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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US warships sail through Taiwan Strait for first time since Pelosi visit

- Two U.S. Navy warships sailed through international waters in the Taiwan Strait, the first such operation since a visit to Taiwan by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi enraged China which regards the island as its territory. The U.S. Navy, said cruisers Chancellorsville and Antietam were carrying out the ongoing operation. Such operations usually take eight to 12 hours to complete and are closely monitored by China's military.
- For nearly 70 years an imagined line running down the Taiwan Strait between Taiwan and China has helped keep the peace but the so-called median line is looking increasingly meaningless as China's modernised navy asserts its strength. China has never officially recognised the line that a U.S. general devised in 1954 at the height of Cold War hostility between Communist China and U.S.-backed Taiwan although the People's Liberation Army largely respected it.
- Taiwan would have to react militarily if Chinese forces entered its 12 nautical miles of territorial waters, the Taiwan official said, but apart from that, there was no immediate plan to give the military or coastguard more authority to respond. President Tsai Ing-wen has repeatedly said Taiwan will neither provoke nor escalate conflict.
- The Taiwan Strait is some 180 km (110 miles) wide and at its narrowest, the median line is about 40 km (25 miles) from Taiwan's waters.

About United States:

President: Joe Biden

Capital: Washington, D.C.

Currency: United States Dollar

About China:

Capital: Beijing

President: Xi Jinping

Currency: Renminbi

Official language: Mandarin

About Taiwan:

Capital: Taipei City

President: Tsai Ing-wen

Currency: New Taiwan dollar

Official language: Mandarin Chinese

South Korea breaks its own record for world's lowest fertility rate

- South Korea has once again shattered its own record for the world's lowest fertility rate. South Korean women were estimated, based on 2021 data, to have an average of just 0.81 children over their lifetimes, down from 0.84 a year earlier. The number of newborns declined in 2021 to 260,600, which equates to about 0.5% of the population.
- According to the United Nations' global population projections and World Bank's data, the report further stated that Korea is the world's fastest-ageing nation among economies with a per capita GDP of at least \$30,000. By 2100, its population will fall by 53% to 24 million, up from a 43% decline forecast in 2019. Bank of Korea Governor Rhee Chang-Yong, who took

office earlier this year, warned in April that the nation's economy is on the verge of secular stagnation as the population ages and productivity slows.

- In fact, Korea is behind all OECD (The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) member countries in fertility rates at 0.8 babies per woman. The report reveals that a reducing workforce is one of the major factors impacting its growth rate. The working-age population maxed out at 37.3 million in 2020 and is now expected to drop by almost half by 2070, according to Statistics Korea.

About South Korea:

Capital: Seoul

Currency: South Korean Won

Prime Minister: Han Duck-soo

President: Yoon Seok-youl

'So much potential': Jaishankar preps for 3-nation South America tour, meets envoys

- Looking forward to augmenting relationships with all nations of the Latin American Region, External Affairs minister Dr S Jaishankar has embarked on a three-nation visit. During the Minister's meeting with top leaderships of these three countries as well as his counterpart, focus will be on food and energy security, defence and security, space, IT, and aerospace. This is the minister's first visit to the South American Region when he travels to Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina starting August 22-27. The minister, accompanied by senior officials, will have bilateral engagements with his counterparts and will also call on the top leadership in all the three countries.
- During his visits to Brazil and Argentina, the minister will co-chair the Joint Commission Meetings (JCM) with his counterparts.
- Since September 2021, Jaishankar visited four important countries in the region. Last year in September he visited Mexico.

Heading the G20 and New Delhi's choices

- The Union cabinet approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat and related structures that will implement policy decisions and be responsible for arrangements for India's forthcoming presidency of the group in 2023. India will hold the presidency of the G20 from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023, culminating with the G20 Summit in India next year. The G20 Secretariat will handle work related to knowledge, content, technical, media, security and logistical aspects of India's presidency of the inter-governmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union (EU).
- The G20 is an international forum, made up of 19 countries and the European Union, representing the world's major developed and emerging economies. Together, the G20 members represent 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade and two-thirds of the world's population.
- The G20 started out in 1999 as a meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors. Following the global financial crisis in 2008, the urgent need for a meeting of the G20 at the Leaders' level emerged. For the first time in November 2008 in Washington D.C, G20 Leaders convened and managed to coordinate fiscal, monetary and economic policies to put the global economy on a path to recovery.

About European Union:

Founded: 1 November 1993, Maastricht, Netherlands

Founders: Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg

Awards: Nobel Peace Prize, Princess of Asturias Award for Concord, Bambi - Millennium Award

Subsidiary: MEDIA sub-programme of Creative Europe

About G20:

Chairman: Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia

Founded: 26 September 1999

Founder: Group of Seven

Fleet of hydrogen passenger trains begins service in Germany

- The world's first fleet of hydrogen-powered passenger trains was launched by Germany. The first fleet of hydrogen-powered passenger trains has replaced 15 diesel trains that were previously operated on nonelectrified tracks in Lower Saxony, Germany. The engine of the trains is powered by electricity generated using hydrogen fuel cells.
- The use of hydrogen is a clean alternative to fossil fuels as per the German government's announcement. The state governor Stephan Weil said that Lower Saxony has invested a total of 93 million euros for the first fleet of hydrogen-powered passenger train projects. This invitation is an excellent example and effort to make the economy of Germany greener.
- Alstom is a French company that manufactures trains, and these trains are operated by regional rail company LNVG on routes between the Northern towns of Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven, Bremervoerda, and Buxtehude.

About Germany:

Capital: Berlin

Currency: Euro

President: Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Chancellor: Olaf Scholz

Mali: Colonel Abdoulaye Maiga appointed interim Prime Minister

- In Mali, the military has appointed Colonel Abdoulaye Maiga as interim Prime Minister after the country's civilian PM Choguel Kokalla Maiga was admitted to hospital. Before this appointment, Colonel Maiga was working as a Government Spokesman and Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation.
- Choguel Kokalla was named premier after the military took power in August 2020. In recent months, Maiga had come under criticism from many of his former allies for following the Junta's line. Military Junta leader Colonel Assimi Goita had himself appointed transitional president after the May 2021 coup.

About Mali:

Capital: Bamako

Currency: West African CFA franc

Continent: Africa

Official language: French

UK economy shrank record 11% in 2020, worst since 1709

- Britain's economy shrank by a record-breaking 9.9% in 2020, new figures by the Office of National Statistics show, highlighting the impact of Covid-19 restrictions, employment uncertainty and reduced demand, with limited growth in the final quarter narrowly avoiding a double-dip recession.
- The Office for National Statistics said that the U.K.'s economic output fell by 9.9% in 2020, the largest annual fall on record. Though the economy grew 1% in the last quarter when looser restrictions boosted the services industry, overall output was down 7.8% from the last quarter of 2019, the ONS said. The slump is twice that of the 2009 financial crisis and is possibly the worst in 300 years, with models from the Bank of England suggesting a decline of 13% during the Great Frost of 1709.
- Strict public health measures and a resurgent wave of Covid-19 infections driven by a dangerous new variant of the virus have the U.K. economy likely falling again in 2021.

About United Kingdom:

Queen: Queen Elizabeth II

Capital: London

Prime Minister: Boris Johnson

Currency: Pound sterling

S. Jaishankar Unveils Bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Paraguay

- External affairs minister S Jaishankar unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Paraguay and visited the historic Casa de la Independencia, from where the South American country's independence movement started more than two centuries ago. Jaishankar arrived in Brazil on the first leg of his six-day visit to South America with an aim to boost overall bilateral ties with the region. Jaishankar, who is on his first-ever official visit to South America, is also visiting Paraguay and Argentina.
- Earlier, Jaishankar, who was on his first-ever official visit to South America aimed at boosting overall bilateral ties with the region, is also the first Indian Foreign Minister to visit Paraguay, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

About Paraguay:

Capital: Asunción

President: Mario Abdo Benítez

Currency: Paraguayan guaraní

Official languages: Paraguayan Guaraní, Spanish

Greece's exit from enhanced EU scrutiny ends 12 years of pain, prime minister says

- Greece's exit on Saturday from the European Union's so-called enhanced surveillance framework for its economy ends 12 years of pain and allows the country greater freedom in policy making, its prime minister said.
- Greece's economic performance and policies have been closely monitored under the framework since 2018 to ensure it implemented reforms promised under three international bailouts - totalling more than 260 billion euros (\$261 billion) - from the European Union and the IMF between 2010 and 2015.

- EU officials had confirmed Saturday's exit earlier this month, saying Athens had delivered on the bulk of its commitments.

About Greece:

President : Katerina Sakellaropoulou

Capital: Athens

Currency: Euro

Continent: Europe

Official language: Greek

India-China relations going through a very difficult phase, border issue has not been resolved:

EAM Jaishankar

- Jaishankar, the minister of external affairs, stated that it was no secret that the relationship between China and India was going through a very trying time. He claimed that both nations have border accords dating back to the 1990s that forbade sending large numbers of troops into restricted areas, but Beijing had ignored those pacts. It is no mystery that India is currently experiencing extremely difficult circumstances, primarily as a result of China's violations of agreements India struck with them in the 1990s that prohibited sending sizable numbers of troops into restricted areas.
- It is no secret that India is currently going through a very tough time, mostly because China has violated agreements India made with them in the 1990s that forbade sending large numbers of troops into areas that are off-limits.

About China:

President: Xi Jinping

Capital: Beijing

Currency: Renminbi

Official language: Mandarin

UK Inflation Hits Double Digits for the First Time in 40 Years

- Britain's annual inflation rate has touched doubled digits, climbing to 10.1% in July from a year ago — the sharpest increase since 1982. Consumer prices are rising even faster in the U.K. than in the U.S. and Europe, propelled by higher food and energy costs. The increase was largely due to rising prices for food and staples, including toilet paper and toothbrushes. Core inflation, which strips out volatile, food and energy prices hitting 6.2% in July.
- Most economists believe worse is to come. The Bank of England says soaring natural gas prices are likely to drive consumer price inflation to 13.3% in October. It says that will push Britain into a recession that is expected to last through 2023. Accounting for inflation, wages in the UK dropped at annual rate of 3% in the second quarter.
- Inflation is surging in many countries as Russia's war in Ukraine has triggered unprecedented increases in energy prices worldwide.
- The gas woes are threatening a recession in the 19 countries sharing the euro currency, where inflation hit a record 8.9% in July.

About United Kingdom:

Queen: Queen Elizabeth II

Capital: London

Prime minister: Boris Johnson

Currency: Pound sterling

India gifts aircraft to Sri Lanka, day before China ship docks

- India on August 15 gifted a Dornier maritime reconnaissance aircraft to Sri Lanka which will enable the island nation to tackle multiple challenges like human and drug trafficking, smuggling and other organised forms of crime in its coastal waters more effectively. Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe was present at the impressive handover ceremony which took place on a day when India celebrated its 76th Independence Day and a day before a high-tech Chinese missile and satellite tracking ship docks at the island nation's strategic Hambantota port.
- Vice Chief of Indian Navy Vice Admiral S.N. Ghormade, who is on a two-day visit to the country, accompanied by Indian High Commissioner in Colombo Gopal Baglay, handed over the aircraft to the Sri Lanka Navy at the Sri Lanka Air Force base in Katunayake, adjoining the Colombo international airport.

About Sri Lanka:

President: Ranil Wickremesinghe

Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte

Prime Minister: Dinesh Gunawardena

Currency: Sri Lankan rupee

William Ruto has won the Kenyan election

- Kenyan Deputy President, William Ruto is now the country's president-elect after he was declared the winner of the last presidential election over five-time contender Raila Odinga. Before Wafula Chebukati, the chair of Kenya's electoral commission could announce Ruto's victory. Ruto received 50.49% of the vote, the chairman said, while Odinga received 48.85%.
- Ruto, who has promised a break from the "dynasties" that have dominated Kenyan politics since independence, projected a conciliatory tone in his acceptance speech, urging unity. Kenya is a model of democracy in East Africa, a region where authoritarianism has been ascendant. These elections had been hailed as a step forward for Kenyan democracy because the campaign was marked by political maturity. Politicians focused on economic issues, instead of the tribal mobilization that has been a feature of every Kenyan election since independence.

About Kenya:

Capital: Nairobi

Currency: Shilling

Official languages: Swahili, English

UK becomes world's first country to approve vaccine against both Omicron & original COVID strain

- The UK on Monday became the world's first country to approve a COVID-19 vaccine for both the Omicron variant and the original coronavirus strain. The 'bivalent' vaccine has been made by US drugmaker Moderna.

- "An updated version of the COVID-19 vaccine made by Moderna that targets two coronavirus variants (known as a "bivalent" vaccine) has been approved for adult booster doses by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) after it was found to meet the UK regulator's standards of safety, quality and effectiveness," the UK government in a press release said.
- The Medicine and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) said in a statement said it had approved the vaccine for adult booster doses "after it was found to meet the UK regulator's standards of safety, quality and effectiveness".

About UK:

Prime Minister: Boris Johnson

Capital: London

Currency: Pound sterling

IAF contingent leaves for Malaysia to participate in military drills

- Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent left for Malaysia to participate in a four-day bilateral exercise 'Udarashakti' with the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF). The exercise will give an opportunity to the IAF contingent members to share and learn best practices with some of the best professionals from the RMAF, while also discussing mutual combat capabilities.
- The exercise will witness various aerial combat drills between the two Air Forces, the IAF said, adding that it would fortify the long-standing bond of friendship and enhance the avenues of defence cooperation between the two Air Forces, thereby augmenting security in the region. From the Indian Air Force Su-30, MKI and C-17 aircraft will be participating while the RMAF will be flying Su-30 MKM aircraft.

About Royal Malaysian Air Force(RMAF):

Fighter: Su-30MKM, F/A-18 Hornet

Helicopter: EC 725, Sikorsky UH-60, AW139

Motto(s): Sentiasa di Angkasa Raya; ("Always in the Sky")

Transport: Airbus A400M, C-130, CASA CN-235, 737

Trainer: BAE Hawk, MB-339, Pilatus PC-7

About Indian Airforce:

Founded: 08th October 1932

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chief of Air Staff: Vivek Ram Chaudhari

Newly identified Langya virus tracked after China reports dozens of cases

- In China's Shandong and Henan provinces, 35 persons are thought to have contracted a novel virus called Langya henipavirus. Langya henipavirus shares a connection with viruses that harm people, the Hendra and Nipah viruses. It is not yet known much about the new virus, also known as LayV, particularly whether it spreads from person to person. The novel Langya henipavirus was initially discovered by Chinese researchers who were doing routine surveillance on individuals with fevers who had recently reported interaction with animals. After identifying the virus, the researchers searched for it in additional persons.

- Although it is not known how long the patients were ill, the symptoms of Langya henipavirus reported—fever, exhaustion, coughing, loss of appetite, muscle aches, nausea, and headache—appeared to be generally minor.
- There was more concrete proof that a sizable part of wild shrews were harbouring the virus, even though they only discovered a tiny number of goats and dogs that may have previously been infected with the Langya henipavirus.

About China:

Capital: Beijing

President: Xi Jinping

Currency: Renminbi

Marape returns as Papua New Guinea prime minister after poll

- Following elections in the South Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea, the parliament has reinstated Prime Minister James Marape. According to the media and election authorities, Marape was re-sworn in as prime minister after lawmakers in the new parliament elected Marape without opposition. The general election in Papua New Guinea took place between July 4 and July 22, although voting and vote counting were postponed due to unusual conditions, such as security concerns, attacks on ballot boxes, and logistical difficulties, according to the electoral commission.
- Marape and his predecessor, Peter O'Neill, who resigned in 2019, were the front-runners for the position of leader of the next administration.
- Due in part to the country's rough terrain, severe weather, inadequate transportation infrastructure, and linguistic and cultural variety, the election there is among the most difficult in the entire globe.

About Papua New Guinea:

Capital: Port Moresby

Currency: Papua New Guinean kina

Continent: Oceania

55th Foundation Day: ASEAN symbolizes the spirit of solidarity and peace

- External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar has congratulated ASEAN Member States and the Secretary General on their 55th anniversary. In a tweet, he said, we celebrate 2022 as the ASEAN-India Friendship Year, reaffirming the commitment to the partnership and to ASEAN's centrality in the Indo-Pacific. The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi, organised a panel discussion to celebrate the 55th Anniversary of ASEAN on Monday.
- The theme of this year's ASEAN Day is "Stronger Together" that invites and welcomes the forward-minded people of ASEAN to come in synchronization and work as a collective to face the challenges of 21st Century. ASEAN symbolizes the spirit of solidarity and peaceful, prosperous and socially responsible ASEAN Community.

About Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):

Founded: 8 August 1967, Bangkok, Thailand

Headquarters: Jakarta, Indonesia

Founders: Abdul Razak Hussein, Narciso Ramos, Adam Malik, S. Rajaratnam, Thanat Khoman

UN General Assembly declares access to clean and healthy environment a universal human right

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution that recognised everyone's right to a healthy environment. It was stated that the action is a crucial one in halting the alarming decline of the natural environment. India supported the resolution but abstained from one of the resolution's key clauses. It expressed dissatisfaction with the resolution's methodology and content.
- The UNGA recognises the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a human right, according to the resolution's operative paragraph 1.
- Ashish Sharma, a counsellor at India's Permanent Mission to the UN, asked that this comment be recorded in the meeting's official records.
- Globally, our natural world is changing. Many species have reached an alarming point, and many are close to being extinct.
- For instance, habitat loss and climate change have made the migratory monarch butterfly an endangered, threatened species, according to the most recent IUCN Red List.

About UN General Assembly:

Headquarters: New York, United States

President: Abdulla Shahid

S Korea, US, Japan to hold Pacific Dragon missile defence drill this week

- A joint ballistic missile defence exercise between South Korea, the US, and Japan will begin this week in the waters off Hawaii as part of increased security cooperation against North Korea's growing military threats, a media outlet claimed. According to the sources, the biannual Pacific Dragon drill will take place. Australia and Canada will also take part in the exercise in the edition of 2022, in addition to the three other nations.
- The exercise, which involves the mobilisation of eight warships and two planes, aims to improve coordination between the participating nations in the identification, tracking, and reporting of ballistic missile targets.
- The exercise was planned after the defence chiefs of South Korea, the United States, and Japan decided to improve their security coordination during their trilateral meeting on June 11 in Singapore, which was held in conjunction with the annual Shangri-La Dialogue.

About South Korea:

Capital: Seoul

President: Yoon Suk-yeol

Currency: South Korean won

Prime Minister: Han Duck-soo

About United States (US):

Speaker: Nancy Pelosi (Democratic Party)

Capital: Washington, D.C.

President: Joe Biden

Currency: United States Dollar

About Japan:

Capital: Tokyo

Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida

Currency: Japanese yen

Zimbabwe debuts gold coin as legal tender to stem inflation, boost currency

- Zimbabwe has launched gold coins to be sold to the public in a bid to tame runaway inflation that has further eroded the country's unstable currency. The unprecedented move was announced by the country's central bank, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, to boost confidence in the local currency.
- The coin is called 'Mosi-oa-Tunya' which refers to Victoria Falls in the local Tonga language. The coins will have liquid asset status so that they could be easily converted to cash and locally and internationally tradable. The cost of one coin was \$1,824 at the time of launch.
- Over the years, Zimbabwe has tried a variety of methods to get the situation under control as a result of the severe levels of inflation it has been experiencing for the previous ten years. Trust in Zimbabwe's currency is low after people saw their savings wiped out by hyperinflation in 2008 which reached 5 billion, according to the IMF.

About Zimbabwe:

Capital: Harare

Currency: United States Dollar

President: Emmerson Mnangagwa

NATIONAL NEWS

50th All Manipur Shumang Leela Festival 2021-2022 kicks off in Imphal

- The 50th All Manipur Shumang Leela Festival 2021-2022 kicked off at Iboyaima Shumang Leela Shanglen at Palace Compound in Imphal. Manipur Governor La Ganesan and Chief Minister N. Biren Singh attended the inaugural function. Shumang Leela is a traditional form of theatre in Manipur and the roles of female artists are all played by male actors and male characters are played by female artists in case of female theatre groups. Shumang Leela Groups of the early stage attempted to preserve and promote humanism, tolerance, confidence, devotion, truth and justice through their performances.
- Shumang Leela is a traditional form of theatre in Manipur and the roles of female artists are all played by male actors and male characters are played by female artists in case of female theatre groups. The activities are done in the open air.

About Manipur:

Capital: Imphal (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: N. Biren Singh

Governor: La. Ganesan

Ashok Gehlot Kicks Off Rural Olympics In 44,000 Rajasthan Villages

- Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot has inaugurated a month-long Rajiv Gandhi Rural Olympic Games in Jodhpur. The village Olympics is expected to see the participation of 44,000 villages across Rajasthan, with nearly 30 lakh people across various age groups already registering themselves for the games. Out of the 30 lakh participants, 9 lakh are women.
- Games like volleyball, hockey, tennis ball cricket and kho kho will be part of the events.

- The rural olympics organised in eleven thousand gram panchayats across the state is an outreach to the rural population, especially the rural youth.
- Talented sportspersons in these events and promote them further for participation in national and international sports events

About Rajasthan:

Governor: Kalraj Mishra

Capital: Jaipur (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot

India's Telangana Tops Inflation Chart At 8.32%

- Telangana, together with West Bengal (8.06%) and Sikkim (8.01%), report charges nicely above the nation's 6.8%. India's retail inflation has been a bugbear for the economic system because it surged previous 6% in January, however there are huge disparities within the tempo of worth rise skilled by customers throughout the nation, with a dozen States clocking a median inflation of lower than 6% and one other 12 States averaging over 7% by way of 2022 thus far. Whereas headline inflation measured by the Client Value Index has averaged 6.8% within the first seven months of 2022, nicely above the 6% higher tolerance threshold set by coverage makers.
- Retail costs in States like Kerala (4.8%), Tamil Nadu (5.01%), Punjab (5.35%), Delhi (5.56%), and Karnataka (5.84%) have been rising at lower than 6%. Smaller States like Manipur, Goa and Meghalaya have had a median inflation of lower than 4% by way of this era, at 1.07%, 3.66%, and 3.84%, respectively.

About Telangana:

Founded: 2 June 2014

Capital: Hyderabad

Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan

Chief Minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao

Official bird: Indian roller

PM Narendra Modi to unveil new Naval Ensign during INS Vikrant's commissioning in Kochi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will reveal a new ensign of the Indian Navy (New Naval ensign), at the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant Commissioning celebration on September 2. He will formally inaugurate the nation's first aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant. The Indian Navy will receive a New Naval ensign on September 2 without the Saint George's cross that has been on its flag since the British placed it during the pre-independence era. The cross sign was removed from the flag between 2001 and 2004 while Atal Bihari Vajpayee was in office, but it was reinstated once the UPA led by Manmohan Singh took back power.
- "PM Modi will also present the New Naval ensign (Nishaan), doing away with the colonial history and fitting for the rich Indian maritime legacy", according to a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).
- The Indian Navy will receive a New Naval ensign on September 2 without the Saint George's cross that has been on its flag since the British placed it during the pre-independence era.

About Kerala:

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

Andhra Pradesh signs MoU with parley for the Oceans:

- The State government entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the U.S.-based “Parley for the Oceans” on plastic-waste management in Andhra Pradesh.
- 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. It was exchanged in the presence of Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, during a programme held at AU Convention Centre, in Visakhapatnam, on August 26. Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet (GASP) will be partnering the project.
- Speaking during the programme, CM Reddy said that as part of the MoU, around ₹16,000 crore investment is expected for Andhra Pradesh in the next six years. This apart, about 20,000 employment will be generated for the locals with a minimum of at least ₹16,000 salary per month.

About Andhra Pradesh:

Capital: Amaravati
Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan
Chief Minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
Founded: 1 November 1956

India refers to ‘militarisation’ of Taiwan Strait in spat with Chinese envoy

- India has for the first time referred to what it called “the militarization of the Taiwan Strait”, marking a rare instance of New Delhi appearing to comment on China’s actions towards Taiwan. The Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka released a statement in which India accused China of “militarizing the Taiwan Strait.”
- India made the statement after a Chinese military research vessel docked at Sri Lanka’s Hambantota port for a week.
- Recently, China completed its large-scale military drills around Taiwan in response to the visit of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan.
- India has followed a “One China policy” since 1949 and maintained trade and cultural relations with Taiwan. India stopped mentioning this policy in its official statements after 2008.
- The Taiwan Strait is a 180-kilometre wide strait separating the island of Taiwan and continental China (and Asia of course). The strait is part of the South China Sea and connects to the East China Sea to the north.

About China:

Capital: Beijing
President: Xi Jinping
Currency: Renminbi
Official language: Mandarin

About Taiwan:

Capital: Taipei City

President: Tsai Ing-wen
Currency: New Taiwan dollar
Official language: Mandarin Chinese

PMJDY completes eight years;Accounts grew three-fold from 14.72 crore in March 2015 to 46.25 crore in Aug 2022

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana has completed 8 years and has achieved its major goals during this period. PM Jan Dhan Yojana is a flagship financial inclusion program that was started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and was launched on 28th August 2014. The Jan Dhan Yojana was announced by Prime minister Narendra Modi in his first Independence Day address after the election in 2014. In eight years, PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has touched the mark of 462.5 million, as of 10th August 2022, the deposits in these accounts are to be approximately 1.73 trillion.
- 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 PMJDY aims to provide universal access to banking facilities which includes at least one basic banking account for every household, financial literacy, access to credit, insurance, and Pension facility.

About Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana :

Launch year: 2014

Launched by (prime minister): Narendra Modi

Ministry: Ministry of Finance

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Gujarat's Smriti Van memorial dedicated to earthquake victims

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated India's first earthquake memorial, named Smruti Van at Bhuj in Gujarat. Smruti Van is a unique memorial carrying the names of more than 12 thousand people who lost their lives in the devastating earthquake that struck here in January 2001. The earthquake simulator will provide real like the experience of earthquake tremors to visitors. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and State BJP President C. R. Patil was present on the occasion.
- The grand structure, which is the first such memorial in the country according to a Gujarat government official, is spread over 470 acres on Bhujio Hill near Bhuj town. It celebrates the spirit of resilience in the wake of the death of nearly 13,000 people during the earthquake on January 26, 2001, which had its epicentre in Bhuj.

About Gujarat:

Capital: Gandhinagar

Governor: Acharya Devvrat

Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel

UP govt to develop Kannauj as perfume tourism destination

- Kannuj will be developed into a tourist destination as per the decision taken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. This decision was taken in order to emphasize the importance of perfume industries in India. The government of Uttar Pradesh has also decided to organize an international perfume fair in Kannauj in December. The first phase of

the perfume park will be completed by 15th November 2022, which is being set up in the district. The aim of this initiative is to take the ₹250 crore perfume business to height of ₹25,000 crores. This project will give momentum to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision of making Uttar Pradesh a \$1 trillion economy.

- The state government has decided to change the export policies, which will help the traders to boost their export of perfumes.

Uttar Pradesh:

Governor: Anandiben Patel

Capital: Lucknow (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath

Haridwar declared India's Best Aspirational District under NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme

- The NITI Aayog has declared the holy city of Haridwar in Uttarakhand as the best aspirational district on five parameters. The letter by NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme director Rakesh Ranjan to Uttarakhand chief secretary SS Sandhu and the district collector of Haridwar underlines that the district has secured the first rank in basic infrastructure theme and has become entitled to receive an additional allocation of Rs 3 crore.
- The NITI Aayog's aspirational Districts Programme was launched in 2018. The programme is aimed at identifying potential districts that can develop into model blocks through socio-economic development. Under the programme, the central government takes steps to improve the socio-economic condition of identified districts and ensure inclusive and holistic development.

About NITI Aayog:

Formed: 1 January 2015

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairperson: Narendra Modi

Founder: National Democratic Alliance

About Uttarakhand :

Governor: Gurmit Singh

Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami

Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)

Historic Moment For Nagaland As It Gets Its 2nd Railway Station After 119 Years

- North-east state, Nagaland got its second railway station after a gap of more than 119 years with the commissioning of a new facility at Shokhuvi. Dimapur Railway Station, in the heart of the commercial hub of the state, was inaugurated in 1903. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio flagged off the Donyi Polo Express from Shokhuvi Railway Station during the day.
- The Donyi Polo Express ran daily between Guwahati in Assam and Naharlagun in Arunachal Pradesh. The train service has now been extended till Shokhuvi, a few kilometres from Dimapur. Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh will be directly connected by train service with the extension of Donyi Polo Express till Shokhuvi Railway Station.

About Nagaland:

Founded: 30 November 1963
Capital: Kohima (Executive Branch)
Capital: Kohima
Chief Minister: Neiphiu Rio
Governor: Jagdish Mukhi (additional charge)

PM to inaugurate pedestrian-only 'Atal Bridge' on Sabarmati river on August 27

- In Gujarat's Ahmedabad city, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will officially open the pedestrian-only "Atal Bridge" over the Sabarmati River. PM Modi is at his home state for a two-day visit. Later, PM Modi made a spur-of-the-moment trip to the bridge. According to a press release, the Atal Bridge connects the upcoming arts and culture centre on the eastern end of the riverfront with the flower garden on the western end. Atal Bridge is nearly 300 metres long and 14 metres wide in the middle.
- According to a press release, the Atal Bridge is made to be approached from both the lower and higher riverfront walks or promenades.
- PM Modi will also lay the cornerstone for more construction projects and dedicate the 470-acre Smriti Van Memorial in Bhuj.
- PM Modi will speak at Khadi Utsav on the riverbank while in the state for two days until inauguration day of the Atal Bridge.
- The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation constructed the 300-meter Atal Bridge and gave it the former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's name.

About Gujarat:

Capital: Gandhinagar
Governor: Acharya Devvrat
Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel

Taurus Sainik Aramgrah Inaugurated at Delhi Cantt

- The Taurus Sainik Aramgrah was inaugurated by Lt Gen Nav K Khanduri, AVSM, VSM, GOC-in-C, Western Command at Delhi Cantt. The Taurus Sainik Aramgrah is the first of its kind project which is constructed by the collaboration of the Indian Army and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). The event was also facilitated by the officials of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).
- The state art facility has 148 beds with an aesthetically designed waiting lounge, in-house dining, green area, and parking.
- The Taurus Sainik Aramgrah is constructed to ensure the comfortable stay of serving or retired soldiers and their families.

About Delhi:

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

About Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC):

Founder: E. Sreedharan
Founded: 2002

PM's Economic Advisory Council to release roadmap for India@100

- The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) on the 30th of this month in New Delhi will be unveiling the Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100. The India@100 document by the EAC-PM serves as a roadmap for India's ascent to its centenary year and will inform and direct the country's path to higher income status by 2047.
- The EAC-PM in order to further move India's economy toward sustainability and resilience, rooted in social progress and shared prosperity, recommends policy goals, concepts, and methodologies in India@100.
- The EAC-PM document (India@100) will be made public in the presence of Sherpa G-20 Amitabh Kant, Member EAC-PM Sanjeev Sanyal, and Chairman EAC-PM Dr. Bibek Debroy.

About PMO:

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

Formed: 1947; 75 years ago (As Prime Minister's Secretariat); 1977; 45 years ago (As Prime Minister's Office)

Officeholders: C. Sridhar (Joint secretary to the Government of India)

Village Defence Guards Scheme started in J&K

- Village Defence Guards Scheme 2022 (VDGS-2022), is a programme with a defence component that was only recently introduced for the state of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K). The Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav has already started a number of initiatives, and this programme was also introduced at that time with the primary objective of enhancing security in Jammu's border regions.
- On August 14, a new programme, Village Defence Guards Scheme 2022 in the field of defence was unveiled for the state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- In an effort to improve security in Jammu's border regions, this project (Village Defence Guards Scheme 2022) was launched concurrently with the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- This initiative, Village Defence Guards Scheme 2022, which had a previous expiration date of September 30, 1995, was once known as the Village Defence Committee Village Defence Guards Scheme 2022 involved both the Indian Army and the Police in training volunteers from local communities.

About Jammu and Kashmir:

Lieutenant Governor : Manoj Sinha

Capitals: Srinagar (Summer) Jammu (Winter)

Anurag Thakur launches Azadi Quest, a series of online educational games

- Union Minister Anurag Thakur has launched "Azadi Quest", a series of online educational games based on India's freedom struggle, developed in collaboration with Zynga India. These games are an effort to tap into the huge market of online gamers and to educate them through games. Various arms of the government of India have collected information about unsung freedom fighters from the corners of the country. "Azadi Quest" is an effort to make the learning of this knowledge engaging and interactive.
- Azadi Quest series will impart the knowledge of India's freedom struggle and the legends of the country's great freedom fighters, thereby inducing upon the players, a feeling of pride and a sense of duty and will be instrumental in removing the sense of colonial mindset as

also emphasised upon by the Prime Minister in the 76th Independence day speech as 'Panch Pran of Amrit Kaal.

- 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.

India's 1st Composite Indoor Shooting Range Inaugurated at INS Karna

- A first-of-its-kind, Composite Indoor Shooting Range (CISR) was inaugurated by Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta at INS Karna. The CISR is a state-of-the-art, self-contained, 25 m, six-lane, live firing range for all primary and secondary weapons in the Navy. With advanced target systems and associated control software, this range would enable personnel to hone their firing skills, enabling them to challenge and take on adversaries in demanding scenarios.
- The range has been set up to contemporary international standards by an Indian firm and is a shining example of Atma Nirbhar Bharat in the year of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- The entire facility was set up in a record time of 120 days from the award of the contract to the firm.

Ayushman Bharat Scheme Extends Inclusive Healthcare Services To Transgender People

- According to the government of India, transgenders will be brought under the ambit of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY). The National Health Authority (NHA) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide inclusive and composite health package for transgenders under Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY.
- The ministry of social justice & empowerment has taken several initiatives for the transgender community, be it "The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019", Garima Greh, PM Daksh, among others.

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launches 'Vidya Rath'

- Assam Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched the 'Vidya Rath -School on Wheels' project. This project aims at providing economically challenged underprivileged children to access elementary education for a period of 10 months. The project was launched at a function held at the premises of Gauhati High Court in Assam.
- Children will be provided with uniforms and textbooks and free-mid day meals under the project. Students will be provided free mid-day meals, uniforms and textbooks under the project.
- The stakeholders involved in the project are 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, and Assam Sarba Siksha Mission, GMDA, and several NGOs.

About Assam:

Capital: Dispur

Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma

Governor: Prof Jagdish Mukhi

Govt grants permission to defence forces to buy emergency weapons through Make in India route

- Taking a major step towards strengthening the Indian defence forces, the Centre has allowed them to purchase critical weapon systems for their operational requirements through an emergency procurement route. The approval was given in a meeting of the Defence Ministry which was headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. It is pertinent to note that the defence forces have extensively used the emergency procurement powers in the past and further strengthened their preparedness through these acquisitions. Also, by utilising the power in different phases, they had equipped themselves with the necessary weaponry to handle any conflict or aggression by enemies on both sides.
- In addition to that, the forces have also got missiles that can hit ground targets from long ranges. The Rafale fighter jets have also received a boost with the induction of the HAMMER missiles which can hit hardened ground targets like bunkers from a long distance.

About Defence Ministry of India:

Officeholder: Rajnath Singh

Formed: 1776; 246 years ago (as Military Department); 15 August 1947; 75 years ago (as Ministry of Defence)

Jurisdiction: Government of India

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

- The Punjab and Haryana governments have agreed to name the Chandigarh International Airport in Mohali after Shaheed Bhagat Singh. The decision was taken during a meeting between Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann & Haryana deputy CM Dushyant Chautala. The Punjab government has already declared a state holiday on March 23, the martyrdom day of legendary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh.
- The Rs 485-crore airport project is a joint venture of the Airports Authority of India (AAI), the governments of Punjab and Haryana.
- The Punjab government in 2017 had demanded that the airport should be named as “Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport, Mohali”.
- In 2016, the Haryana Assembly unanimously passed a resolution to name Chandigarh airport after Bhagat Singh.

About Punjab:

Capital: Chandigarh

Governor: Banwarilal Purohit

Chief Minister: Bhagwant Mann

About Haryana:

Capital: Chandigarh

Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya

Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar

MP's Mandla becomes country's first fully 'functionally literate' district

- Madhya Pradesh's tribal-dominated Mandla region has become the first fully “functionally literate” district in the country. Another report of 2020 highlights that, more than 2.25 lakh people in this district were not literate, most of them were tribals from forest areas. Tribals

frequently complained to the authorities about money being taken from their bank accounts by fraudsters and the root cause of this was that they were not functionally literate.

- To make people functionally literate, a major campaign was launched on Independence Day 2020, in association with the school education department, Anganwadi & social workers, women and child development department, to educate women and senior citizens.
- With this campaign, the entire district has turned into a functionally literate district, within two years.
- Mandla is the first district of India to reach this mark, where people were able to write their names, read and count.

About Madhya Pradesh:

Capital: Bhopal (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel

E-marketplace feature Aqua Bazar launched in Matsya Setu app

- During the 9th general body meeting of the National Fisheries Development Board, Shri Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairy, introduced the “Aqua Bazar” online market place feature in the “MatsyaSetu” mobile app. The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana was used to fund the development of the MatsyaSetu app by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar, with assistance from the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad (PMMSY). The Aqua Bazar, online market will assist fish farmers and other interested parties in locating the inputs—such as fish seeds, feed, medicines, etc.—and services needed for fish cultivation. Farmers may also offer their table-size fish for sale on the Aqua Bazar market. The Aqua Bazar marketplace intends to link up all parties involved in aquaculture.
- For the success and expansion of freshwater aquaculture in the nation, reliable information regarding the timely availability of high-quality inputs in the appropriate locations Aqua Bazar is absolutely essential.
- This MatsyaSetu digital platform was created by ICAR-CIFA and NFDB to solve the issue and bring all the stakeholders together in one location.

Rajnath Singh to inaugurate National Seminar on 'Introspection

- Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister) Shri Rajnath Singh will open a national seminar entitled “Introspection: Armed Forces Tribunal” that the Armed Forces Tribunal (Principal Bench) Bar Association is hosting in New Delhi. In addition to serving members of the armed forces, the Introspection: Armed Forces Tribunal seminar is being held to evaluate how the Armed Forces Tribunal, which was formed to assure prompt and affordable justice for veterans, their families, and war widows, operates.
- The Introspection: Armed Forces Tribunal seminar’s goals are to examine how it functions, offer fixes for any flaws, and address the issues and challenges that litigants encounter when trying to obtain swift justice.
- The Raksha Mantri will attend as the chief guest, while Shri Kiren Rijiju, the minister of law and justice, will be the guest of honour.

- The Introspection: Armed Forces Tribunal conference is anticipated to include senior officials and employees from the Judiciary, Ministry of Law & Justice, and Ministry of Defense.

About Ministry of defence:

Officeholder: Rajnath Singh (Minister)

Formed: 1776; 246 years ago (as Military Department);

15 August 1947; 75 years ago (as Ministry of Defence)

Indian Army Set to Possess Quantum Communication Tech, joins elite list

- India is all set to join the elite global club, and the Indian Army will soon possess indigenous and more advanced quantum communication technology with equipped troops and a high-end secured defense system. With the support of Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX), Defence Innovation Organisation, the QNu Labs which is a Bengaluru-based deep tech startup has innovated advanced secured communication through Quantum Key Distribution (QKD). The Defence Ministry has initiated the procurement process of QNu Labs developed QKD systems by issuing a commercial Request for Proposal (REF) after the successful trials.
- The leading countries in the QKD systems are China, the US, Canada, and other European countries. A QKD system allows the creation of a quantum secure secret pair of symmetric keys between two points that are separated by a certain distance in terrestrial optical fiber infrastructure. Indian Defence officials also considered this Innovation as a milestone in the Azadi ka Amrit Kaal. The Ministry of Defence explained that QKD helps to create a non-hackable quantum channel for creating un-hackable encryption keys, which are used to encrypt critical data.

About Indian Army:

Motto(s): "Service Before Self"

Headquarters: Integrated Defence Headquarters, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi

Founded: 1 April 1895, India

Commander-in-Chief: President Draupadi Murmu

Indian Railways: 3.5 km long Super Vasuki, India's longest train with 6 engines and 295 wagons

- The Indian Railways conducted a test run of its latest train called Super Vasuki. The Super Vasuki is operated by the South East Central Railway (SECR) zone of the Indian Railways. The SECR ran the record long-haul freight trains Vasuki and Trishul last year and the 2.8 km long SheshNaag train before that. The Super Vasuki was set up by amalgamating five rakes of goods trains as one unit.
- The train took 11.20 hours to cover a distance of 267 km. The freight train is 3.5 km long.
- During the test run, the train had six locos, 295 wagons and of 25,962 tonnes gross weight, making it the longest and heaviest freight train ever run by the Railways.
- The train was formed by amalgamating five rakes of goods trains as one unit.
- The amount of coal carried by Super Vasuki is enough to fire 3000 MW of power plant for one full day, according to officials.

About Indian Railway:

Founded: 6 May 1836, India

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founders: Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Jagannath Shankarseth

Chairman: V K Tripathi

Chhattisgarh govt plans to set up 300 rural industrial parks in one year

- In a move aimed to strengthen the rural economy and make the “gauthan” (cattle shed) a centre of livelihood, the Chhattisgarh government will set up rural industrial parks in the state. In the first year of the project, there will be 300 such parks.
- “The project will be launched on Gandhi Jayanti, October 2,” Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has said.
- “We are going to start ‘gramin aajeevika parks’, to be known as ‘rural industrial parks’, to develop gauthans as livelihood centres.”
- In keeping with Mahatma Gandhi’s vision of gram swar-aj, which is strengthening the rural economy by promoting cottage industries, Baghel has started the initiative to establish such units to provide income-generating opportunities. 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.

About Chhattisgarh:

Capital: Raipur (Executive Branch)

Governor: Anusuiya Uikey

Chief Minister: Bhupesh Baghel

Union government meaning awards GI tag to Mithila makhana

- The Central government has awarded Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Mithila Makhana. With this move, growers will get the maximum price for their premium produce. Over five lakh farmers of Mithila region of Bihar will be benefitted from this decision.
- In a tweet, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said, Mithila Makhana registered with GI Tag, farmers will get profit and it will be easier to earn. Due to Geographical Indication Tag to Mithila Makhana in the festive season, people outside Bihar will be able to use this auspicious material with reverence.
- Once a product gets this tag, any person or company cannot sell a similar item under that name. This tag is valid for a period of 10 years following which it can be renewed.
- The other benefits of GI registration include legal protection to that item, prevention against unauthorised use by others, and promoting exports.

India's first indigenously built hydrogen fuel cell bus launched in Pune

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, on Sunday (21 August), launched India’s first truly indigenously developed Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus.
- Developed by KPIT-CSIR in Pune, the fuel cell utilises Hydrogen and Air to generate electricity to power the bus, and the only effluent from the bus is water.
- For comparison, a single diesel bus plying on long-distance routes typically emits 100 tons of CO2 annually, and there are over a million such buses in India.

- Also, the high efficiency of fuel cell vehicles and the high energy density of Hydrogen ensures that the operational costs in rupees per kilometre for fuel cell trucks and buses are lower than diesel-powered vehicles.

About Maharashtra:

Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde

Capital: Mumbai

Pune Founded: 1436

ONGC readies to pump geothermal power at 14,000 feet in Ladakh

- At 14,000 feet in Ladakh, ONGC is getting ready to pump geothermal energy. State-run explorer ONGC has set out on a mission to harness the steam streaming from the earth's core at Puga, a lonely valley off the road to Chumar on the de facto boundary with China, at a height of more than 14,000 feet. In India, geothermal energy is nothing new. The Indian government first provided a report on the nation's geothermal hotspots in 1973. This occurred after shallow drilling exploration by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) revealed prospective hot spring and geothermal areas. According to estimates, India has the ability to produce 10 gigawatts of geothermal energy.
- A sea of molten rocks emits heat from deep within the earth's crust. They can occasionally erupt as volcanoes or hot springs. It is intended to capture some of this enormous amount of heat energy and transform it into electricity.
- Geologists first look for geothermal energy hotspots, and then they look for areas of broken rock where heat can escape.
- The Puga Valley in Jammu and Kashmir's Ladakh region was one of the places that had a lot of potential for geothermal energy. Puga is a component of the Himalayan geothermal belt and is located in the southernmost region of Ladakh. Hot springs, mud pools, sulphur deposits, and borax deposits are all signs of geothermal activity in Puga area.

About Ladakh:

Capital: Leh, Kargil

Lt. Governors & Administrators: Shri Radha Krishna Mathur

Union territory: 31 October 2019

Districts: 2

Maharashtra declares Dahi Handi an official sport

- Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announces that 'Dahi-Handi' will be recognized as an official sport in Maharashtra. The state is set to organize a 'Pro- Dahi Handi' completion. The Maharashtra Government also announces that the Govindas will get a job under the sports category and if any Govinda loses his life insurance of Rs 10 lakh will be given, also if they end up being partially handicapped insurance of Rs 5 lakh will be given by the Government of Maharashtra.
- The decision was taken as many cities of Maharashtra celebrate and enjoy 'Dahi-Handi' as an adventurous sport. 'Dahi-Handi' is a ritual in which devotees of Lord Krishna recreate the 'Maakhan Chori' or butter stealing act. It is one of the mischievous stories of Krishna's

childhood. It is also known as 'Gopalakala' and it is observed on the next day of Janmashtami.

About Maharashtra:

Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde

Capital: Mumbai

IAF to Participate in Exercise Pitch Black 2022 in Australia

- An Indian Air Force contingent has reached Australia for participating in Exercise Pitch Black 2022 scheduled to be held from 19 Aug 22 to 08 Sep 22 in Darwin. This is a biennial, multi-national exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). It will focus on Large Force Employment warfare. The last edition was conducted in 2018. The 2020 edition of the exercise was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's exercise will see the participation of over 100 aircraft and 2500 military personnel from various air forces.
- The IAF contingent, led by Group Captain YPS Negi, comprises over 100 air warriors, deployed with four Su-30 MKI fighter and two C-17 aircraft. They will undertake multi-domain air combat missions in a complex environment and will exchange best practices with the participating air forces.

About Australia:

Capital: Canberra

Currency: Australian dollar

Prime Minister: Anthony Albanese

About Indian Air Force (IAF):

Headquarters: Integrated Defence Headquarters, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi

Helicopter: CH-47 Chinook, Dhruv, Chetak, Cheetah, Mi-8, Mi-17, Mi-26

Fighters: SEPECAT Jaguar, Dassault Rafale, Sukhoi Su-30MKI,

India's first electric double-decker bus unveiled in Mumbai

- Union Transport Minister, Nitin Gadkari has launched India's first electric double-decker bus at YB Centre in south Mumbai. The name of the bus is "Switch EiV 22", the double-decker bus will be run by the Mumbai civic transport body from September. Nitin Gadkari said 35 per cent of the pollution is because of diesel and petrol, and the introduction of these buses will reduce pollution. Two new electric buses, including the first air-conditioned double-decker bus in the country, will join the fleet of the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST).

About Maharashtra:

Capital: Mumbai

Chief Minister: Eknath Sindhe

Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to open first overseas marketing office in Malaysia for LCA Tejas

- Eyeing a possible deal for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas in Malaysia, the state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for opening its first international marketing and sales office in Kuala Lumpur.

- “The office in Kuala Lumpur will enhance HAL’s ability to secure the deal while also enabling them to fulfil other requirements of the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) like the upgradation and servicing of the Russian Su-30s and British Hawk trainer aircraft,” a statement from HAL said.
- HAL had submitted a proposal for supplying 18 FLIT LCAs after the Malaysian Ministry of Defence issued a global tender in October 2021. (moved up) The winner of the tender is expected to be announced soon and HAL expects to win as it meets all the technical parameters.

About Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL):

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founder: Walchand Hirachand

Founded: 1963, Bengaluru

Kejriwal launches 'Make India No.1' mission, to travel across country to rally people's support

- Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal has formally unveiled his Aam Aadmi Party’s national ambition with the launch of the ‘Make India No 1’ campaign. At an event organised at Talkatora stadium here, he proposed a five-point vision for good governance. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor termed the campaign a “national mission” and appealed to the masses to join.
- **FIRST** thing that we have to do is provide free and quality education to every child of this country.
- **SECOND** measure that we will have to take is to provide free and best medical treatment along with free medicines and test facilities to every citizen of the country.
- **THIRD**, we will have to provide employment to every youth which is possible with the right intention and management.
- **FOURTH**, every woman should get respect, equal rights and security.
- **FIFTH**, we will have to ensure farmers get fair prices for their produce and get respect so that children can say with pride that they also want to become farmers.

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Capital: New Delhi

Lieutenant governor : Vinai Kumar Saxena

Goa becomes the First 'Har Ghar Jal' Certified State & Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu becomes the First 'Har Ghar Jal' Certified UT in the Country

- The people of all the villages in Goa and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (D&NH and D&D) declared their village to be a “Har Ghar Jal” through a resolution passed by the Gram Sabha, certifying that all households in the villages have access to safe drinking water through taps and ensuring that “No One is Left Out.” All 85,156 of the 85,635,000 rural households in Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, and Goa have access to potable water via a tap connection with Har Ghar Jal.
- The Government of India’s flagship programme, Jal Jeevan Mission, was unveiled on August 15, 2019, from the Red Fort’s ramparts by its forward-thinking Prime Minister.

- By 2024, the goal hopes to provide every rural family in the nation with a reliable in Jal Jeevan Mission, long-term supply of potable tap water in an appropriate amount and of the required quality.
- According to the certification process outlined in the Jal Jeevan Mission's Margdarshika (Har Ghar Jal), the field engineer must first present a completion certificate for the water delivery plan to the Panchayat during a meeting of the Gram Sabha.

About Goa:

Founded: 30 May 1987

Capital: Panaji (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Pramod Sawant

Governor: Shri P.S. Sreedharan Pillai

Arunachal Govt Launches Ambitious 'Medicine from the Sky' Project

- 'Medicine from the sky' pilot project drone service launched by the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Pema Khandu. 'Medicine from the sky' is also a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The first successful flight was conducted from Seppa to Chaoyang Tajo in the East Kameng district. This pilot project was a result of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to introduce new technologies in the health care sector of India.
- He also mentioned in the Bharat Drone Mahotsav, that India has the potential of becoming the world's drone hub. This drone service or the first pilot project aims to provide medicine and essential services to people in need with the help of drones. This will also help to reach difficult terrains and areas.
- Arunachal Pradesh is a Northeastern state of India and it has recognized the power of drones and used it uniquely. The introduction of the first pilot project 'Medicine from the sky' will help thousands of people.

About Arunachal Pradesh:

Capital: Itanagar (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Pema Khandu

Governor: B. D. Mishra

F-INSAS, Nipun among 'Made in India' defence systems handed over to Indian Army by Rajnath Singh

- Defence Minister of India, Rajnath Singh handed over to the Indian Army the much-awaited Future Infantry Soldier as a System (F-INSAS) at the unveiling ceremony of various defence and strategic systems held in Delhi. The full gear of the F-INSAS includes an AK-203 assault rifle, which is a Russian-origin gas-operated, magazine-fed, select-fire assault rifle.
- The units of the rifle, which has a range of 300 metres, will be manufactured by an India-Russia joint venture.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conceptualised the F-INSAS project in the early 2000s in line with the targets of the Army's Infantry Soldier Modernisation Programme to optimise the soldier's performance across the full spectrum and duration of a military operation.

About Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):

Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi

Founded: 1958

Jurisdiction: India

Aircraft designed: Avatar, DRDO Lakshya, DRDO Nishant

PM Modi gives 5 pledges 'Panch Prans' to fulfil dreams of country in next 25 years

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to the nation from the Red Fort for the ninth time in a row on August 15, 2022. PM Modi, in his 88-minute speech, outlined his “Panch Pran Targets” (Five Resolves) to make India a developed country by the time it celebrates its 100th Independence Day in 25 years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed the Panch Pran Goal.
 - Cleanliness campaigns, vaccinations, electrical connections, the elimination of open defecation, and the usage of solar energy are all examples of established India standards according to the Panch Pran.
- PM Modi requested every individual to follow Panch Pran.

The Panch Pran are as follows:

1. Advance with greater conviction and the determination of a developed India
2. Get rid of any signs of slavery
3. Take pride in India's history.
4. the power of unity
5. duties of citizens, such as those of the PM and CMs.

About Prime Minister's Office:

Headquarters: Raisina Hill, New Delhi, India

Formed: 1947; 75 years ago (As Prime Minister's Secretariat); 1977; 45 years ago (As Prime Minister's Office)

Officeholders: C. Sridhar (Joint secretary to the Government of India)

Defence Minister Unveils Statue Of Marwar Warrior Durgadas

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has unveiled the Statue of “Veer Durgadas Rathore” on his 385th birth anniversary in Rajasthan's Jodhpur. The Raksha Mantri paid glowing tribute to Veer Durgadas Rathore on the occasion, terming him as the symbol of social harmony, honesty, bravery and devotion. He stated that people, irrespective of caste or religion, should take inspiration from Veer Durgadas Rathore, who strived for peace and harmony against divisive elements in society.
- Veer Durgadas Rathore single-handedly preserved the rule of the Rathore dynasty over Marwar (Jodhpur) after the death of Maharaja Jaswant Singh in the 17th century.
- Durgadas Rathore (13 August 1638 – 22 November 1718) was the Rathore Rajput General of the Kingdom of Marwar. He is credited with having preserved the rule of the Rathore dynasty over Marwar, India, following the death of Maharaja Jaswant Singh in the 17th century. In doing so he had to defy Aurangzeb, a Mughal emperor.

About Rajasthan:

Governor: Kalraj Mishra

Capital: Jaipur (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot

Operation Yatri Suraksha: RPF nabs 365 suspects, recovers stolen property worth Rs 1 crore in July

- Indian Railway Protection Force (RPF), have launched a pan-India operation known as Operation Yatri Suraksha. Under this initiative, several steps are taken to provide round-the-clock security to passengers. To kickstart Operation Yatri Suraksha, the RPF launched a month-long pan-India drive against criminals who loot passengers in July 2022. During the drive, the RPF caught 365 suspects who were handed over to the concerned GRPs for legal action.
- As part of this initiative, several steps are being taken to provide foolproof security to passengers i.e., train escorting, visible presence on stations, surveillance through CCTV, surveillance on active criminals, collection of intelligence about the criminals and action thereupon, identifying black spots and crime-prone trains/sections and enhancing security thereat among others to formulate an actionable strategy to reduce crime against passengers.

About Railway Protection Force (RPF):

Minister of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Agency executive: Sanjay Chander, IPS, Director General, RPF

Founded: 1959

General nature: Federal law enforcement

President Smt Droupadi Murmu approves President's Tatrakshak Medal and Tatrakshak Medals to ICG Personnel on the eve of Independence Day

- President Smt Droupadi Murmu, who is also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, has approved President's Tatrakshak Medal (PTM) and Tatrakshak Medal (TM) to the following Indian Coast Guard Personnel for their act of conspicuous gallantry, exceptional devotion to duty and distinguished/meritorious service on the eve of the Independence Day 2022.

President's Tatrakshak Medal (Distinguished Service)

1. IG Shri Dinesh Rajaputhran, TM (0142-V) (Retd)
2. Tatrakshak Medal (Gallantry)
3. Commandant Kunal Chandrakant Naik (0637-V)

Tatrakshak Medal (Meritorious Service)

1. DIG Shri Prashant Kumar Sharma (0396-X)
2. DIG Shri Pankaj Verma (0465-E)
3. Shri Prakash, PSE (ER), 07246-T

India celebrated 76th Independence Day

- This year India is celebrating 76th Independence Day on 15th August 2022 to mark the country's freedom from nearly two centuries of British colonial rule. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is leading the celebrations from Red Fort in New Delhi and is addressing the nation from Red Fort in New Delhi. This is his ninth address as the prime minister. To celebrate the 75 years of Independence the Government of India has started an initiative called "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav".

- On March 12, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independence that started a 75-week countdown to our anniversary of independence. This means that India will celebrate its 76th Independence Day on August 15, 2022, and mark the end of its 75 years of freedom.

INS Satpura to conduct 75-lap 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Run' at San Diego

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Satpura reached the San Diego Harbour North American Continent on 13th August to celebrate the 75 years of Independence of India. The INS Satpura conducted a 75 Lap Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Run at the San Diego US Navy Base on the Independence Day of India. The ship hoisted the Indian Tricolour flag in the presence of the Indian diaspora and distinguished local dignitaries in the North American Continent on the historic occasion of 75 years of Independence of India.
- The arrival of INS Satpura to the San Diego US Navy Base is a historic event as it is the first time an Indian Naval Warship has reached the western coast of North America. This event demonstrates the capability and advancement of the Indian Navy after 75 years of Independence.
- Indian Naval Warship, INS Satpura, and P81 LRMASW aircraft participated in one of the largest multilateral naval exercises, The Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC), at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii.
- On June 27, INS Satpura reached Hawaii for the multilateral naval exercises whereas P81 aircraft arrived on 22 July 2022.

About INS Satpura:

Launched: 4 June 2004

Construction started: 31 October 2002

Builder: Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

Propulsion: boost turbines in CODOG configuration

Motto: Nishchay, Garv, Sahas; (Determination, Pride, Bravery)

Drinking water, millet mission among 16 big decisions taken by Odisha govt

- In a bid to give a big push to the traditional foodgrains production like millets and ensure better income for farmers, particularly the tribals, the State Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday approved a whopping 2,808.39 crore for six years from 2021-22 to 2026-27 for implementation of various programmes in the tribal areas.
- As 2023 has been declared as the 'International Year of Millet' and the Centre has given greater importance to it in 2022-23 budget, this move will go a long way in the promotion of the traditional crop in the State.
- The government had launched the Odisha Millets Mission in 2017 to revive and promote millets in farms and on plates. In the first phase of implementation in 2017-18, the programme was operational in 30 blocks across seven districts. In the second and third phases, the programme has been expanded to 84 blocks in 15 districts.

About Odisha:

Governor: Ganeshi Lal

Capital: Bhubaneswar

Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik

Assam govt to construct 1,000 model Anganwadi centres, plans 15,000 units by 2026

- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday remotely inaugurated nearly 1,000 Model Anganwadi Centres located across the state and said that he aims to have a total of 15,000 Anganwadis in the state.
- Addressing an event held at the RB Higher Secondary School playground under the Palasbari assembly constituency, the Chief Minister said, "These model Anganwadis would fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the parents from the remotest parts of the state. By 2026, he aims to have a total of 15,000 Anganwadis in the state."
- "Anganwadis are centres where the physical and mental foundations of a child is built. It prepares the child for their journey towards the higher education system," the Chief Minister said.

About Assam:

Capital: Dispur

Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma

Governor: Prof Jagdish Mukhi

Arunachal Pradesh's Hollongi greenfield airport named 'Donyi Polo', ops to begin from August 15

- The third airport in Arunachal Pradesh, which is now under construction in Itanagar, the state capital, has been given the name "Donyi Polo Airport" by the Arunachal Pradesh administration. According to a representative of the Chief Minister's Office, the state cabinet adopted "Donyi Polo Airport" as the name of the airport at its meeting. Pema Khandu, the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh, presided over the gathering.
- The name of the only airport in the capital city, according to the official, would represent the long-standing customs and rich cultural legacy of the tribally dominant state and would also reflect the long-standing indigenous respect for the Sun (Donyi) and the Moon (Polo) among the populace. The Airport Authority of India has undertaken a Rs 650 crore project to develop the airport to boost air connectivity in the mountainous areas.

About Arunachal Pradesh:

Capital: Itanagar (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Pema Khandu

Governor: B. D. Mishra

Official Animal: Gayal

Golden Joint Of World's Highest Railway Bridge Inaugurated In Jammu And Kashmir

- The golden joint of the world's highest railway bridge over River Chenab was inaugurated. For the first time ever since independence, Srinagar will be linked to the rest of India after the overarch deck on the world's highest single-arch railway bridge over River Chenab. The bridge will be 35 meters higher than the Eiffel Tower.
- Chenab Bridge was a famous bridge with intricate engineering that had to overcome several challenges. The geology, the harsh terrain, and the hostile environment were just a few of the challenges that the engineers and railway officials had to overcome to get to this point.

- Afcons is building 16 additional railway bridges for Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) in the dangerous terrain of Jammu and Kashmir in addition to the Chenab Bridge. All the bridges are part of the Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.

About Jammu and Kashmir:

Union territory: 31 October 2019

Capital: Srinagar (May–October) ,Jammu (Nov–April)

Lieutenant Governor: Manoj Sinha

India observes Partition Horrors Remembrance Day 2022: 14th August

- In his last year's Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared August 14 to be observed as "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day" to remind the nation of the sufferings and sacrifices of Indians during the partition in 1947. The day, which coincides with Pakistan's Independence day, will be observed in memory of the "struggles and sacrifices of our people".
- Meanwhile, India is all set to celebrate 75 years of Independence with preparations in full swing. A large number of ASI monuments across the country have been lit up in tri-colour theme, and citizens and political parties across the country have kicked off 'tiranga' rallies under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. Earlier this week, Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla inaugurated an exhibition on the 'Horrors of Partition' at the Parliament Library Building.

Kolkata to host 23rd edition of India International Seafood Show in February 2023

- Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in association with the Seafood Exporters' Association of India (SEAI) will hold the 23rd edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS) in Kolkata, the City of Joy from February 15 to 7 next year.
- During 2021-22, India exported 13,69,264 tonnes of marine products worth US\$ 7.76 billion, registering an all-time high export by value, while production of shrimp crossed one million MT. With a multipronged strategy, addressing capture fisheries and aquaculture, the export turnover is likely to achieve US\$ 15 billion in next five years. Sustainable fishing methods, value addition and increased aquaculture production through diversification are expected to support the ambitious target set for export.

About West Bengal:

Capital: Kolkata

Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee

Governor: Shri La. Ganesan

Tamil Nadu notifies fifth elephant reserve in Agasthyamalai landscape

- The proposal to designate 1,197.48 sq.km in Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli as the Agasthiyarmalai Elephant Reserve was approved by the Union Environment Ministry. Tamil Nadu will oversee this Agasthiyarmalai Elephant Reserve, which is the fifth elephant reserve. The forest department may be eligible for additional financing through the centrally sponsored Project Elephant after notifying the Agasthiyarmalai Elephant Reserve.
- Agasthiyarmalai Elephant Reserve status will put more of an emphasis on protecting and conserving elephants as indicator animals that indicate a healthy ecosystem, even when the area is already protected as a reserve forest or wildlife sanctuary.

- About 300 of them are found alone on the southern side in the Agasthiyarmalai Elephant Reserve and Mahendragiri hill ranges in the Neyyar, Shendurney, and Peppara Wildlife Sanctuaries and Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, all located in Thiruvananthapuram Forest Division.

About Tamil Nadu:

Governor: R. N. Ravi

Capital: Chennai

Chief Minister: M. K. Stalin

ISRO Unveils 'SPARK', India's First Virtual Space Museum

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has launched a digital platform called the 'SPARK' space museum for showcasing several ISRO missions with an interactive interface. The digital platform known as the 'SPARK' space museum was launched by the Chairman of ISRO, S Somnath. This idea by ISRO is a new initiative while celebrating the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav marking 75 years of Independence.
- This digital space museum 'SPARK' has an interactive interface through which users can interact with the site easily.
- The platform hosts several documents, images, and videos related to ISRO's launch of vehicles, satellites, and scientific missions.
- The secretary of the Department of Spaces S Somnath and major Directors of various ISRO centers appreciate this initiative.
- The Directors suggest coming with more non-sensitive digital content on this platform.
- People can also access a beta version of this application through the official website of ISRO.

About Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO):

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founded: 15 August 1969

Founder: Vikram Sarabhai

Jurisdiction: India

Mobile App to Curb GST Evasion launched by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan

- The Kerala government is set to launch a mobile app where people can upload original bills and also stand a chance to win prizes. The government of Kerala aims to curb GST evasion with this app. The app is named 'Lucky Bill App' and it will be launched on 16th August 2022, by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- The state government expects this will help increase tax collection as people will be encouraged to ask for bills while purchasing goods and availing services.
- The government is looking for new ways to support the revenue and financial status of the state with this app.
- The app is capable enough to help the state's GST department to examine return filings with the help of uploaded bills.

About Kerala:

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

Justice Uday Umesh Lalit Appointed 49th Chief Justice of India, Will Succeed CJI Ramana

- According to the law ministry notification, Justice Uday Umesh Lalit has been appointed 49th Chief Justice of India (CJI). He will assume charge on August 27 after incumbent NV Ramana demits office on August 26. He will have a brief tenure as the head of India's judiciary and will demit office on 8 November after holding the charge as the CJI for nearly three months.
- In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, judge of the Supreme Court of India, to be the Chief Justice of India with effect from 27 August 2022.
- He was born on 9 November 1957, Justice Lalit enrolled as an advocate in June 1983 and practised in the Bombay High Court till December 1985.
- He shifted his practice to Delhi in January 1986, and in April 2004, he was designated as a senior advocate by the apex court.

NSD organises 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav-22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav, 2022' in Mumbai

- Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari inaugurated the 22nd 'Bharat Rang Mahotsav' at Rabindra Natya Mandir in Mumbai today. The five-day drama festival (being held from August 9 to August 13, 2022) is being jointly organised by the Union Ministry of Culture and P.L. Deshpande Maharashtra Kala Akademi in the city to pay tribute to our freedom fighters.
- National School of Drama under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is organizing "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav – 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav, 2022 (Azadi Segment)" to pay tributes to our freedom fighters. As part of the 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav, 2022 (Azadi Segment), 30 plays will be showcased in Delhi, Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Amritsar, Bengaluru and Mumbai from 16th July to 14th August, 2022.
- In Mumbai, the Bharat Rang Mahotsav programmes will be held from 9 to 13 August 2022, jointly organised by Ministry of Cultural Affairs and P.L. Deshpande Maharashtra Kala Akademi. The festival will be inaugurated on Tuesday, 9 August at Rabindra Natya Mandir in the presence of Governor of Maharashtra, Bhagat Singh Koshyari. Veteran actress Rohini Hattangadi, Producer Director Satish Kaushik and Vani Tripathi Tikku will also grace the inauguration ceremony. Director of National School of Drama, Professor Ramesh Chandra Goud will preside over the programme.

About Maharashtra:

Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde

Capital: Mumbai

CM Yogi launched 'Radio Jaighosh' to mark Kakori Train Action anniversary on 9th August

- As the country celebrates Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paid tributes to the martyrs of Kakori Train Action Day. On 9th August 1925, the brave freedom fighters of India including Ramprasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Rajendra Prasad Lahiri, and Roshan Singh along with the Hindustan Republic Association (HRA) looted arms and money from the British, in the Kakori Railway station at Malihabad in Lucknow.

- These freedom fighters looted the train about 8 miles from Lucknow and they also used German mousers. After this, the three freedom fighters were hanged by the British on the charges of the Kakori scandal. Every year on 9 August, the whole nation remembers the mighty freedom fighters.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath changed the name of 'Kakori kand' to 'Kakori Train Action Day' and 9th August 2022, marks the first anniversary of 'Kakori Train Action Day'. The government of Uttar Pradesh has also facilitated the families of the freedom fighters included in the 'Kakori Train Action Day'.

About Uttar Pradesh:

Governor: Anandiben Patel

Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath

Capital: Lucknow (Executive Branch)

Electricity Amendment Bill 2022 Introduced In Lok Sabha, Referred To Standing Committee

- A Bill to amend the Electricity Act to allow non-discriminatory open access to distribution networks of power suppliers was introduced in Lok Sabha on Monday amid protests by the Opposition, which claimed that it seeks to take away certain rights of state governments. Introducing the Bill, power minister RK Singh urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to refer it to a parliamentary standing committee for wider consultations to address Opposition concerns.
- The Bill is aimed at allowing privatisation of electricity on the lines of communication. As per the Central Govt, if the Bill is passed in both the Houses, customers will have the option to choose the supplier of electricity just like one can choose for telephone, mobile and internet services. The Bill seeks to amend section 42 of the Electricity Act to facilitate non-discriminatory open access to the distribution network of a distribution licensee.
- Further, the bill seeks to amend section 14 of the Act to facilitate the use of distribution networks by all licensees under provisions of non-discriminatory open access with the objective of enabling competition, enhancing efficiency of distribution licensees for improving services and ensuring sustainability of the power sector.
- The bill also seeks to amend section 62 of the Act so as to make provisions regarding graded revision in tariff over a year and for mandatory fixing of the maximum ceiling as well as minimum tariff by the Appropriate (electricity regulatory) Commission.

About Lok Sabha:

Seats: 543

Speaker: Om Birla, BJP; since 19 June 2019

Secretary General: Utpal Kumar Singh, IAS (Retd.) (Uttarakhand:1986); since 30 November 2020

Term limits: 5 years

Voting system: First past the post

One Nation One Ration Card completed three years

- The scheme has now been implemented all over the country with Assam being the latest state to join the initiative in June 2022. The ONORC, which was launched as a pilot project on August 9, 2019 in four states, has completed three years.

- The technology-driven ONORC scheme is being implemented by the Centre for the nation-wide portability of ration cards under the NFSA(National Food Security Act,2013). This system allows all NFSA beneficiaries, particularly the migrant beneficiaries, to claim either full or part of their entitled food grains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) in the country through an existing ration card with biometric/Aadhaar authentication in a seamless manner. The system also allows their family members back home, if any, to claim the balance food grains on the same ration card.
- At present, on an average about 3 crore portability transactions per month are being recorded under the scheme. Since inception in August 2019, about 77.88 crore portable transactions have taken place under the scheme. Under the NFSA, the Centre is providing 5 kilograms of food grains per person every month to nearly 80 crore eligible beneficiaries at a highly subsidised rate of Rs 2-3 per kilogram. To provide relief to poor, the Centre is also providing an additional 5 kilograms of food grains per person each month 'free of cost' to 80 crore people.

India, US commence joint exercise 'Ex Vajra Prahar 2022' in Himachal's Bakloh

- The 13th Edition of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise "Ex Vajra Prahar 2022" commenced at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) in Himachal Pradesh's Bakloh on August 8, Monday. The US contingent is represented by personnel from the 1st Special Forces Group (SFG) and Special Tactics Squadron (STS) of US Special Forces and the Indian Army contingent is formed by drawing Special Forces personnel under the aegis of SFTS.
- The Vajra Prahar series of joint exercise aims to share best practices and experiences in areas such as joint mission planning and operational tactics, and also to improve inter-operability 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.

About United States:

Attorney general: Merrick Garland

Capital: Washington, D.C.

President: Joe Biden

Currency: United States Dollar

About Himachal Pradesh:

Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur

Governor: Sh. Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

Official bird: Western tragopan

Capitals: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)

12th DefExpo to be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat in October 2022

- The Ministry of Defence on Monday announced that the 12th edition of the Defence Expo, India's flagship exhibition on Land, Naval and Homeland Security systems, will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The event will be held between October 18 and 22, 2022. The theme for this edition is 'Path to Pride' invoking nationalistic pride and encouraging citizens to partake in nation-building through establishing a capable indigenous Defence industry.

- The five-day event will witness three business days followed by two public days. Live demonstrations showcasing the equipment and skill set of the Armed Forces, DPSUs and Industry will be held on all five days at Sabarmati River Front through active participation and synchronized efforts at all levels, informed the officials.

About Gujarat:

Capital: Gandhinagar

Governor: Acharya Devvrat

Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel

Google launches 'India ki Udaan to celebrate 75 Years of Independence

- Capturing the milestones India has achieved in its journey of 75 years since Independence, software giant Google on Friday unveiled a vibrant online project drawing from rich archives and featuring artistic illustrations to tell the story of the country.
- Named 'India ki Udaan', the project executed by Google Arts & Culture celebrates the country's achievements and is "themed on the unwavering and undying spirit of India over these past 75 years".
- The project was officially launched at a glittering event held at the Sunder Nursery here in the presence of Union Culture and Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy and senior officials of the Culture Ministry and Google.
- As part of the countrywide celebrations, Google also announced its collaboration with the Ministry of Culture focused "on reaching informative online content that showcases the contributions of Indians and the evolution of India since 1947 to support the Government's year-long 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' programme", the search giant said in a statement.

About Google:

CEO: Sundar Pichai (2 Oct 2015)

Founded: 4 September 1998, Menlo Park, California, United States

Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States

Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin

Goa govt to implement 100% NEP in higher education from next academic year, says CM

- Goa Chief Minister, Pramod Sawant, said that the Goa government will implement a hundred percent of the syllabus in the higher education institutions along the lines of the National Education Policy from the next academic year.
- He further added that the state government is working on the skilling of manpower through agreements signed with various industry associations in the state.
- "We have started working on the implementation of the National Education Policy in the state. The implementation has already begun in the state-run and aided schools," an official release quoted Mr Sawant as saying.

About Goa:

Founded: 30 May 1987

Capital: Panaji (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Pramod Sawant

Governor: Shri P.S. Sreedharan Pillai

Uttar Pradesh Govt Plans to Double Farmers' Income through 'Panchamrut Yojana'

- Uttar Pradesh government announced that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's 'Panchamrut Yojana' will help to achieve the goal of doubling farmers' income through the introduction of cost-effective technical measures and the promotion of the co-cropping method.
- According to an official of the Sugarcane Development Department, the Government has already started taking steps under Panchamrut Yojana to achieve this goal, and would initially select a total of 2028 farmers in the state ahead of the autumn season, to develop model plots so that more and more innovative farmers felt encouraged to join the programme for their own benefit.
- As per the press note released by the UP government, the Panchamrut scheme seeks to reduce the production cost of sugarcane, as well as increase productivity and the fertility of the land, through five techniques, including an integrated trench method for sowing of sugarcane, ratoon management and trash mulching, drip irrigation and co-cropping.

About Uttar Pradesh:

Governor: Anandiben Patel

Capital: Lucknow (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath

ITU's Regional Standardization Forum (RSF) for Asia and Oceania region to be inaugurated tomorrow by Shri Devusinh Chauhan

- Ministry of Communication is hosting the International Telecommunication Union's Regional Standardization Forum (RSF) for Asia and Oceania region on 8 August 2022 in New Delhi. The theme of the Forum is "Regulatory and Policy aspects of Telecommunications/ICTs". The Forum will be succeeded by four-day meeting of International Telecommunication Union-T Study Group 3 Regional Group Asia and Oceania (ITU-T SG3RG-AO) from 09th August 2022 to 12th August 2022.
- The Regional Standardization Forum will be inaugurated by Shri Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State for Communications.
- The Regional Standardization Forum is a platform for constructive exchange of ideas, discussing standardization topics including inter alia India's experience in various sectors of technology like Sustainable Digital Transformation and the Role of ITU Standards, Harnessing Technologies for Digital and Financial Inclusion in Emerging Markets, evolving Data Value Chain and Digital Health.
- The panel discussion aims to provide an insight to for Asia and Oceania Region's experience from policy and regulatory perspective under various sub-themes. Regional Standardization Forum will be addressed by 15 eminent speakers which includes representation from Academia, International Organizations, ICT Sector and Government of India.
- Participation in the Forum is open to ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates, and Academic Institutions and to any individual from a country which is a member of ITU who wishes to contribute to the ITU work. This includes individuals who are also members of international, regional, and national organizations.
- Over 250 delegates from 20 countries will participate in Regional Standardization Forum. The key takeaways from the deliberations in the RSF will be presented in succeeding

meeting of the ITU-T Regional Group of Asia and Oceania for further work on Standardization in the emerging areas.

Jagdeep Dhankhar elected 14th Vice President of India; bags 528 votes against Margaret Alva's 182

- Jagdeep Dhankhar was elected as the 14th Vice President of India. Jagdeep Dhankhar was the candidate nominated by the NDA from BJP. He will be administering the oath to the office on August 11, just after the tenure of incumbent Vice President Venkaiah Naidu ends. Jagdeep Dhankhar was serving as the Governor of West Bengal before getting nominated for the Vice President Elections 2022. The Opposition of Vice President Elections 2022 was Margaret Alva who is an ex-Union Minister and former five-times Congress MP.
- A total of 725 MPs registered their votes, and 63 skipped the Vice President Elections 2022. 710 votes were found valid, and 15 were invalid out of 725 votes. Jagdeep Dhankhar secured 528 votes, which is higher than the minimum of 363 votes that were required for the victory. Jagdeep Dhankhar had the support of more than 425 lawmakers. Parties like Biju Janata Party (BJD), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Shiv Sena, and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) were there to extend their support to Jagdeep Dhankhar. The Opposition Margaret Alva received the votes of 208 MPs.

About West Bengal:

Capital: Kolkata

Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee

Governor: Shri La. Ganesan

Today is 80th anniversary of Quit India movement

- The 80th anniversary of the August Kranti Din or Quit India Movement, which is considered as one of the important milestones in the history of the freedom struggle of our country, is being observed on 8 August 2022. The slogans "Quit India" and "Do or Die" became battle cries for the freedom fighters during the Quit India movement.
- The Quit India movement was supposed to be a peaceful and non-violent movement that only aimed to urge the British to leave India and grant Independence. Gandhi gave separate instructions to each age group and a working group in India about the movement. In this article, you will get to know about the provisions of the movement, instructions by Gandhi, causes, and outcomes of the Quit India movement.

About Quit India Movement:

Launched: 8 August, 1942

PM Modi Chairs Niti Aayog Governing Council Meet, Lays Emphasis On Modernising Farm Sector

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday attended the seventh NITI Aayog governing council meeting which took place at the Rashtrapati Bhavan's cultural centre in the national capital. The council held discussions over several issues such as crop diversification, urban development and implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP).
- Among the agendas of the conference are 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.

- With India hosting the G20 Presidency and summit next year, Sunday's meeting assumes greater significance. Presidency for India for the federal system and the role that states can play in highlighting their progress at the G-20 Platform.
- Telangana chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Saturday, claiming discrimination by centre, said he would not attend the conference, In a statement, the NITI Aayog said it was "unfortunate".

About NITI Aayog:

Formed: 1 January 2015

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairperson: Narendra Modi

Over 92% seats vacant under Haryana free education scheme

- "Chief Minister Equal Education Relief, Assistance and Grant (Cheerag)" programme was recently introduced by the administration of Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. It was put in lieu of a comparable programme started by the Bhupinder Singh Hooda administration in 2007 under Rule 134 A of the 2003 Haryana School Education Rules. According to the plan, government students from the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) who attend private schools will receive a free education.
- Under the Cheerag programme, government school children in grades 2 through 12 may enrol in private schools.
- The state of Haryana will pay back: -Rs 700 each student in grades two through five, Rs 900 per student in grades six through eight and Rs 1,100 each student in grades nine through twelve.
- Under the Cheerag programme, 533 low-cost private schools in rural areas and small cities had submitted applications.
- Government school students from EWS were given 24,987 seats in eligible schools.

About Haryana:

Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya

Capital: Chandigarh

Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar

NHA partners with QCI to accredit health solutions integrated with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

- In order to accredit and rate HMIS (Health Management Information System) and LMIS (Laboratory Information Management System) solutions that have been integrated with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, the National Health Authority (NHA) has onboarded the Quality Council of India (QCI) for six months. The National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH), a constituent board of QCI, is in charge of national accreditation in the medical field, according to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- In order to provide prospective buyers with reliable information, NABH will take on the task of accrediting and grading the ABDM compliant solutions on a variety of factors, such as ease of use, user interface, price, number of modules/features, and value for money/price.

- The recognised health tech solutions will assist healthcare businesses in managing their patient journeys and business more systematically in accordance with ABDM standards, according to Adil Zainulbhai, Chairman, QCI.

About Quality Council of India:

Founded: 1997

Headquarters: New Delhi

Membership: Individual & Organisation

Key people: Adil Zainulbhai; (Chairman); Dr. Ravi P. Singh; (Secretary General)

Main organ: Governing Body

About National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers(NABH):

Founded: 2006, India

CEO: Atul Mohan Kochhar (Dec 2019)

Headquarters: New Delhi

Madhya Pradesh Inks Contract For World's Largest Floating Solar Power Project

- The world's largest floating solar power plant is going to be built at Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh. With an aim to increase the power generation capacity of the central state of Madhya Pradesh and address the electricity problems in the region. A floating solar power plant is going to be built in Khandwa which will generate 600 Megawatt power by 2022-23.
- The project which is said to world's largest floating solar plant will be constructed at an estimated cost of over Rs 3,000 crore over the Omkareshwar Dam and it will help generate. Khandwa will become the only district in the state to have all three things including solar, hydel and thermal with over 4,000MW power to be produced from a single district.

About Madhya Pradesh:

Capital: Bhopal

Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel

Andhra Pradesh tops in Utilisation of Agriculture Infrastructure funds

- When it comes to using cash for agricultural infrastructure, Andhra Pradesh comes out on top (Agri Infra Fund). By placing a strong emphasis on infrastructure development at the farm gate, it has become the best state. At a ceremony in New Delhi, Union Minister of Agriculture and Family Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar presented B. Srinivasa Rao, CEO of State Rythu Bazars, with the award for the best state in the nation in terms of utilising Agri Funds in the fiscal year 2021–22.
- Many states are falling behind in using agri-infra funding, according to Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, but Andhra Pradesh has surpassed all others by doing so and building extensive infrastructure at the rural level.
- The state government is building extensive infrastructure at the farm through multi-sponsored centres with the goal of tripling farmers' revenue.
- PACS has installed 4,277 godowns, including 2,977 dryers, 101 yellow polishers, 60 buffer godowns for the AP Civil Supplies Corporation, 830 cleaners for primary processing, and 4,277 drying platforms at RBK level.

About Andhra Pradesh:

Capital: Amaravati
Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan
Chief Minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
Founded: 1 November 1956

Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurates and lays foundation stone of six NH projects worth Rs 2300 crore in Indore, Madhya Pradesh

- In Indore, Madhya Pradesh, 6 National Highway projects totaling 119 km and costing Rs. 2300 crore were formally opened and the foundation stone was laid by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari. Speaking at the event, Shri Gadkari stated that the projects being launched will facilitate progress by improving connectivity in Indore and the state.
- Shri Nitin Gadkari said that the Rau Circle traffic problem will be solved and that things would become less congested. Craftspeople, students, and businesspeople in the surrounding areas will have increased chances with simple access from Indore.
- The villages in the Indore-Harda segment will be better connected to Indore. He stated that the expansion of the Dhar-Pithampur Industrial Corridor would result in more job opportunities.
- According to the Minister, travel times between Tejaji Nagar (Indore) and Burhanpur and Indore and Harda will be shortened, saving fuel. He claimed that travellers heading to Omkareshwar and Khandwa will have easy access to the routes.

About Madhya Pradesh:

Capital: Bhopal (Executive Branch)
Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel

Govt withdraws Data Protection Bill 2021, will present new legislation

- Indian government has withdrawn the Personal Data Protection Bill from Parliament as it looks to come up with a “comprehensive legal framework” for regulating online space including separate legislation on data privacy, the overall internet ecosystem, cybersecurity, telecom regulations, and harnessing non-personal data for boosting innovation in the country.
- This comes after nearly four years of the Bill being in the works, where it went through multiple iterations including a review by a Joint Committee of Parliament (JCP), and faced pushback from a range of stakeholders including tech companies and privacy activists.
- It set the rules for how personal data should be processed and stored, and lists people’s rights with respect to their personal information. The Bill sought to establish a Data Protection Authority in the country for the protection of digital privacy of individuals.

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurates 4th ONGC Para Games 2022

- The fourth edition of the ONGC Para Games was officially launched in New Delhi’s Thyagaraj Sports Complex by Union Minister of Petroleum, Natural Gas, Housing, and Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri. The 4th ONGC Para Games are being held by Oil and Natural Gas

Corporation Limited (ONGC) from August 2-4, 2022, and feature 275 Persons with Disabilities (PwD) who work for eight central oil and gas public organisations.

- ONGC Para Games is a fantastic platform for bringing inclusivity and equity to the human resource of the public businesses under the Ministry, according to Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, who opened the 4th ONGC Para Games.
- The Paralympic Committee of India has assisted ONGC in organising the Para Games on an international scale since their first edition in 2017.
- Many of the para-athletes competing in the ONGC Para Games have also represented India with distinction at the Paralympics.

About About ONGC:

Headquarters: Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

Founded: 14 August 1956

Director : Pomila Jaspal

India to participate in 17-nation drill "Pitch Black 2022" in Australia from August 19

- 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. India's participation in the exercise, "Pitch Black", has been confirmed by the Australian government. Over 100 aircraft and 2,500 military personnel from 17 nations will be part of the drill. The exercise is scheduled to take place from August 19 to September 6.
- This year's participants include Australia, Canada, India, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the UAE, the UK and the US.

About Australia:

Prime Minister: Anthony Albanese

Capital: Canberra

Currency: Australian dollar

V Prez M Venkaiah Naidu flags off 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Bike Rally by MPs from Red Fort in Delhi

- A Har Ghar Tiranga Bike Rally by Members of Parliament was launched in Delhi from the famed Red Fort by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu. The Tiranga Bike rally is organised by Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy. In honour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, a bike rally was held from Red Fort to Vijay Chowk. Additionally present were Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi and Piyush Goyal.
- Our country is prepared for Har Ghar Tiranga, a nationwide movement to honour our Tricolor, at the same time that we are commemorating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- Between August 11 and August 13, the BJP members will also perform "prabhat pheri" at the booth level while playing Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram, a favourite devotional hymn of Mahatma Gandhi, or Vande Mataram, the national anthem of India.

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Lieutenant Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena

Capital: New Delhi

PM Modi inaugurates Deutsche Bank's IBU at GIFT-IFSC

- The Gujarat International Finance-Tec City (GIFT City) in Ahmedabad is home to the Deutsche Bank AG's IFSC Banking Unit (IBU), which was opened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The IBU will first offer financial products in the areas of trade finance, fixed income, and currencies, according to Deutsche Bank AG. According to a release, the IBU will offer all authorised international finance products to Deutsche Bank's clients in India and abroad. Additionally, it will enable cash pooling and other deposit proposals for Indian and foreign clients within the parameters of the current regulations.
- Deutsche Bank's IBU will help its top clients obtain external commercial borrowing (ECB) financing and provide products including factoring and bank guarantees, all of which are anticipated to aid international clients in improving supply chain efficiency and lowering financing costs.

About Deutsche Bank:

Headquarters: Frankfurt, Germany

CEO: Christian Sewing (8 Apr 2018–)

CFO: James von Moltke

Founded: 10 March 1870, Berlin, Germany

Kerala Tops & Karnataka second in hosting legislative sessions in 2021

- Kerala, which dropped to eighth place in terms of convening Assembly sessions during the initial COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, regained first place in 2021 with the nation's longest House session at 61 days. The PRS Legislative Research, a think tank with its headquarters in New Delhi, published the research on the operation of State Assemblies for 2021.
- The guidelines for how legislatures should operate were set forth by the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000–2002), which was presided over by former Chief Justice of India M.N. Venkatachaliah.
- The Houses of State/UT legislatures should convene for at least 50 days a year for those with fewer than 70 members, like Puducherry, and at least 90 days for those with more members.
- The Presiding Officers' Conference, which took place in Gandhinagar in January 2016, recommended that State legislatures meet for at least 60 days per year.
- Karnataka came in second with 40 sitting days, followed by Tamil Nadu with 34, and Odisha with 43.
- 17, 16, and 11 were the numbers for Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, and Punjab, respectively.
- Kerala was followed by Andhra Pradesh with 20 regulations and Maharashtra with 15 ordinances.

About Kerala:

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

India and Oman to carry out 13-day military exercise in Rajasthan

- The 4th Edition of India-Oman Joint Military Exercise 'AL NAJAH-IV' begins in Rajasthan at the Foreign Training Node of Mahajan Field Firing Ranges. The exercise takes place between

contingents of the Indian Army and the Royal Army of Oman from August 01 to 13, 2022.

The 3rd edition of Ex AL NAJAH IV was held at Muscat from 12 to 25 March 2019.

- The Indian Army will be represented by troops from the 18 Mechanised Infantry Battalion at the AL NAJAH-IV.
- The Royal Army of Oman contingent will be represented by the Sultan of Oman Parachute Regiment.

About Oman:

Capital: Muscat

Currency: Omani rial

Prime Minister: Haitham bin Tariq

About Rajasthan:

Governor: Kalraj Mishra

Capital: Jaipur (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot

SPORTS

Verstappen cruises to Belgian Grand Prix victory from P14 as Perez completes Red Bull 1-2

- Red Bull's driver Max Verstappen has won the Belgian Formula 1 Grand Prix 2022. Red Bull's Sergio Perez & Ferrari's Carlos Sainz finished at second and third positions respectively. Verstappen has now won 9 of this season's 14 races. It was his 71st podium finish & he collected 26 points from this race. Verstappen won the Belgian GP in 2021 as well.

About Red Bull Racing:

Engine: Honda in Formula One

Headquarters location: Milton Keynes, United Kingdom

Founder: Dietrich Mateschitz

Founded: 2004, United Kingdom

Base: Milton Keynes, England, UK

Chassis: RB18

Technical director: Pierre Waché

Viktor Axelsen, Yamaguchi win singles titles at BWF World Championships

- Denmark's Viktor Axelsen has clinched his second BWF World Championships men's singles title after beating Kunlavut Vitidsarn from Thailand in Tokyo, Japan. World number one Axelsen has lost only one singles match this season and was too much for 21-year-old rising star Vitidsarn, who was blown away in the first game. The win gave Axelsen his sixth title of the season.

List of winners in different categories-

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

About BWF World Championships:

Founded: 1977; 45 years ago

Adille Sumariwalla takes over as President of Indian Olympic Association

- The Indian Olympic Association has co-opted Adille Sumariwalla as the President of the association till fresh elections are held. The erstwhile President of the IOA, Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra, resigned from the post of President, IOA on July 18 due to personal reasons. Thereafter, 18 executive members out of 31 in accordance with clause 11.1.5 of the IOA Constitution co-opted the undersigned to fill the vacancy.
- Adille Sumariwalla (born 1 January 1958) is an Indian athlete and entrepreneur, popular for representing India at the 1980 Moscow Olympics. Sumariwalla competed as a 100m runner in several international competitions and at the Olympics.

About Indian Olympic Association:

Founded: 1927

Headquarters: New Delhi

Secretary General: Rajeev Mehta

Virat Kohli becomes first-ever Indian to play 100 matches in all 3 international formats

- Cricket Legend Virat Kohli has become the first Indian and just the second player overall in international cricket history to have played 100 matches each in all three formats of the game. He added another milestone to his name when he was named in India's playing XI for the highly anticipated Asia Cup 2022 match with Pakistan.
- Kohli has now 100 T20Is to his name in addition to 102 Tests and 262 ODIs since making his international debut in August 2008. His best individual score for India in this format is 94 and he has scored 30 half-centuries in this format. Kohli has an incredible record in T20I cricket for Team India having scored 3308 runs at an incredible average of 50.1.
- The first man to do so was New Zealand batter Ross Taylor who retired from international cricket in April this year. The 38-year-old represented his country in 112 Tests, 236 ODIs and 102 T20Is between 2006 and 2022. Rohit Sharma and Shoaib Malik have played more than 100 games in T20Is and ODIs, but they are nowhere close to the tally of 100 test matches yet. Malik, in fact, has already announced his retirement from test cricket.

Rohit Sharma overtakes Martin Guptill to become highest run scorer in T20Is

- Indian Skipper, Rohit Sharma overtook New Zealand's Martin Guptill to become the leading run-scorer in men's T20 Internationals. In 133 matches in the shortest format for India, Rohit Sharma has scored 4 hundred and 26 half-centuries so far. Rohit now has 3499 runs in the format. Following him is Martin Guptill, who has scored 3497 runs. Virat Kohli is the third highest scorer in men's T20 Internationals with 3341 runs from 100 matches.

- Rohit jointly holds the record for the fastest hundred in T20 Internationals. In December 2017, Rohit had hit a 35-ball hundred against Sri Lanka to go level with David Miller of South Africa, who had also hit a 35-ball hundred in a T20I against Bangladesh just two months earlier. In 2019, S Wickramasekara of the Czech Republic drew level with Miller and Rohit with a 35-ball century against Turkey.

World Championships: Satwik-Chirag claim India's first men's doubles medal, heartbreak for Prannoy

- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty became the first Indian pair to win a medal in the men's doubles competition at the World Championships. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are the world's number 7 combination, and the duo also bagged a gold medal in the Commonwealth Games 2022. It is India's second World Championship medal in any doubles event, the first medal in World Championship by India was bagged by Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa who claimed bronze in the 2011 women's doubles.
- Satwiksairaj and Chirag won against defending champions Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi with the gameplay of 24-22, 15-21, 21-14 in an hour and 15 minutes. Satwik and Chirag have assured bronze medals in the tournament and will face the sixth-seeded Malaysian pair of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Tik in the semifinals. However, it was a tough day for Prannoy, who is former world number 8. China's Zhao Jun Peng won against India's Prannoy with 19-21, 21-6, and 21-18.

Manipur's Linthoi Chanambam Scripts History, Clinches First-Ever Gold At World Cadet Judo Championships

- Indian judoka Linthoi Chanambam scripted history by winning India's first-ever medal in Judo World Championships with a gold in the Women's 57kg category at the World Judo Cadet (U18) Championships. The 15-year-old judoka outclassed Brazil's Bianca Reis in the 57-kg category final.
- Linthoi Chanambam became the first Indian judoka to win a medal at any age-group category of the World Championships.
- The 15-year-old has been one of the best judokas from India in the past couple of years and is also part of the Indian government's TOPS programme. She came into the spotlight with a gold medal at the Sub-Junior National Judo Championships in 2017 and since then she has been training at JSW's Inspire Institute of Sports judo programme.
- Before Friday's historic triumph, Chanambam won the gold medal at National Cadet Judo Championship in 2021 and followed it up with a bronze in the Asia-Oceania Cadet Judo Championship in Beirut, Lebanon.

About Manipur:

Capital: Imphal (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: N. Biren Singh

Governor: La. Ganesan

Asian U-18 Volleyball Championship; India won Bronze medal

- Indian men's volleyball team has won the bronze medal by defeating Korea 3-2 in the 14th Asian U-18 Championship in Tehran, Iran. In the preliminary league match too, India

defeated Korea but lost to Iran in the semifinal. The Indian U-18 team has qualified for the FIVB World U-19 Men's Volleyball Championship. Japan clinched the gold after beating Iran in the final match. China finished fifth and Chinese Taipei was placed sixth at the end of the competition.

- However, this is not the first time, India has won a medal in this event. In 2003, India won its first medal after defeating Iran to secure gold. Ever since, India has always come close to gold but has never it. From 2005-2008, India has won two bronze and one silver medal, while coming a close fourth in 2010.

About Iran:

Capital: Tehran

Currency: Iranian rial

President: Ebrahim Raisi

Supreme leader: Ali Khamenei

Official language: Persian

Manisha Kalyan becomes First Indian to play in UEFA Women's Champions League

- Young striker Manisha Kalyan became the first Indian footballer to play at the UEFA Women's Champions League when she made her debut for Apollon Ladies FC in the European Club competition in Engomi, Cyprus. In November 2021, the 20-year-old had become the first ever Indian footballer to score a goal in the AFC Women's Club Championship.
- Kalyan had produced impressive performances for the national team and Gokulam Kerala in the Indian Women's League (IWL). Kalyan is the second player from Gokulam Kerala to sign for an overseas club after Dangmei Grace joined Uzbek outfit FC Nasaf. She was recently awarded the AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year for the 2021-22 season.

About UEFA Women's Champions League:

Current champions: Lyon (8th title)

Founded: 2001; 21 years ago

Television broadcasters: DAZN; beIN Sports (MENA only)

Thailand Para Badminton International: Indian para shuttlers Pramod Bhagat, Sukant Kadam clinch Gold

- Indian para shuttlers Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam clinched the Gold at the Thailand Para Badminton International tournament in Pattaya yesterday.
- The Indian duo defeated Indonesian pair of Dwiyoiko Dwiyoiko and Fredy Setiawan 21-18, 21-13 in the men's doubles summit clash.
- In the men's singles, Bhagat and Kadam had to settle for a silver medal each after losing their respective finals.
- In other results, Ruthick Ragupathi and Manasi Joshi finished second best in mixed doubles, losing to France's Lucas Mazur and Faustine Noel in the final.
- In women's singles, Mandeep Kaur got the better off compatriot Manasi in finals to claim the gold medal, while Manisha Ramadass also bagged the yellow metal after beating Japan's Kaede Kameyama in final.

About Thailand:

Capital: Bangkok
Currency: Thai baht
King: Maha Vajiralongkorn

Antim panghal wins gold medal at u-20 world wrestling championships

- 17-year-old Haryana wrestler Antim Panghal has become the first Indian woman wrestler to win Gold medal at Under-20 World Wrestling Championship in Sofia, Bulgaria. She scored an 8-0 win over Atlyn Shagayeva of Kazakhstan in 53kg category to achieve this feat.
- This gold medal is historic in its own ways as India has never won any gold medal in women's wrestling at U20 World Championships. Antim Panghal belongs to Haryana's Bhagana village in the Hisar district.
- Sonam Malik and Priyanka won silver medals in 62 kg and 65 kg respectively after losing the gold medal bouts.

About Haryana:

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

Fiba Women's U-18 Asian Bash In Bengaluru

- Bengaluru will host the FIBA U-18 women's Asian Basketball Championship beginning on September 5. According to Dr. Narayanagowda, the minister of sports and youth empowerment for Karnataka, Bengaluru will host the FIBA U-18 women's Asian Basketball Championship from September 5 to 11. Dr. Narayanagowda, the minister, presented sports equipment to the Indian men's team travelling to Iran to compete in the FIBA U-18 Men's Basketball Championship during the press conference.
- Both the Koramangala and Sree Kanteerava indoor stadiums are preparing for the big international event of FIBA U-18 women's Asian Basketball Championship.
- To qualify for the FIBA U-18 women's Asian Basketball Championship, which will be held in Spain in July of next year, teams from Divisions A and B will compete in the championship.

About Karnataka:

Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
Capital: Bengaluru (Executive Branch)
Chief Minister: Basavaraj Bommai

About FIBA:

Headquarters: Mies, Switzerland
President: Hamane Niang
Founded: 18 June 1932
Membership: 213 national federations
Secretary General: Andreas Zagklis
Asia President: Saud Ali. Al-Thani

Ireland all-rounder Kevin O'Brien announces retirement from international cricket

- Ireland's all-rounder Kevin O'Brien has announced his retirement from international cricket after falling out of contention for this year's T20 World Cup in Australia. O'Brien played

three Tests, 153 one-day internationals and 110 T20 internationals during a 16-year international career and had spells with a number of English county clubs and T20 franchise sides around the world.

- The 38-year-old famously blasted the Irish to victory over England in a 2011 World Cup group match in India with a 50-ball century—still the tournament’s quickest. The Dubliner scored 9,048 runs in total for Ireland, including the country’s first Test hundred, a second-innings knock of 118 against Pakistan in 2018, and took 276 wickets.

About Ireland:

Capital: Dublin

Currency: Euro

President: Michael D. Higgins

Prime Minister: Micheál Martin

Azlan Shah hockey tournament to return after two-year hiatus

- Malaysia’s premier men’s hockey tournament, the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2022 will be held from November 16 to 25 in Ipoh. The tournament is making a return after a two-year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. World No 1 Australia, fifth-ranked Germany, India, New Zealand, and Canada have been invited to the tournament. All matches will be played at the Azlan Shah Stadium in the city of Ipoh in Malaysia, which is the permanent venue of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup.
- Last time the Azlan Shah tournament was held in 2019 which was won by South Korea beating India in the final, which was there 3rd title. Best player of the tournament was Surrender Kumar. Most Azlan Shah tournament is won by Australia (10 times) then comes India with 5 titles. And Pakistan, South Korea with 3 titles each.

About Malaysia:

King: Abdullah of Pahang

Capital: Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur

Currency: Malaysian ringgit

Prime Minister: Ismail Sabri Yaakob

Delhi HC appoints Committee of Administrators to take over affairs of IOA

- The Indian Olympic Association has been directed by the Delhi High Court to set up a three-member Committee of Administrators(CoA) to take over its affairs. According to PTI, the court took the decision after the IOA’s “persistent recalcitrance” to comply with the Sports Code.
- A bench of Justices Manmohan and Najmi Waziri said the CoA to run IOA’s day-to-day affairs will comprise former Supreme Court judge Justice Anil R Dave, former Chief Election Commissioner Dr S.Y Quraishi, and former Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs Vikas Swarup. Additionally, Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra, world championship medallist Anju Bobby George and Olympian Bombayla Devi will be the consultant sportspersons.

Durand Cup, oldest football tournament in Asia starts from August 16

- The oldest football tournament in Asia, Durand Cup is scheduled to start from August 16, 2022. The opening match will be played between FC Goa and Mohammedan SC at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata.
- Durand Cup is one of the three major football tournaments in India, the other two being Indian Super League and Super Cup. This year the tournament is into its 131st edition which will feature 20 teams. The teams have been divided into four groups of five teams each. Of the 20 teams, 11 teams will be the clubs that play Indian Super League, five teams will be from I-League and four teams from the Armed forces. Indian Oil is the title sponsor of the tournament.
- For the first time in its history, the tournament is being held in multiple cities. West Bengal, Assam and Manipur are hosting the Durand Cup 2022. The matches will be played in Salt Lake Stadium (Kolkata, West Bengal), Naihati Stadium (Naihati, West Bengal), Kishore Bharati Stadium (Kolkata, West Bengal), Khuman Lampak Stadium (Imphal, Manipur) and Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium (Guwahati, Assam).

About Durand Cup:

Current champions: Goa; (1st title)

Founded: 1888; 134 years ago

Most successful team(s): Mohun Bagan; East Bengal; (16 titles each)

Number of teams: 20

FIFA Suspends All India Football Federation Due To "Undue Influence From Third Parties"

- The Bureau of the FIFA Council has unanimously decided to suspend the All India Football Federation (AIFF) with immediate effect due to undue influence from third parties, which constitutes a serious violation of the FIFA Statutes. The suspension will be lifted once an order to set up a committee of administrators to assume the powers of the AIFF Executive Committee has been repealed and the AIFF administration regains full control of the AIFFs.
- The suspension means that the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022TM, scheduled to take place in India on 11-30 October 2022, cannot currently be held in India as planned.
- FIFA is assessing the next steps with regard to the tournament and will refer the matter to the Bureau of the Council if and when necessary.
- FIFA is in constant constructive contact with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in India and is hopeful that a positive outcome to the case may still be achieved.

About All India Football Federation (AIFF):

President: Gianni Infantino

Founded: 21 May 1904

Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland

Tata Steel Chess India to Introduce Women's Tournament in 4th Edition

- The 4th edition of the Tata Steel Chess India tournament will be held in Kolkata from November 29 to December 4, 2022. For the first time, a separate women's section has been added in the tournament, which had only the Open section so far. Tata Steel Chess India (rapid and blitz) is one of the most important chess tournaments in India. Top Indian female players like Koneru Humpy, D Harika, and R Vaishali will compete in the maiden women's edition.

- Top International Grandmasters, top Indian men and women Grandmasters, young Indian talents and Viswanathan Anand as the ambassador and advisor of the tournament will enrich this year's competition. For the first time in the history of the game, the prize fund for both the men's and women's categories will be equal.

About Tata Steel Ltd:

Parent: Tata Group

Founded: 25 August 1907, Jamshedpur

Founder: Jamsetji Tata

Headquarters: Mumbai

Major Dhyan Chand Stadium to Host Phase 1 of 1st Khelo India Women's Hockey League U-16

- The first Khelo India Women's Hockey League under-16 is scheduled to be held at the Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in New Delhi from August 16 to 23, 2022. The Khelo India Women's Hockey League (U-16) is yet another endeavour by the Khelo India's Sports for Women component, which takes the most necessary steps to power in more female participation in a wide array of sports competitions. The support extends to not only giving grants but also helping in the proper organization and execution of the events.
- Phase 1 of the 1st Khelo India Women's Hockey League (U-16) is scheduled from August 16 to 23 where a total of 16 teams across the country are participating. A total of 56 matches will be played in Phase 1 and over 300 players will compete.

Real Madrid beat Eintracht Frankfurt 2-0 for record-equalling fifth UEFA Super Cup win

- Real Madrid beat Eintracht Frankfurt, 2-0 in the finals to win the 2022 UEFA Super Cup for a record-equalling fifth time, in Helsinki, Finland. UEFA Super Cup is an annual football match organised by UEFA for the winners of the two main European club competitions, i.e. the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League. The last season's Champions League winners Real Madrid defeated Europa League winners Eintracht Frankfurt to win the title for fifth time. David Alaba and Karim Benzema scored in each half as Real Madrid beat Eintracht Frankfurt. The man of the match goes to Casemiro.
- Prior to this, Team Barcelona, and Team Milan won the trophy five times each. Real join AC Milan and rivals Barcelona in winning the Super Cup five times (2002, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2022), while boss Carlo Ancelotti becomes the most successful manager in the competition's history with four titles (2003, 2007, 2014, 2022).

About UEFA Europa League:

Most successful club(s): Sevilla (6 titles)

Current champion: Eintracht Frankfurt (2nd title)

Next date: Thu, 8 Sept, 2022 – Wed, 31 May, 2023

Qualifier for: UEFA Super Cup; UEFA Champions League

Founded: 1971; 51 years ago; (rebranded in 2009)

Related competitions: UEFA Champions League (1st tier); UEFA Europa Conference League (3rd tier)

About Real Madrid:

Location: Madrid, Spain

Manager: Carlo Ancelotti

Arena/Stadium: Santiago Bernabéu Stadium

Nicknames: La Casa Blanca (The White House)

West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard 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. Behind him are players Dwayne Bravo (543 matches), Shoaib Malik (472), Chris Gayle (463) and Ravi Bopara (426).
- 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. He has scored 11,723 runs across 600 games at an average of 31.34.
- Over the years Pollard has represented many T20 teams/franchises, most notably West Indies, domestic team Trinidad and Tobago, Mumbai Indians in Indian Premier League (IPL), Adelaide Strikers and Melbourne Renegades in Big Bash League, Dhaka Gladiators and Dhaka Dynamites in Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), Karachi Kings, Multan Sultans and Peshawar Zalmi in Pakistan Super League, Trinbago Knight Riders in Caribbean Premier League (CPL) etc.

About West Indies cricket team:

Coach: Phil Simmons

First ODI: v. England at Headingley, Leeds; 5 September 1973

First Test: v. England at Lord's, London; 23–26 June 1928

44th Chess Olympiad: Uzbekistan win gold in Open section

- The team Uzbekistan has won the gold medal in the Open section of the 44th Chess Olympiad which concluded. Team Armenia won silver while the India-2 team settled for bronze in Open Section. In the women's section, Ukraine won the gold medal. Team Georgia won the silver, while the India-1 team won the bronze medal.
- The 44th Chess Olympiad was organised by the International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation (FIDE) in Chennai, India from July 28 to August 09, 2022.
- India hosted the Chess Olympiad for the first time. It consisted of open and women's tournaments.
- The total number of participants was 1,737, including 937 in the Open and 800 in the Women's event.
- Overall 188 teams were registered from 186 nations in the Open section and 162 from 160 nations in the Women's section.

About Uzbekistan:

Capital: Tashkent

Currency: Uzbekistani so'm

President: Shavkat Mirziyoyev

Bhavani Devi bags gold at Commonwealth Fencing Championship

- Indian ace fencer CA Bhavani Devi on Wednesday won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2022 in the Senior Women's Sabre Individual category.

- According to sources, she defeated Veronika Vasileva of Australia 15-10 to win the title in London. "BHAVANI DEVI IS COMMONWEALTH FENCING CHAMPION @IamBhavaniDevi wins GOLD at Commonwealth #Fencing Championship 2022 in Senior Women's Sabre Individual category. She won 15-10 against Vasileva in the Sabre final.
- Bhavani Devi scripted history by becoming the lone Indian fencer to qualify for Tokyo Olympics after she reached the quarter-final of the 2020 Fencing World Cup in Hungary. She qualified through the adjusted Official Ranking Method (AOR). At Tokyo Olympics 2020, she won her opening match against Tunisia's Nadia Ben Azizi.

Sri lankai spinner Prabath Jayasuriya and England's all-rounder Emma Lamb bags ICC Player of the Month for July 2022

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced Sri Lankan spin sensation Prabath Jayasuriya and England batting all-rounder Emma Lamb as the winners of its Player of the Month awards for July 2022.
- Prabath Jayasuriya claims the ICC Men's Player of the Month award on the back of an outstanding series of displays with the ball, where his remarkable haul of wickets sees him crowned ahead of rival contenders England's Jonny Bairstow. Jayasuriya beat England star batsman Jonny Bairstow and France's Gustav McKeon for the coveted monthly award.
- 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. Lamb consistently laid the foundations for her side to claim victory in each of the three matches, with her most notable contribution coming in the first match in Northampton. Lamb secures the ICC Women's Player of the Month award at the first time of asking, overcoming fellow nominees; England's Nat Sciver and India's Renuka Singh.

About International Cricket Council (ICC):

Founded: 15 June 1909

CEO: Geoff Allardice

General Manager: Wasim Khan

Chairman: Greg Barclay

Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Membership: 108* members

Tennis Star Serena Williams Announces Retirement

- Tennis legend from the United States, Serena Williams has announced her retirement. Williams focused on her family in the announcement, writing that her nearly five-year-old daughter wants to be an older sister. Williams is married to Reddit founder Alexis Ohanian.
- Williams, who turns 41 next month, has 73 career singles titles, 23 career doubles titles and over \$94 million in career winnings.
- Her first major singles title came at the U.S. Open in 1999 at age 17. The next year, she won the first of three Olympic doubles titles with older sister Venus. She also won singles gold at the 2012 London Games.
- She has counted sponsorships from companies including Nike, Audemars Piguet, Away, Beats, Bumble, Gatorade, Gucci, Lincoln, Michelob, Nintendo, Wilson Sporting Goods, and Procter and Gamble.

About Serena Williams:

Born: 26 September 1981 (age 40 years), Saginaw, Michigan, United States

Grand slams won (singles): 23

Satwik & Chirag win India's first gold medal in Men's Doubles Badminton

- India's men's doubles badminton pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty on Monday won the gold medal in the 2022 Commonwealth Games after defeating England's Ben Lane and Sean Vandy 21-15 and 21-13.
- Through their straight-sets victory in the gold-medal match, Satwik and Chirag added another Commonwealth Games medal to their kitty after the silver medal in the last Games in 2018 Gold Coast. They also became the first Indian pair to claim the gold medal in men's doubles category at the Commonwealth Games.
- The victory also meant that India has now won three gold medals and sixth overall in badminton at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

India, with 22 gold medals, rank 4th at Commonwealth Games 2022

- India contingent completed its Commonwealth Games 2022 campaign in Birmingham. India won 61 medals in the overall Commonwealth Games 2022 medal table. India finished its CWG 2022 campaign as the fourth-best country on the medals table. India won 22 gold medals, 16 silver and 23 bronze medals at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. India's Commonwealth Games 2022 campaign is its fifth-best in terms of the number of medals won. India's best finish was at its home games in Delhi in 2010, where it won 101 medals.

Commonwealth Games 2022: Top 10 Countries

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
8	Wales	8	6	14	28
9	South Africa	7	9	11	27
10	Malaysia	8	8	8	24

Chess prodigy V Pranav becomes India's 75th Grandmaster by winning a tournament in Romania

- The Chennai-based chess prodigy V Pranav became India's 75th Grandmaster by winning a tournament in Romania. The Chennai-based Pranav won the Limpedea Open in Baia Mare, Romania to secure his third and final GM norm and attain the Grandmaster title.
- Pranav is the 27th Grandmaster from Tamil Nadu, a list that includes the legendary Viswanathan Anand and teen sensations D Gukesh and R Praggnanandhaa among others. A student of Velammal school here, he has won the state championship thrice and won the bronze medal in the world rapid event in 2021. A student of Velammal school in Chennai, he has won the state championship thrice and won the bronze medal in the world rapid event in 2021.

About Romania:

Capital: Bucharest

Currency: Romanian leu

President: Klaus Iohannis

India Chess Legend Viswanathan Anand Becomes FIDE Deputy President

- Indian chess legend, Viswanathan Anand was elected deputy president of the International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation (FIDE), the sport's world governing body. While incumbent president Arkady Dvorkovich was re-elected for a second term. Five-time world champion Anand was part of Dvorkovich's team.
- The elections to the world chess body were held during the FIDE Congress which is being conducted here alongside the 44th Chess Olympiad. In the elections held here, Dvorkovich pipped Andrii Baryshpolets, a Ukrainian Grandmaster, by a landslide scoreline of 157-16 votes. A third candidate, French Bachar Kouatly, withdrew his candidature after giving his speech before voting began.

About World Chess Federation:

Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

Founded: 20 July 1924, Paris, France

About FIDE:

Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

President: Arkady Dvorkovich

Founded: 20 July 1924, Paris, France

Membership: 200 national associations

Nikhat Zareen wins maiden CWG gold to extend India's boxing juggernaut at Games

- Nikhat Zareen wins the Gold medal at Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham. She defeated Mc Naul of Northern Islands in the finals, by 5-0 in women's light-fly 48kg-50kg Boxing. With Nikhat Zareen's gold medal at Commonwealth Games 2022, India gets a total of 17 golds and 48 total medals. Nikhat Zareen again proves her dominance in the world of boxing.
- Nikhat Zareen was born on 14th June 1996 in Nizamabad, Andhra Pradesh. She was introduced to boxing by her father, Mohammad Jameel Ahmed. Zareen has been appointed as the staff officer in Bank of India, Zonal Office at AC Guards, Hyderabad. Her previous records are:
 1. Gold at World Championship, Istanbul 2022.
 2. Bronze at Asian Championship, Bangkok 2019.
 3. Gold at Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament, Bulgaria 2022.

U20 SAFF Championship: India Thrash Bangladesh 5-2 But in Extra Time

- India beat Bangladesh 5-2 after extra time to clinch the 2022 SAFF U20 Championship title, at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. India was the host of the 4th edition of the SAFF U-20 Championship. SAFF U-20 Championship is an international football competition for men's under-18 national teams organized by the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF). Sibajit Singh Leimapokpam was the captain of the Indian team and Som Kumar was the goalkeeper.
- Both teams were locked 1-1 at the interval, and 2-2 after completion of regulation time. Gurkirat scored in the 1st, 60th, 94th and 99th minutes respectively, while Himanshu scored in the 92nd minute. For Bangladesh, Rajon Howladar and Shahin Mia scored in the 44th and 48th minutes.

Top awardee of the tournament:

Top scorer – Gurkirat Singh (8 goals)

Best player – Gurkirat Singh

Best goalkeeper – Som Kumar

About South Asian Football Federation:

President: Kazi Salahuddin

Founded: 1997

Headquarters: Dhaka, Bangladesh

General Secretary: Anwarul Huq

About Bangladesh:

Capital: Dhaka

Currency: Bangladeshi taka

President: Mohammad Abdul Hamid

Prime minister: Sheikh Hasina

Eldhose Paul becomes first Indian to win CWG triple jump gold

- India's Eldhose Paul scripted history by winning the first-ever gold medal in Men's Triple Jump at the Commonwealth Games 2022. With the best effort of 17.03m, he left everyone in awe of his stunning jump. Paul's statemate Aboobacker won silver with a 17.02m jump (wind assistance +1.2) in his fifth attempt. Bermuda's Jah-Nhai Perinchief won bronze with a jump of 16.92m.
- Eldhose Paul (born 7 November 1996) is an Indian athlete who competes in triple jump. In 2022, he became the first Indian to qualify for the final of the triple jump at the World Athletics Championships.

About Commonwealth Games 2022:

Dates: 28 Jul 2022 – 8 Aug 2022

Location: Birmingham

Motto: Sport is just the beginning

Main venue: Alexander Stadium

Nations participating: 72 Commonwealth nations

CWG 2022: Nitu Ghangas wins gold in women's 48kg boxing

- Indian boxer Nitu Ghangas has clinched a gold medal after defeating England's Demie-Jade Resztan in the final of the women's 48 kg category at the Commonwealth Games 2022. She won on basis of points by 5-0 over her English opponent. Indian boxer Nitu Ghangas assured the nation of another medal after reaching the final of the Minimum weight (over 45 kg- 48 kg) category by defeating Priyanka Dhillon of Canada in the semifinal at the ongoing Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham.
- 22-year-old Nitu is one of the quickest boxers in her category. Dynamic and instrumental inside the ring, the Haryana pugilist won the gold in Golden Glove Boxing tournament held in Serbia. She also finished at the pole position in the World Youth Boxing Championship in 2017. In 2022, she won the gold medal at the Strandja Memorial tournament before finishing in the quarter-finals of the World Championships.

About Commonwealth Games 2022:

Dates: 28 Jul 2022 – 8 Aug 2022

Location: Birmingham

Motto: Sport is just the beginning

Main venue: Alexander Stadium

Nations participating: 72 Commonwealth nations

CWG 2022: Amit Panghal wins gold in men's 51kg boxing

- Indian boxer Amit Panghal has won the gold medal in the 48-51kg weight category at Commonwealth Games 2022. He defeated England's Kieran Macdonald by 5-0 in the final match. It is his second CWG medal after Silver in Gold Coast. Subedar Amit Panghal is an Indian Army Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) and a boxer. Born in a farming family based in Rohtak, Haryana, Panghal took inspiration from his elder brother Ajay to become a boxer.
- He has won silver medal at the 2019 AIBA World Boxing Championships in the Flyweight division.

- Panghal won a gold medal at the 2018 Asian Games. Amit Panghal has received top seeding in the 52 kg category. Amit Panghal is the reigning Asian Games champion and a world championships silver-medallist.
- Panghal won the gold medal in his debut appearance at the National Boxing Championships in 2017. He won the bronze medal in the light flyweight category of the 2017 Asian Amateur Boxing Championships in Tashkent in May 2017, and qualified for the 2017 AIBA World Boxing Championships, where he was beaten in the quarterfinal by Hasanboy Dusmatov of Uzbekistan.

About Commonwealth Games 2022:

Dates: 28 Jul 2022 – 8 Aug 2022

Location: Birmingham

Motto: Sport is just the beginning

Main venue: Alexander Stadium

Nations participating: 72 Commonwealth nations

CWG 2022: Wrestler Deepak Punia wins Indo-Pak bout, bags third gold for India

- India's wrestler Deepak Punia has won the gold medal in the Commonwealth Games 2022 by defeating Pakistan's Muhammad Inam by 3-0 in the men's 86 kg category in the final. In the semifinal earlier, Deepak saw out Canada's Alexander Moore 3-1 as he gained early points. This is India's third gold medal in wrestling.
- Naib Subedar Deepak Punia, is an Indian freestyle wrestler and Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) in the Indian Army who won a silver medal at the 2019 World Wrestling Championships in the freestyle 86 kg category and secured a place in the 2020 Summer Olympics. He was born in the Jhajjar district of Haryana. He is the reigning Commonwealth champion in his weight category.

CWG 2022: Indian grappler Divya Kakran clinches bronze in women's 68 kg wrestling

- Indian wrestler, Divya Kakran has won a bronze medal in the women's 68 kg category at the Commonwealth Games 2022. In the bronze medal match, Kakran defeated Tonga's Tiger Lily Cocker Lemalie in 26 seconds via Victory by Fall. Kakran bagged the medal in only 26 seconds via Victory by Fall.
- Divya Kakran (born 1998) is a freestyle wrestler from India. Divya has won 60 medals, including 17 gold medals in the Delhi State Championship, and has won the Bharat Kesari title eight times. She has been vocal about being disappointed by the lack of support from the government of Delhi in her pursuit for a medal at the Asian Games in 2018, despite writing to the government about her poor financial background. Divya is presently employed with the Indian Railways as senior ticket examiner.

CWG 2022: Indian grappler Anshu Malik clinches silver in Women's Freestyle 57kg

- Indian Grappler or wrestler, Anshu Malik won the silver medal in the Women's Freestyle 57kg category in the Commonwealth Games 2022. She faced 3-7 defeat against Nigeria's Adekuroye in the gold medal match. Malik bagged the first medal for India in the wrestling of the Commonwealth Games 2022.

- Anshu Malik (born 5 August 2001) is an Indian freestyle wrestler. She won the silver medal in the women's 57 kg event at the 2021 World Wrestling Championships held in Oslo, Norway.
- She is the first Indian wrestler to win a silver medal at the World Championships in the women's division. In 2020, she won one of the bronze medals in the 57 kg event at the 2020 Asian Wrestling Championships held in New Delhi, India.
- In the same year, she won the silver medal in the women's 57 kg event at the 2020 Individual Wrestling World Cup held in Belgrade, Serbia.

Sakshi Malik wins maiden CWG gold, India's 3rd medal in wrestling at 2022 Games

- Star Indian wrestler, Sakshi Malik has won the gold medal in the Women's Wrestling Freestyle 62Kg at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games. She defeated Ana Godinez Gonzalez of Canada in the final. The 29-year-old defeated England's Kelsey Barnes 10-0 via technical superiority in the quarter-final and then beat Cameroon's Berthe Emilienne Etane Ngolle 10-0 via technical superiority in the semi-final.
- Sakshi Malik (born 3 September 1992) is an Indian freestyle wrestler. Malik was born on 3 September 1992 in Mokhra village of Haryana's Rohtak district to Sukhbir.
- She also has three bronze medals in Asian Championships, in 2015, 2018 and 2019, and also clinched silver at the 2017 edition at home in New Delhi.
- She is also a two-time Commonwealth Championships medallist, with bronze in 2013 and gold in 2017.

CWG 2022: Bajrang Punia clinches second successive Commonwealth Games gold medal in men's 65 kg category

- Bajrang Punia has won his 3rd Commonwealth Games medal and his second successive Gold medal in the men's 65kg category. The Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist beat Lachlan McNeil of Canada in the final (9-2). He had won silver in his maiden CWG in 2014 and then bettered the colour four years ago in Gold Coast by winning a gold.
- Bajrang Punia (born 26 February 1994) is an Indian freestyle wrestler, who competes in the 65-kg weight category. Punia was born in the Khudan village of Jhajjar district in the state of Haryana, India. At the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Punia won a bronze medal by defeating Kazakhstan's Daulet Niyazbekov with a wide 8-0 margin. Punia is the only Indian wrestler to win 3 medals at the World Wrestling Championships.

Sudhir wins gold in men's heavyweight para powerlifting, sets record at Commonwealth Games 2022

- Sudhir claimed the gold medal in the men's heavyweight para powerlifting event at the Commonwealth Games 2022. Sudhir, an Asian Para Games bronze medallist, lifted 208kg in his first attempt before increasing it to 212kg in his second effort to gather 134.5 points and break the Games record. Ikechukwu Christian Obichukwu won the silver with 133.6 points, while Micky Yule bagged the bronze with 130.9 points.
- The 27-year-old Sudhir, who has an impairment due to the effects of polio, thus opened India's para sports medal account in the ongoing CWG.

- Sudhir had won a bronze in men's up to 88kg with the best lift of 214kg at the World Para Powerlifting Asia-Oceania Open Championship in South Korea in June.

Commonwealth Games 2022: Murali Sreeshankar ties for No. 1 in long jump final but wins silver

- Murali Sreeshankar has clinched a silver in the men's long jump to give India its second medal in athletics at the Commonwealth Games 2022. Sreeshankar has soared to 8.08m in his fifth attempt to finish second behind Laquan Nairn of Bahamas in a nerve-wracking men's long jump final. Nairn also had the best jump of 8.08m but his second best of 7.98m was better than the 7.84m of Sreeshankar. Jovan van Vuuren (8.06m) of South Africa took the 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.
- Murali Sreeshankar (born 27 March 1999), commonly known as M. Sreeshankar, is an Indian athlete who competes in the long jump event. He holds the national record of 8.36 metres set in 2022. In March 2018, Sreeshankar cleared a 7.99 m jump at the Federation Cup in Patiala. He was named in the Indian contingent for the 2018 Commonwealth Games but had to pull out 10 days before the April event after being diagnosed with appendicitis.

Saurav Ghosal makes history with maiden singles medal in CWG squash

- India's Saurav Ghosal has clinched the bronze medal in squash men's singles by beating James Willstrop of England 11-6, 11-1, 11-4 to take India's Commonwealth Games 2022. This was also India's first-ever medal in squash singles at the Games. He had lost the men's singles semi-final 3-0 (11-9 11-4 11-1) to New Zealand's Paul Coll.
- Saurav Ghosal (born 10 August 1986, in Kolkata, West Bengal) is a professional squash player from India and reached a career-high world ranking of World No. 10 in April 2019. In 2013, Saurav became the first Indian to reach the Quarterfinals of the World Squash Championship at Manchester, England.[1] In 2004, he became the first Indian ever to win the coveted British Junior Open Under-19 Squash title, defeating Adel El Said of Egypt in the final at Sheffield, England.

CWG 2022: Tejaswin Shankar won India's first medal in High Jump

- Tejaswin Shankar won India's first medal in athletics at the Commonwealth games 2022, by clinching a historic bronze in the men's high jump final. Tejaswin, competing for India for the first time in four years nailed a landing of 2.22m to secure a podium finish. He did not have trouble clearing 2.5m and 2.10m in the opening two jumps. Then 2.19m and 2.22m quite easily on the first try. He though failed to clear 2.25 but clinched the bronze medal after being quicker to jump 2.22m against the fourth-placed athlete. He attempted 2.28m on his last jump but failed.
- Tejaswin Shankar (born 21 December 1998) is an Indian athlete who competes in the high jump event. He holds the high jump national record of 2.29 metres set in April 2018. Shankar won the gold medal at the 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games in Apia, setting a Games record of 2.14 metres. He won silver at the 2016 South Asian Games in Guwahati with a leap of 2.17 metres.

Commonwealth Games 2022 : India bags historic gold in women's four lawn bowl event

- India's lawn bowls women's fours team made history by winning the gold medal at the Commonwealth Games 2022. This was the country's first medal in the lawn bowls event and the team, made of skipper Rupa Rani Tirkey, Lovely Choubey, Pinki and Nayanmoni Saikia, ended up winning the title itself after beating 2018 silver medallists South Africa. The Indian team won against South Africa with a 17-10 victory.
- In the final day game, India had started strong but South Africa produced a brilliant fightback as both the teams were on 10 points after end 12. India have restored the advantage and now have 15 points as compared to South Africa's 10 after the end of 15. This was also the Indian team's maiden appearance in the women's fours format of the finals of the tournament. India beat New Zealand in the semi-finals 16-13.

Commonwealth Games 2022: PV Sindhu and Indian badminton mixed team settle for silver medal

- Indian badminton team claimed the silver medal in the mixed group match of the Commonwealth Games 2022. Indian badminton mixed team suffered a 1-3 defeat against Malaysia and had to settle for silver. Only PV Sindhu managed to earn a win in the summit clash against Malaysia in the women's singles match.
- In the first match of the tie, India's Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy were locked in a tough first game against Malaysia's Teng Fong Aaron Chia and Wooi Yik.
- In the second match of the tie, PV Sindhu took on Jin Wei Goh. The opening game of the match saw the double Olympic medallist playing aggressively to take one game lead over Malaysia's Jin Wei Goh by 22-20.
- In the third match of the tie, Kidambi Srikanth went down 19-21 against Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong in the opening game.

CWG 2022: Indian men's table tennis team clinches gold

- India's paddlers retained their men's team championship title with a convincing 3-1 win over Singapore in the Table-Tennis Final of the Commonwealth Games 2022. For India, Harmeet Desai and G Sathiyam gave India a great start by registering a win in the doubles match. However, Chew Zhe Yu Clarence won the next game to level Singapore at 1-1. But G Sathiyam and Harmeet Desai ensured India's gold by winning their respective matches.
- India has won the gold medal for the second time in a row in the team event of men's table tennis. Indian men's table tennis also won the yellow medal in the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. Then the Indian team defeated Nigeria 3-0 in the final match. In the fourth match, Harmeet Desai defeated Chew Zhe Yu Clarence 11-8, 11-5, 11-6.

The official slogan for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris 2024: Games Wide Open

- The organizers of the 2024 Paris Olympics unveiled "Games Wide Open" as their official slogan. The 2024 Summer Olympics are scheduled to take place from July 26 to August 11, 2024. The slogan was released alongside a video promising the Olympics and Paralympics would be "faster", "higher" and "stronger" — as well as "more inclusive, more brotherly, more beautiful."

- Athletes will compete in a total of 329 events in 32 sports. As Paris 2024 aims to be the most gender-balanced Olympic Games in history, the organizers have placed women's competitions in the spotlight.

About International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

President: Thomas Bach

Founded: 23 June 1894, Paris, France

Tokyo Olympians Elect Four New Members To IOC Athletes' Commission

- The four new members were appointed by International Olympic Committee President, Thomas Bach. The appointments were made in consultation with Emma Terho, Chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission. While the focus of the four newest members will soon shift to the elected positions as the Paris 2024 Summer Olympic Games approach.
- The IOC President may appoint up to 11 members to the commission to help ensure a balance between sports, genders, and regions.

Four Olympians have joined the IOC Athletes:

1. Allyson Felix (USA): Sprinter
2. Alistair Brownlee (UK): triathlon
3. Oluseyi Smith (Canada): Sprinter
4. Masomah Ali Zada (first refugee athlete on any IOC commission): Cyclist

About International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

President: Thomas Bach

Founded: 23 June 1894, Paris, France

About Japan:

Capital: Tokyo

Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida

Currency: Japanese yen

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Back to Moon: Nasa set to launch Artemis-1 lunar mission on Monday

- NASA's Artemis 1 moon rocket, formerly known as Exploration Mission-1, returned to the launch pad on Tuesday night, to take a step closer to a historic lunar mission. On August 29, NASA intends to launch its brand-new Space Launch System (SLS), with the Orion spacecraft that is designed to host astronauts sitting atop the rocket. It would be a significant milestone in the space agency's initiatives to bring humans back to the Moon's surface for the first time since 1972. The SLS massive rocket will carry the crew capsule around the Moon further than any spacecraft made for humans has ever done, before returning to Earth for a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean.
- Artemis 1, the first of several missions is intended to successfully land astronauts on the moon. According to a news release from the agency, the unmanned mission will be the "1st integrated test of NASA's deep space exploration system," which incorporates the Orion spacecraft, the SLS rocket, and the ground structures at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

- The mission will be followed by Artemis 2, which is scheduled to orbit the moon with a crew by 2024, and Artemis 3, which is scheduled to make a moon landing with a crew by 2025.
- As part of human exploration of the Moon, numerous space missions have been undertaken to study Earth's natural satellite. Of the Moon landings, Luna 2 of the Soviet Union was the first spacecraft to reach its surface successfully, intentionally impacting the Moon on 13 September 1959.

About NASA:

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States

Founded: 29 July 1958, United States

Founder: Dwight D. Eisenhower

AirAsia becomes first airline to use revolutionary AI-powered CAE Rise Training System

- AirAsia India becomes the first airline to use CAE's artificial intelligence-powered training system to train the airline's pilots. CAE is the leading provider of pilot training solutions that are based on simultaneous technology. The CAE headquarters are in Canada. The training system adopted by AirAsia is called the CAE Rise, which provides real-time data during pilot training sessions and analyses them to deliver higher quality training. CAE Rise also enables the translation of simulator training data into valuable insights for instructors.
- AirAsia India Private Limited is a subsidiary of Tata sons Private Limited and its headquarters are situated in Bengaluru. The commercial operations of AirAsia commenced on 12th June 2014, and it flies over 50 direct and 100 connecting routes across India. The airline offers one of the best and finest facilities to their passengers.

About AirAsia:

Headquarters: Sepang, Malaysia

CEO: Tony Fernandes (Dec 2001–)

Parent organization: Tune Group

Founders: Tony Fernandes, DRB-HICOM

Google announces cyber security upskilling programme for 100,000 developers in India

- IT giants, Google has unveiled a programme to upskill 100,000 Indian developers and researchers in cyber security. The campaign will be part of the company's Cyber Security Roadshow, which will cover multiple cities across India and offer tools, tutorials, and mentorship on security practices for building consumer apps, as well as enterprise programmes.
- The upskilling programme will cover two major programme areas, Android and Google Cloud, and will be aimed at upskilling 100,000 lakh engineers in India. The Google Cloud upskilling programme will focus on commercial developers and security administrators, while the Android upskilling programme will serve developers creating apps for consumer use. Google's move comes as industry players have called attention to the need for better upskilling requirements among developers in the country.

About Google:

Founded: 1998

Founders: Larry Page and Sergey Brin

Headquarters: Mountain View, California, US

CEO: Sundar Pichai

DRDO, Indian Navy test fire indigenous Vertical Launch Short Range surface-to-air missile

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy successfully flight-tested the indigenously designed and developed Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. The flight test was carried out from a naval ship against a high-speed unmanned aerial target for demonstration of vertical launch capability.
- 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 in Chandipur.
- Complimenting DRDO, Indian Navy and teams associated with it, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that the missile will prove to be a force multiplier for the Indian Navy.

About Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):

Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi

Founded: 1958

Jurisdiction: India

Aircraft designed: Avatar, DRDO Lakshya, DRDO Nishant

President: G. Satheesh Reddy

About Odisha:

Governor: Ganeshi Lal

Capital: Bhubaneswar

Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik

India's first indigenous monkeypox test kit launched

- India has developed the first indigenously-developed RT-PCR kit for testing monkeypox disease. The kit is developed by Transasia Bio-Medicals, the kit was unveiled by Principal Scientific Adviser to the Centre Ajay Kumar Sood. The kit would help in early detection and better management of the infection which the WHO declared a public health emergency of international concern.
- Monkeypox is a viral zoonosis — a virus transmitted to humans from animals — with symptoms similar to smallpox although clinically less severe.
- Monkeypox typically manifests itself with fever, rash, and swollen lymph nodes and may lead to a range of medical complications. It is usually a self-limited disease with symptoms lasting for two to four weeks.

About Transasia Bio-Medicals:

Headquarters location: Mumbai

Founded: 1979

Uttarakhand to have India's first observatory to monitor space activity

- 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 Digantara, a space sector start-up. The space situational awareness (SSA) observatory will help India track any activity in space including that of space debris and military satellites

hovering over the region. Currently, the United States is a dominant player in monitoring space debris with observatories in multiple locations and commercial companies providing additional inputs from across the world.

- The observatory in Uttarakhand will fill the crucial gap in SSA observations in the region as there is a lack of such facilities between Australia and southern Africa. The high-quality observations, along with those of its partner ground-based sensor network, would help improve its ability to monitor events occurring in deep space, especially in the geostationary, medium-Earth, and high-Earth orbits.

About Uttarakhand:

Governor: Gurmit Singh

Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami

Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)

First 3D-Printed Human Cornea in India Developed by LVPEI, CCMB and IIT Hyderabad

- Researchers in Hyderabad have successfully 3D-printed an artificial cornea (3D-printed Human Cornea) and placed it in a rabbit eye for the first time ever in India. A 3D-printed Human cornea made from human donor corneal tissue has been created by 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).
- The product (3D-printed Human Cornea) was created locally with support from the government and philanthropic organisations; it is entirely natural, free of synthetic ingredients, and safe for patients to use.
- This hydrogel served as the foundation material for the 3D-printed Human Cornea.
- The 3D-printed Human Cornea is biocompatible, natural, and free of animal byproducts because it is made of components derived from human corneal tissue.
- Leading researchers from LVPEI, Dr. Sayan Basu and Dr. Vivek Singh, stated that 3D-printed human cornea might be a game-changing and revolutionary innovation in the treatment of conditions including Keratoconus and corneal scarring.

SSLV satellites no longer usable after being placed in wrong orbit, ISRO says

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday, August 7 said that the satellites onboard its first Small Satellite Launch Vehicle “are no longer usable” after the SSLV-D1 placed them in an elliptical orbit instead of a circular one. The space agency said that a committee would analyse today’s episode and make recommendations, and with the implementation of those recommendations “ISRO will come back soon with SSLV-D2”.
- “SSLV-D1 placed the satellites into 356 km x 76 km elliptical orbit instead of 356 km circular orbit. Satellites are no longer usable. Issue is reasonably identified. Failure of a logic to identify a sensor failure and go for a salvage action caused the deviation. A committee would analyse and recommend. With the implementation of the recommendations, ISRO will come back soon with SSLV-D2. A detailed statement by Chairman, ISRO will be uploaded soon (sic),” ISRO said in an update on its official Twitter handle.

About ISRO:

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founded: 15 August 1969

Founder: Vikram Sarabhai

Jurisdiction: India

Aurangabad smart city first in India to get Google's environmental insights data

- The Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) data from Google was officially released in Aurangabad on Wednesday, according to the Aurangabad Smart City Development Corporation Limited (ASCDCL). This makes Aurangabad the first city in the nation to experience this. The data would aid research groups in formulating sustainable solutions for the city, according to ASCDCL authorities, who noted that the EIE dashboard for Aurangabad was introduced by Google during an event in New Delhi.
- Astik Kumar Pandey, CEO of ASCDCL and the municipal commissioner of Aurangabad, stated that working with Google to improve the environment and society is a proud time for Aurangabad.
- According to ASCDCL officials, the latest breakthrough is consistent with the city's commitment to the United Nations' "race to zero" and "race to resilience" programmes and will help create a sustainable environment for future generations.

About Aurangabad Smart City Development Corporation Limited (ASCDCL):

CEO : Astik Kumar Pandey

ASCDCL: Aditya Tiwari

Centre for Indian language technology launched at IIT Madras with funding from Nilekani Philanthropies

- The Nilekani Centre at AI4Bharat was established by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras to advance the state of Indian language technology and make a positive social impact. Rohini and Nandan Nilekani have donated Rs 36 crore through Nilekani Philanthropies to fund this Center, which was opened by Nandan Nilekani. IIT Madras launched the AI4Bharat programme to create open-source language AI for Indian languages.
- All the research data would be accessible to start-ups and other sectors working on Indian language technology because the objective is to energise the ecosystem to do more for Indian languages.
- Over the years, Drs. Mitesh Khapra, Pratyush Kumar, and Anoop Kunchukuttan have served as the center's directors.
- IIT-Madras says that their group has made numerous contributions to Indian language technology, including cutting-edge Speech Recognition and Machine Translation models.

OBITUARY

Last Soviet leader Gorbachev, who ended Cold War and won Nobel prize, dies aged 91

- Mikhail Gorbachev, who as the last leader of the Soviet Union waged a losing battle to salvage a crumbling empire but produced extraordinary reforms that led to the end of the Cold War, died. He was 91. The Central Clinical Hospital said in a statement that Gorbachev died after a long illness. No other details were given. Though in power less than seven years, Gorbachev unleashed a breathtaking series of changes. But they quickly overtook him and resulted in the collapse of the authoritarian Soviet state, the freeing of Eastern European

nations from Russian domination and the end of decades of East-West nuclear confrontation.

- His decline was humiliating. His power hopelessly sapped by an attempted coup against him in August 1991, he spent his last months in office watching republic after republic declare independence until he resigned on Dec. 25, 1991.

About Nobel Prize:

Ceremony date: 10 December 2022

First awarded: 1901; 121 years ago

Leading economist Abhijit Sen passes away at 72 following a heart attack

- Renowned economist and former Planning Commission member, Abhijit Sen has passed away at 72. He was a member of the Planning Commission from 2004 to 2014, during the tenure of PM Manmohan Singh. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan for public service in 2010.
- In his career, he taught economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and held several important government positions including the chair of the Commission of Agricultural Cost and Prices. Politicians, academics, his students, farmers' leaders and activists remember him for his contributions in areas such as minimum support price, rural economy and rural employment.

Kerala's first tribal novelist - Narayan - passes away

- Kerala's first tribal novelist and short story writer Narayan has passed away at the age of 82 in Kochi. He was born in the Malayaraya community in Kadayathur hills in Thodupuzha taluk in 1940. His debut novel, 'Kocharethi' published in 1998, was selected for the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award in 1999. The novel has been translated to English, Hindi and south Indian languages. Kocharethi portrays the struggles of the Malayaraya community through the life of protagonist Kunjipennu. The novel has been translated to English, Hindi and south Indian languages.
- The critically acclaimed novel was selected for the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award in 1999. It was translated and published in Hindi under the title Pahadin by the Sahitya Akademi and was translated to English by Catherine Thankamma. The English translation titled Kocharethi, the Araya Woman was published by Oxford University Press in 2011. It was selected for the Economist Crossword Book Award in the Indian language translation category.

About Kerala:

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

Kerala first tribal novelist Narayan passed away dies at 82

- Well-known writer and Kerala Sahitya Academy awardee Narayan died on Tuesday, family sources said. He was 81.
- Narayan, belonging to Malayarayar tribe, is considered Kerala's first tribal novelist. He had worked with the Postal Department and retired in 1995.

- His novel 'Kocharethi', published in 1998, won the Sahitya Academy award in 1999.
- The novel depicts the history and traditions of the Malayarayar tribal community in Kerala in the 20th century. Its English translation by Catherine Thankamma won the Economist Crossword Book Award in 2011.

About Kerala:

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

Former BCCI joint secretary Amitabh Choudhary passed away at the age of 58 due to heart attack

- Amitabh Chaudhary the former BCCI acting secretary and president of Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) has passed away. He served as acting secretary of the BCCI until 2019. He entered cricket administration in 2004 and served as the Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) president for over a decade.
- Choudhary was first appointed as team manager of the Indian team in 2005 on their tour of Zimbabwe, remembered for the acrimony between Sourav Ganguly and Greg Chappell.
- Choudhary also served as BCCI's joint-secretary from 2013 to 2015 during Anurag Thakur's reign as BCCI president.
- He was a retired senior IPS officer, who rose to the rank of IGP with the Jharkhand Police and was the chairman of the Jharkhand Public Service Commission. He played a crucial role in developing infrastructure for Jharkhand cricket.

About BCCI:

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: December 1928

President: Sourav Ganguly

Indian-American journalist, Fox News host Uma Pemmaraju dies at 64

- An Indian American journalist, Uma Pemmaraju has passed away at the age of 64. She was a part of various shows such as The Fox Report, Fox News Live, Fox News Now, and Fox On Trends. She has been awarded many Emmy Awards in her career for investigative reporting and journalism.
- Pemmaraju paved the way for Indian American journalists in the field of investigative reporting by receiving many Emmy Awards over the span of her career. The Big Sisters Organization of America awarded her The Woman of Achievement Award. She also won the Texas AP Award and the Matrix Award from the Women in Communications for reporting. She was also featured as one of Spotlight Magazine's "20 Intriguing Women of 1998."

About United States:

Capital: Washington, D.C.

President: Joe Biden

Currency: United States Dollar

Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, veteran stock investor, dies in Mumbai aged 62

- Veteran stock market investor, Rakesh Jhunjhunwala passed away at the age of 62. Often referred to as 'India's Warren Buffett' and the Big Bull of Indian markets, Jhunjhunwala's net

worth was \$5.8 billion. An investor with a Midas touch, Jhunjhunwala was the 48th richest man in the country.

- He was Born on July 5, 1960 in a Rajasthani family, Jhunjhunwala grew up in Bombay, where his father worked as a commissioner of Income Tax. He graduated from Sydenham College and thereafter enrolled at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.
- By September 2018, that capital had inflated to Rs 11,000 crore. His portfolio includes companies like Star Health, Titan, Rallis India, Escorts, Canara Bank, Indian Hotels Company, Agro Tech Foods, Nazara Technologies, Tata Motors.

Anshu Jain, former Deutsche Bank CEO, dies aged 59

- Anshu Jain, an Indian-born investment banker who rose to the role of co-CEO at Deutsche Bank, died last night after a long battle with cancer, his family announced in a statement Saturday. He was 59 years old.
- Jain, who most recently served as the president of Cantor Fitzgerald, earned an MBA at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and worked at several financial firms, including Merrill Lynch, before moving to Deutsche Bank. He served as co-CEO from 2012 to 2015.
- Jain stepped down from his role at Deutsche before his contract ended after the bank was beset by a string of regulatory issues.
- His other positions included a role as an advisor at fintech company SoFi from 2016 to 2017 and as a trustee of British charity Chance to Shine.

About Deutsche Bank:

Headquarters: Frankfurt, Germany

CEO: Christian Sewing (8 Apr 2018–)

Founded: 10 March 1870, Berlin, Germany

CFO: James von Moltke

AIADMK's first MP Maya Thevar passes away at the age of 87

- Former Member of Parliament (MP) and senior All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) politician K. Maya Thevar has passed away due to an age-related illness. He was 87. He was the first MP of the AIADMK. He led the party to enter the world of politics by registering the party's first victory by contesting a by-election to the Dindigul Lok Sabha constituency in 1973. Also, it was Mr. Maya Thevar who chose the iconic 'two-leaves' symbol of the AIADMK party. Later, he left AIADMK and joined the DMK.

About All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK):

Leader: Edappadi K. Palaniswami

Headquarters: Tamil Nadu, India

Founder: M. G. Ramachandran

73 Year old Former cricket umpire Rudi Koertzen passes away in a car accident

- Rudi Koertzen, the former international cricket umpire, has passed away in a car crash. He was 73. Koertzen, who took up umpiring in the year 1981 and stood in his first international match back in 1992 between India and South Africa at Port Elizabeth, went on to officiate in 331 international matches, a record that stood tall until he retired in the year 2010.

- Rudi became just the second umpire in history to officiate more than 150 ODIs after the legendary David Shepherd, and was also the second to stand in 200 Tests after Steve Bucknor. One of the original members of the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires in 2022. The last official match in which Koertzen served as during IPL 2011 between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Chennai Super Kings at the Chinnaswamy.

About Rudi Koertzen:

Born: 26 March 1949, Knysna, South Africa

Died: 9 August 2022, South Africa

Nationality: South African

Tests umpired: 108 (1992–2010)

Former boxing world champion Johnny Famechon dies aged 77

- Former Australian featherweight boxing world champion Johnny Famechon has passed away. He was 77. He was associated with professional boxing for more than 20 years and had a record of 56 wins, which includes 20 by knockout, six draws and five losses.
- The Australian boxer's most memorable world title victory was his WBC points decision win against Cuban Jose Legra at London's Albert Hall in 1969. Famechon boxed professionally for more than 20 years and had a record of 56 wins, 20 by knockout, six draws and five losses.
- Johnny Famechon was one of the most popular Australian boxers of all time. Johnny was our humble, skilful world champion, showing the essence of how we see our heroes. He was described as poetry in motion, a master craftsman.

Fidel Ramos, former Philippine president who helped oust Marcos, dies

- Former Philippine President Fidel Valdez Ramos, has passed away due to the complications of COVID-19. He was 94. Ramos served as the 12th president of the Philippines from 1992 to 1998. He was a military officer by profession.
- During his tenure, the Philippines was recognized as a budding "tiger economy". Ramos became a hero to many for defecting from Marcos's government, in which he led the national police force, spurring the dictator's downfall during the 1986 popular uprising against his rule. 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.

About Philippines:

President: Bongbong Marcos

Capital: Manila

Currency: Philippine peso

Renowned Bengali Singer Nirmala Mishra passes away in Kolkata

- Renowned Bengali singer Nirmala Mishra has passed away. She was 81. She was born in 1938 in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district. She sang various songs in Bengali, Odia, and Assamese films. Her melodies in the Bengali language include 'Eamon Ekta Jhinuk', 'Bolo to Arshi' and 'Eai Banglar Mati Te'.

- The West Bengal government has also awarded her 'Sangeet Samman', 'Sangeet Mahasamman' and 'Bangabhibhushan' awards. She has been conferred with the Sangeet Sudhakar Balakrushna Das Award for her lifetime contribution to Odia music.

About West Bengal:

Capital: Kolkata

Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee

Governor: Shri La. Ganesan

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

MP Anurag Sharma elected Commonwealth body treasurer

- Member of Parliament from the Jhansi-Lalitpur parliamentary constituency, Anurag Sharma has been elected as the International Treasurer of the Parliamentary Association Conference (CPA) at the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in Halifax, Canada. He will now be on the main Executive Council. The election of Sharma made him the second Indian office-bearer in the world's largest and oldest International Parliamentary Association. His election also meant one more seat was added to India in the CPA, taking the total Indian tally to four executive representatives now.
- Sharma will be handling annual funding of millions of pounds and the trust funds, ensuring their smooth and effective utilization. He is all set to add that extra mile of ROI (return on investment) and showcase the Indian effectiveness of India in this global responsibility.

About Uttar Pradesh:

Governor: Anandiben Patel

Capital: Lucknow (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath

Govt clears ex-Standard Chartered banker as Sebi whole-time member

- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan, an associate professor at SP Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR), as a whole-time member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). He will hold office for three years from the date he assumes charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- With this appointment, Gopalakrishnan becomes the fourth whole-time member of SEBI, which had been functioning with a vacancy for the position since November 2021. Apart from being an associate professor at SP Jain, Gopalakrishnan is a senior India analyst at the Observatory Group and is a public interest director for the NSE IFSC Gift City in Gujarat and for the National Securities Clearing Corporation.

About SEBI:

Founded: 12 April 1992;

Headquarters: Mumbai;

Chairperson: Madhabi Puri Buch.

Justice UU Lalit sworn in as 49th Chief Justice of India

- Justice Uday Umesh Lalit took oath as the 49th Chief Justice of India. Newly elected President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office at a ceremony held

at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union ministers were present at the ceremony. Justice Lalit's predecessor, Justice NV Ramana, was also present at the oath-taking ceremony.

- Uday Umesh Lalit (born 9 November 1957) is the 49th and current Chief Justice of India. Previously, he has served as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India. Prior to his elevation as a judge, he practised as a senior counsel at the Supreme Court. Justice Lalit is one of the six senior counsels who have been directly elevated to the Supreme Court. He will retire on 8 November 2022 after assuming the office of Chief Justice of India for a period of seventy-four days as the 49th chief justice.
- Uday Umesh Lalit is a law graduate from Government Law College, Mumbai. He enrolled with Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa as an advocate in June 1983. He started his practice with advocate M.A. Rane, who was considered as a proponent of the radical humanist school of thought who believed that social work was as important as building a solid legal practice. On 3 May 1992, Lalit qualified and was registered as an Advocate-on-Record at the Supreme Court. On 29 April 2004, Lalit was designated as a senior advocate of the Supreme Court.

RBL Bank appoints Gopal Jain, Dr. Sivakumar Gopalan as non-executive directors

- The private sector lender RBL Bank has appointed Gopal Jain and Dr Sivakumar Gopalan as the non-executive directors. RBL Bank has been working on adding a diverse set of leaders with relevant experience to accelerate its 2.0 strategy. With the new additions, the bank's board will have 14 members. The board of RBL Bank approved raising up to Rs 3,000 crores through the issue of debt securities on a private placement basis, on a "time-to-time basis".
- Gopal Jain is an experienced private equity investor and a managing partner at Gaja Capital. He has been appointed as a non-independent director till he is liable to retire by rotation. Gaja Capital through Gaja Capital Fund II Ltd held 1.3 per cent stake in RBL Bank as at the end of June.
- Dr Sivakumar Gopalan is a researcher with over three decades of experience across various aspects of technology and has been appointed as an independent director for five years.

About RBL Bank:

Founded: 1943

Headquarters: Mumbai

MD & CEO: R Subramaniakumar;

Tagline: Apno ka Bank

Govt appoints former CEA K Subramanian as Executive Director for India at IMF

- Former Chief Economic Adviser, KV Subramanian was appointed as the Executive Director for India at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). His term will begin from November and will continue for a period of three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier, by curtailing the tenure of eminent economist Surjit S Bhalla as ED (India), IMF up to 31 October 2022.
- Bhalla was appointed as the Executive Director for India on the board of the IMF in 2019. He succeeded former RBI deputy governor Subir Gokarn, who died in the US on 30 July after a brief illness.

About IMF:

Formation: 27 December 1945;

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States;

Member Countries: 190;

MD: Kristalina Georgieva.

Samir V Kamat appointed DRDO chief

- According to a Personnel Ministry order, Distinguished scientist 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). Kamat, who is Director General, Naval Systems & Materials, at the DRDO will succeed G Satheesh Reddy who has been named as scientific adviser to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Kamat as Secretary of the Department of Defence Research and Development and Chairman of DRDO from the date of his assumption of charge till he attains the age of 60 years.

About DRDO:

Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi

Founded: 1958

Jurisdiction: India

Aircraft designed: Avatar, DRDO Lakshya, DRDO Nishant

Senior Scientist Debasisa Mohanty Appointed as Director of National Institute of Immunology

- Odia scientist, Debasisa Mohanty was appointed as Director of the National Institute of Immunology (NII). He is currently working as a staff scientist at NII. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment, with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post and up to the age of his superannuation. The post fell vacant after Rajesh Verma, a 1987 batch IAS officer of Odisha cadre, was appointed as Secretary to President Droupadi Murmu on August 18.
- The National Institute of Immunology (NII) is an autonomous research institute located in New Delhi, under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) for research in immunology.
- NII was established on 24 June 1981, with Prof. M. G. K. Menon as Chairman of its governing body.
- It has its origins in the ICMR–WHO Research & Training Centre in Immunology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, which was merged with NII in 1982.

About Odisha:

Governor: Ganeshi Lal

Capital: Bhubaneswar

Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik

About National Institute of Immunology:

Founded: 1981

Headquarter: Delhi

Vikram Doraiswami appointed India's high commissioner to UK

- Vikram K. Doraiswami, a seasoned diplomat appointed as India's new High Commissioner to the United Kingdom which is seen as a significant position given the two nations' expanding strategic alliance. Vikram K. Doraiswami is Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh currently. He is an Indian Foreign Service officer from the 1992 batch. At May 1994, Vikram K. Doraiswami 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.
- When Vikram K. Doraiswami took office as Bangladesh's ambassador to India in October 2020, relations between the two countries significantly expanded.
- Gaitri Issar Kumar, the high commissioner to the United Kingdom, left her position on June 30.
- Vikram K Doraiswami received his in-service training in New Delhi from 1992 to 1993, and in May 1994 he was appointed Third Secretary in the Indian High Commission in Hong Kong.

About United Kingdom:

Queen: Queen Elizabeth II

Capital: London

Prime Minister: Boris Johnson

Currency: Pound sterling

Odisha cadre IAS officer Rajesh Verma appointed secretary to President Murmu

- Odisha cadre 1987-batch IAS officer, Rajesh Verma has been appointed as the Secretary to President Droupadi Murmu. He replaces the incumbent Kapil Dev Tripathi, a 1980-batch IAS officer. He is currently serving as Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs & has also served as principal secretary to Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik. In the past, Verma has also served as the Principal Secretary to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Principal Secretary of Energy Department, Government of Odisha.
- Droupadi Murmu became the 15th President of India after Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana administered the oath of office last month.
- Murmu received around 64 per cent of the valid votes of MPs and MLAs comprising the Electoral College. Murmu received 6,76,803 votes whereas Sinha secured 3,80,177 votes.

About President of India:

Born: 20 June 1958 (age 64 years), Mayurbhanj

Office: President of India since 2022

Presidential term: 25 July 2022 –

Previous office: Governor of Jharkhand (2015–2021)

Gates Foundation appoints Indian philanthropist Ashish Dhawan to its board of trustees

- Indian philanthropist Ashish Dhawan has been named to the board of trustees of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The foundation announced the appointment of two new members to its board of trustees. Ashish Dhawan is the founder and CEO of Convergence Foundation, and along with him, Dr Helene D Gayle, President of Spelman College, US, has also been appointed.
- Both the new board members have worked with foundation grantees focused on saving lives and creating opportunities across health, education, and economic prosperity.

- Besides being the CEO of the Convergence Foundation, which is focused on accelerating India's economic growth and development, 53-year-old Ashish is also the chairperson of Ashoka University and Central Square Foundation, a non-profit organisation working to improve the quality of education for children in India.

About Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation:

Headquarters: Seattle, Washington, United States

Founded: 2000

Founders: Bill Gates, Melinda French Gates

Centre extends Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla tenure for one year

- The Centre on Friday extended term of Union home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla by one year to August 22, 2023. The order was issued by the according to a Personnel Ministry order.
- Bhalla, a 1984-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, was appointed as the Home Secretary in August 2019.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in service to Bhalla as Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, for a period of one year beyond August 22, 2022, i.e. up to August 22, 2023, it said.

Centre appoints Rajkiran Rai as NaBFID managing director for nearly 5 years

- The Centre and the board of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) has appointed Rajkiran Rai G as its managing director (MD) for the next five years. The board of NaBFID approved Rai's appointment on July 30 based on clearance by the RBI, centre and the Development finance institutions (DFI) nomination and remuneration committee. He took charge as the DFI's MD on August 8, and will hold the top post till May 18, 2027, according to details of the appointment.
- Last year in October 2021, the Centre had appointed K V Kamath as chairperson of NaBFID. Subsequently, government nominees Pankaj Jain and Sumita Dawra were appointed directors to the board of DFI. The government has already infused Rs 20,000 crore into NaBFID to help the DFI start its operations to catalyse investment in the infrastructure sector.

Government reappoints four independent directors on RBI central board

- Satish Kashinath Marathe, Swaminathan Gurumurthy, Revathy Iyer, and Sachin Chaturvedi have all been renominated by the national government to serve as part-time, non-official directors on the RBI's central board or central board of the Reserve Bank of India. The RBI said on its website that Gurumurthy and Marathe have been renominated for another term of four years, until further instructions for RBI's central board.
- After the RBI's central board current terms expire on September 18, 2022, Iyer and Chaturvedi have been renominated for another four years.
- Anand Mahindra, the chairman of the Mahindra & Mahindra group, Venu Srinivasan, Pankaj Patel, the chairman of Zydus Lifesciences, and Ravindra Dholakia, a former member of the Monetary Policy Committee, were nominated by the government in June to serve as part-time non-official directors on the RBI's central board.

Simon Stiell Appointed New UNFCCC Executive Secretary

- UN Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Simon Stiell as the new Executive Secretary of the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat based in Bonn, Germany. The appointment has been endorsed by the Bureau of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- Simon Stiell served as a senior minister in the Government of Grenada holding the portfolios of Minister for Climate Resilience and the Environment for five years.
- He also served as Minister for Education and Human Resource Development, Minister of State with responsibility for Human Resource Development and the Environment, and as a junior minister within the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.
- Stiell served as a member of Grenada's Upper House of Parliament, the Senate, where he held the position of Leader of Government's Business throughout this period.

About UNFCCC:

Signatories: 165

Depositary: Secretary-General of the United Nations

Effective: 21 March 1994

Signed: 4–14 June 1992; 20 June 1992 – 19 June 1993

Drafted: 9 May 1992

Location: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; New York, United States

11 sworn in as Additional Judges at Punjab and Haryana High Court

- The government of India has notified the appointments of another 11 High Court Judges in the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The appointments include the names Nidhi Gupta, Sanjay Vashisth, Tribhuvan Dahiya, Namit Kumar, Harkesh Manuja, Aman Chaudhary, Naresh Singh, Harsh Bunker, Jagmohan Bansal, Deepak Manchanda and Alok Jain.
- The Punjab and Haryana High Court are currently functioning with just 46 judges against the sanctioned strength of 85 with around a dozen of the 46 judges set to retire in the next two years. With the appointment of new additional judges, the number of judges will rise to 57. On 13th August 2022, the govt had appointed 26 High Court Judges in the High Courts of Allahabad, Andhra, Telangana, Gauhati, Orissa, and Himachal Pradesh.

New NATGRID CEO appointed amid additional secretary-level postings at Centre

- IAS officer of the Nagaland cadre, Piyush Goyal has been appointed by the Central Government as the new CEO of NATGRID (National Intelligence Grid). Along with this, the Central Government has also issued an order to post 26 other officers on the post of Additional Secretary. Piyush Goyal is currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Union Home Ministry.
- The post of its CEO was vacant since June when its then chief IPS officer Ashish Gupta was appointed as additional director general of the Border Security Force (BSF). Chandrakar Bharti, a 1996 batch IAS officer of the Union Territory cadre, has been appointed in place of Piyush Goyal. Presently he is Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Defence.

About NATGRID:

Formed: 2009

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

Agency executive: Ashish Gupta, IPS, Chief Executive Officer

Elected officer responsible: Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs

Rishabh Pant Appointed Brand Ambassador Of Uttarakhand State

- Uttarakhand government has appointed wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant as the 'State Brand Ambassador'. Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Pushkar Singh Dhami congratulated Rishabh Pant and praised him as one of the best cricketers and idols of youth. Rishabh Pant's most recent game was seen in India's T20 series against New Zealand in which the Indian cricket team claimed the title of the series with a 3-0 victory.
- Rishabh Pant was born on 4th October 1997. He is an Indian cricketer and plays the role of wicket-keeper and batter in the Indian cricket team. He was the vice-captain of the U-19 Indian cricket team for the Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2016. He made his Twenty20 International debut in January 2017, his Test Debut in August 2018, and his One Day International debut in October 2018. Pant was named the ICC men's emerging cricketer of the year in 2018 at ICC Awards.

About Uttarakhand:

Governor: Gurmit Singh

Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami

Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)

Amit Burman steps down as Chairman of Dabur India, to continue as non-executive director

- FMCG major Dabur has announced that the board has accepted the resignation of Amit Burman as the Chairman. Amit Burman will continue to serve in the position of non-executive director of the company.
- Amit Burman was announced as the CEO of Dabur in 1999 when the company forayed into the processed food business.
- In July 2007, he stepped down from his position when the company was merged into Dabur India Ltd and was appointed as the vice chairman. In 2019, Amit took the charge as the chairman of Dabur Indian Ltd.
- The new non-executive vice chairman of the board of directors is Saket Burman from 11th August 2022, for the next five years.

About Dabur:

CEO: Mohit Malhotra (1 Apr 2019–)

Founder: S.K. Burman

Headquarters: Ghaziabad

Founded: 1884

Nitish Kumar takes oath as Bihar CM for the 8th time

- A day after announcing a new grand alliance with the Rashtriya Janata Dal and other opposition parties after breaking away from the BJP, Nitish Kumar on Wednesday took oath as the Bihar Chief Minister for the eighth time. Tejashwi Yadav took oath as the Deputy Chief Minister.

- RJD is the only party with a majority in the Assembly, and the Governor can ask Tejashwi Yadav, the party's leader, to form the government following Nitish Kumar's departure.
- Tejashwi Yadav may merely suggest the name of Nitish Kumar, though, because he has already provided Nitish Kumar with documentation from Mahagathbandhan MLAs.
- The Bihar Assembly currently has 77 seats held by the BJP. JD(U) has 45, Congress 19, CPIML(L)-led Left has 16, and RJD has 79.

About Bihar:

Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar

Governor: Phagu Chauhan

Capital: Patna

Women In STEM: Kalaiselvi Appointed As First Ever Woman Director General Of CSIR

- Senior electrochemical scientist, Nallathamby Kalaiselvi has become the first woman director general of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Her appointment is for a period of two years with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Kalaiselvi succeeds Shekhar Mande, who superannuated in April.
- Kalaiselvi has risen through the ranks in CSIR and had broken the proverbial glass ceiling by becoming the first woman scientist to head the Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI) in February 2019.
- Kalaiselvi's research work of more than 25 years is primarily focused on electrochemical power systems and in particular, the development of electrode materials, and electrochemical evaluation of in-house prepared electrode materials for their suitability in energy storage device assembly.
- Her research interests include lithium and beyond lithium batteries, supercapacitors and waste-to-wealth driven electrodes and electrolytes for energy storage and electrocatalytic applications. She is currently involved in the development of practically viable Sodium-ion/Lithium-sulfur batteries and supercapacitors.

About CSIR:

CSIR Founded: 26 September 1942

CSIR President: Prime Minister of India

Director General: Dr. Nallathamby Kalaiselvi

Unity Small Finance Bank appoints Inderjit Camotra as MD and CEO

- The Unity Small Finance Bank (SFB) Limited (Unity Bank) has appointed, Inderjit Camotra as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of the bank. A senior banker with over 25 years of experience across India, Camotra held various leadership positions at Standard Chartered Bank. In January 2022, the bank appointed Vinod Rai, the former CAG of India, as its Chairman.
- An IIT-Delhi graduate, Camotra pursued his MBA from Clarkson University in New York. Camotra was earlier an executive director with Centrum Financial Services Ltd, and has played a crucial role in the transitioning of the company into a bank.
- 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 a joint investors. The bank commenced its operation in November 2021.

About Unity Bank plc:

Headquarters: Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria

CEO: Oluwatomi Somefun (11 Aug 2015–)

Founded: 2006

Ranjit Rath appointed as Chairman and MD of Oil India Limited

- Ranjit Rath has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of state-run Oil India Ltd (OIL). He replaces Sushil Chandra Mishra who retired on 30 June. The newly appointed OIL CMD has so far been associated with diverse roles spanning from strategy formulation, business development and upstream asset management to the application of geosciences and exploration geology in several important projects including the creation of strategic petroleum reserves (SPR).
- An alumnus of IIT Bombay and IIT Kharagpur and with an experience of more than 25 years in the field of geosciences, Rath, prior to his appointment as the Oil India CMD, Rath was the CMD Mineral Exploration & Consultancy Ltd.
- He has also held the positions of the CEO of Khanij Bidesh India Limited, Managing Director of Bharat Gold Mines Ltd and also held additional charge of the Director General of Geological Survey of India.

About Oil India Ltd:

Headquarters: Noida

Founded: 18 February 1959

Chairman & managing director: Ranjit Rath

Fintech platform BharatPe appoints Nalin Negi as new CFO amid IPO plans

- Nalin Negi has been appointed as the new chief financial officer (CFO) of Fintech startup BharatPe. Earlier he was the CFO of credit card issuer SBI Card. In his new role, Negi will be working towards making the company's EBITDA positive by March 2023 and leading the financial readiness for the company, which is getting ready for an initial public offering (IPO). Ebitda stands for earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization. He will report to Suhail Sameer, CEO, BharatPe and work closely with the Board of BharatPe.
- In April, the company announced the appointment of Smriti Handa as the Chief Human Resources Officer. The new appointment comes after BharatPe Co-founder Bhavik Koladiya moved on from the company to pursue other assignments. The company has seen several high-profile exits in recent months, including Ashneer Grover (who triggered a major controversy at the platform); Chief Revenue Officer Nishit Sharma; and Head of Institutional Debt Partnerships, Chandrima Dhar.

About BharatPe:

Headquarters : New Delhi

Founded: 20 March 2018

Founders: Ashneer Grover, Shashvat Nakrani

Vodafone Idea names Ravinder Takkar as Chairman, Himanshu Kapania to step down

- Ravinder Takkar, the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of telecom operator Vodafone Idea Limited (Vi), will replace Himanshu Kapania as the telco's new chairman. He will step down as non-executive chairman of the board with effect from 18 August this month. However, he will continue to be a part of the VIL board as a non-executive director.
- Meanwhile, Vodafone Idea today reported its net loss marginally narrowed to Rs 7,297 crores for the quarter ended June 30, 2022. It reported a net loss of Rs 7,319 crores in the preceding quarter. The telco's revenue from operations rose 14% to Rs 10,410 crore as against Rs 9,152 crores in Q1FY22.

About Vodafone Idea Limited:

Founder: Kumar Mangalam Birla

Founded: 31 August 2018

Headquarters: Gandhinagar

UU Lalit To Be Next Chief Justice As Name Formally Shared, Will Have 74-Day Tenure

- Senior-most judge of the Supreme Court of India, Justice U U Lalit, who is in line to become the next Chief Justice of India (CJI). He has been part of several landmark judgements including the one which held the practice of divorce through instant 'triple talaq' among Muslims illegal and unconstitutional. Justice Lalit is in line to become the 49th CJI of India on August 27, a day after incumbent Justice N V Ramana demits the office.
- If appointed, Justice Lalit will become the second CJI who was directly elevated to the apex court Bench from the Bar. 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.
- Justice Lalit, who was a renowned senior advocate, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court on August 13, 2014.

Govt appoints Suresh N Patel as new Central Vigilance Commissioner

- Vigilance Commissioner, Suresh N. Patel was appointed as the Central Vigilance Commissioner. He has been working as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) since June this year. He was sworn in as the chief of the Central Vigilance Commission by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The ceremony was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.
- Former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Sanjay Kothari had completed his term as the CVC on June 24 last year.

About the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):

Formed: February 1964

Jurisdiction: Government of India

Headquarters: New Delhi

First executive: Nittoor Srinivasa Rau

Appointer: President of India

Sashastra Seema Bal DG Sujoy Lal Thaosen gets additional charge as ITBP DG

- Sashastra Seema Bal's director general in New Delhi, Dr. Sujoy Lal Thaosen assumed the additional responsibility of Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police. Dr. Thaosen

is a Madhya Pradesh Cadre IPS Officer from the 1988 batch. Dr. Thaosen received the charge and traditional baton from IPS Sanjay Arora. The ITBP, established in 1962, patrols the Indo-Chinese border. Additionally, it is used for a number of internal security tasks, such as anti-Naxal operations in Chhattisgarh.

About Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP):

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

Agency executive: S. L. Thousen, IPS, Director General of ITBP

Founded: 1962

Founder: Government of India

Auguste Tano Kouame takes charge as World Bank Country Director for India

- The World Bank has appointed Auguste Tano Kouamé as the Country Director for India, effective. He replaces Junaid Kamal Ahmad who recently completed a five-year term. He most recently served as the World Bank's Country Director for the Republic of Türkiye, where he led the expansion of the Bank's country program and deepened its support to Türkiye's climate agenda.
- Prior to this, he served as 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.
- Auguste took field assignments from 2002-05 as Senior Country Economist, based in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and, subsequently, as World Bank representative in Haiti.
- Prior to joining the World Bank as a Young Professional in 1996, he worked at the United Nations Development Program and taught Applied Economics in Côte d'Ivoire and France.

About World Bank:

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States

President: David Malpass

Founded: July 1944, Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States

Motto: Working for a World Free of Poverty

Founders: John Maynard Keynes, Harry Dexter White

Centre names Satyendra Prakash as principal DG Press Information Bureau

- Senior Indian Information Service officer, Satyendra Prakash has been appointed as the Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB). A 1988 batch Indian Information Service (IIS) officer, Prakash, the Principal Director General of the Central Bureau of Communication, will succeed Jaideep Bhatnagar, who superannuated.
- In a career spanning over three decades, Prakash has served in various capacities in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, including as Additional Director General, News & Current Affairs in Doordarshan, and Director (Media), Ministry of Communications & IT and Ministry of Civil Aviation in the Press Information Bureau.

Sanjay Arora to take over from Rakesh Asthana as new Delhi Police Commissioner

- Sanjay Arora, a Tamil Nadu-cadre IPS officer who oversaw the paramilitary ITBP, will assume control of the Delhi Police as Delhi Police commissioner. He is scheduled to retire in 2025. Sanjay Arora was named commissioner of the Delhi Police, replacing the previous Delhi

Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana, an IPS officer from the Gujarat Cadre who retired after nearly 38 years of service.

- Rakesh Asthana, the departing commissioner of the Delhi Police, said that despite his retirement, he still has a strong desire to serve the public and the force.
- The IPS officer from the Gujarat cadre class of 1984 has made some significant reforms to the Delhi Police over the past year, including combining Police Control Room units with police stations and removing law and order from the investigative section.
- In August of last year, Arora was named Director General of the paramilitary Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). He also served in the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). His background is in electrical and electronics engineering, with a B.Tech.

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Capital: New Delhi

Lieutenant Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for People of African Descent 2022: 31st August

- The International Day for People of African Descent is celebrated on 31 August globally. The day was first celebrated in 2021, halfway through the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024), which calls for concrete actions on the part of states and other members of the international community to promote recognition, justice and development. The United Nations aims to promote the extraordinary contributions of the African diaspora around the world and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against people of African descent.
- The African diaspora has long been recognized for its spirit and contributions to art, culture, science, and other fields, and it continues to mark a distinctive presence and positive impact in several parts of the world.

International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances 2022 observed on 30th August

- International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances is observed globally on the 30th of August every year by United Nations. The day is being observed to express deep concern about the rise in enforced or involuntary disappearances in different regions of the world including the incidents of arrest, detention and abduction. According to the UN, more than 6,000 people were registered as missing in Kosovo since 1999. Hence, the resource centre for missing persons in Kosovo has also been initiated by the UN.
- The day is observed to raise awareness about the suffering of people who are arrested, detained or abducted against their will and governments refuse to disclose the whereabouts of such people. Enforced disappearance is a global problem that is still being practised around the world. It is a serious violation of human rights that is not restricted to a specific region.

About United Nations:

Founded: 24 October 1945

Headquarters: New York, United States

Secretary general: António Guterres

National Small Industry Day 2022: 30th August

- In India, the National Small Industry Day is celebrated on 30 August every year, to support and promote small Industries for their overall growth potential and opportunities received for their development in the year. The day recognises the contribution of small industries to the country's growth. The day is also an opportunity for the central and state governments to encourage and support small industries. These small businesses offer employment to a large number of people in India.
- The day motivates and shapes government policies to enhance the efficiency of the small-scale sector. Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are an integral part of the value chain and to foster the ecosystem, the government is working tirelessly.
- The National Small Industry Day can be traced back to August 2000 when the government formulated a comprehensive policy package for small-scale industries (SSI) in India. On August 30, it was decided by the Ministry of Small-Scale Industries that the very day would be observed as SSI Day.

International Day Against Nuclear Tests observed on August 29

- International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed on 29th August to raise awareness about the devastating effects of testing nuclear weapons. This year marks the thirteenth anniversary of the event. On this day, the United Nations organises an event that creates public awareness regarding the effects of nuclear weapons tests, and detonations and further highlights the requirement for cessation of such nuclear tests.
- Nuclear tests cause extensive damage to not just human society, but also to the environment, plant and animal life. The International Day against Nuclear Tests keeps us alert about this so that we can urge our leaders to ensure a safer nuclear weapons-free future.
- On 2 December 2009, the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly declared 29 August the International Day against Nuclear Tests through the unanimous adoption of its resolution 64/35.

National Sports Day 2022: 29th August

- The National Sports Day or Rashtriya Khel Divas is celebrated on 29th August in India as a tribute to hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand who was born on this date in 1905. It was 2012 when the day was first designated and celebrated as India's National Sports Day. The nation celebrates the day honouring our sports stars. The president gives away sports awards such as the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, Arjuna Award, Dronacharya Award, and Dhyan Chand Awards on this occasion.
- Notably: Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award will be renamed as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.

World Gujarati Language Day 2022: 24th August

- World Gujarati Language Day 2022 is celebrated every year on 24 August. This day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of the great writer of Gujarat 'Veer

Narmad'. 'Gujarati Diwas' is celebrated because the poet Narmad was considered to be the creator of the Gujarati language. He has made Gujarati literature international.

- Poet Veer Narmad was born on August 24, 1833 in Surat, Gujarat. He was from a Brahmin family. His full name was Narmadashankar Lalshankar Dave. Narmad wrote his first poem in 22 years.
- After this he began to explain literature. Then he was working as a teacher in Mumbai.
- The dictionary contains words of all dialects with their diverse usages. Since then, looking at the historic Narmad philosophy, Vishwa Gujarati Diwas is observed annually to dedicate a day to the language and to the Gujarati culture.

About Gujarat:

Capital: Gandhinagar

Governor: Acharya Devvrat

Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel

World Senior Citizen Day 2022: 21st August

- World Senior Citizens' Day is celebrated on August 21 every year. It is also known as National Senior Citizens' Day in the United States (US). The day is observed with the intent to highlight the contributions of elderly people in human society and honour them. The day is also celebrated to bring attention to various issues that affect the elderly, such as health issues and abuse by younger people, whether family or outsiders.
- As noted by the United Nations (UN), the elderly population is projected to reach more than 1.5 billion by 2050. This rise will be prominently seen in East Asia and South-East Asia. Less developed nations will host more than two-thirds of the planet's elderly people by 2050. With a growing elderly population, it is pertinent that a robust system exists which supports their all-around wellbeing.

About United Nations:

Founded: 24 October 1945, San Francisco, California, United States

Headquarters: New York, United States

Secretary general: António Guterres

International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief 2022: 22nd August

- International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief, observed on August 22. On this day, the international community honours the survivors and victims of religious-based violence. The day aims to remember the victims and survivors of evil acts on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief.
- In 2019, the U.N. General Assembly instituted an International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief. The day reinforces the international community's commitment to justice for survivors of genocide and other atrocities based on religion or ethnicity. The day seeks to hold people accountable for their crimes.

About United Nations:

Founded: 24 October 1945, San Francisco, California, United States

Headquarters: New York, United States

Secretary general: António Guterres

International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism 2022 : 21st August

- International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed on August 21 each year in memory of the victims of terrorism. The day is observed to show the victims of terrorism that they are not forgotten and they are respected and recognised across the world.
- The theme for 2022's International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is "memories," as mentioned in a United Nations (UN). The theme was selected after consulting with victims of terrorism and victims' associations.
- The event is observed each year not only to highlight the damaging effects of terrorism but also to offer support and possible healing to survivors. Memories are what bind us to one another. Without them, we have no roots to create our future. This year's observation of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is thus very significant.

About United Nations:

Founded: 24 October 1945, San Francisco, California, United States

Headquarters: New York, United States

Secretary general: António Guterres

17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2023 to be held at Indore in January next year

- The 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2023 will be held at Indore in January next year. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi in a tweet said that Secretary, Consular, Passport and Visa Division, Ausaf Sayeed and Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh Iqbal Singh Bains signed a Memorandum of Understanding for hosting the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas. On the occasion, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was also present.
- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated every year on 9th January to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community in the development of India. It also commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on 9th January 1915.

About Madhya Pradesh:

Capital: Bhopal (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel

Akshay Urja Diwas 2022: 20th August

- Every year on the 20th of August India observes Akshay Urja Diwas or Renewable Energy Day. Akshay Urja Diwas 2022 or Renewable Energy Day aims to spread awareness about the development and adoption of renewable energy in India. Akshay Urja Diwas 2022, marks its importance by promoting and lining up the alarming rate of depletion of Natural resources. This day makes people aware of the use of natural resources like wind energy, solar energy, and hydropower.
- Akshay Urja Diwas was first established in 2004 to support renewable energy development programs in India and promote the usage of natural resources. In 2004, the first event was facilitated by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, where he released a stamp with 12000 children forming a human chain to promote the use of green energy sources. The Ministry of

New & Renewable Energy Source (MNRE) planned to arrange the first informative campaign or event along with the Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh.

About Indian Akshay Urja Day:

Initiated: 2004

Celebrated: on August 20 every year since 2004

Sadbhavna Diwas 2022: 20th August

- India celebrates Sadbhavna Diwas in memory of Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary. Sadbhavna Diwas 2022 commemorates the 78th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi on 20th August 2022. Sadbhavna Diwas was instituted after the death of Rajiv Gandhi in 1992, by Congress. Sadbhavna Diwas promotes peace, harmony, empathy, and unity among all citizens of India. On this several cultural events and contests are organized across the country.
- Sadbhavna Diwas promotes harmony, peace, national integrity, unity, and empathy among all citizens of India.
- On this day, we celebrate the birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, and senior Congress officials and close relatives pay tribute to him.
- Sadbhavna Diwas is also known for spreading awareness about greenery, protection of the environment, and the beauty of nature.

About Rajiv Gandhi:

Born: 20th August 1944

Prime Minister: 1984 to 1989

World Mosquito Day 2022: 20th August

- Every year, World Mosquito Day is observed on 20 August.
- This day is marked to honour and acknowledge the British doctor Sir Ronald Ross.
- Sir Ronald Ross was the one who found out that female mosquitoes are responsible for causing malaria in the year 1897.
- World Mosquito Day celebrations are organised every year by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.
- This year amid the coronavirus pandemic, the theme of World Mosquito Day 2021 is "Reaching the zero-malaria target"
- When it comes to mosquito-borne diseases, malaria has the greatest global impact. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), malaria alone is responsible for the death of 400,000 people per year. Other mosquito-borne diseases, even if not fatal, can have devastating consequences for patients. Chikungunya, for example, causes crippling joint pain, and Zika infection in pregnant women can result in severe birth defects.
- Mosquitoes are one of the most lethal insects in the world. They cause millions of deaths every year. So, to raise awareness about the cause and prevention of diseases caused by mosquitos, this day is marked.

About World Health Organization (WHO):

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Founded: 7 April 1948

President : Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

World Humanitarian Day 2022: 19th August

- World Humanitarian Day is celebrated on August 19 every year to recognise all aid and health workers who volunteer to help victims of disasters and crises against all odds. The day aims to spread awareness about the need for humanitarian assistance worldwide. The UN hopes that the day will serve as a reminder to people of the risk taken by some to save lives and support humanitarian causes.
- The 2022 campaign, according to the United Nations, shines a light on “thousands of volunteers, professionals and crisis-affected people who deliver urgent health care, shelter, food, protection, water and much more.”
- The United Nations has decided to use digital art to narrate stories of people in need and those who help them. At the centre of the campaign.
- On 19 August 2003, a bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, killed 22 humanitarian aid workers, including the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

About United Nations:

Founded: 24 October 1945, San Francisco, California, United States

Headquarters: New York, New York, United States

Founders: United States, India, United Kingdom, Brazil, France

Secretary general: António Guterres

World Photography Day 2022: 19th August

- World Photography Day is celebrated on August 19 each year. The aim of World Photography Day is to create awareness, share ideas and encourage people to take up photography. 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. It also serves as a motivating day for enthusiasts to pursue photography as a career.
- World Photography Day is a day to celebrate the art and craft of photography and the passion that people have for this genre. The day also recognizes how the purpose of the medium has evolved from documenting historic events to a mode for personal fulfilment and memory creation.
- The inception of this day dates back to 1837 when Frenchmen Joseph Nicéphore Niépce 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.

About World Photography Organisation:

Founded: 2007

Headquarters location: London, United Kingdom

Key people: Scott Gray CEO

Happy Navroz 2022: 16th

- Happy Navroz! The Parsi New Year is being celebrated on 16th August 2022, as per the Shenshai calendar. Also known as 'Jamshedi Navroz', it is a joyous occasion for Parsis all over the world. The term 'Navroz' is the combination of the Persian words 'Nav' meaning new, and 'Roz' meaning day. Thus, it signifies the first day of the new year and is also

believed to be the day when Persian king Jamshed ascended the throne. A lavish feast is customary to the Parsi New Year, comprising many delightful dishes. We have collated a wonderful list of dishes that are a must-have on Navroz 2022.

Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary

- As India celebrates the 75th anniversary of its Independence, the day also happens to be the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo, once a renowned revolutionary, who later became a spiritual master. His life and teachings remain relevant to our turbulent times, and there is much to learn from the vast philosophical and political writings he has left behind.
- Aurobindo was born in 1872. He was only seven when his Anglophile father sent his three sons to England for their education — Aurobindo studied Classics Tripos at Cambridge.
- As an indomitable intellectual and an ardent nationalist, he published articles in the Bombay-based journal Indu Prakash attacking the extractive British and indolent Congressmen. Aurobindo's pragmatic strategies to get rid of British rule marked him as "the Prophet of Indian Nationalism". In 1893, a good 22 years before Gandhi, he had asked the elite Congressmen to cede the leadership of the independence struggle to the proletariat.

International Lefthanders Day 2022: 13th August

- International Lefthanders Day is observed on August 13 across the world. The day is observed to raise awareness about the lefty people's experience with living in a right-hand dominant world. The day also spreads awareness on issues faced by left-handers, eg the importance of the special needs for left-handed children and the likelihood for left-handers to develop schizophrenia.
- The day aims to raise awareness about being left-handed in a predominantly right-handed world. It celebrates left-handed people's uniqueness and differences, a subset of humanity comprising seven to ten per cent of the world's population.

World Organ Donation Day 2022: 13th August

- World Organ Donation Day is observed globally on the 13th of August. This day is observed to spread awareness about the importance of donating organs. It also plays a pivotal role in debunking various misconceptions about donating organs. Donating organs of the deceased like kidneys, heart, pancreas, eyes, lungs, etc can help save the lives of those who are facing chronic illnesses. However, it is important to ensure those who donate their organs do not suffer from HIV, cancer, or any heart disease.
- This year's theme for World Organ Donation Day 2022 is "let's pledge to donate organs and save lives". The Day is celebrated to raise awareness of the need for donating organs and to thank donors for their life-saving contributions.

World Elephant Day 2022: 12th August

- World Elephant Day is celebrated on 12 August every year to raise awareness about the plight of elephants all over the world. The day tries to highlight why these animals should be protected and what laws and measures can be enacted to ensure their survival. The main objective of World Elephant Day is to create awareness on elephant conservation and to

share knowledge and positive solutions for the better protection and management of wild and captive elephants.

- On 12 August 2012, World Elephant Day was co-founded by Canadian filmmaker Patricia Sims and the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation of Thailand, an initiative of HM Queen Sirikit. This day was observed for the first time on 12 August 2012. And since then, World Elephant Day has been celebrated every year.

International Youth Day 2022: 12th August

- International Youth Day is celebrated on 12 August every year. This day is celebrated to raise awareness regarding issues that are faced by the world's youth. The objective of International Youth Day 2022 is to amplify the message that action is needed across all generations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and leave no one behind. It will also raise awareness of certain barriers to intergenerational solidarity, notably ageism, which impacts young and old persons while having detrimental effects on society as a whole.
- The theme for 2022's edition of International Youth Day is "Intergenerational solidarity: creating a world for all ages." Cooperation and harmony between the youth and older generations is necessary to achieve sustainable development goals, as per Agenda 2030 of the United Nations (UN).
- Young people, who attended the first session of the UN's World Youth Forum in Vienna, Austria, in 1991, suggested that an International Youth Day be declared to help raise money for the United Nations Youth Fund. At the first session of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, held in Lisbon in August 1998, August 12 was declared International Youth Day. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) endorsed this proclamation in 1999.

About sustainable development goals:

Established: 2015

Founder: United Nations

World Lion Day 2022: 10th August

- World Lion Day is observed globally on 10th August. The day aims to spread awareness of lions and the urgent need to strive toward their conservation. Lions are silently in danger of going extinct worldwide. Lions supposedly wandered amiably through Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East some three million years ago.
- The purpose of World Lion Day, as previously indicated, is to increase public awareness of the significance of lion conservation. Lions are designated as a vulnerable species on the Red List of Threatened Species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). According to NewsOnAIR, there are currently between 30,000 and 100,000 lions left in the world. To ensure the safety of lions, it is crucial to increase public awareness of the threats they face, protect their natural habitat, and build more of these kinds of habitats.

About International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):

Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland

Founder: Julian Huxley

Founded: 5 October 1948, Fontainebleau, France

World observed Nagasaki Day 2022: 9th August

- Japan commemorates the 9th of August every year as Nagasaki day. On August 9, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan. It was code-named “Fat Man” due to the design of the bomb as it had a wide, round shape. On August 9, 1945, a US B-29 bomber dropped an atomic bomb on the city, killing nearly 20,000 people. The year 2022 will mark the 77th anniversary of the incident and will pay tribute to all those who lost their lives in the attack or were left alive to die slowly in the horrible nuclear radiation.
- Nagasaki Day is also an important day to remember the survivors of the bombing. Because of the atomic bomb, many people were left with radiation sickness or cancer. Today, they continue to work to help others learn from the tragedy and prevent future deaths from nuclear weapons.
- Celebrating Nagasaki Day is an important way to show our respect for the victims and survivors of the bombing. It can help us learn from history and make sure that such a tragedy never happens again.
- Nagasaki Day marks the anniversary of the atomic bombings that took place in Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. After Hiroshima, Nagasaki was the second Japanese city to be attacked by a nuclear weapon.

About Japan:

Capital: Tokyo

Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida

Currency: Japanese yen

International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples 2022: 9th August

- International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples is celebrated on 9th August across the world. The celebration highlights the role of indigenous people and the importance of preserving their rights, communities and knowledge they gathered and passed down over centuries.
- The theme of International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples this year is “The Role of Indigenous Women in the Preservation and Transmission of Traditional Knowledge.”
- Indigenous and tribal cultures, and communities, allow us to look back at our roots. Taking cognisance of the knowledge acquired by indigenous people is vital culturally and also scientifically.

National Handloom Day 2022: 7th August

- In India, the National Handloom Day is observed annually on the 7th of August to honour the handloom weavers. Handloom is a symbol of our glorious cultural heritage and an important source of livelihood. The day also highlights the contribution of the handloom industry to the socioeconomic development of the country and increased the income of the weavers. 2022 marks the 8th National Handloom Day. This year theme of National Handloom Day 2022 is “Handloom, an Indian legacy”.
- These initiatives include the Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS), National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS), and Yarn Supply Scheme (YSS).

- The Union government officially declared August 7 as NHD in July 2015. In 2015 the Honorable Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi declared August 7 as National Handloom Day.
- It was on this day in 1905, that the Swadeshi Movement was launched in the Calcutta Town hall to protest against the partition of Bengal by the British Government.

AFI to celebrate August 7 as National Javelin Day to honour Neeraj Chopra's Olympic Gold

- The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) is celebrating the second 'Javelin Throw Day' on August 7, 2022. The day was first observed in 2021 in honour of Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who won India's first Olympic gold medal in athletics at Tokyo. This decision to observe Javelin Throw Day is also an attempt to attract more youth towards the sport and get champions ready for a bright future in athletics ahead.
- Neeraj Chopra has scripted history at the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo when he threw the javelin to a distance of 87.58m to end India's medal drought in athletics at the Olympics. This is India's first-ever gold medal in athletics in the history of the Olympics. AFI's bid to name August 7 as Javelin Throw Day is an attempt to attract more youth to the sport.

About Athletics Federation of India:

President: Adille J Sumariwalla:

Founded: 1946

Headquarters: New Delhi

Hiroshima Day 2022: 6th August

- Hiroshima Day is observed on August 6 to commemorate the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945, at the end of World War II. The horrific incident took place on August 6, 1945, when the United States dropped an atomic bomb named "Little Boy", on the town of Hiroshima in Japan. 2022 marks the 77th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing. The day, which is observed at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, Japan, highlights the effects of nuclear wars, pays respect to those who got killed, discourages nuclear proliferation and promotes world peace.
- During the 2nd World War which was active in 1939- 1945, the world's first deployed atomic bomb with more than 9000 pounds of uranium-235 was loaded and US B-29 bomber aircraft, the Enola Gay attacked the Japanese city of Hiroshima on 6th August 1945. The explosion was so huge that it immediately killed 70,000 people wiping 90% of the city and later on around 10,000 people died due to the effect of radiation exposure.

About Japan:

Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida Trending

Capital: Tokyo

Currency: Japanese yen

Population: 12.58 crores (2020) World Bank

About Hiroshima:

Population: 11.9 lakhs (2015) United Nations

Mayor: Kazumi Matsui

Metro population: 14,31,634

SUMMITS AND MOU'S

LG Sinha inaugurates 8th India International MSME Start-up Expo and Summit 2022 at New Delhi

- The 8th India International MSME Start-up Expo & Summit 2022 was officially opened by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in New Delhi. The 8th India International MSME Start-up Expo and Summit 2022 gives SMEs, startups, business, industry, and service providers a much-needed platform to discover new prospects, connect with buyers and sellers, and exchange information about federal, state, and local programmes, among other things.
- The Lt Governor thanked the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for bringing about a revolution in the MSME sector and noted how quickly things have changed over the past eight years at the launch of 8th India International MSME Start-up Expo and Summit 2022.
- The heart of the nation's business is MSME. In order to assure a stronger growth trajectory for MSMEs, the Lt Governor noted that our goal is to revitalise traditional MSME's with improved access to credit and market linkage at the 8th India International MSME Start-up Expo and Summit 2022 launch.

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Capital: New Delhi

Lieutenant Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena

Smart India Hackathon 2022 Hosted at Manav Rachna: Nodal Centre for SIH-Hardware Edition Grand Finale

- The Ministry of Education hosted the Smart India Hackathon-2022. During the grand conclusion of the Smart India Hackathon-2022 (SIH 2022), Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the attendees. The prime minister spoke to the present students through video conferencing. The two Smart India Hackathon 2022 editions are Smart India Hackathon (SIH) Hardware and Smart India Hackathon (SIH) Software. Hardware and software grand finales were scheduled for August 25–29 and August 25–26, respectively.
- In 2017, the inaugural Smart India Hackathon (SIH) was held. Once a year, Smart India Hackathon is put on by the innovation section of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to give students the chance to create answers to problems posed by corporations, non-governmental organisations, and governmental bodies. This year, the Ministry of Education is hosting the Smart India Hackathon software and hardware edition for more than 15,000 students. The MoE has also introduced the Smart India Hackathon – Junior in an effort to promote an inventive attitude and a culture of innovation among youngsters.

About Uttarakhand:

Governor: Gurmit Singh

Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami

Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)

Bhupender Yadav Participates in 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar' Campaign at Puducherry

- In order to promote environmental sustainability, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav took part in the "Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar" campaign in Puducherry. The 75-day "Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar" campaign is an effort led by citizens with the goal of enhancing

coastal and ocean health through collective activity. The International Coastal Cleanup Day, which is on September 17, 2022, will mark the culmination of the Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar campaign, which began on July 5, 2022.

- 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.
- According to 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, the goal is to target lifestyle and behavioural changes that support environmental sustainability through Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar campaign.

About Puducherry:

Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry: Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan

Chief Minister of Puducherry: Thiru. N. Rangaswamy

Celebrate The Cultural Heritage Of The Himalayas With UNESCO And Royal Enfield

- Royal Enfield has partnered with UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) to promote and safeguard the 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of India, beginning with the Himalayas. The programme is curated as an experiential and creative showcase of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) practices in the Western Himalayas and the North Eastern region.
- This includes an exhibition, panel discussions, film screenings, performances and lecture demonstrations. The four-day programme will see eminent artists, designers, chefs, mixologists, musicians, actors, photographers and luminaries of the social development sector such as Adil Hussain, Peter D'Ascoli, Sonam Dubal, Rita Banerji, Mallika Viridi and Tsewang Namgail, Yangdub Lama, Nilza Wangmo and Anumitra Ghosh.
- UNESCO has been spearheading the movement to identify, document and preserve the Intangible Cultural Heritage of India, which is one of the 178 countries to have adopted the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), for decades.

About UNESCO:

Headquarters: Paris, France

Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom

Founders: India, United States, China, Brazil, France, Australia ETC

Parent organization: United Nations

About Royal Enfield:

CEO: B. Govindarajan (18 Aug 2021–);

Headquarters: Chennai;

Founded: 1955;

SIDBI collaborates with TPRMG to set up 1000 green energy enterprises across India

- In order to build 1,000 green energy businesses across the nation, the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and TP Renewable Microgrid Ltd (TPRMG), a fully owned subsidiary of Tata Power, have teamed up to launch green energy businesses programme.

The project will promote sustainable business models across the country, resulting in the empowerment of rural entrepreneurs.

- As per the agreement, after entrepreneurs finish a capacity-building programme run by TPRMG, SIDBI will provide them a “Go REsponsive, ENterprise incentive (GREENi)”.
- SIDBI would also support credit connections through its PRAYAAS scheme or partner banks to facilitate financing (loans) for starting or growing rural entrepreneurs’ firms.

About Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) :

Founded: 2 April 1990

Headquarters: Lucknow

CMD SIDBI: Sivasubramanian Ramanan

About Tata Power:

CEO: Praveer Sinha (1 May 2018–)

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1911

Founder: Dorabji Tata

CEO and MD: Praveer Sinha

Godrej Agrovet signs MoUs with Assam, Manipur and Tripura to promote oil palm cultivation

- Godrej Agrovet, a diversified agribusiness conglomerate, announced that it has signed an MoU with the governments of Assam, Manipur, and Tripura to advance and promote oil palm growth in the area under the National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm initiative. The partnership between Godrej Agrovet and the state governments will create new chances for expansion of oil palm plants in these states as well as support for farmers.
- The Agreements are in keeping with Godrej Agrovet’s long-term goal to be the driving force behind India’s oil mission by doubling farmer income and promoting sustainable expansion of oil palm production.
- Godrej Agrovet’s six oil palm mills, which are dispersed around the nation, manufacture a variety of goods, including crude palm oil, crude palm kernel oil, and palm kernel cake.

About Godrej Agrovet:

CEO: Adi Burjorji Godrej

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1991

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to leave for Tashkent to attend SCO meet

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh arrived in Tashkent on Tuesday to attend the SCO Defence Ministers Meeting, which is to take place on August 24. Minister Rajnath Singh held a bilateral meeting with Uzbekistan counterpart Lt Gen Bakhodir Kurbanov. During the Annual Meeting, the SCO Member States will discuss defence cooperation and it is expected that a joint communique will be issued after the deliberations. Rajnath Singh’s address at the meeting is slated to be held on August 24, 2022.
- Meetings are also scheduled with Defence Ministers’ of some other Member countries of SCO on the sidelines of this meeting, where bilateral issues and issues of mutual interest will be discussed.

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization consists of Nine-member. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation was established on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the Heads of following nations, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- These nations, except for Uzbekistan, had been members of the Shanghai Five group which was formed on 26 April 1996 by the Treaty of Deepening Military Trust in Border Regions.
- India and Pakistan signed the memorandum of obligations (MOB) in June 2016 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, hence initiating the formal process of joining the as full members.

About Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) :

Headquarters: Beijing, China

Founded: 15 June 2001

Founders: China, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan

About Uzbekistan:

Capital: Tashkent

Currency: Uzbekistani so'm

President: Shavkat Mirziyoyev

Official language: Uzbek

Union MoS for Textiles Darshana Jardosh inaugurates Silk Mark Expo in New Delhi

- The Silk Mark Expo was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Textile Darshana Jardosh in New Delhi. The Silk Mark Expo is organized by the Silk Mark Organization of India under the Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles. This is a milestone in the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav said the Union Minister of State for Textile. The Textile Ministry has launched various schemes including the Silk Mark Expo to boost the textile sector in India.
- Silk Mark is a quality assurance label launched by the government to determine the quality of the natural and pure silk produced by the weavers.
- The Silk Mark highlights the qualifying standards of the product, which will eventually build consumers' confidence in both domestic and export markets.

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Capital: New Delhi

Lieutenant Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena

NAMASTE: National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs have started a joint initiative scheme called the National Action for Mechanism Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE). National Action for Mechanism Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) aims to work in Urban India for the safety and dignity of sanitation workers. This scheme will achieve the goal by creating an enabling ecosystem that recognizes Sanitation workers as one of the key contributors to the maintenance and operations of sanitation infrastructure.
 1. To ensure that no sanitation workers should come in direct contact with human faecal matters.
 2. To provide all sewer and septic tank sanitation workers (SSWs) access to alternative livelihoods.

3. To make the Sanitation workers collectivized into Self Help Groups (SHGs) to empower them to run Sanitation enterprises.
4. NAMASTE scheme will reduce the vulnerabilities of Sanitation workers by providing access to alternative livelihoods support and entitlements.
5. National Action for Mechanism Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) will bring out a behavioral change amongst the citizens towards the sanitation workers and enhance the demand for safe sanitation services.

India's NPCI International Signs PayXpert As UK's Acquirer For UPI, RuPay - Crowdfund Insider

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which is the world's largest real-time payment solution, the Unified Payments Interface, and the RuPay card scheme has signed an MoU through their subsidiary corporation NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), with the PayXpert, the payment solutions to establish and internationalize the acceptance of its payment solutions in the UK.
- The collaboration between NIPL and PayXpert will promote Indian payment solutions on the PayXpert in the UK. The payment method will be available on PayXpert's Android point-of-sale (POS) devices for in-store payments, along with the availability of UPI-based QR code payments and RuPay card payments.
- Unified Payments Interface or UPI is the most successful real-time payment method.
- In India, UPI has been a simple, safe, secure, and time-saving payment method.
- In 2021, UPI has achieved a volume of US \$940 Bn, which is equal to 31% of GDP in India.

About NPCI:

Founded: 2008

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founders: Reserve Bank of India, Indian Banks' Association

About Unified Payments Interface:

Owner: National Payments Corporation of India

Introduced: 11 April 2016; 6 years ago

BSF signs MoU with IRCTC to ensure safety and security of booking data, other facilities

- 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 under its air e-ticket service for the troops of India's border guarding force. The pact will ensure the facility of extra baggage, lounge, cargo and less cancellation or reschedule charges for authorised BSF personnel.
- This service will provide a dedicated online portal with a credit facility of 60 days.
- This in-house Air booking system will ensure the safety and security of booking data with extra baggage, lounge, and cargo facility and less cancellation or reschedule charges for authorised BSF personnel.
- The MoU is significant in terms of providing better facilities to the personnel of the BSF, which guards 3,323km of India-Pakistan and 4,096km India-Bangladesh borders.

About Border Security Force:

Director General: Pankaj Kumar Singh

Founded: 1 December 1965

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

About Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC):

Founder: Ministry of Railways

Founded: 27 September 1999

Headquarters: New Delhi

Owner: Government of India (67%)

Paytm and Samsung collaborate to deploy smart PoS devices across India

- Paytm partnered with Samsung stores across India to facilitate smart payments as well as its loan service Paytm Postpaid through the deployment of point-of-sale devices. The partnership will enable consumers purchasing Samsung devices like laptops, smartphones, television, smart watches etc, from any authorised store in the country to pay through Paytm payment instruments, including UPI, wallet, buy now pay later scheme, debit cards and credit cards.
- 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 personal loans of up to Rs 2 lakh through financial institution partners of Paytm, according to the company statement.
- Paytm claims to be the leader in offline payments, having deployed 4.1 million devices across the country as of July 2022.

About Paytm:

MD and CEO of: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Founded: August 2010

Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

IRDAI organises hackathon, invites innovative solutions for insurance sector

- Insurance regulator IRDAI has invited entities to develop technology-driven innovative solutions for automated death claim settlement, curtail miss-selling, and other areas of the insurance ecosystem, with an aim to protect the interest of policyholders. Applications have been invited by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) as part of its first hackathon -- Bima Manthan 2022 -- with the theme 'Innovation in Insurance'.
- "The hackathon invites participants to identify and develop solutions that have the potential to make the insurance available to every individual in a seamless and swift manner with the use of technology and protecting the interests of the policyholders," the regulator said in a statement.
- IRDAI has sought innovative ideas/solutions for automated death claim settlement using technology and tech-based solution to curtail miss-selling of insurance products

About IRDAI:

Founded: 1999

Sector: Insurance

Headquarters: Hyderabad

Chairperson: Debasish Panda

Key people: Debasish Panda, IAS (Chairperson)

Election Commission to host virtual meet of Asian Regional Forum on August 11

- The Election Commission will be hosting a virtual meet of the Asian Regional Forum in New Delhi on Thursday. This Regional Forum meet on the theme Making our Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative, is precursor to the Global Summit for Democracy to be hosted by the National Electoral Institute of Mexico in the coming month.
- The Global Summit and the Regional Forum meets aim at generating synergy amongst international organizations, electoral bodies from the world and to promote intellectual and institutional mobilization to strengthen electoral democracy in the world.
- Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey will preside over the Asian Regional Forum meet.

About Election Commission of India:

Formed: 25 January 1950

Jurisdiction: Government of India

Headquarters: New Delhi

First executive: Sukumar Sen

Preceding executive: Sunil Arora

Current executive: Sushil Chandra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation the Second Generation Ethanol Plant at Panipat

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation the Second Generation Ethanol Plant at Panipat in Haryana through video conferencing. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said the Second Generation Ethanol plant will strengthen the effort to boost production and usage of biofuels in the country.
- The Prime Minister asserted plant will minimize the pollution level in Delhi, NCR, and Haryana. It will also save the environment.
- The Prime Minister said in our country that worships nature, biofuel is significant for protecting nature. Our farmers understand this better. Mr. Modi said Ethanol blending in petrol in the country increased to around 8 percent in the last 7 to 8 years. He said that the country saved at least 50 thousand crore rupees following the introduction of Ethanol blending process and the amount diverted to the farmers.

About Haryana:

Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya

Capital: Chandigarh

Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar

ITU's Regional Standardization Forum (RSF) for Asia and Oceania region to be inaugurated by Shri Devusinh Chauhan

- New Delhi hosted ITU's Regional Standardization Forum where Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State for communications delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the International Telecommunication Union's Regional Standardization Forum for Asia and Oceania. According to Devusinh Chauhan, the nation's telecommunications network is the second largest in the world and offers the best prices.

- According to RSF, the market-friendly policies of the Union Government were responsible for the nation's telecommunications network growth.
- Chauhan emphasised 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.
- In order to solve the digital divide, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has established a clear roadmap.

About Reporters Without Borders (RSF)

Headquarters: Paris, France

Founder: Robert Ménard, Rémy Loury, Jacques Molénat and Émilien Jubineau

Director General: Christophe Deloire; (since July 2012)

Formation: 1985

Kerala's Innovation Council, ICT Academy rope in LinkedIn to build student careers

- Kerala Development and Innovation Strategy Council (K-DISC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with LinkedIn, the world's largest professional network, along with the ICT Academy of Kerala (ICTAK) under the Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission (KKEM) as a part of Connect Career to Campus campaign (CCC). Kerala government aims to boost employability skills with this partnership among the youth of Kerala to get relevant jobs using LinkedIn.
- The MoU was signed and exchanged in the inaugural event of the CCC campaign in the presence of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Minister of Labour and General Education V. Sivankutty, Minister of Higher Education R. Bindu, Minister of LSGD M.V. Govindan and MLA Kadakampally Surendran.
- State Government announces that various products and services will be made available for the students on LinkedIn.
- The products and services include LinkedIn Insights, curated LinkedIn learning courses, and LinkedIn jobs.
- K-DISC stands for Kerala Development and Innovation Strategy Council, which is a strategic think-tank and advisory body constituted by the Government of Kerala.

About Kerala:

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

IOCL and Bangladesh ink MoU to supply emergency petroleum products

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the emergency delivery of petroleum products via Bangladeshi territory to India was signed by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and the Bangladesh Roads and Highways department in Dhaka. The Indian High Commission stated in a tweet that this is an interim setup to help with the urgent supply of petroleum products due to damage caused by the flood in Assam this year.
- Oil tankers will enter from Meghalaya and travel into Bangladeshi territory on their way to Tripura. For use of Bangladeshi land, the IOCL shall be responsible for paying all administrative costs, fees, and local taxes, including the road usage fee. The MoU was

signed to permit Indian cars to transfer petroleum from Assam to Tripura by road, which has been badly affected as a result of the recent floods in Assam and Tripura, according to a statement from Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

About Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL):

Chairman: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 30 June 1959

About Bangladesh:

Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina Wazed

Capital: Dhaka

Currency: Bangladeshi taka

President: Mohammad Abdul Hamid

At IDF World Dairy Summit, India to look for improvement in milk productivity

- International Dairy Federation World Dairy Summit (IDF WDS 2022), is scheduled to be held in New Delhi from September 12. India will look to improve its per animal milk productivity by drawing lessons from advanced nations. Currently, the world's largest milk producer with about 210 million tonnes of production per year, India lags behind many advanced countries in dairy productivity.
- This, according to dairy sector leaders, will be a key takeaway for the country from the Summit that has a theme of "livelihood and nutrition". Before this, India hosted the International Dairy Congress in 1974. It must be noted that India is the largest milk producing country in the world.

About International Dairy Federation (IDF)

Established: 1903

President: Piercristiano Brazzale

Current Membership – (31 countries)

India to host special meeting of UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee in October 2022

- In October, India will host diplomats from the UN Security Council's 15 member countries for a special counterterrorism meeting. India's two-year term as an elected non-permanent member of the UN Security Council is halfway over. In December of this year, India's term on the Council will come to a close, and for that month, it will also serve as President of the influential UN body.
- India will welcome diplomats from the 15-nation Security Council, including the US, China, and Russia, for the special meeting of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee in October.
- According to information on the Committee's website, the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) has decided to hold a special meeting on this topic in India on October 29, 2022, with the assistance of its Executive Directorate.
- The Security Council has addressed this in a number of resolutions pertaining to counterterrorism, most recently resolution 2617 (2021), which specifically referenced new technology.

India observes Chabahar Day with emphasis on linkage with Central Asia

- 31 July was designated Chabahar Day in Mumbai by the Ministry of Port, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW) to commemorate the Chabahar – Link to International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) – Connecting Central Asian Markets. According to the MoPSW press release, Sonwal mentioned in his talk that India's ambition is to turn Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar into a transit centre and connect it to INSTC to reach out to Central Asian countries.
- Sarbananda Sonowal stated that India anticipates enterprises and logistics firms taking use of the Shahid Beheshti Port and Chabahar Free Trade Zone's incentives.
- According to the statement, the Union Minister further invited all representatives and stakeholders to submit ideas to further cut down on transit time and costs in order to create a more affordable, expedited, and dependable route from India to Iran and Central Asia.
- The announcement stated that during the occasion, the representatives from the Central Asian nations highlighted how the connection between Chabahar and INSTC may significantly increase EXIM trade in their regions and have the ability to further accelerate development in the landlocked nations.

Modi launches revamped distribution sector scheme in RR village

- Redesigned Distribution Sector Program that is based on reforms and results was adopted by the Union Cabinet, which is presided over by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. By giving DISCOMs conditional financial assistance for the bolstering of supply infrastructure, the Scheme aims to increase the operational efficacy and financial viability of all DISCOMs/Power Departments, excluding those in the private sector. The eligibility for the assistance will depend on the DISCOM completing pre-qualifying requirements and achieving basic minimum benchmarks that will be assessed using an agreed-upon evaluation system linked to financial improvements. Instead of using a one-size-fits-all approach, the implementation of the Scheme would be dependent on the action plan developed for each state.
- The current approved projects for the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh under the Schemes of IPDS, DDUGJY, and PMDP-2015 are proposed to be incorporated into this Scheme, and the savings from their GBS would be included in the total expenditure of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme under the current terms and conditions until their expiration on 31 March 2022.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Filmfare Awards 2022: Kriti Sanon and Ranveer Singh are best actors, Shershaah is best film

- The 67th Filmfare Awards ceremony, presented by The Times Group, honoured the best Indian Hindi-language films of 2021. Held at Jio World Centre, the 67th Filmfare Awards honour the films released in 2021. At a press conference helmed by the editor of Filmfare magazine, Jitesh Pillai revealed Wolf777news as the title sponsor. Bollywood actors Ranveer Singh and Arjun Kapoor were announced as co-hosts.

Popular awards

1. Best Film: Shershaah (Dharma Productions)

2. Best Director: Vishnuvardhan (Shershaah)
3. Best Actor: Ranveer Singh (83) as Kapil Dev
4. Best Actress: Kriti Sanon, Mimi as Mimi Rathore
5. Best Supporting Actor: Pankaj Tripathi (Mimi)
6. Best Supporting Actress: Sai Tamhankar (Mimi)

National Constitutional Center to honor Ukrainian President

- The Liberty Medal 2022 will be awarded this fall to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The National Constitution Center has announced that Zelenskyy will be honoured in a ceremony in October for what it called “his heroic defence of liberty in the face of Russian tyranny.”
- President Zelenskyy has bravely led the Ukrainian people in their defence of freedom against Russian tyranny, and his courage has inspired people around the world to defend liberal democracy and the rule of law.
- Zelenskyy, who has served as the nation’s president since May 2019, has also been the recipient of awards such as the Ronald Reagan Freedom Award and the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award as well as honours from the governments of the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia.

About Ukraine:

Founded: 24 August 1991

Capital: Kyiv

President: Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia

Prime minister: Denys Shmyhal

London home of Dadabhai Naoroji gets Blue Plaque honour

- London home of Dadabhai Naoroji will get a ‘Blue Plaque’, an honour that is reserved for notable personalities who have lived and worked in London. Naoroji was the first Asian who was elected as a Member of Parliament in Britain. The Blue Plaque scheme, run by the English Heritage charity, honours the historic significance of particular buildings across London. Naoroji’s plaque was unveiled to coincide with the 75th-anniversary celebrations of Indian Independence.
- Naoroji often referred to as the “grand old man of India”, is reported to have moved to Washington House, 72 Anerley Park, Penge, Bromley, at a time when his thoughts were turning increasingly towards full independence for India in 1897. That red-brick home now has a plaque which reads: “Dadabhai Naoroji 1825-1917 Indian Nationalist and MP lived here”.
- The Blue Plaque was erected at the homes of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Mahatma Gandhi, Sri Aurobindo, Jawaharlal Nehru, and BR Ambedkar among others. Gandhi’s house was commemorated with the Blue Plaque in 1986. India’s first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru’s home at 60 Elgin Crescent, Notting Hill received the Blue Plaque in 1989.

About England:

Queen: Queen Elizabeth

Prime minister: Boris Johnson

Capital: London

Currency: Pound sterling

1082 Police personnel awarded Police Medals this year

- A total of one thousand 82 Police personnel have been awarded Police Medals on the occasion of Independence Day, 2022. 347 personnel were awarded the Police Medal for Gallantry, 87 with President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and 648 personnel were awarded the Police Medal for Meritorious Service.
- Seven personnel have been awarded President's Correctional Service Medal for Distinguished Service and 38 personnel have been given the Correctional Service Medal for Meritorious Service.

IFFM Awards Night - Indian Film Festival Of Melbourne 2022

- The 13th edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2022 began on August 12 and will conclude on August 30. The event, held annually in Australia, celebrates the Indian film industry by screening some of the most prominent and acclaimed films, TV shows, and web series from the country. One of the highlights of the festival is the awards night, where select awards are given to the best performers from Indian cinema and the OTT scene from the previous year.
- The event hosted by Rithvik Dhanjani, the event saw big wins for Kabir Khan's sports drama 83 and its star Ranveer Singh, as well as the Prime Video web series Mumbai Diaries 26 and the film Jalsa. The two films that had the most nominations: Jai Bhim and Gangubai Kathiawadi—failed to win a single award.

President approves 107 Gallantry awards to Armed Forces and CAPF personnel on Independence Day

- President of India, Droupadi Murmu has approved 107 Gallantry awards to Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel on the occasion of Independence Day 2022. The awards include three Kirti Chakra, 13 Shaurya Chakras, two bar to Sena Medals (gallantry), 81 Sena Medals (gallantry), one Nao Sena Medal (gallantry) and seven Vayu Sena Medals (gallantry).
- The president has also approved 40 mention-in-despatches to the Indian Army, one to Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel and another to the army dog, 'Axel' (posthumously), for their significant contributions in different military operations which include Operation Rakshak, Operation Snow Leopard, Operation Rhino, Operation Orchid, Operation Falcon, Operation Hifazat and Operation Trikut (Deoghar).

About CAPF:

Agency executive: IPS Officers and Central Police Service Officers

Federal agency: IN

General nature: Federal law enforcement

Governing body: Ministry of Home Affairs

Shashi Tharoor to receive France's highest civilian honour for his writings, speeches

- Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, set to be conferred with France's highest civilian award Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur. The French government is honouring him for his writings and speeches and the French Ambassador here Emmanuel Lenain has written to Tharoor informing him about the award. In 2010, Tharoor had received a similar honour from the Spanish government, when the King of Spain had bestowed upon him the Encomienda de la Real Order Espanola de Carlos III.
- Shashi Tharoor is a two-term Lok Sabha MP representing the Thiruvananthapuram constituency and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs.
- He has previously served as Minister of State for Human Resource Development and Minister of State for External Affairs in the erstwhile UPA government.

About France:

President: Emmanuel Macron

Capital: Paris

Prime Minister: Élisabeth Borne

Bangladeshi architect Marina Tabassum becomes the first South Asian to win the Lisbon Triennale Lifetime Achievement Award

- Renowned Bangladeshi architect, researcher and educator Marina Tabassum became the first person from the global south and first south Asian to win the prestigious Lisbon Triennale Millennium bcp Lifetime Achievement Award. Announcing the award, the Lisbon Architecture Triennale jury praised Marina Tabassum for presenting an inspiring example of work with local communities that can have a positive impact across the globe even under the most adverse conditions.
- The International Jury for the award said that Marina Tabssum's unique practice touches on the spiritual fundamentals of architecture. Driven by specific cultural and geographical context, her works address pressing contemporary issues, said the jury in their citation for the award. Her work shows how architects can challenge the climate crisis and bring about social change in an experimental, respectful and inspiring manner.

About Bangladesh:

Capital: Dhaka

Currency: Bangladeshi taka

President: Mohammad Abdul Hamid

Prime minister: Sheikh Hasina

Bihar college astronomy lab on Unesco heritage list

- The astronomical observatory at the Langat Singh College, commonly known as L. S. College, Muzaffarpur, Bihar is now included in the UNESCO list of Important Endangered Heritage observatories of the world. The college authorities have requested the state government to conserve the old Astro lab as a specimen of the glorious past of the state and also to preserve and promote it as a heritage structure. The UNESCO team member informed him that the astronomical observatory at Muzaffarpur is now on the UNESCO list and it has been uploaded on the UNESCO site.

- According to the college records, it was developed in 1916 after a college professor felt the need of an Astro laboratory. Prof Romesh Chandra Sen was eager to have an astronomical observatory at the LS College, and in February 1914 he consulted J Mitchell, an amateur astronomer and principal of Wesleyan College, Bankura in West Bengal, seeking his guidance.
- In 1915, the college acquired a telescope, astronomical clock, chronograph and other equipment from England after which the astronomical observatory started functioning in 1916.
- Till the 1970s, the observatory was functioning smoothly but its condition deteriorated in the 1980s and it stopped working. Later, in 1995, it was sealed when some astronomical equipment and accessories were found missing from the observatory.

About UNESCO:

Founded: 16 November 1945

Headquarters: Paris, France

Members: 193 countries

Head: Audrey Azoulay

About Bihar:

Governor: Phagu Chauhan

Capital: Patna

Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar

Canadian scholar receives ICCR's 'Distinguished Indologist for 2021' award

- Canadian scholar, Jeffrey Armstrong has been awarded the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Distinguished Indologist for 2021. He has presented the award in a ceremony by Manish, India's consul-general in Vancouver. The citation for the award states that it has been conferred upon Armstrong "in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the study/teaching/research in India's philosophy, thought, history, art, culture, Indian languages, literature, civilisation, society, etc". He becomes the seventh recipient of this award and joins the earlier recipients from Germany, China, Japan, the UK, South Korea and the USA.
- The annual award was instituted in 2015 during the First World Indology Conference hosted by the then President of India bringing prominent Indologists from the world over to a single platform with Indian scholars to deliberate upon the scope of promoting Indian studies abroad.
- The award comprises a citation, a gold-plated medallion, and US\$ 20,000 (approximately ₹1.6 million).

About Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR):

Founded: 9 April 1950, New Delhi

Founder: Abul Kalam Azad

President: Vinay Sahasrabuddhe

Headquarters: Azad Bhawan, I. P Estate, New Delhi - 110002

Director General: Kumar Tuhin

About Canada:

Capital: Ottawa

Currency: Canadian dollar
Prime Minister: Justin Trudeau

Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar to present Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Awards

- Union Agriculture Minister for the Government of India, Narendra Singh Tomar gave out Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Awards in New Delhi. As a specific Central Government programme, the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund was introduced two years ago as part of the expansive Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package. For investments in the development of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets, it offers a medium-long term credit facility.
- 13,700 applicants have gotten over Rs 10,000 crore in funding as of right now out of the 23,000+ applications that have been submitted on the integrated site of the Agri Infra Fund. The approved projects include cold-store and cold-chain projects, assaying units, primary processing units, custom hiring centres, sorting and grading units, and warehouses.
- The slogan Atmanirbhar Bharat, which translates to “self-reliant India,” was adopted and made popular by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in connection with the nation’s economic development objectives.

Tamil Nadu Police received President’s colour from Venkaiah Naidu

- In an usual event at Rajarathinam Stadium in Chennai, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin received the renowned “President’s Colours” for the Tamil Nadu Police from Vice-President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu. One of the very few law enforcement agencies in the nation to be awarded the coveted “President’s Colours” is the Tamil Nadu Police. To commemorate the achievement, Mr. Stalin declared that each police officer in the service would get a medal.
- One of the very few police departments in the nation to be awarded the coveted “President’s Colours” is the Tamil Nadu Police.
- While late leader M. Karunanidhi was the Chief Minister, the “President’s Colours” for the Tamil Nadu Police were approved as early as August 19, 2009. However, it has taken all these years for them to be presented.
- Mr. Naidu claimed that the Tamil Nadu Police was among the best in the nation and was renowned for providing exemplary service. He acknowledged that Tamil Nadu was home to the nation’s first women’s commando unit, but said that “a lot remains to be done to give them equal opportunities” and encouraged police officers to be “particularly sensitive” to crimes against women.

About Tamil Nadu:

Governor: R. N. Ravi
Capital: Chennai
Chief Minister of: M.K. Stalin
Chief Secretary: V. Irai Anbu
Home Secretary: K. Phanindra Reddy

RANKING

Bengaluru second on list of top tech hubs in APAC after Beijing: C&W Report

- Bengaluru ranks second in the Asia Pacific region in the top tech hubs list and is only behind China's Beijing, according to a report by Cushman and Wakefield. The report, called 'Tech Cities: The Global Intersection of Talent and Real Estate', studied as many as 115 different 'tech cities' across the globe. After Beijing and Bengaluru, the list has three other Indian cities, Chennai, Delhi and Hyderabad. Mumbai and Pune also made it to the top-10 list with eighth and ninth position in a list of 14 cities from the APAC.
- The study considered factors such as talent, real estate and business environment to assess and evaluate the cities. Stating that Bengaluru is home to India's largest Grade A office market, the report called the city one of the largest contributors to office space leasing with an average share of 25-30% in annual pan-India leasing activity from 2017 to 2021. The tech sector has accounted for an average 38-40% share in annual leasing activity (2017-2021) in the Bengaluru office market, which is higher than the national average of 35%, the report added.

About China:

Capital: Beijing

President: Xi Jinping

Currency: Renminbi

Official language: Mandarin

About Karnataka:

Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot

Capital: Bengaluru (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Basavaraj Bommai

Vistara 2nd in market share with 10%, behind IndiGo's 59%

- Full-service Vistara emerged as the second biggest airline by domestic market share last month with a 10.4% pie of the sky, distantly second to the market leader IndiGo at 58.8%. The airline is Tata Sons' joint venture with Singapore Airlines. The number three, four and five positions saw airlines separated by just decimal points — Air India (8.4%), GoFirst (8.2%) and SpiceJet (8%).
- India's airlines carried 9.7 million passengers on domestic routes in July, almost double from a year earlier but lower than the 10.5 million passengers ferried in June 2022.
- Vistara, which had a 7.5% market in January and around 9% in the subsequent months, climbed to 10.4% in July. Go First carried 8.2% of the domestic passengers last month, while SpiceJet flew 8%. SpiceJet and Go First have been forced to cut capacity, which helped Vistara overtake them in market share.

About Vistara :

Headquarters: Gurugram

CEO: Vinod Kannan (1 Jan 2022–)

Founded: 2014, New Delhi

Parent organization: Tata Sons

Founders: Singapore Airlines, Tata Sons

About IndiGo:

Headquarters: Gurugram

Founded: 2006

Founders: Rahul Bhatia, Rakesh Gangwal
CEO: Rono Dutta (24 Jan 2019–30 Sept 2022)

LIC breaks into Fortune 500 list, Reliance jumps 51 places

- Indian statutory insurance and investment corporation, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has broken into the latest Fortune Global 500 list. The nation's biggest life insurer with revenue of USD 97.26 billion and a profit of USD 553.8 million, was ranked 98th on the just released Fortune 500 list. This is the first outing of LIC on the list, which ranks listed companies by sales.
- Reliance Industries jumped 51 places to 104 on the 2022 list. Reliance, with revenue of USD 93.98 billion and a net profit of USD 8.15 billion in the latest year, has been on the list for 19 years.
- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) rose 28 places to 142nd rank while Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) climbed 16 places to 190.
- The list had two Tata group firms — Tata Motors at 370 and Tata Steel at 435th spot. Rajesh Exports at 437th rank was the other private Indian company on the list.
- State Bank of India (SBI) climbed 17 places to rank 236th and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd 19 places to 295.

About LIC:

Chairperson: M R Kumar
Founded: 1 September 1956
Headquarters: Mumbai
Founder: Government of India

Asia has a new richest woman as property crisis reshapes fortunes

- Savitri Jindal, the Chairperson Emeritus of OP Jindal Group, has surpassed China's Yang Huiyan to become Asia's richest woman, as per the real-time Bloomberg Billionaires Index. The 72-year-old Savitri Jindal who also holds the position of the richest woman in India has a total fortune of \$11.3 billion.
- Jindal's net worth has fluctuated wildly in recent years. It fell to \$3.2 billion in April 2020 at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, then to \$15.6 billion in April 2022 due to a rise in commodity prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- The fortune of Yang Huiyan, owner of China's largest real estate developer 'Country Garden Holdings', dropped by more than half in 2022, from \$ 24 billion to \$11 billion. She had been Asia's richest woman for the past five years.
- Jindal, 72, is India's richest woman and the 10th-richest person in the country. She became the chairwoman of the Jindal Group shortly after her husband died in a helicopter crash in 2005.

About Jindal Steel and Power:

Founder: Om Prakash Jindal
Headquarters: New Delhi
Founded: 28 September 1979, Hisar

About China:

President: Xi Jinping

Capital: Beijing
Currency: Renminbi

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Dancer-actor-activist Mallika Sarabhai opens up about her personal life in her memoir 'In Free Fall'

- Acclaimed classical dancer and activist Mallika Sarabhai bares it all in her upcoming self-help memoir, "Free Fall: My Experiments with Living". The book, which will hit the stands on August 30, is about "coming to terms with yourself, your body and finding the lifestyle that works for you". It is published by Speaking Tiger.
- A celebrated dancer, actor and public intellectual writes a memorable account – by turns inspiring, hilarious and provocative – about how she stumbled her way to health, fitness and sanity. In Free Fall is all about coming to terms with yourself and your body and find the lifestyle that works for you. And how to make mistakes, pick yourself up and carry on. Never preachy, this 'self-help' memoir delivers an immensely useful message for anyone who wants good health – and happiness.

A new book examines India's economic progress from Nehru to Modi

- A new book named 'India's Economy From Nehru To Modi:: A Brief History' written by by Pulapre Balakrishnan will be launched shortly. The book, India's Economy From Nehru To Modi:: A Brief History' is written about the economic progression of India from the time of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru to the current time of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Independent The 75-year odyssey of the Indian economy is coming to an end.
- India's Economy From Nehru To Modi:: A Brief History has been a noteworthy one. Agriculture output has increased significantly and stabilised. For more than 50 years, there have not been any food shortages. Indian industry has evolved from being a heavily dependent on imports to having a highly varied product mix.

Poetry Book 'Rusty Skies and Golden Winds' written by 11 years old Sannidhya Sharma

- Union Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, launched a poetry book titled 'Rusty Skies and Golden Winds' written by 11 years old Sannidhya Sharma, student of class 7th, here at Jammu. The book is published by Blue-Rose Publishers. The Union Minister lauded the efforts of the little author in crystallising his thoughts in the shape of a collection of his poems and his rare achievement at this tender age and wished him a bright future.
- The 100 book page is an anthology of 40 poems in which the budding author defines the nature of the world, at the moment. He lets himself be carried away by the unknown force and eyes the blood on the paper bravely. Throughout the book, the author wishes for a gust of golden winds, and sends his soul on an adventure to discover all those shallow thoughts buried in the soils of time as he lifelessly stares into the rusty skies of dust.

"Lion Of The Skies: Hardit Singh Malik" Book by Stephen Barker

- A book titled “Lion of the Skies: Hardit Singh Malik, the Royal Air Force and the First World War” is all about an “India’s first fighter pilot” who participated in the World War, long before the Indian Air Force was born. The book has been written by author Stephen Barker, who describes in great detail, how challenging it was for an Indian to serve in the British armed forces, fighting racial discrimination – both institutional and interpersonal.
- During the First World War, Hardit Singh Malik served as a fighter pilot for both Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Air Force (RAF) for fighting the Germans. He is also the first Indian Ambassador to France.
- “Dangerous Earth” book by marine scientist and science communicator Ellen Prager.
- In Dangerous Earth, marine scientist Ellen Prager explores the science of investigating volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, landslides, rip currents, and—maybe the most perilous hazard of all—climate change. Each chapter considers a specific hazard, begins with a game-changing historical event, and highlights what remains unknown about these dynamic phenomena. Along the way, we hear from scientists trying to read Earth’s warning signs, pass its messages along to the rest of us, and prevent catastrophic loss.

Odisha CM Releases Book ‘Lockdown Lyrics’, A Collection Of Poems

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has released a book titled Lockdown Lyrics’, a collection of poems written by Sanjukta Dash. The poems are an unadulterated narration of the author’s experiences and exasperations during the pandemic. She has reflected all the trauma & tribulations and hope and aspirations of humanity during this most critical journey of society in a long time.
- Sanjukta Dash is a well-known name in Odia literature. She has three anthology of poetries in Odia- Antaswar, Amrut Anwesha and Apekshare Ebe Bi. Lockdown Lyrics is her debut endeavour in English literature published by Authors Press New Delhi.

About Odisha:

Governor: Ganeshi Lal

Capital: Bhubaneswar

Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Forex reserves fall \$6.7 bn to \$564 bn in 7 days, at 2-yr low: RBI

- The country’s foreign exchange reserves fell by \$6.69 billion to \$564 billion for the week ended August 19, latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed. The reserves are at its lowest level since October 2020. In the last two weeks, the foreign exchange reserves fell by almost 9 billion. According to data released by the RBI on Friday, the fall was mainly due to a decline in foreign currency assets, by \$5.8 billion, followed by gold reserves by \$704 million.
- Foreign exchange reserves hit an all-time high for the week ended September 3, 2021 when it hit \$642 billion – which was equivalent to covering more than 14 months of imports projected for 2021-22. In almost one year, reserves are down by \$78 billion. The current level of reserves can cover about 9 months of imports projected for 2022-23.

- India's forex reserves are the fourth largest globally, according to RBI governor Shaktikanta Das after the latest rate-setting meeting when the central bank hiked rates for the third consecutive time.

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

Jurisdiction: India

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Rupee rises 7 paise to 79.84 against US dollar in early trade

- After hitting all-time low, the rupee recovered some of its losses to settle 10 paise down at 79.94 (provisional) against the US dollar, tracking the strength of the American currency and firm crude oil prices. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 80.10 and fell to its all-time low of 80.15 against the US dollar in intra-day trade. The local unit finally settled at 79.94 a dollar, down 10 paise over its previous close of 79.84. On July 20, the rupee for the first time closed below the 80-mark at 80.05 against the American currency.
- The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.28 per cent higher at 109.10, after Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell adopted a hawkish tone to battle inflation. According to Anuj Choudhary – Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, the rupee depreciated and touched an all-time low on a strong dollar and deteriorating global risk sentiments.
- Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose by 0.64 per cent to USD 101.64 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 861.25 points or 1.46 per cent lower at 57,972.62, while the broader NSE Nifty declined 246.00 points or 1.4 per cent to 17,312.90. Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market on Friday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 51.12 crore, as per stock exchange data.

Reliance AGM 2022: Mukesh Ambani Announces Total Investments Of Rs 3.5 Lakh Crore

- Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), on Monday announced investment plans to the tune of Rs 3.5 lakh crore at the 45th annual general meeting of the company. In his speech, Ambani said investment plans include Rs 2,00,000 crore on rapid rollout of 5G, Rs 75,000 crore in expanding O2C capacities across value chains and Rs 75,000 crore in new energy business, as announced last year, with potential to double the commitment based on scalability of evolving models.
- Ambani announced that RIL will invest Rs 75,000 Crore in the next five years to expand capacities in existing and new value chains with an aim to maximise oil to chemicals integration and convert advantageous feedstock streams to high-value chemicals and green materials. Reliance to be among top five producers of PVC globally. Plans to triple existing capacity with world scale plants at Dahej and Jamnagar in India and in the UAE. In the new materials business, India's first and one of the world's largest carbon fibre plants to be built at Hazira, in phases to become a multi decade growth engine for O2C.

About Reliance Industries Limited:

Founder: Dhirubhai Ambani

Founded: 8 May 1973, Maharashtra

Headquarters: Mumbai

Owner: Mukesh Ambani (49.46%); Public (50.54%)

NMDFC signs pact with ICICI Bank for development of banking software

- The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) on Thursday said it has signed an agreement with ICICI Bank for the development of financial accounting software and mobile application.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) provides for the development of financial accounting software for NMDFC and State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs), loan accounting software for receiving and processing of 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, an official statement said.
- The customised banking software will bring greater transparency and speed of transactions in the loaning and accounting process of NMDFC as well as SCAs.

About ICICI Bank:

CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi (15 Oct 2018–)

Headquarters: Vadodara

Founded: 1994, Vadodara

Founder: Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India

About National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC):

Founded: 30 September 1994

Maruti Suzuki completes 40 years in India

- Leading vehicle manufacturer, Maruti Suzuki has completed 40 years in India. On the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the company's electric vehicle battery manufacturing plant at Hansalpur in Gujarat and the passenger vehicle plant at Kharkhoda, Haryana. This time Maruti Suzuki has decided to invest 10 thousand crores for the EV plants. Maruti Suzuki may start production of electric vehicles in India from 2025.
- Maruti Udyog Limited was established in India in the year 1981. It was a public sector company. In 1982, Japanese automaker Suzuki started a joint venture with Maruti. Over the past forty years, Maruti Suzuki has become the most preferred brand in the country. RC Bhargava is the Chairman of Maruti Suzuki India.

About Maruti Suzuki India:

Managing Director and CEO: Hisashi Takeuchi

Founded: 24 February 1981, Gurugram

Headquarters: New Delhi

PGA Labs report: SBI Topped in Market Share of Debit cards

- The State Bank Of India (SBI), the largest bank in the nation, maintained its leadership position in the debit card market and HDFC Bank in the credit card market as of June 2022, according to the most recent data, despite a 6% decline in year-over-year growth. According to data compiled by PGA Labs, public sector banks hold a larger percentage of the debit card

market than private banks, whereas reverse in the Credit card market.. Bank of Baroda came in second with an 8% market share, followed by Bank of India, Canara Bank Union Bank, and Punjab National Bank, each with 5%.

- PSU banks dominate the debit card market, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank saw the highest year-over-year growth rates in the sector, at 19% and 18%, respectively.
- HDFC Bank with a market share of 22%, also led the way in the credit cards category, followed by State Bank Of India (SBI) (18%), ICICI Bank (17%), Axis Bank (12%), RBL Bank (5%), and Kotak Mahindra Bank (5%).
- HDFC Bank, the largest card issuer in the nation, added 386,487 cards in June. Kotak Mahindra Bank came in second with 262,942 cards, followed by Axis Bank with 228,933 cards, ICICI Bank with 190,490 cards, and State Bank Of India (SBI) Card with State Bank Of India (SBI) Card (166,976).

About SBI:

Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1 July 1955

About HDFC Bank:

CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan (27 Oct 2020–)

Owner: Housing Development Finance Corporation

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: August 1994, Mumbai

Tata Neu, HDFC Bank join hands to create co-branded credit cards

- HDFC Bank and Tata Neu, the “super app” of the Tata Group, announced their collaboration to introduce co-branded credit cards. Tata Neu Plus HDFC Bank Credit Card and Tata Neu Infinity HDFC Bank Credit Card are the two varieties of the card that will be available. The benefits already provided to Tata Neu customers on all of their transactions would be increased by the cards.
- The cards will increase the benefits already offered to Tata Neu customers on all of their purchases.
- Customers can now earn a total of 7% or 10% of the amount they spend on the Tata Neu app when combined with the existing Tata Neu advantages of 5% NeuCoins, depending on the card version.
- Customers of Tata Neu can access the credit card’s essential information and apply for it using the Tata Neu app.
- Customers can earn 2% NeuCoins with the Tata Neu Plus HDFC Bank Credit Card and 5% NeuCoins with the Tata Neu Infinity HDFC Bank Credit Card on all in-person and online transactions made at partner Tata brands.

About HDFC Bank:

CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan (27 Oct 2020–)

Owner: Housing Development Finance Corporation

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: August 1994, Mumbai

About TATA group:

Owner: Tata Sons
Founder: Jamsetji Tata
Founded: 1868, Mumbai
Headquarters: Mumbai

India has ample forex buffers to withstand pressure on credit worthiness: S&P Global

- India has built up buffers against cyclical difficulties and has ample foreign exchange reserves to withstand pressure on credit worthiness, S&P Global Ratings said. Speaking at the India Credit Spotlight 2022 webinar, S&P Sovereign & International Public Finance Ratings Director Andrew Wood said the country has a strong external balance sheet and limited external debt, making debt servicing not so expensive. He said the rating agency does not expect the near-term pressures to have a serious impact on India's credit worthiness.
- The rupee has depreciated about 7 per cent against the US currency this year but has performed better than its emerging market peers. Wood said India has "ample buffer" in its foreign exchange reserves and the forex kitty is expected to recover to USD 600 billion by the end of this year. Forex reserve stood at USD 570.74 billion as of August 12. The US-based agency has a 'BBB-' rating on India with a stable outlook. "We are expecting a strong level of GDP growth of 7.3 per cent this fiscal," he said, adding the rupee exchange rate movement against the US dollar has been moderate.

About S&P Global Ratings:

Headquarters: New York, United States
Founder: Henry Varnum Poor
Founded: 1860
Predecessor: Poor's Publishing; Standard Statistics

Bank Credit Growth Accelerates To 14.2% In June Quarter: RBI Data

- The Bank credit growth increased from 6% in the quarter that ended in June 2021 to 14.2% in the quarter that concluded in June 2022 as per the data released by the Reserve Bank of India. The Bank credit has increased by 10.8% in the three months that ended in March 2022. The last five quarters have seen a consistent 9.5 to 10.2% annual growth in aggregate deposits.
- The "Quarterly Statistics on Deposits and Credit of SCBs for June 2022" were published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI Report).
- The last five quarters have seen a consistent 9.5 to 10.2% annual growth in aggregate deposits.
- Over the past three years, the percentage of current account and savings account (CASA) deposits in total deposits has risen (42% in June 2020, 43.8% in June 2021, and 44.5% in June 2022), according to the RBI Report.

About Reserve Bank of India:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata
Founder: British Raj
Governor: Shaktikanta Das

RBI To Launch Digital Rupee Soon

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will very likely introduce its digital rupee, the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), in this fiscal year itself. Talks of a digital rupee in the country have been swirling since Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced it during her Budget 2022 speech back in February. At the time, she had said that the digital rupee would be launched in 2022-2023.
- The digital rupee blockchain, being developed by the Reserve Bank, would be able to trace all transactions, unlike the current system of mobile wallet offered by private companies. Earlier, news agency PTI reported that the digital currency issued by the RBI would be numbered in units, just like every fiat currency has an unique number on it.
- CBDC is a digital or virtual currency but it is not comparable to the private virtual currencies or cryptocurrency that have mushroomed over the last decade. Private virtual currencies do not represent any person's debt or liabilities as there is no issuer.

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

Ownership: Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

HPCL to commission its first cow dung to compressed biogas project in 2023

- HPCL Compressed Biogas Project: HPCL's uses first of its kind Waste-to-Energy portfolio, uses 100 tonnes of dung per day to make biogas, which may be used as vehicle fuel. In a year, the HPCL Compressed Biogas Project project is expected to be put into operation. The GOBAR-Dhan plan, announced by the Indian government in April 2018 as a part of the Swachh Bharat Mission's (Grameen) Biodegradable Waste Management component, is the framework under which the HPCL Compressed Biogas Project initiative is being developed.
- The HPCL Compressed Biogas Project project is being developed under the GOBAR-Dhan scheme, which was introduced by the Indian government in April 2018 as a part of the Swachh Bharat Mission's (Grameen) Biodegradable Waste Management component.
- Biogas is a mixture of gases generated from natural materials like agricultural waste, manure, municipal waste, plant material, sewage, green waste, and food waste.
- Biogas can be used in all gas applications, such as direct combustion absorption heating and cooling, cooking, space and water heating, drying, and gas turbines.

About HPCL:

Headquarters: Mumbai

Owner: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

Founded: 1974

Leading economists see economy clipping 13-15.7% in Q1

- Leading economists have pencilled in a high 13-15.7 per cent uptick in the economy in the first quarter of 2022-23 with an upward bias. Soumya Kanti Ghosh, the group chief economic adviser at State Bank of India, said he expects the GDP to clip past 15.7 per cent in the first quarter with more chances of the final numbers printing in higher, while Aditi

Nayar, the chief economist at the rating agency ICRA, said the economy will grow much lower at 13 per cent in the June quarter. The national statistical office will announce the first quarter GDP numbers later next week.

- While GDP contracted by 23.9 per cent in June 2020 due to the first wave of the pandemic, the same had given a higher boost in June 2021 clipping at 20.1 per cent, despite the period being more devastating in terms of loss of lives from the second wave of COVID-19.

Adani Group makes hostile bid for NDTV

- Adani Group founder, Gautam Adani has set the ball rolling to acquire a controlling stake of 55.18% in New Delhi Television (NDTV). With a concept to carry 55.18 per cent stake in NDTV, the Adani group has issued an open provide for a 26 per cent stake within the information channel at Rs 294 for a share with a face worth of Rs 4. The complete outlay for 26 per cent, or 16,762,530 totally paid up fairness shares of NDTV – if the provide is accepted in full – will likely be about Rs 483 crore for the Adani group.
- Firstly, it is going to be by way of Vishvapradhan Commercial Private Ltd (VCPL).
- And then VCPL, its wholly-owned guardian AMG Media Networks and Adani Enterprises Ltd (individuals appearing in live performance).

About NDTV:

Founders: Prannoy Roy, Radhika Roy

Founded: 1988

Headquarters: New Delhi

About Adani Group:

Founder: Gautam Adani

Headquarters: Ahmedabad

Founded: 1988

Sebi joins RBI's Account Aggregator framework to ease access to financial information

- Asset management firms (AMCs) and depositories are examples of stock market intermediaries that have been instructed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to join the account aggregator framework put forward by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Additionally, the market regulator, Sebi established regulations that will only apply to participants in the stock market ecosystem who join the aggregator framework.
- The account aggregator framework is a non-banking financial institution (NBFC) governed by the RBI .
- Account aggregator framework makes it easier to obtain or gather financial data about a customer from financial information suppliers (FIP).
- Financial information would be made available by the FIPs in the securities market through any account aggregators registered with the RBI with the help of account aggregator framework.

About SEBI:

Founded: 12 April 1992

Headquarters: Mumbai

Agency executive: Madhabi Puri Buch (Chairperson)

About RBI:

Governor: Shaktikanta Das
Ownership: Ministry of Finance, Government of India
Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata
Founder: British Raj

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

- Outward remittances under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) liberalised remittance scheme (LRS) made a strong comeback in the first quarter of FY23 as Indians increased spending on international travel, maintenance of close relatives, and gifts. The latest data for Q1-FY23 released by the RBI shows that remittance by Indians under the scheme jumped 64.75 per cent 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.
- International travel contributed \$2.92 billion of the \$6.04 billion remitted under LRS in Q1FY23, thus constituting almost 48 per cent of the money remitted under the LRS scheme. In the same period a year-ago, Indian's spent \$856.43 million on international travel as Covid-19 restrictions around the world slowed down international travel.

About RBI:

Governor: Shaktikanta Das
Ownership: Ministry of Finance, Government of India
Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata
Founder: British Raj

Indias oil demand to rise by 7.7% in 2022, fastest growing in world: OPEC

- India's demand for petroleum products like petrol and diesel will grow by 7.73 per cent in 2022, the fastest pace in the world. India's oil demand remained healthy at 0.7 millions barrels per day (million b/d), about 16 per cent y-o-y growth in June, after an annual growth of 0.8 million b/d in May. Oil demand in India is supported by the rising momentum in economic activities, as the economic reopening continued amid an easing of COVID-19 restrictions in India. Indian oil demand in June was supported by the reduction in excise duty on petrol and diesel by the Central Government, coupled with the delayed arrival of the monsoon season and has led to robust demand for fuels.
- This will surpass neighbouring China's 1.23 per cent rise in demand for these products, according to the grouping's monthly Oil Market Report (OMR).
- Russia (24 per cent), Iraq (21 per cent), and Saudi Arabia (15 per cent) were the top three sources of oil import for India.
- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent, Intergovernmental Organization, created at the Baghdad Conference held at Iraq in 1960 by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. It initially had its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland which was then moved to Vienna, Austria in 1965.

About Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC):

Headquarters: Vienna, Austria
Founded: September 1960, Baghdad, Iraq
Founders: Juan Pablo Pérez Alfonzo, Abdullah Tariki

Centre Approves Rs 50,000 Crore Under ECLGS To Hospitality Sector

- The Union Cabinet approved the enhancement in the limit of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by Rs 50,000 crore to Rs 5 lakh crore, with the additional amount being earmarked exclusively for enterprises in hospitality and related sectors. ECLGS is a continuing scheme and the additional amount of Rs. 50,000 crore would be made applicable to enterprises in hospitality and related sectors till validity of the scheme in March 31 next year.
- The enhancement is expected to provide much-needed relief to enterprises in these sectors by incentivizing lending institutions to provide additional credit of up to Rs 50,000 crore at low cost, enabling these business enterprises to meet their operational liabilities and continue their businesses. Loans of about Rs. 3.67 Lakh crore have been sanctioned under ECLGS till August 5.

Now, contributions to NPS, Atal Pension Yojana can be remitted via UPI

- Subscribers of National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) can now contribute to their accounts through Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the country's instant real-time payment system. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has launched a UPI handle for depositing contributions through D-Remit for the benefit of subscribers.
- Currently, the contributions were carried out through net banking account by using IMPS/NEFT/RTGS. The PFRDA-administered two schemes NPS and APY are targeted towards organised and unorganised sector employees, respectively. Introduced in December 2003, it is mandatory for central government employees (except armed forces) who joined service from January 1, 2004, to subscribe to NPS. In May 2009, it was extended to private and unorganised sector on voluntary basis.

About National Pension System:

Founded: 2014; 8 years ago

Founder: Government of India

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

Key people: Munish Malik (CEO)

About PFRDA:

Founded: 23 August 2003

Sector: Pension

Headquarters: New Delhi

Agency executive: Supratim Bandyopadhyay (Chairperson)

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

- The country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) has launched its first branch dedicated to start-ups in Koramangala, Bengaluru. SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara launched the branch in Koramangala near HSR Layout and Indiranagar which are the biggest start-up hubs in the city. After Bengaluru, the next branch will be opened in Gurgaon and the third one will be in Hyderabad. These branches would support the needs of the entire start-up ecosystem.

- The branch will provide services ranging from the stage of formation of start-ups to Initial Public Offerings and Follow-on Public Offerings.
- Apart from providing funding and regular banking service to start-ups, SBI will also support such players through associated services such as investment banking, treasury operations, advisory and other ancillary financial services through its subsidiaries.

About Karnataka:

Chief Minister: Basavaraj Bommai

Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot

Capital: Bengaluru (Executive Branch)

About State Bank of India (SBI):

Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1 July 1955

Parent organization: Government of India

Karnataka Bank introduces new term deposit scheme

- On the occasion of 75 years of Independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Karnataka Bank has introduced a new Term Deposit Scheme, KBL Amrit Samriddhi under Abhyudaya Cash Certificate (ACC) and Fixed Deposit for a tenure of 75 weeks (525 days). The interest rate for this Deposit Scheme is 6.10% per annum. Karnataka Bank, portraying the rich patriotic tradition and values, has always been ready to meet the aspirations and dreams of its valued patrons. With the new product, KBL Amrit Samriddhi, Bank extends the benefit of the increase in the interest rates to our customers.
- Currently, the 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 crore for a tenure of 1 year to 2 Years, while the rate is 6.05% and 6.20% on maturity period above 2 years to 5 years and above 5 years up to 10 years.

About Karnataka Bank:

Headquarters: Mangaluru

CEO: Mahabaleshwara M. S

Founded: 18 February 1924

Kotak Mahindra Bank launches lifestyle-focused corporate salary account

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched a lifestyle-focused salary account named "Kotak Creme". This account will offer an upgraded experience to its customers working in MNCs, retails, law firms, unicorns etc. The account will be available to all corporates in India and will also come with a host of privileges and rewards across lifestyle, travel, healthcare, dining, skilling and learning experiences.
- Kotak Crème is being launched in Bengaluru owing to the city's diverse hotbed of talent and corporates. Each salary account comes with preferential banking services, including a

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

- It provides access to unlimited learning and entertainment powered by content and podcast platforms including Amazon Kindle and Disney Hotstar and health and fitness benefits led by special offers from Pharmeasy and Curefit.

About Kotak Mahindra Bank:

CEO: Uday Kotak;

Headquarters: Mumbai;

Founded: February 2003.

India's wholesale inflation in July 2022 eases to 13.93 percent, lowest in 5 months

- The wholesale price-based inflation (WPI) eased to a five-month low of 13.93 per cent in July 2022 on easing prices of food articles and manufactured products. It was 11.57 per cent in July last year.
- The WPI-based inflation softened for the second consecutive month in July, raising hopes of further decline in wholesale prices in the months to come.
- The Wholesale Price Index-based inflation, after scaling a record high of 15.88 per cent in May, declined to 15.18 per cent in June. It was 13.43 per cent in February.
- The WPI inflation continued its declining trend for the second month in July but remained in double-digits for the 16th consecutive month beginning April last year.
- Inflation in food articles in July eased to 10.77 per cent from 14.39 per cent in June.

India may become a \$5 trillion economy by FY29 if GDP grows at 9% for 5 years

- India may become a USD five trillion economy by 2028-29 only if the GDP grows at nine per cent per annum consistently for the next five years, former RBI Governor D Subbarao said on Monday.
- Speaking at Federation of Telangana Chamber of Commerce and Industry on India @75- Marching Towards USD 5 Trillion Economy on the occasion of 75 years of Indian Independence, he said there are eight key challenges for India to overcome to achieve the dream of 5 trillion economy.
- "India can become a 5 trillion economy as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi not before 2028-29. Also for this we need to clock an annual GDP growth of 9 per cent consistently for the next 5 years... I see eight key challenges for India to overcome to achieve the dream of USD five trillion economy," a press release from FTCCI quoted Subbarao as saying.

India to start supplying petrol with 20% ethanol from April 2023

- India will start supplying petrol with 20 per cent ethanol at select petrol pumps from April next year and will ramp up supplies thereafter as it looks to cut oil import dependence and address environmental issues. Oil Minister Hardeep Puri said a fifth of petrol will be made up of ethanol by 2025.

- "E20 petrol (petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol) in some quantity will be available from April 2023 and the rest to be covered by 2025," he said.

SBI to offer 6.1% interest rate on this FD tenure for 75 days

- The largest lender in the nation, State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced a unique term deposit programme called "Utsav Deposit Scheme". This fixed deposit scheme has higher interest rates and is only available for a limited time. This programme is introduced on the occasion of the nation's 76th year of Independence, celebrated as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- SBI is offering an interest rate of 6.10% per annum on fixed deposits with a tenure of 1000 days. And senior citizens will be eligible to get an additional interest rate of 0.50% over and above the regular rate.
- SBI increased interest rates on fixed deposits maturing in 180 to 210 days from 4.40% to 4.55%.
- SBI increased interest rates from 5.30% to 5.45% for fixed deposits with maturities of one year to less than two years.
- The interest rate on deposits maturing in 2 years to less than 3 years has increased to 5.50% from 5.35%, while the interest rate on deposits maturing in 3 years to less than 5 years has increased from 5.45% to 5.60%.

About State Bank of India:

Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1 July 1955

Defence forces, RBI and Prime Minister's Office most trusted institutions, says survey

- Defence forces, RBI and Prime Minister of India are the three most trusted institutions in the country, according to a survey by Ipsos India. The Supreme Court of India came fourth and it was followed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- Defence Forces with at least 2 in 3 (65 per cent of respondents) reposing faith in them was ranked first, followed by Reserve Bank of India with 1 in 2 (50 per cent). Prime Minister of India as an institution was at the third spot with 49 per cent citizens having trust in it, the survey said. Smack in the middle was the Parliament (33 per cent) ranked 7th, ranked 8th was the media (32 per cent) and placed 9th was the Election Commission of India (31 per cent), it said.
- The institutions at the bottom of the heap were politicians (16 per cent), political parties (17 per cent), community leaders (19 per cent) and religious leaders (21 per cent), it said, adding, these institutions have least credibility according to the opinions of the citizens across the cities and target groups polled.

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

Jurisdiction: India

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Retail inflation eases to 6.71% in July; IIP grows 12.3% in June

- Retail inflation softened to 6.71 per cent in July due to moderation in food prices but remained above the Reserve Bank's comfort level of 6 per cent for the seventh consecutive month. With retail inflation continuing to remain high despite a fall in prices of vegetables and edible oils, among other commodities in July, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) might go for another rate hike in September.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation was at 7.01 per cent in June and 5.59 per cent in July 2021. It was above 7 per cent from April to June this fiscal. According to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Friday, food inflation in July moderated to 6.75 per cent as against 7.75 per cent in June.
- India's factory output, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), came in at 12.3% for the month of June, compared with 19.6% reported in May, the government data has showed. The coronavirus pandemic had weighed on Industrial production since March 2020, when it had contracted 18.7%.
- The manufacturing sector's output grew 12.5% in June 2022. The mining output climbed 7.5%, and power generation increased 16.4% in June this year.

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

Ownership: Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Jurisdiction: India

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

About National Statistical Office (NSO):

Parent department: Ministry of Statistics

Formed: July 12 2006

Headquarters: New Delhi

Autonomous Body executive: Prof. Bimal Kumar

RBI issues guidelines to regulate digital lending

- All digital loans must be disbursed and repaid through bank accounts of regulated entities only, without pass-through of loan service providers (LSPs) or other third parties, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its long-awaited guidelines for the segment.
- The guidelines, aimed at curbing rising malpractices in the digital lending ecosystem, follow the recommendations of a working group for digital lending, whose report was made public in November 2021. "The concerns primarily relate to the unbridled engagement of third parties, mis-selling, breach of data privacy, unfair business conduct, charging of exorbitant interest rates, and unethical recovery practices," the RBI said in the final guidelines.
- RBI had constituted a 'Working Group' which has given its guidelines which are applicable for the first category of lenders. And these guidelines has been accepted by RBI and has become effective.

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

Ownership: Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Jurisdiction: India

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

7.3% of Indians owned digital currency in 2021, 7th highest in world: UN

- The UN trade and development body, UNCTAD said in 2021, developing countries accounted for 15 of the top 20 economies when it comes to the share of the population that owns crypto currencies. Ukraine topped the list with 12.7 per cent, followed by Russia (11.9 per cent), Venezuela (10.3 per cent), Singapore (9.4 per cent), Kenya (8.5 per cent), and the US (8.3 per cent). In India, 7.3 per cent of the population owned digital currency in 2021, ranking seventh in the list of top 20 global economies for digital currency ownership as share of population.
- The policy brief titled “All that glitters is not gold: The high cost of leaving crypto currencies unregulated” examines the reasons for the rapid uptake of crypto currencies in developing countries, including facilitation of remittances and as a hedge against currency and inflation risks.
- It said that recent digital currency shocks in the market suggest that there are private risks to holding crypto, but if the central bank steps in to protect financial stability, then the problem becomes a public one.

About (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) UNCTAD:

Headquarters location: Geneva, Switzerland

Founded: 30 December 1964

Head: Secretary-General; Rebeca Grynspan

About (United Nations):

Founded: 24 October 1945, San Francisco, California, United States

Headquarters: New York, United States

Founders: United States, India, United Kingdom, Turkey, Brazil,

Secretary General: António Guterres

Rupee Cooperative Bank: RBI cancels licence, lakhs of depositors in jeopardy

- The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the licence of Pune-based Rupee Co-operative Bank Ltd as the lender does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. However, the RBI said that in compliance to an order of the High Court of Bombay, its direction will become effective after six weeks. Consequent to the cancellation of its licence, ‘Rupee Co-operative Bank Ltd, Pune’ stands prohibited from conducting the business of banking which includes, among other things, acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits with effect from September 22, 2022.
- The licence has been cancelled because the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects and as such, it does not comply with certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- As per the data submitted by the cooperative bank, more than 99 per cent of the depositors are entitled to receive full amount of their deposits from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

Jurisdiction: India

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Indias GDP to contribute 22% to global growth, says Morgan Stanley

- According to analysts at Morgan Stanley, India's GDP growth will average 7% during this time, which is the strongest among the largest economies, and India will contribute 28% and 22% to both Asian and global growth, respectively. This makes India the fastest-growing Asian economy in the Asian region in 2022–2023. They claimed that due to the release of dormant demand, the Indian economy is poised for its strongest performance in more than a decade.
- According to Chetan Ahya, chief Asia economist at Morgan Stanley, the most significant change in India's structural narrative is the obvious shift in policy emphasis in favour of increasing the economy's productive potential and India's GDP growth.
- With oil and commodities prices down between 23 and 37% since their peak in March 2022, Morgan Stanley predicts that macro stability indicators will return to a comfortable level and that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may not need to raise rates substantially in the near future.

RBI gives nod to State Bank of India's HR subsidiary to manage costs efficiently

- The Reserve Bank of India preliminary approved the operations and support subsidiary of State Bank of India (SBI). The subsidiary will likely be staffed by a group of employees who will be hired by the arm on a contract basis and will initially focus on managing branches in rural and semi-urban areas. Recruits made by State Bank Operations Support Services may not be qualified for the benefits, according to sources.
- Sanjeev Naryani will probably be in charge of the HR division. Before joining the Kolkata-based private sector lender Bandhan Bank in 2019, Naryani worked for SBI for 32 years.
- For the Indian banking sector, SBI's HR subsidiary would be the first of its sort; other banks might follow.
- In the past, numerous lenders sought approval from the regulator for actions of this nature by a subsidiary but were denied.

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

Jurisdiction: India

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

About State Bank of India (SBI):

Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1 July 1955

In a First, SBI Formalises Policy To Finance Makers Of Lab-grown Diamonds

- SBI is the first Indian lender to frame a policy to fund makers of lab-grown diamonds which come across as replicas of the natural stones, but are often looked at with suspicion by high-street banks and scoffed at by many traditional diamantaires.

- Reflecting the slow shift in the diamond trade, the decision by the country's largest bank comes amid some of the jewellers putting up factories in Surat to produce synthetic diamonds and many diamond houses considering relocating from the financial capital Mumbai to the southern Gujarat town, which for decades has been the hub of diamond cutters and polishers.

About State Bank of India (SBI):

Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1 July 1955

RBI imposes monetary penalty on Spandana Sphoorty Financial Limited

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹2.33 crore on Hyderabad-based Spandana Sphoorty Financial Ltd for its failure to adhere to the pricing of credit guidelines for Non-Banking Financial Company – Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs).
- RBI had conducted statutory inspections of the company, a NBFC- MFI, with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2019 and March 31, 2020. Examination of the Risk Assessment Report, Inspection Reports, supervisory letters and all related correspondence revealed that the company's failure to adhere to pricing of credit guidelines for NBFC-MFI, according to the central bank's statement. The central bank observed that its 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.
- RBI said the penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in it under the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Ownership: Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

RBI imposes monetary penalty of Rs 32 lakhs on Indian Bank

- 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 central bank had conducted statutory inspections of the company with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2020 and March 31, 2021.
- These revealed that the non-bank lender had not complied with regulatory directions pertaining to submission of credit information to Central Repository of Information on Large Credits, submission of credit information data to Credit Information Companies, RBI said in a release today.
- 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)', it added.

About Reserve Bank of India:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

Ownership: Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Public Sector Banks recover ₹6.4l crore NPAs, write-off loans since FY15

- Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have recovered non-performing loans and write-offs of ₹6.42 lakh crore since FY15 and sued 98.5% of willful defaulters, who are with the government. available data shows.
- From FY 2016 to FY 2011, the government has infused Rs 3.36 lakh crore in PSBs, while the banks themselves have raised an additional Rs 2.99 lakh crore from the markets.
- The provision coverage ratio of PSBs, a measure of health that captures the amount set aside to cover bad loans, has increased from 46% at the end of March 2022 to 86.9% at the end of March 2015.
- Since FY15, PSBs have recovered ₹ 5.17 lakh crore in non-performing assets (NPAs) and ₹ 1.24 lakh crore in written off accounts.
- The Gross NPA Ratio of PSBs declined from 14.6% on March 31, 2018 to 7.4% as on March 31, 2022, while the Net NPA Ratio declined from 8% to 2% during the period. Stressed assets have come down from 15.3% to 8.7%.

Piyush Goyal emphasizes on 'Whole of Govt' approach to boost exports

- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday, 5 August emphasised on 'Whole of Govt' approach to boost exports. Interacting with the Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and representatives of Industry associations at New Delhi on Friday, Goyal reviewed the Export scenario of the country. He said that the 'Whole of Govt' approach to boost exports would require exporters, EPCs, govt agencies and Indian missions abroad to work together. He further stated that the ball is in our court and we have to be ready to take on global competition. He said that government is doing its best through various measures to support Indian exporters to compete globally.
- Enumerating initiatives taken, he highlighted that with Gati Shakti, government is improving connectivity and logistics. Government is also negotiating to sign more FTAs with important trade partners. This will have a direct impact in providing a level playing field in international markets, he added. He emphasised that everybody will have to work hard to achieve true potential of India in terms of global trade.

About Export Promotion Councils:

Founded: 1992

Second 50bps hike: Repo rate's now over pre-pandemic level

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on August 5, 2022, raised the repo rate by 50 basis points (bps) to 5.4 per cent, taking it above the pre-pandemic levels of 2020, as has been speculated in a while. This is the third time that the RBI has raised the repo rate in a span of few months, by a huge 140 bps in three months, to be precise. One bps equals 0.01 percentage point.

- “The most likely scenario is that the impact of the rate hike will be passed on by the banks to the deposit rates,” Shaktikanta Das, governor, RBI said. “Already the trend has started, quite a few banks have hiked their deposit rates and that trend will continue. When there is a credit offtake, obviously the banks can sustain and support that credit offtake only if they have higher deposits. They cannot be relying on central bank money on a perennial basis to support credit offtake.
- A hike in repo rate leads to a corresponding hike in interest as well as deposit rates. The repo rate is essentially the rate at which the RBI lends to banks and lending institutions. Now, the real estate sector, which was reeling under the double whammy of the pandemic-induced lockdown and lower buyer interest on account of factors, such as job losses, has given a mixed reaction to the hike in repo rate, saying that buyer sentiment could rise in the high-end segment, but could dip in the affordable housing category.

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

Jurisdiction: India

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

SIDBI partners with SVC Bank for empowering MSMEs

- To increase the flow of loans to MSMEs, the SVC Co-operative Bank (SVC Bank) and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have reached an agreement. Ashish Singhal, MD of SVC Bank, and Sanjeev Gupta, GM of SIDBI, inked the deal. For more than 115 years, SVC Bank has acted as a reliable partner for MSMEs.
- According to the agreement, SIDBI would grant a refinancing facility to SVC Bank in order to promote loan flow, empower MSMEs, and strengthen economic ties.
- The MSME sector is the backbone of the Indian economy in terms of exports, employment creation, and revenue to the exchequer.
- SIDBI has now chosen to collaborate with several Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) and Regional Rural Banks in order to create a robust environment for the development of Indian MSMEs (RRBs).
- This is the first such contract that has been signed with a UCB. SIDBI plans to sign more of these agreements with UCBs and RRBs in different States.

About SIDBI:

Founded: 2 April 1990

Headquarters: Lucknow

General Manager: Sanjeev Gupta

About SVC Bank:

Headquarters: Mumbai, India

Founded: 1906

MD: Ashish Singhal

RBI's financial inclusion index rose to 56.4 in March 2022

- The Reserve Bank of India's composite financial inclusion index (FI-Index) capturing the extent of financial inclusion across the country rose to 56.4 in March 2022, showing growth across parameters. RBI now publishes the index annually in July every year.
- The index stood at 53.9 in March last year. It was at 43.4 for the period ending March 2017, showing rapid improvement in reach of financial services over the past five years.
- The index captures information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value ranging between 0 and 100, where 0 represents complete financial exclusion and 100 indicates full financial inclusion.
- It comprises three broad parameters — access with 35% weightage, usage with 45% weightage and quality with 20% weightage. It incorporates details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector.

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das