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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

IMPORTANT DAYS

1-7 August - World Breastfeeding Week

- **World Breastfeeding Week** or WBW is observed from **August 1 to 7** every year.
- It was first started in **1992** to promote the **benefits of breastfeeding** for both mother and the baby.
- World Breastfeeding Week's annual themes include healthcare systems, women and work, community support, ecology, economy, science, education, and human rights.
- **Since 2016**, World Breastfeeding Week is aligned with the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- In **2018**, a **World Health Assembly resolution** endorsed WBW as an important breastfeeding promotion strategy.

Theme:

- World Breastfeeding Week theme for 2022 is "**Step Up for Breastfeeding: Educate and Support**".
- The theme is aimed at encouraging breastfeeding as it is a very important thing and plays a very important role in the early development of a baby.

U.S. Coast Guard Day- August 4th:

- **Every year, August 4** is celebrated as **U.S. Coast Guard Day**, commemorating the military organization for its valor and discipline.
- **Since 1790**, the **U.S. Coast Guard** has kept the nation's waterways safe, playing a critical role in national security.
- The day honors the establishment of the U.S. Coast Guard and the courageous work of the service members of the Coast Guard.

History

- The **United States Coast Guard** was established on **4 August 1790** by Treasury Secretary **Alexander Hamilton** and was later on known as the **Revenue Marine**.
- Let us tell you that Alexander Hamilton authorized the construction of ten vessels which are known as Revenue Service cutters.
- They were intended to enforce the **earliest United States tariff laws**.

Hiroshima Day- August 6

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- **Hiroshima Day** is observed every year on **August 6** to promote peace politics and raise awareness of the **effects of the bomb attack on Hiroshima**.
- Hiroshima city was attacked by an atomic weapon that killed thousands of lives instantly on **August 6, 1945**.
- Today is the 77th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the Japanese city.
- It was the first city to be attacked by a nuclear bomb.

History:

- In 1945, the United Nations deployed a nuclear bomb on the city of Hiroshima.
- This wiped out 39 percent of the civilians in the city.
- The US created two atomic bombs named 'The Little Boy' dropped in the city of Hiroshima and 'The Fat Man' in the city of Nagasaki on August 6 and 9 respectively.

National Handloom Day- August 7, 2022

- In India, **National Handloom Day** is observed annually on **August 7** to promote wearing clothing manufactured by hand by indigenous tribes.
- Events are planned all around the country this year as well to increase public understanding and the contribution of citizens to the socioeconomic development of handloom weavers.

History

- The handloom sector played an important role during the **Swadeshi Movement**, which was launched as part of the **Indian independence movement**, on **August 7, 1905**.
- The movement was started to curb dependency on foreign goods and to boost domestic production.
- The movement started the production of khadi in almost every household.
- When "at the stroke of the midnight hour" India got independence, **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** unfurled the **Indian flag made of khadi** at Princess Park near India Gate.
- National Handloom Day is celebrated on **August 7** as it was the same day the **Swadeshi Movement** was birthed.
- The government of India, on **August 7, 2015**, inaugurated and celebrated National Handloom Day for the first time in Chennai.

The Quit India Movement Day – August 8

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- Every year on 8 August, the anniversary of the Quit India Movement is marked and observed by paying tribute to freedom fighters who without a doubt laid their lives for the country and its people.
- The Quit India Movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi on 8 August 1942 at the Bombay session of the All-India Congress Committee (AICC).
- Also known as the **Bharat Chhodo Andolan**, this movement was a mass civil disobedience that took place in the country.
- During the launch of the movement, the father of the nation delivered a speech amid a 'do or die situation.
- He demanded that the British must leave India immediately or face dire consequences.
- As a part of this movement, a call for mass agitation was followed by violence that took over the country after which **Indian National Congress** leaders were arrested.
- The main reason for the Quit India Movement to begin was that the Britishers were planning to drag the country into **World War II** without consent to fight on behalf of the **United Kingdom (UK)**.
- During that time, more than 87,000 Indian soldiers were martyred in World War II including people from **Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh**.

Nagasaki Day- August 9

- **Nagasaki Day** is observed every year on **August 9** to promote peace politics and raise awareness of the effects of the bomb attack on Nagasaki.
- The historical nuclear attack took place in the year **1945** with an atomic bomb on **August 6** in the city of **Hiroshima** and later on August 9 in Nagasaki.
- Nagasaki city was attacked by atomic weapons that killed thousands of life instantly.
- It is the 77th anniversary
- rsary of the atomic bombing of the Japanese city.
- It is the second city after Hiroshima to be attacked by a nuclear bomb.

History:

- In **1945**, the **United Nations** deployed a nuclear bomb on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- This wiped out 39 percent of the civilians in the city.
- The US created two atomic bombs named 'The Little Boy' dropped in the city of Nagasaki and 'The Fat Man' in the city of Nagasaki on August 6 and 9 respectively.

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International Day of World's Indigenous People- August 9

- The International Day of the **World's Indigenous Peoples** is observed on **9 August** each year to raise awareness and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population.
- This event also recognizes the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.
- In India, the indigenous population is also known as the Scheduled Tribes.
- The **United Nations** passed a resolution on **December 23, 1994**, to celebrate August 9 as the day.
- The day marked the **first meeting in 1982 of the UN Working Group** on indigenous populations.
- The UN General Assembly also declared 1995-2004 as the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.
- It declared the decade 2005-2015 as the Second International Decade.

World Biofuel Day

- **World Biofuel Day** is commemorated on **10 August** every year to raise awareness about the use of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels.
- Any fuel that is derived from biomass, like plants, agricultural wastes, crops, algae, or animal wastes, is known as biofuel.

History:

- August 10 is observed as World Biofuel Day in honor of **Sir Rudolf Diesel**, inventor of the **diesel engine**.
- It was just one day before, **on August 9 in 1893 that Sir Diesel**, first successfully operated the mechanical engine with peanut oil.
- With this, he was able to predict the possibility of vegetable oil replacing fossil fuels as a feasible source of energy in the next century.
- To commemorate this achievement, the date was chosen to observe World Biofuel Day.

World Lion Day- August 10

- **World Lion Day** is celebrated annually on **August 10** each year, with an emphasis to raise awareness and gather support for their declining population and conservation.
- Currently, they are listed as endangered species by the **International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- The Asiatic Lion is one of the five big cats that are found in India, the other four being the Royal Bengal Tiger, Indian Leopard, Clouded leopard, and Snow Leopard.

History:

- In 2013, co-founders of Dereck and Beverly Joubert the Big Cat Initiative, and National Geographic made a partnership to create World Lion Day.
- The lion is also known as **Panthera leo** and is considered the king of the jungle, being the largest species on earth.
- There has been a decline in 80 percent of the population of lions in the past 100 years.
- This is the major reason for the observance of the day to protect these wild cats in their natural habitat.
- This also works on the safety measures of the lion communities.

International Youth Day- August 12

- August 12 marks the annual celebration of International Youth Day as an awareness day, designated by the United Nations (UN).
- The first Youth Day was observed in 1999 after the UN General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution accepting the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in Lisbon.

History:

- In 1998, the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth issued a resolution designating August 12 as International Youth Day.
- It was held by the Portuguese government in conjunction with the UN (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998).
- The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 64/134 in December 2009 proclaiming the year commencing 12 August 2010 as the International Year of Youth.
- To mark the event, the day calls upon governments, civil society, individuals, and communities worldwide to support activities at local and international levels.

World Elephant Day- August 12

- World Elephant Day is celebrated every year on August 12.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- Initiated by the **Elephant Reintroduction Foundation** and filmmakers **Patricia Sims and Michael Clark** in **2011**, the first international Elephant Day was celebrated on August 12, 2012.
- World Elephant Day was launched to highlight the difficulty of Asian and African elephants, which face many threats like poaching, habitat loss, conflict with humans, and being mistreated in captivity.
- The main aim of World Elephant Day is to make people aware of better treatment of captive elephants and against their illegal poaching and trade for ivory.

History

- The **first-ever International Elephant Day** was observed on **August 12, 2012**.
- Since then, it has been a day set aside each year to emphasize the need of protecting and preserving animals.
- The **Elephant Reintroduction Foundation** and the filmmakers **Patricia Sims and Michael Clark** created **World Elephant Day** in **2011**.
- The launch date was set for **August 12, 2012**.

Left-handers Day-13 August:

- **Every year on August 13**, the world celebrates **International Left-Handers Day** to recognize the distinctiveness and distinctions of left-handers and to spread awareness of the benefits and drawbacks of having a left hand in a world that is largely right-handed.
- **According to a 2019 Oxford University study**, left-handers are likely to have stronger linguistic abilities than their right-handed counterparts.

HISTORY:

- The founder of Lefthanders International Inc., **Dean R. Campbell**, commemorated the day for the **first time in 1976**.
- Additionally, the Lefthanders International Club was established in 1990 to promote left-handedness and communicate with businesses about the creation of products for left-handed people.
- The Club established International Lefthanders Day in 1992 to raise awareness of the "benefits and drawbacks of being left-handed."

World Humanitarian Day- August 19:

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- **World Humanitarian Day** is commemorated every year on **19 August** to pay tribute to humanitarian workers killed and injured in the course of their work, and to honor all aid and health workers who continue, despite the odds, to provide life-saving support and protection to people most in need.

History:

- The chief of Iraq's humanitarian organization was among the 22 brutally killed when a bomb exploded at the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, on **August 19, 2003**.
- The UN General Assembly designated this day as **World Humanitarian Day** in **2009** to honor the bombing.

World Photography Day- August 19:

- **World Photography Day** is observed on **August 19** each year.
- The annual celebration pays tribute to the art of photography and also encourages those who are passionate about it to come together and share their work.

History

- The inception of this day dates back to 1837 when **Frenchmen Joseph Nicephore Niepce and Louis Daguerre** invented the '**daguerreotype**' which was the world's first-ever photographic process.
- Two years later on January 9, 1839, the daguerreotype was officially endorsed by the French Academy of Sciences.
- Seven months later on **August 19, 1839**, the French government is believed to have purchased **the patent for the device**.
- They declared the invention of the daguerreotype as a gift to the world making it freely available to all and the day began to be marked as World Photography Day later on.
- Photography has since then been evolving with developments and advancements in technology.
- The first durable color photograph was captured in **1861** while the **first digital photograph was created in 1957**, two decades earlier than the invention of the digital camera.

World Senior Citizen's Day- August 21

- **World Senior Citizen Day** is observed on **August 21**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- It's an effort by the young to acknowledge the problems that our elders face due to their age and raise awareness about those issues.
- The day also recognizes their contributions to the world's advancement as leaders, professionals, and entrepreneurs.

HISTORY

- On **December 14, 1990**, the first **World Senior Citizens' Day** was proclaimed by the **General Assembly of the United Nations**.
- However, the **first celebration** was marked on **October 1, 1991**.
- Ideally, it was **former President of the United States of America, Ronald Reagan** who officially founded World Senior Citizens' Day.

International Day for the Remembrance of Slave Trade and Abolition- August 23

- **August 23** is marked as the **International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition**.
- During the imperialist regimes run by the colonial powers of Europe, the slave trade was a cruel yet common practice.

HISTORY

- The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is commemorated on August 23 because of a significant event that took place surrounding this date.
- **Santo Domingo**, which is modern-day Haiti and the Dominican Republic, was an erstwhile colonial settlement of France in the eighteenth century.
- **The days of August 22 and August 23, 1791**, saw the start of the uprising that would play a vital role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade led by the European colonial powers.
- The uprising inspired the **Haitian Revolution** which was led by the Black and mixed-race people against the colonial rulers.

World Water Week- 23 August to 1 September

- **World Water Week 2022** will take place from **August 23 to September 1**.
- Since 1991, the **Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)** has hosted World Water Week to address global water issues and related international development concerns.

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- The theme of the 2022 World Water Week is: “**Seeing the unseen: The value of water**”, which helps us view water in new and fascinating ways.
- World Water Week is a community of changemakers working together to find answers to the world's most pressing water-related issues.
- The Week also serves as a gathering space to expedite progress toward the SDGs and other international activities.
- This year's **World Water Week** is a significant step toward the **UN Water Conference in 2023**.

Women's Equality Day- August 26

- **Women's Equality Day** is celebrated in the United States on **August 26 every year**, to mark the day when the **Amendment giving women the right to vote was adopted**.
- On the 50th anniversary of the passing of the **Nineteenth Amendment**, the **National Organisation for Women (NOW)** organized a nationwide ‘strike for equality’. Following the strike, **Congresswoman Bella Abzug** also known as **Battling Bella** introduced a resolution to designate **August 26 as Women’s Equality Day**.
- **It was first celebrated in 1973**, after Congress approved H.J. Res. 52, which stated, "the President is authorized and requested to proclaim commemoration of that day in 1920 on which the women in America were first guaranteed the right to vote".

National Sports Day- 29th August

- The **29th of August** is celebrated as **National Sports Day** in India each year.
- The inaugural **National Sports Day** was observed on **August 29, 2012**, the birthday of India's renowned hockey player, **Major Dhyan Chand**.
- The day is utilized as a platform to introduce several sports initiatives as well as to plan several sporting events and seminars to raise awareness of the value of physical activity and sports in everyday life.

History:

- In various regions of India, **National Sports Day** is also known as **Rashtriya Khel Divas**.
- The **National Stadium of Delhi** was renamed **Major Dhyan Chand Stadium**, Delhi in 1979 as a mark of respect for Major Dhyan Chand following his passing.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- To promote the spirit of sportsmanship and the message of diverse sports, it was stated in 2012 that a day must be observed as National Sports Day.
- Major Dhayan Chand was once again honored for this on the anniversary of his birth, and the 29th of August was declared National Sports Day in India.

National Small Industry Day- 30 August

- The **National Small Industry Day** is observed in India on **August 30** every year to encourage and promote small industries for their potential for overall growth as well as the chances they have been given to expand throughout the year.
- The purpose of industry day is to support the establishment of new industries and give balanced growth to the state's current small, medium, and large-scale businesses.

HISTORY

- On **August 30, 2000**, the **Ministry of Small-Scale Industries (SSI)** introduced a comprehensive set of policies for the SSI sector.
- Small businesses in India are significantly supported by this strategy.
- After that, the Ministry decided to **declare August 30 to be "SSI Day."**
- On **August 30, 2001**, the Ministry hosted an SSI Convention for SSI Entrepreneurs in New Delhi, along with a ceremony to give National Awards.

IMPORTANT BANKING & ECONOMY NEWS

BOB Financial Solutions launches mobile app 'bob card'

- **BOB Financial Solutions Limited** has launched its **credit card servicing mobile application**, 'bob card'.

Aim :

- To help customers with a one-stop solution to manage their Bank of Baroda credit card services.
- The app has been designed in collaboration with **IBM**.

About 'bob card' :

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- bob card is a smart digital platform that offers a **battery-saver dark-themed interface** along with secured access with face ID, fingerprint lock & PIN, and a smart eye feature to ensure that card details of the customers remain private.
- It will help customers manage their card usage limit, redeem reward points instantly, convert high-value transactions into smart EMI and pay credit card bills on time.
- Customers can download the app from the App Store (iOS users)/ Google Play Store (Android users), and start using it after linking it with their registered mobile number.
- The app is powered by intelligent workflows at the backend to deliver an engaging & secure user experience for the customers."

About BOB Financial Solutions Ltd :

- Founded: 29 September 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Shailendra Singh
- BOB Financial Solutions is a **non-banking financial company (NBFC)** that is **wholly owned by the Bank of Baroda (BoB)**.

RBI temporarily allows merchants & payment aggregators to save customer card credentials

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has temporarily permitted merchants or their payment aggregators (PAs) involved in the settlement of transactions where cardholders decide to enter the card details manually to save the **Card-on-File (CoF) data** for a maximum period of **"Transaction Date + 4 days"** or till the settlement date, whichever is earlier.
- This data shall be used only for the settlement of such transactions and must be purged.
- Now, the card issuer and the card network are allowed the aforementioned dispensation
- For carried out other post-transaction activities, acquiring banks can continue to store CoF data (customer card credentials) until January 31, 2023
- The RBI emphasized that there shall be no change in the effective date of implementation of the requirements relating to "Restriction on Storage of Actual Card Data (CoF) – all entities, except card issuers and card networks, shall purge the CoF data before **October 1, 2022**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- With effect from October 1, 2022, no entity in the card transaction/payment chain, other than the card issuers and/or card networks, shall store CoF data, and any such data stored previously shall be purged.

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

RBI imposes restrictions on 3 Urban cooperative banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed several restrictions, including on the withdrawal of funds, on **three Urban cooperative banks (UCBs)** namely
 1. Jaiprakash Narayan Nagari Sahakari Bank, Basmatnagar, Maharashtra
 2. The Karmala Urban Co-operative Bank, Solapur, Maharashtra
 3. Durga Co-operative Urban Bank, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.
- The restrictions imposed on the three banks under the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** the Reserve Bank would remain in force for **6 months** and are subject to review.
- As part of the restrictions, these UCBs 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.

Key Highlights :

- With the imposition of restrictions on Jaiprakash Narayan Nagari Sahakari Bank, Basmatnagar, depositors will **not be able** to withdraw funds from their accounts.
- Depositors of The Karmala Urban Co-operative Bank, Solapur, can only **withdraw up to Rs 10,000** from their accounts.
- The RBI has also imposed restrictions on customers of Durga Co-operative Urban Bank, Vijayawada can withdraw up to **Rs 1.5 lakh** from their deposits.
- The banks will continue to undertake banking business with restrictions till their financial position improves.

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- 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.

About UCBs :

- The term Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) is not formally defined but refers to **primary cooperative banks** located in urban and semi-urban areas.
- Until 1996, these banks were allowed to lend money only for non-agricultural purposes.
- These banks were traditionally centered on communities and local workgroups as they essentially lent to small borrowers and businesses.

WhatsApp launched a user-safety campaign through a music video titled 'Scam Se Bacho':

- **Messaging app WhatsApp** launched a **user-safety campaign** through a music video titled 'Scam Se Bacho', in line with its focus on communicating its core safety principles to **payments on WhatsApp** to help keep users safe **while making digital payments**.
- Payments on WhatsApp allow users to send and receive money from their contacts via **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** as easily as a WhatsApp message.
- The 'Scam Se Bacho' music video is a parody rendition of the popular song, 'Dekh Ke Chalo', wherein the lyrics demonstrate real-life situations in which individuals could be susceptible to scams and reinforce the message of staying safe and exercising caution while making digital payments.

The fiscal deficit reached 21% during the April-June quarter:

- The **Centre's fiscal deficit reached 21%** during the **April-June quarter** of the current fiscal.
- **The fiscal deficit stood at 18 percent** during the corresponding period of last fiscal.
- However, The fiscal deficit is not likely to breach the Budget Estimate of 6.4 percent.
- **Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj** said the government would stick to its projected target of Budget FY 2023.
- As per Ind-Ra, the **fiscal deficit in FY23** will be in the range of **6.2-6.4 percent of GDP**.
- According to Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data, the center received around ₹5.96-lakh crore and incurred an expenditure of ₹9.47-lakh crore during three months.
- This resulted in a fiscal deficit of over ₹3.51-lakh crore.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- A fiscal deficit is a difference between expenditure and income.

SEBI Postpones Implementation of MF Holder Nomination Rules to October 1

- Capital market regulator **Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has postponed the implementation of new rules on the nomination for mutual fund investors till **October 1, 2022**.
- The new rules of providing an option for mutual fund investors to submit details of nomination or opt-out of it were to come into force on **August 1, 2022**.
- Based on the representation received from AMFI, it has been decided that investors subscribing to mutual fund units after October 1, 2022, will have a choice to submit the nomination form or the declaration form for opting out of the nomination physical or online as per the choice of the unitholders.
- In the case of the physical option, the forms will carry the wet signature of all the unitholders.
- In the case of the online option, instead of wet signatures of all the unitholders, AMCs shall validate the forms using the e-Sign facility or through two-factor authentication.

SEBI penalizes BSE for its subsidiary buying stake in Indus Water without prior approval

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** imposed a penalty of **Rs 3 lakh** on **BSE Ltd** for indirectly engaging in works that were unrelated to its activities as a stock exchange without the regulator's approval.
- The order came after SEBI examined investments made by BSE Ltd to ascertain whether the firm had engaged in activities that were not related to its activity as a stock exchange without the approval of Sebi as of **March 2021**.
- SEBI found that BIL, a separate legal entity and a wholly-owned subsidiary of BSE Ltd, had acquired an **8 percent stake** in Indus Water Institute Ltd.
- For the violation of not seeking prior approval, the regulator has imposed a fine of **Rs 3 lakh** on the exchange.
- In October 2020, Sebi imposed Rs 6 crore penalty on NSE for picking up stakes in six entities, including CAMS and Power Exchange India Ltd, without obtaining the SEBI's approval.

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

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- 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, Gol.

Union Bank of India sets up “RACE” goal for 2022

- The **Union Bank of India (UBI)** has set “RACE” as the goal for the year.
- RACE stands for
- Grow **RAM** (retail, agriculture, and MSME) loans,
- Improve **Asset** quality,
- Increase **CASA** (current account, savings account deposits)
- Increase **Earnings**

Aim :

- To make UBI bank among the **top three largest Public Sector Banks (PSB)** in the next couple of years.

About UBI :

- Founded: 11 November 1919
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : A Manimekhalai (First women chief of UBI)

SEBI lays rules for automated deactivation of trading, demat accounts in case of inadequate KYC

- Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** released a framework for **automated deactivation of trading and demat accounts of investors** in case of inadequate **Know Your Client (KYC) details**.
- The framework will come into effect on **August 31, 2022**.

Aim :

- To ensure the client furnishes accurate or updated details of address and ensure that KYC details are correct
- Under the rules, **market infrastructure institutions (MIIs)** stock exchanges, except commodity derivatives exchanges, and depositories will have to physically serve **Show Cause Notice (SCN)** or order issued by the regulator to the concerned entity.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- The MIs will have to forward the signed acknowledgment of its receipt by the concerned addressee or its authorized representative to the regulator within **30 days** from the date of receipt of such instructions from the SEBI.

GST revenue collected in July 2022 is ₹1,48,995 crore:

- The gross GST revenue collected in July 2022 is ₹1,48,995 crore of which CGST is ₹ 25,751 crore.
- The revenues for July 2022 are **28% higher than the GST revenues** in the same month last year of ₹ 1,16,393 crore.
- For five months in a row now, the monthly GST revenues have been more than ₹ 1.4 lakh core, showing a steady increase every month.
- The growth in GST revenue till July 2022 over the same period last year is 35% and displays a very high buoyancy.

Union Bank of India launches Union Prema 2.0 - EmpowerHim

- Union Bank of India launched an Industry-first, dedicated, men-focused Committee 'EmpowerHim' as part of its flagship HR initiative 'Prema'.
- It was launched by A Manimekhalai, MD, and CEO, Union Bank of India.

Aim :

- To promote the employees' career trajectory and improve diversity in the Bank by picking out and resolving individual as well as common existing challenges.
- This Committee will complement the women-focused; EmpowerHer Committee launched by the Bank earlier in July 2022.

Objective :

- To understand local problems, highlight the importance of gender equity, and focus on sensitization at work.

About Union Prema :

- Union Prema is the Human Resources (HR) Transformation initiative of UBI.

Aim :

- To improve productivity through digitization of processes, employee-centric interventions, and a learning revolution within the Banking space.

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About EmpowerHim:

- A first in the Industry, "EmpowerHim" is Union Bank's career-focused Committee aimed at tackling all issues at the grass-root level.

Aim :

- To provide a comfortable platform for everyone to freely express their concerns and needs, counsel employees, encourage active participation in leadership roles and improve Business performance and individual productivity.

About UBI:

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

Infosys Finacle gets inducted into IFSCA's Regulatory Sandbox framework

- **Infosys Finacle**, part of **EdgeVerve Systems**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Infosys has been inducted into **International Financial Services Centres Authority's (IFSCA) Regulatory Sandbox framework** to pilot its blockchain-based trade finance solution.
- In the **first phase**, six leading banks **Federal Bank**, **HDFC Bank**, **HSBC**, **ICICI Bank**, **RBL Bank**, and **State Bank of India** are collaborating with Infosys Finacle in the regulatory sandbox.
- This collaboration will lead to comprehensive testing of the blockchain-based **Buyers Credit** solution, for short-term credit in foreign currency for import payments and trade finance transactions.
- This will serve as a precursor to the solution being available as a **SaaS-based offering** for all banks servicing clients from GIFT City.

About Finacle Trade Connect :

- **Finacle Trade Connect** helps banks, corporates, and various trade partners, such as shipping companies, insurers, and customs agencies, connect directly on a unified distributed network enabling inter-organization automation of trade finance processes.

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- Apart from Buyer's Credit, the solution offers capabilities across Letter of Credit, Open Account for Trade, Bill Collection, Bill Exchange, C2C Transactions for Trade, B2C Transactions for Trade, PO Financing, Invoice Financing, Bank Guarantee, and Factoring.
- The new platform will **speed-up transaction times** from weeks to hours and drive significant cost savings.
- It will also **enable trade expansion** to drive economic growth.

About Infosys finacle :

- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka

GOI Announces Sale of Four Dated Securities for a Notified Amount of Rs 33,000 crore

- The **Government of India (GOI)** has announced the **sale (re-issue)** of **four dated securities** for a **notified amount of ₹33,000 crores**.
- The auctions will be conducted by the **Reserve Bank of India, on August 05, 2022**.

Four Securities :

1. **6.69%** Government Security 2024 for a notified amount of **Rs 4,000 Crore** (nominal) through price based auction using a uniform price method
 2. **7.10%** Government Security 2029 for a notified amount of **Rs 7,000 Crore** (nominal) through price-based auction using a uniform price method
 3. **6.54%** Government Security 2032 for a notified amount of **Rs 13,000 Crore** (nominal) through price-based auction using a uniform price method
 4. **6.95%** Government Security 2061 for a notified amount of **Rs 9,000 Crore** (nominal) through price-based auction using multiple price method.
- GoI will have the option to retain an additional subscription up to **Rs 2,000 Crore** against each of the 4 securities.
 - As per the Scheme for Non-Competitive Bidding Facility in the Auction of Government Securities, **Up to 5%** of the notified amount of the sale of the securities will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions.

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PNB Gets RBI Approval to Invest ₹500 cr in PNB Housing Finance Rights Issue

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) announced that the Reserve Bank of India had allowed it to invest ₹500 crores in the upcoming ₹2,500 crore rights issue of PNB Housing Finance Limited (PNBHFL).
- Following the rights issue, the shareholding of Punjab National Bank (PNB) as a promoter of the company would come down from the current level of 32.57% to below 30%.
- In the post rights issue, the holding of the bank would come down below 30 percent but would be higher than 26 percent so that the bank retains promoter status.
- The rights issue process is expected to conclude by December 2022 or latest in the March quarter.
- The PNB proposes to raise ₹12,000 crores from Tier I (5,500) and Tier II bonds (6,500).

About PNB:

- Founded: 19 May 1894 (Commenced Operations April 12, 1895)
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Atul Kumar Goel
- Tagline: The name you can bank upon

About PNB Housing Finance Ltd :

- Founded: 11 November 1988
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Hardayal Prasad

SVC Bank Partners with SIDBI for Empowering MSMEs

- SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd. (SVC Bank), one of India's leading co-operative banks, and Small Industries Development Bank in India (SIDBI), the country's apex financial institution for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), entered into a partnership through an Agreement.
- The agreement was signed by Ashish Singhal, MD, SVC Bank, and Sanjeev Gupta, General Manager, SIDBI in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- SVC Bank is the first urban cooperative bank to enter into a refinancing partnership with SIDBI.
- The partnership signed will allow SVC Bank to tap into SIDBI's refinance facility.

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- Recently SIDBI has decided to **extend refinance assistance** to eligible scheduled Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).
- In January 2021, SIDBI announced sanctioning of **Rs 650 crore** in financial assistance to two small finance banks AU Small Finance Bank and Jana Small Finance Bank from the Special Liquidity Facility of Rs 16,000 crore sanctioned to it by the Reserve Bank of India

About SIDBI:

- Founded: 2 April 1990
- Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Chairman & MD : Sivasubramanian Ramann
- SIDBI provides refinance to primary lending institutions such as banks including small finance banks, non-banking finance companies, and microfinance institutions which in turn provide credit to MSMEs.
- It is also engaged in direct financing of small businesses through long-term loans, working-capital facilities, etc.

About SVC Bank:

- Founded: 1906
- Chairman: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Durgesh S Chandavarkar
- MD: Ashish Singhal
- The Shamrao Vithal Co-op. Bank Ltd. (SVC Bank) known as SVC Cooperative Bank Limited, is a scheduled bank in India.

RBI's Financial Inclusion Index for March 2022 rises to 56.4

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) in March 2022 increased to **56.4** indicating that growth has been witnessed across all parameters.
- The FI-index in March 2021 was **53.9**.

About RBI's Financial Inclusion Index:

- RBI will release the FI-Index in **July month every year**.
- There is **no base year** for this Index.

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- It was conceptualized as a comprehensive index incorporating details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector in consultation with the government and respective sectoral regulators.
- The value of the FI-Index will range from **0 to 100**.
- Where **0** denotes **complete financial exclusion** while **100** denotes **full financial inclusion**.

Parameters of FI-Index:

- The FI-Index comprises **three** parameters, namely
 1. Access (35%)
 2. Usage (45%)
 3. Quality (20%) with each of these consists of various dimensions, which are computed based on several indicators.
- In total there are **97 indicators**.
- A unique feature of the FI-Index is the quality parameter, which captures the quality aspect of financial inclusion as reflected by financial literacy, consumer protection, and inequalities and deficiencies in services.

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

GST e-invoicing is mandatory for entities with Rs 10 cr turnover from Oct 1, 2022

- The **goods and services tax (GST) e-invoicing** will be **mandatory** for firms with a turnover of over **Rs 10 crore from October 1, 2022** down from the **current threshold of Rs 20 crore** to further plug leakages and ensure better compliance.

Aim:

- To digitize a higher volume of transactions, transparency in sales reporting, reduce errors and mismatches, automate data entry work, and improve compliance.
- The government plans to make GST e-invoicing mandatory for companies with a turnover of **Rs 10 crore** and then **Rs 5 crore** in the current financial year.

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- The GST e-invoice system tracks **business-to-business (B2B) transactions** on the **Invoice Registration Portal (IRP)**, which facilitates the assessment and computation of **input tax credit (ITC)**.
- The e-invoice provides a standardized format that is machine-readable and can be electronically authenticated on the **Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)** and be further used on the common GST portal.

About E-invoicing :

- E-invoicing (electronic billing) started in **October 2020** and was made mandatory for entities with a turnover of **Rs 500 crore** and above.
- This threshold was brought down to Rs 100 crore and later to Rs 50 crore in 2021 for business-to-business (B2B) transactions.

The GST revenue for July 2022 will be the second highest ever, at Rs 1.49 lakh crore:

- In July, **Goods and Services Tax** collections increased by **28%** to reach the **second-highest level ever at Rs 1.49 lakh crore** on the back of economic recovery and steps taken to curb tax evasion.
- The **GST (Goods and Services Tax) collection for the same month a year earlier was Rs 1,16,393 crore**.
- In April 2022, the GST, which was enacted in July 2017, reached a record high of Rs 1.68 lakh crore.
- Since the commencement of the GST, the monthly GST collection has exceeded Rs 1.40 lakh crore six times.
- Since March 2022, this has happened five times in a row.
- As compared to the same month last year, the income from domestic transactions, which includes the import of services, was up **22% in July** and the revenue from imported commodities was up 48%.
- A total of Rs 1,48,995 crore in GST was collected in July, of which Rs 25,751 crore came from the central government, Rs 32,807 crore from the states, and Rs 79,518 crore from the integrated government (including Rs 41,420 crore on the import of commodities), and Rs 10,920 crore from cess (including Rs 995 crore collected on import of goods).

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

Federal Bank becomes the 1st Bank to list Payment Gateway on the new Tax platform

- **Federal Bank** has become **India's first bank** to list its **Payment Gateway platform** on the **TIN 2.0 platform** of the **Income Tax Department**.

About Tax Information Network (TIN):

- With this, **TIN 2.0 platform** taxpayers will get one more payment option and now make their payments with ease, using modes such as **Credit/Debit Card, UPI, NEFT/RTGS, and Internet Banking**.
- **Tax Information Network (TIN)** is an initiative by the **Income Tax Department of India (ITD)** for the collection, processing, monitoring, and accounting of direct taxes using information technology.
- Also, **TIN** is a repository of nationwide tax-related information and has been established by **Protean eGov Technologies Limited** on behalf of the **IT Dept.**
- The federal bank also received the government's approval for the collection of **Direct Tax** last financial year and has been made effective since **1 July 2022**.

Recent News :

- In **July 2022** the **Federal Bank** partnered with the **Central Board of direct taxes** to assist taxpayers in making their payments via the **e-pay tax facility** in the e-filing portal of the income tax.

About Federal Bank :

- **Headquarters:** Aluva, Kochi, Kerala, India
- **MD & CEO:** Shyam Srinivasan

Karnataka Bank partners with Yubi for Co-lending with NBFCs

- **Karnataka Bank** has entered into an arrangement with **Yubi** (formerly known as **CredAvenue Pvt Ltd**) for co-lending via the **Yubi Co.Lend**, India's co-lending platform.

Aim :

- To provide credit to the underserved sectors and accelerate financial inclusion in India.
- This collaboration will allow **Karnataka bank** to digitally onboard various **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**, lend significant amounts of money, and onboard a larger customer base as a result of their better consumer outreach.

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- The digital Co-lending platform would enable Karnataka Bank and our NBFC partners to effortlessly integrate and lend to borrowers with a faster turnaround time.

About Karnataka Bank :

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

About Yubi (formerly known as CredAvenue Pvt Ltd) :

- Founded: 2020
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- Founder and CEO: Gaurav Kumar

SEBI restructures the market data advisory committee to have 20 members

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has restructured its advisory committee on **market data** that recommends policy measures for securities market data access and privacy.
- Currently, the market data advisory committee will have **20 members**.
- Earlier, the committee had 21 members.

Key Highlights :

- The committee is chaired by **S Sahoo**, Professor at National Law University, Delhi, and former chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- Under the new changes, NSE's former MD and CEO Vikram Limaye has been replaced by newly appointed chief Ashishkumar Chauhan in the committee.
- Further, other members of the panel are Dr. C.K.G. Nair, P.S. Reddy, Arun Raste, Padmaja Chunduru, Nehal Vora, Anuj Kumar, Sreekanth Nadella, Dr. Subrata Sarkar, Dharendra Kumar, Mahesh Vyas, Ranjit Pawar, Raman Uberoi, Nithin Kamath, Kiran Shetty, Suhas Tuljapurkar, Amarjeet Singh, Prabhas Kumar Rath.
- The scope of the work of the committee includes **identifying segment-wise data perimeters, data needs, and gaps, and recommending data privacy and data access regulations applicable to market data**.
- It is responsible for recommending appropriate policy for access to securities market data.

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- Also, the committee recommends standardization of data definitions; data identification logic (usage of uniform codes for identifying and storing data - raw data and derived data), and data validation techniques (single source of truth, validation).

IRDAI eases norms of bank bonds, InvITs/REITs

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has allowed insurers to buy more perpetual bonds issued by banks and allowed them to participate in high-yield public listings.
- The aggregate value of the AT1 (level one additional) bonds held in a particular bank, at any time, will not exceed 10% of the total outstanding AT1 Bonds of that particular bank.
- AT1 bonds have no fixed maturities and are raised to shore up the capital base.
- These quasi-equity securities generate much higher returns than traditional bonds, as the risk is also higher.
- The public holding in InvITs/REITs should not be less than 30 percent of the total outstanding units of InvITs/REITs at the time of investment
- It states that no insurer shall invest more than 20 percent of the outstanding debt instruments in any one invitation/REIT.

About IRDAI:

- Established: 1999
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairperson: Debasish Panda
- IRDAI is a regulatory body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, Gol, and is tasked with regulating and licensing the insurance and reinsurance industries in India.

Karnataka Bank partners with Schwing Stetter India Pvt Ltd for financing construction equipment

- Karnataka Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SCHWING Stetter India Pvt Ltd one of India's major construction equipment manufacturers for financing construction equipment.
- The collaboration is expected to broaden the bank's Micro, Small, and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSME) financing prospects.

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- Under this collaboration, both partners will be able to provide consumers with customized financial solutions.
- With this development, the bank will be designated as a financial partner and will be able to meet the needs of its customers by providing competitively priced loans to purchase a vast range of construction equipment.

About SCHWING Stetter India Pvt Ltd :

- Managing Director: V G Sakthi Kumar
- SCHWING Stetter India, a **100% subsidiary of the Schwing Group** of companies GmbH was incorporated in the year 1998.

InsuranceDekho partners with Future Generali to offer pet insurance

- Insurance start-up **InsuranceDekho** has partnered with **Future Generali India Insurance Company** to offer dog health covers.
- The pet insurance policy as of now has a starting premium of about **₹324 annually**.
- It offers comprehensive coverage for over **25 breeds of dogs, aged 6 months to 10 years**.
- With this pet insurance plan, financial assistance is offered for expenses incurred by pet parents towards hospitalization (including pre and post-hospitalization), treatment of terminal illness, and surgery, subject to certain terms and conditions.
- It is estimated that pet insurance (including cattle) in India will witness an increase of at least **14 percent** to achieve **\$490 million** at the end of the year 2022.
- Globally, the pet insurance market is anticipated to reach **USD 32.7 billion** by 2030.

About InsuranceDekho :

- Founded: 2016
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana
- Co-Founder & CEO: Ankit Agrawal

Yubi Partners with U GRO Capital for co-lending and supply chain financing

- Yubi has agreed with **U GRO Capital**, a new generation Lending-as-a-Service (LaaS) business that leverages technology to deliver last-mile credit to **MSMEs** with the financing of **more than INR 2000 crore** by March 2023 in India.

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Aim :

- To solve the financial challenges faced by MSMEs by building deep expertise in the sector coupled with a data-centric, technology-enabled approach.
- The partnership will see the integration of Yubi Co.Lend and Yubi Flow with GRO–Xstream and GRO–Line platforms, respectively.
- Through this partnership, U GRO Capital will be able to leverage Yubi’s full stack operating system to seamlessly discover, go live and collaborate with multiple partners on Yubi’s platform.
- Through this alliance, U GRO Capital will gain access to Yubi Co.Lend’s vast network of Banks, Financial Institutions, and Fintechs via a single **API (Application Programming Interface)** integration to extend and accelerate credit to the underserved sectors.

About U GRO Capital :

- Founded: 1993
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Vice Chairman and Managing Director: Shachindra Nath

IndusInd Bank partners with Rupy to offer loans for used cars

- **IndusInd Bank** has announced a **strategic partnership** with **Rupy**, a new-age digital lending platform offering **100% paperless loan processing for used cars**.
- Rupy is the fintech arm of the **Jaipur-based Gimarsoft Pvt. Ltd.**, which houses brands including CarDekho, BikeDekho, Zigwheels, and Powerdrift, among others.
- This partnership will enable users of ‘Rupy’ to avail themselves of simplified documentation and instant processing of vehicle loans from IndusInd Bank.
- Customers of the bank can now opt for flexible repayment options while transacting on ‘Rupy’.

About IndusInd Bank :

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

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HDFC raises \$1.1 billion social loan for financing affordable housing projects in India

- Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd has raised USD 1.1 billion (around Rs 8,700 crore) from a clutch of investors under the 'Syndicated Social Loan Facility' at about a 3.3 percent rate for financing housing projects in India.
- The loan has been priced 90 basis points over the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR).
- This is the largest social loan globally, the first external commercial borrowing (ECB) loan out of India, and the largest ECB loan deal from a housing finance company/private NBFC in India.
- MUFG Bank Ltd is the Lead Social Loan Coordinator for this transaction along with being one of the Mandated Lead Arrangers and Borrowers (MLAB).
- CTBC Bank, Co. Ltd, Mizuho Bank Ltd., State Bank of India, and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation are the other MLABs and Joint Social Loan Coordinators.

Recent News :

- In July 2022, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the limit of ECBs under the automatic route from \$750 million to \$1.5 billion in July 2022.
- HDFC has financed 9.5 million housing units and has a gross loan book of Rs 6.7 trillion, since its inception in 1977.

About HDFC :

- Founded: 1977
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Deepak Parekh
- Vice Chairman & CEO: Keki Mistry
- Managing Director: Renu Sud Karnad

Max Life Insurance launches 'Smart Secure Easy Solution'

- Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. has launched Max Life Smart Secure Easy Solution, a comprehensive three-in-one protection solution offering benefits of life, critical illness & disability, and accidental cover.

About 'Smart Secure Easy Solution' :

- The solution is a combination of Max Life's Smart Secure Plus Plan.

Aim:

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- To provide financial protection in case of any uncertainties in life with an accidental cover option and Max Life Critical Illness and Disability Health Rider, which offers an added layer of financial protection in case of critical illnesses, total and permanent disability and provides extra coverage against death due to accident.
- With this solution, Max Life also offers coverage against **64 listed critical illnesses**, including 5 minor and 59 major illnesses, and covers total and permanent disability.

Key features of Max Life Smart Secure Easy Solution:

- Easy issuance and smooth onboarding with **only video medical examination** and **relaxed financial documentation**.
- Return of premium option available wherein at maturity upon survival, the policyholder will be paid back all the base premium.

About Max Life Insurance Company Ltd :

- Founded: 2000
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO: Prashant Tripathy
- Max Life Insurance Company Limited is a life insurance company in India with a joint venture (JV) between **Max India Ltd** and **Axis Bank**

HDFC receives in-principle approval from SEBI to change in control of HDFC AMC

- Capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has granted **in-principle approval** for a change in control of **HDFC Asset Management Company (AMC)**, a subsidiary of HDFC, and the asset management company of **HDFC Mutual Fund**, due to a change in co-sponsor of HDFC Mutual Fund, on account of proposed amalgamation of HDFC with and into HDFC Bank.
- It has already received **no-objection/approval** from stock exchanges and RBI.
- The change in control of the asset management company is part of HDFC's merger deal with HDFC Bank.
- This is subject to the approval of the **National Company Law Tribunal ("NCLT")** under **Sections 230-232 of the Companies Act**.
- HDFC AMC is the investment manager of the schemes of HDFC Mutual Fund.

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- Currently, HDFC and Abrdn Investment Management Ltd (erstwhile Standard Life Investments Ltd) are the sponsors of the fund house.

Recent News :

- In April 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) approved the HDFC-HDFC Bank merger.

About HDFC :

- Founded: 1995
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

About SEBI :

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

SEBI constitutes a 15-member FPI Advisory committee to attract foreign investment

- The market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a 15-member advisory committee, FPI (Foreign Portfolio Investment) Advisory Committee' FAC.

Purpose :

- To ease ways for foreign investors to invest in the Indian markets by reviewing the existing processes and recommending new ones.
- The FAC will be chaired by former Chief Economic Adviser **Shri K. V. Subramanian**, Former Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India – Chairman, and consists of 14 other members representing foreign banks, stock exchanges, depositories, and RBI.

14 other members :

1. Shri Harun R Khan, Deputy Governor (Retired), RBI
2. Shri R. Subramanian, Executive Director, RBI
3. Shri Madhav Kalyan, CEO, JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.

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4. Shri Hitendra Dave, CEO, HSBC Bank Ltd.
 5. Mr. Martin Graham, Managing Director, Global Public Policy Group of iShares (BlackRock).
 6. Shri Bobby Parikh, Managing Partner, Bobby Parikh Associates
 7. Shri Rushabh Maniar, Partner, AZB & Partners
 8. Prof. (Dr) Nigam S. Nuggehalli, Registrar, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru
 9. Shri Rajesh Gandhi, Partner, Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP
 10. Shri Shashwat Alok, Assistant Professor, Indian School of Business
 11. Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan, MD & CEO, National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.
 12. Ms. Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL)
 13. Shri Nehal Vora, Member, MD & CEO, Central Depository Services India Ltd. (CDSL)
 14. Shri Vikram Kothari, Managing Director, National Securities Clearing Corporation Ltd. (NSCCL)
- The Committee will suggest ways to bring changes in the existing rules to attract investments and enhance transparency by suggesting ways to amend the current rules.
 - It will also give its recommendations on issues related to custodians

The government emphasizes a comprehensive approach to increasing exports:

- **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal** emphasized the need for a "Whole of Government" strategy to increase exports.
- Mr. Goyal reviewed the export situation of the nation while interacting with the **Export Promotion Councils (EPCs)** and leaders of Industry groups in New Delhi.
- The "Whole of Government" strategy to increase exports would necessitate collaboration between exporters, EPCs, governmental organizations, and Indian representatives overseas.
- The task is now ours and we must be prepared to compete internationally.
- The government is making every effort through a variety of initiatives to help Indian exporters compete internationally.
- Enumerating initiatives taken, he highlighted that with **Gati Shakti**, the government is improving connectivity and logistics.
- The government is also negotiating to sign more **FTAs** with important trade partners.

American Express launches Global Pay, a B2B payments solution

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- **American Express**, a **Small Business Card** issuer in the **U.S** has launched a cross-border payment solution **Global Pay**, that will let U.S. businesses make secure domestic and international B2B (Business to Business) payments.

Key Highlights :

- Through this, business customers can send payments funded from their business bank account to their suppliers in **more than 40 countries** across a range of currencies using a simple, mobile-friendly platform.
- Eligible customers can also earn Membership Rewards points on their foreign exchange payments.
- American Express Global Pay is available to eligible U.S. American Express Small Business Card Members.

About American Express :

- Founded: March 18, 1850
- Headquarters: New York City, United States
- Chairman & CEO: Stephen J. Squeri

HDFC Bank Raises \$300 Mn in NRE Deposits

- **HDFC Bank** raised **\$300 million** in **Non-Resident External (NRE) deposits**, offering up to **50 basis points** higher than the current rates.
- The Middle East drove the list of new NRI depositors, with the rest of Asia and Europe not far behind.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has allowed banks to accept FCNR (B) and NRE deposits from the Indian diaspora without any interest rate caps.
- Such relaxations will be effective until **October 31, 2022**, and **November 4, 2022**, respectively.
- Further, the RBI also eased restrictions on external commercial borrowings to stem the outflow of funds and relieve pressure on the rupee.
- NRE and FCNR deposits differ in the approved currency denominations of their respective instruments, with the US dollar being the predominant unit of savings in the latter category.

About HDFC Bank :

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- Founded: August 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Atanu Chakraborty
- CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

Dhanlaxmi Bank Limited ventures into Fintech services

- **Dhanlaxmi Bank Limited** has agreed with its first fintech partner, **New Street Technologies Private Limited**, for **Micro Lending, Operations Management, and Technology Services** under **priority sector lending**.
- **New Street Technologies Pvt Ltd.** will provide technical support to the Bank on Digital onboarding and extend support as the business correspondent in the Microlending space to start the operations in southern states of India and subsequently expand to more states.
- **New Street Technologies Private Limited** will augment the Bank to provide better customer connectivity and financial inclusion along with leveraging technological advancements.

About Dhanlaxmi Bank Limited :

- Founded: 14 November 1927
- Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala, India
- MD & CEO: J. K. Shivan

About New Street Technologies Private Limited :

- Founded: 2017
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka

Indian Bank inks MoU with SRM University in AP to lend up to 50 crores for start-ups

- **Indian Bank** has collaborated with **Hatchlab Research Centre, Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of SRM University-Andhra Pradesh** to launch '**IND SpringBoard**', an initiative for financing start-ups and **Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**.
- The bank will extend loans of up to **Rs 50 crore** to start-ups incubated at SRM Hatchlab for their working capital requirements or purchase of machinery and equipment.
- This collaboration is one of its kind in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

About Indian Bank :

- Founded: 15 August 1907

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

Axis Bank Launches One-stop Cash Management Proposition

- **Axis Bank** becomes the **first Indian bank** to launch **Axis Receivables Suite (ARS)**-an innovative **Cash Management proposition**.
- It simplifies Receivables reconciliation, accelerates cash flow, enhances the client experience, and reduces the cost of doing business.

About ARS :

- ARS is an end-to-end proposition, along with a mobile app to automate the reconciliation of receivables against sales invoices raised by clients.
- Using ARS, Axis Bank clients can customize and automate fully what has traditionally been a very time-consuming, costly, manual, and error-prone activity.
- Clients also benefit from knowing their upcoming/pending payments which give them real-time control over all their receivables.

About Axis Bank :

- Founded : 3 December 1993
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry
- Axis Bank is the third largest private sector bank in India.

IDFC FIRST Bank partners LetsVenture to support startups

- **IDFC FIRST Bank** and **India's leading early-stage platform for investors and founders, LetsVenture Technologies Pvt. Ltd** has partnered to **explore synergies** and support the startup ecosystem by offering curated products and solutions to startups, founders and investors.
- An MoU to work on areas of mutual interest was signed between IDFC FIRST Bank LetsVenture Technologies at LetsVenture's flagship event, '**LetsIgnite**', for startups and founders in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- The partnership makes IDFC FIRST Bank a preferred banker to all startups on LetsVenture's Scalix, a newly launched platform that supports the startup ecosystem through fundraising solutions, knowledge series, and investor connect.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

About IDFC FIRST Bank :

- Founded: October 2015
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Non-Exe. Chairman: Rajiv Lall
- MD & CEO : V. Vaidyanathan
- IDFC FIRST Bank was formed by the merger of erstwhile IDFC Bank, promoted by renowned infrastructure financing institution IDFC Ltd. and leading technology **NBFC, Capital First**.
- The Bank's special '**Founder Success Program**' offers knowledge series, masterclasses, and networking sessions to engage, groom and connect with startups and contribute to their success story.

About LetsVenture Technologies Pvt. Ltd :

- Founded: 2013
- Co-founder & CEO: Shanti Mohan
- LetsVenture is backed by Accel, Chiratae Ventures, Nandan Nilekani, Ratan Tata, Rishad Premji, Mohandas Pai, Sharad Sharma, and Anupam Mittal.

RBI prescribed norms for small finance banks to deal in forex

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced that **small finance banks** which have completed **two years** of operations and have a **minimum networth of Rs 500 crore** can deal in foreign exchange.
- To give more flexibility to SFBs to meet their customers' foreign exchange business requirements, it has been decided that all the scheduled SFBs, after completion of at least two years of operations as Authorized Dealer Category-II, will be eligible for Authorized Dealer Category-I license, subject to compliance with prescribed eligibility norms

Key Highlights :

- As a **Category-I** authorized supplier, the small finance financial institution shall be allowed to deal in all different transactions in overseas trade like an **invoice of trade, cheques, letters of credit score, deposits**, and so on.
- While as a **Category-II** Authorized supplier the financial institution is allowed to supply solely cash altering services.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- Its Capital to Risk (weighted) Assets Ratio (CRAR) shouldn't be lower than 15%.
- The internet NPAs of the financial institution mustn't exceed 6%, throughout the earlier 4 quarters.
- It mustn't have defaulted in the upkeep of CRR/ SLR throughout the earlier 2 years.

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 Allows IDBI Bank Bidders to Own More Than 40% Stake

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has permitted non-financial institutions and unregulated entities to own more than 40 percent stake in IDBI Bank
- The Union government and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) look to sell a 51-74 percent stake in the lender through the strategic divestment process.
- IDBI Bank has been categorized as a private lender for regulatory purposes by the RBI with effect from Jan. 21, 2019, after Life Insurance Corp. acquired 51% of its total paid-up equity share capital.

About IDBI Bank :

- Founded: 1 July 1964
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: M. R. Kumar
- MD & CEO: Rakesh Sharma
- The IDBI is a subsidiary of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).

Paytm partners with Piramal Finance to offer loans

- Paytm Payments Bank Limited has Partnered with Piramal Capital & Housing Finance to offer merchant loans to small cities and towns across India.
- With this partnership, merchants will be able to avail of loans of up to Rs 10 lakh with a tenure of 6-24 months.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

How merchants can avail of loans on the Paytm For Business App :

- Tap on the "**Business Loan**" icon on the Paytm for Business App home screen and enter the desired loan amount
- Check details like loan amount, amount to be disbursed, total payable, daily installment, tenure
- Personal details like **PAN, date of birth, and email address** will be confirmed.
- After this, the credit score will be checked for loan eligibility and KYC details will be verified.
- Once the application is verified successfully, the loan amount will be disbursed instantly in the selected bank account of the merchant.

About PPBL :

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- CEO: Satish Kumar Gupta

About Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited :

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD: Jairam Sridharan
- Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited were earlier known as **Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL)**.
- It is a **subsidiary of Piramal Enterprises Limited**.
- DHFL is the **second housing finance company** to be established in India.

SBI formalizes policy to finance makers of lab-grown diamonds

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** is the **first Indian lender** to frame a policy to fund makers of lab-grown diamonds which come across as replicas of natural diamond stones.
- These diamonds are priced at a **30-40%** decrease from the pure (or, earth-mined) diamonds.
- To start with (SBI's) Diamond Bourse department in Mumbai, Maharashtra Bandra Kurla Complicated, and the Industrial department in Surat, Gujarat has been recognized for the enterprise.

About SBI:

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

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara

HDFC Bank inks pact with TReDs platform M1xchange

- **HDFC Bank** has partnered with the **Trade receivables discounting platform, M1xchange** promoted by **Mynd Solutions Pvt Ltd** to make a **debut** in the **Trade receivables Discounting System (TReDs) platform**.

Aim :

- To provide more liquidity to small businesses at competitive interest rates.

About the Partnership :

- HDFC Bank will benefit from partnering with M1xchange with a shorter turn-around time and lower administrative costs in booking additional **new-to-bank (NTB)** corporate buyer relationships.
- TReDS system, regulated by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, enables **Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** to auction their trade receivables online and borrow funds from financial institution which offers loan at the lowest rate of interest.
- This partnership is expected to bring in more liquidity and enhance the adoption of TReDS among a wider number of corporate customers and MSMEs.

About HDFC Bank :

- Founded: August 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Atanu Chakraborty
- CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

About M1xchange :

- Founded: 2017
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana
- MD & CEO: Sundeep Mohindru
- RBI approved Mynd Solutions in Dec 2015, to set up and operate TReDS under the **Payment and Settlement System (PSS) Act 2007**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

SIDBI & ONDC ink MoU to accelerate E-Commerce for Small Industries

- **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**, a first-of-its-kind initiative to democratize the country's e-commerce ecosystem has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, for the coordination of capabilities of establishments engaged in related actions.

Aim :

- To change the landscape of MSMEs by bringing them into the ONDC network and accelerating their participation in e-commerce.
- The MoU was signed by **Shri Sivasubramanian Ramann**, CMD, SIDBI, and **Shri T Koshy**, MD&CEO, ONDC.
- The association between ONDC and SIDBI will establish a programmatic approach for MSMEs where sessions will be held first to educate them about ONDC, then masterclass sessions on ONDC protocol and MVP definition, followed by incentivized accelerator programs and finishing with participants and their ecosystems going live and being able to transact.
- Three partners being introduced to ONDC are Annapurna Finance Pvt. Ltd, Access Livelihoods Group, and the women's co-operative '**Looms of Ladakh**'.
- SIDBI will also use its strong presence in the fintech ecosystem to explore e-commerce embedded financing solutions.

About SIDBI :

- Founded: 2 April 1990
- Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Chairman & MD : Sivasubramanian Ramann
- SIDBI is the apex regulatory body for the overall licensing and regulation of micro, small and medium enterprise finance companies in India.
- It is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance**, Gol.

About ONDC :

- Founded: December 31, 2021
- CEO: Thampy Koshi

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- It was established by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** of GoI under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** to develop open e-commerce.
- The pilot phase was launched on 29 April 2022 in **five cities; New Delhi, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Shillong, and Coimbatore.**

Microsoft has become the first big tech company to join Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

- **ONDC (OPEN Network of digital commerce)**, which is developing a first-of-its-kind open network for digital commerce, **US tech giant Microsoft has onboarded its platform.**
- **Microsoft** intends to introduce **social e-commerce** — a group buying experience — in the Indian market.
- **Microsoft**, among the three largest tech companies, is the first in its league to announce onboarding efforts with ONDC.
- This year, it plans to launch a shopping app for Indian consumers along with their social circle, harnessing the ONDC network to discover the best pricing among retailers and sellers.
- ONDC was launched earlier this year by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, to create an inclusive e-commerce market and enable all kinds of sellers and buyers to leverage the digitization of commerce through its network.

Kotak Mahindra Bank launches lifestyle-focused corporate salary account

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited** launched **Kotak Crème, a lifestyle-focused corporate salary account**, offering an upgraded banking experience to new-age professionals working with eminent corporations.
- **Kotak Crème** is being launched in **Bengaluru, Karnataka.**
- Its account will come with a host of privileges and rewards across lifestyle, travel, healthcare, dining, skilling, and learning experiences.

Key Highlights :

- For a long time, the corporate salary account benefits used to include **no minimum balance commitments, zero transaction charges**, and some access to other banking products with a sustained relationship.
- Each salary account comes with preferential banking services, including a complimentary **Zen Credit Card.**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- The account holder can avail of complimentary airport lounge access and also gift Privy League privileges to their family members.
- It also offers subscriptions to top lifestyle brands offering Health & Wellness, Lifestyle, Entertainment, Knowledge/Learning & Fitness experiences.

About Kotak Mahindra Bank :

- Founded: February 2003
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman, MD & CEO : Uday Kotak

Yes Bank & IBSFINtech tie up to provide enhanced digital services

- **Yes Bank** and **IBSFINTech**, the **leading TreasuryTech Solution provider**, have partnered to explore untapped opportunities emerging out of the digitization of corporate finance.
- The partnership will empower the corporate treasury ecosystem with a **robust decision-making tool** and automated workflows backed by seamless bank connectivity.

About the Partnership :

- The partnership provides next-gen technology solutions across **Cash, Liquidity, Treasury, Risk, Trade Finance, and Supply Chain Finance functions of corporations.**
- It will provide connectivity between a corporate's ERP and a bank's solutions.
- IBSFINtech's TreasuryTech platform connects with YES BANK through APIs and provides **real-time cash visibility.**
- It will yield paperless communication between the Bank and corporates across the function of treasury and trade finance. From issuing fund transfers to forex transactions to completing trade documentation, the entire process will be digitized and powered by the robust platform offered by IBSFINtech.
- It is focused on co-creating and delivering deeply integrated treasury solutions via IBSFINtech's platform, to achieve complete digitization between corporates and banks."

About Yes Bank :

- Founded: 2004
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Prashant Kumar

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- Tagline: Experience Our Expertise

About IBSFINtech :

- Founded: 2006
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka
- Chairman: Shailesh V Haribhakti
- MD & CEO: Chandra Mohan Grover

Airtel Africa has signed a \$125 million revolving credit facility with Citi:

- Telecommunications firm, **Airtel Africa**, has signed a \$125 million revolving credit facility with Citi through its branch offices/subsidiaries in **sub-Saharan Africa**.
- This is contained in a disclosure signed by Simon O'Hara, Group Company Secretary titled, 'Airtel Africa's First Sustainability-Linked Loan Facility.'
- It stated that the facility is in line with the company's strategy to raise debt in its local operating companies and will include **both local currency and US dollar-denominated debt**.
- The telecoms firm operates in **14 countries in Africa, primarily in East, Central, and West Africa**.
- Airtel Africa is majorly owned by the Indian communication services company, Bharti Airtel.
- The **facility has a tenor up to September 2024** and will be used to support Airtel Africa's operations and investments in four of its subsidiaries.

RBI Cancels License of Pune's Rupee Co-operative Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has canceled the license of **Pune-based Rupee Co-operative Bank Ltd** as the lender **does not have adequate capital and earning prospects** following an order from the **Bombay High Court**.
- The order shall come into effect after **six weeks** from August 11, 2022.
- Consequently, the bank will cease to carry on banking business, with effect from **September 22, 2022**.

RBI canceled the license of Rupee Co-operative Bank due to following reasons:

1. 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**.

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2. 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
 3. The continuance of the bank is prejudicial to the interests of its depositors
 4. The bank with its present financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in full; and
 5. The public interest would be adversely affected if the bank is allowed to carry on its banking business any further.
- On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of ₹5,00,000/ from **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** subject to the provisions of the **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 ₹700.44 crores 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 DICGC :

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

RBI issues strict norms for digital lending to curb malpractice

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued a **regulatory framework** to make **digital lending safe** for members of the public.

Aim :

- To curb rising malpractices in the digital lending ecosystem.
- The regulatory framework to support orderly growth of credit delivery through digital lending methods while mitigating the regulatory concerns has been firmed up.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- The Reserve Bank's regulatory framework is focused on the digital lending ecosystem of RBI's **Regulated Entities (REs)** and the LSPs engaged by them to extend various permissible credit facilitation services.

The RBI classified digital lenders into three categories :

1. Entities regulated by the RBI and permitted to carry out lending business
2. Entities authorized to carry out a lending as per other statutory or regulatory provisions but not regulated by the RBI
3. Entities lending outside the purview of any statutory or regulatory provisions.

Key Highlights :

- All loan disbursements and repayments are required to be executed only between the bank accounts of the borrower and the RE without any pass-through/ pool account of the LSP or any third party
- Also, any fees, and charges, payable to LSPs in the credit intermediation process shall be paid directly by RE and not by the borrower.
- A standardized **Key Fact Statement (KFS)** must be provided to the borrower before executing the loan contract.
- This has been mandated to be followed by REs, their LSPs, and **Digital Lending Apps (DLAs)** of REs, among others.
- If any complaint lodged by the borrower is not resolved by the RE within the stipulated period (currently 30 days), he/she can complain to the **Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS)**.
- The RBI constituted a **Working Group on 'digital lending including lending through online platforms and mobile applications (WGDL)** on January 13, 2021.

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

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

Navi Mutual Fund launches India's first manufacturing index fund

- Navi Mutual Fund has introduced the launch of its **sixth fund** for this year, the **Navi Nifty India Manufacturing Index Fund**.
- This is India's first open-ended index fund that will seek to replicate the Nifty India Manufacturing Index, which tracks the performance of manufacturers among the **top 300 companies** in India.

Aim :

- To simplify investing in the Indian manufacturing sector.
- The companies in the index are selected from the combined universe of the Nifty 100, Nifty Midcap 150, and Nifty Smallcap 50 index based on the 6-month average free-float market.
- The weight of each stock in the index is based on its free float market capitalization and is reconstituted and rebalanced **semi-annually** along with Nifty Broad-based indices.
- The index also has a **minimum weight of 20%** for certain manufacturing sectors.
- The largest sectors in the Nifty India Manufacturing Index currently are automobile & auto components, capital goods, healthcare, and metals & mining.
- The top 10 stocks including Sun Pharma, Reliance Industries, Tata Steel, Maruti Suzuki India, Mahindra & Mahindra, and JSW Steel constitute about **37 percent** of the index.

About Navi Mutual Fund :

- Established: 2018
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Founders: Sachin Bansal and Ankit Agarwal

Airtel Africa signs up for a \$125 million credit pact with Citi

- Airtel Africa has signed up for a **USD 125 million revolving facilities** from American banking major Citi.
- The facility involves borrowing both **local currencies** and **US dollars**.
- The facility has a tenor up to **September 2024** and will be used to support Airtel Africa's operations and investments in four of its subsidiaries.
- It provides interest rate savings in exchange for achieving social impact milestones relating to digital inclusion and gender diversity with a focus on rural areas and women.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- The deal was executed by Citi's Indian unit, where Airtel Africa's parent Bharti Airtel is headquartered.
- The credit facility will be extended through its branch offices or subsidiaries in sub-Saharan Africa.

About Airtel Africa plc :

- Founded: 8 June 2010
- Headquarters: London, United Kingdom
- Airtel Africa plc is a multinational company that provides telecommunications and mobile money services in 14 countries in Africa, primarily in East, Central, and West Africa.

Retail Inflation Eases To 6.71% In July:

- **Retail inflation fell to 6.71 percent in July** due to lower food costs, although it remained above the Reserve Bank's comfort limit of 6% for the seventh consecutive month.
- With retail inflation remaining high despite a drop in prices of vegetables and edible oils, among other commodities, in July, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may boost interest rates again in September.
- **Retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 7.01 percent in June** and will be 5.59 percent in July 2021.
- From April through June of the current fiscal year, it was more than 7%.
- Food inflation in July was 6.75 percent, down from 7.75 percent in June, according to figures provided by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**.
- Meanwhile, according to government statistics, India's manufacturing production, as measured by the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, fell to 12.3% in June from 19.6% in May.
- Since March 2020, when it contracted 18.7%, the coronavirus pandemic has dragged on industrial productivity.
- In June 2022, the **manufacturing sector's production increased by 12.5%**.
- In June of this year, mining production jumped by 7.5%, while electricity generation increased by 16.4%.

Hindalco has entered into a commercial arrangement with Greenko Energies to set up a renewable energy project:

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- **Aditya Birla Group's Hindalco Industries Ltd** has entered into a commercial arrangement with **Greenko Energies Pvt Ltd** to set up a **renewable energy project for the supply of 100 MW round-the-clock carbon-free power to its smelter in Odisha.**
- The arrangement involves the development of 375-400 MW of solar and wind capacity.
- The renewable energy project will be set up as a captive generation facility under a 25-year offtake arrangement and will supply power to **Hindalco's Aditya Aluminium smelter in Odisha,** enabling a reduction of CO2 emissions by 680,000 tonnes annually.
- Aluminum smelting requires reliable and continuous power.
- According to Hindalco, the project will be one of the **world's first for the aluminum sector with very high (over 85%)** reliability from solar and wind power without dependence on grid electricity.
- Hindalco will also be the first aluminum company in India to use such RTC (round-the-clock) carbon-free power for smelting.

RBI imposes a monetary penalty of Rs 2.33 crore on Hyderabad-based Spandana Sphoorty Financial Limited, Hyderabad

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **monetary penalty of Rs 2.33 crore** on **Spandana Sphoorty Financial Limited,** based in **Hyderabad.**
- The penalty has been imposed due to non-compliance with certain provisions of the '**Non-Banking Financial Company – Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking Company and Deposit taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016**'.
- 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.**
- This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the company with its customers.

Background :

- The statutory inspections of the company, an NBFC-MFI, were conducted by RBI regarding its financial position as of **March 31, 2019,** and **March 31, 2020.**

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- The Examination of the Risk Assessment Report, Inspection Reports, supervisory letters, and all related correspondence revealed the company's failure to adhere to the pricing of credit guidelines for Non-Banking Financial Company- Micro Finance Institutions.

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

LIC has risen in standalone net profit to ₹682.89 crores:

- **The Life Insurance Corporation of India** has registered a whopping **23,127.21% rise in standalone net profit to ₹682.89 crores** for the quarter ending June 30, 2022, as per the financial results released by the insurer.
- The insurer's net premium income also improved to Rs 98,805.23 crore in the quarter under review compared to Rs 82,375.61 crore in the last year's quarter.
- As per the results, **LIC's total premium income climbed 20.35% to ₹98,351.76 crores in Q1FY23** compared to ₹81,721.41 crores during Q1 of last year.
- Life Insurance Corp. of India (LIC) made net purchases of shares worth more than ₹34,000 crores from the equities market in the fiscal first quarter, the country's largest insurer, as it announced a sharply higher **net profit of ₹602.78 crores for the June quarter**.

BYD India Signs MOU with HDFC Bank for dealer finance

- **Build Your Dreams (BYD) India Private Limited**, a subsidiary of the Warren Buffett-backed world's leading New Energy Vehicle manufacturer BYD, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the HDFC Bank towards a stock financing solution to its pan India dealer network.
- The strategic partnership will provide BYD's dealers access to inventory finance for electric cars.
- HDFC Bank has committed to becoming **carbon neutral** by FY 2031-32.
- In **January 2022, passenger vehicles** in India saw **1% EV penetration**.

About HDFC Bank Limited :

- Founded: August 1994

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- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

About BYD India Private Limited :

- Established: 06 March 2007
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- Currently, BYD operates in **four industries**, including **electronics, rail transit, new energy, and auto.**

Yes Bank partners with SellerApp to facilitate the adoption of ONDC

- **Yes, Bank** has partnered with **SellerApp**, a **seller-centric intelligence platform**, to encourage the seller segment of its client base to adopt **Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC)** and help them expand their **digital commerce footprint.**

Aim :

- To promote **open networks** for the exchange of all kinds of goods and services over digital or electronic networks.

About the Partnership :

- The partnership model will complement **Technology-First A.R.T (Alliances, Relationship & Technology) approach** and this synergy will benefit customers with **better data insights** and wider access to the market by moving from a platform-centric model to an open-network model.

About Yes Bank :

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

About SellerApp :

- Founded: 2017
- Headquarters: Singapore
- Founders : Dilip Vamanan, Brij Purohit

About ONDC :

- MD & CEO: T Koshy

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- ONDC is an Indian government strategic effort aiming at democratizing the whole digital commerce environment.
- In the Indian e-commerce business, the network is also being established as a competitor to Walmart-owned Flipkart and Amazon.

India's economy might reach USD 5 trillion by FY29 if GDP growth is around 9% for five years:

- According to former RBI Governor D Subbarao, India may reach a USD five trillion economies by 2028–2029 assuming GDP growth is sustained at 9% annually for the following five years.
- Speaking on the subject of "India @75- Marching Towards USD 5 Trillion Economy" at the Federation of Telangana Chamber of Commerce and Industry in honor of "75 Years of Indian Independence."
- To reach its goal of a \$5 trillion economy, India must overcome eight key barriers.
- The difficulties include boosting investment, growing agricultural production, enhancing health, education, and employment outcomes, preserving macroeconomic stability, managing global megatrends, and enhancing governance.

India To Start Supplying Petrol With 20% Ethanol from April 2023:

- To reduce its reliance on oil imports and address environmental concerns, India will begin delivering gasoline containing 20% ethanol at some gas stations starting in April of next year.
- After that, supplies will be increased.
- Beginning in April 2023, some E20 gasoline (petrol combined with 20% ethanol) will be accessible; the remainder will be made available by 2025.
- India has accelerated the goal of producing gasoline with 20% ethanol by five years to 2025 after exceeding the aim of providing gasoline blended with 10% ethanol (10% ethanol, 90% petrol) earlier than expected in June of this year.
- The initial goal for adding 10% ethanol, made from sugarcane and other agricultural products to gasoline was November 2022.

SBI launches its first dedicated branch for start-ups in Bengaluru

- State Bank of India (SBI) has launched its first branch dedicated to start-ups in Koramangala, Bengaluru, and Kamataka.

Aim :

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- To provide **end-to-end financial and advisory services** to startups.
- The branch launched by **SBI Chairman Mr. Dinesh Khara** is located in Koramangala, which alongside neighboring HSR Layout and Indiranagar are the biggest start-up hubs in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- After Bengaluru, the next branch will be opening in **Gurgaon, Haryana** and the 3rd one will be in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

Key Highlights :

- It will leverage the large presence of the bank in the market by bringing synergy among all the entities and various departments of the State Bank group to offer a **one-stop solution** to these corporates and startups starting from the formation of the entity till **Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) & Follow on Public Offers (FPOs)** of the companies.
- It would be provided to all the requirements of the **private equity (PE)** and **venture capital (VC)** funds and the **Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**
- The **SBI** has also entered into **MOUs** with the **Karnataka government's initiatives** like **Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS)** and **Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM)** to support the entire startup ecosystem in Karnataka.

About SBI :

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

Axis Bank signs MOU with Food Corporation of India

- **Axis Bank**, India's third largest private sector bank, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** to provide "**Ultima Salary Package**", a best-in-class **salary account** with exclusive benefits & features to all its employees.
- The signing ceremony was held at **FCI Headquarters, New Delhi** where FCI was represented by **Shri G. N Raju, GM HQ**, and Axis Bank was represented by **Shri Anil Agarwal, President, Financial Institutions Group & Lt Col M.K Sharma, National Accounts Head**.

About the MoU :

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- With this MoU, the Bank has reinstated its commitment to offering holistic banking services to the employees of the **Public Sector Undertakings (PSU)** sector.

Benefits of the MoU :

- Personal Accidental cover of up to **Rs.20 lakhs**
- Additional Education Grant up to **Rs. 8 lakhs**
- Total Permanent Disability Cover benefit up to **Rs. 20 lakhs**
- Permanent Partial disability cover of up to **Rs.20 lakhs**
- Air Accident cover of **Rs. 1 Crore**
- Free additional debit card for a family member
- **12 EMI waiver** on Home loan
- **3 zero balance accounts** for a family member
- Universal account number wherein all Axis Bank branches will function as a “**Home branch**”

About Axis Bank :

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

About FCI :

- Founded: 14 January 1965
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- It is under the ownership of the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Gol** formed by the enactment of the **Food Corporation Act, 1964** by the **Parliament of India**.

RBI opens Bharat Bill Payment System for NRIs to pay bills

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Mr. Shaktikanta Das** announced **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)** to facilitate inward gross payments for **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** to pay bills in India.
- This move will enable non-resident Indians (NRIs) to pay any bill, like **insurance, electricity**, and other utilities, on behalf of their families in India.
- The BBPS is an interoperable platform for **standardized bill payments**.

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- This is being provided to ease of payment for many families, especially senior citizens who find it difficult to make their payments and whose children reside abroad.
- **Over 20,000 billers** are part of the system, and more than 8 crore transactions are processed every month.
- At present, BBPS is accessible **only to Indian residents**.

About BBPS :

- Founded: 2013
- BBPS is owned and operated by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
- The payment modes options at BBPS are **cash, cards (credit, debit & prepaid), IMPS, UPI, AEPS, internet banking & UPI, and wallets**.

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

The wholesale Price Index (WPI) declines to 13.93% in July:

- **The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation rate in India reduced to 13.93% in July**, according to data released by the commerce ministry.
- From a record-breaking **16.63 percent in May to 15.18 percent in June**, the WPI inflation rate decreased.
- Inflation measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) was 11.57 percent in July 2021.
- The wholesale price index grew by double digits in July, making it the WPI's 16th month in a row to grow by more than 10%.
- **The Wholesale Price Index decreased in July** due to a decline in food inflation, which was down 300 basis points from **June to 9.41%. (WPI)**.
- Vegetables saw a notable monthly price decline of 12.7% among food items.
- **Eggs, pork, and fish all had a 2.6 percent decline** from June while the index for fruits fell by 3.0 percent.

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- Overall, the food index fell 2.2 percent in July compared to June, accounting for 24 percent of the WPI basket.
- The entire-commodity index of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) therefore fell by 0.1 percent from June.

Centre Approves Limit of ECLGS to 5 Lakh Crore:

- The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) limit was increased by Rs 50,000 crore to Rs 5 lakh crore with the approval of the Union Cabinet, with the additional sum being reserved exclusively for businesses in the hospitality and associated industries.
- ECLGS is an ongoing scheme, and the additional sum of Rs. 50,000 crores will be made available to firms in the hospitality and adjacent sectors till the plan's expiration date of March 31, 2023.
- The improvement is anticipated to give these industries' businesses the much-needed relief they require by encouraging lending institutions to extend low-cost extra credit of up to Rs 50,000 crore, allowing them to satisfy their operational obligations and carry on with their operations.
- Up till August 5, loans under the ECLGS totaled roughly Rs. 3.67 billion crores.

Mirae Asset Mutual Fund launches 2 new fund offers (NFOs) on Electric & Autonomous Vehicles and AI themes

- Mirae Asset Mutual Fund has launched 2 new funds - Mirae Asset Global Electric & Autonomous Vehicles ETFs Fund of Fund (FoF) and Mirae Asset Global X Artificial Intelligence and Technology ETF Fund of Fund.
- These are the first such funds based on companies involved in future technology to be launched in India in the Mutual Fund Industry.

About Mirae Asset Global Electric & Autonomous Vehicles ETFs FoF :

- It is an open-ended fund of fund scheme investing in overseas equity Exchange Traded Funds which are based on companies involved in the development of Electric & Autonomous Vehicles and related technology, components, and materials.

About Mirae Asset Global X Artificial Intelligence and Technology ETF FoF :

- It is an open-ended fund of fund scheme investing in units of Global X AI & Technology ETF.
- GlobalX is a leading ETF provider headquartered in New York

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- Global X ETFs is a member of Mirae Asset Financial Group.

Key Highlights :

- Both NFOs will be open for subscription on August 16, 2022, and close on August 30, 2022.
- Both the funds will be managed by Mr. Siddharth Srivastava, Head ETF Products, Mirae Asset Investment Managers (India) Pvt Ltd.
- The minimum initial investment in the funds will be Rs 5,000 and multiples of Re 1 thereafter.

Note :

- CEO of Mirae Asset Investment Managers (India) Private Limited: Mr. Swarup Mohanty

Edelweiss MF to launch India's first gold and silver fund

- The asset management company (AMC) Edelweiss Mutual Fund is scheduled to launch India's first scheme Edelweiss Gold and Silver Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) Fund of Fund (FoF) that offers exposure to gold and silver via a single fund on 24 August 2022.
- The new fund offer for Edelweiss Gold and Silver ETF Fund of Fund (FoF) will close on 7 Sep 2022.
- The fund managers for the scheme are Bhavesh Jain and Bharat Lahoti.
- In September 2022, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) allowed MF houses to introduce silver exchange-traded funds (ETFs) in the Indian market.

Note :

- Silver-based mutual funds were initially introduced in January 2022, while India's first gold fund, Nippon India ETF Gold BeES, was released in March 2007.
- ICICI Prudential Silver ETF was the first silver-based fund in India.

About Edelweiss MF :

- Established: 2009
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Radhika Gupta

NABARD Signs MoU With J&K Grameen Bank To Finance 700 JLGs In J&K & Ladakh

- The J&K Regional Office National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the promotion and financing of 700 Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) in the conference hall of NABARD, J&K Regional Office.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

The objective of the MoU :

- To enhance the flow of credit to tenant farmers/oral lessees/sharecroppers, SF/MF, etc & to meet the credit requirements of the lower strata of the society by formation and credit linkage of Joint Liability Groups (JLGs).
- On behalf of NABARD, General Manager, **Sandeep Sharma**, and J&K Grameen Bank, Chairman, **Sanjay Gupta**, signed the MoU.
- The signing ceremony was presided over by Chief General Manager **Dr. Ajay Kumar Sood**.

About the MoU :

- Under this MoU, J&K Grameen Bank will form and finance 700 JLGs in J&K (UT) and Ladakh (UT).
- NABARD will provide promotional grant support of **Rs. 4000** per JLG to J&K Grameen Bank.

Recent News :

- Recently The **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)** recommended **Mr. Mohammad Mustafa** as the **Chairman of NABARD**.

About NABARD :

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

BoB & Ujjivan SFB introduce new deposit products

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has launched the '**Baroda Tiranga Deposit Scheme**' – a special retail fixed deposit product offering interest rates of **5.75%** for 444 days and **6%** for 555 days is open till **December 31, 2022**.
- It is applicable on retail deposits of **less than Rs 2 crore**.

About the Scheme :

- Under the scheme, senior citizens will get an additional interest rate of **0.50%**, while non-refundable deposits will get **0.15%** additional interest.

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- Meanwhile, **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** has introduced **two new tenors** of retail fixed deposits (below Rs 2 crore), 75 weeks (525 days) & 75 months, both with the highest rate of **7.50%**.
- Ujjivan has increased the interest rate on **990 days (Platina) FD** from **7.20% to 7.50%**.
- It revised the additional rate for senior citizens from **0.50% to 0.75%**.
- Under the Platina FD scheme, the customers can invest a minimum of **₹15 lakh to less than ₹2 crores**.

About BoB :

- Founded: 20 July 1908
- Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat, India
- MD & CEO: Sanjiv Chadha
- Tagline: India's International Bank

About Ujjivan SFB :

- Founded: 1 February 2017
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- MD & CEO: Ittira Davis
- Ujjivan SFB is licensed under **Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949** to carry out small finance bank business and received Scheduled Bank status from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in **August 2017**.

IOB launches special variant of debit card - IOB Rupay Select Card'

- The Chennai Head Quartered Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Shri. Partha Pratim Sengupta has launched a special variant of debit card IOB Rupay Select Card that can be used for domestic and international payments.
- Executive Directors Shri. Ajay Kumar Srivastava and Ms. S Srimathy, CVO Shri. R Balasubramanian was also presented.

About the IOB Rupay Select Card :

- The Card is designed to cater to HNI Customers with add-on freebies at Airport lounges, Gyms, Spa Clubs, etc.
- **6 VIP Customers** of the Bank were present at the function to receive the initial issue of the Card.

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About IOB :

- Founded: 10 February 1937
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- IOB is a major Indian nationalized bank under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Govt.

Paytm & Samsung collaborate to deploy smart PoS devices across India

- Paytm, a digital financial services company has partnered with Samsung stores across India to enable smart payments and its loan service Paytm Post-paid through the deployment of point-of-sale devices.

About the Partnership :

- The partnership will enable consumers purchasing Samsung devices laptops, smartphones, television, smart watches, etc from any authorized store in India to pay through Paytm payment instruments, including UPI, wallet, debit cards & credit cards buy now pay later scheme.
- Paytm through its postpaid or buy-now-pay-later service will provide a credit limit of up to Rs 60,000 per month.
- It will also give customers an option to avail of a personal loan of up to Rs 2 lakh.

About Paytm :

- Founded: August 2010
- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India
- CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma
- President : Amit Nayyar
- Paytm (an acronym for "pay through mobile") is an Indian digital payments and financial services company.

ReNew Power raises \$1 billion through ECB for battery-enabled project

- ReNew Power has raised a \$1-billion project loan through external commercial borrowings (ECB), collaborating with 12 international banks for the finance.
- It is the single largest project funding in Indian renewable energy.

About the Project :

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- ReNew has signed a **power purchase agreement (PPA)** with the **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** for this project, which will include wind and solar farms set up across **Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra**.
- The project will provide power to SECI at the rate of **₹2.90 per unit** to begin with, which will increase by **3% annually** for **15 years**.
- It will be deployed for its hybrid **round-the-clock (RTC)** battery-enabled project.
- The RTC project will supply power day and night and compete against the baseload of fossil-fuel energy providers, such as coal.

Recent News :

- In April 2022, **Mitsui & Co., Ltd** partnered with **ReNew** for the RTC project where it took a **49% stake**.

About ReNew Power :

- Founded: January 19, 2011
- Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana, India
- Chairman & CEO : Sumant Sinha
- ReNew Power is India's largest renewable energy company by operational capacity.

Shiprocket becomes India's 106th unicorn, raised \$33.5 million:

- As the **106th unicorn** in India, **Shiprocket**, a logistics technology platform backed by Zomato, raised **\$33.5 million (about Rs 270 crore)** in a financing round co-led by **Temasek** and **Light rock India**.
- Shiprocket was valued at **roughly \$1.2 billion** after receiving fresh funding.
- With over 66 million clients served annually, **Shiprocket has tripled in size since its beginning in 2017**.
- It would be able to expand the capability of its operating system and strengthen its fulfillment and same-day delivery capabilities with the help of the extra money.
- In a larger **D2C commerce-enabling segment**, the Shiprocket arrangement would employ the technology and resources of both companies to provide quick, efficient, hassle-free deliveries from the nearby store or warehouse.

India's Oil Demand Will Rise By 7.73% In 2022:

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- The world's fastest rate of growth in 2022 will be seen in India, where demand for petroleum products like gasoline and diesel would increase by 7.73 percent.
- After increasing by 0.8 million b/d annually in May, India's oil demand increased by a solid 0.7 million barrels per day (million b/d), or 16% year over year.
- The increasing economic activity momentum in India, which has been accompanied by a loosening of COVID-19 limitations, supports the country's expanding oil demand.
- Russia (24 percent), Iraq (21 percent), and Saudi Arabia (15 percent) were the top three sources of oil import for India.
- The Central Government's drop in excise duty on gasoline and diesel in June, along with the postponed start of monsoon season, increased India's demand for oil and contributed to the country's strong fuel demand.

RBI cancels license of Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) canceled the license of Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Vijayapur, Karnataka due to inadequate capital and no earning prospects.
- 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 bank is prohibited from conducting the business of 'banking' as defined in Section 5(b) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 with immediate effect
- On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of ₹5,00,000 from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) subject to the provisions of DICGC Act, 1961.
- As per the data, more than 99% of the depositors are entitled to receive the full amount of their deposits from DICGC.
- As of August 06, 2022, DICGC has already paid ₹13.07 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

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- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar.

RBI imposes Rs 5 lakh penalty on fintech firm Obopay Mobile Technology India Private

Limited

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹5,93,000 on Obopay Mobile Technology India Private Limited for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Master Directions on Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) dated August 27, 2021, & the Know Your Customer (KYC).
- The penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under Section 30 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- This action 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 entity with its customers.

Recent News :

- In July 2022, RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.68 crore on Ola Financial Services Pvt. Ltd. for non-compliance with the banking regulator's certain provisions and Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines.

SEBI issued Guidelines for overseas investment by AIFs / VCFs

- Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has allowed new guidelines for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) and Venture Capital Funds (VCFs) for investing abroad, under which overseas investment firms won't need to have an Indian connection.

About the new guidelines :

- Under the rules, AIFs can invest in securities of companies incorporated outside India.
- Besides, VCFs are allowed to make investments in off-shore venture capital undertaking, subject to certain conditions.
- AIFs or VCFs will be allowed to invest in an overseas investee company, which is incorporated in a country whose securities market regulator is a signatory to the International Organization of

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

Securities Commission's (IOSCO) Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding or a signatory to the bilateral MoU with SEBI.

- AIFs or VCFs will not invest in an overseas investee company, which is incorporated in a country identified by **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**
- It will have to apply to Sebi for allocation of overseas investment limit in the format.

About SEBI :

- Established: January 30, 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Madhabi Puri Buch
- It is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the **Ministry of Finance, Gol.**

ICG signs MoU with 8 banks including IDFC First

- For the **welfare of its troops**, the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** signed **MoUs with 8 banks** to get **customized banking services** for its personnel deployed across India.
- Along with the **IDFC First bank**, the MoU was signed with 7 other banks including **ICICI, Axis, HDFC, Yes Bank, and Punjab National Bank (PNB).**

Aim :

- To get special salary accounts from the banks.

About ICG :

- 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 Indian Coast Guard operates **five regions** & each region is headed by an officer of the rank of Inspector-General.

Coast Guard regions	Regional HQ	Regional commander
Western Region (W)	Mumbai, Maharashtra	S Paramesh
Eastern Region (E)	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Anand Prakash Badola

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North-East Region (NE)	Kolkata, West Bengal	Maneesh V Pathak
Andaman & Nicobar Region (A&N)	Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands	B Sharma
North-West Region (NW)	Gandhinagar, Gujarat	AK Harbola

Aegon Life Insurance launches #PlayForOurHeroes campaign

- To celebrate 75 years of India's independence, Aegon Life Insurance Company (ALIC), digital India's life insurance company, has launched '#PlayForOurHeroes'.
- It is a **digital campaign** that uses a game called 'The Game of Life' on the company website to spread awareness about the importance of life insurance.
- The company will be donating to the **Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF)**.
- Aegon Life is urging people through this campaign to play and score points With the tagline, 'The more you play, the more we donate.'

About ALIC :

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Satishwar Balakrishnan
- It is a joint venture between **Dutch Aegon N.V.**, a multinational insurance, pensions, and asset management company, & **The Times Group** one of India's largest media conglomerates.

Edelweiss to introduce India's first gold and silver fund:

- In India, Edelweiss Mutual Fund (Edelweiss MF), an asset management company (AMC), will launch the **first program that offers exposure to both gold and silver through a single fund.**
- The September 7 deadline for the **Edelweiss Gold and Silver ETF Fund of Fund (FoF)** by Edelweiss MF new fund offer has been set.
- The Edelweiss MF scheme's fund managers are **Bhavesh Jain and Bharat Lahoti.**
- Silver-based mutual funds were first established in January of this year, while Nippon India ETF Gold BeES, the **first gold fund in India**, was introduced in March 2007.

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- The new approach from Edelweiss MF will be adjusted regularly to achieve equal exposure to the two metals.

Ratan Tata has established Goodfellows, a senior-focused startup:

- **Goodfellows is a company** that provides companionship services for senior citizens, and it was established by **Ratan Tata**, a pioneer in the sector.
- The platform received unspecified startup funding from **Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons.**
- Goodfellows completed a **beta test during the previous six months**, and the service is currently offered in Mumbai.
- The following cities are **Pune, Chennai, and Bangalore.**
- The goal of the Goodfellows company is to establish enduring **bonds between seniors and recent graduates.**
- Every service a grandchild might provide is available at Goodfellows.

Central Bank of India enters into co-lending partnership with Protium Finance & Incred Fin

- **State-owned Central Bank of India, a Public Sector Bank (PSB)** has entered into a co-lending partnership with Protium Finance and Incred Financial Services Limited (IFSL) to offer loans to **Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) borrowers.**

Key Highlights :

- Protium Finance will originate and process MSME proposals under the priority sector as per jointly formulated credit parameters and eligibility criteria.
- The Central Bank of India will take into its books **80%** of the MSME priority sector loans under mutually agreed terms.

About Protium Finance Limited :

- Protium Finance Limited will service the loan account throughout the life cycle of the loan.
- Protium Finance has a branch network across **11 states** and an AUM of 1,671 crores as of July 31, 2022, with a customer franchise at **1,08,447.**

About Incred Financial Services :

- It will originate and process MSME loans under priority and take into its books 80% of such loans.

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- IFSL will service the loan account throughout the life cycle of the loan.
- With branches across **9 states**, it offers consumer loans, education loans, and MSME lending.

About Central Bank of India :

- Founded: 21 December 1911
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Matam Venkata Rao
- Tagline: Central to you since 1911

Indians remitted \$6 bn in Q1FY23 under LRS scheme: RBI data

- As per the latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, the remittance by Indians under the liberalized remittance scheme (LRS) increased 64.75% in the first quarter(Q1) of FY23 to over \$6.04 billion from \$3.67 billion in Q1FY22.
- The amount remitted in Q1FY23 is even higher than that in Q4FY22, where outward remittance under LRS was to the tune of \$5.8 billion.

Outward remittance under the LRS scheme :

Month	Q1FY23 (\$million)	Q1FY22 (\$million)	Q4FY22 (\$million)
April	2023.7	1188.18	2018.31
May	2039.26	1250.24	1823.35
June	1984.68	1232.22	1968.77
Total	6047.64	3670.64	5810.43

About LRS:

- The scheme was introduced on **February 4, 2004**, with a limit of **\$25,000**.
- The LRS limit has been revised in stages consistent with prevailing macro and micro economic conditions
- It includes all resident individuals, including minors, who are allowed to freely remit up to **\$250,000 per financial year** for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.

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- Under the LRS scheme, International travel contributed **\$2.92 billion** of the **\$6.04 billion** remitted under LRS in Q1FY23, thus constituting almost **48%** of the money remitted.

Key Highlights :

- As per data released by RBI in the August bulletin shows, In **April 2022** about **\$2.02 billion** was remitted, followed by **\$2.03 billion** in **May 2022** & **\$1.98 billion** in **June 2022**.
- Indian's spent **\$856.43 million** on international travel as Covid-19 restrictions around the world slowed down international travel.
- Money remitted under the category "gift" constituted the **third largest segment**, with India's remitting around **\$770.66 million** in **Q1**, as against **\$489.15 million** in **FY22**.
- Overseas education constituted the fourth largest segment, with **\$738.42 million** remitted in the April – June quarter, against **\$1.16 billion** in **FY22**.
- In **FY21**, under the scheme, India's remittance was **\$12.68 billion**, down **32.38%** from **FY20**, where remittances under LRS were **\$18.76 billion**.

RBI imposes a penalty of ₹32 Lakh on Indian Bank & ₹82 lakh on Jupiter Capital

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **monetary penalty of Rs 32 Lakh** on the **Indian Bank**, for **failing to submit** a Flash Report for fraud involving amounts of at least **Rs. 5.00 crore** to the RBI as required by Section 47A(1)(c) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- Also, the RBI has imposed a penalty of **₹82 lakh** on **Bengaluru-based Jupiter Capital Private Ltd**, for breach of norms on submission of credit information.
- The provisions fall under directions issued by RBI under '**Non-Banking Financial Company Returns (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016**' and '**Membership of Credit Information Companies (CICs)**.'
- Both actions are based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and are not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the entities with their customers.

About Indian Bank :

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

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SEBI joins RBI's Account Aggregator framework

- The market regulator **Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, has joined the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) Account Aggregator framework**, which will allow customers to share information about their **mutual fund and stock holdings** with financial service providers.
- Also, it will give a **boost to the Reserve Bank of India-regulated financial-data sharing system**.

About the framework :

- Under the framework, **Financial Information Providers (FIPs)** in the securities market, like depositories and **asset management companies (AMCs)** through their Registrar and Transfer Agents or RTAs will provide financial information about securities markets to the customers and consented **Financial Information Users (FIUs)** through any of the account aggregators registered with the RBI.

About Account Aggregator :

- AA is a type of **RBI-regulated entity (with a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)-AA license)** that helps an individual securely and digitally access and share information from one financial institution they have an account with to any other regulated financial institution in the AA network.
- The AA network would replace all these with a **simple, mobile-based, simple, and safe digital data access & sharing process**.

Note :

- Recently, all the **12 public sector banks** joined the **aggregator ecosystem**

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**.

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RBI directs loan recovery agents not to intimidate borrowers

- The Reserve Bank Of India (RBI) has issued fresh instructions barring recovery agents from resorting to intimidation of borrowers as well as calling them before 8 am and after 7 pm.
- These instructions will apply to all commercial banks (including regional rural banks), Cooperative Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs), and all Indian financial institutions except payments banks & Mutual fund business.
- REs (regulated entities) shall strictly ensure that they or their agents do not resort to intimidation or harassment of any kind, either verbal or physical, against any person in their debt collection efforts

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

IRDAI set to roll out an upgraded version of IGMS as 'Bima Bharosa'

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is set to roll out an upgraded version of the Integrated Grievance Redressal System (IGRS), a revamped grievance redressal mechanism as Bima Bharosa.

Aim:

- To make complaint redressal more efficient with the option of customers filing their complaints in 13 regional languages.

About 'Bima Bharosa':

- 'Bima Bharosa' will take care of customers' needs in a more time-bound manner.
- SMSes will be sent to the complainant's registered mobile/e-mail ID after registration of the complaint and upon attending by the insurance company

About IRDAI:

- Established: 1999
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana

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

Indians Remitted \$6 Billion Q1 Of FY23:

- In the **first quarter of FY23**, outgoing transfers made a significant comeback under the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) liberalized remittance scheme (LRS)**, as Indians increased their **expenditure** on gifts, international vacations, and the upkeep of close relatives.
- According to the most recent figures for Q1-FY23 given by the RBI, the remittance by **Indians** under the program increased by **64.75 percent**, from **\$3.67 billion** in Q1 FY22 to over **\$6.04 billion**.
- Even more, money was sent abroad in Q1FY23 than it was in Q4FY22 when **\$5.8 billion** was sent abroad under the LRS.

HDFC Bank opens first all-women branch in Kerala's Kozhikode

- Private sector bank major **HDFC** has opened its **first all-women branch** on **Cherootty Road, Kozhikode, north Kerala region.**

Aim :

- To advance gender and diversity initiatives in the banking sector.
- The branch was inaugurated by city **Corporation Mayor Beena Philip.**
- HDFC Bank is driving diversity and inclusion within the organization with a special focus on enhancing gender diversity.
- As of **March 31, 2022**, **women** constituted **21.7%** of the workforce and the target is to increase it to **25% by 2025.**

Note :

- With this opening, there are a total of **245 bank branches** in Kerala.

About HDFC Bank :

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

ADB to provide USD 96.3 mn loan to improve water supply & sanitation services in HP

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- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a USD 96.3-million loan agreement to provide safe drinking water and improve water supply and sanitation services in Himachal Pradesh.

Signatories :

- Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs
- Takeo Konishi, Country Director for ADB in India.

About the agreement :

- The ADB project will connect 75,800 households to the service, providing an uninterrupted water supply to about 3,70,000 residents across 10 districts.
- The project is aligned with the objectives of the Government of India's Jal Jeevan Mission which aims to provide piped water to all rural households by 2024.
- It will upgrade water supply infrastructure and strengthen institutional capacity to ensure safe, sustainable, and inclusive rural water supply and sanitation services.
- To improve water supply and sanitation services, the project aims to construct 48 groundwater wells, 80 surface water intake facilities, 109 water treatment plants, 117 pumping stations, and 3,000 km of water distribution pipelines.
- A pilot fecal sludge management and sanitation program will also be implemented in Sirmour District, benefiting 250,000 residents.
- It will strengthen the capacity of the Jal Shakti Vibhag of the Government of Himachal Pradesh and gram panchayat (local government) village water and sanitation committees.

About ADB :

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

Muthoot Finance launches Milligram Gold point program for customers

- Muthoot Finance Limited has launched Milligram Reward Programme for its customers wherein transactions with the company will be rewarded with a certain amount of milligram reward points.

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- With this, Muthoot Finance Limited has emerged as the **first gold loan Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** to launch a new reward program.

Aim :

- To strengthen the relationship between customers and bring back the inactive customers.

Key Highlights :

- Customers can participate in this **2-year-long program** wherein, for the **first time in India**, a loyalty program will be run in **24-carat gold**.
- Every customer referral transaction with the company will earn **20 mg of gold** as well.
- Annually, **₹50 crores worth of gold (100 kg)** is expected to be paid off through the program.
- It also offers a chance to their existing customers **20-milligram gold points** per referral for referring new customers to Muthoot Finance.

About Muthoot Finance Limited :

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

HPCL starts its first cow dung-based compressed biogas project:

- The HPCL Compressed Biogas Project makes use of the industry's **first waste-to-energy portfolio**, which utilizes **100 tonnes of dung per day** to produce biogas that can be utilized as fuel for vehicles.
- The HPCL Compressed Biogas Project project should be operational in a year.
- The **GOBAR-Dhan strategy**, which the **Indian government unveiled in April 2018** as a part of the **Grameen Biodegradable Waste Management component of the Swachh Bharat Mission**, serves as the foundation for the HPCL Compressed Biogas Project effort.
- With the help of livestock and organic waste, the HPCL Compressed Biogas Project initiative hopes to increase hygiene while generating income and energy.

In India, 7.3% of the Population Owned Digital Currency in 2021:

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- According to the UN trade and development organization UNCTAD, 15 of the top 20 economies in terms of the percentage of the population that owns cryptocurrencies are from developing nations in 2021.
- Ukraine led the list with 12.7%, followed by Russia with 11.9%, Venezuela with 10.3%, Singapore with 9.4%, Kenya with 8.5%, and the US with 8.5%. (8.3 percent).
- In 2021, 7.3% of the population in India owned digital currency, placing it seventh out of the top 20 economies in the world in terms of population ownership.

RBI becomes a net seller in June 2022 by selling 3.719 billion US dollar

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) emerged as the net seller of the United States (US) dollar in June 2022 after selling 3.719 billion USD on a net basis.
- RBI purchased 18.96 billion USD in the spot market while selling 22.679 billion USD in June 2022.
- In June 2022, RBI was the net buyer of the American currency & it purchased 18.633 billion USD on a net basis in the spot market.
- In May 2022, RBI was a buyer of the greenback with a net purchase of 2.001 billion USD & during the month, RBI bought 10.143 billion USD and sold 8.142 billion USD.
- In FY22, RBI recorded a net purchase of 17.312 billion USD after buying 113.991 billion USD and selling 96.679 billion USD in the spot market.
- Meanwhile, in the forward dollar market, RBI's outstanding net purchase in June this year stood at 30.856 billion USD compared to 49.191 billion USD in May 2022.
- RBI stated that the drawdown in forex reserves was around \$70 billion during the GFC which came down to \$17 billion during the Covid-19 outbreak.

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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KreditBee Partners With Cash-Free Payments To Offer 'Online Checkout Finance'

- **KreditBee**, one of India's leading fintech platforms, has partnered with **Cashfree Payments**, India's leading payments and API banking solutions company, to offer customers an option to convert their online purchases into **Equated Monthly Installment (EMIs)** for its non-credit card holders.

About the Partnership :

- Through this partnership, KreditBee will leverage **Cashfree Payments' Payment Gateway** to offer cardless and convenient EMI options.
- The association will enhance KreditBee's reach to underserved segments.
- Cashfree Payments' merchants can offer this cardless EMI option to all eligible customers with the KreditBee app.
- The checkout finance loans range from **Rs 2,400 to Rs 2 lakhs** with a tenure of **3-18 months**.

About KreditBee :

- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka
- Co-founder & CEO : Madhusudan Ekambaram

Rajasthan accounted for the highest share in the cost of bank-sanctioned projects in FY22: RBI

- **Rajasthan** accounted for the **highest share** in the total cost of projects sanctioned by banks and financial institutions in **2021-22**, retaining the **top place** for two consecutive years.
- The share of the top five states Constitutes **more than half 56.4%** ie.
 1. Rajasthan
 2. Uttar Pradesh
 3. Gujarat
 4. Maharashtra
 5. Tamil Nadu
- The share of these 5 states increased significantly from an average share of **40.7%** during the period between 2012-13 and 2019-20 to more than **50%** during the last two years.
- The infrastructure sector continued to attract maximum capex projects, led by the '**power**' and '**road and bridges**' sectors.

About Rajasthan :

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

Universal Sampo Gen Insurance partners with Repco Home Finance to insure home loans

- Non-life Insurer Universal Sampo General Insurance Company Limited has partnered with Repco Home Finance Ltd to offer insurance against home loans.

Objective :

- To offer simple and value-added products to our customers and channel partners with the best insurance solutions through seamless and innovative digitized initiatives.

About the partnership :

- The partnership will, additionally, disburse affordable insurance solutions from Universal Sampo General Insurance like Group Credit Protection, Long-Term Fire, and Personal Accident policies to Repco's customers.
- It would see over 155 branches and 24 satellite centers of Repco Home Finance in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, West Bengal, Rajasthan, and Puducherry to offer customized general insurance products to its customers.

About Universal Sampo General Insurance :

- Founded: 2007
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO: Sharad Mathur

About Repco Home Finance Limited :

- Founded: 2000
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- CEO: K. Swaminathan

Edelweiss General Insurance partners with Health Ministry for Digital health IDs

- Edelweiss General Insurance has partnered with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to help create digital health IDs Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission for all in India.
- The National Health Authority (NHA), is the apex body responsible for implementing this program under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

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- ABHA is a **14-digit number** that helps users to share and access their health records digitally with registered healthcare providers.
- The program will enable and empower the people of this country to access **medical diagnosis**, treatment, and financing from verified healthcare providers and payers, seamlessly across India.

About Edelweiss General Insurance :

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

PNB Launches Pre-Qualified Credit Card Facility & overdraft facility against FD

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched a **new pre-qualified credit card** along with an **overdraft facility of fixed deposit (FD)**.
- It has also introduced a new facility of overdraft against fixed deposit on PNB One in a few clicks and a **single OTP (one-time password)**.
- Customers with salary accounts will be able to access this service via **PNB One mobile banking app** or by visiting the bank's **website/Internet Banking Service (IBS)**.
- There is a **0.25% discount** on the interest rate for using online services like PNB One.
- PNB will make this service available through the **RuPay** and **VISA** platforms.

About PNB :

- Founded: 19 May 1894
- Commenced Operations: April 12, 1895
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- MD & CEO : Atul Kumar Goel
- Tagline: The name you can bank upon

RBI paper on payments poses questions, offers no answers

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released a **discussion paper on payment charges** that has dissatisfied the trade and analysts alike, because it raises several questions however it doesn't provide options or take any stance on them, resulting in continued uncertainty.

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- The paper refers to how some fee mechanisms cost customers whereas others don't, and a few indirect references to the dearth of justification of a free service.
- It has posed **40 questions** on costs associated with digital fee modes and sought suggestions by 3 October 2022.
- The subjects embody **actual time gross settlement (RTGS), fast fee service (IMPS), unified payments interface (UPI), debit playing cards, and bank cards.**
- Additionally, The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the August 2022 issue of its **monthly Bulletin.**
- The Bulletin includes the Monetary Policy Statement, 2022-23, **Resolution of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), 2 Speeches, six Articles, and Current Statistics.**
- The 6 articles are:
 1. State of the Economy
 2. Privatization of Public Sector Banks: An Alternate Perspective
 3. A Steady Ship in Choppy Waters: An Analysis of the NBFC Sector in Recent Times\
 4. Real-Time Monitoring of the Indian Economy
 5. Private Corporate Investment: Growth in 2021-22 and Outlook for 2022-23
 6. Exchange Rate Volatility in Emerging Market Economies.

Despite a rise in GST revenues, state revenue growth is expected to drop to 9%:

- Even though impressive **GST revenues** would aid in the accretion, **states' revenue growth will only reach 7-9% in FY23, according to research.**
- According to a survey by **rating agency Crisil**, which examined data from **17 states representing 90% of the total GSDP**(Gross State Domestic Product) revenue growth had soared to **25% in FY22** thanks to a lower base in the pandemic-affected FY21
- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections and devolutions from the Center, which together account for up to 45% of the state's revenue, are anticipated to exhibit strong double-digit growth in FY23, boosting the revenue increase.
- The aggregate **state GST revenues**, which had already **recovered by 29% in FY22**, will be the main driver of the revenue rise.

BASIX partners with Mastercard to digitize the rural ecosystem in Maharashtra

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- **BASIX Social Enterprise Group** launched **BASIX Farmers' Market (BFM)**, an agritech platform, in partnership with **Mastercard**.

Aim :

- To improve the lives of over **10 lac (one million) farmers**, including the new cohort of **200 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO)** being promoted under the **SMART Project** in partnership with the **Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission**.

About BASIX Farmers' Market (BFM) :

- The launch of **BASIX Farmers' Market** is an extension of **Mastercard Farm Pass**, a rural and agriculture digitization solution that serves **more than 3.5 lakh farmers across 5 states in India, & 1 million farmers globally**.
- It is a **digital ecosystem platform** that works offline to connect buyers, FPOs, and other agriculture ecosystem players with farmers, and enable them to get the best value for their produce.
- The platform serves as an opportunity for banks, financial institutions, FPOs, and NGOs to create a white-labeled commercially sustainable agri-ecosystem by digitizing the value chains.
- BFM currently caters to farmers across the **Nagpur, Akola, Bhuldana, Wardha, and Amravati** districts in Maharashtra and plans to further scale up across India to create a commercially sustainable digital agriculture ecosystem.
- **Sub K**, a **BASIX-promoted fintech company**, is already leading the way in fintech innovations in the financial inclusion space.

About BASIX :

- Group MD & CEO : **Sattaiah Devarakonda**

About Mastercard :

- Founded: **November 3, 1966**
- Headquarters: **New York, United States**
- President & CEO : **Michael Miebach**

RBI imposes restrictions on Thodupuzha Urban Co-operative Bank for 6 months

- In the exercise of powers vested in it under sub-section (1) of Section 35 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the **Reserve**

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Bank of India (RBI) has issued directions to Thodupuzha Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Kerala for **six months**.

- The bank, without prior approval of RBI, cannot grant or renew any loans, make any investments, or accept fresh deposits.
- **No amount** from the total balance across all savings bank or current accounts or any other account of a depositor may be allowed to be withdrawn, but are allowed to set off loans against deposits subject to the conditions.
- The issue of the above Directions by the RBI should not per se be construed as a cancellation of a banking license by RBI.
- The bank will **continue its banking business with restrictions** till its financial position improves.

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

Tata Neu & HDFC Bank partner to launch two co-branded credit card variants

- India's first super app of the Tata Group, Tata Neu and HDFC Bank partnered to launch co-branded credit cards in two variants: Tata Neu Plus HDFC Bank Credit Card and Tata Neu Infinity HDFC Bank Credit Card.
- Each of the two variants of the card will be available on both **RuPay** and **Visa** networks.

Key Highlights :

- Customers will have a wide range of categories to choose from including **grocery, travel, electronics, fashion, health, and wellness**
- The card will enable customers to earn rewards on all spends, both online and in-store in the form of **NeuCoins (1 NeuCoin = INR 1)**.
- Customers will be able to earn **2% NeuCoins** with **Tata Neu Plus HDFC Bank Credit Card**, and **5% NeuCoins** with **Tata Neu Infinity HDFC Bank Credit Card** on all purchases on partner Tata brands, both online and in-store.

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- For domestic and international purchases outside of partner Tata brands, customers will earn **1% and 1.5% NeuCoins** on the respective card variants.
- Combined with existing Tata Neu benefits of **5% NeuCoins**, a customer will be able to earn a total of **7% or 10%** of the value of their spending on the Tata Neu app depending on the card variant.

About HDFC Bank :

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

RBI lifts the business restrictions imposed on American Express Banking Corp

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** lifted business restrictions imposed on **American Express Banking Corp (AEBC)** citing satisfactory compliance demonstrated by the entity to RBI rules.

Background :

- In April 2021, RBI imposed restrictions on AEBC from onboarding new domestic customers onto its card network from **May 01, 2021**, for non-compliance with the RBI circular dated **April 6, 2018**, on **Storage of Payment System Data**.

About AEBC :

- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana
- Interim CEO & COO : Sanjay Khanna
- AEBC is a Payment System Operators authorized to operate Card Networks in the country under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act)**

SBI Topped in Market Share of Debit cards; HDFC Topped in Credit cards

- According to the data collated by **PGA Labs**, **State Bank of India (SBI)** remained the top player with a **30% market share of debit cards** as of **June 2022**, despite a **6% decline in year-on-year (Y-o-Y) growth**
- With an **8% market share**, **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** secured 2nd place followed by **Bank of India**, **Canara Bank** **Union Bank**, and **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** with **5% each**.
- **HDFC Bank** and **Axis Bank** witnessed the highest YoY growth in the debit card segment with **19% and 18%**, respectively

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- **HDFC Bank** also topped the charts in the credit cards segment with a market share of 22%, followed by **SBI (18%), ICICI Bank (17%), Axis Bank (12%), RBL Bank (5%), and Kotak Mahindra Bank (5%).**
- The banking system added over **1.84 million credit cards** in June 2022 taking the outstanding credit cards in the system to 78.72 million.
- **HDFC Bank** added **386,487 cards** in June 2022, followed by **Kotak Mahindra Bank (262,942), Axis Bank (228,933), ICICI Bank (190,490), and SBI Card (166,976).**
- Elite credit cards like American Express and CITI are losing market share with a negative YoY growth of **-8%** and **-2**, respectively.
- As per the PGA Data, the 2 banks collectively hold a market share of 5%.

BOB Financial Partners With The Indian Army To Launch A Co-Branded Contactless RuPay Credit Card for Army Personnel

- **BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB) and the Indian Army** has launched a **co-branded RuPay credit card** for the **Indian Army personnel**, in collaboration with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).**
- The co-branded credit card will be equipped with **contactless features** and will be offered on the RuPay platform.

About the co-branded RuPay credit card :

- Yoddha, the co-branded credit card has been curated like none other, offering best-in-class features and benefits along with democratic choice, for the Indian Army personnel.
- The card will be offered **Life Time Free (LTF)** to all Indian Army personnel
- It comes with attractive welcome, activation, and spend-based gifts.
- The card will also offer **complimentary domestic airport lounge access and golf games/lessons.**

Features :

- Personal Accident insurance
- 1% Fuel Surcharge Waiver
- LTF Add-Ons
- EMI offers and periodic merchant offers through tie-ups done by BOB Financial as well as NPCI will also be applicable

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About BFSL :

- Founded: 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Mr. Shailendra Singh

About NPCI :

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Dilip Asbe

India Has Ample Forex Buffers to Tackle Cyclical Difficulty: S&P

- According to S&P Global Ratings, India has created protections against cyclical problems and has enough foreign exchange reserves to resist pressure on credit quality.
- S&P Sovereign & International Public Finance Ratings Director Andrew Wood said the nation has a robust external balance sheet and little external debt, making debt payments not too costly.
- He was speaking at the India Credit Spotlight 2022 webinar.
- According to him, the rating agency does not anticipate that the challenges soon would significantly affect India's credit status.
- After a 7.3 percent GDP growth this fiscal, the economic growth is expected to moderate to 6.5-6.7 percent over the next fiscal year.
- Indian economy expanded 8.7 percent in the last fiscal (2021-22).

SIDBI Partners with Tata Power's TPRMG to Support Green Entrepreneurs

- Tata Power's wholly owned subsidiary TP Renewable Microgrid (TPRMG) has partnered with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to set up 1,000 green energy enterprises across India under a joint innovative program to support rural entrepreneurs.

Aim :

- To empower rural entrepreneurs and promote sustainable entrepreneurship fashions throughout India.

Key Highlights :

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- The '**Sustainable is Attainable**' program of Tata Power and the Empowering MSMEs campaign of SIDBI, are the driving forces behind this partnership.
- The entrepreneurs shortlisted under the initiative will have to complete a capacity-building activity organized by TPRMG to receive an impetus called **Go REsponsive, ENterprise incentive (GREENi)** from SIDBI.
- The program intends to develop skills to **enable low-carbon futures** for rural entrepreneurs and economies and to assist in the **Ease of Doing Business** in rural parts of India.
- Through its PRAYAAS scheme or partner institutions, SIDBI will also assist in credit linkages to facilitate financing (loans) for setting up or expanding the businesses of rural entrepreneurs.

About TPRMG :

- Tata Power's TPRMG operates a solar-based off-grid generating plant with an energy storage system supplying power to remote areas of India.
- Tata Power is planning to roll out **10,000 Microgrids** shortly.
- Already, it has installed more than **200 Microgrids**, many of which are present in **Uttar Pradesh** and **Bihar**.
- A pilot Microgrid program is also being tried out in **Odisha**.

About SIDBI :

- Established: 2 April 1990
- Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Chairman & MD : Sivasubramanian Ramann
- SIDBI is the apex **regulatory body** for overall licensing and regulation of micro, small and medium enterprise finance companies in India.
- It is under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance, Gol**.

About Tata Power :

- Founded: 18 September 1919
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Praveer Sinha

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SBI to extend Indian Visa Centers for two more years in Bangladesh

- Bangladesh country head of operations Mr. Amit Kumar represented the State Bank of India (SBI) & the Deputy High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Dr. Binoy George represented the High Commission of India signed the agreement to would manage the Indian Visa Application Center (IVAC) in Bangladesh for two more years at the functioning of the IVAC center in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- The IVAC will also be starting a few additional services soon which include facilitation for online form filling and submission of forms, slot booking, and launching of a mobile app.
- A priority lounge was also inaugurated at the IVAC center in Dhaka.
- Currently, SBI runs a total of 15 IVACs across Bangladesh.
- The IVAC center at the Jamuna Future Park in Dhaka was opened in 2018 & it is the largest Indian visa application center.
- The first IVAC was started by SBI in 2005 in Dhaka.

About SBI:

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

RBI imposes ₹2.33 cr monetary penalty on Spandana Sphoorty Financial Limited, Hyderabad

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 2.33 crore on Hyderabad-based Spandana Sphoorty Financial Ltd for non-compliance with the guidelines on pricing loans for non-banking financial companies – microfinance institutions (NBFC-MFIs).
- 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.
- RBI has conducted statutory audits of the company, NBFC-MFI, about its financial position as on March 31, 2019, and March 31, 2020.

About RBI:

- Established: 1 April 1935
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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- Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy governors: Mahesh Kumar Jain, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Michael Patra, and T. Rabi Shankar

HDFC ERGO launches India's first Electric Vehicles Ecosystem – 'All Things EV'

- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited**, a leading private sector general insurance company, has launched 'All Things EV,' India's first one-stop-solution portal for **Electric Vehicles (EV)**.
- In line with the Government of India's push for **Electric Mobility**, this initiative caters to the needs of existing and potential EV users.

Key Highlights :

- As a part of this initiative, the company has unveiled a dedicated platform for existing and prospective EV ecosystem users www.allthingsev.i, which hosts **end-to-end information** on this emerging sector.
- It will help existing users with information on charging stations, locations of charging stations along a route for intercity commute, and content EV maintenance.
- The platform has a roadmap with features like **slot booking at charging stations, roadside assistance, RTO services & creation of an EV community**.

About HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited :

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Mr. Ritesh Kumar
- HDFC ERGO is a **51:49 joint venture firm** between HDFC and ERGO International AG, one of the insurance entities of the Munich Re Group in Germany.

RBI imposed monetary penalties on 8 banks cancels licenses of 2 NBFCs

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary penalty on eight banks & non-banking finance companies (NBFC).
- In addition to that, the RBI canceled the licenses of two non-banking finance companies (NBFCs).
- The monetary penalty imposed on these banks ranges from ₹1 lakh to ₹2.3 crores.

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List of 8 banks :

1. Chhattisgarh Rajya Sahakari Bank, Raipur
2. The Goa State Co-operative Bank, Panaji
3. Garha Co-operative Bank, Guna (M.P.)
4. The Yavatmal Urban Co-operative Bank, Yavatmal (Maharashtra)
5. Jila Sahakari Kendriya Bank, Chhindwara (M.P.)
6. Warud Urban Co-operative Bank, Warud (Maharashtra)
7. Indapur Urban Cooperative Bank, Indapur, Maharashtra
8. The Mehsana Urban Co-operative Bank, Mehsana, Gujarat

2 NBFCs :

1. Alarming Finvest Private Limited, Delhi,
2. Achal Finance Limited, Karnataka

NMDFC signs MoU with ICICI Bank for development of banking software & app

- The **National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC)** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **ICICI Bank** for the **development of financial accounting software and mobile application**.
- The MoU provides for the development of financial accounting software for NMDFC and **State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs)**, loan accounting software for receiving and processing loan applications, and accounting of repayments from beneficiaries.
- ICICI Bank will design, develop and deploy the application for NMDFC, provide source code and executable database information among others
- The software will bring **greater transparency and speed of transactions** in the loaning and accounting process of NMDFC as well as SCAs.
- This will also facilitate the submission of online applications by the targeted beneficiaries.

About NMDFC :

- Established: September 1994
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- Chairman & Managing Director: Rakesh Sarwal
- It comes under the ministry of minority affairs.

Purpose :

- To provide **concessional finance** for **self-employment** and **income generation activities** to the backward sections amongst the minority communities.

About ICICI Bank :

- Founded: 5 January 1994
- Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat
- MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi

IRDAI provides more flexibility to insurers, eases limits for commissions

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** provided insurers with **more flexibility** in paying **commissions** by linking limits to the overall portfolio and company management expenses.
- The maximum fee sanctioned for non-life merchandise has been pegged at **20%** of the **Gross Written Premium (GWP)** in India in that **monetary 12 months**.

Key Highlights :

- The insurers of commission and remuneration should be based on a board-approved policy which will be reviewed every year.
- **No commission** shall be payable to insurance agents or the insurance intermediaries in the direct business, and the insurers must grant discounts on the premium.
- For life companies, IRDAI has proposed to link commissions with **expenses of management (EoM)**.

About IRDAI :

- Established: 1999
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairperson: Debasish Panda
- IRDAI is a regulatory body under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Finance, Gol &** is tasked with **regulating and licensing the insurance and reinsurance industries in India**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

Bank credit growth increased to 14.2% in Q1FY23: RBI data

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the 'Quarterly Statistics on Deposits and Credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) for June 2022' showing a Bank credit growth accelerated to 14.2% in the quarter ended June 2022 (Q1FY23) from 6% in Q1FY22.
- This data is collected from all scheduled commercial banks (SCBs), which include regional rural banks (RRBs), small finance banks (SFBs), and payments banks (Pbs)
- In the quarter that ended March 2022, bank credit had expanded by 10.8%.

Key Highlights :

- Aggregate deposit growth (year-on-year) has remained in the range of 9.5 – 10.2% during the last five quarters.
- Metropolitan branches continue to account for over half of the bank deposits and their share increased marginally over the last year.
- The share of current account and savings account (CASA) deposits in total deposits has been increasing over the last three years (42% in June 2020, 43.8% in June 2021, and 44.5% in June 2022).
- In June 2022, the credit-deposit (C-D) ratio stood at 73.5% at the all-India levels (70.5% a year ago) and 86.2% for metropolitan branches of banks (84.3% a year ago).

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

Axis Bank & KMRL launches Kochi1 card campaign

- Axis Bank has decided to roll out campaigns along with the Kochi Metro Rail Ltd (KMRL) to promote its Kochi1 card amongst metro commuters.
- This would help daily commuters save considerably more with discounted metro fares.
- It has announced offers for Kochi-1 smart card holders in connection with Onam.
- The cardholders also get lounge access and discounts on bus tickets.
- So far, 1.3 lakh Kochi1 cards have been issued by Axis Bank.

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- The Axis Bank has partnered with **Amazon Pay** to provide discounts on recharges, utility, and bill payments, making the Kochi1 Card the one-stop solution for all the needs of Kochiites.
- Also, Axis Bank's flagship '**Dining Delights**' offer has been extended to Kochi1 card holders, through which they can avail discounts on food and beverage bills.
- Customers can also avail of dine-out deals with **EazyDiner** while using their Kochi1 card.

About Axis Bank :

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

About KMRL :

- Founded: 2 August 2011
- Headquarters: Kochi, Kerala, India

Google announced a program for 100,000 developers in India:

- An initiative to train **100,000 Indian engineers and researchers in cyber security** has been announced by IT juggernaut Google.
- The campaign will be a part of the **company's Cyber Security Roadshow**, which will visit many locations in India and provide tools, lessons, and mentorship on security standards for creating both consumer apps and corporate programs.
- The goal of the upskilling initiative is **to upskill 100,000 lakh engineers in India**.
- It will focus on two primary program areas: **Android and Google Cloud**.
- While the Android upskilling program will benefit developers producing consumer-facing apps, the Google Cloud upskilling initiative will target commercial developers and security managers.
- Google's action follows calls from industry participants for improved upskilling standards among developers in the nation.

Maruti Suzuki, a prominent automaker, has been in business in India for 40 years:

- **Maruti Suzuki**, India's leading manufacturer, has been in business for 40 years.

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- The company's factories for producing electric car batteries in Hansalpur, Gujarat, and for passenger vehicles in Kharkhoda, Haryana, were both opened on this occasion by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- For the EV factories, Maruti Suzuki has chosen to invest 10,000 crores this time. Beginning in 2025, Maruti Suzuki might begin making electric cars in India.
- In 1981, **Maruti Udyog Limited was founded in India.**
- It belongs to the public sector. Suzuki, a Japanese carmaker, and Maruti began a joint venture in 1982.
- Maruti Suzuki has emerged as the most favored brand in the nation during the last 40 years. **Maruti Suzuki India's chairman is RC Bhargava.**

About Maruti Suzuki India

- Managing Director and CEO: Hisashi Takeuchi
- Founded: 24 February 1981
- Headquarters: New Delhi.

Reliance Industries Plans to Invest 3.5 Lakh Crore Rupees:

- At the company's 45th annual general meeting, **Mukesh Ambani**, chairman and managing director of **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)**, disclosed investment plans worth Rs 3.5 lakh crore.
- Ambani stated in his speech that investment plans include **Rs. 2,000,000 crores for the quick rollout of 5G**, **Rs. 75,000 crores for the expansion** of O2C capacities across value chains, and Rs. 75,000 crores for the new energy business, all of which were previously announced.
- To maximize the integration of oil and chemicals and transform advantageous feedstock streams into high-value chemicals and environmentally friendly materials, **Ambani announced that RIL will invest Rs 75,000 Crore over the next five years** to expand capacities in both existing and new value chains.
- Reliance is regarded as one of the **top five PVC manufacturers worldwide.**
- Plans are for the world-scale factories in **Jamnagar and Dahej in India and the UAE** to treble the current capacity.

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- A multi-decade growth engine for O2C will be created at India's first and one of the largest carbon fiber facilities, which will be developed in Hazira in stages.

India hands over USD 1 million to BIMSTEC Secretariat's operational budget

- Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs and Education Shri Rajkumar Ranjan Singh ceremonially handed over a cheque of USD 1 million for the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Secretariat's operational budget.
- The BIMSTEC Secretary General Mr. Tenzin Lekphell held discussions on rapidly taking forward cooperation in specific areas led by India including counter-terrorism, disaster management, maritime cooperation, and energy security.
- The visit of BIMSTEC Secretary-General Tenzin Lekphell was held at the invitation of Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs.
- He also participated in a public interactive session hosted by Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries (RIS) titled "Rejuvenating Growth through partnerships-Role of BIMSTEC" which was attended, inter alia, by Ambassadors of Thailand, Bhutan, and Myanmar and senior diplomats of BIMSTEC diplomatic missions in New Delhi.

About BIMSTEC :

- Established: 6 June 1997
- Secretary General : Tenzin Lekphell
- Membership: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand

ICICI Bank Partners With NPCI To Launch RuPay Credit Cards

- ICICI Bank has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch a range of credit cards on the payments network RuPay.
- The ICICI Bank RuPay Credit Card is available in the Coral variant of the ICICI Bank's Gemstone series, which will be followed by Rubyx and Saphiro variants.

Benefits of the 'ICICI Bank Coral RuPay Credit Card':

- The Customers earn 2 reward points, for every Rs 100 spent on the card (except fuel)
- Earn 1 reward point, on every Rs 100 spent on utilities and insurance categories
- Get 2000 bonus reward points on spending Rs 2 lakh on the card in a year.

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- Earn **1,000 bonus** reward points each time **Rs 1 lakh** is spent on the card thereafter (with a maximum of 10,000 reward points per year)
- Complimentary access to the domestic airport lounge and select railway lounges in India
- Exclusive discounts on movie ticket bookings on BookMyShow
- Personal accident insurance cover of **Rs 2 lakh** with 24×7 Concierge services
- Exclusive dining offers through **ICICI Bank Culinary Treats Programme**
- Waiver of fuel surcharge on fuel transactions

About ICICI Bank :

- Founded: 5 January 1994
- Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat, India
- MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi

About NPCI :

- Founded: 2008
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Dilip Asbe

PGIM India Mutual Fund launches Money And Me website, an investor education and awareness initiative

- PGIM India Mutual Fund has launched a new investor education and awareness website: **MoneyAndMe** - <https://moneyandme.pgimindiamf.com/>.

About MoneyAndMe :

- The MoneyAndMe website contains exhaustive content on various aspects of personal finance including **household budgeting, protection, savings, and investing**.
- PGIM's customer insights identified **6 separate personas** when it comes to dealing with financial challenges and planning, these include
 1. Gen-Z Seekers and Dreamers (18-24 years)
 2. Ambitious & Every-ready (25-30 years)
 3. Begin & Soar (31-40 years)

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4. Family First & Forever (41-50 years)
 5. Seasoned & Secured (51-60 years)
 6. Proud & Purposeful (61+ years).
- The website offers a host of content formats such as blogs, listicles, infographics, calculators, FAQs, and glossary, etc
 - The company also announced the launch of a consumer awareness campaign – 'Aapka HappinessPlanned' to promote the MoneyAndMe Initiative.

About 'Aapka HappinessPlanned' :

- To promote the MoneyAndMe initiative, PGIM India Mutual Fund has rolled out its marketing campaign 'Aapka Happiness Planned' with a film: <https://youtu.be/0Bs4zFDZ0Y>.
- The film shows a stand-up conveying the true meaning of happiness through a lyrical song.
- According to a study done by Princeton in 2010, happiness is influenced more by a sense of purpose, habits, social connections, gratitude, and experiences.

About PGIM India Mutual Fund :

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO: Rakesh Menon
- It is a wholly-owned business of PGIM, the global investment management business of the US-based Prudential Financial, Inc. (PFI).
- PGIM India Mutual Fund has a presence in 27 cities across India.

IMPORTANT STATE NEWS

Kerala govt to launch online cab service 'Kerala Savari'

- The **Government of Kerala** is set to launch its **online taxi service** called "Kerala Savari".
- The new service would be launched at a function to be held at Kanakakunnu Palace on the beginning day of the Malayalam month of Chingam, which falls on **August 17, 2022**.

Aim :

- To ensure safe and dispute-free travel for the public at affordable rates prevailing in Kerala.
- The project will be implemented by the **Motor Workers Welfare Board** with the cooperation of the **Planning Board, Legal Metrology, Transport, IT, and Police Departments**.

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- Indian Telephone Industries, Palakkad, a public sector organization, provided technical assistance for the project.

About Kerala Savari :

- The online taxi hiring service is being rolled out by the **Kerala Labor Department** linking the existing auto-taxi networks in Kerala.
- Kerala Savari will charge **only 8 percent service charge** apart from the fixed rate in other parts of the country.
- The app is designed with utmost care in security standards.
- It has a panic button system that can be pressed in case of a car accident or any other type of danger.

About Kerala :

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

Arunachal Pradesh inks tripartite pact for school education transformation

- The Arunachal Pradesh government inked a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog and an organization for a large-scale transformation in school education.
- The agreement was signed on the second anniversary of the **New Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- The MoU is a **three-year partnership (2022 – 25)**.
- The MoU was signed in presence of Niti Aayog Education Advisor Dr. Prem Singh, state Education Commissioner Padmini Singla, ISSE state Project Director Pige Ligu, and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of 'Reach to Teach Foundation, Ratna Viswanathan.

About the MoU :

- The MoU focuses on the enhancement of the learning outcome of students across **3,000 plus government schools** in the state thereby, by reaching out to **over 2 lakh children**.
- The school education transformation project is under NITI Aayog's **Development Support Services for States (DSSS)** initiative.

About Arunachal Pradesh :

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- Governor: B. D. Mishra
- Chief Minister : Pema Khandu
- Capital: Itanagar

About NITI Aayog :

- Established: 1 January 2015
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- CEO: Parameswaran Iyer
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi
- Vice Chairperson : Suman Bery

West Bengal to get 7 new districts, total district tally raised to 30

- **Shri Mamata Banerjee**, the chief minister of West Bengal decided to carve out 7 new districts out of the existing 23 districts by redrawing their boundaries for better administration and development.
- The 7 new districts are
 1. Sunderban
 2. Ichhamati
 3. Ranaghat
 4. Bishnupur
 5. Jangipur
 6. Behrampur
 7. Basirhat.
- With these new 7 districts, the total number of districts in West Bengal has increased to 30.
- At present, Sundarban falls under South 24 paraganas, whereas Ichchemati and Basirhat fall under North 24 Parganas.
- **Ranaghat** under **Nadia** and **Jangipur** and **Behrampur** from **Murshidabad** district.
- Bankura will be divided to form the **Bishnupur** district.

About West Bengal :

- Governor: La. Ganesan
- Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee

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- Capital: Kolkata

Assam CM launches digital issuance of caste certificates for students - Mission Bhumiputra

- **Assam Chief Minister Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma** launched 'Mission Bhumiputra', a digital way to issue digitized caste certificates to students.
- Also, the CM inaugurated a **Bhumiputra Portal** at a program held at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra which is being implemented by the departments of Tribal Affairs (Plain) and Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The mission has been implemented to carry forward the government's mission of easy public service to the public
- The certificates will be available in the **Digi locker** under the **IT Act** and digitally signed by the respective Deputy Commissioners.
- Henceforth, the manual system of issuing caste certificates will be ceased.
- **Eligible Class IX-XII students** will now be able to **download SC/ST/OBC certificates** from **bhumiputra.assam.gov.in**.
- From 2023, students from **Class VIII** can apply for caste certificates through this portal which will also be lined with the CM's dashboard to enable the Chief Minister's Office to monitor the entire process.

Process of Certification :

- The Deputy Commissioners will give the format of applications for the caste certificates to the Headmasters of educational institutions from **August 8, 2022**.
- The headmasters will fill up the application formats for their onward submission to the Deputy Commissioners who then forward the applications to the Boards of their respective caste or tribe.
- The DC then will convene a meeting with the Boards to decide on the protocol for issuing caste certificates to the students.
- If any doubt in the process crops up, the application may be sent for further verification.

About Assam :

- Governor : Jagdish Mukhi
- Chief Minister : Himanta Biswa Sarma

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- Capital: Dispur

West Bengal govt inks MoU with Maharashtra to prevent migration & trafficking of women

- The West Bengal government has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra government to prevent migration and trafficking of women since a lot of movement of people takes place between the two states.
- On the occasion of World Day against Trafficking in Persons (July 30, 2022) West Bengal Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Minister Dr. Shashi Panja attended the state-level consultation on 'Uses and Abuses of Technology' organized by the WB government and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- West Bengal is vulnerable to trafficking for having a porous international border with Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and other states.
- Besides, there is a vulnerability index in certain districts and certain pockets in the state.
- Since 2013, the state government's primary focus has been on the prevention of trafficking along with the rehabilitation of rescued girls and women.
- Bongaon sub-division of West Bengal and Jessore district of Bangladesh on the other side of the border is a trafficking belt.

About West Bengal :

- Governor: La. Ganesan
- Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee
- Capital: Kolkata

About Maharashtra :

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

World's largest floating solar power plant to be built in Madhya Pradesh

- The World's largest floating Solar Power Plant will be constructed in Omkareshwar Dam in the Narmada river in Khandwa district, Madhya Pradesh.

Aim :

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- To boost power generation capacity in the MP & address electricity problems in the central region.

Note :

- With the new floating solar plant, **Khandwa** will become the **only district** in the MP to have all three things including solar, hydel, and thermal with over **4,000MW power** to be produced from a single district

About the Solar Power Plant :

- The project is estimated to be worth over **₹3000 crores**.
- It will generate **600 Megawatt** power by 2022-23.

India's largest floating solar project :

- Earlier in July 2022, India's largest floating solar power project was made fully operational after NTPC declared commercial operation of the final part capacity of **20 MW out of 100 MW Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project at Ramagundam in Telangana**.
- 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**.

About MP :

- Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel
- Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Capital: Bhopal

Urban animal rescue center set up in Guindy National Park, Chennai, TN

- **Tamil Nadu Forest Department** has set up the first of its kind **Urban animal rescue center** located inside the **Guindy National Park, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- As it is a part of the Guindy National Park, a veterinarian attached to it as well as foresters have been working with the center.
- The rescue center has **two big enclosures** and three smaller ones for injured animals.
- Among the infrastructural improvements, the center also established a new post-mortem room.
- The Tamil Nadu government has recently announced that a **remodel of the Guindy National Park** will be carried out at a cost of **₹20 crores**.

About TN :

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

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

UP govt plans to double farmers' income under 'Panchamrut Yojana'

- **Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanath** launched the 'Panchamrut Yojana' which will help to achieve the goal of **doubling farmers' income** through the introduction of cost-effective technical measures and promotion of co-cropping methods.

Goal :

- To scale back **sugarcane manufacturing prices** while raising productivity and land fertility by way of 5 methods, together with a built-in trench technique for sugarcane sowing, ratoon administration and trash mulching, drip irrigation, and co-cropping.

About the Scheme :

- The scheme has the combined objective of reducing costs through **saving water and maximum use of stubble** and the **leaves of sugarcane, saving use of fertilizers and pesticides**.
- It promotes the cultivation of more than one crop for greater productivity and enhances the income of farmers as well as controlling pollution as there will be no need to burn leaves in the fields.
- Under this UP Govt would initially choose a total of **2028 farmers** within the state forward of the autumn season to develop model plots.
- The minimum area of this plot will be **0.5 hectares**, while **at least 15 plots** each will be selected in Sugarcane Development Councils of Central and Western Uttar Pradesh and 10 in Eastern Uttar Pradesh.
- The Panchamrut scheme will also allow farmers to grow oilseeds, pulses, and vegetables along with sugarcane as per market demand for additional income.
- The Government will ensure that the farmers get the right price for their produce.
- Also, the Government increased the **sugarcane support price by Rs 350** in the last crushing season in advance, which included **Rs 340 for normal** and **Rs 335 for species declared unsuitable**.

About UP :

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

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

Tripura govt inks MoU with NESAC for 21 projects

- The Tripura government has signed an MoU with the North Eastern Space Application Center (NESAC), Shillong, for 21 projects including disaster management and resource mapping.

Signatories :

- NESAC Director, SP Agarwal, and Tripura's Science, Technology, and Environment secretary Pradip Kumar Chakravarty signed the MoU.

Key Highlights :

- The Center has already approved 20 of the 21 projects as part of the promotional and transfer of technology to develop a capacity building as well as resource making.
- The 20 approved projects include resource mapping of agriculture, horticulture, forest, land revenue, and disaster management.
- The resource mapping of Patta lands allocated under the Forest Dwellers Right Act.
- Early warning systems for earthquakes, floods, and landslides will be developed in the state in collaboration with NESAC which will be beneficial as Tripura is a disaster-prone state.
- The Indian Space Resource Organization (ISRO) and North Eastern Council (NEC) will fund to implement all the 21 projects within the next 3 years.
- An amount of Rs 4.30 crore has been sanctioned for disaster management as resource mapping.

About Tripura :

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

About NESAC :

- Established: 5 September 2000
- Headquarters: Umiam, Meghalaya, India
- Director: Dr. S. P. Aggarwal

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

Punjab Government signs pact for climate action

- The Punjab government has signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** for becoming a **member** of the global network called **Under2 Coalition to address climate change**.
- The MoU was signed by **Manish Kumar**, Director, Environment and Climate Change on behalf of the government, and **Divya Sharma**, India Executive Director, Climate Group on behalf of Under2 Coalition.

About the MoU :

- With this MoU, Punjab has become a member of the largest network of **221 states or provincial governments of 43 countries** committed to reducing CO2 and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in line with the Paris Agreement, adopted at a UN climate change summit in Paris in **2015**.
- The collaboration would help in harnessing the strategic knowledge and technical support for undertaking comprehensive activities for combating climate change.
- The MoU will support Punjab's commitment to build a robust climate-resilient ecosystem and convert the climate vulnerabilities into opportunities.
- **India** is among the high-risk countries as it ranked **7th** in the **Global Climate Risk Index 2021**.

About Punjab :

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

Andhra Pradesh renames the newly created Konaseema district after BR Ambedkar

- The Andhra Pradesh cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Shri YS Jagan Mohan Reddy approved the **renaming of Konaseema as Dr. BR Ambedkar Konaseema district**.
- The Konaseema district was carved out from **East Godavari** with Amalapuram as its headquarters.
- It was one of the **13 districts** created on April 4, taking the total number of districts in the state to **26**.
- Also, the cabinet gave its nod to disburse **Rs 6,594.60 crore** under the Jagananna Amma Vodi scheme on June 27, 2022.

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- Among the total Amma Vodi scheme beneficiaries, **54% are BCs, 21% are SCs, 6% are STs and 19% are OBCs.**
- As many as **43,96,402 beneficiaries** (mothers of school-going children), including **5,48,329 fresh applicants**, will receive the aid.
- A total of **82,31,502 children** stand to benefit from the welfare scheme.
- Under the agreement with the Byju's for education-technology, the cabinet approved the distribution of tablets to **4.7 lakh Class 8 students.**
- The government is taking measures to implement the CBSE syllabus in government schools by **2025.**
- The Cabinet has decided to extend power subsidies to aqua farmers who have **10 acres of land.**
- Further, a **Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) package of Rs 216.71 crore** for those displaced by the Vamsadhara Project was also approved.

About AP :

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

Arunachal Pradesh's Hollongi greenfield airport named 'Donyi Polo' Airport, Itanagar

- The **Arunachal Pradesh government** has approved the naming of the under-construction **Hollongi greenfield airport** near Itanagar as “**Donyi Polo Airport, Itanagar**” which will start operations in **August 15, 2022.**

About the Airport :

- The proposed airport will be the **first in Arunachal Pradesh** with a runway of **2,300 meters**, making it ideal for operating **Boeing 747s**, one of the largest passenger aircraft.
- The airport is located nearly **15 km away from Itanagar.**
- It has been built at **Rs 645 crores** under the Centre's Capital Connectivity Scheme, which has been designed to accommodate **A-320 aircraft.**
- Its terminal structure, which spans **4100 square meters**, will be able to accommodate **200 people** during peak hours.

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- This terminal will be an energy-efficient structure with a rainwater harvesting system and a long-term landscape plan.
- The name of the airport, will symbolize the age-old tradition and rich cultural heritage of the tribal state and also will reflect the people's age-old indigenous reverence for the **Sun (Donyi)** and the **Moon (Polo)**.

About Arunachal Pradesh :

- Governor: B. D. Mishra
- Chief Minister : Pema Khandu
- Capital: Itanagar

Delhi launches 'One Road – One Week' initiative of NDMC

- **Delhi Lieutenant Governor Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena** launched the "One Road-One Week" initiative of the **New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)**.
- The Delhi LG reportedly directed officials to complete the works of **15 road stretches** under the NDMC areas on priority.
- The event was also attended by **NDMC Acting Chairman Ashwini Kumar, Vice Chairman Satish Upadhyay, and member NDMC Kuljeet Singh Chahal** among others.

About the Initiative :

- Under the initiative, the civic body will undertake repair and maintenance work along footpaths, pavements, and central verges.
- The project would include repair of footpaths, whitewash, painting, beautification of railing, ramps, kerbstones, central verge, maintenance of electrical poles, and removal of all types of encroachment.

About NDMC :

- It is **one of three local bodies** in the National Capital Territory of Delhi, the others being the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Delhi Cantonment Board.

About Delhi :

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

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

Assam & Mizoram sign joint statement on resolving the border dispute

- The Assam and Mizoram governments signed a joint statement after a ministerial-level discussion in Aizawl in Mizoram to take forward the process of resolution of the boundary dispute between the two states.
- Mizoram's delegation was led by state's Home Minister Lalchamliana, while Minister of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, and Veterinary Atul Bora led Assam's delegation.
- The next meeting between High-Level delegations of two states will take place at Guwahati in October 2022 where issues and claims will be deliberated in detail.

Key Highlights :

- Both states have agreed to promote and maintain peace to prevent any untoward incident along the borders.
- Also, the Deputy Commissioners of the bordering districts of both states shall meet at least once in two months.
- Assam shares a 164.6 km long boundary with Mizoram and many conflicts have taken place in the last few years.
- In August 2021, the representatives of both states held talks in Mizoram's capital Aizawl and they agreed to maintain peace and resolve the inter-state boundary dispute through dialogue.
- The governments of Assam and Meghalaya had come up with a draft resolution to resolve their border disputes in 6 of the 12 "areas of difference" along the 884-km boundary.
- According to the proposed recommendations for the 36.79 square km of land, Assam will keep 18.51 square km and give the remaining 18.28 square km to Meghalaya.

About Assam :

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

About Mizoram :

- Governor :Kambhampati Hari Babu
- Chief minister: Zoramthanga
- Capital: Aizawl

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

NLCIL inks MoU with Assam Power Distribution to develop 1,000 MW solar power projects

- Public sector power generator NLC India Limited (NLCIL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL) to develop 1,000 MW solar power projects in Assam.
- The two firms have formed a Joint Venture (JV), in which APDCL will hold a 49 percent stake and 51 percent will be with NLCI.
- The MoU was signed by **K. Mohan Reddy**, Director (Planning and Projects), NLCIL, and **R Kumar**, Managing Director, APDCL in the presence of Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, **Pralhad Joshi**, Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma and Chairman-cum-Managing Director, NLCIL **Rakesh Kumar**, in Dispur.

Key Highlights :

- NLCIL operationalizes mining along with a power generation capacity of **6,061 MW**, including a renewable energy capacity of **1421.06 MW** with **1,370.06 MW** of solar and **51 MW** of wind-based power generation.
- The establishment of this solar project will act as a stepping stone for NLCIL to achieve its ambitious plans of having a capacity of around **17,171 MW**, including **6,031 MW** of renewable energy, by **2030**.
- The project will generate **1,500 million units** and our target is to produce **35,000 million units** in **25 years**.
- NLCI also donated **Rs 5 crore** to **Chief Minister's Relief Fund** for the recent devastating flood in Assam.

About NLCIL :

- Founded: 1956
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- Chairman & Managing Director: Rakesh Kumar
- NLC India Limited (NLC) (formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited) is a government-owned fossil fuel miner and thermal power generator under the ownership of the **Ministry of Coal, GoI**.
- NLCIL is the **first CPSE** to cross **1 GW capacity** in solar power generation and is also a **member of the International Solar Alliance**.

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J&K: LG Manoj Sinha inaugurates "UMEED Market Place" under AVSAR Scheme of AAI

- In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated "UMEED Market Place" under the AVSAR (Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans of the Region) Scheme of the Airport Authority of India at Srinagar International airport.
- A similar Marketplace was also opened at Jammu Airport and both the outlets will exhibit products of all 20 districts.

About AVSAR Scheme :

- The initiative will support local art and artisans of **Self Help Groups of J&K Rural Livelihood Mission**, providing a platform to market local products directly to the customers.
- The products of Self Help Groups will get exposed to the national market, strengthen the local artisan community and provide sufficient promotional avenues for their products.
- The marketplace at both the Airports will provide huge visibility to the members of SHGs and promote their products to a wider spectrum, reaching out to the larger population.
- It will make rural handicraft products available at reasonable prices to the passengers.
- **More than 5 lakh women** will benefit every year from stalls & counters offered to them for **15 days** on a rotational basis.
- It will also serve as a point for passengers to place bulk orders and request customized demands for corporate gifts.
- Earlier, the Lt Governor unveiled a **20X20 ft LED Video wall** at Srinagar Airport.
- The inauguration ceremony commenced with the display of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' theme on the LED Video Wall commemorating 75 years of Independence.

About J&K :

- Lieutenant Governor: Manoj Sinha
- Capital: Srinagar, Jammu

Kerala govt to launch a mobile app to curb GST evasion

- The Kerala government will launch a mobile app named **Lucky Bill App** to curb Goods and Services Tax (GST) evasion.
- The app will be launched by **Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan** on August 16, 2022.

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- The app expects to help in increasing tax collections as people will be encouraged to ask for bills while purchasing goods and availing services.
- It will enable the state GST department to examine return filings with the help of bills uploaded by people.
- It will also enable the state GST Department to **examine** the status of the tax return filings.
- The move also comes when the compensation from the Center to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has ceased with effect from July 1.

About Kerala :

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

Flipkart signs MoU with District Administration of Varanasi, Govt of UP under the Samarth program

- **Flipkart**, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **District Administration of Varanasi, Government of Uttar Pradesh**, to **enable national market access** for artisans, weavers, and people with disabilities.
- The MoU was exchanged at an event in Varanasi in the presence of **Shri. Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma**, Hon'ble Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India between **Shri Umesh Kumar Singh**, Joint Commissioner, Department of Industries, Varanasi Division and **Shri. Rajneesh Kumar**, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart Group.

About the Partnership :

- Through this partnership, iconic goods such as Banaras Sarees, Handmade Carpets, Zardoji Craft, Metal Crafts, and Handmade Dari from the state will now be available to **400 million customers** on the Flipkart platform.
- The Flipkart Samarth program will offer training and time-bound incubation support, which will help artisans, weavers, people with disabilities, and craftsmen grow their businesses through e-commerce.

About Flipkart :

- Founded: 2007

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- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy

About UP :

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

Haryana government launches the Cheerag program for EWS Students

- Haryana Chief Minister Shri Manohar Lal Khattar launched the “Chief Minister Equal Education Relief, Assistance, and Grant (Cheerag)” scheme.
- Under the scheme, the government will provide **free education to Economically Weaker section (EWS) students** of Government schools in private schools.

About Cheerag Scheme :

- Under the Cheerag scheme, government school students whose parents have an annual verified income of **less than Rs 1.8 lakh** can enroll in private schools from **Class II to XII**.
- The government will reimburse **Rs 700 per student from Classes II to V**, **Rs 900 per student from Classes VI to VIII**, and **Rs 1,100 per student from Classes IX to XII**.
- Under this, **533 “budget” private schools** mostly in villages and small towns applied to offer seats to EWS students
- However, the authorities found **only 381 schools eligible** due to different technical reasons.
- These schools offered **24,987 seats** for EWS students from government schools.
- However, only 1,665 students have preferred to opt for the scheme, which is just **6.66 percent** of the total offered seats.
- It replaced a similar scheme launched in 2007, by Bhupinder Singh Hooda’s government. The scheme was launched by **Rule 134 A of Haryana School Education Rules, 2003**.

About Haryana :

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

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Govt of Odisha Signs Pact With National Institute of Ocean Technology For Protecting Coastline

- The Odisha government has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **National Institute of Ocean Technology** for the protection of its coasts.

Signatories :

- The MoU was signed between Water Resources Department Engineer in Chief **B K Mishra** and **Dr. G A Ramdass**, Director, NIOT, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Odisha govt is taking all possible measures for disaster mitigation and focusing on **zero casualties**.
- The MoU will be a milestone in the **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** in the coastal areas of Odisha.

About the MoU :

- NIOT will provide technical guidance, design, and drawing of climate resilient coastal protection measures.
- The inhabitants of **six coastal districts** of the state such as **Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, and Ganjam** will be benefitted.
- Odisha has a vast coastline of **about 480 km** and the coastal areas are exposed to natural disasters. Cyclones cause high tidal surges with very high wind speed, resulting in loss of lives and properties.

About NIOT :

- Established: November 1993
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Director : Dr. Gidugu Ananda Ramadass
- NIOT, under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**, is a premier institute in India specializing in the field of ocean engineering and coastline protection.

About Odisha :

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

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Meghalaya to host 2nd North East Olympic Games 2022

- **Meghalaya** will host the **2nd edition** of the **North East Olympic Games 2022**, in **Shillong** which will be held from **October 30 to November 6, 2022**.
- The 2022 edition of the Games will be special as Meghalaya is celebrating the **50th year** of its Statehood.
- Approximately **4000 participants** (athletes, technical staff, and volunteers) are expected to participate in the games.
- Athletes from all **eight northeastern states** **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura** will be competing.
- The Games will feature **18 Olympic sports disciplines**-archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, boxing, football, judo, karate, shooting, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, wushu, cycling, golf, weightlifting, and wrestling.
- The events will be held in **13 venues**.
- The sports disciplines have been chosen based on the availability of infrastructure and as per the advice of the **Meghalaya State Olympic Association (MSOA)**.
- The **first edition** of the **North East Olympic Games** was held in **Manipur** in **2018**, with **12 disciplines**.

About NEOA :

- President: Th Radheshyam
- Secretary-general: Abraham K Tech

About Meghalaya :

- Governor: Satya Pal Malik
- Chief minister: Conrad Sangma
- Capital: Shillong

Agathiyamalai became 5th elephant reserve in Tamil Nadu

- On the Occasion of **World Elephant Day 2022 (Aug 12)**, **Tamil Nadu** Government has notified its **5th Elephant Reserve** at **Agathiyamalai** in **Tirunelveli** district, **Tamil Nadu**.
- The Reserve will be spread across **1,197.48 sq. km** of land and will cover **Kanyakumari** and **Tirunelveli** areas.

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- With this India has **31 elephant reserves**.

List of 4 Existing Elephant Reserves in TN :

1. Nilgiris-Eastern Ghat - Nilgiris, Erode, Dharmapuri District
 2. Nilambur Silent Valley Coimbatore Elephant Reserve - in Coimbatore, Nilgiris Dt
 3. Srivilliputhur Elephant Reserve - Theni, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli Dt
 4. Anamalai - Parambikulam Elephant Reserve - Coimbatore, Dindigul Dt
- Designation of the area as a dedicated reserve forest will also provide connectivity of the **elephant migratory paths** in the landscape through proper research and effective management.

Additional Info :

- The **30th Elephant Reserve** was notified in Nagaland in 2018.
- According to the **2017 census**, Karnataka has the **highest number of elephants (6049)** followed by Assam (5719) & Kerala (3054).

First Tiranga Park set up in Gurugram

- Under the **Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan**, the **first Tiranga Park** was set up in Gurugram, Haryana by the district administration.
- The park was inaugurated by the **Union Minister of State, Shri Rao Inderjit Singh**, as the chief guest.
- On this occasion, **Deputy Commissioner Nishant Yadav** along with **Dr. Aishwarya Mahajan, President of M3M Foundation** was present.
- The park has been constructed with the support of the M3M Foundation at the Swatantrata Senani Bhawan located at the **Civil Lines, Gurugram**.
- In the park, **75 national flags of 12-ft height** have been installed on the 75th anniversary of Independence.
- On behalf of the administration, every effort is being made at the administrative level to ensure the participation of the general public in the district.

About M3M Foundation :

- Founded: 2019
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana

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- M3M Foundation is the philanthropic arm of M3M Group; working towards bringing equitable development that helps in attaining a brighter India.

Asia's largest CBG plant is operational in Punjab's Sangrur

- Asia's largest Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant has been commissioned in the Sangrur district of Punjab, in a step to generate clear and inexperienced power.
- The plant with a total capacity of 33.23 tons CBG per day had been commissioned at Bhuttal Kalan village in Sangrur in April 2022.
- The plant supplies CBG to the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) outlet.

Key Highlights :

- The projects are anticipated to attract private investment totaling around Rs. 1200 crore and create jobs for 8000 skilled and unskilled workers.
- Additionally, Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA) has allocated 42 additional CBG projects, totaling 492.58 tonnes per day (TPD), based on paddy straw and other agricultural waste.
- These initiatives will decrease greenhouse gas emissions while boosting the rural economy by giving farmers extra money from agricultural waste.
- The two more plants with a total capacity of 14.25 tons CBG per day are likely to be completed in 2022-23 & within the next three years, the remaining projects are expected to be commissioned.
- All of these projects will consume around 16.5 lakh tons of paddy straw per annum to produce 492.58-ton CBG per day.

About PEDA :

- Chief Executive : Sumeet Jarangal

Rajasthan Govt approves MoU with SJVN for developing renewable energy projects

- The Rajasthan government has approved signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN Ltd) for developing 10,000 MW renewable energy projects.

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- These projects/parks will usher in **socio-economic development** in the state and will open up multiple direct and indirect employment opportunities.
- An investment of **Rs 50,000 crore** is estimated for developing these projects in the **next 5 to 7 years**.
- SJVN will establish the renewable energy projects on the land banks to be allocated by Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Ltd.
- SJVN will be able to achieve the shared vision of **5000 MW by 2023, 25000 MW by 2030, and 50000 MW by 2040**.

Note :

- Recently, **Rajasthan** was the **first Indian state** to achieve **10 GW of large-scale, cumulative solar installations**.

About SJVN Ltd :

- Founded: 1988
- Headquarters: Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India
- Chairman & Managing Director : Nand Lal Sharma
- It is an Indian public sector undertaking involved in **hydroelectric power generation and transmission**
- It is a joint venture between the **Government of India** and the **Government of Himachal Pradesh**.

About Rajasthan :

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

I-Day: Karnataka CM launches new schemes on sanitation, nutrition, farm labor, and soldiers' welfare

- On the **75th anniversary of India's independence**, Karnataka Chief Minister Shri Basavaraj Bommai has launched **new schemes on sanitation, nutrition, and the well-being of farmers, laborers, and brave soldiers**.

Key Highlights :

- The **"Raitha Vidya Nidhi "** for farmers' children will be extended to landless agricultural laborers.

About Raitha Vidya Nidhi :

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Aim :

- To promote education for farmers' children.
- Under the scheme, a scholarship of **Rs 439.95 crore** has been distributed to **10.03 lakh children**.
- Subsequently, the scheme was extended to weavers, fishermen, and **yellow board taxi drivers' children**.
- To create a clean and hygienic environment in government schools and colleges, **100 percent toilet coverage** will be achieved in the state at **Rs 250 crore**.
- Also, a **loan-cum-subsidy scheme** up to **Rs 50,000** will be launched to support potters, blacksmiths, carpenters, sculptors, Bhajantri, basket weavers, Vishwakarmas, Madars, and other artisans.
- Govt of Karnataka made a contribution of **at least USD 1 trillion** for empowering the state to realize **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's** transformation of India into a **USD 5 trillion economy**.

About Karnataka :

- Governor: Thawarchand Gehlot
- Chief Minister : Basavaraj Bommai
- Capital: Bangalore

BRO to build first steel slag road on Arunachal Pradesh border

- In a **first of its kind**, the **Border Road Organization (BRO)** is planning to construct a pilot road stretch on the **Arunachal Pradesh border** using **steel slag**.

Aim :

- To "**convert waste to wealth**" around **one lakh tonne** of processed steel slag aggregates have been utilized here substituting the natural aggregates.

Key Highlights :

- The project has been initiated after the success of using **100% steel slag** on a port connectivity road in Gujarat, which has a longer life and is built at a low cost.
- This **1.2 km Hazira port** connectivity stretch was a **research and development (R&D)** project carried out by the **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research - Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI)** in collaboration with a major steel manufacturer and steel ministry.

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- The project has entered the **India Book of Records** and **Asia Book of Records**.

Note :

- **India** is the world's 2nd largest steel-producing country after China & annually around 195 lakh tonnes of steel slag is generated and this quantity is slated to increase to 600 lakh tonnes by 2030.

Other Projects :

- The **National Highways Authority India (NHAI)** will also use the steel slag for the construction of a portion of the **Mumbai-Goa highway**.
- The Indian Railways has also sanctioned a major R&D project to **CSIR-CRRI** to explore the possible utilization of **steel slag aggregate** as railway ballast for track construction and maintenance.

About Arunachal Pradesh :

- Governor: B. D. Mishra
- Chief Minister : Pema Khandu
- Capital: Itanagar

About CSIR-CRRI :

- Established: 1952
- Location: New Delhi
- Director: Dr. Ranjana Aggarwal
- President: Prime Minister of India (Shri Narendra Modi)

About BRO :

- Established: 7 May 1960
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director General: Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary

MP's Mandla becomes India's 1st fully 'functionally literate' district

- Madhya Pradesh's tribal-dominated Mandla region has become the first fully "functionally literate" district in India.
- The declaration was made by the state minister of food and civil supplies Shri Bisahulal Singh.

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- Within two years, the entire district has become functionally literate, claiming that people were able to write their names, count, and read.
- The district administration launched a **campaign in 2020** to make the residents fully literate.
- For this purpose, the administration employed the education, and women and child development departments along with social workers to educate the people.
- The literacy rate in Mandla was **68%** as per a survey in **2011**, while in **2020** it was pointed out that over **2.25 lakh people** were not literate in the district and most of them were tribals living in the forest areas.

About MP :

- Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel
- Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Capital: Bhopal

India's first electric double-decker bus launched in Mumbai, Maharashtra

- **Union Minister of Road, Transport and Highway Shri Nitin Gadkari** launched **India's first electric double-decker bus named Switch EiV22** at **YB Center** in south Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The electric bus was designed, developed, and manufactured in **India** by Switch Mobility, Ashok Leyland's electric vehicle arm.
- The bus will be run by the Mumbai civic transport body from **September 2022**.
- Two new electric buses, including the first air-conditioned double-decker bus in India, will join the fleet of the **Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST)**.

Key features of AC double-decker buses:

- App-based seat booking, live tracking, and payment on the BEST Chalo App
- A dedicated USB charging port for every passenger
- Adjustable footrest
- Express service with fewer stops during peak hours
- Monthly passes for regular passengers
- The Switch EiV22 has a **231kWh battery** with a claimed range of up to **250km**
- The double-decker has a **lightweight aluminum** body construction, which offers a higher passenger-to-weight ratio and a competitive cost per km, per passenger.

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- It can ferry nearly twice the number of seated passengers as a comparable single-decker bus with just an **18% increase** in kerb weight.

Note :

- The new electric double-decker bus Switch EiV 22 will be the **world's first semi-low floor**, an air-conditioned, electric double-decker with a wider door on the rear overhang and a rear staircase.
- CEO of Switch Mobility India: Mahesh Babu

About Maharashtra :

- Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- Chief minister: Eknath Shinde
- Deputy Chief Minister : Devendra Fadanvis
- Capital: Mumbai

Jharkhand Becomes 1st State to Introduce Blockchain Technology for Seed Distribution

- The **Directorate of Agriculture, Jharkhand** & global blockchain technology company, **SettleMint, India** jointly announced the launch of **seed distribution** to **farmers** based on **blockchain technology**.

Aim :

- To **reduce pilferage** & get rid of spurious seeds that the farmers receive under various government schemes including the seed exchange scheme.
- The platform provides information on a real-time basis to monitor activities like **Large Area Multipurpose Society (LAMPS)/ Primary Agriculture Credit Society (PACS) / Farmers Producers Organization (FPO)** wise seed distribution to farmers in different districts, quantity/variety of seed being purchased by farmers, no. of times seed is being purchased by a farmer, etc.
- During the current **Kharif season (June-Oct)**, the department has covered seed distribution of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, and coarse cereals completely via blockchain technology.
- To date, **more than 3 lakh farmers, 600 LAMPS/PACS/Private distributors, and 160 FPOs** have been **registered** on the platform.

Note :

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- **Jharkhand** becomes the **first in India** to implement blockchain technology for **Seed Distribution** in the **agricultural sector**.
- CEO of SettleMint India: Mr. Shahzad Fatmi

About Jharkhand :

- Governor: Ramesh Bais
- Chief Minister : Hemant Soren
- Capital: Ranchi

Goa becomes the 1st 'Har Ghar Jal' Certified State & Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu become the 1st 'Har Ghar Jal' Certified UT in India

- **Goa and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (D&NH and D&D)** became the first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified State & first 'Har Ghar Jal' Certified UT in India respectively.
- People from all the villages have declared their village as 'Har Ghar Jal' through a resolution passed by **Gram Sabha**, certifying that all households in the villages have access to safe drinking water through taps, ensuring that '**No One is Left Out**'.
- All **2.63 lakh rural households** of Goa & **85,156** of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have access to potable water through tap connection.
- **Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC)** or **paani Samiti** has been constituted in all the **378 villages of Goa** and **96 villages** of D&NH and D&D.
- VWSC is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and repair of water supply infrastructure developed under the 'Har Ghar Jal' program.

About Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) :

- JJM is a flagship program of the Gol which was announced by the visionary **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** on **August 15, 2019**.

Aim :

- To make provision of potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality, and on a regular & long-term basis to every rural household of the country by **2024**.
- The program is implemented by the Gol in partnership with States/UTs.

About Goa :

- Governor: P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

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- Chief Minister : Pramod Sawant
- Capital : Panaji (Panjim)
- Airport: Goa International Airport (the international airport in Dabolim, Goa, India)

CPRI signed MoU with the Chhattisgarh govt to establish a regional testing laboratory

- The **Central Power Research Institute (CPRI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Government of Chhattisgarh** to set up **Central India's largest regional testing laboratory** in **Raipur district, Chhattisgarh**.
- The MoU was signed between **Chhattisgarh energy department secretary Mr. Ankit Anand** and **Additional Director of CPRI, Mr. BA Sawale**, in the presence of **Chief Minister Shri Bhupesh Baghel**.

About the Agreement :

- Under the agreement, the national-level testing unit will be established on an area of **10 acres** in sector-30 of **Nava Raipur Atar Nagar** which will have test facilities for transformers, energy meters, transformer oil, and switch fuse units, and other electricity-related equipment.

About CPRI :

- Established: 1960
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka
- It was re-organized into an autonomous Society in the year **1978** under the aegis of the **Ministry of Power, Gol**.

About Chhattisgarh :

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

Solar capacity installations in India rose by 59 percent to a record 7.2 gigawatts:

- **Solar capacity installations** in the country rose by **59 percent** to a record **7.2 gigawatts (GW)** during the first half of 2022, according to **Mercom India Research**.
- In January-June or H1 of 2021, the country had added 4.5 GW of solar capacity, the research firm's 'Q2 2022 India Solar Market Update'.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- The solar installations in April-June 2022 also increased by 59 percent to over 3.9 GW compared to 2.4 GW installed in the second quarter of 2021.
- Cumulative large-scale solar PV installations in Rajasthan reached almost 13 GW as of June 2022, and the state accounted for almost 27 percent of the total installations in the country.
- In the first half of 2022, Rajasthan and Gujarat were the top states for large-scale solar, accounting for 53 percent and 14 percent of installations, respectively, followed by Maharashtra with 9 percent.
- A US-based Mercom Capital Group subsidiary, Mercom Communications India is a clean energy research and communications firm with expertise in clean-tech markets.

The 10th National Conference of Women Police will begin in Shimla:

- In Himachal Pradesh, the 10th National Conference of Women Police will begin in Shimla.
- More than two hundred women police officers and employees across the country are participating in this two-day National conference.
- The conference is being organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) in collaboration with Himachal Police.
- The main objective of this conference is to enhance the leadership potential of women police officers and discuss their problems and challenges.
- State Director General of Police Sanjay Kundu said, at present, the strength of women in the police force in Himachal is 13 percent and the women quota in the police has been increased to 25 percent.

Dr. Jitendra Singh launched India's first Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus:

- Dr. Jitendra Singh launched India's first truly indigenously developed Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus developed by KPIT-CSIR in Pune.
- The Minister lauded the joint development efforts of KPIT and CSIR-NCL and pointed out that the technology prowess of Indian scientists and engineers is no less than the best in the world and also at much lower costs.
- Later, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the Bisphenol-A pilot plant in CSIR-NCL and said these pilot plants have successfully demonstrated novel process technologies developed by NCL under CSIR's Covid-19 mission program and Bulk Chemicals mission program.

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- Bisphenol-A (BPA) is an important feedstock for the production of epoxy resins, polycarbonate, and other engineering plastics.
- The global market for Bisphenol-A is projected to reach 7.1 Million Tons by 2027, growing at a CAGR of 2% over the analysis period 2020-2027.

India recorded another milestone – of 10 1462 villages declaring themselves as ODF:

- **Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G)**, the flagship program of the Government of India recorded another milestone – of 10 1462 villages declaring themselves as ODF (open defecation free) Plus.
- These villages are sustaining their ODF status and have systems in place for managing solid and/or liquid waste and they would continue on their sanitation journey as they work towards making their villages cleaner, greener and healthier.
- Almost eight years ago, Hon'ble **Prime Minister Modi** launched the **Swachh Bharat Mission** from the ramparts of the Red Fort, with a vision to make the country open defecation free as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary. Under his visionary leadership, the country came together in the **world's largest behavior change campaign** and achieved its aim, and on **2nd October 2019**.
- One lakh ODF Plus villages are no small achievement, given that the process of solid and liquid waste management is technical, is relatively new to rural India, and is a second-generation issue.
- The **top five performing states** are **Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh** where a maximum number of villages have been declared as ODF Plus.
- The campaign reinforces the Government's commitment to promoting hygiene and safe sanitation and thereby improving the quality of life of its citizens and fulfilling our dream of a **Sampoom, Swachh, and Swasth Bharat by 2024-25**.

NSDC with Seva Bharti and Yuva Vikas Society launched the second phase of the Grameen Udyami Project.

- To augment skill training in tribal communities for their inclusive and sustainable growth, **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** in partnership with **Seva Bharti and Yuva Vikas Society** launched the second phase of the **Grameen Udyami Project**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- Under the initiative, the endeavor is to multiskill India's youth and impart functional skills to them for enabling livelihoods.
- **Grameen Udyami is a unique multiskilling project, funded by NSDC that aims to train 450 tribal students in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.**
- The project is being implemented in **six states— Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Gujarat.**
- In Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, the training of 157 candidates started in seven batches in May 2022 and approximately 133 candidates completed the training successfully on June 27th, 2022.
- The phase-II of the pilot project launched in Ranchi is being implemented by Yuva Vikas Society, through **Seva Bharti Kendra in Ranchi.**
- NSDC under the aegis of MSDE has supported in setting up of labs and classrooms through Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) in **Seva Bharti Kendra Skill Development Center.**
- **Grameen Udyami Yojana is implemented under Sansadiya Parisankul Yojana.**

L&T Commissions New Green Hydrogen Plant at Hazira in Gujarat

- **Engineering major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) commissioned a new green hydrogen plant at Hazira in Gujarat.**
- The development comes five months after the company inked a joint venture with **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and ReNew Power** for the production of green hydrogen.
- The plant was inaugurated by **Mr. Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Limited.**
- L&T and IOC had also inked a separate joint venture for the production of electrolyzers.

Key Highlights :

- The plant will produce **45 kg of green hydrogen daily**, which will be used for captive consumption in the company's Hazira manufacturing complex.
- The green hydrogen plant is designed for an electrolyzer capacity of **800 kW** comprising both **alkaline (380 kW) and polymer electrolyte membrane (420 kW) technologies.**
- It will be powered by a **rooftop solar plant of 990kW peak DC capacity** and a **500kWh battery energy storage system (BESS).**

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- As part of its ESG commitments, L&T has pledged to achieve **water neutrality by 2035** and **carbon neutrality by 2040**.

About L&T :

- Founded: 7 February 1946
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman : Anil Manibhai Naik
- MD & CEO : S. N. Subrahmanyam

About Gujarat :

- Governor: Acharya Dev Vrat
- Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel
- Capital: Gandhinagar

Centre to collaborate with Arunachal govt to develop 'district good governance portal'

- The **Central government** has planned to **collaborate** with the **Government of Arunachal Pradesh** to develop a “**district good governance portal**”.

Aim:

- To monitor the performance of each district of the state every month and help in benchmarking performance.
- The plan is to help the state in upgrading the **e-office version 5.6 to e-office version 7.0** in a phased manner.
- Union Minister Jitendra Singh announced during the **two-day Regional Conference on “Bringing Citizens and Government Closer through Administrative Reforms”** at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Conference organized by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** comes after the **National Conference on e-Governance** held in Meghalaya in August 2019, when the “**Shillong Declaration**” on e-Governance was adopted.
- The conference discussed **5 technical sessions** with reforms in **governance; public grievances redressal and e-Office** in the **North East states; good governance practices** in the **North Eastern states; district good governance index and good governance practices**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- Further, the National Centre for Good Governance under the DARPG will organize mid-career building programs in governance for **500 officers** of the Arunachal Pradesh Administrative Services over the next five years.
- **Arunachal Pradesh** has declared **2022-23** as the year of **e-governance**.

About Arunachal Pradesh :

- Governor: B. D. Mishra
- Chief Minister : Pema Khandu
- Capital: Itanagar

Punjab & Haryana agree to name Chandigarh international airport after Bhagat Singh

- **Punjab and Haryana governments** agreed to name the Chandigarh international airport after freedom fighter **Bhagat Singh**.
- The decision was taken during a meeting between **Punjab Chief Minister Shri Bhagwant Mann** and **Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Shri Dushyant Chautala**.
- The collective contribution of both states and the Chandigarh Administration is involved in the construction and modernization of the airport.
- In **2017**, The **Punjab** government demanded that the airport should be named “**Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport, Mohali**”.
- The **Haryana** government led by Chief Minister **Shri Manohar Lal Khattar** had objected to using Mohali, which falls in Punjab, in the airport’s name.
- Punjab had given **307 acres of land in Mohali** for the airport.
- The **Rs 485-crore** airport project is a joint venture of the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** and the **governments of Punjab and Haryana**.
- Punjab and Haryana have **24.5% share** each while the AAI has **51% share**.

About Punjab :

- Governor : Banwarilal Purohit
- Chief Minister : Bhagwant Mann
- Capital: Chandigarh

About Haryana :

- Governor : Bandaru Dattatreya

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar
- Capital: Chandigarh

Assam CM Launches 'Vidya Rath- School On Wheels' Project For economically weaker kids

- Assam Chief Minister Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched a project 'Vidya Rath- School on Wheels' at a function held at the premises of Gauhati High Court in Assam.

Aim :

- To provide underprivileged children to access elementary education for 10 months.
- After 10 months, the children will be integrated into the conventional system of education.
- The stakeholders of Vidya Rath namely the Government of Assam, Assam State Legal Services Authority, Guwahati High Court Legal Services Committee, District Legal Services Authority Kamrup (Metro), Assam State Transport Corporation, Assam Sarba Siksha Mission, GMDA and the various NGOs
- Under the project, students will be given free mid-day meals, uniforms, and textbooks.

About Assam :

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

Sikkim CM launches schemes for women's welfare

- Sikkim Chief Minister Shri Prem Singh Tamang announced schemes for the welfare of women at Bhaichung Stadium in Namchi, Sikkim.
- The program was held outside Paljor Stadium, Gangtok for the first time after Sikkim merged with the Indian Union in 1975.

About the Schemes :

- Sikkim Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana (SASY) - Under Aama Yojana all unemployed mothers in the state will receive Rs 20,000 annually which will be deposited in their bank accounts.
- Chief Ministers Vatsalya Yojana - Under this, an aid of Rs 3 lakh will be provided to childless women for in vitro fertilization treatment.
- The financial assistance of Rs 3 lakh for IVF treatment will be given in two phases – Rs 1 lakh in the 1st and Rs 2 lakh in the 2nd and last phase.

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- **Mukhya Mantri Swasthya Suvidha Yojana** a health insurance for **MR (Medical Representative) /Adhoc /Contractual/Probationary Employees**
- He announced **year-long maternity leave** for **women employees** of the state beginning in place of the six-month leave which was the practice so far.
- He also launched the **mobile village clinic program** to provide accessible medical facilities to people in remote areas in all **six districts**.

About Sikkim :

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

UP CM Yogi Adityanath launches 'Radio Jaighosh' to mark Kakori Train Action anniversary

- As part of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations**, **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath** launched '**Radio Jaighosh**' to mark the **anniversary of Kakori Train Action**.

Aim :

- To promote folk art, performing art, regional delicacies of Uttar Pradesh, and gallantry award winners.
- **UP's Department of Culture** is launching the community radio channel.

About 'Radio Jaighosh' :

- Radio Jaighosh will be available at **107.8 MHz** and will broadcast programs from **6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily** from the newly renovated studio of the **Sangeet Natak Akademi in Lucknow**.
- Daily shows on the radio will include '**Parakram**' that will revolve around gallant soldiers of the pre and post-Independence era and unsung heroes, while '**Shaurya Nagar**' will promote folktales from all the 75 districts of the state.

About UP :

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

Gol grants GI Tag to Bihar's Mithila Makhana

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- The government has awarded a geographical indication (GI) tag to 'Mithila Makhana', from Bihar in a bid to help farmers get the maximum price for their premium produce.
- Over 5 lakh farmers of the Mithila region of Bihar will be benefited from this decision.
- As per the certificate, GI has been registered in the name of Mithilanchal Makhana Utpadak Sangh.
- This tag helps establish the assurance of quality and uniqueness of the agricultural/natural/handicraft/industrial product, available in a particular region.
- Mithila Makhana is makhana (fox nuts) grown in the Mithila region of Bihar.
- This is the 5th product from Bihar which is awarded to GI tag including
 1. Bhagalpur's Jardalu Mango
 2. Katarni Dhaan rice
 3. Nawads's Magahi Paan
 4. Muzaffarpur's Shahi Litchi

Note :

- As many as 400 products in India have been awarded the GI tags
- Karnataka has the maximum number of GI-tagged products in India
- Darjeeling tea was the first product to obtain a GI tag in October 2004.

About GI Tag :

- A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- GI tags are not only limited to agricultural products, foods, wine, and spirit drinks but also extend to handicrafts, specific manufacturing skills, and traditions.

List OF Newly Added GI Tags In 2022 :

GI Tags			
	Products	Categories	States/UTs
1.	Kashmir Saffron	Agriculture	Jammu & Kashmir
2.	Manipuri Black Rice	Food Stuff	Manipur

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3.	Kandhamal Haladi	Agricultural	Odisha
4.	Rasagola	Food Stuff	Odisha
5.	Kodaikanal Malai Poondum	Agricultural	Tamil Nadu
6.	Pawndum	Handicraft	Mizoram
7.	Ngotekherh	Handicraft	Mizoram
8.	Hmaram	Handicraft	Mizoram
9.	Palani Panchamirtham	Food Stuff	Tamil Nadu
10.	Tawlhlohpuan	Handicraft	Mizoram
11.	Mizo Puanchei	Handicraft	Mizoram
12.	Gulbarga Tur Dal	Agricultural	Karnataka
13.	Tirur Betel Leaf (Tirur Vettila)	Agricultural	Kerala
14.	Khola Chilli	Agricultural	Goa
15.	Idu Mishmi Textiles	Handicraft	Arunachal Pradesh
16.	Dindigul Locks	Manufactured	Tamil Nadu
17.	Kandangi Saree	Handicraft	Tamil Nadu
18.	Srivilliputtur Palkova	Food Stuff	Tamil Nadu
19.	Kaji Nemu	Agricultural	Assam

Uttar Pradesh govt sets to build India's first education township

- First, the **Government of Uttar Pradesh** is set to build an **education township** that will be developed on the idea of '**Single Entry, Multiple Exit**'.

The focus of this township :

- It will be on high-end education, which will cater to students from not only the country but also **African, Latin American, and Central Asian countries**.
- He had recently directed authorities to prepare a comprehensive action plan for setting up **five education townships** in the state during a meeting with the representatives of consultancy firm **Deloitte India** to explore ways to make Uttar Pradesh a **\$1 trillion economy**.

Key Highlights :

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- The private sector will play an important role in this education township.
- Besides, primary and secondary schools like **Atal Residential Schools** will be established.
- Universities and colleges will be established for **undergraduate and postgraduate studies** wherein studies and research works related to management, technology, law, and medicine will be carried out.
- It will feature skill development universities & many other coaching institutes like **Abhyudaya** will be started in these education townships.

About UP :

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

Delhi CM Kejriwal launches 'Mission to make India No 1

- Delhi chief minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Shri Arvind Kejriwal launched a “mission to make India No. 1” at the Talkatora stadium, New Delhi, Delhi.
- He also proposed a **five-point vision** for good governance.
 1. To provide **free and quality education** to every child
 2. To provide **free and best medical treatment** along with free medicines and test facilities
 3. To employ every youth
 4. To provide **equal rights and security to women**
 5. To **ensure farmers get fair prices** for their produce

About Delhi :

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

Chhattisgarh to set up 300 rural industrial parks

- Chhattisgarh Government will set up **300 rural industrial parks** in the state to create a source of additional income for **rural poor families**

Aim :

- To strengthen the rural economy and make the “**gauthan**” (cattle shed) a center of livelihood.

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- The project will be launched on the occasion of **Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, 2022.**
- The first such park in Chhattisgarh came up in **Kulgaon, Kanker district**, which has been named Gandhi Gram.
- The district administration, along with women's self-help groups, has developed the park.
- Chhattisgarh has set up **8,404 gauthans** of the 10,624 sanctioned.
- Also, the state government has started procuring **cow urine for Rs 4 a liter** for making organic fertilizers and pesticides.

About Chhattisgarh :

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

J&K becomes first to establish Atal Tinkering Labs in partnership with NITI Aayog

- The **Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)** has become the **first amongst States/UTs** to establish an **Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL)** in partnership with the government think tank **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.**
- NITI Aayog will replicate the J&K model of Atal Tinkering Lab to the rest of India on a **50:50 cost-sharing basis.**

Aim :

- To encourage **young minds** in the field, and challenge students to become producers of products themselves instead of consumers.

Key Highlights :

- To foster entrepreneurship and innovation, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog has established over **10000 ATLs** across India so far enabling over 3 Million students between **Grade VI to Grade XII** acquire a problem-solving, tinkering, and innovative mindset.
- An MoU signed between AIM and J&K UT will provide **rupees 10 lakh** each to establish ATLs in UT.
- One ATL cost **Rs 20 Lakh** provided by AIM.
- The AIM will establish more than **500 labs** in J&K schools in the coming years to promote an innovative and creative mindset among J&K students.

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- It is planned to set up 250 ATL in the Jammu region & 250 in the Kashmir region to be constructed under AIM.

Note :

- Atal Innovation Mission Director: Chintan Vaishnav

About J&K :

- Lt Governor : Manoj Sinha
- Capital: Srinagar, Jammu

About NITI Aayog

- Established: 1 January 2015
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- CEO: Parameswaran Iyer
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi (Prime Minister of India)
- Vice Chairperson : Suman Bery

Goa to implement a 100% NEP in higher education from next academic year

- **Goa Chief Minister Shri Pramod Sawant** announced that it will implement 100% of the syllabus in **higher education institutes** along the lines of the **National Education Policy (NEP)** from the **next academic year**
- The implementation of NEP from college to university level has already started.
- Also, Goa has signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with around **35 industry associations** in the state who will work on skill development.

About Goa :

- Governor: P. S. Sreedharan Pillai
- Chief Minister : Pramod Sawant
- Capital : Panaji (Panjim)
- Airport: Goa International Airport (Dabolim)

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

Tata Steel inks MoU with Punjab govt to set up steel plant in Ludhiana

- **Tata Steel Limited** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Government of Punjab** to establish a **0.75 million tonne per annum (MnTPA) long products steel mill** using a scrap-based **electric arc furnace (EAF) steel plant** in **Ludhiana**.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of **Shri Bhagwant Mann, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab**.
- This initiative to set up the greenfield facility at **Kadiana Khurd, Hitech Valley, Ludhiana in Punjab** is part of Tata Steel's commitment to investing in a circular economy and transitioning to low-carbon steel making through the steel recycling route.
- It is a step aligned with the Company's goal of achieving **Net Zero carbon emission by 2045**.
- The EAF-based steel plant would produce construction-grade steel rebar under the Company's flagship retail brand '**Tata Tiscon**', which would enable Tata Steel to further augment its market presence in the construction segment.
- In **August 2021**, Tata Steel commissioned its **first Steel Recycling Plant of 0.5 MnTPA capacity** at **Rohtak in Haryana**.

About Tata Steel :

- **Founded:** 26 August 1907
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- **CEO & MD:** T. V. Narendran

About Punjab :

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

ISKCON to build the Temple of Vedic Planetarium world's largest religious monument in West Bengal

- The **world's largest religious monument**, the **Temple of Vedic Planetarium** in **Mayapur, West Bengal**, will join **India's list of iconic buildings**.
- The entire project is **worth \$100 million** and the construction **began in 2010** & it is expected to be open in **2024**.
- It will replace **Cambodia's 400-acre-large Angkor Wat temple complex**.

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- The extravagant temple will be the headquarters of the **International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKON)**.
- Its design is inspired by the Capitol building in the **United States**.
- The monument is **bigger than the Taj Mahal in Agra and St Paul's Cathedral in Vatican City**.
- It will also be among the **tallest Hindu temples in the world**.

About ISKON :

- Established: 13 July 1966
- Headquarters: Nadia, West Bengal, India
- Founder: A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
- The ISKCON, known colloquially as the **Hare Krishna movement or Hare Krishnas**, is a **Gaudiya Vaishnava religious organization**.

About West Bengal :

- Governor: La. Ganesan
- Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee
- Capital: Kolkata

Maharashtra to get its first "Divyang Park" in Nagpur

- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE)**, Government of India (Gol), established the first "Divyang Park" for Divyangjan' under the **Assistance to Disabled Persons (ADIP) Scheme of MoSJE** at Reshimbagh Ground in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- Also, Gol organized a '**Samajik Adhikarita Shivar**' for the distribution of aids and assistive devices to Divyangjan' & Senior citizens under ADIP & '**Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana**' (RVY Scheme).
- The Chief Guest of the function **Shri Nitin Gadkari**, Union Minister of Road Transport and **Highways** inaugurated the distribution camp.
- A total of **24 1200 aids** and assistive devices worth **Rs. 3483.00 Lakh** will be distributed free of cost under the central Government Scheme to **27356 Senior Citizens** and **7780 Divyangjan beneficiaries**.

About Divyang Park :

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- Divyang Park will have different kinds of facilities for Divyangjans like a sensory garden, textile Pathway touch and smell garden, skill training facility, rehabilitation facility, Sports & infotainment, etc.

About MoSJE :

- Union Minister: Dr. Virendra Kumar
- Minister of State: Ramdas Athawale, Pratima Bhowmik, A. Narayanaswamy

About Maharashtra :

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

UP govt to develop Kannauj as a perfume tourism destination

- The **Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP)** has decided to develop **Kannauj** as a **perfume tourism destination**.

Aim :

- To take the **₹250 crore perfume business to ₹25,000 crores**.
- The perfume park will be functional from **15th November 2022**
- The decision was taken to emphasize the importance of the perfume industry in India.
- The government of Uttar Pradesh has also decided to organize an international perfume fair in Kannauj in **December 2021**.
- The **first phase** of the perfume park being set up in the district will be completed by **November 15, 2022**.
- It will give momentum to **chief minister Shri Yogi Adityanath's** vision of making **Uttar Pradesh a \$ 1 trillion economy**.
- The perfume of Kannauj has international demands and it comes under the '**One District, One Product**' initiative.
- Technical institutes like the **Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plant (CIMAP)** will be also roped in to promote perfume production.

About UP :

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

AP ink MoU with Parley for Oceans to save seas from pollution

- The Government of Andhra Pradesh has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United States (US)-based Parley for the Oceans, to clean the shores of the State and make Andhra Pradesh plastic free by 2027.
- The MoU was signed by Minister for Municipal Administration & Urban Development (MA&UD), Audimulapu Suresh, MAUD Principal Secretary, Y. Sri Lakshmi and Founder of “Parley for the Oceans” Cyrill Gutsch.
- Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet (GASP) will be partnering with the project

Aim :

- To develop and implement improved sanitation and waste-management system;
- To deploy AIR (Avoid Intercept & Redesign) plastic stations in approximately 500 places
- To create 10 eco-innovation hubs
- To intercept plastic wastes along the coastline, drains, irrigation channels, and rivers.

Key Highlights :

- As part of the MoU, around ₹16,000 crore investment is expected for Andhra Pradesh in the next 6 years.
- This apart, about 20,000 employment will be generated for the locals with a minimum of at least ₹16,000 salaries per month.
- Parley for the Oceans will be setting up “Parley Super Hub”, preferably in Visakhapatnam, where recycling and upcycling of plastic wastes will be done.
- The recycling unit will be set up in three stages in various capacities.
- The first stage may be ready in the next two years from now, which could process 1,10,000MT wastes.
- In the second and third stages, the capacity doubles up.
- Also, the government has introduced Clean Andhra Pradesh (CLAP) where around 4,097 garbage collecting vehicles were deployed.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- The program has increased the rural household garbage collection rate from 22% to 60 %

About AP :

- Governor : Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Chief Minister: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy
- Capital: Amaravati

Karnataka CM extended Vidyanidhi scheme for kids of agricultural laborers

- Karnataka Chief Minister Shri Basavaraj Bommai, announced that the State Cabinet meeting has decided to extend the Vidyanidhi scheme to the children of agricultural laborers in Ranebennur, Haveri, Karnataka.
- After laying foundation stones for new projects in Ranebennur Assembly Constituency, CM informed that 4,000 Anganwadi centers are established specially to provide nutritious food for the kids of agricultural laborers.
- Besides, a Rs 50,000 scheme has been formulated for rural artisans.
- The government has sanctioned a sericulture market to be established at Rs 30 crore.

About Vidyanidhi scheme (Raita Vidya Nidhi) :

- Vidyanidhi scheme is an education loan facility offered by the State Bank of India (SBI).

About Karnataka :

- Governor: Thawarchand Gehlot
- Chief Minister : Basavaraj Bommai
- Capital: Bangalore

IMPORTANT NATIONAL NEWS

The Lok Sabha has passed the National Anti-Doping Bill:

- The Lok Sabha has passed the National Anti-Doping Bill that seeks to prohibit athletes, support personnel, and other people from engaging in doping in sports.
- The bill provides a statutory framework for the functioning of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and the National Dope Testing Laboratory in sports.
- The Bill also proposes to establish the National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports.
- The board will overtake the activities of NADA and issue directions to it.

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- It will comprise a chairperson and two members, who will be appointed by the central government.
- The National Dope Testing Laboratory will be deemed to be the principal dope testing laboratory.
- The center may establish more National Dope Testing Laboratories as well.
- The bill will support the UNESCO international convention against doping in sports.
- The bill prohibits athletes, athlete support personnel, and other persons from getting involved in any doping activities.

PM has launched the ministry of power's flagship Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme:

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has launched the ministry of power's flagship **Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)**.
- The scheme is aimed at improving the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of the power distribution companies (discoms).
- The scheme, with an outlay of over Rs 3.03 trillion in five years to FY26, will enable discoms to modernize and strengthen the distribution infrastructure and improve the reliability and quality of supply of power to end consumers.
- It also aims to reduce the AT&C (aggregate technical and commercial) losses to pan-India levels of 12-15% and the ACS-ARR (average cost of supply-average revenue realized) gap to zero by 2024-25.
- REC and PFC have been nominated as nodal agencies for the scheme.
- RDSS mandates the compulsory installation of smart meters across the country.
- The Centre has set an ambitious **target of installing 250 million smart meters by 2025**.
- With this new scheme coming into force, all other previous schemes such as **Integrated Power Development Scheme, Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, and Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY)** would stand subsumed.
- During the program, the Prime Minister also dedicated and laid the foundation stone of various green energy projects of the **National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)** worth over Rs 5,200 crore.

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- The Prime Minister inaugurated the **100 Mega Watt-MW Ramagundam Floating Solar Project** in **Telangana** and the **92 MW Kayamkulam Floating Solar Project** in **Kerala**.
- Besides, Mr. Modi also laid the foundation stone of the **735 Mega Watt Nokh Solar Project** in **Rajasthan**, the **Green Hydrogen Mobility Project** in **Leh**, and **Kawas Green Hydrogen Blending with Natural Gas project** in **Gujarat**.
- On this occasion, Mr. Modi launched the national solar rooftop portal, enabling online tracking of rooftop solar plants' installation.

Two years of the launch of the National Education Policy 2020:

- To mark the completion of **two years of the launch of National Education Policy 2020**, the **Union Home Minister** recently launched a **slew of initiatives related to education and skill development**.
- At the event, the home minister stated that the promotion of regional languages is essential to unlocking the full potential of Indian talent.
- A NEP is a comprehensive framework to guide the development of education in the country.
- The **first education policy came in 1968** on the recommendation of the Education Commission, headed by D S Kothari.
- The second education policy came in 1986, which was replaced by the third education policy - NEP 2020.
- The NEP 2020 was drafted based on the recommendations of a **panel led by former ISRO chief Kasturirangan**.
- The policy aims to **transform India's education system by 2040**
- Overhauling the curriculum, easier Board exams, a reduction in the syllabus to retain core essentials, and thrust on experiential learning and critical thinking.
- “5+3+3+4” design (instead of 10+2 structure), which corresponds to the age groups 3-8 years (foundational stage), 8-11 (preparatory), 11-14 (middle) and 14-18 (secondary).
- The launched initiatives are given below:
- **75 Bharateeya games in schools:** Bharateeya games will be introduced in schools through the PT teachers.
- It will help in promoting traditional sports in schools.

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- **Kalashala initiative in 750 schools:** It will promote and support local arts and introduce various art forms to school children through lecture demonstrations by visiting artists.
- **IKS-MIC program for technology demonstration:** It will promote the development of products and India's traditional knowledge systems.
- **Setting up of virtual labs:** 750 virtual labs in science and mathematics, and 75 skilling e-labs will be established.
- **Public Consultation Survey for NCF:** Public Consultation survey in 23 languages will be conducted to seek input and suggestions for the development of the NCF.
- **National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA):** ECCE: This is to prepare an initial cadre of high-quality Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Teachers in Anganwadis.
- **Vidya Amrit Portal:** It is a Digital Project to scale up the micro-improvements taking place in school education in different parts of the country.

Over the age of 17 can now apply in advance to be enrolled in the voters' list: ECI

- The **Election Commission of India** recently announced that those **over the age of 17 can now apply in advance to be enrolled in the voters' list.**
- They do not have to wait until they reach the **age of 18 on January 1** of each year.
- With this announcement, ECI has begun the process of incorporating the changes announced by the govt recently regarding electoral reforms.
- Persons entitled to vote in an election are those who are registered as voters under the provisions of the **Indian Constitution and the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950.**
- As per the **Indian Constitution (under Article 326)**, all Indian citizens above the age of 18 years who have registered themselves as voters are eligible to vote.
- The new voters **who complete 18 years on April 1, July 1, and October 1** of any given year, and not just January 1, will be eligible for enrolling as voters.
- Earlier, the revision of electoral rolls was done on January 1st.
- The Representation of the People Act allowed voter registration for those who have attained the age of 18 only once.

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- Only those who have attained the age of 18 years as of January 1 of that year or before are eligible to be enrolled in the voters' list.

PM has addressed the first All India District Legal Services Authorities Meet in New Delhi:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural session of the first All India District Legal Services Authorities Meet in New Delhi.
- The National Legal Services Authority organized the first-ever national-level meeting of District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) at Vigyan Bhawan.
- The meeting considered the creation of an integrated process to bring about uniformity and synchronization in DLSA.
- There are 676 District Legal Services Authorities throughout the country.
- A District Judge is the head of the DLSAs and acts as chairman of the authority.
- Various legal aid and awareness programs are implemented by the National Legal Services Authority, through DLSA and State Legal Services Authorities.
- DLSAs also contribute to reducing the burden on the courts by regulating the Lok Adalats conducted by NALSA.

Mr. Sarbanand Sonowal inaugurated the Chabahar Day conference in Mumbai:

- Union Shipping Minister Sarbanand Sonowal and Minister of State for Shipping Shripad Naik inaugurated the Chabahar Day conference in Mumbai
- Representatives from Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan took part in the conference.
- Chabahar port will be part of the International North-South Transport Corridor network connecting India.
- Chabahar port will open new avenues for India and Eurasian countries and it is an important pillar of India's Indo-Pacific vision to connect Eurasia with the Indian Ocean Region.
- In May 2016, India and Iran signed a bilateral agreement in which India would refurbish one of the berths at Shahid Beheshti port, and reconstruct a 600-meter-long container handling facility at the port.
- In October 2017, India's first shipment of wheat to Afghanistan was sent through the Chabahar Port.

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- Chabahar Port: Chabahar is a port located on the coast of the Gulf of Oman.
- It consists of two separate ports named Shahid Kalantri and Shahid Beheshti.
- It is strategically important for India as it provides connectivity to Iran and Afghanistan bypassing Pakistan.
- It is jointly developed by India, Iran, and Afghanistan.

GOI will release a special commemorative postage stamp in memory of Pingali Venkayya:

- The **Central government** will release a **special commemorative postage stamp** in memory of **Pingali Venkayya**, the **designer of the national flag**.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will release the **stamp at a program** to be held in **New Delhi** to mark the **birth anniversary of the freedom fighter**.
- Born near Machilipatnam on August 2, 1876, Pingali had designed many models of the national flag.
- In 1921, Mahatma Gandhi approved a design during the Indian National Congress meeting in Vijayawada.
- The Central government is organizing a '**Har Ghar Tiranga**' campaign to mark 75 years of independence.
- **Tiranga yatra** will be held in **Delhi on August 3**.

Union Culture Minister Shri G Kishan Reddy organized the Tiranga bike rally:

- Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated a **Har Ghar Tiranga Bike Rally** by Members of Parliament in **Delhi** from the iconic **Red Fort**.
- Union Culture Minister **G Kishan Reddy** organizes the **Tiranga Bike Rally**.
- A bike rally from **Red Fort to Vijay Chowk** was staged in honor of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's **Har Ghar Tiranga** program.
- Union Ministers **Pralhad Joshi** and **Piyush Goyal** were also present.

About Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign:

- At the same time as we are honoring **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**, our country is preparing for **Har Ghar Tiranga**, a **statewide initiative to honor our Tricolor**.
- On the occasion of his birth anniversary, the prime minister paid respect to **Pingali Venkayya**, the **designer of the flag**.

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- The administration has scheduled a variety of festivities in anticipation of Independence Day.
- Between August 11 and August 13, BJP members will also perform "Prabhat pheri" at the booth level while playing Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram, Mahatma Gandhi's favorite devotional hymn, or Vande Mataram, India's national anthem.
- The gathering would also observe **Partition Horrors Remembrance Day** on August 14.

Union Minister launches six national highway projects in Madhya Pradesh:

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Shri Nitin Gadkari** lay the foundation stone for **six National Highway projects** totaling 119 kilometers and costing Rs. 2300 crore in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- Shri Gadkari noted at the ceremony that the projects being unveiled will assist growth by boosting connectivity in Indore and the state.
- The villages in the Indore-Harda segment will be better connected to Indore
- **The State Government and NHAI** signed a memorandum of understanding during this initiative to build ropeways at 14 designated locations in Madhya Pradesh.

Government Withdraws Data Protection Bill, 2021:

- To create a "**comprehensive legal framework**" for policing the online world, the government withdrew the **Personal Data Protection Bill 2021** from Parliament.
- This framework will include separate laws on data privacy, the internet ecosystem as a whole, **cybersecurity, telecom laws, and the use of non-personal data** to foster innovation in the nation.
- The administration intends to submit the new legislation during the winter session of Parliament, according to sources in the IT Ministry.
- This comes after the **Bill was in development for almost four years**, during which time it underwent several revisions, was subjected to a **Joint Committee of Parliament (JCP) assessment**, and encountered opposition from a variety of parties, including tech corporations and privacy campaigners.

About Data Protection Bill:

- It describes people's rights regarding their personal information and establishes the guidelines for how personal data should be treated and maintained.

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- The purpose of the bill was to create a national data protection authority to safeguard people's online privacy.
- **An expert group led by Justice B.N. Srikrishna** originally authored the Bill in 2018. A draught of the Bill was presented by the central government in the Lok Sabha in 2019; it was referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee in December 2021 and later brought into Parliament after six extensions.
- A Data Protection Authority would be responsible for handling both personal and non-personal data under the most recent iteration of the bill.
- The JCP carefully considered the 2019 Bill and put up 81 modifications and 12 proposals for a thorough legal framework for the digital environment.

The Ministry of Textiles has approved Pashmina Wool Development Scheme:

- The **Ministry of Textiles** has approved **Pashmina Wool Development Scheme** under **Integrated Wool Development Programme (IWDP)** with a budget allocation of **Rs.29.25 Cr.** for implementation during FY from **2021-22 to 2025-26.**
- Provision has been made to provide financial assistance in form of a **Revolving Fund for procurement/marketing** of pashmina wool in **UT of Ladakh and UT of J&K.**
- A project to set up a Dehairing plant along with ancillary machines at Leh, UT of Ladakh with the project cost of **Rs.19.75 Cr.** has been sanctioned and out of it **Rs.12.92 Cr.** has been released.
- A provision has been made under the HRD component of IWDP regarding awareness and training to wool growers including UT of Jammu & Kashmir as well as pashmina Nomads of UT of Ladakh region

India has achieved an important milestone by recognizing more than 75,000 start-ups:

- **India** has achieved an important milestone by recognizing more than **75,000 start-ups.**
- The **last 10000 startups** have been recognized in **156 days** while the initial **ten thousand** startups were recognized in 808 days.
- Recognizing more than 75 thousand start-ups is a milestone in the order of 75 years of independence.
- Around 80 Startups getting recognized per day, which is the highest rate in the world.
- **India has the 3rd largest ecosystem for startups.**

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- Around 7.46 lakh jobs have been created by the Indian startup ecosystem and 49% of startups are from Tier II & Tier III cities.
- Out of the total recognized startups, 12% are from IT services, 9% are from Healthcare and Life Sciences, 7% are from education and 5% are from professional and commercial services.
- The Government has supported the startups from funding to tax incentives.
- The government eased public procurement and regulation of taking part in international fests and events.

India adds 10 new wetlands to the list: Ramsar sites

- India now has 64 Ramsar sites altogether after adding 10 wetlands to the list.
- The 10 additional sites consist of one (1) site each in Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha, as well as six (6) locations in Tamil Nadu.
- The designation of these areas would aid in the management and protection of wetlands and the efficient utilization of their resources.
- The Ramsar Convention was established in 1971 at Ramsar, Iran, and India is one of its Contracting Parties.
- On February 1st, 1982, India signed it.
- 64 wetlands totaling 12,50,361 acres have been identified in India as Ramsar Sites of International Importance as of the present date.

10 wetlands:

S.No	Name of wetland	Area	State
1	Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary	72.04	Tamil Nadu
2	Satkosia Gorge	98196.72	Odisha
3	Nanda Lake	42.01	Goa
4	Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve	52671.88	Tamil Nadu
5	Ranganathittu BS	517.70	Karnataka

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6	Vembannur Wetland Complex	19.75	Tamil Nadu
7	Vellore Bird Sanctuary	77.19	Tamil Nadu
8	Sirpur wetland	161	Madhya Pradesh
9	Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary	40.35	Tamil Nadu
10	Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary	43.77	Tamil Nadu

Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021 approved by Lok Sabha:

- The Lok Sabha passes the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021.
- Some species are currently protected under the Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972, but the proposed law would also put CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, into effect.
- However, the Bill still has to be approved by the Rajya Sabha.
- Development and the environment are accorded equal weight by the government.
- The number of protected areas in the nation has risen from 693 to 987 over the past eight years, including 52 tiger reserves.
- According to Shri Bhupender Yadav, the Union Environment Minister, the government operates under the Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam principle and strives to improve both humankind and all other animal species.
- The Act now includes six schedules for specifically protected animals (four), plants (one), and vermin species (one).
- Small creatures that spread disease and contaminate food are referred to as vermin.
- In the proposed Bill, there are just **four schedules** overall because limiting the number of schedules for animals with special protections to two (one for greater protection level)
- deletes the vermin species schedule, and adds a new schedule for specimens classified in the CITES Appendices (scheduled specimens).

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurates “8 years of MyGov” event in New Delhi:

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- **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Minister of Electronics and IT kicked off a daylong event to celebrate “8 Years of MyGov” in New Delhi.
- The event also witnessed the presence of dignitaries including **CEO NITI Aayog Shri Parameswaran Iyer**, **G20 Sherpa Shri Amitabh Kant**, and Secretary of Capacity Building Commission **Shri Hemang Jani**.
- The Union Minister **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** also launched ‘**Responsible AI for Youth 2022**’.
- **Responsible AI for Youth** was created by the **National E-Governance Division**, Ministry of Electronics & IT in collaboration with Intel India and with the support of the Ministry of Education.
- The Program will be open to all school students studying in classes 8-12 across India to foster a deeper understanding of AI-tech and encourage youngsters to become human-centric designers.

About MyGov:

- **MyGov (mygov.in)**, the Government of India’s citizen engagement platform, was launched on **26th July 2014** by Hon’ble Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and has been built on the three pillars of ‘**Do**’, ‘**Discuss**’ and ‘**Disseminate**’.
- Since then, MyGov has evolved as the one-stop destination for citizens to contribute their unique skills toward nation-building.
- At the same time, MyGov has played a pivotal role in bridging the communication gap through seamless dissemination of information in various creative formats and mediums such as videos, infographics, podcasts, interactive dashboards, etc.

Centre forms task force to monitor monkeypox virus situation in the nation:

- **The Centre has formed a task force** in the wake of **Monkeypox cases in India** to monitor and provide guidance to the government on the **expansion of diagnostic facilities** and to explore vaccination for the infection in the country.
- The decision was taken during a meeting which was attended by **Cabinet secretary**, **Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan**, **Additional Secretary (PMO)**, and other senior officials.
- **The team will be headed by Dr. VK Paul**, **Member (Health)**, **NITI Aayog**, and members including **Secretary**, **Union Health Ministry**, **Pharma and Biotech**
- India has reported four Monkeypox cases so far, three cases in Kerala and one in Delhi.

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- A youth in Kerala presenting monkeypox-like symptoms died, following which state Health Minister Veena George initiated a high-level inquiry.

Tata Steel to roll out 'First in India' seating system for Vande Bharat Express trains:

- Tata Group is planning to spend Rs 3,000 crore on R&D by FY26 and is set to roll out the 'First in India' seating system for Vande Bharat Express trains from September 2022.
- The steel-to-salt conglomerate is also targeting to be among the top 5 technology firms in the steel industry globally by 2030.
- Tata Steel's Composites division bagged a Rs 145 crore bulk order for seating systems of the Vande Bharat express that includes the supply of complete seating systems for 22 train sets, with 16 coaches in each train set.
- These are specially designed seats, which can rotate 180 degrees and have aircraft-style passenger amenities.
- This is a first-in-India' kind of supply, which will be executed over 12 months starting September 2022, Debashish Bhattacharjee, Vice President, Technology & New Materials Business
- Vande Bharat Express, also known as Train 18, is the second fastest train in India, which operates at a speed of 130 km/hr.
- The company is targeting to be among the 'Top 5 in technology in steel industry globally by 2030' and one of the key enablers for achieving technology leadership is a quick conversion of ideas into pilot testing and commercialization

Union Minister of Environment launched the Indian Virtual Herbarium portal:

- Union Environment Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the country's largest online herbarium database, the 'Indian Virtual Herbarium' web portal.
- The portal (<https://ivh.bsi.gov.in>) has been developed by the Botanical Survey of India under the framework of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Digital India'.
- The portal aims to provide complete information on herbarium specimens about the floral diversity of India and other countries stored in the cabinet of the herbarium building through online access.

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- At present, the digital herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India has four categories – **Cryptogam type specimens, Cryptogams general specimens, Phanerogam type specimens, and Phanerogams general specimens.**
- It will also aid the research studies and provide valuable insight for global plant research.

About herbarium:

- A herbarium (Latin: hortus siccus) is a collection of plant samples with associated data preserved for long-term study.
- These materials may include pressed and mounted plants, seeds, dry fruits, wood sections, pollen, microscope slides, silica-stored materials, frozen DNA extractions, and fluid-preserved flowers or fruits; all are generally referred to as herbarium specimens.

Ministry of Women and Child Development issues Guidelines of 'Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0':

- **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has issued **Operational Guidelines** regarding the implementation of 'Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0'.
- The scheme has been approved by the Government of India for implementation during the **15th Finance Commission period 2021-22 to 2025-26.**
- **Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0** is an Integrated Nutrition Support Programme.
- It seeks to address the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers through a strategic shift in nutrition content and delivery and by the creation of a convergent eco-system to develop and promote practices that nurture health, and wellness, and immunity.
- Nutrition Support for **POSHAN through Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP)** for children of the **age group of 06 months to 6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers (PWLM), and Adolescent Girls** in the age group of 14 to 18 years in Aspirational Districts and North Eastern Region (NER)
- **Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years]** and early stimulation for (0-3 years)
- Anganwadi Infrastructure includes modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan Abhiyaan

Government hikes sugarcane FRP by Rs 15/quintal for 2022-23 season:

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- The Government announced the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for sugar season 2022-23 (October-September).
- The FRP of sugarcane has been fixed at Rs 305/quintal for a basic recovery rate of 10.25%.
- The decision of fixing the sugarcane FRP was taken in the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- FRP of sugarcane for sugar season 2022-23 (October-September) has been fixed at Rs 305/quintal for a basic recovery rate of 10.25%.
- Besides, a premium of Rs 3.05/quintal will be provided for each 0.1% increase in recovery over and above 10.25%.
- However, for every 0.1% decrease in recovery, the FRP will be reduced by Rs 3.05 per quintal.
- The FRP for sugar season 2022-23 is 5.1% higher than Rs 290 per quintal fixed for the sugar season 2021-22. For the sugar season 2021-22, the government had fixed the FRP at Rs 290 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 10% subject to a premium of Rs 2.90 per quintal for each 0.1% increase of recovery over and above 10% and reduction in FRP at the same rate for each 0.1% decrease in the recovery rate till 9.5%.

NSO develops three labor indicators and says 15% of 60+ employed people worked part-time:

- The National Statistical Office, the proportion of employed persons working part-time in the 46-59 years age group at all India levels was more than 10% between 2017-20 while in the age group above 60 years, the proportion of employed persons working part-time was more than 15%.
- As per the paper, the Employment Rate of Employed workers living in a household with no child under the age of three years, rose to 61.2% in FY20 from 58.37% in FY18 in the 26-49 years age group.
- The proportion of employed persons who are employed in the above 15 age group, has been estimated at 1.91%, 2.17%, and 2.02%, respectively for 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20.

PM Chairs 7th NITI Aayog Governing Council Meet:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the seventh NITI Aayog governing council meeting at the Rashtrapati Bhavan's cultural center in New Delhi.

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- **Crop diversification**, urban growth, and the execution of the **National Education Policy (NEP)** were among the topics discussed by the council.
- Union ministers Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Rajnath Singh, S Jaishankar, and chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and Assam are attending the meeting among others.
- Besides, all states' chief ministers, except Telangana's, lawmakers, Lt. Governors of UTs, Ex-Officio Members, the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Full-Time members of NITI Aayog, and Union ministers as Special Invitees are also present at the meeting.
- Notably, this meeting marked **the Governing Council's first in-person assembly since July 2019**.
- Evolving a shared vision of national priorities and strategies with the active involvement of states and union Territories the NITI Aayog Governing Council is a key forum for deliberations.

Govt has Launched the Mission Vatsalya Scheme:

- Since 2009–10, "Mission Vatsalya," formerly known as **the Child Protection Services (CPS) project**, has been carried out by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** for the **welfare and rehabilitation of children**.
- The goal of Mission Vatsalya is **to guarantee a healthy and happy childhood** for every child in **India**, provide opportunities for them to realize their full potential and support their sustained flourishing in all spheres, and foster a sensitive, supportive, and coordinated ecosystem for children's development, assist States/UTs in carrying out the **Juvenile Justice Act 2015's mandate** and help the world's nations meet the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Components under Mission Vatsalya include improvement in the functioning of statutory bodies, Strengthening service delivery structures; Upscale institutional care/services; Encouraging non-institutional community-based care; emergency outreach services; Training, and capacity building.
- All the States/UTs have signed the Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) with the Ministry for implementation of the Scheme.

Government launches short-term course namely 'Drone Service Technician' in 126 ITIs:

- The **Government has started a short-term course** namely 'Drone Service Technician' in 126 Industrial Training Institutes.

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- It has been started across **19 States** for the session 2022-23.
- Six short-term skilling courses have been developed for manufacturing, assembly, repairing, and maintenance of drones as well as to meet the requirement of skilled manpower in the drone sector.
- The course comprises ground classes and practical training.
- According to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, approval for establishing a **remote pilot training organization (RPTO)** is granted as per Rule 39 of The Drone Rules, 2021.

Govt Ambitious: One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) Completes 3 years:

- With **Assam** being the newest state to join the effort in June 2022, the program has now been implemented nationwide.
- On **August 9, 2019**, four states hosted the debut of the ONORC, which has now been operational for three years.
- The **technology-driven ONORC scheme** is being implemented by the **Centre for the nationwide portability** of ration cards under the NFSA(National Food Security Act,2013).
- Currently, the initiative is **recording an average of 3 crore portability transactions** every month.
- About 77.88 crore portable transactions have occurred under the plan since its launch in August 2019.
- Nearly 80 crore eligible recipients are receiving 5 kilos of food grains per person each month under the NFSA from the Center at a heavily subsidized rate of Rs 2-3 per kilogram.
- The Center is also giving an additional 5 kg of food grains per person each month to 80 crore people "free of cost" to help the impoverished.

The government introduced the Electricity Amendment Bill, 2022, in the Lok-Sabha:

- A **Bill to modify the Electricity Act** to provide **non-discriminatory open access to power suppliers' distribution networks** was submitted in Lok Sabha, prompting concerns from the Opposition, who said it sought to take away certain powers from the state governments.
- When introducing the Bill, RK Singh requested **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** to submit it to a parliamentary standing committee for further consultations to resolve Opposition concerns.
- The **Bill aims to allow for the privatization of power over communication lines.**

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- According to the Central Government, if the Bill is enacted in both Houses, customers would be able to pick their electrical supplier, just as they can for telephone, mobile, and internet services.
- The Bill proposes to alter **Section 42 of the Electricity Act** to provide non-discriminatory open access to a distribution licensee's distribution network.

New Delhi hosted the ITU's Regional Standardization Forum:

- The **International Telecommunication Union's Regional Standardization Forum for Asia and Oceania was held** in New Delhi, and **Devusinh Chauhan**, the state minister for communications, spoke at the inaugural ceremony.
- The nation's telecommunications network, by Devusinh Chauhan, is the **second biggest in the world** and provides the best rates.
- According to RSF, the market-friendly policies of the Union Government were responsible for the nation's telecommunications network growth.
- Chauhan emphasized that the three pillars of Ease of Doing Business, Ease of Living, and Aatmanirbhar Bharat constitute the foundation of India's telecommunications policy, which was developed under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's direction.
- ITU is a specialized agency of the **UN and was founded on May 17, 1865**.
- Everything involving information and communication technology is under its control. Its original name was "**International Telegraph Union**."
- In 1934, it received its current name.
- This is the oldest UN organization.

12th edition of Defence Expo to be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat:

- The **12th edition of the Defense Expo**, India's biggest exhibition on land, naval, and homeland security systems, will take place in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat, according to the Ministry of Defense**.
- The event **will take place from October 18 through October 22, 2022**.
- This edition's subject is "**Path to Pride**," which aims to inspire patriotic pride and motivate people to contribute to nation-building by developing a strong domestic defense sector.
- Three business days will be included in the five-day event, followed by two public days.

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- Active involvement and coordinated efforts at all levels will be required to hold live demonstrations along the **Sabarmati River Front** on each of the five days showing the tools and expertise of the armed forces, DPSUs, and industry.
- The exhibition is in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to achieve self-reliance in defense and **achieve an export of \$5 billion by 2025**.

Maharashtra Governor Inaugurates The 22nd 'Bharat Rang Mahotsav':

- The 22nd "Bharat Rang Mahotsav" was officially launched at **Rabindra Natya Mandir** in Mumbai by **Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari**.
- The Union Ministry of Culture and P.L. Deshpande Maharashtra Kala Akademi in the city are working together to organize the five-day theatre festival as a homage to our liberation heroes.
- To honor our liberation soldiers, the **National School of Drama** is putting up "**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav, 2022 (Azadi Segment)**".
- From July 16 to August 14, 2022, 30 plays will be presented as a part of the 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav (Azadi Segment) in **Delhi, Bhubaneshwar, Varanasi, Amritsar, Bengaluru, and Mumbai**.

PM to dedicate a 2G ethanol plant in Panipat to the nation:

- In Panipat, Haryana, the second generation (2G) ethanol plant—built at an estimated cost of Rs 900 crore—will be dedicated to the country by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** via video conference.
- The dedication of the facility is only one of several actions the government has done over the years to increase the nation's production and use of biofuels.
- This fits with the prime minister's ongoing efforts to change the energy industry so that it is **more accessible, economical, efficient, and sustainable**.
- The initiative would open a new chapter in India's waste-to-wealth efforts by using around two lakh tonnes of rice straw yearly to produce roughly three crore liters of ethanol annually.
- It is based on cutting-edge indigenous technology.

The Union Cabinet approved a treaty between India and Australia to promote the co-production of films:

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- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the signing of an **audio-visual co-production treaty between India and Australia** with the view to **promoting the co-production of films**.
- These are umbrella agreements under which private, quasi-government, or governmental agencies enter contracts to produce films together.
- Audio-visual co-production treaties are enabling documents that facilitate the co-production of films between two countries.
- **India has, so far, signed one 1 audio-visual co-production treaty** with foreign countries.
- **Australia** has emerged as a preferred destination for the shooting of Indian films.
- India is fast emerging as a major content hub for filmmakers looking for new projects.
- In 2019, the ministry of information and broadcasting met a delegation from Bangladesh, for agreements on movie co-production and content sharing.
- The meeting had focused on the making of a feature film on the life and works of **Bangladeshi politician and statesman Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**, to be directed by **Shyam Benegal**, written by **Atul Tiwari**, and co-produced by both countries.

Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah recently e-launched the onboarding of cooperatives on the GeM portal:

- Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah e-launched the onboarding of cooperatives on the **GeM portal**.
- **589 cooperatives** have been shortlisted as eligible for onboarding on **Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal**.
- With the e-launch, eligible cooperatives can place orders on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal.
- He urged all the **co-operatives society to join Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** with their products.
- **Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal** said that a total of **2,80,000 crore rupees of business** has been done on the GeM portal in the previous six years.
- In June 2022, **Cabinet expanded the mandate of Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** to allow cooperatives to procure goods and services through the GeM portal.

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The Centre has decided to offer the use of Indigenous 5G Test Bed free of cost to the Government recognized start-ups:

- The Centre has decided to offer the use of the Indigenous 5G Test Bed free of cost to the Government recognized start-ups and MSMEs for the next six months up to January 2023.
- The decision has been taken to boost the 5G ecosystem within India and to achieve the objectives of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives.
- The facility is available at a very nominal rate to all other stakeholders.
- Department of Telecommunications has urged all 5G stakeholders including industry, academia, service providers, government bodies, and equipment manufacturers to utilize the 5G testbed facilities and expertise to test and facilitate the speedy development and deployment of their products in the network.
- Keeping in view India's specific requirements and to take lead in 5G deployment, the Department of Telecommunications has approved a financial grant for the multi-institute collaborative project to set up the 'Indigenous 5G Test Bed' in India in March 2018 with a total cost of 224 crore rupees.

"UMEED Market Place" launched by Mr. Manoj Sinha as part of the AVSAR Program:

- At the Srinagar International Airport in Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Mr. Manoj Sinha unveiled the UMEED Market Place as a component of the Airport Authority of India's AVSAR Scheme.
- UMEED Market Place, which is now available at both the Jammu Airport and the Jammu City Center, will sell commodities from all 20 districts.
- At Srinagar's airport, the Lt. Governor earlier presented a 20x20-foot LED video wall.
- The stalls and counters that will be provided to them for 15 days on a rotating basis will help more than five lakh women each year.
- It would be a venue where travelers could place large orders and make special requests for business gifts.
- By providing them with a venue to market their products directly to customers, the UMEED Market Place initiative will support the J&K Rural Livelihood Mission Self Help Groups' local artisans and craftspeople.

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- that there would be ample chances for product promotion in the UMEED Market Place, that the products made by self-help organizations would be exposed to the national market, and that they would benefit the neighborhood's artisan community.

Center has shortlisted six merchant bankers:

- The **Center has shortlisted six merchant bankers** to assist the **government** in offloading its **29.5 percent residual stake** in Hindustan Zinc in tranches.
- The merchant banks, which include **ICICI Securities, SBI Capital Markets, HDFC Bank, IIFL Securities, Axis Capital, and Citigroup Global Markets**, will make presentations before an inter-ministerial group.
- Post the presentations, the selected merchant bank would be notified.
- The selected investment bank would have to assist the government on the timing and modalities of the divestment, conduct market surveys, hold domestic and international road shows to generate interest among prospective investors, and seek regulatory approvals, among others.
- They will have to prepare a list of domestic and international investors to be approached by them **within seven days**.
- The Center is looking to sell its stake through the offer for sale mechanism.
- The offer will have to be structured, keeping into consideration the provisions of the shareholders' agreement between **the government and Vedanta group, signed in 2002**, which had led to prolonged litigation.

Cabinet has approved the continuation of PMAY-U - Housing for All Mission up to 31st December 2024:

- **Union Cabinet** has approved the continuation of **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) - Housing for All Mission up to 31st December 2024**.
- Under the scheme, financial assistance will be provided for the completion of already **sanctioned 122.69 lakh houses till March 31, 2022**.
- The scheme is one of the major flagship programs being implemented by the **Central Government to provide all-weather pucca houses** to all eligible beneficiaries in the urban areas of the country through **States, Union Territories, and Central Nodal Agencies**.

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- The continuation of the scheme based on the request of States and UTs up to 31st December 2024 will help in the completion of already sanctioned houses under Beneficiary Led Construction, Affordable Housing in Partnership, and In-situ Slum Redevelopment verticals.
- Central Assistance approved since 2015 is two lakh three thousand crore rupees against 20 thousand crore rupees in 2004-2014.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban):

- It was launched on 25th June 2015.
- It is implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The scheme is implemented through four verticals: Beneficiary Led Construction/Enhancement (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), In-situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR), and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS).

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched the indigenous vaccine Lumpi-ProVaclnd:

- Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched the indigenous vaccine Lumpi-ProVaclnd to protect livestock from Lumpy Skin disease.
- The vaccine has been developed by the National Equine Research Center, Hisar (Haryana) in collaboration with the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izzatnagar (Bareilly).
- Describing this vaccine as a milestone for eradicating the Lumpy disease, Shri Tomar said that livestock, along with human resources, is the biggest asset of our country, which we have a big responsibility to preserve and prosper.
- He congratulated the scientists of the Equine Research Center and the Veterinary Research Institute for developing the Lumpi disease vaccine. Ever since the disease came to India in 2019, research institutes have been engaged in developing the vaccine.

The government has implemented comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of begging under “SMILE”

- In the spirit of AzadikaAmritMahotsav, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, has identified 75 Municipal Corporations to implement comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of begging under “SMILE: Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise” named as “SMILE-75 Initiative”.

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- Under the **SMILE-75 initiative**, **seventy-five (75) Municipal Corporations** in collaboration with **NGOs** and other stakeholders will cover several comprehensive welfare measures for persons who are engaged in the act of begging with a focus extensively on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counseling, awareness, education, skill development, economic linkages and convergence with other Government welfare programs, etc.
- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has allocated a **total budget of Rs.100 crore** for the **SMILE project for the coming years till 2025-26**.
- Through this project, the Ministry envisions developing a support mechanism for holistic rehabilitation of those engaged in the act of begging and building an India where no person is forced to beg to survive and fulfill their basic need.
- The objective of SMILE- 75 is to make our cities/towns and municipal areas begging-free and make a strategy for comprehensive rehabilitation of the persons engaged in the act of begging through the coordinated action of various stakeholders.

Cabinet has approved the ratification of amendments to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union (UPU):

- The **Cabinet has approved** the ratification of amendments to the **Constitution of the Universal Postal Union (UPU)** as contained in the **Eleventh Additional Protocol to the Constitution**.
- The amendments to the Constitution of UPU were signed during the **27th Congress of the Universal Postal Union held at Abidjan**.
- This decision of the cabinet will fulfill the obligations mentioned in **Articles 25 and 30 of the UPU Constitution**.
- The amendments will ensure further legal clarity and stability to the Acts of the Union.
- **Universal Postal Union (UPU) was established in 1874**.
- It is the second oldest international organization in the world.
- It is the postal sector's primary forum for international cooperation.

Meghalaya host the 2nd edition of the North East Olympics:

- **Meghalaya is all set to host** the upcoming **2nd edition of the North East Olympics** from October the 30th to November the 6th in Shillong.

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- A joint meeting of the North East Organising Committee, **Meghalaya Department of Sports and Youth Affairs**, and the **North East Olympic Association** was held to finalize the list of sports disciplines.
- The **first edition of the Games** was held in **Manipur in 2018**, with 12 disciplines.
- **The edition of the Games will be special as Meghalaya is celebrating the 50th year of its Statehood.**
- In this edition, about 4,000 participants from eight North Eastern States will be competing in 18 disciplines at 13 venues spread across Shillong. Participants will be competing in disciplines, such as archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, boxing, football, judo, karate, shooting, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, wushu, cycling (Mountain Bike), golf, weightlifting, and wrestling.

Income taxpayers will not be eligible for the Atal Pension Yojana:

- **Income taxpayers** will not be eligible for the **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**, a universal social security scheme, from **1 October**.
- In case a subscriber of the scheme, who joined on or **after 1 October 2022**, is subsequently found to have been an income-tax payer on or before the date of application, the APY account shall be closed and the accumulated pension wealth to date would be given to the subscriber, as per the order.
- **Atal Pension Yojana was launched in 2015** to create a universal social security system for the citizens, especially the poor, the underprivileged, and the workers in the unorganized sector.
- It is administered by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**.
- It is currently open to all bank account holders in the **age group of 18 to 40 years** and the contributions differ, based on the pension amount chosen.
- Subscribers would receive a **guaranteed minimum monthly pension at the age of 60**.

The government has set a target of reducing import dependence on palm oil by 25 to 30%:

- The government is aiming at reducing import dependence on palm oil by 25 to 30% through the production of 2.8 million tonnes (MT) of oil by 2030 under the **National Edible Oil Mission**.
- Currently, around 0.35 million hectares (MH) are under palm plantation.

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- Under the mission launched last year, an additional area of 0.65 MH will be brought into palm plantations by 2025-26.
- India imports 56% of its edible oil requirement annually.
- The country imports around 8 MT of palm oil while the domestic production is around 0.5 MT.
- In August 2021, the national oil palm mission was launched with an investment of Rs 11,040 crore.
- Out of which the Centre's share is Rs 8,844 crore, while the rest is contributed by the state government for providing viability gap funding and financial assistance for planting material.
- Under the palm oil mission, the Tripura government signed an agreement with Patanjali Foods Limited for palm oil plantations.
- Hyderabad-based 3F oil palm has planned to expand its palm plantation in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Kerala are the major oil palm growing states, which account for 98% of the total production.

The Ministry of Social Justice has launched the SMILE-75 initiative:

- The Government of India's Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has identified 75 Municipal Corporations to implement comprehensive rehabilitation of people engaged in begging under the "SMILE: Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise" initiative, known as the "SMILE-75 Initiative."
- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has allocated a total budget of Rs. 100 crore for the SMILE project for the coming years till 2025-26.
- The Government of India has recognized the persistent problem of destitution and beggary and developed a comprehensive scheme of SMILE that includes a sub-scheme of comprehensive rehabilitation for persons engaged in begging that includes identification, rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counseling, education, skill development for a decent job, and self-employment/entrepreneurship.

Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched India's first Saline Water Lantern:

- Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched India's first Saline Water Lantern which uses seawater as the electrolyte between specially designed electrodes to power the LED lamps.

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- Dr. Jitendra Singh unveiled the first-of-its-kind lantern named “Roshni” during a visit to **SAGAR ANVESHKA**, a Coastal Research Vessel, operated and used by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai for coastal research.
- Saline Water Lantern will bring “Ease of Living” to the poor and needy, particularly the fishing community living along the **7500 Kilometres long coastal line of India**.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh said that Saline Water Lantern will also boost and supplement **Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s UJALA scheme launched in 2015** for the distribution of LED bulbs across the country.
- **Roshini Lamps** along with Power Ministry’s schemes like **Solar Study Lamps** will be driving a vibrant renewable energy program aimed at achieving energy security, energy access, and reducing the carbon footprints of the national economy.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh also reviewed the progress of **NIOT-developed Low-Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD)** technology for conversion of seawater to potable water, which has been successfully demonstrated in Lakshadweep islands.
- He informed that three desalination plants based on the LTTD technology have been developed and demonstrated at Kavaratti, Agati, and Minicoy Islands of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.
- The capacity of each of these LTTD plants is 1 Lakh liter of potable water per day.
- The cost of a desalination plant depends on some factors inter alia which include the technology used and the location of the plant. The total cost of the six LTTD plants in Lakshadweep islands is Rs. 187.75 cr.

To promote honey export, Government organizes a series of events, in collaboration with state govt and farmers:

- To harness the **export potential of honey** in line with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of a ‘sweet revolution’** through the promotion of beekeeping and allied activities, the Government has planned to organize a series of events across the country in collaboration with state governments and farmers.
- One such event is scheduled to be organized by **APEDA, Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, for the **export promotion of honey**.

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- As a part of the government's **AtmaNirbhar Bharat** initiative to boost honey production, the government has **approved an allocation of Rs 500 crore** for the **National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) for three years (2020-21 to 2022-23)**.
- In India, North East Region and Maharashtra are the major natural honey producing areas in the country, and around 50 percent of the honey produced in India is consumed domestically, while the rest is exported across the globe.
- As per the DGCIS, **APEDA** has achieved overall exports of **USD 7.41 billion** from April-June 2022 by registering a growth of 30.8 percent in terms of USD in comparison to the same period the previous year.

Department of Expenditure has released an additional Rs.807 Crore as a one-time settlement for the SPMRM:

- **The Department of Expenditure has released an additional ₹807 crore as a one-time settlement for the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission (SPMRM) to pay for all the works that were sanctioned before March 31.**
- The department has refused to release any additional amount for **work initiated after March 31**, as the scheme had been phased out as part of a rationalization of centrally sponsored schemes.
- **The rural development ministry had sought Rs 1,200 crore** under the scheme, citing increased costs for projects where work sanction was done.
- The payment has been made only for projects where the groundwork had already been **initiated before March 31.**
- The Centre has halved the number of centrally sponsored schemes to 65, with effect from April 1, 2022.
- According to the budget, 130 centrally sponsored schemes spanning all ministries have been **"rationalized/revamped"** into 65 schemes.
- This excluded those schemes declared after April 1, 2020.
- The scheme was launched by the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** in 2016.
- The objective of the National Rurban Mission (NRuM) is to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services, and create well-planned Rurban clusters.
- Rurban clusters are identified across the country's rural areas showing increasing signs of urbanization.

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Kolkata will host the 23rd edition of the India International Seafood Show:

- The Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) and the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) will collaborate to host the 23rd India International Seafood Show (IIS) in Kolkata, the City of Joy.
- During 2021-22, India exported 13,69,264 tonnes of marine goods for US\$ 7.76 billion, an all-time high in terms of value, while shrimp output surpassed one million MT.
- With a multifaceted approach targeting capture fisheries and aquaculture, export turnover is expected to reach US\$ 15 billion over the next five years.
- MPEDA Chairman Dr. K.N. Raghavan announced that the biennial showpiece event in the seafood sector, the biggest in the industry aimed at showcasing the export potential of India, will be organized at the sprawling Biswa Bangala Mela Prangan in Kolkata.

The world's highest railway bridge, the Chenab Railway Bridge, has been inaugurated:

- The highest railway bridge in the world across the Chenab River was officially opened at its golden junction.
- After the overarch deck on the tallest single-arch railway bridge over the River Chenab is completed, Srinagar will be connected to the rest of India for the first time since independence.
- Compared to the Eiffel Tower, the bridge will be 35 meters taller.
- In addition to the Chenab Bridge, Afcons is constructing 16 other railway bridges for Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) in the treacherous terrain of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project includes all of the bridges.

11 more Indian wetlands have got Ramsar recognition: Ramsar sites

- India has added 11 more wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites, bringing the total number of such sites in the nation to 75, spanning an area of 13,26,677 hectares.
- In India's 75th year of independence, there are 75 Ramsar sites.
- Four additional Ramsar sites were named in Tamil Nadu, three in Odisha, two in Jammu and Kashmir, and one each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- A Ramsar site is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, also known as "The Convention on Wetlands", an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by UNESCO, which came into force in 1975.

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The 11 Indian wetlands:

- ✓ Tampara Lake in Odisha;
- ✓ Hirakud Reservoir in Odisha;
- ✓ Ansupa Lake in Odisha;
- ✓ Yashwant Sagar in Madhya Pradesh;
- ✓ Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu;
- ✓ Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex in Tamil Nadu;
- ✓ Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu;
- ✓ Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu;
- ✓ Thane Creek in Maharashtra;
- ✓ Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve in Jammu and Kashmir;
- ✓ Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve in Jammu and Kashmir.

The first Tiranga park has been set up in the Gurugram:

- Under the **Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan**, the **first Tiranga park** has been set up in the **Gurugram** by the district administration.
- This park has been constructed with the support of the **M3M Foundation** in the **Swatantrata Senani Bhawan** located in **Civil Lines, Gurugram**.
- The park was inaugurated by the **Union Minister of State, Rao Inderjit Singh**, as the chief guest.
- On this occasion, **Deputy Commissioner Nishant Yadav** along with **Dr. Aishwarya Mahajan, President of M3M Foundation** was present.
- In this, **75 national flags of 12-foot height** have been installed on the **75th anniversary of independence**.
- With the inauguration of the park, the residents will be able to come to visit this **Tiranga park**.
- On behalf of the administration, every effort is being made at the administrative level to ensure the participation of the general public in the district.

First 3D-printed human cornea developed in India:

- The **first artificial cornea to be 3D printed in India** was successfully implanted in a **rabbit eye** by **researchers in Hyderabad**.

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- Researchers from the L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H), and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) have developed a human cornea that is **3D printed using corneal tissue from a human donor**.
- The product (3D-printed Human Cornea) was created locally with support from the government and philanthropic organizations; **it is entirely natural, free of synthetic ingredients, and safe for patients to use**.
- The 3D-printed human cornea study was funded by the Department of Biotechnology, and the translational work required for patient clinical trials will be funded by the Sree Padmavathi Venkateswara Foundation in Vijayawada.

Ministry of Corporate Affairs has removed 4.33 lakh companies from the Register of Companies:

- **Ministry of Corporate Affairs has removed 4.33 lakh companies from the Register of Companies in the last five years.**
- **49, 921 companies were removed** in 2021-22.
- The year 2017-18 (post demonetization) saw the removal of the maximum number of companies at 2.26 lakh.
- In 2018-19, nearly 1.13 lakh companies were removed from the Register of Companies.
- **Section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013** provides for the removal of the name of the company from the **Register of Companies** in two conditions given below.

I. If the company is **not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two** immediately preceding financial years and

II. If the company has **not made any application within the said period for obtaining the status** of a Dormant Company under **section 455** of the Act.

Centre Launches Paalan 1000 National campaign and Parenting App:

- **Bharti Pravin Pawar, the Union Minister of State for Health**, introduced the **Parenting App** and the **Paalan 1000 national campaign** in Mumbai.
- To lower the child mortality rate and provide for infants throughout their **first 1000 days after birth**, the Paalan 1000 National campaign and Parenting App were launched.
- The program was virtually launched by the **Union Minister of State for Health**.

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- **Bharti Pravin Pawar** spoke at the launch event and noted that India has made tremendous progress in lowering the child death rate since 2014, when it was 45 per 1000 live births, to 35 per 1000 live births in 2019.

PM has announced 'Panch Pran' goal for the next 25 years:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the country for the ninth time straight from the Red Fort.
- Prime Minister Modi laid out his "Panch Pran Targets" (Five Resolves) to transform India into a developed nation by the time it marks its 100th Independence Day in 25 years.
- The Panch Pran Goal was brought up by the prime minister.
- According to the Panch Pran, recognized Indian criteria include sanitation campaigns, immunizations, electrical connections, the removal of open defecation, and the use of solar energy.
- According to PM Modi, when the nation celebrates 100 years of independence in 2047, these five resolutions (Panch Pran) will be important for a developed country.
- One of these five resolutions is the prime minister's vision of "Vishwaguru India" (Panch Pran).
- PM Modi wants to make India into the "Vishwaguru" as soon as the country celebrates 100 years of freedom.

India voluntary trust funds for the defense of human rights more than Rs 3 crore:

- The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in Geneva has announced that India has contributed \$400,000 (more than Rs 3 crore) to as many as four Voluntary Trust Funds.
- It continued by stating that the gift to the Voluntary Trust Funds was given to demonstrate India's dedication to the promotion and defense of human rights on a worldwide scale as well as its support for the UN Human Rights Council.
- India has given \$400,000 to 4 Voluntary Trust Funds on Torture, Technical Cooperation, and Implementation of UPR & LDCs/SIDS, demonstrating our dedication to the global promotion & protection of human rights as well as our support for @UNHumanRights.
- The Voluntary Trust Funds donated by India are for torture victims, technical help, and financial and technical support for the Universal Periodic Review's implementation.

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- Additionally, India contributed volunteer technical assistance and voluntary trust funds to encourage participation by **least developed nations (LDCs)**.
- The four trust funds to which donations have been made in the council's activities are known as **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**.

Government unveils "Manthan" platform for better industry and R&D collaboration:

- The "Manthan" platform was announced by the **Indian government** to promote collaboration between **businesses and academic institutions** in the implementation of innovations and solutions with a social impact based on technology.
- The launch of Manthan, a platform that will hopefully support our efforts to foster **industry involvement in R&D**, is also evidence of our dedication to the **SDGs as set forth by the UN**.
- The launch honors India's seventy-five years of independence and offers a chance to introduce the national and international public to India's technological revolution.
- The Manthan platform will **help scale up** interactions among **stakeholders, facilitate research and innovation, and share challenges** in various emerging technologies and scientific interventions, including those that make a social impact.

NTPC Limited has achieved 69454 MW of group installed and commercial capacity:

- **NTPC Limited**, India's largest integrated energy company **achieved 69454 MW of group installed and commercial capacity** with the commissioning of **56 MW Kawas Solar PV Project at NTPC Kawas, Gujarat**
- NTPC is steadily lowering its carbon footprint by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the installation of renewable energy projects in its existing stations as well as putting up green field RE projects.
- **The Company has planned 262 MW floating solar** on over 1300 acres of its reservoir area by installing over 9,50,000 PV modules at its various stations out of which **242 Mega Watt** has been commissioned.
- This includes the country's largest floating solar of **100 MW at Ramagundam** in Telangana, **92 MW at Kayamkulam** in Kerala, and **25 MW each at Simhadri, Andhra Pradesh, and Kawas** in Gujarat.

The portal **NIDAAN** or the **National Integrated Database on Arrested Narco-offenders** has been developed:

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- First-of-its-kind database of arrested narcotics offenders has been made operational for use by various central and state prosecution agencies tasked to enforce anti-drugs laws in the country.
- The portal–NIDAAN or the National Integrated Database on Arrested Narco-offenders--has been developed by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
- It is part of the narcotics coordination mechanism (NCORD) portal that was launched by Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah in Chandigarh during the national conference on 'Drug trafficking and national security.
- The NIDAAN platform sources its data from the ICJS (inter-operable criminal justice system) and the e-Prisons (a cloud-based application) repository and it is planned to integrate it in the future with the crime and criminal tracking network system or CCTNS.
- The ICJS, an initiative of the Supreme Court e-committee, was created to enable the seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars of the criminal justice system.
- A distinct feature called 'criminal network' on the portal can also be accessed by agencies, as part of which specific links of an accused to other crimes, linked police FIRs and those who visited them in jail can also be accessed.
- The NIDAAN portal is a vertical envisaged under the NCORD and was mooted during a national meeting on drug issues chaired by Home Minister Shah in December last year in Delhi.

The central government has raised the thresholds for prosecutions and arrests under the Customs Act:

- The government has raised the thresholds for prosecutions and arrests under the Customs Act to ₹50 lakh from ₹20 lakh for smuggling and illegal imports of goods in baggage and ₹1 crore to ₹2 crores for cases involving commercial fraud.
- Customs duty refers to the tax imposed on goods when they are transported across international borders.
- In simple terms, it is the tax that is levied on the import and export of goods.
- Customs duty in India is defined under the Customs Act, of 1962, and all matters related to its fall under the Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC).
- However, these value-related thresholds will not apply for offenses relating to fake currency notes, arms, ammunitions and explosives, antiques, art treasures, wildlife items, and endangered species of flora and fauna.

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'Yamuna Par Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' organized by NMCG:

- The event "Yamuna Par Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" was organized at the water sports club in **New Delhi** by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**, the Ministry of Jal Shakti, and the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- The Yamuna Par Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was presided over by **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, the union minister for Jal Shakti.
- BSF personnel presented Shekhawat with a guard of honor on this occasion.
- He also raised the national flag, Tiranga, to mark the Yamuna Par Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- During the event, a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was also signed between the **NMCG and Sahakar Bharati** to realize the vision of sustainable and viable economic development through public participation, the establishment, and strengthening of local cooperatives, and directing their cooperation towards achieving the mission of **Arth-Ganga**.
- Yamuna Par **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav ImAvatar**, a tourism-related platform, was also established to promote livelihood opportunities.
- The "**Arth-Ganga**" program can be promoted by the travel industry.

Shipping Ministry Proposes Amendment To 110-Year-Old Indian Ports Act:

- A draft to amend the Indian Ports Act, of 1908, has been made public by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways**.
- It aims to implement **significant reforms in the sector** by including minor ports in the national framework, developing a new dispute-resolution procedure, and strengthening the **maritime state development council (MSDC)**.
- More than **110 years** have passed since the Indian Ports Act of 1908.
- It has become essential that the Act be updated to take into account current frameworks, include India's duties under international agreements, address new environmental concerns, and support the consultative development of the ports industry in the interest of the country.
- The change to the **Major Ports Authority Act**, which was introduced last year and drew criticism for the potential for a greater concentration of power in the hands of the central government—which oversees **12 major ports in India**—could, according to sector experts, suffer the same fate.

The government launched the Aqua Bazaar feature of the Matsya Setu App:

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- **Shri Parshottam Rupala**, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairy presented the **"Aqua Bazar"** online marketplace feature in the **"MatsyaSetu"** mobile app during the 9th general body meeting of the **National Fisheries Development Board**.
- The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad, and the **ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA)**, Bhubaneswar, utilized funds from the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** to develop the MatsyaSetu app.
- The **Aqua Bazar** online market will help fish farmers and other interested parties find the inputs (such as fish seeds, feed, medicines, etc.) and services required for fish farming.
- On the **Aqua Bazar** market, farmers may also **sell their table-size fish**.
- All stakeholders involved in aquaculture are intended to be connected by the Aqua Bazar marketplace.

17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2023 to be held at Indore:

- The **17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2023** will take place in **Indore** in **January** of next year, according to **Arindam Bagchi**, a spokeswoman for the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Every year on **January 9th**, the **celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** honors the contribution of the Indian diaspora to the advancement of India.
- It also honors Mahatma Gandhi's trip back to India from South Africa on January 9, 1915.
- The **16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** was held during 21–23 January 2019 in **Varanasi, India**.
- The **Prime Minister of Mauritius, Pravind Jugnauth**, was the guest of honor.

Indian Railways longest freight train: Super Vasuki

- The **Super Vasuki**, the Indian Railways' newest train, underwent a test run.
- The Indian Railways' **South East Central Railway (SECR)** zone runs the Super Vasuki.
- **Vasuki and Trishul**, two record-breaking long-distance freight trains, were run by the SECR last year.
- The 2.8 km **SheshNaag** train came before them. Five cargo trains were combined into one unit to create the Super Vasuki.
- The freight train has a **length of 3.5 kilometers**.
- The Super Vasuki carries enough coal to run a 3000 MW power plant for a whole day.
- The train took **11.20 hours** to cover a distance of **267 km**.

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The country's first indigenous monkeypox test kit has been launched:

- The first RT-PCR kit for monkeypox illness testing to be created locally was in India.
- **Ajay Kumar Sood**, a principal scientific adviser to the center, revealed the kit, which was created by **Transasia Bio-Medicals**.
- The package would assist in better managing the virus, which the **WHO** has classified as a **global public health emergency**.
- While clinically less severe than smallpox, monkeypox is a viral zoonosis—a virus that spreads from animals to people.
- The typical symptoms of monkeypox include fever, rash, and swollen lymph nodes, and it can cause a variety of medical issues.

India Sets Target to Raise Share of Natural Gas in Energy Mix to 15% by 2030:

- The government has announced it has set a target to raise the share of natural gas in the energy mix to 15%, from 6.3% currently, in 2030.
- Several initiatives have been taken for the same, informed **Rameswar Teli**, Minister of State for **Petroleum and Natural Gas**.

The initiatives include:

- 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.

Mr. Darshana Jardosh inaugurates Silk Mark Expo:

- **Mr. Darshana Jardosh**, the Union Minister of State for Textiles, formally inaugurated the **Silk Mark Expo** in New Delhi.

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- The Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, and the Silk Mark Organization of India together conduct the Silk Mark Expo.
- The Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav has reached this milestone, according to the Union Minister of State for Textile.
- To help India's textile industry grow, the Textile Ministry has introduced several initiatives, including the Silk Mark Expo.
- The Silk Mark calls attention to the product's qualification requirements, which will eventually increase customer confidence in both domestic and international markets.
- In addition to the stakeholders in the silk value chain, the Silk Mark Expo aspires to safeguard the interests of all silk consumers.

65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference to be hosted by Canada:

- Amos Masondo, the head of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), and a distinguished group of MPs will serve as the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference's (CPC) leaders.
- From August 22 to 26, 2022, Halifax, Canada will host the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC).
- Delegates from Commonwealth parliaments and legislatures can discuss changes to the parliamentary system and global political concerns during the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, which will be held this year.

Delegates:

- Winnie Ngwenya, a member of the Commonwealth Women's Parliament
- Phoebe Noxolo Abraham
- Dikeledi Gladys Mahlangu
- Siviwe Gwarube, a member of the Democratic Alliance

Dr. Jitendra Singh approved an initial loan of Rs 1.15 crore for the StartUp with an alternative solution to Single-Use Plastic:

- Union Minister of State (Independent Representative) for Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Representative) for Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh approved an initial loan of

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Rs 1.15 crore to M/s TGP Bioplastics for commercialization of 'compostable' plastics and thereby reduce the use of single-use plastics (SUP).

- An MoU has been signed between the **Technology Development Board**, a statutory body of the **Ministry of Science and Technology**, and M/s TGP Bioplastics Private Limited, Satara, Maharashtra, for the production and commercialization of compostable plastics.
- Dr. Jitendra was informed that StartUp has come up with an alternative solution to **Single Use Plastic (SUP)** with a prototype compostable plastic material that decomposes as compost in the soil without affecting the environment.
- This unique project received seed funding from **NIDHI Prayas (DST)**, **Niti Aayog**, and **UNIDO** for prototype development.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur launched 'Azadi Quest' online games:

- **Anurag Thakur**, a Union Minister, has unveiled "Azadi Quest," a collection of online instructional games themed on **India's liberation movement** and created in partnership with **Zynga India**.
- These games are an attempt to educate players through gaming and tap into the enormous internet gaming industry.
- Information on underappreciated independence soldiers has been gathered by various government agencies in India.
- Acquiring this knowledge interesting and participatory is the goal of "Azadi Quest."
- The games are available for **Android and iOS devices in English and Hindi** for the people of India and will be available worldwide from **September 2022**.

PM Modi opened Amrita Hospital, the largest hospital in Asia, in Faridabad:

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** formally opened the **2,600-bed Amrita hospital** in Faridabad, which is the largest hospital in Asia.
- It has cutting-edge technology, including a centrally situated, fully automated laboratory.
- The **NCR region's healthcare infrastructure** would be considerably improved by this Amrita hospital in Faridabad.
- The Amrita hospital Faridabad complex would have a **built-up area of 36 lakh square feet**, including a 14-floor tower containing the major medical services.
- On the roof of the Amrita hospital Faridabad complex, there is a helipad as well.

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23rd Central Zonal Council meeting presided over by Amit Shah in Bhopal:

- The **23rd Central Zonal Council Meeting** was presided over by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** in **Bhopal**.
- Both **Pushkar Singh Dhami** and **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, the chief ministers of **Uttarakhand** and **Madhya Pradesh**, were present during the meeting.
- Due to the bad weather, both **Bhupesh Baghel** and **Yogi Adityanath**, the chief ministers of **Uttar Pradesh** and **Chhattisgarh**, took part remotely.
- **Amit Shah** laid the cornerstone for the **National Forensic Science University** campus in **Bhopal**.

Transgenders will be covered under Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY:

- The **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** will be expanded to include **transgender people**, according to the **Indian government**
- To provide a comprehensive health package for transgender people under **Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY**, the **National Health Authority (NHA)**, a division of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, and the **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment**, have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**.
- A transgender person must possess a transgender certificate issued by the **National Portal for Transgender Persons** to be eligible for any healthcare benefits under this **MoU between the National Health Authority (NHA) and the Ministry of Social Justice & Employment (MoSJE)**.
- This agreement will apply to all transgender people nationwide. Per the recipient who identifies as transgender, **MoSJE** would provide an **Rs. 5 lakh insurance policy** each year.

India to have 1.8 lakh Km of Highways & 1.2 lakh Km of Rail Lines by 2025:

- In **2025**, **India** plans to build new **trains and highways**.
- According to a survey by **Bank of America Securities India**, the **total length of all national roads in India** is predicted to be **1.8 lakh kilometers**, while the total length of railway lines would be **1.2 lakh kilometers**.
- In **India**, new national roads totaled **77,000 kilometers** in **2015**, up from **4000 kilometers** between **1950 and 2015**.
- By **2025**, **highways** are predicted to have expanded to **1.8 lakh kilometers**, which is more than twice their present length.

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- Only 10,000 rail lines made up India's railway network in 1950; by 2015, there were 63,000 rail lines.
- Making the railway network extend up to 1.2 lakh kilometers is the benchmark for 2025.

20th Edition of BioAsia 2023 scheduled for February 24-26:

- The Government of Telangana will host the 20th edition of BioAsia 2023, the major event of BioAsia 2023 for life sciences and health tech, on February 24-26, 2023.
- Minister for Industries and Commerce KT Rama Rao launched the BioAsia 2023 logo and theme, "Advancing for ONE: Shaping the Next Generation of Humanised Healthcare."
- To debate the multidisciplinary subjects of One Health, disruptive medical technology, and universal healthcare accessibility and affordability, "Bio Asia 2023 will bring together professionals in the life sciences and healthcare, academics, start-ups, regulators, and investors on one stage," says Shakthi Nagappan, CEO of BioAsia and Director (Life Sciences), Government of Telangana.
- More than 100 carefully selected health-tech entrepreneurs from across the world will be able to demonstrate their ground-breaking solutions to pressing medical problems at the BioAsia 2023 event's start-up showcase.

PM Modi Inaugurates Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital in Mohali:

- A 300-bed Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Center have been inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Mullanpur, Mohali, Chandigarh.
- The Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre were constructed for a total of more than 660 crores by the Tata Memorial Centre, an aided institution run by the Union Department of Atomic Energy.
- The Bhabha Cancer Hospital's opening ceremony also included the presence of Punjab's Chief Minister, Bhagwant Mann.
- To assure the treatment of all cancer kinds in India, the hospital is outfitted with the most cutting-edge facilities, such as Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Mammography, Digital Radiography, and Brachytherapy.
- Chemotherapy, immunotherapy, bone marrow transplants, and surgery are the cancer treatments offered in this country.

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EAC-PM to launch the India@100 roadmap:

- The **Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100** will be unveiled in **New Delhi** by the **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)**.
- The **EAC-India@100 PM's report** acts as a road map for India's progress toward its centennial year and will guide and inform the nation's route to a better **income status by 2047**.
- The EAC-PM suggests policy goals, concepts, and approaches in India@100 to advance India's economy toward sustainability and resilience, founded on social development and shared prosperity.
- In the presence of Sherpa G-20 Amitabh Kant, Member EAC-PM Sanjeev Sanyal, and Chairman EAC-PM Dr. Bibek Debroy, the **EAC-PM report (India@100)** will be made public.

Karnataka will soon feature the country's first 3D-printed post office:

- The **first 3D-printed post office** in India is **expected to open in Bengaluru**, Karnataka, and it will only **cost around one-fourth as much as a conventional facility**.
- Within the next month, the new post office building at Cambridge Layout in Halasuru, Bengaluru, is anticipated to be finished utilizing 3D printing.
- The Post Office building is being built by **Larsen & Toubro**, the only business actively using **3D printing in construction in India**.
- The **Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council** of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and **IIT-Madras** have approved the **three-story, new post office's 3D printing**.

Centre Picks 75 Tribal Districts for TB Intervention Projects:

- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** and the **Central TB Division** of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** have now **decided on 75 tribal districts** where targeted interventions will be run over the next few months to **make them TB-free** after having run an active case-finding campaign to detect instances of TB among tribal populations over the past six months.
- This January, the Aashwasan Drive, which involved door-to-door screening in over 68,000 villages, **launched a campaign to find TB patients** throughout **174 tribal districts**.
- The government intends to deploy two officials per district and three officials in each of the state TB cells to oversee the execution of these planned interventions.

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- The **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** provided technical assistance and **Piramal Swasthya** provided implementation support for the **Tribal Affairs and Health Ministries' Aashwasan Campaign**.
- Compared to other demographic groups, tribal inhabitants are more susceptible to TB and other respiratory ailments, according to Tribal Affairs Ministry Joint Secretary **Naval Jit Kapoor**.

One Nation One Fertilizer is implemented by Gol:

- **One Nation One Fertilizer:** To unify fertilizer brands across the country, the government issued an order ordering all enterprises to **promote their products under the brand name "Bharat"**.
- According to the One Nation One Fertilizer order, all fertilizer bags containing urea, **di-ammonium phosphate (DAP)**, muriate of potash (MOP), or NPK will bear the brand names **"Bharat Urea," "Bharat DAP," "Bharat MOP," and "Bharat NPK,"** regardless of the company that manufactures them, whether in the public or private sector.
- One Nation One Fertilizer's plan has drawn criticism from the fertilizer industry, which claims it would **"destroy their brand value and market difference."**
- As part of the One Nation One Fertilizer initiative, under which the Central Government yearly subsidizes the fertilizer companies, the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojana (PMBJP)** brand name and logo must be shown on the bags.
- One Nation One Fertilizer's move may harm the fertilizer market since branding not only distinguish products but also help build a company's image among farmers.

Shri Bhupender Yadav took part in the "Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar" campaign:

- **Shri Bhupender Yadav**, a minister in the Union, took part in the **"Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar" campaign in Puducherry** to encourage environmental sustainability.
- The 75-day **"Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar"** campaign is a citizen-led initiative to **improve coastal and ocean health via group effort**.
- The **Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar** campaign will come to an end on September 17, 2022, on **International Coastal Cleanup Day**, which will commemorate the program's launch on July 5, 2022.

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- The Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar campaign aims to target lifestyle and changes in behavior that support environmental sustainability, through the Prime Minister's global initiative on the **"lifestyle for environment (LiFE) Movement,"** which calls for human-centric and collaborative efforts to boost sustainable development.
- During the minister's visit, **Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan**, the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, and **Thiru N. Rangaswamy**, the Chief Minister of Puducherry, were also present for the Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar campaign.

MoE hosted the Smart India Hackathon-2022:

- The **Ministry of Education** hosted the **Smart India Hackathon-2022**.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi engaged with the audience during the grand finale of the **Smart India Hackathon-2022 (SIH 2022)**.
- Through video conference, the prime minister addressed the pupils in attendance.
- The **Smart India Hackathon (SIH) Hardware** and the **Smart India Hackathon (SIH) Software** are the two editions for 2022.
- The grand finales for hardware and software were set for August 25–29 and August 25–26, respectively.
- In 2017, the inaugural Smart India Hackathon (SIH) was held.
- The Smart India Hackathon aims to promote a culture of product innovation and a problem-solving attitude among students throughout the nation by providing them with a forum to address some of the most significant challenges that we face every day.

NITI Aayog declared Haridwar as the best aspirational district in India:

- The holy city of Haridwar in Uttarakhand has been named the **greatest aspirational district** by the NITI Aayog based on five criteria.
- **Rakesh Ranjan**, the director of NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Program, publishes to the district collector of Haridwar and the chief secretary of Uttarakhand to inform them that the district has earned the right to an additional allocation of **Rs 3 crore** because it placed first in the **theme of basic infrastructure**.

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- Five essential criteria are used by the NITI Aayog-launched Aspirational District Programme to assess each district's success.
- These measures evaluate the block's socioeconomic status.
 - ✓ Health & Nutrition (30%)
 - ✓ Education (30%)
 - ✓ Agriculture & Water Resources (20%)
 - ✓ Financial Inclusion & Skill Development (10%)
 - ✓ Infrastructure (10%)

PM to inaugurate pedestrian-only 'Atal Bridge' on Sabarmati River:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will formally unveil the pedestrian-only "Atal Bridge" over the Sabarmati River in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- PM Modi is visiting for two days in his home state.
- Later, PM Modi went to the bridge on the spur of the moment.
- The Atal Bridge, according to a news release, connects the flower garden on the western end of the riverfront to the future arts and cultural center on the eastern end.
- Atal Bridge has a central section that is 14 meters broad and almost 300 meters long.
- The 300-meter Atal Bridge was built by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and is named after the late prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The Atal Bridge will connect the event space and floral garden on the river's western bank with the proposed arts and cultural center on its eastern bank.

PM Jan Dhan Yojana completes 8 years, Financial Inclusion Program:

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana has been in operation for eight years and has met all of its key objectives.
- PM Jan Dhan Yojana is a major financial inclusion initiative announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 28, 2014.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the Jan Dhan Yojana in his first Independence Day address following the 2014 election.

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- In eight years, PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has reached **462.5 million beneficiaries**, with deposits in these accounts expected to reach 1.73 trillion by August 10, 2022.
- PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is a National Mission financial inclusion program that **aims to bring comprehensive financial inclusion to all households in India.**

The first earthquake memorial in India is dedicated by Shri Narendra Modi:

- **At Bhuj in Gujarat, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated Smruti Van, the nation's first earthquake monument.**
- One-of-a-kind monument Smruti Van has the names of more than 12,000 persons who perished in the catastrophic earthquake that rocked this area in **January 2001.**
- Visitors may feel earthquake vibrations that are like them thanks to the earthquake simulator.
- At the event were **State BJP President C. R. Patil and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.**
- According to a Gujarat government source, the massive memorial is the **nation's first of its kind and spans 470 acres on Bhujio Hill, just outside of Bhuj.**
- It honors the spirit of resiliency in the wake of the earthquake on January 26, 2001, which claimed the lives of approximately 13,000 people and had its epicenter in Bhuj.

IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL NEWS

WHO Declares Monkeypox as a Global Public Health Emergency of International Concern

- The World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Mr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declared the **monkeypox outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).**
- The decision was justified, with cases in more than 70 countries, most of which are non-endemic, many with no clear epidemiological links and milder nonspecific clinical presentation.

About PHEIC :

- PHEIC is a formal declaration by the World Health Organization (WHO) of an extraordinary event that is determined to constitute a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease and to potentially require a coordinated international response.
- Under the **2005 International Health Regulations (IHR)**, states have a legal duty to respond promptly to a PHEIC.

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- The declaration is publicized by an **IHR Emergency Committee (EC)** of international experts.
- Between 2009 and 2022, there were **7 PHEIC declarations** ie :
 1. 2009 H1N1 (or swine flu) pandemic
 2. 2014 polio declaration
 3. 2013–2016 outbreak of Ebola in Western Africa
 4. 2015–16 Zika virus epidemic
 5. 2018–20 Kivu Ebola epidemic
 6. Ongoing COVID-19 pandemic
 7. Ongoing 2022 monkeypox outbreak.
- The recommendations are temporary and require reviews **every three months**

About WHO :

- Established: 7 April 1948
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Director General : Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- Parent Organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council

UNGA declares access to a clean and healthy environment a universal human right

- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** adopted a historic resolution declaring access to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, a universal human right.
- The final vote tally was **161** in favor of the resolution, with **8 countries abstaining** from the vote:
China, the Russian Federation, Belarus, Cambodia, Iran, Syria, Kyrgyzstan, and Ethiopia.

About the resolution :

- The resolution, based on a similar text adopted last year by the Human Rights Council, calls upon States, international organizations, and business enterprises to scale up efforts to ensure a healthy environment for all.
- It will help reduce environmental injustices, close protection gaps and empower people, especially those that are in vulnerable situations, including environmental human rights defenders, children, youth, women, and indigenous peoples
- One of the major results of the Stockholm conference was the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme.

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- In **October 2021**, the UN Human Rights Council recognized for the first time that having a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is a human right.
- The **1972 United Nations Conference on the environment in Stockholm** was the **first world conference** to make the **environment a major issue**.
- India has voted in favor of the resolution but dissociated itself from an operative paragraph of the text.

About UNGA :

- Established: 1945
- President: Abdulla Shahid
- India's permanent ambassador to UN: Ruchira Kamboj
- UN Secretary-General : António Guterres
- The UNGA is one of the **six principal organs of the United Nations (UN)**.

Bihar college astronomy lab enters on UNESCO heritage list

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has added a **106-year-old astronomical observatory at Langat Singh College in Bihar's Muzaffarpur** to its list of important endangered heritage observatories of the world.

About astronomical observatory :

- The observatory was built in **1916** in the **123-year-old college**, now affiliated with **Bhim Rao Ambedkar Bihar University**.
- In 1946, the college also installed a planetarium, the first in India, and the college itself.
- The observatory and planetarium functioned satisfactorily up to early 1970 but started declining gradually with time.
- **National Commission for History of Science member and Delhi University's former modern history professor JN Sinha** stated that his constant push to draw UNESCO's attention towards the observatory, the first of its kind in eastern India, finally bore fruit.

About UNESCO :

- Founded: 16 November 1945
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Director-General: Audrey Azoulay

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- Member States: 193
- UNESCO is a specialized agency of the **United Nations (UN)**.

Aim :

- To promote world peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences, and culture

India among leaders in annual renewable energy investment: UN report

- According to a **United Nations (UN)** report, 84 percent of nearly \$1 trillion of global investment in energy transition technologies in 2021 was deployed in China, India, Japan, the US, and Europe.
- The findings were presented in the **third brief** of the **Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG)** on **Food, Energy, and Finance**, which was released by **UN Secretary-General António Guterres** and **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan**.

About the report :

- The report mentions that **\$4 trillion-\$6 trillion** in annual investments will be required until **2030** to ensure equitable renewable energy transition.
- Since 2017, annual global energy-related investments have been **\$2 trillion-\$2.5 trillion**.
- Moreover, these investments are concentrated in China, India, Japan, the US, and Europe.
- The report stresses the need to double down on renewable energy sources to achieve the **net-zero goal**, tackle energy poverty, and boost and diversify the global energy mix.
- The report also mentions that the **World Food Programme** estimates that **345 million people** will be acutely food insecure in 2022 across **82 countries** due to the lingering effects of Covid-19 and the continuing Russian-Ukraine crisis & this will mean an increase of **47 million** acutely hungry people.
- It highlights the challenges & calls for a stable policy environment, providing long-term revenue certainty and a transparent grant of permits.

About United Nations :

- Headquarters: New York City
- Membership: 193 member states

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- The UN has **six principal organs**: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat.

Russia signs contract to supply Radio Equipments for 24 airports in India

- The Russian enterprise Scientific and Production Corporation “Radio technical Systems” (RTS) of Russia has signed a **large-scale contract** with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the **supply of radio equipment**.
- The Russian company will manufacture **34 sets of instrument landing systems (ILS)-734** for the modernization of 24 airports in India.
- According to the contract, the first part of landing systems ILS-734 must be shipped before **November 2022** & the payments within the transaction will be carried out in national currencies.
- The ILS 734 by NPO “RTS” development was certified by the **Interstate Aviation Committee**.
- The ILS- 734 system allows for the landing of equipped aircraft with a runway visual range of a minimum of 50 meters and a decision height of a minimum of 15 meters.
- The landing system is subject to increased requirements for the reliability and stability of the output parameters of the equipment.

Additional Info :

- CEO of Radio technical Systems: Aleksandr Dolmatov
- Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of India: Denis Alipov

About Russia :

- President: Vladimir Putin
- Prime minister: Mikhail Mishustin
- Capital: Moscow
- Currency: Russian ruble

About AAI :

- Founded: 1 April 1995
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Sanjeev Kumar

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- Around 137 airports, including 24 international airports come under the AAI.

India adopts joint statement on cooperation on global supply chains

- India has adopted the **United States Joint Statement on Cooperation on Global Supply Chains** which was released by the **USA Government & the 17 partner economies** during the **Virtual 2022 Supply Chain Ministerial Forum**.
- The partner economies include Australia, Brazil, Canada, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- For building collective long-term resilient supply chains based on international partnerships, all the partner countries aimed to follow various global supply chain principles including transparency, diversification, security, and sustainability.

Note :

- The Supply Chain Ministerial, hosted by **Secretary of State Blinken and Secretary of Commerce Raimondo**, was held virtually on **July 19-20, 2022**.

Nepal approves India's hydropower board to study, and develop the West Seti project

- **Nepal approved India's hydropower board to study and develop 1,200MW hydropower projects in western Nepal.**

About the West Seti project:

- The projects include **750MW West Seti Hydropower Project** and **450MW Seti River (SR-6)**, a total of 6 joint storage projects.
- The **Nepal Investment Board (NIB)**, the government body entitled to approve foreign investments, has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian developer **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Pvt Ltd**, a Government of India Enterprise, for conducting a feasibility study of the joint development projects.
- The NHPC Limited under India's Ministry of Power had submitted a proposal in May to develop the West Seti Hydropower Project.
- The decision was made during the **52nd meeting of the Nepal Investment Board** held in Kathmandu chaired by **Prime Minister Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba**.

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- The proposed dam site is located **82 km upstream** of the confluence of the Seti and Karnali rivers, forming part of the Ganges basin.
- The project sites are located at elevations ranging from **550 to 920 meters** and are spread across **six districts**.
- The estimated cost of the project, according to the Investment Board, is **USD 2.4 billion**.
- Also, the meeting decided to organize Sustainable Infrastructure Investment Forum 2022 in September 2022 in Kathmandu for promoting investment in sustainable infrastructure development in Nepal.

About Nepal:

- President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari
- Prime minister: Sher Bahadur Deuba
- Capital: Kathmandu
- Currency: Nepalese rupee

International Solar Alliance floats tender for 1 150 MW solar project in Cuba

- The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** in partnership with the government of **Cuba** has floated a tender for setting up an **1 150 MW solar project** in Cuba.
- State-owned **NTPC** is the project management consultant for ISA for setting up the project.

About the Project:

- The project is part of Cuba's plan to implement **2100 MW of solar projects**, reducing the reliance on expensive and polluting diesel generators and increasing its green energy portfolio.
- It also includes the building of **150 MW/150 MWh** of storage to support grid reliability.
- It is the **first in ISA's broader solar park program**, which seeks to support developing markets in structuring bankable, economic solar parks through technical support, transparent and competitive tendering, and formulating effective project agreements like PPAs, and implementation agreements.
- It is expected to follow the success of previous international projects, such as **Solar Park** and **Natural Gas IPPs**.
- **Request for qualification (RFQ)** has been floated on behalf of UNE by NTPC for the selection of an eligible list of participants.

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- The selected participants will be called for the final stage of the tender, i.e., Request for Proposal (RFP), where they will need to provide price bids and quantum of power capacity in MW.

About ISA :

- Established: 30 November 2015
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana, India
- Director General: Ajay Mathur
- Membership: 87 members of the UN

Objective :

- To work for efficient consumption of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- This initiative was first proposed by **Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** in a speech in November 2015 at Wembley Stadium.

About Cuba :

- Prime Minister : Manuel Marrero Cruz
- Capital : Havana
- Currency : Cuban peso

Singapore grants National Monument Status to Padang, where Netaji's famous Call 'Chalo Dilli' was immortalized

- The **Government of Singapore** has declared the iconic green site Padang, from where **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** gave the slogan of 'Delhi Chalo' in July 1943, as its **75th national monument** as the city-state celebrates its **57th National Day**.

About Padang :

- The Padang, meaning a field in **Malay**, was distinguished by its public nature, as **one of the only few open spaces** accessible to the public in the colonial period
- Padang is the **largest open field site in Singapore** popular for sporting events such as cricket, football, hockey, tennis, and lawn bowling.
- It is one of the oldest open spaces continuously used since the **1800s**.
- Because of its strong national, historical and social significance, the Padang is preserved and accorded the highest level of protection in Singapore under the **Preservation of Monuments Act**, stated the **National Heritage Board (NHB)**.

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Note :

- The Padang will be the **first green, open space** to join a list of 74 other national monuments in Singapore.
- **On August 9, 2022**, the country of **Singapore** celebrated its **57th National Day**

About Singapore :

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

British govt officially declares drought in parts of England

- The **British government** stated that **parts of southern, central, and eastern England** had officially moved into **drought status** after a **prolonged period** of hot and dry weather.
- The affected areas are:
 1. Devon and Cornwall
 2. Solent and South Downs
 3. Kent and south London
 4. Herts and north London
 5. East Anglia
 6. Thames
 7. Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire,
 8. The East Midlands.
- England suffered its driest **July 2022** since 1935, with **only 35%** of the average rainfall for the month, and parts of England and Wales are now in the middle of a four-day extreme heat alert.
- The last drought in England occurred in **2018**.

About England :

- Capital: London
- Currency: Pound sterling

UK becomes the first country to approve COVID-19 booster vaccine targeting Omicron strains

- The **United Kingdom (UK)** has become the **first country** to approve Moderna's "bivalent" **COVID-19 vaccine** that targets both the **original strain** of COVID-19 and the **newer Omicron variant**.

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- The **Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)** had approved the Moderna vaccine as a “sharpened tool” against the novel coronavirus after it was found to meet its standards of safety, quality and effectiveness.
- The UK’s independent **Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunization (JCVI)** will now advise on how this new vaccine should be rolled out as part of the country’s booster vaccine deployment program.
- The vaccine has also been submitted for approval with the authorities in **Australia, Canada,** and the **European Union (EU)**.

About Moderna :

- Founded: September 2010
- Headquarters: Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S
- President: Stephen Hoge
- CEO Stephane Bancel

About the UK :

- Prime minister: Boris Johnson
- Capital: London
- Currency: Pound sterling

India Nominates Garba to Be Inscribed On UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List

- The **Government of India (GoI)** has nominated the **dance form Garba** to be inscribed on **United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO)** intangible cultural heritage list.
- The Director of UNESCO announced that after the inclusion of **Durga Puja** as the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage representative in **2021**, India has now nominated Garba for 2022.
- The next meeting of UNESCO will be held in **November 2022**.
- A total of **14 elements from India** are inscribed on **UNESCO’S list of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Humanity**.
- Garba is a dance form which has originated in **Gujarat, India**.
- India was elected by UNESCO to serve on the distinguished **Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)**

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List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in India :

- Buddhist Chanting.
- Kalbelia.
- Chhau Dance.
- Koodiyattam.
- Kumbh Mela.
- Mudiyyett.
- Nawruz.
- Ramlila
- Sankirtana
- Ramman
- Traditional Brass and Copper Craft of Utensil making
- Vedic Chanting
- Durga Puja
- Yoga

About UNESCO :

- Founded: 16 November 1945
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Director General- Audrey Azoulay

Aim :

- To promote world peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences, and culture.

IMD, the Government of Japan, and UNDP launch a project to accelerate climate action in India

- India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Government of Japan, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced a new initiative to accelerate climate action in 10 states and Union Territories (UT) across India.
- The initiative will support Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to achieve net-zero emissions and ensure climate-resilient development.

Key Highlights :

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- Under the initiative, UNDP will work with IMD to promote **climate resilience** and the **Ministry of New Renewable Energy (MNRE)** to promote climate mitigation by:
- Deploying clean energy infrastructure and low-emission technologies in key sectors including **Transport, Health, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and Agriculture**.
- This includes solarizing **150 healthcare facilities, and 20 micro-enterprises, and installing 85 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations and 30 solar cold storage systems** across the **10 states**.
- Demonstrating resilient climate planning at the grassroots through climate information flow systems for **30 Gram Panchayats**.
- Promote green jobs and green entrepreneurship in sectors like **Renewable Energy** by providing skilling and training to 2000+ people.
- Japan has extended **USD 5.16 million** in climate grant to UNDP India for the project.
- This is part of Japan's global support to **23 countries** through UNDP's '**Climate Promise - From Pledge to Impact**' program for scaling up its support to turn NDCs into concrete action.
- The project will be rolled out in the states and Union Territories of **Bihar, Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Odisha, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh between 2022-23**.
- At the **COP26 summit in Glasgow in November 2021**, India pledged to cut the country's total projected carbon emission by **1 billion tonnes by 2030, install 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030, reduce the carbon intensity of the nation's economy by less than 45% by the end of the decade and net-zero carbon emissions by 2070**.

About IMD :

- Established: 1875
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Director General: Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra
- IMD is an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences of the GoI**.

About Japan :

- Prime Minister : Fumio Kishida
- Capital: Tokyo
- Currency: Japanese yen

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About UNDP :

- Established: 22 November 1965
- Headquarters: New York City
- Head: Achim Steiner
- UNDP is a **United Nations agency** tasked with helping countries **eliminate poverty** and **achieve sustainable economic growth** and **human development**.

Scotland becomes the first country in the world to make period products free for all

- **Scotland** has become the **first** in the world to **legally protect** the right to **access free period products** with a new law, the **Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act** in **November 2020**.
- The Scottish government already invested millions of pounds since **2017** to fund free period products in educational institutions
- The bill, which was passed unanimously in 2020, was introduced by Scottish Parliament lawmaker **Monica Lennon**, who had campaigned against "**period poverty**"

About the Law :

- Under the new law, schools, colleges, and universities as well as local government bodies must make a range of period products such as **tampons** and **sanitary pads** available for free in their bathrooms.
- A mobile phone app, **PickupMyPeriod** also helps people find the nearest place such as the local library or community center for picking up period products.

Additional Info :

- Period poverty is when those on **low incomes can't afford**, or access, suitable period products.
- **New Zealand** and **Kenya**, distribute period products for free in public schools.

About Scotland :

- First Minister: Nicola Sturgeon
- Deputy First Minister: John Swinney
- Capital: Edinburgh
- Currency: Pound sterling

India-Mauritius 3rd Joint Committee Meeting 2022 on SME Cooperation held in Delhi

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- The 3rd Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) 2022 between the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India (GoI), and Ministry of Business, Enterprises, and Cooperatives of the Republic of Mauritius for cooperation in the field of MSMEs were held in New Delhi, Delhi.
- The Indian side was led by Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), GoI, Shri Narayan Rane, and the Mauritius side was led by Union Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Republic of Mauritius, Shri Soomilduth Bholah.

2 MoUs Signed :

- During the Mauritius delegation's visit, two Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation have also been signed,
 1. MoU Signed between SME Mauritius Ltd. and Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII)- Ahmedabad in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
 2. MoU Signed between SME Mauritius Ltd. and National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Ni-MSME), an institute under the Ministry of MSME in New Delhi, Delhi.
- In the JCM 2022, both sides discussed potential areas of cooperation in various areas including
 - Exchange of best practices and experiences in the development of the MSME sector
 - Holding physical/virtual exhibitions/fairs
 - Technological cooperation
 - Encouraging B2B collaboration/tie-ups through B2B meets
 - Entrepreneurship development and training programs;
 - Collaboration in various sectors such as aromatherapy, food processing, and eco-friendly businesses.
- India & Mauritius's bilateral trade in goods rose from USD 690.02 million in 2019 - 20 to USD 786.72 million in 2021-22.

About Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises :

- Cabinet Minister: Narayan Rane
- Minister of State: Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

About Mauritius :

- Prime Minister: Pravind Kumar Jugnauth

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- Capital: Port Louis
- Currency: Mauritian rupee

Union Agriculture Minister inaugurated the Indo-Israel Center of Excellence for Vegetables

- The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, laid the foundation stone of the Indo-Israel Center of Excellence (CoE) for Vegetables in Chandauli Uttar Pradesh through video conferencing.
- The projects were inaugurated by the Ambassador of Israel in India, Dr. Ron Malka, Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, and Karnataka Chief Minister Shri B. S. Yediyurappa.
- The CoE in Kolar, Bagalkote, and Dharwad in Karnataka will implement advanced Israeli Agro-Technology tailored to local conditions.
- A CoE is an advanced & intensive agricultural farm that generates knowledge, demonstrates best practices, and trains farmers based on Israeli novel agro-technology tailored to the local conditions.
- Three CoE mangoes in Kolar, pomegranates in Bagalkot, and Vegetables in Dharwad were established in Karnataka under the Indo-Israel Agriculture Project (IIAP).

Note :

- Rice bowl of Uttar Pradesh - Chandauli district.
- Ambassador of Israel to India: Dr. Ron Malka

About Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare :

- Cabinet Minister: Narendra Singh Tomar
- Minister of State: Shobha Karandlaje, Kailash Choudhary

About Israel :

- President: Isaac Herzog
- Prime minister: Yair Lapid
- Capital: Jerusalem
- Currency: Israeli Shekel

Germany Launches World's First Hydrogen Train Fleet

- Germany has launched the world's first fleet of hydrogen-powered passenger trains.

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- The new locomotives are set to **replace a diesel fleet** in the state of Lower Saxony.
- The new fleet consists of **14 Coradia iLint hydrogen trains** made by the **French company Alstom** and operated by regional rail company **Lower Saxony Transport Authority (LNVG)**.
- In the project, Lower Saxony has invested **\$92 million** in an attempt to make its economy greener.

About the hydrogen-powered passenger trains :

- The new trains have the potential to save more than **422,000 gallons** of diesel fuel per year by running on hydrogen power.
- The trains have a range of **621 miles** and can travel at **speeds** of up to **140 km per hour (87 mph)**, though they will normally operate between **50 to 75 mph**
- The hydrogen filling station has already been established along the route, which runs between the towns of **Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven, Bremervoerde, and Buxtehude**.
- A gallon of burned diesel fuel produces about **22 pounds of CO₂**, which means the fleet could cut CO₂ emissions by up to **460 tons per year**.

About Germany :

- President: Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- Capital: Berlin
- Currency: Euro (€) (EUR)

India GABON Business Council launched on the National Day of Gabon

- **India GABON Business Council** was launched by the **Indian Economic Trade Organization (IETO)** & the **Embassy of GABON** to enhance the trade relationships between both **India & Gabon**.
- The MoU was signed by the **Charge D Affaires of the Gabon Embassy Josephine Patricia Ntyam- EHYA** & the **President of the IETO Dr. Asif Iqbal** in **New Delhi**.
- Both India and Gabon are currently serving as **non-permanent members** of the **UNSC (United Nations Security Council)**.
- The Bilateral trade between both nations reached **USD 1.12 billion** in 2021-22.
- Gabon was among the first countries to sign and ratify the **International Solar Alliance agreement**.

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Note :

- India is the **2nd largest destination** for **Gabonese exports**.

About Gabon :

- President : Ali Bongo Ondimba
- Prime Minister : Rose Christiane Raponda
- Capital : Libreville
- Currency : Central African CFA franc

Bangladesh & India signs consultancy contract for 2 railway projects

- **Bangladesh and India** signed **two contracts** for the **construction of a new broad-gauge line** between **Khulna-Darsana** and the conversion of a meter gauge line into a dual-gauge line between **Parbatipur and Kaunia** under the **Indian Line of Credit (LOC)**.
- The contract signing ceremony was held at the **Railway Ministry in Dhaka, Bangladesh**.

About Khulna-Darshana :

- The **126-kilometer long Khulna-Darshana broad gauge rail line** will have **147 bridges** over it including **4 Girder bridges** and **143 RCC box culvert bridges**.
- The project cost is **Taka 3506 crore** out of which **Taka 2689 crore** will come from the **Indian Line of Credit**.

About Parbatipur-Kaunia :

- The project for the conversion of the meter gauge line from **Parbatipur to Kaunia to a dual gauge line** will cover a distance of **57 kilometers**.
- It has seven railway stations as well as **47 bridges** including **14 girder bridges** and **33 box culvert bridges**.
- These projects will enhance rail connectivity in Bangladesh and have the potential to transform cross-border goods movement, boosting sub-regional growth.

Note :

- Railway Minister of Bangladesh: Md. Nurul Islam Sujan

About Bangladesh :

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- President: Abdul Hamid
- Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina
- Capital: Dhaka
- Currency: Taka

IMPORTANT MOUs & AGREEMENTS

India and Egypt signed MoU to build a green hydrogen factory:

- India and Egypt signed MoU to build a green hydrogen factory worth \$8 billion.
- An Indian Company has signed MoU with Egypt to build a green hydrogen factory in the **Suez Canal Economic Zone**.
- As per the MoU, **Indian ReNew Power Private Limited** will build a factory to produce 20,000 tonnes of green hydrogen a year.
- This factory will be built with investments worth \$8 billion.
- ReNew Power is India's largest renewable energy company in terms of operational capacity.
- It is based in **Gurgaon, Haryana**. **Sumant Sinha** is its CEO.
- Green hydrogen is produced by electrolyzing water and using electricity generated from renewable energy sources such as wind or solar.

RIL, Ola Electric Mobility, and Rajesh Exports have signed the Program Agreement for ACC Battery Storage:

- **Reliance Industries Ltd's (RIL) New Energy arm, Ola Electric Mobility Private Limited, and Rajesh Exports Limited** are the three companies that have signed the **Program Agreement** under **(PLI) Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage**.
- These companies will receive incentives under **India's ₹18,100 crore program**.
- In addition to the capacities allocated by the Ministry of Heavy Industries under the PLI Program, private players are expected to create battery manufacturing capacity to the tune of ~95 GWh.
- The companies were among four bidders selected by the government in March to build a total of **50-gigawatt hours (Gwh)** of battery storage capacity under a production-linked incentive program.

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- A total of 10 bids were received from companies with a manufacturing capacity of 128 GWh under the PLI Scheme of ACC Battery Storage.
- Under the ACC PLI program, the manufacturing facility would have to be set up within two years.
- The incentive will be disbursed thereafter for five years on the sale of batteries manufactured in India.

NIESBUD and HUL signed an MoU for developing entrepreneurial skills among the youth:

- To inculcate a culture of innovation, imagination, and proactiveness among youngsters, **National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD)** and **Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for developing **entrepreneurial skills among the youth** and identifying other **aspects for mutual collaboration**.
- The alliance will further enhance employment generation and create sustainable livelihood opportunities, giving a major boost to nano and micro-entrepreneurship advancement in the country.
- **HUL is also contributing INR 63,00,000** to NIESBUD to support the **Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP)** Project, which aims at strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem, and bringing in better market connectivity and inclusion of marginalized sections of the society.
- The National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development is a premier organization of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- Hindustan Unilever Limited is a consumer goods company headquartered in Mumbai, India. It is a subsidiary of Unilever, a British company.
- **Mr. Sanjiv Mehta**, Chairman & Managing Director of Hindustan Unilever Limited.

Indian Oil signed an MoU with NTCA for transcontinental relocation of 'Cheetah' in its historical range in India:

- Indian Oil signed an MoU with **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** for the **transcontinental relocation of 'Cheetah' in its historical range in India**.
- This is in continuation with the MoU signed between the Government of India and the Government of the Republic of Namibia on wildlife conservation and sustainable biodiversity utilization, for establishing the cheetah into the historical range in India.

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- **Indian Oil will be contributing Rs.50.22 crore in 4 years** for the project components viz. Cheetah Introduction, its Habitat Management & Protection, Eco Development, Staff Training, and Veterinary Healthcare.
- Indian Oil is the first corporate which has come forward to support **“Project Cheetah” under CSR**, as the project has not only national importance but is also essential for balancing the ecosystem.
- Cheetah has a very special significance for the national conservation ethic and ethos.
- Understanding this, Indian Oil is aiding the cause of bringing the Cheetah back to India, which would have equally important conservation ramifications.
- It may be noted that Indian Oil adopted Indian Single Horned Rhino as its mascot last year and, since then, has been at the forefront of India's Rhino conservation endeavors.

Key Points:

- Under this project, a source population of 8-10 Cheetahs will be flown in from Namibia and South Africa and will be introduced at Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
- It is a national project involving the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Govt. of India, and the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.
- NTCA is the nodal agency authorized by MoEF&CC for funding, supervision, and hand holding.
- Indian Oil will contribute its CSR funds to NTCA, which shall coordinate with the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh and other agencies involved in the project.

Arunachal Pradesh signed an MoU with NITI Aayog for school education transformation:

- **Arunachal Pradesh** government signed a tripartite MoU with NITI Aayog for school education transformation.
- The main aim of MoU is to bring **large-scale transformation in school education in Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The MoU is a three-year partnership for improving the learning outcome of students across more than 3,000 government schools.
- The school education transformation project will be implemented under the **NITI Aayog's Development Support Services for States (DSSS)** initiative.

Development Support Services for States (DSSS):

- It aims to build institutional and organizational capacities of State and State-level institutions.

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- It establishes the Centre-State partnership model for cooperation.

Agreement for Research Collaboration Between NPCI and IIT Kanpur:

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur**, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that paves the way for the **sharing of innovative ideas and cooperation on the development of domestic digital payment solutions.**
- The partnership will also help to improve cybersecurity protections for the products and services offered by NPCI and its affiliates.
- The MoU would encourage collaboration between NPCI and IIT Kanpur on a range of projects.

Key Points:

- In-depth educational workshops and lectures on cybersecurity and the most recent advancements in **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Security Product Roadmaps, and Distributed ledger technologies (DLT)** will be given to NPCI staff members with the assistance of this cooperation.
- On the other side, NPCI will offer internship opportunities to IIT Kanpur students, providing them with the crucial experience of working on actual NPCI projects.
- The domain-specific expertise and abilities of IIT Kanpur students will speed up NPCI's ability to meet evolving needs for customer-focused solutions.

Indian Navy and IISc Bengaluru sign an MOU for collaborative aviation research:

- The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** and the **Indian Navy** have signed an MoU to collaborate on **aviation research and development** and to step up the **Indian Navy's self-reliance efforts in line with the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat.**
- According to a statement from the Bengaluru-based college, the signed MoU provides the **Indian Navy with a legal framework for contact with the appropriate IISc faculty** members and will facilitate joint research projects in areas of mutual interest.

Key Points:

- The **aerospace/aeronautical engineering industry** will be the focus of the collaboration areas mentioned in this agreement, which also include design and instructional technology.
- The course will concentrate on some specializations, including propulsion and propulsion systems, steel technology, metallurgy, and material sciences, corrosion science, systems and

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controls, instrumentation and sensors, environmental science and engineering, energy science and engineering, management, industrial engineering, and operational research, nanotechnology and MEMS, artificial intelligence, data analytics, and machine learning.

- The collaboration would also encourage frequent communication between Indian Navy authorities and IISc academic members.

Amazon India and Indian Railways have an agreement that will improve delivery

- To improve its delivery services in the nation, Amazon India has partnered with the Railway of India.
- Amazon India will be able to ship items on more than 110 intercity routes thanks to this cooperation, guaranteeing one- to two-day delivery for its customers.
- In 2019, Amazon and the Indian Railways started collaborating.
- According to the corporation, its transit lanes have risen fivefold.
- Amazon is one of the enablers for the company to offer 1-day and 2-day delivery promises to customers in the hinterlands of the country.
- It is now working with Railway on more than 110 inter-city routes.
- Amazon India ferries customer packages to cities and towns such as Jharsuguda, Ratnagiri, Kurnool, Nanded, Bareilly, Bokaro, and Rudrapur among others.

About Amazon

- Founder: Jeff Bezos
- CEO: Andy Jassy
- HQ: Washington, United States
- Formed: 5 July 1994.

K-DISC and LinkedIn Sign an Agreement to Promote Employability:

- The ICT Academy of Kerala (ICTAK) and the Kerala Development and Innovation Strategy Council (K-DISC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with LinkedIn, the biggest professional network in the world, as part of the Connect Career to Campus initiative (CCC).
- With this cooperation among Kerala's young to find appropriate employment utilizing LinkedIn, the Kerala government hopes to improve employability skills.

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- At the CCC campaign's launch ceremony, the MoU was **signed** and exchanged in front of the chief minister **Pinarayi Vijayan**, the ministers of labor and general education V. Sivankutty, higher education R. Bindu, LSGD M.V. Govindan, and MLA Kadakampally Surendran.
- The state government says that **students would have access to a range of goods and services via LinkedIn.**
- LinkedIn Insights specially selected LinkedIn learning courses, and LinkedIn jobs are some of the available goods and services.
- The pupils can build their online professional brands with the aid of LinkedIn.
- The Executive Vice Chairperson of K-DISC, Dr. K.M. Abraham, made sure that the students would receive the most current, cutting-edge, and industry-relevant courses possible.

Microsoft has partnered with MSDE and CBC to enhance the functional computer literacy of civil servants:

- **Microsoft** has partnered with the **Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), and Capacity Building Commission (CBC)** to enhance the functional **computer literacy** of nearly 2.5 million **civil servants of the Central government.**
- The project -- **Capacity Building by MSDE in Microsoft Digital Productivity Skills** -- will digitally empower them to provide efficient and effective citizen-centric services to the vulnerable and underprivileged sections of society.
- This initiative will not only drive more productivity but will also enable ease of doing business with more digital solutions.
- As part of the collaboration, Microsoft will develop an online, self-paced learning course on **Microsoft Office 365 digital productivity suite offerings for MSDE**, enabling MSDE to provide digital skills training to the officials in central government ministries and departments.
- The courses will be created under two categories -- **Beginners and Advanced** courses of 12 hours duration each -- and the learners would be enabled with access to the Advanced course after receiving the certificate of completion in the Beginners course.

NLCIL has signed an MoU with APDCL to develop solar power projects:

- Public sector power generator **NLC India (NLCIL)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Assam Power Distribution Company (APDCL)** to develop solar power projects.

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- The MoU between Tamil Nadu-based NLCIL and APDCL, wholly owned by the Assam government, is for setting up a joint venture company with **equity participation of 51% by NLCIL and 49% by APDCL to develop 1,000 MW solar projects in Assam.**
- NLCIL operationalizes mining along with a power generation capacity of 6,061 MW, including a renewable energy capacity of 1421.06 MW with 1,370.06 MW of solar and 51 MW of wind-based power generation.
- NLCIL is the first CPSE to cross 1 GW capacity in solar power generation and is also a member.
- The establishment of this solar project will act as a stepping stone for NLCIL to achieve its ambitious plans of having a capacity of around 17,171 MW, **including 6,031 MW of renewable energy, by 2030.**

NHIDCL and the National Skill Development Corporation have signed an MOU to facilitate collaboration in skill development initiatives:

- The **National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation and the National Skill Development Corporation** have signed an agreement to **facilitate collaboration in skill development initiatives.**
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) provides a formal basis for interaction between NHIDCL and NSDC and will play a significant role in realizing the aims and objectives of the Prime Minister's skill development program.
- The purpose of this MoU is to establish the basis of **collaboration between NHIDCL and NSDC**, and to take up multiple initiatives contributing toward making India the Skill Capital of the World.
- The **National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited** is a fully owned company of the **Government of India, set up in 2014**, and is responsible for the management of a network of National Highways.
- National Skill Development Corporation is a not-for-profit public limited company incorporated on July 31, 2008, under section 25 of the **Companies Act, 1956.**
- NSDC was set up by the Ministry of Finance as a **Public Private Partnership model.**

IIT Kanpur and BHEL signed an MoU to boost opportunities in the Indian Defence and Aerospace sectors:

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- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly work on the emerging opportunities in the **Indian Defence and Aerospace sectors**.
- Both parties agreed in principle to co-operate, pursue research & development, and collaborate in manufacturing and supplying components, sub-assemblies, and systems or equipment in mutually agreed areas of interest to address **opportunities in the Indian Defence and Aerospace sectors**.
- A working group of members from both organizations will be formed to realize the major goals envisioned under the MoU.
- The MoU is envisioned in the line of 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives.

MoU was signed between the Ministry of Ayush and MeitY for providing technical support:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the **Ministry of Ayush and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** for providing technical support to the **Ministry of Ayush for the digitalization of the Ayush Sector** under the Ayush Grid project for **3 years**.
- This MoU is a continuation of the earlier MoU, which was signed in the year 2019.
- Ministry of Ayush has conceptualized the '**Ayush Grid**' Project, as part of the Digital India Program, which leverages 'Information and Technology to transform operational efficiency, improve service delivery and enhance the quality of services.
- As per the earlier signed MoU, organizations under MeitY like NeGD supported the development of Ayush Sanjivani mobile application, Monitoring dashboard, BISAG-N for development of Ayush GIS, Ayush education related modules, DIC for development of Ayush Information Hub, website of the Ministry, Ayusoft, C-DAC for imparting training to Ayush doctors.

Odisha signed MOU with NIOT Chennai to undertake climate resilient protection measures:

- **National Institute of Ocean Technology, (NIOT) Chennai** will undertake **climate resilient protection measures** to save the life and property of people of **coastal Odisha from natural disasters**.
- An MoU in this regard was signed between **NIOT and Odisha government**.

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- NIOT under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India is a premier Institute in the country specializing in the **field of Ocean Engineering and Coast-line protection**.
- It will also work for saline embankments, assisting the supervision, training, and capacity building of engineers.
- The inhabitants of six coastal districts of the State —**Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, and Ganjam** will be benefited from it, Garg said, adding this shall be a milestone in **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** in the coastal areas of the State.
- Odisha has a vast coastline of about **480 km in length** and the coastal area is exposed to natural disasters.
- Cyclones cause high tidal surges with very high wind speed, resulting in loss of lives and properties.
- The government has planned to take up climate-resilient coastal protection measures, raising and strengthening saline embankments using the latest technology available in the country as a permanent and sustainable solution.

NBCC Ltd has signed an agreement with the External Affairs Ministry to redevelop a housing complex in central Delhi:

- State-owned **NBCC Ltd** has signed an agreement with the **External Affairs Ministry** to redevelop a **housing complex in central Delhi** for Rs 175 crore.
- The tentative cost of the project is Rs 175 crore, according to a regulatory filing.
- **NBCC has signed another MoU with Aligarh Smart City Ltd** for providing 'PMC (Project Management and Consultancy) services for the project 'Development & Modernisation of Infrastructure at Naurangilal College, SH: Sports facilities.
- The estimated **cost is around Rs 50 crore**.
- It has also signed MoU with the **National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI)** for 'Demolition and construction of NCCE Hostel building at NCUI complex'.
- The tentative cost for this project is **Rs 33 crore**.
- In a separate filing, NBCC secured the **total business of Rs 83.12 crore in July 2022**.

The government of Odisha signed an agreement with NIOT to protect its coastline:

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- The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) in Chennai and the government of Odisha have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to safeguard coastal regions from different natural disasters including floods, cyclones, soil erosion, high tide, etc.
- Every year, natural disasters strike the coastal regions of Odisha as a result of climate change.
- The program will have an impact on seven districts: Ganjam, Puri, Khordha, Kendrapada, Bhadrak, Baleswar, and Jagatsinghpur.
- This will help these districts to get technological knowledge and design from the NIOT, Chennai, for coastal area protection.
- The districts have already faced cyclones like Phailin, Hudhud, Titli, Amphan, Bulbul, Yash, Gulab, Jawad, etc., in the past years.

Paytm has partnered with Samsung authorized stores across India to facilitate smart payments:

- Leading digital payments and financial services, Paytm has partnered with Samsung authorized stores across India to facilitate smart payments as well as Paytm Postpaid (Buy Now, Pay Later) at their retail outlets through the deployment of PoS devices.
- With this partnership, Paytm will enable consumers to make digital payments seamlessly at Samsung Authorized stores spread across the country.
- Now, consumers purchasing Samsung devices from laptops, smartphones to television sets, smart watches, refrigerators, and more - from any authorized store in the country will be able to pay via a host of flexible payment options offered by Paytm including- Paytm UPI, Paytm Wallet, Paytm Postpaid and also all major debit cards, credit cards, and prepaid cards.
- Consumers can easily opt for Paytm Postpaid, which is offered in association with financial partners, and get a monthly credit limit of up to Rs 60,000.
- In addition to Paytm Postpaid, consumers can opt for low-cost personal loans up to Rs 2 lakh - offered by Paytm's financial institution partners - to purchase goods.

MasterCard tie-up with badminton players to promote digital payments in India:

- Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, and Chirag Shetty, all badminton players, have been named brand ambassadors for Mastercard in India.

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- The new ambassadors, who have won the prestigious **Thomas Cup 2022** and the **Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in 2022**, will work with Mastercard to raise awareness of the security, convenience, and safety of digital payments in India.
- The **RBI's initiatives and Prime Minister Modi's vision of a digital India** are both supported by this relationship.
- Anirban Lahiri serves as a brand ambassador for Mastercard, which earlier this year added Shiv Kapur to its elite group of golfers.
- In addition to badminton, **Mastercard has significant investments** in a variety of sports, including tennis, cricket, soccer, and e-sports.

About Mastercard:

- Founded: 16 December 1966
- Headquarters: New York, United States
- CEO: Michael Miebach
- Executive Chairman: Ajay Banga.

TCS partnership with the five-star bank to offer hyper-personalized customer experience:

- **A Financial Institutions, Inc.** subsidiary named "**Five Star Bank**" and **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** have teamed up to embark on a **digital transformation project**.
- Using the **TCS Client Intelligence & Insights (CI&I)** analytics platform, this alliance allows it to assess loan risk and provide highly customized customer experiences.
- TCS will make use of the real-time contextual engagement tools offered by the **AI-powered CI&I platform** to engage customers in a more individualized way across all channels and enable the bank to get insights into attrition blind spots.

About Tata Consultancy Services:

- CEO: Rajesh Gopinathan
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1 April 1968.

IRCTC & BSF signs MoU to ensure safety and security of booking data, other facilities:

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- **The Border Security Force (BSF) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to ensure the safety and security of booking data for the troops of India's border guarding force via its air e-ticket service.**
- The agreement will provide authorized BSF workers with extra baggage, lounge access, freight, and reduced cancellation and rescheduling fees.
- This service will offer a special web gateway with a **60-day credit option.**
- With increased luggage, lounge, and cargo space, as well as lower cancellation or rescheduling fees for authorized BSF workers, this internal air booking system, will guarantee the security and protection of booking data.
- The MoU would help the BSF, which protects the **4,096-kilometer border between India and Bangladesh and the 3,323-kilometer border between India and Pakistan**, by giving its employees improved facilities.

About Border Security Force:

- Director General: Pankaj Kumar Singh
- Founded: 1 December 1965
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India.

NDDB signed an MoU with the Union Territory of Ladakh to manage the entire operations of the Ladakh Milk Federation

- **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) signed a tripartite MoU with the Union Territory of Ladakh and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) by which it will manage the entire operations of Ladakh Milk Federation for five years and implement a structured dairy development program for the region.**
- On this occasion, the Chairman of NDDB reiterated the continued focus of NDDB on the regions where the dairy sector is yet to be developed to significantly contribute to the livelihoods of the rural households.
- IDMC, the wholly owned subsidiary company has already completed the refurbishment and upgradation of the milk processing plant, Leh which will be soon operationalized.
- The National Dairy Development Board is a **statutory body set up by the Parliament of India Act.**

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- It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying of the Government of India.
- The main office is in Anand, Gujarat with regional offices throughout the country
- Founded: 1965, Founder: Verghese Kurien, Meenesh Shah of Chairman, NDDB.

NPCI has signed an MoU with PayXpert for acceptance of the payment solutions in the UK:

- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has signed an MoU with PayXpert for acceptance of the payment solutions in the UK.
- The collaboration will make the Indian payment solutions available in the UK on all PayXpert's Android point-of-sale (POS) devices for in-store payments.
- PayXpert would offer QR code payments via Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and later integrate RuPay card payments.
- The development comes on the back of the Indian government's effort to enable the adoption of UPI and RuPay cards in other countries.
- The NPCI has also signed similar MoUs for acceptance of UPI in France, the UAE, Singapore, and Nepal.

Key Points:

- For the uninitiated, the UPI and the RuPay Card were developed by the NPCI, which enabled one of the most significant evolutions in the digital payments ecosystem in the country.
- Founded in 2019, UK-based PayXpert claims to have over 25 payment methods, processing in 100 different currencies with over 650 clients in the UK, Spain, France, and Taiwan.
- UPI transactions in India crossed the 6 Bn mark in July 2022 as NPCI processed 628 Cr transactions worth INR 10.63 Lakh Cr in the month.
- Total UPI transaction volume in 2022 stood at INR 67.21 Lakh Cr (\$850 Bn) till July end.

IREDA and MAHAPREIT signed a MoU to provide loans for green energy projects:

- A memorandum of understanding was signed by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) and the Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology Ltd. (MAHAPREIT), a fully owned subsidiary of MPBCDC (49% owned by the Government of India and 51% owned by the Government of Maharashtra).

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- IREDA will provide MAHAPREIT with financing options for the renewable energy projects that will be developed for public utilities, local governments, and the infrastructure of renewable energy parks.
- IREDA will also do techno-financial due diligence on MAHAPREIT's initiatives involving renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation.
- It will help to assist the Indian government in achieving its goal of obtaining 50% of its energy from non-fossil fuels by 2030.

Godrej Agrovet signed an MOU with Assam, Manipur, and Tripura for Palm Oil:

- An MoU was signed between the governments of Assam, Manipur, and Tripura and Godrej Agrovet, a diversified agribusiness conglomerate, to expand and promote oil palm cultivation in the region as part of the National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm effort.
- The collaboration between Godrej Agrovet and the state governments would open up new opportunities for the growth of oil palm plantations in these states and farmer support.
- The Agreements support Godrej Agrovet's long-term objective to double farmer income and support the increase of oil palm output in a sustainable manner to be the driving force behind India's oil mission.
- Godrej Agrovet has more than 65,000 acres of palm oil grown around the country.
- Godrej Agrovet wants to increase this to 100,000 acres in the ensuing years.

Jharkhand Govt Will Sign MoU With British High Commission To Provide Overseas Scholarship:

- The government of Jharkhand and The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), British High Commission, New Delhi will enter into a partnership to award the Chevening Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Scholarship to five meritorious scholars from ST/SC, OBC, and minorities community.
- To bring to light the joint vision of the State Government and The Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO), British High Commission, New Delhi to provide excellent educational opportunities to the leaders and change-makers of tomorrow, an MoU will be signed.
- universities of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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- Building upon this the State Government has decided to widen the scope of this scholarship by collaborating with **The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), British High Commission, New Delhi.**
- Under the umbrella of this MoU, a maximum of five scholars shall be selected every academic year for the prestigious **Chevening Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Scholarship.**

Royal Enfield tie-up with UNESCO to promote the cultural heritage of India:

- The **Intangible Cultural Heritage of India**, starting with the Himalayas, is being promoted and protected by **Royal Enfield in collaboration with UNESCO** (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization).
- The event is designed to be a hands-on and imaginative display of **Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)** activities in the **Western Himalayas and the North Eastern area.**
- This entails a panel discussion, a movie screening, a performance, and a lecture demonstration.
- Eminent creatives, including **Adil Hussain, Peter D'Ascoli, Sonam Dubal, Rita Banerji, Mallika Viridi, Tsewang Namgail, Yangdup Lama, Nilza Wangmo, and Anumitra Ghosh,** will participate in the four-day event.
- Also appearing are luminaries in the social development field.

Hero Electric Partners with Jio-BP for Charging & Battery swapping:

- An Indian manufacturer of electric scooters, **Hero Electric**, has announced a collaboration with **Jio-BP** to offer EV charging and battery swapping services in India.
- Customers of the manufacturer will have access to **Jio-infrastructure BP's** for charging and **battery changing** thanks to the cooperation between Hero electric and the latter.
- **Jio-BP**, a joint venture between **British oil major BP and Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries,** will launch in 2020.
- In addition to developing solutions for a seamless customer experience on **the Hero Electric and Jio-BP apps,** the companies.
- Currently, **Jio-BP has installed charging and switching stations** throughout the nation under the **Jio-BP pulse brand.**
- Customers may use the **Jio-BP pulse app** to locate any nearby station.

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- Currently, Hero Electric sells more than 750 products and provides service in outlets throughout the nation.
- Additionally, Hero has sold over 4.5 lakh electric two-wheelers.
- Hero Electric wants to revolutionize the Indian e-mobility industry and provide its clients with the greatest EVs available in the country.

IMPORTANT MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

HDFC to fully acquire venture capital arm HVCL by buying shares from SBI

- The Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) will acquire its venture capital subsidiary HDFC venture capital limited (HVCL) by buying out the State Bank of India's 19.5 percent stake in the company.
- HDFC holds 80.50 percent equity share capital of HVCL and the remaining shares are held by the State Bank of India (SBI).
- On July 29, 2022, HDFC entered into a share purchase agreement (SPA) with SBI for the acquisition of 97,500 equity shares of HVCL representing 19.50 percent of its paid-up share equity capital, at a consideration of Rs 10 per share
- The acquisition is expected to be completed within 14 days from the date of execution of the SPA or by August 12, 2022.

About HDFC :

- Founded: 1977
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Deepak Parekh
- Vice Chairman & CEO: Keki Mistry
- Managing Director: Renu Sud Karnad

About HVCL :

- Incorporated: October 2004.
- HVCL is an investment manager of HDFC Property Fund.
- Post the proposed acquisition of shares, HVCL would become a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Corporation.

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CCI approves the acquisition of 50.1% of the equity share capital of SCIPL by RSBVL

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves the acquisition of 50.1% of the equity share capital of Sanmina-SCI India Private Limited (SCIPL) by Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited (RSBVL).
- RIL is a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL).
- Sanmina Corporation and RSBVL have inked an agreement to create a joint venture through investment in Sanmina's existing Indian entity (Sanmina SCI India).
- RSBVL is set to invest ₹1,670 crores in the JV and hold the majority stake.
- The JV will prioritize high technology infrastructure hardware, for growth markets, and across industries such as communications networking (5G, cloud infrastructure, hyper-scale data centers), medical and healthcare systems, industrial and cleantech, and defense and aerospace.
- Also, the JV is expected to create a state-of-the-art 'Manufacturing Technology Center of Excellence.

About SCIPL :

- SCIPL is an indirect subsidiary of Sanmina Corporation, a Fortune 500 company headquartered in San Jose, California, USA.
- Sanmina is a global provider of integrated manufacturing solutions, components, products and repair, logistics, and after-market services.

About CCI :

- Established: 14 October 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Ashok Kumar Gupta
- Secretary : P K Singh
- The CCI is the chief national competition regulator in India.
- It is a statutory body within the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Bank of Baroda to divest up to 12.5% stake in insurance arm IndiaFirst

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) will divest up to a 12.5% stake in the insurance arm IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company (IFLIC) through an offer for sale in the initial public offer (IPO) of the insurer or any other mode.

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- However, BoB's shareholding in the life insurance subsidiary will not fall below **51 percent**.
- BoB acquired a **21 percent stake** in the insurance company following a 'right of the first offer (ROFO) by Union Bank of India.
- BoB's holding in the company now stands at **65 percent from 44 percent earlier**.

About Bob :

- Founded: 20 July 1908
- Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat, India
- MD & CEO: Sanjiv Chadha
- It is the fourth largest nationalized bank in India.

About IFLIC :

- Founded: 16 November 2009
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Ms.R.M.Vishakh
- IFLIC is a joint venture of India's public sector banks (Bank of Baroda (65%) and Union Bank of India (9%), and the UK's financial and investment company, Legal & General (26%).

CCI approves Composite Scheme of Arrangement and Amalgamation between Shriram Group Companies

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the **Composite Scheme of Arrangement and Amalgamation between Shriram Group Companies under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002**.
- The proposed combination involves a composite scheme of arrangement and amalgamation (Scheme) between Shri Lekha Business Consultancy Private Limited (SBCPL), Shriram Financial Ventures (Chennai) Pvt. Ltd (SFVPL), Shriram Capital Limited (SCL), Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited (STFC), Shriram City Union Finance Limited (SCUF), Shriram LI Holdings Pvt Ltd (SLIH), Shriram GI Holdings Pvt. Ltd (SGIH) and Shriram Investment Holdings Ltd (SIHL).

The salient features of the Scheme are as under:-

- The amalgamation of SBCPL with SCL
- The demerger of the undertaking from SCL, carrying on the business of Financial Services, and the transfer and vesting thereof into SIHL

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- The demerger of undertakings from SCL carrying on the businesses of a) Life Insurance and b) General Insurance, and the transfer and vesting of the same into a) SLIH), and b) SGIH respectively
- The amalgamation of SCL (with its remaining undertaking and investments) with STFC
- The amalgamation of SCUF with STFC.

CCI clears Rs 4,500 crore deal between Bandhan Fin Holdings-led consortium & IDFC

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the proposed **Rs 4,500 crore deal** wherein the **Bandhan Financial Holdings-led consortium** will buy stakes in **IDFC Asset Management and IDFC AMC Trustee**.
- The consortium includes private equity firm Chrys Capital and Singapore's sovereign fund GIC.
- The transaction includes the acquisition of a **99.96% stake** in IDFC Asset Management Company Limited (IDFC AMC) and a **100% stake** in IDFC AMC Trustee Company Limited (IDFC Trustee) by Bandhan Financial Holdings Limited (BFHL), Lathe Investment Pte. Ltd. (Lathe), Tangerine Investments Limited (CC Entity 1) and Infinity Partners (CC Entity 2).
- The stakes would be acquired by **Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd, Lathe Investment Pte. Ltd, Tangerine Investments Ltd, and Infinity Partners**.
- IDFC AMC is the asset management company of IDFC Mutual Fund which operates a portfolio management business and IDFC Trustee is a trustee company of IDMF.
- Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bandhan Financial Services Ltd and the promoter of private sector lender Bandhan Bank Ltd.
- The lathe is wholly owned by Singapore-based GIC Ventures Pvt Ltd and Tangerine Investments is a subsidiary of Chrys Capital Group while Infinity Partners is a partnership firm.

Uber Sells 7.8 % Stake in Zomato For Rs 3,088 Crore

- **American ride-hailing giant Uber** offloaded **61.2 crore shares** of online food delivery aggregator **Zomato Ltd** for **Rs 3,088 crore** through an open market transaction.
- Uber BV sold **61,21,99,100 shares** in Zomato, amounting to a **7.8 percent stake**.
- The shares were disposed of at an average price of **Rs 50.44 apiece**, taking the transaction value to **Rs 3,087.93 crore**.

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- Fidelity Investment Trust Fidelity Series Emerging Markets Fund and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Ltd picked up 5,44,38,744 and 4,50,00,000 shares of the company, respectively.

About Uber Technologies :

- Founded: March 2009
- Headquarters: San Francisco, California, United States
- Chairman: Ronald Sugar
- CEO: Dara Khosrowshahi
- Uber Technologies, Inc. (Uber) is American mobility as service provider, that allows users to book a car and a driver to transport them in a way similar to a taxi.
- Uber is the **second biggest single shareholder in Zomato after Info Edge.**

LIC offloads a 2% stake in Mahindra & Mahindra for ₹2,222.49 crore

- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has sold 2 percent of its shareholding in automaker Mahindra & Mahindra for about Rs 2,222.49 crore
- The shares were sold through open market transactions during the period from **December 21, 2020, to August 8, 2022.**
- After the sale, the LIC holding in the passenger cars and utility vehicles company decreased from **8.430 percent to 6.421 percent.**
- The average cost of **2,49,73,233 shares sold, was Rs 889.95 crore.**
- Under **Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) norms**, listed companies are required to intimate the stock exchanges when their shareholding in an entity changes by 2 percent or more.

About LIC :

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

About Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd :

- Founded: 2 October 1945
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- Chairman: Anand Mahindra
- MD & CEO: Dr. Anish Shah

ADIA to invest Rs 665 cr in Aditya Birla Health Insurance for a 9.99% stake

- Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) will be investing Rs 655 crore for a 9.99% stake in conglomerate Aditya Birla health insurance Company Limited (ABHICL).
- The transaction has been approved by the board of directors of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL).
- Out of a 9.99% stake, Aditya Birla Capital will hold a 45.91% stake and Momentum Metropolitan Holdings will have a 44.10% stake in Aditya Birla Health Insurance.

About ADIA :

- Founded: 1976
- Headquarters: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- Managing Director: Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

About ABHICL :

- Founded: 2016
- Commenced operations: October 2016
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO: Mayank Bathwal
- Aditya Birla Health Insurance is a 51:49 joint venture between Aditya Birla Capital and Momentum Metropolitan Strategic Investments (Pty) Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of South Africa-based Momentum Metropolitan Holdings Ltd.
- The company plans to use this capital to drive its growth in the health insurance market in India.

Competition Commission of India approves merger of HDFC Bank & HDFC Ltd

- Fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger proposal of HDFC Bank, India's Largest Private Sector Bank & its parent HDFC Ltd, India's Largest Housing Finance Company.
- The proposed combination involves the amalgamation of HDFC Limited, HDFC Bank, HDFC Investments, and HDFC Holdings.
- The proposed combination envisages a two-step amalgamation process:

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- Step 1: Amalgamation of HDFC Investments and HDFC Holdings into and with HDFC Limited, such that HDFC Limited will be the surviving entity post this step
- Step 2: Amalgamation of the amalgamated HDFC Limited into HDFC Bank, such that HDFC Bank will be the surviving entity post this step.

About CCI :

- Established: 14 October 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Ashok Kumar Gupta
- Secretary: Ashok Kumar Gupta
- CCI is the **chief national competition regulator in India.**
- It is a statutory body within the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs.**

CCI clears acquisition of Holcim's stake in Holderind, ACC Ltd & Ambuja by Endeavour

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the **acquisition of the stake in Holderind Investments Limited, Ambuja Cements Limited, and ACC Limited by Endeavour Trade and Investment Limited.**
- The proposed combination envisages the acquisition of the entire share capital of Holderind Investments Limited (Holderind) by Endeavour Trade and Investment Limited (Endeavour).
- **Holderind** holds **63.11%** of the equity share capital of Ambuja Cements Limited (Ambuja) and **4.48%** of the equity share capital of ACC Limited (ACC).
- Further, Ambuja holds **50.05%** of the paid-up equity share capital of ACC.
- In terms of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** Endeavour is required to launch an open offer for further acquisition of up to **26%** of the expanded share capital of Ambuja and ACC.
- Endeavour is a newly incorporated company and belongs to the **Adani group.**
- Holderind is a holding company of Ambuja and ACC.
- Ambuja and ACC are engaged in the **manufacture of cement in India.**

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

CCI approves acquisition of majority shareholding in ODPL by Sekhmet; ODPL's acquisition of a shareholding in OPPL & OLSPL

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the **acquisition** of majority shareholding in **Optimus Drugs Private Limited (ODPL)** by **Sekhmet Pharmaventures Private Limited (Sekhmet)** and ODPL's acquisition of a shareholding in **Optimus Pharma Private Limited (OPPL)** and **Optimus Life Science Private Limited (OLSPL)** under **Section 31(1)** of the **Competition Act, 2002**.
- Sekhmet is a private company engaged in providing management services to its **subsidiary, Anjan Drugs Private Limited (Anjan)**.
- Anjan is engaged in the manufacture and sale of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and pharmaceutical intermediates in India and abroad.
- Sekhmet belongs to the PAG group, a group that is a leading alternative investment firm focused on APAC, with a combination of **three core strategies – Credit & Markets, Private Equity, and Real Assets**.

About ODPL :

- ODPL is engaged in the manufacture and sale of APIs and pharmaceutical intermediates in India.
- It is engaged in the manufacture and sale of **finished dosage formulations (FDFs)**, as well as providing **contract development and manufacturing (CDMO)** services for FDFs in India.

About OLSPL :

- OLSPL is engaged in the marketing of FDFs for its group companies in India.

CCI approves the acquisition of a stake in IIFL Home indirectly by ADIA Group

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the **acquisition** of a stake in **IIFL Home** indirectly by **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)**.
- The proposed transaction relates to the acquisition of up to **20 percent stake** in **IIFL Home Finance** by **Platinum Owl C 2018 RSC Ltd**, a trustee acting for **Platinum Jasmine Trust**.
- ADIA is the **sole beneficiary** and settlor of the **Platinum Jasmine Trust**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- In June 2022 IIFL Home Finance, a subsidiary of IIFL Finance Ltd, had entered into definitive agreements for raising Rs 2,200 crore of primary capital for a 20 percent stake from a wholly-owned subsidiary of ADIA.

About IIFL Home :

- IIFL Home is a housing finance company registered with the **National Housing Bank**.
- It is a **wholly-owned subsidiary** of IIFL Finance Limited.
- It is engaged in providing loans for the purchase, construction, and renovation of homes; small and medium enterprise secured loans for business; and construction finance loans to builders and developers engaged in the construction of affordable homes.

Promoter BRDN Investment Management sells 5.6% stake in HDFC AMC for Rs 2,300 cr

- Promoter BRDN Investment Management, formerly Standard Life Investments, divested its 5.58% stake in Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Asset Management Company (AMC) for a little over Rs 2,300 crore through an open market transaction.
- The shares were divested at Rs 1,935.63 apiece, a discount from the closing price of Rs 1,956.15
- The transaction size aggregated to Rs 2,303.4 crore.
- The shares of the asset management firm rose 11.5% to settle at Rs 2,180.75 on the BSE.
- In September 2021, BRDN Investment Management divested a 5% stake in HDFC AMC through the open market transaction.

CCI approves EQT AB's acquisition of Baring Private Equity Asia Group

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved EQT AB's acquisition of **Baring Private Equity Asia Group Limited (BPEA)** including its subsidiaries (BPEA Group) 100% of the general partner entities (GPs).
- BPEA Group and GPs are collectively referred to as Target.
- It has also approved **Jean Eric Salata Rothleder's (BPEA Founder)** acquisition of up to 9.9% of the equity shareholding of EQT.
- EQT is a purpose-driven global investment organization focused on active ownership strategies
- BPEA Group is **dual-headquartered** in Hong Kong and Singapore and is a pan-Asian private markets firm.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

About CCI :

- Established: 14 October 2003
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Ashok Kumar Gupta
- Secretary : P K Singh
- CCI is the **chief national competition regulator in India.**
- It is a statutory body within the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs.**

CCI approves acquisition by Katsura Investments & Varmora Granito Private Limited

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the acquisition by **Katsura Investments** in **Varmora Granito Private Limited** and certain other entities & **Varmora Granito Private Limited** in some of its Group Companies and other entities.
- The proposed combination of the **Katsura Investments's (Acquirer)** acquisition of up to **40%** equity shareholding in the **Varmora Granito Private Limited (Target)** on a fully diluted basis along with the acquisition of certain rights.
- It comprises Target's acquisition of ownership interest in **Renite** and **Simola** & additional shareholding in some of its group companies.

About Katsura Investments group :

- The Katsura Investments is a newly incorporated, special purpose vehicle, incorporated under the **laws of the Republic of Mauritius**, and does not have any business activities in India.
 - It is solely controlled by **CAPG-II**, an investment fund that is advised by the affiliates of the Katsura Investments group.
 - The Katsura Investments Group is a global alternative asset manager, which manages funds that invest globally across **3 investment disciplines**
1. Global private equity
 2. Global credit
 3. Investment solutions

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

CCI Clears amalgamation of CSSL & JSW Ispat with & into JSW Steel Limited

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the amalgamation of **Creixent Special Steels Limited (CSSL)** & **JSW Ispat Special Products Limited (JSW Ispat)** with & into **JSW Steel Limited (JSW Steel)** under **Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002**.

About JSW Steel :

- Incorporated: 1994 under the laws of India.
- It is the flagship company of the **JSW group**.
- It is primarily engaged in the manufacture and sale of a diverse range of iron and steel products in India and abroad.
- It is listed on the **National Stock Exchange of India Limited** and **BSE Limited**.

About JSW Ispat :

- Incorporated: 1990 under the laws of India.
- It is engaged in the manufacture of **iron, semi-finished steel, long steel products**, etc.
- It is listed on the **National Stock Exchange of India Limited** and **BSE Limited**.

About CSSL :

- Incorporated: 2018 under the laws of India.
- It is the holding company of **JSW Ispat**.
- It is inter alia engaged in the business of trading in steel and steel products and holding investments.

CCI approves acquisition of the stake in SVPL by IBEF IV, India SME Investments Fund – I, MOFPL & others

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approves the acquisition of the stake in **Simpolo Vitrified Private Limited (SVPL/Target)** by **India Business Excellence Fund IV (IBEF IV)**, **India SME Investments Fund – I (India SME)**, **Motilal Oswal Fininvest Limited (MOFPL)**, partners of **Simpolo Ceramics (SC / Simpolo Ceramics)** (collectively, **SC Partners**) and the shareholders of **Nexion International Private Limited (Nexion)**, viz., **Aghara & Sons (Aghara)** and **Ceramiche Speranza SPA (Ceramiche SPA)**.
- The proposed combination also contemplates the transfer of the business of **SC** and **Nexion** into **SVPL**.

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About SVPL :

- SVPL is in the business of **designing, manufacturing, and sale of vitrified tiles**.
- It is also engaged in the trading of various kinds of tiles, sanitaryware and bath fittings, faucets, and allied products.
- Its **subsidiary, Nexion Surfaces** is a newly incorporated wholly owned subsidiary of SVPL and does not have any business operations as of date.

Key Highlights :

- IBEV IV is a category II **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** registered with the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.
- MOFPL is a **wholly owned subsidiary of Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited (MOFSL)**.
- India SME is a private equity fund under the **SEBI AIF CAT II License** in India.
- Aghara (with 7 SC Partners) is an investment firm, with no business operations in India except its **50% shareholding in Nexion**.

MCA approves Bharat Gas amalgamation with BPCL

- The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** approved the **amalgamation of Bharat Gas Resources Limited (BGRL), a 100% subsidiary of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)**.
- The main business of BGRL is **gas sourcing and retailing**.
- It had been set up to implement city gas distribution networks in different geographical areas and this exercise was pursued to streamline the corporate structure and consolidate the assets and liabilities of BGRL with BPCL.
- The equity shares of BGRL are not listed in the stock exchanges.

About BPCL :

- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman & MD: Arun Kumar Singh
- BPCL is an **Indian government-owned oil and gas explorer and producer**.

Norway's Climate Investment Fund enters an agreement to take a 49% stake in a 420 MW solar power plant in Rajasthan

- The **Norwegian Climate Investment Fund**, managed by Norfund (the Norwegian Government's development finance institution) and Norway's largest pension company, KLP has agreed to

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

take a **49% stake** in a **420 MW solar energy project Thar Surya 1** for approximately **Rs 2.8 billion** in Rajasthan.

- The **420 MWDC (300 MWAC)** new solar power plant is being built in Rajasthan by **Italian Enel Green Power**.

Key Highlights :

- **Norway and India** are partners in the global energy transition.
- The climate investment fund will allocate **10 billion NOK (approximately 1 billion USD)** over the **next 5 years**, with India being a priority market.
- Once operational, the project will deliver more than **750 GWh per year**.
- Given India's current energy mix, the project will avoid **more than 615,000 tonnes of Co2 emissions per year**
- According to a report by BloombergNEF (BNEF), **India needs 233 billion USD** in investment to meet its goals for the development of wind and solar energy by 2030.
- **Norway-India sign Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)** with a focus on green hydrogen, green ammonia, renewable energy

Note :

- CEO of KLP : Sverre Thornes

Adani Group to buy 29.18% stake in NDTV & launch open offer for another 26% stake

- The **Adani Group's media arm AMG Media Networks Limited (AMNL)** announced that it would indirectly **acquire a 29.18% stake** in **New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV)**.
- It would also launch a **Rs 493-crore open offer** for another **26% stake** in **NDTV** at **Rs 294 per share**.
- AMNL's wholly owned subsidiary **Vishvapradhan Commercial Private Limited (VCPL)** holds warrants of **RRPR Holding Private Limited (RRPR)** entitling it to convert them into a **99.99% stake** in **RRPR**.
- VCPL has exercised warrants to acquire a **99.5% stake** in **RRPR**.
- **RRPR** is a promoter group company of **NDTV** and holds a **29.18% stake** in **NDTV**.
- VCPL along with **Adani Media Networks Ltd** and **Adani Enterprises Ltd** has made the open offer for **Rs 294** each for the acquisition of up to **1,67,62,530** fully paid-up equity shares of **NDTV**.

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- In 2021, **Adani Media Ventures Ltd (AMVL)**, the media arm under the group's flagship **Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL)**, acquired the digital business news platform **Quintillion Business Media Pvt Ltd (QBM)**.

About NDTV :

- Founded: 1984
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- President : Suparna Singh
- Founders: Prannoy Roy, Radhika Roy
- NDTV operates **three** national news channels - **English news channel NDTV 24x7**, **Hindi news channel NDTV India**, and **business news channel NDTV Profit**.

About Adani Group :

- Founded: 20 July 1988
- Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
- Chairman: Gautam Adani
- MD: Rajesh Adani

Bharti Telecom to buy 3.33% Airtel stake from Singtel for Rs 12,895 cr

- **Bharti Airtel promoter, Bharti Telecom Limited (BTL)** will buy a **3.33% stake** from **Singtel** (Singapore-based telecommunications company) for **2.25 billion Singapore dollars** (around **Rs 12,895 crore**) in **90 days**.
- The direct shareholding of Singtel and Bharti Airtel at around **10%** and **6%** respectively.
- At present, **Singtel** holds a **50.56% stake** in **Bharti Telecom**, while the Mittal family owns **49.44%**.
- Bharti Telecom at present holds a **35.85% stake** in the country's second-largest telecom service provider **Airtel**.

About Bharti Airtel :

- Founded: 7 July 1995
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Sunil Bharti Mittal
- MD & CEO: Gopal Vittal

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TVS Motor Acquires 48.27% Stake In Narain Karthikeyan's Startup DriveX For INR 85 Cr

- TVS Motor Company will acquire a 48.27% stake in NKars Mobility Millennial Solutions Pvt Ltd (NMMSPL) for Narain Karthikeyan's pre-owned two-wheeler startup 'DriveX' for a consideration of Rs 85 crore.

Aim :

- To enable innovative solutions to lead this transformation.
- NMMSPL operates under the brand 'DriveX', founded by Formula 1 driver Narain Karthikeyan
- The acquisition is expected to be completed by **November 30, 2022**.
- In FY 21-22 the 'DriveX' had reported a turnover of around **Rs 9 crore**.

About TVS Motor Company :

- Founded: 1978
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- Founder : Thirukkurugudi Vengaram Sundaram Iyengar

About 'DriveX' :

- Founded: 2019
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Founder & CEO: Narain Karthikeyan
- DriveX is a **digital-first business**, serving all brands with unique analytics-led capabilities across the value chains.

HDFC Bank to pick around 10 pc stake in Go Digit-Life Insurance

- India's largest private sector lender **HDFC Bank Limited** entered into an “indicative and non-binding term sheet to acquire **9.94% stake** in **Go Digit-Life Insurance** for an amount between **Rs 49.9 crore to Rs 69.9 crore**, in two tranches, by subscribing to equity shares of the Company.
- The deal is subject to execution of definitive agreements whose terms and conditions are to be mutually agreed upon, and fulfillment of other norms.
- Backed by **Prem Watsa-led Fairfax Group** and **Kamesh Goyal**, who are also promoters of Go Digit General Insurance, has applied for a license from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** to set up a life insurance business.

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- Recently, Go Digit General Insurance has filed its **draft red herring prospectus (DRHP)** for an **initial public offering (IPO)** that will include fresh issuance of equity shares and an offer-for-sale.

About HDFC Bank :

- Founded: August 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Atanu Chakraborty
- CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan

IMPORTANT APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS NEWS

Mr. Auguste Tano Kouame takes charge as World Bank Country Director for India

- The **World Bank** has appointed Côte d'Ivoire national, **Mr. Auguste Tano Kouame**, as the **Country Director for India** for **five years** which is effective from August 01, 2022.
- He replaces **Mr. Junaid Kamal Ahmad** of Bangladesh.

About Mr Auguste Tano Kouame :

- Mr. Auguste Tano Kouame joined the World Bank as a Young Professional in 1996.
- He worked at the **United Nations Development Program** and taught Applied Economics in Cote d'Ivoire and France.
- He took field assignments from 2002-05 as Senior Country Economist, based in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and, subsequently, as a World Bank representative in Haiti.
- From 2005 to 2008, he served as **Assistant to the World Bank Group President**.
- He served as the director of the department of human development and economic management in the World Bank Group's **Independent Evaluation Group (IEG)** from January 2017 to April 2019.
- Recently, he served as the **World Bank's country director for Turkey**.

Additional Info :

- As of July 2022, the World Bank's net commitments to India stood at **\$21.86 billion (IBRD \$18.76 billion, IDA \$3.0 billion)** across 99 projects.

About World Bank :

- Established: December 1945

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- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- President : David Malpass
- The World Bank is the collective name for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA), two of five international.

Mr. Sanjay Arora takes charge as Delhi Police Commissioner

- **Mr. Sanjay Arora**, a 1988-batch IPS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre took charge as **Delhi Police Commissioner**.
- He is due for retirement in **2025**.
- He succeeded **Mr. Rakesh Asthana** (Gujarat cadre IPS officer), who retired after nearly 38 years in service.

About Mr. Sanjay Arora :

- Mr. Sanjay Arora was appointed the **Director General (31st chief)** of the paramilitary **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**.
- He served as **Commissioner of Police**, Coimbatore city from 2002 to 2004.
- He had stints in the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** and the **Border Security Force (BSF)**.
- He has also served as Deputy Inspector General of Police, Villupuram range, and Deputy Director of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption.
- Arora is the **second successive non-AGMUT cadre IPS officer** to head the Delhi Police and the third since the Delhi Police Act was passed in 1978 and a commissionerate was established.

Awards & Honors :

- He has been awarded the Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 2004, **President's Police Medal** for Distinguished Service in 2014, **Police Special Duty Medal**, Antrik Suraksha Padak, and UN Peacekeeping Medal among others.
- He was awarded CM's Gallantry Medal for Bravery and Heroic Action.

Sashastra Seema Bal DG Mr. Sujoy Lal Thaosan gets additional charge as ITBP DG

- **Director General (DG)** of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Mr. Sujoy Lal Thaosan took over the additional charge of Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in New Delhi.

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- Mr. Thaosen has replaced former ITBP DG **Mr. Sanjay Arora** who has now been assigned as the new Delhi Police Commissioner.
- Thaosen is a 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the Madhya Pradesh cadre.

About ITBP :

- Established: 1962
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Motto: Shaurya – Dridhata – Karm Nishtha
- The 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**.

Mr. Satyendra Prakash assumes charge as Principal Director General of PIB

- The 1988 batch **Senior Indian Information Service** officer **Mr. Satyendra Prakash** has been appointed as the **Principal Director General** of the **Press Information Bureau (PIB)**.
- He will succeed **Mr. Jaideep Bhatnagar**.
- The head of the PIB is the **principal spokesperson of the Government of India**.

About Satyendra Prakash :

- He has represented the Government of India in various national and international forums such as UNESCO, UNICEF, and UNDP.
- He has a wide range of experience in the field of public communication, media management, administration, policy formulation, and program implementation.
- He was recognized for his role in the presentation of the first-ever tableau of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Republic Day 2021 on the theme of “**Vocal for Local**”.
- He is credited with ideating important IEC campaigns.
- Earlier, he served as the principal **Director General** of the **Central Bureau of Communication**.

Awards & Honors :

- He has recently been recognized by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** & conferred the **national award** for enhancing electoral participation through **voter awareness and education in 2021-22**.

About Jaideep Bhatnagar :

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- Bhatnagar, a 1986-batch IIS officer, earlier served in **Doordarshan News** as head of the **Commercial, Sales, and Marketing Division**.
- He has also served as **Prasar Bharati Special Correspondent West Asia** covering 20 countries and later went on to head the News Services Division of AIR.

Other Appointments :

- Meanwhile, Mr. **Manish Desai**, **Director General of the West zone of the PIB**, will succeed **Prakash** in the Central Bureau of Communication.
- He is a 1989 batch Indian Information Service officer.
- He has worked in various media units of the Ministry of I&B, like DAVP, AIR News, Prasar Bharati, and the Indian Institute of Mass Communication.

About Central Bureau of Communication :

- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India

About PIB :

- Established: 1919
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- The PIB is a nodal agency of the Government of India under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.

Govt appoints Mr. Suresh N Patel as new Central Vigilance Commissioner

- **President Ms. Droupadi Murmu** has appointed **Vigilance Commissioner Mr. Suresh N Patel** as the **Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)** of India.
- The post has been lying vacant for the past year.
- The ceremony was also attended by prime minister **Shri Narendra Modi** and Vice President **Shri M Venkaiah Naidu**.
- The tenure of a CVC and vigilance commissioner is of **four years** or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years.

About Mr. Suresh N Patel :

- A former **Managing Director and CEO of Andhra Bank**, Patel was appointed a **Vigilance Commissioner** in April 2020.

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- Patel has been working as the **acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)** since June 2022 replacing Sanjay Kothari.
- Currently, the **two Vigilance Commissioners of India** are **Shri Praveen Kumar Srivastava** and **Shri Arvinda Kumar**.

About Shri Praveen Kumar Srivastava :

- Srivastava, a 1988 batch (retired) **IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre**.
- He retired as secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat on January 31, 2022.
- He served as **chief vigilance officer in RITES Ltd**.
- He served as joint secretary and Mission Director of, the **Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)**.

About Shri Arvinda Kumar :

- Kumar, a 1984 batch (retired) Indian Police Service officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, served as the 27th director of the Intelligence Bureau from June 30, 2019, to June 30, 2022.
- He has also served as **First Secretary in the Embassy of India, Moscow, Russia**.
- He was awarded the prestigious **Indian Police Medal** for meritorious service in 2003 followed by the President's Police Medal for distinguished service in 2009.

About Central Vigilance Commission :

- The CVC is **headed by a central vigilance commissioner** and it can have **two vigilance commissioners**.
- CVC is an apex Indian governmental body to address governmental corruption.
- It was set up by the **Government of India Resolution on 11 February 1964**, on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by **K. Santhanam**.
- **First Chief Vigilance Commissioner of India: Nittoor Srinivasa**

Noise appoints Vaani Kapoor as the brand ambassador of the Upcoming Noise X-Fit 2 Smartwatch

- **Nexbase-owned Noise** has appointed **actress Vaani Kapoor** as the **brand ambassador** of its upcoming smartwatch, the **X-Fit2 series**.
- The X-Fit series by Noise was announced in partnership with **HRX by Hrithik Roshan** and **Exceed Entertainment** in 2021.

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- To commemorate Kapoor as the brand ambassador, Noise rolled out a campaign titled **#KeepGoing**, featuring her across its digital assets.
- To initiate conversation around how fitness has become a part of our everyday lifestyle and we must pursue it in style and with comfort.
- According to research firm International Data Corporation India, India's wearables market saw double-digit growth in Q1 2022 with products crossing 13.9 million units.

Note :

- Co-founder and CEO at HRX: Mr. Afsar Zaidi
- Co-founder of Noise: Amit Khatri

IFS Officer Ms. Shweta Singh Appointed as a Director in PMO

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** approved the appointment of 2008-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Ms. Shweta Singh, as a director in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for three years.
- The ACC has canceled the appointment of **Mr. Aniket Govind Mandavgane**, a 2009-batch IFS officer, as the Deputy Secretary in the PMO.

About PMO :

- The PMO consists of the immediate staff of the Prime Minister of India, as well as multiple levels of support staff reporting to the Prime Minister.
- The PMO is headed by the Principal Secretary, currently **Mr. Pramod Kumar Misra**.
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India

Fintech platform BharatPe appoints Mr. Nalin Negi as the new CFO

- Fintech platform **BharatPe** has appointed **Mr. Nalin Negi** as its new chief financial officer (CFO).
- In his new role, he will be working towards making the company **EBITDA positive** by March 2023 and lead the financial readiness for the company, which is getting ready for an **initial public offering (IPO)**
- EBITDA, which stands for **earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization**, is a measure of profitability for companies.

About Mr. Nalin Negi :

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- Mr. Nalin has more than 25 years of experience working for companies like GE Capital and SBI Card in the banking and financial services sector.
- He has also worked with American Express (India), EXL Service (India), Nestle India, and ITC.
- Earlier he was the **CFO of credit cards issuer SBI Card (earlier known as GE Capital SBI Card)**

About BharatPe :

- Founded: 2018
- Founders: Ashneer Grover, Shashvat Nakrani
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi
- CEO: Suhail Sameer

BharatPe appoints Ms. Smriti Handa as Chief Human Resources Officer

- Payments and lending fintech **BharatPe** has appointed former **Reckitt executive Smriti Handa** as its **Chief Human Resources Officer**.
- In her new role, Smriti will be working closely with the Senior Leadership Team at BharatPe and will focus on strengthening the organizational culture and HR practices in BharatPe.

About Smriti Handa :

- Handa is an alumna of SRCC, Delhi University, and MDI, Gurgaon.
- In a career spanning over 16 years, she has worked with Reckitt, Philips, and Airtel in global and local roles.
- Handa was **HR Head at Reckitt Hygiene-SoA** before taking over as the Global Talent Acquisition Director.

Center gives one-year extension in service of Mr. Rajiv Gauba as cabinet secretary

- The **Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** headed by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has approved an **extension in service to Mr. Rajiv Gauba as cabinet secretary** for a **further period of one year beyond 30 August 2022**.
- This is his **second extension** as Cabinet Secretary & he will continue in the same position till **August 30, 2023**.
- He was given the first extension for one year in August 2021 with the term ending on 30 August 2022.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

About Mr. Rajiv Gauba :

- Mr. Rajiv Gauba is a 1982-batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand cadre.
- On August 30, 2019, Gauba had taken over as the new Cabinet Secretary in the GoI after the superannuation of Mr. PK Sinha.
- He had served in Jharkhand as the Chief Secretary for 15 months before returning to serve in the central government in 2016.
- He also served as an adviser to an executive director of the International Monetary Fund.
- He was one of the key implementers of the Center's decision to abrogate Article 370.
- Before becoming Cabinet Secretary, he also served as the secretary in the Union Urban Development Ministry and Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry from August 2017 to August 2019.

Mr. Ranjit Rath appointed as Chairman and MD of Oil India Limited

- Mr. Ranjit Rath has taken over as new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil India Limited (OIL).
- He replaces Mr. Sushil Chandra Mishra who superannuated on June 30, 2022.

About Mr. Ranjit Rath :

- Mr. Ranjit Rath has over 25 years of experience in the field of geosciences.
- He served as CEO of Khani Bidesh India Limited, and MD of Bharat Gold Mines Limited.
- He held the additional charge of the Director General (DG) of the Geological Survey of India.
- He is also a writer and has co-authored books like 'Underground Storage Technologies.
- Before taking over the charge of Oil India Limited, he was the chairman cum managing director of Mineral Exploration & Consultancy Limited under the Ministry of Mines.

Awards & Honors :

- In 2016, Rath received the prestigious 'National Geosciences Award' from the President of India.

About OIL :

- Founded: 18 February 1959
- Headquarters: Duliajan, Assam

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- Oil India Limited (OIL) is the **second largest Indian-government-owned hydrocarbon explorer and producer.**
- It is under the ownership of the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Gol.**
- For the financial year 2021-22, Oil India had reported its highest ever net profit of Rs 3,887.31 crores, rising by 123.20% from the profit of Rs 1,741.59 crores of the previous fiscal.

Vodafone Idea appoints Mr. Ravinder Takkar as the new chairman

- The **Board of Directors of Vodafone Idea Limited** has appointed **Mr. Ravinder Takkar** as its **new chairman.**
- He will replace **Mr. Himanshu Kapania.**
- However, Mr. Kapania will continue to be a part of the VIL board as a **non-executive director.**
- Earlier, Mr. Ravinder Takkar was the **managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of Vodafone Idea Limited (Vi) for three years** with effect from August 19, 2019, following the **resignation of Mr. Balesh Sharma.**

About Vodafone Idea :

- **Founded: 31 August 2018**
- **Headquarters: Gandhinagar, Gujarat**

CJI Shri N V Ramana recommends Justice Shri Uday Umesh Lalit as his successor

- **Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India Shri Justice N V Ramana** recommended the name of the senior-most SC judge, **Hon'ble Shri Justice Uday Umesh Lalit (49th CJI of India)** as his successor to the **Hon'ble Minister for Law and Justice.**
- Shri Justice Lalit will have a short tenure as the CJI as he is set to retire on **November 8, 2022.**
- CJI Ramana is retiring on **August 26, 2022**, who had become the **48th CJI** of the country on April 24, 2021.

About Shri Justice Lalit :

- Shri Justice Lalit was enrolled as an **advocate** in **June 1983** and practiced in the **Bombay high court till December 1985.**
- He was designated **senior lawyer** by the Supreme Court in April 2004.
- Justice Lalit has been part of several landmark judgments including **'triple talaq'.**
- He was appointed as an SC judge on August 13, 2014.

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Note :

- Shri Justice Lalit will become the **second CJI** who was directly elevated to the apex court from the bar.
- **Shri Justice S M Sikri**, who became the **13th CJI** in January 1971, was the first lawyer to be elevated directly to the top court bench in March 1964.
- The CJI and other SC judges are **appointed** by the President of India, **as per clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution.**
- CJI can be removed by an order of the President, following **Article 124(4) of the Constitution of India.**

Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar elected as the 14th Vice-President of India

- **Former West Bengal governor and National Democratic Alliance (NDA) nominee Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar**, has been elected as the **14th Vice-President of India.**
- He will replace incumbent **Vice-President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu**, whose term is ending on August 10, 2022.
- Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar will take the oath of office on **August 11, 2022.**
- He received **528 votes** from 725 votes cast and defeated Opposition nominee Margaret Alva who bagged 182 votes.
- He won the 2022 election with **72.8% votes** and recorded a poll-victory margin highest since the 1992 election.

Note :

- The Vice President of India is the **second-highest constitutional post in India.**
- The Vice President of India is also the **Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.**

About Jagdeep Dhankhar :

- Jagdeep Dhankhar was born on 18th May 1951 in Rajasthan.
- He is a lawyer by profession and joined politics in 1989.
- He has been an ex-member of the ICC - International Court of Arbitration.

Various Positions :

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Years	Positions
1989-1991	Lok Sabha MP from Jhunjhunu
1990-1991	MoS Parliamentary Affairs
1993-1998	MLA from Kishangarh, Rajasthan Assembly
2019-2022	Governor of West Bengal
August 2022	14th Vice President of India

Unity Small Finance Bank appoints Mr. Inderjit Camotra as MD and CEO

- Unity Small Finance Bank Limited (Unity Bank) has appointed Mr. Inderjit Camotra as its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- Camotra's appointment has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Union bank's board.

About Mr Inderjit Camotra :

- Camotra has over 25 years of experience across the country in leadership positions at Standard Chartered Bank, Australia & New Zealand (ANZ), and Citigroup.
- He has already been serving as interim CEO of Unity Small Finance Bank since November 2021.
- Earlier, Camotra was an executive director with Centrum Financial Services Ltd

Recent News :

- In January 2022, the Unity Bank appointed Mr. Vinod Rai, the former CAG of India, as its Chairman.

About Unity Small Finance Bank Limited :

- Unity Small Finance Bank is a new age, the digital-first bank which was recently elevated to a 'Scheduled Bank' and was included in the Second Schedule of the RBI Act.
- The bank is promoted by Centrum Financial Services Ltd and Resilient Innovations Pvt Ltd as joint investors.

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- The bank commenced its operation in November 2021.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Mr. Viswanathan Anand appointed as Deputy President Of FIDE

- Indian chess legend & Five-time World Chess Champion Mr. Viswanathan Anand has been elected as the deputy president of the International Chess Federation (FIDE).
- The elections to the world chess body were held during the FIDE Congress which is being conducted here alongside the 44th Chess Olympiad.
- While the incumbent President Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich has been re-elected as FIDE President for a second term.
- Dvorkovich a Muscovite has received 167 votes in his favor while his opponent Andrii Baryshpolets got 16.
- The elections for the posts were held during the FIDE General Assembly in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- He won the FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship in 2003 and 2017 & the World Blitz Cup in 2000.

About Mr. Viswanathan Anand :

- Viswanathan Anand was born on 11 December 1969 in Mayiladuthurai, Tamil Nadu, India
- At age 18 in 1988, he became the first grandmaster from India.

Awards & Honors :

- Anand was the first recipient of the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in 1991–92, India's highest sporting honor.
- In 2007, he was awarded India's second-highest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan, making him the first sportsperson to receive the award.

About FIDE :

- Established: July 20, 1924
- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- President : Arkady Dvorkovich
- Membership: 200 national associations

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

Catamaran Ventures Appoints Former Infosys Execs as President & Chairman

- Catamaran Ventures, backed by Infosys Ltd. founder **Mr. NR Narayana Murthy**, has appointed **Managing Director (MD) Mr. Ranganath** as its **Chairman** and **Mr. Deepak Padaki** as its **President**.
- Padaki will be responsible for driving the firm's investment management strategy.

About Mr. Ranganath :

- Mr. Ranganath served as the **Chief Financial Officer at Infosys** for 18 years till 2018.
- He was Catamaran Ventures's president for the last 3 years, and he was instrumental in creating a strong foundation for the growth of the firm's investments.

About Mr Deepak Padaki :

- Padaki served at Infosys as EVP, group head of strategy and M&A, and chief risk officer.
- He has 30 years of experience in the global IT services and software product industry.

About Catamaran Ventures :

- Founded: 2010
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka

Mr. Gustavo Petro was sworn in as Colombia's first leftist President

- **Mr. Gustavo Petro**, a former rebel fighter, has been sworn in as the **first leftist president of Colombia**.
- He succeeds **Mr. Ivan Duque**.
- He defeated **Mr. Rodolfo Hernández Suárez** in the second round of the 2022 Colombian presidential election on 19 June 2022.
- He also announced that Colombia will stop granting new licenses for oil exploration and will ban fracking projects, even though the oil industry makes up almost 50% of the nation's legal exports.

About Mr Gustavo Petro :

- Mr Petro was born in Ciénaga de Oro, Córdoba, Colombia.
- He is a former member of Colombia's M-19 guerrilla group, as well as former senator and mayor of Bogota.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- He served as a senator as a **member of the Alternative Democratic Pole (PDA)**
- He received the worldwide “**Climate and City Leadership**” in 2013.

About Colombia :

- President: Gustavo Petro
- Capital: Bogotá
- Currency: Colombian peso

Ms. Nallathamby Kalaiselvi becomes CSIR's first woman director general

- Senior electrochemical scientist **Ms. Nallathamby Kalaiselvi** has become the **first woman director general of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**, in two years.
- Ms. Kalaiselvi succeeds **Mr. Shekhar Mande**, who superannuated in April 2022.
- Also, Ms. Kalaiselvi will hold the charge as **Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, under the Ministry of Science and Technology.**
- Since then **Mr. Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology**, was given the additional charge of the CSIR

About Ms Nallathamby Kalaiselvi :

- Ms. Kalaiselvi Hailing from Ambasamudram, a small town in **Tirunelveli** district of **Tamil Nadu.**
- She became the **first woman scientist to head the Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI)** in February 2019.
- She is the **present director of the CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute at Karaikudi in Tamil Nadu.**
- Currently, she is involved in the development of practically viable Sodium-ion/Lithium-sulfur batteries and supercapacitors.
- She also made key contributions to the **National Mission for Electric Mobility.**
- She has more than 125 research papers and six patents to her credit.

About CSIR :

- Established: 26 September 1942
- Located in: New Delhi
- President: Prime Minister of India (Shri Narendra Modi)

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- CSIR is a consortium of 38 research institutes across the country.

Papua New Guinea PM Mr. James Marape re-elected

- **Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Mr. James Marape** was sworn in for a **second term**.
- Voting in Papua New Guinea's general election began on July 4 and ended on July 22, 2022.
- **Rufina Peter** has been elected as the governor for Central Province, as a member of Mr. O'Neill's People's National Congress (PNC) Party.

About Mr. James Marape :

- Mr. James Marape has been serving as the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea since **May 2019**.
- He has been a **member of the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea** since July 2007, representing the electorate of the Tari-Pori Open in Hela Province.
- He has held Cabinet Posts as **Minister of Education (2008–2011)** and **Minister of Finance (2012–2019)**.

About Papua New Guinea :

- Capital: Port Moresby
- Currency: Papua New Guinean kin
- Papua New Guinea got independence from Australia on 16 September 1975.

Power Grid Corporation appoints Mr. Pramod Kumar as CFO

- The **Board of Directors of the Powergrid Corporation of India Limited** has appointed **Mr. Pramod Kumar** as its **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**.

About Mr. Pramod Kumar :

- Mr. Pramod Kumar is a **fellow member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)**.
- He has 35 years of experience in the Power Sector including Finance and Accounting functions i.e. finalization of Corporate Accounts, formulation of Capital Budget, etc.
- Before this, he served as the **Executive Director (Finance) of Power Grid Corporation**.

About Power Grid Corporation :

- Founded: 23 October 1989
- Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana, India
- Chairman & MD : Kandikuppa Sreekant

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- It comes under the Ministry of Power, GoI.

Shri Nitish Kumar to take oath as Bihar Chief Minister for 8th time in 22 years; Shri Tejashwi Yadav Sworn In As Deputy CM

- Janata Dal (United) leader Shri Nitish Kumar took oath as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the 8th time in the last 22 years.
- Meanwhile, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Shri Tejashwi Yadav took an oath as the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar.
- The two leaders were administered by Governor Shri Phagu Chauhan in a ceremony at Raj Bhawan a day after Nitish Kumar resigned from the post of the CM of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government and broke ties with the BJP.
- Nitish Kumar was first sworn in as the CM of Bihar in 2000.

About Bihar :

- Governor: Phagu Chauhan
- Chief minister: Nitish Kumar
- Capital: Patna

Shri Justice Uday Umesh Lalit appointed as 49th Chief Justice of India

- In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India, the President of India Draupadi Murmu has appointed Shri Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, judge of the Supreme Court, to be the Chief Justice of India
- Shri Justice Uday Umesh Lalit will take over as the 49th Chief Justice of India on 27th August 2022.
- He will be taking over from incumbent Shri CJIN V Ramana, who is scheduled to demit office on August 26 after a tenure of over 16 months.
- Shri Justice Lalit will become the second Chief Justice of India to be directly elevated to the Supreme Court from the Bar, after Shri Justice S.M. Sikri.

About Shri Justice Uday Umesh Lalit :

- Shri Uday U Lalit was born on 9th November 1957 in Solapur, Maharashtra.
- He was enrolled as an Advocate by the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa in June 1983.

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- He practiced in the High Court of Bombay till December 1985 before shifting his practice to Delhi in January 1986.
- He was appointed as **Judge of the Supreme Court (SC)** in August 2014.
- He also headed the bench that convicted the fugitive businessman for contempt in May 2017.
- He was appointed a special public prosecutor for the CBI to conduct the trial in the 2G spectrum allocation case.

Additional Info :

- Justice S M Sikri, who became the **13th CJI** in January 1971, was the first lawyer to be elevated directly to the top court bench in March 1964.

About CJI :

- The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India is the chief judge of the Supreme Court of India as well as the **highest-ranking officer** of the Indian federal judiciary.

About Supreme Court of India :

- Established: 28 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Authorized by: Article 124 of the Constitution of India

About Ministry of Law and Justice :

- Cabinet Minister : Kiren Rijiju
- Secretary: Anoop Kumar Mendiratta, G Narayana Raju, Alok Shrivastava

Mr. Rishabh Pant appointed as the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, appointed Star Indian wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant as the **brand ambassador of Uttarakhand** in a program organized at Uttarakhand Sadan in New Delhi.
- Special Principal Secretary **Shri Abhinav Kumar** was also present on the occasion.
- The move will help encourage the youth of Uttarakhand toward sports and public health.

About Rishabh Pant :

- Rishabh Pant was born in Roorkee, Uttarakhand, India.
- He was the vice-captain of the India U-19 team for the 2016 Under-19 Cricket World Cup.
- He became the **first Asian wicketkeeper-batter** to score centuries in ODIs.

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- He became the second-youngest cricketer to an Indian skipper in the T20s.
- Overall, he emerged as the eighth-youngest to lead the Men in Blue across all three formats.
- In ODIs, he has so far played 27 runs and scored 840 runs at a strike rate of 108.80.
- In June 2022, Pant was named as the **Indian captain** for the T20I series against South Africa

About Uttarakhand :

- Governor: Gurmit Singh
- Chief minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami
- Capital: Bhararisain, Dehradun

UN Appoints Mr. Rear Admiral Guillermo Pablo Ríos as new UNMOGIP Head Of Mission And Chief Military Observer

- **United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres** has appointed a veteran Argentinean naval officer Mr. Rear Admiral Guillermo Pablo Ríos as Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer for the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).
- He succeeds **Major General José Eladio Alcaín** of Uruguay, who will shortly complete his assignment.

About Mr. Rear Admiral Guillermo Pablo Ríos :

- He has served in two peacekeeping operations, including the **United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)** in 1993 and 1994 & the **United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)** in 2007.
- He held various positions, Marines Infantry Commander (Corps Commander) (2020-2021); Marines Infantry Fleet Commander (Brigade Commander) (2019); Education Department Chief, Navy Warfare School (2018); and Defence, Military, Naval, and Air Attaché in Russia (2016-2018).
- Recently, he served as the **General Director of Education, Training, and Doctrine of the Joint Staff (2022)**.

About UN :

- Headquarters: New York City
- Membership: 193 member states

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About UNMOGIP :

- Founded: January 1949
- Headquarters: Islamabad, Pakistan
- Purpose: To oversee the ceasefire between India & Pakistan in the state of Jammu & Kashmir.

Dabur India Chairman Mr. Amit Burman resigns; Mr. Mohit Burman is the new Chairman

- **FMCG firm Dabur India Limited** has announced that the board has accepted the **resignation of Mr. Amit Burman** as the **Chairman** of the company.
- Mr. Mohit Burman has been appointed as the **Non-Executive Chairman** for five years.
- However, Mr. Amit Burman would continue to be the **Non-Executive Director** of the company.

Other Appointments :

- Dabur India Limited Board has also approved the appointment of **Mr. Saket Burman** as the **Non-Executive Vice-Chairman** of the Board of Directors of the Company for 5 years.

About Mr. Amit Burman :

- Mr. Amit Burman took charge as **CEO of Dabur Foods** in 1999 and stepped down from the post after the company was merged into Dabur India Ltd in 2007.
- He served as the vice chairman before becoming chairman in 2019.
- He took over as the **chairman of Dabur India** in 2019.

About Dabur India :

- Founded: 1884
- Headquarters: Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India
- Dabur Ltd is an Indian multinational consumer goods company.
- It manufactures Ayurvedic medicine and natural consumer products, & is one of the largest **fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG)** companies in India.

Govt reappoints four independent directors on RBI central board

- The government has reappointed four independent directors on the board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for another four years.

Name of 4 independent directors :

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- The central government has re-nominated **Satish Kashinath Marathe** and **Swaminathan Gurusurthy** as part-time, non-official directors on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India for a further period of four years.
- Besides, the Center also re-nominated **Revathy Iyer** and **Sachin Chaturvedi** as part-time, non-official directors on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India for a further period of four years after completion of their present tenure on September 18, 2022.
- Non-official directors are appointed for four years and are eligible for re-appointment.

Union Minister Ms. Smriti Irani gets additional charge of Minority Affairs and Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia of Steel Ministry

- **Civil Aviation Minister Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia** has been given the **additional charge of the Ministry of Steel**.
- Meanwhile, **Women and Child Development Minister Ms. Smriti Irani** has been assigned the charge of the **Ministry of Minority Affairs**, in addition to her existing portfolio.
- The President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister, has accepted the resignations of Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh from the Union Council of Ministers, with immediate effect, under **clause (2) of Article 75 of the Constitution**
- With the resignation of Naqvi, who was also the Deputy Leader of Rajya Sabha, the BJP will have no Muslim MP among its 395 Members of Parliament.

PT Usha, Ilaiyaraaja, V Vijayendra Prasad, and Veerendra Heggade nominated to Rajya Sabha

- **Music maestro Ilaiyaraaja**, sports icon **P T Usha**, acclaimed screenwriter **V Vijayendra Prasad** and philanthropist and spiritual leader **Veerendra Heggade** were nominated to the **Rajya Sabha**.
- While Ilaiyaraaja hails from **Tamil Nadu** and Usha from **Kerala**, Prasad is from **Telangana** and Heggade from **Karnataka**.

Key Highlights :

- The Rajya Sabha has **245 seats**, of which **233** are elected by the legislatures of the states and union territories & **12** are nominated by the President on the recommendation of the Government.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- They are nominated under **Article 80(3)** of the Constitution, according to which they should have special knowledge or practical experience in matters like literature, science, art, and social service.
- As per the constitutional limit, the strength of the Upper House **cannot exceed 250**.
- A nominated member, however, is allowed to join a political party within the **first six months** of taking a seat.

IAS Officer Shri Piyush Goyal appointed as CEO of NATGRID

- A 1994 batch IAS officer of Nagaland cadre, **Shri Piyush Goyal** has been appointed as the **new National Intelligence Grid or NATGRID Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** by the Union government.
- In addition to that, the Central Government also issued an order to post **26 other officers** on the post of additional secretary.
- Currently, Shri Goyal is serving as an **additional secretary (AS)** in the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- Shri Goyal will be replaced by **Mr. Chandraker Bharti**, an IAS officer of the 1996 batch UT cadre.
- Currently, Mr. Chandraker Bharti is serving as the **joint secretary** in the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**.
- The post of its CEO was vacant since June 2022 when its chief IPS officer **Mr. Ashish Gupta** was appointed as additional director general of the Border Security Force (BSF).

Other Appointments :

- 1993 batch Odisha cadre IAS officer **Mr. Ashok K K Meena** has been posted as the **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)** of the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** in the rank of additional secretary.
- IAS officer of the 1995 batch (Assam-Meghalaya cadre) **Mr. Archana Varma** has been appointed as **director** of the **National Water Mission** under the ministry of water resources.
- **Ms. Gitanjali Gupta**, IAS officer of the 1996 batch Union Territories cadre, has been appointed as the MD of the **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation**
- Deputy Election Commissioner **Mr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar**, an IAS officer of the 1995 batch UT cadre, has been appointed as the **additional secretary** in the **department of agriculture and farmers' welfare**.

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- Meanwhile, 1996 batch IAS officers **Mr. Lav Aggarwal** (Andhra Pradesh cadre) & **Ms. Usha Padhee** (Odisha cadre) have been promoted to **additional secretary** from joint secretary in their respective ministries of **health and family welfare and aviation**.

About NATGRID :

- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- The NATGRID or national intelligence grid is a federal intelligence gathering organization created to enhance India's counter-terrorism capabilities.

Drug Firm Pfizer's Managing Director Mr. S Sridhar Resigns

- Drug firm **Pfizer** announced that its **Managing Director Mr. S Sridhar** has **resigned** from the company to take early retirement.
- He will continue to serve in his current position until the identification, selection, and transition to the new leadership takes place in Pfizer.
- He worked over the past 14 years in Pfizer Company & he served as the **Chief Financial Officer (CEO)** for 8 years.
- He also serves as the **President of the Organisation of Pharmaceuticals Producers of India (OPPI)**

About Pfizer :

- Founded: 1849
- Headquarters: New York City, United States

Centre appoints Mr. Shah Faesal as Deputy Secretary in Tourism Ministry

- The **Central government** has appointed IAS, **Mr. Shah Faesal** as **Deputy Secretary** in the **Tourism Ministry**.

About Mr. Shah Faesal :

- Mr. Shah Faesal is an **Indian bureaucrat** and **former Indian politician** from Jammu and Kashmir.
- In 2010, he became the **first Kashmiri** to place first in the Indian Civil Services Examination
- He resigned from the services in January 2019 and joined politics, which he later quit in August 2020.

About Ministry of Tourism :

- Cabinet Minister: G. Kishan Reddy

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- Minister of State: Shripad Naik, Ajay Bhatt

Kuwait appoints Mr. Bader Abdullah Al-Munaikh first ambassador to Iran since 2016

- Kuwait has appointed **Mr. Bader Abdullah Al-Munaikh** as the first ambassador to Iran since 2016.
- He handed his credentials to **Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian** in Tehran.
- The move comes as Saudi Arabia works to improve its ties with Iran.
- Earlier, Riyadh had broken its ties with Tehran in January 2016 after Iranian protesters stormed the Saudi embassy in Iran.

About Kuwait:

- Prime Minister : Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah
- Capital: Kuwait City
- Currency: Kuwaiti dinar

Kenya's Deputy President Mr. William Ruto wins the presidential race

- Kenya's Deputy President **Mr. William Samoei Arap Ruto** won the presidential election in 2022 after defeating **Mr. Raila Odinga** garnered 7176,141 votes or 50.49 percent of the total votes.
- He will be succeeding **Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta**.
- With this, William Ruto becomes the **5th President of Kenya**.

About Mr. William Ruto :

- Mr. William Ruto was born on 21 December 1966 in Sambut village, Kamagut, Kenya.
- He was a **Member of Parliament (MP)** from 1998 to 2013.
- He served as **Minister for Home Affairs in the Daniel Arap Moi administration** from August to December 2002.
- He later served in the Mwai Kibaki administration as Minister of Agriculture from 2008 to 2010 and as Minister for Higher Education from April to October 2010.
- He has been serving as the **deputy president of Kenya** since 2013.

About Kenya :

- President: Uhuru Kenyatta
- Capital: Nairobi
- Currency: Kenyan shilling

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FSIB recommends Mr. Mohammad Mustafa as NABARD Chairman

- The **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)** has recommended **Mr. Mohammad Mustafa** for the post of **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Chairman**.
- The final decision on the recommendation of FSIB would be taken by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**, headed by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**.

About Mohammad Mustafa :

- Mustafa is a 1995 batch IAS officer of the **Uttar Pradesh** cadre.
- He served as the **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)** of the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**.
- He had served as a **Joint Secretary** in the **Department of Financial Services** and also as a **Director**.
- He also served as CMD of the **National Housing Bank (NHB)** between 2014-15 and as MD of **CERSAI** in 2016.

About NABARD :

- Established: 12 July 1982
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- NABARD is the 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.**

Bajaj Electricals elevates Mr. Anuj Poddar as MD & CEO

- Consumer durable products maker **Bajaj Electricals** elevated its Executive Director **Mr. Anuj Poddar** to **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.
- **Mr. Anuj Poddar** joined **Bajaj Electrical** in 2018 as its executive director.
- Meanwhile, **Mr. Shekhar Bajaj** shall continue as **executive chairman** of **Bajaj Electricals**.

About Bajaj Electricals :

- Founded: 14 July 1938
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- **Bajaj Electricals Ltd** is an Indian consumer electrical equipment manufacturing company.

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- It is a part of the business conglomerate Bajaj Group.

Center Appoints Mr. Rajkiran Rai as NaBFID Managing Director

- The Centre and the board of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) have appointed Mr. Rajkiran Rai G as its managing director (MD) for five years (2022-2027)
- He was the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Union Bank of India from 2017.
- In October 2021, the Center appointed Mr. K V Kamath as chairperson of NaBFID for three years.
- Subsequently, government nominees Mr. Pankaj Jain and Mr. Sumita Dawra were appointed directors to the board of Development Finance Institution (DFI).

India's IT Secretary Mr. Alkesh Kumar Sharma appointed to a high-level UN internet panel

- India's Electronics and Information Technology Secretary Mr. Alkesh Kumar Sharma has been appointed to a panel of 10 eminent experts on internet governance in the United Nations (UN) by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
- The panel includes Vint Cerf from the US, Hatem Dowidar from Egypt, Lise Fuhr from Denmark, Maria Fernanda Garza from Mexico, Toomas Hendrik Ilves from Estonia, and Maria Ressa from the Philippines & the USA, Karoline Edtstadler from Austria, Gbenga Sesan from Nigeria, Lan Xue from China.
- Internet pioneer Vint Cerf and Nobel Prize-winning journalist Maria Ressa were also appointed to the 10-member Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Leadership Panel
- Guterres' envoy on technology, Amandeep Singh Gill, will also be on the panel

Role of the Panel :

- To deal with "strategic and urgent issues" of the Internet and provide strategic advice to the IGF.

About Mr. Alkesh Kumar Sharma :

- Mr. Alkesh Kumar Sharma 1990 batch IAS officer of Kerala cadre.
- He has also worked with the UN Development Programme as the national project director for Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation.

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- He served as the additional chief secretary-industries of the Kerala govt from May 2020 to April 2021.
- From September 2019 to April 2021 he was the **Managing Director of Kochi Metro Rail** as well as **CEO of Cochin Smart City Mission**.

Airtel shareholders re-appointments Mr. Gopal Vittal as MD & CEO for 5 years

- **Bharti Airtel's shareholders** have reappointed **Mr. Gopal Vittal** as **Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Bharti Airtel** for a period of **5 years** with effect from **Feb 1, 2023, to Jan 31, 2028**.
- He has been polled more than **97% of the total votes** polled were in favor of the resolution.
- Shareholders also approved a special resolution related to payment of remuneration to Vittal as managing director and CEO of the company, with 89.57% votes in favor and 10.42% against the proposal.

About Bharti Airtel :

- **Founded:** 7 July 1995
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, Delhi, India

Mastercard appoints 4 Indian badminton players as brand ambassadors

- The American multinational financial services firm, **Mastercard** has appointed **4 Indian badminton players** **Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, and Chirag Shetty** as **brand ambassadors of Mastercard in India**.
- These new ambassadors will partner with Mastercard to spread awareness about the **safety, security, and convenience of digital payments in India**.

About the Ambassadors :

- In the **Thomas Cup 2022**, **Lakshya Sen & Kidambi Srikanth** won the **1st & 2nd Men's Single** while **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty** won the **1st doubles game**.
- In **Commonwealth 2022 Games** **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty** won the **gold medal** while **Lakshya Sen** won the **gold medal**, and **Kidambi Srikanth** won the **bronze medal in Men's Singles**.
- The partnership is in line with the efforts of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **Prime Minister Modi's vision of Digital India**.

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Recent News :

- Earlier in 2022, Mastercard signed on **Shiv Kapur** to enhance its leading panel of golfers, which also includes Anirban Lahiri as a brand ambassador.

About Mastercard :

- Founded: November 3, 1966
- Headquarters: New York, United States
- President & CEO : Michael Miebach

Govt extends tenure of DCGI chief Mr. Venugopal Somani by three months

- According to an order issued by the Union Health Ministry, The tenure of **Dr. V G Somani** as the **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** has been extended by **three months**
- Earlier, Dr. Somani was appointed DCGI for a term of **three years** on **August 14, 2019**.

About DCGI :

- DCGI is the head of the department of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization of the Gov.
- It is responsible to ensure the quality of drug supply across India.
- It comes under the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.

IAS officer Mr. Rajesh Verma appointed as Secretary to President Droupadi Murmu

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** appointed **Mr. Rajesh Verma** as secretary to **President Droupadi Murmu**.
- Mr. Verma will replace the incumbent **Mr. Kapil Dev Tripathi**, a 1980-batch IAS officer.

About Mr. Rajesh Verma :

- Mr. Verma is a **1987-batch Odisha cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officer**.
- In 2020, he was appointed as the **chairman of the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)**.
- Before the central deputation, Verma had served as **principal secretary to Odisha Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik & Principal Secretary of the Energy Department, Government of Odisha**.
- Currently, He is serving as **Secretary of, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs**.

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Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Appoints Indian philanthropist Mr. Ashish Dhawan to its board of trustees

- The **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** has appointed Indian philanthropist **Mr. Ashish Dhawan**, founder and CEO of **Convergence Foundation**, to its board of trustees.
- **Dr. Helene D Gayle**, president of **Spelman College**, US, has also been appointed to the foundation's board of trustees.

About Mr. Ashish Dhawan :

- Mr. Dhawan is the **chairperson** of **Ashoka University** and **Central Square Foundation** a nonprofit organization working to improve the quality of education for children in India.

About Dr. Helene D Gayle :

- Dr. Helene D Gayle is a **Gates Foundation alumna**.
- He was the **president and CEO** of **The Chicago Community Trust**, one of the United States' oldest and largest community foundations.

About Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation :

- Founded: 2000
- Headquarters: Seattle, Washington, U.S
- CEO: Mark Suzman
- Co-Chair: Melinda French Gates
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) is a **merger** of the **William H. Gates Foundation** and the **Gates Learning Foundation**
- The Gates Foundation has been working in collaboration with the government of India & other partners since 2003 on various issues, including **health care, sanitation, gender equality, agricultural development, and financial empowerment**.

Paytm Shareholders Approve Re-appointment of Mr. Vijay Shekhar Sharma as MD & CEO

- **Shareholders of One97 Communications**, which operates under the **Paytm** brand, have approved the re-appointment of **Mr. Vijay Shekhar Sharma** as **managing director and chief executive officer of Paytm**.
- According to the report, **99.67% of votes** were in favor of Sharma's re-appointment while only **0.33%** voted against the resolution.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- The remuneration of Mr. Vijay Shekhar will remain fixed for the next three years without any annual increment
- Shareholders have also approved the appointment of Mr. Madhur Deora, as Whole-time Director, designated as Executive Director, President, and Group Chief Financial Officer of the Company.

About Paytm :

- Founded: August 2010
- Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

Govt extends Mr. Meenesh Shah's as NDDDB Chairman for another 6 Months

- The Center has extended the tenure of Mr. Meenesh C Shah, an executive director of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB), to hold a charge as the Chairman of NDDDB for another six months until November 30, 2022.
- It will be the second extension after the first on January 4, 2022.
- Mr. Shah has been holding the NDDDB Chairman position since June 1, 2021.
- The post of Chairman NDDDB fell vacant when Dilip Rath demitted office after being elected to the Board of International Dairy Federation (IDF).
- In addition to that, India will host the world's largest dairy conference, the International Dairy Federation (IDF) World Dairy Summit 2022, in New Delhi from September 12 to 15, 2022, with the theme "Dairy for Nutrition and Livelihood."

About NDDDB :

- Founded: July 1965
- Headquarters: Anand, Gujarat, India
- Founder : Dr Verghese Kurien
- It comes under the ownership of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying of the GoI.

Disney appoints Mr. Sajith Sivanandan as head of Hotstar

- Disney's international content and operations group has appointed Mr. Sajith Sivanandan as executive vice president and head of Disney+ Hotstar.

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- He will take the reins over from **Mr. Sunil Rayan** who quit in June 2022.
- He will start working with Disney+Hotstar in **October 2022** with a dual reporting line of Disney Star.
- In his new role, he will report to **Disney's International Content and Operations Group Chairman Rebecca Campbell** and **Disney Star President K Madhavan**.

About Mr. Sajith Sivanandan :

- Mr. Sivanandan was **Managing Director (MD) and Business Head of Google Pay** and the Next Billion User Initiatives for the APAC region.
- Earlier, he was the **Head of Google Pay India**.
- He started his career in 1996 at Star TV, working for Channel V's North India market.
- He also worked for organizations like **The Gallup Organisation, Affle UK Ltd, and XA Network**.

Mr. Debasisa Mohanty was appointed as director of the National Institute of Immunology

- Senior Odia scientist **Mr. Debasisa Mohanty** was appointed as the **Director of the National Institute of Immunology (NII)**.
- Currently, he is working as a **staff scientist at NII**.
- The post fell vacant after **Mr. Rajesh Verma**, a 1987-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Odisha cadre, was appointed as the Secretary to President Droupadi Murmu on August 18.

Other Appointments :

- Also, Revenue Secretary **Mr. Tarun Bajaj** has been given **additional charge as Corporate Affairs Secretary**.

About NII :

- Established: 24 June 1981
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi
- The NII is an autonomous research institute under the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** for research in immunology.

Mr. Vikram Doraiswami Appointed As Next High Commissioner Of India To UK

- Indian diplomat **Mr. Vikram K Doraiswami** has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom (UK).

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- He will succeed **Mr. Gaitri Issar Kumar**, the high commissioner to the United Kingdom, who left her position on June 30, 2022.

About Mr. Vikram Doraiswami :

- Mr. Doraiswami is an **Indian Foreign Service officer** of the 1992 batch.
- In 1994, he was appointed **Third Secretary** in the **Indian High Commission** in Hong Kong after completing his in-service training in New Delhi between 1992 and 1993.
- He also served as the head of the division for the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in New Delhi.
- In 2014, he was appointed **Indian ambassador to Uzbekistan**.
- In 2015, he was appointed **Indian ambassador to the Republic of Korea**.
- He has served as Indian ambassador to Uzbekistan, and South Korea and has served in the US as well as private secretary to the Prime Minister.
- Currently, Mr. Doraiswami is the **High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh**.

About the UK :

- Prime minister: Boris Johnson
- Capital: London
- Currency: Pound sterling

Mali military appoints Mr. Colonel Abdoulaye Maiga as interim PM

- The **military of Mali** has appointed **Mr. Colonel Abdoulaye Maiga** as the interim **Prime Minister** of the country.
- He replaced the civilian Prime Minister of Mali, **Mr. Choguel Kokalla Maiga**.

About Mr Colonel Abdoulaye Maiga :

- Mr. Abdoulaye Idrissa Maïga was the **Prime Minister of Mali** from 8 April 2017 to 29 December 2017.
- He is a **member** of the Rally for Mali.
- He served as **Minister of Territorial Administration** and **Minister for the Environment, Water, and Sanitation**.
- He was working as a government **spokesman** and **Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization**.

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About Mali :

- Prime Minister: Choguel Kokalla Maïga
- Capital: Bamako
- Currency: West African CFA franc
- Mali is governed by a military junta that came to power in a 2020 coup and has promised to organize democratic elections in **2024**.

Adidas CEO Kasper Rorsted to step down in 2023

- **Adidas** has announced that **Mr. Kasper Rorsted** will **step down** from his role as **chief executive officer (CEO)** in **2023**.

About Mr. Kasper Rorsted :

- Mr. Kasper Rørsted was born on 24 February 1962 in Aarhus in Denmark.
- He has been **CEO** of Adidas since **2016**, and its supervisory board mutually agreed that he will hand over in 2023.

About Adidas :

- Founded: 18 August 1949
- Headquarters: Herzogenaurach, Bavaria, Germany
- Founder : Adolf Dassler
- It is the **largest sportswear manufacturer in Europe**, and the **second largest in the world**, after **Nike**.

Indian Scientist Mr. Samir V Kamat Appointed As New DRDO Chairman

- Distinguished scientist **Mr. Samir V Kamat** was appointed as **Secretary of the Department of Defence Research and Development and Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** from the date of his assumption of charge till he attained the age of 60 years.
- He will replace **Mr. G Satheesh Reddy**, who has been named as **scientific adviser to Defence Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh**
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has also appointed **Mr. G Satheesh Reddy** as **scientific adviser to the defense minister**.

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About Mr Samir V Kamat :

- He joined DRDO at **Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL)**, Hyderabad, in 1989.
- He took over as the director of the lab in 2015.
- Earlier, Dr. Kamat was **Director General of Naval Systems & Materials (NS & M)** at DRDO since **July 2017**.

About DRDO :

- Established: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- DRDO is the premier agency under the **Department of Defence Research and Development** in the **Ministry of Defence** of the Gol.

IDFC appoints Mr. Mahendra Shah as MD& CEO

- Based on the recommendation of the **Nomination and Remuneration Committee**, the board of directors of **Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) Limited** has appointed **Mr. Mahendra N Shah** as the **Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** with effect from **October 1, 2022, till September 30, 2023**.
- Mr. Shah will replace incumbent MD and CEO **Mr. Sunil Kakar**, whose term will end on **September 30, 2022**.

About Mahendra N Shah :

- Shah worked with **International Paper Limited** for 6 years as director of finance and company secretary where he was in charge of the finance function and regulatory compliances.
- He joined IDFC in 2001.
- Shah is the **Company Secretary & Compliance Officer** of **IDFC Limited** since **May 24, 2019**.

About IDFC Limited :

- Founded: 1997
- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

Credit Suisse appoints Mr. Dixit Joshi as new Chief Financial Officer

- **Credit Suisse** has appointed **Mr. Dixit Joshi** as a chief financial officer (CFO) with effect from **October 1, 2022**, and **Mr. Francesca McDonagh** as group chief operating officer (COO) from **September 19, 2022**.
- **Mr. Dixit Joshi** will replace **Mr. David Mathers** who stepped down after more than 11 years.
- **Mr. Joshi** worked at **Credit Suisse** in **New York** and **London** between 1995 and 2003.
- Recently, **McDonagh** served as the **Bank of Ireland's** CEO after holding several senior management roles at **HSBC Group**.
- The firm also appointed **Mr. Michael J. Rongetti** as **Interim Head of the Asset Management Division** and **Mr. Michael Bonacker** as **Head of Transformation**.

About Credit Suisse :

- Founded : 1856
- Headquarters : Zürich, Switzerland
- Chairman : Axel Lehmann
- CEO: Ulrich Körner

Gol appoints former CEA Mr. K Subramanian as Executive Director for India at IMF

- The **Government of India (GoI)** has appointed former **Chief Economic Adviser Mr. K V Subramanian** as the **Executive Director for India** at the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
- **Mr. Subramanian's** term will begin in **November 2022** & he will continue for **three years** or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- He will replace the eminent economist, **Mr. Surjit S Bhalla** as **ED (India)**, **IMF** whose tenure will end on **31 October 2022**.

About Mr KV Subramanian :

- **KV Subramanian** served the **Government of India** as **Chief Economic Adviser** between 2018 and 2021.
- He was a **Member & Director of Research, P J Nayak Committee on Governance of Bank Boards** formed by **RBI**.
- He was also a **member of the Uday Kotak Committee on Corporate Governance** in **SEBI**.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- He also served on the **Board of Directors of Bandhan Bank, National Institute of Bank Management, and Reserve Bank of India Academy.**
- Currently, Subramanian is a **Professor at the Indian School of Business.**

About IMF :

- Established: 27 December 1945
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
- Managing Director: Kristalina Georgieva
- Membership: 190 countries (189 UN countries and Kosovo)
- The Executive Board of the IMF is composed of **24 Directors**, who are elected by member countries or by groups of countries.

India's SBICAP Securities appoints Mr. Deepak Kumar Lalla as the new MD & CEO

- Indian financial services firm **SBICAP Securities**, a unit of SBI Capital Markets and part of the government-owned State Bank Group, has appointed **Mr. Deepak Kumar Lalla** as the **new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).**
- He replaced **Mr. Naresh Yadav.**

About Mr Deepak Kumar Lalla :

- Mr. Lalla joined the **State Bank of India (SBI)** in 1985 & he has over 37 years of experience.
- He served as the **head of & the wealth management business** for the **SBI.**

About SBICAP :

- Founded: August 1986
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- SBI Capital Markets (SBICAPS) is a **wholly-owned investment banking subsidiary of the State Bank of India (SBI).**

RBL bank appoints Mr. Gopal Jain & Mr. Sivakumar Gopalan as non-executive directors

- The private sector lender **RBL Bank** has appointed **Mr. Gopal Jain** and **Dr. Sivakumar Gopalan** as the **non-executive directors.**

About Mr. Gopal Jain :

- Mr. Jain co-founded **Gaja Capital** in 2004 and is a **Managing Partner** at the firm.

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- He has also been a member of SEBI's Alternative Investment Policy Advisory Committee since 2018.

About Mr Sivakumar Gopalan :

- He has been a faculty member of the Dept of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Bombay, since 1991
- He has served as an Independent Director on the Board of Andhra Bank and NPCI.
- He is the Head of the Centre for Formal Design and Verification of Software (CFDVS), an R&D Centre at IIT Bombay.
- Currently, he is an Independent Director at CCIL, NSDL, IFTAS, and IIBF.
- With the new additions, the RBL Bank's board now has 14 members, guiding the Bank's strategy on business, technology, and innovation.
- The board of RBL Bank approved raising to ₹3,000 crores through the issue of debt securities on a private placement basis, on a "time-to-time basis".

About RBL bank :

- Founded: 1943
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO : Mr. R Subramaniakumar
- Tagline: Apno ka Bank

DreamSetGo Appoints Mr. Sourav Ganguly as First Brand Ambassador

- A sports experiences and travel platform, DreamSetGo has appointed Mr. Sourav Ganguly as its first brand ambassador.
- Mr. Ganguly has also become the "Supercaptain" for DreamSetGo.
- He will play a key role in promoting DSG's curated experiences offered through its key partnerships with Manchester City, Chelsea FC, ICC Travel and Tours, AO Travel, F1® Experiences, and more.

About Mr. Sourav Ganguly :

- Mr. Sourav Chandidas Ganguly is an Indian cricket administrator, commentator, and former national cricket team captain.
- He is affectionately known as Dada.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- He is popularly called **Maharaja of Indian Cricket**.
- He is one of the most successful Indian Test captains to date, winning 21 out of 49 test matches.
- He is the **39th and current president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**.

About DreamSetGo :

- Founded: 2019
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Founder & Chief Business Officer: Monish Shah

Justice Shri Uday Umesh Lalit was sworn in as the 49th Chief Justice of India

- Justice Shri Uday Umesh Lalit took oath as the **49th Chief Justice of India (CJI)**.
- **President of India Shri Droupadi Murmu** administered the oath of office at a ceremony held at **Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, Delhi**.
- He succeeded **Justice Shri Nuthalapti Venkata Ramana**, who retired on August 26.
- Justice Shri Lalit will have a tenure of **74 days** as the head of India's judiciary and would demit office on **8 November 2022**.
- Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Union ministers were present at the ceremony.

Additional Info :

- After Justice Lalit's retirement on November 8, 2022, **Justice Shri DY Chandrachud** is expected to be appointed as the **50th Chief Justice of India**.

About Justice Shri Uday Umesh Lalit :

- Justice Shri Lalit was born on November 9, 1957, in **Solapur, Maharashtra**.
- He enrolled as an advocate in **June 1983** & practiced in the **Bombay High Court till December 1985**.
- In April 2004, Lalit was designated as a senior advocate of the Supreme Court.
- He was appointed a special public prosecutor for the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** to conduct the trial in the 2G spectrum allocation case.
- Justice Shri Lalit will be the **second CJI** who was directly elevated to the **Supreme Court bench from the Bar**.

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- **Justice Shri SM Sikri**, who became the 13th CJI in January 1971, was the **first lawyer** to be elevated directly to the top court bench in March 1964.

Note :

- According to **article 124(2)** of the Constitution, the **retirement age** of judges of the Supreme Court is **65**.
- As per **article 217(1)** of the Constitution, judges of the 25 high courts retire at the age of **62**.

Mr. VVS Laxman appointed as interim head coach of India for Asia Cup 2022

- **Mr. Vangipurapu Venkata Sai Laxman** has been appointed as **interim head coach** of Team India in Dubai for the **2022 Asia Cup**.
- The decision was confirmed by the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**, as **Mr. Rahul Dravid**, India's head coach, after testing positive for COVID-19
- **Rohit Sharma** and **KL Rahul** will lead the team as **captain** and **vice-captain** respectively for the Asia Cup 2022.
- India will take on **Pakistan** in their first game of the 2022 Asia Cup

About VVSLaxman :

- Laxman was born in **Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh**, India.
- He is a former Indian international cricketer and a former cricket commentator.
- He is popularly called the '**God of 4th Innings**' for his exploits
- Currently, he is the **Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy (NCA)**, and the head coach of the India Under-19 and India A teams.

Awards & Honors :

- He received the **Arjuna Award**, from the Government of India, in 2001, for his outstanding achievement in sports.
- In 2011, Laxman was awarded the **Padma Shri award**, India's fourth highest civilian award

RJD leader Shri Awadh Bihari Chaudhary was unanimously elected as Bihar Assembly Speaker

- **Senior Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Shri Awadh Bihari Chaudhary** was unanimously elected **Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly** under **Nitish Kumar-RJD** led **Mahagathbandhan**.

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- He replaced former Assembly Speaker Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha as the 17th Speaker of the Bihar Assembly.

About Shri Awadh Bihari Chaudhary :

- Shri Awadh Bihari Chaudhary was elected MLA from Siwan in 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, and in February 2005 and 2020.
- He also served as an Education Minister of Bihar in the Rabri Devi government.

About Bihar :

- Governor: Phagu Chauhan
- Chief minister: Nitish Kumar
- Capital: Patna

SP Jain professor Mr. Ananth Narayan appointed as whole-time SEBI member

- Mr. Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan, an associate professor at SP Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR), has been appointed as a whole-time member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- He will hold office for 3 years.
- With this appointment, Mr. Ananth Narayan becomes the fourth whole-time member of SEBI.
- The other three WTMs include SK Mohanty, Ananta Barua, and Ashwani Bhatia.

About Mr. Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan :

- Narayan has served as the RBI-nominated additional director on the YES Bank board.
- He has worked with Citibank, Deutsche Bank, and Standard Chartered Bank.
- He served as an independent director at SBI Capital Markets Ltd, Clearcorp Dealing Systems Ltd, CARE Ratings Ltd, Agappe Diagnostics Ltd, Southern Ridges Macro Fund, and Southern Ridges Master Macro Fund.
- He has strong expertise in foreign currency, interest rates, derivatives, and debt capital markets.
- He is a senior India analyst at the observatory group and is a public interest director for the NSE IFSC GIFT City in Gujarat and the National Securities Clearing Corporation.

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- Before joining SP Jain, Mr. Narayan was the **Regional Head of Financial Markets for ASEAN and South Asia at Standard Chartered Bank.**

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
- 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.**

AICF appoints Vipnesh Bharadwaj as interim secretary

- The **All India Chess Federation (AICF)** appointed Mr. **Vipnesh Bharadwaj** as its interim secretary after the **Delhi High Court** reiterated its order of removing former chief **Bharat Singh Chauhan.**
- On June 2, 2022, the Delhi HC passed an order and unseated Chauhan.
- However, on June 7, 2022, the Supreme Court overruled the HC's decision & reinstated Chauhan in his post till August 15, 2022, keeping in mind the **44th Chess Olympiad.**

Note :

- The 44th Chess Olympiad was held in **Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu** from **July 28 to August 9, 2022.**
- The 44th Chess Olympiad was organized by **AICF** in association with the **International Chess Federation (FIDE)** and the **Tamil Nadu Government** led by Chief Minister M. K. Stalin

About AICF :

- Founded: 1951
- President: Sanjay Kapoor
- Secretary: Bharat Singh Chauhan

IMPORTANT AWARDS & HONOURS NEWS

Narendra Singh Tomar to give Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Awards:

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, **Narendra Singh Tomar**, presented **Agriculture Infra Fund awards**.
- The awards felicitate the contribution of various Banks and States and different field functionaries to the **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme**.
- **State Bank of India** achieved the first position among the best performing banks.
- It is followed by **Punjab National Bank and Bank of India**.
- In the second category, banks were awarded for their **valuable contribution**.
- In this category, the **Bank of Baroda** achieved the first rank.
- It is followed by the **Central Bank of India, Canara Bank, and Kotak Mahindra Bank**.
- In the Target Achievers Category, Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, HDFC Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Punjab & Sind Bank, and Karnataka Bank were awarded.
- **Madhya Pradesh Gramin Bank** was best among the **best performing Regional Rural Banks**.
- It was followed by **Madhyanchal Gramin Bank, Maharashtra Gramin Bank, and Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin Bank**.
- In the **state category**, **Madhya Pradesh** has been adjudged the best-performing state.
- Andhra Pradesh is recognized as the best performer in the sanction of PACS applications.
- As the best performer in the faster disposal of PACS applications, Karnataka was awarded.
- Rajasthan was declared the Rising State under AIF.

Agri Infra Fund:

- Its second foundation day will be celebrated next month.
- It was launched two years ago under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package.
- It was launched as a dedicated Central Government scheme that provides a medium-long term credit facility for investment in the creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.
- This credit facility comes with financial support by way of a three percent Interest subvention from the Government and a credit guarantee by Credit Guarantee fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) fee of up to two crore rupees.

Canadian Jeffrey Armstrong received the 'Distinguished Indologist for 2021' award:

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- Jeffrey Armstrong, a Canadian Scholar, has been named the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Distinguished Indologist for 2021.
- Manish, India's consul-general in Vancouver, presented him with the honor.
- The prize was given to Armstrong "in honor of his remarkable contribution to the study/teaching/research in India's philosophy, ideas, history, art, culture, Indian languages, literature, civilization, society, and so on."
- He is the **seventh recipient of this prize**, joining previous winners from Germany, China, Japan, the United Kingdom, South Korea, and the United States.
- The award is conferred upon a foreign scholar for "their outstanding contribution in the study, teaching, and research in any of the fields of Indian Studies".
- The **first recipient of the award** in 2015 was Professor Heinrich Freiherr Von Stietencron from Germany.

Spiritual leader Dalai Lama was honored with Ladakh's highest civilian award:

- The highest civilian honor in Ladakh, the "dPal rNgam Duston" award, was given to the head of the Tibetan spiritual order, the Dalai Lama.
- This honor is granted in recognition of his enormous contributions to mankind, particularly to the union territory.
- The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, which celebrated the "dPal rNgam Duston" on the occasion of its founding day at Sindhu Ghat, presented the sixth prize.
- The 87-year-old spiritual leader, who has been in the union territory since July 15, praised the act of kindness and emphasized the need of preserving intergroup unity in the area.
- The "dPal rNgam Duston" commemorates the heroic deeds of Ladakh's heroes and attempts to instill in the new generation a sense of pride in their accomplishments.

Indian-American Aarya Walvekar crowned Miss India USA 2022:

- Aarya Walvekar, an Indian American from Virginia, was named Miss India USA in 2022 in New Jersey.
- The first runner-up was University of Virginia's second-year premedical student Saumya Sharma, and the second runner-up was Sanjana Chekuri of New Jersey.
- The longest-running Indian pageant outside of India celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

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- Dharmatma and Neelam Saran, two Indian-Americans residing in New York, founded it under the name Worldwide Pageants.

Prof Ramadhar Singh becomes 1st Indian Social Psychologist on US Heritage Wall of Fame:

- Ramadhar Singh, a professor at Ahmedabad University, is the first Indian social psychologist to be inducted onto the American Society for Personality and Social Psychology's (SPSP) US Heritage Wall of Fame.
- He is presently a professor at Ahmedabad University's Amrut Mody School of Management and Human Sciences gave him the Distinguished Alumni Award in Psychological Sciences (March 25, 2022).
- Professor Singh joined the organization in 1990 and later became a fellow (1992).

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor to receive France's highest civilian award:

- Shashi Tharoor, a senior Congress politician, is slated to receive France's highest civilian honor, the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur.
- The French government has recognized him for his writings and talks, and the French Ambassador here, Emmanuel Lenain, has informed Tharoor of the honor.
- Tharoor earned a similar honor from the Spanish government in 2010, when King Carlos III conferred the Encomienda de la Real Order Espanola de Carlos III on him.
- Shashi Tharoor is the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and a two-term Lok Sabha MP from Thiruvananthapuram.
- He previously served in the UPA government as Minister of State for Human Resource Development and Minister of State for External Affairs.
- Tharoor is also a former UN diplomat with a 23-year career with the organization.
- He is also a well-known novelist, having written both fiction and nonfiction works.

Sangeetha Abhayan won the World Women Entrepreneurs' Award:

- Kerala's Sangeetha Abhayan won the World Women Entrepreneurs' Award instituted by the Junior Chamber International Hong Kong (JCIHK) for her handloom and handicrafts startup's performance in tune with the United Nation's sustainable development goals (SDGs).

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- JCIHK, which provides development opportunities for youngsters, chose Sangeetha, who is CEO of evieworld.com from upstate Kasaragod district, among more than 225 female entrepreneurs from across the world.
- Based out of Nileshwar, 40 km south of Kasaragod city, evieworld.com won international recognition for creating social changes and financial stability among women entrepreneurs.
- The online platform, whose name eWe is an abbreviation of Empowering Women Entrepreneurs, received the JCIHK award at a virtual event held in Hong Kong.

Muthoot Finance has won 'the best growth performance award':

- Muthoot Finance has won the 'best growth performance award' at Dun & Bradstreet's 22nd edition of 'India's Top 500 Companies' corporate awards.
- Dun & Bradstreet's top-500 list identifies private and public sector Indian enterprises across 60 sectors based on income, net profit, net worth, and other financial parameters.
- "ESG: The only way for sustainable and responsible growth" was the theme for this year's event.
- Dun & Bradstreet is a business decisioning data and analytics provider.
- Muthoot Finance is India's largest gold loan Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).
- It is headquartered in Kochi, Kerala.

Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) Awards 2022 announced:

- The 13th edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2022 began on August 12 and will end on August 30.
- The yearly event in Australia honors the Indian film industry by displaying some of the country's most important and acclaimed films, TV programs, and online series.
- The awards night is one of the festival's highlights, as chosen honors are handed to the top performers from Indian film and the OTT scene from the previous year.
- Rithvik Dhanjani hosted the event, which witnessed huge victories for Kabir Khan's sports drama 83 and its star Ranveer Singh, as well as Prime Video online series Mumbai Diaries 26 and the film Jalsa.
- The two films with the most nominations, Jai Bhim and Gangubai Kathiawadi, did not win any awards.

LIST OF WINNERS:

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S.no	Category	Winners
1	Best Film	83
2	Best Director	Shoojit Sircar (Sardar Udham) and Aparna Sen (The Rapist)
3	Best Actor	Ranveer Singh (83)
4	Best Actress	Shefali Shah (Jalsa)
5	Best Series	Mumbai Diaries 26/11
6	Best Actor in a Series	Mohit Raina (Mumbai Diaries 26/11)
7	Best Actress in a Series	Sakshi Tanwar (Mai)
8	Best Indie Film	Jaggi
9	Best Film from the Subcontinent	Joyland
10	Lifetime Achievement Award	Kapil Dev
11	Disruptor in Cinema Award	Vaani Kapoor (Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui)
12	Equality in Cinema Award	Jalsa
13	Leadership in Cinema Award	Abhishek Bachchan

107 gallantry awards for Armed Forces and CAPF soldiers have been announced:

- Smt. Droupadi Murmu, President of India, has authorized 107 gallantry medals for Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces troops for the occasion of India's Independence Day in 2022.
- Three Kirti Chakras, 13 Shaurya Chakras, two bar to Sena Medals (gallantry), 81 Sena Medals (gallantry), one Nao Sena Medal (gallantry), and seven Vayu Sena Medals are among the honors (gallantry).

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- The president has also approved 40 mentions-in-despatches to Indian Army personnel, one to Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel, and one to the army dog, 'Axel' (posthumously), for their significant contributions in various military operations such as **Operation Rakshak, Snow Leopard, Rhino, Orchid, Falcon, Hifazat, and Trikut (Deoghar)**.

Kirti Chakra

- Nk Devendra Pratap Singh, Armd, 55 Rr
- Sudip Sarkar, Constable/gd, Bsf (Posthumous)
- Paotinsat Guite, Sub-inspector/gd, Bsf (Posthumous)

Shaurya Chakra

- Maj Nitin Dhaania, 2 Para (Sf)
- Maj Amit Dahiya, Sm, 1 Para (Sf)
- Maj Sandeep Kumar, Grenadiers, 55 Rr
- Maj Abhishek Singh, Mech Inf, 50 Rr
- Hav Ghanshyam, Grenadiers, 55 Rr
- L/nk Raghendra Singh, Mech Inf, 9 Rr
- Sep Karn Veer Singh, Rajput, 44 Rr (Posthumous)
- Gnr Jasbir Singh, Arty, 19 Rr (Posthumous)
- Lt Cdr Mritunjay Kumar
- Amit Kumar, Assistant Commandant, Crpf
- Somay Vinayak Munde, IPS, Addl. Superintendent of Police, Maharashtra Police
- Ravindra Kashinath Naitam, Police Naik, Maharashtra Police
- Tikaram Sampatrao Katenge, Police Naik, Maharashtra Police

Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry)

- Maj Archit Sharma, Sena Medal, Mech Inf, 42 Rr
- Maj Narendra Singh Waldia, Sena Medal, Engrs, 44 Rr

Sena Medal (Gallantry)

- Lt Col Vivek Kumar Dwivedi, Arty, 663 Army Avn Sqn (R&o)
- Lt Col Sudhanshu Dhyani, 671 Army Avn Sqn (R&o)
- Lt Col Prasoon Singh, 5 Rajput

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- Maj Angad Singh Behl, 14 Jat
- Maj Vaibhav Bhatnagar, 3 Rajput
- Maj Sahil Kumar, 4 Para (Sf)
- Maj Parth Chandel, Bihar, 24 Rr
- Maj Vivek Kamboj, Grenadiers, 55 Rr
- Maj Mritunjay Katoch, Garh Rif, 14 Rr
- Maj Sudeep Kumar, Sikh, 46 Rr

UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2022:

- **Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Bhubaneswar** is one of the winners of the **UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2022**.
- Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences will be awarded for its **'Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education Programme'**.
- **Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences** is the largest residential institute for Tribals in the world.
- It began as a residential tribal school in 1993 and became a deemed-to-be-university in 2017.
- UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize was first given in 1989.
- It is funded by the **Government of the Republic of Korea**.
- The winner receives a medal, a diploma, and US\$20,000.
- It is given in honor of Sejong the Great who created the Korean alphabet Hangul.

Shiv Shankar Singh has been honored with the "Best CEO of the Year Award":

- **Shiv Shankar Singh, CEO of Gramin Vikas Trust** (established by KRIBHCO of GoI) has been honored with the **"Best CEO of the Year Award"** by the Indian Achiever's Forum.
- He was selected among a few from their respective fields and sectors for outstanding contributions to the progress and development of the Indian economy and society.
- He started his career as a research associate at G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology in 1993.
- In 1995, he joined the **National Tree Grower Cooperative Federation of the National Dairy Development Board in Rajasthan**, where was also facilitated the process of wasteland management by organizing and strengthening tree grower cooperative societies.

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- **Indian Achievers Forum** is an apex body that promotes and encourages commendable achievements from all over the country.

Deepika Misra became the first woman to bag the Vayu Sena medal prestigious award:

- **Wing Commander Deepika Misra**, a pilot of the Indian Air Force, was conferred with the **Vayu Sena medal**, becoming perhaps the first woman to bag the prestigious award.
- The government also conferred the Vayu Sena medal to **Group Captain Rahul Singh** and **Group Captain Ravi Nanda** for their respective roles during **India's Operation Devi Shakti**, the evacuation mission launched to bring back Indians from Kabul after its takeover by the Taliban

Liberty Medal 2022 to be awarded to Ukrainian President Zelensky:

- **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy** will receive the **Liberty Medal 2022** this fall.
- For what it called "his valiant defense of liberty in the face of Russian oppression," the National Constitution Center has announced that Zelenskyy would be honored at a ceremony in October.
- President Zelenskyy has gallantly led the Ukrainian people in their defense of freedom against Russian oppression, and his heroism has motivated people all around the world to preserve liberal democracy and the rule of law.
- **Zelenskyy, who has led the country since May 2019**, has also received honors from the governments of the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia, as well as prizes like the **John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award** and the **Ronald Reagan Freedom Award**.

Bangladeshi Fahmida Azim won the Pulitzer Prize in 2022:

- **Bangladesh-born** The US Insider online magazine **Fahmida Azim** has been chosen to receive the **Pulitzer Prize** in 2022.
- She will get recognition for her work in the field of illustrated reporting and commentary.
- She is one of the **four journalists** chosen for their reporting on the Chinese repression of the Uyghurs, together with **Anthony Del Col, Josh Adams, and Walt Hickey** of the New York-based Insider publication.
- Illustrations by Fahmida Azim are included in the piece "I Escaped a Chinese Internment Camp."
- **Fahmida Azim was born in Bangladesh** and is now settled in the US.
- She is an illustrator and storyteller.
- She has illustrated several books including her notable project 'Muslim Women Are Everything.'

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Former German chancellor Angela Merkel wins Unesco Peace Prize 2022:

- **Angela Merkel**, a former German chancellor, has been given the **2022 Unesco Peace Prize** for "her efforts to welcome migrants"
- The German chancellor, **Angela Merkel**, famously declared to her people, "We can do this," in the summer of 2015 as refugees poured into Europe.
- She subsequently changed her mind about being pro-immigration when support declined from both the general public and her conservative party.
- Her selfless choice in 2015 to accept more than 1.2 million refugees, particularly those from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Eritrea, moved every single member.

About UNESCO

- Founded: 16 November 1945
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Members: 193 countries
- Head: Audrey Azoulay

Karim Benzema, Alexia Putellas win UEFA best player awards: UEFA Awards

- At a ceremony in Istanbul, Turkey, **Karim Benzema**, and **Alexia Putellas** received the **UEFA men's and women's player of the year awards** in recognition of their remarkable seasons.
- The French forward Benzema led Real Madrid to win against Liverpool in the **Champions League championship game and finished with 15 goals** overall, while Putellas led all scorers in the Women's Champions League, advancing Barcelona to the championship game where they fell to Lyon.
- The coaching awards went to the winners of the two biggest events last season: **Carlo Ancelotti of Madrid and Sarina Wiegman**, who led England to the Euro 2022 title.

IMPORTANT DEFENCE NEWS

IAF to phase out the remaining 4 Mig 21 squadrons by 2025

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has set to phase out **four Mig-21 fighter squadrons** by 2025.
- The IAF also plans to start the phasing out of the **three squadrons of Mig-29 fighter jets** in the next five years.

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- India is also working on a **USD 5 billion project** to develop a **5th-generation medium-weight deep penetration fighter jet** to significantly bolster its air power capability.

About MiG-21 :

- MiG-21 is **India's longest-serving fighter aircraft** & the aircraft has had a very poor safety record of late.
- Designed by the erstwhile Soviet Union's **Mikoyan Gurevich Design Bureau**.
- The first fleet of the Mig variant was inducted into the IAF in **1963** and India procured over 700 Mig-variants in the subsequent decades.

Key Highlights :

- The Srinagar-based No 51 squadron will be number-plated on September 30.
- The number plating refers to the retirement of a squadron that generally comprises 17-20 aircraft.
- The squadron, also known as '**Swordarms**'

Background :

- In February 2021, the Defence ministry sealed a **Rs 48,000 crore deal** with the **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)** for the procurement of **83 Tejas fighter aircraft** to help the IAF replace its aging fighter fleet.
- The IAF is also in the process of procuring **114 Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA)**.

Note :

- Currently, the IAF has around **70 Mig-21 aircraft** and **50 Mig-29 variants**.

About IAF :

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

Point 5140 at Dras named Gun Hill to mark India's victory in the 1999 Kargil War

- To commemorate the victory of the **Indian Armed Forces (IAF)** and pay tribute to the supreme sacrifice of the Gunners in "Operation Vijay", **Point 5140 at Dras** in the Kargil sector has been christened as **Gun Hill**.

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- On behalf of the Regiment of Artillery, a wreath was laid by Lieutenant General TK Chawla, Director General of Artillery at Kargil War Memorial, Dras, along with veteran gunners who had participated in the operation.
- Lieutenant General Anindya Sengupta, General Officer Commanding, Fire & Fury Corps also laid a wreath on the solemn occasion.
- The ceremony was conducted in the presence of Veterans from all Artillery Regiments, which got the honor title “KARGIL” in Operation Vijay.

About Point 5140 :

- Point 5140 was the highest enemy-occupied post in the Tololing complex.
- A company of 13 JAK RIF (Jammu & Kashmir Rifles) moved towards Point 5140, a strongly fortified position held in strength by the enemy with a large number of automatic weapons.
- **Captain Vikram Batra** led from the front and assaulted enemy positions on Point 5140.
- In this operation Lt Col Y K Joshi, Capt SS Jamwal, Nk Dev Parkash & Rfn Mehar Singh were awarded **Vir Chakra**.
- Since 1999, India has observed **Kargil Vijay Diwas** on **July 26** to commemorate its victory over Pakistan in the Kargil conflict.

Tata Advanced Systems delivered indigenously developed combat vehicles to the Indian Army

- Tata group's Aerospace and Defence Arm, Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) has successfully delivered the indigenously developed **Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicle-Medium (QRFV)** to the **Indian Army** to bolster the operational capabilities of the IAF.
- The combat vehicle will enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Army in future conflicts and war-like scenarios.

About QRFV :

- QRFV offers a STANAG level 4 protection against up to **14kg** and **21kg of explosives**.
- The vehicle can **carry 14 people**, including the commander and driver, i.e. 2 tons.
- The turbodiesel engine develops **240hp**.
- The vehicle is fitted with run-flat tires.

Note :

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- Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) became **India's first private sector company** to produce and deliver wheeled armoured combat-ready vehicles for the IAF.

Background :

- In April 2021, Former Chief of Army Staff General **MM Naravane** inducted the first set of QRFV along with **Infantry Protected Mobility Vehicle (IPMV)**, **Ultra Long Range Observation System** developed by TASL, and **Monocoque Hull Multi-Role Mine-Protected Armoured Vehicle** developed by Bharat Forge.
- Infantry Protected Mobility Vehicle (IPMV) has been developed by **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)** along with **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- Tata Advanced Systems' flagship product, **WhAP 8×8 (Wheeled Armoured Platform)** is India's first Amphibious Infantry Combat Vehicle (Wheeled), designed for optimized survivability, all-terrain performance, and increased lethality.

Additional Info :

- The center has reduced the **expenditure on defense procurement** from foreign sources from **46 percent** of the overall expenditure to **36 percent** in the last four years (2018-19 to 2021-22) to encourage the production of indigenous defense equipment.

About TASL :

- Founded: 2007
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana, India
- Chairman : Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- TASL is Indian aerospace, defense, military engineering & construction, and technology company.
- It is a fully owned subsidiary of Tata Sons, a holding company for the Tata Group.

About the Indian Army :

- Founded: 26 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chief of the Army Staff: General Manoj Pande

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3rd edition of Vietnam-India bilateral army exercise “Ex VINBAX2022” to begin at Chandimandir in Haryana

- The **third Edition of the Vietnam India Bilateral Army Exercise “Ex VINBAX2022”** is scheduled to be conducted at **Chandimandir**, a military cantonment of the Indian Army located in the **Panchkula district of Haryana**, from **August 01 to 20, 2022**.
- The **theme of Ex VINBAX – 2022** is the employment and deployment of an Engineer Company and a Medical Team as part of the United Nations Contingent for Peacekeeping Operations.
- The Indian Army is represented by troops from the **105 Engineer Regiment**.
- The previous edition of the bilateral exercise was conducted in **Vietnam in 2019**.

About Ex VINBAX2022 :

- The exercise will strengthen confidence, and inter-operability and enable sharing of best practices between the Indian Army and Vietnam People’s Army.
- The joint exercise will also provide an opportunity for the troops of both the Contingents to learn about each the social and cultural heritage of each other.
- A **48 hours Validation Exercise** is part of the schedule to assess the standards achieved by both contingents while executing technical military operations under similar scenarios in UN missions.
- A Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief demonstration and equipment display will showcase India’s capacity to undertake rescue and relief operations during natural and manmade disasters utilizing indigenous solutions.
- Vietnam is also an important partner in the Act East policy of India as well as the **Indo-Pacific vision**.

4th India-Oman Joint Military Exercise ‘AL NAJAH-IV’ to begin in Rajasthan

- The **4th Edition of India-Oman Joint Military Exercise ‘AL NAJAH-IV’** will be held from **August 01 to 13, 2022** at the **Foreign Training Node of Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan**.
- The exercise will take place between contingents of the **Indian Army** and the **Royal Army of Oman**.
- The 3rd edition of Ex AL NAJAH IV was held at **Muscat** from **March 12 to 25 2019**.

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- To enhance the level of defense cooperation between the Indian Army (IA) and Royal Army of Oman (RAO) will further manifest in enhancing the bilateral relations between the two nations.
- The Indian Army will be represented at the exercise by troops from the **18 Mechanised Infantry Battalion**.
- The Royal Army of Oman contingent will be represented by the **60 personnel from the Sultan of Oman Parachute Regiment**

About 'ALNAJAH-IV' :

- The joint exercise would focus on Counter Terrorism Operations, Regional Security Operations, and Peace Keeping Operations under the United Nations charter apart from organizing joint physical training schedules, tactical drills, techniques, and procedures.
- The exercise includes "professional interaction, mutual understanding of drills and procedures, the establishment of joint command and control structures and elimination of terrorist threats.
- It is a comprehensive training program to culminate in a 48 hours long validation exercise involving the establishment of joint mobile vehicle check posts, a joint cordon and search operations followed by joint room intervention drills in a built-up area
- Oman is a strategic partner of India in the Gulf and an important interlocutor at the Gulf Cooperation Council (AGCC), Arab League, and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) fora.

About Oman :

- Capital: Muscat
- Currency: Omani rial

India set to participate in 17-nation drill "Pitch Black 2022" in Australia

- India will be part of the **mega air combat exercise "Pitch Black 2022"** among **17 nations**, to be held in the **Northern Territory of Australia**.
- The exercise will be held for **three-week-long** and is scheduled to take place from **August 19 to September 6, 2022**.
- Almost **2,500 personnel** from over **17 countries** and **100 aircraft** will engage in both **Offensive Counter Air (OCA)** and **Defensive Counter Air (DCA)** combat drills.

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- The first time India participated in Pitch Black was in **2018** along with other countries like Germany, Indonesia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Australia, Canada, France (New Caledonia), and the United States.

Participating countries :

- US, India, Australia, Japan, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Netherlands, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the UAE, and the UK.

About Pitch Black 2022 :

- Pitch Black military exercise is a **biennial multinational large force employment warfare exercise**.
- The exercises will be conducted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)**
- Pitch Black, which occurs **once every two years**.

Aim :

- To foster a closer relationship between the participating forces and promote interoperability through the exchange of knowledge and experience.
- This will enhance interoperability and strengthen relationships.
- The RAAF considers “Pitch Black” as its “capstone” international engagement activity with the air forces of strategic partners and allies.

About Australia :

- Prime minister: Anthony Albanese
- Capital: Canberra
- Currency: Australian dollar

Indian & French Navies Conducts Maritime Partnership Exercise In North Atlantic Ocean

- The guided-missile frigate **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tarkash** of the Indian Navy & the **French Fleet Tanker French Navy Ship (FNS) Somme** participated in a **Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)** in the **North Atlantic Ocean**.
- INS Tarkash is on a long-range overseas deployment.
- INS Tarkash carried out various drills with French fleet tanker FS Somme, followed by joint air operations with maritime surveillance aircraft Falcon 50.
- The successful conduct of these surface and aerial exercises symbolize the high degree of professionalism and interoperability that exists between the two navies.

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About INS Tarkash :

- INS Tarkash (F50) is the **second Talwar-class frigate** constructed for the Indian Navy.
- It was built at the **Yantar shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia**.
- Earlier it was commissioned to Navy service on 9 November 2012 at Kaliningrad and joined the Western Naval Command on 27 December 2012

Recent News :

- In March 2022, the Indian and French navies carried out a 5-day mega wargame in the Arabian Sea, involving frontline ships, submarines, maritime patrol aircraft, fighter aircraft, and helicopters.

South Korea, the US & Japan holds Multilateral Pacific Dragon missile defense exercise

- The **biennial Pacific Dragon ballistic missile defense exercise** between the military of **South Korea, the United States, and Japan** is being held from **August 01 to August 14, 2022**, to detect and track ballistic missiles in the waters off **Hawaii**.
- In addition to the three countries, **Australia and Canada** will join the exercise in 2022's edition.
- The Pacific Dragon ballistic missile defense drill was led by the US Pacific Fleet.

About Pacific Dragon Exercise :

- Pacific Dragon is a trilateral **ballistic missile defense (BMD)** tracking event between the U.S. Navy, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, and the Republic of Korea Navy.

Aim:

- To improve interoperability and tactical and technical coordination among participants in detecting, tracking, reporting, and assessing ballistic targets.
- To enhance the readiness against escalating threats from North Korea.
- **8 surface vessels and 2 aircraft** will reportedly participate in the drill, with South Korea sending its **7600-ton Aegis destroyer King Sejong the Great**.

About South Korea :

- President: Yoon Suk-yeol
- Prime minister: Han Duck-soo
- Capital: Seoul

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- Currency: South Korean won

About the US :

- President: Joe Biden
- Capital: Washington, D.C.
- Currency: United States Dollar

About Japan :

- Prime minister: Fumio Kishida
- Capital: Tokyo
- Currency: Japanese yen

Indian Navy's All-Women Crew Completes Maritime Surveillance Mission Over Arabian Sea

- Five women officers of the Indian Naval Air Squadron 314 (INAS 314) based at Naval Air Enclave, Porbandar in Gujarat created history by completing the first all-women independent maritime reconnaissance and surveillance mission over the north Arabian Sea onboard a Dornier 228 aircraft.
- The aircraft was captained by Mission Commander Lt Commander Aanchal Sharma, who had pilots Lt Shivangi and Lt Apurva Gite & tactical and sensor officers Lt Pooja Panda and Sub Lt Pooja Shekhawat.
- This first-of-its-kind military flying mission was, unique and is expected to pave the way for women officers in the aviation cadre to assume greater responsibility and aspire for more challenging roles.

About INAS 314 :

- INAS 314 is a frontline naval air squadron that operates the state-of-the-art Dornier 228 maritime reconnaissance aircraft.
- The squadron is commanded by Commander SK Goyal, a qualified navigation instructor.

About the Indian Navy :

- Founded: 26 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral R. Hari Kumar

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DRDO successfully test-fires indigenously-developed laser-guided ATGMs

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) & the Indian Army have successfully test-fired laser-guided Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) from Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun at KK Ranges with the support of Armoured Corps Centre & School (ACC&S) Ahmednagar in Maharashtra.
- The indigenously developed missiles hit with precision and successfully destroyed the targets at two different ranges.
- Also, telemetry systems recorded the satisfactory flight performance of the missiles.

About ATGM :

- The all-indigenous Laser Guided ATGM employs a tandem High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armored vehicles.
- 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.

About MBT Arjun :

- MBT Arjun is a state-of-the-art tank with superior firepower, high mobility, and excellent protection.
- It is a multi-laboratory program of DRDO with Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) as the lead laboratory.

About DRDO :

- Established: 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 Govt.

About Ministry of Defence :

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

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

Indian Army conducts pan-India drill 'Skylight' Exercise to test the operational readiness of the satellite-based system

- The Indian Army conducted a pan-India satellite communication exercise called 'Ex Skylight'.

Objective :

- To test & evaluate the operational readiness and robustness of its hi-tech satellite communication systems.
- This is expected to be ready for the army by **December 2025**.
- The dedicated GSAT-7B satellite of the Army is a **first-of-its-kind indigenous multi-band satellite**, designed with advanced security features.
- It will support tactical communication requirements for troops deployed on the ground, remotely piloted aircraft, air defense weapons, and other mission-critical and fire support platforms.
- ISRO and various agencies responsible for space and ground segments also participated in the exercise.
- The IAF and Navy already have their GSAT-7 series satellites.
- The Indian Army has also carried out a detailed study of cyber and electromagnetic warfare in the Russia-Ukraine war.
- The study established the efficacy of reliable satellite communication like the one afforded by 'Starlink'.

Note :

- Currently, India has only two dedicated military satellites the GSAT-7 (Rukmini) and GSAT-7A (Angry Bird) used by the Indian Navy and Air Force respectively.
- GSAT-7 (Rukmini) is India's first military satellite that mainly covers the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Indo-US Joint Special Forces Exercise Ex Vajra Prahar 2022 begins in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh

- The 13th Edition of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercises "Ex Vajra Prahar 2022" commenced at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS), Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
- The Indian Army contingent is represented by drawing Special Forces personnel under the aegis of SFTS, while the US contingent is represented by personnel from the 1st Special Forces Group (SFG) and Special Tactics Squadron (STS) of the US Special Forces.

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Aim :

- To share best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics as also to improve interoperability between the Special Forces of both Nations.
- This annual exercise is hosted **alternatively** between India and the United States.
- The **12th edition** was conducted at **Joint Base Lewis Mcchord, Washington (USA) in October 2021**.
- During the next 21 days, teams of both armies would jointly train, plan and execute a series of Special Operations, Counter Terrorist Operations, and Air Borne operations in simulated conventional and unconventional scenarios in mountainous terrain.

12th DefExpo to be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from in October 2022

- The **12th edition** of India's prestigious biennial defense exhibition on Land, Naval, and Homeland Security systems, DefExpo 2022 will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat between October 18-22, 2022.
- The theme of 2022 DefExpo is '**Path to Pride**'.
- The five-day event will witness three business days followed by two public days.
- DefExpo 2022 was earlier proposed to be held between March 10 to 14, 2022 in Gandhinagar & the defense ministry had postponed the event due to logistics problems being faced by participants.

About DefExpo 2022 :

- DefExpo 2022 will focus on the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to achieve self-reliance in defense and export of **USD 5 billion by 2025**.
- DefExpo 2022 will be held in a **three-venue format** across an area of 01+ lakh square meters at Helipad Exhibition Centre; inaugural event and seminars at Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Centre and a Live demo at Sabarmati RiverFront.
- It will include live demonstrations at Sabarmati RiverFront to showcase the equipment and skill set of the armed forces, DPSUs (defense public sector units), and industry.
- This expo will help in boosting investment, discover avenues for technology absorption and expand manufacturing capabilities as well as capacities.

About Ministry of Defence :

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

IAF to Participate in Military Drills 'Udarashakti' with Malaysia

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) conduct a bilateral air exercise named 'Udarashakti', at the RMAF base of Kuantan in Malaysia.
- The four-day exercise will witness the conduct of various aerial combat drills between the two Air Forces.
- IAF is participating in the air exercise with **Su-30 MKI and C-17 aircraft** while the RMAF will be flying **Su 30MKI aircraft**.

About Ex Udarashakti :

- Ex Udarashakti will fortify the long-standing bond of friendship and enhance the avenues of defense cooperation between the two Air Forces, thereby augmenting security in the region.
- The exercise will allow IAF contingent members to share and learn best practices with some of the best professionals from RMAF, while also discussing mutual combat capabilities.
- In 2021, RMAF issued a Request for Proposal (RfP) to five countries: **Italy, Russia, China, South Korea**, and India to procure fighter jets.

Note :

- **Udarashakti** is the **first bilateral exercise** being conducted between Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF).

About IAF :

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

About Ministry of Defence :

- Defence Minister: Rajnath Singh
- Minister of Defence: Ajay Bhatt
- Defence Secretary: Dr. Ajay Kumar

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4th India-Oman Joint Military Exercise 'AL NAJAH-IV' concludes

- The 4th Edition of India-Oman Joint Military Exercise 'AL NAJAH-IV' concluded in Rajasthan at the Foreign Training Node of Mahajan Field Firing Ranges.

Aim :

- To achieve interoperability and to acquaint each other with operational procedures and combat drills in a Counter Terrorism environment under the United Nations mandate

Represents :

- The Indian Army will be represented by troops from the 18 Mechanized Infantry Battalion at the AL NAJAH-IV.
- The Royal Army of Oman contingent will be represented by the Sultan of Oman Parachute Regiment.
- The exercise was conducted in three phases.
 1. Orientation & familiarization with a weapon, equipment, and tactical drills each other by the participating contingents.
 2. Combat conditioning, formulation of joint drills, and putting them into practice.
 3. 48 hours validation exercise of key drills and concepts learned during the first two phases.
- The 3rd edition of Ex AL NAJAH IV was held at Muscat from 12 to 25 March 2019.

About Oman :

- Capital: Muscat
- Currency: Omani rial

Indian Army launches Him 'Drone-a-thon'

- The Indian Army has launched the 'Him Drone-a-thon' program in association with the Drone Federation of India (DFI), to support indigenous drone ecosystems.

Aim :

- To achieve self-reliance in defense manufacturing by providing opportunities to the Indian drone ecosystem to develop path-breaking drone capabilities for meeting the requirements of frontline troops.
- The Indian Army's support of the indigenous drone ecosystem is based on the principle that 'good available indigenously' is better than the 'best available globally'

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – August 2022

- The Drone Federation of India (DFI) and the Army Design Bureau (ADB) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to accelerate drone technology development and indigenization in the drone ecosystem in India.

About Him Drone-a-thon program:

- The 'Him Drone-a-thon' program is a pan-India sustained connection between all stakeholders including industry, academia, software developers, and drone product manufacturers.
- It will be conducted in stages with **quantifiable parameters** (like altitude, weight, range, endurance, etc) being progressively enhanced based on demonstrated capabilities.

To begin with, drone development in the following categories are included:

- Logistics/ Load carrying Drone in High Altitude Areas.
- Autonomous Surveillance/ Search & Rescue Drone.
- Micro/ Nano Drones for Fighting in Built Up Areas.

About DFI:

- Founded: 2017
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi
- President: Smit Shah
- The DFI is a **non-government**, not-for-profit, industry-led body that promotes and strives toward building a safer and scalable unmanned aviation industry in India.

About the Indian Army :

- Founded: 26 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chief of the Army Staff: General Manoj Pande

US naval ship Charles Drew arrives in Indian shipyard for repair

- A US Navy Ship named USNS Charles Drew arrived at Larsen & Toubro Kattupalli Shipyard at Ennore, near Chennai, for undertaking repairs and maintenance.
- This will be the **first time** that a US Navy ship is being repaired in an Indian shipyard.
- This is the **third Indo-Pacific base** being used by the US Navy for maintenance and ship repair & the other two are located at Diego Garcia and Singapore.

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- US Consul General in Chennai **Judith Ravin** and Defence Attaché at the US Embassy at New Delhi Rear Admiral **Michael Baker** were also present.
- The USNS Charles Drew will be at the Kattupalli shipyard for **11 days** and undergo repairs in various areas.
- The development will mark a new strategic dimension to the burgeoning Indo-US military partnership.

India & Malaysia concludes four-day bilateral air exercise 'Udarashakti'

- The four-day air exercise 'Udarashakti' between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) concluded in Malaysia.
- Both the Air Forces flew **seven aircraft** in formation as part of the ceremony.

About Ex Udarashakti :

- Ex Udarashakti would strengthen the long-standing partnership between the two Air Forces and expand their defense cooperation opportunities, increasing regional security.
- The **Su-30 MKI** and **C-17** aircraft from the Indian Air Force, while **Su-30 MKM** aircraft from the Malaysian force took part in the air exercise.
- In **1957**, India and the **Federation of Malaya** (the country that later became Malaysia) established diplomatic ties.
- The IAF contingent has now moved on to **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), Darwin, Australia** for **Exercise Pitch Black 22**.

About Malaysia :

- Prime Minister: **Ismail Sabri Yaakob**
- Capital: **Kuala Lumpur**
- Currency : **Malaysian Ringgit**

Indian Air Force contingent participates in Pitch Black 2022 Exercise in Australia

- The **Indian Air Force** joined **Pitch Black 2022**, a joint military exercise in **Australia**.
- Exercise Pitch Black 2022 started on **August 19** and will continue till **September 8, 2022**, in **Darwin, Australia**.
- The last edition was conducted in **2018**.
- The 2020 edition of the exercise was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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About the Exercise Pitch Black 2022 :

- This is a biennial, multi-national exercise hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)**.
- The IAF contingent, led by **Group Captain YPS Negi**, comprises over 100 air warriors, deployed with **4 Su-30 MKI fighters and 2 C-17 Globemaster -III aircraft**
- It will focus on Large Force Employment warfare.
- The exercise will see the participation of over **100 aircraft and 2500 military personnel** from various air forces.
- The exercise will have participants from **Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, India, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the UAE, Singapore, Thailand, the US, and the UK.**

About IAF :

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

About Australia :

- Prime minister: Anthony Albanese
- Capital: Canberra
- Currency: Australian dollar

DRDO & Indian Navy successfully flight-test VL-SRSAM off the Odisha coast

- The **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** and Indian Navy successfully flight tested **Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM)** from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur** off the coast of Odisha.
- The flight test was carried out from an Indian Naval Ship against a **high-speed unmanned aerial target** for demonstration of vertical launch capability.

Key Highlights :

- During the test launch, flight path and vehicle performance parameters were monitored using flight data, captured by various Range instruments such as **Radar, Electro-optical tracking system (EOTS)**, and Telemetry systems deployed by ITR, Chandipur.

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- The launch was monitored by senior scientists from various DRDO labs involved in the design and development of the system such as the **Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL)**, **Research Centre Imarat (RCI)**, Hyderabad, and **R&D Engineers**, Pune
- The missiles, equipped with indigenous **Radio Frequency (RF) seekers**, intercepted the target with high accuracy.

About VL-SRSAM:

- The VL-SRSAM system has been indigenously designed and developed by **DRDO**.
- This was the **4th** test for VL-SRSAM (The 1st test was carried out Feb 2021 & 3rd was carried out in June 2022).

About DRDO:

- Established: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy

About Indian Navy:

- Founded: 26 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral R. Hari Kumar

DRDO Successfully developed guided rockets for the Pinaka weapon system

- The **Ministry of Defence** approved three **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** projects: **Guided Extended Range ammunition**, **Aerial Denial Munition Type I**, and **Infantry Combat Vehicle – Command**.
- It would give a significant boost to the **Indian Army**
- All three of these products have been designed and developed by **DRDO**.
- The total value of these **three proposals** is **Rs 8,599 crore**

About Guided Extended Range ammunition :

- It has a range of **75 km** with an accuracy of **40 meters**.

About Aerial Denial Munition Type I :

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- It contains **dual-purpose submunitions** that are capable of neutralizing both tanks and armored personnel carriers as well as vehicle-entrenched troops

About Infantry Combat Vehicle – Command :

- It is equipped with technology to collect, disseminate, share and present **real-time information** to commanders to **facilitate quick decision-making** for the **execution of tasks**.

About DRDO :

- Established: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman: Dr. Sameer V Kamath
- DRDO is the premier agency under the **Department of Defence Research and Development** in the **Ministry of Defence** of the **GoI**.

Indian Navy receives first-ever fully indigenous AK-630 gun ammunition

- The Indian Navy received its **first-ever fully Made in India 30mm ammunition** for **AK-630 guns** fitted on warships.
- **Mr. Satyanarayan Nuwal, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)** of the Solar Group, handed over the first consignment of the ammunition to **Vice Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral SN Ghormade**.
- The Economic Explosives Ltd. from Nagpur supplied the indigenous **30mm gun ammunition** to the Indian Navy, which was received by the **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral SN Ghormade**.
- It is the **first time** that the services have placed an order on the Indian private industry for the **delivery of complete gun ammunition**.
- It has been done in **12 months** and all components are indigenous.
- The Indian Navy has provided technical support in terms of the finalization of drawings, design specifications, inspection tools, proof, and testing of ammunition
- With the collaborative approach, the Indian Navy has been able to successfully develop an alternate source of supply for **30mm ammunition**.

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About Indian Navy :

- Founded: 26 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral R. Hari Kumar

Govt grants permission to defense forces to buy emergency weapons through the Make in India route

- The Government of India (GoI) has granted permission to defense forces to buy emergency weapons through the Make in India route.
- The approval was given in a meeting of the Defence Ministry which was headed by Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh.
- These emergency powers give the defense forces to acquire any new or in-service equipment on a fast-track basis as per requirement.
- The equipment will be delivered within a time frame of 3 months to 1 year.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) & the Army received 'Heron' unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) which have now been deployed for surveillance in Ladakh as well as in the northeastern region.
- Other acquisitions include missiles that can hit ground targets like bunkers from a long distance.

IMPORTANT SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

Election Commission will host a virtual Asian Regional Forum meeting:

- Election Commission will host a virtual Asian Regional Forum meeting in August.
- This Regional Forum meeting will be held on the theme of 'Making our Elections Inclusive, Accessible, and Participative'.
- It is the precursor of the Global Summit for Democracy, which will be hosted by the National Electoral Institute of Mexico.
- Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey will chair the Asian Regional Forum meeting.
- Representatives from the election management bodies of Mexico, Mauritius, Philippines, Nepal, Uzbekistan, and the Maldives will participate in the meeting.

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- The first session of the meeting will be on **'Inclusive Elections: Enhancing Participation of Youth, Gender and Citizens in Remote Areas.**
- The Global Summit and Regional Forum meetings encourage intellectual and institutional mobilization to strengthen global electoral democracy.
- As part of this 'Global Summit for Democracy', five Regional Forums namely Africa, America, Asia, Europe, and countries of the Arab States have been created. India is hosting the Asian Regional Forum meeting of the EMBs.

Odisha and FICCI sign an MoU for the next "Make in Odisha" summit in 2022:

- The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** is designated as the **national industry partner** for the **Make in Odisha Conclave 2022** under a Memorandum of Understanding between the state-run **Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha** and the organization.
- Principal Secretary for Industries for the state of Odisha, Hemant Sharma, emphasized that **"Make in Odisha"** is the most entrepreneurial event in the state and attracts investors, entrepreneurs, and industrialists alike.
- Pratap Keshari Deb, the Minister for Industries, MSME, and Energy for the Government of Odisha, stated that the **Make in Odisha Conclave** will be held for the third time this year.
- The inaugural edition in 2016 received approximately Rs 2 Lakh Crore in investment intent, which was a tremendous response.

LG Sinha has announced the launch of the 8th India International MSME Start-up Expo and Summit 2022:

- **Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha** formally launched the **8th India International MSME Start-up Expo & Summit 2022** in New Delhi.
- The 8th India International MSME Start-up Expo and Summit 2022 provides **SMEs, startups, businesses, industry, and service providers** with a critical platform to find new clients, establish connections with purchasers and vendors, and share knowledge about federal, state, and local programs, among other things.
- **MSMEs' exports** grew by **54%** in the fiscal year **2021–2022** while importer–exporter registration increased by **173%**.

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- 8th India International MSME Start-up Expo and Summit 2022 is a step forward.

IMPORTANT SCHEMES NEWS

Ministry of Heavy Industries launches Automated Online Data Transfer to monitor PLI scheme for the auto sector

- The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) launched automated online data transfer for capturing critical data related to domestic value addition in the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the auto sector.
- The new system will capture data from the PLI applicant's ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) system to the PLI auto portal.

About ERP :

- All approved applicants for the PLI Scheme have their ERP system.
- ERP is a type of software that organizations use to manage business activities.
- The IT-enabled system has been devised to enable the smooth transfer of data from the applicant's existing ERP system to the PLI Auto portal of MHI in a safe environment.
- The Application Programming Interface (API) will be embedded with the ERP system of the applicant and will enable automaticity and paperless processing in this scheme.

Background :

- In Sep 2021, Government approved the PLI Scheme for Automobile and Auto Component Industry in India (PLI-Auto) for enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities for Advanced Automotive Products (AAT) with a budgetary outlay of ₹25,938 crores.
- The Scheme has been successful in attracting a proposed investment of ₹67,690 crores against the target estimate of investment of ₹42,500 crores over five years.
- The scheme shall bring in incremental production of AAT products of over ₹2.3 lakh crore.

About PLI-Auto Scheme :

- The PLI-Auto Scheme proposes financial incentives to boost domestic manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products and attract investments in the automotive manufacturing value chain.

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- The scheme incentivizes only those eligible AAT products for which a minimum of **50% Domestic Value Addition (DVA)** is achieved.
- Pre-approved eligible products with **minimum of 50% domestic value addition** will be eligible for incentives under this scheme.
- FY 2022-23 is the first financial year for which an approved applicant can claim incentive on the Determined sales.
- Sales of AAT products with DVA of a minimum of 50%, with sales from April 01, 2022, onwards, for 5 years, shall be eligible for the incentive.

About MHI :

- Union Minister : Mahendra Nath Pandey
- Minister of State: Krishan Pal Gujjar

SBI launches Utsav fixed deposit scheme

- On the occasion of **India's 76th year of Independence**, celebrated as **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**, the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, introduced a **unique term deposit program** called '**Utsav Deposit**'.
- This fixed deposit scheme has **higher interest rates** and is only available for a **limited time**.
- These rates are effective as of **August 15th, 2022** and the scheme is valid for **75 days**.

About the Scheme :

- Through this scheme, SBI is offering an interest rate of **6.10 percent per annum** on fixed deposits with a tenure of **1000 days**.
- For senior citizens, SBI has mentioned on its website that "**A special "SBI Wecare" Deposit (extended up to 30th September 2022)**".
- The senior citizens will be eligible to get an additional interest rate of **0.50 percent** over and above the regular rate.

Interest Rates :

FD Maturity	Interest rate
180 to 210 days	4.55%

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1 year to less than 2 years	5.45%
2 years to less than 3 years	5.35%
3 years to less than 5 years	5.60%
5 years and up to 10 years	5.65%

About SBI :

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

Karnataka Bank launches new Term Deposit Scheme KBL Amrit Samridhi

- On the occasion of 75 years of Independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Karnataka Bank has introduced a new Term Deposit Scheme, KBL Amrit Samridhi under Abhyudaya Cash Certificate (ACC) and Fixed Deposit (FD) for a tenure of 75 weeks (525 days).
- The interest rate for this Deposit Scheme is 6.10% per annum.

Key Highlights :

- Currently, the Karnataka bank offers a 5.50% interest rate on fixed deposits below ₹2 crores to the general public, while the rate is 5.65% for tenure above 2 years to 5 years, and the rate is 5.70% on maturity period for above 5 years and up to 10 years.
- The rate varies from 3.40% to 5% on short-term tenures between 7 days to 364 days.
- These rates are the same for FDs from ₹2 crore to ₹50 crores.
- Meanwhile, the bank offers a 5.90% rate to senior citizens on deposits below ₹2 crores for a tenure of 1 year to 2 Years, while the rate is 6.05% and 6.20% on maturity periods above 2 years to 5 years and above 5 years up to 10 years.

About Karnataka Bank :

- Founded: 18 February 1924
- Headquarters: Mangaluru, Karnataka, India

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- MD & CEO: Mahabaleshwara M. S
- Tagline: Your Family Bank Across India

Tamil Nadu govt launches Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme for students of primary schools

- The Tamil Nadu government formally launched the first phase of the 'Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme' at 1,545 government primary schools for the benefit of over 1.14 lakh children in Classes 1 to 5 during 2022-23.
- The TN government has allocated Rs 33.56 crore for this scheme.

About 'Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme :

- In its first phase, the scheme will be introduced in a few districts and remote villages through local government bodies, after which it will be extended throughout the state.
- The ingredients used for preparing breakfast should be approved by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- Every student is to be provided a 150-500 gram breakfast with sambar with vegetables.
- A monitoring committee is also to be set up to periodically analyze the implementation of the scheme.

Note :

- Tamil Nadu was the first state in India to provide midday meals to government school students.

About Tamil Nadu :

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

Government of Telangana launches first-of-its-kind insurance scheme Nethanna Ku Bima for weavers

- For the first time in India, Telangana Government has launched the 'Nethanna Ku Bima' Scheme, which extends insurance coverage to handloom and power loom weavers in Telangana.
- Handlooms Minister Shri KT Rama Rao virtually launched the scheme on National Handloom Day 2022.

About the 'Nethanna Ku Bima' Scheme :

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- Under the scheme, the Telangana government has joined hands with **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** of India for the '**Nethanna Beema**' scheme and termed the state department of handlooms and textiles as the nodal agency for its implementation.
- The annual premium of the beneficiaries will be paid by the government on their behalf to the LIC.
- It would benefit **80,000 handloom** and power loom weavers in the State.
- In case of natural or accidental death of a weaver, **Rs. 5 lakh** would be deposited into the nominees' account within **10 days**.
- Extending assistance to the sector, the Telangana Govt has launched a few flagship programs like '**Chenetha Mithra**' (Input subsidy linked wage compensation scheme), '**Nethannaku Cheyutha**' (Telangana Handlooms weavers Thrift fund saving and security scheme), '**Pavala Vaddi**' scheme, **20% Yarn subsidy scheme**, **Marketing Incentives**.

Note :

- In India, **National Handloom Day** is observed on **August 7 every year** to recognize the contributions of the handloom weavers of the country.
- In **2015**, the **first National Handloom Day** was organized by **PM Modi** in **Chennai**.

About Telangana :

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

J&K Govt launches Village Defense Guards Scheme-2022

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** sanctioned approval for the **creation of the Village Defense Guard Scheme (VDGS) 2022** in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- It has been launched to “prevent the incidents of terrorist acts inspired and supported from across the border and to boost the **security grid** in the Union Territory.”

Aim :

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- To organize a **small group of volunteer armed civilians** in the identified villages along the borders to inculcate the spirit of self-protection for the security of villages.

Key Highlights :

- The **Village Defense Guards (VDGs)** will be divided into **two categories, V1 & V2**.
- V1 category includes persons who will be heading/leading/coordinating the Village Defense Guards in the “**more vulnerable areas**” and will be paid **Rs 4,500 per month**.
- V2 category carries locals who are members of the Village Defence Group voluntarily and will be paid a uniform rate of **Rs 4,000 per month**.
- Also, each group will be called the Village Defense Group and shall be headed by a **retired officer** of the **Army/CPMF/J&K Police**.
- A minimum of **15 individuals** in each group will be designated as Village Defense Guards (VDGs).
- Under this scheme, rifles were provided to VDC’s to protect their villages from terrorist attacks in mountainous areas of the Jammu region.

About J&K :

- Lieutenant Governor: Manoj Sinha
- Capital: Srinagar, Jammu

IMPORTANT SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA Launches Two More Small Helicopters to Mars

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is launching **two more small helicopters to Mars** as part of its effort to **return Martian rocks** and soil samples to Earth.
- Under the plan, NASA’s Perseverance rover will transport soil samples to a rocket.
- The rocket will launch the collected material of the red planet in about **10 years**.
- Perseverance already has gathered **11 samples** with more rock drilling planned & the most recent sample, a sedimentary rock, holds the greatest chance of containing possible evidence of ancient Martian life.
- The helicopters will be modeled after NASA’s successful Ingenuity.
- It has made **29 flights** since arriving with Perseverance on Mars early last year.

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- The helicopter weighs just **1.8 kilograms**.
- The new versions will have wheels and arms.

About NASA :

- Established: July 29, 1958
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C
- Administrator: Bill Nelson
- Motto: For the Benefit of All

South Korea Launches First Moon Mission Danuri on SpaceX Rocket

- **South Korea** launched its **first-ever deep-space mission Danuri** took off from Florida's Cape Canaveral Space Force Station to observe the moon.
- The lunar mission has been developed by **Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) & NASA**.
- Danuri, which means "**enjoy the moon**", successfully separated from the **Falcon 9 rocket**.
- The **\$180 million** KPLRO mission is primarily about demonstrating technologies needed to reach and explore the moon, but Danuri will also do meaningful science work from its orbital perch.
- The **1,495-pound (678 kilograms)** spacecraft carries **6 science instruments**, five of them homegrown and one, called ShadowCam, provided by NASA.
- South Korea has also planned to land its spacecraft on the moon by **2030**.

Note :

- With this launch, South Korea will become the **world's seventh lunar explorer**, and the **fourth in Asia**, behind China, Japan, and India.

Recent News :

- In June 2022, South Korea successfully launched satellites into orbit with its **homegrown Nuri rocket** in a significant step for its space program.

About South Korea:

- President: Yoon Suk-yeol
- Prime Minister: Han Duck-soo
- Capital: Seoul
- Currency: the Korean Republic won

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China launches terrestrial ecosystem carbon monitoring satellite

- China successfully launched a **terrestrial ecosystem carbon monitoring satellite** and **two other satellites** from the **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center** in Shanxi province, North China.
- The satellites were launched by a **Long March 4B carrier rocket** and entered the planned orbit successfully.
- This launch marked the **430th mission** for the Long March series carrier rockets.
- Other satellites launched in this mission include
- Collects information related to global ship navigation and flight status
- Provides services for students to participate in space science research and engineering practice.

About the carbon monitoring satellite :

- The carbon monitoring satellite is mainly used for terrestrial ecosystem carbon monitoring, survey and monitoring of terrestrial ecology and resources, and major national ecological projects monitoring and evaluation.
- It will also provide operational support and research services in fields such as **environmental protection, surveying and mapping, meteorology, agriculture, and disaster reduction**.
- The satellite can detect and measure **vegetation biomass, atmospheric aerosol, and chlorophyll fluorescence** by comprehensive remote sensing means such as laser, multi-angle, multi-spectral, hyperspectral, and polarization.
- It can also obtain the multi-factor remote sensing information of global forest carbon sinks, improve the efficiency and accuracy of carbon sink measurement, and provide support for China's carbon peaking and neutralization efforts.

About China :

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

HAL signs contract of USD 100 million with Honeywell for HTT-40 engines

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** signed a contract worth over **USD 100 million** with **Honeywell** for the supply and manufacture of **88 TPE331-12B engines/kits** along with the maintenance and support services to power the indigenous **Hindustan Turbo Trainer – 40 (HTT-**

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40), which provides initial flying training to Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots.

Signatories :

- Senior Director of OE Sales (Honeywell Defense and Space), **Eric Walters**, and Executive Director (E & IMGT) **B Krishna Kumar**, in the presence of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of HAL, R Madhavan.

Key Highlights :

- HAL has successfully developed the Basic Trainer Aircraft (HTT-40) to address the basic training requirements of the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- There is a potential requirement of **70 aircraft**.
- The TPE331-12B engine is a single shaft turboprop engine with an integral inlet and gearbox, two-stage centrifugal compressor, power turbine, gearbox, three-stage axial turbine, and turbine exhaust diffuser as well as EEC for reliable power and outstanding operational characteristics.
- The HTT-40 prototypes are powered by TPE331-12B engines and have been serving well since 2014.
- HAL and Honeywell are exploring other areas such as 1MW Turbo Generators, Manufacturing, Repair, and Overhaul of TPE 331-10GP / 12JR engines for variants of Dornier.

About HAL :

- Founded: 1940
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman & MD: R Madhavan
- HAL is an Indian state-owned aerospace and defense company.

About Honeywell Aerospace :

- Founded: 1936
- Headquarters: Phoenix, Arizona, United States

World's most sensitive dark matter detector delivers 1st results

- A next-generation dark matter detector, **LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ) Detector** given the **first scientific results** from the **Sanford Underground Research Facility** in **South Dakota, United States**.

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- The experiment, led by the **Department of Energy's (DOE) Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab)**, involves an international team of 250 scientists and engineers from 35 institutions in the US, UK, Portugal, and South Korea.

Key Highlights :

- The name LZ is derived from the merger of 2 dark matter detection experiments ie, LUX (Large Underground Xenon) & ZEPLIN (ZonEd Proportional scintillation in Liquid Noble Gasses)
- The LZ detector, located underground in South Dakota, is composed of several nested tanks of liquid xenon, each of which is **1.5 meters tall and 1.5 meters wide**.
- The LZ detector will try to capture the very rare and very faint interactions between dark matter and its 7-tonne liquid xenon target.
- LZ is searching for **Weakly Interacting Massive Particles (WIMPs)**, theorized elementary particles that interact with gravity.

What is Dark Matter?

- Dark matter refers to the mysterious unaccounted-for matter that makes up roughly **85 percent** of the entire mass of the universe

Russia to withdraw from International Space Station project after 2024

- **Russia** will pull out of the **International Space Station after 2024** and focus on building its orbiting space station.
- NASA and other international partners hope to keep the space station running until 2030, after which the ISS would be deorbited and crashed into a remote part of the **Pacific Ocean**.
- The space station is jointly run by the space agencies of **Russia, the U.S., Europe, Japan, and Canada**.
- The first piece was put in orbit in **1998**, and the outpost has been continuously inhabited for nearly 22 years.
- It is used to conduct scientific research in zero gravity and test out equipment for future space journeys.

Recent News :

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- In July 2022, **Yury Borisov** was appointed to lead the state space agency, Roscosmos by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Intellectap, Transform Rural India Foundation launch carbon finance platform for 1 million smallholder farmers

- Intellectap and Transform Rural India Foundation (TRIF) has launched a national carbon finance platform for 1 million smallholder farmers.
- It may assist Indian smallholder farmers to leverage local weather/carbon finance for sustainable agroforestry, local weather smart agriculture, and different actions that can lead to carbon sequestration and mitigation.
- More than a million smallholder farmers are linked together by the platform, and they will receive support and training in agroforestry and climate-smart farming.

Key Highlights :

- The platform will probably be registering several types of carbon offset initiatives wherein smallholder farmers would have the ability to take part and profit from the monetization of the carbon credits.
- The world's voluntary carbon market is predicted to be valued at **\$200 billion by 2050**.
- The platform is already in dialogue with Indian and world corporations who are eager to take part and assist smallholder farmers by buying carbon credit from these initiatives.

About Intellectap :

- Founded: 2002
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- CEO: Vikas Bali
- Intellectap, a part of the Aavishkaar Group, is a pioneer in building enabling ecosystems and channeling capital to create and nurture a sustainable and equitable society.

About TRIF :

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi
- Co-Lead: Anish Kumar

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- TRIF is a civil society-led multi-stakeholder platform, aimed at multi-thematic development in the most deprived regions of rural India.

Russia launches Iranian satellite into orbit

- Russia launched a Soyuz-2.1b rocket carrying an Iranian remote sensing satellite Khayyam, into orbit from the Russia-leased Baikonur launch facility in Kazakhstan.
- It's named after Omar Khayyam, a Persian scientist who lived in the 11th and 12th centuries.
- Iran has stated that the satellite fitted with a high-resolution camera will be used for environmental monitoring and will remain fully under its control.
- The satellite would provide high-resolution surveillance images with a one-meter-per-pixel definition.
- It is designed to conduct scientific research, test inter-satellite communications channels technology, measure the level of electromagnetic radiation, and carry out Earth's remote probing and environmental monitoring.

About Russia :

- President: Vladimir Putin
- Prime minister: Mikhail Mishustin
- Capital: Moscow
- Currency: Russian ruble

Google Launches 'India Ki Udaan' Project To Celebrate 75 Years Of Independence

- Google has launched an online project called 'India Ki Udaan' to mark 75 years of Independence India Ki Udaan – Software at the Sunder Nursery in Delhi in the presence of Union Culture and Tourism Minister Shri G Kishan Reddy.

About 'India Ki Udaan' :

- The Project executed by Google Arts and Culture celebrates the achievements of India and is based on the theme 'Unwavering and undying spirit of India over these past 75 years.
- It features India's rich cultural diversities, including iconic moments from the last 75 years.
- It is published in English and Hindi, the project allows people to explore over 120 illustrations and 21 stories created by 10 skillful artists.

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- It will also include exhibitions from various institutions, including the Ministry of Tourism, the Indian Academy of Sciences, the Heritage Directorate of the Indian Railways, the Museum of Art and Photography, & the Dastkari Haat Samiti.
- Google announced the launch of a series of unique initiatives across its products and services that will offer rich content and experience to its Indian users throughout the anniversary year.

About Google :

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

106-year-old astronomical observatory in Bihar not on endangered heritage list - UNESCO

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has announced that the 106-year-old astronomical observatory at Langat Singh College in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district has not been inscribed on its list of endangered heritage.
- The statement has been signed by Eric Falt, Director, UNESCO Office, New Delhi.
- This observatory was established in the college in 1916.
- It was the first of its kind in eastern India, imparting comprehensive knowledge specialized in astronomy.
- It was fully functional till the 1970s, before gradually turning inoperable.

Additional Info :

- The list of World Heritage Sites is maintained by the international 'World Heritage Programme and administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

List of some UNESCO World heritage sites in India :

- Taj Mahal
- Jaipur's Jantar Mantar
- Konark Sun Temple
- Ajanta Caves
- Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda

About UNESCO :

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- Established: 16 November 1945
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Director-General: Audrey Azoulay
- Member States: 193
- UNESCO is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN).

Aim :

- To promote world peace and security through international cooperation in education, arts, sciences, and culture.

ISRO successfully tests Gaganyaan Low Altitude Escape Motor

- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully carried out the test-firing of the Low Altitude Escape Motor (LEM) of the Crew Escape System, from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

Objective :

- To evaluate the motor ballistic parameters, validation of motor subsystem performance and confirm the design margins, and evaluate the thermal performance of nozzle liners; especially to confirm the erosion / ablative characteristics.
- Validation of integrity of all interfaces, evaluation of the head-end mounted safe arm (HMSA) based ignition system performance and evaluation of the side thrust due to misalignment and variation in flow were among the other primary reasons.

About LEM :

- The LEM is a distinctive special purpose solid rocket motor with **four reverse flow nozzles** and generates a maximum sea level thrust of **842 kN (nominal)** with a burn time of **5.98 seconds (nominal)**.
- The nozzle end of LEM is mounted at the fore end of the launch vehicle unlike at the aft end in conventional rocket motors to avoid exhaust plume impingement on the crew module.

About ISRO :

- Established: 15 August 1969
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman: Sreedhara Panicker Somanath

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- ISRO is the national space agency of India.
- It operates under the Department of Space (DOS).

China Launches 16 New Satellites into Orbit

- China launched 16 new satellites into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in China's Shanxi province.
- This is the 432nd mission of China's Long March carrier rocket series.
- These satellites include Jilin 1 Gaofen 03D09 satellite and Yunyao 1 04-08 and were launched by a Long March 6 carrier rocket.
- The new batch of satellites is mainly used in the fields such as commercial remote sensing and atmospheric imaging.
- It will function both as a backup of the core module and as a powerful scientific experiment platform.
- China also launched Wentian, the first lab module of its space station.
- China successfully landed an exploratory rover on the moon in December 2020 and one on Mars in May 2021.

Recent News :

- Earlier on July 16, 2022, China launched a Long March-2C carrier rocket to place two satellites in space, including Siwei 03 and 04, which were lifted from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the northern province of Shanxi.

About China :

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

ISRO Unveils Virtual Space Park 'SPARK'

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Chairman S Somanath has launched India's First 3D virtual space tech park called SPARK: The Space Tech Park as part of the celebrations of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav commemorating India's 75th year of Independence

About SPARK :

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- The beta version of the virtual space museum through the ISRO website, or visit <https://spacepark.isro.gov.in/>.
- The platform provides a virtual tour of SPARK.
- The three-dimensional virtual space tech park is a fun-filled park that includes a museum, a theater, an observatory, a garden with life-sized rockets, a lakeside cafe area, a children's play area, and several other attractions.
- The application provides the facility to enter or exit the facilities using dedicated arrows along with options to zoom in and zoom out for a **360° immersive experience**.
- In the virtual tour, one can also see the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** and the **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark III**.
- In April 2022, ISRO shared a documentary titled "**Space on Wheels**", which portrays an exhibition of 75 Indian satellites as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.
- The documentary also highlights ISRO's upcoming missions including the Gaganyaan Programme and **Chandrayaan-3 mission**.

First-Ever 'Made In India' Surgical Robot SSI-Mantra Gets Installed In Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute

- **Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Center, New Delhi (RGCIRC)** have installed the first-ever **Made-in-India Surgical Robotic System, SSI-Mantra** devised by the **new-age Indian medical technology start-up SS Innovations**.
- The system has been set up at the **Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Center (RGCI)**, a visionary project of the **Indraprastha Cancer Society and Research Center** aimed at providing the **best oncological care**.

About SSI-Mantra :

- SSI MANTRA is an acronym for **multi-arm novel tele robotic assistance** and the company making it is, **SS Innovations**.
- The ingenious SSI Mantra, "a brainchild of robotic cardiac surgeon **Dr. Sudhir P Srivastava**, will be signifying the beginning of a new era of surgical procedures in India, making robotic surgery accessible and affordable for the people in India.
- After two pilot projects where **Dr. Sudhir Rawal** and his team from **RGCI** successfully performed a total of **26 surgeries** with the SSI Mantra.

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About SS Innovations :

- Founded: 2015
- Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana
- Founder, Chairman & CEO: Dr. Sudhir P Srivastava

IIT Guwahati partners with AICTE to provide solutions to NE India

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati has announced plans to partner with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to develop solutions to problems of accessing water, electricity, and internet for the AICTE-affiliated technical institutions in North-East India.
- IIT Guwahati and AICTE will work towards capacity-building in these institutions to promote research and development and prioritize enhancing the quality of education in remote regions of North-East India.
- The project was started under 'Grant for Augmenting Infrastructure in North Eastern Region.
- The steering committee for this project comprises Prof. Sharad B Gokhale, Head of the Department of Civil Engineering, Prof. Gopal Das, Head of the Department of Chemistry, Prof. Santosh Kumar Dwivedy, Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Prof. Chandan Mahanta, Department of Civil Engineering.

Phases of the Project :

- Phase-1 project is scheduled to be completed by end of Aug and Phase-2 has been initiated and will cover 33 new institutions where internet connectivity would be provided in addition to solar and water facilities.
- Through Phase 1 of the project, a total of 416 kW of power has been generated that would help laboratories, offices, and street lights to function uninterrupted.
- During the first phase of this project, 27 institutions received funding of Rs 5.4 crore for the installation of solar power plants and 16 institutions received funding of Rs 1.92 crore for water treatment facilities.

About AICTE :

- Established: November 1945
- Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi, India
- Chairman : Anil Sahasrabudhe

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- Member Secretary: Rajive Kumar
- The AICTE is a **statutory body**, & a national-level council for technical education, under the **Department of Higher Education**.

About Assam :

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

Principal Scientific Adviser to the GoI unveils Manthan

- The **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA)** to the **Government of India (GoI)** has launched a **Manthan platform** with the vision to **enable and empower all spheres of science and technology within India**.

Aim :

- To promote collaboration at scale between industry and the scientific research and development ecosystem to help meet India's sustainability goals in alignment with the **UN-defined Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) charter**.
- The launch commemorates **India's 75 years of independence – Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**.
- The Platform is Led by the Office of PSA & powered by the **National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSEIT)**.

About Manthan :

- Manthan will help **new concepts, science-led ideas**, and new technology outcomes find swifter adoption across India.
- It presents an opportunity to bring national and global communities closer to India's technology revolution.
- It will facilitate knowledge transfers and interactions through Information Exchange Sessions, Exhibitions, and Events to develop a framework for future science, innovation, and technology-led growth.

Note :

- Principal Scientific Adviser to the GoI: Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood

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- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- MD & CEO: Mr. Anantharaman Sreenivasan
- NSEIT Limited is a **100% subsidiary** of the **National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSEIL)** - the **3rd largest exchange** in the world, as well as the most innovative stock exchange (NSE).

Israeli scientists create the world's first synthetic embryo without sperm

A team of stem cell researchers in **Israel** has developed the **world's first synthetic embryo outside the womb** using stem cells cultured in a petri dish.

- **Prof. Jacob Hanna of Weizmann's Molecular Genetics Department**, who headed the research team.
- These cells were cultured without the use of fertilized eggs, bypassing the need for sperm.
- The study was published in the **journal Cell**.
- It highlights the potential of **naïve pluripotent cells** to self-organize and functionally reconstitute and model the entire mammalian embryo.
- The researchers separated the stem cells into **three groups**, one contained cells intended to develop into embryonic organs themselves, and the other two groups were pretreated for **only 48 hours** to overexpress one of two types of genes: master regulators of either the placenta or the yolk sac.
- Compared to natural mouse embryos, the synthetic models displayed a **95%** similarity in both the shape of internal structures and the gene expression patterns of different cell types.

Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta inaugurates India's 1st Composite Indoor Shooting Range in Visakhapatnam, AP

- A first-of-its-kind Composite Indoor Shooting Range (CISR) was inaugurated by Vice-Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command (ENC) at Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karna on the eastern seaboard, near Bheemili, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- INS Karna is the first in the Navy and perhaps the **only military unit** in the country to set up and use CISR.

About CISR :

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- The CISR is a state-of-the-art, self-contained, **25m, six-lane**, live firing range for all primary and secondary weapons in the Navy.
- It will enable to take up tasks through uninterrupted training under controlled conditions for a wide variety of weapons and simulated situations.

India's 1st Indigenous Monkeypox RT-PCR Testing Kit Launched

- India has developed the first indigenously-developed RT-PCR kit for testing monkeypox disease at the Andhra Pradesh Medtech Zone (AMTZ)
- The kit was Developed by Transasia Bio-Medicals in a tie-up with Erba Mannheim.
- It was unveiled by Principal Scientific Adviser to the Center Mr. Ajay Kumar Sood.
- The Transasia-Erba monkeypox RT-PCR kit is highly sensitive, but an easy-to-use test with uniquely formulated primer and probe for enhanced accuracy.
- The kit would help in **early detection and better management of the infection** which the **World Health Organization (WHO)** declared a public health emergency of international concern.

Other Key Highlights :

- According to WHO, monkeypox is a **viral zoonosis** a virus transmitted to humans from animals with symptoms similar to smallpox although clinically less severe.
- On **July 14, 2022**, the **Kollam district of Kerala** announced the **country's first case of monkeypox**.
- Currently, India has reported **10 cases** of monkeypox.

Note :

- Founder & Chairman of Transasia: Suresh Vazirani

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh approves StartUp loan for manufacturing and commercializing “compostable” plastic; Rs 1.15 cr to TGP Bioplastics

- Union Minister of State Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh approved a StartUp loan of Rs **1.15 crores** to M/s TGP Bioplastics for commercializing “compostable” plastic and thus also mitigating the usage of **Single Use Plastics (SUP)**.
- The startup has come up with an alternative solution of Single Use Plastic (SUP) with the prototype of a compostable plastic material that breaks down as compost in soil without affecting the environment.

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- This unique project has received seed funding under the **National Initiative for Developing & Harnessing Innovations (NIDHI) Prayas Department of Science & Technology (DST), National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog & United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)** for the prototype development.
- The startup has developed a new composite material that is cheaper than the available **compostable plastic (~Rs 180/kg)**, having comparable strength.
- The composite is a unique blend of **Thermoplastic-Starch (TPS)-glycerin** with some chemical modifications that provide higher strength with low manufacturing cost.
- Also, an MoU was signed between the **Technology Development Board**, a statutory body under the **Department of Science & Technology**, and **M/s TGP Bioplastics Private Limited, Satara, Maharashtra** for manufacturing & commercialization of compostable plastic.

India's 1st Observatory to Monitor Space Activity To be set up in Uttarakhand

- India's first commercial space situational awareness observatory, to track objects as small as 10 cm in size orbiting the earth, will be set up in the **Garhwal region of Uttarakhand** by a **space sector start-up, Digantara**.

Key Highlights :

- Currently, the **United States (US)** is a dominant player in monitoring space debris with observatories in multiple locations and commercial companies providing additional inputs from across the world.
- This will improve the effectiveness of tracking and identifying pre-existing **resident space objects (RSO)**.
- It will result in the formation of a hybrid data pool that will serve both the commercial and the defense sectors of the space industry
- With this, Digantara will be able to supplement its space-based sensors in its mission to monitor satellites and debris in orbits ranging from **Low Earth Orbit (LEO) to Geosynchronous Earth Orbit (GEO)**.
- With this data, it would be able to reduce the potential for collisions between satellites and other spacecraft by making more accurate predictions of their location, speed, and trajectory.

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About Digantara :

- Founded: 2018
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka
- CEO: Anirudh Sharma

About Uttarakhand :

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

BBIL completes trials for India's first intranasal Covid vaccine

- **Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL)** announced that **India's first adenoviral intranasal vaccine (BBV154)** has proven to be safe, well-tolerated, and immunogenic in subjects in controlled clinical trials for Covid-19.
- It had completed clinical development for **phase III trials**.
- The trials for the primary dose were conducted among **3100 subjects** in 14 trial sites across India, while the heterologous booster dose was done at 9 trial sites among 875 subjects.
- BBV154 is stable at **2-8°C** for easy storage and distribution.

Note :

- The adenoviral intranasal vaccine BBV154 is the first of its kind Covid-19 vaccine to undergo **human trials** in India.

About BBIL :

- Founded: 1996
- Headquarters: Hyderabad
- Chairman & MD: Krishna Ella

AirAsia India becomes the first airline in India to use AI-powered CAE Rise™ Training System

- **AirAsia India** and **Canadian Aviation Electronics (CAE)** have announced their collaboration to integrate the **CAE Rise™ Training System** into the airline's simulator training program.
- AirAsia India is the **first airline in India** to adopt a **data-driven training program** using **CAE Rise™**.

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- CAE Rise™ leverages analytics to deliver a higher quality of training, providing **real-time data** during training sessions while giving instructors insights that enable them to objectively assess a pilot's technical competencies and performance.
- AirAsia and CAE have worked together since **2014** on pilot training at CAE network training centers.

About AirAsia India :

- Founded: 28 March 2013
- Commenced Operations: 12 June 2014
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- Chairman : Banmali Agrawala
- MD & CEO : Sunil Bhaskaran
- The airline is a joint venture with **Tata Sons** holding an 83.67% stake in the airline and **AirAsia Investment Limited (Malaysia)** holding a 16.33% stake.

About CAE :

- Founded: 1947
- Headquarters: Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- Founder: Ken Patrick
- CEO: Marc Parent

IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENT NEWS

ZSI released a report titled 'Threatened animals of Kerala':

- Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) released a report titled 'Threatened animals of Kerala'.
- The report 'Threatened animals of Kerala' has been released as part to promote sustainable management and conservation of various animal species.
- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has released a book titled "Fauna of Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary".
- Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary is the first bird sanctuary in Kerala.
- It is spread over an area of 25 km².

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- On this occasion, the Zoological Survey of India has also signed an MoU with the University of Calicut and the Dr. Gafoor Memorial MES Mampad College.
- The MoU has been signed to promote zoological research through advanced pedagogical techniques and to exchange academic knowledge.

IMPORTANT APPS & SERVICES NEWS

Udyam Portal Of MSME Ministry Achieves Landmark 1 Cr Registrations:

- The Ministry of MSME celebrated the landmark of 1 crore registrations on its Udyam Portal.
- Following the adoption of the revised definition of **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** on 26th June 2020, which is based on investment in plant & machinery or equipment; and turnover, the Udyam Registration Portal was launched on 1st July 2020.
- The revised definition did away with the distinction between manufacturing and services enterprises.
- The Udyam Portal is linked to the databases of CBDT and GSTN.
- It is fully online, does not require any documentation, and is a step towards Ease of Doing Business for MSMEs.
- In a span of 25 months, as many as 1 crore MSMEs have registered on the Udyam portal voluntarily and declared that they employ 7.6 crore people, of which 1.7 crore are women.
- The Ministry of MSME signed MoUs with the Ministry of Tourism and NSIC for sharing Udyam data.
- On this occasion, the Digi Locker facility for Udyam Registration was also launched.

IMPORTANT RANKING & INDEX NEWS

IAMAI released a report titled 'Internet in India':

- Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) released a report titled 'Internet in India'.
- According to a report published by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), 346 million Indians use online transactions.

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- The number of people using online transactions in India is greater than the US population involved in digital transactions, which is around 331 million.
- As per the report, the online transaction in the past two years has increased by 51% from 230 million in 2019.
- The report states that the number of male internet users is more than female users in both rural and urban areas.
- Social media, entertainment, and communications are the top activities on the internet in India.
- Text and email are the most popular means of communication.
- India will have more than 900 million internet users by 2025.
- Currently, there are a total of 692 million active internet users in India.
- 'Internet in India' report is based on the ICUBE 2021 study and is the oldest and most comprehensive survey of internet usage in India.
- It is jointly prepared by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and KANTAR.

India's core sector output registered double-digit growth for the second straight month in June at 12.7%:

- The combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) increased by 12.7% as compared to the Index of June 2021.
- Eight core sectors' output growth declined to 12.7% in June from 18.1% in May.
- All sectors except crude oil registered an increase in production.
- Crude oil output dropped 1.7% from a year ago period.
- The eight core industries have a weightage of 40.27 percent in the index of industrial production (IIP).
- Eight core industries are Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity.

Indian Women Savitri Jindal replaces China's Yang Huiyan to become Asia's Richest Woman:

- According to the real-time Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Savitri Jindal, the Chairperson Emeritus of the OP Jindal Group, has surpassed Yang Huiyan of China to become Asia's richest woman.
- The entire wealth of the 72-year-old Savitri Jindal, who is also the richest woman in India, is \$11.3 billion.
- In recent years, Jindal's net worth has changed significantly.

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- During the Covid-19 epidemic, it decreased to \$3.2 billion in April 2020, and after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it increased to \$15.6 billion in April 2022 as a result of higher commodity prices.

Key Points:

- The wealth of **Yang Huiyan, owner of Country Garden Holdings**, China's largest real estate developer, decreased by more than half in 2022, from \$ 24 billion to \$11 billion.
- She had spent the previous **five years as Asia's richest lady**.
- Jindal, 72, is the 10th richest person in the world and the richest lady in India. Soon after her husband died in a helicopter accident in 2005, she was elected chairperson of the Jindal Group.
- Savitri also brags about her political career.
- She was re-elected in 2009, at which point the Haryana government selected her as a cabinet minister.

LIC has been included in the most recent Fortune Global 500 list:

- **The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)**, an Indian statutory insurance and investment corporation has risen to the top 500 in the most recent Fortune Global 500 list.
- With sales of **USD 97.26 billion** and a profit of **USD 553.8 million**, the largest life insurer in the country was rated **98th** on the most recent Fortune 500 list.
- This is **LIC's first appearance on the list**, which lists firms according to sales.

Indian Companies ranking:

- **Reliance Industries** moved up 51 spots to position 104 on the list for 2022.
- Reliance has been on the list for 19 years, with revenue of USD 93.98 billion and a net profit of USD 8.15 billion in the most recent year.
- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** increased 16 positions to 190, while Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) rose 28 spots to 142.
- Tata Steel was ranked 435th while Tata Motors was ranked 370th on the list.
- The other private Indian business on the list was Rajesh Exports, which came in at position 437.
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. rose 19 places to rank 295 and State Bank of India (SBI) advanced 17 spots to number 236.

Global companies:

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- There are nine Indian companies on the list, with US retailer Walmart at the top.
- Five of them are state-owned, while the other four are private.
- **Amazon**, which attained its best position, came in second to Walmart, which maintained the top spot for a ninth consecutive year.
- Sinopec, State Grid, and China National Petroleum are China's main three energy companies.
- Greater China's (including Taiwan's) Global 500 firms' sales, which made up 31% of the total, surpassed those of the list's US-based companies for the first time.

India ranks globally 3rd in the Start-Up ecosystem and also in terms of the number of Unicorns:

- India ranks globally 3rd in the Start-Up ecosystem and also in terms of the number of Unicorns.
- As per the latest data, there are currently 105 unicorns, out of which 44 were born in 2021 and 19 in 2022.
- As per the latest data, India has over 5 lakh R&D personnel, a number that has shown a 40-50% increase in the last 8 years.
- In the last 8 years, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, women's participation in extramural R&D has also doubled, and now India occupies 3rd rank in terms of the number of PhDs awarded in Science and Engineering (S&E) after the USA and China.
- Prime Minister Modi's launch of StartUp India from the ramparts of Red Fort in 2015.
- India's startups today are not limited to only metros or big cities and added that 49 percent of the start-ups are from tier-2 and tier-3 cities.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh also released 4 publications featuring promising Startups under various components of NIDHI including the flagship program of Technology Business Incubator (TBI) and a coffee table book of 51 CAWACH-funded start-ups.
- **Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH)** program carved out in a record time by DST just when Covid hit, was the first program by any department of the Government of India to support Startups working on Covid products and solutions.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that India has created a massive jump in its global ranking on **Global Innovation Index (GII)** from 81st in the year 2015 to 46th in 2021 among 130 economies of the world. India ranks 2nd among 34 lower-middle-income economies and 1st among 10 Central and Southern Asian economies in terms of GI.

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Nature Index 2022 ranking the University of Hyderabad has been ranked first among Indian Universities:

- The **University of Hyderabad (UoH)** continues to be in the **top position** in the latest **Nature Index 2022 ranking**.
- The UoH has been ranked **first among Indian Universities and 16th among all institutions** in the academic sector.
- The Nature Index is an indicator of high-quality research in natural and physical sciences (including chemistry, life sciences, earth & environmental sciences, and physical sciences).
- The rankings are based on the **Nature Index data from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022**.
- The UoH received a count of 72 and a share of 19.46 under the academic sector, which includes subjects' chemistry, life sciences, earth & environment sciences, and physical sciences.
- **University of Hyderabad (UoH)** is one of the major higher education institutions in India.
- It was established as a central university by an act of parliament in the year 1974.

Razorpay has become the first Indian company to be named in the 2022 Forbes Cloud 100 List:

- **Razorpay**, India's leading full-stack Payments and Banking Platform for Businesses have become the **first Indian company to be named in the 2022 Forbes Cloud 100 List**, the definitive ranking of the top 100 private cloud companies in the world.
- **Published for the seventh time by Forbes** in partnership with **Bessemer Venture Partners and Salesforce Ventures**, **Razorpay has entered the list for the second time**, being listed at the **#49th position** for being a **Financial Solutions Software (last year Razorpay ranked 57th)**.
- This places Razorpay amongst world leaders such as **Canva, DataBricks, and Airtable, to name a few**.
- The Cloud 100 list recognizes standouts in the technology category from small startups to private-equity-backed giants.
- The evaluation process involved four factors: estimated valuation (30 percent), operating metrics (20 percent), people and culture (15 percent), and market leadership (35 percent), which the judging panel then weighed to select, score and rank the winners.

About Razorpay:

- Razorpay recently received the **Payment Aggregator license** from the **Reserve Bank of India**, making it one of the first few companies to receive the same.

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- CEO: Harshil Mathur
- Founded: 2013.

Vistara is the second-largest domestic airline in terms of market share:

- Full-service With a 10.4% share of the domestic market last month, Vistara overtook IndiGo, the market leader with 58.8%, as the second-largest airline.
- The airline is a joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines.
- Air India (8.4%), GoFirst (8.2%), and SpiceJet (8%), the third, fourth, and fifth-placed carriers, were only a few decimal places apart. 9.7 million passengers were transported by Indian airlines on domestic routes in July, nearly doubling the number from a year earlier but less than the 10.5 million passengers transported in June 2022.

Health Effects Institute (HEI) released “Air Quality and Health in Cities”

- Health Effects Institute (HEI) released “Air Quality and Health in Cities” on air quality.
- As per the report, the biggest cities and urban areas of the world are witnessing the worst air quality on Earth.
- It focuses on two harmful pollutants, fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).
- PM 2.5 Levels: Delhi and Kolkata were ranked first and second in the top 10 most polluted cities when PM 2.5 levels were compared.
- NO₂ Levels: No Indian city appeared in the list of top 10 or even top 20 polluted cities when NO₂ levels were compared.
- This list saw Shanghai at the top with an average annual exposure of 41 µg/m³.
- Death Burden: Beijing had the largest disease burden associated with a PM 2.5-related illness, with 124 attributable fatalities per 100,000 persons.
- Five Chinese cities were in the top 20.
- Delhi came in 6th, with 106 deaths per 100,000, and Kolkata at 8th with 99 deaths.
- Only 117 nations currently have ground-level monitoring systems to track PM 2.5, and only 74 nations are monitoring NO₂ levels.

International Astronomy & Astrophysics Olympiad: India ranks 3rd

- In the medal standings of the 15th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics, the Indian team placed third (IOAA).

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- Students from **India and Singapore** shared **third place** after earning three gold and two silver medals.
- India and Singapore were tied for **third place** in the medal count, just one point behind Iran's official squad (5 golds) and the visiting team (4 golds, 1 silver).
- Georgia's Kutaisi hosted the 15th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) 2022 from August 14 to August 21.
- This year's IOAA had 209 students among 37 main and 6 guest teams.
- Additionally, 24 students from 6 different nations took part in the online mode.
- The IOAA is an annual event to encourage astronomy among students.
- **Originally slated to take place in Kyiv, Ukraine**, this year's tournament was moved to **Kutaisi, Georgia in March 2022** as a result of the conflict in that country.

Medal Tally:

- Mehul Board from Hyderabad, Md. Sahil Akhtar from Kolkata and Raghav Goyal from Chandigarh all won gold in the competition.
- Goyal was also given a special award for coming up with the best answer to the trickiest theoretical problem.
- Malay Kedia from Ghaziabad and Atharva Nilesh Mahajan from Indore are the silver medalists.

Beijing Tops, Bengaluru 2nd In Asia-Pacific in Tech Hubs:

- According to a report by Cushman and Wakefield, Bengaluru ranks second place among the top IT centers in the Asia Pacific region, only behind Beijing in China.
- The research examined up to 115 distinct "tech cities" throughout the world for its report, "Tech Cities: The Global Intersection of Talent and Real Estate."
- Three more Indian cities, Chennai, Delhi, and Hyderabad, are included on the list after Beijing and Bengaluru.
- In a list of 14 cities from the APAC, Mumbai, and Pune, respectively, eighth and ninth, have made it to the top-10 list.

IMPORTANT BOOKS & AUTHORS

The new book titled " JOURNEY OF A NATION: 75 YEARS OF INDIAN ECONOMY " authored by Sanjaya Baru

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- A new book titled "The Journey of a Nation: 75 Years of Indian Economy: Re-emerge, Reinvest, Re-engage" authored by **Sanjaya Baru** and published by **Rupa Publications India Pvt Ltd**.
- As India celebrates 75 years of Independence, it is important to recall that as a democratic republic, it has been able to overcome the burden of colonialism and emerge as the world's third-largest economy.
- Sanjaya Baru, economist, and political analyst trace the nature of this transformation, introducing the ideas and events that have shaped economic policy, transforming a feudal, agrarian economy into a modern, industrial and services-based one.
- 75 Years of Indian Economy is a part of the series Journey of a Nation.
- The book starts with a reference to British historian Angus Maddison and his book **The World Economy: A Millennial Perspective (2001)**, which estimated that in 1700, China and India together accounted for half of the world's national income and that, by 1950, their combined share was down to less than 10 percent.
- This book is written for a general audience that wishes to be informed about the nature of India's economic transformation over the past 75 years.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik released a new book titled "Lockdown Lyrics":

- **Sanjukta Dash's** collection of poems, **Lockdown Lyrics**, was published by **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik**.
- The poems offer an unfiltered account of the pandemic author's experiences and frustrations.
- She has captured all of humanity's suffering, hopes, and aspirations during this, society's most pivotal trip in a long time.
- In **Odia literature**, **Sanjukta Dash** is a well-known author.
- Three poetry collections by her are available in Odia: **Antaswar**, **Amrut Anwasha**, and **Apekshare Ebe Bi**.
- Her first work of English literature, **Lockdown Lyrics**, was released by **Authors Press New Delhi**.

A New book titled "Lion of The Skies: Hardit Singh Malik" by Stephen Barker:

- "**Lion of the Skies: Hardit Singh Malik, the Royal Air Force, and the First World War**" are a book about "**India's first fighter pilot**" who served in **World War I** before the **Indian Air Force** was formed.

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- **Stephen Barker, the author**, shows in great detail how difficult it was for an Indian to serve in the British military services, combating racial prejudice - both institutional and interpersonal.
- **Hardit Singh Malik** flew as a fighter pilot with both the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Air Force (RAF) during World War I.
- He is also **India's first Ambassador to France**.

About the book:

- Author Stephen Barker shows in great detail how difficult it was for an Indian to serve in the British military services, combating institutional and individual racial prejudice.
- It is fully to Hardit's credit that he overcame every challenge with optimism, zeal, and the highest level of emotional maturity.
- He had to struggle hard as a young lad in school simply to preserve his turban and beliefs.

A new book titled "Dangerous Earth" by Marine biologist Ellen Prager

- **Ellen Prager, a marine scientist**, has written a book titled "Dangerous Earth: What We Wish We Knew About Volcanoes, Hurricanes, Climate Change, Earthquakes, and More."
- The author attempts to answer the most intriguing topic in the book: Why can't we better foresee natural disasters?
- Ellen Prager, a marine biologist, investigates the science of volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, landslides, rip currents, and—perhaps the most dangerous hazard of all—climate change in Dangerous Earth.
- Each chapter focuses on a different hazard, begins with a game-changing historical event, and emphasizes what is yet understood about these dynamic occurrences.
- Along the way, we hear from scientists who are attempting to interpret Earth's warning signs, relay them to the rest of us, and avoid catastrophic loss.

After four years, Michelle Obama's new book 'The Light We Carry' is to release in November 2022:

- A global publication date of November 15, 2022, has been scheduled for **THE LIGHT WE CARRY: Overcoming in Uncertain Times**, the new book by Michelle Obama, former First Lady of the United States.

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- **THE LIGHT WE CARRY** will be released in the U.S. and Canada in print and digital formats by Crown, an imprint of the Random House Publishing Group, a division of **Penguin Random House**, with an announced **first printing of 2.75 million copies**.
- Mrs. Obama's previous book *Becoming*, a memoir that chronicles her life journey from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her experiences as the first Black First Lady of the United States, has inspired multiple generations of readers worldwide and received widespread critical acclaim.

A Book titled 'Do Different: The Untold Dhoni' by Joy Bhattacharjya & Amit Sinha Launch:

- "**Do Different: The Untold Dhoni**," written by **Amit Sinha and Joy Bhattacharjya** and published by **India Viking**, was released.
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni, a well-known Indian cricketer, is highlighted for **his life's journey (MSD)**.
- It commemorates MSD's experiences of struggle, adversity, and victory, including his numerous sixes in Ranchi at his school and his towering six to end a run chase in World Cups.
- The book also documents MSD's performances in the IPL, international cricket, and activities outside of cricket.
- **Amit Sinha is a sports media professional**, involved with multiple sports.
- **Joy Bhattacharjya works in the sports media industry** and spent many years covering Indian cricket on the broadcast for ESPN Star Sports, including MS Dhoni's debut match for India.
- He then spent 7 seasons as Team Director with the Kolkata Knight Riders Team.

ZSI published a new book on more than 1000 bird species:

- In a field guide that was created by the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)**, the organization **described around 1,331 distinct bird species** that may be found in India.
- **Director of ZSI Dhriti Banerjee** says the book emphasizes high-quality photographs of birds, in contrast to earlier volumes that primarily employed drawings.
- Proper recordkeeping requires the accurate identification of each species.
- The ZSI organized two activities to advertise the book "**Field Guide, Birds of India**." One occurred in **Kolkata**, and a **second will take place in Mumbai**.
- The writers of the book spoke with local birders and explained their motivation for writing this book to them.

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- The ceremony was held at the auditorium of the Zoological Survey of India in Kolkata, and the program will be held in Mumbai at the joint initiative of ZSI and the **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)**.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh releases book 'Rusty Skies & Golden Winds':

- **Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister** of State (IC) for the Ministry of Science and Technology, recently debuted the poetry collection "**Rusty Skies and Golden Winds**," written by **Sannidhya Sharma**, a seventh-grade student from Jammu, who is 11 years old.
- **Blue-Rose Publishers** is the company behind the book.
- The union minister praised the young author's efforts in organizing his ideas into a book of poetry, praising his exceptional accomplishment at such a young age, and wished him success in the future.
- The aspiring author describes the present state of the world in **40 poems collected in the 100 book pages**.
- He looks fearlessly at the blood on the page and lets the mysterious power carry him away.
- Throughout the whole book, the author sits still and glances into the rusty skies of dust, wishing for a blast of golden winds to launch his soul on a journey to find all those shallow ideas buried in the soils of time.

Minister of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry launched a unique coffee table book titled "Fish and Seafood":

- **Minister of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Parshottam Rupala** has launched a unique coffee table book titled – "**Fish and Seafood**" - a collection of 75 gourmet recipes in **New Delhi**.
- The Department of Fisheries has come up with this initiative to boost the domestic consumption of fish and seafood, along with popularizing the local fish species.
- The book was launched in the presence of both the Minister of States for Fisheries and Animal Husbandry **Dr. L. Murugan** and **Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan**.
- The recipe book highlights the diversity of fish available within the domestic water bodies and the fish culinary heritage of the country that signifies the diverse cooking and eating styles across the country.

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- Recognizing the importance of the fisheries sector, the Government of India launched Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) in May 2020 as part of the AtmaNirbhar Bharat Package with the highest ever investment of Rs. 20,050 crores.
- The schemes will be implemented from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 in all states/Uts.

Deepak Singh authored a new book titled "Bravo":

- **Deepak Singh**, an established content creator with more than 15 years of experience in content creation recently penned a book 'Bravo Yadav'.
- The newly launched book is a biography of Kargil's hero and Param Vir Chakra recipient **Subedar Yogendra Singh Yadav**.
- The biography of Kargil Hero Yogendra Singh Yadav honors the brave and indomitable spirit of the soldiers who refused to surrender before adversities in the Kargil War, in 1999.
- The book rightly narrates Yogendra Singh Yadav's courage as a patriot and warrior, surviving the battle of Tiger Hill and being a key stroke towards India's victory against Pakistan.

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor and CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury released a book 'Freedom Struggle and Beyond':

- Congress leader **Shashi Tharoor** and CPI(M) leader **Sitaram Yechury** with others release a book 'Freedom Struggle and Beyond' written by **Praveen Davar**, in New Delhi.
- Authored by Congress leader **Praveen Davar**, the book published by **Aakar Books** is a collection of newspaper articles that Davar has written over some time.

NK Singh authored a new book titled "Recalibrate: Changing Paradigms":

- **Recalibrate: Changing Paradigms**, by **N.K. Singh** with select insights from **P.K. Mishra**, principal secretary to the prime minister - presents the progress and the unfinished tasks of proximate developmental goals that are essential in the life of India.
- **N.K. Singh** is a prominent Indian economist, academician, and policymaker.
- He chaired the Fifteenth Finance Commission and is currently the president of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG).
- He was conferred the **Sasakawa Award 2019** for Disaster Risk Reduction by the **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**.

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Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman internationally launched the book entitled “India’s vaccine growth story- from cowpox to vaccine maitry”:

- Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman internationally launched the book entitled “India’s vaccine growth story- from cowpox to vaccine maitry”.
- The book is written by Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav, who is currently posted as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Finance.
- The book traces India’s centuries-long journey as the torchbearer of the world in vaccine development and inoculations.
- It has numerous stories of the birthing of various vaccines too.
- The book also discusses the development of vaccines by India at a fast pace to counter the COVID-19 pandemic and the launch of the world’s biggest vaccination drive by our country.

Chief Justice of India NV Ramana released Sathya Sodhana Mahatmuni Athmakatha:

- Chief Justice of India NV Ramana has released Sathya Sodhana Mahatmuni Athmakatha, a Telugu translation of Mahatma Gandhi’s autobiography ‘The Story of My Experiments with Truth’, published by Tirupati MLA Bhumana Karunakar Reddy.
- The CJI also unveiled the statue of president and founder general secretary of Rashtriya Seva Samithi (RASS) Gutta Muniratnam in the presence of G Sundaravadivelu, its present president, and S Venkataratnam, general secretary.
- He also released a book on the life of Muniratnam titled ‘Manavatha Nikethanam’.

Netanyahu’s Autobiography ‘Bibi: My Story’ Due Out in November

- This September, Benjamin Netanyahu, a former prime minister, will publish a memoir.
- In Israel, "Bibi: My Story" will be released on November 22.
- I have dedicated my life to battling the forces who seek the Jewish state's eradication and establishing peace with those who do not, having been born one year after its foundation.
- My narrative is one of sorrow and victory, failures and victories, knowledge gained, and valued loved ones.
- It is intertwined with that of Israel, which has demonstrated how perseverance and faith can beat overwhelming challenges to create a glorious future Nibiyahu, age 72, said in a statement.

M Venkaiah Naidu launched a book titled “A New India: Selected Writings 2014-19”:

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- On the anniversary of **Arun Jaitley's demise**, former vice president and union minister **M. Venkaiah Naidu** published a book called "**A New India: Selected Writings 2014–19**," which is a collection of some of his best writings.
- Along with Naidu, the book was also **released at the occasion by Manoj Sinha**, the lieutenant governor of Jammu and Kashmir, and **Jyotiraditya Scindia**, the union minister of civil aviation.
- **Juggernaut is the publisher of the book.**
- In this posthumously published book, Arun Jaitley provides the clearest, most authoritative explanations of the policies of the BJP administration of 2014-19.
- Surveying the country's vast changes in the previous five years - GST, demonetization, Kashmir - he is also foresighted about major political trends in the country, such as the end of dynasty politics, divisions among regional powers, and the crisis in the Congress party.
- A new India is an essential book, one that exhaustively maps and discusses the BJP's reforms and analyzes the situation of the nation.

'India's Economy from Nehru to Modi: A Brief History' book to be launched

- A new book by **Pulapre Balakrishnan** titled "**India's Economy From Nehru To Modi: A Brief History**" will soon be released.
- The economic development of **India from the time of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru** to the present, as chronicled in the book **India's Economy From Nehru To Modi: A Brief History**.
- Independent, The Indian economy's voyage of 75 years is concluding.
- **India's Economy From Nehru To Modi: A Brief History** also gives the perspective that Indians did gain significant independence with the end of colonialism and the adoption of political democracy.

Acclaimed Dancer Mallika Sarabhai turns author released his memoir 'Free Fall':

- **Mallika Sarabhai**, a renowned classical dancer, and activist bare all in her new self-help memoir "**Free Fall: My Experiments with Living**."
- The book, which will be available for purchase on **August 30**, is about "**coming to terms with yourself, your body, and discovering the lifestyle that works for you**."
- **Speaking Tiger** is the publisher.

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- A prominent dancer, actor, and public intellectual gives a remarkable tale of how she fumbled her way to health, fitness, and sanity, which is at times uplifting, humorous, and controversial.
- It's all about coming to terms with yourself and your body in Free Fall and finding a lifestyle that works for you.
- And how to make errors, get back up, and keep going.
- This self-help' book, although never preachy, presents an extremely beneficial message for anybody seeking excellent health - and happiness.

IMPORTANT SPORTS NEWS

Bindyarani Devi won India a fourth medal in weightlifting: Commonwealth Games 2022

- Bindyarani Devi won India a fourth medal at the Commonwealth Games weightlifting arena in Birmingham, bagging a silver medal in the Women's 55 kg weight class.
- The 23-year-old created a Games record by lifting 116kg in the clean and jerk after a personal best of 86kg in the snatch section, totaling 202 kg.
- The gold medal expectedly went to Nigeria's Adijat Adenike Olarinoye, who lifted 203kg (92kg+111kg).
- She also smashed the Games record in snatch and total effort.

Winners in the Commonwealth Games 2022:

Mirabai Chanu claims India's first gold medal:

- Star weightlifter Mirabai Chanu (49kg) went on a record-smashing spree, claiming four of them in a power-packed performance, to claim India's first gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.
- She obliterated the Games record in clean and jerk as well as total lift.
- The former world champion ended with a total lift of 201kg (88kg+113kg), which is far from her personal best.
- She equaled her national record lift of 88kg in the snatch section.
- Mauritian weightlifter Marie Hanitra Roilya Ranaivosoa 172kg (76kg+96kg) won the silver.
- With this Chanu added a third CWG medal to her kitty, having won silver and gold in the Glasgow and Gold Coast editions respectively.

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Weightlifter Gururaja Poojary clinched a bronze medal in the men's 61 kg category:

- Weightlifter **Gururaja Poojary** clinched a bronze medal in the men's 61 kg category at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham.
- Gururaja had won a silver in the 56kg weight class at the 2018 Games on Gold Coast. At Birmingham, he won bronze with a total lift of 269kg.
- He made the best attempt of 118kg in the snatch round and 151kg in the clean and jerk round.

“Games Wide Open” as the slogan for both the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games: IOC

- **With two years** to go from the opening ceremony of the **2024 Paris Olympic Games**, organizers have revealed **“Ouvrons Grand Les Jeux”**, meaning **“Games Wide Open”**, as the shared slogan for the **Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games**.
- It is an invitation to the world to come and experience new emotions together.
- **Paris** will host the **Summer Olympics for the third time in 2024**, which also marks the centenary of the last Paris Games in 1924.
- The French capital was also the host city of the second edition of the modern Olympic Games, in 1900.
- The Games are scheduled to take place from **July 26 to August 11** and athletes will compete in a total of 32 sports encompassing 329 events, and among these sports, ‘Breaking’ will make its Olympic debut.

England beats Germany in Women’s Euro 2022:

- **England beat Germany 2-1** after extra time in a packed **Wembley Stadium** in London, bringing home the **trophy of the UEFA women's Euro for the first time**.
- Germany suffered a heavy blow minute ahead of the final as their captain Alex Popp had to pull out after picking up an injury during the warm-up.
- Ella Toone and Chloe Kelly prodded goals for the England team.
- Lina Magull helped Germany equalize in the 79th minute.
- UEFA's team of Technical Observers at **UEFA Women's EURO 2022** have named **Beth Mead** as their **Player of the Tournament**.

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- The competition's top goalscorer with six goals, England's No7 also logged five assists from the right wing as the Lionesses went the whole way to capture their first EURO title in front of a home crowd at Wembley Stadium.
- Keira Walsh has received the official Player of the Match award, presented by Visa, following England's 2-1 win against Germany in the UEFA Women's EURO 2022 final.
- UEFA's team of Technical Observers at **UEFA Women's EURO 2022** has named **Germany's Lena Oberdorf** as the inaugural Young Player of the Tournament.

Max Verstappen wins F1 Hungarian Grand Prix 2022:

- **Formula One** champion **Max Verstappen** overcame a spin and his worst starting spot of the season to win the **Hungarian Grand Prix**.
- **His eighth win** of the season pushed Verstappen's lead to 80 points over Charles Leclerc as F1 heads into its mid-season break.
- Verstappen's eighth win of the season was the 28th of the Dutchman's career.
- Max Emilian Verstappen is a **Belgian-Dutch racing driver** and the 2021 Formula One World Champion.
- He competes under the Dutch flag in Formula One with **Red Bull Racing**.
- He is the son of former Formula One driver Jos Verstappen.

India's Points Tally at the Commonwealth Games 2022:

- **Commonwealth Games 2022**, also known as **Birmingham 2022**, began on July 28th and will end on August 8th, 2022 in **Birmingham, England**.
- India is competing in the **Commonwealth Games for the 18th time**.
- The Indian team at the Commonwealth Games 2022 comprises 322 participants. Women's cricket was introduced in the Commonwealth Games this year, giving India a fresh start and a new opportunity to take the lead.
- India has won **nine medals at Birmingham 2022**, including **three gold medals, three silver medals, and three bronze medals**.
- Men's and women's weightlifting medals are all represented.

Key Points:

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- **Mirabai Chanu wins India's first gold medal** in weightlifting women's 49kg at the Commonwealth Games 2022.
- **Bindyarani Devi won one gold and one silver medal** in women's weightlifting in 55kg.
- India won four medals in men's weightlifting.
- Jeremy Lalrinnunga won gold in 67 kg, Sanket Sargar won silver in 55 kg, and Achinta Sheuli won gold in 73 kg.
- With 9 medals, **India is ranked sixth in the Commonwealth Games 2022 Medal Tally.**
- **Australia leads the medal** count for the Commonwealth Games 2022.
- The Australian team has the most gold medals (22), silver medals (13), and bronze medals (17). Australia has a total of 52 medals.

Medals in Weightlifting Category

- Women's 49kg weightlifting: Mirabai Chanu, Gold
- Women's weightlifting 55kg: Bindyarani Devi, Silver
- Weightlifting men's 55kg: Sanket Sargar, Silver
- Bronze medalist in men's 61kg weightlifting: Gururaja Poojary
- Men's 73kg weightlifting: Anchinta Sheuli, Gold
- Men's 67kg weightlifting: Jeremy Lalrinnunga, Gold
- Shushila Likmabam of India won another silver medal in 48kg women's Judo.
- Vijay Kumar Yadav won a bronze medal in men's 60kg Judo.
- Harjinder Kaur takes bronze in the women's 71kg weightlifting event.

India's Medal Tally:

Sports	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Weightlifting	3	2	2
Wrestling	0	0	0
Table Tennis	0	0	0
Triathlon	0	0	0
Squash	0	0	0
Swimming	0	0	0

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Para Powerlifting	0	0	0
Lawn Bowls	0	0	0
Judo	0	1	1
Hockey	0	0	0
Gymnastics	0	0	0
Cycling	0	0	0
Cricket	0	0	0
Boxing	0	0	0
Badminton	0	0	0
Athletics	0	0	0
Total	3	3	3

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launched the 4th ONGC Para Games in 2022:

- By Union Minister of Petroleum, Natural Gas, Housing, and Urban Affairs **Shri Hardeep Singh Puri**, the fourth edition of the **ONGC Para Games** was officially Launched.
- From August 2-4, 2022, **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)** will host the **4th ONGC Para Games**.
- Participants will include 275 Persons with Disabilities (PwD) who work for eight central oil and gas public organizations.
- Since the **first edition of the Para Games in 2017**, the Paralympic Committee of India has helped ONGC organize them on a global scale.
- 120 ONGC PwD employees participated in athletics, badminton, and wheelchair racing sports in the competition.
- Since that time, both the number of participants and the type of games have increased.
- Many of the para-athletes competing in the **ONGC Para Games** have distinguished themselves as India's Paralympic representatives.

Commonwealth Games 2022: Indian Team bags gold in Lawn Bowl

- The **women's fours lawn bowling team from India** created history by taking home the **gold medal** at the **2022 Commonwealth Games**.

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- The team, led by Rupa Rani Tirkey, Lovely Choubey, Pinki, and Nayanmoni Saikia, earned the nation's first lawn bowls medal, and after defeating the 2018 silver medalists in South Africa, they went on to win the championship.
- With a 17-10 victory over South Africa, the Indian team prevailed.
- India made a good start in the last day's game, but South Africa performed a stunning comeback as both sides were tied at 10 points after the end of 12.
- After the end of 15, India has regained the lead and currently has 15 points, compared to South Africa's 10.
- Additionally, this was the Indian team's first time competing in the event finals' women's fours format.
- In the semifinal match, India defeated New Zealand 16-13.

Indian badminton team claimed the silver medal:

- At the Commonwealth Games 2022's mixed group match, the Indian badminton team won the silver medal.
- The mixed Indian badminton team lost to Malaysia 1-3 and had to settle for silver.
- In the women's singles match during the summit match versus Malaysia, only PV Sindhu was able to secure a victory.
- In the fourth match of the fixture, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand went against Muralitharan Thinaah and Koong Le Pearly Tan.
- Indian pair lost the first game 18-21.
- The Malaysian pair won the second game 21-17 to clinch the gold medal in Games 2022.

India's paddlers win gold in Table Tennis:

- In the Table Tennis Final of the Commonwealth Games 2022, India's paddlers defeated Singapore 3-1 to reclaim the men's team championship title.
- By winning the doubles match, Harmeet Desai and G. Sathiyam gave India a strong start.
- To tie Singapore at 1-1, Chew Zhe Yu Clarence triumphed in the subsequent match.
- But by winning their matches, G Sathiyam and Harmeet Desai made sure that India would win the gold.
- In the men's table tennis team competition, India won the gold medal two consecutive times.

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- The Indian men's table tennis team also took home the gold medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games on Gold Coast.
- Then, in the championship game, **India beat Nigeria 3-0**.
- **Harmeet Desai beat Chew Zhe Yu Clarence** 11-8, 11-5, and 11-6 in the fourth match.

West Indies women's cricket Player Deandra Dottin has announced her retirement:

- **Star all-rounder Deandra Dottin** has announced her retirement from **West Indies women's cricket team**, citing she was no longer able to adhere to the team culture and environment.
- The **31-year-old is the fastest centurion in women's T20 Internationals**.
- Dottin, however, did not indicate whether she would also retire from Barbados, a side she is **representing** at the ongoing **Commonwealth Games** here in **Birmingham**.
- **Dottin is West Indies' most-capped international cricketer**, having played 124 T20Is and 143 ODIs since her debut in June 2008.

Tejaswin Shankar wins India's first High Jump Medal:

- At the **Commonwealth Games 2022**, **Tejaswin Shankar** of India won the nation's **first athletics medal** by taking home a historic **bronze in the men's high jump final**.
- Tejaswin, who was competing for **India for the first time in four years**, landed a 2.22-meter landing to place third.
- In the first two jumps, he had little issue clearing 2.5 meters and 2.10 meters. then fairly comfortably on the first try 2.19m and 2.22m.
- Despite not clearing 2.25, he won the bronze medal by jumping 2.22 meters higher than the fourth-placed competitor.
- On his final jump, he tried 2.28 meters but failed.

About Tejaswin Shankar:

- Tejaswin Shankar, an Indian athlete who participates in the high jump event, was born on December 21, 1998.
- He established the 2.29-meter national high jump record in April 2018.
- Shankar established a new Games record of 2.14 meters to win the gold medal at the 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games in Apia.
- With a leap of 2.17 meters, he captured silver in the 2016 South Asian Games in Guwahati.

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Tulika Maan wins silver in women's 78kg judo event:

- At the **Commonwealth Games 2022**, Indian judoka Tulika Maan win a silver medal in the women's 78kg division.
- As a result of her Ippon loss against **Scotland's Sarah Adlington** in the Women's +78kg final, **Tulika Maan earns India's second silver medal in judo and third overall in the sport.**
- Maan earlier did win a **gold medal at the 2019 South Asian Games in Kathmandu.**
- She competed at the **Madrid European Open 2022** before the CWG, where she earned a position on the fifth-place team.
- Maan will compete in the Asian Senior Championships in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, in 2022 as a result of her impressive second-place performance at the Games.

Commonwealth Games 2022:

Saurav Ghosal wins India's first-ever singles medal in squash:

- **Saurav Ghosal of India defeated James Willstrop of England 11-6, 11-1, 11-4** to win the bronze medal in squash men's singles and seal a spot for India in the 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- Additionally, this was India's first-ever medal in squash singles in a competition.
- He had lost to Paul Coll of New Zealand 3-0 (11-9 11-4 11-1) in the men's singles semifinal.

Murali Sreeshankar wins silver in long jump:

- At the Commonwealth Games 2022, **Murali Sreeshankar won silver** in the men's long jump to give India its second athletics medal.
- In a tense men's long jump final, Sreeshankar leaped to 8.08m on his sixth try to place second to Laquan Nairn of the Bahamas.
- Nairn also had the highest leap of 8.08 meters, but his second-best jump of 7.98 meters was higher than Sreeshankar's 7.84 meters.
- South African Jovan van Vuuren (8.06m) won bronze.
- Under rules, if two jumpers are tied on the same distance, the one who has a better second-best effort will be ranked ahead.

Sudhir won the gold medal in men's heavyweight para powerlifting:

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- At the Commonwealth Games 2022, **Sudhir** won the gold medal in the men's heavyweight para powerlifting competition.
- In his first try, Sudhir, an Asian Para Games bronze medalist, lifted 208 kg; however, in his second attempt, he increased the weight to 212 kg to get 134.5 points and break the Games record. Ikechukwu Micky Yule took home the bronze with 130.9 points, while Christian Obichukwu earned the silver with 133.6.
- The 27-year-old Sudhir, who suffers from a polio-related disability, thereby started India's medal count in the CWG's para sports competition.

Tania Sachdev Shines in Indian Women Team: 44th Chess Olympiad

- At the 44th Chess Olympiad at Mamallapuram, Chennai, **Tania Sachdev** defeated Hungary with a score of 2.5-1.5 to win the match for India.
- She destroyed **Zsoka Gaal** to give the squad a pivotal point and win the match.
- In their separate matches, **Koneru Humpy, Dronavalli Harika, and R Vaishali** all came to a draw.
- Indian chess player **Tania Sachdev** is a **Woman Grandmaster and International Master**, according to the FIDE.
- She has won the Indian Women's Chess Championship twice (in 2006 and 2007), the Asian Women's Chess Championship once (in 2007), and the Commonwealth Women's Chess Championship three times (in 2016, 2018, and currently).

Commonwealth Games 2022:

Priyanka Goswami wins India's 1st medal in the race walk

- At the 2022 Commonwealth Games, **Priyanka Goswami** won silver in the 10000-meter race walk.
- In the race walk and athletics, at the Commonwealth Games 2022, she becomes the first Indian woman to take home a gold.
- Priyanka sets a new Indian National Record for a 10000-meter race walk with a time of 43:38:82.
- Khushbir Kaur formerly held the national record in India with a time of 44 minutes, 35.5 seconds in 2017.

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- At the Commonwealth Games 2022, Jemima Montag of Australia won the gold medal in the race walk with a time of 42:34:00. In 2018, she triumphed in a 20-kilometer race walk on the Gold Coast.

Avinash Sable claims silver in Steeplechase:

- At the Commonwealth Games 2022, **Avinash Sable** wins the silver medal in the men's 3000m steeplechase.
- In addition, he makes history by being the **first Indian male to medal in the steeplechase at a Commonwealth Games.**
- He set a new steeplechase national record timing by completing the event with an 8:11:2 personal best time.
- After six years, Avinash Sable became the first non-Kenyan athlete to win a medal in steeplechase.

Wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya bags gold for India

- In the **Men's Freestyle, 57kg Wrestling** event at the Commonwealth Games 2022, **Ravi Kumar Dahiya** won gold for his nation, making history.
- In the final, Ravi defeated Nigerian Ebikewenimo Welson 10-0 to earn his first gold medal at the Commonwealth Games.
- Two minutes and sixteen seconds were used in the game.
- In the opening frame, Dahiya dominated completely and prevented his opponent from scoring.

Vinesh Phogat bags gold medal in women's wrestling 53kg:

- At the Commonwealth Games 2022, **Vinesh Phogat** won the gold medal in the **Women's Freestyle 53 kg** division.
- She triumphed over Sri Lanka's Chamodya Keshani Maduravalage Don.
- Phogat prevailed via fall to win the gold medal contest 4-0.
- She won the second gold medal of the day for India at the CWG in two minutes and 24 seconds.

Naveen won the gold medal in the men's 74kg freestyle wrestling:

- At the Coventry Stadium and Arena, **Indian wrestler Naveen Malik** won the gold medal in men's **74kg freestyle wrestling** during the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

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- **Muhammad Sharif Tahir of Pakistan was beaten by Naveen.**
- The Indian utilized his apparent speed advantage against Tahir to his advantage to start the scoring with a two-point takedown.
- He went for the kill, resulting in two more takedowns and a convincing 9-0 victory.

Table Tennis player Bhavina Patel won a gold medal in the women's singles:

- **Bhavina Patel, a well-known Indian para table tennis player, won the women's singles class 3-5 gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in 2022.**
- To finish, the 35-year-old from Gujarat defeated Nigeria's Ifechukwude Christiana Ikpeoyi 12-10 11-2 11-9.
- An Indian parathlete and table tennis player from Mehsana, Gujarat, is named Bhavina Hasmukhbhai Patel.

Amit Panghal wins Gold in men's 48kg-51kg flyweight boxing:

- **Amit Panghal, an Indian boxer, won the gold medal in the 48-51 kg weight division at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.**
- In the championship match, he outplayed Kieran Macdonald of England 5-0.
- After winning Silver in Gold Coast, this is his second CWG medal.
- A boxer and Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) in the Indian Army, Subedar Amit Panghal.
- Panghal, who was up in a farming family in Rohtak, Haryana, was inspired to take up boxing by his older brother Ajay.

Boxer Nitu Ghangas wins gold in women's 48 kg category:

- **At the Commonwealth Games 2022, Indian boxer Nitu Ghangas won a gold medal by defeating English boxer Demie-Jade Resztan in the women's 48 kg division final.**
- She defeated her English opponent 5-0 on a points system. Nitu Ghangas of India ensured the country another medal after defeating Priyanka Dhillion of Canada in the semifinal of the Minimum weight (over 45 kg–48 kg) division of the Commonwealth Games 2022 currently taking place in Birmingham.

Eldhose Paul becomes the first Indian to win gold in the triple jump:

- **At the Commonwealth Games 2022, Eldhose Paul of India made history by winning the men's triple jump event's first-ever gold medal.**

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- He jumped the farthest, 17.03 meters, and left everyone in amazement with his incredible leap.
- Aboobacker, a fellow countryman of Paul, took silver with a 17.02-meter leap (with wind aid +1.2) on his sixth attempt.
- Jah-Nhai Perinchief of Bermuda, who jumped 16.92 meters, took third place.

India beat Bangladesh 5-2 to clinch the trophy: 2022 SAFF U20 Championship

- At Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India defeated Bangladesh 5-2 in overtime to win the 2022 SAFF U20 Championship.
- The SAFF U-20 Championship's fourth edition was held in India.
- The South Asian Football Federation hosts the SAFF U-20 Championship, an international football event for men's under-18 national teams (SAFF).
- The Indian team's captain was **Sibajit Singh Leimapokpam**, while Som Kumar served as the goalie.

An awardee of the tournament:

- Top scorer – Gurkirat Singh (8 goals)
- Best player – Gurkirat Singh
- Best goalkeeper – Som Kumar

About South Asian Football Federation (SAFF):

- President: Kazi Salahuddin
- Founded: 1997
- Headquarters: Dhaka, Bangladesh
- General Secretary: Anwarul Huq.

India's 75th Grandmaster is chess prodigy V Pranav:

- **By winning a competition in Romania**, the chess prodigy from Chennai, V Pranav, became the **75th Grandmaster of India**.
- Pranav, who resides in Chennai, won the **Limpedia Open in Baia Mare, Romania**, earning his **third and final GM norm and becoming a Grandmaster**.
- In addition to the famous Viswanathan Anand and teenage superstars D Gukesh and R Praggnanandhaa, Pranav is the **27th Grandmaster from Tamil Nadu**.

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- He attends Velammal School in this city and has three state championship victories.
- In 2021, he also earned the bronze medal in the international rapid event.
- He attends Velammal School in Chennai and has three state championship victories. In 2021, he took home the bronze medal in the global fast event.

India finishes fourth overall with 61 medals, including 22 gold: Commonwealth Games 2022

- In the overall medal standings at the **Commonwealth Games 2022**, India won **61 medals** In **Birmingham**
- **India placed fourth** overall on the medals tally after their CWG 2022 campaign.
- **India took home 22 gold, 16 silver, and 23 bronze** medals from the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.
- India's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 is its fifth-best in terms of medals earned.
- India's best performance came at the 2010 home games in Delhi, when it collected 101 medals.
- **Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu won India's first gold medal** in Commonwealth Games 2022 after she topped the 49kg category.
- **Paddler Sharath Kamal won India's last gold medal** in Commonwealth Games 2022 with a **gold medal in the Table Tennis men's singles competition**.

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Australia	67	57	54	178
2	England	57	66	53	176
3	Canada	26	32	34	92
4	India	22	16	23	61
5	New Zealand	20	12	17	49
6	Scotland	13	11	27	51
7	Nigeria	12	9	14	35

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8	Wales	8	6	14	28
9	South Africa	7	9	11	27
10	Malaysia	8	8	8	24

India won the silver medal after losing to Australia in cricket:

- At the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2022, the Indian women's cricket team made history by winning the nation's first-ever medal in the sport.
- After defeating the hosts England in a thrilling encounter at the Edgbaston Cricket Ground, the Women in Blue advanced to the gold medal final.
- In the final at Edgbaston field, Australia scored 161/8 while batting first.
- The Indian team's response was limited to 152 runs in 19.3 overs.
- India fell short in the gold-medal contest by 9 runs.

Aussie Swimmer Emma McKeon Has Won More Gold Than 56 Countries:

- Emma McKeon, an Australian swimmer who is 28 years old, broke a kind of record in the 2022 Commonwealth Games by winning more medals than 56 different countries or territories combined.
- At the Commonwealth Games, she competed in a variety of swimming events and took home six gold, one silver, and one bronze medal.
- Only 16 of the 72 nations and territories that competed in the CWG 2022 received eight or more medals.

PV Sindhu won the gold medal in women's singles badminton:

- P V Sindhu, a shuttler from India, won the women's singles gold medal in the Commonwealth Games 2022 final.
- The Canadian Michelle Li was defeated by the double Olympic medallist to take home gold.
- Michelle Li was defeated by PV Sindhu 21-15, and 21-13.
- This is Sindhu's first gold medal in a singles competition at the Commonwealth Games.

Chess Olympiad 2026 to be hosted by Uzbekistan:

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- **Uzbekistan will host the 2026 Chess Olympiad**, according to a tweet from the **International Chess Federation (FIDE)**.
- Their youthful team is now in the lead in the ongoing **Chess Olympiad in Chennai**.
- The Chess Olympiad is a biannual chess tournament in which teams from all around the world participate.
- FIDE is in charge of organizing the competition and selecting the host country.
- FIDE held an online chess competition in 2020 and 2021 with a short time limit that hurt contestants' online ratings during the COVID-19 epidemic.

About FIDE:

- President: Arkady Dvorkovich Trending
- Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- Founded: 20 July 1924, Paris, France
- Membership: 200

Tennis legend Serena Williams Announces Her Retirement from Tennis:

- **Serena Williams, a tennis icon from the United States**, has declared her retirement.
- Williams emphasized her family in the announcement, mentioning that her daughter, who is almost five years old, wants to be an older sister.
- **Alexis Ohanian, the creator of Reddit**, is Williams' husband.
- Williams, who turns 41 next month, has won over \$94 million in career prize money along with 73 singles wins and 23 doubles trophies.
- At age 17, she won her first major singles championship at the **U.S. Open in 1999**.
- The next year, she and her elder sister Venus won the first of their three Olympic doubles titles.
- At the 2012 London Olympics, she also won the gold medal in singles.
- She has kept track of sponsorships received from brands including Nike, Audemars Piguet, Away, Beats, Bumble, Gatorade, Gucci, Lincoln, Michelob, Nintendo, Wilson Sporting Goods, and Procter & Gamble.

Prabath Jayasuriya and Emma Lamb bags ICC Player of the Month for July 2022:

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- The winners of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Player of the Month honors for July 2022 were named **England batting all-rounder Emma Lamb** and **Sri Lankan spin wonder Prabath Jayasuriya**.
- **Emma Lamb** was voted the ICC Women's Player of the Month for July following her thrilling start to life opening the batting in England's **victorious ODI series victory over South Africa**.
- In the first attempt, Lamb wins the ICC Women's Player of the Month title, **defeating England's Nat Sciver and India's Renuka Singh**.
- **Prabath Jayasuriya** beat **Jonny Bairstow** of England to win the ICC Men's Player of the Month award because of a standout string of performances with the ball and his incredible tally of wickets.
- For the prestigious monthly honor, **Jayasuriya** defeated **Jonny Bairstow** of England and **Gustav McKeon** of France.

List of ICC Men's Players:

- January 2022: Keegan Petersen (South Africa)
- February 2022: Shreyas Iyer (India)
- March 2022: Babar Azam (Pakistan)
- April 2022: Keshav Maharaj (South Africa)
- May 2022: Angelo Mathews (Sri Lanka)
- June 2022: Jonny Bairstow (England)

List of ICC Women's Players:

- January 2022: Heather Knight (England)
- February 2022: Amelia Kerr (New Zealand)
- March 2022: Rachael Haynes (Australia)
- April 2022: Alyssa Healy (Australia)
- May 2022: Tuba Hassan (Pakistan)
- June 2022: Marizanne Kapp (South Africa)

Nikhata Zareen and Sharath Kamal India's flagbearers at the closing ceremony: **Commonwealth Games 2022**

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- **Boxer Nikhat Zareen and table tennis player Achanta Sharath Kamal** have been named by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as India's flag bearers at the Commonwealth Games closing ceremony in Birmingham in 2022.
- In the boxing light flyweight event under the **50 kg category** at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham, **Achanta Sharath Kamal** won gold by defeating **Liam Pitchford** in the finals, while **Nikhat Zareen** also took home gold by defeating **Mc Naul** in the same match.
- With gold in the men's team and mixed team events as well as a silver in the men's doubles, **40-year-old Sharath Kamal** has an impressive collection of four medals from this round of the Games.
- In contrast, the boxing world champion is **Nikhat Zareen**.
- At the Commonwealth Games 2022, she took first place in the 50 kg light flyweight boxing competition, earning a gold medal.
- India's flagbearers at the Commonwealth Games 2022 closing ceremony will be **Nikhat Zareen and Sharath Kamal**, it was confirmed.
- **PV Sindhu and Manpreet Singh** carried the flags at the **Commonwealth Games 2022 opening ceremony**.
- **Anil Khanna**, the interim president, IOA Secretary-General **Rajeev Mehta**, and Indian Chef for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games revealed the flag bearers for the closing ceremony.

Uzbekistan has won the gold medal in the Open section of the 44th Chess Olympiad:

- The **44th Chess Olympiad** has come to a close, as **Uzbekistan's team** Won the gold medal in the **Open division**.
- **Team Armenia** took home the silver medal in the **Open Section**, while **India-2** had to settle for **bronze**.
- **Ukraine** took home the gold medal in the **women's division**.
- **India-1** earned the bronze medal, and **Team Georgia** took home the silver.

Key Points:

- The **International Chess Federation**, often known as the **World Chess Federation (FIDE)**, hosted the **44th Chess Olympiad** in **Chennai, India**, from **July 28 to August 9, 2022**.

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- The inaugural Chess Olympiad was held in India.
- There were both open and women's events there.
- There were 1,737 competitors in all, of which 937 competed in the Open event and 800 in the Women's event.
- Overall, 186 countries registered 188 teams in the Open segment, and 160 countries registered 162 teams in the Women's section.
- The conference center of the Four Points by Sheraton served as the primary site for the Chess Olympiad.
- The **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium** served as the location for both the opening and closing ceremonies.

Kieron Pollard became the first cricketer to play 600 T20 matches:

- **Former West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard** became the **first cricketer to play 600 T20 matches**.
- The hard-hitting batter achieved this landmark during his side's London Spirit's match against Manchester Originals during the ongoing **The Hundred tournament at Lord's**.
- Pollard made sure to make the occasion memorable.
- He smashed an unbeaten 34 runs off just 11 balls consisting of one four and four big sixes.

About Kieron Pollard:

- Pollard has some brilliant T20I stats.
- He has scored 11,723 runs across 600 games at an average of 31.34.
- He has the best individual performance of 104.
- Pollard has scored one century and 56 half-centuries in the format.
- He has also captured 309 wickets with the best bowling figures of 4/15.
- Behind him are players Dwayne Bravo (543 matches), Shoaib Malik (472), Chris Gayle (463), and Ravi Bopara (426).

Real Madrid beat Eintracht Frankfurt to win the 2022 UEFA Super Cup:

- In the finals, **Real Madrid defeated Eintracht Frankfurt 2-0** to win the **2022 UEFA Super Cup** in Helsinki, Finland, setting a new record.

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- The **UEFA Champions League** and **UEFA Europa League** champions compete in the annual football tournament known as the **UEFA Super Cup**, which is put on by UEFA.
- **Real Madrid** overcame **Eintracht Frankfurt**, the **Europa League** champions, to win the championship for the **seventh time**.
- Real Madrid defeated Eintracht Frankfurt thanks to goals from Karim Benzema and David Alaba in each half.
- **Casemiro** wins player of the game.
- Team Barcelona and Team Milan each won the prize five times before this.
- Real, rival Barcelona, and AC Milan have all won the Super Cup five times (2002, 2014, 2016, 2017, and 2022), while Real manager Carlo Ancelotti is the competition's most successful manager with four trophies (2003, 2007, 2014, 2022).

Sunil Chhetri, Manisha Kalyan named men's and women's Footballer of the Year:

- **Sunil Chhetri** and **Manisha Kalyan** have been selected for the **All-India Football Federation (AIFF) Men's and Women's Footballers of the Year** for 2021-22, respectively.
- Manisha earned the **Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year** title last season, while Sunil has won the accolade seven times, most recently in 2018-19.
- Sunil Chhetri earned the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year award for the seventh time, having previously won it in 2007, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2017, and 2018-19.
- No one has won it more often than the **38-year-old veteran**.
- **Sunil Chhetri** is presently third on the list of top goal scorers in international football among active players, trailing only **Cristiano Ronaldo** and **Lionel Messi**, and sixth all-time.
- **Manisha Kalyan**, the AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year for 2021-22, was also the Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year the previous season.

1st Khelo India Women's Hockey League under-16 will be held in New Delhi:

- **1st Khelo India Women's Hockey League** under-16 will be held at the **Major Dhyanchand Stadium** in New Delhi.
- According to the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**, a total of **16 teams** from across the country are participating.
- A total of 56 matches will be played and over 300 players will compete in **Phase 1** of the league.

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- The **Sports Authority of India** has allocated a total of 53.72 lakhs rupees for 3 phases of the competition, which includes Prize money of 15.5 lakh rupees.
- Phase 1 and 2 of the Khelo India Women's Hockey League U-16 will be in a round-robin format.
- The final ranking of teams will be determined after the completion of the first 2 phases.
- Phase 3 will consist of classification matches where each team will play a minimum of 3 matches.

First edition of Women's IPL to be held in March 2023:

- The **first edition of the Women Indian Premier League** will begin in **March 2023** and would most likely feature five clubs, according to BCCI officials.
- The BCCI's top brass have addressed the matter, and a March window has been identified for the competition following the **Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa**.
- **BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah** both stated that WIPL will begin in 2023.
- Many fans of cricket think that the WIPL will spark a revolution and dramatically raise the level of women's cricket in India.
- It is known that organizations like the Chennai Super Kings, Rajasthan Royals, and Mumbai Indians have all shown interest in purchasing organizations.

Dwayne Bravo became the first cricketer to achieve the milestone of 600 wickets in T20 cricket:

- **Dwayne Bravo** achieved the milestone of **600 wickets in T20 cricket**.
- In the ongoing, The Hundred competition, the former all-around player for the West Indies achieved this milestone while playing for his team, the Northern Superchargers, against the Oval Invincibles.
- Bravo achieved the accomplishment of **600 wickets in 545 games**.
- Following the conclusion of his team's ICC World T20 2021 campaign in November of last year, he announced his retirement from international cricket.
- In terms of wickets, **Bravo is followed by Afghanistan spin sensation Rashid Khan (466 wickets)**, West Indies spinner **Sunil Narine (457 wickets)**, South African spinner **Imran Tahir (451 wickets)**, and Bangladesh all-rounder **Shakib Al Hasan (418 wickets)**.

The All-India Football Federation has been suspended by the FIFA Council:

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- The FIFA Council Bureau unanimously voted to suspend the All-India Football Federation (AIFF) with immediate effect owing to improper interference from third parties, which constitutes a major violation of the FIFA Statutes.
- The suspension will be removed whenever an order to form a committee of administrators to assume the responsibilities of the AIFF Executive Committee is revoked and the AIFF administration regains full control of the AIFFs.

About FIFA

- President: Gianni Infantino
- Founded: 21 May 1904
- Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland.

The Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2022 will take place in Ipoh from November:

- The Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2022, which is the premier men's hockey tournament in Malaysia, will take place in Ipoh from November 16–25.
- After a two-year break, the occurrence is returning as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The tournament has invited the top-ranked team in the world, Australia, as well as Germany, India, New Zealand, and Canada.
- The Sultan Azlan Shah Cup will be contested in its entirety at the Azlan Shah Stadium in the Malaysian city of Ipoh, which serves as its permanent venue.
- The Azlan Shah tournament was last played in 2019 and was won for the third time by South Korea, who defeated India in the final.
- Surender Kumar won the competition's best player award.
- Australia has won the Azlan Shah event the most (10 times), followed by India with 5 victories.
- South Korea and Pakistan each have three championships.

Asia's oldest football tournament Durand Cup 2022 begins:

- Durand Cup, Asia's Oldest Football Tournament, has begun.
- Mr. Rajnath Singh, the Union Defense Minister, and General Manoj Pande, the Chief of Army Staff, will go to Manipur to see the opening game of the 131st Durand Cup 2022.
- In Imphal, the Khuman Lampak Stadium will host the opening game.
- The Durand Cup will take place in West Bengal, Assam, and Manipur in 2022.

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- Of the 20 teams, 11 will come from different clubs that compete in the Indian Super League, five from the I-league, and four from the Armed Forces.
- The **Salt Lake Stadium, Naihati Stadium, and Kishore Bharati Stadium** will all host the matches in Kolkata.
- The game will be played at the **Khuman Lampak Stadium** in Imphal.
- The game will take held in **Guwahati, Assam, at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium.**

Ireland's Kevin O'Brien announces retirement from International Cricket:

- **Kevin O'Brien, an all-rounder for Ireland, has declared his retirement from international cricket** after being eliminated from the running for the **T20 World Cup in Australia** this year.
- Throughout a **16-year international career, O'Brien participated in three Tests, 153 one-day matches, and 110 T20 matches.**
- He also had stints with many English county clubs and T20 franchise teams abroad.
- The 38-year-old is renowned for scoring a 50-ball century against England in a 2011 World Cup group match in India, which remains the tournament's **quickest century.**
- A total of 9,048 runs were made by the Dubliner for Ireland, including the nation's maiden Test century, a second-innings score of 118 against Pakistan in 2018.
- He also claimed 276 wickets.

Bengaluru to host FIBA U-18 women's Asian Basketball Championship:

- **Bengaluru** will serve as the host city for the **FIBA U-18 women's Asian Basketball Championship** from September 5 to 11, according to **Dr. Narayanagowda, the Karnataka minister of sports and youth empowerment.**
- During the press conference, the minister, Dr. Narayanagowda, gave sporting equipment to the Indian men's team travelling to Iran to compete in the **FIBA U-18 Men's Basketball Championship.**
- The **FIBA U-18 women's Asian Basketball Championship** is set to take place at the **Koramangala and Sree Kanteerava indoor stadiums.**
- Teams from Divisions A and B will play in the championship to earn a spot in the **FIBA U-18 women's Asian Basketball Championship, which will take place in Spain in July of next year.**

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- Teams from **China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, Australia, and New Zealand** will be represented in Division A.
- The FIBA U-18 women's Asian Basketball Championship will feature teams from **Hong Kong, Jordan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, the Philippines, and Thailand**.
- 192 basketball players from 16 different nations, 96 officials, and 100 volunteers would all be present at the Bengaluru tournament.

Meghalaya Sports Department set to host 2nd edition of North East Olympics:

- **Meghalaya** is all set to host the upcoming 2nd edition of the North East Olympics from 30th October.
- Meghalaya Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, and the North East Olympic Association were held last evening to finalize the list of sports disciplines.
- The **first edition of the Games was held in Manipur in 2018**, with 12 disciplines.
- In this edition, about **4,000 participants from eight North Eastern States** will be competing in 18 disciplines at 13 venues spread across Shillong.
- Participants will be competing in disciplines, such as **archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, boxing, football, judo, karate, shooting, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, wushu, cycling (Mountain Bike), golf, weightlifting, and wrestling**.

Manisha Kalyan becomes 1st Indian to play in the UEFA league:

- When **Manisha Kalyan**, a young striker for Apollon Ladies FC, made her debut in the **European Club competition in Engomi, Cyprus**, she became the **first Indian player to compete in the UEFA Women's Champions League**.
- The 20-year-old made history in November 2021 when she scored the first goal ever by an Indian football player in the AFC Women's Club Championship.
- For the national team and **Gokulam Kerala in the Indian Women's League**, Kalyan put on spectacular displays (IWL).
- After Dangmei Grace joined FC Nasaf of Uzbekistan, **Kalyan is the second player from Gokulam, Kerala, to sign with an international team**.
- She just received the honor of being named the **2021–22 AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year**.

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India's first-ever U-20 world champion in wrestling:

- The first Indian woman to hold this title is Antim Panghal, a 17-year-old wrestler from Haryana who won the Under-20 world championship by defeating Kazakhstan's Atlyn Shagayeva 8-0.
- In Sofia, Bulgaria, the U-20 World Wrestling Championship was held.
- Antim Panghal won the first round with an 11-0 victory over German Amery Olivia thanks to her better technical abilities.
- By winning the gold, Antim Panghal makes history by becoming the first U-20 women's wrestling champion.
- Antim Panghal comes from the Haryana hamlet of Bhagana, which is part of the Hisar district.
- 2022 Asian Junior Championships gold medalist Antim Panghal also took home bronze in the Cadet World Championships (2021).

R Praggnanandhaa defeated world chess champion Magnus Carlsen: FTX Crypto Cup

- Magnus Carlsen, the current world chess champion, was defeated by Indian chess expert Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa in the FTX Crypto Cup in Miami.
- The Chinese fighter Quang Liem Le ended Praggnanandhaa's winning streak in the fifth round.
- After losing against Poland's Jan-Krzysztof Duda on the tie-break in the sixth round, he suffered his second defeat.
- Magnus Carlsen was defeated by Praggnanandhaa for the third time in a year.
- When he was 16 years old, Praggnanandhaa defeated the world champion in the eighth round of the Airthings Masters, an online competition for quick chess players.
- On May 20, he shocked the Norwegian champion in the Chessable Masters online fast chess competition, earning him his second victory over Carlsen.

Tamara Walcott lifts 737.5 kg to break powerlifting Guinness World Record:

- According to sources in the investigating agency, Tamara Walcott, a female powerlifter from Maryland in the United States, broke the record for the heaviest cumulative lift for bench/squat and press in competition (female) after lifting a combined total of 737.5 kg across three compound lifts—the squat, the bench press, and the deadlift.
- In Manassas, Virginia, last month, she received recognition in the 2022 World Raw Powerlifting Federation American Pro.

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- GWR contrasted the amount of weight she lifted with an adult female giraffe, **which weighs around 680.3 kg**. Walcott began powerlifting four years ago after realizing she couldn't devote the necessary time to baseball or basketball.
- She didn't initially set out to break any world records; instead, her goals were weight loss and overall fitness.

17-year-old pilot Mack Rutherford sets the record for a solo flight around the world:

- **Mack Rutherford, a 17-year-old pilot**, became the youngest person to fly solo around the world in a tiny plane after landing in Bulgaria, where his voyage began five months ago.
- **Mack Rutherford, a dual Belgian-British national**, landed at an airport west of Sofia, Bulgaria's capital, to complete his mission **and set two Guinness World Records**.
- Rutherford is not only the youngest person to fly solo around the world, but he is also the youngest person to circle the globe in a microlight plane.
- **He crossed the equator twice to set a record certified by Guinness World Records**.
- He flew from Africa and the Gulf area to India, China, South Korea, and Japan.
- He flew across the northern Pacific for 10 hours before landing on a volcanic island near the Bering Strait.

Pooja Ojha Won Silver Medal at World Para Canoe Championships:

- **Pooja Ojha of Madhya Pradesh won silver in the VL1 women's 200m race** at the Para Kayaking and Canoeing Sprint World Championships in Halifax, Canada.
- Pooja, who hails from Bhand, took silver in the **VL1 women's 200m event with a time of 1:34:18**.
- **Lillemore Koper of Hamburg won gold** with a timing of 1:29.79.
- Two Indian players qualified for this competition. Pooja Ojha is one, while Surendra Kumar is another.
- **Surendra Kumar came in 5th position** in the VL1 men's 200m series.
- Surendra finished his race in 1:22.97.
- **Pooja earned six gold medals from national championships and is the first Indian woman para-athlete to qualify for the World Championships**.
- He is now rated ninth among the world's best para canoe players.

Neeraj Chopra wins Lausanne Diamond League with 89.08m throw:

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- **Neeraj Chopra**, an Olympic champion and javelin thrower made history by being the first Indian to win a **Lausanne Diamond League** championship.
- He launched the **spear 89.08 meters in his first effort** to declare victory distinctively.
- His second throw, measuring 85.18 meters, came after his third-best performance of his career, a **throw of 89.08 meters**.
- **Jakub Vadlejch**, who won the **silver medal in the Tokyo Olympics**, came in second with a best throw of 85.88 meters, and Curtis Thompson of the United States came in third with an effort of 83.72 meters.
- **Chopra, 24**, became the first Indian to qualify for the **Diamond League Finals**, which will be held in Zurich.
- **Chopra** also made history for India in July of this year when he **won silver in the javelin throw final at the World Championships**, becoming only the **second Indian and first male track and field athlete to do so**.

FIFA Council removes ban on Indian football:

- The **All India Football Federation (AIFF) ban**, which was put in place as a result of improper third-party involvement, **has been lifted by the FIFA Council Bureau**.
- The choice was made after FIFA received confirmation that the committee of administrators' mandate, which had been established to take over the AIFF Executive Committee's authority, had been terminated and that the AIFF administration had reclaimed complete control over the organization's day-to-day operations.
- The **FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022TM**, which is slated to take place in **India from October 11–30, 2022**, will go on as scheduled.
- Now, the **nation will successfully host the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in October**.
- Additionally, **ATK Mohun Bagan** will be entitled to take part in the AFC Cup Inter-Zonal semifinal matchup against Kuala Lumpur City FC.
- On the 24th and 27th of September, respectively, the Indian national team was slated to play two friendlies against **Singapore and Vietnam**.

Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi wins 28th Abu Dhabi Masters:

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- The 28th Dhabi Masters Chess Tournament was won by Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi with 7.5 points.
- Arjun Erigaisi, a grandmaster, defeated David Anton Guijarro, a player from Spain, in the ninth and final round of the 28th Abu Dhabi Masters Chess Tournament.
- After the most recent Chess Olympiad in India, Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi moved up an incredible 35 Elo rating points to take third place in the live rating list.
- Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi competed in the 28th Dhabi Masters Chess Tournament, winning six matches and drawing three others.
- Arjun Erigaisi, an Indian Grandmaster in chess, became a Grandmaster at the age of 14, making him the 32nd-youngest Grandmaster to have ever attained the rank.
- He is also India's 54th Grandmaster.
- At the Asian Youth Championships in Korea in 2015, Arjun Erigaisi took home the silver medal.
- He has crowned the first grandmaster from Telangana in 2018.

Judo World Championships: Linthoi Chanambam Wins India's First-ever Gold Medal

- In the Women's 57kg division at the World Judo Cadet (U18) Championships, Indian judoka Linthoi Chanambam made history by earning India's first-ever Gold medal in Judo World Championships.
- Bianca Reis of Brazil was defeated by the 15-year-old judoka in the 57-kg division final.
- The first Indian judoka to medal in any age group division at the World Championships was Linthoi Chanambam.
- One of India's top judokas in recent years, the 15-year-old is also a participant in the TOPS program run by the Indian government.
- She first gained attention in 2017 when she won a gold medal in the Sub-Junior National Judo Championships.
- Since then, she has been training in judo at JSW's Inspire Institute of Sports.

Virat Kohli becomes 1st Indian to play 100 Matches in each format:

- Cricket legend Virat Kohli has played 100 matches in each of the game's three formats, making him the first Indian and only the second player overall in history.

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- Since making his international debut in August 2008, Kohli has played in 100 T20 Internationals in addition to 102 Tests and 262 One-Day Internationals.
- He has 30 half-centuries in this format, and his highest individual score for India in this format is 94.
- With 3308 runs scored at an astounding average of 50.1 for Team India in T20I cricket, Kohli holds a remarkable record.
- **Ross Taylor of New Zealand**, who retired from international cricket in April of this year, was the first person to do so.
- Between 2006 and 2022, the 38-year-old played in 102 T20Is, 236 ODIs, and 112 Tests for his nation.
- While **Rohit Sharma and Shoaib Malik** have played more than 100 T20I and ODI games, respectively, they have not yet reached the milestone of 100 test matches.
- In actuality, Malik has already made his test cricket retirement announcement.

Rohit Sharma overtakes Martin Guptill to become the leading run-scorer in T20:

- **Martin Guptill of New Zealand** was overtaken by Indian captain **Rohit Sharma** to take the top spot among men's T20 international run scorers.
- Rohit Sharma has so far made 4 hundred and 26 half-centuries for India in 133 short-format games.
- With 3499 runs in the format as of right now.
- **Martin Guptill, who has run scored 3497 runs, is next.**
- With 3341 runs from 100 games, **Virat Kohli is the third-highest scorer** in men's T20 Internationals.
- In T20 Internationals, Rohit shares the record for the fastest hundred. In a T20I match against Sri Lanka in December 2017, Rohit scored a 35-ball century to tie South African David Miller's 35-ball century from barely two months earlier.
- With a 35-ball century against Turkey in 2019, S Wickramasekara of the Czech Republic tied Miller and Rohit for third place.

Sports Ministry to host the "Meet the Champion project":

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- The **Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry** will organize the "**Meet the Champion initiative**" on National Sports Day in 26 schools around the country.
- Some of the well-known athletes who will participate in the Meet the Champion project are **Nikhat Zareen**, who won gold medals at the **Commonwealth Games** and the World Championships, **Bhavina Patel**, who won a medal at the **Paralympics**, and **Manpreet Singh**, who earned a medal at the **Tokyo Olympics**.
- The **Sports Authority of India** will also commemorate National Sports Day this year under the subject "**Sports as an enabler for an inclusive and fit society**" as part of the FIT INDIA program.

Satwiksairaj-Chirag Claims First Medal for India in Badminton World Championship:

- At the World Championships, **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty** became the first Indian team to take home a medal in the men's doubles tournament.
- The world's seventh-ranked team, **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty** won a gold medal in the 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- It is India's second medal in the World Championship in any doubles competition; the country's first medal came in the 2011 women's doubles when **Jwala Gutta** and **Ashwini Ponnappa** won bronze.
- **Takuro Hoki** and **Yugo Kobayashi** were defeated by **Satwiksairaj** and **Chirag** with scores of 24-22, 15-21, and 21-14 in an hour and fifteen minutes of play.
- **Satwik** and **Chirag** will compete for the bronze medal in the competition after defeating the sixth-seeded Malaysian team of **Aaron Chia** and **Soh Wooi Tik**.
- However, **Prannoy**, the former world number 8, had a difficult day. **Zhao Jun Peng** of China defeated **Prannoy** of India with scores of 19-21, 21-6, and 21-18.

Viktor Axelsen clinched the 2022 BWF World Championships singles title:

- **Viktor Axelsen** of Denmark defeated **Kunlavut Vitidsarn** of Thailand to win the men's singles championship at the BWF World Championships in Tokyo, Japan, for the second time.
- The world's top-ranked **Axelsen**, who has only lost one singles match all season, was simply too much for emerging sensation **Vitidsarn, 21**, who was routed in the opening game.

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- The victory was Axelsen's sixth championship of the year.

List of winners:

S.No	Category	Winner	Runner up
1	Men's Singles	Viktor Axelsen	Kunlavut Vitidsarn
2	Women's Singles	Akane Yamaguchi	Chen Yufei
3	Men's Doubles	Aaron Chia	Soh Wooi Yik
4	Women's Doubles	Chen Qingchen	Jia Yifan
5	Mixed Doubles	Zheng Siwei	Huang Yaqiong

Max Verstappen won the Belgian F1 Grand Prix 2022:

- The **Belgian Formula 1 Grand Prix 2022** was won by **Max Verstappen of Red Bull**.
- **Carlos Sainz of Ferrari and Sergio Perez of Red Bull** finished second and third, respectively.
- Verstappen has now prevailed in nine of the 14 races this year.
- His 26 points from this race were his 71st podium finish.
- Verstappen also triumphed in the 2021 Belgian Grand Prix.

Points to Remember:

- Hungarian Grand Prix 2022: Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- Belgian Grand Prix 2022: Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- Monaco Grand Prix Monaco 2022: Sergio Pérez (Mexico)
- Australian Grand Prix. 2022: Charles Leclerc (Monaco)
- Bahrain Grand Prix 2022: Charles Leclerc (Monaco)
- Austrian Grand Prix 2022: Charles Leclerc (Monaco)
- Canadian Grand Prix 2022: Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2022: Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- Miami Grand Prix 2022: Max Verstappen (Netherlands)

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- Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix 2022: Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- Saudi Arabian Grand Prix 2022: Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2022: Max Verstappen (Netherlands)
- French Grand Prix 2022: Max Verstappen (Netherlands)

IMPORTANT OBITUARIES NEWS

Renowned Bengali Singer **Nirmala Mishra** passes away

- Popular Bengali and Odia singer, **Nirmala Mishra**, passed away at the age of 81 in Kolkata.

About **Nirmala Mishra** :

- **Nirmala Mishra** sang various songs in **Bengali, Odia, and Assamese** films.
- Her popular songs are **Eamon Ekta Jhinuk**, **'Bolo to arshi'**, **'Kagojer phul bole'**, **'Eai banglar mati tea'**, and **'Ami to Tomar'**.
- Her Odia film songs like **'Nida bhara raati Madhu jhara janha'** and **'Mo mana Beena ra taare'** were iconic.

Awards & Honors :

- The West Bengal government has conferred on her **'Sangeet Samman'**, **'Sangeet Mahasamman'**, and **'Bangabhibhushan'** awards for her contribution to Bengali music.
- She was a recipient of the **Sangeet Sudhakar Balakrushna Das Award** as an honor for her lifetime contribution to Odia music.

Former Philippine President **Fidel Ramos** Passes away

- Former Philippine President **Fidel Ramos** Passed away at the age of 94.

About **Fidel Ramos** :

- **Fidel Valdez Ramos** is popularly known as **FVR** and **Eddie Ramos**.
- Born on **March 18, 1928**, in **Pangasinan** province, north of **Manila**, Philippines.
- He was the **12th president of the Republic of the Philippines** from **1992 to 1998**.
- **Ramos** was the **first Protestant president** in the Catholic-majority country.
- During his tenure, the Philippines was recognized as a budding **"tiger economy"**.
- He served first as chief-of-staff of the **Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)**, and later as **Secretary of National Defense** from **1986 to 1991**

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- He was from a military background, and become the chief of the Philippine Constabulary and then Vice Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines during the time of President Ferdinand E Marcos Sr
- He was the **only career military officer** who reached the rank of five-star general/admiral de jure who rose from the second lieutenant up to commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

Founder of Kannada daily 'Udayavani' T Mohandas Pai passes away

- Founder of popular Kannada daily newspaper 'Udayavani', T Mohandas M Pai passed away at the age of 89.

About T Mohandas M Pai :

- T Mohandas M Pai was the eldest son of Dr. T M A Pai, the founder of the Manipal group of institutions.
- Pai was called the 'architect of modern Manipal'.
- He set up Rashtrakavi Govindapai Research Centre, Regional Resources Centre for Folk Performing Arts, and MGM Yakshagana Kendra.
- He set up three centers
 1. The Rashtrakavi Govindapai Research Centre
 2. The Regional Resources Centre for Folk Performing Arts
 3. MGM Yakshagana Kendra.
- He was the president of the Dr. T M A Pai Foundation and Manipal Media Network, which runs 'Udayavani'.
- He also served as the chairman and non-executive director at ICDS limited.

About 'Udayavani' :

- Headquarters: Manipal, Karnataka
- Udayavani is published by Manipal Media Network Limited

Former Australian boxing world champion Johnny Famechon passes away

- Former Australian featherweight boxing world champion Johnny Famechon passed away at the age of 77 in Melbourne.

About Johnny Famechon :

- Famechon was born on 28 March 1945 in Paris, France.

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- He was associated with professional boxing for more than 20 years.
- His career record was **56 wins**, which includes 20 by knockout, six draws, and five losses.
- He was described as **poetry in motion, a master craftsman**.
- He was the 2003 Inductee for the Australian National Boxing Hall of Fame Moderns category and was the third to be elevated to Legend status in 2012.
- His first major win was over **Les Dunn** to become **Victorian Featherweight champion** in 1964.
- He became Lineal and WBC featherweight champion after he defeated the Cuban José Legrá on points at the Albert Hall in London in 1969.
- He was appointed a **Member of the Order of Australia (AM)** in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honors for significant service to boxing at the elite level.

Veteran Actor Mithilesh Chaturvedi passes away

- **Veteran actor Mithilesh Chaturvedi** who was a part of several Hindi films as well as TV shows passed away at the age of 67.

About Mithilesh Chaturvedi :

- Mithilesh Chaturvedi was an Indian actor, who worked predominantly in Bollywood.
- He was best known for playing small yet strong supporting roles in multiple films.
- He acted in famous films including Satya, Taal, Gadar: Ek Prem Katha, Koi Mil Gaya, Bunty Aur Babli, Ready, Phata Poster Nikla Hero, Asoka, and Fiza among others.
- He was last seen in the film **Gulabo Sitabo** with Amitabh Bachchan.
- His last TV show was '**Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story**'.

Former athlete PV Kamaraj passes away

- **Former International athlete P. V. Kamaraj** Passed away at the age of 68 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

About PV Kamaraj :

- PV Kamaraj was a native of Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu, India
- He was part of the **Indian 4x400m relay team** that won **bronze** in the **1979 Asian championships** in Tokyo.
- He **retired** as a **Chief Reservation Officer** with the Indian Railways and had contributed immensely to athletics in Tiruchi (hometown of Kamaraj).

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- He was represented as part of the Tamil Nadu team, and has won a host of medals (including gold, silver, and bronze) in **400m hurdles in National inter-state meets and Open Nationals from 1977-80.**
- He was a NIS-trained coach and had trained the Tamil Nadu state team for several years.

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author David McCullough Passes away

- **Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author and renowned historian David McCullough** Passed away at the age of 89 in Hingham, Massachusetts, United States.

About David Gaub McCullough :

- David Gaub McCullough was born in Pittsburgh in 1933.
- He was an American author, narrator, popular historian, and lecturer.
- His first book was **The Johnstown Flood (1968).**
- He wrote nine more on such topics as Harry S. Truman, John Adams (2001), Theodore Roosevelt, the Brooklyn Bridge, the Panama Canal, and the Wright brothers (2015)

Awards & Honors :

- McCullough won a **Pulitzer Prize** in 1993 for Truman, a biography about the **33rd president of the United States**, and another Prize in 2002 for **John Adams**, a biography about the second US president.
- He earned **National Book Awards** for **The Path Between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal** in 1978 and **Mornings on Horseback** in 1982.
- In 2006, he was given the **Presidential Medal of Freedom**, one of the United States' highest civilian awards.
- In 2016, he received the **United States Capitol Historical Society's Freedom Award.**

Former South African umpire Rudi Koertzen passes away

- **Former South African cricket umpire Rudi Koertzen** passed away in a car crash at the age of 73.

About Rudi Koertzen :

- Koertzen was born in Knysna, Cape Province, Union of South Africa, on 26 March 1949.
- He stood in 108 tests, a record 209 one-day internationals, and 14 T20s over an 18-year career.
- He began umpiring in 1981 before becoming a full-time umpire in 1992.

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- He became the **second umpire (after David Shepherd)** to stand in 150 ODIs.
- He also became the second umpire, after Steve Bucknor, to stand in 100 Test matches.

AIADMK's first-ever MP K. Maya Thevar passes away

- **Former Member of Parliament and senior All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) politician K. Maya Thevar** passed away at the age of 87 in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu.

About K. Maya Thevar :

- Mr. Maya Thevar was born on October 15, 1934, in Tamil Nadu.
- He started his career as a **lawyer** and practiced as an advocate at the Madras High Court.
- He moved to politics and joined AIADMK, and became the candidate for the first-ever Lok Sabha election faced by the AIADMK after the formation of the party in **1972** by former **CM MG Ramachandran**.
- He was also a **former treasurer of AIADMK's parliamentary party**.
- Also, he was the **first MP of the AIADMK** from the Dindigul constituency who **won on the two leaves symbol**.

Grease' Star and Singer Olivia Newton-John Passes away

- The **British-born Australian singer and actor, Olivia Newton-John** passed away at the age of 73 in Southern California.

About Olivia Newton-John :

- Dame Olivia Newton-John was Born in Cambridge, England in 1948.
- She was a British-Australian singer, songwriter, actress, and activist.
- She was best known for her music video Physical and the hit musical Grease.
- In 1978, Newton-John starred in the musical film **Grease**, whose soundtrack remains one of the world's best-selling albums of all time.

Awards & Honors :

- She was the **four-time Grammy award winner** in
- 1973: Best Female Country Vocal Performance: "Let Me Be There"
- 1974: Record of the Year: "I Honestly Love You"
- 1974: Best Female Pop Vocal Performance: "I Honestly Love You"
- 1982: Video of the Year: Olivia's Physical

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Indian American Journalist And Emmy Award Winner, Uma Pemmaraju Passes away

- Indian American Journalist And Emmy Award Winner, Uma Pemmaraju Passed away at the age of 64.

About Uma Pemmaraju :

- Pemmaraju was born in **Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh, India**, and grew up in **San Antonio, Texas, United States**.
- She was a part of various shows such as **The Fox Report, Fox News Live, Fox News Now, and Fox On Trends**.
- She served as a **reporter** for the **San Antonio Express-News** and taught journalism at **Emerson College and Harvard University**.

Awards & Honors :

- Pemmaraju was named “**Boston's Best Anchor**” in 1996 and 1997 by **Boston Magazine**.
- She was named one of **Spotlight Magazine's “20 Intriguing Women of 1998.”**
- Pemmaraju also won the **Texas AP award** for reporting in 2002, the **Woman of Achievement award from the Big Sisters Organization of America**, and the **Matrix Award from Women in Communications**.
- She was also awarded **The Woman of Achievement Award by the Big Sisters Organization of America**.

Additional Info :

- CEO of Fox news Media: **Suzanne Scott**

Noted singer Shivamogga Subbanna passes away

- **Noted Kannada singer Shivamogga Subbanna** passed away at the age of 83 in **Bangalore, Karnataka**.

About Shivamogga Subbanna :

- Subbanna was the **first Kannadiga** to win a **National Award** for **playback singing** the song ‘**Kaadu Kudure Odi Banditta**’ in the film **Kaadu Kudure**.
- He became a household name in Karnataka after he sang ‘**Baarisu Kannada Dindimava**’, written by **Rashtrakavi Kuvempu**.

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- Known for his work in the field of 'Sugama Sangeetha', a genre in which poetry in Kannada is set to music.
- He was also a singer with Akashvani and Doordarshan and had worked as an advocate.

Awards & Honors :

- **National Film Award for Best Male Playback Singer** in 1978
- **Kannada Kampu award** in 2006
- **Honorary doctorate from Kuvempu University** in 2008
- **Sundarashri Award** in 2009
- A book on Subbanna's life and achievements titled **Gauravaanvita Gaayaka Subbanna** was published in 2009.
- During the launch event, he was called a "synonym for melody and affability" by the famous Kannada poet **GS Shivarudrappa**.

Veteran Stock Market Investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala Passes Away

- **Veteran stock investor** and newly-launched **Akasa Air** founder **Rakesh Jhunjhunwala** passed away at the age of 62 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

About Rakesh Jhunjhunwala :

- Rakesh Jhunjhunwala was an Indian billionaire business magnate, stock trader, and investor.
- Jhunjhunwala was often referred to as "India's Warren Buffett" or the "Big Bull of India".
- He was one of the **co-founders of Akasa Air, India's newest budget airline**.
- His portfolio includes companies like Star Health, Titan, Rallis India, Escorts, Canara Bank, Indian Hotels Company, Agro Tech Foods, Nazara Technologies, and Tata Motors.
- He was the **chairman of Hungama Media and Aptech**.
- He was also part of the board of directors of firms such as Viceroy Hotels, Concord Biotech, Provogue India, and Geojit Financial Services.
- Jhunjhunwala's net worth is estimated at **\$5.8 billion** (approximately ₹46,000 crores) by Forbes.
- He was India's **36th richest person** in 2021 and the **438th richest man** in the world, so far in 2022

About Akasa Air:

- Akasa Air, a brand of SNV Aviation Private Limited, is an Indian low-cost airline.
- It was founded by Indian billionaire Rakesh Jhunjhunwala (1960-2022).

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- The airline began commercial operations in **August 2022** with a maiden flight from Mumbai to Ahmedabad.
- Founded: December 2021
- Commenced Operations: 7 August 2022
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Founder, Managing Director & CEO : Vinay Dube

Former BCCI Secretary Amitabh Choudhary Passes Away

- **Former Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) acting secretary** and former president of the **Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA)**, Amitabh Choudhary passed away at the age of 58.

About Amitabh Choudhary :

- Choudhary entered cricket administration in 2004.
- He was the Indian **team manager** in **Zimbabwe** from 2005-06.
- He served as **BCCI's joint secretary** from 2013 to 2015
- He served as **acting secretary** of the BCCI until 2019.
- He held the position of **chairman** of the **Jharkhand Public Service Commission**.
- He played a crucial role in developing infrastructure for **Jharkhand cricket**.

About BCCI :

- Founded: 1928
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- President : Sourav Ganguly

Former Deutsche Bank co-CEO Anshu Jain Passes away

- **Deutsche Bank's former India-born co-Chief Executive Officer, Anshu Jain**, Passed away at the age of 59.

About Anshu Jain :

- Jain was born on 7 January 1963 in **Jaipur, Rajasthan, India**.
- He started his career on **Wall Street** and also worked at financial major Merrill Lynch.
- He was appointed to **Deutsche Bank's Management Board** in 2009 and was responsible for the Corporate and Investment Bank division from 2010.

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- He served as the **Global co-CEO and co-Chairman of Deutsche Bank** from June 2012 until July 2015.
- From 2017 to 2022, he was the **president of the American financial services firm Cantor Fitzgerald.**
- He served on the **International Advisory Panel of the Monetary Authority of Singapore** and, as an ardent conservationist, worked with global environmental and wildlife conservation groups.

Awards & Honors :

- In 2010 and 2012, he received the **Lifetime Achievement Award** from Risk magazine.
- In 2012 he was named **Global Indian of the Year** by the **Economic Times of India.**
- In 2014 he was honored by the **Jewish Museum of New York.**

About Deutsche Bank :

- Founded: 10 March 1869
- Headquarters: Frankfurt, Germany
- Chairman: Alexander Wynaendts
- CEO: Christian Sewing

Nicholas Evans, author of 'The Horse Whisperer,' passes away

- **British writer Nicholas Evans**, who authored the international best-selling novel "The Horse Whisperer", Passed away at the age of 72.

About Nicholas Evans :

- Nicholas Benbow Evans was born in 1950 in **Worcestershire, England.**
- He was an **English journalist, screenwriter, television and film producer, and novelist.**
- His debut novel, 'The Horse Whisperer', published in 1995, was the bestselling novel in the United States for 1995 as determined to **The New York Times.**
- He worked as a journalist in the 1970s and went on to become a screenwriter and TV producer before writing his debut novel for "**Murder by the Book,**" "**Act of Betrayal,**" "**Secret Weapon,**" and "**Just Like a Woman.**"
- He also wrote the bestselling novels "**The Loop**" (1998), "**The Smoke Jumper**"(2001), "**The Divide**"(2005), and "**The Brave**" (2010).

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- The novel 'The Horse Whisperer' tells the story of a trainer hired to restore an injured teenager and her horse to health.

Kerala's first tribal novelist Narayan passes away

- Popular Malayalam novelist and Kendra Sahitya Akademi awardee Narayan Passed away at the age of 82.

About Narayan :

- Narayan was born in 1940 in Kudayathur, Idukki district, Kerala.
- He is often referred to as the **first tribal novelist** from Kerala in literary discourses.
- His famous novels include Kocharethi (1998), Ooralikkudi (1999), Chengarum Kuttalum (2001), Vandanam (2003), and Aaranu Tholkkunnavar (2006), Thiraskrutharude Nalea (2010), Manasum Dhehavum Kondu Njan Ninnea (2010).
- His English translation of the novel, titled “Kocharethi: The Araya Woman”, by Catherine Thankamma was published by the Oxford University Press in 2011 & it won the Economist-Crossword Book Award in the Indian language translation category for 2011.

Awards & Honors :

- Thoppil Ravi Foundation Award – 1999
- Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award – 1999
- Abu Dhabi Shakthi Award – 1999
- Swami Ananda Theertha Award – 2011
- Economist Crossword Book Award – 2011

Former Jharkhand Governor Syed Sibtey Razi passes away

- Senior Indian National Congress leader and former Jharkhand and Assam governor Syed Sibte Razi passed away at the age of 83.

About Syed Sibtey Razi :

- Syed Sibtey Razi was born on March 7, 1939, in Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, India.
- He joined the Uttar Pradesh Youth Indian National Congress (INC) in 1969 and became the head of the Youth Congress in 1971.
- He was made president of the Youth Congress in 1971 -1973

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- He served as a member of the Rajya Sabha thrice (from 1980 to 1985, from 1988 to 1992 & 1992 to 1998)
- He served as the **Governor of Jharkhand** from the year 2004- 2009 and governor of Assam in 2009.
- He formed a socio-cultural association called 'Anjuman Adab-e-Afzal in Lucknow.

India's star Olympic football captain Samar 'Badru' Banerjee Passes away

- **Former India football team captain Samar 'Badru' Banerjee** Passed away at the age of 92.

About Samar 'Badru' Banerjee :

- Samar 'Badru' Banerjee is Fondly known as 'Badru Da'
- He played in the **1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne** as captain of the India national football team.
- He played for Mohun Bagan from 1952 to 1960, being named captain in 1958
- He won the **Calcutta League 5 times**, the **IFA Shield thrice**, and **3 Durand Cups**, including the first time the club won the coveted trophy in **1953** with Banerjee scoring in the semi-final and final, and the Rovers Cup once.
- Besides guiding Mohun Bagan to several trophies including their **1st ever Durand Cup (1953)**, **Rovers Cup (1955)**
- He has also won the Santosh Trophy twice as a player (1953, 1955) and once as a coach (1962).

Awards & Honors :

- He was given the **Mohun Bagan Ratna**, the club's highest award, in 2009.

Veteran filmmaker Abdul Gaffar Nadiadwala Passes away

- **Veteran film producer Abdul Gaffar Nadiadwala** passed away on Monday at the age of 91.

About Abdul Gaffar Nadiadwala :

- He started his film production and media entertainment company in **1953**.
- His first film as a **producer** was the **Dharmendra and Rekha-starrer** family drama **Jhutha Sach**.
- He was known for his films including **Mahabharat (1965)**, **Jhutha Sach (1984)**, **Lahoo Ke Do Rang (1997)**, **Hera Pheri (2000)**, **Welcome (2007)** &, etc.

Vijaya Bank Former Chairman Sadananda Shetty passes away

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- Former Vijaya Bank chairman & founder and serving Chairman of Soham Group of Companies, **K. Sadananda Shetty** passed away at the age of 85 In Nice City, France.

About K. Sadananda Shetty :

- Mr. Shetty was the **chairman of Vijaya Bank**, which has now merged with **Bank of Baroda**, from **1983 to 1990**.
- He also served as the **vice-chairman** of the **Indian Banks Association**.
- He was on the boards of **Air India** and the **Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India**
- He was the **current president** of the **Renewable Energy Developers Association of Karnataka**.

About Vijaya Bank :

- **Founded:** 23 October 1931
- **Headquarters:** Bangalore, Karnataka, India

India's leading agriculture economist **Abhijit Sen** passes away

- **Renowned economist** and former **Planning Commission** member, **Abhijit Sen** has passed away at age of 72.

About Abhijit Sen :

- Abhijit Sen was Born in 1950 in **Jamshedpur, Jharkhand**
- He was a **member of the Planning Commission** from 2004 to 2014, during the tenure of PM Shri Manmohan Singh.
- He has been a **Chairman** of several official Commissions, including the **High-Level Committee on Long Term Grain Policy**, **Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**, and the **10th Plan Subgroup on the Agricultural Economics and Rural Development**.
- He has been an **advisor/consultant** with International organizations such as the **United Nations Development Program**, the **International Labour Organisation**, **Food and Agricultural Organisations of the United Nations**, **OECD Development Center**.
- He has also been a member of the **State Planning Boards** of West Bengal and Tripura, the **Expert Committee on Rural Credit**, and the **PM's Taskforce on Agricultural Economics and Development**.

Awards & Honors :

- In 2010, he was awarded the **Padma Bhushan** for public service.

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