritize staff training and enhancing the sustainable culture across all of our manufacturing locations during this period.
- This revolutionary project will need them to ramp up their sustainability efforts.

Key Points:

- To successfully manage change and have an impact, BCG will make use of JSW's proprietary and unique CO2 AI technology.
- Their second strategic alliance with JSW Steel resulted from the productive Digital Transformation cooperation.

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- They are happy to support JSW Steel's sustainability objective with their best abilities and cutting-edge solutions.
- The strategy comprises a full exercise in target-setting at the level of overall production, devolving them into shop-level objectives, and transforming emissions targets into manageable tasks on operating metrics.
- A team of sustainability supporters will oversee the deployment throughout all production operations.
- To introduce new technologies and projects, including the use of hydrogen and carbon capture and storage, among others, a roadmap will be made for all medium- to long-term operations.
- There will also be a thorough analysis of all available technological options to capacities and investments that must be made now and in the future to progress toward sustainability goals.

Successful testing of India's first 5G private network announced by Bharti Airtel:

- At the **Bosch Automotive Electronics** facility in Bengaluru, **Bharti Airtel** successfully tested the **country's first 5G private network**.
- The trial takes place in the middle of a dispute between **telecom and IT companies** over the distribution of **airwaves for private networks**, ahead of a 5G spectrum auction.
- Airtel developed two industrial-grade use cases at Bosch's facilities for operational effectiveness and quality improvement using the government-allocated trial spectrum.

Key Points:

- The firm stated in a statement that automated processes were driven by **5G technology**, including **mobile broadband and ultra-reliable low-latency communications**, which provided faster scale-up and fewer downtimes.
- A private network was built up as a test, and it is capable of supporting hundreds of connected devices and offering a throughput of several GBPS.
- Ajay Chitkara, director and CEO of Airtel Business, asserts that Airtel is dedicated to aiding India's digital transformation and the expansion of its business as it strives to become a major worldwide player.

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- The Airtel Private 5G network's low latency and stable connectivity, which were observed at our facility during the proof of concept, have reportedly allowed them to boost output and efficiency, according to Subhash P, head of technical activities at Bosch Automotive Electronics India.
- The quantity of wired IT infrastructure will be significantly reduced and operational efficiency will increase with the adoption of 5G.

Facebook-owner Meta released the first annual human rights report:

- After years of criticism that it ignored online atrocities that stoked bloodshed in the real world in nations like India and Myanmar, Facebook owner Meta published its first annual human rights report.
- A description of the contentious human rights impact assessment of India that law firm **Foley Hoag** was hired by Meta to do is included in the report, which covers due diligence completed in 2020 and 2021.
- **Amnesty International** and **Human Rights Watch**, two human rights organizations, have sought the full publication of the India report and have accused Meta of holding it up in a joint letter written in January.
- The law firm's findings on the possibility of "**salient human rights risks**" associated with Meta's platforms, including "**advocacy of hatred that incites hostility, discrimination, or violence,**" were noted in the summary provided by Meta.

About Facebook

- Founded: February 2004
- CEO: Mark Zuckerberg
- Headquarters: California, United States.

RBI panel proposes a 4-tier regulatory framework for UCBs

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recommended a **four-tier regulatory framework** for **urban cooperative banks (UCBs)** based on the size of deposits and their area of operations.

Aim :

- To strengthen the financial soundness of the existing urban cooperative banks (UCBs).
- The differentiated regulatory approach was mainly recommended for key parameters such as net worth, **capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR)**, branch expansion, and exposure limits.

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About 4-tier regulatory framework :

Tier - 1

- All unit UCBs and salary earners' UCBs, irrespective of deposit size, and all other UCBs with deposits of up to ₹100 crores.

Tier - II

- Urban cooperative banks with deposits of more than ₹100 crores and up to ₹1,000 crores.

Tier - III

- Urban cooperative banks with deposits of over ₹1,000 crores and up to ₹10,000 crore

Tier -IV

- UCBs with deposits of over ₹10,000 crores.
- Specifically, the regulator has stipulated a minimum net worth of ₹2 crores for tier-I UCBs operating in a single district and ₹5 crores for all other UCBs of all tiers.

Key Highlights :

- RBI retained the **minimum capital adequacy ratio requirement** for tier one banks at the present level of **9%**.
- For urban cooperative banks of all other tiers, while retaining the current capital adequacy framework, RBI has decided to revise the minimum capital adequacy ratio to **12%** to strengthen their capital structure.
- Most UCBs, **1,274** of the total **1,534**, have a capital adequacy ratio of over **12%** as on **31 March 2021**.
- UCBs that do not meet the revised CRAR will be provided with a glide path of three years. These banks will have to achieve a CRAR of 10 percent by FY24, 11 percent by FY25, and 12 percent by FY26.

Standard Chartered Bank & EaseMyTrip launch a co-branded credit card

- Standard Chartered Bank launched a co-branded credit card EaseMyTrip Standard Chartered Credit Card with the online travel tech platform EaseMyTrip.

Features of the EaseMyTrip Standard Chartered credit card:

- Flat **20%** instant discount on Domestic & International hotel bookings with EaseMyTrip of up to INR 5,000 and INR 10,000 respectively with no minimum booking amount

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- **Flat 10% instant discount** on **Domestic & International flight bookings** with EaseMyTrip of up to **INR 1000** and **INR 5000** respectively with no minimum booking amount
- Flat **INR 125** off on Domestic bus bookings on EaseMyTrip with **INR 500** as the minimum booking amount
- **10 reward points** for every **INR 100** spent on select merchant categories (Standalone Hotel and Airline websites/apps and outlets) outside EaseMyTrip
- Reward points earned can be redeemed on the rewards catalog of Standard Chartered Bank, across multiple brands including EaseMyTrip.
- The cardmembers will have access to instant discount benefits on flights and hotels throughout the year on the EaseMyTrip website/mobile application.
- Also, the cardmembers will get one **domestic lounge** access per calendar quarter and two international lounge accesses per year.
- The cardmembers can also enjoy periodic promotional offers and discounts on the EaseMyTrip website/ mobile application.

About Standard Chartered Bank :

- Headquarters: London, England, United Kingdom
- Group Chief Executive: Bill Winters
- Group Chairman : José Viñals

About EaseMyTrip :

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- EaseMyTrip is the **second largest online travel tech platform** in India

Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance partners with DBS Bank India to offer life insurance solutions

- **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance**, one of India's leading private life insurers, and **DBS Bank India**, the wholly owned subsidiary of DBS Bank Ltd., Singapore, have announced a strategic partnership to offer a **wide array of life insurance solutions** to the DBS bank's customers.

Signatories :

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- Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance **Mr. Tarun Chugh** and MD and Head, Consumer Banking Group, DBS Bank India **Mr. Prashant Joshi**, signed the agreement in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Aim :

- To empower the customers to Live More and Bank Less by investing in life insurance products.
- Under the partnership, new and existing customers across the **550+ branches** of DBS Bank can now choose from Bajaj Allianz Life's retail products including term, savings, retirement, and investment products.

About Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance :

- Founded: 2001
- Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra
- CEO: Tarun Chugh
- It is a partnership between **Bajaj Finserv Limited**, one of India's most diversified non-banking financial institutions, and **Allianz SE**, one of the world's leading asset managers and insurers.

About DBS Bank India :

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Surojit Shome

RBI restricts three cooperative banks from conducting banking activity due to poor liquidity position

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced severe **restrictions** on **three cooperative banks** from conducting banking activity due to poor liquidity positions.

Names of 3 cooperative banks :

- Nashik Zilla Girma Sahakari Bank Limited, Nashik, Maharashtra
 - Raigad Sahakari Bank, Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - Sri Mallikarjuna Pattana Sahakari Bank, Maski, Karnataka
- These directions will remain in force for **six months** and are subject to review.

Key Highlights :

- According to the RBI notification, all these 3 banks will **not be able** to grant or renew any loans and advances, make any investment, borrow funds or accept fresh deposits, disburse any

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payment, enter into any compromise or arrangement and sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any of its properties or assets except as notified in the RBI.

- The depositors of Nashik Zilla Girna Sahakari Bank and Sri Mallikarjuna Pattana Sahakari Bank will not be allowed to withdraw any money from their savings, current, or any other account.
- While **99.87%** of all the depositors of Nashik Zilla Girna Sahakari Bank are fully covered by the DICGC insurance scheme, close to **99.5 %** of depositors of Sri Mallikarjuna Pattana Sahakari Bank are covered by the scheme.
- However, RBI has allowed the depositors of Raigad Sahakari Bank to withdraw a **sum not exceeding 15,000** out of the total balance across all savings or current accounts or any other account.

About RBI:

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

L&T Tech: First company to directly obtain and implement 5G spectrum:

- **L&T Technology Services** is the first IT firm to officially express interest in the government's direct allocation of **spectrum for exclusive 5G networks**.
- The company will purchase spectrum to put up a **5G private network** and create use cases for the technology, according to **CEO Amit Chadha**.
- Additionally, the parent business of the engineering and research and development services firm, **Larsen & Toubro**, will **deploy 5G technologies internationally**.
- The **Department of Telecommunications** will conduct demand analyses by the rules for private 5G networks, and then request recommendations from the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India** before allocating spectrum.
- When assigning spectrum to firms for connecting their facilities, the agency would simply charge a minor processing cost of **Rs 50,000**; **no entrance or license fees** will be charged.

Key Points:

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- To build private 5G networks, India has released legislation that let companies outside the telecom sector buy spectrum directly from the telecom department.
- The business has teamed with network software developer Mavenir to deliver 5G automation services and speedy integration of open radio access network technologies that they will launch together.
- The company praised the government's decision to allow 5G usage by private companies but urged that the regulations be altered to allow the implementation of the same 5G network in more than one area.
- Additionally, it is desired that the barriers to offering application-as-a-service or lab-as-a-service choices for the 5G spectrum that businesses obtain online be removed.

Instagram's new payments feature lets users buy products via direct messages:

- **Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Meta**, disclosed that the business would provide a new "payments in conversation" function on **Instagram**.
- With this new function, consumers can make purchases from local companies and follow orders via **Instagram direct messaging**.
- One billion individuals message companies on **Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp** each week, **claims Meta**.
- Users may start by sending a direct message to a qualifying small company they're interested in purchasing from to use the new functionality.
- They may then pay, track their order, and ask the company any more questions in the same chat thread.

Key Points:

- The payments in messages tool would reportedly be accessible to eligible business accounts on Instagram.
- Additionally, the platform allows for in-app communication between buyers and sellers.
- Users will be prompted to enter and confirm their shipping address and payment details.
- According to the startup, users will be able to make purchases using Meta Pay.
- In 2019, Meta first introduced the function called Facebook Pay.

About Instagram

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- Launched: 6 October 2010
- Founder Kevin Systrom.

India Attracts USD 343.64 Million FDI Equity Inflow In R&D Sector in 2021:

- India attracted USD 343.64 million FDI equity inflow in the R&D sector during C.Y. 2021 (Calendar Year) which is 516% higher as compared to previous C.Y. 2020 (USD 55.77 million).
- FDI is permitted under a 100% automatic route in the R&D sector subject to applicable laws/regulations, security, and other conditionalities.
- Karnataka is the top FDI Equity recipient state in R&D during C.Y. 2021 followed by Telangana and Haryana.
- Singapore is the top investing country in R&D during C.Y. 2021 with a 40% share of total FDI Equity in R&D followed by Germany (35%) and the U.S.A (11%).

RBI renews its statement of commitment to the FX Global Code

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed its renewed Statement of Commitment (SoC) to the Foreign Exchange (FX) Global Code.
- Currently, the Code is being implemented globally by the Global FX Committee (GFXC) in coordination with the Local FX Committee (LFXC) in each jurisdiction.
- RBI is a member of GFXC.

About FX Global Code :

- The Code is a compilation of best market practices, formulated by Central Banks and market participants, and developed under the auspices of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), Basel, Switzerland.
- It was initially launched on May 25, 2017, was subsequently reviewed holistically and the updated Code was published by the Global FX Committee on July 15, 2021.
- The Code applies to the Wholesale FX market participants covering sell-side, buy-side, and financial intermediaries, and is voluntary.
- It does not impose any legal or regulatory obligation and is intended to be a supplement to the local laws, rules, and regulations.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- RBI, along with four major Central Banks, Bank of Korea (BOK), Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), and Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) welcomed the publication of the Code through joint media release dated May 25, 2017, and RBI welcome the publication of the FX Global Code.

Additional Info :

- **RBI continues** to support the **principles of good practices** within the Code.
- RBI had also facilitated the formation of the **India Foreign Exchange Committee (IFXC)** to promote the adoption and adherence of the Code among FX market participants in India.

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

European Investment Bank joins India-led Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

- The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** has joined the **India-led Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** to limit the **destruction** caused by **climate change**.

Key Highlights :

- EIB will work in partnership with national governments, UN agencies, multilateral development banks, and the private sector to promote the rapid development of infrastructure resilient to climate change and natural disasters in countries at all stages of development.
- EIB has been investing in sustainable infrastructure in India and the region for over **25 years**.
- The EIB will offer advisory and financial support to CDRI members and ensure they can benefit from all relevant EU initiatives.
- Developing countries currently require annual investments in climate adaptation in the range of **EUR60 billion** by 2030 these countries will need between **EUR120-250 billion per year**.
- Multilateral development banks like the EIB will have a crucial role in mobilizing private and public finance for climate adaptation projects.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- In 2019, these institutions committed to doubling their collective total level of adaptation finance to **EUR15 billion** annually by 2025.
- In 2020, their adaptation finance totaled **EUR13.6 billion**, up from **EUR11.9 billion** in 2019 and **EUR10.9 billion** in 2018.
- Since the beginning of its **operations in India** in 1993, the EIB has supported **17 projects** in transport, energy, agriculture, fisheries, and forestry as well as India's small and medium enterprises and invested **EUR4.2 billion**.

About European Investment Bank :

- Founded: 1958
- Headquarters: Kirchberg, Luxembourg, Europe
- President : Werner Hoyer
- Vice President: Andrew McDowell
- EIB is the **European Union's investment bank** and is owned by the EU Member States.
- It is one of the largest supranational lenders in the world.

About CDRI :

- Established: September 23, 2019
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Indian Co-chair of CDRI's Executive Committee: Kamal Kishore
- It was launched by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit.

Purpose :

- To Promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development.
- It helps countries to meet the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and expand universal access to basic services.

World Bank to fund 200 Million USD for Himachal Pradesh Power Sector Reforms

- The **Government of India (GoI)** will provide a financing facility worth about **Rs. 1600 Crore (USD 200 million)** through the **World Bank** for the "Himachal Pradesh Power Sector Development Program.

Aim :

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- To undertake holistic power sector reforms in a manner to allow for improvements in the renewable energy integration in HP.
- With the State equity, the total program cost will be approximately **Rs. 2000 Crore**.
- World Bank funding under this Program is expected to be available by **early 2023**.
- The Program duration will be of **five years**, starting from the year **2023 to 2028**.

Key Highlights :

- Both the World Bank and the Department of MPP & Power, GoHP are working expeditiously towards the finalization of the Program preparation.
- The key result areas through which this is being targeted are improvements in utilization of the HP's power sector resources (such as **Hydro & Solar**), improvements in the reliability of the state's grid at the transmission and distribution level, and strengthening of the institutional capacities of the various State's power utilities/agencies.
- Through this program, efforts will be made towards the promotion of integrated resource planning to allow for comprehensive planning of the power sector, piloting demand response management, improving the technical utilization of the existing hydropower assets to facilitate increased integration with other sources of renewable energy, and the establishing of a single trading desk.
- These interventions will allow the state to **maximize the revenue** earned from the sale of energy through renewable balancing capacity.

About World Bank :

- Established: December 1945
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- President : David Malpass
- Membership: 189 member countries
- The World Bank is the collective name for the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** and **International Development Association (IDA)**, two of five international organizations owned by the World Bank Group.

New Development Bank (NDB) grants USD 875 million for water, sanitation, ecotourism, and transport departments in Brazil, China, and India

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- The **New Development Bank (NDB)** has approved **5 new projects** totaling **USD 875 million** for **water, sanitation, ecotourism, and transport**.
- The Investments will support commitments by **Brazil, China, and India** toward the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Key Highlights :

In Brazil :

- NDB will channel **USD 300 million** that will contribute to connecting **592 thousand households** to water supply and **727 thousand** to sewage collection networks in the state of **Sao Paulo, Brazil**.
- It promotes environmental protection by augmenting wastewater treatment capacity, among other development outputs.
- The project will be implemented by the **Water and Sanitation Company (SABESP)**.

In India :

- NDB approved **USD 79 million** for the **Meghalaya Ecotourism Infrastructure Development Project**.
- Investments will foster much-needed infrastructure in Meghalaya that will lead to the establishment of **5 ecotourism circuits**.
- The project includes the construction of **114km** of roads and bridges.
- NDB will also direct **USD 70 million** to the **Lamphelpat Waterbody Rejuvenation Project** which will contribute to the development of the waterbody, green spaces, and tourism facilities.
- A technology-driven real-time flood management system with early warning capacity will also be set up and thus improve efficiency in flood prevention, as well as timely delivery of relief and recovery efforts to the flood-affected region.

In China :

- NDB approved **EUR 265 million** for the expansion of the **Lanzhou Zhongchuan International Airport** and **RMB 805 million** for the expansion of the **Xi'an Xianyang International Airport**.
- The **two projects** combined will contribute to the construction of **5 new runways** with an associated taxiway system, 2 new terminal buildings, an apron with 187 aircraft stands, cargo facilities, and supporting infrastructure, with considerations of energy conservation, and low carbon emission, and optimization of resource consumption.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- The design capacity for the annual passenger throughput of Lanzhou Zhongchuan International Airport will increase by over **4 times to 38 million** and that of Xi'an Xianyang International Airport by about three times to **83 million**.
- With these 5 new projects, NDB's cumulative approvals have now reached **nearly USD 32 billion**, contributing to the infrastructure and sustainable development areas.

About NDB :

- Founded: July 2015
- Headquarters: Shanghai, China
- President : Marcos Prado Troyjo
- 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)**.

About Brazil :

- President : Jair Bolsonaro
- Capital : Brasília
- Currency : Real

About China :

- President: Xi Jinping
- Capital: Beijing
- Currency: Renminbi

IndusInd Bank partners with EazyDiner to launch India's 1st co-branded dining credit card - EazyDiner

IndusInd Bank Credit Card

- Private lender IndusInd Bank has partnered with India's leading table reservation, food discovery, and restaurant payment platform EazyDiner to launch a co-branded credit card - **EazyDiner IndusInd Bank Credit Card**.

Aim :

- To redefine the dining experience for our customers, who have a penchant for exploring a variety of restaurants.

Key benefits of the EazyDiner IndusInd Bank Credit Card

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- Complimentary **1-Year EazyDiner Prime membership** that offers a guaranteed discount of up to **25%** at over 2000 premium restaurants, and **2000 reward points** as a welcome bonus.
- An additional instant **25% discount** of up to **Rs 1000**, over and above the restaurant discount, every time the bill is paid on the EazyDiner app.
- Earn **10 Reward Points** on every **Rs 100 spent on Dining, Entertainment, and Shopping**.
- Instant Reward Points redemption for settling the bill on PayEazy.
- A complimentary premium alcoholic beverage for every diner on the table at over **200 select restaurants**.
- A complimentary stay **voucher worth Rs 5000** at the award-winning, luxury hospitality brand “**The Postcard Hotel**” across India, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan.
- **3X EazyPoints** which can be redeemed against hotel stays, meals, exclusive restaurant openings, and events across the country.
- Two complimentary domestic lounge visits per quarter at airports across India

About IndusInd Bank :

- Founded: April 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Sumant Kathpalia

About EazyDiner :

- Founded: 2014
- Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana
- Founder: Kapil Chopra

IndusInd Bank approves raising Rs 20,000 crore

- The **Board of Directors of IndusInd Bank** has approved a proposal to raise **Rs 20,000 crore** in debt on a private placement basis to fund its business growth.
- As of **March 31, 2022**, the capital adequacy ratio of the bank stood at **18.42%** with tier-I capital being at **16.80%** and tier-II capital at **1.62%** as a percentage of its risk-weighted assets.
- The Indusland Bank Board also approved the re-appointment of **Ms. Akila Krishnakumar** as ‘**Non-Executive Independent Director** on the Board of the Bank will be from August 10, 2022, up to August 9, 2026.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

About Ms. Akila Krishnakumar :

- Ms. Akila Krishnakumar is a **Member of the IT Strategy Committee and Review Committee (for Non-Cooperative Borrowers and Wilful Defaulters)** of the Board of Directors of the Bank.
- Currently, Krishnakumar is the **Chairperson** of the Compensation and Nomination & Remuneration Committee, Customer Service Committee, Vigilance Committee, and Corporate Social Responsibility & Sustainability Committee of the Board of Directors of the Bank.
- The bank also approved the appointment of MSKA & Associates and MP Chitale & Co as joint statutory auditors for two years.

SBI gets Board's Approval, to Raise to Rs 11,000 Crore in Basel III bonds in FY23

- India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has received board approval to raise Rs 11,000 crore through **Basel III-compliant bonds**.
- Of the total earmarked fund-raise, the approval is for **additional tier-1 (AT-1) capital** up to Rs 7,000 crore, subject to the central government's concurrence.
- The remaining Rs 4,000 crore will be in the form of tier-2 capital.
- The central board of SBI approved raising capital by way of issuance of Basel III-compliant debt instruments in dollar/rupee and/or any other convertible currency, during FY23.
- At the end of March 2022, SBI's total capital adequacy ratio stood at **13.83%**, with tier 2 at **2.41%** and AT-1 at **1.48%**.
- While **Punjab National Bank** raised ₹2,000 crores through AT-1 bonds at an **8.75% interest rate**.
- In May 2022, SBI's board had cleared a proposal to raise **\$2 billion** through debt securities in the international market in FY23.

About AT-1 :

- AT-1 bonds, also called **perpetual bonds**, carry no maturity date but have a call option at the end of 5 years.
- These are issued by banks to augment their core equity base and thus comply with Basel III norms.

About SBI:

- Founded: 1 July 1955
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara

Asian Development Bank cuts India's GDP forecast for FY23 to 7.2%

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its 'Outlook 2022 Supplement' has cut India's GDP growth forecast to 7.2% for the financial year 2022-23 (FY23) from 7.5% projected in April 2022 because of higher-than-expected inflation and monetary tightening.
- It also lowered the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth estimate for 2023-24 to 7.8% from the 8% estimated earlier.
- However, India will continue to surpass China which is expected to grow by 4 percent in 2022 as against the earlier estimate of 5 percent.
- In 2023, China is expected to grow by 4.8 percent.
- On India's inflationary outlook, ADB stated that for FY2022 it is revised up from 5.8 percent to 6.7 percent on higher-than-expected oil prices.
- The inflation projection for FY2023 is raised from 5 percent to 5.8 percent.
- ADB added that private investment would soften due to the higher cost of borrowing for firms as the RBI continues to raise policy rates to contain inflation.
- The RBI's monetary policy committee hiked the repo rate by 90 basis points in two consecutive months, May (an off-cycle policy review) and June, raising the repo rate to 4.9%.
- India's retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), is hovering at more than 7% and is expected to remain elevated in the coming months.
- Also, the net exports would shrink due to subdued global demand and a rising real effective exchange rate eroding export competitiveness despite a depreciating rupee.
- On July 20, 2022, the rupee touched an all-time low of 80.06 against the dollar.
- So far, The domestic currency has depreciated about 7.5% against the greenback in 2022.

About ADB:

- Founded: 19 December 1966
- Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa
- Membership: 68 countries

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance launches add-on motor insurance cover

- Private sector **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited** launched its add-on motor insurance cover called 'Pay As You Consume' (PAYC).
- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance was the first to launch 'Pay As You Consume' under the Insurance Regulatory and Developments Authority of India's (IRDAI's) (Sandbox Regulations).
- This usage-based motor insurance add-on cover is in alignment with IRDAI's recent circular to allow PAYC under annual motor products.

About PAYC :

- Pay-as-you-consume add-on cover can be opted by the customer along with the basic OD (Own Damage) plan under Package Product, Bundled, and Standalone OD cover.
- Customers can choose coverage based on their vehicle usage, further to which the premium will be calculated, i.e. kilometers driven annually.
- Customers can also avail of an additional benefit in premium for their safe driving.
- Customers' driving behavior will be analyzed based on a telematics device installed in the vehicle, driving metrics recorded on their "**BJAZ CARINGLY YOURS**" mobile app (Company's app), or information provided by them through a device, etc.
- Customers need not worry if the opted kilometers during the policy period get exhausted; they can add kilometers to their plan using the top-up plan & if a customer forgets to add kilometers to their top-up plan, the company has offered a unique concept of "**GRACE KM**" gratification.

Additional Info :

- Earlier in July 2022, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) permitted general insurers to issue sophisticated add-ons for a motor insurance policy.
- These are telematics-based motor insurance plans for which the premium depends on the usage of the vehicle or driving behavior.

About Bajaj Allianz General Insurance :

- Founded: 2001
- MD & CEO : CEO: Tapan Singhel
- Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

FICCI lowers India's GDP growth forecast to 7% in FY23

- The latest economic outlook survey conducted by the industry body **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)** has downgraded **India's 2022-23 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast to 7% from 7.4%** estimated in its previous survey round in April 2022.
- The reason for the slower growth projection is the **Ukraine-Russia war** which is likely to keep **inflation high & reduce consumer demand**.
- As per the survey, the median growth forecast for agriculture and allied activities has been put at **3% for FY23**, while industry and services sectors are anticipated to grow by **6.2% and 7.8%** respectively
- The FICCI survey projects the RBI's policy repo rate at **5.65%** by the end of the fiscal year 2022-23, with a minimum and maximum range of 5.50% and 6.25%, respectively.

About FICCI:

- Founded: 1927
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- President: Mr. Sanjiv Mehta
- Director General: Arun Chawla

World Bank approves \$1 billion loan for PM Ayushman Bharat health infrastructure mission

- The **World Bank** has approved a loan of **USD 1 billion** to provide support to **India's flagship PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)**.
- The loan comprises **two complementary loans of USD 500 million** each namely for **“Transforming India's Public Health Systems for Pandemic Preparedness Program (PHSPP)”** and **“India's Enhanced Health Service Delivery Program (EHSDP)”**.

About PM-ABHIM:

- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** launched the **PM-ABHIM** in **October 2021** from **Varanasi** in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- It is one of the largest pan-India schemes for strengthening healthcare infrastructure across the country and is in addition to the **National Health Protection Mission (Ayushman Bharat Yojana)**.
- Total outlay of the scheme: **Rs. 64,180 crore** for **5 years**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

Aim :

- To address gaps in public health infrastructure, with a focus on critical care facilities and primary care in both urban and rural areas
- Under the scheme, **17,788 rural health and wellness centers** in **10 high-focus states** will get the support of the scheme.

About PHSP :

- The PHSP aims to **increase the resilience and preparedness of India's health system** for a pandemic and to support activities including strengthening existing health units at points of entry and establishing new health units at PoEs.
- It also aimed for setting up BSL-3 labs, Regional Research Platforms, and zonal institutes for the National Institutes of Virology, establishment of Health Emergency Operation Centre and metropolitan health surveillance units, and strengthen surveillance systems among others.

About EHSDP :

- The EHSDP aims to **support comprehensive primary health care service delivery** in some prioritized states.
- It will support such activities including strengthening service delivery through a redesigned comprehensive primary health care model i.e. **Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centers (AB-HWCs)** for improved household access to primary healthcare facilities.
- It will also help in improving comprehensive quality of care by supporting the quality assurance standards certification across **Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs)**, strengthening the health workforce, and **Block level public health units (BPHUs)**.

About World Bank :

- Established: December 1945
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C, United States of America
- President: David Robert Malpass
- Membership: 189 countries (IBRD), 174 countries (IDA)
- The World Bank is the collective name for the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** and **International Development Association (IDA)**, two of five international organizations owned by the World Bank Group.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

RBI report - India moves to a leadership position in the large-value digital payment system

- According to the report titled **Benchmarking India's Payment Systems** released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, India has made significant progress and moved to a leadership position in **large-value digital payment systems**.

Objective :

- To provide a comparative position of the payments ecosystem in India relative to other major countries.
- India was categorized as a '**leader**' or '**strong**' in respect of **25** (21 in the previous exercise) out of **40 indicators** and categorized as '**weak**' in respect of **8** (12 in the previous exercise) indicators.
- The benchmarking exercise was first carried out in **2019** for the position in 2017.

About the report :

- India has made significant progress and moved to a leadership position in large value payment systems and fast payment systems, which contributed to rapid growth in digital payments
- The exercise highlights that there is scope for improvement in the acceptance infrastructure of ATMs and PoS terminals.
- The **Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme** was operationalized in 2021 to enhance the acceptance infrastructure and bridge the gap.
- Also, the decline in India's rating in some parameters involving currency in circulation is explained by the increased demand for cash as a store of value during the Covid-19 pandemic-related lockdown and the slowdown in economic growth during 2020
- The report noted that India's domestic card network RuPay dominates the debit card segment as far as card issuance is concerned.
- However, RuPay is lagging in the credit card segment with a below **3 percent** share of total cards issued.
- India has the **third largest number of ATMs** deployed, it continues to fare poorly in people served per ATM due to its sizable population.
- In 2020, the share of card payments in total payment systems transactions was the **second lowest** in India (**14.7 percent**), with only **Indonesia** witnessing a lower share (7.2 percent).

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- The report also stressed that the internationalization of the Indian rupee will facilitate a greater degree of integration of the Indian economy with the rest of the world, in terms of foreign trade and international capital flows.

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

RBI's New guidelines for Non-Bank payment system operators

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued new guidelines for non-bank payment system operators (PSOs) under Section 10 (2) & Section 18 of "The payment and Settlement Systems Act of 2007".

Key Highlights :

- Non-bank payment system operators (PSOs) will require prior approval from the RBI for any takeover or acquisition of control which may or may not result in a change of management.
- They would also require prior approval of the RBI for the sale or transfer of payment activity to an entity not authorized for undertaking such an activity
- The non-bank PSOs shall inform the RBI within **15 calendar days** in the following cases:
 - Change in management or directors
 - Sale or transfer of payment activity to an entity authorized for undertaking similar activity

For acquisition or takeover :

- The transferor non-bank PSO would submit an application to the RBI with information about the proposed directors and complete details about the new shareholders.

In case of sale or transfer of payment activity :

- The seller or transferor non-bank PSO shall apply to the RBI for obtaining prior approval along with the **minimum appropriate details**.
- RBI shall endeavor to respond within **45 calendar days** after receipt of complete details from both entities.

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- The timeline is not applicable in the case of overseas principals in the Money Transfer Service Scheme.
- Further, after obtaining RBI approval, a public notice of at least 15 calendar days shall be given before affecting the changes.

Canara Bank Launches New Mobile Banking App - Canara ai1

- **Canara Bank** has launched its mobile banking app called **Canara ai1**.
- The banking app would be a **one-stop solution** with more than 250 features to cater to the banking needs of its customers.

Aim :

- To eliminate the need to have multiple mobile apps working in silos for availing different specific services.
- After launching the app, Canara Bank MD & CEO L V Prabhakar stated that the lender's core vision is "**e-transactions for everyone, everywhere and every time**" and the bank is leveraging technology to enable the customers to use banking services at their fingertips.

About Canara ai1 :

- The app is available in **11 languages** to cater to multiple sections of society in their preferred language.
- It also caters to various social security schemes such as **PPF accounts, Sukanya Samruddhi Accounts, Senior Citizens Savings accounts, and Kisan Vikas Patra, PMJJBY, PMSBY & APY** along with nominee management.
- The super app enables the customer to use traditional and modern banking and financial services through the digital mode and there are features for all age groups.
- It provides solutions to all banking and lifestyle needs such as comparison and shop, utility bill payments, flight/ hotel/ cab booking, payments, loan repayment, and investment services like a mutual fund, insurance, and Demat services, among other services.

Features of the app :

- Device binding
- Malware detection
- Detection of remote administration tools

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- Dynamic keyboard to provide Safe and secure banking.
- Channels management like block/ unblock internet banking/ UPI/ debit and credit cards with setting transaction limits are also available.

About Canara Bank :

- Founded: 1 July 1906
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- MD & CEO : Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
- Canara Bank is the **third largest nationalized bank in India.**

India's economy is likely to reach \$300 billion by 2030:

- India's economy is expected to grow to \$150 billion and \$300 billion, respectively, by 2025 and 2030.
- The India BioEconomy Report 2022, published by the **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)** is based on data describing the economic impact of the biotech sector.
- The report estimates that the country's bioeconomy would surpass USD 80 billion in 2021, an increase of 14.1% over USD 70.2 billion in 2020.
- It predicted that India's bioeconomy will grow by **USD 80.12 billion in 2021, generating USD 219 million per day.**
- The agriculture industry, which employs about 60% of Indians, has enormous space for development.
- In 2021, BT cotton, biopesticides, biostimulants, and biofertilizers contributed over USD 10.48 billion to the country's bioeconomy.

Key Points:

- The sector invested more than \$1 billion in R&D in 2021, and on average, three new biotech companies are launched every day (for a total of 1,128 biotech startups).
- "A doubling within a year from USD 320 million to USD 1.02 billion," the statement read.
- In 2021, India distributed 1.45 billion doses of the Covid-19 vaccine, or almost 4 million doses every day.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- Additionally, the nation conducted 1.3 million Covid-19 tests per day (a total of 506.7 million tests).
- The country's biotech startup count has expanded from 50 to over 5,300 over the previous 10 years, according to Jitendra Singh, the minister of state for science and technology, who also noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the industry priority.
- He predicted that a large talent pool will lead to a two-fold rise in the number of biotech businesses by the year 2025.
- The amount of ethanol that can be produced will increase to 6.5 billion liters in 2021 from the existing capacity of 3.3 billion liters.
- According to the document, India's continuous expansion would lower its import costs, which would have an impact on currency reserves and the import-export imbalance, helping the country reach its goal of having a **USD 10 trillion global economies by 2030**.

Forex reserves decreased by USD 7.5 billion to USD 572.7 billion:

- According to the most current statistics from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, India's **foreign exchange reserves fell by \$7.5 billion to \$572.7 billion** during the final week of July 15.
- Since November 6, 2020, when they were **\$568 billion**, the reserves have fallen to their lowest point in 20 months.
- According to the report, the major reason for the decline in foreign exchange reserves was a **\$6.5 billion decline in foreign currency assets during the week**.

About Forex Reserve:

- As a result of the central bank's aggressive intervention to lessen the market's high volatility in 2022, **reserves fell by about \$60 billion**.
- The rupee has been under pressure ever since the war in Europe erupted in late February. In 2022, the Indian rupee's value against the dollar had decreased by around 7%.
- Since September 2021, the quantity of foreign exchange reserves has declined by about \$70 billion.

Key Points:

- The current level of foreign exchange reserves is sufficient, according to Shaktikanta Das, governor of the RBI.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- The foreign exchange reserves at **\$580.3 billion on July 8, 2022**, were enough, according to the July RBI report, to fund 9.5 months' worth of estimated imports for the years 2022–2033.

ADB approves \$96 mn loans for a safe drinking water project in Himachal Pradesh

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **USD 96.3 million (Rs 770 crore)** loan to fund safe drinking water and sanitation projects in **Himachal Pradesh**.
- The loan has been provided under the **Himachal Pradesh Rural Drinking Water Improvement and Livelihood Project**.

About the Project :

- The project meets the objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission, a national flagship program of Gol, which aims to provide piped water to all rural households by **2024**.
- The project will upgrade **water supply infrastructure** and **strengthen institutional capacity** to ensure safe, sustainable, and inclusive rural water supply and sanitation services.
- It will improve water supply and sanitation services through, among others, the construction of **48 groundwater wells, 80 surface water intake facilities, 109 water treatment plants, 117 pumping stations, and 3,000 kilometers of water distribution pipelines**.
- Greater than **90 percent** of the state's rural inhabitants have access to ingesting water, however, the water-provided infrastructure is outdated and deteriorated, leading to inefficient and poor service high quality.
- It will connect **75,800 households** to the service, providing an uninterrupted water supply to about **370,000 residents across 10 districts**.
- A pilot fecal sludge management and sanitation program will be implemented in the **Simaur** district, HP benefitting **250,000 residents** and to determine replicability and guide the design of future projects.
- It will strengthen the capacity of the '**Jal Shakti Vibhag**' of the Himachal Pradesh government and gram panchayat (local government) village water and sanitation committees.
- The project stakeholders and community-based organizations will be trained on water management, including livelihood skills training for women's self-help groups.
- The project will also raise public awareness of the health benefits of improved water supply, sanitation, and hygiene practices.

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About ADB:

- Founded: 19 December 1966
- Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa
- Membership: 68 countries

About HP:

- Governor : Rajendra Arlekar
- Chief Minister : Rajendra Arlekar
- Capital: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)
- National Parks: Great Himalayan National Park, Pin Valley National Park
- Wildlife sanctuaries: Daranghati Wildlife Sanctuary, Kalatop Wildlife Sanctuary, Kanwar Wildlife Sanctuary, Khokhan Wildlife Sanctuary

Nomura cuts 2023 India GDP forecast to 4.7% amid recession fears

- **Nomura has lowered the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for India in 2023 to 4.7% from its earlier projection of 5.4% amid recession fears and rising rates of interest.**
- Higher inflation, monetary policy tightening, dormant private capex growth, the power crunch, and the global growth slowdown pose medium-term headwinds are the reason behind lowering the forecast.
- India's economy is racing above its pre-pandemic level, led by a sharp recovery in the services sector, and supported by the lagged effects of easy financial conditions, a public capex push, and a rise in real bank credit growth.
- Nomura expects headline inflation in India to average **6.9 percent in 2022, and 5.9 percent in 2023**
- **India's retail inflation rate, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) came in at 7.01 percent versus 7.04 percent in May 2022.**
- This is the **sixth consecutive month** that the CPI inflation has remained above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) comfort zone of **2-6 percent**.
- The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, however, grew at a faster clip of **19.6 percent** in May 2022 as compared to **6.7 percent** in April 2022.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

City Union Bank Partners with Aditya Birla Health Insurance

- Private sector lender **City Union Bank (CUB)** and standalone health insurer **Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co Ltd (ABHICL)**, the health insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Ltd, have announced a bancassurance partnership for the **distribution of health insurance products** of ABHICL through the former's network of branches across India.
- This is the **3rd health insurance Partnership** for CUB as it has entered into such bancassurance pacts with Star Health and Alliance Insurance as also **Care Health (formerly known as Religare Health Insurance Co)**.
- This is the **14th agreement** by Aditya Birla Health Insurance with CUB for the bancassurance partnership.
- Under the Partnership, ABHICL's suite of health insurance plans will be made available to more than 4.4 million customers of CUB across **727+ branches in 153 districts** of the country.
- Some of ABHICL's innovative health plans that will be accessible for CUB customers include Day 1 cover for asthma, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes; wellness coaching on nutrition and fitness; counseling on mental health; incentivized wellness benefits of up to **100% Health Returns and chronic management program**, among others.

About CUB :

- Founded: 1904
- Headquarters: Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: Dr. N. Kamakodi
- The CUB was originally incorporated under the name **Kumbakonam Bank** as a limited company on 31 October 1904.
- In **1987**, the name of the bank was changed to City Union Bank.

About ABHICL :

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO: Mayank Bathwal

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

JICA extends ODA Loan of JPY 100 billion for Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project

- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has signed a loan agreement with the Government of India (GoI) to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of 100,000 million Japanese Yen (INR 6,000 Crore) as Tranche 3 on the 'Project for the Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR).'
- The loan agreement was signed between Mr. Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and Mr. Watanabe Jun, Senior Representative, JICA India.

Objective :

- To develop a high-frequency mass transportation system by constructing the High-Speed Rail between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, using Japan's Shinkansen technology (also known as the "Bullet Train"), enhancing mobility in India and contributing to regional economic development.
- National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) is the Executing Agency of the Project.
- JICA has been supporting the project for the Mumbai - Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail by providing ODA loans.
- The loan agreement has been signed after the JPY 250,000 million (approximately INR 18,000 crore) package of JICA's commitment in 2017.

About JICA :

- Founded: 1974
- Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan
- President : Akihiko Tanaka

Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance inks strategic partnership with CUB

- Private life insurer Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance has entered into a strategic partnership with City Union Bank (CUB) to offer a wide array of life insurance solutions to the lender's customers across their 727 branches.

About the Partnership :

- Through this partnership, CUB customers will be able to fulfill their long-term financial goals by investing in Bajaj Allianz Life's value-packed products ranging from term, savings, retirement, investment solutions, and more.

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- It will further help Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance to expand its footprint in the **southern states**, and beyond.

About Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance :

- Founded: 2001
- Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO: Tarun Chugh
- Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company is a joint venture between **Bajaj Finserv Limited**, one of the Indian non-banking financial institutions, and **Allianz SE**, the world's leading insurance company headquartered in **Munich, Germany**.

HDFC Securities partners with Equitas SFB to offer Demat, trading services

- **HDFC Bank** subsidiary and stock broking company, **HDFC Securities Ltd**, has partnered with small finance bank **Equitas** to provide **Demat accounts** and broking and investment services to its customers.

About the Partnership :

- With this partnership, Equitas SFB will be able to offer its customers a **3-in-1 account** that helps them access the services of HDFC Securities.
- HDFC Securities will oversee the entire journey for Equitas' customers, from account opening to **regular share transactions**
- All Equitas Small Finance customers would be able to open their demat and trading account for buying & selling shares and trading in futures & options/ commodities and even currencies.
- The tie-up will provide customers of Equitas with additional investment avenues, enabling them with more choices and allocating their savings across asset classes.

About HDFC Securities Ltd :

- Founded: 2000
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Dhiraj Relli
- HDFC Securities is the stock broking arm of India's largest private-sector lender, **HDFC Bank**.
- It offers over 30 investment vehicles, spanning asset classes such as stocks, gold, real estate, and debt instruments.

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- The company offers investment and direct trading services through buying and selling of equities, along with currency derivatives, mutual funds, NCDs, fixed deposits, bonds, and more.

About Equitas SFB:

- Founded: 2016
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO : Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan
- Equitas Small Finance Bank is a subsidiary of the holding company Equitas Holdings Ltd.

Indian Bank bags SHG Linkage award from NABARD

- Indian Bank has bagged the best performing bank award in Tamil Nadu for the FY 2021-22 under the Self Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage Programme category from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- State finance minister **Mr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan** gave away the award, which was received by **Mr. S L Jain**, MD & CEO, and **Mr. V Chandrasekaran**, general manager (Rural Banking) during NABARD's 41st foundation day.

Note:

- On **July 12, 2022**, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) celebrated its **41st Foundation Day**.

About Indian Bank:

- Founded: 15 August 1907
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- MD & CEO: Shanti Lal Jain

About NABARD:

- Established: 12 July 1982
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 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, Gol**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

City Union Bank partners with Royal Sundaram General Insurance for insurance products

- City Union Bank (CUB) and Royal Sundaram General Insurance Co. Limited have partnered to enable the customers of the CUB to have easy access to **comprehensive general insurance products** of Royal Sundaram across its branches.
- Royal Sundaram's general insurance products bouquet include health, motor, personal accident, and travel, as well as home insurances in retail and insurance against fire, marine, industrial and other risks under commercial lines.
- It brings us one step closer to becoming a **one-stop shop (point)** for all the financial needs of our customers.

About Royal Sundaram General Insurance :

- Managing Director: M.S. Sreedhar

Mastercard set to replace Paytm as BCCI title sponsor:

- **Mastercard** is expected to take over as **title sponsor** for **all international and domestic cricket matches** organized by the **Board of Control for Cricket in India**, replacing **Paytm (BCCI)**.
- Paytm controlled the rights **until the end of 2023**.
- Paytm has asked the BCCI to award its India Home Cricket title rights to Mastercard.
- Paytm was said to have missed the July deadline for requesting reassignment. However, due to their 'long standing' connection, BCCI has agreed to accept its delayed request.
- According to the original conditions of the Paytm arrangement, Mastercard will be awarded the **rights till 2023 and would continue to pay INR 3.8 Cr** every match.
- **Paytm**, on the other hand, will be required to pay a re-assignment charge of around **INR 16.3 Cr - 5% of the original deal value (INR 326.8 Cr)**.
- **Paytm and BCCI** initially signed a four-year arrangement for championship sponsorship in **2015** for **INR 203 Cr (i.e., INR 2.4 Cr per match)**.
- The contract was recently renewed in August 2019 for a period of up to March 2023, and Paytm would place a winning offer of **INR 3.80 Cr per match**, a 58 percent increase over the previous arrangement.

About Mastercard

- Founded: 16 December 1966

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- Headquarters: New York, US
- CEO: Michael Miebach
- Executive Chairman: Ajay Banga.

Nokia engages Wipro for digital transformation over five years:

- An announcement on the signing of a new, **five-year contract for digital transformation** with **Nokia of Finland** was made by **Wipro Ltd.**, a firm with its headquarters in Bengaluru.
- The new agreement builds on a relationship that was **established more than 20 years ago**.
- With a focus on process optimization, touchless processing, and enhanced user and customer experience across order management, supply chain, finance, and accounting operations, Wipro will offer business services in support of Nokia's new operating model.
- Even though an official announcement regarding the arrangement was made public, Wipro noted that it had acknowledged the contract in the press release that was issued alongside the **financial results for FY22** without disclosing the customer or providing information about the deal's terms or magnitude.

About Wipro

- Founder: H. Hasham Premji
- CEO: Thierry Delaporte
- Chairman: Azim Premji

About Nokia

- Founder: Fredrik Idestam, Eduard Polon and Leo Mechelin
- Chairman: Sari Baldauf
- Headquarters: Espoo, Finland

ONDC adds 15 more cities, and onboards Snapdeal for pan-Indian access:

- **Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC)** has expanded its pilot to **15 more cities**.
- **Snapdeal** has also signed the onboarding agreement **with the network** and will debut on it next month.
- ONDC expanded to Noida, Faridabad, Lucknow, Bijnor, Bhopal, Chhindwara, Kolkata, Pune, Chennai, Kannur, Thrissur, Udipi, Kanchipuram, Pollachi, Mannar, and Ramanathapuram.

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- The network first began its pilot on April 29 in Delhi, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Bhopal, and Shillong.
- Snapdeal will provide pan-Indian access on ONDC.
- At the time of launch, more than 2,500 cities and towns across the country will be enabled for access.
- More cities and towns will be added to the ONDC network during the year

Key Points:

- The increasing digitization of India's retail is a transformative opportunity that can benefit sellers, buyers, and other stakeholders.
- ONDC's efforts will catalyze this growth in the right direction and help create an inclusive, enabling, and open-access-based digital commerce ecosystem.
- Snapdeal looks forward to a strong partnership with ONDC in this path-breaking endeavor
- The growth of Indian e-commerce is being fuelled by price-conscious consumers from the country's smaller cities and towns.
- According to a **RedSeer report**, the number of online buyers from tier-2 and smaller cities — which account for more than 80 percent of the population — will triple in five years.
- It will go from about 78 million in 2021 to nearly 256 million by 2026.
- So far, the only other major platform on the network is Paytm's buyer side.

ECGC Introduces Scheme to Provide Enhanced Export Credit Risk Insurance cover up to 90% for small exporters

- ECGC has introduced a new scheme to provide enhanced export credit risk insurance cover to the extent of 90% to support small exporters under the Export Credit Insurance for Banks Whole Turnover Packaging Credit and Post Shipment (ECIB- WTPC & PS).
- The scheme is expected to benefit some small-scale exporters availing of export credit with banks that hold the ECGC WT-ECIB covers.
- This will also enable the small exporters to explore new markets/new buyers and diversify their existing product portfolio competitively.

About the Scheme :

Enhanced Cover to Banks

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- The enhanced cover shall be available for the manufacturer- exporters availing fund-based export credit working capital limit up to **₹ 20 crores** (i.e., total Packaging Credit and Post Shipment limit per exporter/exporter-group) excluding the Gems, Jewelry & Diamond sector, and merchant exporters/traders.
- This new scheme will enable the banks holding ECGC's WT-ECIB cover to explore the possibility of reducing interest rates further so that all the stakeholders are benefitted.
- The enhanced cover percentage shall be made available to the **State Bank of India (SBI)** as per the previous year's premium rate because of its favorable claim premium ratio.
- However, for other Banks, there may be a moderate increase in the prevailing premium rates.
- ECGC had extended support to exports amounting to **Rs.6.18 lakh crore** in the last FY 2021-22.
- As of March 2022, **more than 6,700 distinct exporters** benefitted from the direct cover issued to exporters, and more than 9,000 distinct exporters benefitted under the **Export Credit Insurance for Banks (ECIB)** & notably, around **96%** of these are small exporters.

About ECGC :

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman & MD: M. Senthilnathan
- ECGC is a government-owned export credit provider.
- Govt had initially set up **Export Risks Insurance Corporation (ERIC)** in July 1957.
- It was transformed into Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation Limited (ECGC) in 1964 and to Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India in 1983.
- It is under the ownership of the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt.**
- It is managed by an Asset Management Company comprising representatives of the Government, Reserve Bank of India, banking, insurance, and exporting community.
- ECGC Ltd. is the **seventh largest credit insurer** in the world in terms of coverage of national exports.

About Ministry of Commerce and Industry :

- Cabinet Minister: Piyush Goyal
- Minister of State: Anupriya Patel, Som Parkash

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IMF cuts India's economic growth forecast to 7.4% for FY23

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its latest World Economic Outlook report, has lowered its gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for India for the current financial year FY23 by 0.8% or 80 basis points to 7.4 percent from 8.2 percent estimated in April 2022.
- Similarly, the IMF has also lowered India's growth forecast for FY24 to 6.1 percent as against 6.9 percent earlier.
- For India, the revision reflects mainly less favorable external conditions and more rapid policy tightening.
- Russia's invasion of Ukraine disrupted supplies of crucial commodities, pushing up prices globally in Feb 2022.
- The Asian Development Bank lowered its growth forecast for India to 7.2% for 2022-23 from 7.5% estimated earlier, given higher-than-expected inflation and monetary tightening.

About IMF :

- Established: 27 December 1945
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C, United States
- Managing Director: Kristalina Georgieva
- Membership: 190 countries (189 UN countries and Kosovo)

Union Bank of India plans automated solution for resolution of stressed assets

- State-owned Union Bank of India (UBI) is developing an automated solution for the early resolution of stressed assets, Union SARAS (Stressed Asset Recovery Automated Solution).
- It will cover recovery actions under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFAESI), Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT), and Insolvency Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- Under the Union SARAS Stressed Asset Recovery Automated Solution, the software has been created for digitizing and automating the recovery of stressed assets.
- Other recovery actions include the Civil Suit Revenue Recovery Act, Lok Adalat, classification of the non-cooperative borrower, examination of staff accountability, willful defaulter, data, and write-off.

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- The solution will digitize all recovery functional areas, including field-related work, and convert through automated process flow of all recovery actions from initiation to its logical end.
- It will ensure actions for reducing litigation scope and will act as a guide to the branch for the actions to be taken.

About UBI:

- Founded: 11 November 1919
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : A Manimekhalai

India Post Payments Bank Partners with TATA AIG

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has Partnered with Tata AIG General Insurance Company Limited (TATA AIG) for providing TATA Accidental Guard policy to IPPB customers.
- A special drive has commenced on 15th July 2022 in all post offices in Goa for covering the citizens of the state under this policy.

About IPPB :

- Founded: 1 September 2018
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- MD & CEO: J. Venkatramu
- IPPB, is a division of India Post which is under the ownership of the Department of Post, a department under the Ministry of Communications of the Govt.

About TATA AIG :

- Founded: 2001
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- CEO: Neelesh Garg
- Tata AIG General Insurance Company Limited is a joint venture between the Tata Group holding a 74 percent stake in the insurance company and American International Group (AIG) holding the balance of 26 percent.

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Rajasthan signs MoU with Telangana to set up First Women's bank in Rajasthan

- Rajasthan Grameen Aajivika Vikas Parishad (RGAVP) and Stree Nidhi Credit Cooperative Federation of Telangana (Stree Nidhi-Telangana) signed an agreement to set up a first-ever all-women-run cooperative bank called “Rajasthan Mahila Nidhi”.
- The agreement was signed by RGAV Mission Director Manju Rajpal and Stree Nidhi managing director, G Vidhyasagar Reddy in the presence of rural development minister Ramesh Chand Meena at Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj Institute.
- The proposal to set up Rajasthan Mahila Nidhi was announced by Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot in the 2022-23 budget speech.

Note :

- Rajasthan Mahila Nidhi (RMN), is Rajasthan's first & India's third women's financial institution.

About Rajasthan Mahila Nidhi:

- Rajasthan Mahila Nidhi will act as a complementary financial institution with formal banks.
- It will strengthen the women's self-help groups in Rajasthan, by providing timely loan facilities for their enterprises.
- The cluster-level federation of Rajeevika will be its member.
- For the establishment of RMN, a total grant of **Rs 50 crore** will be given by the state government in **2 years, with Rs 25 crore** in the first year.
- A proposal requesting a grant of **Rs 110 crore** from the central government has also been sent.
- For the operation of RMN, Rajeevika will be contributing **Rs 10 lakh per cluster-level union** as share capital from 561 promoted cluster-level federations in a phased manner.
- Through RMN, loans up to **Rs 40,000** will be disbursed in 48 hours, and loans above this amount will be disbursed within **15 days**.

Districts to get benefits through RMN :

- RMN will be started in **15 districts** in the first year of implementation.
- Initially, it will be launched in six districts - Karauli, Alwar, Kota, Dungarpur, Rajsamand, and Jodhpur.

About RGAVP:

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- RGAVP is an autonomous society established by the government of Rajasthan under the administrative control of the **Department of Rural Development**.

About Rajasthan :

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

About Telangana :

- Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan
- Chief minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao
- Capital: Hyderabad

SEBI issues new guidelines for settlement of running account

- Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has issued **new guidelines** on settlement of running accounts of clients' funds lying with stock brokers, which will be effective from **October 1, 2022**.
- The process of transferring back the unused funds of the clients to their accounts by stock brokers is called **running account settlement**.

About the Guidelines :

- Under the new guidelines, SEBI decided that the settlement of running account of funds of the client shall be done by the **trading members** after considering the **End of the day (EOD) obligation of funds** as on the date of settlement across all the Exchanges on the **first Friday** of the Quarter (i.e., Apr-Jun, Jul-Sep, Oct-Dec, Jan-Mar) for all the clients.
- The running account of funds will be settled on the **first Friday of October 2022, January 2023, April 2023, July 2023**, and so on for all the clients.
- If the first Friday is a trading holiday, then such settlement will happen on the previous trading day.
- For clients, who have opted for monthly settlement, running accounts will be settled on the **first Friday of every month**.
- If the first Friday is a trading holiday, then such settlement will happen on the previous trading day.

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- SEBI has asked stock exchanges to continue online monitoring of timely settlement of running accounts for funds of clients and to verify that excess clients' funds are not retained by the TM as on the date of settlement of running accounts.
- Also, stock exchanges are required to place an appropriate reporting requirement by TM to enforce the above system, and communicate the status of the implementation of the provisions in their monthly development report to SEBI.
- Stock exchanges are also asked to make amendments to the relevant **Bye-laws, Rules, and Regulations**, as may be necessary.

About SEBI :

- Established: on 12 April 1988 as an executive body and was 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.

RBI's digital payments index increases to 349.30 in March 2022

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) digital payments index (DPI) has risen to **349.30 in March 2022**, compared to **304.46 for September 2021**, indicating digital payments are on the rise in the country led by a **unified payments interface (UPI)**.
- The central bank developed the composite Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) with March 2018 as the base year to assess the extent of digitization of payments in India.

Period	RBI - DPI Index
March 2018 (Base)	100
March 2019	153.47
September 2019	173.49

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March 2020	207.84
September 2020	217.74
March 2021	270.59
September 2021	304.06
March 2022	349.30

- The index will be published on a **semi-annual basis** with a **lag of 4 months**.
- The DPI index comprises **5 broad parameters** that enable the measurement of the deepening and penetration of digital payments in the country over different periods.

The parameters include :

- Payment enablers, with a weightage of **25 percent** in the index, followed by demand-side and supply-side payment infrastructure factors, with a weightage of **10 percent** each, payment performance, with **45 percent** weightage, and consumer centricity, with **5 percent** weightage.
- Each of the parameters has sub-parameters which, in turn, consist of various measurable indicators.
- Among the digital modes of payments, the number of transactions using **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** increased by **30.5 percent** during 2021-22.
- In terms of value, RTGS transactions registered an increase of **21.8 percent**; transactions through the **National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)** system also witnessed an increase of **30.6 percent** and **14.3 percent** in volume and value, respectively.
- Payment transactions carried out through credit cards increased by **27 percent** and **54.3 percent** in terms of volume and value, respectively.
- **Transactions through debit cards** decreased by **1.9 percent** in terms of volume, though in terms of value, they increased by **10.4 percent**.
- **Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs)** recorded an increase in volume and value terms by **32.3 percent** and **48.5 percent**, respectively.

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- In FY22, UPI processed more than 46 billion transactions amounting to over Rs 84.17 trillion, thus breaching the \$1 trillion mark. And, in FY21, it had processed 22.28 billion transactions, amounting to Rs 41.03 trillion.

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 extends the deadline for commencing KYC record validation by KRAs

- Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** extended the deadline for commencing the **validation** of all **Know Your Customer (KYC)** records by **KYC Registration Agencies (KRAs)** by **three months to November 01, 2022**, from August 01, 2022.
- This is the **second time** the SEBI has extended the deadline.
- Earlier it was extended till **August 01, 2022**, from July 01, 2022.
- As per clause 9 of SEBI KYC (Know Your Client) Registration Agency (KRA) Regulations, 2011, the KYC records of all existing clients (who have used Aadhaar as an **officially valid document (OVD)** shall be validated within **180 days** from 1st November 2022.
- In January 2022, SEBI notified new norms to make KRAs responsible for carrying out independent validation of the KYC records uploaded onto their system by **Registered Intermediaries (RIs)**.
- Under the notified rules, such agencies will have to maintain an audit trail of the upload/modification/download of KYC records of clients.

Kotak General Insurance launches AI-based vehicle pre-inspection

- **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited (Kotak General Insurance)** has partnered with **Inspektlabs** to automate the **vehicle inspections** for **vehicle insurance renewals** with **Artificial Intelligence-based technology**.
- Under the AI-based inspection process, during policy renewals, customers can capture **photos** or **videos** of their vehicle and upload them on the cloud-based App.

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- An automated inspection report covering damages, if any, gets generated after uploading the photos/videos.
- The automated process will replace humans in repetitive work at a very high accuracy level that **saves cost** and **increases customer satisfaction** by reducing the time required to renew a car insurance policy.
- The technology helps to detect fraud based on the pictures and videos uploaded, thereby aiding the underwriting process.
- In July 2022, The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** allowed general insurance companies to introduce tech-enabled concepts for own damage (OD) cover in motor insurance policies.

About Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Ltd :

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

Google Maps has launched its street view service across 10 cities in India:

- **Google Maps** has launched its **street view service across 10 cities in India** in partnership with **two local companies**.
- Street View is being launched in partnership with **Genesys International and Tech Mahindra**.
- Street View will be available on Google Maps with fresh imagery licensed from local partners covering over 1,50,000 km across ten cities in India, including **Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Pune, Nashik, Vadodara, Ahmednagar, and Amritsar**.
- Google, Genesys International, and Tech Mahindra plan to expand this to more than 50 cities by the end of 2022.
- This India launch marks the first time in the world that Street View is being brought to life completely by local partners.
- Street View APIs will also be available to local developers enabling them to deliver richer mapping experiences in their services.
- Additionally, Google announced its collaboration with the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** to provide air quality information.

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MapmyIndia has released its new 360-degree panoramic street view service:

- Indian digital mapping company **MapmyIndia** has released its **Mappls Realview** – a new **360-degree panoramic street view service**.
- RealView features over **40 crore geo-tagged panoramas** and has offered part of its repository -- almost 1,00,000km -- free for consumers, following which the service will be chargeable.
- Interestingly the Mappls RealView came on the same day that **Google Maps launched its Street View service to India** in select cities after 11 years.
- Mappls reviews several thousand kilometers in metropolitan areas and towns, and highways connecting them and provide 3D views of tourist landmarks, residential societies, office towers, and complexes.
- The service can be accessed on the **Mappls website** or **Mappls App** on Android and iOS.
- **Rohan Verma**, CEO & Executive Director, MapmyIndia

Bandhan Bank opens first currency chest in Patna for Cash Management

- **Bandhan Bank** has opened its **first currency chest** in **Deedargunj** in **Patna, Bihar**.
- This will help the **private lender manage cash management** for the branches and ATMs in Bihar.

Key features of the currency chest of Bandhan bank :

- The currency chest will help its customers, **micro, small, medium enterprises**, and small traders with the supply of currency notes to the bank branches and the ATMs as and when required.
- The bank plans to open more than **530 new bank branches** across the country in this financial year.
- The new branches will be mainly distributed in **North and West and South India**.

Note :

- According to the **2020-2021 Annual report of RBI**, there are **2878 currency chests** in India as of March 2022.

About Bandhan Bank :

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal, India
- MD & CEO: Chandra Shekhar Ghosh

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RBI imposes restrictions on two co-operative banks, caps fund withdrawal amount

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed several restrictions, including on fund withdrawals, on two Uttar Pradesh-based cooperative banks Lucknow Urban Co-operative Bank and Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Sitapur because of their deteriorating financial position.
- The restrictions under the Banking Regulation Act will remain in force for six months.
- As per this, Customers of Lucknow Urban Co-operative Bank will not be able to withdraw more than Rs 30,000, and the withdrawal limit in the case of Urban Co-operative Bank is Rs 50,000 per customer.
- The two banks, without permission of the RBI, cannot grant loans, make any investment, incur any liability including borrowal of funds and acceptance of fresh deposits, or disburse or dispose of properties or assets.

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

Aditya Birla Health Insurance & Policybazaar.com launches OPD Add-on Cover with Zero Waiting Period

- Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Limited (ABHICL), the health insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), & non-bank financial company Policybazaar.com has launched 'OPD Add-on' for customers to address their health & wellness needs.

Aim:

- To provide hassle-free physical and virtual consultation, which leads to quicker treatment.
- It also offers a range of special consultations such as Gynaecology, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Ophthalmologist, Physiotherapist, and Nutritionist, referred or prescribed by a General Practitioner, for any illness or injury.
- This product can be added to existing indemnity plans to provide unlimited medical consultation at affordable prices.

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Types of OPD Add-on Cover:

- Option (1) **₹599 per insured (excluding tax)** - Unlimited Physical Outpatient consultations by a general medical practitioner
- Option (2) **₹799 per insured (excluding tax)** - Unlimited Physical & Virtual Outpatient consultations by a general medical practitioner
- Option (3) **₹999 per insured (excluding tax)** - Unlimited Physical & Virtual Outpatient consultations by a general medical practitioner

Key Highlights :

- There is no waiting period and the add-on kicks in from day one and **covers more than 32,000 doctor networks** in over **70 cities**.
- Hence, all the insured will receive the benefit on an individual basis by default.
- The **minimum and maximum age** at entry will be as per the base policy.

About Aditya Birla Health Insurance :

- Established: 2015 (commenced its operations in October 2016)
- CEO: Mayank Bathwal
- ABHICL is a joint venture between **Aditya Birla Group** and **MMI Holdings of South Africa**.

About Policybazaar.com :

- Founded: July 2008
- Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana, India
- CEO: Sarbvir Singh
- It is the flagship platform of **PB Fintech**, which owns the fintech brand, Paisabazaar.com, and lending & insurance marketplace in the UAE region, Policybazaar. ae.

RBI extends the license application window for payment aggregators

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has allowed another window for **payment aggregators (PAs)** existing as of **March 2020** to apply to the central bank for a license by **September 30, 2022**, & should have a **minimum net worth of Rs 15 crore as on March 31, 2022**.

About Payment aggregators :

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- Payment aggregators are entities that **facilitate e-commerce sites and merchants** to accept various payment instruments from customers for the completion of their payments without the need for merchants to create separate payment integration systems of their own.
- They facilitate merchants to connect with acquirers.
- In the process, they receive payments from customers, pool them, and transfer them to merchants after some time.

Eligibility Criteria:

- In **2020**, as per RBI guidelines to acquire and offer payment services to merchants, **only companies** that had been approved by the regulator were allowed to.
- While banks **do not need separate approvals**, non-bank entities offering payment aggregator services had to apply to the RBI for authorization by June 2021, a deadline that was later extended.
- However, the RBI allowed them to continue their operations till they received communication from the regulator regarding the status of their application.
- Several payment providers like Razorpay, Pine Labs, Stripe, 1Pay, and Innoviti Payments have received in-principle approval from the RBI for a PA license.
- According to the RBI guidelines, payment aggregators need to have a net worth of **Rs 15 crore** by **March 2021**, and a net worth of **Rs 25 crore** by **March 2023**.

IMPORTANT STATE NEWS

Kerala Govt to roll out MEDISEP scheme for State Government employees

- The **Kerala Government** has unveiled the largest-ever health insurance scheme named **Medical Insurance Scheme for State Employees and Pensioners (MEDISEP)** which will be effective from **July 1st, 2022**.

Who is eligible for the MEDISEP Scheme?

- MEDISEP scheme applies to **government employees, pensioners/family pensioners and their eligible family members**, and **employees and pensioners of universities** that receive a grant in aid from the state government and the local self-government institutions

About the MEDISEP scheme:

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- The scheme will provide **cashless medical assistance** with **comprehensive coverage** of up to **3 lakhs per year**.
- The **annual premium** would be **Rs 4,800 plus 18 percent GST** for the policy period of **2022-24** & the **monthly premium of Rs.500** will be deducted from the salary of June 2022 and pension of July 2022.
- The scheme will **cover more than 1,920 medical procedures** and will have over 200 private and government hospitals of the rank of taluk hospital and above, in its network.
- Around **30 lakh people** will be **benefitted** from the scheme.
- The medical insurance plans will also cover **newborns** and **twins** of an insured mother from day one to the end of the current policy plan period.
- The MEDISEP is being implemented through the public sector insurer, **Oriental Insurance Company**.

About Kerala :

- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Telangana govt launches T-hub facility

- **Chief Minister of Telangana Shri K Chandrasekhar Rao** is scheduled to **inaugurate** the new facility of **business incubator T-Hub in Hyderabad**.
- The new T-hub facility in Hyderabad will be a great **boost** to the **Indian startup ecosystem**.

About Telangana T-Hub:

- The T-Hub 2.0 has a **total built-up area** of more than **5.82 lakh square feet**, which makes it the **world's largest innovation campus**, the **second largest being startup incubator Station F based in France**.
- It will be a microcosm of the innovation ecosystem which will house more than 2,000 startups, corporates, investors, academia, and national and international ecosystem enablers.
- The new facility is built up in an area covering **3.5 lakh sq ft space** and it is expected to be **India's largest prototyping facility**.

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- It is built at a cost of about Rs 276 crore.
- The T-Hub (Technology Hub) was established in 2015, at IIT Hyderabad & it is an innovation hub and ecosystem enabler based out of Hyderabad.
- T-Hub is a partnership between the Government of Telangana, three academic institutes in Hyderabad
 1. The International Institute of Information Technology
 2. The Indian School of Business
 3. National Academy of Legal Studies and Research and also the private sector.

About Telangana :

- Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan
- Chief minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao
- Capital: Hyderabad

Maharashtra Cabinet approves renaming Aurangabad as Sambhajinagar, Osmanabad as Dharashiv

- The Maharashtra cabinet under the chairmanship of Shri Uddhav Thackeray approved a proposal to rename Aurangabad city as Sambhajinagar and Osmanabad city as Dharashiv.
- The cabinet also cleared a proposal to name the upcoming Navi Mumbai International airport after the late DB Patil, the leader of the Project Affected People of Raigad and Thane district.

About Maharashtra :

- Chief Minister : Eknath Shinde
- Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- Capital: Mumbai

Maharashtra signs MoU with AGEL for 11000 MW power generations

- The Maharashtra government's Energy department signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Adani Green Energy Group Ltd (AGEL) to generate 11000 MW of green power in the next 5 years.
- The MoU was signed by Narayan Karad, Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy, Maharashtra, and Ajit Barodia, Senior Vice President, Adani Industries Group.
- It would entail an investment of Rs 60,000 crore and employ 30,000 persons.

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- According to the agreement, AGEL will set up Pumped Storage Projects (PSP) in the next 4 to 5 years, through which about 11,000 MW of power will be generated.
- This is the 2nd major investment in the Maharashtra energy sector after Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) signed an MoU with Gurgaon-based Renew Power Private Limited at the World Economic Forum in Davos for investments worth Rs 50,000 crore.

About AGEL :

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
- Founder: Gautam Adani
- MD & CEO: Vineet S. Jaain

Himachal Pradesh CM launches 'Naari Ko Naman' scheme; women to get 50% concession on bus fare

- The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Shri Jai Ram Thakur launched Naari Ko Naman's scheme at the Government College Auditorium in Dharamshala in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh.

Purpose :

- To provide 50 percent concession to the women passengers in fares in Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) buses.
- Earlier the chief minister had announced the 50 percent concession on bus fares to women on April 15, 2022, Himachal Day.
- In another scheme, he announced a reduction in the minimum bus fare from Rs 7 to Rs 5 for all passengers across HP.
- Also, the government will sanction 25 new posts of women drivers in the 'Ride With Pride' government taxi service, an initiative to ferry women passengers and senior citizens.
- Seema Thakur is the First Female Driver In Himachal Pradesh.

About HP:

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

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NTPC commissions India's largest floating solar power project in Telangana

- NTPC Ltd has declared the **Commercial Operations Date (COD)** of the last part capacity of 20 MW out of 100 MW Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project in Telangana.
- Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project is India's largest Floating Solar Plant commissioned by NTPC.
- In **March 2022**, the NTPC had made commercially operational an additional 42.5 MW of power generation capacity at Ramagundam floating solar project in Telangana.

About Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project :

- The project spreads over 500 acres of NTPC-Ramagundam reservoir and was built at Rs 423 crore through M/s BHEL as EPC (Engineering, Procurement, and Construction) contract.
- The Project is divided into 40 blocks, each having 2.5 MW & each block consists of one floating platform and an array of 11,200 solar modules.
- The floating platform consists of one Inverter, Transformer, and HT breaker.
- The solar modules are placed on floaters manufactured with HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) material.
- The project is unique in the sense that all the electrical equipment including the inverter, transformer, HT panel, and SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) are also on floating Ferro cement platforms.
- The entire floating system is anchored through a special HMPE (High Modulus Polyethylene) rope.
- With the operationalization of the 100-MW Solar PV Project at Ramagundam, the total commercial operation of Floating Solar Capacity in the Southern Region rose to 217 MW.
- NTPC's total installed capacity of the company is 69,134.20 MW having 23 coal-based, seven gas-based, one Hydro, and 19 renewable energy projects.
- Under Joint Venture (JV), NTPC has nine coal-based, four gas-based, eight hydro, and five renewable energy projects.

Additional Info:

- Earlier, NTPC declared Commercial operation of 92 MW Floating Solar at Kayamkulam (Kerala) and 25 MW Floating Solar at Simhadri (Andhra Pradesh)

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About NTPC :

- Founded: 7 November 1975
- Chairman & MD: Gurdeep Singh
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- It is a statutory corporation incorporated under the Companies Act 1956 and is under the ownership of the **Ministry of Power, GoI.**

About Telangana :

- Chief Minister : K. Chandrashekar Rao
- Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan
- Capital: Hyderabad

Rajasthan govt set to introduce India's first right-to-health Bill in 2022

- The Rajasthan government will introduce the Right to Health Bill, the first of its kind in India in the Rajasthan Assembly.

Aim :

- To provide **quality and affordable health care services** by government and private healthcare providers.
- In **January 2022**, the government prepared a **draft bill** that defines the rights of patients, their attendants, and health care providers, as well as a system for addressing the grievances of the stakeholders.
- Rajasthan has ensured the health and security of every family by providing free treatment up to **Rs 10 lakh** to the people through **Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana**.
- Along with this, **accident insurance** of up to **Rs 5 lakh** is being given to the families registered in the scheme.
- Recently, the chief minister approved **Rs 117 crore** for the expansion of the facilities in **Mahila Chikitsalaya (women's hospital)** at Sanganeri Gate in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

About Rajasthan :

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

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UP becomes 1st state to integrate ODOP mart with ONDC platform

- **Uttar Pradesh(UP)** has become the **first state** in the country to connect **One District One Product (ODOP)** mart with the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** platform.

Aim :

- To promote open networks for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks.
- The pilot phase of integration of ODOP Mart on ONDC was inaugurated by the **Additional Chief Secretary, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of Uttar Pradesh Dr. Navneet Sehgal.**
- The UP government has actively started working with ONDC to get all the **One District One Product (ODOP)** products available on the ONDC network.
- The ODOP products will be displayed on all e-commerce portals and apps that are associated with ONDC.
- ONDC collaborates with **Uttar Pradesh Handicrafts Development & Marketing Corporation**, to make One District One Product.
- ONDC will also provide logistics facilities to its customers.
- A total of **seven companies**- one buyer side app, five seller side apps, and one logistics service provider app have adopted ONDC protocols and built their ONDC compatible apps.

About UP :

- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- Chief minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Capital: Lucknow

PM Shri Narendra Modi launches 125th birth anniversary celebration of freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju in AP

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will launch the year-long 125th birth anniversary celebration of legendary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju at Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh.
- The Prime Minister will also unveil a **30-foot tall bronze statue** of Alluri Sitarama Raju.

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- The occasion was facilitated by the Governor of Andhra Pradesh **Shri Biswabhusan Harichandan**, Chief Minister **Shri Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy**, and Union Minister **Shri G. Kishan Reddy**.
- The government has also approved the **construction of the Alluri Dhyana Mandir at Mogallu** with a statue of Alluri Sitarama Raju in Dhyana Mudra.

About Alluri Sitarama Raju :

- Alluri Sitarama Raju was Born on **4th July 1897**, in Andhra Pradesh.
- He is remembered for his fight against the British, to safeguard the interests of the tribal communities in the Eastern Ghats region.
- He became involved in opposing the British in response to the **1882 Madras Forest Act**, which effectively restricted the free movement of Adivasis (tribal communities).
- He had led the **Rampa rebellion**, which was launched in **1922**.
- He is referred to as **“Manyam Veerudu” (Hero of the Jungles)** by the local people.

Delhi govt launches Mission Kushal Karmi program to upskill construction workers

- **Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Shri Manish Sisodia** launched "Mission Kushal Karmi" for upskilling the construction workers in the city in collaboration with **Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU)** and **Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board**.

Aim :

- To provide on-the-job skill development training to over **2 lakh registered construction workers** in industry demand-driven job roles in the construction sector in a year.
- Under this **15 days special training program**, workers will undergo upskilling which will boost their incomes in the future.
- The program will be conducted by the DSEU along with Simplex, the **National real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO)**, and **India Vision Foundation**.

About Mission Kushal Karmi :

- The government will provide a sum of at least **₹4,200** to each worker who takes the course to compensate for the loss of work.

Benefits to Workers from Mission Kushal Karmi:

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- Improvement in income ranging up to **8,000 per month** after completion of training to construction workers.
- Increase in productivity of workers by **40 percent**, increase in quality of product produced by **25 percent**, and wastage of materials decreases by **50 percent**.
- Improvement in domain skills and soft skills thereby making the worker more proficient and confident.
- Improvement in the understanding of standard safety norms thereby increasing the longevity of work and social security.

About Delhi :

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

Karnataka becomes the first state in India to have an R&D policy

- Karnataka is set to be the **first state in India** to have an **exclusive Research & Development policy**.
- Karnataka chief minister **Shri Basavaraj Bommai**, chaired a meeting with the **Task Force headed by Prof Ashok Shettar**, vice-chancellor of KLE Technological University, and senior officials regarding the formulation of the new policy.
- The CM has instructed the officials to prepare the necessary systems for the effective implementation of the proposed policy.
- IT, BT minister **CN Ashwathnarayan**, CM's Principal Secretary **N. Manjunath** Additional Chief Secretary in the Industries department **EV Ramana Reddy** and others were present.

Aim of the Policy :

- To allocate at least **0.1 %** of the **state's Gross State Domestic Product** towards R&D and innovation that would eventually help the state in bringing more development.
- Also, some of the other measures suggested as a part of the policy include allocating a certain amount of budget to various departments for research purposes.
- The proposed policy should be simple.
- Any R&D is considered worthy only when it is found useful in the daily life of the people & it should cater to all sectors.

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- A state-level R&D Council and Foundation will be established as a supplementary initiative for the implementation of the proposed policy.
- The policy would be cleared after discussing it in the state cabinet.

About Karnataka :

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

6 Indian States signed a declaration of intent to combat human trafficking

- **Women and Child welfare representatives** from 6 Indian states Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana signed an Inter-State Declaration of Intent to work in collaboration to **combat trafficking in persons**.
- The **first-of-its-kind agreement** focuses on joint efforts on intelligence gathering and sharing; legal and witness protection; and rehabilitation and care for survivors.
- The declaration will be called the '**Hyderabad Declaration**'.
- The **two-day Southern Regional Consultation to Combat Human Trafficking**, hosted by the **Telangana Government** in collaboration with the nonprofits **Prajwala** and **Shakti Vahini**, concluded with the signing of this declaration.
- The US Consulates General in **Hyderabad** and **Kolkata** supported the conference.

About the Regional Consultation to Combat Human Trafficking :

- The Regional Consultation to Combat Human Trafficking Brought together **36 high-level functionaries** from the Departments of Women and Child Welfare/Social Welfare; Home Department; State Women's Commission; State Children's Commission; State Legal Services Authority; as well as the respective State Ministers from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu.
- The consultation included panel discussions and presentations by senior police officers, prosecutors, members of the judiciary, cyber-crime professionals, and survivor advocates.
- The U. S. government partnered with State governments to organize a series of consultations to bring together State-level stakeholders, including government Departments, legal services, law

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enforcement, child protection, and prosecution agencies to ensure convergence in response mechanisms and strengthen interstate collaboration between source and destination agencies.

Note :

- Founder of Prajwala: Sunitha Krishnan
- Co-founder of Shakti Vahini: Rishi Kant

Odisha government presents Rs 2 lakh crore budget for FY23

- Odisha's Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari presented the State Budget with Rs 2-lakh crore total outlay for FY 2022-2023 in the Assembly with a focus on strengthening infrastructure, developing education and health sectors, and improving the livelihoods of people.
- The estimated outlay for the current financial year is the "highest" in the history of the state budget and is around 17.6 percent more than the Rs 1.7 lakh crore allocated for the last fiscal.
- Over the last 22 years, there has been a 17-fold increase in the size of the state budget.
- The Budget had two main components: the Agriculture budget and the General budget.
- The Budget size has increased to Rs 2 lakh crore and the Programme Budget to Rs 1 lakh crore.
- The capital outlay in FY23 has estimated at Rs 38,732 crore, which was around 5.4 percent of the Gross State Domestic Product.
- The revenue receipts for FY23 are estimated at Rs 1,63,967 crore and borrowing and other receipts of Rs 36,033 crore.
- The total revenue receipts for the 2022-23 years include the state's share of central taxes at Rs 36,978 crore, its tax revenue at Rs 46,000 crore, its non-tax revenue at Rs 48,200 crore, and grants from the Centre at Rs 32,789 crore.
- The own revenue-GSDP ratio would be 13.20 percent in 2022-23.

Key Highlights of the Budget :

- Rs 2,664 crore in the budget has been allocated for the 'Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana' (Health Insurance) - Odisha government's own Healthcare insurance scheme in comparison to the Centre's 'Ayushman Yojana'.
- Rs 500 crore has been proposed for the 'State Support to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

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- **Rs 1,023 crore** was allocated for **Odisha's food security-related activities**.
- **Rs 27,324 crore** would be provided for the **education and skill development sector**
- The Finance Minister also announced an allocation of **Rs 2,000 crore** for **Mission Shakti Department** and **Rs 700 crore** under the **MUKTA scheme**.
- **Rs 547 crore** has been allocated for the development of **railway projects**.
- **Rs 302 crore** has been allocated for the **Electronics and IT department**.
- **Rs 3,210 crore** for the **Disaster Risk Management Fund**.
- **Rs 7,551 crore** for justice delivery, internal security, crime control, fire-related disaster management, and control
- **Rs 1,269 crore** has been earmarked for industrial promotion, development of **MSME & Start-up promotion** which is **29% more than the previous year's allocation**.
- Pujari allocated **Rs 325 crore** for land acquisition, construction, renovation, expansion work at Rourkela, Jeypore, Utkela, and Jharsuguda airports, and renovation of the Birashala airstrip.
- **Rs 1,874** has been allocated for the **KALIA scheme**, **Rs 161 crore** for **agriculture research and education**, and **Rs 968 crore** for **control of floods**.
- **Rs 3581 crore** was allocated for **Samagra Shiksha**.
- **Rs 100 crore** was allocated for the **high school transformation program**.
- The sports sector gets **Rs 911 crore** which includes **Rs 719 crore** for the development of sports infrastructure, **Rs 115 crore** for promoting sports education, and **Rs 11 crore** for Odisha's contribution to Khelo India.
- The state government in March 2022 presented a vote-on-account for the **first four months of 2022-23**.
- The vote on account was required for expenditure on payment of salary, pension, and other ongoing schemes and programs

About Odisha:

- Governor: Ganeshi Lal
- Chief minister: Naveen Patnaik
- Capital: Bhubaneswar

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Tripura Govt introduces 'Earn with Learn' for dropout students under 'Vidyalaya Chalo Abhiyan'

- The Tripura government has launched a new scheme, “Earn with Learn”, as part of the Vidyalaya Chalo Abhiyan (Let’s go to school) to bring back those who had dropped out of schools following the outbreak of Covid-19.
- Education Minister **Shri Ratan Lal Nath** stated about **8,000 students** between the age group of **6 and 14** in the state have dropped out of school during Covid-19.
- The **third-year college students** who are interested in voluntarily taking part in the survey may register their names in their respective colleges.
- The government would pay **Rs 500 per admission** to each college student as an honorarium for identifying and bringing back such dropouts to school again and an estimated **10,000 volunteers** would be required to implement the scheme.
- The minister added that **Anganwadi and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA)** workers will also be engaged in the identification of dropouts and school teachers can also participate.
- In case of engagement of teachers in the survey, an honorarium of **Rs. 200** would be provided.
- The new education policy has specific guidelines to conduct comprehensive door-to-door surveys to identify dropouts and migrant students and prepare an action plan to prevent increased dropouts, lower enrolments, loss of learning, and deterioration in the gains made in providing universal access, quality, and equity.
- Meanwhile, as part of the implementation of the **National Education Policy (NEP)**, the state government has taken up a pilot project at Aspirational district - Dhalai where along with the mid-day-meal, the **students of Class- I to VIII** would be provided additional foods like a boiled egg, fruits, milk, etc.

About Tripura :

- Governor : Satyadev Narayan Arya
- CM : Manik Saha
- Capital : Agartala

Delhi govt launches chatbot to answer queries on e-vehicles

- The **Government of Delhi** has collaborated with **Whatsapp** to launch a **chatbot service**, which will answer all queries related to **electric vehicles (EVs)**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- The initiative comes after the Delhi government recently announced its draft policy ‘Delhi Motor Vehicle Aggregator Scheme 2022’.

About the Chatbot :

- The chatbot will help people living in the city to manage all their EV-related queries at their fingertips.
- Queries ranging from **incentives, price, range, and charging solutions** among others will be catered to by the chatbot.
- The chatbot also sent out random messages and people have emailed the government with queries on e-vehicles.
- The user can use **98103 36008**, as soon as a user sends a “Hi”, the chatbot asks for the preferred language of communication, and then lists **5 options, Potential savings** while switching to EV (EV Calculator), Find the right EV for yourself (EV Search), Charging Stations, EV Pledge, and Frequently asked questions (FAQs).
- The Delhi government introduced its electric vehicle policy in **August 2020**.

About Delhi :

- Lieutenant Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena
- Chief Minister : Arvind Kejriwal
- Capital: New Delhi

Chhattisgarh gets Center’s nod for World Bank-funded school project

- The Chhattisgarh Government has received an in-principle nod from the Center to go ahead with a \$300 million (approximately ₹2,100 crores) school education project which is funded by the World Bank.

About the World Bank-funded school project :

- The initiative will allow the Chhattisgarh Government to borrow **\$300 million over five years**.
- It will enable to pay significantly lower than market rates of interest and repay it for **20 years**.

About An in-principle nod :

- An in-principle nod means that the Center has **no objection** to the State borrowing money from an external financial institution such as the World Bank.

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- This is not the final approval but it paves the way for the State to proceed with further discussions.
- Meanwhile, the World Bank has also approved in principle that it's willing to fund the project.

Procedure to be followed to sanction funds by the World Bank :

- A team from the World Bank will visit Chhattisgarh.
- Following this, a **Detailed Project Report (DPR)** will be prepared by the **World Bank and Central Government**.
- This report will be presented to the World Bank Board and the Centre to get the final approval.
- The DPR will also have a detailed plan on how the money will be spent.

World Bank Contributions for Education in India :

- The World Bank has been associated with India's school education system since 1994.
- In 2021, the **\$500 million Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS)** to improve the quality and governance of school education in **six Indian States (does not include Chhattisgarh)**.

About Chhattisgarh :

- Governor: Anusuiya Uikey
- Chief Minister: Bhupesh Baghel
- Capital: Raipur

About World Bank :

- Established: December 1945
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., U.S
- President : David Malpass
- Membership: 189 countries
- The World Bank is the collective name for the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** and **International Development Association (IDA)**, two of five international organizations owned by the World Bank Group.

Delhi LG launches New scheme to reward RWAs for property tax compliance - SAH-BHAGITA

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Shri VK Saxena launched an incentive scheme to increase the involvement of the Residential Welfare Association (RWAs) in optimal tax collection and waste management systems.

About SAH-BHAGITA :

- Under the SAH-BHAGITA scheme, RWAs (Resident Welfare Associations) will get **15 percent** of the **total collection of property tax** for development works in their areas.
- The scheme will incentivize RWAs on achieving **90 percent tax collection** from the total number of properties in their societies or colonies, allowing them to recommend development work to the tune of **10 percent** of the collected tax amount, with a cap of **Rs one lakh**.
- Further, an additional **5 percent** of the tax collected will be provided if a residential colony implements **100 percent waste segregation at source**, composting, and recycling of recyclable dry waste.
- Also hands over the remaining dry waste to the **Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)** or its authorized agencies which service **94 percent** of Delhi.
- The tax policy brings consistency and uniformity to different approaches hitherto being adopted by the erstwhile three Municipal Corporations.

DSEU Partners with UNICEF on a pilot project for employment opportunities

- The **Delhi government** announced a new pilot project with the **YuWaah (Generation Unlimited India)** at **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** to enable access to **employment opportunities** for students of the **Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU)**.
- The pilot project will be conducted at the **Ambedkar DSEU Shakarpur I campus** and will commence on **20 July 2022**.
- The DSEU and UNICEF have introduced '**Career Awareness Sessions**' for students.
- Alongside this, they have also launched the '**YuWaah Step Up**' initiative with the tagline '**Bano job ready**'.
- '**YuWaah Step Up**' is a **six-month project** launched by **Flywheel Digital**, for DSEU students as well as other job aspirants within Delhi, aimed at enhancing young job-seekers access to new-age jobs portals.

About DSEU :

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- Established: 2020
- Location: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chancellor: Lieutenant Governor of Delhi (Vinai Kumar Saxena)
- Vice Chancellor : Neharika Vohra

About UNICEF :

- Established: 11 December 1946
- Headquarters: New York City, USA
- Executive Director: Catherine M. Russell

Uttarakhand becomes the first state to implement NEP at the pre-primary level

- **Uttarakhand** became the **first state** in India to initiate the process of implementing the **Center's New Education Policy at the pre-primary level.**
- The **Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami** inaugurated the '**Bal Vatikas**' at Anganwadi Kendra to strengthen the pre-primary education system across Uttarakhand.

About 'Bal Vatikas' :

- The '**Bal Vatikas**' will function at **4,457 Anganwadi Kendra** in the state and will be equivalent to the nursery classes at a private school.

About NEP :

- The implementation of the New Education Policy (NEP) marks the beginning of culture-based education in the country focusing on the overall personality development of students.
- It offers children an opportunity to pursue **choice-based education.**
- By **2030**, the **New Education Policy** will be fully implemented in Uttarakhand

About Uttarakhand :

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

PYSE Builds India's First & Largest Fractionally-owned Solar Power Plant in Karnataka

- **PYSE**, an investment platform for sustainable projects from a **ticket size as low as Rs 5,000**, has launched **India's first and largest fractionally owned solar power plant** in Karnataka.

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- The solar power plant is being built with an investment of **INR26 crore** and an **average investor ticket size of INR25,000**.
- Strategically, the project was divided into **four tranches**.
- The **first three tranches** are worth **Rs 16 crore**.
- Tranche 1, 2, and 3 had been oversubscribed by **2.5x** and the money was raised on an average of **3 days**.
- The project is backed by more than **600 retail investors** and is equipped to supply solar power to marquee clients operating manufacturing plants.
- PYSE will launch the fourth and final tranche with a minimum investment of **Rs 5,00,000**.
- The plant is set to be commissioned by the end of **July 2022** and is designed to offset **65 lakh kgs** of carbon footprint every year for the next 25 years.

About PYSE :

- Founder: 05 September 2020
- Directors : Nagarajan Anand, Srinivasan Hemalatha, Vinay Satyanarayana Mantha, and Padakannaya Kaustubh Moodambail
- Co-Founder : Kaustubh Padakannaya
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka

About Karnataka :

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

Kerala becomes the first state to have its internet service

- **Kerala** has become the **first and only state in India** to have its **internet service**.
- The announcement followed the **Department of Telecommunications'** granting of an **Internet Service Provider (ISP) license** to the IT infrastructure project of the **Kerala Fiber Optic Network (KFON) Ltd**, which aims to provide for everyone in Kerala.
- The **Kerala State Electricity Board Limited, Bharat Electronics Limited, Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board, and KSITI** are the stakeholders in this initiative.

About KFON :

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- K-Fon is a state government initiative that aims to **eliminate the digital gap**.
- The KFON scheme is set to provide free internet to **Below Poverty Line (BPL) families** and **30,000 government offices**
- KFON will be able to connect to the nearly 8,000+ mobile towers in Kerala and significantly enhance the mobile call quality and also accelerate the 4G/5G transitions.
- Presently **80%** of the towers are not fiberized and use radio, an issue for the 4G/5G rollout, which will also be solved by KFON.

Objectives of K-Fon :

- To create a core network infrastructure (information highway) with non-discriminatory access to all service providers so that they can augment their connectivity gap.
- To provide a reliable, secure, and scalable intranet connecting all government offices, educational institutions, hospitals, etc
- To Partner with Multiple System Operators, Telecommunication Service Providers, and Internet Service Providers for providing free internet to economically backward households.

Note :

- In **2019** the Kerala Govt had declared **internet connection** as a **basic right** and launched the **Rs 1,548-crore KFON project**.

About Kerala :

- Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
- Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Capital : Thiruvananthapuram

UNDP & Telangana Govt announces DiCRA

- The **Telangana** government in partnership with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** announced **Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture (DiCRA)**, the latest addition to the Digital Public Goods Registry.

Aim :

- To enhance food security and food systems in Telangana.

About DiCRA:

- The DiCRA is powered by **Artificial Intelligence**.

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- Using remote sensing and pattern detection algorithms, DiCRA can identify farms that are resilient to climate change and those that are highly vulnerable.
- It will facilitate analysis and insight sharing on climate resilience, based on empirical inputs crowd-sourced from hundreds of data scientists and citizen scientists on best-performing farms.
- These technologies will be used to mitigate climate change, which is bound to impact the crop yield along with nutritional quality and livestock productivity.
- This is **first-of-its-kind digital commons** to drive climate action.

About UNDP :

- Established: 1966
- Headquarters: New York City, United States of America (USA)
- Administrator : Achim Steiner
- The UNDP is a United Nations agency tasked with helping countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development.
- The UNDP operates in **170 countries**.

About Telangana :

- Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan
- Chief Minister : K. Chandrashekar Rao
- Capital: Hyderabad

Kharchi festival 2022 begins in Tripura

- A **week-long traditional Kharchi festival**, offering prayer to **14 deities**, began with **thousands of devotees** at Khayerpur on the eastern outskirts of Tripura.
- **Tripura Assembly Speaker Ratan Chakraborty** started the festival.

About Kharchi Puja :

- Khar means **sin** and chi mean **cleaning** & it is known as the **cleaning of sins** festival.
- Out of 14 idols, 11 idols are kept inside Andarmahal once the festivity gets over & only 3 idols are worshiped throughout the year
- Kharchi Puja is predominantly a tribal festival but it owes its origins to the **Hindu religion**.
- The 14 gods which are prayed to during the festivity are **Saraswati, Durga, Lakshmi, Shiva, Durga, Kartikeya, Brahma, Ganesh, Ganga, Agni, Himadri, Prithvi, Samudra, and Kamadeva**.

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- According to Tripura royal family's "Rajmala", Queen Hiravati once went to take a bath in the river Maharani and noticed a wild buffalo chasing the 14 gods.
- With the help of the queen's cloth, the gods managed to kill the beast.

About Tripura :

- Governor : Satyadev Narayan Arya
- Chief Minister : Manik Saha
- Capital : Agartala

Rajasthan gets India's first AI-powered digital Lok Adalat

- The National Legal Services Authority Chairman Mr. Uday Umesh Lalit introduced the Country's first AI-powered virtual Lok Adalat all through the 18th All India Meet of State Legal Services Authorities (SLSA) meet held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- The digital Lok Adalat by Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA) has been designed and developed by Jupitice Justice Technologies.
- The two-day event was inaugurated by Mr. N V Ramana, the Chief Justice of India, in the presence of Union Minister of Law & Justice Mr. Kiren Rijju and Rajasthan Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot.

About Digital Lok Adalat :

- The platform will be used to dispose of pending disputes or disputes that are at the **pre-litigation stage**.
- It will provide end-to-end dispute resolution with various facilities-
- Drafting and filing of applications,
- Generation of e-notices through one-click
- Smart templates to draft settlement agreements
- Digital hearings through video conferencing tools
- It will also offer an **AI-powered voice-based interactive chatbot** and **advanced data analytics tools**.
- It will help in getting better insights into the functioning of Lok Adalat through custom reports and BI Dashboards for data-driven decision-making.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- Recently, a district court in **Bihar** gave a verdict in a land dispute case after **108 years**, making it one of the oldest pending cases in India.
- A **NITI Aayog report** also suggested it would take approximately **324 years** to dispose of all cases pending in India.
- As per the report, **75-97 percent** of legal problems never reach the courts, which means about **5 to 40 million legal tangles** arising in a month never reach the Court.

About National Legal Services Authority :

- Established: 9 November 1995
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Patron-in-Chief: N. V. Ramana (Chief Justice of India)
- Executive-Chairman : Justice U. U. Lalit
- Motto: Access to Justice for All
- National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA) was formed under the authority of the **Legal Services Authorities Act 1987**.

Purpose :

- To provide free legal services to eligible candidates, and to organize Lok Adalats for the speedy resolution of cases.

About Rajasthan :

- Governor: Kalraj Mishra
- CM: Ashok Gehlot
- Capital: Jaipur

Flipkart signs pact to launch skill training initiative for the e-commerce logistics sector in Bihar

- E-commerce marketplace Flipkart has inked a pact with the Bihar State Skill Development Mission (BSDM) to launch the initiatives of the Supply Chain Operations Academy (SCOA) in Bihar.

Aim :

- To create a pool of **skilled supply chain operations talent** and impart relevant industry training and knowledge.

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- This will help bridge the **skill gap** and **create job opportunities** in the expanding supply chain industry in the country.
- Flipkart has expanded “**Supply Chain Operations Academy** to accelerate skill building in Bihar for the e-commerce logistics sector

About SCOA :

- Supply Chain Operations Academy (SCOA) launched in **October 2021**.
- The training program under SCOA has been designed and created by the Flipkart team to offer a holistic experience and training to candidates.
- The program involves a **60-day skilling initiative**, it entails **15 days of digital classroom training and 45 days of on-the-job apprenticeship** at Flipkart supply chain facilities, for which the qualified candidates will be paid a stipend of **Rs 17,500**.
- The students will be imparted skills through Flipkart’s Learning Management System, an online platform for learning programs.

About Flipkart :

- Founded: 2007
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy

About Bihar :

- Governor : Phagu Chauhan
- Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar
- Capital: Patna

TN CM Shri M K Stalin inaugurates Tamilnadu Centre for Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing

- Tamil Nadu (TN) Chief Minister Shri MK Stalin has inaugurated the **Tamil Nadu center for excellence in advance manufacturing (TANCAM)** established at the cost of **Rs 212 crore** in **Tidel Park** in **Taramani, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- The TN government launched a series of initiatives to help the state become a **\$1 trillion economy by 2030**, with a contribution of around **\$250 billion** by the manufacturing sector.
- The Chief Minister presided over the **Advance Manufacturing conclave** in TANCAM.

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- The center was established jointly by Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) and French company Dassault Systemes.

Aim :

- To usher in the **fourth industrial revolution** and change the manufacturing eco-system of Tamil Nadu.

Key Highlights :

- During the conclave, he also inaugurated two innovation centers at the **Sipcot Industrial Parks in Hosur and Sriperumbudur** at a total cost of **Rs 33.46 crore** to nurture industrial innovation in partnership with **Coimbatore Innovation and Business Incubator (CIBI)**.
- The Center will provide a dedicated IT engineering ecosystem to support the **micro small and medium enterprises (MSME)** sector and students across Tamil Nadu.
- It will help in the growth of various industries such as aerospace, defense, automotive and electric vehicles.
- The Center will equip the state with the latest technologies such as a 3D experience platform for up-skilling and facilitating future-ready innovations.
- Each innovation center is established at an area of **23,500 square feet** with facilities such as meeting halls, labs, and so on.
- He also laid the foundation stone for **neo-TIDAL parks** in Villupuram and Tiruppur.
- The neo-Tidel park in Tirupur will be constructed at the cost of **Rs 41.9 crore** and the neo-Tidel park in Villupuram will be constructed at the cost of **Rs 35 crore**.
- He also launched the **Industry 4.0 Maturity Survey** jointly undertaken by TN Guidance and Nottingham University.
- The data collected in the survey will be helpful for the industries to identify the challenges and steps to be taken to attain their goals.

About TN :

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

TN Department of higher education launched a portal for financial aid to students

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- The Tamilnadu Government's Higher Education department has launched a portal <https://penkalvi.gov.in> where beneficiaries may register themselves.
- Under this, the TN government will provide **₹1,000 annually** to each girl student from middle school till she completes college education under a financial assistance scheme.
- The students who studied in government schools from **Class VI to Class XII** and college students who fulfill the criteria can avail themselves of the facility.
- College students who are studying undergraduate courses must provide details of their school education, bank account details, and Aadhaar number.
- Also, photocopies of these documents and copies of their Class X and Class XII mark sheet be produced.
- College students have been instructed to have a cellphone as an **OTP** is required for registration & they must complete the process even if they have to appear for the examinations.
- The department has urged the **Directorate of Collegiate Education** and the **Directorate of Technical Education** to ensure that the process is done correctly.

Himachal Pradesh becomes 1st state in India to connect all registered commercial vehicles equipped with VLTD with ERSS

- Himachal Pradesh has become the **first state** in India to connect all registered commercial vehicles equipped with **Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD)** with **Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)**.
- **Chief Minister Shri Jai Ram Thakur** formally inaugurated the system at a program organized at **Peterhof**, in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
- He also introduced the facility of **panic buttons** for the safety of women and children in public vehicles.

Key Highlights :

- More than **9,423 vehicles** have been registered and linked with ERSS.
- Now it will be monitored by both the **police** and the **transport department**.
- All the registered commercial vehicles equipped with VLRD will be connected with ERSS.

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- The Vehicle Location Tracking Device with Emergency Panic Button System and Command Control Center has been connected with **Emergency Response Support System 112**.
- When the panic button is pressed, a signal would be received through satellite to 112 and the person in distress would be connected and alert the police.

Importance of the Center :

- The establishment of this monitoring Center would be **easy to detect the theft of vehicles** and vehicle accidents for the **safety of women and children** in the State.
- This is an innovative initiative, which would make the state roads safer and more secure.

About HP :

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

Assam Government Launches Scheme for Welfare Of Indigenous Weavers - Swanirbhar Naari

- **Assam Chief Minister Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma** launched 'Swanirbhar Naari', an initiative to **empower the indigenous weavers** of the state and **provide financial support** to their families.

About 'Swanirbhar Naari' :

- Under the scheme, the government of Assam will procure handloom items directly from the indigenous weavers via a web portal without the involvement of any middlemen.
- An initiative of the textiles department, **31 hand-woven items** are covered under the new scheme.
- After procurement, the products will be sold through government outlets in the state as well as outside.
- The portal is expected to bridge the gap between the weavers and the buyers.

About Assam :

- Governor : Jagdish Mukh
- CM : Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Capital: Dispur
- National Parks: Kaziranga National Park, Dibru - Saikhowa National Park, Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Manas National Park, Nameri National Park

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- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Garampani Wildlife Sanctuary, Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary, Chakrasila Wildlife Sanctuary, Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary

Arunachal Pradesh & Assam sign pact to resolve the border dispute

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Pema Khandu and Assam Chief Minister Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma inked a pact to end the decades-old border dispute between the two states.
- Chief ministers of the two North-eastern neighbors met at Namsai in Arunachal Pradesh and signed the agreement.

Key Highlights :

- Under the agreement, they agreed in principle on restricting the number of contested villages to **86 instead of 123** & resolving the rest by **September 15, 2022**.
- The two states share an **804-km long boundary**.
- The allegations of residents of one state encroaching land on the other have led to disputes and violence.
- A suit has been pending in the Supreme Court since **1989** on the issue.
- As per the declaration, **28 of the 123 disputed villages** “which are within the constitutional boundary of Arunachal Pradesh” shall remain with the state.
- Conversely, following the withdrawal of claims by Arunachal Pradesh, **three villages** will remain with Assam.
- Finally, **6 more villages**, that “couldn’t be located on the Assam side”, will remain with Arunachal Pradesh if they are found to be present on the state's side.
- Both states decided to constitute **12 “regional committees”**, each covering 12 districts of Arunachal and the counterpart districts of Assam for joint verification of 123 villages.
- The committees were tasked with submitting recommendations to state governments keeping in view “historical perspective, administrative convenience, contiguity and people’s will” to delineate the interstate boundary.

Additional Info :

- After Arunachal Pradesh achieved **statehood** in **1987**, a **tripartite committee** was appointed which recommended that certain territories be transferred from Assam to Arunachal.
- Assam contested this and the matter is in the Supreme Court.

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About Arunachal Pradesh :

- Governor: B. D. Mishra
- Chief Minister : Pema Khandu
- Capital: Itanagar

UP CM Shri Yogi Adityanath launches scheme for the cashless medical benefit for state employees, pensioners

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath has launched a scheme Deen Dayal Upadhyaya State Employees Cashless Medical Scheme in Lucknow, UP.

Aim :

- To provide cashless medical facilities to more than 75 lakh people including 22 lakh state government employees, pensioners, and their dependents.

About the Scheme :

- Under the Scheme, the eligible people will get cashless medical facilities at government-run institutions, medical colleges, and hospitals without any financial limit.
- Cashless medical facilities up to Rs 5 lakh will be available at hospitals empanelled under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme.
- Also, a State Health Card would be provided to the eligible employees and pensioners.
- Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' Ayushman Bharat, medical insurance coverage up to Rs 5 lakh is being provided to poor families.
- He stated that under the Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya Yojana, Antyodaya (poorest of the poor) families of the UP are being provided medical insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh
- Besides, medical insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh is also being provided to the registered workers of the Construction Workers Welfare Board.

About UP :

- Governor : Anandiben Patel
- CM: Yogi Adityanath
- Capital: Lucknow
- National Parks: Dudhwa National Park

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary
- Tiger Reserve: Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

Punjab FM presents the AAP government's first budget for FY 2022-23

- Punjab finance minister Shri Harpal Singh Cheema presented the first budget of the Bhagwant Mann-led Aam Aadmi Party government a ₹1,55,859.78-crore budget, which reflects 14.20 percent growth as compared to 2021-22.
- No new tax has been proposed in the budget.
- The Budget also lays provisions for introducing Fiscal Risk Management.
- Reading out from the paperless budget, Cheema, informed us that Our 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.
- Punjab FM stated that the Janata budget (people's budget) has been prepared after receiving 20,384 suggestions on the government portal and through emails.
- The Punjab government borrowed Rs 8,000 crore in the last three months & also contributed Rs 1,000 crore to the Consolidated Sinking Fund (CSF) of the state within the first two months.

On electricity

- The Punjab government is fulfilling its first guarantee (promise) made to the people of the state by providing 300 units of domestic power supply per month free to all citizens from July 1, 2022.
- A total power subsidy bill has been proposed at Rs 15,845 crore as against Rs 13,443 crore in 2021-22.

Health Sector :

- The government will set up 16 new medical colleges over five years, taking the total number of colleges in the state to 25.
- A sum of ₹1,033 crores has been allocated for medical education, which is an increase of 56.60% over FY 2021-22.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- The government will set up two super-specialty hospitals in Patiala and Faridkot in two years & 3 more super-specialty hospitals shall be opened by 2027.
- 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**.

Agriculture Sector :

- 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**.
- **₹100 crores** have been allocated for the installation of the **rooftop solar panel system** in government schools.
- The **Punjab Sikhya Te Sehat Fund**, a trust to assist capital asset creation in the health and education sector, will be set up during the year and the government will provide token assistance initially as seed money to it during FY 2022-23.
- The government proposes **₹200 crores** for solutions to **stubble burning**.

Other Key Highlights :

- Further, cyber-crime control rooms shall be set up in all districts with an outlay of **Rs 30 crore**.
- **₹5 crores** are hereby proposed for the installation of CCTV cameras at Mohali and similarly, CCTV cameras will be installed at police Mahila Mittar Kendras during FY 2022-23.
- 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.

Madhya Pradesh Burhanpur Becomes India's 1st Certified 'Har Ghar Jal' District

- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** announced that **Madhya Pradesh's Burhanpur** popularly known as the 'Darwaza of Dakhin' or **Gateway of Deccan**, became the **first Certified 'Har Ghar Jal'** (water connection to every house) district in India.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- Only **37,241 rural households (36.54 percent)** out of a total of **1,01,905 households** in Burhanpur had potable drinking water through tap connections at the time of the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission on **15th August 2019**.
- In Madhya Pradesh, **42.71 percent** of the households have been provided with a tap water supply as of July 22, 2022.
- However, as of July 22, all the houses in the district **1,01,905** have access to tap water in **254 villages**, including in **43,701 tribal households**.

About VWSC :

- The government has formed a **Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC)** in all the **254 villages**.
- The committee is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and repair of water supply infrastructure developed under the **Har Ghar Jal program**.
- It is this sub-committee that has the responsibility to collect user charges which will be deposited in the bank account and shall be used to pay the salary of the pump operator and carry out minor repair work from time to time.

Coverage :

- So far, **three States Goa, Telangana, and Haryana**, and **three UTs Andaman and the Nicobar Islands, Dadar and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, and Puducherry** have provided **100% tap water coverage**.
- According to the Jal Jeevan Mission dashboard, the states of Goa, Telangana, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and Daman & Diu, Haryana have already achieved their targets of providing tap water connections to all of their citizens.
- **Punjab, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and Bihar** have attained over **90 percent coverage**.
- The states of Manipur, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu, and Kashmir, Tripura, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu have reached a coverage mark of between **50-72%**.

About Jal Jeevan Mission :

- Jal Jeevan Mission was launched on **August 15, 2019**, under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.

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- It is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India.
- **Goa** became the **first state** to reach the target.

About Ministry of Jal Shakti :

- Cabinet Minister : Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
- Minister of State : Prahlad Singh Patel, Bishweswar Tudu

About Madhya Pradesh :

- Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel
- Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Capital: Bhopal

India's first-of-its-kind brain health clinic was inaugurated in Bangalore, Karnataka

- On **World Brain Day-2022 (22 July)** Karnataka Health Minister **Dr. K Sudhakar** inaugurated the **Brain Health Clinic (BBC)** in a **first-of-its-kind** initiative in India, at **Jayanagar General Hospital, Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- It was launched under the **Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (KaBHI)** in association with the **National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS)**.
- The event was organized by the NIMHANS and stated that treatment for mental health will be available at the **243 Namma Clinics** will be started in Bengaluru.
- Cricketer and Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (Ka-Bhi) ambassador **Robin Uthappa**, who took part in the event, launched the cricket match titled '**A morning cricket session 'Reflections with Robin'**'.
- He also stated that the Union government was on its way to announcing a new **Tele-Manas** initiative which is based on **E-Manas**, a platform pioneered by Karnataka. E-Manas is an online platform where patients, mental health professionals, and mental health establishments could register which will greatly increase access to mental health.

About Brain Health Clinic :

- The Brain Health Clinic will serve as a **nodal center** to diagnose, treat, refer and follow up patients with common neurological disorders and ensure that they receive multidisciplinary care, including counseling, physiotherapy, rehabilitation, and disability benefits.

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- Two more Brain Health Clinics will be inaugurated soon in the **Kolar** and **Chikkaballapura** districts of Karnataka.

About KaBHI :

- The initiative was launched in **January 2022** by **Chief Minister Shri Basavaraj Bommai** on a pilot basis.
- KaBHI is the first of its kind initiative in India to promote brain health in the community from PHCs to secondary level district hospitals and NIMHANS at the tertiary level
- The main focus of the KaBHI initiative is to train **PHC doctors** to diagnose and provide primary care for brain and mental health issues including **stroke, epilepsy, Parkinson's, brain tumor, and dementia**

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah launches e-FIR system in Gujarat

- Union home minister, **Shri Amit Shah** has launched an **e-FIR filing system** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat** which will enable the citizens to file **FIRs online**, without visiting the police stations.

About the e-FIR system :

- Through the e-FIR online service, the citizens of Gujarat will not need to go to the police station to file a complaint and the time of the citizens will be saved and the complaints will be disposed of quickly.
- The e-FIR service has been coordinated with the **Gujarat State Police CCTV Command and Control**.
- After the e-FIR will be registered, if the vehicle passes through the road, the vehicle number will be immediately flashed at the CCTV command and control, through which the crime of theft can be detected immediately.
- The Minister flagged off vehicles of the **Anti-Human Trafficking Unit at Police Bhawan in Gandhinagar**.
- He will inaugurate various developmental works in his **Lok Sabha Constituency-Gandhinagar**.
- He also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various developmental works in his native place **Mansa in Gandhinagar** & including the inauguration of the newly built **Mid-Day Meal kitchen** for students under the **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Yojana**.
- He will inaugurate several projects of the **Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority**.

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- He will also launch the state-wide rollout of body-worn cameras for field policemen.

Additional Info :

- The Gujarat Government launched the **Citizen First Mobile App, Citizen Portal** in 2019 to enable the citizens of the state to get some police services online using the e-Gujcop database.

About Gujarat :

- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Capital: Gandhinagar
- National Park: Gir National Park, Velavadar National Park, Marine National Park, Vansda National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda Wildlife Sanctuary, Purna WS, Gaga WS, Shoolpaneshwar WS.

Gujarat Becomes the first state to announce a Semiconductor policy

- Gujarat Chief Minister **Shri Bhupendra Patel** announced a dedicated **Gujarat Semiconductor Policy 2022-27**.

Aim :

- To generate more than 2,00,000 new employment opportunities during five years.

Primary Objective :

- To make Gujarat a forerunner in developing the **Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) ecosystem**.

Note :

- Gujarat has become the **first state** in India to have a dedicated policy for the **semiconductor and display production sector** (Gujarat Semiconductor Policy 2022-27).
- The Gujarat Govt proposes to develop a special **Semicon City** which would be part of the **Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR), Ahmedabad**.

About the Policy :

- The policy focuses on guiding a significant portion of investments made under these **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** policies towards Gujarat.

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- At the facility, eligible projects will be given a **75 percent subsidy** on the purchase of the **first 200 acres** of land for setting up manufacturing units.
- Meanwhile, additional land for upstream or downstream projects will get a **50 % subsidy** on land cost.
- To encourage investors under the policy, the Gujarat govt has also announced to reimburse **100 percent of stamp duty** which investors would pay for the first time for taking **land on lease or land transfer**.
- The eligible projects will be provided good quality water at the rate of **Rs 12 per cubic meter** for the **first 5 years**.
- The manufacturing units will get a power tariff subsidy of **Rs 2 per unit** for the **first 10 years** of going into production & such projects will be exempted from paying any electricity duty.

About Gujarat :

- Governor: Acharya Dev Vrat
- Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Capital: Gandhinagar
- National Park : Gir National Park, Velavadar NP, Vansda NP.
- Wildlife Sanctuary: Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, Barda WS, Purna WS

Bonalu Festival 2022 Celebrated in Telangana

- **Bonalu Festival** is celebrated in **Telangana**, specifically in the **twin cities** of **Hyderabad** and **Secunderabad**, and is dedicated to **Goddess MahaKali**.
- The festival is celebrated usually during **Ashada Masam (July-August)**.
- In 2022, the festival began on July 3 and will end on July 24, 2022.

About Bonam :

- Bonam means a **feast** or a meal in Telugu, an offering to the Goddess, cooked with milk, or jaggery in an earthen or brass pot.
- The pot is decorated with turmeric, Neem leaves, and vermillion.
- Women carry these pots on their heads and make an offering of Bonam, including Bangles and Saree to the Mother Goddess at Temples.

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- Bonalu involves worship of Kali in her various forms such as Mysamma, Pochamma, Yellamma, Dokkamma, Pedamma, Poleramma, Ankamma, Maremma, Nookamma, etc.

About Telangana :

- Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan
- Chief minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao
- Capital: Hyderabad

Chhattisgarh CM Shri Bhupesh Baghel Flags Off 'Mukhyamantri Mahtari Nyay Rath' to make women aware of their rights

- On the occasion of the Hareli Tihaar festival, Chhattisgarh Shri Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel flagged off the 'Mukhyamantri Mahtari Nyay Rath' from Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Aim :

- To make the women of Chhattisgarh aware of their constitutional rights and laws.
- The program commenced with the State Song of Chhattisgarh.
- Rath Yatra was flagged off with the slogan of "Baat He Abhimaan Ke, Mahila Man Ke Samman Ke".
- The Chhattisgarh Women Commission will organize Mukhyamantri Mahtari Nyay Rath Yatra to make the women of the state aware of their constitutional rights and laws.

About 'Mukhyamantri Mahtari Nyay Rath' :

- Mukhyamantri Mahtari Nyay Rath Yatra will go from village to village in all the districts to create mass awareness about the legal provisions and constitutional rights of women.
- The Information regarding women's rights and concerning laws will be spread through short films, messages, and brochures.
- Mukhyamantri Mahtari Nyay Rath will initially tour nine districts of the state that receive the Mineral Trust fund, i.e. Durg, Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Balodabazar-Bhatapara, Mahasamund, Janjgir-Champa, Gariaband, Dhamtari, Kanker.
- National award-winning short films in Chhattisgarhi and Hindi, based on various laws, will be screened on large LED screens during the Rath Yatra.
- The Government of Chhattisgarh has made special changes in the DMF (District Mineral Foundation) policy, to operate Mahtari Nyay Rath under DMF.

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About Chhattisgarh :

- Governor: Anusuiya Uikey
- Chief minister: Bhupesh Baghel
- Capital: Raipur

IMPORTANT NATIONAL NEWS

The government has launched the Dak Karmayogi e-learning platform:

- **Shri Ashwini Vaishnav**, the minister of communication, railways, electronics, and IT, and **Shri Devusinh Chauhan**, the minister of state for communications, unveiled the **Dak Karmayogi**, a department of the posts e-learning platform.
- The event took place in Stein Auditorium at Indian Habitat Center.
- This website was created by the mission Karmayogi vision, which **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** launched to increase the efficiency of the government of **India's bureaucracy and achieve maximum governance with minimal government.**

Objectives

- By giving students access to uniform, appropriate training materials online and in a hybrid campus setting, the Dak Karmayogi portal seeks to improve the competencies of approximately **4 lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks** and department employees so they can more successfully provide a variety of **G2C services for increased customer satisfaction.**
- An automatically created course completion certificate will be emailed to the trainee's registered email ID after they complete the final summative exam.
- The site enables the class to provide comments, ratings, and enhancement requests for each film and other pieces of educational information.

Meghdoot Award:

- The Meghdoot Award, which was **first presented in 1984**, is the highest honor bestowed upon a **departmental post** at the federal level for overall performance and excellence.
- The winners get a medallion, a certificate, and a **monetary award of 21,000 rupees.**

In 25 cities throughout India, there will be 122 unicorns in the next two to four years:

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- India is expected to create **122 new unicorns in the next 2-4 years**, per the **Hurun Research Institute's research**, Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2022.
- These prospective unicorns are presently valued at **49 billion US dollars overall**.
- A startup is referred to regarded as a unicorn when its valuation reaches **USD 1 billion**.

Key Points:

- **Bengaluru, which has 33 unicorns**, will get 46 new additions.
- **Delhi NCR will get 25, Mumbai will get 16, Chennai will get 5, and Pune will get 3**. Right now, Bengaluru is the state with the most unicorns.
- The remaining unicorns are expected to show up in 20 more towns.
- The multinational venture capital company Sequoia Capital has invested in 39 of these prospective **Unicorns, followed by Tiger Global**, which has invested in 27.
- Most of these potential unicorns were established in 2015.

About the Survey:

- According to the poll, 63% of these enterprises were consumer-facing, while 37% belonged to the business-to-business (B2B) sector, which offered services to the financial services, logistics, healthcare, and education sectors.
- The analysis has separated would-be unicorns into three categories: Cheetahs, who have a chance of becoming unicorns in the next four years, and Gazelles, which have the highest chance of doing so in the next two years.
- It stated that the startup boom had accelerated due to the epidemic.
- According to experts, a record 44 unicorns appeared in 2021, elevating India to third place among startup ecosystems worldwide.
- Additionally, the experts found that there are now 65% more unicorns, 51% more gazelles, and 71% more cheetahs in the country.
- Product and market fit will continue to drive Indian enterprises, the report's results indicate.

Centre grants financial assistance of five lakh rupees to 35 families of journalists under the 'Journalist Welfare Scheme':

- The **Central Government** has approved a proposal of the **Journalist Welfare Scheme Committee** to provide financial relief to the **families of 35 journalists who have lost their lives**.

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- This includes **16 families of journalists who died of Covid-19.**
- The JWS committee meeting was attended by Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau **Jaideep Bhatnagar**, Joint Secretary in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry along with the journalist representatives of the Committee.
- The families will be provided with the **assistance of up to five lakh rupees.**

About The Journalist Welfare Scheme

- The Journalist Welfare Scheme, JWS Committee headed by Secretary, Information and Broadcasting Ministry, Apurva Chandra also recommended assistance to two journalists suffering from permanent disability and to five journalists for their medical treatment of major ailments as per the JWS guidelines.
- The committee approved total assistance of one crore and 81 lakh rupees during the meeting.
- Under the scheme, assistance has been provided to 123 families of the journalists so far, who have lost their lives due to Covid-19.
- Assistance is also provided to journalists in case of permanent disability, serious accidents, and major health ailments.
- During the last financial year, 134 journalists and their families assisted in under various categories amounting to six crores 47 lakh rupees.

Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme completes two years:

- **The Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises, PMFME Scheme, under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, has completed two years.**
- The PMFME Scheme is currently being implemented in **35 States and Union Territories**, envisioning enhancement of the existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and formalization of the sector.
- This scheme also envisages financial support of 40,000 rupees for working capital and the purchase of small tools for each member of the **Self-Help Group (SHG)** engaged in food processing activities.
- Over one lakh SHG members have been identified and the seed capital amount of **203 crore rupees** has been released so far.

About Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises:

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- Ministry of Food Processing Industry (MoFPI) has launched the **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme** under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan to enhance competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and promote formalization of the sector.
- The scheme is to be implemented over **five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with a total outlay of Rupees 10,000 crore.**
- The scheme has a special focus on supporting Groups engaged in **Agri-food processing such as Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), and Producers Cooperatives** along their entire value chain.

The PMFME scheme support in terms of:

- i. Food processing entrepreneurs through credit-linked capital subsidy @35% of the eligible project cost with a maximum ceiling of Rs.10 lakh per unit.
- ii. Seed capital @ Rs. 40,000/- per SHG member for working capital and purchase of small tools.
- iii. Credit linked grant of 35% for capital investment to FPOs/ SHGs/ producer cooperatives.
- iv. Support for marketing & branding to micro-units.
- v. Support for common infrastructure and handholding support to SHGs, FPOs, and Producer Cooperatives.
- vi. Providing Capacity building and training support to increase the capabilities of the enterprises and up-gradation of skills of workers.

Bosch India's "smart" campus is opened by PM in Bengaluru:

- In a sense, **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** officially launched the **new smart campus of Bosch India**, a leading provider of technology and services in Bengaluru.
- As both **India and Bosch India celebrate their 75th anniversaries** of independence this year, Modi said in his inaugural speech that this is a momentous year for both nations.

Key Points:

- A century ago, **Bosch came to India as a German company**; now, it is just as much an Indian company as it is one from Germany.
- This is a wonderful example of **German engineering with Indian energy.**

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- This campus is at the forefront of developing cutting-edge products and services for both India and the rest of the globe.
- The Prime Minister begs **Bosch to make plans for the next 25 years** and take India more seriously.
- It is stepping up its **AIoT (Artificial Intelligence of Things)** activities in that nation by rebranding its **headquarters in Adugodi, India**, as a new smart campus called Spark.
- Bosch claimed to have spent Rs 800 crore over the previous five years building the campus, which can house 10,000 associates.

To create Amrit Vatika, NMCG plants 75 saplings:

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) erected **Namami Gange Amrit Vatika** at Kalindi Kunj Ghat on the **River Yamuna in New Delhi** with the planting of **75 trees** as part of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**.
- The overarching organization for the planting endeavor was the project Yamuna Ghat par Vriksharopan.
- With a financial commitment of **Rs. 20,000 crore**, the **Union Government of India** authorized the **Namami Gange Program**, an integrated conservation program, as a "**Flagship Program**" in **June 2014**.
- One of the Namami Gange Program's primary areas of focus, according to **NMCG Director General G. Asok Kumar**, is cleaning up Ganga tributaries, notably the Yamuna.
- He motivated the audience to support the Clean Yamuna campaign.
- Every month on the fourth Saturday, the National Mission for Clean Ganga organizes a cleanup campaign along the River Yamuna in Delhi.

Indians can now receive up to Rs 10 lakh without telling the authorities according to a Center amendment to the FCRA:

- Union Home Ministry has amended the **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)** giving certain relaxations such as allowing relatives to **send more money to India freely**.
- The amended rule now allows relatives to **send 10 lakh rupees** without informing the government.

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- If the amount exceeds, the individuals will now have **three months to inform the government against 30-days earlier**.
- The amended rule also gives more time to the organizations to inform the government about the opening of bank accounts for the utilization of funds received under **the 'registration' or 'prior permission' category**.
- A provision where an organization/individual receiving foreign funds had to declare such contributions every quarter on its official website has also been done away with.

Grand Hackathon: Shri Piyush Goyal launches three-day event:

- A three-day Grand Hackathon that the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** is organizing in collaboration with **NABARD** has essentially begun according to **Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal**.
- The physical element of this event was held at the Bombay Stock Exchange's Fort, Mumbai, site.
- **The Agri Grant Challenge and the Agri Innovation Hackathon** are the two divisions of the Grand Hackathon, and both will spotlight ideas that can aid in the adoption of eCommerce by the agriculture sector.

Key Points:

- The newly established **ONDC-NABARD Grand Hackathon**, according to Shri Goyal, will provide start-ups with a forum to work with ONDC and develop innovative solutions for some of the most pressing issues in the agri-sector.
- Even while it may appear to be a little step right now, in the long term, this will give farmers more sway across the country.
- Early indications indicate that this will probably have an impact on how e-commerce is conducted worldwide, not only in India.
- The Minister asserts that this Government has given protecting farmers' welfare and doubling their income a top priority.
- According to Piyush Goyal, we may anticipate faster economic growth the more we use technology and innovation to support our farmers' access to agriculture inputs and market connections.

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- To democratize the country's present e-commerce ecosystem by establishing an open network for customers and sellers, ONDC is notably a Government of India initiative.
- Shri Goyal asserts that it is crucial for the agricultural industry's digital transformation as well as for democratizing the agri-value chain.
- With the active assistance of NABARD, ONDC will onboard the whole agricultural value chain, including FPOs, mandis, processors, exporters, MSMEs, and small retailers.

Forum for Nature-Based Solutions: India is launched by NIUA's C-Cube and WRI:

- **World Resources Institute India (WRI India), the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), and other partners launched India's first national coalition platform for urban nature-based solutions (NbS) during the 11th World Urban Forum in Poland.**
- For addressing climate change-related issues including heat waves, urban floods, pollution of the air and water, and storm surges, ecosystem-based services, and nature-based solutions are swiftly developing into realistic, inexpensive possibilities.

About the World Urban Forum:

- Representatives from the Forum's key partner organizations, including **GiZ India, India Climate Collaborative, The Nature Conservancy, WWF India, and Wetlands International**, vowed to cooperate to realize the Forum's objectives.
- The "India Forum for Nature-based Solutions" is run by the Climate Centre for Cities of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, with the **World Resources Institute India (WRI India)** serving as its anchor organization under the Cities4Forests initiative.
- The Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative, the UK government, and the Department of Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs support it (DEFRA).

Key Points:

- One of the numerous societal issues that NbS strives to address in addition to reducing the consequences of climate change is building resilience in the underprivileged and vulnerable urban neighborhoods that are most affected by catastrophes connected to climate change.
- To scale urban nature-based solutions, **the India Forum for Nature-based Solutions aims to bring together NbS entrepreneurs, government organizations, and groups with related objectives.**

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- This is done by establishing a common language and communicating benefits that inform local actions, such as expanding already-existing NbS interventions.
- Promoting multi-stakeholder cooperation, improving delivery systems, and encouraging investment
- In India, project interventions, planning, and policy are being influenced to advance urban ecosystem-based services and nature-based solutions.

Utilizing the BiSAG-N app, Steel Ministry interfaces with the GatiShakti portal:

- To identify and resolve connectivity gaps in the infrastructure, the Ministry of Steel announced that it has joined the **PM Gati Shakti Portal** and uploaded the geo-coordinates of significant projects.
- Using the **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BiSAG-N) software**, the ministry registered itself on the National Master Plan site.

Key Points:

- The geolocations of each steel mill owned by the **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE)** have been made available on the internet.
- The steel ministry has selected 38 high-impact projects to improve multimodal connectivity and address infrastructure gaps.
- The mining sites for each of these CPSEs were being uploaded.
- The government will also list the **more than 2,000 steel-producing facilities in the nation**.
- More relevant information, including production capacity and product details for each unit and mine, will be provided in upcoming updates.
- The Prime Minister unveiled the **Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for Infrastructure Development in October 2021** to bring together multiple ministries for coordinated planning of infrastructure connectivity projects.

PM Set to Launch UP Expressway in Coming Week:

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** is scheduled to officially open the **Bundelkhand Expressway in the first week of July**.
- The administration has predicted that these events would take place on July 6 or 7.

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- The 296.07 km long Bundelkhand Expressway links Delhi and the National Capital Area with the Bundelkhand region near Agra.
- The Prime Minister's office has indicated July 6-7 as potential dates for the Bundelkhand Expressway inaugural event.
- However, the final choice about the dates has not yet been made.
- The **Agra-Lucknow Expressway and the Bundelkhand Expressway** join near Kudrail village in the Etawah district.
- The Bundelkhand Expressway begins at Bharatkoop in the Chitrakoot district.

Key Points:

- The Bundelkhand Expressway's opening will be the second major occasion under the Yogi Government.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the third groundbreaking event in the state on June 3rd as the primary guest.
- Only 28 months after Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** inaugurated the expressway on **February 29, 2020**, it was finished ahead of schedule.
- The precise deadline assigned for finishing this expressway was 36 months.
- The UP Government has saved 1,132 crores, or around **12.72 percent of the initial anticipated cost, with this initiative.**
- The seven districts of the state are connected by the four-lane Bundelkhand Expressway, which is set to become six lanes in the upcoming year.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will perform the expressway's opening ceremony at the Jalaun district's Katheri hamlet.

Bundelkhand Expressway:

- The expressway travels over six toll booths, 266 minor bridges, four railroad overpasses, and 18 flyovers.
- The districts through which the expressway passes are listed below.
 - 1) Chitrakoot
 - 2) Banda
 - 3) Hamirpur

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- 4) Mahoba
- 5) Jalaun
- 6) Auraiya
- 7) Etawah

The rivers along the Expressway are:

- 1) Bagen
- 2) Ken
- 3) Shyama
- 4) Chandawal
- 5) Birma
- 6) The Yamuna
- 7) Betwa
- 8) Sengar

Projects worth Rs. 1,800 Crore were inaugurated during PM Modi's visit to Varanasi:

- **Shri Narendra Modi**, the prime minister, will head to **Varanasi to visit his Lok Sabha district**.
- There, he will dedicate and lay the cornerstone for several development initiatives totaling more than **\$8,000,000**.
- These programs will concentrate on enhancing infrastructure and simplifying people's lives.
- At LT College in Varanasi, the Prime Minister will open the **"Akshay Patra Mid-Day Meal Kitchen."**
- Up to one lakh, pupils can get midday meals from the college.
- The "Akshay Patra Mid-Day Meal Kitchen" will be officially opened.
- Also, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will open the International Cooperation and Convention Centre's **"Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam,"** which will discuss the execution of the **National Education Policy**.
- At the Dr. Sampurnanad Sports stadium, the Prime Minister will dedicate several **projects worth \$8,000 crore and lay their foundation stones**.
- The following events will be facilitated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi:
 - ✓ Building a four-lane overpass on the route between Babatpur and Kapsethi-Bhadohi
 - ✓ Varuna River Bridge on Central Jail Road

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- ✓ Pindra-Kathiraon Road widening
 - ✓ Phoolpur-Sindhaura connection road widening
 - ✓ strengthening and building eight country roads
 - ✓ seven roads will be built as part of the PMGSY, and the Dharsauna-Sindhaura route will be widened.
- The foundation stone will be laid by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** for projects totaling more than **Rs. 1200 crore**.
 - Among the several road infrastructure projects are:
 - ✓ Road expansion from Lahartara to six lanes.
 - ✓ Vijaya Cinema to BHU
 - ✓ The road from Pandeypur flyover to ring road is expanded to four lanes.
 - ✓ From Kuchaheri to Sandaha, a four-lane highway.
 - ✓ improving and enlarging rural roads between Varanasi and Bhadohi
 - ✓ the building of five new highways
 - ✓ In the rural area of Varanasi, four CC roads are being built.
 - ✓ On the Babatpur-Chaubeypur route, a bridge over a road is being built close to the Babatpur railway station.

PM Shri Modi inaugurated Digital India Week 2022 at Gandhinagar:

- **Digital India Week 2022** was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the Mahatma Mandir in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- Catalyzing New India's Techade is the focus of this year's Digital India Week, which aims to **convert the country into a knowledge-based society and economy**.
- The three-day orientation session "**India Stack Knowledge Exchange- Showcasing India Stack and India's Digital Products and Services**" for Digital India Week 2022 will begin on July 7.

About The Digital India Week 2022 program:

- The Digital India Week 2022 program will highlight the digital platforms that have made life easier for the populace, including **Aadhaar, UPI, Cowin, and Digilocker**.
- Startups, government officials, business and academic professionals, and entrepreneurs will all take part in this session.

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- Indian unicorns and startups have put up an expo at **Mahatma Mandir** with more than **200 booths**.
- Along with other visitors, Prime Minister Mr. Modi engaged in conversation with those involved with startups and unicorns at this expo.

Highlights:

- Additionally, **Mr. Modi has introduced "Digital India Bhashini,"** which would make it simple for Indians to use the internet and digital services in their native tongues.
- Additionally, he established the national deep-tech startup platform **"Digital India GENESIS" - Gen-next Support for Innovative Startups.**
- For these programs, a total budget of 750 crore rupees has been planned.
- The government programs will be accessible through **"MyScheme,"** which the Prime Minister has also dedicated.

PM Shri Modi inaugurated Digital India Week 2022 at Gandhinagar:

- **Digital India Week 2022 was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** at the Mahatma Mandir in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**
- Catalyzing New India's Techade is the focus of this year's Digital India Week, which aims to **convert the country into a knowledge-based society and economy.**
- The three-day orientation session **"India Stack Knowledge Exchange- Showcasing India Stack and India's Digital Products and Services"** for Digital India Week 2022 will begin on July 7.

About The Digital India Week 2022 program:

- The Digital India Week 2022 program will highlight the digital platforms that have made life easier for the populace, including **Aadhaar, UPI, Cowin, and Digilocker.**
- Startups, government officials, business and academic professionals, and entrepreneurs will all take part in this session.
- Indian unicorns and startups have put up an expo at **Mahatma Mandir** with more than **200 booths**.
- Along with other visitors, Prime Minister Mr. Modi engaged in conversation with those involved with startups and unicorns at this expo.

Highlights:

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- Additionally, Mr. Modi has introduced "Digital India Bhashini," which would make it simple for Indians to use the internet and digital services in their native tongues.
- Additionally, he established the national deep-tech startup platform "Digital India GENESIS" - Gen-next Support for Innovative Startups.
- For these programs, a total budget of 750 crore rupees has been planned.
- The government programs will be accessible through "MyScheme," which the Prime Minister has also dedicated.

Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam is to be inaugurated in Varanasi by Prime Minister:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam at Varanasi.
- The Samagam is being organized by the Education Ministry in association with University Grants Commission and Banaras Hindu University.
- The three-day event will bring together over 300 Vice-Chancellors and Directors from public and private universities, educationists, policymakers, as also industry representatives to deliberate on how the implementation of the National Education Policy-2020 can be taken further across the country after the successful implementation of several initiatives in the last two years.

Attendees:

- Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will also attend.

Key Points:

- The summit will provide a platform for leading Indian Higher Educational Institutions to discuss, deliberate, and share insights on strategies, success stories, and best practices in implementing the National Education Policy-2020.
- The key highlight of the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam will be the adoption of the Varanasi Declaration on Higher Education which will showcase India's extended vision and a renewed commitment to help achieve the goals of the higher education system.

CBSE launches Pariksha Sangam portal to streamline board examination results:

- To consolidate board examination results, sample papers, and other information in a single window, the CBSE Board has created a website named "Pariksha Sangam."

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- The recently developed Pariksha Sangam portal, according to cbse.digitaleducation.com, "would unify numerous examination-related operations to be carried out by the school's regional offices and the Headquarters of the CBSE Board."

About Pariksha Sangam:

- Students may readily view the results of the Class 10th and Class 12th boards on Pariksha Sangam, another portal.
- The Pariksha Sangam is split into three primary sections: the head office (Ganga), regional offices, and schools (Saraswati).
- All of the operations linked to the **CBSE Board Result 2022 for classes 10th and 12th** will be streamlined through the **Pariksha Sangam platform**.
- Examples include the CBSE circular, the most recent CBSE news, reference books, sample papers, model papers, the Question Bank, school results, and much more.

Section for Pariksha Sangam Schools (Ganga):

- Students and all other stakeholders will have access to exam study materials, details on pre-exam and exam activities, school DigiLocker, and post-exam activities, as well as communication and an integrated payment system, under this area (IPS).

Regional offices for Pariksha Sangam (Yamuna) section:

- The Historical Information Repository of Schools, RO Dashboards for Command, Control, and E-Sandesh, Integrated Payment Monitoring for Term 1 and Data Management, and other topics are covered in this part for CBSE hopefuls.

Pariksha Sangam's Saraswati headquarters section:

- Students may learn more about Exam Reference Material, Pre-Exam Dates/MIS, Exam Conduct MIS, Post Exam Data, Centralized LOC Correction, CMTM, and many more topics in this area.

"HariyaliMahotsav" to be organized by the Ministry of Environment:

- A "Hariyali Mahotsav" in the tradition of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" will be held at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry & Climate Change.
- To conduct planting drives on occasion, the Mahotsav is being organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Climate Change in partnership with the State Governments, Police Institutions, and Schools of Delhi.

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- As part of this Mahotsav, ceremonial planting drives are being conducted with the involvement of 75 Nagar Vans throughout the nation, 75 Police Stations, 75 Schools in Delhi/NCR, and 75 degraded plantation sites in the various states.

About the Hariyali Mahotsav:

- The "Tree Festival," or Hariyali Mahotsav, is being held to raise awareness of the value of trees in protecting future generations as well as preserving the lives of current ones.
- When it comes to reducing the negative consequences of climate change, trees are crucial.
- This Mahotsav is regarded as a powerful instrument for igniting a public passion for protecting forests and planting trees.
- It is crucial in completing the government's policy and program measures for environmental protection.
- In commemoration of the essential role that forests and other greenery play in preserving ecological harmony and offering a variety of ecosystem services to the earth, Hariyali Mahotsav is observed throughout the nation.

India's first floating LNG terminal likely to operationalize in H2 2022:

- India's first floating terminal for liquefied natural gas (LNG) at Jaigarh in Maharashtra is expected to be operational in the second half of 2022.
- Besides, another floating terminal at Jafrabad in Gujarat is also likely to begin operations this calendar year.
- H-Energy Gateway's floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) at Jaigarh and the Swan Energy-led terminal at Jafrabad are cumulatively expected to add 11 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of regasification capacity
- At present, India has six operational import terminals.
- Despite accounting for only 39.5 MTPA of regasification capacity by the end of 2020, India has another 30 MTPA of capacity under construction as of April 2022

Floating LNG terminals

- India's first FSRU-based terminals, which were initially due to be commissioned in early 2021, are likely to see operations start-up in the second half of 2022.
- Energy's Jaigarh terminal in Maharashtra in March 2022.

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- The FSRU will deliver regasified LNG to the 56-kilometer-long Jaigarh-Dabhol LNG natural gas pipeline, connecting the LNG terminal to the national gas grid

Natural gas import:

- India imports half of its natural gas requirements.
- In FY21, India imported 33,031 million standard cubic meters (MSCM) of LNG worth \$7.9 billion, while in FY22, the inbound shipments of the commodity stood at 30,776 MSCM worth \$13.4 billion.
- During April-May of FY23, the world's fourth-largest LNG importer shipped 4,949 MSCM LNG worth \$2.2 billion.
- India's utilization rate dropped to 58 percent in 2021 from 65 percent in 2020.
- The relatively low utilization rate reflects the availability of spare capacity to support growth in India's LNG demand.
- This growth is driven primarily by growth in demand for city gas

Mr. Parshottam Rupala inaugurates India's first-ever Animal Health Summit:

- **Mr. Parshottam Rupala**, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying urged for wider usage of Ayurveda to ensure better animal health at the First India Animal Health Summit 2022.
- The first India Animal Health Summit 2022 was hosted at the NASC Complex in New Delhi, to understand the importance of animal health to the country's food and nutrition security, rural income and prosperity, and overall economic growth.

About the 'India Animal Health Summit 2022':

- The Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) and the Agriculture Group are hosting the "India Animal Health Summit 2022."
- The two-day event will feature a wide variety of panel talks on subjects including the Business environment & investment prospects in the Animal Health industry, as well as Animal Health policy initiatives.
- Later, the discussions will be recorded and forwarded to the relevant authorities.

Union Minister Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launches SVANidhi Mahotsav:

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- **Shri Hardeep Singh Puri**, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, announced the commencement of the "SVANidhi Mahotsav" in honor of the PM SVANidhi scheme's second anniversary, which will be observed from July 9 to July 31.
- The festival, which will take place in **75 places in all 50 states and the Union Territories**, will feature a variety of cultural events as well as digital training exercises and loan melas.
- Additionally, it will feature ceremonies to honor notable street sellers.
- The event is the first of its kind for the financial inclusion of street sellers and intends to commemorate 75 years of independence with nano-entrepreneurs.
- The beneficiary of the plan has received a **total distribution of 3,600 crore rupees**, he continued.
- The Modi administration introduced the **PM SVANidhi initiative in July 2020** to offer loans to street vendors who were suffering from the terrible impacts of the coronavirus outbreak.

2-Day training on Disaster Management of Museums held at Rashtrapati Bhavan:

- In cooperation with the **National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)**, Rashtrapati Bhavan organized a session on "**Disaster Management of Museums and Heritage Buildings**" at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum.
- The President's Secretariat stated that the purpose of this training is to increase the employees at Rashtrapati Bhavan and other stakeholders' understanding of crisis management, with a specific emphasis on historical structures, museums, and cultural treasures.
- India's leading training and capacity-building organization for managing natural disasters on a national and regional level are the **National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)**.
- The **National Centre of Disaster Management (NCDM)**, which was founded by an Act of **Parliament in 1995**, was renamed the National Institute of Disaster Management by the **Disaster Management Act 2005**, which was ratified by the President of India on January 9, 2006.

Key Points:

- Throughout the two-day workshop, participants will participate in a variety of sessions to learn about the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR)**, the Prime Minister's 10 Point Agenda on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Disaster Management Act's various aspects, the Disaster Management framework, and guidelines, etc.

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- The first day's presenters emphasized the significance of promoting disaster management knowledge and instructing attendees on how to reduce loss in the case of a disaster.
- They also emphasized the importance of disaster management in old buildings and the necessity to have effective regulations and response mechanisms.

Shri Amit Shah virtually unveils 'Statue of Peace' of Swamy Ramanujacharya:

- The "Statue of Peace" of Swamy Ramanujacharya, which is housed in a temple in the Sonwar neighborhood of Srinagar, was essentially unveiled by Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah.
- Saint Ramanujacharya, commonly known as Ramanuja, was a south Indian Brahmin born in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.
- He is regarded as a brilliant thinker, philosopher, and social reformer.

About the Ramanuja:

- Ramanuja is renowned for having rebelled against untouchability prejudice and for having contributed to a significant transformation in society.
- He shared the fundamentals of salvation and practiced Vaishnavism.
- He authored several publications, including Sri Bhashya, Vedartha Sangraha, and Bhagavad Gita Bhasya, all of which are distinct from Adi Shankaracharya's teachings.
- The saint is renowned for assessing people based on their character rather than their caste at birth.
- He is thought to have been the first acharya in Hinduism to introduce women into "sanyasa" (renunciation of the world).
- He is also known for blending Vedanta methodology with 'bhakti'.
- After Ramanuja's demise, the female community of 'sanyasinis' faded away.

PM Shri Modi inaugurates Akshaya Patra's Midday Meal Kitchen in Varanasi:

- After the BJP won the assembly election in Uttar Pradesh, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made his first visit to his home district of Varanasi and inaugurated the Akshaya Patra at the noon meal kitchen.
- During his visit, Modi will launch and lay the foundation for development projects worth Rs. 1,774 crores that are intended to improve the nation's infrastructure and standard of living.
- 1 lakh students' lunches may be made in the LT College kitchen.

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- In response to the inauguration, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav declared that all 11 places recommended by the SP government should start using kitchens.

About Akshaya Patra Foundation:

- The Akshaya Patra Foundation is a non-profit trust that is managed by the Bangalore-based **International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)**.
- It oversees the **Midday Meal Scheme in India**, a program
- for school meals. Akshaya Patra is the **Union Government** of India's main partner in putting the Mid Day Meal program into action at government-run schools in India.
- The project's foundation is the **public-private partnership**.

Mangarh Hillock to be declared a monument of national importance:

- In the year of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**, a delegation from the National Monuments Authority led by **Shri Tarun Vijay**, Chairman, **National Monuments Authority**, submitted a report for the designation of **Rajasthan's Mangarh Hill** as a monument of National Importance.
- This study includes suggestions from the National Monuments Authority as well as pertinent information regarding the Mangarh hilltop.

Key Points:

- Unsung heroes and the Mangarh hilltop, according to **Minister of State for Culture Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal**, have not got the historical significance they merited.
- He added that on **November 17, 1913**, the **British** troops ruthlessly murdered 1500 Bhil tribal independence fighters.
- On the occasion of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, we will unquestionably move on with the report provided by **NMA Chairperson, Shri Tarun Vijay**, as a way of paying them tribute.
- The union minister further stated that because our younger generation is ignorant of their sacrifice and Mangarh Hillock, it is our duty to emphasize its importance and disseminate knowledge about it.

PM to attend the inaugural Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture:

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** will deliver the **first Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture (AJML)** at Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi
- He will also address the crowd at various points during the event.

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- The opening keynote address of the **first AJML** will be delivered by **Tharman Shanmugaratnam**, Senior Minister, Government of Singapore, on the theme "**Growth through Inclusivity, Inclusivity through Growth.**"
- Arvind Panagariya and OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann will take part in a panel discussion following the presentation (Professor, Columbia University).

Key Points:

- The inaugural **Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture** was given in recognition of the former union minister's tremendous services to the nation.
- In addition, the Prime Minister will converse with attendees of the three-day Kautilya Economic Conclave (KEC), which takes place from July 8 to July 10.
- The distinguished economists who will meet with the prime minister include Anne Krueger from John Hopkins University, Nicholas Stern from the London School of Economics, Robert Lawrence from Harvard Kennedy School, John Lipsky, a former acting managing director of the IMF, and Junaid Ahmed, the World Bank's country director for India.
- KEC is being organized by the Institute of Economic Growth with help from the Ministry of Finance.

About Arun Jaitley:

- On August 24, 2019, Indian politician and attorney Arun Jaitley passed away. From 2014 until 2019, Jaitley, a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party, was the minister of finance and corporate affairs for the Indian government.
- Jaitley formerly held the cabinet positions of Finance, Defense, Corporate Affairs, Commerce and Industry, and Law and Justice in the Vajpayee and Narendra Modi governments.

National Capital Region Planning Board's geo-portal "Pariman" is now accessible to the public:

- **Shri Hardeep Singh Puri**, Chairman of the NCRPB and Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs, introduced the "**PARIMAN**" geo-portal for the NCR during the 40th meeting of the Board on August 31, 2021.
- A web geo-portal has been created by **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** to utilize **remote sensing and GIS technology** effectively.

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- It was initially created for use by the participating States of the **National Capital Region (NCR)** and the **National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)** office.
- The NCR region's decentralized planning and management will benefit from this Geo-Portal.
- The Portal has over 179 Layers that are shown as Line, Point, and Polygon features and provides information on a variety of industries and sectors, including Land Use, Disaster Management, Heritage & Tourism, Industries, Water, and Power.

Internet exchanges launched in Durgapur and Bardhaman by the National Internet Exchange of India

- **Two new Internet Exchange Points (IXP)** of the **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** were opened in **Durgapur and Bardhaman in westbengal** by **Rajeev Chandrasekhar**, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India.
- In the presence of **S. S. Ahluwalia, Member of Parliament for Bardhaman-Durgapur Lok Sabha**, in keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India vision to connect every Indian.
- It is within the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY) 1000-day plan

Key Points:

- The **first Internet Exchange in the state of Kolkata** is also run by the **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)**.
- It is now expanding its reach across the state with the launch of two more Internet Exchange Points in Durgapur and Bardhaman.
- As these new NIXI internet exchanges become operational throughout the state, broadband and Internet services will progress and get better both locally and regionally.
- The internet service providers connected in these locations will profit by enhancing their broadband services for their end consumers and altering the lifestyle of the local populace.
- The launch of these new IXPs will assist all areas of the state, including MSMEs, other commercial sectors, as well as the agricultural, entrepreneurial, health, and educational sectors.
- Greater accessibility to government services and conveniences would improve citizens' quality of life.
- Without a doubt, the **two new Internet Exchange nodes from NIXI** will enhance the local Internet ecology.

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About NIXI:

- To improve the whole Indian internet ecosystem and give internet users access to it at a reasonable cost with better speed, NIXI plans to open such internet exchanges in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities shortly.
- All ISPs are cordially invited by NIXI to establish peering at any of its nodes and support the local Internet ecosystem.

PM Narendra Modi unveils National Emblem on the roof of New Parliament Building:

- The National Emblem has been revealed by Shri Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is now visible on the roof of the New Parliament Building.
- As part of the new Parliament's construction, he also engaged with Shramjeevis.
- At the very top of the New Parliament Building's Central Foyer, it has been cast.

About the National Emblem:

- The National Emblem is 6.5 meters tall, 9500 kg in weight, and is manufactured of bronze.
- To sustain the Emblem, a steel support system weighing around 6500 kilos has also been built.
- Eight various steps of preparation, ranging from clay modeling and computer graphics to bronze casting and polishing, went into the concept drawing and the process of casting the National Emblem on the top of the New Parliament Building.

Union Minister Shri Jitendra Singh to launch the IS4OM for Safe & Sustainable Space Environment:

- India has improved its capacity to safeguard its space assets independently with the aid of the ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operation and Management (IS4OM).
- In the presence of Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, Mr. S Somanath, Secretary of the Department of Space, and Mr. Somanath, Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization, will formally launch the IS4OM.

Key Points:

- According to ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation), the IS4OM system was built with a complete approach to ensure the safety and sustainability of the space environment while enjoying the advantages of sustainable use of space for national development.

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- Specialized labs for space debris cleanup and reduction, compliance monitoring of UN/Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) recommendations, and various R&D activities have also been established as part of IS4OM.
- In December 2020, ISRO inaugurated a specialized control center for activities intended to monitor, track, and secure India's space assets.

President of India attends the Yuva Sammelan hosted by "My Home India":

- The President of India, Mr. Ram Nath Kovind, attended the Yuva Sammelan, which was held in New Delhi and organized by "My Home India."
- The President stressed that young represent a nation's present and future.
- Their abilities contribute to a nation's advancement.
- It follows that today's youngsters will contribute to the history of tomorrow.
- The President claims that India has the highest population of youth and adolescents worldwide.
- The "Demographic Dividend," a phenomenon, gives a chance to our country.

Key Points:

- The President claimed that it was a wonderful source of pride for everyone that young Indians have founded so many start-up businesses using their skills and persistence.
- Today's kids are more likely to start their businesses than to look for employment.
- Young individuals must choose a vocation depending on their skill set and acquire some kind of talent.
- The President claimed that as of June 29, 2022, 103 unicorns have been formed in India, with a total worth of more than \$336 billion.
- One unicorn out of every ten discovered now is found in India.
- He further noted that, as of May 2022, 47 companies have achieved the title of "decacorn" around the globe, including four start-ups in India, three of which were led by young people.
- Even though the pandemic has significantly worsened socioeconomic conditions throughout the world, our young entrepreneurs have continued to show daring and talent.
- He cited the rise in unicorn populations in India even during COVID-19.

About "My Home India":

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- Through its several programs, "My Home India" is encouraging a feeling of integrity and cohesion among the nation.
- A wonderful effort was made to teach young people about nationalism at the youth meeting.
- One India and Karmayogi have established awards from "My Home India."
- He alluded to the substantial social activities this NGO is also engaged in.

NITI Aayog releases a compendium of various Ayush-based initiatives, and practices adopted by States/UTs:

- NITI Aayog has released a compendium of various **Ayush-based initiatives and practices** adopted by the **States and Union territories** for containing and managing the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The compendium was released by the **Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog Suman Bery** and Minister of State for Ayush **Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai**.
- **NITI Aayog Member (Health) Dr. V. K. Paul** and concerned officials were present during the event.
- The compendium provides information about practices adopted by States and UTs for strengthening the country's fight against COVID-19, **using Ayush's resources and interventions**.
- This document will prove to be a crucial knowledge resource for stakeholders from other countries who have a good network of traditional medicine systems.
- Ayush systems have played an active role on various fronts to tackle the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the country.
- The traditional healthcare systems will pave the way for providing a holistic healthcare system to the World.

India's 1st elevated urban expressway "Dwarka" to be operational by 2023:

- According to **Shri Nitin Gadkari**, the Minister for Road Transport and Highways, the Dwarka Expressway, which is being built as **India's first elevated urban expressway**, will open to traffic in **2023**.
- Dwarka Expressway would relieve pressure from commuters from **West Delhi** on the **Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway** (a portion of the Delhi-Jaipur-Ahmedabad-Mumbai arm of the Golden Quadrilateral) and arterial highways that encounter heavy traffic congestion.

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About the Dwarka Expressway:

- A minimum three-lane service road will be provided on both sides of the 16-lane access-controlled roadway.
- An expressway between Gurugram, Haryana, and Dwarka, Delhi, is being built for a total of Rs 9,000 crores.
- It is 29 kilometers long overall, of which 19 kilometers are in Haryana and the final 10 kilometers are in Delhi.
- The Delhi-Gurugram Expressway (NH-8) starts at Shiv-Murti and runs through Dwarka Sector 21, the Gurugram border, and Basai before ending near Kherki Daula Toll Plaza.
- It will contain four multi-level interchanges, including the 3.6 km long, eight-lane road tunnel that will be the largest and broadest in all of India.

India is the 68th nation to sign up for Interpol's database on child sex abuse:

- India has signed up for Interpol's international child sexual exploitation (ICSE) database, which would enable it to use audio-visual evidence to connect victims, abusers, and crime locations.
- According to a statement from Interpol, India became the 68th nation to link to the database when the CBI, India's nodal agency for Interpol affairs, joined.

Key Points:

- The database, which serves as both an intelligence and investigation tool, enables expert detectives to exchange data on incidents of child sexual abuse.
- By identifying the victims and the scene of the crime, the detectives may use picture and video comparison technologies to track down the culprits.
- The database helps investigators avoid wasting time and effort by informing them whether a group of photographs has previously been found or recognized in another nation or if it has characteristics with other images.

About Interpol:

- Headquarters: Lyon, France
- President: Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi
- Founded: 7 September 1923, Vienna, Austria.

India constructs the longest double-decker bridge in Nagpur, setting a global record:

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- The longest double-decker viaduct in the world, measuring 3.14 km, was built in Nagpur by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Maharashtra Metro.
- The longest viaduct with a flyover for a roadway and piers supporting a single column for a metro line.
- The Asia Book of Records and the India Book of Records both list the number of metro stations that have been built on double-decker viaducts.
- The construction represents the fulfillment of the pledge made by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's administration to establish top-notch infrastructure in New India.

About Maharashtra:

- Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- Chief minister: Eknath Shinde
- Capital: Mumbai
- National Park: Chandoli National Park, Gugamal National Park, Nawegaon National Park, Pench National Park, Sanjay Gandhi (Borivilli) National Park, Tadoba National Park

The first carbon-free airport in the country is being developed at AAI Leh Airport:

- As the first carbon-neutral airport in India, the Airports Authority of India's Leh airport is now being constructed.
- For heating and cooling needs, the new airport terminal building will use a "geothermal system" that works in conjunction with a solar PV plant.
- Because this system uses heat pumps for both water heating and space heating, it operates by transferring heat between the air and the ground.
- The primary characteristic of this method is the concentration and use of ambient heat.
- After implementing the geothermal system at the Leh Airport Terminal Building project, it is predicted that 900 tonnes of carbon emissions would be eliminated annually.

About Airports Authority of India:

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Founded: 1 April 1995
- Chairman: Sanjeev Kumar

PM launched Deoghar Airport and various other development projects:

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- Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi** officially established and laid the groundwork for a variety of building projects in **Deoghar** worth more than **16,800 crores of rupees**.
- The prime minister stated during a public event hosted on the grounds of Deoghar College that the government is sponsoring religious institutions to preserve our culture and faith for future generations.

Key Points:

- All holy places that have been constructed with contemporary conveniences, according to PM Modi, have attracted an increasing number of tourists and adherents.
- Modern amenities have also been improved in **Baba Baidyanath Dham** as part of the **PRASAD** program.
- Varanasi's expansion, according to the prime minister, has enabled small vendors, dealers, and artists to conduct more business. As an example, he cited the Varanasi-Kashi corridor.
- The prime minister repeated the administration's credo, **Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Vikas**, noting that our government has worked hard to encourage development in all of the country's neglected regions.
- For the last eight years, the country has been experimenting with the concept of national growth through state development.
- The same approach and passion have been critical during the last eight years in efforts to link Jharkhand via highways, trains, airways, and waterways.
- All of these benefits will contribute to the state's economic prosperity.

About Deoghar Airport:

- The prime minister was pleased with the launch of flights to **Ranchi, Delhi, and Patna**, as well as the excursion from **Deoghar to Kolkata**.
- He disclosed that construction on the airports in Bokaro and Dumka was still proceeding.

About other Government Projects:

- PM Modi highlighted how **PM Urja Ganga Yojana** is changing the status quo.
- The **Bokaro-Angul stretch of GAIL's Jagdishpur-Haldia-Bokaro-Dhamra pipeline** would expand the city's gas distribution network across 11 districts in Jharkhand and Odisha.

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- Spending money on infrastructure, according to the prime minister, creates new prospects for growth, employment, and self-employment.

Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal officially launches NIFT, Panchkula:

- **Mr. Manohar Lal Khattar**, the chief minister of Haryana, and Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated the 17th campus of the **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)** in **Panchkula**, describing it as the "**fulcrum of growth of the textile sector in the state.**"
- According to Khattar, this institute would follow NIFT regulations and **reserve 20% of its seats for residents of Haryana.**
- He claimed that on December 29, 2016, Smriti Irani, who was the Union Textiles Minister at the time, laid the cornerstone for this facility.

Key Points:

- The institute structure, which was built on 10.45 acres of land in collaboration with the textile ministry, to have **cost Rs 133.16 crore to erect.**
- Three online hybrid courses in social media marketing, digital textile design, and photography for e-commerce will be offered at the new NIFT campus.
- Creating a co-curriculum with organizations like the **National Institute of Design** and the **National Institute of Packaging** might be taken into consideration as part of the complete training.
- For the last 36 years, NIFT has been acknowledged for fashion technology, just like IIM is recognized for business and IIT for engineering.
- In addition to four-year degree programs in clothing production and fashion design/textile design, the Institute will offer two-year master's degree programs in fashion technology, design, and management.
- There will also be certificate programs available for **one year and six months.**

75th Independence Day: Govt to start nationwide campaign 'Har Ghar Tiranga':

- **The Central government** will shortly begin the national campaign **Har Ghar Tiranga** to persuade people to fly the national flag at their homes in honor of the country's **75th Independence Day.**
- The Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, whose nodal ministry is the Ministry of Culture, oversaw the initiative's inception.

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- The Indian National Flag is a source of great pride for the whole nation, and to further honor the flag, **Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah**, who is in charge of all activities under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, has authorized the program known as **Har Ghar Tiranga**.

Key Points:

- It aims to motivate Indians everywhere to fly the flag.
- The **Har Ghar Tiranga campaign** represents our commitment to nation-building as well as our ties to the **Tricolour in this 75th year of independence**.
- Instilling a sense of patriotism in people's hearts and increasing knowledge of our national flag are the initiatives' main objectives.
- The Indian National Flag usage, display, and hoisting are governed by the **Flag Code of India, 2002**.

Flag Code of India, 2002:

- On **January 26, 2002**, the **Indian Flag Code** went into effect.
- The Flag Code includes all applicable laws, conventions, practices, and standards that govern how the **National Flag is displayed by Private, Public, and Government Institutions**.
- In December of last year, the Flag Code of India, 2002 underwent revision to authorize the use of manufactured or polyester national flags.
- The National Flag will now be fashioned of hand-spun, hand-woven, or manufactured cotton, polyester, wool, silk, and khadi bunting.
- The length to width ratio of the national flag must be 3:2, and it must be rectangular.
- Clause of the Flag Code of India states that there must be no limitation on the display of the National Flag by members of the general public, private organizations, or educational institutions that is inconsistent with the dignity and honor of the National Flag.

I&B Ministry unveils New Logo of Prasar Bharati on its Silver Jubilee:

- In celebration of its **silver jubilee year**, India's public broadcaster **Prasar Bharati** launched a new logo on **July 11, 2022**.
- In front of Mayank Kumar Agrawal, CEO of Prasar Bharati, DPS Negi, Member (Finance), Prasar Bharati officers, and others, the new logo was unveiled by **Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B)**.

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- In the past, the organization was known as **All India Radio (AIR)**, and later, **Doordarshan (DD)** was created to provide television services.
- Finally, **Prasar Bharati (PB)** was established after a law was passed by the parliament, and this is represented in the logo identity as emerging and evolving from the center.

About The new logo:

- Its color, "**Dark Moderate Blue**," represents both the **sky and the sea** and is associated with open spaces, freedom, intuition, imagination, inspiration, and sensitivity.
- The elements in the central circle and map of India signify the service of trust, security, and perfection to the nation.
- Additionally, the color blue connotes **depth, loyalty, honesty, knowledge, assurance, stability, faith, and intellect**.
- The color blue also honors the culture and customs of India, particularly those connected to mythical and religious figures seen in Indian miniature paintings.

About Prasar Bharati

- CEO: Shashi Shekhar Vempati
- Founded: 23 November 1997
- Headquarters: New Delhi

Delhi Government tie-up with UNICEF for employment opportunities for students:

- The **Delhi government** has launched a new pilot initiative with the **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)**, which would give students of the **Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU)** access to employment prospects.
- "**Career Awareness Sessions**" for students have been launched by **DSEU and UNICEF**.
- To provide access to work opportunities, help students become job-ready, and hear and amplify the perspectives of young people, Skill Varsity of Delhi teams together with **YuWaah (Generation Unlimited India)** at **UNICEF**.

Key Points:

- The "**YuWaah Step Up - Bano job ready**" project, a **six-month pilot** being run by **Flywheel Digital Solutions Pvt** with **DSEU** students and other job seekers in Delhi, is another pillar of the partnership.

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- Its goal is to increase the reach of young job seekers on the new generation of job portals.
- **Beginning on July 20**, the pilot will operate at the **Ambedkar DSEU Shakarpur-I campus**.

About UNICEF

- Founded: 1946
- Headquarters: New York City, USA
- Director General: Catherine M. Russell
- Membership: 192.

National Rail and Transportation Institute upgraded as Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya:

- The **National Rail and Transportation Institute** has been transformed into **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya**, becoming a major university.
- The institution now goes by the name **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya**.
- The **Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2022**, which amends the **Central Universities Act, 2009** to allow for the establishment of **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)**, was approved by the Union Cabinet.
- The change would assist in making Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, a Central University, out of the **National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI)**, a Deemed-to-be university.
- **NRTI offers a BSc in transportation technology**, a BBA in transportation management, and an MSc in railway system engineering and integration.

About the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya:

- The Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya is expected to play a crucial role in advancing the transportation industry, which is strategically important for India's economic development.
- The industry needs a consistent supply of experts and cutting-edge equipment.
- To assist the transport sector's ambitious expansion and modernization, the university's focus will be expanded beyond the railways to include the whole industry.

Department of Consumer Affairs sets up a committee to develop a comprehensive framework on the Right to Repair:

- The **Department of Consumer Affairs** has taken a big step toward creating a general framework for the **Right to Repair** to highlight the **LiFE (Lifestyle for the Environment)** movement through sustainable consumption.

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Objective:

- The aim of developing a framework on right to repair in India is to **empower consumers and product buyers in the local market, harmonize trade** between the original equipment manufacturers and the third-party buyers and sellers and emphasize developing sustainable consumption of products and reduction in e-waste.
- Once it is rolled out in India, it will become a game-changer both for the sustainability of the products and as well as serve as a catalyst for employment generation through Aatmanirbhar Bharat by allowing third-party repairs.

About the committee:

- The Department in this regard has set up a committee which shall be **chaired by Smt. Nidhi Khare**, Additional Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India.
- The committee includes Shri Anupam Mishra, Joint Secretary DoCA, Justice Paramjeet Singh Dhaliwal, former Judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court, Former President of State Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission, Punjab, Prof. (Dr.) G.S. Bajpai Vice-Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala, Prof. Shri Ashok Patil, Chair of Consumer Law and Practice, and representatives from various stakeholders like ICEA, SIAM, Consumer Activists & Consumer Organizations as members.
- The committee held its first meeting on 13th July 2022 wherein important sectors for the right to repair were identified.
- The sectors identified include Farming Equipment, Mobile Phones/ Tablets, Consumer Durables, and Automobiles/Automobile Equipment.

Cabinet approves Taranga Hill-Ambaji-Abu Road new rail line to provide connectivity and improve mobility:

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the construction of the **Taranga Hill-Ambaji- Abu Road new rail line** to be constructed by the **Ministry of Railways** at an estimated cost of Rs.2798.16 crore.
- The total length of the **new rail line** will be 116 km.
- The project will be **completed by 2026-27**.
- The project will generate direct employment during construction for about 40 lakh man days.

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- In line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of a New India, the project is going to enhance connectivity and improve mobility leading to the overall socio-economic development of the region.

Key points:

- Ambaji is a famous important pilgrimage destination and is one of the 51 Shaktipeeths in India and attracts millions of devotees from Gujarat as well as other parts of the country and abroad every year.
- This railway new line between Taranga Hill-Ambaji- Abu Road will connect these two important religious spots with the railway's main network.
- This line will facilitate faster movement of agricultural and local products and also provide improved mobility of the people in the region within the state of Gujarat and Rajasthan and also to other parts of the country.
- This project will also provide an alternative route for the existing Ahmedabad-Abu Road railway line.
- The alignment of the proposed doubling will traverse through the Sirohi district of Rajasthan and the Banaskantha and Mahesana districts of Gujarat.
- The construction of a new rail line will attract investment and lead to the overall socio-economic development of the region.

Executive Committee of NMCG Approves Industrial and Sewerage Pollution Abatement Projects:

- The 43rd meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was held under the chairmanship of Shri G. Asok Kumar, Director General, NMCG.
- Projects about industrial and sewerage pollution abatement through new technologies, afforestation, development of Kalindi Kunj ghat landscape, etc. were approved in the EC meeting at an estimated cost of around Rs. 38 crores.

About the Project:

- A project titled, 'Afforestation Programmes in States of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal 2022-23' was approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.30 crores including plantation, maintenance, capacity building, and training and awareness in the two main stem Ganga basin states.

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- The intervention is aimed at improving forest cover, enhancing forest diversity and productivity, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land and ecosystem management for the better flow of ecosystem services, sustainable livelihood, and overall conservation of Ganga Riverscape.
- The 'in-principle' approval was also accorded to the development of the **landscape of Kalindi Kunj ghat** that would include the creation of eco-friendly seating, waste bins, shades, and plantation with one of the aims to facilitate people-river connect.
- For industrial pollution abatement, a pilot project for the installation and commissioning of an electrochemical technology-based modular effluent treatment plant of **100 KLD capacity** has been approved at the **estimated cost of about Rs. 77 lakhs**.
- The project will treat the discharged water from some textile industries in Mathura for River Yamuna.
- The project is aimed at **reducing wastewater discharge** (pollution and chemical load as well) through the adoption of eco-friendly and green technologies.

AIIMS to host Film Festival to commemorate 12th National Plastic Surgery Day:

- The Association of Plastic Surgeons of India (APSI) will celebrate the **12th National Plastic Surgery Day** (July 15) and the **Burn and Plastic Surgery Department of AIIMS, Delhi** will host the **APSI Sushruta Film Festival (ASFF 2022)**.
- The topic of this film festival, according to **Dr. Professor Maneesh Singhal**, Department Head of Burn and Plastic Surgery, is "**Changing Lives through Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery**."
- He emphasized that the festival aims to present the best work created by plastic surgeons around the country.
- According to Professor Singhal, the festival will play the best films on cosmetic surgery subjects.
- He asserts that the occasion will help change how the general public perceives plastic surgery and its many subspecialties.

First E-Waste Eco Park in India to be built in Delhi:

- **Gopal Rai**, the environment minister for Delhi, called a joint review meeting with members of the environment department and the **Delhi Pollution Control Committee** to explore the creation of an **e-waste eco-park**.

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- According to Rai, the first e-waste eco-park in India would be built on about **21 acres** in the Delhi neighborhood of Holambi Kalan.

Key Points:

- The project's implementing agency, the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC), was established as a member of an 11-member steering committee.
- Over 2 lakh tonnes of the nation's annual production of electronic trash is produced in Delhi, where just 5% of it is properly recycled.

UIDAI launched the 'AadhaarFaceRd' mobile app to perform Aadhaar face authentication:

- A new smartphone app named "AadhaarFaceRd" from the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) contains a facial authentication function.
- Aadhaar card users are no longer required to physically attend an enrollment center to get their iris and fingerprints scanned for authentication.
- The UIDAI has begun employing facial authentication to verify an Aadhaar holder's identity.
- Your identification is confirmed when your face authentication is successful.
- Downloading the UIDAI R D App, which can be used for different Aadhaar Authentication Apps including Jeevan Praman, PDS, Scholarship programs, COWIN, and Farmer Welfare schemes, allows residents to access the Aadhaar Face Authentication function.
- Technology for Aadhaar Face Authentication was created internally by UIDAI.

About UIDAI:

- CEO: Saurabh Garg
- Founded: 28 January 2009
- Headquarters: New Delhi.

Jute Mark India (JMI) Logo Launched by GoI:

- The certification of **authenticity for jute items** made in India was introduced by the Indian government.
- The "Jute Mark India" logo was launched by the Union Textile Secretary.
- The goal of this project is to maintain and promote Indian jute goods.

Key points:

- The jute products made in India will be identified by the Jute Mark India (JMI) logo.

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- The local market and international sales of jute goods created in India are anticipated to grow as a result of this certification.
- Customers may learn more about the product by scanning the exclusive QR code found on Jute Mark India.
- The National Jute Board, which reports to the Union Textile Ministry, is in charge of promoting jute and jute products in India.
- Between FY22 and FY26, Jute Mark India (JMI) was established as part of an ongoing program for the growth and marketing of jute.
- The national government contributed a **total of Rs. 485.58 crores** to this project.
- **Jute's exports in 2020–2021 were Rs. 2740 crore**, and its variety of goods brought in Rs. 1261 crore. This accounted for 46% of the entire export value of jute goods.
- The estimated value of Jute Goods exported in 2021–2022 was Rs. 3785.68 crores.

About National Jute Board:

- The National Jute Board Act 2008, drafted by the Government of India's Minister of Textile and adopted by the Parliament on February 12, 2009, governs the National Jute Board.
- To study and expand the use of jute in both organized and decentralized sectors, the board aims to conduct research and engage human resource development initiatives.

To encourage agricultural trade, Narendra Tomar launched the e-NAM Platform:

- The **Platform of Platforms (POP)** under the **National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)** was introduced by **Shri Narendra Singh Tomar**, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, on the eve of the State Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers' Conference in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**
- More than **Rs 37 crore in equity grants** were given to 1,018 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), which would benefit 3.5 lakh farmers.

Key Points:

- Along with Shri Tomar, other dignitaries present included Shri BC Patil, the Agriculture Minister of Karnataka, Shri Basavaraj Bommai, the Chief Minister of Karnataka, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Ms. Shobha Karandlaje, and Shri Kailash Choudhary, the Union Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, respectively.
- POP has made it simpler for farmers to access markets outside of their states.

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- This will provide farmers' digital access to a larger range of markets, buyers, and service providers as well as give transparency to business transactions, improving the price search mechanism and quality commensurate with price realization.
- POP includes 41 service providers across several platforms who offer a variety of value chain services, including trade, quality assurance, warehousing, finance, market information, transportation, etc.
- The POP will build a digital ecosystem that will benefit from the expertise of several platforms in all facets of the agricultural value chain.

New television series called “Swaraj” is being promoted by Anurag Thakur:

- In New Delhi, the preview for the upcoming television program **Swaraj: Bharat Ke Swatantrata Sangram Ki Samagra Gatha** was unveiled by **Anurag Thakur, Minister of Information and Broadcasting**.
- This series will start broadcasting on **Doordarshan on August 14th, 2022**.
- The 75-episode drama will emphasize the efforts of the liberation fighters and unsung heroes of the independence cause.
- This show will also be broadcast on **All India Radio**.

Key Points:

- At New Delhi's Akashwani Bhawan, Mr. Thakur presented the series logo.
- According to the Minister of Information and Broadcast, the country was honoring the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, and the administration had organized several activities around the country in which millions of people participated.
- The first trailer for the upcoming television program **Swaraj: Bharat Ke Swatantrata Sangram Ki Samagra Gatha** serves as an example of the Swaraj that was imagined during the struggle for freedom.
- The media and entertainment industry in India is expanding quickly and has a lot of promise. He predicted that by the end of 2030, this industry will increase from its \$24 billion present worth to \$100 billion.

Consumer Affairs Department launches Jagriti, its new mascot:

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- The **Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA)** developed the mascot **Jagriti** to empower consumers and **increase awareness of their rights**.
- Jagriti will be shown as a knowledgeable customer who is standing up for her rights and seeking solutions to the problems she runs into.
- The **National Consumer Helpline toll-free number 1915**, the provisions of the **Weights and Measures Act**, decisions of the **Central Consumer Protection Authority**, and consumer testimonies regarding grievance redressal are just a few of the Departmental topics that the Jagriti mascot will be used to increase consumer awareness.
- DoCA is incorporating the Jagriti Mascot into its consumer awareness campaign to reinforce a youthful, educated, and empowered consumer as a top-of-mind consumer rights awareness recall brand.
- The **Jagriti mascot and catchphrase "Jago Grahak Jago"** must be used in all of its media efforts.
- The two have come to be associated with young consumers who are knowledgeable about their rights and active in promoting and educating others about those rights.

Consumer Protection Act, 2019:

- The revised **Consumer Protection Act** was approved by Parliament in 2019.
- When it entered into force in **July 2020**, the **Consumer Protection Act of 1986** was superseded.
- An Act to Establish Authorities for the Timely and Effective Administration and Settlement of Consumer Disputes and Matters Connected Therewith or Incidental Thereto provides for the Protection of Consumer Interests, and for the Said Purpose The Act is succinctly summarised thereto.
- The main objective of the **Consumer Protection Act of 2019** is to protect consumers' rights by establishing organizations for the timely and effective management and settlement of consumer complaints.

22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2022 open by MoS Culture Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal:

- **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav** is being held to commemorate India's **75th anniversary of independence**.
- The **National School of Drama (NSD), New Delhi**, staged "**Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav-22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2022**" from July 16 to August 14, 2022, to commemorate this.

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- It is commemorated by the **Ministry of Culture**.
- The Padma Shree Award-winning Indian folk singer Ms. Malini Awasthi, the Director of the Ministry of Culture, Shri. Arvind Kumar, and the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture, Shri. Arjun Ram Meghwal helped make the event possible.

Key Points:

- In his remarks, Shri **Arjun Ram Meghwal** remembered the unsung heroes of the Indian liberation fight and recommended that **the National School of Drama (NSD)** step up to develop plays based on those events that should be performed all across the nation to raise awareness among the populace.
- Another speaker, Ms. Malini Awasthi, stressed the significance of folk music in the Indian liberation fight during her remarks.
- Aranyadhipati Tantia Mama, a drama directed by Sh. Bansi Kaul was performed after the inaugural ceremony.

Mr. Anurag Thakur launches revised schemes of Cash Awards, National Welfare, and Pension to sportspersons:

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports **Mr. Anurag Thakur** launched revised **schemes of Cash Awards, National Welfare and Pension to sportspersons**, Web Portal for Schemes of Department of Sports, and National Sports Development Fund website in **New Delhi**.
- The Ministry has brought out several important amendments to the **Scheme of Cash Award to Medal Winners in International Sports Events** and their Coaches, **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare for Sportspersons** and Pension to Meritorious Sportsperson Scheme of Department of Sports with a vision to make these schemes more user-friendly, easy to access and transparent.
- The Minister hailed this development as another step towards Digital India by empowering citizens and reducing the gap between **Government and citizens, system and facilities, problems and solutions**.
- The procedures have been relaxed for the athletes so that they can get the benefits of welfare schemes without any delay.

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- PSUs, corporate houses, and other institutions to make their contribution to the National Sports Development Fund for creating sports infrastructure and facilities for the sportspersons.

MHA sets up panel for delimitation of municipal wards in Delhi:

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has set up a three-member commission for carrying out a fresh delimitation exercise of the municipal wards in Delhi, according to a statement issued by the MCD.
- The exercise will pave the way for the civic polls in Delhi, which would be the first since the recent reunification of the city's three corporations.
- The panel will have three members -- Vijay Dev, State Election Commissioner, Delhi, who will be its chairman, Pankaj Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Randhir Sahay, Additional Commissioner, MCD.
- The commission will present its report within four months of its formation,
- The reunified MCD formally came into existence on May 22 with IAS officers Ashwani Kumar and Gyanesh Bharti assuming charge as its special officer and commissioner respectively.

The unemployment rate in India rises to 7.8% in June; the rural unemployment rate climbs to 8.03%:

- The month of June witnessed a rise in the unemployment rate in India to 7.8 percent of the total workforce from 7.12 percent in May.
- The increase in the unemployment rate was mainly due to a rise in rural unemployment, as per data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).
- However, India's June employment is at the lowest in the last year, according to the CMIE estimates.
- The rural unemployment rate rose on the back of uneven monsoon rains which have led to a delay in the deployment of agricultural labor in rural areas.

Key Points:

- The unemployment rate in the rural areas climbed to 8.03 percent from 6.62 percent in May.
- The urban unemployment rate, on the other hand, reduced to 7.30 percent during the same period from 8.21 percent a month ago.
- In terms of the overall employment in the country in June, it dropped by 13 million to 390 million, against a gain of 8 million jobs in April and May.

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- According to CMIE's managing director Mahesh Vyas, the count of the unemployed increased by only 3 million despite nearly 13 million lost jobs during the month as the rest quit the labor market.
- In June, around 8 million were lost in the agriculture sector, mostly connected to plantations.
- However, crop cultivation added 4 million jobs, which was lower than the same period in 2020 and 2021.

Delhi govt commemorated Happiness Utsav in honor of the curriculum's 4th anniversary:

- **The Delhi government commemorated Happiness Utsav to commemorate the fourth anniversary of its Happiness Curriculum for schools**, according to Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.
- Life coach Gaur Gopal Das spoke on the complexities of happiness during a special session for students at Kautilya Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya in Chirag Enclave on this occasion.
- The students shared their views on the **Happiness course with Gaur Gopal Das**.
- The Happiness Utsav takes place every year to commemorate the Happiness Curriculum's anniversary.
- In addition to introducing communities to the Happiness Curriculum, the **15-day event** seeks to increase public awareness of the pursuit of happiness.

Key Points:

- In a government school in Delhi, each pupil interacted with at least five residents of the neighborhood and shared knowledge about happiness with them.
- The goal is to make the millions of residents of Delhi happier.
- Happiness Classes have caused a dramatic change in students' views.
- Through the Happiness Utsav, we will demonstrate how to live a pleasant life to thousands of Delhi citizens.
- The happiness Curriculum has been a long and winding journey over the last four years.
- The pupils are less stressed, and their focus on their schoolwork has improved.
- **The Happiness Utsav, which will take place over the following 15 days, will feature a wide range of activities**, according to the Deputy Chief Minister, and this year, "happiness" will not be limited to Delhi government schools alone.

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- At least five individuals of the student's neighborhood would be interacted with by each student in a government school in Delhi, and they would share knowledge on happiness with them.
- The goal is to help Delhi's millions of residents achieve pleasure.

PM Shri Narendra Modi unveils 'SPRINT Challenges' to boost usage of Indigenous Technology:

- During the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) lecture "Swavlamban" in New Delhi, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi presented the "SPRINT Challenges," which are meant to encourage the use of indigenous technologies in the Indian Navy.
- Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), NIIO, and Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC) is the name of the collaborative initiative.
- As part of "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" and to accomplish "Aatmanirbharta" in the defense sector, NIIO and the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) want to introduce at least **75 new indigenous technology and products to the Indian Navy.**
- The Naval Innovation and Indigenization Organization (NIIO) and the Society of Indian Defense Manufacturers (SIDM) jointly sponsored the event.

About the seminar

- The **two-day conference**, which is scheduled to take place on July 18–19, 2022, intends to work with Indian academia and business to achieve self-reliance in the defense sector.
- It will give leaders from business, academia, the government, and other sectors a place to gather, share ideas, and develop suggestions for the defense sector.
- There will be sessions on innovation, indigenization, armament, and aviation.
- According to the government's SAGAR vision, the Seminar's second day will see outreach to the Indian Ocean Region.

Mobile Electric Charging App released by MSME Minister Mr. Narayan Rane:

- **Repos Pay**, a platform for mobile electric charging, and **Phy-gital**, a platform for fintech, were unveiled by Union Minister of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Mr. Narayan Rane at the Fueling India 2022 event in Mumbai.
- Users may order mobile EV charging vehicles on the **Repos Pay platform** and use them to power their automobiles.

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- Technology will be used by Phy-gital, a Fintech platform, to let customers use credit to fund purchases (**Buy Now Pay Later**).
- The energy finance platform will provide fuel-on-credit solutions for large users.

Key Points:

- Although the bulk of start-ups in the country is in the **IT and digital industries**, **P. Udaykumar**, chairman of the **National Small Industries Corporation**, commended the budding entrepreneurs who are making waves in the energy sector.
- Shri Udaykumar stated that the MSME ministry and NSIC's support of the country's micro, small, and medium-sized firms are aimed at creating a very advantageous MSME environment.
- The entire globe is presently concentrating its attention on India.
- The country's MSME sector persisted even throughout COVID.
- **Shri Udaykumar** went on to say that the performance of the industry had reached pre-COVID levels.
- He also talked about the government's and the ministry's initiatives to support MSMEs.

PM Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates 296 km-long Bundelkhand Expressway in UP:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **296-km-long Bundelkhand Expressway**, which passes through **seven districts of Uttar Pradesh** and has been constructed at a cost of around **Rs 14,850 crore**.
- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** welcomed Modi by offering him a local '**Bundeli**' stole at the inauguration ceremony at **Kaitheri village in Orai tehsil of Jalaun district**.

Key Points:

- It extends from **NH-35 at Gonda village near Bharatkoop in Chitrakoot** district to near Kudrail village in Etawah district, where it merges with the Agra-Lucknow Expressway.
- The four-lane expressway, which can be later expanded into six lanes, passes through seven districts -- **Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya, and Etawah**.
- Besides improving connectivity in the region, the government expects the Bundelkhand Expressway to give a major boost to economic development and create thousands of jobs for the local people.

Mr. Sanjay Agarwal to chair the committee Center established to strengthen the MSP system:

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- The government set up a committee on the Minimum Support Price (MSP) eight months after it made a comparable pledge in exchange for the repeal of three unpopular agricultural policies.
- The committee will be led by former agriculture secretary Sanjay Agrawal.
- Sanyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) is entitled to three seats on the committee; however, the agricultural organization has not yet proposed any candidates for the position.
- Two representatives from the farmers' cooperative and organization are members of the committee: IFFCO Chairman Dilip Sanghani and CNRI General Secretary Binod Anand.
- Along with the chief secretaries of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, and Odisha, the group also consists of senior officials from agricultural institutions, five federal government secretaries, and five state secretaries.

Key Points:

- A year-long struggle by many farmers along the Delhi borders organized by SKM led to the government rescinding the agricultural legislation.
- When he announced the removal of three farm rules in November of last year, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi committed to creating a committee to address the farmers' demand for a legal guarantee on MSP.
- The Agriculture Ministry published a gazette notice announcing the creation of a committee in this regard.
- Members of the panel will include Ramesh Chand of Niti Aayog, agri-economists CSC Shekhar from the Indian Institute of Economic Development and Sukhpal Singh from IIM-Ahmedabad, and senior member Naveen P Singh of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- The committee's farmer representatives include Bharat Bhushan Tyagi, a farmer who has received national recognition, three SKM members, and five members from other farmer organizations.
- These individuals include Sayyed Pasha Patel, Gunwant Patil, Krishnaveer Choudhary, Pramod Kumar Choudhary, and Guni Prakash.

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Jawaharlal Nehru Port becomes the first 100% Landlord Major Port of India:

- With all berths being run under the PPP model, **Jawaharlal Nehru Port has become the first major port in India to be 100% owned by landlords.**
- Beginning with the **Jawaharlal Nehru Port**, the **PPP model** of investing in Indian ports has advanced significantly over the past 25 years, leading to capacity expansion and increased productivity.
- JNP is one of the top container ports in the nation and is listed as the **26th best port in the world** (as per Lloyds List Top 100 Ports 2021 Report).

About Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal:

- Under the terms of this PPP agreement, the backup area of 54.74 hectares and the two berths with a combined length of 680 meters and a 15-meter draught that make up the **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal (JNPCT)** would also be transferred.
- With the upgrade, JNPCT can accommodate boats with a capacity of 12200 TEUs instead of the current 9000 TEUs.
- Additionally, it is suggested that the port's RMQC rail span be increased from 20 meters to 30.5 meters.
- The concessioner will invest in this project at a total cost of Rs. 872 crores.
- This terminal must be upgraded, run, maintained, and transferred by the concessioner on a PPP basis.
- This project will be carried out in two stages.

Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana completes five years:

- **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana** has completed **five years**.
- The scheme was **formally launched on this day in 2017**.
- The scheme is a social security scheme for senior citizens intended to give an assured minimum pension to them based on an assured return on the purchase price or subscription amount.
- The minimum investment in **this scheme was revised to one lakh 56 thousand 658 rupees for a pension** of twelve thousand per annum and one lakh 62 thousand 162 rupees for getting a minimum pension amount of one thousand rupees per month.

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- The scheme which was under implementation till 2020, has further been extended for three years up to **31st March 2023**.

PM Shri Narendra Modi unveils India's first Passenger Drone "Varuna":

- **India's first passenger drone, Varuna, was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.**
- PM Modi may be seen observing the drone's display.
- According to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the present administration has used technology, including drones, to guarantee last-mile service delivery.
- At the **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi**, the **Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO)** seminar titled "**Swavlamban**" was addressed by the prime minister.

About the 'Varuna' drone:

- This was shown in his presence by Sagar Defence Engineering, the company that created the indigenous "Varuna" drone without a pilot.
- A firm created and built the "Varuna" drone, which has room inside for one passenger.
- Varuna, the first drone in India that can transport people, has a 25-kilometer range.
- The drone has 25–33 minutes of flying and a payload capacity of 130 kg.

Center modifies Flag Code of India 2002 to permit tricolor to be displayed constantly:

- If the **national flag is flown in the open** and is raised by a member of the public, it **may now fly through the night**.
- As the federal government launches its **Har Ghar Tiranga campaign**, the Ministry of Home Affairs changed the **Flag Code of India 2002** to allow the flying of the national flag even at night.
- Previously, **the flag could only be flown from dawn till sunset**.

Key Points:

- The flag may be flown day and night when it is exhibited in the open or on a member of the public's home, according to the ministry, which replaced clause XI of paragraph 2.2 of the Flag Code.
- The government has already changed the flag code to allow for the usage of polyester and manufactured flags.
- In a notification issued last year, the government changed Part I of the flag code's paragraph 1.2.

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- Previously, using flags made of polyester or by machines was forbidden.
- Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is being observed in India to commemorate 75 years of freedom.
- The Har Ghar Tiranga campaign requests that people raise the flag in their homes from August 13 to August 15.
- Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla also sent documents outlining the fundamental components of the flag code as well as the changes made on December 30, 2021, and July 20, 2022, in a letter to all government departments on the campaign.
- Along with the letter is a list of commonly asked concerns about the usage and display of the national flag.

Home Minister has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several development projects worth Rs 210 crores in Gandhinagar:

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various people-centric projects worth Rs 210 crores at Bopal in his parliamentary constituency Gandhinagar.
- Under Vande Gujarat Vikas Yatra, Mr. Shah dedicated various developmental projects by Amdavad Urban Development Authority (AUDA) at Bhopal which include affordable housing projects for EWS and water supply Projects worth over 77 crore Rupees.
- The water supply project will provide drinking water to more than 70 thousand people.

Key Points:

- The minister also inaugurated the sports complex in Maninagar which is built at the cost of 10 crores.
- He also participated in a tree plantation drive under the Mission Million Trees campaign at Ognaj.
- Apart from this, Mr. Amit Shah also laid the foundation stone for various infrastructure projects in Ahmedabad Gandhinagar.
- Mr. Shah who is on a two-day visit to Gujarat also inaugurated the birth centenary celebrations of Pramukh Swami Maharaj in Ahmedabad.

The Government has set a target to raise the share of natural gas in the energy mix to 15% in 2030 from about 6.3%:

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- The Government has set a target to raise the share of natural gas in the energy mix to 15% in 2030 from about 6.3%.
- To achieve the target, various initiatives have been taken which inter alia include the following:
 - i)Expansion of National Gas Grid to about 33,500 Km from the current 21,715 Km.
 - ii)Expansion of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network
 - iii)Setting up of Liquefied Natural Gas Terminals.
 - iv)Allocation of domestic gas to Compressed Natural Gas (Transport) / Piped Natural Gas (Domestic) in no cut category.
 - v)Allowing marketing and pricing freedom to gas produced from high pressure/high-temperature areas, deep water & ultra-deepwater, and coal seams.
 - vi)Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiatives to promote Bio-CNG.

Key Points:

- **Providing Piped Natural Gas (PNG)** connections and establishing Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations are part of the development of the CGD network and the same is carried out by the entities authorized by **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)**.
- The CNG Stations and PNG connections are being provided by authorized entities as per timelines prescribed by PNGRB from time to time.
- A total of 95.21 lakh PNG (Domestic) connections have been provided and 4531 CNG (Transport) stations have been established by the authorized entities.
- After completion of the 11A city gas distribution (CGD) round, 295 Geographical Areas (GAs) have been authorized which inter alia cover 98% of India's population and 88% of its GAs.
- As per the Minimum Work Programme, CGD entities authorized up to the 11A round, have to provide 12.33 crore PNG connections and establish 17,700 CNG stations by 2030 including in rural and urban areas.

International Conference on Chemistry and Applications of Soft Materials:

- As part of the festivities marking the **75th anniversary of Independence**, the **CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST)**, Thiruvananthapuram, will hold the International Conference on **Chemistry and Applications of Soft Materials (CASM 2022)**.

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- The conference will feature discussions on a range of topics, including self-assembly and supramolecular materials, soft material chemistry, physics, rheology, and photophysics, responsive and smart materials, gels, liquid crystals, polymers, macromolecules and framework materials, and functional nanomaterials, as well as applications of soft materials in electronics and energy.

Key Points:

- The official stated that at least 300 people from inside and outside the country are expected to attend the meeting.
- Renowned researcher **T Pradeep from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras**, will inaugurate the event.
- The conference will provide researchers and students with the appropriate venue to exchange ideas and form new collaborations in the field of soft materials, according to **Ajayaghosh**, Director of CSIR-NIIST and Conference Chair.
- According to **Narayanan Unni**, a scientist at **CSIR-NIIST** and conference convener, the Department of Science and Technological (DST) will fund a session on soft materials for energy applications, and presentations displaying the technology development projects at CSIR-NIIST will also be given.
- There will be a special meeting to honor **Ajayaghosh's** achievements in science.

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates Vaccination Centre for Children and Launches Bal Raksha

Mobile App at All Institute of Ayurveda:

- Union Minister of Ayush **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated **Vaccination Centre for children at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**.
- He also launched the **Bal Raksha mobile app**, which is aimed at creating awareness of pediatric preventive healthcare through Ayurveda intervention amongst parents.
- The app will also collect feedback from parents regarding the impact of the kit on their children's health and immunity.
- The **All-India Institute of Ayurveda**, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Ayush, aims at bringing synergy between the **traditional wisdom of Ayurveda and modern tools and technology**.

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- The Institute has 12 specialty departments, 30 OPD units with state-of-the-art interdisciplinary research laboratories, and an international collaborative center for global promotion and research in Ayurveda.
- Ayurveda is the oldest system of medicine and health science dating back to more than 3,000 years.
- During Covid times, AIIA played a major role in treating patients at the Covid Healthcare Centre in sync with its mission of 'care with compassion.'

Gol Designates 5 New Ramsar Sites, taking the total number to 54:

- In India, **five new wetlands** have been identified as being of **international significance**.
- As a result, there are now **54 Ramsar sites in the nation** as compared to 49 previously.
- **"Delighted to tell those 5 additional Indian wetlands have received Ramsar status as wetlands of worldwide importance,"** stated Shri Bhupender Yadav, the Union Minister of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change.

The five newly designated wetlands are:

1. Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu
2. Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest, Tamil Nadu
3. Pichavaram Mangrove, Tamil Nadu
4. Pala wetland, Mizoram
5. Sakhya Sagar, Madhya Pradesh.

About Ramar Site:

- Under the Ramsar Convention, a wetland site is defined as having international significance and is known as a Ramsar Site.
- **The Iranian city of Ramsar**, where this contract was signed, inspired the name Ramsar.
- The Ramsar Convention is another name for the Convention on Wetlands.
- It is an international environmental convention that **was formed by UNESCO in 1971 and went into effect in 1975.**
- Wetlands designated as Ramsar areas are protected by the convention's rigorous rules.

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- The Ramsar list's objective is to create and maintain a global network of wetlands that are crucial for the preservation of biological variation in general and for maintaining human existence via the preservation of their ecosystem's elements, functions, and advantages.

Ministry of Women and Child Development issues Detailed Guidelines for 'Mission Shakti':

- **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has issued detailed guidelines for the 'Mission Shakti' scheme.
- The Government of India has launched 'Mission Shakti' - an integrated women empowerment program as an umbrella scheme for the **safety, security, and empowerment of women for implementation** during the 15th Finance Commission period 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The norms of 'Mission Shakti' will be applicable with effect from **01.04.2022**.
- 'Mission Shakti' is a scheme in mission mode aimed at strengthening interventions for women's safety, security, and empowerment.
- It seeks to realize the Government's commitment to "women-led development" by addressing issues affecting women on a life-cycle continuum basis and by making them equal partners in nation-building through convergence and citizen-ownership.
- The scheme seeks to make women economically empowered, exercising free choice over their minds and bodies in an atmosphere free from violence and threat.
- It also seeks to reduce the care burden on women and increase female labor force participation by promoting skill development, capacity building, financial literacy, access to micro-credit, etc.

About the Schemes:

- 'Mission Shakti' has two sub-schemes - 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya'.
- While the "Sambal" sub-scheme is for the safety and security of women, the "Samarthya" sub-scheme is for the empowerment of women.
- The components of the 'Sambal' sub-scheme consist of erstwhile schemes of One Stop Centre (OSC), Women Helpline (WHL), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) with a new component of Nari Adalats - women's collectives to promote and facilitate alternative dispute resolution and gender justice in society and within families.
- The components of the 'Samarthya' sub-scheme consist of erstwhile schemes of Ujjwala, Swadhar Greh, and Working Women Hostel that have been included with modifications.

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- In addition, the existing schemes of the National Creche Scheme for children of working mothers and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) under the umbrella of ICDS have now been included in Samarthya.
- A new component of Gap Funding for Economic Empowerment has also been added to the Samarthya Scheme.

KVIC launches Knowledge Portal for Khadi by the Center of Excellence:

- The Knowledge Portal for Khadi is a platform developed by the Center of Excellence for Khadi to provide design directions to the Khadi institutions.
- The portal was inaugurated by Ms. Preeta Verma, CEO-KVIC.
- The Center of Excellence for Khadi has been set up by KVIC, Ministry of MSME at NIFT, to support Khadi Institutions.
- Knowledge Port for Khadi attempts to disseminate design knowledge to a broader section of Khadi Institutions.

Key Points:

- The portal intends to create design intervention by simplifying the trends especially suitable for Khadi.
- Each story has a key theme, color palette, and directions for woven designs, prints, textures, and surfaces.
- Every story has been separated into two segments - Home and Apparel. Besides the themes, the portal also provides size charts, silhouette boards, buttons and closures, and seams and finishes for both home and apparel.
- The information will be updated twice a year to provide directions according to the seasons and trends.
- It is envisaged that the information will be of value to not only Khadi institutions but also to organizations providing support to develop apparel, home products, and packaging for Khadi.
- The portal will be hosted on the website of the Center of Excellence for Khadi and can be accessed on www.coek.in

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The Minister launches the “National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions”:

- India was the first nation in the world to develop standards for civil service training institutions at the national level.
- In announcing the "National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions" at the Capacity Building Commission (CBC) headquarters in New Delhi Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed the hope that India would soon serve as a global model in this area.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh also inaugurated the web portal and approach paper for the National standards, as a part of the launch event in presence of over 103 participants consisting of 25 Central Training Institutions, 33 State level Administrative Training Institutions, and other civil service training institutions along with capacity building commission.

Key Points:

- The National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions (NSCSTI) is developed by CBC to create a baseline for Central Training Institutes on their current capacity, for elevating their quality and capacity of training delivery, and to harmonize standards for training.
- It will also set aspirations for training institutions to strive toward excellence.
- The country is having standards and accreditation in higher education, healthcare, and the environment, but for the first time, it became applicable for training institutions also.

Centre unveils 3 schemes to support MSMEs in the pharmaceutical sector:

- The government has launched three schemes to support Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the pharmaceutical sector.
- The plans call for technology advancement, establishing shared research centers, and constructing effluent treatment plants in clusters for pharma MSMEs, according to Union Minister Shri Mansukh Mandaviya.
- According to him, small businesses should be able to modernize their facilities to meet international manufacturing standards.
- The initiatives were launched by the chemicals and fertilizers ministry under the slogan “Strengthening Pharmaceuticals Industry” (SPI).

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- The programs offer support of up to Rs 20 crore per common facility, such as a research center, testing labs, and ETPs, in pharmaceutical clusters, as well as credit-linked capital and interest subsidies for MSME units in the pharmaceutical sector upgrading their technology.

Key Points:

- **SIDBI** will serve as the **project management advisor** for implementing the plan.
- Pharmaceutical MSMEs with a track record of success could update their technology with the help of the **Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (PTUAS)**.
- The program allows for either a capital subsidy of 10% on loans up to a maximum of Rs. 10 crores with a minimum repayment period of three years, or an interest subsidy of up to 5% (or 6% in the case of units owned by SC/ST) on a declining balance basis.
- Similar to this, the **Assistance to Pharma Industries for Common Facilities Scheme (API-CF)** will increase the capacity of the current pharmaceutical clusters for long-term expansion.
- It allows for assistance up to Rs 20 crore, or 70% of the approved project cost, whichever is smaller.
- The grant-in-aid amount for the **Himalayan and northeast regions will be Rs 20 crore per cluster or 90% of the project cost**, whichever is less.

New norms of Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2008:

- **Tobacco and cigarette packets** will soon come with a **new display of health warnings**, according to the **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- As per the recently amended **Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2008**, new warnings and images will be displayed on tobacco products' packaging from **1 December**.
- Two sets of warning messages and images will be used on both sides of the pack, according to the ministry.
- It said that the first, used in existing packs "Tobacco causes painful death"—will be used with image one on one side of the pack, while "Tobacco users die young" will be on display on the other side of a packet with a second image.
- The packs will also have a **toll-free helpline, Quit Today Call Today (1800-11-2356)**, in white font on a black background.

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- With the new set of warning messages, the government is seeking to create awareness among smokers and other tobacco product users.
- It also seeks to offer access to counseling services to tobacco consumers to help them quit.
- According to government data, tobacco use causes more than 1.3 million deaths every year.

Union Cabinet adopts a \$1.6 billion BSNL revitalization plan:

- The **1.64 Lakh Crores** revival package for **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)**, according to Union Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics, and Information Technology, **Shri Ashwini Vaishnav**, was approved by the Union Cabinet.
- The government's 2019 package announcement helped to stabilize BSNL's financial status.
- Revenue that was declining has stabilized at Rs 19,000 crore thanks to a resuscitation package that the union cabinet authorized.
- **The federal cabinet** also authorized a plan to merge **BSNL with Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL)**.
- With the support of the nation's **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**, 5.67 lakh more kilometers of optical fiber have been constructed throughout 1.85 lakh village panchayats nationally.
- Through this merger, BSNL will have access to those additional kilometers of fiber.

The proposed package includes three components:

- Better services,
- A de-stressed balance sheet,
- Fibre network development.

PM has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for numerous Sabar Dairy projects worth 1,000 crore rupees in Gujarat:

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for numerous **Sabar Dairy projects worth 1,000 crore rupees** at Gadhoda Chowki in Sabarkantha, **Gujarat**.
- These projects will enhance the income of local farmers and milk producers.
- Mr. Modi inaugurated the Powder Plant at Sabar Dairy, which has a 120-tonne-per-day capacity and costs more than 300 crore rupees.

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- PM also inaugurated the Aseptic Milk Packaging Plant at Sabar Dairy, which has a capacity of 3 lakh liters per day and a total investment of around 125 crore rupees.
- Mr. Modi laid the foundation stone of the **Sabar Cheese and Whey Drying Plant Project**, with an estimated outlay of **around 600 crore rupees**.
- This is **Gujarat's third cheese plant**, and it will be operational by 2024.

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers has launched the 11th Agriculture Census:

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers **Shri Narendra Singh Tomar** launched the **11th Agriculture Census** in the country.
- It will be the **first-time data collection** for agricultural computations will be done on smartphones and tablets.
- Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has also launched the **Data Collection Portal/App** and released the **Handbook on Operational Guidelines for Census**.
- Agricultural computations will also contribute to the mapping of crops.
- The **agriculture Census is conducted every five years**.
- The fieldwork for the agricultural census will begin in August 2022.
- Agricultural Census provides information on different agricultural parameters such as area of operational holdings, their size, class-wise distribution, land use, tenancy, cropping pattern, etc. at the minute level.
- The use of mobile apps for data collection will accelerate the digitalization of the land record.

PM Narendra Modi launches International Bullion Exchange IIBX in GIFT-City:

- The "**India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX)**" has been established by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** in the **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**, which is close to Gandhinagar.
- India's **first global bullion exchange is called IIBX**.
- The exchange will sell actual gold and silver, as was stated in Budget 2020.
- Jewelers having a net worth of at least Rs 25 crore would be eligible to participate in the exchange.
- The **International Financial Services Centers Authority's** headquarters building in GIFT-City also received its foundation stone from the PM.

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- Also introduced by Modi was the **NSE IFSC-SGX Connect platform**.
- Singapore Exchange and the NSE subsidiary in GIFT IFSC are connected by a system called Connect.
- Through this platform, customers, investors, and trading members of SGX who previously traded Indian stocks listed on the NSE through SGX will now do so through the NSE IFSC.
- **Ashok Gautam** will head IIBX as MD and CEO.
- He took charge in February 2022 and worked with IDBI Bank before this.
- He has earlier worked with the State Bank of India (SBI).

IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India Hosts 8th Round of SCO Meeting In New Delhi

- India hosted the **8th round of meetings** with the heads of the border services of the competent authorities of the member states of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** in **New Delhi**.
- Including India, the meeting was attended by the other **7 members** **China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan**, and the Executive Committee of the **SCO-RATS (Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure)**.
- India is represented by **Border Security Force (BSF) Director General Pankaj Kumar Singh**.
- The daylong meeting was held under the chairmanship of India, which assumed the chair of SCO-RATS on **October 28, 2021**, for one year.
- The meeting was held in a professional and constructive atmosphere as extensive deliberations on the pressing security challenges, including threats of terrorism, and regional security scenarios, including the situation in Afghanistan.
- In the SCO meeting, the participants exchanged information reflecting assessments of the situation on the state borders of the SCO member states, trends, and forecasts of its development.
- The plan for preparation and organization of this year's Joint Border Operation "**Friendship Border - 2022**" was reviewed and approved.
- Member States supported the initiative of China to conduct a joint border operation of the border services of the competent authorities of the SCO member states **Solidarity 2023**.

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- They approved the work plan of the group of experts of the Border Services of the SCO member states for 2023.

About SCO:

- Established: 15 June 2001
- Membership: 8 member states (Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan)
- Secretary-General: Zhang Ming
- Headquarters: Beijing, China

12th meeting of BRICS National Security Advisors to be held virtually

- The 12th Meeting of BRICS National Security Advisors and High Representatives on National Security was held virtually.
- **Yang Jiechi**, Member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC) Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, **chaired** the meeting in **Beijing, China**.
- National security advisers and high representatives of the national security of **South Africa, Brazil, Russia, and India** attended the event.
- In 2022, **China** is the **chair of the BRICS grouping** & **India** was represented by **National Security Advisor Ajit Doval**.
- The meeting of BRICS NSAs is an important platform for BRICS countries to enhance political and security cooperation.
- NSAs of the **five BRICS countries** will have an in-depth exchange of views, coordinate positions, and build consensus on a range of issues including multilateralism and global governance, new threats and challenges in national security, and governance in new domains.
- The meeting reviewed the work of the working group on counter-terrorism and cyber security, agreed to jointly promote plans and roadmaps for international counter-terrorism and cyber security cooperation, and uphold the central coordinating role of the United Nations in the global counter-terrorism cause.

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RIMPAC 2022 Begins in Hawaii with 21 Partner Nation Ships

- A total of **21 United States partner nation ships**, including **one submarine**, from **14 countries** are docked at **Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH)** for the **Rim of the Pacific 2022 (RIMPAC 2022)** exercise that kicks off in **Hawaii**.
- The theme of Rim of the Pacific's (RIMPAC) 2022 is **Capable Adaptive Partners**
- **26 nations, 38 surface ships, 4 submarines, 9 national land forces**, more than **30 unmanned systems**, approximately **170 aircraft**, and more than **25,000 personnel** will take part at RIMPAC 2022 & it will be conducted in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California.
- The largest contingent is from the **Republic of Korea (ROK)**, which sent **3 ships** and **1 submarine**, followed by the **Royal Australian Navy**, with **three ships**.
- **Canada, Japan, and Mexico** sent **two ships each**, while **Chile, France, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, the Philippines, and Singapore** each sent a single ship.
- Several of the ships included embarked helicopters for the biennial drills.

About JBPHH :

- Joint Base Pearl Harbor–Hickam (JBPHH) is a **United States military base on the island of Oahu, Hawaii**.
- It is an amalgamation of the United States Air Force's Hickam Air Force Base and the United States Navy's Naval Station Pearl Harbor, which were merged in 2010.

About Hawaii :

- Capital: Honolulu
- Currency: US Dollar

Green Deal: pioneering proposals to restore Europe's nature by 2050 and 50% pesticide use by 2030

- The **European Commission** adopted proposals to **restore damaged ecosystems**, bring nature back across Europe, from agricultural land and seas to forests and urban environments, and **reduce the use of chemical pesticides by 50% by 2030**.

Aim :

- To cover at least **20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030** with nature restoration measures, and eventually extend these to all ecosystems in need of **restoration by 2050**.

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- These are the flagship legislative proposals to follow the Biodiversity and Farm to Fork Strategies and will help ensure the resilience and security of food supply in the EU and across the world.
- The Commission is proposing a **Nature Restoration Law**, the first-ever legislation at the EU level.
- The law covers wetlands, rivers, forests, grasslands, marine ecosystems, urban environments, and the species they host.
- According to the Commission, biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems continue at an alarming rate, across the broad range of ecosystem types in the EU.
- In the EU, **80% of habitats** are in poor condition, with peatlands, grasslands, and dune habitats worst.

About European Commission :

- Established: 16 January 1958
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium
- President : Ursula von der Leyen
- The European Commission (EC) is the **executive of the European Union (EU)**.

NATO nations sign accession protocols for Sweden, Finland

- The **30 allies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** signed off on the **accession protocols for Sweden and Finland** at NATO.
- The signing was held in the presence of **Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto** and **Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde**.
- The signing of the accession protocols marks the start of the **ratification process**.
- The signing comes days after the **trilateral memorandum** between **Turkey, Finland, and Sweden**.
- Turkey had initially opposed the Nordic countries' entry into the group alleging that the two nations are providing shelter to **Kurdish separatists**.

Key Highlights :

- The move **increases Russia's strategic isolation** in the wake of its invasion of neighboring Ukraine in February 2022 & military struggles there since.

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- Despite the agreement in the alliance, parliamentary approval in member state Turkey could still pose problems for their final inclusion as members.
- Turkish leader **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** warned that Ankara could still block the process if the two countries fail to fully meet Turkey's demand to extradite terror suspects with links to outlawed Kurdish groups or the network of an exiled cleric accused of a failed **2016** coup in Turkey

About NATO :

- Established: 4 April 1949
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium
- Secretary-General: Jens Stoltenberg
- Membership: 30 States (28 European and two North American)

About Sweden :

- Prime Minister : Magdalena Andersson
- Capital: Stockholm
- Currency: Swedish krona (SEK)

About Finland :

- President : Sauli Niinistö
- PM: Sanna Marin
- Capital: Helsinki
- Currency: Euro

Deutsche Bahn become the world's first intermodal partner of the Star Alliance

- **Deutsche Bahn (DB)** will become the world's first intermodal partner of Star Alliance on August 1, 2022.
- Deutsche Bahn and **Star Alliance** make a significant contribution to reducing CO2 emissions in the transport sector.
- Under the new cooperation, DB customers and passengers of Star Alliance member airlines will be able to start or end their journey comfortably on the environment-friendly train.

Note :

- **Germany** is the first market and DB is the world's first partner in the new Star Alliance initiative.

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- An industry-first, Star Alliance's Intermodal Partnership model intelligently combines airline with the **railway, bus, ferry**, or any other transport ecosystems, alliance-wide.
- The new partnership between DB and Star Alliance builds on the **Lufthansa Express Rail program**.
- Lufthansa customers have been able to buy a combined ticket for trains and flights in one booking step for **more than 20 years**.
- In the future, in addition to Lufthansa, all 25 other Star Alliance member airlines will be able to include DB's ICE trains as flight numbers in their booking engine and customers will benefit from advantages such as:
 - In just one booking process, airline customers receive a combined ticket for the flight and train journeys including seat reservations.
 - Upon check-in, travelers receive their boarding passes for both the flight and the train journeys.
 - With integrated ICE train journeys, air travelers will have even more choices based on timings, duration and prices offered.
 - Customers also benefit from priority baggage handling and other services in the **AiRail check-in area** at the Frankfurt Airport.
 - For all bookings of combined train-flight journeys via Lufthansa Express Rail with the member airlines of the Star Alliance, points or miles can be collected for the train journeys in the preferred frequent flier programs of the airline.
 - In addition, **Business and First-Class flight customers** of Star Alliance member airlines will receive additional benefits with an LH Express Rail ticket, such as access to the DB lounges.

About Germany :

- President: Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- Capital: Berlin
- Currency: Euro

About Deutsche Bahn :

- Founded: 1 January 1994
- Headquarters: Bahntower, Berlin, Germany
- CEO: Richard Lutz

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India was elected to the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

- India has been elected as a member of the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage for a period of 4 years 2022-2026 cycle.
- The announcement was made by Union Minister for Culture, Tourism & DoNER Shri G.K Reddy.
- The elections for the Intergovernmental Committee took place during the 9th General Assembly of the 2003 Convention held at UNESCO headquarters, Paris.
- The Union Culture Ministry stated against the four seats falling vacant within the Asia-Pacific group, six countries India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Thailand had presented their candidature.
- India received 110 votes from the 155 State Parties that were present and voting.

Key Highlights :

- India has served two terms as a member of the Intergovernmental Committee of this Convention i.e One from 2006 to 2010 and the other from 2014 to 2018.
- For its 2022-2026 term, India has formulated a clear vision for the protection and promotion of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity.
- Some of the priority areas that India will focus upon include fostering community participation, strengthening international cooperation through intangible heritage, promoting academic research on intangible cultural heritage, and aligning the work of the Convention with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- India ranks high in the listing of intangible cultural heritage, with 14 inscriptions on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- After the inscription of Durga Puja in 2021, India submitted the nomination for Garba of Gujarat to be discussed in 2023
- Noting the imbalance in the inscriptions on the 3 lists of the Convention, i.e., Urgent Safeguarding List, Representative List, and Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, India shall

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endeavor to encourage international dialogue to better showcase the diversity and importance of living heritage.

Note :

- The Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention consists of **24 members** and is elected in the General Assembly of the Convention according to the principles of equitable geographical representation and rotation.
- States Members to the Committee are elected for a term of **four years**.

Functions of IGC :

- The Intergovernmental Committee includes promoting the objectives of the Convention, providing guidance on best practices, and making recommendations on measures for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.
- The Committee also examines requests submitted by States Parties for the inscription of intangible heritage on the Lists as well as proposals for programs and projects.

8th India-Armenia IGC Meeting at Yerevan; signs MoU on High Impact Community Development Projects in Armenia

- The **8th session** of the India-Armenia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological, Cultural and Educational Cooperation (IGC) was held in Yerevan, Armenia.
- The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (West), Shri Sanjay Verma.
- Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Ararat Mirzoyan led the Armenian delegation.
- At the IGC, both sides discussed and reviewed the current state of cooperation in diverse fields such as trade, investments, health, tourism, infrastructure, culture, connectivity, information technology, agriculture, fintech, and education.
- India's Secretary (West) also called on the Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia H. E. Mr. Hambarzum Matevosyan.
- Secretary (West) paid floral tributes to the **statue of Mahatma Gandhi**.
- A Mahatma Gandhi Auditorium was later inaugurated at the Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU) along with Dr. Armen Muradyan, Rector of the University.

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- Secretary (West) also interacted with Indian students studying at the YSMU.
- India and Armenia signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on **High Impact Community Development Projects in Armenia** with financial and technical assistance from India.

Note :

- The **7th IGC** was held in **April 2016** in **New Delhi, Delhi**
- The **6th IGC** and **FOC** were held in **New Delhi** on **25 September 2013**.

About Armenia

- Prime Minister: **Nikol Pashinyan**
- Capital: **Yerevan**
- Currency: **Dram**

India becomes 68th country to join Interpol's child sexual exploitation database

- India's nodal agency for Interpol matters, the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** joined **Interpol's international child sexual exploitation (ICSE) database**.
- With this India become the **68th country** to join Interpol's child sexual exploitation database.
- The ICSE database uses **video & image** comparisons to analyze child sexual abuse material and make connections between victims, abusers, and places.
- The database avoids duplication of effort and saves precious time by letting investigators know whether a series of images have already been discovered or identified in another country, or whether it has similar features to other images.
- Detectives in all **68 countries** can exchange information and notes with their colleagues across the world.
- By analyzing the digital, visual, and audio content of photographs and videos, victim identification experts can retrieve clues, identify any overlap in cases and combine their efforts to locate victims of child sexual abuse.

About Interpol :

- Established: **September 1923**
- Headquarters: **Lyon, France**
- Secretary-General: **Jürgen Stock**
- Membership: **195 member states**

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- It is the **world's largest international police organization**, with **7 regional bureaus** worldwide and a **National Central Bureau**.

About CBI:

- Established: 1963
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director-General: Subodh Kumar Jaiswal
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the **premier investigating agency of India**.
- It operates under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions**.

Croatia to become the 20th country to adopt the euro as currency from 2023

- **Croatia** will become the **20th country to adopt the euro as currency** from Jan 01, 2023, replacing the **Croatian kuna**.
- European Union finance ministers have given Croatia the final approval to adopt the euro single currency.
- As per the European Central bank, the conversion rate has been set at **7.53450 Croatian kuna per euro**.
- The changes come as the euro's exchange rate very briefly touched \$1 for the first time in **20 years**.
- **Lithuania** was the **19th EU member** to adopt the euro as currency in 2015

About Croatia :

- President : Zoran Milanović
- Prime Minister : Andrej Plenković
- Capital : Zagreb

10th World Peace Forum Organized in Beijing

- The **10th World Peace Forum 2022** is being organized by Tsinghua University, in Beijing.

Theme :

- Preserving International Stability: Commonality, Comprehensiveness, and Cooperation
- India's Ambassador to China, **Mr. Pradeep Kumar Rawat** attended the panel discussion.

About 10th World Peace Forum :

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- The forum includes topics such as the preservation of world peace, European security order, and the United Nations and world order.
- More than 300 former senior officials, diplomatic envoys, and scholars participated online or offline.
- The forum was **initiated** in **2012** by Tsinghua University and the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs.

Varanasi Named First Cultural and Tourism Capital of Shanghai Cooperation Organization for 2022-23

- The holy city of **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh** showcasing **India's culture and traditions** over the ages will be declared the **first "Cultural and Tourism Capital"** of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** under a new mechanism during India's **SCO Presidency** from **September 2022 to September 2023**.
- It is under a new rotating initiative by the **eight-member organization** to promote **people-to-people contacts** and tourism among the member states.

Key Highlights :

- India will take over as SCO chair from Uzbekistan at the Samarkand summit, scheduled to be held at **Samarkand in Uzbekistan** on **September 15-16, 2022**.
- It will come into force after the Samarkand summit following which India will take over the Presidency and host the next Heads of the State summit
- **India** hosted the **Head of the Government of the SCO meets** in **2020**.
- Under this initiative, each year a city of the cultural heritage of a member country that will take over the rotating Presidency of the organization will get the title to highlight its prominence.
- Recently to commemorate the **20 years** of adoption of the SCO Charter, the SCO Secretariat has finished the compilation of a picture album that includes about **240 World Cultural Heritage sites** in SCO countries including **32 sites** from India.
- **Kazakhstan** has announced a **visa-free policy** for tourists from India and other countries.

About SCO :

- Established: 15 June 2001
- Headquarters: Beijing, China (Secretariat)
- Secretary General: Zhang Ming

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- Membership: China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

52nd DG-level talks between India & Bangladesh border forces give attention to curbing trans-border crimes

- The border guarding forces of **Bangladesh** and **India** have agreed to focus on **curbing trans-border crimes** and taking all necessary measures to ensure **peace** and **tranquility** along the border at the **52nd Director General-level coordination conference**, held in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**.
- The **Indian delegation** was headed by **Shri Pankaj Kumar Singh, Director General of BSF**, and the **Bangladesh delegation** was headed by **DG of BGB Major General Shakil Ahmed**.

About 52nd Director General-level coordination conference :

- It is a 5-day conference that was held from **July 17-21, 2022** between **Border Security Force (BSF), India**, and **Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB), Bangladesh**.
- DG-level talks between India and Bangladesh are held **twice every year once in India and once in Bangladesh**.
- Both sides provisionally agreed to hold the next DG-level conference in India preferably in the first or second week of **November 2022**.

Key Highlights :

- Both sides highlighted the importance of the **Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP)** in curbing the menace of smuggling contrabands, such as various narcotics (especially YABA), firearms, FICN, gold, etc.
- They also agreed to undertake joint efforts to bring down the number of incidents of assault and border crime by intensifying public awareness programs, undertaking appropriate socio-economic developmental programs in vulnerable areas, educating the border population about the sanctity of IB, and preventing criminals and inhabitants from crossing the IB.
- They mutually agreed to constructively engage the respective higher authorities for concurrence of the pending developmental work within **150 yards of IB**.
- They also agreed to facilitate river bank protection works along the common bordering rivers as approved by the **Joint River Commission**.

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India contributes \$2.5 million to UNRWA for Palestine refugees

- India contributed USD 2.5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).
- Director of the West Asia and North Africa Division of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Sunil Kumar presented the cheque for USD 2.5 million to the UNRWA Director of Partnerships of the Department of External Relations, Mr. Karim Amer in a signing ceremony at UNRWA headquarters in East Jerusalem, Palestine.
- The UNRWA services for Palestinian refugees involve education, health care, relief, infrastructure, camp improvement, protection, and microfinance.
- India is a dedicated donor to UNRWA, having given USD 20 million in support of core UNRWA services to Palestine refugees across the Middle East since 2018.

Additional Info :

- In January 2022, the UNRWA announced that it needs 1.6 billion US dollars from the international community 2022 to cover expenses and provide services and humanitarian development programs for Palestinian refugees.

About UNRWA :

- Founded: 8 December 1949
- Headquarters: Jerusalem, Palestine
- Commissioner General: Philippe Lazzarini
- Deputy Commissioner-General: Leni Stenseth
- The UNRWA is a UN agency that supports the relief and human development of Palestinian refugees.
- UNRWA is the only UN agency dedicated to helping refugees from a specific region or conflict
- The agency was mandated to provide assistance and protection for about 5.6 million Palestinian refugees registered in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.

UK govt launches "Aviation Passenger Charter" to address airport disruption issues

- The British government launched an "Aviation Passenger Charter" to help passengers know their rights if they are faced with problems at airports.

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- It has been developed by the **British government** in partnership with the **aviation sector & travel industry**.

About Aviation Passenger Charter :

- The Aviation Passenger charter will help passengers know what to do if they are confronted by **cancellations, delays, or missing baggage**, with guidance on how to complain if they feel they have been treated unfairly.
- It provides helpful clarity to passengers on what they should do at each stage of the journey, from booking to after they have arrived.
- In June 2022, the UK government published a **22-point support plan** to avoid further disruption, including telling airlines to run "realistic" summer schedules and promising to speed up security checks.

About the UK :

- Prime Minister: Boris Johnson
- Capital: London
- Currency: Pound sterling

Union Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav attends BRICS Labor and Employment Ministers' Meeting 2022

- The **Union Minister for Labor & Employment**, Shri Bhupender Yadav attended the **8th BRICS Labor and Employment Ministers' Meeting** held under the **Chinese Presidency** in Beijing, China.
- The Ministers of the member countries viz. **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS)** participated in the meeting.

Key Highlights :

- Shri Yadav highlighted various initiatives taken towards providing free ration, enhancing the number of days of assured employment under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA)**, and collateral-free loans provided to **2.9 million street vendors** to help them resume their businesses under **PMSVANidhi Yojana** during the pandemic.
- He further informed that a Sector Council for Green Jobs has been set up in India to develop strategy and implement programs for **Skill development in the green sector**.

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- The variety of Decentralized Renewable Energy livelihood opportunities which are being developed in India, including myriad solutions like a **solar dryer, biomass powered cold storage/chiller**, were also enunciated.
- He stressed the measures taken to harness the potential of the **Blue Economy and Agro-Forestry** in India.
- Also, various steps such as the **e-Shram Portal**, conducting of **All India Surveys of Migrant Workers and Domestic Workers** took by the Government of India towards the welfare of informal sector workers were highlighted.
- He also informed about the legislative initiatives taken by India such as the Code on Social Security, 2020, which defines the new forms of workers i.e. gig and platform workers, and the steps taken to provide social security benefits to such workers were emphasized.
- The Labor & Employment Ministers adopted the **BRICS Labor & Employment Ministers' Declaration**.
- During the meeting, the discussions were held on three priority issues, namely -
 - To promote green jobs for sustainable development
 - To Develop skills for resilient recovery
 - To Protect Workers Right in New Forms of Employment.

About BRICS :

- Headquarters: Shanghai, China
- 2022 BRICS Chair: China

PM Modi to participate in first-ever I2U2 Summit

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the **first-ever I2U2 virtual summit** along with US President Mr. Joe Biden, Israeli PM Mr. Yair Lapid, and UAE President Mr. Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- The I2U2 is a **four-nation grouping**, in which “I” stands for India and Israel, & “U” for the US and the UAE & was also referred to as the ‘**West Asian Quad**’ by Ahmed Albanna, Ambassador of the UAE to India.

Aim :

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- To encourage joint investments in six mutually identified areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security

About the first-ever I2U2 Summit :

- The Leaders will discuss the possible joint projects within the framework of I2U2 as well as the other common areas of mutual interest to strengthen the economic partnership in trade and investment in our respective regions.
- These projects can serve as a model for economic cooperation and offer opportunities for our businesspersons and workers.
- The I2U2 grouping was conceptualized during the meeting of the foreign ministers of the four countries held on **October 18, 2021**.
- Each country also has **Sherpa-level interactions** regularly to discuss the possible areas of cooperation.
- The grouping intends to mobilize private sector capital and expertise to help modernize the infrastructure, and low carbon development pathways for our industries, improve public health and promote the development of critical emerging and green technologies.
- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** also announced an investment of **USD 2 billion** to develop a series of **integrated food parks** across India to help tackle food insecurity in South Asia and the Middle East
- The I2U2 Group also declared that it will support a “**hybrid renewable energy project**” in Gujarat, consisting of **300 megawatts (MW)** of wind and solar capacity.

Zimbabwe launches gold coins as legal tender to battle extreme inflation

- The **Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe** has launched the **gold coins** called **Mosi-oa-Tunya** to be sold to the public in a bid to tackle chronic hyperinflation.
- Mosi-oa-Tunya, which in the **local Tonga language** refers to **Victoria Falls**.
- The coins will have **liquid asset status**, meaning they will be capable of being easily converted to cash and will be tradable locally and internationally.
- For this, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe disbursed **2,000 coins** to commercial banks.
- The gold coins which have been introduced by the Reserve Bank can only be traded after keeping them for a minimum of **180 days**.

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- Individuals or companies will be able to buy them from authorized outlets such as banks and keep them at a bank or take them home.
- Foreigners can only buy the coins in **foreign currency**.
- The first batch was minted outside the country but eventually, they will be produced locally.
- The coins, which have a purity of **22 carats**, will be priced based on the international market rate for an ounce of gold, plus **5%** to cover production and distribution.

About Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe :

- Headquarters: Harare, Zimbabwe

The largest pink diamond in 300 years was discovered in Angola - Lulo Rose

- A rare **pink rough diamond** has been discovered by the miners at **Lulo alluvial diamond mine**, in **Angola**, and is claimed to be the **largest pink diamond** discovered in the **last 300 years**.
- The diamond has been called '**The Lulo Rose**'.
- This is the **fifth largest diamond** from a total of **27 diamonds** with more than **100 carats** extracted to date in the **Lulo mining project**.

About 'The Lulo Rose' :

- Lulo is an **alluvial mine** which means the stones are recovered from a riverbed.
- It is **170 carat** in purity and **weighs 34 grams**.
- The Lulo Rose is a **Type IIa diamond**, which means it has **few or no impurities**, one of the rarest and purest forms of natural stones.
- The diamond will be sold at **international tender** by the Angolan state diamond marketing company, **Sodium**.

About Lulo alluvial diamond mine :

- The Lulo alluvial diamond mine is **owned** by the **Lucapa Diamond Company**, an Australia-based company working in the mining and exploration of diamond projects in Angola.

Additional Info :

- The **world's biggest diamond (any color)** is the **Cullinan Diamond**, discovered in the Premier Mine in **South Africa** in **1905**.
- Weighing **3,107 carats**, more than half a kilogram, it was cut into **105 different stones**.

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- Till now the **59.6 carats Pink Star** remains the **most expensive diamond ever sold** at a Hong Kong auction in **2017** for **71.2 million US dollars**.

About Pink Diamonds :

- Pink diamonds are extremely rare, but the same physical attributes that make the stones scarce also make them very tough, and not easy to work into shapes.
- The largest known pink diamond is the **Daria-i-Noor**, discovered in India, which experts believe was cut from an even larger stone.

About Angola :

- President: João Lourenço
- Capital: Luanda
- Currency: Angolan kwanza

Indian & Malaysian bodies ink pact to promote palm oil

- The **Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA)** and the **Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC)** have signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** to further cooperation between the two organizations to **promote the usage of palm oil**.

Aim :

- To help educate Indian consumers on the nutritional and health benefits of palm oil and improve overall understanding of palm oil and its applications, while elucidating its strengths and benefits.
- **Wan Aishah Wan Hamid**, CEO of MPOC, and **Sudhakar Desai**, President of IVPA, signed the MoU in **Kuala Lumpur**.

About the MoU :

- The MoU is expected to expand cooperation in areas of mutual interest, to promote the development and use of Malaysian palm oil and MSPO-certified palm oil.
- MPOC has collaborated with IVPA for the greater acceptance of Malaysian palm oil among Indian consumers, food manufacturers, and other end-users.
- The MoU will encourage the exchange of data on palm and edible oils and fats-related business, besides technical, policy, and administrative information.

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- MPOC will promote 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' by assisting the Indian palm oil industry in sourcing technical know-how.
- The areas of cooperation include the creation of an expert panel to assist the development of India's palm oil industry through the provision of information and expertise on the latest technology applications.

About Malaysia :

- Prime Minister: Ismail Sabri Yaakob
- Capital: Kuala Lumpur
- Currency: Ringgit

About IVPA :

- Established: in 1977 formally incorporated as a non-profit organization under **Section 25** of the Companies Act, 1956, in 1979.
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- The Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA) formerly known as the **Indian Vanaspati Producers' Association**.

Mission :

- To promote excellence, economic growth, and sustainability in India's edible oil and oilseed value chain.
- To represent the Indian Oils & Oilseeds Industry Players with a Credible Voice.

About MPOC :

- Chairman: YB Tuan Larry Sng Wei Shien
- CEO : YBrs Puan Wan Aishah Wan Hamid

IMPORTANT MOUs & AGREEMENTS

Protean and PayNearby collaborate to offer e-PAN Services:

- **Protean eGov Technologies Ltd** (formerly NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Ltd) and **PayNearby** have forged a partnership to deliver **PAN-related services** for its retail partners using **Aadhaar and biometric or SMS-based OTP authentication** for its clients.
- The collaboration aims to enhance the provision of services to millions of residents.

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Key points:

- Local firms would be able to provide inexpensive online PAN services more quickly and easily if paper applications and supporting documents were not required.
- A physical copy of the **ePAN** will be delivered to the customers at their specified address in **4-5 working days** after a digital copy has been prepared immediately after the online application form has been submitted.
- Protean receives and manages **PAN applications for the Income Tax Department of the Government of India.**
- As part of the deal, **PayNearby** will act as **Protean's PAN Service Agency (PSA).**
- Because **PayNearby services over 75% of the Indian market**, retailers may now accept PAN applications without paper because Protean will be able to greatly increase PAN service coverage across the country, especially to remote areas, through a PayNearby shop.
- Through trustworthy local touchpoints, the collaboration will integrate the underbanked and unbanked segments of the population into the tax system, increasing the country's tax collection and providing microbusiness owners with an additional source of income.

IIE, Guwahati signs MoU with IIM, Shillong to boost entrepreneurship ecosystem:

- **The Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati** has signed an MoU with the Incubation and Enterprise Support Centre of the **Indian Institute of Management Shillong in New Delhi** to boost the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the North Eastern Region.
- The objective of this partnership is to encourage entrepreneurship, incubation, and startups in the North Eastern Region.
- **Secretary of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Rajesh Aggarwal**, this partnership will help create an atmosphere where startups and entrepreneurs can flourish in the Northeast region.
- This will not only encourage the locals but also give them access to formal training and professional mentorship to run a successful business.
- The government aims to foster an entrepreneurship-enabling ecosystem that promotes innovation and growth in the Northeast.

Avanse Financial and Edelweiss collaborate to provide student travel insurance:

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- International students who are supported by **Avanse** may now get student travel insurance thanks to a partnership between the NBFC **Avanse Financial Services** and **Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI)**.
- **Student travel insurance from Edelweiss General Insurance** protects against crises and financial losses while covering medical expenses.
- The **Edelweiss General Insurance** plan offers complete coverage against medical, accommodation, and travel inconvenience-related covers, ensuring students enjoy a worry-free time while studying and lodging.
- Students will also have the choice to change their plan by adding optional coverage in line with their requirements and institution requirements.
- Overseas higher education is becoming more and more popular among Indian students.
- **Forecasts from the industry predict that by 2024**, this number would rise to 1.8 million, boosting expenditure as a result.
- This makes student travel insurance crucial, the business claims, especially to cover medical expenses given that healthcare expenditures overseas are far greater than in India.

The Tamil Nadu Government and IGSS Ventures sign an MoU to build a semiconductor park:

- The **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between Tamil Nadu and the Singapore-based M/s. **IGSS Ventures Pte Ltd** to construct a **300-acre semiconductor high-tech park** in the State with an investment and grants of **25,60crores** was signed in the presence of **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin**.
- **Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu**, **Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu**, and other important officials attended the event held at the Secretariat.
- According to an official press release, the project is anticipated to directly employ more than 5,000 people over the next five years.

Key Points:

- **IGSS Ventures** wants to contribute to **Project Surya** and the **India Semiconductor Mission**, both of which aim to reduce air pollution and global warming, by cooking with renewable energy.
- Tamil Nadu has allotted nine strategic sites, including two close to Chennai, for a semiconductor fab that will produce wafers in three different technology nodes, including 28 nm, 45 nm, and

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>=65 nm, as well as an industry ecosystem infrastructure that includes semiconductor circuit designers, material suppliers, equipment suppliers, and outsourced semiconductor assembly and test players.

- When commercial manufacturing starts in two years, 1,500 trained and semi-skilled people may be needed.
- With an expected investment of roughly 76,000 crores, the ecosystem partners' work in the high-tech park might result in an extra 25,000 jobs for people.

Tata Power and Tamil Nadu ink a pact to establish a solar manufacturing facility:

- The Tamil Nadu government and Tata Power have agreed to spend Rs. 3000 crores on the development of a new solar cell and module manufacturing plant in the Tirunelveli region of the state.
- The agreement states that both sides would work to encourage the use of renewable energy sources and the development of jobs in the state.
- The facility investment must be spread out over a longer time frame—more than 16 months—and it must lead to the development of employment, the majority of which will go to women.

Key Points:

- The effort will result in the creation of more than 2,000 direct and indirect work opportunities, the majority of which will be available to women.
- This would be Tata Power's second such production plant after the one in Bengaluru.
- The Tamil Nadu government and Tata Power have agreed to spend Rs. 3000 crores on the development of a new solar cell and module manufacturing plant in the Tirunelveli region of the state.
- According to a corporate statement, the Tamil Nadu government and Tata Power, one of India's top integrated power companies, have agreed to an about Rs 3,000 crore investment to construct a 4GW solar cell and 4GW solar module manufacturing plant in the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu.

About Tata Power

- CEO: Praveer Sinha
- Founder: Dorabji Tata

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- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1911

NTPC signs MoU for 10 GW renewable energy park with Rajasthan govt:

- To achieve the target of **60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032**, NTPC signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the **Government of Rajasthan** for the development of a **10 GW Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Park** in Rajasthan.
- The MOU signing ceremony was held in the presence of **Rajasthan Energy Minister Bhanwar Singh Bhati**.
- According to the Ministry of Power, in less than two years since its inception, **NTPC Renewable Energy Limited has won 4 GW renewable energy** capacity by bidding in various tenders which are under different stages of implementation.
- Additionally, **NTPC REL is developing one UMREPP of 4.75 GW capacity** in Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, and NTPC REL has entered into a joint venture agreement with DVC for developing RE Parks and projects.

Key Points:

- NTPC declared the commercial operation of the final part capacity of 20 MW out of 100 MW Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project at Ramagundam, Telangana with effect from July 1.
- With the operationalization of the 100-MW Solar PV Project at Ramagundam, the total commercial operation of floating solar capacity in the Southern Region rose to 217 MW.
- Earlier, NTPC declared commercial operation of 92 MW Floating Solar at Kayamkulam (Kerala) and 25 MW Floating Solar at Simhadri (Andhra Pradesh).
- With the operationalization of the 100-MW Solar PV Project at Ramagundam, the total commercial operation of floating solar capacity in the Southern Region rose to 217 MW.

AAI signs agreement with Govt. of Uttar Pradesh for Operation & Management:

- **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** signed an **Operation & Management agreement** for the operationalization of **five airports owned by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for 30 years**.
- These five airports are **Aligarh, Azamgarh, Chitrakoot, Muirpur & Shravasti**.
- As per the agreement, AAI will operate and manage the airports and provide all necessary services.

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- Communication **Navigation Surveillance/Air Traffic Management** (CNS/ATM) services will also be provided by AAI, for which State Government will enter into a separate agreement.
- Further, Reserved Services will be provided by the respective Gol for which GoUP shall enter a separate MoU with the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Gol.
- AAI will also be responsible for obtaining and maintaining of aerodrome license for these five airports.

Attendees:

- The agreement was signed by Shri N V Subbarayudu, ED (SIU) on behalf of AAI and Sri Kumar Harsh, Special Secretary, Civil Aviation Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh on behalf of the State Government in presence of Shri Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- The MoU was exchanged by Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman AAI, and Shri SP Goyal Additional Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh.
- Shri D S Mishra, Chief Secretary of UP, and Shri AK Pathak, Member Planning (AAI) were also present.

Key Points:

- As per the agreement, the Government of UP will complete the initial capital works for making airports ready for commercial operation and hand over all moveable and immovable assets along with relevant approvals, and documents to AAI for operation & management.
- The government of Uttar Pradesh will provide dedicated infrastructure for utilities like water, electricity, drainage connection, etc. at the airport (to & within).
- This is the first time AAI is entering into an O&M Agreement with the State Government for the Operationalization of State Government-owned airports.
- AAI is the largest airport operator and sole air navigation service provider committed to providing air connectivity across the country.

IIT Hyderabad and Greenko inks a pact to establish sustainable sci-tech school:

- **Greenko**, a provider of renewable energy, has teamed with IIT-Hyderabad to build a school where students will receive training in sustainable objectives including energy transition, circular economy, and climate change mitigation, among others.

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- According to a statement from the business, the **Greenko School of Sustainable Science and Technology (GSSST)** will open towards the end of this year.
- By June 2023, the first group of applicants will be accepted for the MTech and Ph.D. programs in sustainable science and technology, followed by the BTech program.

Key Points:

- It will be the first university in the country to educate only environmentally friendly science and technology.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of the union minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan.
- According to Mr. **Dharmendra Pradhan**, we must innovate and develop our models if we want to attain **self-sufficiency and enhance global wellbeing**.
- In the **twenty-first century**, technology is available to make the process simpler.
- **IIT Hyderabad** will significantly affect the internationalization of the Indian brand as India will lead the fourth industrial revolution.
- Everyone must be aware of the prime minister's vision for an **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.

Rashtriya Raksha University, DroneAcharya tie-up to set up Remote Pilot Training Centre:

- A Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of a **Remote Pilot Training Center** to teach drone flying abilities has been inked by **DroneAcharya Aerial Innovations Private Limited** and **Rashtriya Raksha University** in Gandhinagar.
- At the **RRU Campus in Gandhinagar**, the police and security force officers as well as the general public will get this training.
- This project, according to official sources, is in line with the University's purpose to identify, prepare, and sustain the statecraft of the national strategic and security culture among the security, police, and civilian population.
- With the help of this MoU, **Rashtriya Raksha University** will establish a **Remote Pilot Training Center using a Public-Private Partnership business model**.
- The training includes programs for civilians who want to learn the skill and is primarily intended for members of the armed forces, paramilitary, and police forces.

Russia signs pact for supplying tech for Kudankulam nuclear power plant:

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- A unit of Russian nuclear major Rosatom State Corporation has signed an agreement to supply thermocouples for four power units of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP) in Tamil Nadu.
- LUCH Scientific Production Association, which is a part of Science and Innovations, the R&D unit of Rosatom will provide the new sensors designed for thermal control of NPP process equipment, which will replace the old ones in the internal reactor control systems of units 1 and 2 of KNPP.
- LUCH has launched the production of a wide range of thermocouples of different measurement capacities depending on the material used to manufacture sensors and the case.
- The thermocouples are produced in stainless steel cases with fastening and sealing units, with polyamide or metal heads, as well as with flexible extension cables», according to Konstantin Kabachny, chief metrologist of the enterprise.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Ministry of Heavy Industries sign MoU to facilitate training in engineering trades to boost the capital goods sector:

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a collaborative ecosystem for imparting skill development training in the capital goods sector.
- The partnership is aimed at facilitating training in several engineering trades through Qualification Packs (QPs) developed by MHI-related Sector Skill Councils under the Scheme for Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Capital Goods Sector Phase II.
- Under the partnership, MSDE through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) will facilitate linkages between various Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) and industry partners for imparting skilling in engineering trades.
- MSDE will also constitute a review committee headed by a senior NSDC official and at least seven other members, including representatives from SSCs.

About the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE):

- MSDE was formed on 9th November 2014, by the Government of India to focus on enhancing employability of skills.

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- Since its inception, MSDE has undertaken significant initiatives and reforms in terms of formalizing the policy, framework, and standards; launching new programs and schemes; creating new infrastructure and upgrading the existing institutions; partnering with States; engaging with industries, and building societal acceptance and aspirations for skills.
- The Ministry aims to **bridge the gap between demand and supply of skilled manpower** to build new skills and innovation not only for existing jobs but also for jobs that are to be created.

About Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI):

- The **Department of Heavy Industry (DHI)** strives to bolster profit-making PSEs as well as restructure and revive sick and loss-making PSEs under its administrative control.
- The DHI seeks to achieve its vision of global automotive excellence through the creation of state-of-the-art Research and Testing infrastructure through the **National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRIP)**.
- The DHI seeks to achieve its vision by providing necessary support to Auto, Heavy Engineering, Heavy Electrical and Capital Goods Sector.

Coffee Board to collaborate with ISRO to develop climate-resistant varieties:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the **Coffee Board and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** on, among other things, the development of **climate-resilient cultivars and the evaluation of coffee's capacity to store carbon**.
- The government-run **Coffee Board** intends to concentrate on creating new types that **will be resilient to shifting climate trends**.
- In the Chikmagalur district of Karnataka, the **Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI)** carries out plant-related research initiatives under the Board in a variety of fields, including plant breeding, agronomy, and agriculture chemistry and soil science, plant physiology, pathology, entomology, and post-harvest technology.
- The weight of the country's shifting weather trends has recently fallen on coffee producers.
- There are becoming more severe weather conditions that have an impact on producers, such as prolonged periods of intense rain or a lack of precipitation.

About ISRO

- Founded: 15 August 1969

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- Headquarters: Bengaluru
- Chairman: S Somanath

NCRTC Signs Agreement with DB India for Operation, Maintenance of Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS

Corridor:

- The **National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)** entered into a first-of-its-kind agreement with **DB India** for the comprehensive operation and maintenance of the **82 km long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor for 12 years.**
- There has been limited participation by the private sector in this sector and till now the scope has generally been limited to **the provision of facility management and ancillary services.**
- This model incentivizes optimized performance through a system of incentives and penalties.
- **The O&M model developed by NCRTC** will be able to provide commuters world-class customer experience through private O&M operators as well as help boost domestic capacities in the sector, having a multiplier effect.
- It will also assist in realizing the government's goal of brownfield monetization of infrastructure assets due to predictability and transparency of O&M costs.

Key Points:

- The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) issued the Metro Rail Policy in 2017 which advocates the need for private sector participation in regional rail and metro rail projects.
- By adopting the long-term private participation model entailing comprehensive outsourcing of O&M activities, NCRTC has initiated steps to fulfill this objective of the Metro Rail Policy-2017 and the key initiatives being pursued by MoHUA under the leadership of Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.
- Deutsche Bahn Engineering and Consultancy India Pvt Ltd (DB India) is a subsidiary of **Deutsche Bahn AG, National Railway Company of Germany.**
- NCRTC has also adopted the first-of-its-kind model for integrated procurement cum long-term (15 years) comprehensive maintenance of rolling stock through private participation to capture lifecycle costing.

Nokia partners with IISc to set up networked robotics Center of Excellence:

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- The **Nokia Center of Excellence** in networked robotics has been established at **IISc Bengaluru** thanks to a collaboration between **Nokia and the Indian Institute of Science**.
- The Center of Excellence (CoE) will support interdisciplinary research in robotics and cutting-edge **5G and AI communication technologies (AI)**.
- Additionally, it will provide application cases for disaster management, agriculture, and industrial automation.

About the Centre:

- To conduct research and create these application cases, the center will encourage interaction and collaboration between **industrial ecosystem partners, start-ups, and academia**.
- The creation of sophisticated robotics, AI, and automation systems based on next-generation telecom networks, as well as their applications for resolving socially significant issues, will be among the research projects carried out by the CoE.
- Nokia has been operating in India for the past 22 years, deploying all mobile communication technologies, including 2G in 2000, 3G in 2011, 4G in 2012, and 5G as it prepares for commercialization.

About Nokia:

- President: Pekka Lundmark
- CEO: Pekka Lundmark
- Founded: 12 May 1865
- Headquarters: Espoo, Finland.

Department of Telecommunications signs agreement with ITI Limited and BSNL to fund pilot projects under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF):

- **Department of Telecommunications**, Ministry of Communications has signed an agreement with **Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) Limited** and **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** to fund the pilot projects of **E-band**, LTE indigenous technologies including integration of **4G/5G prototypes with C-DoT core**.
- The **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**, under its program for Induction of new technological developments in the telecom sector in rural and remote areas, is funding **4 pilot**

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projects each of around Rs 10 Crore enabling the development and hardening of these technologies.

- The indigenous companies **Astrome technologies, Lekha Wireless Solutions, Resonous Technologies, and Signaltron** would be executing these projects in partnership with C-DoT and DoT PSUs BSNL and ITI.

TN signs MoUs worth ₹1.25 lakh crore; to generate nearly 75,000 jobs:

- The **Tamil Nadu Government** signed **60 MoUs** to bring in a cumulative investment worth **₹1.25 lakh crore** and offer **74,898 jobs**.
- In the last year, the State had attracted investment worth **₹2.20 lakh crore** (from 192 MoUs signed),
- At the **Tamil Nadu Investors' First Port of Call - Investment Conclave**, 53 facilitation MoUs were signed with an investment of **₹65,373 crores**, offering employment opportunities to 58,478 people.
- The companies that signed the MOUs include **Amplus; Cubic PV and L&T**.

Key Points:

- In addition, seven MoUs for projects that have been sanctioned with structured packages of incentives were signed with an investment value of **₹59,871 crores**, providing 74,898 jobs.
- The firms include **Lucas TVS, ACME Green Hydrogen, and Tata Power**.
- **Chief Minister MK Stalin**, at the conclave, **inaugurated 12 projects** with an investment of **₹1,497 crores** employing 7,050 persons.
- He also laid the foundation stone for 21 companies that brought **investment worth ₹22,252 crores** and created **17,654 jobs**.
- He also launched the **Tamil Nadu Life Sciences Promotion Policy 2022** and **Tamil Nadu R&D Policy 2022**.

TECXPERIENCE program:

- To encourage FinTech adoption in the State, the Chief Minister launched the **TECXPERIENCE** program, a suite of technology services available for free or at a discounted price for a limited period.

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- He also inaugurated TN PitchFest, organized by Guidance and StartUp TN, to provide a platform for StartUps in the State to venture capital firms and angel investors.
- Organisational MoUs were exchanged for 11 projects, including VakilSearch and Capital FinTech.
- Two firms - PrimeInvestor Financial Research and DigiMoney Finance got incentives under the FinTech policy.
- The sanction orders were handed over by Stalin to the two companies.

NHPC signs MoU for development of “Pilot Green Hydrogen Technologies”:

- **NHPC signed two MoUs** for the development of “Pilot Green Hydrogen Technologies” in line with the country’s resolve to reduce the **carbon footprint in the Power Sector in Leh and Kargil** districts of the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- The MOUs were signed in the august presence of **Shri R.K. Mathur**, Hon’ble Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Ladakh.
- As per MOU signed for Leh district, NHPC shall consider the development of a **Pilot Green Hydrogen fuel cell-based Microgrid** including Hydrogen production to meet the power requirement of the NHPC guest house at **Nimmo Bazgo Power Station (Leh)** within NHPC premises.

About the MOUs:

- According to the MOU signed for the Kargil district, the hydrogen generated in Kargil will be used in fuel cells for mobility which will be capable to run two buses for up to 8 hrs in the local area of Kargil.
- NHPC shall upscale hydrogen production on a commercial scale to supply the hydrogen need of the Ladakh region in different sectors like mobility, transportation, heating, and Micro-grid & subsequent MoU shall be signed separately.
- These two Pilot projects will create a roadmap for future development of Green Hydrogen & subsequent reduction of carbon emission in the transportation/heating sector and will also attract long-term investment in the Hydrogen economy creating different revenue streams & job opportunities for the youth of UT of Ladakh.

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India, Madagascar sign MoU on tele-education:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the **Madagascar** government and **Telecommunications Consultants India Limited [TCIL]** for participation in the e-VBAB (e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati) network project.
- The Minister of Higher Education of Madagascar Elia Beatrice Assoumacou signed the MoU at the premises of the Ministry of Higher Education in Antananarivo, Madagascar in presence of the **Ambassador of India to Comoros and Madagascar Abhay Kumar**.
- The Minister of Higher Education Assoumacou expressed her delight at the signing of the MoU.

About the MOUs:

- This agreement comes under the program and vision of the **Ministry of Higher Education to promote online education in Madagascar**.
- The tele-education offers lectures ranging from a bachelor's degree to higher studies.
- It is **free of cost**.
- However, there are some eligibility criteria for students who want to apply for it and after completion of the study, students will get their degrees and diplomas
- The technological up-gradation and extension of the Pan African e-network Project are known as **e-VidyaBharti and e-ArogyaBharti Network Project**.
- The Republic of Madagascar participated in the PAeNP.
- Now with the signing of this MOU, different online degree/diploma courses will be offered to Malagasy citizens, free of cost.

Vedanta collaborates with companies started from IIT Madras:

- Metal and oil and gas giant **Vedanta** has teamed up with **Detect Technologies**, a start-up founded at **IIT Madras**, and installed **T-Pulse HSSE Monitoring System** across all of its business units to execute safety issue detection.
- This relationship supports the **Vedanta Group's** goal of attaining zero damage by implementing **AI-enabled safety monitoring of workplaces**, which is a top priority in its strategy for digital transformation.

Key Points:

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- Vedanta's infrastructure for relaying, analyzing, and reporting feeds will be utilized by the solution, and it will be recognized as such. The module will be used to identify dangerous surroundings and behaviors.
- **T-technical Pulse's stack** is centralized, expandable, and designed for plug-and-play installation.
- T-Pulse has been widely adopted in industries with high levels of caution, including construction, petrochemicals, logistics, electricity, the metals, and mining industries, pharmaceuticals, and fabrication yards.
- It was created to reduce and mitigate risk through useful insights.
- It has been widely deployed at Vedanta locations to increase compliance by offering timely responses in situations ranging from onshore drilling to zinc manufacturing.

About Vedanta Spark:

- Vedanta Spark is a worldwide corporate innovation, accelerator, and ventures program that aims to support start-ups that use innovative and sustainable technology to have a significant impact on society in collaboration with Vedanta group enterprises.

About Detect Technologies:

- Detect Technologies, a startup supported by IIT Madras, was chosen as the Vedanta SPARK 1.0 initiative's winner. It provides SaaS-based solutions targeted at automating and re-engineering industrial processes to achieve 100% safety compliance and 0% asset downtime.

RIL tie-up with Athletics Federation of India to support Indian Athlete:

- Toto promotes the overall development of athletics in India, **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** and the **Athletics Federation of India (AFI)** has formed a long-term relationship.
- The partnership uses the ecosystem of the Reliance Foundation, which includes the **Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital and the Odisha Reliance Foundation Athletics High-Performance Center**, to find, develop, and support Indian athletes from all over the nation by giving them access to top-notch facilities, coaching, and support in sports science and medicine.

Reliance Industries' contribution:

- In keeping with the organization's overarching goals, this cooperation will pay particular attention to girl athletes to bridge the gender gap and help them realize their potential.

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- Through the **Reliance Foundation Youth Sports program**, which reaches more than **5,500 educational institutions** in more than 50 districts nationwide, Reliance Foundation has been making investments in the **growth of athletics since 2017**.
- In conjunction with the Government of Odisha, Reliance Foundation established the Odisha Reliance Foundation Athletics HPC in 2018, a high-performance facility from which several national and international medalists and national record holders have emerged.
- Reliance Foundation physiotherapists will be traveling with the Indian team to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics as part of the organization's support of the AFI in the areas of sports science and medicine.

NTPC REL joins hands with GACL to set up India's first commercial-scale green ammonia project:

- NTPC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals NSE 1.57 % Limited (GACL)** to collaborate in setting up **India's first commercial-scale Green Ammonia and Green Methanol projects**.
- The MoU envisages collaborating in the **field of Renewable Energy, Green Methanol & Green Ammonia** and mutually exploring the opportunities for the supply of 100 MW RE-RTC (Round The Clock) power and synthesizing **75 TPD Green Methanol and 35 TPD Green Ammonia** for captive use for the production of various chemicals by **GACL at its Vadodara and Dahej complex in Gujarat**

About NTPC:

- NTPC is India's largest Power Utility and its core business is power generation with a total installed capacity of 69 GW (including JVs and subsidiaries).
- As part of increasing its renewable energy portfolio, a fully owned subsidiary has been formed on 7th October 2020 known as "NTPC Renewable Energy Limited" (NTPC REL) which shall take up Renewable Energy Parks and Projects including business in the area of Green Hydrogen, Energy Storage Technologies and Round the Clock RE Power.

About GACL:

- Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Limited (GACL), incorporated in Mar 1973, is a state-owned chemical manufacturing unit.

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- GACL is one of the largest producers of Caustic Soda in India, with a production capacity of over 1400 TPD at their two complexes in Dahej and Vadodara.
- GACL has its subsidiary company viz. GACL-NALCO Alkalies and Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. (GNAL) putting up an 800 TPD Caustic Soda Plant together with a 130 MW Thermal Power Plant (coal-based) at Dahej.

REC Partners with CEEW to Improve the Performance of DISCOMS:

- **Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **REC Limited**, a public infrastructure finance company to collaborate on activities to improve the operational and financial sustainability of discoms through the holistic deployment of smart meters, strengthening of power distribution networks, and improved quality of service for electricity consumers.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of **Mr. R. Lakshmanan**, Executive Director, RECL, and **Dr. Arunabha Ghosh**, Chief Executive Officer, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW).
- Under this partnership, in addition to providing research and evaluation support, **CEEW will collaborate with REC Ltd to conduct primary and secondary research** to help discoms in their efforts to deploy smart meters.

Key Points:

- **CEEW's research** will also help to leverage smart metering infrastructure for improved service delivery and ensure a **positive consumer experience**.
- This partnership provides us with a framework for future collaborative projects that can help improve the performance of discoms while bringing down their financial losses.
- It aims to engage CEEW as a knowledge partner with REC for the implementation of the RDS scheme and build capacities within REC and discoms to undertake evidence-based research.
- The MoU will enable the parties to study the best practices and regulations concerning the operation, management, and use of smart metering infrastructure.
- The parties will also work together to implement and evaluate innovative strategies to improve operational efficiencies and the financial sustainability of DISCOMS.

Union Health Ministry and Panchayati Raj Ministry Sign MoU to eliminate TB in India:

- Union Health Ministry and Panchayati Raj Ministry have signed an MoU to eliminate TB in India.

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- The MoU was signed by Dr. Bijaya Kumar Behera, Economic Adviser on behalf of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, and Dr. P Ashok Babu, Joint Secretary on behalf of the Ministry of Health.
- The MoU will forge **inter-Ministerial collaboration** and strategic partnerships to achieve the Prime Minister's ambitious **target of eliminating TB in India by 2025**.
- the MoU is expected to pave way for coordinated efforts at the grassroots level to create mass awareness in rural areas to end the stigma and discrimination associated with Tuberculosis.
- It will help utilize the huge potential of a nationwide network of **Panchayati Raj Institutions and Rural Local Bodies** for the elimination of TB in India.
- This MoU will serve as a milestone to achieve the objective and **target of the TB Free India Campaign**.

HAL, Safran sign agreement to create JV to build helicopter engines

- HAL signed an agreement with French engine-maker, **Safran Helicopter Engines**, to create a new **joint venture (JV) that will develop helicopter engines** for India's future needs
- Amongst the most ground-breaking technological successes notched up by **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)** are its single-engine and twin-engine helicopters in the former segment, the eponymous **Light Utility Helicopter (LUH)**; and in the latter, the **Dhruv advanced light helicopter (ALH)**, the **Rudra attack helicopter** and the **Light Combat Helicopter (LCH)**.
- The common feature in all these choppers is the remarkable Shakti engine, which is powerful enough to propel them to the dizzying heights of Kargil, or the Saltoro Ridge, where the **Indian Army is deployed in posts like Sonam and Bana Top, at altitudes above 20,000 feet**.

Key Points:

- This MoU demonstrates once again the commitment of both Safran Helicopter Engines and HAL to the Indian government's vision of **'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'** or **achieving self-reliance – particularly in defense technologies**
- The HAL and Safran Helicopter Engines partnership includes the Shakti engine, which powers HAL-produced helicopters, including the Dhruv, Rudra, and the LCH.
- The Ardiden 1U variant (of the Shakti engine) also powers the new LUH.
- More than 500 Shakti engines have already been produced

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- Through the HE-MRO joint venture in Goa, HAL and Safran Helicopter Engines will also provide MRO (maintenance, repair, overhaul) services for TM333 and Shakti engines already in service with India's military.
- It will be operational by the end of 2023

NHPC signs MoU for development of "Pilot Green Hydrogen Technologies":

- NHPC signed two MoUs for the development of "Pilot Green Hydrogen Technologies" in line with the country's resolve to reduce the carbon footprint in the Power Sector in Leh and Kargil districts of the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- The MOUs were signed in the august presence of Shri R.K. Mathur, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Ladakh.
- As per MOU signed for Leh district, NHPC shall consider the development of a Pilot Green Hydrogen fuel cell-based Microgrid including Hydrogen production to meet the power requirement of the NHPC guest house at Nimmo Bazgo Power Station (Leh) within NHPC premises.
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- These two Pilot projects will create a roadmap for future development of Green Hydrogen & subsequent reduction of carbon emission in the transportation/heating sector and will also attract long-term investment in the Hydrogen economy creating different revenue streams & job opportunities for the youth of UT of Ladakh.

Hyderabad Central University signs MoU with NIAB for resources sharing in animal biotechnology:

- The University of Hyderabad (UoH) and the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration.
- As part of the MoU, the UoH and NIAB will collaborate on fundamental areas of biological sciences.

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- Faculty, researchers, and scientists from both institutions will collaborate on animal biotechnology or allied areas.
- On a mutually agreeable basis, **NIAB scientists** would actively participate in teaching Master's programs at UoH in specialized areas of animal biology and biotechnology and offer students the chance to undertake project work in their labs.
- Scientists from the NIAB may be appointed as adjunct professors at the University of Hyderabad, and vice versa, in compliance with the respective institutions' regulations.
- The MoU would be in force for **five years**, according to a release.

India signs an agreement with Namibia to reintroduce cheetah:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by **India and Namibia** intends to bring cheetahs back to the nation after nearly seven decades.
- By August 15, the **first eight cheetahs** are scheduled to arrive in **Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park**.
- Separately, India is expected to acquire **12 cheetahs from South Africa**; a partial arrangement has already been signed, and a final one is on the way, according to officials familiar with the case.
- The environment ministry stated that the main goal of CTP is to establish a robust meta-population of the animal in the country that will allow it to carry out its functional role as a top predator and create space for it to disperse within its historical range, supporting efforts to conserve it globally.

Key Points:

- The cheetah will re-enter a natural enclosure in India, 69 years after the last one was hunted down in **Chhattisgarh** in 1952.
- The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** oversees the Union Environment Ministry's **Cheetah Translocation Project (CTP)**.
- The government plans to breed the animals in Kuno as part of CTP before releasing them into the wild.

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- The agreement was signed by Namibia's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, **Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah**, as well as **Bhupender Yadav**, the country's minister of the environment, forests, and climate change.
- To celebrate the country's 75th Independence Day, SP Yadav, member secretary and auxiliary director general for Project Tiger at the NTCA, revealed that they are striving to deliver the cheetahs to the country by August 15.

About Namibia:

- Capital: Windhoek
- President: Hage Geingob
- Currencies: Namibian dollar, South African rand

Flipkart and the Bihar State Skill Development Mission have signed an agreement:

- **Flipkart**, the e-commerce market, announced a partnership with the **Bihar State Skill Development Mission** to launch **Supply Chain Operations Academy (SCOA)** programs in the state.
- According to a press release, the initiative seeks to establish a talent pool of professional supply chain operations people and to distribute relevant business skills and knowledge.

Key Points:

- This will help to close the skills gap and provide job opportunities in the nation's thriving supply chain industry.
- The Flipkart team designed and created the SCOA training program, which was launched in October of last year, to give candidates thorough experience and training.
- Successful candidates will be paid Rs 17,500 for finishing the program, which involves 45 days of on-the-job training at Flipkart supply chain facilities after 15 days of digital classroom instruction.
- The program is a 60-day skill-building endeavor that attempts to give young people the abilities they need to pursue careers in various areas of supply chain management while also certifying them to make them more marketable.

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- Students will be offered skills using Flipkart's Learning Management System, an online learning platform where students may master a range of skills through courses designed by industry specialists.

SAP Labs India partners with NeGD to set up a Centre for Digital Government:

- **SAP Labs India** has partnered **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), to launch **SAP Centre for Digital Government (SCDG)** for improving **digital government capabilities in the country**.
- SAP Labs India will work closely with **NeGD to set up SCDG in Bengaluru**.
- It will focus on capacity building, program management, and implementation of Digital India's projects and initiatives undertaken by the ministries and/or their departments, both the central and state levels
- As part of the MoU, SCDG will cater to **three broad pillars of activities innovations** in technology application for **government service delivery, capacity building, knowledge sharing, and thought leadership**.
- It will involve policy consultations to support the realization of the following for the benefit of the Indian public service and sector across all levels of government.

RINL inks MoU with STPI to establish Centre of Excellence in Visakhapatnam:

- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), STPINEXT, and RINL-VSP (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant)** for **Industry 4.0 CoE (Centre of Excellence)** for the promotion of innovation and start-up activities for RINL and other industries in and around Visakhapatnam
- The MoU was exchanged between **Atul Bhatt, CMD, RINL, and C.V.D. Ram Prasad, Director, STPI**.

About CoE:

- The CoE is coming up over a built-up space of approximately **6,000 square feet at Ukkunagaram**.
- The CoE has been named '**Kalpataru**'.
- It will house an Industrial Robotics lab, an Industrial Drones lab, and an Industrial IoT (Internet of Things) lab.

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- The premier associations like CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) and ITAAP (IT Association of Andhra Pradesh) are also part of the CoE.
- They will provide the necessary support for nurturing the start-ups.

Key Points:

- The center will also be provided with high-speed internet and server setup using cloud computing to have capabilities for working with **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML)**.
- This is being established with funding support from the Ministry of Electronics & IT, the Government of India (MeitY), RINL, and the State government.
- **STPI, STPINEXT, and RINL** will enable start-ups to make world-class products in the area of Industry 4.0.
- It is planned to incubate around 50 start-ups in physical mode and 125 start-ups in virtual mode over **five years**.
- The present MoU is being signed for three years.
- The start-ups will be aptly supported by premier institutes like **IIM-Visakhapatnam and Andhra University** in the form of research inputs, management, and technology.
- The start-ups will also receive mentoring support from renowned industries in the automation space like **SMS Group, Schneider Electric, ABB, EOS, and Siemens**.

Attendees:

- Sobodh Sachin, Chief Innovation officer (CIO), STPINext, B. Suresh, Additional director, STPI, Sridhar Kosaraju, State president, ITAAP, RINL Director, senior officials from RINL, STPI, IIM-Vizag, Andhra University were also present at the event.

NSIC and LG Electronics sign an agreement to establish the MSME Center of Excellence:

- **National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)** signed an agreement with **LG Electronics India Pvt Ltd. and the Electronics Sector Skills Council of India** in the presence of Shri Narayan Rane, Honorable Cabinet Minister, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Honorable Minister of State, Shri B. B. Swain, Secretary MSME, Shri P. Udayakumar, CMD, NSIC, and Shailesh Kumar Singh, AS&DC (ESSCI).

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- **Tae Jin Chang**, Head of Customer Service, LG India, and **Mr. O. P. Singh**, Centre Head, NTSC(Okhla), signed the Memorandum of Understanding.

About NSIC Role:

- The NSIC, in collaboration with the sector skills council, will aid graduates in seeking jobs at job fairs, and LG Electronics will give them precedence over graduates of the NSIC's Technical Services Center (Okhla) program.
- The NSIC Technical Services Center in Okhla has taken the lead in teaching young people by offering entrepreneurship-based training programs as well as a variety of skill-based training courses.
- NSIC's training programs are market- and industry-oriented.
- The NTSC (Okhla) has expertise collaborations with several industry leaders, including Schneider Electric for electrical and solar energy solutions, Delta for PLC, SCADA, and distributed control systems, Mitutoyo for quality control, and Tally for accounting.

Key Points:

- This project's purpose is to train impoverished youngsters on consumer electronics and appliances.
- LG Electronics and the **Electronics Sector Skills Council of India (ESSCI)** will collaborate to develop a "**Centre of Excellence**" at the NSIC - Technical Services Center.
- This will provide new prospects for young people in the field of electronics and develop skilled labor for positions in this industry.
- In the initial year, 600 kids would be serviced.

NEDFi signed MoU to promote investments in the northeast:

- A business chamber and **North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi)** have signed a memorandum of understanding to **work jointly towards promoting investment in Assam** and other states of the region.
- The agreement will contribute to various initiatives aimed at reforms, policy advocacy, ease of doing business, market linkages, and promotion of sustainable business practices.

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- Indian Chamber of Commerce Assam state council's chairman **Sarat Kumar Jain** and NEDFi executive director **S K Baruah** signed the MoU in the presence of delegates of both organizations.
- The pact would certainly provide a platform for entrepreneurs of the region to avail the pragmatic schemes and initiatives of NEDFi and the Indian Chamber of Commerce.
- ICC-North East and NEDFi would also collaboratively organize platforms for buyers and sellers in India and potential business partners.
- A trade facilitation desk would be established on the premises of ICC-NE in association with NEDFi to help trade and commerce among the region, the rest of India, and the world.

NHPC, DVC sign pact to set up joint venture firm for hydropower:

- **NHPC Ltd (National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Private Limited)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)** to explore the formation of a **Joint Venture company (JVC)** for exploring and setting up **Hydropower and Pump Storage Projects**
- State-owned hydro power giant **NHPC** has inked a pact with **Damodar Valley Corporation** to explore the possibility of forming a joint venture firm for setting up hydropower and pump storage projects.
- As per a regulatory filing, the MoU heralds a new dawn in cooperation between the two power sector organizations in jointly harnessing the hydropower and pump storage projects as energy storage solutions.
- This is in line with the national objective of **Energy Transition i.e 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030 and net zero by 2070.**
- Both companies would look at the joint development of mutually identified projects.
- NHPC has an installed capacity of 7071.2 MW from 24 power stations, including two projects in joint venture mode, as per its web portal.
- Its plants generated 24,855 million units of power in 2021-2022.

An MoU was signed by Andaman Nicobar Command and Airport Authority of India to boost inter-island connectivity:

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- An MoU was signed by **Andaman Nicobar Command and Airport Authority of India** in Port Blair to **boost inter-island connectivity under Udaan Scheme**.
- As per the MoU, **naval airfields at Shibpur (in Diglipur)** in North Andaman and Campbell Bay will be **utilized for civil operations**.
- Passenger flights will be connecting Port Blair directly to Diglipur and Campbell Bay, the two extreme corners of the archipelago.
- A **low-cost 20-passenger flight** to be operated between these islands as per the vision of the Udaan Scheme.
- Presently, Heli services are available to Diglipur and Campbell in a very limited capacity.
- **Diglipur is the third most populous town in Andaman** while a major transshipment port is to come up in Campbell Bay.
- **Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik**, known by its acronym UDAN is a regional airport development program of the Government of India and part of the Regional Connectivity Scheme for upgrading under-serviced air routes.
- Its goal is to make air travel affordable and improve economic development in India.
- Launched: 21 October 2016.

Tata Steel and Aarav Unmanned Systems have signed an MoU to develop and offer end-to-end integrated drone solutions:

- **Tata Steel and Bengaluru-based drone startup Aarav Unmanned Systems (AUS)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to **develop and offer end-to-end integrated drone solutions** with a focus on efficiency, safety, and productivity of open cast mining operations.
- Tata Steel will also work jointly with AUS to provide drone-based solutions, including mine analytics and geotechnical mapping to Tata Steel group companies across various stocks and mining locations in India.
- This is the second time a Tata Group company and AUS have partnered.
- Previously, **Tata Steel partnered with AUS in November 2021**, to help its project team to **map the progress of the upcoming Kalinganagar Expansion Plant in Odisha**.
- Back then, AUS had carried out drone surveys of the mining leases of Tata Steel and delivered mines analysis.

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- Founded in 2013 by Vipul Singh and Suhas Banshiwala, AUS is building commercial-grade drones and provides drone-based solutions for enterprise applications in mining, infrastructure, urban planning, irrigation, energy, and agriculture.
- Its end-to-end solutions include a drone, an operator, and a **cloud platform for data analysis**.
- AUS was the first drone startup to be granted the certification under the small category as all previous certifications were for drones under the micro category.

Talgo and Bharat Forge inks a contract for the production of trains:

- **BF Infrastructure Ltd.**, a wholly owned subsidiary of **Bharat Forge Ltd.**, and **Talgo India Pvt Ltd.**, a fully owned subsidiary of **Spanish company Patentes Talgo S.L.**, have formed a joint venture to develop high-speed passenger trains.
- The collaboration will benefit from upcoming field requirements locally as well as fresh economic opportunities in the railroad industry.
- The Union government's **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiative is expected to gain from this partnership.
- It will support the delivery of cutting-edge, high-speed rail solutions.
- The focus of the proposed agreement will be on developing a center for the manufacture, upkeep, and life cycle support of the upcoming generation of aluminum-bodied, lightweight, high-speed trains.
- Following a tender for the creation and maintenance of 100 next-generation, lightweight, and energy-efficient trains, the Indian Railways announced the project.

IMPORTANT MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

SBI, HDFC, and ICICI Bank acquire 9.54% stakes each in Perfios Account Aggregation Services

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)**, **HDFC Bank**, and **ICICI Bank** acquired a **9.54 percent stake** each in **Perfios Account Aggregation Services Private Limited (Perfios AA)**.
- The 3 banks acquired **8,05,520 equity shares** each by paying **Rs 4.03 crore** each for the stakes.
- According to regulatory filings, the lenders bought the shares at **Rs 50** a piece.
- The investments will be subject to the approval of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

About Perfios Account Aggregation Services Private Limited (Perfios AA) :

- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka

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- CEO : Srikanth Rajagopalan
- Perfios AA had a turnover of Rs 0.09 crore (provisional) and a loss of Rs 3.4 crore

CCI approves the acquisition between Google International LLC and Bharti Airtel Limited

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved **Google International LLC's (Acquirer) acquisition** of a minority and non-controlling stake of **1.28% of the equity capital of Bharti Airtel Limited (target)**.
- Google International LLC (Acquirer) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Google LLC a **Delaware limited liability company** and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Alphabet Inc.
- The Acquirer is a holding company and does not own/operate any of Google's products/ services.
- However, Google offers various products and services, including its flagship search service, its Android operating system, and its Play app store.
- BAL is an international communications solutions provider with over **480 million customers** in 17 countries across South Asia and Africa.
- BAL's retail portfolio includes, amongst others, high-speed mobile broadband, Airtel Xstream Fiber, streaming services (music and video), digital payments, and financial services
- For enterprise customers, BAL offers solutions including secure connectivity, cloud, and data center services, cyber security, IoT, advertising services, and cloud-based communication.

About CCI :

- Established: 14 October 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Current Chairman: Ashok Kumar Gupta
- First Chairman: Dhanendra Kumar
- Secretary : P K Singh
- CCI is the **chief national competition regulator** in India & it is a statutory body within the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**.

Tata Steel acquires strategic stake in NINL

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- The **Ministry of Finance** stated that the **strategic disinvestment transaction** for **Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL)** has been completed, with the transfer of **93.71 percent shares** of the joint venture partners to **Tata Steel Long products Limited (TSLP)**.
- Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) is a Joint Venture of **4 central public sector enterprises (CPSEs)**, namely **Mineral & Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC)** with a shareholding of **49.78 percent**; **National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)** with a shareholding of **10.10 percent**; **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** with a shareholding of **0.68 percent**; **MECON** with a shareholding of **0.68 percent**; and **2 Odisha Government PSUs**, namely **Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC)** with a shareholding of **20.47 percent** and **Industrial Promotion & Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL)** with a shareholding of **12 percent**.
- The Enterprise Value is **₹12,100 Crores** paid by **Tata Steel Long products Limited**.
- This payment has been utilized as per the SPA for settlement of dues of employees, operational creditors, secured financial creditors, and sellers (operational and financial dues) and for equity of selling shareholders as per SPA.
- Earlier, the **Letter of Award (LOA)** was issued to **Tata Steel Long Products Limited** on **2 February 2022**, and the SPA was signed on **10 March 2022**.

About NINL:

- Location: Jaipur, Odisha
- Chairman: J Rabi Shanker

About Tata Steel Long products Limited:

- Headquarters: Keonjhar, Odisha
- MD: Ashish Anupam
- TSLP is the subsidiary of Tata Steel Limited.

About Ministry of Finance :

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

CCI approves acquisition of Citrix Systems by Vista & Elliott managed funds

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- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the **acquisition of Citrix Systems Inc (Citrix) by funds managed by Vista Equity Partners Management (Vista)** and funds and investment vehicles managed by **Elliott Investment Management (Elliott)**.
- The proposed combination relates to the acquisition of Citrix by funds managed by Vista and funds and investment vehicles managed by Elliot approved by the Commission in its meeting held in June 2022.
- The proposed combination will be implemented under an Agreement and a Plan of Merger entered into among **Citrix, Picard Parent, Picard Merger Sub, Inc. (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Picard Parent), and TIBCO Software Inc (TIBCO)**.

The names of the parties to the combination are:

- Elliott Alto Aggregator GP LLC (Elliott Aggregator)
- Picard Parent, Inc (Picard Parent)
- Picard HoldCo LLC (Holdco)
- Citrix Systems, Inc. (Citrix).
- **Vista and Elliott** have been collectively referred to as **Acquirers**.
- The Acquirers and Citrix are collectively referred to as the **Parties**.

About Vista :

- Vista is a **US-based investment firm** focused on empowering and growing enterprise software, data, and technology-enabled businesses.
- It controls some portfolio companies that are active in the provision of IT services such as the provision business software.

About Elliott :

- Elliott is a US-based investment firm whose flagship fund, Elliott Associates, L.P., was founded in **1977**.

About Citrix :

- Citrix is a multinational enterprise software company.
- Headquarters: Florida, United States of America
- It is focused on helping organizations deliver a consistent and secure work experience.

About CCI :

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- Founded: 14 October 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- First Chairman: Dhanendra Kumar
- Current 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.

Piramal Enterprises gets shareholders' nod to demerge pharma business

- **Piramal Enterprises Limited (PEL)** has received shareholders' approval for the proposed **demerger of its pharmaceuticals business** and **simplification** of the corporate structure.
- The company received **99 percent of the votes** at the shareholder's meeting.
- The demerger was to transform the multi-sector conglomerate structure of the company into two separate sector-focused financial services and pharmaceuticals listed entities and command leadership positions in those sectors.
- The demerger follows the group's acquisition of **Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL)** for **Rs 34,250 crore**, which was completed in September 2021.
- In **October 2021**, PEL received board approval for a scheme of arrangement between the company, **Piramal Pharma (PPL)**, **Convergence Chemicals (CCPL)**, **Hemmo Pharmaceuticals (HPPL)**, **PHL Fininvest (PFPL)**, and their respective shareholders and creditors.
- According to the contours of the agreement, the pharmaceuticals business would be demerged from PEL and consolidated under Piramal Pharma.
- The two operating subsidiaries Hemmo Pharma (focused on peptide Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients development and manufacturing capabilities) and Convergence Chemical (setup for development, manufacturing, and selling specialty fluorochemicals) will be merged with Piramal Pharma to create a consolidated listed pharma entity.

About PEL :

- Founded: 26 April 1947
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

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- Chairman : Ajay Piramal

CCI approves the acquisition of Solenergi Power Private Limited by Shell Overseas Investments B.V. from Actis Solenergi Limited

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the acquisition of **Solenergi Power Private Limited (Target)** by **Shell Overseas Investments B.V. 's (Acquirer)** from **Actis Solenergi Limited** under **Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.**
- The proposed combination pertains to the acquisition of **100%** shareholding and sole control of the Target by the Acquirer.
- The acquirer is a company incorporated in the **Netherlands** and is a part of the Shell group.
- Shell Plc's shares are listed on the **London Stock Exchange, Euronext Amsterdam, and the New York Stock Exchange.**
- Solenergi Power is an investment company incorporated in **Mauritius**, belonging to the Actis group.
- It currently has investments in the renewable energy sector in India

About CCI :

- Founded: 14 October 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- First Chairman: Dhanendra Kumar
- Current Chairman: Ashok Kumar Gupta
- Secretary : P K Singh
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is the **chief national competition regulator in India.**
- It is a statutory body within the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Gol.**

CCI approves Shrem InvIT's acquisition of equity in 10 road infra projects by Dilip Buildcon Limited

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the acquisition by **Shrem InvIT** of equity in **ten road infrastructure projects (Target SPVs)** from **Dilip Buildcon Limited (DBL)** and its associates under **Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.**
- The proposed combination involves the acquisition of **100 percent** of the equity in the target **special purpose vehicles (SPVs).**

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- The deal includes the issuance of certain units of Shrem InvIT to Dilip Buildcon and its associates.
- Shrem InvIT is a trust registered under the **Indian Trusts Act, 1882**, and SEBI under **InvIT Regulations 2014** was set up to carry on infrastructure investment trust activities.
- The Target SPVs are undertaking road projects in the state of **Karnataka, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh**.

About Dilip Buildcon Limited :

- Founded: 1987
- Headquarters: Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India
- Chairman & MD: Dilip Suryavanshi
- CEO: Devendra Jain
- Dilip Buildcon is in the business of construction, operation, and maintenance of roads and highways.
- It was awarded the **National Highway Excellence Award** in 2020 for highway maintenance.

Infosys to acquire BASE life science for €110 million

- **Infosys Ltd** signed a definitive agreement to acquire **BASE life science**, leading technology and consulting firm in the life sciences industry, for up to **€110 million (about \$111 million)**.
- The acquisition is expected to close during the **second quarter of FY23**.

About the acquisition :

- The acquisition reaffirms the firm's commitment to helping global life sciences companies realize business value from cloud-first digital platforms and data, to speed up clinical trials and scale drug development.
- Together with Infosys, BASE is expected to further expand its portfolio of expertise into **Consumer Health, Animal Health, MedTech, and Genomics segments**.
- BASE collaborates with leading software technology providers in the life sciences industry such as **Veeva, IQVIA, and Salesforce**.

About Infosys Ltd :

- Founded: 2 July 1981
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India

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- Chairman : Nandan Nilekani
- MD & CEO: Salil Parekh
- President: Ravi Kumar S
- Infosys Limited is an Indian multinational information technology company.

About BASE life science :

- Founded: 2007
- Headquarters: Denmark
- CEO: Martin Woergaard

The BASE has about **200** multidisciplinary industry experts across Denmark, Switzerland, the UK, Germany, France, Italy, and a nearshore technology hub in Spain

CCI approves the acquisition of Ageas Federal Life Insurance by Ageas Insurance

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the **acquisition of Ageas Federal Life Insurance Company Limited (AFLI)** by its group company **Ageas Insurance International NV**.
- Ageas currently has **49%** shareholding in AFLI and it jointly controls the operations of AFLI along with the other shareholders viz., IDBI, and Federal Bank.

About Ageas :

- Ageas is the ultimate holding company of the Ageas group.
- It is an international insurance group having business activities in **Europe and Asia**.
- The products and services offered by the Ageas group globally include life insurance products, general non-life insurance products, reinsurance services, and distribution of insurance products.
- AFLI is engaged in the business of providing life insurance products in India under the category of term plan, child plan, ULIP plan, saving plan, retirement solutions, health plan, group plan, online plans, etc

About CCI :

- Established: 14 October 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Ashok Kumar Gupta
- Secretary : P K Singh

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- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is the **chief national competition regulator** in India.
- It is a statutory body within the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**.

CCI approves the proposed combination involving indirect subscription of over 30% of the total number of issued shares of CitiusTech by Bain Capital and Bain Credit

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the proposed combination involving the indirect subscription of over **30%** of the total number of issued shares of **CitiusTech** by **Bain Capital Investors, LLC (Bain Capital)** and **Bain Capital Credit Member, LLC** and **Bain Capital Credit Member II, Ltd. (Bain Credit)**.

About Bain Capital:

- Bain Capital is a **private equity investment firm** that invests, through its family of funds, in companies across many industries, including information technology, healthcare, retail, consumer products, communications, financial, and industrial/manufacturing.

About Bain Credit:

- Bain Credit is a **leading global credit specialist**, which invests up and down the capital structure and across the spectrum of credit strategies, including leveraged loans, high-yield bonds, distressed debt, private lending, structured products, non-performing loans, and equities.
- Its team of more than **240 professionals** creates value through rigorous, independent analysis of thousands of corporate issuers around the world.

About CitiusTech:

- CitiusTech holds approximately **80% interest** in **CitiusTech Healthcare Technology Private Limited (CT India)** and does not have any business activities as such.
- CT India is a healthcare technology services and solutions provider.
- CT India provides healthcare software engineering, healthcare professional services, healthcare QA test automation, healthcare technology consulting, healthcare BI/ Analytics, and business and process outsourcing services in healthcare.

CCI approves an increase in the proportion of voting rights held by CPPIB in ReNew Energy

Global

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves an increase in the **proportion of voting rights** held by **CPPIB** in **ReNew Energy Global**.

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- The proposed combination envisages an increase in the proportion of voting rights held by the **Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB)** in **ReNew Energy Global plc. (ReNew)** as a result of a repurchase program to buy back **Class A Ordinary Shares (i.e., shares carrying voting rights)** announced by **ReNew (Buyback)**.
- As a result of the Buyback, the aggregate number of voting shares of ReNew is expected to decrease, which may lead to a corresponding increase in the proportion of voting rights held by CPPIB.

About CPPIB :

- CPPIB is an investment management organization.
- It invests the funds transferred to it by the **Canada Pension Plan Fund (CPP Fund)** that are not needed by the CPP Fund to pay current benefits on behalf of 21 million contributors and beneficiaries.

LIC reduces its stake by 2% in Sun Pharma to 5.024%

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has reduced shareholding in **Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries** by selling a **2 percent stake** in the pharma company for about **Rs 3,882 crore**.
- LIC's shareholding in Sun Pharma has diluted from **16,85,66,486** to **12,05,24,944** equity shares.
- LIC's stake in Sun Pharma has been reduced from **7.026%** to **5.024%** of the paid-up capital.
- The shares were sold through open market transactions during the period from **May 17, 2021, to July 22, 2022**.
- The shares were sold at an average price of **Rs 808.02 apiece**, valuing the transactions at a total of **Rs 3,881.85 crore**.
- On the BSE, shares of LIC (Life Insurance Corporation) declined **0.70 percent** to close at **Rs 684.15** apiece while that of Sun Pharmaceuticals fell **0.75 percent** to **Rs 868.05** apiece.

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
- LIC is an Indian statutory insurance and investment corporation.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

About Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries :

- Founded: 1983
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Founder & MD: Dilip Shanghvi

Bharti Airtel allows 1.2% equity shares to Google for USD 1 Billion

- Telecom operator **Bharti Airtel** has allotted over **71,176,839 equity shares** of the face value of **Rs 5 each fully paid up**, on a preferential basis to **Google International LLC (Google)** at an issue price of **Rs 734 per equity share**.
- The allotment is part of Google's commitment to invest **USD 1 billion** with Airtel, which included equity investment in the company worth **USD 700 million, about Rs 5,224 crore**.
- Google invested as part of its **USD 10-billion India Digitization Fund**
- Out of the total investment with Airtel, **USD 300 million** was earmarked for implementing commercial agreements
- It includes investments in scaling Airtel's offerings that cover a range of devices to consumers via innovative affordability programs as well as other offerings aimed at accelerating access and digital inclusion across India's digital ecosystem.
- Google has also invested **Rs 33,737 crore (about USD 4.5 billion)** to buy a **7.73 percent stake in Jio Platforms**.

About Bharti Airtel :

- Founded: 7 July 1995
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Sunil Bharti Mittal
- MD & CEO: Gopal Vittal

CCI approves Citibank-Axis Bank deal

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the **acquisition of Citibank, N.A.'s (Citi) and Citicorp Finance (India) Limited's (Citicorp)** undertakings comprising their consumer banking activities by **Axis Bank (Acquirer)** under **Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002**.

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- Under the terms of the proposed **Rs 12,325 crore deal**, which is one of the largest in India's financial space, Axis Bank would take over Citi's credit cards, personal loans, and wealth management businesses.

About Citi :

- Citi is a national banking association organized in the USA.
- Citi's business offerings are divided into **two** broad categories
 1. Global consumer banking
 2. Institutional clients group.
- It offers banking and wealth management services to retail customers.
- In India, Citi is a licensed scheduled commercial bank and offers a full range of consumer and institutional banking products and services.
- Citicorp is a public company whose debt securities are listed on a recognized stock exchange, and it is licensed as a systemically important non-deposit taking **non-banking financial company ("NBFC")**.
- It offers NBFC business services in India, such as the provision of commercial vehicle and construction equipment loans, etc & also it provides personal loans and asset-backed finance.
- Axis Bank is a listed private sector bank engaged in the provision of retail banking services, commercial and wholesale banking services, and treasury services to customer segments including individuals, micro, small and medium enterprises, agricultural businesses, and corporate businesses.

CCI approves Greenforest New Energies' stake buy in Tata Power Renewable

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the acquisition of an **11.43% stake** in **Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL)** by **Greenforest New Energies Bidco Limited (Greenforest)**.
- Greenforest New Energies Bidco Limited (Greenforest) is an investment vehicle indirectly incorporated by **BlackRock Alternatives Management, LLC. (BAM)** and **Mubadala Investment Company PJSC (MIC)** for undertaking the Proposed Combination.
- BAM is a wholly owned subsidiary of **BlackRock**.

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- BlackRock is a U.S. publicly traded company active in the provision of global investment management, risk management, and advisory services to institutional and retail clients.
- BlackRock manages assets on behalf of institutional and individual investors worldwide.
- MIC is an investment vehicle of the Government of Abu Dhabi, it manages investment and development in various industries including energy, utilities, and real estate.
- **Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL)** is a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Power Company Limited (TPCL) that generates power through renewable sources of energy.

About CCI :

- Founded: 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**.

IMPORTANT APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS NEWS

Mukesh Ambani resigns from Reliance Jio, Akash Ambani Became New chairman

- The **Reliance Industries Limited Chairperson & Managing Director Mr. Mukesh Ambani** has **resigned** from the **board of Reliance Jio**, the telecom arm of the oil-to-retail conglomerate RIL.
- Meanwhile, the Board of directors of Reliance Jio approved the appointment of Mr. Mukesh Ambani's eldest son **Mr. Akash M Ambani**, non-executive director, as the **Chairman of the Board of Directors of Reliance Jio**.
- **Mr. Mukesh Ambani** will continue to serve as **chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)** and as the **chairman of Jio Platforms Ltd**, the parent firm of all Jio digital services brands, including Reliance Jio Infocomm.

Other Appointments:

- The Board approved the appointment of **Mr. Pankaj Mohan Pawar** as **managing director of Jio** for 5 years from June 27, 2022.

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- Mr. KV Chowdhary and Mr. Raminder Singh Gujral were named independent directors for 5 years.

About Mr Akash M Ambani:

- Mr. Akash Ambani, who has graduated from **Brown University** with a major in Economics.
- Now he is leading the creation of the convergence dividend for over 500 million consumers.
- He is the co-owner of the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Mumbai Indians.

About RIL:

- Founded: 8 May 1973
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman & MD : Mukesh Ambani

Justice Mr. Ujjal Bhuyan takes oath as Telangana HC Chief Justice

- Justice Mr. Ujjal Bhuyan was sworn in as the Chief Justice of Telangana High Court in a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan.
- He is the 5th Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court after its separation from the combined Andhra Pradesh High Court on January 1, 2019.
- Governor Mrs. Tamilisai Soundararajan administered the oath of office to Justice Bhuyan.
- Chief Minister Shri K Chandrashekar Rao and Union Minister Shri G Kishan Reddy and senior officials were present on the occasion.

About Mr. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan :

- Justice Mr. Ujjal Bhuyan was born on August 2, 1964, in **Guwahati, Assam**.
- He was enrolled in 1991 with the Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- He was appointed as **Additional Advocate General, Assam** in 2011.
- He served as a member of Gauhati High Court Bar Association, Lawyers Association, Guwahati, Bar Association of India, All India Federation of Tax Practitioners, and Indian Law Institute, Assam Chapter.
- He was appointed as **Additional Judge of Gauhati High Court** on October 17, 2011.

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- He was also the **Executive Chairman of Mizoram State Legal Services Authority & Telangana State Legal Services Authority.**
- Before being appointed as a judge of Telangana High Court, Justice Bhuyan had served as a judge of Bombay High Court.
- On October 11, 2021, he took oath as judge of Telangana High Court.
- Earlier on **June 19, 2022**, the Central government-appointed Justice Mr. **Ujjal Bhuyan** as the **new Chief Justice** & he succeeded **Justice Mr. Satish Chandra Sharma**, who was transferred to the Delhi High Court.

PESB selected Mr. Sandeep Kumar Gupta as the next chairman of GAIL

- The **Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)** has selected **Mr. Sandeep Kumar Gupta** as the **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)** of **Gas Authority of India Ltd GAIL (India) Ltd**, India's **largest gas utility** after interviewing 10 candidates.
- If his appointment is approved by the **Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, then he will hold the office till **February 2026**.
- He will replace **Mr. Manoj Jain**.

About Mr. Sandeep Kumar Gupta :

- **Mr. Sandeep Kumar Gupta** has **more than 31 years of working experience** at **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)**, the nation's largest oil refining and fuel marketing company
- He has been **Director (Finance)** of **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** since August 3, 2019.
- At IOC, his responsibilities also included financial planning and analysis, corporate finance and treasury, international trade, and pricing.
- He is also on the board of **IOC Middle East FZE, Dubai**, and **Indian Oil Petronas Pvt Ltd**.

About GAIL :

- **Founded: 1984**
- **Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India**
- **GAIL**, formerly known as **Gas Authority of India Ltd.**, is a government-owned natural gas explorer and producer responsible for natural gas processing and distribution in India.
- It is under the ownership of the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Gol.**

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- It holds around **70 percent share** of the **gas transmission network** and more than 50 percent share of natural gas sales in India.

Shri Eknath Shinde takes oath as chief minister of Maharashtra

- Shiv Sena leader **Shri Eknath Shinde** has been sworn in as the **20th chief minister of Maharashtra**.
- He was administered the oath of office by **Maharashtra Governor Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari** at the Raj Bhawan in Mumbai.
- Earlier **Shri Uddhav Thackeray** resigned from the **post of chief minister** after the Supreme Court allowed a floor test in the assembly.
- Former Maharashtra CM **Shri Devendra Fadnavis** took the oath as the **Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra**.

About Shri Eknath Shinde :

- Shri Eknath Shinde was born in 1964
- He began his political career in **1997** when he was elected to **Thane Municipal Corporation** as a corporation for the **first time**.
- In **2001** became leader of the house in Thane Municipal Corporation and was elected to Thane Municipal Corporation for the **second time** in **2002**.
- He won the **Maharashtra Legislative Assembly election** for the first time in **2004** from the **Kopri-Pachpakhadi constituency of Thane**.
- He has been elected consecutively for **4 terms** in the **Maharashtra Legislative Assembly** in **2004, 2009, 2014, and 2019**.
- Earlier, he was the **Cabinet Minister of Urban Development and Public Works (Public Undertakings)** in the Government Of Maharashtra.

About Shri Devendra Fadnavis :

- Shri Devendra Fadnavis is the **9th Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra**.
- He served as the CM of Maharashtra from **2014-19**. (He became the **second-youngest Chief Minister** of Maharashtra followed by **Sharad Pawar**.)
- He was the **first Chief Minister of Maharashtra** from the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)**.

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

Mr. K.K. Venugopal was re-appointed as Attorney General for 3 months

- The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind has re-appointed Mr. Kottayan Katankot Venugopal as the Attorney General for India for three months (July to September) or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

About Mr. K.K. Venugopal :

- Mr. K.K. Venugopal is an Indian constitutional lawyer and a senior advocate in the Supreme Court of India.
- On 1 July 2017, he was appointed as the 15th Attorney General of India after succeeding Mukul Rohatgi for three years (2017 to 2020) & after that he was reappointed for one the year 2021
- Again in June 2021, his term was extended by one year until June 30, 2022.
- He was an Additional Solicitor General of India between 1979 and 1980.
- He is the Patron of SAARCLAW (A regional apex body of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)) and earlier has been its President.
- He is the founder of M K Nambiar SAARCLAW Centre For Advanced Legal Studies at the NALSAR Law University

Awards & Honors :

- In 2015, he was conferred the Padma Vibhushan award by the Government of India.
- In 2002, he was awarded Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian honor

About Attorney-General for India :

- The Attorney General for India is the Indian government's chief legal advisor
- The post was appointed by the President of India on the advice of the Union Cabinet under Article 76(1) of the Constitution.
- The appointed person has been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist in the opinion of the President.

Mr. Ferdinand Marcos Jr takes oath as Philippine president

- Mr. Ferdinand Marcos Jr has been sworn in as the 17th & Current President of the Philippines until 2028 in a ceremony at the National Museum in Manila, Philippines.
- He succeeded the outgoing President Mr. Rodrigo Duterte.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- Meanwhile, **Ms. Sara Duterte**, the daughter of **Mr. Rodrigo Duterte**, is being sworn in as **vice-president** until **2028**.
- **Mr. Marcos Jr.** received **more than 31 million votes** and **Sara Duterte** **more than 32 million** of the more than 55 million votes cast in the May 9 2022 election.
- Chinese Vice President **Mr. Wang Qishan** and U.S. Vice President **Mr. Kamala Harris's** husband, **Doug Emhoff**, were among foreign dignitaries attending.

About Mr. Ferdinand Marcos Jr :

- **Mr. Ferdinand Marcos Jr** commonly referred to as **Bongbong Marcos**
- Previously, he served as a senator from 2010 to 2016.
- He ruled the Philippines for 21 years from **1965** until **1986**, with the country living under martial law for about half of that time.

About Ms. Sara Duterte :

- **Ms Sara Duterte** commonly known as **Inday Sara**.
- She served as the mayor of **Davao City** from 2016 to 2022.
- She was also **Davao City's** vice mayor from 2007 to 2010.

About the Philippines :

- Capital: **Manila**
- Currency : **Philippine peso**

Pinterest CEO Mr. Ben Silbermann steps down; Google executive Bill Ready appointed as new CEO

- **Pinterest Inc.** announced that **co-founder, Chief Executive Officer, and President, Mr. Ben Silbermann** will **step down** from his place and hand over the reins of the social media platform to **Google commerce executive Mr. Bill Ready**.
- **Mr. Ready's** appointment brings to an end **Silbermann's 12-year tenure as CEO**, which began when he co-founded the company in **2010**.
- **Mr. Ben Silbermann** is an **American Internet entrepreneur**.

About Pinterest :

- Founded: **December 2009**
- Headquarters: **San Francisco, California, U.S**

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- Executive Chairman: Ben Silberman
- Pinterest is an image-sharing and social media service designed to enable the saving and discovery of information on the internet using images, and on a smaller scale, animated GIFs and videos, in the form of pinboards.

Mr. Shahid Kapoor appointed as the brand ambassador of PokerBaazi

- India's biggest poker platform, **PokerBaazi.com**, has appointed **Bollywood superstar Shahid Kapoor** as its brand ambassador.

Aim:

- To create a robust ecosystem for Poker in India.
- Kapoor's association with the brand comes in line with its commitment to popularizing and creating awareness amongst the masses about Poker
- According to research firm Statista, the online gaming industry across India was valued at around **₹79 billion in 2021**, marking a leap from about ₹65 billion in 2020.
- The sector is expected to be worth over ₹150 billion by 2024, indicating a compound annual growth of around 15%.

FanCode appoints Mr. Ravi Shastri as the first brand ambassador

- **Former team India coach and cricketer Mr. Ravi Shastri** have been appointed as the **new brand ambassador for FanCode**, a live content, sports statistics, and e-commerce marketplace.
- The appointment was made for India's upcoming tour to the West Indies which is scheduled to start at the end of July 2022.
- Shastri will lead the upcoming campaigns for India's tour of the West Indies, and ECB's The Hundred, a 100-ball cricket tournament involving 8 men's and 8 women's teams located in major cities across England and Wales.

About FanCode :

- Founded: 2019
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Founders: Yannick Colaco, Prasana Krishnan

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

Indian origin Mr. T Raja Kumar appointed as president of the Financial Action Task Force

- Indian origin Mr. T Raja Kumar has been appointed as the president of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the anti-money laundering watchdog for two years (July 2022 -June 2024).
- He will focus on enhancing the effectiveness of global anti-money laundering & counter-terrorist financing measures, improving asset recovery, and other initiatives.
- He succeeded Dr. Marcus Pleyer (Germany).

About Mr. T Raja Kumar :

- Mr. Raja Kumar holds an LLB (Hons) degree from the National University of Singapore and a Master's degree in Philosophy (Criminology and Law) from the University of Cambridge.
- He had been assisting the **Ministry of Home Affairs, Singapore**, and the **Singapore Police Force for over 35 years**.
- He attended the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University in 2006.
- Currently, he serves as the **senior advisor (International)** in the country's ministry of home affairs.
- He was **deputy secretary (International)** at the home affairs ministry from January 2015 to July 2021 and was concurrently the **chief executive of the Home Team Academy** between 2014 to 2018.
- He is the former deputy commissioner of police (Policy), director of the Police Intelligence Department, and senior deputy director of the Commercial Affairs Department.
- He served as the pioneer **chief executive of the Casino Regulatory Authority**
- He forged a stronger collaborative relationship with key counterparts in the safety and security arena, including with strategic partners such as **INTERPOL** and the **UN**

About FATF :

- Founded: 1989
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Membership: 39 nations
- FATF is a global watchdog tasked with combatting **money laundering** and **terrorist financing**.

Mr. Yair Lapid becomes 14th Prime Minister of Israel

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- The leader of the Yesh Atid Party, Mr. Yair Lapid has officially become the 14th Prime Minister of Israel.
- He succeeds Mr. Naftali Bennett.
- Meanwhile, Naama Schultz, a longtime aide to the Yesh Atid leader, will become director-general of the Prime Minister's Office

About Mr. Yair Lapid :

- Mr. Yair Lapid was an author, TV presenter, and news anchor.
- He serves as the chairman of the centrist Yesh Atid, having previously served as Leader of the Opposition from 2020 to 2021 and as Minister of Finance from 2013 to 2014.
- He served as the alternate prime minister of Israel and Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2021 to 2022.

About Israel :

- Capital: Jerusalem
- Currency: Israeli shekel

Shri Rahul Narwekar becomes the youngest Speaker in the country

- Mumbai lawyer & the first-time MLA, Shri Rahul Narwekar, was elected as the 16th Speaker (since 1960) of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly after defeating Rajan Salvi (Shiv Sena candidate).
- He has been elected as the youngest Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and also becomes the youngest ever in India.
- The post of the Speaker was vacant after Congress' Nana Patole resigned from the office in February 2021.
- Narwekar received a total of 164 votes in support and 107 went to the Shiv Sena candidate's account.
- During the Speaker elections, 12 members were absent and 3 legislators abstained from the voting.
- With this Maharashtra became the only state in India where the presiding officers of the Legislature are in-laws.

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About Rahul Narwekar :

- Rahul Narwekar is an Indian politician and member of the Bharatiya Janata Party.
- He was elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Council in June 2016 as a Governor's Nominated member before becoming MLA in 2019.
- Narwekar's father-in-law Ramraje Naik Nimbalkar, a Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) member is the Chairman of the state Legislative Council.

About Maharashtra :

- Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- Chief minister: Eknath Shinde
- Deputy CM: Devendra Fadnavis
- Capital: Mumbai

Ms. Ketanji Brown Jackson Sworn in as 1st Black Woman On US Supreme Court

- Ms. Ketanji Brown Jackson has been sworn in as the new associate Supreme Court justice, becoming the first black woman and the first former federal public defender to serve on the nation's highest court.
- The appointment of 51-years old Ketanji Jackson by Democratic President Mr. Joe Biden.
- Ms. Jackson succeeded Justice Stephen Breyer upon his retirement from the court.
- Jackson, a federal judge since 2013, is joining three other women, Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Amy Coney Barrett & for the first time, four women will serve together on the nine-member court.
- She stated that it took 233 years and 115 prior appointments for a Black woman to be selected to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States.

About Ketanji Brown Jackson :

- Ketanji Brown Jackson was born on September 14, 1970, in Washington, D.C, US.
- She began her legal career with 3 clerkships, including one with U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Stephen Breyer.
- She served as a district judge for the United States District Court for the District of Columbia from 2013 to 2021.
- She was also vice-chair of the United States Sentencing Commission from 2010 to 2014.

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- Since 2016, she has been a member of the Harvard Board of Overseers.
- She was nominated to the Supreme Court by President Mr. Joe Biden on February 25, 2022.
- She was a United States circuit judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit from 2021 to 2022.

About the Supreme Court of the United States :

- Established: March 4, 1789
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C, US
- SCOTUS is the highest court in the federal judiciary of the United States.

Manappuram Finance re-appoints Mr. V P Nandakumar as MD&CEO

- Manappuram Finance Limited has approved the reappointment of Mr. V P Nandakumar as the managing director (MD) & chief executive officer (CEO) of the company with effect from 27 July 2022 up to 31 March 2024.

About Mr V P Nandakumar :

- Mr. V. P. Nandakumar is an Indian businessman hailing from Valapad in Thrissur District of Kerala.
- He is a post-graduate in science with additional qualifications in Banking & Foreign Trade.
- He started his banking career with Nedungadi Bank.
- In 1992, he was promoted to Manappuram Finance and has been a director of the company.
- He is also the chairman of Asirvad Microfinance, the 4th largest MFI in India with over Rs. 5,000 crore AUM (Assets Under Management).
- He is also the International Director of the Lion's Club International

About Manappuram Finance :

- Founded: 1949
- Headquarters: Valappad, Thrissur, Kerala, India
- Manappuram Finance is one of India's leading gold loan non-banking financial companies (NBFC).

UN chief Antonio Guterres appoints Lt Gen Mr. Subramanian as Force Commander of UN Mission in South Sudan

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- **United Nations Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres** has appointed **Lieutenant General Mr. Mohan Subramanian** of India as the new **Force Commander** of the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)**.
- Lt General Mr. Subramanian succeeds **Lt General Mr. Shailesh Tinaikar** of India.
- Mr. Tinaikar was appointed by Guterres as the UNMISS Force Commander in **May 2019**.

About Lt Gen Mr. Mohan Subramanian :

- Lieutenant General Mr. Subramanian has a distinguished military career with the Indian Army spanning over **36 years**.
- He served as the **General Officer Commanding, Military Region (Operational and Logistic Readiness Zone)** in central India, contributing to the Army's operational and logistic preparedness.
- He has served as the **Additional Director General for Procurement and Equipment Management** at the **Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence (Army) (2019-2021)**.
- He has served as the **General Officer Commanding a Strike Infantry Division (2018-2019)**, **Deputy General Officer Commanding of Infantry Division (2015-2016)**, and **Commander of a Mountain Brigade (2013-2014)** among other appointments within the Indian Armed Forces.
- He also served as **India's Defence Attaché to Viet Nam, Laos, and Cambodia (2008-2012)** and as a **Staff Officer** with the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone in 2000.
- India is among the largest contributors of uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping.
- **India is the second-highest military troop-contributing country to UNMISS** with **2,385 Indian peacekeepers** serving with the mission, second only to Rwanda.
- India currently contributes **30 police personnel** to UNMISS.

About UNMISS:

- Established: 9 July 2011
- Headquarters: Juba, South Sudan
- Parent Organization: United Nations Security Council
- UNMISS is a **United Nations peacekeeping mission for South Sudan**.

Garmin India appoints Indian triathlete Kaustubh Radkar as brand ambassador

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- **Garmin India, a unit of Garmin Ltd. has appointed Indian triathlete, Kaustubh Radkar as a brand ambassador of Garmin's fitness segment.**
- He has been involved with **Garmin India as a coach.**

About Kaustubh Radkar :

- Kaustubh Radkar is an **Ironman Certified Coach** and is the **first and only Indian** to complete the **Ironman Triathlon on 30 occasions.**
- In October 2017 and May 2022, he was the **only Indian** to complete the **Ironman World Championship** in Kona Hawaii, and St. George, Utah, United States.
- He was the **fastest Indian at the Comrades Ultra Marathon in 2016** and holds the record for the fastest debut for an Indian at Ultraman Florida.
- He was a **former Indian national swimming champion from 1995 to 2000.**
- He has also been chosen as one of the **Fit India ambassadors**, as part of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Fit India Movement**, which was started in 2019.

Additional Info :

- Recently, Garmin launched two new entrants to their Forerunner series; the **Forerunner 955 solar**, the world's first GPS-enabled running smartwatch with solar charging, and **Forerunner 255** series.
- Both state-of-the-art devices offer a wide array of features designed to help professional runners and athletes surpass their limits.

About Garmin Ltd :

- **Founded: October 1989**
- **Headquarters: Olathe, Kansas, U.S**
- **President & CEO: Cliff Pemble**
- **Chairman: Min Kao**

Mr. Suranjan Das was appointed as president of the Association of Indian Universities

- **Jadavpur University Vice-Chancellor Mr. Suranjan Das was appointed as the president of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).**

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- He will take up the issue of executing the **new education policy's (NEP)** salient features, raising central funding for state universities involved in important research activities, and work on taking the standards of Indian universities to global levels.

About Mr Suranjan Das :

- Mr. Suranjan Das was a **Professor of History at the University of Calcutta** and served as the **Vice-Chancellor at the University of Calcutta** for the period between **2008 and 2015**.
- He has been associated with research projects funded by such international bodies as the **British Council, Wellcome Trust, Leverhume Foundation, and Frederick Stiftung**.
- He has authored 6 monographs, co-authored 4 books, co-edited 6 volumes, edited 2 volumes, and published 34 articles in refereed journals and edited volumes.
- He was a **recipient of the USIS International Visitorship Programme**.
- He has served in policy formulation bodies concerned with higher education in India like the **University Grants Commission, and the Indian Council of Historical Research**.

About AIU :

- Founded: 1925
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India

Punjab govt. appoints Mr. Vijay Kumar Janjua as new Chief Secretary

- The **Punjab government** appointed **Mr. Vijay Kumar Janjua** as the **new chief secretary**.
- Janjua replaces **Mr. Anirudh Tewari**, a 1990-batch IAS officer.
- Mr. Anirudh Tewari has been posted as **Director General, Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration**, relieving **Jaspreet Talwar** of the additional charge.

Other Appointments:

- The government also issued transfer and posting orders for three more IAS officers.
- **KAP Sinha**, the Additional Chief Secretary-cum-Financial Commissioner, Taxation, and in addition ACS, Finance, has been **transferred and posted as ACS, Food Processing** relieving **Raji P Srivastava** of the additional charge.
- **Ajay Sharma**, Secretary, of Health and Family Welfare, will also be **Financial Commissioner, Taxation**, in place of **KAP Sinha**.

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- **Kumar Rahul**, Secretary of Employment Generation and Training, will also be in addition to Secretary, General Administration, and Coordination relieving Rajat Agarwal of the additional charge.
- IPS Officer **Gaurav Yadav** was appointed as Punjab's director general of police (DGP) after the incumbent VK Bhawra.

About Vijay Kumar Janjua :

- Janjua is a **1989-batch Indian Administrative Officer (IAS) officer**.
- He is currently holding the position of the **Special Chief Secretary, Jails and in addition, Special Chief Secretary, Elections**.
- He has worked in various departments of Punjab, including rural development, industries, labor, and animal husbandry.
- Janjua has served in the Centre for three years as **Director, Industries, in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion**.
- During Janjua's tenure as deputy commissioner of Fatehgarh Sahib district, he developed **PRISM software** with the help of the National Informatics Centre and introduced computerized registration of properties in Punjab.
- He was also instrumental in carrying out several reforms in Labour laws for improving the ease of doing business in Punjab, besides improving the investment scenario in Punjab.

About Punjab:

- Governor : Banwarilal Purohit
- Chief Minister : Bhagwant Mann
- Capital: Chandigarh

Justice Mr. Alok Aradhe appointed acting Chief Justice of Karnataka HC

- **Justice Mr. Alok Aradhe** has been appointed as **Acting Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court (HC)**.
- He was appointed after the retirement of **Chief Justice Mr. Ritu Raj Awasthi**.
- The President of India, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind** administered the oath to Justice Mr. Alok Aradhe.

About Justice Mr. Alok Aradhe :

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- Mr. Aradhe was born in 1964 in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- He passed B.Sc. and LL.B. and started practice in Madhya Pradesh High Court at Jabalpur in 1988.
- He was enrolled as an advocate on July 12, 1988, and was designated as a senior advocate in April 2007.
- He had practiced civil and constitutional, arbitration, and company matters in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh at Jabalpur.
- Justice Aradhe served as Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir State Judicial Academy and became the Executive Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir State Legal Services Authority.
- He took charge as Acting Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High court on 11 May 2018.
- Also, he took oath as the Judge of the Karnataka High Court on November 17, 2018.

SBI General Insurance appoints Shri Paritosh Tripathi as new MD & CEO

- State Bank of India (SBI) General Insurance Company Limited has appointed Shri Paritosh Tripathi as its new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer.
- He Succeeded Mr. Prakash Chandra Kandpal who has been posted as DMD (P&RE) at the Corporate Center, State Bank of India.

About Shri Paritosh Tripathi :

- Shri. Paritosh Tripathi has over 32 years of rich and diverse banking experience.
- In his banking career, he had worked primarily in the MSME, mid-corporate segment, & International Banking and Bancassurance.
- Before joining SBI General Insurance, he was a general manager, operations, and internal banking group, with the State Bank of India.
- He was also on the Board of Sterling Bank, Nigeria, and SBI Canada.
- From 2017 to 2020, he was Head of Bancassurance, firstly with SBI Mutual Fund and then with SBI General Insurance.
- He was Head of FI Relationship (East Asia) in Hong Kong and CEO of the SBI DIFC (Dubai International Financial center) Branch in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

About SBI General Insurance:

- Founded: 2009

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- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

ACFI constitutes a new board and appoints Mr. Yashpal Sharma as its new President

- Air Cargo Forum India (ACFI) at its Annual General Meeting constituted a new board & appointed Mr. Yashpal Sharma, Managing Director of Skyways Group as President from 2022 to 2024.
- He succeeded Cyrus Katgara, who will be part of the current board as Ex Officio.

About ACFI :

- Founded: 2012
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Vice President: Sanjiv Edward
- ACFI is an association of all key stakeholders of the air cargo logistics supply chain industry consisting of airlines, airport operators, cargo terminal operators, freight forwarders, customs brokers, express industry, bonded truckers, etc.
- It has been working very closely with the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on its vision to achieve the goal of taking Indian air space to 10 million MT by 2030-31 from the current 3.1 million MT.

CII Elects Mr. R Dinesh as President-Designate & Mr. Sanjiv Puri As Vice President FY23

- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has elected Mr. R Dinesh, Executive Vice Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions as President-Designate for 2022-23.
- In addition to that, Mr. Sanjiv Puri, Chairman, and Managing Director, ITC has been elected as the Vice President of CII.
- Mr. Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman, and Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv Limited assumed office as the President of CII for the year 2022-23 in May 2022.

About Mr. R Dinesh :

- Mr. Dinesh is an Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Institute of Cost & Works Accountants of India (ICWAI).
- He has been the Chairman of the CII Southern Region during 2018-19.
- He is the Chairman of the National Committees on Logistics, CII Family Business Network India Chapter Council, CII Tamil Nadu State Council, and CII Institute of Logistics Advisory Council.

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About Mr. Sanjiv Puri :

- Mr. Sanjiv Puri is an **alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and Wharton School of Business.**
- He has been a **member of the CII National Council.**
- He has held several important positions in CII including Chairman of the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development and the Chairman of the CII Agriculture Council.
- He is the **Chairman of ITC Infotech India Limited** and its wholly-owned subsidiaries in the UK and USA as well as **Chairman of Surya Nepal Private Limited.**

About CII :

- Founded: 1895
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director-General: Chandrajit Banerjee
- The CII is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group

Former NITI Aayog CEO Mr. Amitabh Kant appointed as new Sherpa of G-20

- **Former NITI Aayog CEO Mr. Amitabh Kant** has been appointed as **India's new Sherpa for the G-20.**
- He replaced **Minister for Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs Shri Piyush Goyal**, who was appointed as the G-20 Sherpa in September 2021.
- **India** will hold the **presidency from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023.**
- The G-20 Leaders' Summit will be held in India for the first time in **2023.**
- As the G-20 presidency, India will set the agenda for the year, identify the themes and focus areas, conduct discussions and work out outcome documents.

About Amitabh Kant :

- Amitabh Kant was born on **1 March 1956, in Varanasi, UP.**
- He is a **1980 batch retired IAS officer of Kerala cadre.**
- He served as the **NITI Aayog CEO from June 2016 to June 2022.**
- He has worked as **Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP).**
- He was also the **chairman of Empowered Group-3**, one of the 11 groups set up by the Center to tackle the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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About Sherpa :

- A sherpa is a **personal representative** of a head of state or head of government who prepares an international summit, such as the annual G7 and G20 summits
- Some of the previous Sherpas for the G-20 include **Suresh Prabhu, Shaktikanta Das, and Montek Singh Ahluwalia.**

About G-20 :

- The G20 or Group of Twenty is an intergovernmental forum comprising **19 countries** and the **European Union**, with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
- The members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.
- **India** has been a **member** of the **G20** since the grouping's inception in **1999**.

Role of G-20 :

- The G-20 forum connects the world's developed and developing economies together.
- It accounts for two-thirds of the global population, **75% of international trade, and 85% of the global GDP.**
- It is an influential platform for international economic cooperation.
- The G-20 process is divided into the **Sherpa track** and the **Finance track**.
- Under the Sherpa track, about 100 official meetings are expected to be organized in the areas of employment, health, digital economy, trade, investment and industry, environment and climate, energy, anti-corruption, agriculture, tourism, culture, and socio-economic development, education, and women empowerment.
- Under the Finance track, about 40 meetings are expected to be organized including in the areas of international financial architecture, financial inclusion and sustainable finance, financing for infrastructure, climate finance, and tax matters.

Mr. Alvaro Lario appointed as the 7th President of IFAD

- Mr. Alvaro Lario has been appointed as the **7th President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).**
- He will take office on **October 1, 2022, for a four-year term.**

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- He succeeds **Mr. Gilbert Houngbo** who has led the organization since 2017.

About Mr Alvaro Lario :

- Mr. Lario has 20 years of experience in the private sector, academia, and international financial institutions, including developing local capital markets and investments in emerging markets at the International Financial Corporation of the World Bank group.
- In early 2018, Lario served as **Treasury Capital Markets Lead and Principal Portfolio Officer** at the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** of the World Bank Group.
- Alvaro Lario is the **Associate Vice President for Financial Operations and Chief Financial officer (CFO)** at IFAD since 2018.
- The **State of Food Security and Nutrition report** showed that **hunger globally rose to as many as 828 million in 2021**, an increase of about 150 million since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

About IFAD:

- Established: 15 December 1977
- Headquarters: Rome, Italy
- Member States: 177
- The international fund of agricultural development is an international financial institution and a specialized agency of the United Nations.

Aim :

- To address poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.
- It is the only multilateral development organization that focuses on rural economies, food security, and climate change.
- It works in partnership with the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** and members of the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**.

Mr. Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay appointed as CMD, Goa Shipyard Limited

- According to an order issued by the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**, the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has approved the appointment of **Mr. Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay** as **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)** of **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)** for five years.

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About Mr. Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay :

- Mr. Upadhyay is an Engineering Graduate (Electrical).
- He started his career with GSL in **1991**.
- During his long career of over 30 years in GSL, he has held various key positions in various departments and has made significant contributions in areas of ship construction, diversification of products as part of General Engineering Services, Corporate Planning, Business Development, and infrastructure development and ship repairs.
- Presently, he is serving as **Director (Operations), GSL**

About GSL :

- Founded: 1957
- Headquarters: Vasco da Gama, Goa
- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) is a **Miniratna PSU** under the Ministry of Defence.

Andhra Pradesh CM Shri Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy was elected president for the lifetime of YSRC

- **Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy** was elected president of a lifetime of Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress party (YSRC).
- The decision was taken after the conclusion of the YSRC's two-day plenary after an amendment to the party's constitution.
- He was appointed after his mother, **YS Vijayamma** resigned from the honorary president's post

About Shri Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy :

- Shri Yeduguri Sandinti Jagan Mohan Reddy is an Indian politician serving as the **17th and current chief minister of Andhra Pradesh since 2019**.
- He is the **son of Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy**, the former chief minister of Andhra Pradesh.
- Reddy started his political career by campaigning for the Indian National Congress in the **2004** Andhra Pradesh state elections in Kadapa district, AP.
- He served as the leader of the opposition in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly between 2014 and 2019.
- He was last elected the **YSRCP president at the party plenary in 2017**.

About YSRC :

- Founded: 12 March 2011

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- Headquarters: Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, India
- YSRC is an Indian regional political party.
- It is currently the **fifth largest party** in the Lok Sabha with 22 seats.

Shri Rajendra Prasad takes charge as Managing Director of National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited

- Shri Rajendra Prasad assumed the charge of Managing Director, National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL).
- He replaced Mr. Satish Agnihotri who was dismissed by the government over corruption allegations.

About Shri Rajendra Prasad :

- Shri Prasad has been working as **Director of Project with NHSRCL** since November 2017.
- He is overall in charge of civil engineering works of the Mumbai Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project, popularly known as the **Bullet Train Project**.
- As the Director of Project, NHSRCL, he has spearheaded the civil works of the MAHSR section in the state of Gujarat i.e. 352 Km including the award of the biggest single Infrastructure contract in the country comprising 237 Km long via-duct and 4 stations.
- He has worked as **Divisional Railway Manager, Chakradharpur (2015- 2017)**, **Group General Manager, DFCCIL (2011- 2015)**, **Chief Engineer, Construction Southern Railways (2006 -2009)**, and **Resident Engineer, General Consultants to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (1999 - 2004)**.

About NHSRCL :

- Founded: 12 February 2016
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Chairman: Vinod Kumar Yadav
- It is under the ownership of Indian Railways, the **Ministry of Railways**, and Gol.
- NHSRCL was formed under the Companies Act, 2013.

Mr Ranil Wickremesinghe resigns as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

- Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe announced his resignation as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka amid massive protests.
- Sri Lankan President Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa is also expected to resign on July 13th, 2022.

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- The Sri Lankan Parliament Speaker is expected to act as the President for a maximum of 30 days.

About Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe:

- Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe was first elected to Parliament from the Biyagama electorate in the 1977 parliamentary elections.
- Earlier he served as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka from 1993 to 1994, 2001 to 2004, 2015 to 2018, and from 2018 to 2019, 2022.
- He is a member of parliament from the United National Party (UNP).
- He has been the leader of the UNP since 1994.
- He also served as Leader of the Opposition from 1994 to 2001 and from 2004 to 2015.

About Sri Lanka :

- Capital: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (legislative), Colombo (executive and judicial)
- Currency: Sri Lankan rupee

Tripura Government Transfers Chief Secretary Mr. Kumar Alok; Mr. JK Sinha Appointed New Acting Chief Secretary

- The Tripura government has transferred Chief Secretary, Mr. Kumar Alok, from the top bureaucratic post and appointed him as the new Director General (DG) of the State Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development (SIPARD).
- Mr. JK Sinha, an IAS officer of the 1996 batch, who is the principal secretary of the Health and Family Welfare department, has been made in-charge Chief Secretary.

Note :

- An IAS officer is required to complete at least 30 years in service to become eligible for becoming Chief Secretary of a state.

About Mr. Kumar Alok :

- Alok, a Tripura cadre 1990 batch IAS officer, was appointed Chief Secretary in June 2021.
- Before this, he was an Additional Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat of the central government.

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Ex RBI executive Ms. Meena Hemchandra appointed as part-time chairman of Karur Vysya Bank

- Private sector lender Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of former RBI executive Ms. Meena Hemchandra as part-time chairman of the bank for three years.

About Ms. Meena Hemchandra :

- Ms. Hemchandra is a career banker with over 35 years of banking experience in various departments of the RBI.
- She was the Executive Director of RBI from June 2015 to November 2017.
- She has also served as the nominee of the RBI on the Board of Supervision to NABARD and ECGC for two and half years each.
- She was the secretary to the Board of Note Mudran, an RBI subsidiary, for four years.
- In May 2022, She was an Additional Director in KVB under Independent Category.

About KVB:

- Founded: 1916
- Headquarters: Karur, Tamil Nadu
- MD & CEO: Mr. Ramesh Babu
- Karur Vysya Bank is a Scheduled Commercial Bank in India.

Ms. Madhulika Bhaskar gets an additional charge as NIACL CMD for three months

- The New India Assurance Company Ltd (NIACL) appointed its General Manager Ms. Madhulika Bhaskar as the Chairman cum Managing Director (CMD) for three months with effect from the date of assumption of charge or till a regular appointee takes over, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- The Cabinet Appointments Committee (ACC) has approved the proposal by the Department of Financial Services to grant financial and administrative powers and functions to the position of CMD, NIACL.
- She Succeeded Mr. Atul Sahai as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of the company had ended on February 28, 2022, following his superannuation.

About Ms Madhulika Bhaskar :

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- Ms. Bhaskar is working as **General Manager** in the **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)**.
- She oversees the operations of the **Enterprise Risk Management (ERM), Investment, Internal Audit, and Actuarial Departments**.
- She joined the GIC Re in **1988** as a **direct recruit officer**.
- She has served GIC diligently for the past 33 years in various positions.

About NIACL :

- Founded: 23 July 1919
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- The New India Assurance Co. Ltd is a **nationalized general insurance company**.
- It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Gol.

Mr. Sanjai Kumar recommended for the post of CMD, Railtel

- The **Public enterprise's selection board (PESB)** selected and recommended **Mr. Sanjai Kumar** for the **post of Chairman & Managing Director, RailTel Corporation of India Ltd (RCIL)**

About Mr. Sanjai Kumar :

- Mr. Sanjai Kumar is an officer of the **Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineers (IRSSE)** who joined the service on **November 30, 1992**.
- He has been working in **RailTel** since **May 2018** as **Director, Network Planning & Marketing**.
- He has over 27 years of experience working as an officer of IRSSE including over 18 years of experience in managing projects and marketing departments.
- Currently, he is serving as **Director (Network Planning & Marketing)** and **(Project, Operations & Maintenance - Additional Charge)** in Railtel.

About RCIL :

- Founded: September 2000
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. is an Indian public sector enterprise focusing on providing broadband and VPN services.
- It is under the ownership of Indian Railways the **Ministry of Railways**, and Gol.

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Government Appoints 29 Non-Official Members in The Board Of Trade

- The **Government of India (GoI)** has nominated **29 non-official members** from different sectors, including **large and small enterprises**, to the **Board of Trade**, the advisory body on foreign trade policy.
- The Board, headed by the **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal** advises the government on policy measures to improve the country's foreign trade.
- The board, which includes participants from states, union territories, and senior officials from public and private sectors, provides a platform to discuss ways on boosting manufacturing and exports.
- Other non-official members include a chief executive officer of Tata Consultancy Services **Rajesh Gopinathan**, KKR India Chairman **Sanjay Nayyar**, **Pasha Patel**, a former member of Maharashtra Legislative Council, **Pankaj Mahindroo**, Chairman India Cellular, and Electronics Association, **Praveen Khandelwal**, Secretary General Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), **Laghu Udyog Bharati** Executive Member **Om Prakash Mittal**, GCMMF (Amul) Managing Director **RS Sodhi**, among others.
- The official members will include secretaries of the department of revenue, department of commerce, ministry of health, agriculture, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, and the chairman Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), among others.
- According to a notification of the commerce ministry, In **2019**, the government merged the **Council of Trade Development and Promotion** with the Board of Trade to bring greater coherence in the consultation process with all stakeholders for promoting exports and imports.
- The terms of reference for the new non-official members include providing a platform to States and Union Territories for articulating State-oriented perspectives on trade policy
- The members are also to act as facilitators in the implementation of District Export Hub events including sensitization workshops, and the identification and promotion of identified products.
- They would also help states develop and pursue export strategies in line with national Foreign Trade Policy, facilitate a mechanism for discussion on the operationalization of the trade infrastructure; review policy instruments and procedures for imports and exports and suggest steps to rationalize use.

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Mr. Aviva India appoints Asit Rath as MD & CEO

- Private life insurer **Aviva Life Insurance Company India** has appointed **Mr. Asit Rath** as its **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD)** will come into effect on **July 11, 2022**.
- He succeeded **Mr. Amit Malik**.

About Mr. Asit Rath :

- He comes with **22 years** of banking and insurance experience in **India and Myanmar** and has strong distribution experience with **ICICI Bank and ICICI Prudential Life** in India.
- Currently, he is the **CEO of Prudential Myanmar Life Insurance**.

About Aviva India :

- Founded: **2002**
- Headquarters: **Gurgaon, Haryana**
- **Aviva Life Insurance Company India Limited** is a joint venture between **Dabur Invest Corp**, one of India's oldest and most respected business houses, and **Aviva International Holdings Limited**, a UK-based insurance group.
- **Aviva International** has been associated with India since **1834**.

Insecticides India Limited (IIL) appoints Ajay Devgn as brand ambassador

- One of the country's largest crop protection and Nutrition companies, **Insecticides (India) Ltd. (IIL)**, has roped in **Bollywood's versatile superstar Ajay Devgn** as their **brand ambassador**.
- With the support of **Devgn**, the company intends to spread the message of judicious use of agrochemicals besides communicating about their products and boosting farmer awareness in India to the grassroots level.

About IIL :

- Founded: **2002**
- Headquarters: **New Delhi, Delhi, India**
- MD: **Rajesh Aggarwal**

South Indian Bank Partners with Kerala Forest & Wildlife Department for digital payment collection

- The **South Indian Bank (SIB)** has signed an agreement with **Kerala's Forest and Wildlife Department** to enable digital collection of payments at **eco-tourism centers, Vanasree shops, mobile Vanasree units, and eco-shops** across Kerala.

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About the Partnership :

- Through this partnership, the digital collection system of South Indian Bank will now be available at all **124 tourist spots** that fall under the Forest Department.
- The tie-up will commence with the setting up of 124 POS machines under **36 forest department** agencies across Kerala.
- The Forest Department has set up Vanasree shops and units with the objective of marketing forest products, conserving and managing biodiversity, protecting the rich and sensitive ecosystem, and uplifting the living standards of the tribals working in the area.

About SIB :

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

About Kerala Forest & Wildlife Department :

- Established: 1888
- Headquarters: Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India
- Minister for Forests and Wildlife, Zoos & Animal Husbandry: A. K. Saseendran

Mr. Mustafizur Rahman appointed as Bangladesh's next High Commissioner to India

- The Bangladesh Government has appointed **Mr. Mustafizur Rahman** as the **next High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India**.
- He will be replacing **Mr. Muhammad Imran**.
- Meanwhile, the Bangladesh government has appointed Mr. Muhammad Imran as the **next ambassador to the US**.

About Mr. Mustafizur Rahman :

- **Mr. Rahman** is a career foreign service officer belonging to the **11th batch of Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) Foreign Affairs cadre**.
- In his diplomatic career, he has served in various capacities in Bangladesh Missions in Paris, New York, Geneva, and Kolkata.
- He has served as the **Bangladesh High Commissioner to Singapore**.

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- He occupied various positions primarily in the United Nations Wing.
- Currently, Mr. Mustafizur Rahman is serving as **Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Offices in Geneva** and the **Ambassador to Switzerland**.

About Mr. Muhammad Imran :

- Mr. Imran is a career foreign service officer belonging to the **1986 batch of the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) Foreign Affairs cadre**.
- He has served as the **Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Kolkata** and **Ambassador of Bangladesh to the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan**.

FSIB recommends former Union Bank of India MD Mr. Rajkiran Rai for the post of NaBFID MD

- The **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)** has recommended **Mr. G Rajkiran Rai** for the position of **Managing Director at the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)**.
- This is the first selection made by the FSIB following its incorporation on July 1, 2022.
- Earlier in 2022, the Government had infused **₹ 20,000 crores** into NaBFID.

About Mr G Rajkiran Rai :

- Mr. Rai was appointed as the **managing director & CEO of Union Bank of India** on July 1, 2017, for 3 years until June 30, 2020.
- He was then handed a two-year extension till his date of superannuation in May 2022.

About FSIB :

- Established: July 1, 2022
- Chairman : Bhanu Pratap Sharma
- The **Banks Board Bureau (BBB)** was revamped into FSIB with certain amendments in its mandate.
- The FSIB will make recommendations for appointments of full-time directors as well as the non-executive chairman of banks and financial institutions.

About NaBFID :

- NBFID is being set up as a **corporate body** with an authorized share capital of **one lakh crore rupees**.

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- Shares of NBFID may be held by the central government, multilateral institutions, sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, insurers, financial institutions, banks, and any other institution prescribed by the central government.
- Initially, the central government will own **100% shares of the institution** which may subsequently be reduced up to **26%**.
- According to the **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Act 2021**, the institution will have one MD and not more than three DMDs.
- Chairman: KV Kamath

Eureka Forbes names Mr. Pratik Pota as MD & CEO for 5 yrs

- Global private equity investor Advent International has appointed Mr. Pratik Pota as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of consumer durables maker Eureka Forbes.
- He will join Eureka Forbes as MD & CEO on **August 16, 2022**.

Roles & Responsibilities :

- He will lead the management team to continue scaling the business, solidifying Eureka Forbes' market leadership position, and delivering innovative products for a growing customer base.

About Mr. Pratik Pota :

- Mr. Pratik Pota served as the **CEO at Jubilant Foodworks Ltd (JFL)**
- Before JFL, he held leadership roles in **PepsiCo, Airtel, and Hindustan Unilever Ltd** in a career spanning more than 30 years.

Note :

- Managing Director of Advent : Sahil Dalal

About Eureka Forbes :

- Founded: 1982
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Eureka Forbes Ltd is an Indian multinational consumer goods company.
- It is a part of the **Shapoorji Pallonji Group**.
- It provides water purification, devices, vacuum cleaners, air purification systems, and home security products.

FIFS appoints Mr. Joy Bhattacharjya as director-general

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- India's first and only self-regulatory industry body for fantasy sports, the Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS) has appointed Mr. Joy Bhattacharjya as its director general.

Roles & Responsibilities :

- Mr. Joy Bhattacharjya will oversee the functioning of the body and work with policymakers and industry stakeholders alike.

About Mr. Joy Bhattacharjya :

- Mr. Joy Bhattacharjya is an Indian quizzier, orator, writer, and sports producer.
- He is the former Team Director of the IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR).
- In 2017, he served as the director for the FIFA U-17 World Cup, which was conducted in India.
- Mr. Bhattacharjya is the CEO of the Prime Volleyball League and is a cricket analyst
- He was the first Indian head of production at ESPN (Entertainment and Sports Programming Network) Star Sports.

About FIFS :

- Founded: 2017
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana
- Chairman: Bimal Julka
- The Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS), earlier known as the Indian Federation of Sports Gaming IFSG.
- The FIFS was established to protect consumer interest and create standardized best practices in the Fantasy Sports industry.

Aim :

- To set extremely high standards for the self-regulation and operational efficiency of the Fantasy Sports industry.

PM Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe Sworn in as Interim President of Sri Lanka

- Sri Lankan Mr. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has been sworn in as the interim President after Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena accepted the resignation of Gotabaya Rajapaksa.
- He was administered the oath of office by Sri Lankan Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya.

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- The new Sri Lankan President will be elected as per the provisions of the **Special Provisions Act No. 2 of 1981 and Article 40 of the Constitution.**

About Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe :

- Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe was qualified as an advocate.
- He holds the position of **Minister of Finance of Sri Lanka.**
- He is a **member of parliament from the United National Party (UNP).**
- He has been the leader of the UNP since 1994.
- Earlier he served as **Prime Minister of Sri Lanka** from 1993 to 1994, 2001 to 2004, 2015 to 2018, and 2018 to 2019.
- He also served as **Leader of the Opposition** from 1994 to 2001 and from 2004 to 2015

About Sri Lanka :

- Capital: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (legislative), Colombo (executive and judicial)
- Currency: Sri Lankan rupee

Alphabet Inc appoints Mr. Marty Chavez to Board

- Google parent Alphabet Inc appointed Wall Street veteran **Mr. Ramon Martin Chavez** to its **Board of Directors.**
- His appointment marks the first change to the Alphabet board since 2020 when former Google Chief Executive Officer **Eric Schmidt** departed.

About Mr. R. Martin Chavez :

- R. Martin Chavez is an American investment banker and entrepreneur.
- He is **vice chairman and partner of Sixth Street Partners.**
- He served in senior roles at Goldman Sachs, including chief information officer (2014–2017), chief financial officer, and global co-head of the firm's Securities Division.
- He was also a partner and member of **Goldman's management committee.**
- He was the **chief technology officer and co-founder of Quorum Software Systems** and CEO and co-founder of **Kiodex.**
- He is **chairman** of the board of computational pharmaceutical company Recursion, and Board Observer of early cancer detection and Synthetic Biopsy company Earli.

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- He was appointed **president of Harvard University's board** of overseers for the 2020–21 academic year.

About Alphabet Inc :

- Founded: October 2, 2015
- Headquarters: California, U.S
- Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin
- Director and CEO: Sundar Pichai
- Chairperson: John L. Hennessy

Mr. R D Dhiman appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh

- Indian Administrative Officer (IAS), Mr. Ram Dass Dhiman appointed as the new **Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh**.
- He replaces **Mr. Ram Subhag Singh**, who has been appointed as the **Principal Advisor (Administrative Reforms)**.
- With this, Mr. Ram Subhag Singh becomes the **5th Chief Secretary** who was not able to complete his tenure during the present regime of the BJP-led government & before him, Mr. VK Parkha, Mr. Vineet Chawdhry, Mr. BK Aggarwal, and Mr. Anil Khachi served as HP Chief Secretary.

Other Appointments :

- The state government has also appointed **1987-batch IAS Ms. Nisha Singh** as **Principal Advisor (Training and FA)**.
- Also the 1988-batch IAS officer **Mr. Sanjay Gupta** has been appointed as **Principal Advisor (Redressal of Public Grievances)**.

About Mr. R D Dhiman :

- Mr. Dhiman hails from **Dhalwari district Una** in Himachal Pradesh.
- He is a 1988-batch IAS officer of the **Himachal cadre**, he has a vast experience of more than 31 years.
- He has held various important Administrative positions in the HP government including ACS Revenue, Forest, Language Art and Culture, Principal Secretary Industry Labour and Employment, Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Social Justice and Empowerment,

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Industries, Education, Agriculture, Chairman, Managing Director (MD) and Member (Administration) of HP State Electricity Board, MD HP Power Corporation Limited, Electronics Development Corporation, HP Financial Corporation, State Industrial Development Corporation, Secretary Rural Development, and Panchyati Raj.

About Himachal Pradesh :

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

Manipur governor Shri La Ganesan gets additional charge as West Bengal governor

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind appointed Shri La Ganesan to take oath as the new governor (additional charge) of West Bengal, following the resignation of Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, who has been nominated by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) as its vice-presidential candidate.
- In addition to performing the duties of Manipur, Shri Ganesan will handle the responsibilities of Bengal for the time being.
- He was administered the oath of office by Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court Mr. Prakash Shrivastava in the presence of Chief Minister Ms. Mamata Banerjee, other state ministers, and Speaker Mr. Biman Banerjee.
- Ganesan is also the governor of Manipur.

Note :

Article 153 Governors of States – Constitution Of India

- Article 153 of the Constitution Of India gives there shall be a Governor for each State.
- Also, it provided that nothing in this article shall prevent the appointment of the same person as Governor for two or more States

About Shri La. Ganesan :

- Shri La. Ganesan was born on 16 February 1945, Thanjavur, Madras State, India (present-day Tamil Nadu)
- He is serving as the Governor of Manipur since 27 August 2021.
- Before being governor, he was a senior leader of the Tamil Nadu Bharatiya Janata Party

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

About West Bengal :

- Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee
- Capital: Kolkata

SEBI Approves Appointment of Mr. Ashish Chauhan as MD & CEO Of NSE

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has approved the appointment of **Mr. Ashish Kumar Chauhan** as the new **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)**, the country's largest stock exchange for a **five-year term**.
- Mr. Chauhan's appointment is subject to acceptance of the offer made to him and fulfillment of the terms and conditions, including approval from the NSE shareholders.
- He will succeed **Mr. Vikram Limaye**.
- In the meantime, until he joins an **internal executive committee** is expected to run the affairs at NSE.
- The committee comprises the following: Group CFO and head of corporate affairs Yatrik Vin; chief regulatory officer Priya Subbaraman; chief enterprise risk and information security officer Somasundaram KS and chief technology and operations officer Shiv Kumar Bhasin. The committee will be dissolved after the new MD & CEO assumes office.

About Mr. Ashish Kumar Chauhan :

- Ashish Kumar Chauhan **mechanical engineer** from the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay** and an **alumnus** of the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta**.
- He is an **Indian business executive, administrator, and current Chancellor** of the **University of Allahabad**.
- He was recruited from the campus as an officer by the **Industrial Development Bank of India (now IDBI Bank)** in 1991.
- He also serves as a **member of Governing council** of one of the premier B schools in India - **IIM Raipur**.
- He joined BSE as **Deputy CEO** in 2009 and then he was appointed as **CEO** in 2012 and served until **November 2022**.
- He is best known as the **father of modern financial derivatives** in India due to his work at NSE.

About NSE :

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- Founded: 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairperson: Girish Chandra Chaturvedi
- MD & CEO: Vikram Limaye

REC Ltd appoints Shri Vijay Kumar Singh as Director (Technical)

- **Shri Vijay Kumar Singh** has taken charge as **Director (Technical)** of REC Limited.
- Before this, he was serving as **Executive Director** in the Company and was responsible for all aspects of project financing including project appraisal, entity appraisal, sanction, disbursement, and monitoring of projects in renewable energy, generation, and transmission.

About Shri Vijay Kumar Singh :

- Shri Vijay Kumar Singh holds a **Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering** from IIT Roorkee.
- He has a career spanning more than 33 years across power sector PSUs, NTPC, PGCIL, and REC.
- In his 15-year stint with REC, he has delivered key operations of the company involving Policy formulation, Project & Entity Appraisal, Business Planning, Stressed Assets Management, and MoU negotiations besides heading operations at REC's subsidiary for some time.
- He is also a **Director on the Board of REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited**, a wholly owned subsidiary of REC.

About RECLtd :

- REC Limited, formerly **Rural Electrification Corporation Limited**, is a public Infrastructure Finance Company in India's power sector.
- The company is a Public Sector Undertaking and finances and promotes power projects across India.
- Founded: 25 July 1969
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman & Managing Director: Vivek Kumar Dewangen

Former Supreme Court judge Mr. Vineet Saran appointed BCCI ethics officer

- **Former Supreme Court judge Mr. Vineet Saran** has been appointed as the **new ethics officer** and ombudsman for the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- He will be taking over from **Justice (Retd) D K Jain** whose term ends in June 2021.

About Mr Vineet Saran :

- Justice Vineet Saran was born on 11 May 1957.
- He was enrolled as an Advocate on 28 July 1980.
- He practiced in the **Allahabad High Court** from 1980 to 2002 on the constitutional, civil and criminal sides.
- He was appointed a **permanent Judge of the Allahabad High Court** on 14 February 2002.
- He was thereafter transferred to **Karnataka High Court** on 16 February 2015 and was appointed **Chief Justice of Orissa High Court** on 26 February 2016.
- He was appointed as a **Judge of the Supreme Court of India** on 7 August 2018 & he retired on 10 May 2022.

About BCCI :

- Founded: December 1928
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- President : Sourav Ganguly

Shri Manoj Kumar Assumes Charge as new Chairman Of Khadi And Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

- **Former expert member of marketing at Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Shri Manoj Kumar** has been promoted to take charge as **Chairman of the Government of India's statutory body KVIC**.
- KVIC's former Chairman **Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena** has moved on to take charge as the **Lieutenant Governor of Delhi**.

About Shri Manoj Kumar :

- Shri Manoj Kumar, who has worked as an Expert Member (Marketing) at KVIC, has a vast experience in the areas of **marketing and rural development**.

About KVIC :

- Founded: 1957
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a **statutory body** formed by the GoI, under the **Act of Parliament, 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956'**.
- It is an apex organization under the **Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises**.

Aim :

- To develop Khadi and other village industries in rural areas.

Shri. Jayanti Prasad appointed as Whole Time Member of IBBI

- The central Government has appointed **Shri Jayanti Prasad** as a **Whole-time Member** of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** for five years.

About Shri Jayanti Prasad :

- Shri Jayanti Prasad holds a Master of Science degree in the subject of Physics from the University of Lucknow.
- He belongs to the 1986 batch of **Indian Audit and Accounts Service officers**, superannuated as Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General (Human Resources and International Relations).
- He had accomplished 35 years of experience in the civil services, national and international assignments, having held key positions within the Office of **Comptroller and Auditor General of India** and in the **United Nations (UN)**
- He was the Chief Auditor at the UN for six years and also served as the Custodian under the **Special Court (TORTS) Act, 1992** in the **Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance**.
- In addition to being an officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, he holds membership in the Institute of Public Auditors of India.

Awards & Honors :

- He has been awarded by the **UN** in recognition of his contributions as **Chief Auditor for the Oil for Food Program** resulting in significant impact and cost savings for the UN.

About IBBI :

- Established: 1 October 2016
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairperson: Ravi Mittal

Former Army training command Chief Mr. Lt General Raj Shukla appointed as a member of UPSC

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- **Retired General Officer of the Indian Army Mr. Lieutenant General Raj Shukla** was appointed as a member of the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**.
- With his appointment, the commission now has a **chairperson** and **six members** against its sanctioned strength of 10.

About Mr. Lt General Raj Shukla :

- Mr. Lt General Raj Shukla is an alumnus of Uttar Pradesh Sainik School Lucknow, National Defence Academy Khadakwasla Pune, and Indian Military Academy.
- He was commissioned into the **Regiment of Artillery** in **December 1982**.
- He served as the **General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Army Training Command (GOC-in-C ARTRAC)**.
- He commanded an Infantry Brigade in counter-insurgency operations, the Baramulla Division along the **Line of Control (LOC)** in the Kashmir Valley, and a Pivot Corps along the western borders.
- He has also been Commandant of the Indian Army's prestigious training establishment and thinks tank - the Army War College.
- He has authored close to 70 articles/publications and lectured/participated in more than 180 talks/seminars in India and abroad.

Awards & Honors :

- In recognition of his service of the most exceptional order, Shukla was awarded the **Param Vishisht Seva Medal** on Republic Day 2021.

About UPSC :

- Established: 1 October 1926
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman : Dr. Manoj Soni
- The commission conducts the **civil services exam** to recruit the country's civil servants.
- The UPSC recommends candidates to the government for appointment to the Indian **Administrative Service (IAS)**, **Indian Foreign Service (IFS)**, **Indian Police Service (IPS)**, and the **Central Services- Group A and Group B**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

RattanIndia Power appoints Mr. Brijesh Gupta as managing director

- RattanIndia Power Ltd has appointed Mr. Brijesh Gupta as a Managing Director.

About Mr. Brijesh Gupta :

- Mr. Brijesh Gupta is an alumnus of Visvesvaraya Regional College of Engineering, Nagpur.
- He has over three decades of experience in the industrial sector having worked in top organizations in the Renewable, Steel, Mining, and Commodities sector in India and abroad.
- He has held leadership positions in Adani Enterprises, Essar Group, Welspun, and Atha Group.
- He has global experience having worked across geographies in the USA, Middle East, Iran, and the Indian Subcontinent.

About RattanIndia Power Limited :

- Founded: 2007
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- RattanIndia Power Ltd (RPL) is one of the largest private sector Power Generation companies/ Utility companies.
- RPL has commissioned 2 world-class large coal-based thermal power generation projects in Maharashtra with a total capacity of 2700 MW.
- The company counts marquee funds like Goldman Sachs and VardePartners, the USA as investors in the business.

UP government appoints Deloitte India as a consultant to make a \$1 trillion economy

- The Uttar Pradesh cabinet appointed Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India as a consultant to achieve the target of making the state a \$1-trillion economy.
- The involvement in this decision was a high power committee headed by Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath which later recommended the decision of appointment.
- To fulfill the Prime Minister's resolve to make India a \$5 trillion economy, the role of the most populous state of Uttar Pradesh is important.

Key Highlights :

- The consultant quoted a bid price of Rs 120 crore.
- Others in the fray were Boston Consulting Group and Grant Thornton.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- According to the fresh **request for proposal (RFP) document**, the selected consultant will have to critically analyze the macro and micro-economic sectoral data around GSDP, trade, investment, expenditure, savings, workforce participation, inflation, import & export, etc to identify the strengths and weaknesses of UP's economy.
- The tenders for the selection of consultants were invited on **March 15, 2022**, and the last date for receipt of tenders was fixed as **May 24, 2022**.

About Deloitte:

- The firm entered India in **1998**, and by then has increased its scope in Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai, and Hyderabad.
- In January 2021, **Punit Renjen** who began his second term at the global helm of Deloitte in 2020 explained the firm's macro view to expanding India's positioning to wider attitudes in the global business environment.

About UP :

- Governor : Anandiben Patel
- Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Capital: Lucknow

Italian Prime Minister Mr. Mario Draghi Resigns

- **Italian Prime Minister Mr. Mario Draghi** has submitted his **resignation** to **President Sergio Mattarella** after key coalition parties withdrew their support for his government.
- However, Draghi's government will continue to function under a **caretaker** Prime Minister until the new government is formed following the election.

About Mr. Mario Draghi :

- Mr. Mario Draghi is an Italian economist, banker, former professor, and civil servant.
- He has served as **prime minister of Italy** since **February 2021**.
- Before PM, he served as **President of the European Central Bank (ECB)** between 2011 and 2019.
- He was also **Chair of the Financial Stability Board** between 2009 and 2011, and **Governor of the Bank of Italy** between 2006 and 2011.

About Italy :

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- President : Sergio Mattarella
- Capital: Rome
- Currency: Euro

Mr. Narinder Batra resigns as FIH, IOA president, and IOC member

- Veteran sports administrator **Mr. Narinder Batra** has resigned from his positions as the **President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**, **President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH)**, & also a **member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)**.

About Mr. Narinder Batra :

- Mr. Narinder Kumar was born on October 20, 1967, in **Patiala, Punjab, India**
- He became the **first non-European president** of the **FIH** in **2016** & he was re-elected as the **FIH president** for a **second term** in **2021**.
- The **65-year-old Batra** took charge of the **IOA President** for the **first time** in **2017** and was eligible to contest for re-election.
- He served as the **President of Hockey India** from **2014 to 2016** and the **Asian Hockey Association** from **2003 to 2013**.
- He became an **International Olympic Committee (IOC) member** in **2019** and later became a member of its **Olympic Channel Commission**.

FIH appoints Egypt's Mr. Seif Ahmed as acting president

- The **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** appointed **Egypt's Mr. Seif Ahmed** as its **acting president** following Indian administrator **Mr. Narinder Batra's resignation** from the post.
- **Mr. Seif Ahmed** has been a **member of the FIH Executive board** since **2001**.

Note :

- India will host the next **FIH Hockey Men's World Cup** in **Bhubaneswar and Rourkela** in **January 2023**.

About FIH :

- Founded: **7 January 1924**
- Headquarters: **Lausanne, Switzerland**

Ms. Droupadi Murmu becomes India's first tribal woman president

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- **Ms. Droupadi Murmu**, a tribal BJP leader and former Jharkhand Governor, has been elected as the **15th President of India**.
- She defeated the opposition candidate, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, with **676,803 electoral votes (64.03% of the total)** in **21 of the 28 states (including the union territory of Puducherry)**.
- She will replace president **Shri Ram Nath Kovind** whose's term will end on 24 July 2022.
- She will be administered oath by the CJI, **Mr. NV Ramana**, and assume the office on July 25, 2022.
- She is the **first-ever person belonging to a Scheduled Tribe (ST) community** to be elected as the President of India.
- Murmu is the **first person from Odisha** and **only the second woman after Pratibha Patil** to occupy this post.
- She is the **youngest** and **first individual** to have been born after India's independence in 1947, elected to this post

Note :

- The 2022 Indian Presidential Election was the **16th presidential election** that was held in India on the 18th of July 2022.

About Droupadi Murmu :

- Droupadi Murmu was born on 20 June 1958 in a **Santhali** tribal family in Uparbeda village of Mayurbhanj district of Odisha.
- She worked as a junior assistant in the **State Irrigation and Power Department** from 1979 to 1983.
- As a member of the BJP, she was elected to the state assembly twice in 2000 and 2009 from the Rairangpur seat.
- In 2000, she became the **Chairperson of Rairangpur Nagar Panchayat** and also served as the **National Vice-President of BJP Scheduled Tribes Morcha**.
- She also served as **Minister of State with Independent Charge for Commerce and Transport and Fisheries and Animal Resources Development**.
- She also served as an **MLA** for four years, from 2000 to 2004.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- On May 18, 2015, Draupadi Murmu took the oath of office to become the **first female governor of Jharkhand (ninth Governor of Jharkhand)** and also becoming the **first female tribal leader from Odisha** to be appointed as a Governor of the Indian State.
- The BJP nominated Murmu as the National Democratic Alliance's presidential candidate for the June 2022 election.

Awards & Honors :

- In 2007, Draupadi Murmu, received the **Nilkantha Award** for the best MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly) by Odisha Legislative Assembly.

About the Santhals tribe :

- Santhals, are the **third largest scheduled tribe community** in India after the **Gonds** and **Bhils**.
- Their population is mostly distributed in Odisha, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.
- According to the **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI), Bhubaneswar**, the word '**Santhal**' is derived from two words; '**Santha**' meaning **calm** and **peaceful** and '**ala**' meaning **man**.

Mr. Rajarshi Gupta was appointed as managing director of ONGC Videsh

- **Mr. Rajarshi Gupta** has been appointed as **Managing Director of ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL)**, the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).
- He was recommended for the position by **Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB)**.
- He replaces **Mr. Alok Gupta** who superannuated as ONGC Videsh's MD in June 2022.

About Mr. Rajarshi Gupta :

- Mr. Gupta holds a degree in mechanical engineering from the prestigious **NIT Rourkela** and is also a Gold Medallist in MBA (International Business) from the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade.
- He has more than 33 years of wide-ranging experience in supervisory, managerial, and strategic planning capacities in domestic and international operations of ONGC and ONGC Videsh.
- He spent 13 years in ONGC Videsh during 2006-2019, working across the globe in diverse geographical and fiscal regimes, in business development, etc.
- Before this new appointment, he was **Executive Director - Chief of Corporate Strategy & Planning** in ONGC.

About ONGC :

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- Founded: 1965
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India

Mr. Dinesh Gunawardena was sworn in as the 15th Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

- **Senior Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna Member of Parliament Mr. Dinesh Gunawardena** has been appointed as the **15th Prime Minister of Sri Lanka**.
- He succeeds former prime minister **Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe**, who has been sworn in as Sri Lanka's 9th president.
- Gunawardena was sworn in by President Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe at the Prime Minister's Office on Flower Road, **Colombo, Sri Lanka**

About Dinesh Gunawardena :

- Gunawardena was born on 2 March 1949.
- He has served as a **member** of parliament, cabinet minister, and Leader of the House of the Parliament of Sri Lanka.
- He was appointed to the **Mahajana Eksath Peramuna's (MEP) central committee** in August 1973.
- He was appointed **Minister of Transport, Minister of Urban Development and Water Supply, and Deputy Minister of Education** after the election.
- He is the **current leader** of the **left-wing Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP) party** since 1983.

About Sri Lanka :

- President: Ranil Wickremesinghe
- Capital: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, Colombo
- Currency: Sri Lankan rupee

Harbhajan Singh, Misa Bharti, and Rajeev Shukla are among 28 MPs to be sworn in as Rajya Sabha members

- Cricketer-turned-politician **Harbhajan Singh, Misa Bharti**, daughter of former Bihar Chief Minister Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav, and BCCI vice-president **Rajeev Shukla** took oath along with nearly **25 other leaders** as **Rajya Sabha members**.
- Others included A Rao Meena, Vijay Sai Reddy, Kheeru Mahto, Shambhala Saran Patel, Ranjeet Ranjan, Maharashtra Majhi, Aditya Prasad, Praful Patel, Imran Pratapgarhi, Sanjay

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

Raut, Sasmit Patra, Sandeep Kumar Pathak, and Vikramjeet Singh Sahani, Randeep Singh Surjewal, P Chidambaram, Kapil Sibal, R Girl Rajan, S Kalyan Sundaram, KRN Rajesh Kumar, Javed Ali Khan, V Vijendra Prasad were others among those who took the oath.

- Newly elected members from different political parties took oath on the **first day of the Monsoon session of Parliament**.
- Renowned former athlete PT Usha (from Kerala) and legendary music composer Ilaiyaraaja (from Tamil Nadu) could not be present in the Rajya Sabha to take the oath due to some reasons.
- The Rajya Sabha also paid homage to former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, ex-UAE president Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and former Kenyan president Mwai Kibaki.

IAPH appoints Mr. Ennarasu Karunesan as its representative in India

- The **International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH)**, the global ports' forum for industry collaboration and excellence, has appointed **Mr. Ennarasu Karunesan** as its **official representative in India**.

About Mr Ennarasu Karunesan :

- Mr. Karunesan has over 33 years of leadership experience in the marine and port industries.
- He began his career in the port industry with the Mumbai port and later worked as the general manager of operations and **CEO of the Westport Container Terminal in Port Klang, Malaysia, from 2001 to 2004**.
- He introduced innovative port technologies and developed maritime infrastructure with safe & sustainable operations.
- He served as Director & Chief Executive Officer, Chennai Container Terminal Ltd.(CCT), Dubai Ports World (2004 – 2015), and Joint President and CEO of the Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone, Gujarat, India (2015 – 2019).
- Currently, he serves as an **advisor to Indian Ports**.

About IAPH :

- Established: 1955
- Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan
- MD: Patrick Verhoeven

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- The International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) is the global trade association for seaports worldwide.

TATA Projects appoints Mr Vinayak Pai as Managing Director

- One of India's fastest-growing and most admired infrastructure companies, **TATA Projects Limited**, has appointed **Mr. Vinayak Pai** as its **Managing Director (MD)**.
- Pai has taken over the **reins from Mr. Vinayak Deshpande** who will retire after being at the helm of affairs for over 11 years.

About Mr. Vinayak Pai :

- Mr. Vinayak Pai holds a **Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from the College of Engineering, Pune**.
- Further, he completed his master' in Management Studies from Symbiosis, Pune, and an Executive MBA in Business Administration and Management from IIT Bombay Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management.
- Pai was the group **president at Worley, based out of Hague, Netherlands**, and was responsible for their businesses in the EMEA and APAC regions.
- He has over three decades of experience with leading engineering & EPC companies where he held key positions across various teams working towards engineering design, technology licensing, project management, business development, and operations.
- He has been associated as a **plenary speaker/panel** on various forums like the **Society of Petroleum Engineers, Chemtech, etc.**
- He has been a **member of the Executive Leader World 50** and served as a **Commissioner at the Energy Transition Commission UK**.

About Tata Projects :

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- It has expertise in executing large and complex urban and industrial infrastructure projects.
- It offers complete services in some industries, including industrial, power, water, metals & minerals, space & nuclear, transportation, and urban infrastructure.

Vodafone Idea appoints Mr. Akshaya Moondra as Chief Executive Officer

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- Telecom firm **Vodafone Idea** has appointed **Mr. Akshaya Moondra** as the next **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the company for **three years**, with effect from August 19, 2022.
- He will replace **Mr. Ravinder Takkar**, whose tenure as MD & CEO of the Vodafone Idea will end on August 18, 2022.
- Ravinder Takkar will continue to be on the board as a **non-executive and non-independent director** post completion of his tenure.
- Currently, Mr. Akshaya Moondra is the **chief financial officer (CFO)** at Vodafone Idea.

About Mr Ravinder Takkar :

- Mr. Takkar is an experienced global executive with nearly three decades in the Vodafone Group and will continue to serve with Vodafone Group.
- He was appointed **MD and CEO of Vodafone Idea on August 19, 2019**, for a term of **three years** which was scheduled to end on August 18, 2022.
- He has been serving as MD & CEO of Vodafone Idea **without any remuneration**.

About Vodafone Idea :

- Founded: 31 August 2018
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

YES Bank appoints Mr. RS Gandhi as an additional independent director

- Private sector lender **YES Bank** has appointed **Mr. Rama Subramaniam Gandhi** as an **additional independent director** of the bank for **five years**.

About Mr. RS Gandhi :

- Mr. R. Gandhi was born in 1956 in Devanallur, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu.
- He was a **Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India** for three years from 2014 to 2017.
- He had been a seasoned and accomplished central banker for 37 years.
- He had a **three-year secondment** to the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, the capital market regulator.
- He held the charge of **Director of the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)**, Hyderabad.
- He was one of the initial members of the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- He was a member of the **Basle Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS)** and the **Committee on Global Financial Systems (CGFS)**, Basle.
- He is an independent director on the boards of several financial sector entities.
- Currently, he is a **financial sector policy expert** and **adviser** in that he advises banks, finance companies, fintech entities, payment system entities, investors, and funds on subjects ranging from financial regulations to and Indian economy.

About YES Bank :

- Founded: 2004
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Prashant Kumar
- Tagline: Experience Our Expertise

Kuwaiti emir appoints Mr. Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as new Prime Minister

- Kuwaiti emir **Mr. Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah** has issued a decree appointing **Mr. Ahmad Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah** as the new **Prime Minister of Kuwait**.
- He succeeded **Mr. Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah** who resigned in April 2022.

About Mr Ahmad Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah :

- Mr. Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah was born in 1956.
- He is a son of the **10th ruler of Kuwait, Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**.
- He is a **retired Kuwaiti military officer** with the rank of **Lieutenant-General at the Ministry of Interior**.
- He has been the **First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior** since March 9, 2022.
- He served as the **Kuwait National Guard Deputy Commander** between November 2020 and March 9, 2022.

About Kuwait :

- Capital: Kuwait City
- Currency: Kuwaiti dinar (KWD)

One97 Communications appoints Mr. Nakul Jain as CEO of Paytm Payments Services

- The parent company of the unicorn fintech company Paytm, **One97 Communications** has appointed **Mr. Nakul Jain** as the **CEO of Paytm Payments Services Ltd (PSSL)**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- He replaced **Mr. Praveen Sharma**, who is now serving as the acting CEO of PPSL.
- Mr. Praveen Sharma has been promoted to **oversee the organization's commerce vertical in addition** to his other duties.

About Mr. Nakul Jain :

- Mr. Nakul Jain holds over 22 years of experience in retail banking and has worked in sub-fields including branch banking, wealth management, product and segmentation, distribution, retail assets, and acquisition.
- Earlier, he served as **managing director** of private banking, priority banking, deposits, and branch banking at **Standard Chartered Bank**.

About Paytm :

- Founded: August 2010
- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Founder & CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Mr. Bajram Begaj was sworn in as the new president of Albania

- A retired military officer and politician, **Mr. Bajram Begaj**, took oath as **9th President of Albania**.
- In his first address in front of the lawmakers as the president, the 55-year-old Begaj declared that he will support and respect both the government and opposition's work, calling for cooperation between political parties instead of conflict.
- Mr. Begaj will become the **fifth president** in the history of Albania to have a **military background**, **after Ahmet Zogu, Ramiz Alia, Alfred Moisiu, and Bujar Nishani**.
- He was the candidate of the Socialist Party (PS), which was in power under Prime Minister Mr. Edi Rama.
- He was the **only candidate** nominated for the five-year term.
- A total of **83 lawmakers** participated in the voting that took place in the plenary session in the parliament, where Begaj received 78 votes in favor, while 4 lawmakers voted against and there was one abstention.

About Mr. Begaj :

- Mr. Begaj was born on 20 March 1967, in Rrogozhinë, Albania.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- He served as the **Commander of the Doctrine and Training Command** in the **Albanian Armed Forces**.
- He held various other posts including **Chief of the Military Medical Unit** and **Deputy Military Director of SUT**, **Director of the Military Hospital**, **Director of the Health Inspectorate**, etc.
- He had a long career in the Albanian army, serving as the **26th Chief of General Staff** of the **Albanian Armed Forces** from **July 2020 to June 2022**.

About Albania :

- Prime Minister : **Edi Rama**
- Capital: **Tirana**
- Currency: **Lek**

World Bank appoints Indian national Mr. Indermit Gill as chief economist & Senior VP

- The **World Bank** has appointed **Indian national Mr. Indermit Gill** as the **chief economist and senior vice president** for **development economics**.
- His appointment will be effective **September 1, 2022**.
- He will succeed American economist **Mr. Carmen Reinhart**.
- Mr. Gill will be only the **second Indian after Mr. Kaushik Basu** to serve as chief economist at the **World Bank**.
- Mr. Kaushik Basu was the **Chief Economist** of the **World Bank** from **2012-2016**.

About Mr. Indermit Gill :

- Mr. Indermit Gill has a **Ph.D. in economics** from the **University of Chicago**, an **MA** from the **Delhi School of Economics**, and a **BA in economics** from **St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi**.
- He worked at the **World Bank** from **1993 to 2016**, where his assignments included **Director of Development Policy in Development Economics**, **staff director** for the **2009 World Development Report on Economic Geography**, **chief economist for Europe and Central Asia**, **acting chief economist for East Asia and the Pacific**, and **Principal Country Economist for Brazil**.
- His pioneering work includes introducing the concept of the **"middle-income trap"** to describe how developing countries stagnate after reaching a certain level of income.

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- He was a professor of public policy at Duke University and a nonresident senior fellow in the **Global Economy and Development program at the Brookings Institution** between 2016 and 2021.
- He has published extensively on policy issues facing developing countries, sovereign debt, green growth, labor markets, poverty and inequality, and managing natural resource wealth.
- Currently, he is the **Vice President for Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions (EFI)** at the World Bank, where he led work on macroeconomics, debt, trade, poverty, and governance.

About World Bank :

- Established: December 1945
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C, United States
- President : David Malpass
- Membership: 189 countries (IBRD), 174 countries (IDA)
- The World Bank is the collective name for the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** and **International Development Association (IDA)**, two of five international organizations owned by the World Bank Group.

LIC HFL Board appoints Ravi Kishan Takkar as Additional Director

- The **Board of Directors of LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL)** has approved the **appointment of Ravi Kishan Takkar, as an Additional Director (Independent) for five years.**
- Takkar was **MD & CEO of Kolkata-headquartered UCO Bank** for three years till November 01, 2018.

About LIC HFL :

- Founded: 19 June 1989
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Viswanatha Gowd
- LIC HFL is one of the largest Housing Finance Mortgage loan companies in India.
- LIC HFL is a subsidiary company of LIC.

IFS officer Mr. Pranay Kumar Verma appointed as the new Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh

- The Center appointed **Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer Mr. Pranay Kumar Verma** as the next **High Commissioner of India to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.**

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- Mr. Verma will succeed incumbent **Mr. Vikram Doraiswami**.

Other Appointments :

- **Mr. Sandeep Arya**, an IFS officer of the 1994 batch has been appointed as the next **Ambassador of India to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam**.
- Currently, Mr. Arya is posted as **Additional Secretary** in the **Ministry of External Affairs**.

About Mr. Pranay Kumar Verma :

- Mr. Verma is an officer of the **1994 batch** of the **Indian Foreign Service (IFS)**.
- He has held diplomatic assignments in **Hong Kong, San Francisco, Beijing, Kathmandu, and Washington DC**.
- He served as the **Joint Secretary** of the **East Asia Division** at the **Ministry of External Affairs** in **New Delhi**.
- He also served as the **Joint Secretary** for external relations at the **Department of Atomic Energy** looking after India's nuclear diplomacy.
- Currently, he is serving as **Ambassador of India** to the **Socialist Republic of Vietnam**.

About Ministry of External Affairs :

- Cabinet Minister: **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar**
- Minister of State: **V. Muraleedharan, Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Meenakshi Lekhi**

IMPORTANT AWARDS & HONOURS NEWS

IG Drones receives the Global Airwards Best Drone Organization Award:

- The "**Best Drone Organization - Start-up Category**" award was presented by **Airwards** to the **Delhi-based**, market-leading drone enterprise platform business **IG Drones**.
- For its strategy of assisting local communities and providing access to technology to many stakeholders during natural catastrophes and crises, **IG Drones** has been chosen for the award.

About IG Drones:

- To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of first responders' assistance in emergency response and catastrophe mapping, **IG Drones** is creating innovative technology-based disaster response and mitigation methods.

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- In **major catastrophes** like the Assam Floods, Amphan Cyclone, Fani Cyclone, Jajpur Flood in Odisha, Maharashtra Flood, and Uttarakhand CloudBurst, they have used a drone and GIS technologies to save hundreds of thousands of lives.

Airwards Programme:

- The first panoptic global awards program of its type airwards is focused on uncovering, recognizing, and supporting the diversity of creative, safe, and practical drone use cases from around the **world**. **38 drone professionals** and business executives evaluated more than 120 entries from across the world to determine the 18 major category winners for this year's Airwards.
- The winners, who will be revealed during the second-ever **Airwards Winners' Week** (23–31 May 2022), have been acknowledged by Airwards as the absolute best drone-related projects in terms of innovation, responsibility, and impact.

Ashok Soota was conferred with CII Quality Ratna Award 2021:

- Happiest Minds Technologies' founder and executive chairman, **Ashok Soota**, has received the **CII Quality Ratna Award 2021**.
- The **2019 CII Quality Ratna Award** was established to honor those who have distinguished themselves through extraordinary leadership, contributions, and dedication to India's quality movement.
- Given Mr. Soota's substantial contribution to enhancing the competitiveness of the Indian industry via quality Initiatives, **the CII Awards Committee** unanimously decided to present him with the 2021 Award.

Karnataka's Sini Shetty crowned Femina Miss India 2022:

- The **Femina Miss India 2022** title has been won by **Sini Shetty**.
- She will now compete in the **71st Miss World** pageant as **India's representative**.
- At the JIO World Convention Center in Mumbai, Shetty was named **Femina Miss India World 2022** by **Manasa Varanasi**, Miss India 2020.
- **Rubal Shekhawat** of Rajasthan is the **first runner-up** in Femina Miss India 2022, while **Shinata Chauhan** of Uttar Pradesh is the **second**.

Femina Miss India 2022's jury:

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- **Actors Neha Dhupia, Dino Morea, Malaika Arora, and famous cricketer Mithali Raj** made up the jury for Femina Miss India 2022.
- **Shiamak Davar, Rohit Gandhi, and Rahul Khanna** were also on the panel.

About Sini Shetty:

- Shetty, a native of Karnataka, was born in Mumbai in 2001.
- The 21-year-old is presently enrolled in a Chartered Financial Analyst program.
- He has a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance (CFA).

UK Parliament honors Tanuja Nesari with the Ayurveda Ratna award:

- **The UK Parliament presented Tanuja Nesari, Director of the All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), with the Ayurveda Ratna Award.**
- She received the award from the **UK's All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indian Traditional Sciences (ITSappg)**, which recognizes her work to promote the spread of Ayurveda both domestically and internationally.
- An ITSappg committee led by dignitaries **Bob Blackman, MP, UK Parliament and Chair, Virendra Sharma, MP, UK Parliament, and Chair, and Ambassador for Ayurveda and Yoga in Great Britain, Amarjeet S. Bhamra, honored Dr. Nesari for her exceptional service of the highest calibre for the promotion of Ayurveda.**

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indian Traditional Sciences:

- To promote understanding of Ayurveda, Yoga, Jyotish, Vastu, Unani, and Sangeetam in the UK and internationally, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on **Indian Traditional Sciences was established in 2014.**

HCL Technologies bags Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards 2022:

- **HCL Technologies** received recognition at the **2022 Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards** for its creativity and use of Microsoft technologies in client solutions.
- **HCL Tech won the 2022 UK Microsoft Partner of the Year Award** as well as the Microsoft Partner of the Year Award for **Healthcare and Life Sciences (global winner) (country winner).**
- The IT business was also selected as a finalist for the Internet of Things category of the 2022 Microsoft Partner of the Year Award (domain finalist).

Key Points:

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- The Awards honor Microsoft partners who over the previous year created and provided exceptional Microsoft-based products, services, and devices.
- For the yearly Awards, more than 3,900 nominations came from more than 100 different nationalities.
- Before the company's annual global partner conference, Microsoft Inspire, which will be held on July 19–20 this year, the **Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards** are presented.
- With a focus on maximizing business value through sector-leading innovation and transformation on the Microsoft cloud, the HCL Microsoft Ecosystem Unit helps clients evolve into more agile and adaptable enterprises.

About HCL Technologies

- CEO: C Vijayakumar
- Founded: 12 November 1991
- Headquarters: Noida.

Ukrainian mathematician Maryna Viazovska wins prestigious Fields Medal 2022:

- **Maryna Viazovska**, a math professor from Ukraine, was awarded the **Fields Medal** in 2022, the highest honor in mathematics.
- As a result of Moscow's conflict, the Fields Medal celebration was relocated from **Saint Petersburg to Helsinki**, where Viazovska and three other mathematicians were awarded the medal.
- Since the prize was established in 1936 for mathematicians under 40, **Maryna is just the second woman to earn it.**
- Only three years after receiving the award, **Iran's Maryam Mirzakhani**, the other female laureate, passed away from breast cancer in 2017.

The prestigious prize was given to four individuals, including:

- France's **Hugo Duminil-Copin** (36 years)- Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques
- US-based **June Huh** (39 years) – Princeton University
- Britain's **James Maynard** (35 years) – University of Oxford
- Ukraine's **Maryna Viazovska** (37 years) – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology

About the Maryna Viazovska:

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- In 1984, when Ukraine was still a part of the Soviet Union, Viazovska was born in Kyiv.
- Before getting a master's degree at the University of Kaiserslautern in Germany and a Ph.D. at the University of Bonn, she completed her undergraduate studies at the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv in Ukraine.
- She has served as the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne's number theory chair since 2018.
- The Swiss institute employs her spouse Daniil Evtushinsky as a physicist.

About Field Medals:

- The Fields medal is the mathematician's greatest accolade.
- Every four years, during the International Congress of Mathematicians, the medal is presented.
- The Fields Medal is given to honor extraordinary contributions to mathematics that have already been made or that show promise of being made in the future.
- The Fields medal reward consists of a 14-karat gold medal with an image of Archimedes and money.
- A trust that J.C. Fields created at the University of Toronto provides funding for the Fields medal and monetary awards.
- Besides outstanding mathematical achievement, the chosen candidate must be below 40 years before January 1st of the year the Field Medals are awarded.
- The Fields Medals were first awarded in 1936 in Oslo, Norway.
- The Fields medals were conceived by John Charles Fields, a Canadian mathematician.

Michelle Poonawalla received the Prestigious Shiromani Award:

- For her contributions to the arts, Michelle Poonawalla was given the Shiromani Award at the NRI World Summit 2022 in the UK.
- The Shiromani Award was given to Rita Hinduja Chhabria, Lord Rami Ranger, and Shri Sadhu Bhamvihari in addition to Poonawalla.
- Keynote speaker Michelle Poonawalla received the Shiromani Award for her contributions to the realm of art while speaking in the House of Lords.
- On June 23, Poonawalla debuted "Reserve" her latest piece of art, at the JMS Foundation Charity Gala.

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- Her video "Reserve" emphasized pollution and degradation of water reserves and emphasized water shortage as a worldwide concern.

About the Shiromani Award:

- Mother Teresa, Chief Marshal Manekshaw, Raj Kapoor, Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar, Kapil Dev, PT Usha, Leander Paes, Vishwanathan Anand, The Dalai Lama, Jaya Bachchan, and Asha Bhosle have all received the Shiromani Award, which was established in 1977.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Award inception announced by Dr. Jitendra Singh:

- According to Science and Technology Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh** in New Delhi, the **Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Award** in Public Administration has been established in memory of India's first president.
- The **Indian Institute of Public Administration's (IIPA)** Executive Council was led by Dr. Singh
- The institute has to have a vision for the next 25 years to accomplish the goals that **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has set.

Key Points:

- IIPA can perform and must do so by retaining a large pool of experts and a variety of activities.
- While presiding over the **320th meeting of the Executive Council of IIPA**, Dr. Jitendra, who is also the Union Minister of State (independent charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (independent charge) for Earth Sciences, and the MoS for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy, and Space, offered his congratulations to the IIPA Director-General and staff for receiving the ISO 9001:2015 certification.

Polish government honored maharajas for helping refugees during WW II:

- The maharajas of **Jamnagar and Kolhapur**, among others, who provided sanctuary to **Polish refugees** escaping the **Soviet Union's invasion of Poland during World War II**, have received honors from the Polish government.
- In response to the invitation, the **Indian government** dispatched a team to **Poland** that included former royals from Jamnagar and Kolhapur as well as **Yuvraj Sambhaji Raje and Sanyogitaraje Chhatrapati of Kolhapur**.
- **Piotr Glinski**, the deputy prime minister of Poland, also attended the Warsaw gathering.

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- Poles residing there displayed images of the kindness of the Indian monarchs as they recalled their recollections of living there.
- **Germany invaded Poland and the Soviet Union in 1939**, both from the west and the east.
- Thousands of Poles were compelled by the Soviet government to move farther into Soviet territory during the occupation, including Siberia.
- Then, at least 5,000 Poles left their nation and sought safety in Kolhapur.
- They spent many years in the village of Valiwade, which is close to Kolhapur, where a miniature version of Poland developed, complete with a school, a hospital, and even a fire department.

Gita Gopinath becomes the first woman and 2nd Indian to feature on IMF's 'wall of former chief economists':

- India-born Gita Gopinath became the **first woman and second Indian** to feature on the 'wall of former chief economists of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The **first Indian to achieve the honor was Raghuram Rajan** who was Chief Economist and Director of Research of IMF **between 2003 and 2006**.
- Gopinath was appointed as **IMF Chief Economist in October 2018** and was later promoted as the IMF's First Deputy Managing Director in December last year.
- Gopinath had served as the first female chief economist of the Washington-based global lender for three years.
- Gopinath's research has been published in many **top economics journals**.
- Before she was appointed IMF Chief
- Economist, she was the John Zwaanstra Professor of International Studies and Economics in the economics department of Harvard University.
- Before joining the faculty of **Harvard University in 2005**, she was an assistant professor of economics at the **University of Chicago's Booth School of Business**.

Pallavi Singh wins the Mrs. Universe Divine Crown in South Korea:

- **Pallavi Singh** from India won the **Mrs. Universe Divine Title** at the competition's Yeosu City, South Korea, finals.
- She is an **Indian who is from Kanpur**, and she has represented her nation admirably in this competition, in which 110 nations took part.

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- For India, this is a moment of pride.
- **Pallavi Singh, the Mrs. Universe contender from Asia**, exemplified the great desire and dedication of Indian women to achieve success in all spheres of life.
- Pallavi Singh won the **2020 Mrs. India pageant** held in Jaipur.
- When the Asia-level competition was conducted in Delhi in October 2021, she went on to win the title of **Mrs. Indo-Asia Universe**.
- She competed in the Mrs. Universe competition as the representative of Asia and India, winning the title.

Narayanan Kumar received the "Order of the Rising Sun" award from Japan:

- In honor of Vice Chairman **Narayanan Kumar of the Sanmar Group's** work to improve trade ties between **Japan and India**, the government of Japan has awarded him with the "**Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star**" award.
- Kumar received recognition from **Taga Masayuki**, the Japanese consul general in Chennai.
- Masayuki praised Kumar for his tireless efforts to foster peace, friendship, and understanding between Japan and India.
- The **Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry** is also led by Kumar.
- He was one of the winners of the "**Spring 2022 Imperial Decorations**" and had previously served as the president of the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**.

Maharashtra Gov presents Mother Teresa Memorial Award to Dia Mirza & Afroz Shah:

- **Ms. Dia Mirza**, the country's goodwill ambassador for the UN Environment Program (UNEP), and **Mr. Afroz Shah**, an environmental activist, were honored with the renowned **Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice 2021**.
- The Maharashtra Governor, Hon. Bhagat Singh Koshiyari presents the prize at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai.
- For their admirable and noteworthy contributions to environmental sustainability, both received awards.
- As the Goodwill Ambassador of UNEP, India, Ms. Dia Mirza was recognized for her amazing and noteworthy contributions to steering important environmental initiatives throughout India.

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- Mr. Afroz Shah received recognition for his outstanding and pioneering efforts to steer one of the biggest beach clean-up projects in the world in India, which served as an inspiration to people all around the world.

Japan awards Ex-PM Shinzo Abe country's highest order posthumously:

- **Shinzo Abe** will receive Japan's highest honor, the "Collar of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum," posthumously, the Japanese government stated.
- Shinzo Abe will be the fourth former premier to receive the honor under the postwar Constitution.
- **Shigeru Yoshida, Eisaku Sato, and Yasuhiro Nakasone**, like former prime ministers, received the honor before him.
- Notably, the Grand Cordon of the Order was established in 1876 by Japanese Emperor Meiji.
- The **Order's Collar was later added to it in 1888.**
- In contrast to Europe, Japan has the authority to bestow it after a person's passing. A Japanese national can only be awarded the grand cordon once in their life.
- Apart from the **Imperial Family**, up to 44 other Japanese nationals have received the grand cordon as of right now.

NAARM received the Sardar Patel Award of ICAR:

- The **Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institute Award 2021** (in the Large Institute Category) has been given to the **National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM)** in recognition of its overall accomplishments.
- In New Delhi, Ch Srinivasa Rao, Director of NAARM, accepted the honor from Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- At a celebration honoring the **94th Foundation Day of the ICAR**, the prizes were presented.
- In **Hyderabad, Telangana, India**, there is a national-level Natural Resource Service training facility for the ARS cadre.
- Its name is the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management.
- To solve problems with agricultural research and education administration in India, it was founded by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 1976.

Australia Tennis star Lleyton Hewitt inducted into Hall of Fame:

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- **Lleyton Hewitt**, a former world number one and two-time Grand Slam winner, was admitted into the **International Tennis Hall of Fame**.
- Hewitt maintained the top place for 80 weeks, which ranks as the 10th-longest period in history, before **Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, and Novak Djokovic** rose to the top of the sport.
- Even after those stars became famous.
- The Australian legend defeated **Ivo Karlovic** to win the **Hall of Fame Open in 2014**, which was his final ATP championship after winning his first in Adelaide in 1998.
- Hewitt won the **US Open in 2001 and Wimbledon in 2002**.

Filmmaker KP Kumaran honored with JC Daniel Award 2022:

- **KP Kumaran**, a Malayalam director, has received Kerala's top cinema honor, the **JC Daniel Award**.
- Kumaran received the award in recognition of his contributions to the Malayalam cinema industry.
- The award consists of a **Rs 5 lakh cash reward**, a citation, and a plaque.
- **Singer P Jayachandran**, director **Sibi Malayil**, film academy chairman **Ranjith**, and **Rani George**, principal secretary of the Department of Cultural Affairs were among the 2021 jury members.

About KP Kumaran:

- The filmmaker made his directorial debut with **Athithi** in 1975 and rose to prominence with films such as **Rugmini**, which won the National Award for Best Malayalam Feature Film and the Kerala State Film Award in 1989.
- He is well recognized for his roles in films such as **Thenthulli**, **Laxmivijayam**, and **Thottam**.
- **Gramavrikshathile Kuyil**, the filmmaker's most recent film, was released in 2020.
- **Kumaran Asan**, a philosopher, poet, social reformer, and businessman, is the subject of the film.

About The JC Daniel Award:

- The **JC Daniel Award** is Kerala's top honor in Malayalam film.
- The Kerala State Chalachitra Academy, a nonprofit organization under the Department of Cultural Affairs, hosts it each year.
- The award was established in 1992 to recognize individuals for their remarkable contributions to Malayalam film.

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- The prize was designed to honor Indian director JC Daniel, who is widely recognized as the founder of Malayalam cinema.
- The prize has been given to 27 people since its establishment.
- The inaugural laureate was TE Vasudevan, a film distributor, and producer. P Jayachandran, a singer, was the most recent laureate - 2020.

68th National Film Awards 2022 Announced:

- In **New Delhi**, the winners of the **68th National Film Awards** were announced.
- Due to COVID-19-related delays, this year's awards presentation included films from 2020 as well.
- The event is organized by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's Directorate of Film Festivals**.
- **Shri Anurag Thakur**, Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting, announced the award winners.
- **Soorarai Pottru** received three of the night's four main prizes, while **Tanhaji The Unsung Warrior** also received notable honors.

68th National Film Awards 2022:

- ✓ Best Feature Film: Soorarai Pottru
- ✓ Best Director: Sachidanandan KR, Ayyappanum Koshiyum
- ✓ Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: Tanhaji
- ✓ Best Actor: Suriya for Soorarai Pottru and Ajay Devgn for Tanhaji
- ✓ Best Actress: Aparna Balamurali, Soorarai Pottru
- ✓ Best Supporting Actor: Biju Menon, Ayyappanum Koshiyum
- ✓ Best Supporting Actress: Lakshmi Priya Chandramouli, Sivaranjanikum Innam Sila Pengallum
- ✓ Best Action Direction Award: AK Ayyappanum Koshiyum
- ✓ Best Choreography: Natyam (Telugu)
- ✓ Best Lyrics: Manoj Muntashir for Saina (Hindi)
- ✓ Best Male Playback Singer: Rahul Deshpande for Mi Vasantao and Anish Mangesh Gosavi for Taktak
- ✓ Best Female Playback Singer: Nanchamma, Ayyappanum Koshiyum

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- ✓ Best Music Direction: Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo, S Thaman
- ✓ Best film on Social Issues: 'Justice Delayed but Delivered & Three Sisters
- ✓ Best Choreography: Natyam
- ✓ Best Cinematography: Avijatrik
- ✓ Best Audiography: Dollu, Mi Vasantryao, and Malik
- ✓ Best Costume Design: Tanhaji
- ✓ Best Production Design: Kappela
- ✓ Best Editing: Sivaranjiniyum Innum Sila Pengalum
- ✓ Best Make-up: Natyam
- ✓ Best Screenplay: Soorairai Pottru, Sudha Kongara, and Mandela, Madonne Ashwin
- ✓ Best Stunt Choreography: Ayyappanum Koshiyum

Special Jury Award:

- ✓ Best Feature Film in Hindi: Toolsidas Junior
- ✓ Best Feature Film in Kannada: Dollu
- ✓ Best Feature Film in Malayalam: Thinkalazhcha Nishchayam
- ✓ Best Feature Film in Tamil: Sivaranjiniyum Innum Sila Pengalum
- ✓ Best Feature Film in Telugu: Colour Photo
- ✓ Best Feature Film in Haryanvi: Dada Lakhmi
- ✓ Best Feature Film in Dimasa: Samkhor
- ✓ Best Feature Film in Tulu: Jeetige

Non-Feature Films:

- ✓ Best Film on Family Values: Kumkumarchan, Abhijeet Arvind Dalvi
- ✓ Best Direction: Oh That's Bhanu, RV Ramani
- ✓ Best Music Direction: 1232 kms – Marengge Toh Wahin Jaakar, Vishal Bhardwaj
- ✓ Best Cinematography: Sabdikunna Kalappa, Nikhil S Praveen
- ✓ Best Audiography: Pearl of the Desert, Ajit Singh Rathore
- ✓ Best Editing: Borderlands, Anadi Athaley
- ✓ Best Narration Voiceover: Rhapsody of Rains – Monsoons of Kerala, Shobha Tharoor
Srinivasan

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- ✓ Best On-Location Sound: Jadui Jangal, Sandeep Bhati, and Pradeep Lekhwar
- ✓ Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation
- ✓ Best Book on Cinema: The Longest Kiss by Kishwar Desai
- ✓ Best Book on Cinema (Special Mention): MT Anunahvungalude Pusthakam, Anoop Ramakrishnan, and Kali Paine Kalira Cinema by Surya Deo
- ✓ Best Film Critic: No winner this year.
- ✓ Most Film Friendly State: Madhya Pradesh

Feature Film Awards:

- ✓ Best Hindi Film: Toolsidas Junior
- ✓ Best Malayalam Film: Thinkalazcha Nishchayam
- ✓ Best Telugu Film: Colour Photo
- ✓ Best Bengali Film: Avijatrik
- ✓ Best Assamese Film: Bridge
- ✓ Best Tulu Film: Jeetige
- ✓ Best Tamil Film: Sivaranjaniyum Innum Sila Pengallum
- ✓ Best Marathi Film: Gostha Eka Paithanichi
- ✓ Best Kannada Film: Dollu
- ✓ Best Dimasa Film: Semkhor
- ✓ Best Haryanvi Film: Dada Lakhmi

Other Awards:

- The Most Film Friendly State award goes to **Madhya Pradesh** (Rajat Kamal & Certificate), while Uttarakhand (Certificate) and Uttar Pradesh (Certificate) are given Special Mention.
- The Odia book "Kali Paine Kalira Cinema" and the Malayalam book "MT Anunahvungalude Pusthakam" both receive special mentions in addition to Kishwar Desai's "The Longest Kiss," which receives Best Book on Cinema for the Year.

Kamal Haasan honored by the UAE obtains a Golden Visa:

- The United Arab Emirates has awarded the coveted Golden Visa to Kamal Haasan, a well-known name in Tamil film.
- Other people besides actor Kamal Hasan have received the Golden Visa.

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- Before Kamal Hasan, actors **Nasser, Mammooty, Mohanlal, Tovino Thomas, Parthiepan, Amala Paul, and Shah Rukh Khan** all won the award.

Key Points:

- The last time Kamal Haasan was seen, he was in the blockbuster hit **Vikram**.
- **Vikram**, directed by **Lokesh Kanagaraj**, stars **Kamal Haasan, Vijay Sethupathi, and Fahadh Faasil** among its major actors.
- **Kalidas Jayaram, Narain, Gayathrie, Vasanthi, and Santhana Bharathi** were among the supporting actors.
- The film was made by **Raaj Kamal Films International**, and it was shown in Tamil Nadu by **Udhayanidhi Stalin's Red Giant Movies**.

About UAE Golden Visa:

- The **UAE Golden Visa program** offers extended residency visas that are **valid for five to 10 years**.
- The visa is continuously renewed.
- It is offered to professionals, investors, and people with prospective capabilities in addition to exceptional achievers across a range of industries.
- For individuals who are already UAE citizens, the price of the Golden Visa ranges from AED 2,800 to AED 3,800.
- For applicants outside of the UAE, the cost of the Golden Visa ranges from AED 3,800 to AED 4,800.
- The price will change depending on the service and visa status.

Gen. Naravane and former US Defense Secretary honored for fostering Indo-US relations:

- **General Manoj Mukund Naravane**, a former head of the **Indian Army**, has received recognition from the **US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)** for his efforts to **strengthen ties between India and the US**.
- Along with **Naravane, Jim Mattis, a former US Defense Secretary General**, also received the public service award.
- Those who made a major contribution to strengthening ties between the US and India received awards from the USISPF for public service and global leadership.

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Key Points:

- While serving as the Defense Secretary, General Mattis made an effort to secure India as a strategic partner for the US.
- While serving as the Chief of Staff of the Indian Army, Gen. Naravane allegedly strengthened defense partnerships and expanded cooperation between the US and India.
- On April 30, Gen. Naravane announced his retirement, and since then, he has moved into his newly designated home in Delhi Cantonment.
- Naravane had the distinction of holding significant command and staff roles in both peace and conflict, in the North-East and Jammu & Kashmir, throughout his remarkable four-decade military career.
- He also participated in the Indian Peace Keeping Force's mission in Sri Lanka.
- Former Indian Army Chief was Inspector General of the Assam Rifles (North), headed a Strike Corps in the Western Theatre, established an Infantry Brigade, and oversaw a Rashtriya Rifles Battalion.
- His staff positions included spells as a Brigade Major of an Infantry Brigade, Defence Attache in Yangon, Myanmar, and Directing Staff in the Higher Command Wing at the Army War College, in addition to two terms at the Integrated Headquarters of MoD (Army), New Delhi.

NTPC recognized as the Most Preferred Workplace of 2022:

- NTPC has been recognized as one of the “Most Preferred Workplaces of 2022” in the premiere edition of “Most Preferred Workplace 2022” organized by Team Marksman in association with India
- Dilip Kumar Patel, Director (HR), Munish Johri, Raid (West-1), and Anil Kumar Jadli GM HR received the felicitated award at a function held in Mumbai.

Key Points:

- The award showcases and celebrates organizations that have managed to maximize organizational performance as well as employee well-being, engagement, and productivity.
- It highlights organizations that have been particularly successful in their overall reorientation of the business landscape and have also seen them create an employee experience that is

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meaningful, collaborative, and motivating, putting only the needs of the employees first and the core of the business.

- Creating a caring, learning, and engaging workplace by adopting strategically aligned people practices for
- **Organizations are rated on parameters** such as employee centricity, organizational objectives, intrapreneurial ecosystem, work flexibility, diversity and equity, growth and rewards, and social cohesion.

Professor Kaushik Rajashekara won Global Energy Prize 2022:

- **Mr. Kaushik Rajashekara**, an Indian-origin engineering professor at the **University of Houston**, has been awarded the renowned **Global Energy Prize**.
- Rajashekara received the prize in the category of **New Ways of Energy Applications** for his contributions to transportation electrification and energy efficiency technologies while lowering emissions from power generation.
- The event will take place on **October 12-14**, during **Russian Energy Week in Moscow**.
- **The Global Energy Association** selected just three persons from a record **119 nominations from 43 countries** to receive the award this year.
- Viktor Orlov, chief specialist of the Centre for Innovative Technologies (Rosatom in Russia) and pioneer in thermonuclear physics, and Mercuri Kanatzidis, professor of chemistry and materials science at Northwestern University and senior researcher at the Argonne National Laboratory, join Rajashekara as 2022 awardees.

About the Rajashekara:

- **Rajashekara was born in India** and grew up in a tiny hamlet in South India, sharing a room with his parents and two brothers.
- Even though none of his parents had a formal education, his mother was adamant that her children would excel in whatever they did.
- From 1971 to 1984, he got his **B.Eng., M. Eng., and Ph.D.** degrees from the **Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore**.

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- He served as an assistant professor/senior scientific officer at the Indian Institute of Science from 1977 to 1984 before earning an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University in the United States in 1992.

Volodymyr Zelensky was awarded the Winston Churchill Leadership Award from the International Churchill Society:

- **International Churchill Society** recognizes the extraordinary personal leadership and bravery of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy by presenting him with The Sir Winston Churchill Leadership Award.
- Joined by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, members of the Churchill family, and International Churchill Society Chairman Laurence Geller, President Zelenskyy accepted the award virtually at an event in Downing Street alongside the **Ukrainian Ambassador, Vadym Prystaiko**.
- This prestigious award recognizes individuals that have demonstrated extraordinary leadership characterized by wartime leader Sir Winston Churchill.

About International Churchill Society:

- The **International Churchill Society (ICS)**, founded in 1968 shortly after Churchill's death, is the world's preeminent member organization dedicated to preserving the historic legacy of Sir Winston Churchill.

Roshni Nadar was re-elected as India's richest woman for a second consecutive year:

- According to the third edition of the 'Kotak Private Banking Hurun - Leading Wealthy Women List,' HCL Technologies Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra has held her position as India's richest woman for the second year in a row.
- Roshni Nadar's total net worth was Rs 84,330 crore.
- Roshni Nadar was followed by Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar, who surpassed Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw with a total value of Rs 57,520 crore.
- Falguni Nayar is the ninth richest self-made woman in the world.
- The report highlighted those 25 new faces have made it to the list.
- The other key highlights of the report include that the average wealth of women in 2021 went up to Rs 4,170 crore as against Rs 2,725 crore in the last edition of the list.

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Rank	Name	Company	Wealth/Networth (INR)
1	Roshni Nadar Malhotra	HCL	84,330 crore
2	Falguni Nayar	Nykaa	57,520 crore
3	Kiran Mazumdar Shaw	Biocon	29,030 crore
4	Nilima Motaparti	Divi's Laboratories	28,180 crore
5	Radha Vembu	Zoho	26,260 crore
6	Leena Gandhi Tewari	USV	24,280 crore
7	Anu Aga and Meher Pudumjee	Thermax	14,530 crore
8	Neha Narkhede	Confluent	13,380 crore
9	Vandana Lal	Dr. Lal PathLabs	6,810 crore
10	Renu Munjal	Hero FinCorp	6,620 crore

DSF institutes "Dinesh Shahra Lifetime Award for Excellence" in Music:

- The Dinesh Shahra Foundation (DSF) has made significant progress in its mission to popularise soulful Indian music.
- A first-of-its-kind "Dinesh Shahra Lifetime Award" for Excellence in Music has been established by the Foundation.
- The Indian Arts & Cultural Society is in favor of the project.

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- **Mr. Dinesh Shahra, Trustee -DSF**, recently announced this novel's recognition during a cultural event called "Mausiqui" in Mumbai.
- DSF, as a part of its mission to create a value-based social structure, has taken up the cause of supporting senior artists in cooperation with the Indian Arts & Cultural Society.
- Apart from a trophy or memento, the recognition will also include a significant cash component

IMPORTANT DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissions Advanced Light Helicopter MK III squadron at Porbandar

- The Indian Coast Guard(ICG) commissioned the indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) squadron MK-III (CG)-835 at Porbandar port in Gujarat.
- Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III squadron was commissioned by **DG-ICG Mr. Virendra Singh Pathania** & commanded by **Commandant Sunil Dutt** and manned by 10 officers and 52 men.
- Till now **13 ALH MK III aircraft** have been inducted into the ICG in a phased manner, and 4 of these are positioned at Porbandar, Gujarat.

About ALHMK III squadron :

- ALH MK III helicopters have been indigenously manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
- The squadron has flown over **1,200 hours** and conducted numerous operational missions, including the maiden night search and rescue mission off the Diu coast.
- It features state-of-the-art equipment, including advanced RADAR as well as electro-optical sensors, Shakti engines, a Full-glass cockpit, a High-intensity searchlight, Advanced communication systems, an Automatic identification system, and Search-and-rescue (SAR) homer.
- These features enable them to undertake maritime reconnaissance and carry out search and rescue at extended ranges even while operating from ships, both by day and night.
- The aircraft can switch roles from being an offensive platform with a heavy machine gun to that of one carrying a medical intensive care unit to facilitate the transfer of critically ill patients.

About ICG :

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- Founded: 1 February 1977 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India.
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director-General: Virender Singh Pathania
- The Coast Guard works in close cooperation with the Indian Navy, the Department of Fisheries, the Department of Revenue (Customs), and the Central and State police forces.
- It operates under the Ministry of Defence

Indigenously developed Laser-Guided ATGM successfully tested by DRDO & Indian Army

- The Indigenously-developed Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) was successfully test-fired from Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Army at KK Ranges near Ahmednagar, Maharashtra with the support of Armoured Corps Centre & School (ACC&S).
- It is developed by 2 Pune-based facilities of the DRDO's Armament and Combat Engineering (ACE) Cluster the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) in association with Instruments Research and Development Establishment (IRDE), Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

About Laser-Guided ATGM :

- The ATGM has been developed with multi-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from the 120 mm rifled gun of MBT Arjun.
- With the trial, the ATGM's capability to engage targets from minimum to maximum range has been established.
- The successful development of laser-guided ATGM will enhance the firepower of the MBT Arjun.
- The ATGM uses a 'tandem' High Explosive Anti Tank (HEAT) warhead.
- It can defeat the protected armored vehicles in ranges from 1.5 to 5 kilometers which use Explosive Reactive Armours (ERA)
- The term tandem refers to the missiles using more than one detonation to effectively penetrate the protective armors of the adversary tanks.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt

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- Defence Secretary: Dr. Ajay Kumar

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) launches Centralized Payment System “PADMA”

- Payroll Automation for Disbursement of Monthly Allowances (PADMA), an automated Pay & Allowances module for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was inaugurated by Shri Rajnish Kumar, Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Ministry of Defence

About PADMA :

- PADMA is an automated platform or Centralized Pay System (CPS).
- It leverages the latest technology which will provide seamless and timely disbursal of pay and allowances to around 15,000 ICG personnel.
- This module has been developed under the aegis of the Defense Accounts Department and will be operated by the Pay Accounts Office Coast Guard, Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- The PayRoll Automation for Disbursement of Monthly Allowances system will strengthen the Digital India concept.
- It is an ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ initiative because the whole module has been designed and developed by Indian entrepreneurs.
- The CPS one-stop pay accounting solutions for all organizations under the MoD.

About ICG :

- Founded: 1 February 1977 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India.
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Director-General: Virender Singh Pathania
- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is the maritime law enforcement and search and rescue agency of India.
- It operates under the Ministry of Defence.

About CGDA :

- CGDA is the head of the Defence Accounts Department.
- CGDA works under the Ministry of Defence.
- It functions as a cadre controlling authority of the Indian Defence Accounts Services

About Ministry of Defence :

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- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Secretary: Ajay Kumar

DRDO conducts successful maiden flight of Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully carried out the maiden flight of the **Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator** from the **Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga, Karnataka**.
- The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle is designed and developed by **Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru**, a premier research laboratory of DRDO.
- It is a major achievement toward autonomous aircraft and will pave the way for 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' in terms of critical military systems.
- It is powered by a **small turbofan engine**.
- The airframe, undercarriage, and entire flight control and avionics systems used for the aircraft had been developed indigenously.

About DRDO :

- Founded: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy
- DRDO is the premier agency under the Department of Defence Research and Development in the Ministry of Defence of the GoI.

INS Satpura & P8I maritime patrol aircraft arrive at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii to Participate in Rimpac-22

- **INS Satpura** and one **P8I maritime patrol aircraft** from the Indian Navy are participating in one of the largest multilateral Naval Exercises, the **US Navy-led biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise 2022**.

About INS Satpura :

- **INS Satpura** is an indigenously designed and built **6000-tonne guided missile stealth frigate** equipped to seek and destroy adversaries in air, surface, and underwater.
- It is currently on an extended operational deployment in the **75th year of India's Independence**.

About P8I maritime patrol aircraft :

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- P-8I is a long-range, multi-mission maritime patrol aircraft manufactured by Boeing for the Indian Navy.
- It replaced the aging fleet of the Indian Navy's Tupolev Tu-142 aircraft.
- It is a variant of the P-8A Poseidon multimission maritime aircraft (MMA) operated by the US Navy.
- It was designed to protect the coastline and territorial waters of India.
- It can conduct anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (AsuW), intelligence, maritime patrol, and surveillance and reconnaissance missions.

Virgin Orbit Rocket Launches 7 US Defense Satellites

- A Virgin Orbit rocket carrying seven U.S. Defense Department satellites was launched from a special Boeing 747 flying off the Southern California coast and streaked toward space.
- The modified jumbo jet took off from Mojave Air and Space Port in the Mojave Desert and released the rocket over the Pacific Ocean, northwest of Los Angeles.
- The launch was procured by the U.S. Space Force for a Defense Department test program & the 7 payloads will conduct various experiments.
- Virgin Orbit named the mission "Straight Up" after the hit on Paula Abdul's debut studio album "Forever Your Girl," which was released through Virgin Records in 1988.
- In late 2022, Virgin Orbit will launch 2 satellites on a mission flying out of Newquay Airport in Cornwall, England.
- The satellites will conduct radio signal monitoring tests in a joint project of the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defense and the U.S. National Reconnaissance Office.

About Virgin Orbit:

- Founded: March 2, 2017
- Headquarters: Long Beach, California, United States
- Founder: Richard Branson
- President & CEO: Dan Hart

Indian Army Organizes Suraksha Manthan-2022

- The Desert Corps of the Indian Army organized the "Suraksha Manthan 2022", on aspects of Border & Coastal Security at Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

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- The manthan was jointly presided over by **Shri Pankaj Kumar Singh**, IPS, Director General Border Security Force (BSF), Director General **VS Pathania**, Indian Coast Guard, and Lieutenant General **Rakesh Kapoor**, General Officer Commanding Desert Corps, and attended by serving officers of the Army, BSF, and Coast Guard.
- During the discussions, aspects of interoperability, operational cohesion, and logistics were ironed out to enhance overall security along the **International Boundary (IB)** and coastal sectors.
- A joint training calendar was also formulated to achieve a **higher degree of interoperability** and jointness amongst the security forces.
- Current security threats and challenges, along with joint mitigation response, were deliberated upon and such scenarios would now form part of the forthcoming exercises.
- It was further decided to create an enabling security environment and develop a tangible capability development road map.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Ajay Kumar

Indian Navy commissions the first ALH Squadron INAS 324 in Visakhapatnam

- The Indian Naval Air Squadron 324, (INAS 324), was commissioned into the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam to boost its maritime surveillance in the presence of **Vice-Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta**, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.
- It is the **first naval squadron** on the eastern seaboard operating the indigenously designed and built **advanced light helicopter (ALH) Dhruv MK III** helicopters.
- The INAS 324 Squadron is being commanded by Commander **SS Dash**, who is a highly experienced ALH Qualified Flying Instructor and has extensive operational experience.

About INAS 324 :

- INAS 324 has been named "**KESTRELS**", which are birds of prey and have good sensory capabilities, symbolizing the envisaged role of the aircraft and the air squadron

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- The insignia of the squadron depicts a "KESTREL" searching over vast blue and white sea waves, which signifies the integral maritime reconnaissance and **search-and-rescue (SAR)** role.
- These helicopters are indigenously designed and built by state-owned **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
- The ALH MK III helicopters are fitted with state-of-the-art equipment which includes modern surveillance radar and electro-optical sensors.
- These helicopters can also be deployed for **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** operations as well as special operations with Marine Commandos.
- The helicopter also has an airborne **Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU)** for use in the air ambulance role to facilitate the medical evacuation of critically ill patients.

About the Indian Navy :

- Founded: 26 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral R. Hari Kumar
- Vice Chief of the Naval Staff: Vice Admiral Satish Namdeo Ghormade

Akasa Air gets air operator certificate from DGCA

- Billionaire investor Mr. Rakesh Juhunjunwala-owned Akasa airline received its **air operator certificate (AOC)** from the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**.
- The airline will start its operations at the **end of July 2022**.
- The airline inducted its **first Boeing 737 Max aircraft in June 2022**.
- It plans to start its service, connecting metro cities with tier II and III cities, after adding its second aircraft.
- By the end of the fiscal year 2022-23, the airline will have inducted **18 aircraft** and thereafter **12-14 aircraft every 12 months**, which will make up its order of **72 delivered over five years**

About Akasa Air:

- Founded: December 2021

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- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- CEO: Vinay Dubey
- Akasa Air, a brand of SNV Aviation Private Limited, is an **Indian low-cost airline**.

The US successfully tests pair of Lockheed hypersonic missiles

- The **United States** successfully tested two Lockheed Martin Corp hypersonic missiles amid growing concerns **Russia** and **China** have had more success developing their hypersonic weapons.

About the 2 Lockheed Martin Corp hypersonic missiles :

Missile 1 :

- The U.S. Air Force confirmed it successfully tested its **Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW)** booster off the California coast.
- The booster was carried into the air under the wing of a **B-52H** before it was launched.
- Hypersonic weapons travel in the upper atmosphere at more than five times the speed of sound or about **6,200 km (3,853 miles) per hour**.

Missile 2 :

- The **Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)** successfully carried out the first test of its Operational Fires hypersonic weapon at White Sands Missile Range in **New Mexico**.
- One of Lockheed Martin's concepts for the DARPA weapon is to use an exciting **High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS)** launcher.
- Notably, Operational Fire is a **ground-launched system**.
- It can precisely engage critical, time-sensitive targets and can penetrate modern air defenses of the enemy.
- In 2022, DARPA received **USD 45 million** for OpFires tests.

About the US :

- President: Joe Biden
- Capital: Washington, D.C
- Currency: U.S. dollar

About Lockheed Martin Corporation :

- Founded: March 15, 1995

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- Headquarters: Bethesda, Maryland, U.S
- Chairman, President, and CEO: James D. Taiclet

Ministry of Defence sets up an Apex Committee for Performance and Efficiency Audit

- The **Ministry of Defence** has set up an institutional mechanism consisting of an Apex committee with the **Defence Secretary as Chairman** to conduct a Performance and Efficiency Audit into various aspects of its activities.

About the Committee :

- The committee is headed by **defense secretary Ajay Kumar, IAS**.
- The members of the committee include **Vice Chiefs of the three Services, Secretary of Defence (Finance), Chief of Integrated Staff Committee (CISC), Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Director General (Acquisition),** and other senior officials of **Ministry of Defence and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- The Committee will identify specific areas for the conduct of performance and audit by CGDA and monitor performance audit reports
- It provides valuable inputs to the top management of the Ministry of specific shortcomings, if any, in the planning and execution of projects, and suggests systemic improvements in internal controls, soundness of financial procedures, identification of risk factors, etc.
- The broad areas that have been identified for the conduct of Performance and Efficiency Audit include Defence Capital Procurements, provisioning, logistics, inventory levels, Maintenance of platforms/ assets, role and performance of **Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP)**, etc.
- The Apex committee can recommend any other **specific area for Performance and Efficiency Audit**.
- It also shall advise **Raksha Mantri** on remedial measures to be adopted as well as measures for overall improvement in the strengthening of internal oversight and Risk Management Framework.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Dr. Ajay Kumar

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Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh Launches Y-3023 Dunagiri, Project 17A frigate at GRSE Ltd in Kolkata

- Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched Y- 3023 Dunagiri, Project 17A frigate built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of Naval Staff, and other senior officers from the Indian Navy and Ministry of Defence were amongst the dignitaries who attended the ceremony.
- Dunagiri is the fourth ship of P 17A Frigates.
- It has been designed in-house by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND), New Delhi.

About Project 17A ships :

- P17A Frigates are a follow-on class of the P17 (Shivalik Class) Frigates with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors, and platform management systems
- Seven P17A Frigates are under various stages of construction at Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) and GRSE, namely Nilgiri, Himgiri, Taragiri, Udaygiri, Dunagiri, and Vindhyagiri, Mahendragiri.
- The three preceding ships of Project 17A Frigates had been launched in 2019, 2020, and May 2022 respectively.

About Dunagiri :

- Dunagiri is the reincarnation of the erstwhile 'Dunagiri', the Leander Class ASW Frigate, which in her 33 years of service from 5 May 1977 to 20 October 2010, had witnessed various challenging operations and multinational exercises.

About GRSE Ltd :

- Founded: 1884
- Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal, India
- Chairman & MD: Cmde P R Hari
- The company was nationalized by the Government of India in 1960.
- It is the first Indian shipyard to build 100 warships.

INS Sindhuvaj submarine decommissioned after 35 years of service at Visakhapatnam

- The Indian Navy's submarine INS Sindhuvaj was decommissioned by the Indian Navy after 35 years of service in Visakhapatnam.

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- Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command was the **Chief Guest** for the ceremony.
- The Decommissioning event was attended by **15** of the former Commanding Officers including Cmde SP Singh (Retd), the Commissioning CO, and 26 Commissioning crew veterans.
- With the decommissioning of the INS Sindhudhvaj, the number of Kilo-class boats in the navy's fleet is down to **7** from the initial 10 units.

About INS Sindhudhvaj :

- INS Sindhudhvaj means **flag-bearer at sea**.
- The submarine crest depicts a **grey color nurse shark**.
- INS Sindhudhvaj also successfully undertook mating and personnel transfer with **Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel**.

About Sindhughosh-class submarines :

- Sindhughosh-class submarines are **diesel-electric submarines from Kilo-class**.
- It displaces **3,000 tonnes**, can dive to a **depth of 300 meters**, have a **top speed of 18 knots**, and can operate solo for **45 days** with a **crew of 53**.
- It was the **only submarine** to be awarded the **CNS Rolling trophy for Innovation** by the **Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**
- The Sindhudhvaj submarine had many firsts during its service, including operationalization of the indigenised sonar USHUS, Indigenised Satellite Communication systems Rukmani and MSS, Inertial Navigation System, and Indigenised Torpedo Fire Control System.
- The first submarine from the batch, **INS Kalvari**, was commissioned in **December 2017** while the sixth and final Scorpene-class submarine **INS Vagsheer** was launched in **April 2022**.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Dr. Ajay Kumar

About the Indian Navy :

- Established: 26 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India

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- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral R. Hari Kumar

ITBP creates 1st mountain-warfare training school in NE

- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has created its **first mountain-warfare training center** in northeast India (Sikkim).
- The training center is the **ITBP's second overall center** to skill its troops in high-altitude combat and survival tactics as part of their mandate to guard the Line of Actual Control with China.
- The center is being commanded by ITBP Commandant and ace mountaineer **Ratan Singh Sonal**, who has led numerous expeditions and rescue missions in the hills.
- The facility has come almost five decades after the establishment of its **first** such school called **mountaineering and skiing institute (M&SI)** during 1973-74 at Auli near Joshimath.

About mountain-warfare training center :

- The new center has been established in **remote Dombang**, abutting the LAC, and is located at a height of **10,040 ft** in Sikkim sharing a **220 km** front of the India-China LAC.
- The Dombang center has an ideal mountainous and rocky terrain and its glacier training area are spread across a height of **14,000-17,000 feet**.

Purpose :

- To enhance the capacity to train newly recruited and serving troops in mountain warfare, rock climbing, high-altitude survival, and patrol even as the need to have one more facility than Auli was being felt for long, given the increasing engagement of its troops with the Chinese PLA over the recent years.

Additional Info :

- The M&SI is located at a height of more than **9,000 ft** in the **Himalayan ranges of Uttarakhand** and has trained thousands of ITBP, army, Air Force, and other security personnel in this domain and that for adventure sports.

PM Shri Narendra Modi Unveils 'SPRINT Challenges' For Indian Navy in New Delhi

- Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi** unveiled 'SPRINT challenges', during Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organization (NIIO) seminar 'Swavlamban'(self-reliance) in New Delhi, Delhi to engage Indian industry and academia towards achieving self-reliance in the defense sector.

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Aim :

- To boost the usage of indigenous technology in the Indian Navy.
- The seminar was organized by the **Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO)** and the **Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM)**.
- This collaborative project is named **SPRINT - Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence)**, NIIO, and TDAC (Technology Development Acceleration Cell).

About the Seminar :

- The seminar will provide a platform for leaders from Industry, Academia, Services, and Government to come together on a common platform to ideate and come up with recommendations for the Defence Sector.
- Sessions dedicated to Innovation, Indigenisation, Armament, and Aviation will be held.
- The second day of the Seminar will witness outreach to the Indian Ocean Region, in line with the government's vision of SAGAR
- The NIIO, in cooperation with the **Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)**, aims to induct at least **75 new indigenous technologies/products** into the Indian Navy in sync with 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' commemorating 75 years of the country's Independence.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Ajay Kumar

About ITBP :

- Established: 1962
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director General: Sanjay Arora
- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) is **India's primary border patrol organization** for its border with China's Tibet Autonomous Region.
- It is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces of India.

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Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launches 75 Artificial Intelligence products/technologies during the first-ever 'AI in Defence' symposium & exhibition in New Delhi

- Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched 75 newly-developed Artificial Intelligence (AI) products/technologies during the first-ever 'AI in Defence' (AIDef) symposium and exhibition, organized by the Ministry of Defence in New Delhi, Delhi, India.
- The products launched as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations fall under various domains.

About the various domains :

- These include AI Platform Automation; Autonomous/Unmanned/Robotics systems; Block Chain-based Automation; Command, Control, Communication, Computer & Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance; Cyber Security; Human Behavioural Analysis; Intelligent Monitoring Systems; Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems; Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Operational Data Analytics; Manufacturing and Maintenance; Simulators/Test Equipment and speech/voice analysis using Natural Language Processing.
- **Three AI products** developed by the DPSUs have dual-use applications and good market potential, namely
 1. AI-enabled Voice Transcription/Analysis software developed by Bharat Electronics Limited
 2. Driver Fatigue Monitoring System developed by Bharat Earth Movers Limited
 3. AI-enabled evaluation of Welding defects in X-rays of Non-destructive Testing developed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers were screened during the event.
- The Raksha Mantri released the physical as well as e-version of the book comprising the details of these 75 products, showcasing the collective efforts put on by the Services, Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), iDEX start-ups and the private industry in last four years in the field of AI.

Raksha Niryat Ratna awards 2020-21 :

- In consonance with the vision of MoD to achieve defense exports of Rs 35,000 crore by 2025 and provide a boost to the domestic industry, 'Raksha Niryat Ratna' awards were conferred on
 1. Bharat Electronics Limited from the public sector
 2. Indo-MIM from the private sector for achieving the highest defense exports in recent years.

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- The top 3 students of the 'GenNext AI' Solutions Competition, which was organized to get bright innovative ideas on futuristic AI solutions, were also felicitated by the Raksha Mantri.
- **3-panel discussions** were also organized to stimulate new ideas in the field of AI in Defence, with active participation from the Services, academia, students, research organizations, and industry.
- An exhibition was organized which provided a unique opportunity for innovators to display their capabilities, products, and state-of-the-art technologies.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Dr. Ajay Kumar

India & Japan Navies conducts maritime partnership exercise in the Andaman Sea

- A **Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)** was conducted between **Japan Maritime Self Defense Force** and **Indian Navy** in the **Andaman Sea**.

Aim :

- To enhance interoperability and streamline seamanship and communication procedures.
- This exercise is part of the ongoing efforts between the two navies toward ensuring safe and secure international shipping and trade in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**
- From India, an offshore patrol vessel **INS Sukanya** participated and from Japan **JS Samidare**, a Murasame class destroyer undertook various exercises including seamanship activities, aircraft operations, and tactical maneuvers as part of the operational interaction.
- India – Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise, **JIMEX**, between the Indian Navy (IN) and the **Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF)**, which commenced in January 2012, has a special focus on maritime security cooperation.
- The last exercise was held in the Arabian Sea from **October 6-8, 2021**.

About the Indian Navy :

- Founded: 26 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Commander-in-Chief: President Droupadi Murmu

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- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral R. Hari Kumar

About Japan :

- Prime minister: Fumio Kishida
- Capital: Tokyo
- Currency: Japanese yen

Indian Navy receives 1st indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant from Cochin Shipyard Limited

- The Indian Navy received the country's first indigenously built aircraft carrier 'Vikrant' from its manufacturer, Cochin Shipyard Limited in Kochi.
- Vikrant has been designed by the Indian Navy's in-house Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, a Public Sector Shipyard under the Ministry of Shipping (MoS).
- The aircraft carrier is likely to be commissioned on August 15, 2022.
- With an overall indigenous content of 76 percent, IAC is a perfect example of Atma nirbhar Bharat and provides thrust to Government's 'Make in India' initiative.
- With the delivery of Vikrant, India has joined a select group of nations having the niche capability to indigenously design and build an aircraft carrier.
- The carrier is christened after her illustrious predecessor, India's first aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, which played a vital role in the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war.
- Once the IAC Vikrant is commissioned in the Indian Navy, it will be the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Vikrant that would bolster India's position in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and its quest for a blue water Navy.

About Vikrant :

- The aircraft carrier was built at a cost of around Rs 20,000 crore.

Features of Vikrant :

- It has a full displacement of close to 45,000 tonnes which is much larger and more advanced than her predecessor.
- The ship is powered by four gas turbines totaling 88 MW of power and has a maximum speed of 28 knots (56 km/hr;35 mph) and a cruising speed of 18 knots with an endurance of about 8,000 nautical miles (15,000 km; 9,200 mi)

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- The IAC is **262 meters** long, and **62 meters** wide and it has a height of **59 meters**.
- Its construction began in **2009**.
- The IAC project has been implemented under the **three phases** of a contract between the ministry of defense and Cochin Shipyard Ltd, concluded in **May 2007, Dec 2014, and Oct 2019** respectively.
- The warship will operate **30 aircraft** including Russian MiG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31 helicopters, and MH-60R multi-role helicopters.
- It has over **2,300 compartments**, designed for a crew of around 1700 people, including specialized cabins to accommodate women officers.

MoD approves arms procurement proposals worth Rs 28,732 cr

- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** headed by **Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh** approved arms procurement proposals worth a total of **Rs 28,732 crore**, including bulletproof jackets, carbines, and swarm drones under **Buy Indian Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured (IDDM)** and **Buy Indian** categories
- This will provide a further boost to **'AtmaNirbharta'** in Defence.
- These proposals will enhance the overall combat prowess of the armed forces along the northern and western borders.

List of Arms Received Approval from DAC :

- Bulletproof jackets
- Close quarter battle carbines
- Autonomous surveillance and armed drone swarms.

Bulletproof jackets :

- The council approved bulletproof jackets with **Indian Standard BIS VI level** of protection because of the threat of enemy snipers to troops deployed along the **Line of Control**.

Close quarter battle carbines :

- The approval to procure **4 lakh close-quarter battle carbines** was granted to combat the current complex paradigm of conventional and hybrid warfare” and terrorism at the borders.

Autonomous surveillance and armed drone swarms :

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- The DAC has approved the Navy's proposal to procure an upgraded **1,250-KW capacity marine gas turbine generator** for power generation application onboard the Kolkata class of ships through the Indian industry.
- This will give a major boost to the indigenous manufacturing of gas turbine generators.
- DAC also approved the proposal of procurement of **14 Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs)** for the Indian Coast Guard under the Buy (Indian-IDDMM) with 60 percent indigenous content.

About MoD :

- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Dr. Ajay Kumar

Indian Navy receives two MH-60 R multirole helicopters from the US

- Indian Navy receives **two MH-60 R multirole helicopters - Romeo helicopters** from the **United States at Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL), Kerala.**
- The **third helicopter** is scheduled to be delivered in **August 2022.**
- The delivery of all 24 MH 60R helicopters will be completed by **2025.**

About MH-60 Romeo :

- MH-60R helicopter manufactured by **Lockheed Martin Corporation** is an all-weather helicopter designed to support multiple missions with state-of-the-art avionics and sensors.
- India is procuring the choppers as part of an around **Rs 15,000-crore deal** with the US government under the framework of foreign military sales.
- The **first three MH 60 'Romeo' helicopters** were delivered in the **US in 2021** and are being used for training the Indian Navy crew.
- The induction of state-of-the-art mission-capable platforms will significantly boost the integral anti-submarine warfare capability of the Indian Navy

Additional Info :

- The **United States Department of State** has approved the **sale of 24 MH-60R multi-mission helicopters** to India under its **Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program** & the value of the potential is **USD 2.6 billion.**

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- The approval was made to improve the security of a major defensive partner in the Indo-Pacific region.

About the Indian Navy :

- Founded: 26 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Commander-in-Chief: President Droupadi Murmu
- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral R. Hari Kumar

About the US :

- President: Joe Biden
- Capital: Washington, D.C.
- Currency: United States Dollar

IMPORTANT SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

National Conference on Food and Nutrition Security in India to be held:

- The **Department of Food and Public Distribution** will organize a **National Conference on - Food and Nutrition Security** in India in **New Delhi**.
- The conference is aimed at facilitating cross-learning, disseminating best practices for schemes under Public Distribution System, and strengthening the focus on nutritional security.
- Consumer Affairs Minister **Shri Piyush Goyal** will address the one-day conference.

Highlights:

- The key highlights of the conference will include the discussion on **Food Fortification, Diversification of Food baskets, Crop Diversification, and Reforms in the PDS and Storage sector.**
- The conference will serve as a platform to reflect upon the challenges and opportunities in the true spirit of cooperative federalism for achieving the transformation of the food and nutrition security ecosystem in the country.

Mr. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi inaugurates Fifth Global Film Tourism Conclave:

- **Mr. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi**, Union Minister for Minority Affairs, formally opened the **fifth Global Film Tourism Conclave (GFTC)** at the Novotel Mumbai Juhu Beach in **Mumbai**

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- The Ph.D. Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) organized the fifth GFTC with the theme "Unleashing the Power of Cinematic Tourism" in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

Key Points:

- The GFTC provides a unique platform for Film Commissions, Tourism Boards, and Production Houses to advertise their locations, rewards, and services to the expanding Indian film industry.
- Film tourism is when a viewer is convinced to visit a certain location after seeing it in a movie.
- Mr. Naqvi claims that both Indian and foreign movies have made a big contribution to disseminating a timely message about the perils of terrorism, violence, and extremism.
- These films are necessary right now since they could not only be enjoyable but also have a big societal influence.
- The importance of the film sector and its contribution to the local, national, and global economies were also emphasized by the minister.
- At foreign box offices, the Indian film industry makes roughly Rs. 48 thousand crores.
- Shri Naqvi also commended the nation's producers, writers, actors, technicians, and directors for their efforts in introducing Indian films to international audiences.

Ministry of Mines hosts 6th National Conclave on Mines and Minerals:

- According to the Ministry of Mines, the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav epic week celebrations included the 6th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals.
- The symposium's primary guest was Shri Amit Shah, the Union Minister of Housing, who would be present at the Dr. Ambedkar International Center.

Attendees:

- In the presence of Minister of State for Mines, Coal, and Railways Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve, Secretary Ministry of Mines Shri Alok Tandon, and other top ministry officials, Union Minister of Mines, Coal, and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi formally launched the one-day conclave.

Key Highlights:

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- Some of the highlights of the conclave were the introduction of **three Mining Tenement System (MTS) modules**, rewards for 5-Star certified mines for the years 2020–21, and the **National Geo Science Awards–2019**.
- The awarding of the **Rashtriya Khanij Vikas Puraskar** at the national level to the States with the greatest mining performances was another highlight.
- A technical lecture from the **National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)** and a debate on mining automation was part of the conclave's opening session.
- The CEOs of various mining companies did come up with significant suggestions for India's mining sector during the round table discussions.

List of Ministers:

- Union Minister of Housing: Shri Amit Shah
- Union Minister of Mines, Coal, and Parliamentary Affairs: Shri Pralhad Joshi
- Minister of State for Mines, Coal, and Railways: Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve
- Secretary Ministry of Mines: Shri Alok Tandon

PM Narendra Modi attends first virtual I2U2 summit:

- The inaugural virtual **I2U2 Summit** was attended by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**.
- The I2U2 is a four-nation alliance, with "I" standing for India and Israel and "U" for the US and the UAE.
- Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid, US President Joe Biden, and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan were there with PM Modi.

Key Points:

- The food security crisis and sustainable energy were the primary topics of discussion during the virtual gathering.
- To combat food insecurity in South Asia and the Middle East, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) recently announced a **USD 2 billion commitment** to build several integrated food parks across India.
- The idea for this I2U2 alliance came up during the meeting of the four nations' foreign ministers on October 18, 2021.
- To address difficulties, I2U2 will bring together nations, governments, and the corporate sector.

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- For the construction of "food parks" around the nation in partnership with Israel, the United States, and the United Arab Emirates, India would supply "suitable land."
- The I2U2 Group also declared that it will support a "hybrid renewable energy project" in Gujarat, consisting of 300 megawatts (MW) of wind and solar capacity.
- The project is expected to be another step in India's quest for "500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030".

IMPORTANT SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA's CAPSTONE mission launches to the Moon

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) spacecraft, called Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System Technology Operations and Navigation Experiment (CAPSTONE), a lunar orbiter was successfully launched on Rocket Lab's Electron rocket from the Rocket Lab Launch Complex 1 on the Mahia Peninsula of New Zealand.
- The microwave-oven-sized CubeSat was designed and built by Tyvak Nano-Satellite Systems, a Terran Orbital Corporation.
- It will study a specific orbit where NASA plans to build a small space station for astronauts to stop before and after going to the moon's surface.

About CAPSTONE :

- CAPSTONE is a 12-unit CubeSat.
- It will test a navigation system that will measure its position relative to NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) without relying on ground stations.
- The spacecraft belongs to & will be managed by Advanced Space, a 45-employee company just outside of Denver.
- CAPSTONE is inexpensive, costing just less than \$30 million & performs calculations to determine 55-pound (25 Kilogram).
- CAPSTONE will provide data about operating in an NRHO and showcase key technologies.
- It is attached to Rocket Lab's Lunar Photon, an interplanetary third stage that will send CAPSTONE on its way to deep space.

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- The mission's Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System, developed by Advanced Space with support from NASA's Small Business Innovation Research program, is a spacecraft-to-spacecraft navigation and communications system that will work with NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter to determine the distance between the two lunar orbiting spacecraft.
- This technology could allow future spacecraft to determine their position in space without relying exclusively on tracking from Earth.

About NASA :

- Established: July 29, 1958
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C, United States
- Administrator: Bill Nelson

High-speed Expendable Aerial Target - ABHYAS - successfully flight-tested off the Odisha coast

- India successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT), ABHYAS, from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the Odisha coast.
- The performance of the aircraft at **low altitudes** including sustained level and high maneuverability was demonstrated during the test flight.

About ABHYAS :

- Abhyas is an original **Sanskrit word** for practice or preparatory exercise
- It is designed & developed by the **Aeronautical Development Establishment of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- It is designed for autonomous flying with the help of an autopilot, under development at ADE.
- It has **RCS, Visual, and IR augmentation** systems required for weapon practice.
- The air vehicle was launched using **twin** under-slung boosters which provide the initial acceleration to the vehicle.
- It is powered by a **small gas turbine engine** to sustain a long endurance flight at high subsonic speed.
- The aircraft is equipped with **Micro-Electromechanical Systems**-based Inertial Navigation System for navigation along with the Flight Control Computer for guidance and control along with Indigenous Radio Altimeter.

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- The target aircraft was flown from a ground-based controller in a pre-designated low-altitude flight path, which was monitored by various tracking sensors deployed by ITR, including radar and an electro-optical targeting system.

Recent News :

- Earlier in June 2022, **Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM)** was successfully flight-tested by the **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Indian Navy** from an Indian Naval Ship at **Integrated Test Range (ITR)**, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

ISRO successfully launches the PSLV C-53 rocket carrying 3 Singaporean satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota

- **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** launched the rocket **PSLV-C53**, carrying **three Singapore satellites DS-EO, NeuSAR, and SCOOB-1** in intended orbit from the **second launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**.
- The rocket placed the three customer satellites in the precise orbit of **570 km** with a **10-degree inclination**.
- This is the **55th mission of PSLV**, often described as ISRO's trusted workhorse, and the **15th one** using the **PSLV-Core Alone** variant.
- It also marks the **16th PSLV launch** from the **second launch pad**.

About PSLV-C53 :

- The PSLV-C53 is the second dedicated commercial mission of the space agency's commercial arm **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**.
- It is a **four-stage, 44.4 m tall PSLV-C53** that has a lift-off mass of **228.433 t**.
- The launch vehicle carried the **DS-EO satellite** along with two other co-passenger satellites.
- The mission proposes to demonstrate the utilization of the spent upper stage of the launch vehicle as a stabilized platform for scientific payloads after the separation of the satellites.
- The **PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM)** activity performs in-orbit scientific experiments using the spent **PS4 stage** as an orbital platform.
- It is the **first time** that the **PS4 stage** would orbit the earth as a stabilized platform.

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- POEM carries six payloads including two from Indian Space Start-ups M/s Digantara and M/s Dhruva Space, enabled through IN-SPACe and NSIL.

About 3 Singaporean Satellites :

About DS-EO :

- DS-EO, a 365 kg, and NeuSAR, a 155 kg satellite both belong to Singapore.
- PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM)DS-EO carries an Electro-Optic, multi-spectral payload that will provide full-color images for land classification, and serve Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief needs.

About NeuSAR:

- NeuSAR is Singapore's first small commercial satellite carrying a SAR payload, which is capable of providing images day and night and under all weather conditions.

About Scoob-1:

- Scoob-1 is a 2.8 kg satellite of Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore.
- It is the first satellite in the Student Satellite Series (S3-I), a hands-on student training program from the Satellite Research Center (SaRC) at Singapore's NTU School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

About ISRO :

- Established: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: Sreedhara Panicker Somanath
- ISRO is the national space agency of India.
- It operates under the Department of Space (DOS)

Iran launches Zuljanah a solid-fueled rocket into space

- Iran launched a solid-fuelled rocket named "Zuljanah" into space.

About Zuljanah :

- Zuljanah is an Iranian Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV) made by the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics (Iran).

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- It is the **first indigenously designed and indigenously manufactured hybrid fuel satellite launch vehicle**.
- It is capable of carrying a payload or satellite of **220 kilograms**, an orbit of 500 kilometers above the Earth.
- The satellite will gather data in low-earth orbit as well as promote Iran's space industry.
- Zuljanah is named for the **horse of Imam Hussein**, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad.
- It is the **third civilian Satellite Launch Vehicle** made in Iran, after the **Safir and Simorgh**.

Features of Zuljanah :

- Zuljanah measures **25.5 meters (84ft)** in length and has a mass of **52 tons (115,000lbs)**.
- The first and second stages utilize an identical **1.5m diameter solid-fuel engine** with **74 tons** of thrust and the third stage is a **Safir type 1.25m diameter liquid-fuel engine** with a thrust of **3.5 tons**.

About Iran :

- President: Ebrahim Raisi
- Capital: Tehran
- Currency: Iranian rial

India's first Autonomous Navigation Facility - TiHAN, launched at IIT Hyderabad

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology **Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the first-of-its-kind, state-of-the-art "**Autonomous Navigation**" facility **TiHAN (Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation)** to develop unmanned ground and aerial vehicles in the **IIT Hyderabad campus**.
- It is funded by the **Union Ministry of Science & Technology** with a budget of **Rs.130 crore**.
- **Dr. B.V.R. Mohan Reddy (Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Hyderabad)**, **Prof. B.S. Murty (Director, IIT Hyderabad)**, and senior officers, faculty, and students joined the event.
- Also, IIT Hyderabad has established a new Post-Graduation course of **M.Tech in "Smart Mobility"**, which is the first of its kind in India.

About TiHAN:

- TiHAN is a multidisciplinary initiative of **IIT Hyderabad**.

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- TiHAN Testbed will provide a unique platform for high-quality research between academia, industry, and R&D labs both at the national and international levels.
- One such initiative is the setting up of 25 technology innovation hubs by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** across the country under NM-ICPS.
- The testbed on Autonomous navigation (Aerial & Terrestrial) will allow us to test the next generation of autonomous navigation technologies accurately and allow faster technology development and global market penetration.
- It is developing and deploying a real-time CPS system utilizing autonomous UAVs and ground/surface vehicles for many application sectors of national importance.
- The testbed includes simulation platforms that allow for **non-destructive testing of algorithms and prototypes**
- In terrestrial systems, a few examples of these scenarios are Smart Cities, Signalised Intersections, Autonomous Vehicle Interactions with Cyclists and Pedestrians, Wireless Networking among vehicles, Road-Side Units, etc.
- It also provides dummy signboards, pedestrians, overpasses, and bikers to test all real-world conditions.
- Under this national mission, IIT Hyderabad has been awarded the Technology Innovation Hub in the technological vertical of ‘**Autonomous Navigation and Data Acquisition Systems (UAVs, ROVs. etc.)**’.
- **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)**, TiHAN is a multi-disciplinary initiative, including researchers from Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mathematics, Design, Liberal Arts, and Entrepreneurship at IIT Hyderabad.
- TiHAN is recognized as a **Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO)** by the **Department of Scientific and Industrial Research**.

DGDE develops AI-based software to protect defense land from illegal encroachments

- The **Center of Excellence on Satellite & Unmanned Remote Vehicle Initiative (CoE-SURVEI)** in collaboration with knowledge partner **Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC)**, Visakhapatnam has developed an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based software** to automatically detect changes on

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the ground, including unauthorized constructions and encroachments in a time series using Satellite Imagery.

- The CoE-SURVEI was established by **Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE)** at the **National Institute of Defence Estates Management** at Meerut Cantonment in Uttar Pradesh.
- Currently, the tool uses **National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC) Cartosat-3** imagery with trained software & the changes are detected by analyzing satellite imagery of different periods.

Background :

- The CoE was inaugurated by **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** on December 16, 2021.
- The CoE-SURVEI, established by Directorate General Defence Estates at National Institute of Defence Estates Management, leverages the latest technologies in survey viz. satellite imagery, drone imagery, and geo-spatial tools for effective land management and urban planning.

About AI-based software :

- The application has been used by CoE in **62 Cantonments** in the country.
- It enables Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Cantonment Boards to identify changes on the ground that are permanent and then enables them to check if such changes are authorized or without the due sanction of the competent authority.
- The software facilitates better control of unauthorized activities, ensures accountability of field staff, and helps in reducing corrupt practices.
- Out of 1,133 unauthorized changes detected, action was already taken in 570 cases & in the remaining 563 cases, wherever legal action is warranted.
- The CoE-SURVEI has also developed tools for vacant land analysis and 3D image analysis of hill cantonments for land management.
- By leveraging technology, it is trying to ensure optimum use of defense land through **Geographic Information System (GIS)**-based land management systems.

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of State: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Ajay Kumar

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IIT Madras develops the AI-based tool “PIVOT” to identify cancer-causing genes

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras(IIT Madras) Researchers have developed an Artificial Intelligence-based tool, ‘PIVOT’, designed to predict genes that are responsible for causing cancer in an individual.
- The research was led by Prof. Raghunathan Rengaswamy, Dean (Global Engagement), IIT Madras, and Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Madras, Dr. Karthik Raman, and Ms. MalvikaSudhakar, a Research Scholar, IIT Madras.
- The findings of the research have been published in a peer-reviewed journal **Frontier in Genetics**

Key Highlights :

- The tool is based on a **machine learning model** that classifies genes as tumor suppressor genes, oncogenes, or neutral genes.
- The tool was able to successfully predict both the **existing oncogenes** and **tumor-suppressor genes** like **TP53**, and **PIK3CA**, among others, and new cancer-related genes such as **PRKCA**, **SOX9**, and **PSMD4**.
- The prediction is based on a model that utilizes information on mutations, expression of genes, and copy number variation in genes and perturbations in the biological network due to an altered gene expression.

Working Mechanism of PIVOT :

- PIVOT is a machine learning tool that uses different kinds of data, such as mutation and gene expression, to predict cancer-causing genes, called **driver genes**, in a patient.
- It uses supervised **model learning (ML) algorithms** from known driver genes in an individual.
- Patient data and their corresponding personalized driver genes are not known.
- The model is mainly fed with genomic data of cancer patients sourced from the **International Cancer Genome Consortium (ICGC)** as well as **The Cancer Genome Atlas Programme (TCGA)**.
- Generally, traditional methods predict driver genes by analyzing multiple samples from the same cancer type to identify genes responsible for the progression of tumors for that particular cancer type.
- Such methods are not capable of identifying **rare driver genes**.

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- IIT Madras researchers have built AI prediction models for **three different types of cancer** including **Breast Invasive Carcinoma, Colon Adenocarcinoma, and Lung Adenocarcinoma**.
- According to the **World Health Organization**, **cancer** is a leading cause of death worldwide and accounted for nearly **one in six deaths in 2020**.

Additional Info :

- Cancer is an **uncontrolled growth of cells** that can occur due to mutations in oncogenes or tumor suppressor genes, or both.

About IIT Madras :

- Established: 1959
- Location: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- Chairman : Pawan Kumar Goenka
- Director : Kamakoti Veezhinathan

CERN scientists discover three 'exotic' subatomic particles for the first time

- For the **First time**, **Scientists** at the **European nuclear research center CERN** have discovered **three new exotic subatomic particles** with the collaboration of the **Large Hadron Collider (LHC)** using the international **Large Hadron Collider beauty (LHCb)**
- These Particles are a new kind of "**pentaquark**" and the first-ever pair of "**tetraquarks**" which includes a new type of tetraquark.
- They will help physicists better understand how quarks bind together into these composite particles.

About Quarks :

- Quarks are elementary particles that usually combine in groups of twos and threes to form hadrons such as the protons and neutrons that make up atomic nuclei.
- More rarely, however, they can also combine into four-quark and five-quark particles, or tetraquarks and pentaquarks.
- There are **six** kinds of these or "flavors" in physics jargon – **up, down, strange, charm, bottom, and top**.

About Large Hadron Collider :

- The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is the **world's largest and highest-energy particle collider**.

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- It was built by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) between 1998 and 2008.
- The **27-kilometer-long (16.8 miles)** LHC at CERN is the machine that found the Higgs boson particle, which along with its linked energy field is thought to be vital to the formation of the universe.

About CERN :

- Founded: 29 September 1954
- Headquarters: Meyrin, Canton of Geneva, Switzerland
- Director General : Fabiola Gianotti
- Membership: 23 countries
- **Israel is the only non-European country granted full membership.**

BITS Pilani Hyderabad incubator supports India's first reusable rocket start-up

- The **Technology Business Incubator (TBI)** at BITS Pilani's Hyderabad campus has incubated **Abyom**, a start-up that is working on **India's first reusable rocket**.
- Abyom, recognized by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, is working on building a liquid propulsion rocket engine and testing system for use on space launch vehicles.
- The technology will be used to create **India's first reusable sounding rocket** which will benefit areas such as meteorology and agri-tech data.
- It can also be used to conduct experiments in the **atmosphere**.
- The campus has good infrastructure, which includes additive manufacturing, high-performance computing for simulation, a petrochemical lab, and a remote engineering lab.

Note :

- Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Abyom : Jainul Abedin
- DPIIT is a central government department under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** in India.

Samsung develops the world's fastest graphics DRAM chip

- **Samsung** has developed a **new graphic dynamic random-access memory (DRAM)** chip with a **faster speed** and improved power efficiency.

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- The **24-gigabit Graphics Double Data Rate 6 (GDDR6)** adopts third-generation, 10-nanometer technology and boasts a data processing speed that is over 30 percent faster than existing products.
- The new DRAM chip can process graphic images at a rate of up to **1.1 terabytes per second**, which Samsung claims is the fastest in the world and equivalent to processing **275 full HD movies in a second**.
- Graphics DRAMs are widely used in high-powered 3D games, personal computers, notebooks, or devices that play videos with a high resolution.
- It is also expected to be used in high-performance computing, electric cars, and autonomous vehicles.

About Samsung :

- Founded: 13 January 1969
- Headquarters: Suwon, South Korea
- President & CEO : Kim Hyun-Suk
- Chairman & Independent Director: Bahk Jae-Wan

Agnikul Cosmos inaugurates India's First Facility for 3D Printed Rocket Engines

- Indian space-tech start-up Agnikul opened its **Rocket Factory-1**, India's first-ever rocket facility dedicated to **3D printed space engines** at scale.
- **Mr. N Chandrasekaran**, Chairman, Tata Sons, and **Mr. S Somanath**, Chairman, ISRO and Secretary, Department of Space, inaugurated the unit at the Indian Institute of Technology IIT Madras Research Park.
- The IIT Madras Research Park, **India's first university-based research park**, is a non-profit organization sponsored by IIT Madras.
- The facility encourages businesses to establish **Research & Development R&D facilities** in the Research Park.

About Rocket Factory-1 :

- Agnikul's Rocket Factory-1 houses an **EOS M400-4 metal 3D printer**, as well as a slew of other machines, allowing for the end-to-end production of a rocket engine under one roof.
- The factory is designed to produce **two rocket engines per week**.

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Note :

- Agnibaan is a **two-stage launch vehicle** that can carry up to **100 kg of payload** to orbits **700 km high (low Earth orbits)** and supports a plug-and-play configuration.
- Agnilet is the **world's first single-piece 3D printed rocket engine**, designed and manufactured entirely in India.

About Agnikul Cosmos :

- Founded: 2017
- Headquarters: IIT Madras, Chennai, India
- CEO: Srinath Ravichandran
- AgniKul Cosmos Private Limited is an Indian aerospace manufacturer based in the **National Center for Combustion R&D (NCRD)** of IIT Madras, Chennai

DCGI approves India's first qHPV vaccine to treat cervical cancer

- India's first indigenous **Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV)** against **cervical cancer** gets the **Drugs Controller General of India's (DCGI)** approval for market authorization, launched by the **end of 2022**.
- The vaccine will be manufactured by the **Serum Institute of India (SII)**.
- It is for the first time, that there will be an Indian HPV vaccine to treat cervical cancer in **women** that is both affordable and accessible.
- Earlier On June 15, the DCGI's **Subject Expert Committee** recommended Serum Institute's indigenously developed quadrivalent human papillomavirus (qHPV) vaccine for cervical cancer patients above **9 years to 26 years of age**.

Note :

- **Cervical cancer** in India ranks as the **second most frequent cancer** among women between 15 and 44 years of age.
- Every year, **122,844 women** are diagnosed with **cervical cancer**, and **67,477 die** from the disease.

Recent News :

- The **National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI)** recently also approved the qHPV after reviewing the clinical trial data of the vaccine.

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About DCGI :

- DCGI is the head of the department of the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization** of the Gol.
- It comes under the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India

About SII :

- Founded: 1966
- Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra, India
- CEO: Adar Poonawalla
- Chairman & MD: Cyrus S. Poonawalla

GODI India India's 1st Company to Receive BIS Certification to Sell Li-ion Cells for Electric Vehicles

- **GODI India** has become the **first Indian company** to receive the prestigious **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification** for its **21700 cylindrical NMC811 lithium-ion cells** with their homegrown technology.
- As per the BIS requirement, the Godi-designed and made-in-India cells were tested and qualified by **TUV**, the third-party testing agency.
- GODI India is innovating in every layer of cell technology.
- For the **first time** in Indian history, **NMC811 21700, 3.65V-4.5Ah cylindrical cells** were made-in-**India & Made-for-India.**"

About GODI India :

- Founded: 2020
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Founder and CEO: Mr. Mahesh Godi
- GODI India is an innovative cell manufacturer focusing on **research and development (R&D)**, **Giga scale Manufacturing (Indigenous Gigafactory)**, and **Recycling of sustainable green energy storage technology**.
- It is determined to accomplish a **zero-carbon footprint** by promoting and adopting environmentally friendly and compliant technologies in the fastest and safest possible way.

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GE Healthcare launches its first '5G Innovation Lab' in India

- **GE Healthcare**, a leading global medical technology, diagnostics, and digital solutions innovator, announced the launch of its **5G Innovation Lab in India**, the first for GE Healthcare across the globe.
- It is Situated at the **John F.Welch Technology Centre (JFWTC) Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- With the advantage of massive bandwidth, high data speeds, low latency, and highly reliable connectivity, 5G has the potential to disrupt the patient care continuum, transforming diagnosis, therapy, and prognosis.
- "The 5G Innovation Lab is designed to position GE Healthcare at the forefront of these groundbreaking advances in patient care, including potentially bringing cutting-edge technology to rural and suburban regions,".
- The 5G in Healthcare was valued at an estimated **USD 215 million in 2021** and is projected to reach **USD 3,667 million by 2026**.
- The Lab will serve as a conduit for the interplay of exponential technologies like AI/ML, IoT, Big Data, Edge Computing, and Cybersecurity

About GE Healthcare :

- Founded: September 28, 1994
- Headquarters: Chicago, Illinois, United States
- CEO: Peter J Arduini

NPCI partners with JBIMS to provide master's degrees in digital payments for employees

- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has collaborated with **Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies (JBIMS)** to co-create a **Master's in Management Studies (MMS) program in Digital Payments** for its employees.
- The degree was launched under NPCI's "learn while you earn" higher education program.

Aim :

- To integrate aspects of **technology, finance, BFSI, and information system and management studies** into a **single Master's specialization** in digital payments.

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- The program is designed in a hybrid model where employees will take weekend classes and spend only one week on campus per semester thereby allowing them to learn while they continue to earn at NPCI.
- Additionally, NPCI employees also have the opportunity to pursue super-specialization and further studies (Ph.D.) after the completion of the Master's program.

About NPCI :

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Non-Executive Chairman: Biswamohan Mahapatra
- MD & CEO: Dilip Asbe
- The NPCI is the specialized **division of the Reserve Bank of India** which is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance, Gol.**

About JBIMS :

- Established: 1965
- Location: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Director: Dr. Shrinivasan Iyengar

NASA Releases 78 Kg of Garbage Bag from International Space Station

- For the **first time**, the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** tested a new **waste disposal technology** by releasing about **78 kg (172 lbs)** of garbage from the **International Space Station (ISS)**.
- The first-of-its-kind technology to dispose of waste has been developed by **Nasa's Johnson Space Center** and a **private company Nano rocks**.
- The bag was jettisoned from the station's **commercial Bishop Airlock**.

Key Highlights :

- The new technology uses a specially designed waste container, which is mounted in the Bishop Airlock.
- The ISS crew can fill the container with up to **600 lbs** of trash.
- The waste bag is then released and the Airlock is re-mounted empty.

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- Owing to the atmospheric burn, the baggage also reduced the chances of adding to the space debris in the **low-Earth orbit**.
- Currently, astronauts aboard the ISS store their useless materials and wait for the Cygnus cargo spacecraft to arrive and collect the trash.

About NASA :

- Established: July 29
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C, United States
- Administrator: Bill Nelson
- Motto: For the Benefit of All
- NASA is an independent agency of the US federal government responsible for the civil space program, aeronautics research, and space research.

About Nanoracks :

- Founded: 2009
- Headquarters: Houston, Texas, United States
- CEO: Dr. Amela Wilson

Union Minister inaugurates IS4OM to safeguard Indian space assets; 60 startups have registered with ISRO

- Union Minister of State (MoS) for Science and Technology Shri Jitendra Singh inaugurated the ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Operation (IS4OM) at ISRO Control Centre, in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Around **60 startups** have registered with the Indian Space Research Agency (ISRO) since the agency started promoting the country's space sector.
- Some of these space start-ups include launch vehicles, nano-satellites, research facilities, and ground systems.

About the IS4OM facility :

- The IS4OM facility can support all routine operations safeguarding Indian space assets, mitigating collision threats from space objects through specific collision avoidance maneuvers, information required for strategic purposes, and research activities in Space Debris and Space Situational Awareness.

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- IS4OM facility will aid India in achieving its **SSA (Space Situational Awareness)** goals by providing comprehensive and timely information about the Space environment to users.
- ISRO is an active member of the **Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IDAC)**, IAF Space Debris Working Group, IAA Space Traffic Management Working Group, ISO Space Debris Working Group, and UNCOPUOS long-term sustainability Working Group - all international organizations contributing to the space debris studies and space situational awareness.

Importance of radar and optical telescopes :

- The importance of radars and optical telescopes as the main ground-based facilities for **tracking space objects** including **space debris**.
- The long-term sustainability of outer space activities is of utmost importance to ensure that the technology used for scientific and technological purposes remains relevant to future generations.
- The Infrastructure for Space Weather monitoring and forecast is a critical component of the country's space activities, as it can help protect the country's ground-based infrastructure from the threat of space objects.
- The vision of the IS40M project is to provide **planetary defense** and **space weather services**.

About ISRO :

- Founded: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: Sreedhara Panicker Somanath

NASA & SpaceX launches Climate Research Experiments to ISS Aboard Resupply Mission from the US

- A **SpaceX Dragon resupply spacecraft** carrying more than **5,800 pounds** of science experiments, crew supplies, and other cargo is on its way to the **International Space Station (ISS)** from the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) Kennedy Space Center** in **Florida, United States (US)**.
- The Cargo Dragon spacecraft was launched through the **Falcon 9 rocket**.
- This is SpaceX's **25th commercial resupply services mission** to the ISS for NASA.

Among the science experiments Dragon is delivering to the space station are:

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Mapping Earth's Dust :

- The spacecraft is loaded with several experiments with one being the Earth's Surface Mineral Dust Investigation (EMIT) which has been developed by **NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California**.
- It employs NASA imaging spectroscopy technology to measure the mineral composition of dust in **Earth's arid regions**.
- The mineral dust blown into the air can travel significant distances and affect Earth's climate, weather, vegetation, and more.
- The EMI will gather images for a year and create maps of the mineral composition of the regions that produce dust on Earth.
- Apart from this, EMIT will also help in mapping which will help researchers gain a better understanding of the effects of mineral dust on the **human population**.

Speedier Immune System Aging

- Immunosenescence is the changes in the immune response associated with aging.
- **Microgravity causes** changes in human immune cells that resemble this condition, but happen faster than the actual process of aging on Earth.
- The Immunosenescence investigation, sponsored by the **International Space Station U.S. National Laboratory**, uses tissue chips to study how microgravity affects immune function during flight and whether immune cells recover post-flight.

Soil in Space

- Dynamics of Microbiomes in Space sponsored by **NASA's Division of Biological and Physical Sciences** examines how microgravity affects metabolic interactions in communities of soil microbes.
- This research focuses on microbe communities that decompose chitin, a natural carbon polymer on Earth.

High School Student Weather Study

- BeaverCube is an **educational mission** that will teach **high school students aerospace science** by having them design a **CubeSat**.

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- It will host one visible and two infrared imagers to measure cloud properties, ocean surface temperatures, and ocean color to study Earth's climate and weather systems.
- It also will demonstrate an application for the use of shape memory alloy technology via an in-orbit calibration technique.

Genes, No Cells

- Cell-free technology is a platform for producing protein without specialized equipment for living cells that need to be cultured.
- Genes in Space-9, sponsored by the **National Lab**, demonstrates **cell-free production of protein** in microgravity and evaluates two cell-free biosensors that can detect specific target molecules.

Better Concrete

- **Biopolymer Research for In-Situ Capabilities** looks at how microgravity affects the process of creating a concrete alternative made with organic material and on-site materials, such as **lunar or Martian dust**, known as biopolymer soil composite.
- Using resources available where construction takes place makes it possible to increase the amount of shielding.

About NASA :

- Established: July 29, 1958
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C, USA
- Administrator: Bill Nelson
- Motto: For the Benefit of All

About SpaceX:

- Founded: March 14, 2002
- Headquarters: Hawthorne, California, United States
- CEO & Chairman: Elon Musk

PM Shri Narendra Modi unveils India's first human passenger drone - 'Varuna'

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled India's first passenger drone Varuna during Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) seminar 'Swavlamban' in New Delhi.
- It has been developed by the Indian startup Sagar Defence Engineering along with NTDAC (Naval Technology Development acceleration cell).

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- The drone can carry one person inside.

About 'Varuna' :

- Varuna can fly to the range of **25km** while carrying a payload of **130 kilograms** and has **25-33 minutes** of flight time.
- There are **four auto-pilot models** which help the drone to continue flying even if some fans fail to function.
- This new vehicle can be used for inter-ship transfer of material and personnel.
- It is capable of carrying out autonomous take-off and landing even when the ships are moving.
- Varuna has been developed in two parts one is the technology, which helps the drone land and takes off from moving warships, and the second is the platform itself.
- The drone has been specially made for the **Indian Navy & 30 Varuna drones** that can land and take off from warships are delivered to the Indian Navy.
- It is the **first time** that the Indian Navy is inducting drones on warships.
- In June 2022, **Sagar Defence Engineering** had given a demonstration of the new personal air mobility vehicle to the Deputy PM of Australia who had visited INS Hansa in Goa.

About Sagar Defence Engineering :

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Founder and CEO : Nikunj Parashar

NASA chooses SpaceX to launch Roman Space Telescope

- American Space Agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has selected Elon Musk's Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) to launch their new Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope mission.
- The mission is targeted to launch in **October 2026**, as specified in the **NASA Launch Services (NLS) II contract**, on a **Falcon Heavy rocket** from **Launch Complex 39A** at the agency's **Kennedy Space Center** in Florida, the United States of America.
- It is named after **Dr. Nancy Roman**, an astronomer renowned for paving the way for large telescopes in NASA.

About Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope mission :

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- The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope features a **2.4-meter primary mirror**.
- According to NASA, the total cost for the agency to launch the Roman telescope is approximately **USD255 million**, which includes the launch service and other mission-related costs
- The telescope, previously known as the Wide Field InfraRed Survey Telescope (WFIRST), is designed to unravel the secrets of dark energy and dark matter, search for and image exoplanets, and explore many topics in infrared astrophysics.
- The Roman Space Telescope will have a primary mission **lifetime of 5 years**, with a potential 5-year extended mission.
- The Roman Space Telescope project is managed by **NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland**.

About Nancy Grace Roman :

- Nancy Grace Roman was the **first female executive at NASA**.
- She served as **NASA's first Chief of Astronomy** throughout the 1960s and 1970s,

About NASA :

- Founded: July 29, 1958
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C, United States
- Administrator: Bill Nelson
- Motto: For the Benefit of All

DCGI approves India's 1st indigenously developed mRNA vaccine against Covid

- The apex drug regulator **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** approved India's first **indigenously developed mRNA vaccine against COVID-19**.
- The vaccine is manufactured by **Genova Biopharmaceuticals**, based in **Pune**, and designed for restricted emergency use for those aged 18 years and above.
- Genova developed the mRNA vaccine with the support of the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the Ministry of Science and Technology** and its PSU, **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**.
- The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) has recommended Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) for India's first mRNA vaccine meeting.

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- While other mRNA vaccines require to be stored at sub-zero temperatures, Genovax's mRNA vaccine can be stored at **2-8 degrees**.
- The DCGI's nod came after the subject expert committee on COVID-19 of the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CSDCO)** recommended granting emergency use authorization to Covovax for the age group of **7 to 11 years** and **Genovax's two-dose m-RNA vaccine** for **18 years and above**.

About DCGI :

- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- The DCGI is the head of the department of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization of the Gol.
- It comes under the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.

Purpose :

- It is responsible for the approval of licenses of specified categories of drugs such as blood and blood products, IV fluids, vaccines, and sera in India.

China launches the second of three space station modules - Wentian to support science experiments

- The **Chinese space agency** successfully launched the **second of three space station modules**, named **Wentian** needed to complete its **new Tiangong space station**, the latest step in Beijing's ambitious space program.
- The uncrewed craft was propelled by a **Long March 5B rocket** from the **Wenchang launch center** on **China's tropical island of Hainan**.

About Wentian :

- Wentian, which means the **quest for the heavens**.
- The Wentian lab module is **17.9 meters (59 feet) long** and **weighs 22 tons (48,500 pounds)**
- Wentian features an airlock cabin that is to be the main exit-entry point for extravehicular activities when the station is completed.
- It will also serve as short-term living quarters for astronauts during crew rotations on the station, designed for the long-term accommodation of just three astronauts.
- The Tiangong space station will be around **20%** as massive as the **International Space Station (ISS)**, which has a mass of about **460 tons**.

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- China has been excluded from the International Space Station since 2011, when the United States banned NASA from engaging with the country, so China is setting up its space station.
- Until the final module arrives, the space station will have a rather unusual **L-shape**.
- Once all the **three modules** are complete, the Tiangong space station will acquire **T-shape**.

Note :

- The first and central module called **Tiangong**, which means “**heavenly palace**”, was launched in **April 2021**.
- The third and final module, named **Mengtian**, (“**Dreaming of the Heavens**”) is scheduled to be launched in **October 2022**.
- China's space program has already landed a rover on Mars and sent probes to the Moon.
- In addition to a space station, Beijing is also planning to build a base on the Moon and send humans there by **2030**.

About China :

- President: Xi Jinping
- Capital: Beijing
- Currency: Renminbi

ISRO starts Human Space Flight Expo at Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) organized a **unique three-day Human Space Flight Expo** at Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The expo commemorates Indian achievements in space and has been organized as part of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** celebrations marking 75 years of Independence.
- It was inaugurated by ISRO Chairman **Mr. S. Somanath**, former ISRO chair A.S. Kiran Kumar, director of the U.R. Rao Satellite Center, M. Sankaran, and director of the human space flight program, R. Umamaheswaran.

About the Expo :

- The Expo offered how astronauts will travel during India's first-ever manned space flight mission “**Gaganyaan**.”

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- Exhibits at the expo include an interactive Gaganyaan (proposed project for India's first crewed spaceflight) model, scaled models of rockets and satellites, simulations of a Mars rover, a space toilet, and a space suit, among others.
- The expo's highlight will be a movie in the planetarium's sky theatre "The Indian Space Odyssey – Sounding Rockets to Gaganyaan".
- The movie will offer viewers an opportunity to get immersed in visuals of the assembly of the launch vehicle, astronaut training, and the mission sequence of Gaganyaan.
- Apart from Gaganyaan, ISRO is planning three other major missions: **Moon-bound rover Chandrayaan-3, Aditya L1 to study the Sun, and Shukrayaan-1 to orbit Venus.**

About ISRO :

- Established: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: Sreedhara Panicker Somanath

China launches six satellites with a new solid propellant rocket

- **China** successfully launched **6 new satellites** into space with its new solid-propellant rocket, **ZK 1A**, from **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center** in north-western China.
- The rocket is a major project of the Chinese Academy of Sciences developed under **China's 14th Five-Year Plan** and "another innovative attempt in the field of aerospace science and technology."
- The satellites included a new space technology test satellite and a test satellite for probing atmospheric density.

Note :

- The ZK 1A became **China's largest and most powerful solid-propellant rocket.**

About ZK 1A :

- The ZK 1A has a length of **30 meters**, a diameter of **2.65 meters**, and a lift-off weight of **135 metric tons**.
- It is capable of sending satellites with a combined weight of **1.5 tons** to a typical sun-synchronous orbit about **500 km** above the Earth

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- The ZK 1A replaces the **Long March 11 rocket** which is **20.8 meters tall**, with a diameter of 2 meters and a liftoff weight of 58 tons.
- Meanwhile, China's Tianzhou-3 cargo craft which had detached from the under-construction space station re-entered the atmosphere in a controlled manner.
- The **Tianzhou-3 cargo craft** launched in **September 2021** and delivered about six tonnes of supplies to China's space station, which is under construction.

About China :

- President: Xi Jinping
- Capital: Beijing
- Currency: Renminbi

Indus International School in Hyderabad introduces India's 1st teaching robot – Eagle

- **Indus International School in Hyderabad, Telangana** has introduced **India's first Teaching Robot Eagle** to teach students and also assist teachers in teaching.
- These robots were developed by the **school**, as part of a collaborative learning model at its schools.
- It was introduced by the **Indus Trust**.
- **21 Eagle Robots** have been deployed across three of the Indus Schools, **7 each in Hyderabad, Bangalore, and Pune**.
- Recently the school management demonstrated the performance of Eagle robots to **Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy**.

About Eagle :

- Eagle Robot is highly interactive, making the experience personalized along with emotional emulation through the digital face.
- It is capable of teaching students of **grades 5 to 11**, in the classroom along with the human teacher and also in a stand-alone mode.
- Students can access these robots at the end of class and receive instruction in **30 different languages**.
- Eagle robots are programmed to teach all the science and humanities subjects including languages.

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- Children can connect with the assessment and content of the robot through devices like **mobile, tab, or laptops.**
- These robots, made with the help of artificial intelligence, will clarify the doubts of the students.
- These robots will **bridge the gap of lack of teachers** in government schools and improve the quality of education.

Note :

- Founder and CEO : Arjun Ray

About Telangana :

- Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan
- Chief minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao
- Capital: Hyderabad

IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENT NEWS

India TO add 315 taxa and 540 species to its inventory of animal species: ZSI

- The number of animal species in **India's faunal database increased by 540 in 2021**, bringing the total to **1,03,258.**
- The Indian flora now has 315 more taxa, increasing the total number of floral taxa in the country to 55,048 as of 2021.
- Of the **540 species of fauna, 406 are discoveries**, while 134 are new records for India.
- **Thirteen new genera** were discovered in 2021 as well.
- Among the newly discovered species are **19 species of fish, 35 species of reptiles, and one species of mammal.**

Key Points:

- The newly discovered **mammal species** is a white-toothed shrew from **the Andaman and Nicobar** group of islands called **Crocidura narcondamica.**
- **Whitaker's cat snake, commonly known as Boiga whitakeri,** was one of the extraordinary reptiles discovered in 2021.
- It was discovered in the **Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu.**

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- The Hymenoptera order of insects, which includes ants, bees, sawflies, and wasps, was the source of the newest species discoveries, accounting for 80 species and one new genus.
- 68 percent of new animal species discoveries were produced in 2021 by scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)**, which marked its 107th foundation anniversary on July 1.
- While the COVID-19 epidemic severely hampered expeditions, she emphasized that they have since fully recovered.
- With 1.03 lakh species, India accounts for 6.1% of the world's total faunal diversity.
- The 315 new flora taxa include 298 new species and 17 intraspecific taxa that are unique to Indian flora.
- Among these, 204 taxa are brand-new to science and 125 taxa have unique distributional data from India.

Two species of fish were discovered along the Tamil Nadu coast:

- The Indian Council for Agricultural Research - National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) has identified two new species of marine fish in Tamil Nadu.
- One of them, a sardine variety from Pattinapakkam fish landing center in the city, was named 'Dussumieria modakandai'.
- It is consumed by the local population.
- The discovery was published in the international journal Fish Biology in December 2021.
- Description of a new congrid eel, *Ariosoma albimaculata* sp. nov. (Anguilliformes: Congridae), from the southwest coast of India, Arabian Sea'— was authored by Paramasivam Kodeeswaran, Deepa Dhas, Thipramalai Thangappan Pillai Ajith Kumar and Kuldeep Kumar Lal.

About the Species:

- A species of eel, belonging to the congrid eels group, was discovered from the specimen collected at Colachel fish landing center in Kanniyakumari district.
- It has been named '*Ariosoma albimaculata*' (white spotted stout conger). Albimaculata is derived from the Latin words: Albus, meaning white, and maculatus, meaning spotted, denoting the white spot on the dorsal-fin origin.
- The eel is 240-487 mm long and has a grey, shiny body with dark marks or spots on the posterior dorsal margin of the eyes.

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- It was non-poisonous, living in unusual habitats such as continental slopes and underwater seamount crevices.
- The species is possibly distributed along the southwest coast of India, so far only in the coastal waters of Kanniyakumari.
- It is the eighth species of congrid eels to be documented in Indian waters, all of which were by-catch in trawl landings.
- The bureau, after a taxonomic and molecular analysis, confirmed the novelty of the species and published its findings in the international journal Ichthyological Research.

ZSI Scientists Discover a New Kind of Eel from Petuaghat Fishing Harbour, West Bengal:

- Scientists and research scholars of the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** have discovered a **new eel species** based on two specimens collected from **Petuaghat fishing harbor, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal**.
- The new species has been termed **Bengal conger**, stated Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI.
- The species belong to the **family Congridae and order Anguilliformes**.
- The recently discovered species has been named **Ariosoma Bengalense** in the name of the **collection locality**.
- The species is distributed in the northern part of the Bay of Bengal.
- The color of **the species is brown**.
- The species has larger eyes in comparison to similar congeners.
- The species has total vertebrae 146-149.
- Both supratemporal pores and myorhabdoi are absent in the new species.
- The species has a total length of 316-304mm.
- This species is currently known from the northern part of the Bay of Bengal (West Bengal), India, 197 km away from the Deshpran fishing harbor, at a depth of 168 m (21047.752'N, 87052.869'E), within the Exclusive Economic Zone of India.

Key Points:

- The new species differs from four of the seven species reported from India: *Ariosoma majus*, *A. melanospilos*, *A. maurostigma*, and *A. indicum* with the absence of supratemporal pores vs. three in all the species mentioned.

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- While collecting Eel samples from the East coast of India, the scientists collected two specimens of the genus *Ariosoma* from the Petuaghat fishing harbor, West Bengal and while identifying those specimens it was found to be an undescribed species.
- Herein, the scientists described the new species of the genus *Ariosoma* based on two specimens collected from the northern part of the Bay of Bengal, India.
- The discovery got good mileage as the story has been published in *Zootaxa*, published by Magnolia Press, New Zealand recently.

Sakurajima Volcanic Eruption: Volcano Erupts for three days:

- A volcanic eruption occurred in **Kyushu, Japan's main southern island**.
- Locals have been urged to escape as quickly as possible so that no one is impacted by the volcanic eruption.
- The eruption was followed by a showing of **red-hot rocks and dark fumes** from the **Sakurajima volcano in Kagoshima Prefecture**.
- Sakurajima is located on Japan's major southern island of Kyushu, and it was an island with the **largest number of active volcanoes in Japan** that erupted regularly.
- It is around **1000 kilometers southwest of Tokyo**.
- In 1914, Sakurajima saw a devastating volcanic eruption that killed 58 people, after which it became peninsular.

IMPORTANT APPS & SERVICES NEWS

BESCOM develops 'EVMitra' mobile app:

- The **EVMitra smartphone app** was created by the **Bengaluru Electricity Company BESCOM** to give details about **EV charging stations in Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- The app also includes details on the **charges at each station where electric vehicles may recharge**.
- Users of electric vehicles can reserve a spot in the station in advance using the user-friendly app.
- The **EV Jagruthi Web portal** was previously introduced by **BESCOM** as a collaborative project of **NITI Ayog and the UK**.

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- The website provides information particular to each state about the availability of electric vehicles, incentives, support systems, and state government efforts related to electric mobility.

Key Points:

- In Bengaluru, BESCOM has launched 136 charging stations, and 152 more will do the same shortly.
- For the establishment of 1000 charging stations around the state, bids have been requested under the Public-Private Partnership model.
- The EV Abhiyan will last for a week, from July 1 to July 6, while the EV Expo will run from July 1 to July 3.
- To encourage EV use in Bengaluru, a rally will be held on July 2nd from Vidhana Soudha to Palace Grounds.

Microsoft announces 'Viva Engage' app in Teams to help build community:

- Microsoft has announced the launch of Viva Engage, a new app in Teams that helps develop community and connection while also giving tools for creative expression.
- Viva Engage, built based on Yammer, connects employees across the organization to interact with leaders and coworkers, get answers to issues, share their unique stories, and feel a sense of belonging at work.

About the Microsoft Viva:

- Microsoft Viva is intended to provide workers in a variety of jobs and responsibilities with the tools they need to feel connected – no matter when or where they work.
- Employee experience, though, is more than that. According to the organization, it is about assisting individuals in excelling at their jobs, whether they are in sales, marketing, finance, or information technology.
- The social app for digital communities, dialogues, and self-expression tools expands on the current Communities app for Teams and Microsoft 365 features.
- Microsoft Viva Sales, the first of a new dimension of Viva built to satisfy these vertical, role-specific objectives, was announced last month.

About Microsoft

- Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen

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- CEO: Satya Nadella
- Founded: 4 April 1975
- Headquarters: Washington, United States.

IMPORTANT RANKINGS & INDEX NEWS

NITI Aayog Launches Report on India's Gig and Platform Economy

- National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog's Vice Chairman Suman Bery, CEO Amitabh Kant, and Special Secretary Dr. K Rajeswara Rao launched a report titled 'India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy'.
- The report is a **first-of-its-kind study** that presents comprehensive perspectives and recommendations on the gig–platform economy in India.

Key Highlights of the report :

- The report estimates that in **2020–21, 77 lakh (7.7 million)** workers were engaged in the gig economy.
- They constituted **2.6% of the non-agricultural workforce** or **1.5% of the total workforce** in India.
- The gig workforce is expected to expand to **2.35 crore (23.5 million)** workers by 2029–30.
- Gig workers are expected to form **6.7% of the non-agricultural workforce** or **4.1% of the total livelihood** in India by 2029–30.
- At present, about **47%** of the gig work is in medium-skilled jobs, about **22%** in high skilled, and about **31%** in low-skilled jobs.
- When workers are classified by industries, the report said that **26.6 lakh** gig workers were involved in retail trade and sales in FY20, and about 13 lakh were in the transportation sector.
- **6.2 lakh** persons were in **manufacturing** and another **6.3 lakh** in the **finance and insurance activities**.
- The report however notes that this is an estimation, and there is no official data to authoritatively estimate the extent of gig work in the country “thereby rendering the gig workforce invisible.”

Recommendations :

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- The recommendations in this report will serve as a crucial resource for ministries, state governments, training providers, platform companies, and other stakeholders to work in collaboration for promoting growth and employment opportunities in this sector.
- Further, to harness the potential of the gig-platform sector, the report recommended accelerating access to finance through products specifically designed for such workers, linking self-employed individuals engaged in the business of selling regional and rural cuisine or street foods with platforms to enable them to sell their products to wider markets in towns and cities.

About NITI Aayog:

- Established: 1 January 2015
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- CEO: Parameswaran Iyer
- Vice Chairperson : Suman Bery

Asia Pacific Sustainability Index 2021: Bengaluru ranks 14th among 20 cities in the APAC region

- According to the **Asia Pacific Sustainability Index 2021**, released by Knight Frank Four Indian cities **Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai** made it to the list of **top 20 sustainable cities**.
- **Bengaluru** led the sustainability index amongst the top Indian cities and ranked **14th in the APAC region**.
- Bengaluru was the **only Indian city** to achieve the **'Gold' standard category**.
- **Delhi** ranked second amongst the Indian cities (ranked **17th** in the APAC region) followed by **Hyderabad** (ranked **18th**) and **Mumbai** (ranked **20th**).

Key Highlights :

- Global property consultant Knight Frank's APAC Sustainably Led Cities Index rated **36 cities** based on urbanization pressure, climate risk, carbon emissions, and government initiatives.
- **Singapore, Sydney, Wellington, Perth, and Melbourne** were the **top five green-rated cities** in commercial real estate in the Asia-Pacific region.

Note :

- Standard refers to the **willingness of the cities** in accepting and adapting to **ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance)** metrics.

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- **Platinum Standard** indicates that the city is **very advanced** and **extremely open** to accepting and adapting to ESG metrics from all stakeholders to a high degree.
- **Gold Standard** indicates that the city is **slightly advanced** and somewhat open to accepting and adapting to ESG metrics from all stakeholders to a certain degree.
- **Silver Standard** indicates that the city is **advanced** and **open** to accepting and adapting to ESG metrics from all stakeholders to a limited degree.

India's Performance :

- **New market dynamics** have propelled the growth of sustainable development in India.
- The global commitment to **carbon neutrality** and **net-zero** is firmly focused on creating environmentally-friendly premises has led Indian developers to augment their products to meet the requirements.

About Knight Frank India :

- Founded: 1896
- Headquarters: London, United Kingdom
- Chairman and Managing Director: Shishir Bajjal

QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2023: London ranks the greatest metropolis for college students, and Mumbai tops in India

- **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)** has released the list of **Best Student Cities** ranking for 2023, with **London (United Kingdom)** emerging as the **top city** for students looking to study abroad.
- India's highest-ranked pupil metropolis is **Mumbai** at **103** spots which scored for affordability however struggles with pupil combination and desirability.
- **Bengaluru** ranked at **114**, **Chennai** and **Delhi** have made their entries **125** and **129**, respectively.
- The greatest pupil metropolis within the Arab Region is **Dubai**, which ranks **51st** globally.
- Buenos Aires takes Latin America's highest spot, rating 23 on the earth.

Top 10 ranked cities in QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2023 :

1. London, United Kingdom
2. Seoul, South Korea
2. Munich, Germany
4. Zurich, Switzerland

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5. Melbourne, Australia
6. Berlin, Germany
7. Tokyo, Japan
8. Paris, France
9. Sydney, Australia
10. Edinburgh, United Kingdom

About QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2023 :

- QS ranks **140 cities worldwide**.
- The QS Best Student Cities Ranking gives college students impartial knowledge relating to a spread of things related to their examination choices: **affordability, high quality of life, the usual of college**, and the views of earlier college students who have studied in that vacation spot.

About Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) :

- Founded: 1990
- Headquarters location: London, United Kingdom
- CEO : Nunzio Quacquarelli
- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) is specializing in the analysis of **higher education institutions around the world**.

India's green bonds' issuance 6th largest in the Asia-Pacific region

- According to the Knight Frank Report, Active Capital Asia Pacific - Raising Capital in Uncertain Times India's Green Bonds issuance increased **523 percent** Year on Year (YoY), from **\$1.1 billion** in 2020 to **\$6.8 billion** in 2021.
- Now, India is the **sixth-largest country** in APAC in terms of the total amount of green bonds issued in 2021.

Aim of the report :

- To provide an insight into how the real estate market in Asia-Pacific performed historically and how it is predicted to play out in 2022, thereby acting as a guide for investors
- The report highlights an important theme – **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)** for investors that are looking to expand their ESG foothold in their portfolios.

Key Highlights :

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- The issuance of green bonds, which are fixed-income financial instruments used to finance projects that have positive environmental and or climate benefits, was negatively impacted by the pandemic in 2020.
- However, it recovered in 2021, surpassing pre-pandemic levels and posting an increase of **116.9% from the \$3.1 billion** raised in 2019.
- According to statistics provided by the **Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI)**, APAC issued **\$126 billion** in green bonds in 2021, with China issuing the largest amount, USD 68 billion, exceeding the combined value of the other APAC nations.

Global startup ecosystem index 2022: Bengaluru strongest startup ecosystem in India

- According to the Global Startup Ecosystem Index (GSEI) by Israel-based StartupBlink, Bengaluru is the “strongest startup ecosystem in India” and ranked 8th globally.
- Globally, New Delhi ranks 13, Mumbai is 17, Pune is 90, Hyderabad is 97, Chennai is 102, Jaipur is 212 and Ahmedabad is 223.

Top 10 cities on the ranking :

1. San Francisco Bay (United States)
2. New York (United States)
3. London (United Kingdom)
4. Los Angeles Area (California)
5. Boston Area (United States)
6. Beijing (China)
7. Shanghai (China)
8. Bangalore (India)
9. Tel Aviv Area (Israel)
10. Paris (France)

Key Highlights :

- In the country-wise rankings for 2022, **India** is among the top 20 startup ecosystems globally and has been ranked **19th**.
- In the **Asia Pacific** region, India is **4th** after **Singapore, Australia, and China**.

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- At the city-level in the Asia Pacific region, **Bengaluru's startup ecosystem** has been ranked the **3rd** best, improving its position by two spots in 2022, and is behind **Beijing** (1) and **Shanghai** (2).
- The Karnataka capital's ranking in the global startup ecosystem has been going up since 2020.
- It was ranked **14th** in 2020 and 10th in 2021.
- Bengaluru overperforms in Edtech and Transportation with a global rank of 5 in both sector-wise startup rankings.
- The city is ranked **12th** in **Ecommerce & Retail**, ranked **12th** in **Software & Data Ranking**, ranked **14th** in **Foodtech**, ranked **19th** in **Hardware & IoT**, and ranked **20th** in **Fintech**.
- Bengaluru houses **364 education startups**, **128 transportation startups**, and **126 eCommerce & retail startups**

About Global startup ecosystem index 2022:

- The Index has been updated annually since **2017** and is the world's most comprehensive startup ecosystem ranking 100 countries and 1,000 cities globally.
- The GSEI is built using hundreds of thousands of data points processed by an algorithm that takes into account several dozens of parameters.

About Startup-Blink :

- Headquarters: Tel Aviv, Israel
- CEO: Eli David

UN-Habitat World Cities Report 2022: India's urban population to stand at 675 million in 2035

- The **United Nations-Habitat's World Cities Report 2022**, India's urban population is estimated to stand at **675 million** in 2035, the **2nd** highest behind China's 1 billion.
- The report stated that **rapid urbanization** was only temporarily delayed by the pandemic but the global urban population is back on track to grow by another **2.2 billion people** by 2050.
- As per report, India's urban population is projected to be **675,456,000** in 2035, growing from **483,099,000** in 2020 to **542,743,000** in 2025 and **607,342,000** in 2030.
- By 2035, the percentage of the population in India at mid-year residing in urban areas will be **43.2 percent**.
- China's urban population in 2035 is projected at **1.05 billion** while the urban population in Asia will be 2.99 billion in 2035 and that in South Asia 987,592,000.

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- As per the report, big economies like **China** and **India** had a **large share of the world's population** and their development trajectories had greatly influenced global inequality.
- In the last two decades, In Asia, China and India experienced rapid economic growth and urbanization, which led to a massive reduction in the number of people living in poverty.
- The urban population is forecast to grow from **56 percent** of the global total in 2021 to **68 percent by 2050**.
- The report stated that tackling urban poverty and inequality is one of the key priorities for building inclusive and equitable urban futures

About UN-Habitat :

- Established: 1978
- Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya
- Executive Director : Maimunah Mohd Sharif

NITI Aayog & World Food Program Launches Report- 'Take Home Ration: Good Practices across the State/UTs

- **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog Vice Chairman Suman K. Bery** and the **World Food Program** released a report titled '**Take Home Ration (THR)-Good Practices Across States/Union Territories**.
- The launch was attended by **Indevar Pandey**, Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Senior Advisor **Rajib Sen**, and **Eric Kenefick**, Deputy Country Director of the United Nations World Food Programme.
- The report presents a set of good and **innovative practices** used by the states and UTs in the implementation of the Take Home Ration value chain.
- The report will provide opportunities for cross-learning among states and Union territories.

About Take Home Ration :

- The Government of India provides Take Home Ration under the Supplementary Nutrition component of the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** to fill the gap in nutrition among children as well as pregnant and lactating women (PLW).

Aim :

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- To provide supplementary food products to children aged 6 to 36 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) for use in their homes.
- Under ICDS, there is a **Supplementary Nutrition Programme(SNP)** component.
- SNP is delivered through two modalities – **Hot-Cooked Meal at Anganwadi Centers and Take-Home Ration(THR)**.
- The State Governments of **Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Odisha** are currently receiving assistance from the **United Nations World Food Programme** in India to improve the composition and establish decentralized production of fortified nutritious THR.
- This support was conducted in 2019 following mapping of THR across India

About NITI Aayog:

- Established: 2015
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi (Prime Minister of India)
- Vice Chairperson : Suman Bery
- CEO: Parameswaran Iyer

About WEP :

- Established: 19 December 1961
- Headquarters: Rome, Italy
- Executive Director: David Beasley
- The WEP is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations and the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security.
- It is a member of the **United Nations Development Group** and part of its Executive Committee.

Indian-origin engineer Jayshree Ullal ranked among America's top self-made women billionaires

- According to **Forbes' 8th annual list of America's Richest Self-Made Women**, President and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of Arista Networks, Jayshree Ullal, a computer networking firm, is one of only five Indian-Americans on Forbes' list of America's richest self-made women.
- With her net worth reaching **\$2.1 billion in 2022**, she ranked **15th** on the list.

Other Indian-Americans on Forbes' list:

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- **Neerja Sethi**, co-founder of Syntel is ranked **24th** on the list with a net worth of **\$1 billion**.
- **Neha Narkhede**, the co-founder of cloud company Confluent, is ranked 57th on the list with a net worth of **\$900 million**.
- **Indra Nooyi**, the former chairperson, and chief executive officer of PepsiCo ranked **85** with a net worth of **\$320 million**.
- **Reshma Shetty** cofounder of Gingko Bioworks is the last Indian-American on Forbes' list of America's richest self-made women with a net worth of **\$220 million**.
- **Diane Hendricks**, co-founder, and chairman of ABC Supply **topped** the list for the fifth year with a net worth of **\$12.2 billion**

States' Startup Ranking 2021: Gujarat, Karnataka & Meghalaya Become the Best States

- According to the **3rd edition of the States' Startup Ranking 2021** by the department for the promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT), Gujarat and Karnataka have been ranked as the **best performers** in developing startup ecosystems for budding entrepreneurs.
- The state's startup ranking 2021 was released by **Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal** during an event held at The Ashok, New Delhi, Delhi, India.
- For the **third year** in a row, **Gujarat** has bagged the **title of Best Performing state by Startup India**.
- In the report accompanying the rankings, the initiative was taken by the **Student Startup and Innovation Policy Cell (SSIP)** of Gujarat's education department.

Key Highlights :

- A total of **24 states** and **7 UTs participated**, which ranked them under 5 classes.
- These classes were
 1. Best performers
 2. Top performers
 3. Leaders
 4. Aspiring leaders
 5. Emerging startup ecosystems.
- The states and union territories (UTs) were divided into **two categories** – **Category A** and **Category B**.

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- The **first category** consists of states and UTs with a population of **over 1 Crore**, while the **second category** consists of states and UTs with a population **under 1 Cr.**
- **Top performers** included 4 states from Category A: **Telangana, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Odisha.**
- In Category B: **Jammu and Kashmir**
- **Startup leaders** included five states from **Category A (Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Assam)**
- Two states and a UT from **Category B (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Andaman, and the Nicobar Islands).**
- **Aspiring leaders** included four states from **Category A (Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan)**
- **Category B: Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, and Tripura** were included.
- **Emerging startup ecosystems** included **Andhra Pradesh, Bihar**
- **Category B : Mizoram and Ladakh.**
- They were evaluated across **7 reform areas** consisting of **26 action points**, ranging from institutional support, fostering innovation, access to market, incubation, and funding support.
- The Commerce and Industry Minister, **Shri Piyush Goyal**, declared the result at an event and mentioned that India currently features **70,809 startups** recognized by the government.

Note :

- **India Observes January 16 as National Startup Day.**

About DPIIT :

- **Founded: 1995**
- **Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi**
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is a central government department under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry in India.**

NITI Aayog Report: Green Hydrogen Is Critical to India's Economic Development and Net-Zero Ambitions

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- A new report titled **Harnessing Green Hydrogen: Opportunities for Deep Decarbonisation in India** provides a pathway to accelerate the emergence of a green hydrogen economy, which is critical for **India** to achieve its **net-zero ambitions by 2070**.
- The report was co-authored by **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog** and **Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)**.
- The green hydrogen produced by renewable energy through the electrolysis of water will be crucial for achieving decarbonization of harder-to-abate sectors such as fertilizers, refining, methanol, maritime shipping, iron & steel, and transport.
- India can emerge as the least cost producer and bring down the price of green hydrogen to **US\$ 1 per kg by 2030**.

About the report :

- The report highlights that green hydrogen can substantially spur industrial decarbonization and economic growth for India in the coming decades
- The report concludes that hydrogen demand in India could grow more than fourfold by 2050, representing almost **10% of global demand**.
- The majority of the demand could be met with green hydrogen in the long term, the cumulative value of the green hydrogen market in India could reach the **US \$8 billion by 2030**.

Mitigation strategies :

- Near-term policy measures can bring down the current costs of green hydrogen to make it competitive with the existing gray hydrogen (hydrogen produced by natural gas) prices
- **Medium-term price targets** should be set to guide the industry towards making green hydrogen the most competitive form of hydrogen.
- Governments can encourage near-term market development by identifying industrial clusters and enacting associated viability gap funding, mandates, and targets.
- Opportunities around research and development and manufacturing of components like electrolyzers need to be identified and appropriately encouraged with adequate financial mechanisms such as **production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes** to enable **25 GW** of manufacturing capacity of **electrolyzers by 2028**.

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- A globally competitive green hydrogen industry can lead to exports of green hydrogen and hydrogen-embedded low-carbon products like green ammonia and green steel that can unlock **95 GW of electrolysis capacity** in the nation by 2030.

About NITI Aayog :

- Established: 1 January 2015
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi
- Vice Chairperson : Suman Bery
- CEO: Parameswaran Iyer

About RMI :

- Established: 1982
- Headquarters: Basalt, Colorado, United States
- CEO : Jules Kortenhorst
- RMI works for the transformation of global energy systems through market-driven solutions to align with a **1.5°C** future and secure a clean, prosperous, zero-carbon future for all.
- It works in the world's most critical geographies and engages businesses, policymakers, communities, and NGOs to identify and scale up energy system interventions that will cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least **50 percent** by 2030.

Odisha, UP, and AP emerge as the top three States in the 1st Edition of 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' 2022

- Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Textiles and Commerce and Industry, **Shri Piyush Goyal** released the **First Edition of 'State Ranking Index for NFSA'** during the **conference of Food Ministers of States/UTs on 'Food Nutrition and Security in India'** organized by **Department of Food and Public Distribution**.
- **Ms. Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti**, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Rural Development along with Secretary DFPD, **Shri Sudhanshu Pandey** along with Food Ministers and senior officials of 8 states were present at the daylong conference.

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- The conference was organized to deliberate and discuss nutritional security, food security, best practices followed in the Public Distribution System, crop diversification, and reforms in the PDS and storage sector.

About State ranking Index for NFSA :

- The “State ranking Index for NFSA” attempts to document the status and progress of implementation of NFSA and various reform initiatives across the country, post consultation with states.
- It highlights the reforms undertaken by States and UTs and creates a cross-learning environment and scale-up reform measures by all states and union territories.
- The Index is largely focused on NFSA Distribution and will include procurement, and **PMGKAY** Distribution in the future.
- The Index for ranking the states and UTs is built on **three key pillars** which cover the end-to-end implementation of NFSA through TPDS.
 1. NFSA- Coverage, targeting, and provisions of the Act
 2. Delivery platform
 3. Nutrition initiatives.
- Shri Goyal stated that India is now **100%** connected under the **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)**.
- **45 crore** transitions have taken so far providing the beneficiaries the freedom to collect ration from any State/UT in the country
- The system of digitized, **Aadhaar linked Public Distribution** will be used to issue Ayushman Bharat Card.
- Uttar Pradesh is using the system to issue Ayushman Bharat cards.
- The **deadline** to submit claims of pending dues till the year 2019-20 is **August 15, 2022**.
- The **absence of states** includes Telangana, Orissa, Jharkhand, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Nagaland.

Ranks and scores obtained by general category states and union territories :

Rank	State/UT	Index Score
------	----------	-------------

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1	Odisha	0.836
2	Uttar Pradesh	0.797
3	Andhra Pradesh	0.794
4	Gujarat	0.790
5	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu	0.787
20	Goa	0.631

- The UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu is covered under both categories for urban areas under the DBT category and other areas under the non-DBT category.

Ranks and scores obtained by states and union territories belonging to special categories (North-Eastern states, Himalayan states, and the Island Regions)

Rank	State/UT	Index Score
1	Tripura	0.788
2	Himachal Pradesh	0.758
3	Sikkim	0.710
4	Nagaland	0.648
5	Uttarakhand	0.637
14	Ladakh	0.412

Ranks and scores obtained by union territories operating in DBT (cash transfer) mode

Rank	UT	Index Score

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1	Dadra & NH and Daman Diu	0.802
2	Puducherry	0.709
3	Chandigarh	0.680

Comprehensive country-level Index

Rank	State/UT	Index Score
1	Odisha	0.836
2	Uttar Pradesh	0.797
3	Andhra Pradesh	0.794
4	Gujarat	0.790
5	Tripura	0.788
34	Ladak	0.412

- DBT cash UTs-Chandigarh and Puducherry have not been listed in the country-level index due to variation in the scoring criteria, however, separate ranks and scores have been generated for these UTs in all categories.
- The National Food Security Act (NFSA) was enacted on **July 5, 2013**.

About Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution :

- Cabinet Minister: Piyush Goyal
- Minister of State: Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti, Ashwini Kumar Choubey

Jharkhand tops Rurban Mission's delta rating:

- With a composite score of 76.19, **Jharkhand topped the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Rurban Mission's delta rating for June**, according to a formal declaration.
- As a consequence, in the mission's overall rating, the state has climbed to eighth place.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – July 2022

- The state saw the largest gain among the 34 states and union territories in its **delta ranking score, rising 1.93 points** from the previous month.

Key Points:

- The Center launched the mission in 2016 with the objectives of fostering local economic development, updating critical services, and creating well-planned Rurban clusters.
- Dr. **Manish Ranjan**, the secretary of the state's rural development department, claims that Jharkhand's ranking has increased due to the better work done in each of the areas.
- The **Union Ministry of Rural Development** has released the delta rating for **June**, and Jharkhand came in **first nationally in the delta ranking and ninth overall**, according to state **MGNREGA** commissioner **Rajeshwari B.**

India is ranked 135th internationally in the WEF's Gender Gap Report for 2022:

- In the **World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Gender Gap Index 2022**, India is ranked **135th** out of 146 nations
- In the "**health and survival**" sub-index, where it is placed at 146, it has the lowest results globally.
- India also does poorly among its neighbors, ranking in last place after **Bangladesh (71)**, **Nepal (96)**, **Sri Lanka (110)**, **Maldives (117)**, and **Bhutan (126)**.
- In South Asia, only **Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan (143, 145, and 146, respectively)** fare worse than India

Key Points:

- **Iceland** retained its place as the **world's most gender-equal country**, followed by **Finland, Norway, New Zealand, and Sweden**, as per the annual Gender Gap Report 2022 of the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** released in Geneva.
- According to the research, **Afghanistan has the poorest performance.**
- Only 11 countries are ranked below India on the index of 146 nations, with **Afghanistan, Pakistan, Congo, Iran, and Chad** being the worst-five.
- **India** is ranked **48th in political empowerment**, **107th in educational attainment**, **146th in health and survival**, and **143rd in economic involvement and opportunity.**

4 key dimensions:

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- The Global Gender Gap Index measures gender parity in **four key areas**, or sub-indices, including **political empowerment, health and survival, educational achievement, and economic involvement and opportunity**.
- It provides scores on a scale **from 0 to 100**, which represent the amount of progress made toward parity or the proportion of the gender gap that has been closed.

About the Global Gender Gap Report 2022:

- The **16th edition** of the WEF's annual report, the **Global Gender Gap Report 2022**, was released this year.
- The World Economic Forum originally **established** the Global Gender Gap Index in **2006** to assess gender differences across nations across four categories: **political leadership, economic opportunity, education, and health**.

About WEF:

- Headquarters: **Cologny, Switzerland**
- Founder: **Klaus Schwab**
- Chairperson: **Borge Brende**
- Founded: **January 1971**

Ahmedabad & Kerala features in TIME Magazine's The World's Greatest Places of 2022:

- Two sites in India have been included in **TIME Magazine's list of "50 remarkable spots to discover"** for this year.
- Two Indian locations made the list of the top places in the world in 2022: **Kerala, a state in the south, and Ahmedabad, the capital of Gujarat**.

Key Points:

- **Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates; Park City, Utah; Seoul; the Great Barrier Reef, Australia; the Arctic; Valencia, Spain; the Trans Bhutan Trail, Bhutan; the International Space Station; Bogota; the Lower Zambezi National Park, Zambia; Istanbul; and Kigali, Rwanda** are also on the list.
- The World's Greatest Places list is created by TIME Magazine's global network of journalists and contributors, "with an eye on those delivering unique and thrilling experiences," according to the publication.

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About Kerala:

- One of India's most beautiful states in Kerala.
- It is referred to as "God's land" with good reason because of its magnificent beaches, verdant backwaters, temples, and palaces, according to TIME Magazine.

About Ahmedabad:

- As India's first UNESCO World Heritage City, Ahmedabad "boasts both ancient landmarks and contemporary innovations that make it a mecca for cultural tourism, from the tranquil Gandhi Ashram that sits on 36 acres on the banks of the Sabarmati River to Navratri, a vibrant nine-day celebration billed as the longest dance festival in the world," according to TIME Magazine.

NIRF Rankings 2022: the list of all Top Colleges, Universities

- **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, the union education minister, published the **7th edition of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings**.
- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** and the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore** is India's top two higher education institutions overall, according to the most recent NIRF rankings published by the Education Ministry.

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings Categories:

- (a) Overall Category
- (b) Pharmacy Colleges
- (c) Top Medical Colleges
- (d) Top Management Colleges
- (e) Engineering Colleges

NIRF India Ranks 2022: Overall Category

1. Indian Institute of Technology Madras
2. Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore
3. Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
4. Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
5. Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
6. Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
7. Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

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8. Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
9. All India Institute of Medical Sciences
10. Jawaharlal Nehru University

Top Pharmacy Colleges

1. Jamia Hamdard
2. National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Hyderabad
3. Panjab University
4. National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Mohali
5. Birla Institute of Technology and Science – Pilani
6. JSS College of Pharmacy
7. Institute of Chemical Technology
8. JSS College of Pharmacy
9. Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manipal
10. National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Ahmedabad

Top Medical Colleges

1. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi
2. Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research
3. Christian Medical College
4. National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences, Bangalore
5. Banaras Hindu University
6. Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research
7. Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences
8. Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
9. Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram
10. Kasturba Medical College, Manipal

Top Management Colleges

1. Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad
2. Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
3. Indian Institute of Management Calcutta

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4. Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
5. Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode
6. Indian Institute of Management Lucknow
7. Indian Institute of Management Indore
8. Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI)
9. National Institute of Industrial Engineering
10. Indian Institute of Technology Madras

Top Engineering Colleges

1. IIT Madras
2. IIT Delhi
3. IIT Bombay
4. IIT Kanpur
5. IIT Kharagpur
6. IIT Roorkee
7. IIT Guwahati
8. NIT Tiruchirapalli
9. IIT Hyderabad
10. NIT Surathkal

2.3 billion people severely or moderately hungry in 2021: U.N.

- **World hunger rose in 2021**, with around **2.3 billion** people facing moderate or severe difficulty obtaining enough to eat and that was before the **Ukraine war**, which has sparked increases in the **cost of grain, fertilizer, and energy**, according to a U.N. report
- Ukraine and Russia together accounted for almost a third of the world's wheat and barley exports and half of its sunflower oil, **while Russia and its ally Belarus** are the **world's No. 2 and 3 producers of potash**, a key ingredient of fertilizer.
- According to the report, of the **estimated 2.3 billion people** who were moderately or severely "food insecure" in 2021, the number facing severe **food insecurity rose to about 924 million**.
- The prevalence of "undernourishment" where food consumption is insufficient to maintain an active and healthy life is used to measure hunger.

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- Undernourishment continued to rise in 2021, and the report estimates that between 702 million and 828 million people faced hunger last year.

Expat Insider Rankings for 2022- India ranks 36th:

- India is placed 36th out of 52 nations in the Expat Insider Rankings for 2022, which were just published by InterNations.
- Mexico is ranked first and has a high affordability score.
- The ranking's worst country for ex-pats is Kuwait.

Ranking Orders:

Top 10:

Mexico, Indonesia, Taiwan, Portugal, Spain, UAE, Vietnam, Thailand, Australia, and Singapore.

11 to 20:

Estonia, Oman, Kenya, USA, Bahrain, Brazil, Russia, Malaysia, Switzerland, and Czechia.

21 to 30:

Philippines, Netherlands, Canada, Austria, Hungary, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Poland, Belgium, and Denmark.

31 to 40:

France, Finland, China, Norway, Egypt, India, UK, Ireland, Sweden, and South Korea.

41 to 52:

Greece, Germany, Malta, Italy, Turkey, South Africa, Japan, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Hong Kong, New Zealand, and Kuwait.

About the Expat Insider Rankings:

- Every year, InterNations, a network for expatriates, conducts the Expat Insider poll.

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- The poll looks at some of the finest potential ex-pat locations worldwide, which provide the highest quality of life for those who relocate overseas to do so.
- 11,970 people were polled as part of the Expat Insider 2022 survey report to get their opinions on life abroad.
- These responders came from 177 different nations and 181 different territories.
- On the list, a total of 52 nations have been ranked.

India's International Economic Resilience Improves To 2nd Position in 2022 From 3rd Position in 2021:

Ph.D. Chamber

- In the International Economic Resilience, the Indian Economy improved from 6th position in 2019 to 4th position in 2020, 3rd in 2021, and 2nd in 2022 among the top ten leading economies, according to the industry body PHDCCI.
- Despite the massive disruptions in both demand and supply side factors caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and further geopolitical distress, India, through its effective dynamic policy environment, is the only economy among the top ten leading economies which has shown consistent improvement in its macroeconomic performance during the last four years despite global economic crisis of COVID-19 and recent geopolitical developments.

Ranking of International Economic Resilience (IER) of the Top 10 Countries in each of the years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022:

Top 10 Leading Economies	IER Rank (2019)	IER Rank (2020)	IER Rank (2021)	IER Rank (2022)
USA	7	8	10	6
China	2	1	1	3
Japan	8	5	8	5
Germany	1	2	2	1
India	6	4	3	2
UK	3	9	9	5

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France	4	7	5	6
Canada	2	6	7	1
Italy	5	6	4	4
Brazil	9	3	6	7

Key Points:

- The report released by PHDCCI, titled ‘Pre and Post COVID Economic Dynamics of Leading Economies’, (attached) is based on the comparative analysis of the leading economies’ resilience conducted based on the five leading economic parameters viz., **Real GDP Growth Rate parameter, Merchandise Export Volume Growth rate, Current Account Balance (% of GDP), General government net lending/borrowing (% of GDP), and Gross Debt to GDP ratio**
- As per the IMF estimates of April 2022 WEO, India’s real GDP growth rate and merchandise export growth rate for 2022 are projected to be the strongest at 8.2% and 7.0% respectively

Henley Passport Index 2022: India ranks 87th

- The **list of the world's most potent passports for 2022** was been published by the **Henley Passport Index**.
- **Japan, Singapore, and South Korea, three Asian countries**, took the top three spots on the list, reversing the pre-pandemic ranks that were dominated by European countries.
- According to the most recent **Henley Passport Index** from immigration consultant Henley & Partners, India's passport would be the **87th most valuable in the world in 2022**.

Key Points:

- According to the Henley Index, Pakistan, a neighbor of India, has the fourth-worst passport in the whole world.
- While Singapore and South Korea both allow entrance to 192 countries, the Japanese passport allows hassle-free travel to 193 of them.
- India is rated 87th out of all Asian nations, ahead of Tajikistan, and Mauritius, and has access to 67 nations through its passport.

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- China shares the 69th position with Bolivia, and both countries' passports provide travel to 80 different places.
- Bangladesh is five positions ahead of Pakistan in the rankings, taking up position 104.
- After Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria, Pakistan has the fourth-worst passport in the whole world.

Top 10 countries

1. Japan
2. Singapore
3. South Korea
4. Germany
5. Spain
6. Finland
7. Italy
8. Luxemburg
9. Austria
10. Denmark

About the Henley Passport Index:

- According to the number of places its holders can go to without a previous visa, **Henley Passport Index has rated all 199 passports in the world.**
- The International Air Transport Association, which manages the biggest collection of travel information in the world, provided the data for the rating, which was then further improved by a substantial and continuous study by the Henley & Partners Research Department.

Tamil Nadu tops in Smart City Fund utilization:

- According to the **government's flagship Smart City Mission, Tamil Nadu** leads the list of states in terms of how well the money is being used.
- **Uttar Pradesh is in second place** with the use of Rs 2699 cr out of the Central share allocation of Rs 3142 cr, while **Tamil Nadu has spent more than Rs 3932 cr of the Rs 4333 cr provided by the Centre.**
- As of 8 July 2022, the Center has released Rs 30,751.41 crore for 100 Smart Cities; of that amount, Rs 27,610.34 crore (90 percent) had been used.

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About the Smart Cities Mission (SCM):

- The **Smart Cities Mission (SCM)** was introduced by the central government on **June 25, 2015**.
- From January 2016 to June 2018, 100 Smart Cities were chosen following four rounds of competition.
- According to SCM guidelines, the **Central government would provide up to Rs 48,000 crore over five years**, or an average of Rs 100 crore per city every year, in financial support.
- The state government or urban local authority should give an equal amount on a matching basis.

Key Points:

- According to government statistics, states including **Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka** have also invested significant sums of money in initiatives related to the **Smart City Mission**.
- While Maharashtra utilized more than Rs 2453 crore out of a total release of Rs 2454 crore by the Centre, Karnataka registered usage of Rs 2420 crore from the Central grant of Rs 2618 crore.
- As of 8 July 2022, these Smart Cities have awarded contracts for 7,822 projects totaling Rs. 1,90,660 crore; issued work orders for 7,649 projects totaling Rs. 1,80,996 crore; and finished 4,085 projects totaling Rs. 66,912 crores.
- Up to **June 2023, SCM will be in effect**, and all Smart Cities are required to finish their initiatives by that date.

Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List: Gautam Adani surpasses Bill Gates

- According to the **Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List**, **Gautam Adani**, the richest man in India, has passed **Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates** to move up to the **fourth-richest position in the world**.
- This increase coincided with Gates' announcement that he would be giving the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation \$20 billion of his money**.

The top three richest businessmen:

1. Tesla CEO Elon Musk: \$234.4 billion
2. Bernard Arnault: \$154.9 billion,
3. Amazon chief Jeff Bezos: \$143.9 billion

Key Points:

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- With a net worth of \$230 billion, Elon Musk tops the list of richest people, followed by Jeff Bezos of Amazon and Bernard Arnault of Louis Vuitton.
- On the Forbes list, Mukesh Ambani (net worth: \$88 billion) came in at number ten.
- Due to the increase in his wealth, which gave him the world's highest wealth gainer this year, Adani surpassed fellow countryman Ambani in February to claim the top place in Asia.

India Innovation Index 2021: Karnataka, Manipur, and Chandigarh topped:

- The third version of the NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index, which rates the states and the union territories on their innovation performance, placed Karnataka, Manipur, and Chandigarh at the top.
- In the presence of Dr. VK Saraswat, CEO Parameswaran Iyer, and senior advisor Neeraj Sinha from the apex public policy think tank, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery unveiled the India Innovation Index 2021.

The innovation index is based on 7 pillars:

1. Human capital
2. Investment
3. Knowledge workers
4. Business environment
5. Safety and legal environment
6. Knowledge output
7. Knowledge diffusion

Key Points:

- In the category for "Major States," Karnataka came top, whereas in the category for "North East and the Hill States," Manipur took first place. In the category of "Union Territories and the City States," Chandigarh came out on top.
- Karnataka's impressive record in getting FDI and a sizable number of venture capital agreements may be credited for its high ranking. Delhi topped the business environment and investment pillars, while Chandigarh topped the knowledge worker pillar.

Major States:

Rank	States	III 2021
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1	Karnataka	18.01
2	Telangana	17.66
3	Haryana	16.35
4	Maharashtra	16.06
5	Tamil Nadu	15.69
6	Punjab	15.35
7	Uttar Pradesh	14.22
8	Kerala	13.67
9	Andhra Pradesh	13.32
10	Jharkhand	13.10

North-East and Hill States:

Rank	States	III 2021
1	Manipur	19.37
2	Uttarakhand	17.67
3	Meghalaya	16.00
4	Arunachal Pradesh	15.46
5	Himachal Pradesh	14.62
6	Sikkim	13.85
7	Mizoram	13.41
8	Tripura	11.43
9	Assam	11.29
10	Nagaland	11.00

UT and City-States:

Rank	UT and City States	III 2021
------	--------------------	----------

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1	Chandigarh	27.88
2	Delhi	27.00
3	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17.29
4	Puducherry	15.88
5	Goa	14.93
6	Jammu and Kashmir	12.83
7	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	12.09
8	Lakshadweep	7.86
9	Ladakh	5.91

NITI Aayog: India's R&D expenditures are one of the lowest worldwide

- India has among the lowest R&D spending worldwide, according to research by the government think tank NITI Aayog and the Institute for Competitiveness.
- Spending on R&D has declined in India, going from 0.8 percent of GDP in 2008-09 to 0.7 percent in 2017-18.
- India has a smaller GERD than the other BRICS nations, according to statistics.
- Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa all had spending rates of 1.2 percent, 1.1 percent, over 2 percent, and 0.8 percent, respectively.
- The average worldwide rate is close to 1.8 percent.

Key Points:

- The India Innovation Index 2021 indicates that India has often made very modest investments in R&D.
- This was reflected in the total proportion of gross expenditures on R&D (GERD), which was around 0.7 percent of GDP.

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- Developed countries like the United States, Sweden, and Switzerland spend about 2.9 percent, 3.2 percent, and 3.4 percent, respectively.
- Israel spends the most on R&D as a percentage of GDP, at 4.5 percent.
- One of the reasons offered for the low spending on R&D in developing countries like India is the fact that R&D investments take time to pay off.
- Because these issues are more common in countries like India, where they entail lowering hunger and battling

India and declining research output:

- India has to considerably increase its GERD and raise it to at least 2 percent to achieve its goal of a \$5 trillion GDP.
- India has one of the lowest rates of GERD in the world, at \$43 per person. India ranks far lower than its ASEAN and BRICS competitors Brazil, Malaysia, and Russia.
- Only Mexico, at \$0.31, has a smaller share of GERD as a percentage of GDP, according to the statistics.
- Numerous companies, experts, and even the RBI have raised concerns about the poor R&D performance over the years.
- In addition, the survey finds evidence of a mismatch between what is taught in universities and what is required in the industry.

The report titled “Digital Banks” released by NITI Aayog:

- The NITI Aayog document "Digital Banks" provides a justification for a licensing and regulatory framework for digital banks as well as a template and a method for putting it into practice.
- It puts a strong emphasis on preventing any regulatory or policy arbitrage and offers equal playing time for both established players and upstart competitors.
- Suman Bery, CEO of NITI Aayog, Parameswaran Iyer, and Senior Advisor Anna Roy presented the report for release in front of other officials.
- Because it is essential to effectively utilize technology to satisfy India's banking expectations, this paper looks at the present gaps, the underserved niches, and the worldwide regulatory best practices for licensable digital banks.

Key Points:

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- India's recent significant achievements in financial inclusion have been fueled by the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana** and India Stack.
- However, credit penetration remains a policy priority, especially for the nation's 63 million or more **MSMEs**, which contribute 30% to GDP, 45% to manufacturing output, 40% to exports, and employ a sizable number of the workforce.
- Indians now have access to financial inclusion thanks to digitalization, which was made possible by the Jan Dan-Aadhar-Mobile (JAM) trinity and Aadhaar, during the past several years.
- This has been further supported by the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, whose adoption has reached historic levels.
- More than 4.2 billion transactions totaling **\$7.7 trillion** were recorded by UPI in October 2021.
- UPI has benefited from the creation of valuable payment solutions on top of it because of the platform approach the government utilized while creating it.
- As a result, payments can now be done with a click at retail places as well as peer-to-peer, drastically changing how money is transferred between individuals.

Ookla's Speedtest Global Index June 2022: India ranks 118

- According to **Ookla's Speedtest Global Index**, India's ranks in terms of median mobile speeds dropped by three positions.
- In May of this year, **India was ranked 115th**, but in June, it fell to **118th**.
- India's mobile broadband speeds increased in **April and May**.
- However, the data shows that in June 2022, India's median mobile download speeds dropped from **14.28 Mbps in May to 14.00 Mbps**.
- The average fixed broadband download speed in India increased to **48.11 Mbps in June 2022** from **47.86 Mbps** the previous month.
- This raised the nation's position in the **world rankings three spots**, from **75th** in May 2022 to **72nd** in June 2022.

Speedtest Global Index:

- While **Chile** has recaptured the top rank from **Singapore**, which fell to No. 2 in terms of overall worldwide fixed broadband speeds, **Norway** continues to hold the top spot for overall global median mobile speeds.

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- In terms of the median mobile download speed index for June, **Norway comes in first place with 126.96 Mbps**, while Chile comes in top place with 213.73 Mbps.
- In terms of fixed broadband speeds and mobile download speeds, respectively, **Papua New Guinea and Gabon** had the fastest growth rates in June 2022.
- Each month, **Ookla's index** analyses speed test results from all across the world.

WHO Report: India was the top remittance recipient in 2021 receiving \$87 billion

- According to **World Health Organization** research, among the low- and middle-income nations, **India received the most remittances inflows in 2021**, measured in current US dollars.
- 87 billion US dollars' worth of remittances were sent to India in 2021, according to the "**first World report on the health of refugees and migrants.**"

Key Points:

- The top five countries on the list were **China (\$53 billion)**, **Mexico (\$53 billion)**, **the Philippines (\$36 billion)**, and **Egypt (\$33 billion)**.
- **The United States, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Switzerland** were the top remittance source nations in 2020.
- Remittances boost or sustain consumer spending and lessen the impact of tough times, like the COVID-19 epidemic, on the economy.

About the WHO World report:

- One billion people, or one in eight people worldwide, are migrants, according to the inaugural **WHO World Report on the Health of Refugees and Migrants**.
- According to research by the UN organization with particular responsibility for international public health, the top five countries that received remittances in 2021 in current US dollars were **India, China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt**.
- The durability of remittance flows observed in 2020, which fell by a small 1.7% to USD 549 billion in the face of one of the worst global recessions, was followed by the economic rebound in 2021.

About WHO

- Director-General: Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

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- Founded: 7 April 1948.

World Airport Traffic Dataset 2021: New Delhi is among the top 20 busiest airports

- The top 20 aviation sectors' **worldwide air traffic rankings for the entire year 2021** are revealed by the **annual World Airport Traffic Dataset** from the **Airports Council International (ACI) World**.
- The most complete airport statistics collection in the market, the **World Airport Traffic Dataset includes airport traffic** for over 2,600 airports across more than 180 nations and territories.
- It gives an overview of the demand for air travel at airports throughout the globe in three categories: passengers (domestic and international), air cargo (freight and mail), and aircraft movements (air transport movements and general aviation).

Key Points:

- In terms of passenger footfall in 2021, **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) was in first place with 7.6 crore passengers.**
- The **13th busiest airport in India is Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi**, which has been listed in the top 20. 3.7 crore passengers passed through IGIA in 2021, up 30.3 percent from 2.8 crores in 2020, **when IGI was ranked 16th.**
- The top 20 busiest airports contribute 19% of all traffic worldwide (863 million passengers).
- The ranking gives an overview of the demand for air travel at airports throughout the globe in three categories: passengers (domestic and international), air cargo (freight and mail), and aircraft movements (air transport movements and general aviation).

List of top 20 busiest airports:

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AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS*					
2021	2020	AIRPORT	2021	2020	Percent change
1	1	ATLANTA GA, US (ATL)	707 661	548 016	29.1
2	2	CHICAGO IL, US (ORD)	684 201	538 211	27.1
3	3	DALLAS/FORT WORTH TX, US (DFW)	651 895	514 702	26.7
4	4	DENVER CO, US (DEN)	580 866	436 971	32.9
5	6	CHARLOTTE NC, US (CLT)	519 895	397 983	30.6
6	7	LOS ANGELES CA, US (LAX)	506 769	379 364	33.6
7	10	LAS VEGAS NV, US (LAS)	486 540	323 422	50.4
8	13	PHOENIX AZ, US (PHX)	408 285	310 324	31.6
9	24	MIAMI FL, US (MIA)	387 973	251 315	54.4
10	21	HOUSTON TX, US (IAH)	378 562	267 655	41.4
11	14	SEATTLE WA, US (SEA)	374 510	296 048	26.5
12	8	GUANGZHOU, CN (CAN)	362 470	373 421	-2.9
13	16	LONG BEACH CA, US (LGB)	350 022	287 478	21.8
14	9	SHANGHAI, CN (PVG)	349 524	325 678	7.3
15	26	GRAND FORKS ND, US (GFK)	349 520	246 905	41.6
16	19	SALT LAKE CITY UT, US (SLC)	342 519	276 730	23.8
17	31	MEXICO CITY, MX (MEX)	327 889	239 367	37.0
18	25	NEW DELHI, IN (DEL)	327 429	248 580	31.7
19	11	SHENZHEN, CN (SZX)	317 855	320 348	-0.8
20	33	SANTA ANA CA, US (SNA)	311 684	238 340	30.8

Parle is still India's largest FMCG firm:

- According to Kantar India's annual Brand Footprint research, locally created biscuit brand Parle remained the most popular fast-moving consumer goods brand in India in 2021, topping the rankings for the eleventh consecutive year.
- The analysis examined the FMCG brands that consumers will pick in 2021 based on Consumer Reach Points (CRPs).
- CRP is calculated based on real consumer purchases and the frequency with which they occur for a year.
- After Parle, the other top brands on the list are Amul, Britannia, Clinic Plus, and Tata Consumer Products.
- For a record-breaking tenth year in a row, Parle is in first place with a CRP score of 6531 (million).
- According to Parle, CRP increased by 14% from the prior year's ranks.
- Comparing the present ranks to the same time last year, Amul's CRP improved by 9%, while Britannia's increased by 14%.
- Anmol (a brand of cakes and biscuits) also joined the CRP club.
- Based in London, England, Kantar Group is a data analytics and brand consultancy firm.

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- It was established in 1992

IMPORTANT BOOKS & AUTHORS

A new edition of Viswanathan Anand's memoir 'Mind Master' released soon:

- **Viswanathan Anand**, a five-time world chess champion, has released an enhanced paperback edition of his critically acclaimed autobiography "**Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life**," according to **Hachette India**.
- On July 15, the book—which includes an extra chapter on how to deal with uncertainty and quickly shifting reality in the aftermath of the pandemic—will be available for purchase.
- **Anand co-wrote it** with journalist-author **Susan Ninan**.
- In "Mind Master," Anand takes stock of a lifetime of games played, opponents faced, and problems overcame and extracts useful insights that will aid every reader in overcoming life's obstacles.
- Anand touches on some pearls throughout the book with his signature humor, unassuming insight, and disarming candour.

A new book titled 'Getting the Bread: The Gen-Z Way to Success' by Prarthna Batra:

- **Launched by sports legend Sakshi Malik** is the debut book by young YouTuber Prarthna Batra, titled "**Getting the Bread: The Gen-Z Way to Success**."
- Prarthna Batra discusses her perspective in **Getting the Bread: The Gen-Z Way to Success**, as well as her experiences interviewing notable figures in business, journalism, and politics for her well-known YouTube channel.

The book's basic objective:

- This book offers young millennial readers insightful advice on pursuing their goals and succeeding in a cutthroat society without losing sight of their humanity.
- **Getting the Bread: The Gen-Z Way to Success** is a thoroughly researched, intelligent, and very enjoyable book that redefines success for today's young.

About the Prarthna Batra:

- Prarthna Batra is the owner of the YouTube channel "Power People and Prarthna" and a fierce advocate for women's empowerment, sustainability, and animal rights in India.

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- In 2020, she started a YouTube series about entrepreneurship with successful people from various industries. She chatted with Sakshi Malik, Prajakta Koli, and Barkha Dutt in this series.
- These talks are documented in her book.
- She is also a founding member of Lajja Diaries, an online forum dedicated to promoting gender equality in discussions on feminism and women's rights in India.
- Her piece on gender prejudice appeared in The Hindu, and she was profiled in Blub World's emerging entrepreneurs' section in the February 2021 issue.

The book "Swadhinta Sangram Na Surviro" was released by Meenakshi Lekhi:

- **Meenakshi Lekhi**, Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture released a **Gujarati book** honoring the efforts of liberation warriors at an event.
- In the book "Swadhinata Sangram Na Surviro," 75 independence warriors are honored, and it tells the tales of the sacrifices they made for the nation.

About the Book:

- The book is a component of the "Swadhinta Ka Amrit Mahotsav," which commemorates the nation's **75th anniversary of independence**.
- The book honors the contributions made by our freedom heroes who fought imperialism and gave their lives in service to **Maa Bharati**.
- **Bhagyesh Jha**, a poet and the head of the planning committee for the book release event, said the book is an effort to honor the freedom warriors who gave their lives for the country's liberation.

Dr. S Jaishankar launches 'Connecting through Culture' at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan in Delhi:

- At Sushma Swaraj Bhavan in New Delhi, India, External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** released "Connecting through Culture," an anthology of essays on many facets of India's soft power strengths.
- **Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan** will be the Guest of Honour at this function to be held at Sushma Swaraj Bhavan in the national capital.
- **Vinay Sahasrabudde**, President ICCR, and **Sachchidanand Joshi**, Member Secretary of the IGNCIA have jointly edited this book which contains a total of 23 articles.

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- In terms of diplomacy, the Minister referred to the book as the "good cop" and suggested that it may be used to persuade countries to cooperate with India since **"it builds a comfort about India."**
- It gives out the knowledge of many features of India by taking distinct characteristics of India.
- The anthology makes a significant contribution to understanding, respecting, and generally valuing India in many different ways.

Himachal Governor Rajendra Vishwanath unveils book 'The McMahon line':

- A book titled **"The McMahon line: A century of strife"** was released by the governor of Himachal Pradesh, **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**.
- The book was written by **General JJ Singh (Retd)**, a former Chief of Army Staff and former **Governor of Arunachal Pradesh (CoAS)**.
- General JJ Singh's experiences and study on the India-China boundary issue are the foundation of the book.
- There was also a screening of a short movie about the McMahon line.
- This is the second book that he wrote.

About the book:

- **General JJ Singh (Retd)** had written down his expertise, research, and experience, which could be useful.
- A book about a touchy subject was authored by General JJ Singh (Retd).
- The politics, history, organization, and geography of the McMahon line were highlighted in the book.
- The book unearthed numerous fascinating details that were still applicable to the current diplomatic talks.
- The book was based on six years of study and research on the India-China boundary issue, according to General JJ Singh (Retd).
- He gave a thorough explanation of the book's principal points.

Uttarakhand CM Dhami released the book "BEYOND THE MISTY VEIL":

- The book **"BEYOND THE MISTY VEIL,"** authored by **Ms. Aradhana Johri (Senior IAS)** and titled **"Temple Tales of Uttarakhand,"** was published by the chief minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami**.

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- This book will be considered an authentic introduction to Uttarakhand's sacred temples both domestically and abroad.
- **Aradhana Johri**, a former IAS official who formerly held the position of Nainital District Magistrate.

About the book:

- Our culture and mythology are explained in the book based on the mythical temples of **Devbhoomi Uttarakhand**.
- In addition to Chardham, religious tourism needs also be promoted.
- The temples of Uttarakhand are discussed throughout the book, as well as their historical significance and folklore surrounding them.
- Expanding them into circuits will link the major temples that are located around the state and encourage religious tourism.

A book titled “Dilip Kumar: In the Shadow of a Legend” by Faisal Farooqui:

- Author **Faisal Farooqui** just published a new book about Yusuf Khan, also known as Dilip Kumar, a great actor in Indian film.
- The title of the book is "**In the Shadow of a Legend: Dilip Kumar.**"
- More than Dilip Kumar the actor, Dilip Kumar the man is honored in this book.
- One of India's top review and rating websites, **Mouthshut.com**, was founded by Farooqui and he serves as its CEO.

About the Book:

- The author of Dilip Kumar: In the Shadow of a Legend creates a close-up portrayal of the actor in the book by shedding light on some little-known tales from his long career.
- The book shows us, Dilip Kumar, as he is, away from the big screen where his admirers first fell in love with him.
- Dilip Kumar was much more than just the actor we have long admired.
- The book honors Dilip Kumar's extraordinary acting range. Dilip Kumar held the audience riveted with his portrayals of the drunken Devdas, the lover who always seems to lose his woman, the Salim who challenges Akbar, the endearing figure from Ram Aur Shyam, and the dacoit from Ganga Jamuna.

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- He was one of the few actors who could carry a whole movie by himself.
- He was a natural actor who excelled in every character he portrayed.
- He genuinely performed the part.

Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur releases three books by DPD:

- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting **Shri Anurag Thakur** released **three books published by the Directorate of Publications Division.**
- Upon release, the Minister presented the **first copy of the books to President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind** in presence of Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, President-elect Smt. Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

The three books are:

1. Moods, Moments and Memories - Former Presidents of India (1950-2017) A Visual History
2. First Citizen - Pictorial Record of President Ram Nath Kovind's Term
3. Interpreting Geometries - Flooring of Rashtrapati Bhavan.

About the Books:

- The first book is a pictorial history that chronicles all the Presidents of India from Dr. Rajendra Prasad to Shri Pranab Mukherjee and contains rare photographs sourced from Rashtrapati Bhavan archives.
- These photographs highlight some unique aspects of our Presidents' lives in the historic building, both personal & public.
- The second book is dedicated to President Shri Ram Nath Kovind's tenure and contains rare photographs from Shri Kovind's village and his school days.
- It traces his journey from his village to Rashtrapati Bhavan and will educate the readers on how a boy from humble beginnings went on to occupy the highest office in India.
- The third book is a pictorial volume put together by the Chandigarh College of Architecture and contains the historic & one-of-a-kind flooring of Rashtrapati Bhavan shown with its unique, repetitive motifs and designs & use of rare stones.
- These 3 volumes published by the **Publications Division** of the Ministry take the total count of books about The Presidents of India & the historic residence in which the President of India resides to 17 books.

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IMPORTANT SPORTS NEWS

World Cup-winning captain leaves international cricket: Eoin Morgan

- The **England and Wales Cricket Board** has confirmed that **Eoin Morgan** will immediately retire from international cricket (ECB).
- The **men's white-ball team** from **England** was led by Morgan.
- During his **13-year international career** with England, the **35-year-old** captained England Men to their first-ever ICC Men's Cricket World Cup win at Lord's in 2019.
- Additionally, he represented England at the 2010 ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup in the Caribbean.

About Morgan:

- Morgan has earned the most caps for England Men and has scored the most runs throughout all ODI and T20I matches.
- During his seven years as the Men's ODI captain, he helped England to the top of the ICC global rankings by winning notable series against all the major nations.
- He accumulated 6,957 runs throughout that period, including 1300 runs at an average of 39.75, earning a record-breaking 225 ODI caps.
- Morgan led England to 76 triumphs in 126 games with a win percentage of 60%, the best victory total of any men's ODI captain in the history of the sport.
- He and MS Dhoni of India held the record for the most Men's T20 International team captain appearances with 72.
- He made 2,458 runs overall while playing 115 times for England.
- Over three years, he was given 16 Test cricket caps, earning two centuries.
- He also owns the record for the most sixes ever in an ODI inning with 17 against Afghanistan at the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup.

Sydney McLaughlin, an Olympic champion, smashes her own 400-meter hurdles world record:

- At the American championships in Eugene, Oregon, Olympic gold medalist Sydney McLaughlin shattered her own women's 400-meter hurdles world record by taking the title in 51.41 seconds.

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- In front of a cheering audience, the 22-year-old took the lead early and never gave the rest of the field a chance to catch up, securing her place in the global championships.
- With **Shamier Little** coming in third in 53.92 seconds, **Britton Wilson** came in 1.67 seconds farther back.
- Sydney had held the record with a performance in the U.S. Olympic trials in 51.90 seconds, but Tokyo broke that mark by winning gold in 51.46.

Novak Djokovic becomes 1st player to win 80 matches in all four Grand Slams:

- **Novak Djokovic** became the first player in history to win 80 matches at all four Grand Slams on **Centre Court**, defeating **Kwon Soon-woo** 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.
- The former world number one tennis player has established history by winning his 80th match at Wimbledon.
- The six-time winner is the only male player in the **Open Era to win 80** or more matches at each of the four grand slams.
- A seventh triumph would tie him with **Pete Sampras'** record and place him only one title **behind Roger Federer** as the second-most successful male singles player in the history of the oldest grand slam.

No. of matches won by Novak Djokovic at each Grand Slam:

- Roland Garros – 85
- Australian Open -82
- US Open – 81
- Wimbledon -80

Adani Sportsline is the principal sponsor of the Indian Olympic Association:

- The Indian Olympic Association and Adani Sportsline, the Adani Group's sports division, have signed a long-term major sponsorship agreement (IOA).
- At the upcoming **Birmingham Commonwealth Games in 2022**, the **Hangzhou Asian Games in 2022**, and the **Paris Olympic Games in 2024**, it will serve as the Indian team's official partner.
- The group has previously been linked to the Indian team competing in the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

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- Through its athlete support program, **#GarvHai**, Adani Sportsline has helped more than 28 athletes compete in a range of sports.
- **The wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya was one of six** of these athletes that competed for India in the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and won a silver medal.
- Aside from these leagues, **Adani Sportsline** also owns clubs in the **Pro Kabaddi League**, **Ultimate Kho Kho League**, Big Bout Boxing League, and International League T20 (cricket).

Neeraj Chopra clinches silver medal at prestigious Diamond League meet:

- Olympic champion javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** clinched his **first-ever medal at the prestigious Diamond League meet in Stockholm** as he broke his national record for the second time in a month.
- **Chopra finished 2nd at the Stockholm Diamond League** with a massive throw of 89.94 meters.
- Reigning world champion **Anderson Peters won the event** with a best throw of 90.31 meters.
- Chopra broke his national record of 89.30m that he set at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku earlier this month.
- The prestigious one-day meet at the Swedish capital is Chopra's biggest event ahead of the World Championships in Eugene, USA, next month.
- Chopra is the **first Indian to win a gold medal in athletics at the Olympics**.

Jasprit Bumrah smashes Broad for 29 runs, shattering Lara's world record:

- **Jasprit Bumrah, the captain of India**, surpassed the famous **Brian Lara's record by one run** when he battered the helpless Stuart Broad for 29 runs to set a new global record for the **most runs scored in a single over in Test cricket**.
- **Lara held the global record for the longest time (18 years)**.
- In a Test match in 2003–04, he scored 28 runs against South African left-arm spinner Robin Peterson, including four fours and two sixes from six legal deliveries.
- In the 84th over of the Indian first innings in the fifth rescheduled Test here, Broad, who was previously blasted for **six sixes in an over by Yuvraj Singh in the first World T20 in 2007**, **conceded 35**.
- Six additional runs were made, with five wideouts and one no-ball.
- With four boundaries and two sixes off of 16 balls, the Indian captain was not out at 31.

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Carlos Sainz won the British Grand Prix Title 2022:

- At the **British Grand Prix** in 2022, **Carlos Sainz** of **Ferrari** became the first Spaniard to win a **Formula One** race.
- He finished ahead of **Lewis Hamilton** of **Mercedes** and **Sergio Perez** of **Red Bull**.
- In his **150th** race, **Carlos Sainz** won his first **Formula One** race.
- **Max Verstappen**, the leader of the world championship, battled with his vehicle after getting a puncture early on, finishing in **P7**, while **Charles Leclerc**, who had been leading the race until lap 43, was unable to hang on to his older set of hard tyres and slid to finish **P4**.
- Six drivers did not complete the **Silverstone** race, with **Fernando Alonso**, **Lando Norris**, **Mick Schumacher**, **Sebastian Vettel**, and **Kevin Magnussen** rounding out the top 10.

Boxers Alfiya Pathan and Gitika clinch gold medals: Elorda Cup

- **Alfiya Pathan** and **Gitika**, the current **Youth World Boxing** champions, took home gold in the **Elorda Cup** in **Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan**.
- **Silver medals** were won by two more female boxers from **India**, **Kalaivani Srinivasan**, and **Jamuna Boro**.
- **Alfiya** defeated **Lazzat Kungeibayeva**, the 2016 world champion and a strong contender for the championship, with a score of **5-0** in the women's **81-kilogram** final.
- In an exciting **all-Indian women's 48-kg final**, **Gitika** defeated **Kalaivani** by a score of **4-1**.
- The last day's addition of **two gold, two silver, and ten bronze medals** gave the **33-member** Indian delegation a total of **14 medals**, bringing their campaign to a successful conclusion.
- Leading athletes from nations including **India, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, the host nation, Cuba, China, and Mongolia** competed in the competition.

Malaysia Open Badminton Tournament 2022:

- The **Petronas Malaysia Open 2022** was the official name of the **2022 Malaysia Open**, which took place in the **Axiata Arena** in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.
- The tournament's total prize money was **US\$675,000**.
- The **2022 Malaysia Open**, which was a part of the **Malaysia Open** competitions that had been going on since **1937**, was the **twelfth event on the 2022 BWF World Tour**.
- The **Badminton Association of Malaysia** arranged this competition with approval from the **BWF**.

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List of Winners:

Category	Winner
Men's singles title	Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
Women's singles title	Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand)
Men's doubles champions	Takuro Hoki / Yugo Kobayashi of Japan
Women's doubles champions	Apriyani Rahayu and Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti of Indonesia
Mixed doubles	China's Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong

36th National Games to be held in Gujarat from Sep 27 to Oct 10:

- Gujarat's chief minister, **Shri Bhupendra Patel**, announced that the **36th National Games** will be hosted in his state for the **first time from September 27 to October 10**.
- The famous event is being held following a seven-year break; **the previous one was in Kerala in 2015**.
- This is due to a multitude of issues, including the coronavirus epidemic since 2020.
- In a different tweet, the chief minister asserted that Gujarat has top-notch athletic facilities and that sports are enjoying a rebirth.
- To make the national games the greatest sporting event ever, the government will take all reasonable measures.

Key Points:

- The national games, which will take place in six locations, will feature more than 34 sports.
- Athletes from all over the country are expected to demonstrate their talent in sports including **athletics, hockey, football, volleyball, lawn tennis, table tennis, judo, wrestling, kabaddi, kho-kho, mallakhambha, and yoga** in both indoor and outdoor tournaments.
- In addition to Gujarat, Goa was a strong contender for the destination this year.

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- The "Khel Mahakhumbh" program was introduced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2010 while he was the chief minister of Gujarat.
- Gujarat has developed a thriving sports environment as a result of Khel Mahakhumbh's huge popularity.

Wimbledon 2022: Novak Djokovic wins the seventh title:

- Serbia Novak Djokovic defeated Nick Kyrgios in four sets to win his seventh Wimbledon men's title and 21st Grand Slam title.
- Despite Kyrgios' best efforts, he was only able to win one set against the more seasoned opponent in his maiden Major final, allowing Djokovic to win his 21st Major title.

Women Singles:

- After falling behind, Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina won the Women's Singles championship at Wimbledon by defeating Tunisian third-seed Ons Jabeur 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.
- Rybakina is the Kazakh woman with the most WTA-level victories during the Open Era.
- She also became the first Kazakh player to ever win a WTA championship on grass (3).
- Since Petra Kvitova in 2011, the 23-year-old also became Wimbledon's youngest female champion.

About 2022 Wimbledon Championships

- In Wimbledon, London, the All-England Lawn Tennis, and Croquet Club host the Wimbledon Championships 2022, a Grand Slam tennis competition.
- All main draw matches will be contested at Wimbledon's All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club from June 27, 2022, to July 10, 2022, on grass courts.

Winners List:

S.No	Category	Winner	Runner up
1	Men's Singles	N. Djokovic	N. Kyrgios
2	Women's Singles	E. Rybakina	O. Jabeur
3	Men's Doubles	M. Ebden & M. Purcell	N. Mektić & M. Pavić
4	Women's Doubles	K. Siniaková & B.	S. Zhang & E. Mertens

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		Krejčíková	
5	Mixed Doubles	D. Krawczyk & N. Skupski	M. Ebden & S. Stosur

India's Arjun Babuta wins first gold medal at ISSF World Cup in South Korea:

- In Shooting, **India's Arjun Babuta** won his first gold medal at the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup** stage at Changwon in **South Korea**.
- He defeated Tokyo 2020 **silver medallist Lucas Kozeniesky** of the USA 17-9 in the final.
- **Arjun Babuta** had also topped the eight-men ranking round with a score of 261.1 ahead of Lucas Kozeniesky's 260.4.
- Israel's Sergey Richter settled for bronze with a score of 259.9 while **India's Paarth Makhija** managed 258.1 for a **fourth-place finish**.
- Arjun Babuta had qualified second to make it to the eight-man ranking round behind Sergey Richter.
- **Paarth Makhija** had qualified in fifth place from the 53-strong field.
- The **third Indian shooter in the mix, Shahu Tushar Mane** finished 30th.
- This was India's first medal under new national foreign rifle coach Thomas Farnik.

About ISSF:

- The International Shooting Sport Federation is the governing body of the Olympic shooting events in rifle, pistol, and shotgun disciplines, and several non-Olympic Shooting sports events.
- Headquarters location: Munich, Germany
- President: Vladimir Lisin
- Founded: 1907

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc wins Austrian Grand Prix 2022:

- To win the **Austrian Grand Prix 2022**, Ferrari's **Charles Leclerc** defeated world champion **Max Verstappen**.
- **Max Verstappen** of **Red Bull** had to settle for **second place**, as seven-time world champion **Lewis Hamilton** of **Mercedes** finished well behind in **third** after starting ninth for the third straight race.
- Leclerc, who did not start on pole position for his maiden Formula 1 victory, has already cut Verstappen's lead in the drivers' championship standings to 38 points.

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- **The Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria** hosted the 2022 Austrian Grand Prix, a Formula One event, on July 10, 2022.
- In 2022, the Formula One sprint format was used for the second Grand Prix weekend.

Marizanne Kapp and Jonny Bairstow were named ICC Players of the Month for June:

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has released the June 2022 ICC Player of the Month honors.
- **Jonny Bairstow of England** won the Men's Player of the Month award for his strong play, and **Marizanne Kapp of South Africa** was named the Women's Player of the Month.

Key Points:

- After his outstanding efforts against New Zealand last month, Jonny Bairstow won the award.
- He won the "Player of the Month" title over his teammate Joe Root and the New Zealand batsman Daryl Mitchell.
- Marizanne Kapp, a South African batter, put on a string of strong displays over the past month.
- By using a classic stroke play, Kapp received more votes than Nat Sciver of England and Shabnim Ismail from her side.
- Kapp's achievement makes her the first South African woman to win the ICC Women's Player of the Month award since Lizelle Lee did it in March 2021.

About ICC:

- Founded: 15 June 1909
- Chairman: Greg Barclay
- CEO: Geoff Allardice
- Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

GM D. Gukesh of India wins the Gijon Chess Masters:

- The **Gijon Chess Masters** was won by **D. Gukesh of India** with **eight points** after nine rounds.
- **International Master Pedro Antonio Gines of Spain** came in third with six points, followed by **GM Alexandr Fier of Brazil** in second place with 6.5 points.
- Gukesh increased his FIDE rating to 2693 with the victory. Gukesh could surpass the 2700 Elo mark, joining Viswanathan Anand, Krishnan Sasikiran, P. Harikrishna, Vidit Gujarati, and B. Adhiban as the sixth Indian to do so.

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About FIDE:

- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- President: Arkady Dvorkovich
- Founded: 20 July 1924, Paris, France
- Membership: 200 national associations

In Finland, 94-year-old Bhagwani Devi won a gold medal in the 100-meter sprint:

- At the Tampere, Finland, World Masters Athletics Championships, 94-year-old Indian sprinter **Bhagwani Devi Dagar** took home the gold medal in the 100-meter sprint.
- With a time of 24.74 seconds, she won the gold and the bronze in the shot-put events.
- The World Masters Athletics Championships are a track and field championship held for participants 35 years of age and beyond.
- Bhagwani Devi received congratulations from Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, through Twitter.
- Both the governor and chief minister of the 94-year-home old's Haryana, Bandaru Dattatreya, sent their greetings.
- At 94 years old, she is now a source of inspiration for everyone, according to Khattar.

Indian women's cricket team for upcoming Commonwealth Games announced:

- The **BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India)** has named the Indian women's cricket team for the upcoming **Commonwealth Games**, which will be held in **Birmingham** from July 28 to August 8.
- **Harmanpreet Kaur** will serve as the team's captain.
- **Sneh Rana, Harleen Deol, and Taniya Bhatiya** served as the team's wicketkeepers.
- The team's primary choice for a **wicketkeeper** is **Yastika Bhatia**.

Key Points:

- Simran Bahadur and Poonam Yadav were chosen as reserve competitors for the event. India is in Group A with Pakistan, Australia, and Barbados.
- It will play Australia in the opening match of the competition on July 29.
- Group B is composed of South Africa, Sri Lanka, England, the host country, and New Zealand.

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- All matches will be played at Birmingham's Edgbaston Cricket Ground for the first time during the CWG, which will feature women's cricket.
- The men's 50-over tournament, which South Africa won at the 1998 Kuala Lumpur Games, is the most notable instance of cricket being played in the past.

About BCCI:

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India is the governing body for cricket in India. Its headquarters are situated at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.
- The BCCI is an autonomous organization and does not fall under the purview of the National Sports Federation of India.
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: December 1928

Birmingham World Games 2022: Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam win bronze in archery:

- At the **World Games 2022** in Birmingham, Alabama, USA, **Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Abhishek Verma**, the Asian Games gold and bronze medalists in archery, respectively, **won bronze**.
- In the bronze medal match, the Indian archery team defeated Mexico's Andrea and Miguel Becerra 157-156.
- At the **Archery World Cup** in Paris, **Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Abhishek Verma** won gold.

Key points:

- At the first set's conclusion, Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Abhishek Verma had a 40-39 advantage.
- Thanks to a comeback by Andrea Becerra and Miguel Becerra, who took home the bronze medal at the World Championships, the match was knotted 78-78 in the second set.
- In the third set, the Indian team again took the lead, and they struck four tens in the pivotal set to win it by a narrow margin.
- Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam lost to Colombia's Daniel Munoz and women's world No. 1 Sara Lopez 159-157 after overcoming New Zealand 156-155 in the eighth round.

Rohit Sharma sets a world record and becomes the first captain to win 13 straight T20I matches:

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- **India's skipper, Rohit Sharma**, made cricket history by becoming the **first captain to win 13 straight T20Is**.
- Rohit achieved this in **Southampton's first Twenty20** encounter in a three-match series against England.
- After taking over as captain from **Virat Kohli**, **Rohit Sharma guided the Men in Blue** to victory against New Zealand, the West Indies, Sri Lanka, and now England.

Key Points:

- India's score in the first innings increased to 198/8 because of Hardik Pandya's all-around performance.
- Deepak Hooda, Suryakumar Yadav, and Rohit Sharma each added 24 runs, 39 runs, and 33 runs.
- For England, Topley, Tymal Mills, and Parkinson each took one wicket, while Moeen Ali and Chris Jordan each took two.
- Arshdeep Singh, a young spinner, Yuzvendra Chahal, and one each from Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Harshal Patel brought an end to the English innings at 148.
- Moeen Ali and Chris Jordan were the top two hitters, scoring 36 and 26* runs respectively.

India bagged 22 medals in Asian U-20 Wrestling Championships in Manama, Bahrain:

- As many as **22 medals** were eventually won by **Indian wrestlers** at the **U20 Asian Wrestling Championships in Manama, Bahrain**.
- The brilliant group of grapplers put on a solid performance and put up a good battle against deserving rivals from Iran and Kazakhstan, among other powerful nations, winning **4 gold medals, 9 silver medals, and 9 bronze medals**.
- The Indian team placed second in both the men's and women's wrestling competitions, and seventh in the men's Greco-Roman competition.

Indian medallists from the U20 Asian Wrestling Championships:

- Gold: Priyanka (65kg), Aainrju (68kg), Antim (53kg), Sujeet (65kg)
- Silver: Sweety (50kg), Reena (55kg), Bipasha (72kg), Priya (76kg), Mulaym Yadav (70kg), Ashish (97kg), Mohit Kumar (61kg), Jaideep (74kg), Mahendran Gaikwad (125kg)

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- Bronze: Sito (57kg), Tanu (59kg), Sarika (62kg), Aman (57kg), Deepak (79kg), Jointly Kumar (86kg), Akash (92kg), Rohit Dahiya (82kg), Ankit Gulia (67kg)

Mohammed Shami becomes fastest Indian bowler to take 150 ODI wickets:

- In the opening ODI between India and England at the Kennington Oval, Mohammed Shami became the Indian bowler to reach 150 ODI wickets the quickest.
- To get 150 ODI victories, the seamer needs 80 games.
- With his second wicket of the game, Shami accomplished the feat.
- Shami is the third-fastest overall with 150 ODI wickets.
- Along with Rashid Khan of Afghanistan, Shami surpassed the milestone of 150 ODI wickets in the third-fastest time ever.
- Mitchell Starc of Australia (77 matches) and Saqlain Mushtaq of Pakistan (78 matches) are the two bowlers who have accumulated 150 ODI wickets the fastest.

British Parliament felicitated BCCI President Sourav Ganguly:

- Sourav Ganguly, a former captain of India and the current president of the BCCI, received recognition from the British Parliament.
- Exactly 20 years after leading India to victory in the Natwest final in 2002, the Indian cricket icon was honored on the same day, in the same place.
- In 2019, he was chosen to lead the BCCI.

About Sourav Ganguly:

- As the 39th and current president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, Sourav Chandidas Ganguly, often known as Dada, is an Indian cricket administrator, pundit, and former captain of the national cricket team. He is revered as the Indian cricket Maharaja.
- In 2004, Ganguly received the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian honors.
- On May 20, 2013, the West Bengali government presented Ganguly with the Banga Bibhushan Award.
- Ganguly is now a member of the Justice Mudgal Committee inquiry panel for the IPL spot-fixing and betting scandal, which was established by the Supreme Court of India.

Singapore Open 2022: PV Sindhu wins first Super 500 title

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- In the Singapore Open final, **PV Sindhu** defeated China's Wang Zhi Yi to win the tournament's **first Super 500 title**.
- The score was 21-9, 11-21, and 21-15. She hasn't achieved a 500 since winning the world championship in 2019.
- Her first 500-or-better final in 2022 is this one.
- While the standings are currently locked, this is a significant milestone for world No. 7.
- At the Singapore Open for badminton in 2022, **Anthony Sinisuka Ginting** won the men's singles **competition**.
- In a fiercely contested final, Indonesian Olympian Ginting defeated unseeded Japanese player **Naraoka Kodai**.

Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa wins Paracin Open Chess title in Serbia:

- In Chess, young Indian Grandmaster **R Praggnanandhaa** has won the **Paracin Open 'A'** chess tournament 2022 in **Serbia**.
- The **16-year-old** remained unbeaten and finished half a point ahead of the field.
- Second-seeded, Praggnanandhaa scored 8 points from nine rounds.
- Top seed, **Alexandr Predke** took the second spot with 7.5 points ahead of Alisher Suleymenov and India's **AL Muthaiah**, who both scored 7 points.
- Suleymenov grabbed third place based on a better tie-break score.
- The teenage prodigy will be part of a strong India 'B' team in the **44th Chess Olympiad** to be held near **Chennai** from **July 28**.

Murali Sreeshankar becomes first Indian to enter men's long jump final at World Athletics

Championships:

- In the **World Athletics Championships**, **Murali Sreeshankar** has become the first Indian to enter the men's long jump final in **Oregon, USA**.
- He leaped meters in the qualification round.
- The **23-year-old** from **Kerala** finished second in qualification round Group B and seventh overall.
- Sreeshankar could not touch the automatic qualification mark of 8.15 meters but made it to the finals nonetheless as one of the best twelve performers.
- The Indian contingent at the Championships witnessed mixed results.

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Key Points:

- **Avinash Sable** in Men's 3000-meter steeplechase and **Murali Sreeshankar** in Men's Long Jump qualified for the final in their respective events.
- Sable finished third in Heat 3, clocking 8:18.75.
- Sreeshankar will be in action in the men's long jump final while MP Jabir will also compete in the men's 400-meter Hurdles qualification round.
- The **World Athletics Championships** is a congregation of over 2000 athletes from 200 countries around the world.
- The 10-day biennial event will conclude on the 24th of July.
- The championships are being held in the United States of America for the very first time at the Hayward Field Stadium at the University of Oregon.

India top ISSF Shooting World Cup medal tally at Changwon in South Korea:

- In the ISSF Shooting World Cup, India topped the medal tally at Changwon in South Korea.
- India finished the tournament with **eight medals** including **three golds, four silvers, and one bronze**, and was way ahead of hosts Korea and Serbia in the medal tally.
- The day began on a brilliant note for India when the troika of Arjun Babuta, Shahu Tushar Mane, and Paarth Makhija helped the country bag its third gold medal beating Korea 17-15 in the 10-meter air rifle team event.

Key Points:

- Earlier, **Arjun Babuta** had won the gold medal in the men's air rifle category, while the duo of **Mehuli Ghosh and Shahu Tushar Mane** bagged gold in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team category.
- Arjun, Makhija, and Mane fought neck to neck and staged a comeback, leading through the final to claim the top prize ahead of the Korean team of Seungho Bang, Sangdo Kim, and Hajun Park.
- In the men's 10m air Pistol team event final, the Indian team put up a spirited fight against the experienced Italian trio of Paolo Monna, Alessio Torracchi, and Luca Tesconi before going down 15-17, ensuring another silver for the country.

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- India's third silver of the day came in the 10m air pistol team women's event when the new-look team of Rhythm Sangwan, Yuvika Tomar, and Palak faced a 2-10 drubbing against a quality Korean side comprising Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Kim Minjung.

IOA announces 322-member strong squad for Commonwealth Games 2022:

- Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has announced a 322-member strong Indian squad for the **Birmingham Commonwealth Games (CWG)**, beginning 28th of July.
- The contingent includes 215 athletes and 107 officials and support staff.
- The CWG games are set to take place from 28 July to 8th August this year in the British city.
- In the 2018 CWG at the **Australian city Gold Coast**, India finished third behind Australia and England.

Key Points:

- Some prominent names in the squad besides **Neeraj Chopra** include Olympic medallists **PV Sindhu, Mirabai Chanu, Lovlina Borgohain, Bajrang Punia, and Ravi Kumar Dahiya**.
- Defending CWG champions **Manika Batra, and Vinesh Phogat** as well as 2018 Asian Games Gold medallists **Tajinderpal Singh Toor, Hima Das, and Amit Panghal** are also part of the squad.
- **Rajesh Bhandari**, Vice President, Boxing Federation of India, has been appointed the Chef de Mission of the squad.
- Team India will compete in 15 sporting disciplines as well as four disciplines in the Para Sports category.
- The CWG village will officially open its doors to contingents on the 23rd of July.

Indian GM Aravindh Chithambaram won the tournament in Spain:

- The **41st Villa De Benasque International Chess Open** was won by Indian Grandmaster **Aravindh Chithambaram** in Spain.
- **R B Ramesh**, Chithambaram's coach, commended his pupil for winning.
- Based on a tie-break score, he defeated **Raunak Sadhwani and Robert Hovhannisyan** of **Armenia**.
- In third place, after the Armenian, was Sadhwani. Chithambaram has won national competitions in the past.

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- Through the 10 rounds, the **17-year-old Sadhwani** was unblemished, recording six victories and four ties.
- His prospects of winning the top slot were hampered by a low tie-break score.

Mairaj Ahmad Khan becomes first Indian shooter to win a gold medal in men's skeet event at ISSF

World Cup:

- In Shooting, two-time Olympian **Mairaj Ahmad Khan** created history by becoming the **first Indian shooter to win the gold medal in the men's skeet event** at the ISSF World Cup in Changwon, South Korea.
- Mairaj Ahmad Khan recorded 37 hits out of a possible 40 in the final to win gold.
- **South Korea's Minsu Kim struck 36 for silver** while Ben Llewellyn of Great Britain won bronze with 26 hits.

Key Points:

- In the qualifying round, Mairaj Ahmad Khan shot 119 from 125 over two days of the men's skeet shooting event. In the ranking round, Mairaj Ahmad Khan was up against Germany's Sven Korte, Minki Cho of South Korea, and Nicolas Vasilou of Cyprus for another round of 30 targets.
- Mairaj Ahmad Khan topped the round with 27 hits. Sven Korte followed Mairaj Ahmad Khan to the medal round with 25 hits.
- Apart from the gold by **Mairaj Ahmad Khan at the ISSF World Cup Changwon 2022**, India also won a **bronze in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions team event**.
- Anjum Moudgil, who won individual silver, combined with **Sift Kaur Samra and Ashi Chouksey to win the bronze medal**.
- The two medals on the day helped India stay on top of the medal standings with five gold, five silver, and three bronze medals with two more days of competitions left.

2025 World Athletics Championships: Tokyo's Olympic Stadium to host an event

- **Tokyo (Japan) will host the 2025 World Athletics Championships**, according to the World Athletics Council.
- The 2024 World Athletics Cross Country Championships will be hosted in **Medulin and Pula in Croatia**, while the 2026 World Athletics Cross Country Championships will be held in **Tallahassee, Florida**, the World Athletics Council said during their meeting in Oregon, USA.

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Key Points:

- The **18th World Athletics Championships** will get underway in **Oregon, USA**, while the **2023 competition** will take place in **Budapest, Hungary**.
- The 2021 edition was initially slated to take place in 2021 but was postponed by one year owing to the COVID-19 epidemic.
- The 2022 iteration is presently being arranged in Oregon, USA.

Los Angeles to host 2028 Summer Olympic Games:

- The **United States city of Los Angeles** will play host to the **2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games**.
- The Los Angeles Olympics' opening ceremony will begin on **July 14, 2028**, and last until **July 30**.
- **Los Angeles** did, however, previously hosted the **Olympics in 1932 and 1984**.
- More than 800 events in more than 40 sports will be included over the LA28 Games' more than 3,000 hours of live competition.
- According to LA 28, 15,000 competitors are anticipated to compete in the Olympic and **Paralympic Games in Los Angeles**.
- The Paralympic Games, however, will start on **August 15** and finish on **August 27** in Los Angeles.
- The Paralympic Games are being held in **Los Angeles for the first time**.
- It should be remembered that **Paris, France will host the 2024 Summer Olympic Games**.

England all-rounder Ben Stokes announces ODI retirement:

- **Ben Stokes**, an all-rounder for **England**, has abruptly announced his retirement from one-day international cricket.
- Three formats are just no longer viable for him, he declared.
- At his home stadium in **Durham**, the **31-year-old** will play his final ODI match against South Africa.
- Because of his Player-of-the-Match performance in the **2019 World Cup final at Lord's versus New Zealand**, Stokes' ODI career will live on in infamy.
- Stokes has amassed 2919 runs, including three centuries, and 74 wickets in ODIs since making his debut against Ireland in 2011.

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West Indies Cricketers Lendl Simmons & Denesh Ramdin Announce Retirement:

- **Denesh Ramdin, a former captain of the West Indies, announced his immediate retirement from international cricket.**
- In a T20I in December 2019, he participated in his final game for the West Indies.
- He will still play franchise cricket, though.
- He participated in 139 ODIs, 71 T20Is, and 74 Test matches.
- In July 2005, he made his Test cricket debut in Colombo against Sri Lanka.
- He contributed to the 2012 and 2016 West Indies T20 World Cup victories.
- **Lendl Simmons, a West Indies hitter, also declared his retirement from international cricket in the meanwhile.**
- Trinbago Knight Riders, the player's Caribbean Premier League team.
- In an ODI against Pakistan in Faisalabad in 2008, Simmons made his debut for the United States. After that, in 2007 and 2009, respectively, he made his T20I and Test debuts.
- The right-handed hitter scored 278, 1958, and 1527 runs in 68 ODIs, 68 T20Is, and 8 Tests, respectively, with the assistance of 2 centuries and 25 half-centuries.

Bangladeshi Cricketer Tamim Iqbal Announces Retirement from T20Is:

- **Tamim Iqbal, the Bangladesh ODI captain, announced his retirement from T20Is immediately after his team's 3-0 victory over the West Indies in the three-match ODI series.**
- In March 2020, he participated in his final T20 International.
- The 33-year-old has participated in 78 T20 Internationals and has scored 1758 runs at a 24.08 average.
- Tamim, who has scored 5082 runs in tests and 7943 runs in one-day internationals, is one of the finest openers to have come out of Bangladesh.
- **Tamim is the only batter from Bangladesh to have recorded a century in T20Is.**
- Against Oman, he accomplished an outstanding achievement at the 2016 T20 World Cup in India.
- He finished his T20I career as the third-highest run-scorer for his nation in the format, behind Test captain Shakib Al Hasan and current skipper Mahmudullah Riyad.

Indian GM Iniyar finishes second in a chess tournament in France:

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- India's teenage Grandmaster P Iniyar finished second in the La Plagne International Open Chess Tournament 2022 in La Plagne in France.
- The 19-year-old GM scored seven points from nine rounds to tie for the top spot with Ukraine GM Vitaly Sivuk.
- The Ukrainian won the first prize based on a better tie-break score.
- India's Sayantan Das, with 6.5 points, took third place.
- Iniyar remained unbeaten through the nine rounds, winning five games and drawing four.
- He started with a win and scored 4.5 after five rounds, but three straight draws in rounds six, seven, and eight pegged him back.
- The field for the tournament comprised 95 players from 19 countries, including nine GMs and 18 International Masters.

Indian Men's team bags silver medal at ISSF World Cup:

- The Indian men's 25m rapid fire pistol team comprising Anish Bhanwala, Vijayveer Sidhu, and Sameer won the silver medal on the last day of the ISSF World Cup Changwon 2022 in South Korea.
- The medal helped India retain the top spot on the medals table with five gold, six silver, and four bronze.
- South Korea managed just one bronze on the final day and finished with four golds, five silver, and three bronze medals.
- The Indian trio had made the final after coming through two rounds of qualification, finishing second with 872 points in the first and topping the second round with 578 for a shot at gold.
- India started strongly to take a 10-2 lead.
- This is the second time this year that the Indian shooters had topped the ISSF World Cup medals table.
- India finished with four gold medals at the ISSF World Cup in Cairo.

Indian students bag three Gold, sixteen Silver, and five Bronze medals in international Olympiads:

- Indian students bagged three Gold, sixteen Silver, and five Bronze medals in various international Olympiads in Mathematics, Physics, Biology, and Chemistry.

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- While the **Mathematics Olympiad** was held in Norway and **Biology Olympiad** in Armenia, the other two, hosted by **Switzerland and China**, were held virtually.

Key Points:

- In the **International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO)** the Indian team got one gold and five bronze medals.
- Pranjal Srivastava scored a hat trick with his 3rd consecutive Gold medal at the IMO.
- He is the first Indian to win 3 Gold medals in the IMO.
- In the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) all five students who participated in the competition won medals.
- **Deevyanshu Malu won the Gold medal**, Abhijeet Anand, Anilesh Bansal, Dheeraj Kurukunda, and Harsh Jakhar bagged silver medals.
- All the four Indian participants of the International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO) also emerged victorious as **Mahit Rajesh Gadhiwala, Nivesh Aggarwal, Tanishka Rameshchandra Kabra, and Chinmay Khokar bagged a silver medal each.**
- Meanwhile, all the four students who participated in the International Biology Olympiad (IBO) also won medals.
- While Mayank Pandhari bagged a Gold medal, Amritansh Nigam, Prachi Jindal, and Rohit Panda bagged silver medals.

BCCI announces Asia Cup tournament in T-20 format to be held in UAE from Aug 27:

- **Board of Control for Cricket in India**, BCCI president **Sourav Ganguly** has confirmed that the Asia Cup, which was scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka, would be played in the UAE.
- After the Board's Apex Council meeting in Mumbai, Ganguly said, Asia Cup will be in UAE, as it is the only place where there will not be rain.
- Earlier, **Sri Lanka Cricket** informed the **Asian Cricket Council** that the board will not be in a position to host the upcoming edition of the Asia Cup.
- Asia Cup is slated to be held from the 27th of August to the 11th of September and will be played in the T-20 format.

About UAE:

- Capital: Abu Dhabi

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- Currency: Dirham
- President: Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- Prime minister: Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Sports Authority starts the "Create for India" campaign to cheer for Team India:

- A 215-member Indian athlete contingent across 16 disciplines is all set to participate in the Commonwealth Games beginning on July 28 in Birmingham.
- Sports Authority of India has started a new initiative to cheer for Team India with the campaign "Create for India."
- Participants can submit their creative entries by July 26th, 2022, using the hashtags #create4India and #cheer4India.

Neeraj Chopra, the first Indian to win a Silver medal at World Athletics Championships:

- Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra created history by winning a Silver medal in the men's javelin throw event at World Athletics Championships.
- In the prestigious competition held at Eugene in Oregon, United States, the champ grabbed the second position with his best throw of 88.13 meters.
- Grenadian javelin thrower Anderson Peters won the gold medal with a throw of 90.54 meters.
- Neeraj Chopra is the first ever Indian to win a silver medal at World Athletics Championships.
- He is the second Indian after former long jumper Anju Bobby George, who won a bronze medal in the long jump in 2003 in Paris.

First Khelo India Fencing Women's League has begun:

- The Talkatora Indoor Stadium in New Delhi will serve as the host venue for the first Khelo India Fencing Women's League, which will get off on July 25, 2022.
- According to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the nation's first-ever women's national fencing tournament will last until the 29th of July.
- Three steps will be taken in each.

Key Points:

- A total of Rs. 1 crore 54 lakh has been approved by the Sports Authority of India for the league's activities.
- Each phase's reward money totals more than 17 lakh rupees.

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- Over 300 ladies from over 21 States have signed up to compete in the competition.
- **Bhavani Devi**, a competitor from the **Target Olympic Podium Scheme** and the **Tokyo Olympics**, will take part in the league's Senior category Sabre competition.
- **She is representing the State of Tamil Nadu by performing.**

About Bhavani Devi:

- Sundhararaman Chadalavada Bhavani Devi, an Indian sabre fencer, goes by the name of Bhavani.
- She became the first-ever Indian fencer to qualify for the 2020 Summer Olympics.
- The Rahul Dravid Athlete Mentorship Program, managed by the GoSports Foundation, supports her. C.A.
- In addition to becoming the first Indian to compete in the sport at the Olympic Games in Tokyo, she also won the solo women's sabre category at the Charlellville National Competition in France.

Max Verstappen wins the title of 2022 French Grand Prix:

- **Max Verstappen of Red Bull** won the race at Paul Ricard after **Ferrari's Charles Leclerc** crashed out on lap 18 but walked away unhurt.
- **Mercedes' George Russell** came in fourth, followed by **Lewis Hamilton** in third.
- Tire management was crucial at Le Castellet because of the hot track.
- Verstappen pitted on lap 17, leaving Leclerc to carry the load.
- His race was ended abruptly by oversteering at Turn 11, which also made him yell angrily and signaled the deployment of the Safety Car.
- After the restart, **Hamilton and Sergio Perez of Red Bull** pitted and began pursuing Verstappen. Verstappen picked up the pace and gained the lead.

Key Points:

- When the race resumed on lap 22, **Verstappen**, who is presently in the lead in the championship, had a sizable advantage.
- He had established a **four-second lead over Hamilton** by lap 30 of 53 and went on to win by a margin of more than 10 seconds.
- At the start of the race, Perez fell to P3 and was unable to overtake Hamilton.

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- Verstappen extended his championship lead at Paul Ricard as Mercedes won their first double podium of the year, but Leclerc and Ferrari's difficulties in France will dominate the story.
- The 2022 Hungarian Grand Prix will wrap off this two-race series the weekend of July 29–31, with Leclerc behind Verstappen by 63 points and Ferrari attempting to reduce Red Bull's 82-point lead.

BCCI introduced a new A+ category for umpires:

- **Nitin Menon and 10 other officials** have been placed in the **new A+ category for umpires** that the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has created.
- For a first-class game, umpires in categories A+ and A receive daily pay of Rs 40,000 while those in categories B and C receive daily pay of Rs 30,000.

Key Points:

- The other international umpires in the A+ category are K N Ananthapadmabhanan, Virender Kumar Sharma, Madangopal Jayaraman, and Anil Chaudhary.
- The A+ category also includes Rohan Pandit, Nikhil Patwardhan, Sadashiv Iyer, Ulhas Gandhe, and Navdeep Singh Sidhu.
- Twenty umpires, including C Shamshuddin, make up the A group, followed by 11 in Group D, which includes 60-65-year-olds, 60 in Group B, 46 in Group C, and 60 in Group D.

About BCCI

- President: Sourav Ganguly
- Secretary: Jay Shah
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: December 1928.

AR Rahman unveils anthem 'Vanakkam Chennai' for 44th International Chess Olympiad:

- The forthcoming **International Chess Olympiad, 2022**, will have a welcome anthem called "**Vanakkam Chennai**," composed by **Grammy and Oscar-winning musician AR Rahman**.
- The music video, which was **directed by Vignesh Shivan**, stars the **chief minister MK Stalin**, the **grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand**, and the **music legend AR Rahman**, who wrote and sang the **theme song**.
- Additionally, the **Bharatanatyam performer** in the music video is filmmaker **Shankar's daughter**.

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- The fantastic music video has received appreciation from online users for effectively displaying Tamil Nadu culture.

About the 44th International Chess Olympiad:

- The 44th International Chess Olympiad will be held this year in Chennai, the state capital of Tamil Nadu, under the auspices of the Federation International des Échecs.
- The largest chess tournament in the world, the 44th International Chess Olympiad, will take place at Poonjeri Village in Mamallapuram from July 28 to August 10.
- The location, which is around 50 kilometers from Chennai, Tamil Nadu, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The premier chess competition has created a lot of talks online.
- With each social media post, the anticipation for the event grows.

India will host ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2025:

- According to the International Cricket Council (ICC), India will host the ICC Women's ODI World Cup in 2025.
- To make it a memorable occasion for everyone involved, BCCI would stop at nothing.
- The World Cup will have a successful edition since the infrastructure is in place.
- A Board subcommittee led by Martin Snedden and comprised of Ricky Skerritt, Clare Connor, Sourav Ganguly, and Martin Snedden conducted a competitive bidding procedure to choose the hosts.
- The committee and ICC administration thoroughly examined each offer, and the committee's recommendations were adopted by the ICC Board.
- The four hosts for ICC women's white-ball competitions from 2024 to 2027 are India, Bangladesh, England, and Sri Lanka.
- The 2024 Women's T20 World Cup will be hosted in Bangladesh, and the 2026 tournament will be placed in England.
- As long as Sri Lanka qualifies for the tournament, it will host the Women's T20 Champions Trophy in 2027.

Cambodia, Uzbekistan, and Cote D'Ivoire receive membership status: ICC

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- **Three nations** have been granted membership status by the International Cricket Council during the current ICC Annual Conference in Birmingham.
- **Cote D'Ivoire from Africa, Cambodia from Asia, and Uzbekistan from Asia** were all granted Associate membership status, bringing the overall number of ICC members to 108, including 96 Associates.
- The two Asian teams bring the total number of Asian nations to 25, while Cote D'Ivoire is the twenty-first African nation.

Criteria to gain ICC Memberships:

- **Clause 2.1 (d) of the ICC Membership Criteria**, under the heading "**Participation and domestic structures**," describes one of the key requirements for becoming an ICC Member.
- This entails putting in place a suitable framework with **minimum team specifications for 50-over and 20-over competitions** and distinct junior and women's routes.
- The **Cricket Federation of Uzbekistan's (CFU) women's cricket strategy**, which involves 15 teams competing in organized events with a pathway program for their **Under-19 and Under-17 players**, demonstrated that the three additional countries met these requirements.

Key Points

- Although Ukraine's application for ICC membership has been postponed until domestic cricket matches can be played in safety once more, the ICC will continue to assist the **Ukraine Cricket Federation** during this procedure.
- **Cricket The suspension of Russia at the 2021 AGM** has been terminated since it failed to address the problems and show compliance after the suspension.

Casper Ruud defeats Matteo Berrettini in the finals: Swiss Open

- The **2022 Swiss Open Tennis Tournament** was won by **Casper Ruud** of Norway in Gstaad, Switzerland.
- In the championship match, he outlasted **Matteo Berrettini of Italy** 4-6, 7-6(4), 6-2. Ruud won his ninth ATP (**Association of Tennis Professionals**) championship.
- **Ruud won the Buenos Aires Open and Geneva Open** before in 2022, making the Swiss Open his third victory overall.
- Additionally, Ruud won the 2021 Swiss Open.

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- Ruud ends Berrettini's 12-match-winning run.
- Berrettini won awards in Stuttgart and London earlier this year.
- **Casper Ruud has won his ninth ATP title.**
- Ruud came in second place behind Rafael Nadal of Spain in the French Open earlier this year.

Four times world champion Sebastian Vettel announced his retirement:

- **Four times world champion German racer Sebastian Vettel** announced his retirement from **Formula One** at the end of the season.
- **The 35-year-old** said, his goals had changed and he wanted to focus more on family and interests outside the sport.
- Sebastian will end his final season with Aston Martin after winning a total of 53 Grand Prix and 122 podium finishes.
- Vettel made his debut in 2007.
- His first title win came in 2010 which also made him the youngest title winner.
- He won **four titles for Red Bull between 2010 to 2013.**
- Vettel who is a legend of the sport is third on the list of all-time Grand Prix winners with 53 victories to his name.
- Only Lewis Hamilton and Michael Schumacher have more titles than him.
- Sebastian made the announcement ahead of this weekend's Hungarian Grand Prix, the 13th round of the season and the last race before the August break.

American sprinter Allyson Felix joined the International Olympic Committee's athletes' commission:

- **American sprint great Allyson Felix** and a refugee cyclist originally from Afghanistan joined the **International Olympic Committee's athletes' commission.**
- Felix is the most decorated female track and field athlete in Olympic history with **seven gold medals** and joins the commission after winning her 14th career world championship title.
- Felix came out of retirement last week to run the prelims of the 4x400-meter relay.
- The American team went on to win the final at the **world championships in Eugene, Oregon.**
- Also appointed was cyclist Masomah Ali Zada, who was born in Afghanistan and competed in the women's cycling time trial on the IOC's refugee Olympic team last year in Tokyo.
- Ali Zada is now studying in France and will be the first refugee athlete on the commission.

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- The other two new members are two-time Olympic triathlon champion Alistair Brownlee of Britain and Canadian athlete Oluseyi Smith, who has competed at both the Summer Olympics in track and the Winter Olympics in bobsled.
- The new members were all appointed to the IOC athletes' commission, which has a mix of members elected by other athletes and those appointed directly by IOC President Thomas Bach.
- Only the elected members typically also serve on the full IOC, which decides on Olympic host cities and will elect a new president to replace Bach in 2025.

Reliance Industries and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced a long-term partnership to support Indian athletes:

- Billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced a long-term partnership to support Indian athletes in major multi-sport events, including the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, and the Olympics Games.
- Under this partnership, RIL and IOA will also establish the first-ever India House at Paris Olympics 2024.
- Furthermore, in the run-up to the Paris 2024 Olympics, India will also be hosting the 140th IOC Session in June 2023 at the newly-developed multi-level center Jio World Centre in Mumbai.
- The IOC Session, which coincides with the 75th year of Independence, will highlight the role of sport in India and celebrate the contribution of India to the Olympic Movement.

About Olympic Hospitality House:

- Nations from across the world strengthen their Olympic Movement involvement during the Olympic Games, with the official Olympic Hospitality House that provides a vision and an understanding of the country and also serves as an avenue to engage officials, sportspeople, and their families and the public.
- The 2024 Paris Olympics will have India's first house.
- At the 2016 Rio Olympics, over 50 nations had set up their country-specific Hospitality House, bringing to the games a combination of their country's cultural and sporting history.

Coca-Cola launched a no-fizz low-sugar lemon drink in India with Neeraj Chopra as the brand ambassador:

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- **Coca-Cola's lime beverage** is all set to **attract health-conscious customers**.
- The latest addition, called **Limca Sportz**, brands itself as a low sugar variant energy drink with **Neeraj Chopra as the ambassador**.
- The move comes amid a surge in launches into the health space by food and beverage companies globally, as consumers choose these products, especially after the pandemic.
- The electrolyte and glucose beverage is a sports drink, a broad base for the company's portfolio beyond soft drinks.

England's Leicester Cricket Ground named after Sunil Gavaskar:

- The **Leicester Cricket Ground** in England is named for the renowned cricketer from India, **Sunil Gavaskar**.
- The Leicester Cricket Ground, which is owned by **Bharat Sports and Cricket Club**, has chosen to rename the venue in honor of Gavaskar in recognition of his enormous commitment to raising Indian cricket to a particular level.
- There is already a field named after **Sunil Gavaskar** in the **Kentucky region of the United States of America (USA)**, and another field with the same name is being completed in **Tanzania's Zanzibar region**.
- Gavaskar was a former Indian opener.

About Gavaskar:

- Gavaskar, a former captain of the Indian cricket team, is frequently recognized as one of the greatest hitters in history.
- He set the record for the most centuries (34), becoming the first cricketer to reach 10,000 runs.
- Gavaskar was impressed with his outstanding technique against the Windies' fast bowlers throughout the 1970s and 1980s when West Indies ruled world cricket.
- He was also a member of the Indian World Cup-winning squad in 1983.
- Later, Sunil Gavaskar achieved another milestone by scoring 10,000 runs for the first time in test cricket history.

Weightlifter Sanket Sargar wins silver: Commonwealth Games 2022

- **Sanket Sargar** of India made history by being the country's **first athlete to take home a medal at the Commonwealth Games in 2022**.

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- He finished second to **Malaysia's Aniq Mohamad**, who won gold with a total of 249 kg, in the men's 55 kg event with a total weight of 248 kg.
- **Sanket Sagar**, who set a new Commonwealth and national record at the Asian qualifiers in Singapore in February 2022 (snatch – 113kg; clean and jerk 143kg – total of 256kg), was at his best as he cleared all his 3 weights in his first attempt in snatch.
- **Sanket Sargar of Maharashtra**, who began wrestling at the age of 13, has consistently finished on the podium at major international tournaments, including the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021 in Tashkent.

IMPORTANT OBITUARIES NEWS

Malayalam actress Ambika Rao passes away

- **Renowned actor and filmmaker, Ambika Rao** passed away in Kochi at the age of 58.

About Ambika Rao :

- Ambika Rao was born on 6 July 1963 in **Ernakulam, Kerala**.
- She entered the film industry as an **Assistant Director in 2000**.
- She assisted several directors, including **Anwar Rasheed, Balachandra Menon, Shafi, and Vinayan**.
- In her career of 2 decades in the industry, she has worked as an assistant director for **Mammootty starrers Rajamanikyam and Thommanum Makkalum, Dileep starrer Meesha Madhavan and Prithviraj Sukumaran's film Vellinakshathram** among many others.
- Ambika Rao also acted in the movies and made her mark in her performances in hit films such as **Kumbalangi Nights and Virus**.

Billionaire Ray-Ban Owner Leonardo Del Vecchio Passes away

- **Leonardo Del Vecchio, Billionaire Ray-Ban Owner** Passed away in Milan, Italy at the age of 87.

About Leonardo Del Vecchio :

- Leonardo Del Vecchio was born in **Milan, Italy** on May 22, 1935.
- He founded his own company, **Luxottica**, in 1961, supplying the optical industry with components.

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- In 2018, **Luxottica** merged with France's **Essilor** to become **EssilorLuxottica**, with Del Vecchio serving as chairman.
- According to **Forbes' 2022 World's Billionaires List**, His fortune was worth an estimated **\$27.3 billion**.
- At the time of his death, his net worth was estimated at **US\$24.1 billion**, the **second richest person in Italy**, and 54th in the world.

Additional Info :

- Luxottica is the **world's largest producer and retailer of glasses** and frames, with 77,734 employees and over 8,000 stores

Visionary British theater director Peter Brook passes away

- A **British theater and cinema director Peter Brook** passed away at the age of 97.

About Peter Brook :

- Brook, was born in London in 1925, in **Chiswick, England**.
- He worked in England, from 1945 at the **Birmingham Repertory Theater**, from 1947 at the **Royal Opera House**, and from 1962 for the **Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC)**.
- He was often referred to as "**our greatest living theater director**".
- He established the **International Center for Theater Research** after relocating to Paris in the 1970s.
- He brought a stunning nine-hour adaptation of the Sanskrit epic "**The Mahabharata**" from France to New York in 1987.

Awards & Honors :

- He received **two Tony Awards** for best Directions in 1966 for his staging of **Peter Weiss' Marat/Sade** and in 1970 for the staging of **A Midsummer Night's Dream** by **William Shakespeare**.
- He won multiple **Emmy Awards**, a **Laurence Olivier Award**, the **Japanese Praemium Imperiale**, and the **Prix Italia**.
- In 2021, he was awarded **India's Padma Shri**.

Veteran film director Tarun Majumdar passes away

- **Veteran filmmaker Tarun Majumdar** passed away in Kolkata at the age of 91.

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About Tarun Majumdar :

- Tarun Majumdar is Born on 8 January 1931 in **Bogra (now in Bangladesh)**.
- He was known for his sensitive portrayal of middle-class life and the human condition.
- Majumdar directed his first film **Chawa Pawa (1959)**, starring Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen when he was only 27 years old.
- Some of Notable his works are 'Kancher Swarga' (1962), 'Palatka' (1963), 'Kuheli' (1971), Shriman Prithviraj (1972), 'Balika Badhu' (1976), 'Thani' (1974), 'Ganadevata' (1978), Dadar Kirti (1980), 'Bhalobasa Bhalobasa' (1986) and Apan Amar Apan (1990).

Awards & Honors :

- He is the recipient of **4 National Awards, 7 BFJA(Bengal Flim Journalist Association Awards), 5 Filmfare Awards, and an Anandalok Award.**
- He received his **first National Award** for the **1962 Bengali film Kancher Swarga.**
- He received a National Award, a BFJA Award, and a Filmfare Award for Nimantran (1971). Ganadevata (1979) won him a National Award and a Filmfare Award.
- In 1990, the Government of India honored him with the **Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award.**

Former India footballer EN Sudhir passes away

- **Former India goalkeeper E N Sudhir** who played as a goalkeeper for India in the 1970s Passed away in Mapusa, Goa at the age of 76.

About EN Sudhir :

- Sudhir was born in **Kozhikode in Kerala.**
- Sudhir made his international debut against Indonesia in Rangoon (currently Yangon) in the Olympic qualifiers in 1972, representing India in nine matches.
- He was also part of the national team in the **1973 Merdeka Cup** and the **Asian Games squad in 1974.**
- At the domestic level, he played for three different states in the Santosh Trophy- Kerala (1969 and 1970), Goa (1971, 1972, 1973), and Maharashtra in 1975.
- Sudhir also played for Young Challengers (Kerala), Vasco Sports Club (Goa), and Mahindra & Mahindra at the club level.

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Freedom fighter P. Gopinathan Nair passes away

- Freedom fighter, Gandhian Padmanabha Pillai Gopinathan Nair (P.P Gopinathan Nair) Passed away at the age of 100 in Neyyattinkara, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

About P. Gopinathan Nair :

- Gopinathan Nair was born on 7 July 1922, in Neyyattinkara, Thiruvananthapuram district of the south Indian state of Kerala.
- He was an Indian social worker, Gandhian, and independence activist.
- He was a former chairman of Kerala Mahatma Gandhi National Memorial Trust, popularly known as Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, a trust managed by the Union government.
- He participated in the Quit India movement of 1942.

Awards & Honors :

- He was a recipient of the Jamnalal Bajaj Award
- The Government of India awarded him the fourth highest civilian honor of the Padma Shri, in 2016, for his contributions to society.

OPEC Secretary-General Mohammad Barkindo Passes away

- A Nigerian politician and secretary-general of the oil producer group Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Mohammad Barkindo passed away at the age of 63 in Nigeria.

About Mohammad Barkindo :

- Barkindo began his career with the Nigerian Mining Corporation in 1982
- He served as Acting Secretary-General in 2006, represented Nigeria in OPEC's Economic Commission Board from 1993 to 2008, and led the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation from 2009 to 2010.
- He headed Nigeria's technical delegation to UN climate negotiations beginning in 1991.
- Barkindo had headed the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) since 2016 and was scheduled to be replaced by Kuwait's Haitham Al-Ghais.
- He also served as deputy managing director of Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas.
- He was a frequent speaker at the Atlantic Council's global energy forum.

About OPEC :

- Founded: 14 September 1960

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- Headquarters: Vienna, Austria
- Membership: 13 Member Countries (Algeria, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela)
- OPEC is an intergovernmental organization.

Former Bihar Agriculture Minister and Veteran Socialist Leader Narendra Sing Passes away

- **Former Bihar agriculture minister** and a **veteran socialist leader**, **Narendra Singh** passed away in Patna at the age of 75.

About Narendra Singh :

- Narendra Singh is one of the prominent political personalities to emerge from the state's "JP movement" in the 1970s.
- He began his political career as an **MLA from Chakai** in Jamui in the 1980s.
- Singh worked with all **three stalwarts of state politics** – **Nitish Kumar**, **Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)** chief **Lalu Prasad Yadav** and the late **Ram Vilas Paswan** of **Lok Janshakti Party (LJP)**.
- He was the most **famous upper-caste Rajput leader** in Jamui and Banka region after former Union Minister **Digvijay Singh**.
- He served as **Bihar agriculture minister** in **Nitish Kumar's cabinet** till 2014.

Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Passes away

- **Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe** Passed away after being shot by a 41-year-old man while campaigning for a parliamentary election in **Nara, western Japan**.

About Shinzo Abe :

- Shinzo Abe was born on **21 September 1954** in Tokyo, Japan.
- He served as **Chief Cabinet Secretary** from 2005 to 2006 under **Junichiro Koizumi**.
- He served as **prime minister of Japan** and **President of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)** from **2006 to 2007** and again from **2012 to 2020**.
- He was the **longest-serving prime minister** in Japanese history.
- He was the **first Japanese PM** to be the **chief guest** at **India's Republic Day parade** in 2014.

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Former Angolan president Jose Eduardo dos Santos Passes away

- Angola's former president Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who ruled Africa's second-biggest oil producer (2 million barrels per day) after Nigeria, for nearly four decades passed away at the age of 79 in Barcelona, Spain.

About Eduardo dos Santos :

- José Eduardo dos Santos, born on 28 August 1942
- He joined the **Movimento Popular de Libertacao de Angola (MPLA)** in 1961.
- He ruled Angola for 38 years.
- He served as the **president of Angola** from 1979 to 2017.
- He retired from the presidency in 2017 and was succeeded by **João Lourenço** in the 2017 Angolan general election.
- He was the **commander in chief of the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA)** and **President of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA)**.
- Dos Santos became **foreign minister** and later planning minister and **deputy prime minister**.
- The MPLA elected dos Santos at 37 as president upon the death of Agostinho Neto, Angola's first leader, in 1979.
- He was the **second-longest-serving president in Africa**, surpassed only by President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea.

About Angola :

- President : João Lourenço
- Capital : Luanda
- Currency : Kwanza

Oscar-nominated 'Godfather' actor James Edmund Caan Passes away

- Hollywood actor James Edmund Caan passed away at the age of 82 in California, United States of America (USA).

About James Edmund Caan :

- Caan was born on March 26, 1940, in The Bronx, **New York City, USA**.
- He worked in **Hollywood** for over **60 years**.

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- He is best known for his **Oscar-nominated** performance in **The Godfather** film.
- His work after 1980 was more sporadic, with performances including **Thief** (1981), **Gardens of Stone** (1987), **Misery** (1990), **Honeymoon in Vegas** (1992), **Bottle Rocket** (1996), **Mickey Blue Eyes** (1999), **The Yards** (2000), **City of Ghosts** (2002), **Elf** (2003), and **Get Smart** (2008).

Awards & Honors :

- **The Godfather** (1972) a performance that earned him an **Academy Award** for Best Supporting Actor.
- Caan received **Golden Globe Award nominations** for his performances in the drama **The Gambler** (1974), and the musical **Funny Lady** (1975).
- He won the **Saturn Award for Best Actor** for the movie **Rollerball**.
- He was nominated for several entertainment industry honors, including an Academy Award, two Primetime Emmy Awards, four Golden Globe Awards, and a motion pictures star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1978.

Former VSNL chief, 'father of internet in India', B K Syngal Passes away

- **Brijendra Kumar (BK) Syngal**, former chairman of **Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited**, (VSNL) passed away at the age of 82.

About B K Syngal :

- BK Syngal was born in 1940, Ambala.
- He was an Indian telecommunications executive who was referred to as the '**Father of Internet & Data Services in India**'.
- As the Chairman of VSNL, he was unofficially known as the '**bulldozer**' for his ability to push through bureaucratic hurdles.
- One of Syngal's biggest challenges and accomplishments was bringing the Internet to India in 1995.
- Until then India had a rudimentary version of the internet, called **ERNET**, but this was limited to educational institutes.
- He also served as **Chairman, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization** (London); **Governor, INTELSAT Board**, Washington DC; and as a **Councilor for the INMARSAT Council** in London.

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- Syngal was Senior Principal, Dua Consulting, New Delhi, India.
- He headed the Consulting and Advisory team of Telecom Experts in the disciplines of Licensing, Regulation, Policy Formulations, and Government Affairs.

Awards & Honors :

- He received the Telecom **Man of the Decade Award** by Wisitex Foundation, India, Partners in Progress Award by the Government of Maharashtra for his contributions to the telecommunications sector both in India and abroad.
- He has been the recipient of the **Ambrose Fleming Medal for Achievement in Communications** conferred by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), UK.
- He received the "Partners in Progress" award, by the Govt. of Maharashtra, and the "**International Excellence Award** – in 1994" in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of telecommunications both in India and abroad.

Former Mexican President Luis Echeverria Passes away

- The former president of Mexico, **Luis Echeverria Alvarez** Passed away at the age of 100 in Cuernavaca, the capital city of Morelos state located in south-central Mexico.

About Luis Echeverria :

- Echeverría was born in Mexico City to Rodolfo Echeverría and Catalina Álvarez on 17 January 1922.
- He was a **Mexican lawyer, academic,** and politician affiliated with the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).
- He would become known for his authoritarian and repressive character before his presidency in 1970.
- He initiated the **establishment of diplomatic relations with China** in February 1972.
- He served as the **57th President of Mexico** from 1970 to 1976.
- Previously, he was **Secretary** of the Interior from 1963 to 1969.
- In 2022, he was his country's **oldest living former head of state.**

Awards & Honors :

- Grand Master of the Order of the Aztec Eagle, Mexico (1970–1976)
- Honorary Knight Grand Cross of The Most Honorable Order of the Bath (1973)

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- Knight Grand Cross with Collar of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, Italy (1974)

Renowned archaeologist Padmashree Enamul Haque passes away

- Eminent archaeologist and historian Dr. Enamul Haque passed away at the age of 85 in Dhak, Bangladesh.

About Enamul Haque :

- Enamul Haque was born on 1 March 1937, in Bogra, Bengal Presidency, British India.
- He was a scholar, museologist, cultural activist, freedom fighter, songwriter, and TV personality.
- He served as the professor of national culture and heritage at the Independent University, Bangladesh, and the president, chairman, and academic director of the International Centre for Study of Bengal Art.
- His TV program 'Amader Oitirjo' or 'Our Heritage' brought out the rich historical past of the country to the common people.
- He joined Dhaka Museum (later Bangladesh National Museum) in 1962.
- Later he became the principal in 1965, director in 1969, and Director General during 1983–1991 in Dhaka Museum.
- He was also elected as the President of the International Council of Museums Asia-Pacific Organization for the period 1983–86.

Awards & Honors :

- During his illustrious career, he was awarded the Ekushey Padak (the Second highest civilian award in Bangladesh) in 2016.
- In 2020, he was awarded Swadhinta Padak, the highest civilian award in Bangladesh.
- In 2020, Haque was also awarded the Padma Shri award (India's 4th Highest civilian award) for his tremendous contribution to the field of archeology and museology by the Government of India.

Noted social worker, Padma Shri awardee Avdhash Kaushal Passes away

- Noted social worker and Padma Shri awardee Avdhash Kaushal Passed away at the age of 87.

About Avdhash Kaushal :

- Avadesh Kaushal was a native of Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.
- He was an Indian academic, environmentalist, and activist.

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- He was an Associate professor for seven years at **Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA)** in **Mussoorie, Uttarakhand**.
- Kaushal who founded an NGO named **Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra (Dehradun, Uttarakhand)** fought for human rights and the conservation of the environment.
- He is credited with bringing mining activities to an end in Mussoorie in the 1980s.
- In 2003, Kaushal was invited by the **United Nations to the World Summit in Geneva**, to chair the panel on a discussion on the importance of local content within information and communication technology.
- He had claimed to have played a significant role in preparing the drafts of different Acts, including the **Environment Conservation Act 1986**.
- He had been close to **former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi**.

Awards & Honors :

- Avadesh Kaushal was awarded a **Padma Shri** in 1986.

Former New Zealand cricket captain Barry Sinclair Passes away

- **Former New Zealand cricket captain and batter Barry Sinclair** has Passed away at the age of 85.

About Barry Sinclair :

- Sinclair was born on 23 October 1936 in **Wellington, New Zealand**.
- He was the **third Kiwi batter after Bert Sutcliffe and John R Reid** to score 1,000 runs in Test cricket.
- He played **21 Tests** for New Zealand between 1963 and 1968, scoring 1148 runs at 29.43, including three centuries against South Africa, Pakistan, and England.
- He captained the side in three Tests, initially taking over the reins from an injured Murray Chapple on the morning of the second Test against England at Dunedin in 1966, retaining them for the final Test of the series at Auckland, and the next Test against India.
- In total, he played 118 first-class games, making 6114 runs at 32.87, including six centuries.
- He was also a **stalwart of the Kilbirnie club**, for whom he scored 6000 runs at an average of 50.
- In 2008-09 he became the inaugural Patron of the **New Zealand Cricket Players Association**.
- In the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honors, Sinclair was appointed a **Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit** for services to cricket.

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- His career was captured in a biography written by **Bill Francis**, Auckland broadcaster & it was published in 2016 as “**Pursuit of Excellence: The Barry Sinclair Story.**”

James Bond's iconic theme composer Monty Norman passes away

- **British composer Monty Norman**, who was the man behind the iconic **James Bond** theme, passed away at the age of 94.

About Monty Norman :

- Monty Norman was born in 1928, in **London**.
- He was a composer, singer, writer, and lyricist.
- He got his **first guitar** when he was **16**.
- Producer Albert ‘Cubby’ Broccoli had hired Norman to compose a theme for the first James Bond movie ‘**Dr. No**’ which was released in 1962.
- In the 1950s, he started singing and composing songs for performers such as **Tommy Steele** and **Bob Hope**.
- He also composed various musicals including ‘**Poppy**’, ‘**Espresso Bongo**’, ‘**Make Me An Offer**’, ‘**Songbook**’

Awards & Honors :

- Norman won England’s prestigious **Ivor Novello Award** from the Performing Rights Society in 1977 for the ‘James Bond’ theme.

Malayalam actor-director Pratap Pothan passes away

- **Malayalam actor and filmmaker Pratap Pothan** passed away at the age of 70 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

About Pratap Pothan :

- Pratap was born in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala** on 13 August 1952.
- He was an **Indian actor and filmmaker** who acted in about 100 films and directed 12 films.
- He appeared in **Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu** as well as Hindi films.
- He began his acting career in Malayalam cinema with the legendary director Bharathan, through movies like **Aavaram, Thakara, and Lorry**.
- He also worked in the film industry as a scriptwriter and producer.

Awards & Honors :

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- In 1985 his first movie **Meendum Oru Kathal Kathai** won the **Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director**.
- In 1984, he won **National Film Awards for Best Debut Film of a Director** for the film **Meendum Oru Kaathal Kathai**.
- In 2014, he received the **Kerala State Film Awards** the category of **Special Jury Award** for acting in the film **Once Upon a Time There was a Kallan**.

Renowned Singer Bhupinder Singh Passes Away

- **Renowned Indian ghazal singer Bhupinder Singh** passed away at the age of 82.

About Bhupinder Singh :

- Bhupinder Singh was born on 6 February 1940 in **Amritsar, Punjab**.
- He began his career working in the **All India Radio, Delhi**, as a singer and musician.
- In his five-decade-long career, he had worked with the biggest names in the music industry, including **Mohammed Rafi, R.D. Burman, Madan Mohan, Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Gulzar to Bappi Lahiri**, among others.
- He is known for crooning classics like "**Naam Gum Jayega**" and "**Dil Dhoondta Hai**," "**Do Diwane Shehar Mein**", "**Ek Akela is Shehar Mein**", "**Thodi Si Zameen Thoda Aasman**", "**Duniya Chhute Yaar Na Chhute**" and "**Karoge Yaad Toh**", and other popular songs.
- He was also the guitarist on several popular tracks, including "**Dum Maaro Dum**", "**Chura Liya Hai**", "**Chingari Koi Bhadke**" and "**Mehbooba O Mehbooba**", among others.

Noted artist Achuthan Kudallur passes away

- **Noted artist Achuthan Kudallur** passed away in **Chennai** at the age of 77.

About Achuthan Kudallur :

- Achuthan Kudallur was born in 1945 in **Kerala**.
- He was a well-known artist known for his experimental and fusion of contemporary styles.
- He pursued a degree in **Civil Engineering** and revealed as an **Indian Asian Modern and Contemporary painter**.
- His works were exhibited in all the noted galleries in the country.
- He also conducted solo exhibitions in many parts of the world including in the famous **Paris Art gallery**.

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Awards & Honors :

- Kudallur received prestigious awards like the **National Academy Award** and **Tamil Nadu Lalit Kala Akademi Award**.

Former Punjab speaker and senior SAD leader Nirmal Singh Kahlon Passes away

- **Former Punjab Assembly Speaker** and **senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Nirmal Singh Kahlon** passed away at the age of 79 in Amritsar, Punjab.

About Nirmal Singh Kahlon :

- Kahlon was the **minister for rural development and panchayat** in the Akali government from 1997 to 2002.
- He was elected **MLA from Fatehgarh Churian constituency** in Gurdaspur district in 1997 and 2007.
- He was also the **speaker of Punjab Vidhan Sabha** from 2007 to 2012.
- In 2011, he was acquitted in a case about the recruitment scam registered by the **Vigilance Bureau** in June 2002.

Noted Scientist & ILS Director Dr. Ajay Parida Passes away

- **Noted scientist and Director, Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar** Dr. Ajay Parida has Passed away at the age of 58 in Guwahati, Assam

About Dr. Ajay Parida :

- Dr. Parida was born at Bhagabanpur village in **Odisha's Jajpur district**.
- He has done a Ph.D. from Delhi University and post-doctoral research from University College of Wales, UK, University of Naples, Italy, and International Rice Research Institute, Philippines.
- He was an Indian biologist noted for his contributions in the fields of **agriculture, plant molecular biology, and biotechnology**.
- He has used advanced biotechnological tools for crop improvement for this he made contributions in identifying stress tolerant genes specifically for salt and drought stress.
- He served as the **Executive Director** of the **MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai** from 2009-2016.
- He was an elected fellow of the **National Academy of Agriculture Sciences (NAAS)** and the **National Academy of Sciences of India (NASI)**.

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- He was elected as **President of the Agriculture Science and Forestry** section of the Indian Science Congress in 2012.
- He was the **President of the Biological Sciences Session of the National Academy of Sciences India** in 2014.
- In 2017, he joined ILS, one of the **10 labs of the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG)** set up to monitor genomic coronavirus variations.

Awards & Honors :

- He was conferred with **Padma Shri**, India's fourth-highest civilian award, in 2014 by the then President Pranab Mukherjee for his contribution to the field of Science and Technology.

Renowned Marathi writer Anant Yashwant Khare passes away



- **Renowned Marathi writer and novelist Anant Yashwant Khare** passed away in Pune at the age of 76.

About Anant Yashwant Khare :

- Anant Yashwant Khare was born in 1946 in Nagpur, British India.
- He was popularly known by his pen name, **Nanda Khare**.
- He was a member of the **Marathi Science Council**.
- For 34 years, he was **Partner/Managing Director** of 'Khare and Tarkunde'.
- He had also worked on the editorial board of 'Aajcha Sudharak' newspaper for close to 11 years
- He wrote 19 books on various topics like science, sociology, and geography with some of his most noted works being 'Antajichi Bakhar', 'Bakhar Antakalachi', and 'Udya'.

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- Between 1981 and 1992, he was an **active member of the Marathi Vidnyan Parishad** and conducted programs in schools to spread awareness about Science.
- From 1998 to 2017, he served on the **Editorial Board of the publication 'Aajcha Sudharak'** of which he was Editor-in-Chief from 2000 to 2011.
- Some of the best-known and acclaimed works of Nanda Khare include 'Antajichi Bakhar', 'Kahani Manavpranyachi', 'Jeevotpatti, Aani Nantar', 'Bakhar Antakalachi', 'Waarulpuraan', '2050', 'Samprati' etc.
- His autobiography '**Evaji**' came in 2018 and was received with great enthusiasm in literary circles.
- He had written the novel '**Udya**' in 2012 but it was published in 2014.

Awards & Honors :

- He received numerous awards from foundations like **Granthali, Vidarbha Sahitya Sangh, Lokmangal, and Shabd: The Book Gallery.**
- In 2010, he received the state government's **Bhai Madhavrao Bagal Award** for his book 'Kahani Manav Pranyachi'.
- He was offered the **Sahitya Akademi award** for his novel 'Udya' in 2020 but he politely refused as by then he had decided not to accept any awards.

A key architect of the Good Friday Agreement & Nobel Peace Prize Winner David Trimble Passes Away

- The Nobel peace prize-winning former first minister of Northern Ireland David Trimble Passed away at the age of 77.

About David Trimble :

- David Trimble was born on 15 October 1944 in Belfast, Northern Ireland.
- He served as **Vice Chairman of the Lagan Valley Unionist Association** from 1983 to 1985 and was named **chairman** in 1985.
- He served as **chairman of the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) Legal Committee** from 1989 to 1995 and as honorary secretary of the Ulster Unionist Council from 1990–96.
- He was the **First Minister of Northern Ireland** from 1998 to 2002.
- He was the **leader of the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)** from 1995 to 2005.

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- He was a **Member of Parliament (MP)** for Upper Bann from 1990 to 2005 and a **Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)** for Upper Bann from 1998 to 2007.
- In 1997, he became the **first unionist leader to negotiate** with the Irish republican party Sinn Fein
- He was the key architect of the **Good Friday Agreement in 1998**.
- On 8 December 1999, Trimble was appointed an Officer in the Légion d'Honneur by the French Government.

Awards & Honors :

- In October 1998, Trimble and John Hume were awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** for their efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland.
- In 2002, he was awarded the **Golden Plate Award** by the American Academy of Achievement.

Padma Shri awardee doctor Sushovan Bandyopadhyay passes away

- **Sushovan Bandyopadhyay**, famous as **Bengal's 'one rupee doctor'**, (**Ek Takar Doktor**) died at the age of 84 in Kolkata, West Bengal.

About Sushovan Bandyopadhyay :

- Banerjee was from Bolpur, West Bengal.
- He was an Indian physician and politician.
- He is an **ex-MLA** from the Bolpur seat and had contested on a Congress ticket in 1984.
- After the Trinamool Congress was formed, he became the **first district president of the Trinamool** in **Birbhum**.
- In 2020 he held his name in the **Guinness World Records** for treating the **maximum number of patients** in a lifetime (He treated **More than 20 lakh patients**).

Awards & Honors :

- In 2020, he was awarded the **Padma Shri** by the Indian Government for his contribution to the field of medicine.
- He has got a gold medal from **R. G. Kar Medical College and Hospital**

Renowned Assamese writer Atulananda Goswami passes away

- Veteran **Assamese litterateur** and winner of the **Sahitya Akademi Award**, **Atulananda Goswami**, has passed away at the age of 87.

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About Atulananda Goswami :

- Atulananda Goswami was Born in 1935, in Jorhat, Assam.
- He had retired as a state government official and settled in Guwahati.
- He was known as a short story writer, a litterateur, and a novelist par excellence.
- He translated many English, Bengali, and Odia texts into Assamese and also Assamese texts into English.
- Goswami's other notable works include 'Namgharia' 'Hamdoi Pulo Jon', 'Rajpaat', 'Polatok' and 'Ashray'.

Awards & Honors :

- Goswami received the **Sahitya Akademi Award** in 2006 for his short story collection 'Seneh Jarir Ganthi'
- He was also bestowed with the Ambikagiri Roy Choudhury Sahitya Award, the Kumar Kishor Memorial Award, and the Sneha Bharati Sahitya Samman, among other honors.
- In 1992, he also won the **Katha award** for creative writing for his work Boliya Hathi'.

UK-based Punjabi singer Balwinder Safri Passes away

- Popular UK-based Punjabi singer Balwinder Safri Passed away at the age of 63.

About Balwinder Safri :

- Safri was actively involved in the Bhangra music scene since the 1980s.
- He also formed his band named **Safri Boyz Band** in 1990.
- Some of the famous songs from his band were Boliyan, Ik Dil Karey, Rangle Punjab, O Rabba, Maa, Boli Boli, and many more.
- He was known for his popular tracks like 'O chan mere makhna', 'Pao Bhangra', 'Gal Sun Kuriye', 'Nachdinu', Rahaye Rahaye" and "Chan Mere Makhna" etc.

Oscar-Nominated Director of 'Five Easy Pieces' Bob Rafelson Passes away

- **Bob Rafelson**, co-creator of "The Monkees" and director of the film "Five Easy Pieces" Passed away at the age of 89.

About Bob Rafelson :

- Robert Jay Rafelson was born on February 21, 1933, in New York City, U.S.
- He was an American film director, writer, and producer.

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- He was also one of the creators of the pop group and TV series **The Monkees** with BBS partner **Bert Schneider**.
- Rafelson directed the 1987 film **Black Widow**, starring Debra Winger, and **Mountains of the Moon** (1990); and two more films starring Nicholson in **Man Trouble** (1992) and **Blood and Wine** (1997).

Awards & Honors :

- Rafelson and Schneider won the **Emmy Award** for Outstanding Comedy Series as producers in 1967.
- In 1971, he earned **two Oscar nominations** for the film **Five Easy Pieces** for best picture and screenplay