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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UK announces 75 scholarships in India's 75th year of Independence

- The United Kingdom government has announced a partnership with leading businesses in India to offer 75 fully funded scholarships for Indian students to study in the UK from September, in celebration of the 75th anniversary of India's independence. Additionally, the British Council in India is offering around 18 scholarships for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) covering over 12,000 courses across more than 150 UK universities.
- The programmes on offer include Chevening scholarships for a one-year Master's programme, with the opportunity to study any subject at a UK university.
- HSBC, Pearson India, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Sons and Duolingo are among the companies supporting this initiative to celebrate India's 75th year of independence. HSBC India will sponsor 15 scholarships, Pearson India will sponsor two, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Sons and Duolingo will sponsor one each as part of the 75 scholarships.

About United Kingdom:

Prime Minister: Boris Johnson

Capital: London

Currency: Pound Sterling

Iran applies to join China and Russia in BRICS club

- Iran has submitted an application to become a member in the group of emerging economies known as the BRICS. Iran's membership in the BRICS group, which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, "would result in added values for both sides," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson. Argentina had also applied to join the group. Argentina's President Alberto Fernandez, currently in Europe, has in recent days reiterated his desire for Argentina to join BRICS.
- Russia has long been pushing to forge closer ties with Asia, South America and the Middle East, but it has intensified its efforts recently to weather sanctions imposed by Europe, the United States and other countries over its invasion on Ukraine.

Commonwealth admitted Gabon and Togo as its 55th and 56th members

- The Commonwealth of Nations now has 56 member nations after the admission of Togo and Gabon. The two historically French-speaking nations were formally admitted to the union at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, which was presided over by Rwandan President Paul Kagame in Kigali, the country's capital. According to Patricia Scotland, the organization's secretary-general, admission is determined by evaluations of a number of standards, including the democratic process, effective leadership, and rule of law.
- According to Togo's Foreign Minister Robert Dussey, the goal of the country's membership in the Commonwealth is to broaden its network of diplomatic, political, and commercial relations.
- According to Michael Moussa Adamo, the foreign minister of Gabon, joining would strengthen economic diversification while retaining ties with France.
- President Ali Bongo of Gabon thinks modernization is a goal of joining the Commonwealth.

Sri Lanka hikes fuel prices as it faces economic collapse

- Representatives from the United States arrived for talks in an effort to assist the island nation during its greatest economic crisis since its independence in 1948, Sri Lanka hiked its fuel costs, adding to the suffering of the populace. Diesel, which is frequently used in public transportation, has seen a price increase of 15% to 460 rupees (\$1.27) per litre, while gasoline has seen a price increase of 22% to 550 rupees (\$1.52) per litre, according to Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC).
- After Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera predicted an indefinite delay in receiving new oil shipments, the news was made the next day.
- According to Wijesekera, supplies of oil expected last week have not arrived, and shipments expected the next week will also not make it to Sri Lanka due to “financial” issues.
- Wijesekera apologised to drivers and asked them not to stand in line for long periods of time outside gas stations. Many people have left their cars in line in the hopes of topping them off when supplies are replenished.

About Sri Lanka:

Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte

President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Currency: Sri Lankan rupee

Prime minister: Ranil Wickremesinghe

Massive Wildfire in Spain and Germany Amid an unusual Heat Wave

- On Sunday amid an unusual heat wave in western Europe and Germany struggled with wildfires. There has been used damage in several places in Spain and Germany.
- The Northwest province of Zamora is affected by over 25000 hectares.
- Up to 25000 hectares of the area have been consumed by the wildfire in Zamora. In Germany residents of three villages near Berlin have been ordered to leave their homes due to the approaching wildfire as requested by the officials on Sunday.

China launched Three New Yagon-35 remote Sensing Satellites

- Three new remote sensing satellites were successfully launched by China from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in the Sichuan Province in southwest China.
- The satellites were launched by a Long March-2D carrier rocket at 10:22 a.m. (local time) as part of the Yaogan-35 family and successfully entered the intended orbit.

World's largest freshwater fish found in Cambodia

- The world's largest recorded freshwater fish, a giant stingray, has been caught in the Mekong River in Cambodia, according to scientists from the Southeast Asian nation and the United States.
- The stingray, captured on June 13, measured almost four meters (13 feet) from snout to tail and weighed slightly under 300 kilograms (660 pounds).

Ex-rebel fighter Gustavo Petro wins Colombia's presidency

- Gustavo Petro, a former rebel fighter who has promised profound social and economic change, has won Colombia's presidency.
- The victory in Sunday's presidential runoff election will make Petro Colombia's first left-wing president.
- He won 50.4 percent of the vote, while his rival Rodolfo Hernandez, a construction magnate, had 47.3 percent.

China launches third, most 'advanced aircraft' carrier named 'Fujian'

- China launched its third aircraft carrier, the country's most advanced as well as the first "fully domestically built" naval vessel, as an aggressive Beijing sought to extend the range of its navy in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.
- The Fujian is China's first domestically designed and built catapult aircraft carrier.

Pakistan remains in FATF 'grey list' for terror financing, money laundering, but nearing exit

- Pakistan got a reprieve from the Paris based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) international watchdog as it announced that the country could be removed from the "grey list" after a visit by a fact-finding team to verify the measures it has taken to deal with terror financing.
- FATF noted Pakistan's claims of actions to curb terror funding.

Pakistan may get off terror funding watchdog's 'grey list' after on-site check

- Pakistan will continue to be on the "Grey List" of countries under increased monitoring of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), from the global money-laundering and terror-financing watchdog. Pakistan has been on the grey list of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) since June 2018 for failing to check money laundering, leading to terror financing, and was given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019.
- Since then, the country continues to be on that list due to its failure to comply with the FATF mandates. The concluding session of the plenary meeting of the FATF is due and includes Pakistan's review on the agenda.
- Pakistan is now targeting the full completion of the 2021 action plan on anti-money laundering and combating terror financing by the end of January 2023.
- In October 2021, the FATF acknowledged Pakistan's progress on a 27-point action plan on completion of 26 items but kept the country on its increased monitoring list to exhibit terror financing investigations against and prosecutions of top cadres of UN-designated terror groups.

About FATF:

Headquarters: Paris, France

President: Marcus Pleyer

Purpose: Combat money laundering and terrorism financing

Founded: 1989

China launches third, most 'advanced aircraft' carrier named 'Fujian'

- China launched its third aircraft carrier, the country's most modern and first "completely domestically made" naval warship, as an aggressive Beijing pushed to expand its navy's range in the key Indo-Pacific area. The 'Fujian' aircraft carrier was launched at a brief ceremony at Shanghai's Jiangnan Shipyard, according to official media reports from the eastern metropolis.
- According to the state-run Xinhua news agency, the Fujian is China's first domestically designed and built catapult aircraft carrier.
- Due to the COVID lockdown of Shanghai, the ship's launch was delayed by two months. It was supposed to be launched on April 23, around the time of the People's Liberation Army Navy's 73rd anniversary (PLAN).
- China State Shipbuilding Corporation Limited's third aircraft carrier has a displacement of more than 80,000 tonnes and is equipped with electromagnetic catapults and arresting gear.
- Fujian is the name given to China's easternmost coastline province.
- The 'Liaoning,' China's first aircraft carrier, was a refurbishment of a Soviet-era ship that was commissioned in 2012, followed by the Chinese-built second aircraft carrier, the 'Shandong,' in 2019. Two Chinese provinces are named Liaoning and Shandong.

About China:

President: Xi Jinping

Capital: Beijing

Currency: Renminbi

China became the biggest importer of India's broken rice

- China has emerged as the largest importer or buyer of broken rice from India. China takes over the largest importer of broken rice in India, which were the African countries. During the pandemic, China took the lead as the largest importer of broken rice in India. 7.7 percent has been imported to China which is 16.34 lakh metric tonnes, and India's total export is 212.10 Lakh metric tonnes in the year 2021-2022.
- According to the analysis of the trade, out of 16.34 LMT, 96 percent of the rice exported to China was broken rice. China has become the top buyer of broken rice from India. The total export for basmati and non-basmati altogether was 212.10 LMT in 2021-2022, which is 19.30 percent higher than the earlier export in 2020-2021 which stood at 177.79 LMT. During this time export of broken rice to China from India increased from 3.31 LMT to 16.34 LMT.
- In 2021-2022, the total export of rice from India for Basmati rice was 38.48 LMT, which has decreased from the export of 2020-2021, which was 46.30 LMT. non-basmati rice has the largest share in the Indian export of rice. In 2021-2022, other than Basmati rice, the export of rice was 172.56 LMT, which is an increase compared to the last year 2020-2021, which was 131.48 LMT, an increase of 31.27 percent. In 2021-2022, 38.64 LMT of broken rice was exported to 83 countries from India, and from these 83 countries, China imported 15.76 LMT which made 476.40 percent more than 2.73 LMT.

About China:

President: Xi Jinping

Capital: Beijing

Currency: Renminbi

Somali president nominates Hamza Abdi Barre as prime minister

- Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has appointed a former chairman of the Jubaland state election commission, Hamza Abdi Barre as the Prime Minister. The 48-year-old Hamza Abdi Barre from the semi-autonomous state of Jubaland replaced Mohamed Hussein Roble. Barre served in a number of public and political roles and from 2011 to 2017 was secretary-general of the Peace and Development Party (PDP), the precursor to the Union for Peace and Development (UDP) now led by Mohamud.
- Mohamud won the presidency for the second time in May, having previously served from 2012 to 2017, after a long-delayed election that took place against a backdrop of the worst drought in 40 years and a bloody armed rebellion.

About Somalia:

Capital: Mogadishu

Currency: Somali Shilling

President: Hassan Sheikh Mohamud

Japan is attending a NATO summit for the first time ever, prompted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine

- Japanese Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida will attend this month's NATO summit in Madrid, becoming the country's first leader to join a top meeting of the transatlantic alliance. The June 28-30 gathering is seen as a crunch moment for the 30 North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies, four months into Russia's war in Ukraine.
- Japan, a key U.S. ally and not a NATO member, has delivered defensive supplies to Ukraine and imposed tough sanctions on Russia in tandem with the other Group of Seven countries. Sweden and Finland, which have applied to join NATO, are sending delegations to the summit, and South Korea's new President Yoon Suk-yeol will also be the first leader from his country to attend.

About NATO:

Formation: 4 April 1949

Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium

Secretary General: Jens Stoltenberg

Total Member: 30

UPI, RuPay Cards to Soon Be Accepted in France as NPCI's Overseas Arm Entered the European Country

- Union Communication Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that UPI and Rupay card services will be available in France soon, giving a huge boost to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Rupay cards. The overseas branch of India's National Payments Corporation (NPCI) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with France's Lyra Network for the acceptance of UPI and Rupay in the country.

- So far, countries such as Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Bhutan, and Nepal have adopted India's UPI payment system.
- The NPCI International is in discussions to expand UPI services in the United States, Europe, and West Asia.
- Indian travellers will be able to make smooth payments throughout their trip to France thanks to an agreement between NPCI International and Lyra Network.
- Jawed Ashraf, an Indian ambassador in France, spoke about his experience with a seamless and transparent digital payment system and how beneficial it may be in France.

About France:

Currency: Euro

President: Emmanuel Macron

Capital: Paris

Prime Minister: Élisabeth Borne

APEDA organizes eight-day long mango festival in Bahrain to boost export of Mangoes

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has organized an eight-day long mango festival in Bahrain to boost the export of Mangoes. 34 varieties of mangoes from eastern states of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha, are being displayed at eight different locations of Bahrain's Al Jazira group supermarket.
- All the varieties of mangoes have been directly procured from farmers and two Farmer Producer Organizations. The mango show will continue till the 20th of this month. The mango show in Bahrain is part of APEDA's new initiatives to explore international markets for Indian mangoes under the 'Mango Festival 2022'.
- The mango show in Bahrain is part of APEDA's new initiatives to explore international markets for Indian mangoes under the 'Mango Festival 2022'. It's the outcome of APEDA's commitment to provide a global platform for Indian mangoes that for the first time 34 varieties of mangoes from eastern states have been showcased in Bahrain. Besides, mangoes as a whole, several mango preparations like mango cake prepared in Al Jazira bakery, juices, different varieties of mango shakes, etc. have also been showcased at the festival.

About APEDA:

Formation: 1986

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairman: M. Angamuthu

About Bahrain:

Head: Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

Capital: Manama

Currency: Bahraini dinar

Arati Prabhakar set to become Biden's science adviser and his pick to lead science office

- US president Joe Biden is expected to name Arati Prabhakar as the head of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). She will succeed Eric Lander who left the

role nine months after his appointment after he admitted to bullying his staff and creating a hostile work environment during his tenure.

- Once the Senate approves the 63-year-old's appointment, Arati would be the first woman and the first person of color to serve as science adviser to the President of the United States. Her role will require advising Biden on how to compete with China, bring forth rules which will protect US-funded academic research from theft and aim to reduce inequality within the research community.
- Arati also served in top roles during the presidential tenures of Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. The Clinton administration picked her to lead the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Obama administration picked her to lead the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

About United States:

Capital: Washington, D.C.

President: Joe Biden

Currency: United States Dollar

About Office of Science and Technology Policy:

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., U.S

Parent agency: Executive Office of the President

Founded: 11 May 1976

38th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol begins in Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca

- The 38th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy Units of Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) and Indonesian Navy is being conducted from June 13 to 24 2022 in the Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca. The 38th CORPAT is the first post pandemic Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between the two countries. It includes a visit by the Indonesian Navy units to ANC at Port Blair from June 13 to 15, 2022 followed by a Sea Phase in the Andaman Sea and visit by IN Units to Sabang (Indonesia) from June 23 to 24, 2022.
- As part of Government of India's vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region), Naval Component under the aegis of HQ ANC undertakes coordinated patrols with other littoral countries of the Andaman Sea along respective Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) towards enhancing regional maritime security.
- The two Navies have been carrying out CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) since 2002. This has helped build understanding and interoperability between both the Navies and has facilitated measures to prevent and suppress Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy, etc. The IND-INDO CORPAT contributes towards forging strong bonds of friendship across the Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca.

About Indonesia:

Capital: Jakarta

Currency: Indonesian rupiah

President: Joko Widodo

About Malacca Strait:

Location: Andaman Sea-Strait of Singapore

Max.Length: 930 km (580 mi)

Islands: Kundur Island, Rupert Island, Bintan Island, Batam Island, Mendol Island

Bridges: Bunting Island Bridge

Madhya Pradesh: Cheetah donors to visit Kuno wildlife sanctuary; Namibia yet to sign MoU

- The Indian government has finalized deals with South Africa and Namibia to get the planet's fastest animals, cheetahs that became extinct in India and will be released into the wild at Kuno Palpur, Madhya Pradesh, by the end of 2022. Initially, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed for 10 years, which can be extended for another five years. There will be 12 cheetahs from South Africa and 8 from Namibia and more will be followed in subsequent years.
- The project to translocate cheetahs from Africa to India is a long-term, one-time project being implemented by the environment ministry with the help of the Wildlife Institute of India to reintroduce the cheetah into wild, which became extinct in India in the 1950s. The Supreme Court had appointed an expert panel, which approved Kuno Palpur as the possible location for cheetah relocation. In the past six months, the Madhya Pradesh forest department has prepared a 10 sq km enclosure with round-the-clock surveillance for reintroduction of cheetahs.

About Madhya Pradesh:

Capital: Bhopal (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel

UNGA adopts India sponsored resolution on multilingualism mentions Hindi language for first time

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted an India-sponsored resolution on multilingualism that mentions the Hindi language for the first time. The resolution passed encourages the UN to continue disseminating important communications and messages in official as well as in non-official languages, including in Hindi language. The resolution also mentions Bangla and Urdu for the first time.
- As part of these efforts, 'Hindi @ UN' project was launched in 2018 with an objective to enhance the public outreach of the United Nations in the Hindi language, and to spread greater awareness about global issues among millions of Hindi-speaking populations around the world.
- Multilingualism is an essential factor in harmonious communication among peoples and an enabler of multilateral diplomacy. It ensures effective participation of all in the Organization's work, as well as greater transparency and efficiencies and better outcomes.
- Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are the six official languages of the United Nations; English and French being the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat.

About The United Nations General Assembly:

Formation: 1945

President: Abdulla Shahid

Headquarters: New York, United States

China releases world's most detailed moon map yet

- China has released a new geological map of the moon, which it says is the most detailed to date, registering even finer details of the lunar surface than mapped by the US in 2020. The new map, which has details of craters and structures not charted before, will assist in further research of the moon. The world's most detailed map of the moon released by China is expected to make a great contribution to the scientific research, exploration, and landing site selection on the moon.
- The new comprehensive geological map of the moon released by China is to a scale of 1:2,500,000. It is the most detailed moon map to date.
- The moon map includes the 12,341 impact craters, 17 rock types, 81 impact basins, and 14 types of structures.
- The new significant details of moon map have provided abundant information about the geology of the moon and its evolution.
- The most detailed map of the moon was published by Science Bulletin on May 30, 2022.

About China:

Capital: Beijing;

Currency: Renminbi

President: Xi Jinping

Queen Elizabeth II Becomes World's Second-Longest Reigning Monarch

- Britain's Queen Elizabeth II overtook Thailand's King to become the world's second-longest reigning monarch in history, after France's Louis XIV. The UK has been celebrating the 96-year-old Queen's Platinum Jubilee to mark 70 years of service to the nation with grand events. After four days of royal parades, street parties, pageantry and other events held across the UK and the Commonwealth to mark the Platinum Jubilee milestone.
- Crowned in 1953, Queen Elizabeth II became the longest-serving British monarch in September 2015, surpassing her great-great grandmother Queen Victoria. Now she has overtaken Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who reigned for 70 years and 126 days between 1927 and 2016, to set another record. Louis XIV of France remains the longest-reigning monarch, with a 72-year and 110-day reign from 1643 until 1715.

About United Kingdom:

Capital: London

Prime minister: Boris Johnson

Currency: Pound sterling

EU Parliament approves ban on new fossil-fuel cars from 2035

- Members of the European Parliament have voted to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2035. The move aims to step up the fight against climate change through the faster development of electric vehicles. The voting was held on an amendment that would have allowed some auto emissions from new vehicles after 2035, which was rejected by Members of Parliament.

- Lawmakers supported a proposal, made by the European Commission last year, to require a 100% reduction in CO2 emissions from new cars by 2035, which would make it impossible to sell fossil fuel-powered vehicles in the EU from that date.
- Attempts by some lawmakers to weaken the target to a 90% CO2 cut by 2035 were rejected.

About European Parliament:

President: Roberta Metsola

Headquarters: Strasbourg, France

Founded: 19 March 1958

UN to provide \$48 mn humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka amid crisis

- United Nations has planned to provide humanitarian assistance of around \$48 million over a four-month period to Sri Lanka. New Delhi's financial assistance worth over \$3 billion since January to provide essential items, including food, fuel, cooking gas and medicines. Sri Lanka needs \$6 billion to keep the country afloat for the next six months, adding that \$5 billion is required to ensure day-to-day living and another \$1 billion to strengthen the Sri Lankan rupee.
- Sri Lanka is nearly bankrupt, having suspended repayment of its foreign loans. Its foreign reserves are almost spent, which has limited imports and caused serious shortages of essential items including food, medicine, fuel and cooking gas. It is due to repay \$7 billion this year of the \$25 billion in foreign loans it is scheduled to pay by 2026. Sri Lanka's total foreign debt is \$51 billion.

About Sri Lanka:

Capital: Jayawardenepura Kotte

Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee

Prime Minister: Ranil Wickremesinghe

President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa

NATO holds Baltic Sea naval exercises with Finland, Sweden

- S.-led naval exercise in the Baltic Sea, more than 7,000 sailors, airmen, and marines from 16 nations, including two aspiring NATO members, Finland and Sweden, began a nearly two-week. BALTOPS, an annual naval exercise that began in 1972, is not performed in response to any specific danger. However, NATO stated that "with both Sweden and Finland participating, NATO is embracing the opportunity in an unpredictable world to increase its combined force resilience and strength" in collaboration with two Nordic aspirant countries.
- Both Finland and Sweden had a lengthy tradition of military non-alignment before their governments chose to apply to join NATO in May, in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24.
- Moscow has frequently cautioned Helsinki and Stockholm not to join the Western military alliance, threatening harsh measures if they do so.
- The top US military officer stated in Sweden, the host of the BALTOPS 22 exercise, that it was especially vital for NATO to express support to the governments in Helsinki and Stockholm, ahead of the naval practice, which comprised 45 vessels and 75 aircraft.

About NATO:

Founded: 4 April 1949, Washington, D.C., United States

Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium

Bajram Begaj elected as Albania's new president

- Albania's parliament has elected a top military official, General Major Bajram Begaj as its new president after no candidates were nominated in three rounds of voting. The outgoing President Ilir Meta signed the decree on Begaj's dismissal as Chief of General Staff of the AAF.
- Earlier, Bajram Begaj held the post of the Chief of General Staff of the Albanian Armed Forces (AAF). He is Albania's 8th president and the 3rd from the military ranks. Bajram Begaj will take oath as the new president on 25th July 2022 to replace the current president 'Ilir Meta', who will remain in office until 22nd July 2022.

About Albania:

Capital: Tirana;

Currency: Albanian lek;

Prime Minister: Edi Rama.

India, Bangladesh hold joint military exercise as part of bilateral defence cooperation

- India-Bangladesh bilateral defence cooperation, a joint military training exercise Ex SAMPRITI-X is being conducted at Jashore Military Station in Bangladesh from 05 June to 16 June 2022. The aim of the exercise is to strengthen interoperability between the two armies and to understand each other's tactical drills and operational techniques.
- The Indian contingent of company strength is being represented by a Battalion of the DOGRA Regiment and the contingent departed by road for the exercise location on 4 Jun 2022.
- During the joint military exercise Ex Sampriti-X, armies of both the Nations will share expertise in multiple simulated scenarios of Counter Terrorism, Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief and UN Peacekeeping Force under UN mandate.
- Exercise Sampriti is an important bilateral defence cooperation endeavour conducted alternately by both countries which aims to strengthen and widen the aspects of interoperability and cooperation between both the armies.

About Bangladesh:

Capital: Dhaka

Currency: Bangladeshi taka

President: Abdul Hamid

Prime minister: Sheikh Hasina

UN Approves Official Name Change Of Turkey To Türkiye

- The United Nations has changed the Republic of Turkey's country name at the organisation from "Turkey" to "Türkiye", following a request from Ankara for the

change. UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric had been received from the Turkish foreign minister Mevlut Cavusoglu addressed to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, requesting the use of “Türkiye” instead of “Turkey” for all affairs.

- Turkey began the move to change its internationally recognised official name in English to Türkiye in December after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan released a memorandum and asked the public to use Türkiye to describe the country in every language. Türkiye is the best representation and expression of the Turkish people’s culture, civilization and values.

About Türkiye:

Capital: Ankara

President : Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Currency: Turkish lira

About United Nations:

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

Headquarters: New York, New York, United States

Secretary general: António Guterres

Jharkhand to get ‘World No Tobacco Day’ award from WHO

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has chosen Jharkhand for the World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Award-2022, in recognition of the state’s efforts to reduce tobacco usage. The award will be presented to the State Tobacco Control Cell of the Health Department in New Delhi in honour of World No Tobacco Day. The coveted award, which honoured the State Government’s achievements in reducing tobacco usage, was given by the National Tobacco Control Program in Jharkhand.
- According to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS)-1 report, the NTCP was begun in Jharkhand in 2012, when the state’s tobacco prevalence rate was 51.1 percent, with 48 percent of smokers.
- According to the GATS-2 study, tobacco users in the state decreased to 38.9%, with 35.4 percent of those using smokeless tobacco.
- The effective programmes and reach-out helplines for individuals who wished to stop tobacco are the reason for the decline of tobacco in Jharkhand.
- Simultaneously, tobacco usage in Jharkhand has decreased due to increased knowledge and limitations on tobacco use, such as the prohibition of smoking in public places and making it a criminal violation.
- A maximum of six World No Tobacco Day Awards will be given to each World Health Organization zone. Two of the honorees may additionally receive particular acknowledgment from the WHO Director-General through the Director-General Special Recognition Award.
- A organization, an individual, a government agency, or a ministry may be nominated for the prize if they have made a substantial contribution to tobacco control.

About Jharkhand:

Founded: 15 November 2000

Capital: Ranchi

Chief Minister: Hemant Soren

Governor: Shri Ramesh Bais

About WHO:

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Founded: 7 April 1948

Head: Tedros Adhanom; (Director-General)

Canada to cap the market for handguns with new legislation

- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has unveiled new legislation that would implement “some of the harshest gun control measures” in decades, including a “freeze” on the country’s handgun purchases and sales. Trudeau cited a succession of mass shootings in Canada over the years, as well as recent assaults in the United States, as part of his government’s motivation to propose Bill C-21 during a press conference in Ottawa.
- Canada has stronger gun ownership laws than the United States, gun control supporters have campaigned for tougher regulations in recent years in the wake of a number of mass shootings, including a 2017 attack on a Quebec mosque that killed six worshipers and a fatal shooting in Toronto in 2018.
- The AR-15 weapon, which was used by a shooter to murder 26 adults and children in the Sandy Hook tragedy in the United States in 2012, and the Ruger Mini-14 rifle, which was used by a gunman to murder 14 women at a Montreal engineering school in 1989, were among those banned.
- Long-gun magazines will also be permanently changed so that they can never store more than five rounds, and the sale and transfer of large-capacity magazines would be prohibited.

About Canada:

Prime minister: Justin Trudeau

Capital: Ottawa

Currency: Canadian dollar

NATIONAL NEWS

Karnataka Launches Kashi Yatra Scheme, Offers Cash Assistance of Rs. 5,000

- Karnataka government has launched the ‘Kashi Yatra’ scheme. The Kashi Yatra project, which offers a cash assistance of Rs 5,000 to each of the 30,000 pilgrims willing to conduct a pilgrimage to the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- For this scheme, the government will be using funds of up to Rs 7 crores from the accounts head of ‘Assistance to Manasa Sarovara Pilgrims’ which was announced in the chief minister’s budget speech for the financial year. Shashikala Jolle, the Minister for Religious Endowment, Hajj and Wakf, said, any pilgrim taking up the government-sponsored ‘Kashi Yatra’ would get the benefit only once in a life time.

About Karnataka:

Chief Minister: Basavaraj Bommai

Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot

Capital: Bengaluru

4th Synergy Conference between Indian Army & Defence Accounts Department held in New Delhi

- In New Delhi, there was the fourth Synergy Conference between the Indian Army and the Defense Accounts Department (DAD). Senior commanders of the Indian Army and DAD attended the one-day meeting, which was co-chaired by Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) Lt Gen BS Raju and Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) Shri Rajnish Kumar.
- The many initiatives being carried out by DAD were well received by the VCOAS. He encouraged DAD and top Indian Army officers to coordinate closely in order to resolve various internal audit and payment difficulties.
- In order to facilitate decision-making and improve the management of the defence budget, he discussed the necessity of identifying the costing and expenditure profile for the units and formations. He acknowledged the significant contribution made by personnel of the Indian Defence Accounts Service in assisting the Indian Army in making vital financial choices and ensuring financial discipline through the Accounting and Audit Function.

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Capital: New Delhi

Lieutenant Governor: Mr. Vinai Kumar Saxena

High-speed expendable aerial target Abhyas successfully tested off Odisha coast

- The Defence Research and Development Organization's (DRDO) Abhyas high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT), which was created as a target for the testing of missile systems, underwent a successful flight testing from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), off the coast of Odisha. The Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a DRDO unit with a Bengaluru location, created Abhyas.
- The DRDO recently conducted numerous tests on Abhyas in various configurations.
- Precision demonstrations of the aircraft's performance at low altitude, including prolonged level flight and excellent manoeuvrability, were made.
- The target aircraft was being tracked by a number of tracking sensors deployed by ITR, including radar and an electro-optical targeting system, as it was being flown from a ground-based controller in a predetermined low altitude flight route.
- According to a DRDO scientist, the Abhyas system has radar cross-section (RCS) and infrared signatures that may be utilised to simulate a variety of aircraft for anti-aircraft warfare training as well as for testing intended to hit aerial targets.

About Odisha:

Governor: Ganeshi Lal

Capital: Bhubaneswar

Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik

India, Australia Hold 9th Army to Army Staff Talks in Dehradun

- The ninth Army to Army Staff Talks, which were held in Dehradun, between the Australian and Indian armies were centred on developing a roadmap for improved defence cooperation and joint military exercises. The Indian Military Academy (IMA) was the location

of the discussions, where both parties went over the road map for initiatives promoting defence cooperation, according to the Army.

- These initiatives include training sessions for both Armies, cadet exchange programmes between pre-commission training academies, bilateral exchanges of Austrians, subject matter expert exchanges in specialised fields, functional and high-level visits, interaction between think tanks, and virtual interactions in the fields of medical and doctrinal exchanges.
- Richard Marles, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defense of Australia, visited India.
- A meeting of the India-Australia Joint Working Group (JWG) on Defence Research and Material Cooperation is scheduled for Australia.

About Uttarakhand:

Governor: Gurmit Singh

Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami

Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)

Dak Karmayogi: E-Learning Platform launched by Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw and MoS Shri Devusinh Chauhan

- The Dak Karmayogi, which is an e-Learning portal of the department of posts was launched by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw minister of communication, railways, electronics, and IT, and Shri Devusinh Chauhan minister of state for communications. The function was held at Stein auditorium Indian habitat Centre on 28 June 2022. This portal has been developed under the vision of mission Karmayogi which was initiated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with a view of bringing efficiency in the actions of all the employees of the Government of India and transforming the efficiency of bureaucracy with minimum Government and maximum governance.
- Dak Karmayogi portal aims to enhance the competencies of about 4 lakh Gramin Dak Sevak and department employees by enabling the trainees to access the uniform standardized training content online and in blending campus mode to enable them to effectively deliver several G2C services for enhanced customer satisfaction.
- Meghdoot award was introduced in the year 1984 and it is the highest award of the departmental post at the National level for overall performance and excellence. The awardees are facilitated with a medallion, certificate, and a cash prize of rupees 21000.

Union Agriculture Minister NS Tomar inaugurates Honey Testing Lab in Nagaland

- During his visit to Nagaland, the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, officially inaugurated the Dimapur Honey Testing Laboratory. The honey testing facility will support beekeepers and producers in testing their produced honey. At the North-East Agri Expo, Chumaokedima, Tomar was attending an event. Among others, G. Kaito, the Nagaland Agriculture Minister, Chief Secretary J. Alam, and Central Horticulture Commissioner Prabhat Kumar attended the ceremony.
- Speaking at the event, Tomar stated that when it comes to overall growth, the Northeast Region cannot be ignored. Therefore, the government aims to make the north east region self-sufficient through its plans, initiatives, funds, and institutions.

NITI Aayog Launches Report on India's Gig and Platform Economy

- A report titled "India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy" was released by NITI Aayog. Suman Bery, vice chairman of NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant, and Dr K Rajeswara Rao, special secretary, released the report. The study, which is a first of its kind, offers in-depth viewpoints and suggestions on the gig-platform economy in India. CEO Amitabh Kant emphasised the industry's potential to generate jobs in light of India's growing urbanisation, and widespread access to the internet, digital technology, and cellphones.
- The report offers a comprehensive methodical approach to calculating the sector's current size and potential for employment creation.
- It examines the benefits and drawbacks of this developing industry, shows international best practices for social security programmes, and outlines plans for skill development and job creation for various worker categories in the industry.

Hyderabad: Telangana CM KCR Inaugurates T-Hub 2.0 - World's Largest Innovation Centre

- Ratan Tata, an Industrialist, applauded the Telangana government's most recent T-Hub opening in Hyderabad. The Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao received congratulations from the chairman emeritus of Tata Sons on the new T-hub facility in Hyderabad, which will significantly improve the Indian startup ecosystem.
- The Telangana government opened the largest innovation campus in the world in Hyderabad and declared that the city would soon produce the next significant innovation in startup companies.
- The start-up ecosystem in our state is regarded as one of the top 10 in the world for accessible talent.
- It is among Asia's top 15 startup hubs for raising capital. Telangana's startup ecosystem was worth USD 4.8 billion in 2021.
- According to the Telangana government, the new structure has a total built-up area of more than 5.82 lakh square feet, making it the largest innovation campus in the world.
- The second-largest campus is startup incubator Station F, which is located in France.
- T-Hub (Technology Hub), a Hyderabad-based innovation hub and ecosystem enhancer, was founded in 2015.

Assam's Kamakhya temple open doors for devotees as Ambubachi Mela ends

- Devotees were finally permitted to take part in the annual Ambubachi Mela at Assam's renowned Kamakhya Temple after a two-year absence. The head priest of Maa Kamakhya Devalaya, or "Bor Doloi," Kabinath Sarma, explained that the "Pravritti" was used to symbolically close the temple doors for four days as part of the rites. The door will be unlocked or Nivriti in the morning of the first day.
- Pallav Gopal Jha, the deputy commissioner for Kamrup Metropolitan, stated that although extensive preparations have been made for the pilgrims visiting the shrine atop the Nilachal Hills in Guwahati, neither private vehicles nor public transportation are permitted.
- An annual Hindu festival known as the Ambubachi Mela takes place at the Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati, Assam. This annual festival is held in the middle of June, when the

Brahmaputra River is at its highest flow, during the monsoon season, which also happens to fall within the Assamese month of Ahaar.

MEDISEP insurance scheme for Kerala govt staff, pensioners from July 1

- Kerala state government has issued orders regarding the implementation of a medical insurance “MEDISEP” scheme for government employees and pensioners and the deduction of premium from the salary of June 2022 and pension of July 2022. MEDISEP scheme is applicable to government employees, pensioners/family pensioners and their eligible family members and employees and pensioners of universities that receive grant in aid from the state government and the local self-government institutions.
- The scheme provides cashless medical assistance through an insurance company selected through the competitive bidding process. As per the scheme, the premium on behalf of the employees and pensioners towards MEDISEP shall be paid by the government in advance and will be recouped from the salary of employees and pensioners.

About Kerala:

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

Nitin Gadkari approves Bharat NCAP; Indian cars to get safety rating based on crash tests

- Union minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari has approved the Draft GSR Notification to introduce Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Program), wherein automobiles in India shall be accorded Star Ratings based upon their performance in Crash Tests. Bharat-NCAP will serve as a consumer-centric platform allowing customers to opt for safer cars based upon their star-ratings, while promoting a healthy competition among OEMs in India to manufacture safer vehicles.
- The testing protocol of Bharat NCAP shall be aligned with Global Crash Test Protocols factoring in the existing Indian regulations, allowing OEMs to get their vehicles tested at India’s own in-house testing facilities. Bharat NCAP will prove to be a critical instrument in making our automobile industry Aatmanirbhar with the mission of making India the Number 1 automobile hub in the world.

Goa celebrates 'Sao Joao' festival after 2-year Covid induced hiatus

- The people of Goa has celebrated the Sao Joao festival, the feast of St John the Baptist with traditional enthusiasm after a two-year coronavirus-induced gap. The festival is dedicated to Saint John the Baptist, who baptised Lord Jesus on the river of Jordan and is celebrated at the onset of monsoon. Siolim, a village in North Goa, hosts a traditional canoe parade on the occasion of Sao Joao.
- A large number of people participated in the boat parade in Siolim village of Goa’s Bardez taluka, marking the beginning of revelry in the ‘Sao Joao’ festival. Traditionally, people jump into the well but since the wells are fast disappearing, people prefer to celebrate it in swimming pools. The festival is marked to herald the monsoon season in the state every year in June. People are often seen having a great time by enjoying and dancing in the artificial rain which adds charm to the celebrations.

About Goa:

Capital: Panaji

Governor: P.S. Sreedharan Pillai

Chief Minister: Pramod Sawant

Indian Navy and DRDO conduct flight test of VL-SRSAM

- Off the coast of Chandipur, in the state of Odisha, India successfully tested the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM). Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Indian Navy successfully conducted flight tests for the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM). Off the coast of Chandipur, Odisha, the launch was carried out from an Indian Naval Ship.
- A ship-borne weapon system called VL-SRSAM is designed to eliminate close-range aerial threats such targets that skim the surface of the sea.
- A high-speed aerial target resembling an aeroplane was launched with the system, and it was effectively engaged.
- ITR, Chandipur deployed a variety of tracking sensors to track the vehicle's flight path and health indicators. Senior representatives from the Indian Navy and DRDO kept an eye on the test launch.
- Shri Rajnath Singh, the minister of defence, also expressed his gratitude to the DRDO, the Indian Navy, and the industry for the successful flight test and noted that the system's additional armour will improve the ability of Indian naval ships to defend themselves from aerial threats.

About DRDO:

Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi

Founded: 1958

Chairman: Dr G Satheesh Reddy

PM participates in the 14th BRICS Summit

- PM Narendra Modi led India's participation at the 14th BRICS Summit, convened under the Chairship of President Xi Jinping of China on 23-24 June 2022, in a virtual format. The High-level Dialogue on Global Development, non-BRICS engagement segment of the Summit, was held on 24 June.
- Theme: Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development

Union Home Minister Mr. Shah addressed the National Conference on Cyber Safety and National Security in New Delhi

- During the Conference, Amit Shah said that transactions through Unified Payment Interface (UPI) have crossed one trillion US dollar mark in financial year 2022 and today India is first in global digital transactions.
- He said, India accounted for 40 percent of the total global digital payments in 2021 and BHIM-UPI are no longer just an Indian app but have become global.

Jammu and Kashmir to host G20 meetings in 2023; five-member coordination panel constituted

- Jammu and Kashmir will host the 2023 meetings of the G20, an influential group of the world's major economies.
- The government of the union territory set up a five-member high-level committee for overall coordination.
- India will hold the G-20 presidency from December 1, 2022, and convene the first G20 leaders' summit in 2023.
- India would be a member of the G20 Troika from December 1, 2021, to November 30, 2024.

PM Modi inaugurates Vanijya Bhawan and launches NIRYAT portal in Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated "Vanijya Bhawan", a new premises of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Delhi and also launched a new portal - NIRYAT (National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade) which will provide a one-stop platform for stakeholders to get all necessary information related to India's foreign trade.

Delhi airport becomes India's first to run entirely on hydro and solar energy

- GMR Group-run Delhi Airport has become first airport in India to run entirely on hydro and solar power from June 1st in a major step toward achieving the goal of becoming a Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport by 2030.
- Delhi International Airport Limited has signed a long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) with a Himachal Pradesh-based hydropower producing company for supply.

Delhi airport becomes India's first to run entirely on hydro and solar energy

- Delhi Airport or Indira Gandhi International Airport has become the first airport in the country to run entirely on hydro and solar power from this month in a major step toward achieving the ambitious goal of becoming a Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport by 2030.
- Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), a GMR Infrastructure Limited-led consortium, which manages and operates the Delhi Airport, has signed a long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) with a Himachal Pradesh-based hydropower producing company for the supply of hydroelectricity for the airport until 2036.

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

- The World Bank has approved a project worth ₹1,000 crore for taking rain-fed farming to new heights in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand.
- The project named Uttarakhand Climate Responsive Rain-fed Farming Project will be implemented by the watershed department.
- The project is aimed at reducing green house gas emissions for funding by the World Bank.

Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy launched “Jyotirgamaya” festival in New Delhi

- Jyotirgamaya, a festival celebrating the brilliance of underappreciated performers, was launched in New Delhi by Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy.
- Sangeet Natak Akademi organised this festival as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and on the occasion of World Music Day to highlight the talent of rare musical instruments from all across the country, including street performers and train entertainers.

Droupadi Murmu may become India’s First Tribal and Second Female President

- Droupadi Murmu, an Odisha-based Santhal, as its nominee for the highest constitutional position, India may ultimately elect its first tribal president.
- After the legislative board of the party endorsed what is widely seen as Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s pick for Rashtrapati Bhavan, BJP leader JP Nadda announced Murmu’s candidacy.

Assam becomes 36th State/UT to implement One Nation One Ration Card

- Assam has become the 36th State to implement the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme. With this, the ONORC plan is successfully implemented in all 36 states, and Union Territories, making food security portable throughout the country.
- This is a one-of-its-kind citizen-centric initiative in the country, which is swiftly implemented in a short span of time covering about 80 Crore beneficiaries, after being initiated in August 2019, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said in a statement today.

Govt Launches NIPUN Scheme To Upskill Construction Workers

- The project NIPUN is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) under its flagship scheme of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) to train over 1 lakh construction workers, through fresh skilling and upskilling programmes and provides them with work opportunities in foreign countries also.
- ‘NIPUN’ i.e. National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman workers.

ICG inducts indigenously designed, developed Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III in Chennai

- The Indian Coast Guard’s Eastern Region inducted the indigenously designed and developed Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mark III, the first aircraft of the newly created “840 Squadron”.
- The new squadron will be stationed at Chennai, the headquarters of the Eastern Region of the Coast Guard. Three more ALHs will be added to the inventory of ‘840 Squadron’ shortly.

PM Modi inaugurates B R Ambedkar School of Economics campus and Centre for Brain Research at IISc in Bengaluru

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new campus of Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE) University in Bengaluru and also unveiled a statue of the architect of Indian Constitution installed at the campus.
- At the event, he also unveiled 150 Technology Hubs' that have been developed by transforming the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across Karnataka.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Centre for Brain Research and laid the foundation stone for Bagchi Parthasarathy Multispeciality Hospital at IISc Bengaluru.
- The Centre for Brain Research is developed as a one of its kind research facility & focuses on conducting vital research to provide evidence-based public health interventions to manage age-related brain disorders.

PM launches 1st ever Chess Olympiad Torch Relay, India to host 44th Chess Olympiad

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the historic torch relay for the 44th Chess Olympiad at Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi. This year, for the very first time, International Chess Federation, FIDE, has instituted the Chess Olympiad Torch, a part of the Olympic tradition. India is the first country to have the Chess Olympiad Torch Relay.
- FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich handed over the torch to Prime Minister, who in turn handed it over to Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand. This torch will be taken to 75 cities in a span of 40 days before the final culmination at Mahabalipuram near Chennai. At every location, chess grandmasters of the state will receive the torch. The 44th Chess Olympiad will be held in Chennai from 28th July to 10th August, 2022.

About International Chess Federation:

Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

President: Arkady Dvorkovich

Founded: 20 July 1924, Paris, France

Membership: 200 national associations

PM Modi inaugurates redeveloped Kalika Mata temple in Gujarat's Pavagadh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the renovated Shree Kalika Mata temple at Pavagadh Hill in Gujarat's Panchmahal district. At the temple, he also conducted Puja with customary customs. A 'Dhwaja' was raised at full mast atop the shrine by Mr. Modi. This majestic Mahakali temple's sanctum sanctorum is composed of gold. It is one of the region's oldest temples and draws a huge number of pilgrims.
- He emphasised the significance of the event, when Dhwaja, the sacred flag, was flown on the temple after five centuries and even 75 years after independence. This 'Shikhar Dhwaj,' he explained, is a symbol of the reality that centuries pass, eras pass, yet religion endures.

- Mr Modi added that 'Garvi Gujarat' is synonymous with India's pride and glory, and that Pavagadh has been a centre of worldwide harmony with India's historical variety. This pinnacle flag, according to Mr Modi, is not only a symbol of our faith and spirituality, but it also indicates that the pinnacle of faith is eternal throughout centuries of change.

About Gujarat:

Capital: Gandhinagar

Governor: Acharya Devvrat

Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel

Ministry of Culture and ASI organise 'Yoga Mahotsav' at Purana Qila in New Delhi

- Yoga Mahotsav was organised by the Ministry of Culture in partnership with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) at Purana Qila in the national capital. The event was held as part of the celebrations for the International Day of Yoga 2022. According to the Ministry of Culture, the purpose of the event was to instil the everlasting value of cultural wellbeing among the people.
- Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for Culture and Parliamentary Affairs, and Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs, both attended the ceremony.
- The event drew around 500 participants, including officials from the Union Culture Ministry and foreign representatives from over 40 nations.
- The event began with the Saraswati Vandana being recited, followed by a yoga session led by instructors from the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga.
- Meenakshi Lekhi, speaking at the event, stated that Yoga is the key to living a healthy and active life. She further stated that thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts, yoga has spread far and wide, even globally.

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Capital: New Delhi

Lieutenant Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan starts national yoga Olympiad

- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated National Yoga Olympiad 2022 and quiz competition in New Delhi. The National Yoga Olympiad is being organised jointly by the Ministry of Education and the National Council of Educational Research and Training. This year about six hundred students from 26 states and UTs and Demonstration Multipurpose Schools of Regional Institutions of Education will be participating in the forthcoming National Yoga Olympiad.
- Pradhan highlighted that to encourage healthier choices and bring people closer, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has suitably chosen this year's theme as Yoga For Humanity. The Minister said, Yoga is uniting the world in the pursuit of good health and wellness.

- The Minister stressed that NEP 2020 lays special emphasis on the physical and emotional well-being of both students and teachers. Mr. Pradhan suggested that NCERT include the ancient wisdom of Yoga in the school curriculum. Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar said that yoga has to be popularised as a part of the National Education Policy 2020.

Ministry of Education:

Founded: 15 August 1947

Headquarters: Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

Ministry executives: Amit Khare, IAS; Anita Karwal,

Officeholders: Annpurna Devi (Minister of State)

Upper age limit for Agnipath scheme hiring raised to 23 for 2022

- Following widespread opposition to the Agnipath plan, the Centre announced a 10% reservation for Agniveers in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and Assam Rifles recruitment. The Ministry of Home Affairs also decided to grant a three-year age relaxation to Agniveers in the CAPFs and Assam Rifles who are between the ages of 17.5 and 21. Notably, the initial class of recruits will be given a five-year extension on the maximum age limit.
- The Agnipath short-term recruitment strategy for the armed forces was previously announced by the Centre. The plan, which is intended to be a reformative step, attempts to infuse more fresh blood into the three services.
- The Agnipath programme will allow young people aged 17.5 to 21 to be inducted into one of the Army's three services as agniveers for a four-year period.
- Agnipath has sparked protests in a number of states. During violent demonstrations by candidates, the central government increased the upper age limit for the scheme from 21 to 23 years in a one-time waiver.

About Assam Rifles:

Headquarters: Shillong, Meghalaya, India

Founded: 1835

Motto: Sentinels of the North East

Parent agency: Indian Army

Mumbai's CSMIA launches first-of-its-kind Vertical Axis Wind Turbine & Solar PV system

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), Mumbai has become India's 1st airport to launch a one-of-its-kind Vertical Axis Wind Turbine & Solar PV hybrid (Solar Mill) to explore the possibility of utilization of wind energy at the airport. With this, Mumbai will become the first city in India to establish a one-of-its-kind hybrid power project at its airport.
- This sustainable initiative undertaken by CSMIA reduces dependence on conventional electricity which propels its journey towards 'Net Zero' emissions.
- This fully integrated, hybrid renewable energy product harnesses solar and wind energy merged to produce electricity.

- The energy produced through this technology can be customised on a need-specific basis. It's easy to mount the technology on any mobile or static rooftop due to its modular and scalable size.

About Maharashtra:

Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Capital: Mumbai

Chief Minister: Uddhav Thackeray

Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin launches Ennum Ezhuthum scheme to fill learning gap

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, MK Stalin launched the Ennum Ezhuthum scheme to bridge the learning gap that was caused due to the COVID pandemic among students aged below eight. The scheme aims to ensure foundational literacy and numeracy by 2025. It was launched at an event in Azhinjivakkam panchayat union middle school, Tiruvallur.
- The education department will distribute workbooks to students from Classes 1 to 3 to assess and bridge the learning gap.
- The State government has announced a slew of programmes and schemes for the academic year 2022-23, with the motive to improve the quality of education in the State.
- The children will be trained in 3 subjects – Tamil, English, and Mathematics in a classroom suitable for conducting lessons that are designed in the format of dance, songs, storytelling, and puppetry, and also videos.

About Tamil Nadu:

Capital: Chennai

Chief Minister: K. Stalin

Governor: N. Ravi

India's first private train service under 'Bharat Gaurav Scheme' flagged off

- The first train to be operated between Coimbatore and Shirdi by a private operator, under the 'Bharat Gaurav' scheme of the Indian Railways, was flagged off. Ministry of Tourism has informed that the first ever Bharat Gaurav Train has been flagged off on Coimbatore north to Sainagar Shirdi route. The train will cover several historical destinations on the route while giving the passengers an insight into the cultural heritage of the country.
- Indian Railways had launched the operation of theme-based Bharat Gaurav train in the month of November 2021. The objective of this theme is to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places to the people of India and the world, through Bharat Gaurav Trains. This scheme also aims to leverage the core strengths of the professionals of the tourism sector to run theme-based trains to tap the vast tourist potential of India.

Female labour participation rises to 25.1 per cent in 2020-21

- According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) annual report for July 2020-June 2021, the all-India female labour force participation rate (LFPR) in ordinary status grew 2.3 percent to 25.1 percent in 2021, up from 22.8 percent the previous year. In rural areas, female labour force participation has climbed by 3% to 27.7%, whereas in urban areas, female

labour force participation has increased by 0.1 percent to 18.6%. The labour force participation rate (LFPR) is the proportion of people who work in the population.

- The usual status of a person was defined as the activity status on which he or she spent a significant amount of time in the 365 days prior to the survey date.
- The overall LFPR for people of all ages in typical status in India has grown slightly from 40.1 percent in 2019-20 to 41.6 percent in 2020-21.

Government of India Announced 'Agnipath' recruitment scheme for armed forces

- The Indian government has introduced the Agnipath Military recruitment scheme, a 4-year tenure scheme for the defense troops. The scheme will facilitate the induction of more troops for shorter-term tenures. The scheme has been planned and is being implemented by the Department of Military Affairs.
- 'Agnipath' is a short-term service youth recruitment scheme for the armed forces that operates across India. Agniveers will be the name given to those chosen for the scheme, and they will serve in a variety of terrain such as deserts, mountains, land, sea, and air.
- Approximately 45,000 people between the ages of 17.5 and 21 will be inducted into the service for a four-year period under the scheme. The recruitment process will begin in the next 90 days, with the first batch expected to be completed by July 2023.
- The selection will be made using a centralised online method. Agniveers will be required to have the same educational requirements as normal officers in the armed forces.
- Women will be inducted in the 'Agnipath' scheme as well.

About Government of India:

Founder: Constitution of India

Ministries: 57

Founded: 26 January 1950

Seat: Rashtrapati Bhavan (Official Residence of the President of India)

Responsible to: Lok Sabha

Chief Justice: N. V. Ramana

Delhi government builds oxygen production facility in collaboration with UNDP

- To supplement oxygen supply capacities, the Delhi Government, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India, has built an oxygen producing facility at G. B. Pant Hospital in New Delhi. Kanni Wignaraja, UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, inaugurated the oxygen plant in the presence of G. B. Pant Hospital Medical Director Dr. Anil Agarwal. Ms. Wignaraja also paid a visit to the COVID-19 Vaccination Centre at Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital before to the opening. She talked with the personnel and observed Co-operations, WIN's which support one of India's largest vaccination programmes.
- The oxygen plant produces about 1,000 litres of oxygen per minute using pressure swing adsorption (PSA) technology. It will serve about 750 hospital beds, including ventilator-assisted beds and the Intensive Care Unit. The hospital is a multi-specialty tertiary care facility that receives referrals from all around the country.

About United Nations Development Programme:

Headquarters: New York, United States

Founded: 22 November 1965, United States

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Lieutenant governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena

Amara Raja bags NTPC contract for green hydrogen fuelling station in Leh

- In Leh, Ladakh, Amara Raja Power Systems will build the country's first green hydrogen fueling station for the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). According to the Amara Raja company, the pilot project would create a minimum of 80 kg of 99.97 percent pure hydrogen each day, which will be compressed, stored, and delivered. The contract has been awarded to NTPC, which expects to operate five hydrogen fuel cell buses in the region.
- If completed successfully, the project will usher in an age of emission-free transportation in and around Leh, and India will join a select club of countries that are leading the way in green mobility.
- Amara Raja will run and maintain the fueling station for three years at a cost of Rs 41 crore. Fuel prices, according to business sources, cannot be discussed at this time.
- By dividing water into hydrogen and oxygen using an electrolysis process fueled by renewable energy sources, green hydrogen will be produced. There will be no carbon imprint from the hydrogen produced this way.
- The project will be set up in Leh's severe conditions, which include temperatures ranging from minus 14 to + 20 degrees Celsius at a height of 3,600 metres above sea level.
- This will be a prelude to large-scale green hydrogen mobility and storage initiatives, as well as a vital tool for analysing and deploying fueling stations around the country, as part of the National Hydrogen Energy Mission.

About NTPC:

Founded: 7 November 1975

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

About Amara Raja Group:

Founder: Ramachandra N Galla

Founded: 1985

Karnataka launches software for farmer schemes to expedite delivery of sops

- The Karnataka government has launched 'The Farmer Registration & Unified Beneficiary Information System' or FRUITS software for Aadhar-based, single-window registration for the schemes. FRUITS software will facilitate single registration using an Aadhar card and Karnataka's Bhoomi digitized land record system for authenticating ownership.
- Through the creation of single digital identification through FRUITS, farmers can access benefits of hosts of schemes such as Direct Benefit Transfer under PM Kisan, payment for Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for crops, special financial assistance, caste certificate authentication, and ration cards. To ensure that the farmers get easy access to benefits distributed under various government schemes, the Karnataka government has launched software for Aadhar-based, single-window registration for the schemes. The state departments of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, revenue, food, civil supplies and fisheries departments of the state government are covered under the initiative.

About Karnataka:

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

FM Sitharaman inaugurates Dharohar – National Museum of Customs and GST in Goa

- Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated the National Museum of Customs and GST “Dharohar” in Goa as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic week of the Ministry of Finance, being celebrated from June 6 to 12. The two-storey ‘Blue building’, which was earlier known as Alfandega, during the period of Portuguese rule in Goa, has been standing on the banks of the Mandovi River in Panaji for more than 400 years.
- Dharohar is one of its kind museum in the country that showcases not only the artefacts seized by Indian Customs but also depicts various aspects of work performed by the Customs Department while safeguarding the economic frontiers of the country, its heritage, flora & fauna and the society.
- Dharohar has 8 galleries viz: Introductory gallery, History of Taxation Gallery, Guardians of our economic frontiers gallery, Guardians of our Art & Heritage, Guardians of Flora & Fauna, Custodians of our social well being, Journey of Indirect taxes -Salt Tax to GST and the GST gallery.
- The Museum provides the rare opportunity of having a peep into the working of the Department over the years ushering in change in its methodologies to meet the emanating challenges while at the same time providing yeomen service to the Nation.

About Goa:

Capital: Panaji
Chief Minister: Pramod Sawant
Governor: S. Sreedharan Pillai

Karkinos Healthcare opens advanced cancer diagnostics, research centre in Kochi inaugurated by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan

- Kerala Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated a cancer diagnostics and research centre here, which is slated to be the country’s first oncology laboratory for comprehensive cancer diagnostic services. Karkinos Healthcare’s advanced centre for cancer diagnostics and research will serve as a central lab for analysing specimens at molecular and genomic levels to aid in personalised targeted therapy, predicting possible response to treatment and evaluate response by liquid biopsy.
- Karkinos Healthcare has installed the most advanced high-throughput HPV assay equipment, Cobas 6800, in this centre with the ability to test over 1,200 Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) assays of all high-risk types.
- It has partnered with organisations such as Kerala Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecologic to support the World Health Organization’s mission of eliminating cervical cancer by 2030.

About Kerala:

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan
Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

Jagan CM of Andhra Pradesh launched Yantra Seva to reduce cultivation cost

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched YSR Yantra Seva Scheme and flagged off the distribution of tractors and combine harvesters at Chuttugunta Centre in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. Chief Minister YS Jagan Reddy flagged off the state-level mega distribution of tractors and combine harvesters under YSR Yantra Seva Pathakam in Guntur.
- Around 3,800 tractors and 320 combined harvesters would be made available at Rythu Bharosa Centres (RBKs) across AP. A subsidy of 175 crores has been credited into 5,260 farmer group bank accounts.
- The government of Andhra Pradesh aims to establish a total of 10,750 YSR Yantra Seva Kendras (CHCs).
- YSR Yantra Seva Pathakam initiative was taken up to overcome the shortage of farming machinery to farmers and to provide them with the much-needed support in renting machinery at affordable prices which will help reduce the input cost.

About Andhra Pradesh:

Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan

Chief Minister: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy

Capital: Amaravati

Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan launches Polyversity – World's Largest Educational Metaverse & Bharat Blockchain Network

- Michigan, USA-based IT Services & IT Consulting company Information Data Systems (IDS) has unveiled the Bharat Blockchain Network (BBN) (Academic Blockchain Consortium) & Polyversity (Educational Metaverse). Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India (GoI) launched the initiatives in the presence of officials from the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) at an event held at the AICTE Auditorium in New Delhi.
- IDS is building Bharat Blockchain Network (BBN)- India's Nationwide hybrid blockchain Network visioned to enable blockchain projects of academic interest around Governance, Issuance of verifiable credentials, Skill badges, Student transfer & Audit Trail along the lines of NEP (National Education Policy) 2020.
- IDS is working with 100 plus academic partners. The Bharat Blockchain Network (BBN), India's first nationwide hybrid blockchain network, is built by IDS.
- Polyversity, a virtual university, is India's Largest Educational Metaverse, with over 100 Academic Partners establishing virtual campuses, including the AICTE's campus.

About Ministry of Education:

Founded: 15 August 1947

Headquarters: Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

Ministry executives: Amit Khare, IAS; Anita Karwal, IAS

Officeholders: Annpurna Devi (Minister of State)

About All India Council for Technical Education:

Founded: November 1945;

Headquarters: New Delhi;
Chairperson: Anil Sahasrabudhe.

PM Modi Inaugurates IN-SPACe HQ In Gujarat

- The Indian National Center for Space Promotion and Authorization (IN-SPACe) was established in Ahmedabad by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, was also present at the ceremony. After inaugurating the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) in Ahmedabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviewed its headquarters.
- PM Modi had previously met his high school teacher in Vadnagar, Gujarat's Navsari. In Navsari, PM Modi also opened the AM Naik Healthcare Complex and the Nirali multi-specialty hospital.
- They have emphasised a holistic approach to improve the country's health system for the past eight years. They have attempted to modernise the treatment facilities as well as emphasis on themes such as better diet, a healthy lifestyle, and health prevention.
- PM Modi emphasised Gujarat's progress, calling the state's tremendous development over the last two decades its "pride."

About Gujarat:

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

Glimpses Of The Colourful Baikho Festivities In Assam

- The Baikho festival is celebrated in the state of Assam, which is called as gateway to northeast India. It is celebrated by Rabha tribes of India. The Baikho festival is celebrated annually. It is celebrated to bring in auspicious harvest season and to fill it with abundant crops and good health. This is a celebration of good harvest. It is an ancient tradition. It is predominantly observed by Rabha Tribe. However, people from other communities also harmonise in the celebrations.
- Rabhas are a Tibeto-Burman community. They reside in Lower Assam in Garo hills and Dooar region of West Bengal. They are among the plains tribe in state. They are an agriculture-based community. They have distinctive culture and celebrations.

About Assam:

Capital: Dispur
Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma
Governor: Jagadish Mukhi

44th Chess Olympiad's official logo, mascot launched in Chennai

- M.K. Stalin, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, unveiled the logo and mascot for the 44th Chess Olympiad, which will take place in Mamallapuram next month. Between July 28 and August 10, approximately 2,000 players from over 180 countries will compete in the international event. Mr. Stalin also unveiled a countdown clock for the Olympiad at the Greater Chennai Corporation's headquarters, Ripon Buildings.

- Ministers for Health Ma. Subramanian, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments P.K. Sekarbabu, Youth Welfare and Sports Development Siva V. Meyyanathan, and Tourism Minister M. Mathiventhan were all in attendance.
- Mayor R. Priya of the Greater Chennai Corporation, Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu, and All India Chess Federation president Sanjay Kapoor, as well as other officials, were in attendance.

About Tamil Nadu:

Chief Minister: M.K. Stalin

Governor: R. N. Ravi

Capital: Chennai

About, All India Chess Federation:

All India Chess Federation president: Sanjay Kapoor

Headquarters location: Chennai

Founded: 1951

Affiliation: FIDE

Government announces hike in MSP for Kharif season

- Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports, Anurag Thakur said that the Union Cabinet has authorised an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for several Kharif (summer) crops for the year 2022-23. The MSP for Kharif crops for the crop year 2022-23 will now rise.
- In some parts of India, the minimum support price (MSP) is an advisory price signal that is part of a larger set of agricultural policies. The government recommends this informal support price in order to guarantee the farmer a minimal profit for the harvest while also enhancing food security in the country. In the 1960s, MSP was used as an incentive for farmers to adopt technology with the goal of enhancing agricultural land productivity; but, in the 2000s, it was viewed as a market intervention and farmer income plan.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has authorised a hike in MSP for all mandatory Kharif crops for the crop year 2022-23.
- The MSP of 14 kharif crops was decided in cabinet meeting, as told by Anurag Thakur.
- For the 2022-23 crop year, the MSP for common grade paddy has been increased to 2,040 per quintal, up from 1,940 the previous year.
- The support price for 'A' quality paddy has been increased from 1,960 to 2,060 per quintal.
- The main kharif crop is paddy, which has already begun to be sown. The meteorological authority predicts that the Southwest monsoon in 2022 will be normal, with a long-term average of 99 percent.

About Ministry of information & broadcasting:

Officeholder: Anurag Thakur (Union Minister)

Departments: Films Division of India

Founded: 15 August 1947

Headquarters: New Delhi

Himachal Pradesh becomes first state in the country to frame drone policy

- The Himachal Pradesh government gave nod to a drone policy as it seeks to enable the use of drones and similar technology for different public services in the hill state. The 'Himachal Pradesh Drone Policy 2022' was approved by the chief minister Jai Ram Thakur. The policy envisions creating a holistic drone ecosystem built upon the foundation of Governance and Reforms Using Drones (GARUD). With this new drone policy, Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country to formally acknowledge the public use of drones.
- Himachal's drone policy mainly focuses on creating drone-enabled technology, creation of manpower through the establishment of training schools, startup and innovation schemes, and more.
- The policy aims to propagate the use of drone-enabled technology in different sectors such as defence, transport, health, agriculture and more.
- Delivery of medicines, medical equipment, and other essential supplies will also commence with the help of drones in pandemic-affected and remote areas.

About Himachal Pradesh:

Capital: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)

Governor: Rajendra Arlekar

Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur

Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated newly built National Tribal Research Institute in Delhi

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Amit Shah has inaugurated the newly built National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI) in New Delhi. This institute is to promote and preserve the tribal heritage and culture and the nerve centre of tribal research issues and matters in academic, executive and legislative fields. The institute will collaborate and network with reputed research institutes, universities, and organisations as well as academic bodies and resource centres. It is being established at a cost of 10 crore rupees.
- Tribal Research Institute (TRI) is the research body of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs at the state level. There are 26 Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) supported by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- It will collaborate and network with reputed research institutes, universities, organizations as well as academic bodies and resource centres. It will monitor projects of Tribal Research Institutes, Centres of Excellence and set up norms for improvement in the quality of research and training.

About Ministry of Home Affairs:

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 15 August 1947

Ministry executive: Ajay Kumar Bhalla, IAS, Home Secretary

About Delhi:

Capital: New Delhi

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Lieutenant Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena

Dharmendra Pradhan calls for nurturing students as future entrepreneurs

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that the era of incremental change is over and urged higher educational institutions to focus on exponential development in order to develop future-ready workers. India has demonstrated its technical capability in many programmes such as UPI, Direct Benefit Transfer, and Aadhar, and that we must build on this strength and create a future-ready workforce to accept the changes resulting from Industrial Revolution 4.0.
- The growing number of unicorns in the nation as evidence of a healthy entrepreneurial environment, and he advocated for students to be prepared to be job providers rather than job seekers.
- The government's digital education plans, emphasizing the need of harnessing technology to further decolonize education.

About Ministry of Education:

Founded: 15 August 1947

Headquarters: Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

Ministry executives: Amit Khare, IAS; Anita Karwal, IAS

Officeholders: Annpurna Devi (Minister of State)

Funding under DRDO scheme enhanced to Rs 50 crore per project

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh authorized an increase in financing for MSMEs and startups under the Ministry of Defence's Technology Development Fund (TDF) plan. The initiative, which encourages the development of indigenous components, products, systems, and technologies, will now have a maximum project value of Rs 50 crore, up from Rs 10 crore previously. The increased funding is in accordance with the budget announcement and will help the government achieve its goal of self-reliance in the defence sector, according to the defence ministry.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her budget address that 25% of the defence R&D budget will be allocated to private business, startups, and universities.
- The initiative aims to increase public and private sector engagement, particularly among MSMEs, in order to establish an ecosystem that will develop technical competence for defence applications.
- The project is also confined to the creation of technologies or prototypes of products that may be used by the military, with a typical development duration of two years, according to the strategy.

About DRDO:

Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi

Founded: 1958

Chairman: Dr G Satheesh Reddy

Indian Defence Minister: Shri Rajnath Singh

Indian Finance Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman

Shreyas G. Hosur becomes the first Indian Railways officer to complete the gruelling 'Ironman' Triathlon

- Creating a history of sorts, Shreyas G. Hosur, became the first officer from the Indian Railways to complete the gruelling 'Ironman' Triathlon, considered to be the toughest single-day sports event in the world. This event includes 3.8 km of swimming, 180 km of cycling and 42.2 km of running. He completed the event in 13 hours and 26 minutes in Hamburg, Germany.
- Shreyas G. Hosur is the first officer from the non-uniformed Civil Services to complete the event, making this a proud moment for the Railways.
- Shreyas G. Hosur, is an Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) officer of the 2012 Batch. He is returned from deputation to National Technical Research Organization (NTRO), Delhi and is currently serving as Dy. FA&CAO in Construction/SWR.

About Germany:

Chancellor: Olaf Scholz

Capital: Berlin

Currency: Euro

President: Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Week-long 'Sital Sasthi' festival is being celebrated in Odisha

- Sital Sasthi is a sacred Hindu festival is being celebrated in Odisha. This week-long special festival highlights the marriage of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. According to the Hindu calendar, Sital Sasthi is observed on the sixth day of the Jyestha month during the Shukla Paksha.
- This festival is usually celebrated in a form of a grand carnival. Artists and individuals from different states come together and participate in the celebrations. The Sambalpur carnival, which is a popular event, attracts thousands of tourists from all over India and abroad. This year, an assembly of more than 6,000 artists from across Odisha as well as other states are likely to perform at the cultural extravaganza after a gap of two years. Events like folk music, dance, and other such festivities form the chief attraction of this carnival.

About Odisha:

Capital: Bhubaneswar

Governor: Ganeshi Lal

Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik

Nuclear-capable Agni-4 Ballistic Missile successfully tested from Odisha

- India has successfully executed a nuclear-capable Agni-4 ballistic missile from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. The missile has the range of around 4,000 kilometres. Earlier, India successfully test-fired an extended range version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a Sukhoi fighter jet. It was the first launch of the extended range version of the BrahMos missile from a Su-30MKI aircraft.

List of Agni Missiles:

Agni-I MRBM: surface-to-surface medium-range ballistic missile
Agni-II MRBM: surface-to-surface medium-range ballistic missile
Agni-III IRBM: surface-to-surface intermediate-range ballistic missile
Agni-IV IRBM: surface-to-surface intermediate-range ballistic missile
Agni-V ICBM: surface-to-surface intercontinental ballistic missile
Agni-VI: Four-stage Intercontinental ballistic missile

About Odisha:

Governor: Ganeshi Lal
Capital: Bhubaneswar
Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik

Tamil Nadu to launch skilling programme for college students

- The Tamil Nadu government recently launched Naan Mudhalvan (I am the first). Under this programme, Tamil Nadu government has now launched Nalaya Thiran (Tomorrow's ability). In this programme, 50,000 college students will train with the knowledge in computer science, electronics and IT domains, skilling them on problem solving using technologies. The Tamil Nadu government has created the Nalaya Thiran program to help the industry get skilled students.
- This multi-agency programme has been co-created by Nasscom, ICT Academy and Skill Development Corporation, giving students access to much needed cross-cutting skills. This will help the companies to get skilled workforce. It is not a pilot programme. Annually about four lakh people are added to the workforce, of which, nearly one lakh are STEM-related.

About Tamil Nadu:

Capital: Chennai;
Chief Minister: K. Stalin
Governor: N. Ravi.

Andhra Pradesh government launches 'ACB 14400' to report corrupt officials with proof

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the '14400' app. This app has been developed by Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). This app is customized for the people to register corruption-related complaints against the officials in the state. This app also aims to ensure fool-proof evidence to present before the court. A complaint can be filed through a toll-free number 14400.
- The ACB 14400 app can be downloaded from the Google play store. An OTP will be to the mobile number through which registration is being done, and once registered, the app will be ready to use. This app has two key features:
- One is to live record audio, photo, or video and lodge a complaint instantly.
- Another method is to send the videos, photos, documents, as well as other proofs and lodge a complaint.
- After a complaint is lodged, a reference number will be sent to the registered mobile number. The IOS version of this app will soon be launched. Any person who has been asked for a bribe from any government official including the RDO

office, collector office, Mandal level office, sub-registrar office, police station, etc, must download this app and record the conversation following which it would reach the ACB. The ACB has been directed to report to the Chief Minister's office.

About Andhra Pradesh:

Capital: Amaravati

Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan

Chief Minister: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy

Gehlot announces Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for sportsperson in Rajasthan

- Rajasthan Chief Minister(CM) Ashok Gehlot has announced that the state government is set to introduce the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award to the State's sportspersons. He made the announcement while addressing the inauguration and player award ceremony at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- The CM inaugurated Rajasthan High-Performance Sports and Rehabilitation Centre, Renovated Synthetic Hockey Astro Turf and Badminton Indoor Hall, Olympic and also awarded Para Olympic medalists, Asian Games-2022 and Commonwealth Games-2022 players. He also informed that Rajiv Gandhi Rural Olympics will commence on 29th August 2022 in which more than 27 lakh players of all ages can participate. He also released the torch of the Rural Olympic during the event.

About Rajasthan:

Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot

Governor: Kalraj Mishra

Capital: Jaipur

On world environment day, Blue Duke declared as state butterfly of Sikkim

- Chief Minister P.S. Golay, during the World Environment Day celebrations, declared Blue Duke as the State Butterfly of Sikkim. The announcement was made at Saramsa Garden near Ranipool during the event organized by the Forest department. Blue Duke, a native butterfly species of Sikkim, edged past another contender Krishna Peacock to be announced as the State Butterfly of Sikkim. The two butterflies, among the 720-odd butterfly species, had been shortlisted for the State Butterfly nominations.
- According to the Forest department, an online voting was conducted between April and September to select the State Butterfly. Among the 4036 votes, 57% of the votes went in favour of Blue Duke while 43% voted for Krishna Peacock.
- The Blue Duke represents Sikkim with its two unique colours blue representing the sky and white depicting the snow clad mountains of the Himalayas, it is befitting to Sikkim and its unique identity.
- Blue Duke is found at an altitude below 1,500 metres in the Himalayas and is commonly found in places like Pakyong, Passingdong and Hee-Gyathang in Dzongu, Lingee in South Sikkim and Yangsum in West Sikkim and closer to the State capital in places like Tadong and Ranka.

About Sikkim

Capital: Gangtok

Governor: Ganga Prasad

Chief Minister: PS Golay

Tamil Nadu CM flags off luxury cruise liner from Chennai port connecting Vizag

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin flagged off the luxury cruise liner “Empress” from Chennai port. The eleven-storey tourist vessel can accommodate up to two thousand passengers and about 800 crew members. The packages include going to the high seas from the city port and to return, and also to anchor at Puducherry and Visakhapatnam harbours, as said by the operator.
- The three different packages consist of two, three and five days. The vessel has a swimming pool, children’s play area, gym, theatre and a multi-cuisine restaurant, as said by its operator Cordelia. This is considered the first luxury cruise liner to be operated from the state, while the state officials say a few other prominent operators have also shown interest in offering sea-based tourism services.

About Tamil Nadu:

Capital: Chennai

Chief Minister: K. Stalin

Governor: N. Ravi

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates Food Laboratory of FSSAI at Raxaul in Bihar

- At Raxaul in Bihar, the union minister for health and family welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers Mr. Mansukh Mandaviya, inaugurated the National Food Laboratory of FSSAI. Under the bilateral agreement between Indo-Nepal, this laboratory was established to reduce the time of testing of food samples imported from Nepal to Raxaul. The testing of food was a time taking because the food samples with legal sanity were sent to the National Food Laboratory of Kolkata. The minister of agriculture and livestock development in, the Government of Nepal, Mahendra Rai Yadav, was also present at the inauguration ceremony of the food laboratory.
- Mandaviya addressed the occasion and said that the inauguration of the Food Laboratory will increase the scope of Nepal to import more food products to India and connect both the countries with each other by trading more efficiently.
- He also said that the food laboratory will be accredited by July-August of this year by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL). The laboratory will start testing samples of cereals, fats and oils, spices, fruits, vegetables, and packaged drinking water very soon.
- He said that India will provide assistance to get National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accreditation to the Kathmandu Food Lab if needed.
- The inauguration of the Food Laboratory in Raxaul was a constant request of the exporters from Nepal, which the Indian government now fulfills in 2022.

About Food Safety and Standards Authority of India:

Founded: August 2011

Jurisdiction: India

Headquarters: New Delhi

Agency executive: Rita Teatia (Chairperson)

About Bihar:

Governor: Phagu Chauhan

Capital: Patna

Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar

President pays tributes to Sant Kabir, inaugurates academy and research centre in UP

- President Ram Nath Kovind has paid tributes to Sant Kabir and inaugurated Sant Kabir Academy and Research Centre and Swadesh Darshan Yojana at Kabir Chaura Dham, Maghar, Uttar Pradesh. He said the life of Kabir is an epitome of human virtue and his teachings are still relevant even after 650 years today. He described Kabir's life as an ideal example of communal solidarity.
- Earlier, the President paid homage to the great poet and saint of the Bhakti Movement at his Samadhi sthal in Maghar. He also offered chadar at his mazaar and planted a sapling in the premises of the Kabir Chaura Dham. Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath accompanied the President.

About President of India:

Term length: Five years; Renewable

First holder: Rajendra Prasad

Salary: ₹500,000 (US\$6,600)

Formation: 26 January 1950

About Uttar Pradesh:

Governor: Anandiben Patel

Capital: Lucknow (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath

NABARD Chairman GR Chintala launched My Pad My Right programme in Leh

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Chairman Dr GR Chintala has launched "My Pad My Right programme", in Leh. The programme launched by Nabard's NabFoundation with machinery and materials of a cost of Seven and half Lakh rupees. Dr GR Chintala announced to sanction One more lakh to upgrade the machinery to make sanitary pads suitable to the demands of women of different age groups.
- This efforts are on for economic empowerment of rural women through menstrual hygiene.
- This will help women to participate in country's economic development. Under this unique project, award winning sanitary pad making machines will be installed through the network of self help groups.

About NABARD:

Formation: July 12, 1982

Headquarters: Mumbai

Chairman: Govinda Rajulu Chintala

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

- In Rajasthan, a Special Health Care Abhiyan 'Anchal' has been launched in the Karauli district for pregnant women. More than 13 thousand women have benefited from this Abhiyan. During the campaign, 13,144 pregnant women were tested for their hemoglobin levels, out of which 11,202 were found to be anemic. These women were advised to take the right medicine and necessary nutritious diet. They were also advised to keep themselves stress-free.
- This unique campaign was started on the initiative of District Collector Ankit Kumar Singh to ensure all necessary medical aid to pregnant women at the pre and post-natal stage so that maternal and infant mortality rates could be reduced. Under this campaign, it is also ensured that the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife and ASHA workers in the district will keep in constant contact with the pregnant women of their respective areas and provide them with necessary counseling and treatment as and when required.

About Rajasthan:

Capital: Raipur

Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot

Governor: Kalraj Mishra

Delhi to rename streets and colonies with 'Harijan' in their names after Ambedkar

- Following the Central government's guideline advising against the usage of the word 'Harijan', the Delhi government is set to replace the word 'Harijan' from names of colonies & streets and name them after Babasaheb Ambedkar instead. In this vein, Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam has tabled a proposal to rename all streets and colonies under Delhi Government titled as 'Harijan' after Dr Ambedkar.
- The Social Welfare Minister also chaired an important meeting in this regard with senior officials to expedite the process with officials from the concerned departments to act on the matter and issue a notification on the same. The Delhi Government strives to uplift the SC, ST, and OBC communities living in the national capital.

About Delhi:

Capital: New Delhi

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Lieutenant Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena

Union Minister of social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar launched the Scheme "SHRESHTA"

- Union Minister of social Justice and empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar has launched the Scheme "SHRESHTA"-Scheme for residential education for students in High school in Targeted Areas. The Scheme for Residential Education for Students in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA) has been formulated with the objective to provide quality education and opportunities for even the poorest.

- Scheduled Caste students, as per the Constitutional mandate. The students from the Scheduled Caste communities, for long been subjects to inequality, were kept out of quality education and a situation that perpetuates the disadvantages carried forward for generations of lack of adequate education.
- The Governmental efforts to spread educational facilities without discrimination have worked well in achieving near universal access. However, the objective of providing access to quality education that provides a level playing field is still far from reality.
- Accordingly, the Department as a new initiative has introduced the scheme for providing quality education in top class private Residential Schools to the meritorious SC students who cannot afford the fee of such schools.

About National Testing Agency:

Director General: Vineet Joshi

Founders: Ministry of Education, Government of India, Union Council of Ministers

Founded: November 2017

Motto: Excellence in Assessment

Located in: Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur Outreach Center

India's 1st liquid-mirror telescope in Uttarakhand will be Asia's Largest

- The first liquid mirror telescope in the country and the largest in Asia – was commissioned atop Devasthal, a hill in Uttarakhand. This will now keep a watch on the overhead sky to identify transient or variable objects such as supernovae, gravitational lenses, space debris, and asteroids.
- The Indian Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) will help in surveying the sky, making it possible to observe several galaxies and other astronomical sources just by staring at the strip of sky that passes overhead.
- Built by astronomers from India, Belgium and Canada, the novel instrument employs a 4-meter-diameter rotating mirror made up of a thin film of liquid mercury to collect and focus light.
- It is located at an altitude of 2,450 metres at the Devasthal Observatory campus of Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India in Nainital district, Uttarakhand.
- The scientists from the three countries spun a pool of mercury, which is a reflective liquid so that the surface curved into a parabolic shape. It is ideal for focusing light. A thin transparent film of mylar protects the mercury from the wind. The reflected light passes through a sophisticated multi-lens optical corrector that produces sharp images over a wide field of view. A large-format electronic camera located at the focus records the images.

About Uttarakhand

Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami

Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)

Governor: Lt Gen Gurmit Singh

Punjab abolishes physical stamp papers, launches 'e-stamp' facility

- The Punjab government has decided to abolish the physical stamp papers in an attempt to bring efficiency and check the pilferage of State revenue. Punjab Revenue Minister Bram Shanker Jimpa launched the 'e-stamp facility' here. Following this, stamp paper of any denomination can now be obtained via 'e-stamp', which includes computerised print-out from any stamp vendor or from banks authorised by the State government.
- The Punjab government will pay a commission of 2% to the stamp vendors on e-stamps ranging from Rs 1 to Rs 19,999, while the general public would get stamp paper at the actual rate. For instance, they will have to pay only Rs 100 for a stamp paper of Rs 100 and no extra commission will be levied. This step will also help in curbing the stamp paper-linked fraud.

About Punjab

Governor: Banwarilal Purohit

Speaker: Kultar Singh Sandhwan

Chief Justice: Ravi Shankar Jha

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur Launched Nationwide Fit India Freedom Rider Cycle Rally

- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Thakur has launched a nationwide 'Fit India Freedom Rider Cycle rally' on World Bicycle Day. Thakur said that by riding a bicycle we can accomplish the goal of the Fit India Movement, the Khelo India movement, the Clean India movement & Healthy India movement. Fit India Movement, Khelo India movement, Clean India movement & Healthy India movement all can be accomplished by riding a bicycle. It'll also cut down the pollution level.
- Notably, World Bicycle Day is observed on June 3 every year to promote the use of bicycles and their benefits. The World Health Organization (WHO) is of the opinion that providing bicycles to the world's poorest people and communities will help in the prevention of 1.5 million premature deaths and 5 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

About Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports:

Officeholder: Anurag Thakur (Union Minister)

Founded: 27 May 2000

Headquarters: Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

President of India Ram Nath Kovind Inaugurated 59th Mahaadhiveshan Of Akhil Bhartiya Ayurved Mahasammelan

- Shri Ram Nath Kovind, India's President, today inaugurated the 59th Maha Adhiveshan of the Akhil Bhartiya Ayurved Mahasammelan in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. Ayurveda means Science of Life in Sanskrit. The term 'pathy' is used to describe a variety of medical systems around the world. It refers to the method of treating an illness once it has manifested. However, in Ayurveda, disease prevention is prioritised alongside healing.

- The Indian government has taken many measures to protect and promote Indian medical systems from time to time.
- This initiative, however, has received even more impetus after the formation of a separate Ministry of AYUSH in 2014. Various Research Councils affiliated with the Government of India have accomplished remarkable things in the field of Ayurveda.
- Our health is influenced by our nutrition, lifestyle, and even our everyday routine. Ayurveda explains what our daily routine should be, what our seasonal routine should be, and what our diet should be before taking medicine.
- Mahaadhiveshan, the topic of “Ayurveda Diet – The Foundation of a Healthy India” will be covered.

About President of India:

Term length: Five years; Renewable

First holder: Rajendra Prasad

Salary: ₹500,000 (US\$6,600) (per month)

Formation: 26 January 1950

ANANTH launches India's first ever private spacecraft manufacturing facility in Bengaluru

- Dr S Somanath, the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), inaugurated ANANTH Technologies' spacecraft manufacturing unit at Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) Aerospace Park. The new state-of-the-art spacecraft manufacturing facility can conduct assembly integration and testing of four large spacecraft simultaneously.
- This is a first of its kind facility in India, adding that since its establishment in 1992, Ananth Technologies has contributed to the manufacturing of 89 satellites and 69 launch vehicles built/launched by ISRO.
- The 15,000 sqm facility is capable of conducting the assembly, integration and testing of four large spacecraft at the same time, with four separate units present within the facility.
- Over the years, ANANTH Technologies has successfully contributed to major launches of ISRO. Our technology acumen is such that none of the sub-systems supplied by ANANTH Technologies has ever failed in orbit.

About ISRO:

Founded: 15 August 1969

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Chairman: S Somanath

About Karnataka:

Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot

Capital: Bengaluru (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Basavaraj Bommai

Foundation Stone Laid for Olympic-Level Sports Centre in Ahmedabad

- The government wants to have international level grounds and venues for all sports for the Olympics in Ahmedabad with the Sardar Patel Sports Complex, Narendra Modi Stadium, Naranpura Sports Complex, and three more sports complexes. Amit Shah, the Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, laid the foundation stone for an Olympic-level sports complex in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on Sunday (29 May) at a cost of Rs 632 crore.
- The world-class sports stadium is set across 18 acres in Ahmedabad's Naranpura neighbourhood, with facilities for playing and training in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities, including swimming. It can also accommodate up to 7,000 people at once.
- This enormous sports facility with over 1.15 lakh square metres of built up area includes an indoor sports arena, a community sports arena, and an aquatic stadium.
- The BJP-led central and state administrations hope that the presence of the world's largest cricket stadium, the Sardar Patel Sports Complex, and the Naranpura Sports Complex will make Ahmedabad a city where Olympic preparations may be made.

About Gujarat:

Capital: Gandhinagar

Governor: Acharya Devvrat

Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel

NCTE launches online portal to streamline process of recognition of teacher education programs

- National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has launched an online portal to simplify the process of recognition of teacher education programs in higher education institutions. The portal launched to streamline the process seeks to help right from the time of inviting application for courses till the stage of issue of recognition orders including the inspection of institutions. The applications for the recently launched four-year integrated teacher education programmes (ITEP) applications will be processed on this portal.
- The four-year ITEP is available for all students who choose to teach as a profession after secondary, by choice. The integrated course will benefit students since they will save one year by finishing it in four years rather than the customary five years required by the present BEd plan.
- NCTE under the Ministry of Education has devised the curriculum for this course as per NEP 2020 in such a way that it enables a student-teacher to get a degree in education as well as a specialized discipline such as History, Mathematics, Science, Arts, Economics, or Commerce.

About National Council for Teacher Education:

Founded: 1995, India

Chairperson: Shri Santosh Sarangi

Headquarters: New Delhi

PM launches 'PM CARES for Children Scheme' for kids who lost parents to Covid

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released the benefits of the PM CARES for Children scheme for children who lost their parents due to the Covid-19 pandemic. PM Modi has promised Rs 4,000 a month for basic needs, financial support for schooling, scholarship for higher education, and free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh. Prime Minister transferred scholarships to school-going children. A passbook of PM CARES for Children, and a health card under Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana were handed over to the children during the programme.
- PM CARES for Children Scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on 29 May 2021.
- The aim was to support children who have lost both their parents or legal guardian or adoptive parents or surviving parents to the Covid-19 pandemic, during the period from 11 March 2020 to 28 February 2022.

About PMO India:

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

1977; 45 years ago (As Prime Minister's Office)

Headquarters: New Delhi

Minister responsible : Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India

Deputy Minister responsible : Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office

SPORTS

Deepak Punia wins bronze in U23 Asian wrestling championships 2022

- Tokyo Olympian Deepak Punia won a bronze medal after defeating Maksat Satybaldy (Kyrgyzstan) in the 86kg freestyle weight category at the U23 Asian wrestling championships 2022 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Despite a win, it was an unimpressive result from him as the Indian contingent was expecting a better outing from the world championships silver medalist in the tournament.
- In the opening two rounds, the 23-year-old Punia lost to eventual gold medallist Azizbek Fayzullaev of Uzbekistan and Nurtilek Karypbaev of Kyrgyzstan. India won 25 medals in all in the U23 meet in the event, including 10 gold medals. The eight-day continental championship concluded.

About Japan:

Capital: Tokyo

Currency: Japanese yen

President: Shinzo Abe

Novak Djokovic becomes the first player in history to win 80 matches at all the Grand Slams with 1R win at 2022 Wimbledon

- Novak Djokovic became the first player in history to win 80 matches in all four Grand Slams when he defeated Kwon Soon-woo 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Centre Court his 80th win in Wimbledon. By virtue of his victory, the former world no.1 tennis players has created history

winning his 80th match at the Wimbledon. The six-time champion has become the first male player in the Open Era to win 80 or more match at all four grand slams.

- The Serbian could become the joint-second most successful male singles player at the world's oldest grand slam as a seventh title will take him level with Pete Sampras' tally and put him just one title behind Roger Federer.

Olympic Champ Sydney McLaughlin Breaks Own World 400m Hurdles Record

- Olympic gold medallist, Sydney McLaughlin broke her own women's 400 metres hurdles world record at the U.S. championships in Eugene, Oregon, winning the final in 51.41 seconds. The 22-year-old wrested the lead early and never gave the rest of the field a fighting chance, clinching her spot in the world championships in front of an adoring crowd. Britton Wilson finished 1.67 seconds behind with Shamier Little taking third in 53.92.
- Sydney previously set the record with a 51.90-seconds performance at the U.S. Olympic trials a year ago, only to shatter that figure in Tokyo, collecting gold in 51.46.

Sprinter Dhanalakshmi becomes third fastest Indian woman in 200m

- Ace sprinter Sekar Dhanalakshmi ran her personal best time to win 200m gold at the Qosanov Memorial Athletics. Dhanalakshmi ran a creditable sub-23 second, clocking 22.89s to better her earlier personal best of 23.14s she had come up last year. Dhanalakshmi is only the third Indian woman to run sub-23s after national record holder Saraswati Saha (22.82s) and Hima Das (22.88s).
- Dhanalakshmi had won a 200m gold in the national Inter-State Championships in Chennai earlier this month with a time of 23.27s. She missed the automatic qualification mark of 22.80s for World Championships (July 15 to 24) in Oregon, USA, but will have to see if she can make it to the showpiece through world ranking quota.

Madhya Pradesh beat Mumbai by 6 wickets in Ranji Trophy final to end long wait for domestic title

- Madhya Pradesh wrote history as they won their maiden Ranji Trophy title, beating tournament heavyweights Mumbai by 6 wickets in the final at the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. Under the leadership of Aditya Shrivastava, the team defeated 41-time champions Mumbai. The team was coached by former India wicketkeeper-batsman Chandrakant Pandit.
- Mumbai batter Sarfaraz Khan was crowned as the 'Man of the Tournament for his brilliant Ranji Trophy 2022 with the bat, which saw him score 982 runs at an average of 122.75, finishing at the top of the batting charts. Other top bowlers of The 2022 Ranji Trophy are spinner Shahbaz Nadeem of Jharkhand (25 wickets).
- The Ranji Trophy is a domestic first-class cricket championship played in India between multiple teams representing regional and state cricket associations. The competition currently consists of 38 teams, with all 28 states in India and four of the nine union territories having at least one representation.

About Madhya Pradesh:

Capital: Bhopal (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel

Cyclist Ronaldo scripts history, becomes first Indian to win silver in Asian championships

- Ronaldo Singh scripted history as he became the first Indian cyclist to win a silver in a continental tournament in the senior category by finishing second in the sprint event on the concluding day of the Asian Track Championship in New Delhi.
- The Indian cycling team finished fifth with 23 medals (2 Gold, 6 Silver, 15 Bronze).

Indian women's Wrestling team wins Under-17 Asian Championship

- Indian women's Wrestling team has won five medals to claim Under-17 Asian Championship title with a total of eight gold at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- India lifted the title with a total of 235 points from eight golds, one silver and one bronze. Japan had to be content with the runners-up trophy with 143 points and Mongolia finished third with 138 points.

Sunil Chhetri becomes joint 5th highest goalscorer in international football history

- Indian men's football team captain Sunil Chhetri became the joint fifth highest goalscorer in international football history.
- Chhetri achieved this feat during their AFC Asian Cup Qualifier clash against Hong Kong where he scored his 84th goal. He has now equalled legendary Real Madrid and Hungarian player Ferenc Puskas goals scoring exploits on the international level.

Canadian Grand Prix 2022: Max Verstappen holds off Carlos Sainz to win in Montreal

- Red Bull's Max Verstappen held off Carlos Sainz's charging Ferrari to win the Canadian Grand Prix and surge 46 points clear in the Formula One world championship after his 150th race.
- The 24-year-old Dutch driver took his 26th career win 0.9 of a second ahead of Spaniard Sainz, who closed the gap and set up a thrilling final chase thanks to a safety car deployment.

Indonesia Open 2022: Viktor Axelsen retains men's singles title; Tai Tzu Ying won women's singles

- Danish player Viktor Axelsen successfully defended his badminton Indonesia Open title after beating China's Zhao Jun Peng 21-9, 21-10 in the men's singles final.
- Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei saw off Asian champion Wang Zhi Yi of China to win her third women's singles crown at the tournament (after titles in 2016 and 2018).

FIFA unveils host cities for 2026 World Cup

- FIFA has announced the 16 North American cities that will host the World Cup in 2026.
- Eleven cities in the U.S., along with three cities in Mexico and two in Canada, will host the 48-team tournament, an expansion from the previous 32-team count. It will be the first time three nations have been appointed to host the World Cup.

Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold At Kuortane Games In Finland, Second After Tokyo Olympics

- Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra clinched his first top podium finish of the season by winning the javelin throw event at the Kuortane Games in Finland, beating reigning world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada. The 24-year-old Chopra's opening throw of 86.69m turned out to be the winning distance. Trinidad and Tobago's 2012 Olympics champion Keshorn Walcott was second with a first round throw of 86.64m. Peters was third with a best throw of 84.75m, which also came in the opening round.
- Earlier this week, in his first competitive event since winning a historic gold in Tokyo, Chopra set a new national record of 89.30m while taking part at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland. He bettered his own previous record of 88.07m set in Patiala last year.

About Finland:

Capital: Helsinki

Prime Minister: Sanna Marin

Currency: Euro

President: Sauli Niinistö

FIFA announces 2026 World Cup venues across U.S., Canada and Mexico

- Matches for the 2026 World Cup will be held in 11 US cities as well as three host sites in Mexico and two in Canada, soccer's world governing body, FIFA, announced. The 16 host cities will be: Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Guadalajara, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Miami, Monterrey, New York/New Jersey, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle, Toronto and Vancouver.
- It will also be the first time that 48 teams will feature in the tournament, an increase from the 32 that will contest in FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 from November 21 – December 18.
- 60 matches will take place in the US, including all matches from the quarter-finals onward, while Canada and Mexico will host 10 games each.
- Mexico also hosted the FIFA World Cup in 1970 and 1986.

About FIFA:

President: Gianni Infantino

Founded: 21 May 1904

Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland

Chopra leads 37-member Indian athletics team for Birmingham 2022

- Neeraj Chopra will be leading a 37-member Indian athletics team at the upcoming Commonwealth Games, the Athletics Federation of India announced. The Tokyo Olympics gold medallist will be the flag bearer in Birmingham as star sprinters like Hima Das and Dutee Chand booked their berth for the Games that will be held from July 28 – August 8.
- The selection committee picked up all the expected athletes for CWG with zero surprises. Out of 37 members, 18 are women. The star sprinters Hima Das and Dutee Chand reserved their berths in the women's 4x100m relay team. The selectors also named a men's 4x400m relay team. Amoj Jacob has been selected for the men's 4x400m relay team.

About Japan:

Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida

Capital: Tokyo

Currency: Japanese yen

India's Gurunaidu Sanapathi Wins Gold At IWF Youth Weightlifting Championships

- At the IWF Youth World Championships in Leon, Mexico, Indian weightlifter Saanapathi Gurunaidu won gold in the men's 55 kilogramme category event. On the first day of the IWF competition, two other additional Indian weightlifters, Vijay Prajapati and Akansha Kishor Vyavhare also won medals, they won the silver medals.
- With a total lift of 230 kilogrammes, Saanapathi won gold in the men's 55 kilogramme event. He won Silver in Snatch with a lift of 104 kg, and Gold in Clean and Jerk with a lift of 126 kilogrammes.
- With a total lift of 175 kg, Vijay placed second in the Men's 49 kilogramme event. In the Snatch category, Vijay lifted 78 kilogrammes, while in the Clean and Jerk category, he lifted 97 kg.
- In the Women's 40 kilogramme division, Akanksha won the gold medal. She won the silver medal with a total of 127 kg after placing first in the Snatch section with a lift of 59 kilogrammes and third in the Clean and Jerk section with a lift of 68 kilogrammes.

About International Weightlifting Federation:

Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

Interim President: Dr. Michael Sheriar Irani (Interim)

Founded: 1905

Max Verstappen wins Azerbaijan F1 GP as Ferrari suffer double disaster

- Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the Azerbaijan Formula One Grand Prix 2022 (his fifth victory of the season). In the process, Verstappen became the most successful driver in the Red Bull of all time. Red Bull's Sergio Perez came second and Mercedes' George Russell came at the third spot.
- However, the day was all about Max Verstappen who had one of the best races in his season, finishing on the podium after starting from number three. In the process, Verstappen became the most successful driver in the Red Bull of all time. The 24-year-old

now has 66 podiums for Red Bull and is tied ninth for the most race wins alongside Jim Clark and Niki Lauda.

About Azerbaijan:

Capital: Baku

Currency: Azerbaijani manat

President: Ilham Aliyev

Official language: Azerbaijani

Continent: Europe, Asia

Angelo Mathews and Tuba Hassan Named ICC Player of The Month Winners For May 2022

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced that Sri Lanka's batting star Angelo Mathews and Pakistan's debutante spin sensation Tuba Hassan have been voted the ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for May 2022. Fans can continue to vote every month for their favourite male and female cricketers across all formats of international cricket as part of the ICC Player of the Month initiative by registering at www.icc-cricket.com/awards.
- Mathews was selected the stand-out male player after piling on runs over the course of his side's impressive ICC World Test Championship series victory against Bangladesh. Mathews becomes the first Sri Lankan player to be named the Player of the Month since its inception in January 2021, scooping the award ahead of fellow nominees Asitha Fernando (Sri Lanka), and Mushfiquir Rahim (Bangladesh).
- On the other hand, Hassan was awarded the to honour after enjoying significant success with the ball during her debut international series. The 21-year-old leg spinner was instrumental in restricting scores set by opponents Sri Lanka in the three-game T20I series in Pakistan, where she captured the Player of the Series award, taking five wickets at an average of 8.8 and an economy rate of 3.66. In securing this month's award, Hassan overcomes fellow nominees in compatriot Bismah Maroof, and Jersey's Trinity Smith. Tuba is the first female player from Pakistan to win in the award.

About ICC:

Founded: 15 June 1909

ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay

ICC CEO: Geoff Allardice

ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Khelo India Youth Games 2021: Haryana beat Maharashtra to regain crown

- Hosts Haryana won the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2021 title with 52 gold medals on the final day. Haryana also won 39 silver and 46 bronze medals, taking their overall medal tally to 137 medals – the highest cumulative haul by any state. The late surge helped Haryana leapfrog the 2020 champions Maharashtra on the KIYG medals table.
- Maharashtra, meanwhile, managed 45 gold, 40 silver and 40 bronze medals to come second with 125 medals.
- Karnataka, with 22 gold, 17 silver and 28 bronze, finished third with 67 medals.

- The Khelo India Youth Games 2021 started on June 4 across multiple venues with Haryana's Panchkula hosting the bulk of the events. The Games, which are a part of the Indian government's Khelo India initiative, concluded on June 13.
- This was Haryana's second KIYG title. Haryana won the inaugural title in 2018 but finished second to Maharashtra in the next two seasons.

About Khelo India Youth Games:

Headquarters: New Delhi

First event: 2018

Abbreviation: KIYG

Last event: 2022

Occur every: Annual

About Haryana:

Capital: Chandigarh

Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya

Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar

Founded: 1 November 1966

19-year old player Rahul Srivatshav becomes India's 74th Chess Grandmaster

- Rahul Srivatshav P of Telangana has become India's 74th Grandmaster, achieving the title after breaking the 2500 (Elo points) barrier in live FIDE ratings during the 9th Cattolica Chess Festival 2022 in Italy. The 19-year old player reached the 2500 Elo live rating mark after drawing his 8th round game against Grandmaster Levan Pantsulaia in the Cattolica event. His current Elo rating is 2468. Srivatshav had already secured five GM norms and achieved the title when he crossed the rating threshold of 2500.

About Indian Grandmasters:

Bharath Subramaniam had become the country's 73rd GM in January

The legendary Viswanathan Anand is India's first GM, which he became way back in 1988.

Indian GM Praggnanandhaa wins title in Norway chess open

- Young Indian Grandmaster, R. Praggnanandhaa emerged winner in the Norway Chess Group A open chess tournament here with 7.5 points from nine rounds. The 16-year-old GM, the top-seed, was in fine form and remained unbeaten through the nine rounds. He finished the tournament with a win over fellow Indian V Praneeth, an International Master. Praggnanandhaa finished a full point ahead of second-placed IM Marsel Efroimski (Israel) and IM Jung Min Seo (Sweden).
- The Indian teenaged star has been putting in impressive performances in recent times and had beaten world number one Magnus Carlsen for a second time in the Chessable Master online event and lost a close final to China's Ding Liren. Praggnanandhaa's coach R. B. Ramesh congratulated him after the win and said it will help boost his confidence.

About Norway Country:

Capital: Oslo

Currency: Norwegian krone

Prime Minister: Jonas Gahr Støre

India's Sakshi Malik wins first international gold medal in five years at Bolat Turlykhanov wrestling meet

- Sakshi Malik, Rio Olympics Bronze medallist won her first international gold medal at the Bolat Turlykhanov Cup in almost five years. She showed a very impressive performance this year in Bolat Turlykhanov Cup. Her first win was against Irina Kuznetsova from Kazakhstan and the other match was against Rushana Abdirasulova, in which the points were 9-3. Sakshi Malik entered the finals by winning against Kuznetsova with leading points 7-4. She pinned down Irina Kuznetsova for the second time in a single day.
- Mansi won the finals Against Kazakhstan's Emma Tissina by 3-0 under the 57 kg category. Divya won two bouts Against Delgerma Enkhsaikhan from Mongolia and Albina Kairgeldinova from Kazakhstan. Unfortunately, Divya lost the final bout by 10-14 points and she played against Bolortungalag Zorigt from Mongolia in the 68 Kg category.

Other Winners: Bolat Turlykhanov Cup

S. No	Problem Statement	Results
1	Innovative, easy-touse, non-mobile digital payment solutions for converting small-ticket cash transactions to digital mode.	Tone Tag (Brand of Naffa Innovations Pvt. Ltd.) (INDIA)
2	Alternate authentication mechanism for digital payments	napID Cybersec Pvt. Ltd.(INDIA)
3	Context based retail payments to remove the physical act of payment	Tone Tag (Brand of Naffa Innovations Pvt. Ltd.) (INDIA)
4	Social Media Analysis and Monitoring tool for detection of digital payment fraud and disruption	TrustCheckr (INDIA)

2022 French Open men's final: Rafael Nadal wins 14th title at Roland Garros, 22nd career Grand Slam

- The 2022 French Open was a Grand Slam tennis tournament played on outdoor clay courts. It was held at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France, from 22 May to 5 June 2022, comprising singles, doubles and mixed doubles play. Iga Świątek won the women's singles event, capturing her second French Open crown, and Rafael Nadal won the men's singles event, capturing his record-extending 14th French Open title.

Winners of French Open 2022:

Title	Winner	Runner up
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain)	Casper Ruud (Norwegian)

Women's Singles	Iga Świątek (Poland)	Coco Gauff (US)
Men's doubles	Marcelo Arévalo (El Salvador), Jean-Julien Rojer (Netherlands)	Ivan Dodig (Croatian), Austin Krajicek (US)
Women's doubles	Caroline Garcia (French), Kristina Mladenovic (French)	Jessica Pegula (US), Coco Gauff (US)
Mixed doubles	Ena Shibahara (JAPAN), Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands)	Joran Vliegen (Belgium), Ulrikke Eikeri (Norway)

About The French Open:

Type: Tennis tournament

Founded: 1891

Location: Paris, XVIe; France

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO's PSLV-C53 to launch 3 Singapore satellites on June 30

- ISRO said it will be launching - the second dedicated commercial mission of its commercial arm NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) - 'PSLV-C53' carrying three satellites from Singapore on June 30.
- The launch vehicle carrying DS-EO satellite along with two other co-passenger satellites is scheduled to lift off from the Second Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota
- NSIL is a PSU and commercial arm of ISRO established in 2019 under adm control of DoS.

Garuda Aerospace, an Indian drone startup to establish a facility in Malaysia

- Garuda Aerospace Pvt. Ltd., an integrated drone manufacturer and drone-as-a-service (DAAS) provider based in India, would invest Rs 115 crore in the construction of a production facility in Malaysia.
- The decision is made to establish a drone manufacturing plant in Malaysia, with a daily production capacity of around 50 drones. The components would be imported from India and other nations.

GSAT-24: Indian Communication Satellite successfully launched by ISRO

- NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) launched GSAT-24, following the space reforms leasing the entire satellite's capacity to Direct-to-Home (DTH) service provider Tata Play. This was the company's first "demand-driven" communication satellite mission.
- The satellite, developed by the Indian Space Research Organization for NSIL, was successfully launched into geostationary orbit from Kourou in French Guiana by the Ariane 5 rocket (South America).

India will get 5G services by March 2023: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

- Union Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced at the Viva Technology 2022 event that India will have full-fledged 5G services by March 2023. Vaishnaw told that the 5G spectrum auction will be concluded by the end of July, adding that Telecom is the key source of digital consumption, and it is very vital to introduce trusted solutions in telecom.
- India has its own 4G infrastructure, including radios, equipment, and handsets. In March 2023, 4G will be ready for deployment in the field, while 5G will be ready in the lab.
- India should develop the technology and core network for 5G services; this would be a significant achievement for the country.
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has finally approved the Department of Telecommunications' (5G) spectrum auction, in which bidders would be assigned spectrum to provide 5G services to the general public and businesses.

About Ministry of Communications and Information:

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 19 July 2016

Jurisdiction: India

Departments: India Post, Department of Telecommunications

Announcing Google for Startups Accelerator - India Women Founders

- Google announced a startup accelerator program for women founders. The program will help them address challenges such as fundraising and hiring. Google for Startups Accelerator India – Women Founders will run from Jul-2022 to Sep-2022. The program is part of a larger effort by Google towards improving the representation of women across different sections of India's digitally-trained workforce — be it entrepreneurship, professionals looking to upskill or young graduates seeking a headstart on their career.
- The inaugural batch of the 'Google for Startups Accelerator – India Women Founders' will accept up to 20 women-founded / co-founded startups in the country, and support them through a three-month program.
- The program will place special focus on areas like access to networks, capital, hiring challenges, mentorship, and other areas which, for a variety of social reasons and low representation, prove challenging for female founders.
- The selected Startups will receive mentorship and support around AI/ML, Cloud, UX, Android, Web, Product Strategy and Growth. In addition to mentorship and technical project support, the accelerator includes deep dives and workshops focused on product design, customer acquisition, and founders' leadership development.

About Google:

CEO: Sundar Pichai

Founded: 4 September 1998

Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States

After 27 Years Of Service, Microsoft's Internet Explorer Finally Retires

- Microsoft has announced the retirement of 27-year-old Internet Explorer (IE) as the firm's oldest browser will be completely phased out from June 15. Microsoft released the first

version of Internet Explorer in 1995 as an add-on package for Windows 95, the antediluvian era of web surfing dominated by the first widely popular browser, Netscape Navigator.

- A year ago, Microsoft said that it was putting an end to Internet Explorer on June 15, 2022, pushing users to its Edge browser, which was launched in 2015. The company made clear then it was time to move on. Estimates for Internet Explorer's market share in 2022 are about 0.38% across all platforms, or by StatCounter's numbers ranked 10th.
- Microsoft spent over US\$100 million per year on Internet Explorer in the late 1990s, with over 1,000 people involved in the project by 1999.
- On March 17, 2015, Microsoft announced that Microsoft Edge would replace Internet Explorer as the default browser "for certain versions of Windows 10". This makes Internet Explorer 11 the last release.

About Microsoft Corporation:

CEO: Satya Nadella (4 Feb 2014)

Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States

Founded: 4 April 1975, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States

Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen

Anocovax: India launches its first COVID-19 vaccine for animals

- Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar has launched the country's first homegrown COVID-19 vaccine "Anocovax" for animals, developed by Haryana-based ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines (NRC). Anocovax is an inactivated SARS-CoV-2 Delta (COVID-19) vaccine for animals. The immunity induced by Anocovax neutralises both Delta and Omicron variants of SARS-CoV-2.
- The vaccine contains inactivated SARS-CoV-2 (Delta) antigen with Alhydrogel as an adjuvant. It is safe for dogs, lions, leopards, mice and rabbits, it added.
- The COVID-19 vaccine for animals, Anocovax, is effective and capable of neutralising both Delta and Omicron variants of SARS-CoV-2.

About Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare:

Founded: 1947

Headquarters: Krishi Bhavan; New Delhi

Officeholders: Parshottam Rupala (Minister of State)

NASA sets 2029 as tentative launch date for Venus mission

- NASA is set to launch a mission called "DAVINCI Mission". DAVINCI stands for "Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry and Imaging Mission". The mission will fly by Venus and explore its harsh atmosphere in 2029. It will be the first mission to study Venus by means of both flybys and descent. Spacecraft is likely to explore layered Venusian atmosphere. It will reach Venusian surface by June 2031. The mission would capture data about Venus, that scientists are trying to measure since early 1980s.
- DAVINCI spacecraft will serve as a flying chemistry lab. It can measure different aspects of atmosphere and climate of Venus. Spacecraft will take the first descent images of its highlands. Instruments on the spacecraft will also be able to map Venusian surface as well as detect composition of mountainlike highlands of Venus'. This lab will paint a picture of

layered Venus's atmosphere as well as the picture of how it interacts with surface in Alpha Regio mountains.

About NASA:

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States

Founder: Dwight D. Eisenhower

Founded: 29 July 1958, United States

Administered by: Steve Jurczyk, Bill Nelson

Further Fillip To NewSpace India Limited As Cabinet Approves Transfer Of 10 In-orbit Satellites

- The transfer of ten in-orbit communication satellites to public sector business NSIL, which is under the administrative jurisdiction of the Department of Space, has been authorized by the Union Cabinet. The cabinet also authorized expanding NewSpace India Limited's (NSIL) permitted share capital from Rs 1,000 crore to Rs 7,500 crore. NSIL was required under the space sector reforms to conduct end-to-end commercial space operations and to operate as a full-fledged satellite operator.
- The transfer of these assets to NSIL will also give the firm with the needed financial autonomy to execute capital-intensive programs/projects, resulting in significant job creation and technology transfer to other sectors of the economy.
- NSIL was required under the Space Sector Reforms to conduct end-to-end commercial space operations and to operate as a full-fledged satellite operator.
- The NSIL Board will now be able to price transponders in accordance with market dynamics and worldwide trends in the satellite communication industry.

About NewSpace India Limited (NSIL):

Headquarters: HFSC Building, ISRO HQ, New BEL Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

Founded: 6 March 2019

Key people: Radhakrishnan Durairaj (CMD); A. Arunachalam (Director, Technical & Strategy)

Kiya.ai launches India's first-ever Banking Metaverse - Kiyaverse

- Kiya ai, a digital solutions provider serving financial institutions and governments globally, announced the launch of India's first-ever banking metaverse "Kiyaverse". In the first phase, Kiyaverse will allow banks to extend their own metaverse for clients, partners, and employees, through services that will include Relationship Manager & Peer Avatars and Robo-advisors.
- Kiyaverse pioneers use cases of merging real-world banking with Metaverse banking through an avatar (virtual humanoid) based interactions.
- In the first phase, Kiyaverse will allow banks to extend their own Metaverse for clients, partners, and employees, through services that will include Relationship Manager & Peer Avatars and Robo-advisors.
- Kiyaverse plans to have tokens as NFTs and support CBDC to enable open finance in a Web3.0 environment. Kiyaverse will interface its Open API connectors with

Aggregators, and Gateways to enable a Super-App and Marketplace on the metaverse.

About Kiya.ai:

MD and CEO: Rajesh Mirjankar;

HQ: Mumbai.

Government deploys Param Ananta supercomputer under National Supercomputing Mission at IIT Gandhinagar

- Param Ananta, is a state of the art supercomputer at IIT Gandhinagar dedicated to the nation under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM). It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), which was commissioned. This indigenous software stack is developed by C-DAC and is a Make in India initiative.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between IIT Gandhinagar and the Centre for Development in Advanced Computing (C-DAC) on October 12, 2020, to establish this 838 TeraFlops Supercomputing Facility under NSM.
- The system is equipped with a mix of CPU nodes, GPU nodes, high memory nodes, high throughput storage, and high-performance Infiniband interconnect to cater to the computing needs of various scientific and engineering applications.
- The Param Ananta is based on direct contact liquid cooling technology to obtain a high power usage effectiveness and thereby reduce the operational cost.
- The Param Ananta Supercomputing Facility will greatly benefit IIT Gandhinagar's R&D activities in multidisciplinary domains of science and technology, including, but not limited to, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), data science; computational fluid dynamics (CFD); bio-engineering for genome sequencing and DNA studies.

About Gujarat:

Capital: Gandhinagar

Governor: Acharya Devvrat

Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel

OBITUARY

Kumbalangi Nights actor Ambika Rao died at 58

- Malayalam actor and assistant director Ambika Rao passed away at the age of 58. She entered the movie industry as an assistant director with the 2002 release 'Krishna Gopalakrishna' helmed by Balachandra Menon. She forayed into the film industry as an assistant director in early 2000. She has assisted several directors, including Balachandra Menon, Anwar Rasheed, Shafi, and Vinayan. She also acted in many movies. Recently, she made a mark with her performances in hit films like Virus and Kumbalangi Nights.

Hockey: World Cup winner Varinder Singh passes away in Jalandhar

- Indian hockey stalwart and member of the gold medal winning 1975 World Cup team, Varinder Singh passed away. He was 75. Singh was part of the gold medal-winning Indian team at the 1975 men's Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur. Singh was also part of the bronze medal-winning team at the 1972 Munich Olympics and silver medal at 1973 World Cup in Amsterdam. In 2007, Varinder was conferred with the prestigious Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award.

Noted Writer lyricist, Chowallor Krishnakutty passes away

- In Kerala, noted lyricist, author and journalist, Chowalloor Krishnakutty passed away at a private Medical College Hospital in Thrissur. He was 86. A former Staff Artist with AIR, Krishnakutty penned over 3000 devotional songs and authored more than 200 books. He retired as an Assistant Editor with the Malayala Manorama daily.
- Krishnakutty is a recipient of the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi and Kerala Sahitya Akademi awards, Krishnakutty also served as the vice-chairman of the Kerala Kalamandalam.

Business Tycoon Pallonji Mistry Passes Away at 93

- Renowned business tycoon Pallonji Mistry has passed away at the age of 93. He was the Chairman of the Shapoorji Pallonji Group, one of the largest business firms in India. He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan in 2016 for his contribution in the field of industry and trade.
- The Shapoorji Pallonji Group is Mumbai-based 156-year-old firm which operates in the construction business in Africa, India, the Middle East and South Asia. Shapoorji Pallonji Group covers six business segments namely engineering and construction, infrastructure, real estate, water, energy and financial services.

Asian Games Double Gold Medallist And Olympian Hari Chand Dies Aged 69

- Long-distance runner Hari Chand, who won two gold medals at the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games, passed away at his native village Ghorewaha in Hoshiarpur district, Punjab.
- He won a gold medal at the 1975 Asian Championship in 10,000 metre and a bronze medal in 5,000 metre.
- Later, he won two gold medals at the 1978 Asian Games in Bangkok in the 5000m and 10,000m events

Hari Chand, India's Long-Distance Running Legend, Dies Aged 69

- Long distance great Hari Chand, a two-time Olympian and a double Asian Games gold medallist, passed away in Jalandhar. He was 69. Chand won the 5000 and 10,000m gold at the 1978 Bangkok Asiad and also the 10,000m title at the 1975 Asian Championships in Seoul.
- Chand, who hailed from Ghorewaha village in Punjab's Hoshiarpur District, made waves with his barefoot running and broke the 10,000m National record at the 1976 Montreal Olympics which stood for 32 years before falling to Surendra Singh. He was eighth in his heats in

Montreal, clocking 28:48.72s. And in the next Olympics, in Moscow 1980, he was 10th in the 10,000m heats and finished 31st in the marathon which had 74 runners.

Nobuyuki Idei, Sony CEO Who Elevated Digital, Dies at 84

- Nobuyuki Idei, who led Japan's Sony from 1998 through 2005, steering its growth in the digital and entertainment businesses, has died. He was 84. During his seven years as CEO from 1998, Mr Idei made an immense contribution to Sony's evolution as a global company. Tokyo-based Sony is among Japan's stellar brands, having brought the world the Walkman portable music player.
- Idei joined Sony in 1960, after graduating from Tokyo's prestigious Waseda University, and worked in its audio and video divisions. He was appointed president in 1995, and is credited with being behind hit products such as the Vaio laptop. Idei pushed Sony's digital operations under the slogan Digital Dream Kids. He also accelerated Sony's global expansion, including the PlayStation video game business, and Sony's sprawling entertainment empire that includes music and movies.

About Sony Corporation:

CEO: Kenichiro Yoshida (1 Apr 2018–)

Founded: 7 May 1946, Nihonbashi, Tokyo, Japan

Headquarters: Minato City, Tokyo, Japan

Founders: Akio Morita, Masaru Ibuka

Freedom fighter Anjalai Ponnusamy dies aged 102

- Freedom fighter Anjalai Ponnusamy, who fought for India's independence from colonial Britain, died, aged 102. At the age of 21, Anjalai joined the Rani of Jhansi Regiment – the women's regiment of the Indian National Army – in the hopes of discarding the yoke of British colonialism from the Indian people.
- A prominent figure in the struggle for India's independence, Bose was a contemporary of Mahatma Gandhi, who shared his dream of an India free from British rule. To accomplish this, he founded the Indian National Army in 1943, albeit with the support of the Japanese, during World War II. After the war ended with the Japanese defeat, the Indian National Army was disbanded, and Anjalai returned home to continue her life in Malaysia.

Legendary Santoor player Pandit Bhajan Sopori dies at 74

- Santoor maestro and Padma Shri awardee, Bhajan Sopori has passed away at the age of 73. The santoor player was born in Sopore in Kashmir Valley in 1948 and belonged to the Sufiana Gharana of Indian classical music. He was the great-grandson of Pandit Shankar Pandit, who had developed the style popularly known as the 'Sufi Baaj' (style), based on Sufiana Qalam and Hindustani Classical music.
- Hailed as 'Saint of the Santoor' and the 'King of Strings', Sopori won the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1992 and the Padma Shri in 2004. In 2009 he was honoured with the Baba Allaudin Khan Award and M N Mathur award in 2011 for his contribution to Indian classical music.

- Sopori composed music for over 6000 songs in various languages and dialects like Hindi, Kashmiri, Dogri, Sindhi, Urdu, Sanskrit, Bhojpuri, Punjabi, Himachali, Rajasthani, Telegu, Tamil, etc. and also foreign languages like Persian, Arabic, etc and his work was part of films, commercials, documentaries, serials, operas and choirs among others.

About Pandit Bhajan Sopori

Instruments: Santoor

Origin: Kashmiri

Occupation(s): Musician

Full name: Bhajan Lal Sopori

Awards: Padma Shri, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Music - Instrumental (Santoor)

Bollywood singer KK dies at 53 after live performance in Kolkata

- Noted Bollywood singer KK (Krishnakumar Kunnath) who mesmerized music lovers for over three decades is no more. The 53-year-old singer died in Kolkata after a live performance. KK was regarded as one of the top singers of Bollywood. KK sang in Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi and Assamese.
- KK sang numerous hit songs in various films. Some of KK's most popular songs that remain his best songs include Tu Hi Meri Shab Hai (Gangster), Tadap Tadap Ke Is Dil Se (Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam), Awarapan Banjarapan (Jism), Aankhon Mein Teri Ajab Si (Om Shanti Om) and Khuda Jaane (Bachna Ae Haseeno). His song Yaaron, released in 1999, made him a household name.

Awards won by KK:

1. Best Singer in Non-Film Music category at Screen Awards (1999) for the album Pal
2. National Award for "Tu Aashiqui Hai" from the film "Jhankaar Beats" in 2003
3. Goldie Film Awards, US for the Best Playback Singer Male for the song "Chalte Jaana Hain" from the film "Life! Camera Action..." in 2012
4. Best Playback Singer (Male) at Screen Awards (2009) for the song "Khuda Jaane" from the film
5. Bachna Ae Haseeno Hub Awards for Best Playback Singer Male in 2005
6. Filmfare Awards South (Kannada) 2010 in the category of Best Playback Singer-Male
7. Eenam-Swaralaya Singer of The Year Award (2012)

J&K Panthers Party chief Bhim Singh, Died at 81

- National Panthers Party Chief Professor, Bhim Singh passed away at his residence in Jammu after a prolonged illness. He was 80. Singh was the founder and Chief Patron of the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP), a political organisation which seeks "ultimate revolution", based in the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

- Mr Singh, a lawyer by profession, has been unwell for some time and was admitted to the Government Medical College, Jammu. Prof. Singh was a leader committed to secular values who fought relentlessly for the rights of downtrodden and marginalised sections of society in and outside the State legislature. At a time when polarization and divisiveness have dominated the political arena, he stood for communal harmony and fought tooth and nail against the forces, who are hell bent on dividing the people and regions into the communal lines.

About Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party:

Leader: Bhim Singh

Headquarters: Delhi

Founders: Bhim Singh, Jay Mala

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Uddhav Thackeray resigns as Supreme Court refuses to stay floor test

- Uddhav Thackeray has resigned as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. This comes immediately after the Supreme Court refused to stay Maharashtra Governor's direction to the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government to take a floor test in the Assembly. Late in the evening, Mr. Thackeray submitted his resignation to Mr. Bhagat Singh Koshyari at the Raj Bhavan in Mumbai. The Governor accepted the resignation of Mr. Thackeray and asked him to officiate as the Chief Minister until alternate arrangements are made.
- I had come (to power) in an unexpected manner and I am going out in a similar fashion. I am not going away forever, I will be here, and I will once again sit in Shiv Sena Bhawan. I will gather all my people. I am also quitting as member of Legislative Council.
- With Mr. Thackeray's resignation, the unique three-party experiment of the MVA, in which the Shiv Sena tied up with the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), has come to an end. The BJP, which is the single-largest party in the Assembly with 106 MLAs, is likely to stake claim to form the government.

NARCL: IRARC's Avinash Kulkarni to move India Debt Decision Firm

- The chief govt of India Resurgence Asset Reconstruction Firm (IRARC), Avinash Kulkarni, has been chosen to head the India Debt Decision Firm (IDRCL). Kulkarni is a (SBI) veteran, having undertaken numerous roles on the public sector behemoth. His engagements on the SBI group have included assignments within the funding banking and advisory arm, Capital Markets.
- Kulkarni was selected from among a shortlist of about six candidates earlier this month. With this selection, the key executives are in place to start consolidating bad loans from banks through the NARCL.
- Kulkarni's appointment follows another SBI veteran Natarajan Sundar being selected as CEO of the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) in April. Sundar took over as the CEO at the end of May. Both appointments now mean that the key executive leadership to run the government-backed ARC is in place.

Mohammed Jalood elected president of the International Weightlifting Federation in a chaotic conference in Albania

- The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) believes that substantial progress has been made in enhancing the culture and leadership of the sport. Mohammed Jalood has been elected as the organization's president, and 11 additional new members have been added to its Executive Board, according to a press release from Tirana, Albania, which hosted both the Special & Electoral Congress and the recently concluded European Weightlifting Championships.
- Many of the member federations, who have long called for renewal and change inside the organisation, will, according to the IWF, be satisfied by a change in leadership.
- The 12 new members of the Executive Board constitute a 66 percent change in staffing overall, despite the IWF's emphasis on the necessity of maintaining "seasoned leadership" during this transitional phase.

Samant Kumar Goel will remain RAW chief for one more year

- Samant Kumar Goel's contract as secretary of the intelligence agency's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) was extended by the Centre on June 24 by another year. Goel is an IPS officer from the Punjab cadre class of 1984 and will hold the position of agency secretary through June 30, 2023. In June 2019, Samant Kumar Goel succeeded Anil Dhasmana as the Chief of RAW.
- The RAW is an external intelligence organisation that monitors dangers from abroad. RAW collects secret information about the activities of neighbouring countries. RAW has been placed directly under the Indian Prime Minister's office. RAW has its own service cadre known as the Research and Analysis Service (RAS).

About RAW:

Formed: 21 September 1968;

Headquarters: New Delhi;

Founders: R. N. Kao & Indira Gandhi.

Tapan Kumar Deka appointed as Director of Intelligence Bureau

- The Central government has appointed senior IPS officer Tapan Kumar Deka as Director of Intelligence Bureau. Tapan Kumar Deka, a 1988 batch Himachal Pradesh cadre IPS officer, was appointed for a tenure of two years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Deka will succeed incumbent Intelligence Bureau Director Arvind Kumar, whose tenure ends on June 30.
- Deka has spent most of the career in the Intelligence Bureau. He was an Additional Director in Intelligence Bureau when he was promoted to the rank of Special Director in the Wing in June last year. Deka has handled crucial cases like terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, especially targeted killings in the Valley.

About Intelligence Bureau:

Headquarters: New Delhi

Formed: 1887

Parameswaran Iyer appointed new NITI Aayog CEO, to succeed Amitabh Kant

- Former Drinking and water Sanitation Secretary, Parameswaran Iyer has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog for 2 years. He will succeed Amitabh Kant. Kant was appointed as the CEO of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) on February 17, 2016, for a fixed two-year term. Kant was later given an extension till June 30, 2019. His term was further extended for two years, till this month-end, in June 2019. In June 2021, Kant received another one-year extension.
- Iyer took voluntary retirement from the Indian Civil Services in 2009. In the same year, he became the water resources manager at the World Bank. In 2016, he joined the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation as its Secretary.
- He had also worked as a senior rural water sanitation specialist at the United Nations. In 2016, the government appointed Iyer to implement its Swachh Bharat Mission. In 2021, Iyer resigned as Secretary of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation at the Jal Shakti Ministry.

About NITI Aayog:

Founded: 1 January 2015;

Preceding: Planning Commission (15 March 1950)

Headquarters: New Delhi;

Chairperson: Narendra Modi;

Vice Chairperson: Suman K Bery;

Delhi HC removes Narinder Batra as IOA president; Anil Khanna installed as acting chief of the body

- Anil Khanna has been appointed the acting President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA). The Delhi High Court has ordered that Narinder Dhruv Batra cannot continue as the President of the IOA and appointed Anil Khanna as acting president. Veteran sports administrator Narinder Batra was ordered to stop functioning as Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president by the Delhi High Court "in a contempt proceeding", a month after it asked him to relinquish the top job. A vacation bench of Justice Dinesh Sharma passed the order on a contempt petition filed by Olympian and hockey World Cup winner Aslam Sher Khan.
- On May 25, Batra was removed as IOA chief after the Delhi High Court struck down the post of 'life member' in Hockey India, courtesy which he had contested and won the apex body elections back in 2017. At that time also, the IOA had installed Khanna as its acting chief.

About IOA:

President: Narinder Batra

Founded: 1927

Headquarters location: New Delhi

Secretary General: Rajeev Mehta

Parameswaran Iyer appointed NITI Aayog's new CEO

- The government has appointed Parameswaran Iyer as the new chief executive officer of the NITI Aayog after the term of the incumbent CEO Amitabh Kant comes to an end on June 30.

- In 2016, Iyer was appointed by the government to head the drinking and sanitation department and lead the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Tapan Deka appointed new IB director, RAW chief Samant Goel gets one-year extension

- The Central government gave one-year extension in service to Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Samant Goel and appointed senior IPS officer Tapan Deka as Director of Intelligence Bureau.
- Deka will succeed incumbent Intelligence Bureau Director Arvind Kumar, whose tenure ends on June 30.

P Udayakumar assumes office as Chairman-cum-Managing Director, NSIC

- P Udayakumar, Director (PIng & Mktg), NSIC assumed additional charge of CMD NSIC.
- National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), is an ISO 9001-2015 certified Government of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). NSIC has been working to promote, aid and foster the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises in the country.

Lisa Sthalekar appointed first woman president of Federation of International Cricketers' Associations

- Federation of International Cricketers' Associations (FICA) announced former Australian cricketer Lisa Sthalekar as its President at the FICA Executive Committee meeting held in Nyon, Switzerland, making her the first woman's cricketer to hold the position.
- Lisa Sthalekar succeeds Vikram Solanki as FICA President.

R Kavita Rao appointed as director of NIPFP

- Eminent economist R Kavita Rao has taken charge as the director of National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) for a five-year term.
- NIPFP founded in 1976 is a centre for research in public economics and policies. Although the institute receives an annual grant from the Ministry of Finance, and various state governments, it is an autonomous institution.

Centre clears new chief justices for five High Courts

- The appointment of new chief justices to five high courts has been approved by the government. The appointment for Uttarakhand, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gauhati has been announced by the Ministry of Law and Justice. The Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court will be Justice Vipin Sanghi of the Delhi High Court, while the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court will be Justice Ujjal Bhuyan of the Telangana High Court.
- The Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court will be Justice Amjad Ahtesham Sayed of the Bombay High Court, while the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court will be Justice Shinde Sambhaji Shiwaji of the Bombay High

Court. The Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court has been named Justice Rashmin M Chhaya of the Gujarat High Court. Satish Chandra Sharma, Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court, has been appointed to the Delhi High Court, according to the Ministry.

About Supreme court of India:

Established: 26 January 1950

Founded: 26 January 1950, New Delhi

Number of positions: 34(33+1; present strength)

Judge term length: Mandatory retirement at 65 years of age

Ex-Supreme Court judge Ranjana Desai is new Press Council of India Chief

- Former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai is believed to have been chosen as the next head of the Press Council of India (PCI). Justice Desai recently served as the chairman of the Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir, which was established to redesign the Union Territory's assembly constituencies.
- The appointment of Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai as PCI chairwoman was accepted by a committee that included Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, and PCI member Prakash Dubey.
- Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai is the current chairperson of India's Delimitation Commission and a former Supreme Court judge.
- Before being appointed to the Supreme Court, she worked as a public prosecutor for the state of Maharashtra and as a judge on the Bombay High Court.
- Desai was the Chairperson of the Indian Appellate Tribunal for Electricity after her retirement from the Supreme Court.

About Supreme Court of India:

Established: 26 January 1950

Founded: 26 January 1950, New Delhi

Number of positions: 34(33+1; present strength)

Judge term length: Mandatory retirement at 65 years of age

Bangladesh Permanent Representative to UN Rabab Fatima appointed Assistant Secretary General

- Ambassador Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations has been appointed as the Under Secretary General of the United Nations. Secretary General Antonio Guterres has announced the appointment of Ambassador Fatima. She succeeds Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica who was appointed as the Chef de Cabinet.
- Ambassador Rabab Fatima is the first woman diplomat from Bangladesh to be appointed to this post.
- With her appointment as Assistant Secretary General to the UN, Rabab Fatima has become the highest ranking official of Bangladesh under the UN system.
- The appointment of Rabab Fatima is testimony to Bangladesh's close engagement with the multilateral diplomatic system and a recognition of the professionalism of Bangladeshi diplomats.

About United Nations:

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

Headquarters: New York, United States

Secretary General: António Guterres

About Bangladesh:

Capital: Dhaka

Currency: Bangladeshi taka

President: Abdul Hamid

Prime minister: Sheikh Hasina

RBI approves appointment of R Subramaniakumar as MD and CEO of RBL Bank

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed R Subramaniakumar as the MD & CEO of RBL Bank. He has been appointed at RBL for three years from the date of taking charge. He is a former managing director and chief executive director of state-run Indian Overseas Bank. He was appointed the administrator of Dewan Housing Finance Co Ltd after the mortgage financier's board was superseded.
- Subramaniakumar's tenure will begin from the date of his taking charge, under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act 1949.
- Subramaniakumar's appointment came nearly six months after RBL Bank's long-term MD and CEO Vishwavir Ahuja had stepped down in December 2021.
- Subramaniakumar's appointment as the RBL Bank chief comes in the backdrop of the bank reporting a net loss of Rs 74.74 crore in FY2022, as against a profit of Rs 50.77 crore in FY2021.
- The RBL bank had also reportedly come under regulatory lens, with the RBI, in December 2021, appointing its chief general manager Yogesh K Dayal as an additional director of the private lender for two years.

About RBL Bank:

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: August 1943

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

MSU's ex-registrar N J Ojha has been named MGNREGS' ombudsman

- N J Ojha has been appointed as ombudsman for a two-year term under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Ojha has the power to investigate allegations by MGNREGA staff, consider them, award awards within 30 days of receipt of the complaint.
- An ombudsman has the power to receive complaints from MGNREGA workers, consider such complaints, pass awards within 30 days from the date of receipt of complaint and issue direction for conducting spot investigation and also initiate proceedings 'suo motu' if there are any grievance including on issues related to delayed payment of wages or non-payment of unemployment allowance.

- National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 or NREGA, later renamed as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act or MGNREGA in 2009, is an Indian labour law and social security measure that aims to guarantee the 'right to work'.

About National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005:

Launch year: 2006

Sector: Rural Employment

Launched by (Prime Minister): Manmohan Singh

Ministry: Ministry of Rural Development

Passed: 23 August 2005

Introduced by: Raghuvaran Prasad Singh, Minister of Rural Development

Senior Indian diplomat Amandeep Singh Gill appointed by UN chief Guterres as his Envoy on Technology

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed senior Indian diplomat Amandeep Singh Gill as his envoy on technology to coordinate programmes for international digital cooperation. The UN describing him as a "thought leader on digital technology" who has a solid understanding of how to leverage the digital transformation responsibly and inclusively for progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Amandeep Singh Gill has been India's permanent representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva from 2016-to 2018. He is now the chief executive officer of the International Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence Research Collaborative (I-DAIR) project at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.
- Gill joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1992 and served in various capacities in disarmament and strategic technologies and international security affairs, with postings in Tehran and Colombo. He was also a visiting scholar at Stanford University.

About United Nations:

Secretary General: António Guterres

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

Headquarters: New York, United States

DD Director-General Mayank Kumar Agrawal given additional charge of Prasar Bharati CEO

- Mayank Kumar Agrawal, director general of Doordarshan and Doordarshan News, has been assigned additional responsibility as Prasar Bharati's chief executive officer. Agrawal succeeds Shashi Shekhar Vempati, who served as CEO of the state broadcaster for five years. Following permission from Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur, the decision was made to grant the extra charge to the 1989-batch Indian Information Service official until further orders or regular appointment to the post.
- Shashi Shekhar Vempati's five-year tenure as Prasar Bharati CEO came to an end, prompting the change. On the proposal of a three-member commission led by the then Vice-President, Mr. Vempati was selected as CEO of the public broadcaster in June 2017.
- Mr. Vempati, an IIT-Bombay graduate, was the first non-bureaucrat to hold the position since it was established in 1997.

About Prasar Bharati:

CEO: Shashi Shekhar Vempati (2017–)

Founded: 23 November 1997, New Delhi

Headquarters: New Delhi

Subsidiary: Doordarshan

Music maestro A R Rahman named ambassador of Indo-UK culture platform

- Music Maestro, AR Rahman has been appointed as ambassador of The Season of Culture, which marks the 75th anniversary of India's independence. It was officially launched, by Britain's Deputy High Commissioner to India Jan Thomson and Director (India) of the British Council Barbara Wickham. The Season of Culture aims to strengthen India-UK collaboration in the areas of arts, English and education.
- Over 1,400 artists will showcase their collaborations to millions of audiences across India, Britain, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, through a wide array of arts such as theatre, dance, visual arts, literature, music, architecture, design, fashion, tech-art and new media art. The 'Season of Culture' intends to build on the British Council's work in India and strengthen partnerships between India and the UK in the arts, English, and education. People in both nations will get the opportunity to see unique and exciting creative work by UK and Indian artists.

About British Council:

Headquarters: London, United Kingdom

Founder: Government of the United Kingdom

Founded: 1934

International Aluminium Institute appoints Satish Pai as New Chairman

- The International Aluminium Institute (IAI), the only body representing the global primary aluminium industry, has announced the appointment of Satish Pai as its new Chair. He is the Managing Director of Hindalco Industries, one of the world's largest integrated producers of aluminium. Earlier serving as Vice Chairman, he succeeds Ben Kahrs, Chief Innovation Officer, Alcoa Corporation. An engineer by education and profession, Satish earlier worked with Schlumberger, based out of Paris, where he was responsible for Schlumberger's operations globally.
- The IAI's purpose is to promote the sustainable development of the aluminium industry and to increase demand for aluminium products by raising awareness of their unique and valuable properties.
- Satish was the driving force behind Hindalco's transformation from an upstream company to a fully integrated aluminium player with products that input into future-critical industries such as EV mobility and low carbon transportation.
- IAI members are engaged in the production of bauxite, alumina, aluminium, the recycling of aluminium, or the fabrication of aluminium in all major producing regions.

Government of India appoints A. Manimekhalai as MD of Union Bank of India

- The government has appointed A Manimekhalai as managing director of Union Bank of India. Canara Bank executive director Manimekhalai replaced Rajkiran

Rai G, who retired on May 31 after a five-year stint. With her assuming the charge, Manimekhalai becomes the first woman managing director of Union Bank of India.

- Manimekhalai, a Master of Business Administration degree holder from Bangalore University, joined erstwhile Vijaya Bank as Officer in 1988.
- Prior to being elevated as ED of Canara Bank, she was General Manager of Vijaya Bank and headed the Bangalore north region.
- She was instrumental in devising and implementing strategic policies, covering core areas like strategic planning, setting organisational goals, growth strategies, action plans, compliance, internal control, etc.

About Union Bank of India:

CEO: A. Manimekhalai (3 Jun 2022)

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 11 November 1919

Swarup Kumar Saha appointed as the MD and CEO of Punjab and Sind Bank

- The government has appointed Swarup Kumar Saha as head of Punjab & Sind Bank. Saha, who is the executive director of Punjab National Bank (PNB), replaced S Krishnan, who also superannuated on May 31. Saha, a graduate of Science from the University of Calcutta, Kolkata, started his career in banking in the erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce in the year 1990 as Probationary Officer.
- In a career spanning over three decades, he has vast experience and expertise in Human Resource Development, Treasury, International Banking, Credit, Risk Management, Organization Restructuring and Board matters. These separate appointments have been made for an initial period of three years.

About Punjab & Sind Bank:

Founder: Vir Singh

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 24 June 1908

Parent organizations: Government of India, Ministry of Finance

Ex-SBI MD Bhatia joins Sebi as whole- time member

- Ashwani Bhatia has taken charge as a whole-time member (WTM) at the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). Bhatia was previously the managing director of the state-owned State Bank of India (SBI). After Bhatia's joining, Sebi now has three WTM. The government is yet to appoint the fourth member. The market regulator functioned with just two WTMs for the past seven months after Sebi's current chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch's tenure as WTM ended on October 4, 2021, and G. Mahalingam demitted office on November 8, 2021.
- For the appointment of the WTM post at Sebi, the candidates are shortlisted by the Financial Sector Regulatory Appointments Search Committee (FSRASC), headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

- Bhatia has been appointed for an initial period of three years from the date of assuming charge. In August 2020, he was elevated as MD of SBI, where he joined as a probationary officer in 1985. Before that, he was working as the MD and chief executive officer of SBI Mutual Fund.
- In the past, the government has had problems appointing IAS officers for the WTM post. This is because the government has made it mandatory for IAS officers to resign from service before they take up the WTM job at Sebi. Most young IAS officers are only willing to take up the job on deputation so that they can again go back to public service after their WTM tenure ends, which is typically for three or five years.

About SEBI:

Founded: 12 April 1992

Headquarters: Mumbai

Agency executive: Madhabi Puri Buch (Chairperson)

About SBI:

Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1 July 1955

Parent organization: Government of India

Punjab & Sind Bank MD & CEO S Krishnan retires, effect from May 31, 2022

- Punjab & Sind Bank Limited, an Indian nationalised bank, announced that its MD & CEO, S Krishnan to retire from the role, with effect from May 31, 2022. He was appointed as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Punjab & Sind Bank from the date of assumption of office till the date of his superannuation, i.e. 31.05.2022 or until further orders, whichever is earlier. It is now informed that Shri S Krishnan has retired upon his superannuation on 31.05.2022.
- S Krishnan, a postgraduate in Commerce (M.Com) and qualified Cost Accountant (ICMA), took charge as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of Punjab & Sind Bank on 4th September 2020. Prior to joining Punjab & Sind Bank as MD & CEO, Krishnan was Executive Director of Syndicate Bank and Canara Bank. He started his carrier in Indian Bank in January 1983. He has a long and varied field of banking and administrative experience of nearly 38 years.

About Punjab & Sind Bank Limited:

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founder: Vir Singh

Founded: 24 June 1908

Javier Olivan is The Next COO Of Meta

- Javier Olivan, the current chief growth officer at Meta Platforms, will take over as the company's chief operating officer after Sheryl Sandberg stepped down from the post. Olivan has been with Meta, formerly known as Facebook, for several years, contributing to its explosive expansion. Olivan will be responsible

for the advertising and business products while continuing to head infrastructure and corporate development.

- Olivan grew up in a small town in the Pyrenees Mountains of northern Spain but now lives in Palo Alto, California, with his family.
- He studied electrical and industrial engineering at the University of Navarra and also holds a Master's degree in business administration from Stanford University, Facebook revealed.
- Prior to joining Facebook, he worked with Siemens AG where he is said to have led a cross-functional team responsible for the development and market launch of handset devices. He also worked for Japan's NTT Data, his LinkedIn account revealed.

About Meta:

CEO: Mark Zuckerberg (4 February 2004)

Founded: February 2004, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States

Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, United States

CTO: Mike Schroepfer

CFO: David Wehner

Centre elevates top IPS officer SL Thaosen as SSB chief, Zulfiqar Hasan named new DG BCAS

- A 1988-batch Indian Police Service officer S L Thaosen has been appointed as the new Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). Thaosen, a Madhya Pradesh-cadre IPS officer, has been serving as the Special Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF). The Sashastra Seema Bal force guards the country's borders with Nepal (1,751 km) and Bhutan (699 km).
- The post of SSB chief has been lying vacant after incumbent DG Kumar Rajesh Chandra retired on December 31 last year. Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) DG Sanjay Arora has been holding the additional charge of the Sashastra Seema Bal DG since then.
- In another order the ACC cleared the appointment of Zulfiqar Hasan as BCAS chief. The DoPT order said Hasan has been appointed "for a tenure up to his superannuation on 31.10.2024."
- Incidentally both the administrators elevated to the new posts are 1988 batch IPS officers. The appointment also comes as a surprise as the two posts were lying vacant for the past many months.
- While Thaosen, a Madhya Pradesh-cadre IPS officer, is currently working in the Border Security Force (BSF), Hasan, a West Bengal-cadre IPS officer, is serving as the special director general of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Delhi.

About Sashastra Seema Bal:

Founded: 1963

Headquarters: New Delhi

Motto: Service, Security and Brotherhood

Parent agency: Central Armed Police Forces

Top Scientist Rajesh Gera has joined as the Director General, National Informatics Centre (NIC)

- Senior scientist Rajesh Gera has been appointed as the Director-General, National Informatics Centre (NIC), a Personnel Ministry order issued. He is currently Deputy Director-General in the NIC. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Gera, Scientist 'G', to the post of Director-General.
- The National Informatics Centre is an Indian government organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, was established in 1976 with the objective to provide technology-driven solutions to central and state governments.

About National Informatics Centre (NIC):

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 1976

Director General: Dr. Neeta Verma

Parent organisation: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

IMPORTANT DAYS

Chartered Accountants Day 2022: 1st July

- The Chartered Accountants' Day or CA Day is held on 01 July every year in India. It is also known as ICAI Foundation Day. The day is marked to commemorate the foundation of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on July 1, 1949. ICAI is among the oldest professional institutions in the country and also the second largest professional accounting and finance body in the world in terms of members.
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), which sets the requirements for chartered accountants, administers the exams, and issues certificates of practice, is a key player in the regulation of the accounting profession in India. Thus, the day is important for honoring the ICAI as well as appreciating the efforts and contributions of chartered accountants across the nation.

About Institute of Chartered Accountants of India:

President: N. D. Gupta;

Head Quarter: New Delhi

National Statistics Day 2022: 29th June

- National Statistics Day is observed in India on June 29 each year. The day aims to raise public awareness of the value of statistics in everyday life as well as in the planning and development process. The celebrated statistician, Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, is recognised on National Statistics Day for his contributions to economic planning and statistics. Additionally, the Indian Statistical Institute's founder, Professor PC Mahalanobis, celebrates his birthday on 29 June. The theme of National Statistics Day 2022 is 'Data for Sustainable Development'.
- To honour Professor Mahalanobis and promote the use of statistics in daily life. The Indian government observes National Statistics Day. The events' main goal is to raise public

awareness of the role statistics play in formulating and affecting public policy. The Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation is in charge of planning the day (MOSPI).

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2022: 26th June

- International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, also known as World Drug Day, is conducted by the United Nations. It is observed on June 26 annually. The global event highlights the physical and psychological impact of substance abuse, drug overdose deaths and drug-related humanitarian crises with an aim to eliminate the menace from society.
- “Addressing drug challenges in health and humanitarian crises” is the theme for 2022’s celebration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.
- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) has put forward a #CareInCrises campaign for this year’s celebration of World Drug Day. It highlights data from its annual World Drug Report and urges governments, world citizenry, international organisations and each stakeholder to prevent drug abuse, provide treatment, and restrict the illicit drug supply.

About UNODC:

Headquarters location: Vienna, Austria

Founded: 1997

Parent organization: United Nations

United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture 2022: 26th June

- The United Nations General Assembly on December 12, 1997, adopted a resolution to proclaim June 26 as the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The day is observed to call upon nations, civil societies and individuals all across the world to extend their support to victims of torture and those who are being tortured.
- The United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is an important day to raise awareness about torture and help victims receive the support they need. The aims of the Day are to promote the abolition of torture, support victims, and promote human rights.
- Torture is a violation of human rights that can cause immense pain and suffering. It is often used to intimidate or punish people, and it can lead to long-term physical and psychological problems. The Day aims to help victims receive the support they need to recover from torture, and to create a society that does not tolerate torture.

About United Nations General Assembly:

Headquarters: New York, United States

President: Abdulla Shahid

Established: 1945

Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day 2022: 27th June

- Recognising the potential of the MSME and their role in strengthening economies, June 27 is celebrated as the Micro-Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day. The day is aimed at raising public awareness of the contribution of MSMEs to global economic growth and sustainable development. MSME or Micro-Small and Medium-sized Enterprises are crucial for the growth of a country as they form the backbone of the economy. They are enterprises

that usually employ not more than 250 employees but are responsible for creating more than two-thirds of all jobs globally.

- According to the United Nations, formal and informal MSMEs account for 70 per cent of the total employment and 50 per cent of the GDP. Moreover, the sector makes up for 90 per cent of all firms. With such significant contribution to the economy, MSMEs are essential for innovations, job creation, and productivity growth.
- Despite being a key player in generating jobs, MSMEs face challenges in working conditions, informality, and productivity. The MSME day is celebrated to unlock the potential of the enterprise and utilise it for bolstering the global economy.

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International Day of the Seafarer 2022

- The “Day of the Seafarer” is celebrated annually on June 25 to honour the vital contribution that seafarers make to global trade and the economy, frequently at considerable personal sacrifice to themselves and their families.
- Governments, shipping associations, businesses, shipowners, and all other interested parties are asked to support and commemorate the Day in a meaningful and suitable way.

International Day of Women in Diplomacy | June 24

- The General Assembly in 2022 proclaimed 24 June of each year the International Day of Women in Diplomacy, adopting by consensus a resolution today reaffirming that the participation of women, on equal terms with men, at all levels of decision-making is essential to the achievement of sustainable development, peace and democracy.

International Olympic Day | June 23, 2022 theme -Together, For a Peaceful World.

- To highlight the importance of sports and games in our lives, International Olympic Day (or World Olympic Day) is observed across the world on June 23 every year.
- Doctor Gruss, a Czech IOC member, presented the idea of a World Olympic Day in 1947. A year later, the day was observed to mark the birth of the modern Olympic Games.

International Widows’ Day | 23rd June

- International Widows’ Day is observed across the world on 23 June. The day aims to gather support for widows and to spread awareness about their situation. For several women, the hurtful loss of a partner is magnified by a long-term struggle for their basic rights and dignity.

- International Widows' Day is a day of action to address the "poverty and injustice faced by millions of widows and their dependents in many countries".
- The main objective of the activities is to create awareness about the condition of widows and protect their rights.

International Yoga Day 2022

- PM Modi led the celebrations of the International Day of Yoga in Karnataka's Mysuru.
- He spoke the importance of Yoga in everyone's lives while extending greetings on the 8th International Day of Yoga.
- The highlight of this year is "Guardian Ring of Yoga" which brings to fore the concept of "One Sun, One Earth".
- Theme of this International Yoga Day is 'Yoga for Humanity'.
- The first international yoga day was observed on 21st June 2015. It is celebrated on the 21st of June because it is said to be the longest day of the year in the Northern hemisphere and it shares special significance in many parts of the world.

World Music Day 2022

- World Music Day is celebrated every year on June 21. The day gives respect to the art form of music that binds people across culture, region, language and religion.
- Music also gives a channel to various emotions like love, grief, loss, and is cathartic in nature. On this day, free concerts are organised for everyone to attend.
- It is a massive cultural exchange and also brings society closer. The theme for World Music Day 2022 is "Music on the intersections".

International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict 2022: 19th June

- The International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is an international event conducted by the United Nations (UN) on June 19 each year. The day is celebrated to raise the awareness about conflict-related sexual violence. Sexual violence, whose victims are primarily women, is one of the worst crimes committed against human beings or animals, which leaves lasting psychological and emotional damage to the victim apart from physical harm. It occurs both in times of peace and during armed conflict.
- The theme for this year's observance of International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is 'Prevention as Protection: Enhancing structural and operational prevention of conflict-related sexual violence.' The event is a 'Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic, United Nations.'
- The primary goal of the event is to provide support to the survivors of sexual violence in armed conflict zones. The event participants also stand in solidarity with individuals helping the victims and to ensure they are remembered for their selfless service; especially at a time when multiple crises are occurring, which

intersect with conflict violence, such as the Covid-19 pandemic and inadequate resources.

World Refugee Day 2022: 20th June

- World Refugee Day is celebrated every year on 20 June. World Refugee Day was designated as an International Day by the UN (United Nations). The day is being celebrated to honour the refugees around the world. Refugees are people who are being forced to leave their homeland due to terror, conflicts, wars, prosecutions, or any other crises. World Refugee Day is an occasion to build empathy and understanding for their plight and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives.
- While the theme of World Refugee Day 2022 has not been rolled out, last year it was “Together we heal, learn and shine.” The 2021 theme highlighted the basic needs of displaced people, such as healthcare, nutrition and education.

About United Nations:

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

Headquarters: New York, New York, United States

Secretary general: António Guterres

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

Sustainable Gastronomy Day 2022: 18th June

- Every year, the world observes Sustainable Gastronomy Day on 18 June. The objective of this day is to recognise the practices associated with sustainable food consumption, especially with the art of collecting and preparing the food we eat. To make this day a memorable one, the organisations work in collaboration with global and regional bodies to observe the day.
- Gastronomy is sometimes called the art of food. It can also refer to a style of cooking from a particular region. In other words, gastronomy often refers to local food and cuisine. Sustainability is the idea that something (e.g. agriculture, fishing or even preparation of food) is done in a way that is not wasteful of our natural resources and can be continued into the future without being detrimental to our environment or health.
- Sustainable gastronomy, therefore, means cuisine that takes into account where the ingredients are from, how the food is grown and how it gets to our markets and eventually to our plates.

International Day for Countering Hate Speech 2022: 18th June

- International Day for Countering Hate Speech falls on June 18. According to the UN, hate speech is any kind of speech or writing that attacks or discriminates against a person or a group based on religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, color, descent, gender, or any other identity factor. Speech should not be a weapon for creating more mayhem in this volatile world; thus, the International Day for Countering Hate Speech will help to stop hate-mongering.
- In July 2021, the UN General Assembly highlighted global concerns over “the exponential spread and proliferation of hate speech” around the world and adopted a resolution on

“promoting inter-religious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech”.

International Picnic Day 2022: 18th June

- International Picnic Day is celebrated annually on 18 June. On this day, people spend time with their loved ones and go for picnics to get a break from their monotonous everyday routine. A picnic is a very good way to not only spend some quality time but also explore new feast spots.
- While the actual origin of the day is unknown, it is usually marked by an informal eating festival that serves as a getaway from our day-to-day busy lives. It brings together friends and relatives who bring food and soft drinks to enjoy each other's company.
- In recent times, the picnic affair has become very casual. Sometimes just a few pieces of bread and cheese are carried in a paper bag and eaten in a nearby park. Games and activities can also be planned when one goes for a picnic.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2022: 17th June

- The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed on 17 June each year to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification. The day offers a chance to recognize that land degradation neutrality is achievable through problem-solving, strong community involvement and co-operation at all levels. The theme of 2022 Desertification and Drought Day “Rising up from drought together”.
- The global observance of the event will take place in Madrid, Spain, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has announced.
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed June 17 as the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought through its resolution A/RES/49/115 which was adopted in December 1994.

About UNCCD:

Signed: 14 October 1994 – 13 October 1995

Drafted: 17 June 1994

Location: Bonn, Germany; New York, United States

Effective: 26 December 1996

Context: Environmentalism, Desertification

International Day of Family Remittances 2022: Theme, History and Significance

- The International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and is observed on 16 June. The IDFR recognizes more than 200 million migrant workers, women and men, who send money home to over 800 million family members. This day further highlights the great resilience of migrant workers in the face of economic insecurities, natural and climate related disasters and a global pandemic.
- This year, the United Nations is continuing last year's theme for International Day of Family Remittances: recovery and resilience through digital and financial inclusion.
- IDFR is a universally-recognized observance adopted by United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA). The custodian of IDFR towards these objectives is the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). IFAD is a specialized United Nations (UN) agency

that was one of the major outcomes of the World Food Conference 1974. Later in 1977, it was set up as an international financial institution.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2022:15th June

- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is annually observed on 15 June. The day aims to draw attention to the impact of elder abuse. It also highlights how the abuse is perpetuated and what can be done to combat it. This year theme of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2022 “Combatting Elder Abuse”.
- It was officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 66/127, December 2011, following a request by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), who first established the commemoration in June 2006.

Global Wind Day 2022:15th June

- On 15th June, Global Wind Day is celebrated across the world, annually and it is marked as a day of discovering the possibilities of wind power. It is a day for discovering wind, its power and the possibilities it holds to reshape our energy systems. This day is dedicated to learn about wind energy and its potential to reshape energy systems, decarbonizing economies and boosting employment as well as growth. The purpose of this day is to increase public knowledge of wind energy and its uses.
- Global Wind Day 2022 is based on the theme is celebrate to enjoy the benefits of Wind energy and providing education to the individuals about the power and potential of wind energy to change the world.
- The First Wind Day was commemorated in 2007 by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA). In 2009 the EWEA collaborated with the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and made it a global event. WindEurope and GWEC from then celebrate this day together. In 2012, the clubs promoted photography competition where people were encouraged to capture the best picture keeping in mind the theme of the year.

World Blood Donor Day 2022: 14th June

- World Blood Donor Day is observed globally on 14 June every year. The day is celebrated to promote awareness about the need for blood donation and thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood. The day aims to promote regular blood donations to ensure that all individuals have access to affordable and timely supplies of safe blood in times of emergency needs. The host nation for World Blood Donor Day 2022 is Mexico. The global event will be held in Mexico City on June 14, 2022.
- The Theme for World Blood Donor Day 2022 is “Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives”. It is focused on drawing attention to the roles that voluntary blood donors play in saving. The theme aims to highlight the need for committed donors to regular year- blood donation, to maintain adequate supplies and achieve universal and timely access to safe blood transfusion.

World Day Against Child Labour 2022: 12th June

- 12 June marks the World Day Against Child Labour under the theme “Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour.” On this day, the ILO, together with its constituents and

partners, is calling for increased investment in social protection systems and schemes to establish solid social protection floors and protect children from child labour. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), there are about 152 million children globally who are engaged in child labour, 72 million of whom are in hazardous work.

- The 2022 theme of the world day calls for increased investment in social protection systems and schemes to establish solid social protection floors and protect children from child labour. 2022 Theme: “Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour”.

About International Labour Organization:

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

President: Guy Ryder

Founded: 1919

World Accreditation Day 2022: 9th June

- World Accreditation Day (WAD) is celebrated on June 9 every year. WAD has been established by the joint efforts of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). Accreditation plays a key role in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It aims to meet objectives such as increasing trade and addressing environmental, health and safety concerns. It also improves the general overall quality of output in an economy.
- This year the theme for World Accreditation Day 2022 is “Accreditation: Sustainability in Economic Growth and the Environment.” The theme aims to draw attention to how accreditation and conformity assessment can find solutions for global issues.
- World Accreditation Day (WAD) was first accepted in 2007 by the Joint General Assembly of both the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). The first celebration of World Accreditation Day took place on 9th June 2008.

Foundation of IAF & ILAC:

International Accreditation Forum Founded: 28 January 1993

International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Founded: October 1977

World Brain tumour Day 2022: 8th June

- World Brain Tumour Day is observed every year on 8 June with an aim to create awareness about brain tumours. It is a mass or growth of abnormal cells in your brain. There are two types of brain tumors, noncancerous (benign), and cancerous (malignant). According to the National Health Portal, every day worldwide more than 500 new cases are diagnosed with a brain tumour. The day also pays tribute to brain tumour patients, their families and healthcare professionals.
- In 2022, the theme of World Tumor Day is ‘Together We Are Stronger’.
- World Brain Tumor Day was first observed on June 8, 2000, by the German Brain Tumor Association (Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe e.V.) for supporting brain tumour patients. It was founded in the year 1998 and has 500 registered members from

14 nations. The idea was to give support and raise funds to help Tumour patients and their families. The association advocates science and research, especially in neuro-oncology, to develop some effective treatments for brain tumours.

World Oceans Day 2022: 8th June

- The World Oceans Day is celebrated on June 8 every year across the globe. The day is commemorated to remind people of the importance of the oceans and the major role they play in everyday life. The day is also observed to make raise public awareness of the ocean and its resources in order to promote global ocean and resource sustainability. The day intends to highlight the various resources that mankind derives from the ocean, as well as the various threats that the ocean faces.
- “Revitalization: collective action for the ocean” is the theme for World Oceans Day 2022, a year framed by the UN Decade of Ocean Science and the celebration of the United Nations Ocean Conference, two years after being cancelled because of the pandemic.
- The concept of World Oceans Day was first proposed by the UN in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. It was suggested that a day be observed to raise awareness about the crucial role oceans play in our lives and ways in which people can help protect them. Since 2002, the World Ocean Network has built support for ocean awareness events on June 8 with the help of sponsorship from UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. On December 5, 2008, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution to designate this day.

World Environment Day 2022: 5th June

- World Environment Day is observed globally on 5th June every year. This day is observed to raise awareness about protecting the environment and to remind people not to take nature granted. It is the biggest international day for the environment. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the nodal agency that organises and supports events across the world.
- The year 2022 marks the 50th WED. Sweden is the host this year and the theme is ‘Only One Earth,’ focusing on the need to live sustainably in harmony with nature. Only One Earth was the motto for the 1972 Stockholm Conference; 50 years on, the motto holds true – this planet is our only home, whose finite resources humanity must safeguard.
- World Environment Day has been a platform for raising awareness on environmental issues such as marine pollution, overpopulation, global warming, sustainable consumption and wildlife crime. The day aims to focus on the importance of the environment and to remind people that nature should not be taken for granted.

International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing 2022: 5th June

- International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing is organized every year on 5th June. The day is the opportunity to draw attention to the threats posed by IUU fishing activities to the sustainable use of fisheries resources as well as to ongoing efforts to fight these activities.
- According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), IUU fishing activities are responsible for the loss of 11–26 million tonnes of fish each year, which is estimated to have an economic value of 10–23 billion USD. IUU fishing activities threatens sustainable management of our marine resources, a situation further exacerbated by overfishing.

About Food and Agriculture Organization:

Head: Qu Dongyu

Headquarters: Rome, Italy

Established: 16 October 1945

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression 2022: 4th June

- Every year on June 4th, the United Nations (UN) observes the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression to raise awareness of the children who have been victims of physical, mental, and emotional abuse around the world. On this day, the United Nations reaffirms its commitment to preserve children's rights.
- The very first International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression was observed on August 19, 1982. At the time, the day was focused on victims of the Lebanon War. In 1982 Lebanon war, Israel's forces invaded southern Lebanon after repeated attacks and counterattacks between Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel Defense Forces (IDF). The invasion was carried out after the assassination attempt of Israeli ambassador.

World Bicycle Day 2022: 3rd June

- World Bicycle Day is marked on 3rd June every year to recognise bicycling as a way to get a sustainable form of travelling that also ensures one's physical well being. The day celebrates the tradition of cycling and its significant role in keeping our health fit. Cycling is a multidimensional exercise with numerous health benefits.
- World Bicycle Day becomes all the more significant with the growing concerns around the lack of physical activities among people and its health hazards. A cycle is a clean, affordable, and environment-friendly mode of transportation and promoting its use contributes to the conservation of nature and achieving cleaner air and environment.
- Moreover, encouraging the poorest section of the society to use a cycle might also help reduce cases of heart disease and diabetes.
- World Bicycle Day was first marked on June 3, 2018, when the United Nations first adopted a resolution during the 72nd Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City in April. The declaration was adopted by

more than 193 member states that encouraged them to include bicycles in regional, international, and subnational development programmes and policies.

World Milk Day 2022:1st June

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations adopted June 1 as World Milk Day. The day is marked to recognise milk as global food and to celebrate the dairy industry. The day is intended to provide an opportunity to bring attention to activities that are connected with the dairy sector. The day has been observed on June 1 each year since 2001.
- The main of World Milk Day is to raise public awareness about the value of milk in people's lives. It is the first meal consumed by a kid after birth, and it may be the only food consumed throughout life. The idea of World Milk Day is to celebrate the contributions of the milk and dairy sector to the world.
- The theme of World Milk Day 2022 is to bring attention to the climate change crisis and how the dairy sector can reduce its impact on the planet. The aim is to achieve 'Dairy Net Zero' by reducing greenhouse gas emissions over the next 30 years and improving waste management in order to make the dairy sector sustainable.

About FAO:

Headquarters: Rome, Lazio

Director-General: Qu Dongyu

Founded: 16 October 1945

Parent organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Global Day of Parents 2022:1st June

- Every year Global Day of Parents is observed on the 1st of June globally. The Global Day of Parents is an annual event that celebrates the importance of parents in children's lives. The purpose of the Global Day of Parents is to promote understanding and appreciation for the role parents play in their children's lives. It also aims to raise awareness about the importance of quality parenting and family life.
- The theme for Global Parent Day 2022 is 'Family Awareness', awareness internationally. Being conscious of one's own and one's family's emotional and physical well-being might be critical. Being able to track and discuss one's mental and physical health with one's family members, as well as being there for one another and assisting one another through tough times, is incredibly vital for humans everywhere.
- During the 1980s, the United Nations began focusing attention on the issues related to the family. In 1983, based on the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission for Social Development in its resolution on the Role of the family in the development process (1983/23) requested the Secretary-General to enhance awareness among decision-makers and the public of the problems and needs of the family, as well as of effective ways of meeting

those needs. In 2012, the General Assembly proclaimed 1 June as the Global Day of Parents, to be observed annually in honour of parents throughout the world.

SUMMITS AND MOU'S

World Bank approves \$245 million loan to modernise India's railway logistics infrastructure

- The World Bank has approved a USD 245 million loan to support India's efforts to modernize rail freight and logistics infrastructure.
- The Rail Logistics project will help India shift more traffic from road to rail, making transport -- both freight and passenger -- more efficient and reducing millions of tonnes of GHG emissions.
- Indian Railways is the fourth-largest rail network in the world.

PhonePe and Kotak General Insurance come Together to Provide Motor Insurance

- Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited (Kotak General Insurance) announced that it has partnered with PhonePe Insurance Broking Services Pvt. Ltd (PhonePe), a digital payments platform, to offer motor insurance to PhonePe's 380 million users, placing a significant bet on the digital distribution and direct-to-customer space.

MHA to hold conference on Cyber Safety and National Security today

- At Vigyan Bhawan in the national capital, the Ministry of Home Affairs will organise a National Conference on Cyber Safety and National Security (Cyber Apradh Se Azadi, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav). Union Minister Amit Shah will be the conference's Chief Guest, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs. The seminar is part of the country's efforts to raise public awareness about cybercrime prevention.
- In the run-up to tomorrow's conference, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, held functions on Cyber Hygiene, Cyber Crime Prevention, Cyber Safety, and National Security at 75 locations across the country under the banner "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" from June 8 to 17. The Union Minister for Culture, Tourism, and Development of the North Eastern Region, G Kishan Reddy, the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Ajay Kumar Mishra, and senior officials from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Culture, and States and Union Territories, as well as representatives from various organisations, will all be present at the conference.

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Capital: New Delhi

Lieutenant Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena

8th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians kicks off in Egypt to address climate change

- The Eighth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians has been started in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt to address climate change. The two-day conference is being jointly organized

by the House of Representatives and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Nagaland's first woman elected as Member of Parliament to Rajya Sabha, S. Phangon Konyak is representing India at the Conference. She, along with two other young Lok Sabha MPs from India, will be sharing her thoughts on the 'Young MPs for Climate Actions'.

- The 8th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians provides a platform for young MPs from across the world to exchange learn and define common and innovative strategies to advance youth empowerment.
- This year in Egypt, around 200 young MPs, from 60 countries are participating to discuss strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change and ensure that global warming does not exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius in line with the Paris Agreement.
- According to official information shared by IPU, there are 35,177 Parliamentary seats globally but just 2.66 per cent of these are held by young MPs.

About Egypt:

Capital: Cairo

Currency: Egyptian pound

President: Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

Prime Minister: Moustafa Madbouly

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022 in New Delhi

- In New Delhi, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari kicks off the Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022. Inaugurating the Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022 (IDS-2022) – Road Map for Carbon Neutrality by 2070, he stated that developing alternative fuels is critical to overcoming electricity shortages. He believes that taking a one-sided, idiosyncratic attitude to these issues is harmful to the country.
- Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, has stressed the importance of keeping a balance between ecology, environment, and development.
- The minister stated that in the future days, we must improve our economy while also protecting the environment.
- He stated that green hydrogen is our top goal, and that by using Biotechnology, we can boost the productivity of Biomass and use Biomass to generate Bio-ethanol, Bio-LNG, and Bio-CNG.

About Ministry of road transport and highways:

Formed: July 1942; 79 years ago

Child agencies: NHAI; NHIDCL

Officeholders: Nitin Gadkari (Union Minister), Mansukh Mandaviya (Minister of State)

UPEIDA signs MoUs with SBI, BOB, PNB and SIDBI to boost investment in UP Defence Industrial Corridor

- To encourage investment in the UP Defence Industrial Corridor, the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) has inked MoUs with the State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BOB), Punjab National Bank (PNB), and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- The bank would provide financial help in the form of ease of doing business to investors in the UP Defence Industrial Corridor, according to the deal.

- UPEIDA has now collaborated with three major nationalised banks in the country, State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BOB), Punjab National Bank (PNB), and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), as part of its continuous support to investors in the Corridor, according to a release.
- These are intended to assist investors interested in establishing a business in the UP Defence Industrial Corridor in obtaining financial support as part of the Ease of Doing Business initiative.
- Banks will provide these investors with tailored financial support on a case-by-case basis to assist them in establishing their businesses.

About Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA):

Headquarters location: Lucknow

Founded: December 2007

Key people: Nand Gopal Gupta; (Cabinet Minister); Awanish Awasthi; (CEO); Bishwajeet Rai; (CFO); Manoj Gupta; (Chief Engineer)

About State Bank of India (SBI)

Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1 July 1955

About Bank of Baroda (BOB)

Chairman: Hasmukh Adhia

Headquarters: Alkapuri, Vadodara

Founder: Sayajirao Gaekwad III

Founded: 20 July 1908, Vadodara

About Punjab National bank (PNB)

Headquarters: New Delhi

CEO: Atul Kumar Goel (1 Feb 2022)

Founded: 19 May 1894, Lahore, Pakistan

Founder: Dyal Singh Majithia

First-Ever India-EU Security & Defence Consultations Held In Brussels, Both Sides Agree For Increased Cooperation

- First-ever India-European Union (EU) Security and Defence Consultations held in Brussels, Belgium. The consultations were held in accordance with the decision taken at India-EU Summit in July 2020. Consultations were co-chaired by Joint secretary of Ministry of Defence Somnath Ghosh and Joint Secretary (Europe West) of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Sandeep Chakravorty from India and Director Security and Defence Policy, from European Union.
- Discussions covered the evolving security situation in Europe, Indo-Pacific and India's neighbourhood. Both the sides noted number of positive developments in security and defence cooperation area in recent years.
- The Maritime Security Dialogue met in February 2022, for the second time. First-ever joint naval exercises between India and EU were held in June 2021.
- The two sides also discussed various means of increasing India-EU cooperation on maritime security, implementation of the European code of conduct on arms export to India's

neighbourhood, cooperation in co-development and co-production of defence equipment including India's participation in Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).

About European Union:

Founded: 1 November 1993, Maastricht, Netherlands;

Headquarters: Brussels;

President of the Commission: Ursula von der Leyen;

President of the Parliament: Roberta Metsola;

President of the Council: Charles Michel.

WTO's 12th ministerial meeting opens in Geneva to tackle key issues

- The 12th World Trade Organization's (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC12) opened at WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. During the four-day meeting, members of the trade organization will hold discussions on such issues as TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) waiver for COVID-19 vaccines, pandemic response, fishery subsidies, agriculture, food security, as well as the WTO's reform and its future work priorities.
- Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, addresses the opening ceremony of the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 12, 2022.
- The Ministerial Conference, which is attended by trade ministers and other senior officials from the organization's 164 members, is the WTO's highest decision-making body, and is generally held every two years. Kazakhstan was originally scheduled to host MC12 in June 2020, but the conference was postponed due to the pandemic.

About World Trade Organization's (WTO):

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Founded: 1 January 1995

Official languages: English, French, Spanish

Director-General: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

BIMSTEC celebrated its 25th anniversary on June 6

- The Secretariat of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) in Dhaka celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the regional organisation on BIMSTEC Day. The evolution of BIMSTEC over the last 25 years from the signing of the Bangkok Declaration on June 6 in 1996, and highlighted milestones such as the establishment of the Secretariat in Dhaka in 2014 and the signature of the BIMSTEC Charter during the Fifth Summit in Colombo on March 30, 2022.
- It is an international organization of South Asia and Southeast Asian countries.
- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand are members of BIMSTEC.

About BIMSTEC:

Headquarters: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Founded: 6 June 1997

Chairmanship: Sri Lanka (since September 2018)

Secretary General: Tenzin Lekphell Bhutan

India, Canada ink pact for stronger cooperation on climate action

- India and Canada have signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen bilateral collaboration on climate change, environmental preservation, and conservation. On the sidelines of the Stockholm+50 summit, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and his Canadian colleague Steven Guilbeault signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- The gathering is being hosted to honour the 50th anniversary of the Stockholm Summit, the world's first environmental conference.
- Under the terms of the agreement, the two countries will work together, share information and expertise, and support each other's goals in a variety of areas, including increasing renewable energy capacity, decarbonizing heavy industries, reducing plastic pollution, promoting chemical safety, and ensuring sustainable consumption.
- The Stockholm+50 Summit, which will take place in Stockholm in June 2022, will bring together leaders of state and government to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Stockholm Conference. This summit, which is based on the Decade of Action, comes after months of deliberations and talks with governments, organizations, and civil society participants.

About Canada:

Prime minister: Justin Trudeau Trending

Capital: Ottawa

Currency: Canadian dollar

PM Modi addresses Rotary Convention, calls India land of Buddha, Gandhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India is the land of Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi, who exemplified what it means to live for others. While electronically addressing the Rotary International World Convention, the Prime Minister made the comment. The Rotarians have been described as a true mix of people "“Every Rotary gathering of this scale is like a mini-global assembly.”"
- "“There is diversity and vibrancy,” the Prime Minister said of Rotary's two mottos, "Service Above Self" and "One Profits Most Who Serves Best." These are important principles for the welfare of all humanity, according to the Prime Minister, and resonate with the "teachings of our saints and sages.”"
- The Prime Minister stated that because India is home to one-seventh of the world's population, any achievement made by India will have a beneficial impact on the rest of the globe.
- As examples, he referenced the Covid-19 vaccine story and plans to eliminate tuberculosis by 2025, five years ahead of the worldwide objective of 2030.
- Prime Minister Modi requested the Rotary family to support these grassroots activities and to observe Yoga Day in big numbers all throughout the world.

PM Modi launches Global initiative 'Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) Movement; Calls for human centric and collective efforts that further sustainable development

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) Movement', a global initiative, and asserted that its vision is to live a lifestyle that is in tune with our planet and does not harm it. The launch initiated 'LiFE Global Call for Papers' inviting ideas and suggestions from academics, universities and research institutions etc to influence and persuade individuals, communities and organisations across the world to adopt an environment-conscious lifestyle.
- The idea of LiFE was introduced by the Prime Minister during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties COP-26 in Glasgow last year.
- The idea promotes an environment conscious lifestyle that focuses on mindful and deliberate utilisation instead of mindless and destructive consumption.
- Mission LiFE borrows from the past, operates in the present and focuses on the future.

About Prime Minister Office:

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

In 1977; 45 years ago (As Prime Minister's Office)

Headquarters: Delhi, India

Minister Responsible: Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India

Deputy Minister Responsible : Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office

Tamil Nadu Government Inks pact with IPPB on obtaining Life Certificate form pensioners at their doorstep

- The Tamil Nadu government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) for obtaining life certificate from pensioners through doorstep services of the Postal Department. IPPB would transfer it to the doorstep services at a cost of Rs 70 per digital life certificate. Almost most than 7.15 lakh State government pensioners/ family pensioners submit their life certificate during July, August and September every year.
- Recently, the State government issued orders for five modes of annual mustering of pensioners during July to September this year, including the doorstep services of the IPPB, for obtaining digital life certificate through Jeevan Pramaan Portal to avoid hardship of coming in person for aged pensioners/family pensioners.
- As of now, mustering can be done by pensioners/family pensioners by exercising any one of three options—direct mustering (physical appearance); submission of life certificate through post; and digital life certificate (DLC) through Jeevan Pramaan Portal by using biometric device. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, exemption from annual mustering was granted during the last two years.

About India Post Payments Bank:

CEO: J. Venkatramu

Headquarters location: New Delhi

Founded: 1 September 2018

About Tamil Nadu:

Governor: R. N. Ravi

Capital: Chennai

Chief Minister: M. K. Stalin

Israel signs first Arab free trade agreement with UAE

- Israel has inked its first free trade agreement with an Arab country, with the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The agreement was signed in Dubai by Israel's Economy and Industry Minister Orna Barbivay and the UAE's Economy Minister Abdalla Bin Touq Al Marri. According to an official statement released by Israel's Ministry of Economy and Industry, the comprehensive, significant, and ground-breaking agreement is expected to increase bilateral trade in goods and services, increase Israeli exports to the United Arab Emirates, and provide customs exemption on 96% of trade between the countries: food, agriculture, cosmetics, medical equipment, medication, and more.
- Regulatory and standardisation concerns, customs, collaboration, government procurement, e-commerce, and intellectual property rights are all covered under the agreement.
- This is a crucial visit for the State of Israel's commercial relations with the United Arab Emirates, the first free trade zone deal with an Arab country.
- The free trade zone agreement they signed this morning is expected to improve bilateral commerce, remove barriers, and create new economic possibilities and collaborations, all of which will serve as a foundation for our common road forward.
- The commercial pact with Israel will usher in a new era in the Middle East. This agreement will boost economic growth and reinforce the notion that working together is the only way to build long-term, sustainable economies in a complicated environment.
- This arrangement signifies much bigger than just business: the value of strong collaborations. Our agreement will demonstrate to countries and governments all across the world that collaboration and conversation are the most effective ways to turn obstacles into opportunities.

About UAE:

Capital: Abu Dhabi

President: Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham

Prime minister: Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

About ISRAELI:

Prime minister: Naftali Bennett Trending

Capital: Jerusalem

President: Isaac Herzog

Currency: Israeli Shekel

National Education Ministers' Conference 2022 Begins in Gujarat

- Gujarat will host the two-day National Education Ministers' Conference. The meeting will be attended by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, as well as other union ministers and state and union territory education ministers. Deliberations on how to boost the country's education ecosystem are likely to take place during this conference. It will concentrate on the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020, school skilling, and digital projects such as the National Digital Education Architecture and the National Educational Technology Forum, among others.
- The state education ministers will also pay visits to Vidya Samiksha Kendra, BISAG (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics), NFSU (National Forensic Science University), and the International Automobile Centre of Excellence. Union Minister Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and Information Technology, Dharmendra Pradhan was accompanied by Rajiv Chandrasekhar, Annapurna Devi, Minister of State for Education Dr. Subhash Sarkar, and senior officials from the Ministry of Education.
- Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and Information Technology: Dharmendra Pradhan.
- Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Electronics and Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

About Gujarat:

Capital: Gandhinagar

Governor: Acharya Devvrat

Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

National Highway excellent Award 2021

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla along with Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari gave away National Highways Excellence Awards-2021. Awards were given to the stakeholders and companies engaged in the highway construction and maintenance of road assets in New Delhi.
- Excellence Awards were constituted in 2018 & awards were given away in 9 categories including Excellence in Project Management, Excellence in Highway Safety, Excellence in Toll Management, Excellence in Operation and Maintenance, Innovation, Green Highways, Outstanding Work in Challenging Condition, Bridge Construction and Tunnel Construction.

Odisha got first place in the category of States / Union Territories of National MSME Awards 2022

- The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Department, Government of Odisha has been awarded first prize in the category "National MSME Award 2022 to States/UTs for outstanding contribution in the promotion and Development of MSME Sector" by virtue of various developmental initiatives taken up for the development of MSMEs. Bihar and Haryana were second and third respectively.

- Kalahandi has been awarded third prize in the category “National MSME Award 2022 to Aspirational districts for outstanding contribution in the promotion and Development of MSME Sector” as the sectoral development was in the line of award parameters, according to an official statement issued by the state government.
- Similarly, Sumeet Mohanty M/s Saferisk Insurance Brokers Private Limited, Bhubaneswar has been awarded first prize in the category “Award for Service Entrepreneurship – Service Small Enterprise (Overall)”.
- In addition, Sibabrata Rout M/s Amarnath Pest Management Technology, Cuttack has also been awarded third prize in the category “Award for Service Entrepreneurship – Service Micro Enterprise (Overall)”.

Utama wins the Transylvania Trophy at the 21st edition of TIFF

- The winners of the 21st edition of the Transylvania International Film Festival were applauded at the Awards Ceremony, organised in the Unirii Square in Cluj-Napoca. Utama, the debut film of director Alejandro Loayza Grisi, was chosen as this year’s big winner and awarded the 10,000 euro Transylvania Trophy. The Bolivian production also won over the TIFF audience, and was also awarded the Audience Award of 2,000 euro by MasterCard, as voted by the filmgoers at the Festival.
- Best Director Award went to filmmaker Guomundur Arnar Guomundsson, awarded for the “credible, original and brilliant universe” he created in Beautiful Beings.
- For their exceptional roles in The Night Belongs to Lovers, actors Laura Müller and Schemci Lauth, were awarded the Best Performance Award by Conceptual Lab by Theo Nissim.

Khushi Patel from United Kingdom wins Miss India Worldwide title

- The winner of the longest-running Indian beauty pageant outside of India, Miss India Worldwide 2022, was announced as British biomedical student Khushi Patel. Shrutika Mane was named the second runner up, and Vaidehi Dongre from the US was named the first runner up. The top 12 competitors at the pageant were the champions of other international competitions.
- Patel, a biomedical sciences major with a psychology minor, expressed her happiness at having won the Miss India Worldwide 2022 competition.
- The model, who also has a clothing company, intends to participate in numerous charity events and support developing nations throughout the course of the upcoming year.
- Guyana’s Roshani Razack was named Miss Teen India Worldwide 2022. The first runner up was Navya Paingol from the US, while the second runner up was Chiquita Malaha from Suriname, according to the India Festival Committee (IFC), which has been running the competition for the past 29 years.

Odisha-based 'Mo Bus' service named recipient of prestigious UN Public Service Award

- Mo Bus, Odisha-based public transport service has been honored with a prestigious United Nations award, for their role and efforts in helping the world recover better from Covid19. The public transport service has been recognised for its role in “promoting gender-responsive public services to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)”, the UN said.

- Among the other winners of this year's awards, announced by Liu Zhenmin, United Nations Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs during a virtual event to commemorate the United Nations Public Service Day (celebrated on June 22), were public service initiatives from Thailand, Brazil, Canada, Ireland, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, and Ukraine.

About Odisha:

Capital: Bhubaneswar;

Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik;

Governor: Ganeshi Lal.

PM's Awards for Outstanding Contribution towards the Development and Promotion of Yoga for the Year 2021

- Bhikkhu Sanghasena from Ladakh, Marcus Vinicius Rojo Rodrigues from Brazil and two organisations, The Divine Life Society from Uttarakhand and the British Wheel of Yoga from United Kingdom have been chosen for the award.
- Ayush Ministry said, the winners will be felicitated with a trophy, certificate and cash award of 25 lakh rupees.

US-Canadian author Ruth Ozeki wins Women's Prize for Fiction

- US-Canadian author, film-maker and Zen Buddhist priest, Ruth Ozeki has won the Women's Prize for Fiction this year for her novel 'The Book of Form and Emptiness'.
- Ozeki's fourth novel, 'The Book of Form and Emptiness' tells the story of a thirteen-year-old boy who, after the tragic death of his father, starts to hear the voices of objects speaking to him.
- She was announced as the winner of the £30,000 prize at a ceremony in London, beating nominees including Elif Shafak, Meg Mason and Louise Erdrich.

Hamad International Airport named "Best Airport in the world" for the second year in a Row by Skytrax 2022 World Airport Awards

- Qatar's Hamad International Airport has been named the World's Best Airport for the second year running. The announcement took place at the Skytrax 2022 World Airport Awards, held at Passenger Terminal EXPO in Paris, France.
- Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (BLR Airport) was named the finest regional airport in India and South Asia. Customers voted for the airport with the greatest customer service every year in a global study, and BLR Airport received this honour.
- Singapore Changi Airport (World's Best Airport Staff Service and World's Best Airport Dining).
- Istanbul Airport (World's Best Airport Shopping and Most Family-Friendly Airport).
- Tokyo Haneda Airport won awards as the World's Cleanest Airport, the World's Best Domestic Airport, the Best Airport in Asia, and the Best Airport PRM & Accessible Facilities.

- The World Airport Awards are the most prestigious accolades for the airport industry, voted by customers in the largest, annual global airport customer satisfaction survey.
- They are regarded as the quality benchmark for the world airport industry, assessing customer service and facilities across over 550 airports.

The World's Top 5 Airports for 2022:

1. Hamad International Airport
2. Tokyo International Airport (Haneda)
3. Singapore Changi Airport
4. Narita International Airport
5. Incheon International Airport

About Qatar:

Capital: Doha

Currency: Qatari Riyal

Emir: Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani

Maharashtra Governor presents Honorary Doctor of Literature to industrialist Ratan Tata

- Industrialist and philanthropist, Ratan Tata was presented with Honorary Doctor of Literature by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari at Raj Bhavan Mumbai. The Honorary doctorate was presented to Mr. Ratan at the First Special Convocation of the HSNC University. The Governor said the honour for Ratan Tata is in effect the honour of the entire Tata family and Tata Group.
- The HSNC University is a Cluster university comprising existing colleges from the Mumbai vicinity, namely, H.R. College, Kishinchand Chellaram College (KC College), and Bombay Teachers' Training College (BTTI) as the constituent colleges with HSNC Board as its parent body.

About Maharashtra:

Capital: Mumbai

Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari

Chief Minister: Uddhav Thackeray

WHO has awarded PGI Chandigarh Resource Centre Tobacco Control Award

- The World Health Organisation has awarded the Resource Centre for Tobacco Control (e-RCTC) of the Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh with the Regional Director Special Recognition Award. The Resource Centre for Tobacco Control provides information related to tobacco control in India, including circulars and orders, policies and legislations, multidisciplinary publications.
- Besides being a resource hub, the centre has achieved heights in capacity building by organising more than 50 workshops and webinars for around 3,500 program managers and academicians.
- The Resource Center for Tobacco Control, a joint initiative of the PGIMER and the UNION-SEA, was set up in 2018 by 25 organisations working over tobacco control in India with an aim to showcase tobacco control initiatives.

- The portal has attracted 4.2 lakh visitors from 100 countries in three years, said Rajeev Kumar, Project Coordinator, e-RCTC.

About WHO:

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Founded: 7 April 1948

Founders: United States, Brazil, Turkey, Mexico, Philippines & ETC....

Director-General: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Parent organization: United Nations

About Chandigarh:

Capital of Haryana & Punjab

Mayor: Sarbjit Kaur

Founded: 1953

MIFF: Dutch film 'Turn Your Body to the Sun' bags Golden Conch award for the Best Documentary

- The Dutch documentary film "Turn Your Body to the Sun", which tells the incredible story of a Soviet Prisoner of War, has won the prestigious Golden Conch award for the Best Documentary Film at MIFF 2022. Directed by Aliona Van der Horst, 'Turn Your Body to the Sun' brings to light the incredible life story of a Soviet soldier of Tatar descent, who was captured by the Nazis during World War II. Through his diaries as well as various personal and public archives and registries, his daughter Sana attempts to trace the path of her father to understand what made him the man she knew as a child.
- The top award of the Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation Films was presented by the Governor of Maharashtra Shri Bhagat Singh Koshiyari.

Meghalaya wins Best Project Award for promoting ICTs for development

- The Meghalaya government key initiative of e-proposal system, part of Meghalaya Enterprise Architect has won a coveted UN Award- World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS) prize at Geneva in Switzerland. Secretary General of ITU, Houlin Zhao presented the winner award to Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma in the WSIS Forum Prizes 2022, held at Geneva, Switzerland. Post this there was voting to select the best 90 projects which were invited in Geneva, Switzerland for the final award.
- Meghalaya contested with projects from Australia, China, Argentina and Tanzania. Meghalaya was declared as the best project in the category and MeghEA is the only project from India to win the Winner Award this year.
- MeghEA project is being implemented by Planning Department, Government of Meghalaya. The project has several components such as Government to Citizen or Business services, Government to Employee services and Government to Government services. E-Proposal system, part of the Government-to-Government component, enables faster processing and tracking of schemes.

About Meghalaya

Chief Minister: Conrad Sangma

Capital: Shillong
Governor: Satya Pal Malik

Indian-American girl Harini Logan wins 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee after tiebreaker

- Harini Logan was eliminated from the Scripps National Spelling Bee once, then reinstated. She missed four words in a gruelling standoff against Vikram Raju, including one that would have given her the title. In the first-ever lightning-round tiebreaker, Harini finally claimed the trophy. The 13-year-old eighth-grader from San Antonio, Texas, who competed in the last fully in-person bee three years ago and endured the pandemic to make it back, spelt 21 words correctly during a 90-second spell-off, beating Vikram by six.
- Harini, one of the best-known spellers entering the bee and a crowd favourite for her poise and positivity, wins more than \$50,000 in cash and prizes. She is the fifth Scripps champion to be coached by Grace Walters, a former speller, fellow Texan and student at Rice University who is considering bowing out of the coaching business. If so, she will depart on top.

About United States:

President: Joe Biden Trending
Capital: Washington, D.C.
Currency: United States Dollar

Rashmi Sahoo, A Young women entrepreneur, wins Times Business Award 2022

- Director of Ruchi Foodline, Eastern India's leading food brand and Odisha's No.1 spices company, Rashmi Sahoo has been presented the Times Business Award 2022. She was given the award by renowned Bollywood actor and social activist Sonu Sood. The award was given in the category of Eastern India's Leading READY -TO-EAT brand.
- While working as director of Ruchi Foodline, she started and established Frozit – Odisha's first frozen food company. She not only revolutionized the food processing segment in Odisha but also changes the lives of thousands of women by proving employment opportunities. Sahoo and Frozit have won various accolades across the world for their innovative food product line, quality and hygiene standards.
- Gradually Frozit has made a name of itself nationally and internationally in the category of ready to eat food and bakery and which are not only healthy but also cost-effective. Frozit now serves various food of India as well as traditional Odia foods like Biryani, Pasta, Ghee-Rice, Mutton Kasa, Laccha Paratha, Mughlai Chicken, Veg Pulao, Kadai Soyabin, Chana Masala, Friend Rice, Tandoori Mushroom, Garlic Mushroom, Zeera Rice, Mix Veg, Pada Pitha, and Kheer.

About Odisha:

Governor: Ganeshi Lal
Capital: Bhubaneswar
Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik

Former West Indies skipper & All-rounder Darren Sammy receives Sitara-e-Pakistan award

- Former West Indies captain, Daren Sammy has been conferred with the Sitara-i-Pakistan Award for Services to Pakistan during a ceremony. The 38-year-old all-rounder was being recognized for his role in helping bring international cricket back to Pakistan. It is the third-highest civil award conferred by Pakistan. He represented West Indies in 38 Tests, 126 ODIs, and 68 T20Is, has been one of the best captains that the world has seen in the T20 format and he captained a lot of franchises around the world.
- Sammy, who led the West Indies to two T20 World titles (2012 and 2016), was receiving his second civil honour from Pakistan in as many years. In March 2020, he received the highest civilian medal of Pakistan, Nishan-e-Pakistan, for his part in helping bring international cricket back to Pakistan. He was also awarded honorary Pakistani citizenship by the President of Pakistan Arif Alvi.

About Pakistan:

President: Arif Alvi

Capital: Islamabad

Prime minister: Shehbaz Sharif

Currency: Pakistani rupee

RANKING

The world's most liveable cities for 2022

- The annual ranking of the world's most liveable cities has just been released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), and 2022's Global Liveability Index shows some marked differences from the previous year. The EIU, which is a sister organization to The Economist, ranked 173 cities around the world on a variety of factors, including health care, crime rates, political stability, infrastructure and access to green space.
- Hong Kong had the dubious honor of coming in first place, with New York City, Geneva, London and Tokyo rounding out the top five in Liveability versus cost of living.
- The cities in India have fared poorly in the list of the world's most liveable cities. India's national capital New Delhi has been ranked 112th in the list of most liveable cities. While India's financial capital Mumbai is ranked at 117th position.

2022's Global Liveability Index: top 5

1. Vienna, Austria
2. Copenhagen, Denmark
3. Zurich, Switzerland
4. Calgary, Canada
5. Vancouver, Canada

About Economist Intelligence Unit:

Headquarters: London, United Kingdom

Founded: 1946

Managing Director: Robin Bew

Coursera Global Skill Report 2022: India ranked 68th

- The Global Skills Report (GSR) 2022 by Coursera states that India's proficiency in data science has reduced from 38% in 2021 to 26% in 2022, leading to a 12-rank drop.
- In terms of overall skills proficiency, India has slipped 4 places to be ranked 68th globally and 19th in Asia. However, the report reveals that India has improved its technology proficiency levels from 38 percent to 46 percent, improving its position by six spots.

India ranks fourth in global gold recycling; recycled 75 tonnes in 2021: WGC

- India has emerged as the 4th largest recycler in the world and the country has recycled 75 tonnes in 2021, according to a World Gold Council (WGC) report.
- According to the WGC report titled 'Gold refining and recycling', China topped the global gold recycling chart as it recycled 168 tonnes of the yellow metal, followed by Italy in the second position with 80 tonnes.

Delhi's IGI airport best in India and South Asia, 37th among world's top 50

- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport has been adjudged the best in India and South Asia for 4th consecutive year at the Skytrax World Airport Awards.
- The airport also improved its overall ranking to 37th from last year's 45th position.
- Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru bagged the Best Regional Airport in India and South Asia.

TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys and LIC among Kantar's global 100 most valuable firms

- As per Kantar Brandz, 2022 'Most Valuable Global Brands report', 4 Indian companies namely, Tata Consultancy Service (TCS), HDFC Bank, Infosys and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) were featured among the top 100 global biggest brands. Apple retains its 1st position to become the first trillion-dollar brand with a brand value of USD 947.1 billion followed by Google, Amazon and Microsoft.
- TCS was the most valuable brand coming out of India, which sat on the 46th spot of the list. The company's brand value is estimated to be \$50 billion by Kantar Brands 2022, the author of the 'Most Valuable Global Brands' report.
- Its counterpart Infosys, a latest entrant in the list, was ranked at 64th position as its brand value lingered at \$33 billion.
- TCS was the second biggest brand in the Asia Pacific Region, second only to Samsung that has a brand value of \$54 billion. HDFC Bank and Infosys stood at the third and fourth position on the list.
- Apple was the most valuable brand in the world, with a brand value of \$947 billion. It was followed by other tech giants Google, Amazon and Microsoft, in the same order. Facebook, which recently changed its name to Meta, stood at the eight position as its brand value was nearly a fifth of Apple's.

About Tata Consultancy Services:

CEO: Rajesh Gopinathan (21 Feb 2017)

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1 April 1968

Founders: Faquir Chand Kohli, Tata Sons, J. R. D. Tata

India jumps 6 places to 37th rank on IMD's World Competitiveness Index

- India has seen the sharpest growth among the Asian economies, with a six-position jump from 43rd to 37th rank on the annual World Competitiveness Index 2022. The Index has been compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD). Meanwhile, the top-performing Asian economies are Singapore (3rd), Hong Kong (5th), Taiwan (7th), China (17th) and Australia (19th).
- India is also a driving force in the global movement to fight climate change and Mr. Modi's pledge of net-zero by 2070 at the COP26 summit in November 2021, sits in harmony with its strength in environment-related technologies in the ranking. The top five attractive factors of India's economy for business are – a skilled workforce, cost competitiveness, dynamism of the economy, high educational level and open and positive attitudes.
- Denmark has moved to the top of the 63-nation list from the third position last year, while Switzerland slipped from the top ranking to the second position and Singapore regained the third spot from fifth, a global study showed.
- Others in the top 10 include Sweden at the fourth position, followed by Hong Kong SAR (5th), the Netherlands (6th), Taiwan (7th), Finland (8th), Norway (9th) and the USA (10th).

Kerala's Startup Ecosystem Ranked Best In Asia For Affordable Talent, In Global Report

- Providing a boost for Kerala's start-up ecosystem, the State has been ranked first in Asia in Affordable Talent in Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER). The State has also been ranked fourth in global ranking in the GSER, drawn up jointly by policy advisory and research organisation Startup Genome and Global Entrepreneurship Network. In the first GSER published in 2020, Kerala was ranked 5th in Asia and 20th in the world.
- As per the report released by the policy advisory and research firm Startup Genome, the city of Bengaluru has moved up to number 22 in the Global Startup Ecosystem ranking.
- Bengaluru's tech ecosystem value is at \$105 billion which is higher than that of Singapore at \$89 billion and Tokyo at \$62 billion, report showed.

About Kerala:

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

Kerala tops in national e-governance service delivery among states, J&K among UTs: NeSDA 2021 report

- The National e-governance service delivery assessment (NeSDA) report 2021 was published recently. The report was released on June 13, 2022. NeSDA helps the respective governments improve their delivery of citizen centric services and shares best practices

across the country for all States, UTs and Central Ministries to emulate. DARPG embarked on the second edition of NeSDA study in January 2021.

- NeSDA helps the respective governments improve their delivery of citizen centric services and shares best practices across the country for all States, UTs and Central Ministries to emulate.
- Top Rankers: Overall, in NeSDA 2021, Kerala had the highest overall compliance score amongst all the States and UTs.
- Among UTs: Jammu and Kashmir, assessed first time in NeSDA 2021, scored highest among all UTs for six sectors.
- Among North-east and Hill States: Meghalaya and Nagaland are the leading state portals with an overall compliance of 90% across all assessment parameters.
- Among Remaining State Category: Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh had a compliance of more than 85% among the remaining state category.

In the 2021 Global Hunger Index, India ranks 101st out of the 116 countries with sufficient data to calculate 2021 GHI scores

- India's rank has dropped to the 101st position among 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021. In 2020, India was placed at 94th spot, out of 107 countries. The 2021 GHI score of India is recorded at 27.5 out of 50, which comes under the serious category. Neighbouring countries like Nepal (76), Bangladesh (76), Myanmar (71) and Pakistan (92) are also in the 'alarming' hunger category but have fared better at feeding its citizens than India, according to the report.
- A total of 18 countries, including China, Kuwait and Brazil, shares the top rank. The GHI score of these 18 nations is less than 5. This means that these countries suffer very less from hunger and malnutrition.
- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) measures and tracks hunger at global, regional, and national levels. The index is published jointly by Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and Concern Worldwide. Based on current GHI projections, the index states that the world as a whole will not achieve a low level of hunger by 2030.

India's FDI rank improves to 7th position despite drop in inflows : UNCTAD

- According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India jumped one position to 7th among the top recipients of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the last calendar year (2021) despite FDI inflows into the country declining. In its latest World Investment Report, UNCTAD said FDI inflows into India declined to \$45 billion in 2021 from \$64 billion in the preceding year. Outward FDI from India rose 43 percent to \$15.5 billion in 2021.
- While the United States (\$367 billion) remained the top recipient of FDI, China (\$181 billion) and Hong Kong (\$141 billion) also retained second and third position, respectively. Among the top 10 host economies for FDI, only India saw a decline in its FDI inflows.

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

Headquarters location: Geneva, Switzerland

Head: Secretary-General; Rebeca Grynspan

Founded: 30 December 1964

India ranks at bottom among 180 countries in Environmental Performance Index 2022

- In the 2022 Environment Performance Index (EPI), an analysis by Yale and Columbia University researchers that gives a data-driven evaluation of the situation of sustainability around the world, India came in last out of 180 countries. Climate change, environmental public health, and biodiversity are among the 40 performance factors used by the EPI to rank 180 nations.
- With an overall score of 18.9, India came in last, while Denmark came in first as the world's most sustainable country.
- The US was ranked 20th out of 22 rich democracies in the western world, and 43rd overall.
- The comparatively low ranking reflects the Trump administration's erosion of environmental protections.
- The United States lost time to address climate change as a result of its withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement and reduced methane emission laws, while many of its counterparts in the industrialised world enacted legislation to drastically reduce their greenhouse emissions.

About United Nations

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

Headquarters: New York, New York, United States

Secretary General: António Guterres

Mukesh Ambani richest in Asia, up at 8th rank on Bloomberg Billionaires list

- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman and Managing Director, Mukesh Ambani has regained the position of India as well as Asia's richest man, replacing Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani. According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Ambani who has a net worth of \$99.7 billion added \$9.69 billion in 2022. Mr Ambani is followed by Gautam Adani on the global billionaire list. Adani is ranked ninth with Net worth \$98.7 billion in the Bloomberg Billionaire index.
- Tesla CEO Elon Musk remains the world's richest person with a net fortune of \$227 billion.
- Amazon's Jeff Bezos is the second richest man with a \$149 billion net worth, as per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.
- LVMH's Bernard Arnault with \$138 billion net worth is the third richest person in the world followed by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates with \$124 billion net fortune in the fourth position and legendary investor Warren Buffett in the fifth position with a net worth of \$114 billion.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

A book titled "Gautam Adani: The Man Who Changed India" by RN Bhaskar

- The biography of billionaire industrialist, Gautam Adani, titled "Gautam Adani: The Man Who Changed India" will hit the stands in October, announced Penguin Random House (PRHI).

- The book written by journalist-author RN Bhaskar, claims to bring to light, for the first time, the unknown aspects of one of the richest men in the world.

PM Modi's remarks at release of 'Bharatiya Samvidhan' book

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi released Ram Bahadur Rai's book 'Bhartiya Samvidhan: Ankahi Kahani'. Prime Minister noted Shri Ram Bahadur Rai's life-long quest for searching for new ideas and desire to bring something new before the society. He expressed the hope that the book that was released today will present the Constitution in a comprehensive manner.
- The book by Shri Rai will be in the tradition of New India's effort to remember the forgotten thoughts to ensure that in the India of the future, consciousness of the past remains strong. The book, along with the history of independence and the untold chapters of our constitution will give a new thinking to the youth of the country.

Prime Minister's Office (India):

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

1977; 45 years ago (As Prime Minister's Office)

Jurisdiction: India Republic of India

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

Minister Responsible : Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India

Deputy Minister Responsible : Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office

Dharmendra Pradhan along with Shri Anurag Thakur release books titled 'Loktantra ke Swar' and 'The Republican Ethic'

- Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan along with Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Sports Anurag Thakur released books 'Loktantra ke Swar' and 'The Republican Ethic', having selected speeches of the President of India Ram Nath Kovind. This is the fourth volume of the series featuring the fourth year of the presidency of Ram Nath Kovind. The compilation includes speeches on a wide range of subjects. E-books were also released on the occasion.
- This book captures President's thoughts on varied topics such as public service, ethics, education, aspirations of our youth, contemporary global issues. The book will enrich public discourse and serve as a guiding light towards taking India forward in the Amrit Kaal. The Minister also suggested that educational institutions should engage students in discussions and debates on the relevant topics elucidated by President in his speeches.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Credit card spend crosses Rs 1.13 lakh crore in May against Rs 1.05 lakh crore in April: RBI data

- May saw credit card spending reach an all-time high of \$1.14 trillion, indicating that the retail sector is doing well. According to Reserve Bank of India data, credit card spending increased 118 percent annually and 8 percent monthly as a result of strong e-commerce spending, high-value travel and tourism spending, and discretionary purchases.

- Despite pressures from inflation and rising interest rates, credit card spending in May remained significantly higher than \$1 trillion. The total amount spent on credit cards in May was \$1.13 trillion, up from \$1.05 trillion in April and \$52,200 crore in May of the previous year.
- The biggest incremental rise in credit card spending was recorded by Indusind Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank, at 17% and 15%, respectively. All other companies experienced growth in the 4–9% range. American Express, on the other hand, experienced a 2% month-over-month fall.
- After the RBI relaxed the moratorium on new credit card issuances in August of last year, HDFC Bank launched 1 million new credit cards and relaunched three credit cards, which contributed to their marketshare increase. On the other side, despite adding a lot of cards in May, Axis Bank reported a decline in marketshare in spending.

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Headquarters: Mumbai Maharashtra, India

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

NSE co-location case: Sebi slaps Rs 7 crore penalty on NSE, Rs 5 crore on former MD Chitra Ramkrishna

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has slapped heavy penalties in a 2015 'dark fibre' case that saw certain brokers exploiting the National Stock Exchange's (NSE's) internet infrastructure to get faster connectivity to its colocation (colo) facilities. The markets regulator has imposed a penalty of Rs 7 crore on NSE and Rs 5 crore on former Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Chitra Ramkrishna.
- In this case, a total of 18 entities received penalties. It has also levied a fine of Rs 5 crore each on former Group Operating Officer Anand Subramanian and current Chief Business Development Officer Ravi Varanasi. Internet service provider Sampark Infotainment has been asked to pay Rs 3 crore. Online trading firms Way2Wealth and GKN Securities, too, have been asked to cough up Rs 6 crore and Rs 5 crore, respectively.

About SEBI:

Founded: 1988;

Act: 1992;

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;

First Women Chairman: Madhabi Puri Buch (present);

Electric two-wheelers to see 100% penetration in Indian market by FY27: Report

- NITI Aayog and the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) made an upbeat prediction that by FY2026-27, electric two-wheelers would be completely incorporated into the Indian market. The Department of Science & Technology established the independent TIFAC in 1988 with the mission to forecast technological developments, evaluate technological trajectories, and foster innovation.
- Forecasting Electric Two-Wheeler Penetration in India was the report's title.

- It gave significant insights into the sector's priorities for technology development as well as the necessary industrial capacity and infrastructure.
- Even without extending demand-side incentives, the penetration of electric two-wheelers may reach about 72% in FY 2031-32 if an R&D programme is successful in increasing their range and power by 5% annually between FY 2023-24 and 2025-26 and by 10% in FY 2026-2027.
- By FY2028-29, the number of electric two-wheeler sales could surpass 220 lakh units.
- Three key aspects that affect the market penetration of electric two-wheelers have been used to build the future scenarios. Demand incentives, battery cost, and vehicle performance in terms of range and power are these factors.

About NITI Aayog:

Formed: 1 January 2015

Jurisdiction: Government of India

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairperson: Narendra Modi

Airtel Payments Bank partners with Axis Bank to digitize last mile cash collection

- In order to digitise the cash collection mechanism in India's Tier III cities and semi-urban areas, Airtel Payments Bank has teamed with Axis Bank. Airtel Payments Bank will help Axis Bank digitise last-mile cash collections by utilising the broad reach of its digital-led neighbourhood banking concept. This collaboration will aid Axis Bank in streamlining its cash management operations. Additionally, it is anticipated to shorten the payment cycle and free up bandwidth for the nation's field agents.
- Agents no longer need to travel back and forth to collect and deposit EMIs because they can now deposit the money at any Airtel Payments Bank location nearby, and the money will be sent to their Axis Bank accounts.
- By doing this, the danger associated with long-distance travel with cash collections by agents will be substantially reduced.
- Customers of Axis Bank will also be able to make direct EMI instalments for loan payments at the 5,00,000 Airtel Payments Bank banking locations.

PADMA, the Centralised Pay System for Indian Coast Guard launched

- Pay Roll Automation for Disbursement of Monthly Allowances (PADMA), an automated Pay & Allowances module for the Indian Coast Guard was inaugurated by Shri Rajnish Kumar, Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Ministry of Defence. The CGDA emphasized that the Government has campaigned for Digital India to ensure dedicated services and reduce manual intervention at every level & to promote E-Governance in a big way.
- Launch of PADMA will strengthen the Digital India concept. Also, it is an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative as the entire module has been designed and developed by Indian entrepreneurs assisted by domain experts.
- PADMA is an automated platform leveraging latest technology which will provide seamless and timely disbursement of Pay & Allowances to around 15,000 Indian Coast Guard personnel.

About Indian Coast Guard:

Director-General: Virender Singh Pathania

Founded: 1 February 1977

Headquarters: Ministry of Defence, New Delhi

Bajaj Allianz launches 'Global Health Care' to provide Health Insurance Coverage anywhere across the World

- One of India's top private general insurers, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, announced the launch of its unique Global Health Care health insurance programme. A complete health indemnity insurance programme called Global Health Care offers seamless coverage to the policyholder for both domestic and international (outside of India) medical providers for both planned and emergency treatment (within India).
- The product's USP is that it enables insured members to arrange any treatment without anxiety in India, enabling them to take use of the best medical facilities available anywhere in the world.
- In order to give their clients a flawless claims experience, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has partnered with Allianz Partners.

About Bajaj Allianz General Insurance:

MD and CEO: Tapan Singhel

CEO: Tapan Singhel (1 Apr 2012)

Headquarters: Pune

Founded: 2000

Zomato dips 6% as board approves acquisition of Blinkit for Rs 4,447 crore

- Zomato (Online food delivery platform) has announced the acquisition of Blink Commerce (Blinkit), earlier known as Grofers India. The company's Board of Directors approved a proposal to acquire cash-strapped quick commerce company Blinkit for Rs 4,447 crore. Last year, Zomato extended USD 50 million loans to Grofers India Private Limited. Zomato already owned more than a 9 percent stake in Blinkit (earlier Grofers). While the earlier Blinkit deal value was around \$700 million, the drop in Zomato's share price reduced it to \$568 million.
- Blinkit is a quick commerce marketplace delivering groceries and other essentials to customers within minutes (an average delivery time of 15 minutes in the month of May). Blinkit was rebranded from Grofers after a pivot to quick commerce last year. Their erstwhile business model was next-day grocery delivery.

About Zomato:

Founded: July 2008

Founders: Deepinder Goyal; Pankaj Chaddah

Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana

Mufin Finance receives RBI's Prepaid Payment Instrument license

- One of the top NBFCs, Mufin Finance, has received preliminary authorisation from the RBI to issue semi-closed prepaid payment instruments. Digital banks, fintech companies, and major consumer-facing applications are able to introduce features like digital payment solutions for lending thanks to a semi-closed PPI licence. Following well-known companies like Bajaj

Finserve, Manapurram, and Paul Merchants, Mufin Finance is the fourth NBFC to get a similar licence from the RBI.

- The company is currently putting the groundwork in place for the launch of MufinPay, a digital payment solution that will support its lending operation.
- Mufin Finance, which was founded in 2016, wants to use the MufinPay platform to better service its 50,000+ customers and bring on new users.

Tata Power solar arm commissions floating solar power project in Kerala

- Tata Power Solar Systems, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, has accomplished a remarkable feat by commissioning India's largest floating solar power project in Kayamkulam, Kerala. On a 350-acre water body, backwaters area, having an installed capacity of 101.6 Megawatt Peak. Tata Power Solar successfully built a scaffolding platform on the water body to make the entire solar plant float on water.
- This project is the first one in the Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) through Power Purchase Agreement category. This plant boasts a floating inverter platform having a 5 Megawatt (MW) capacity.
- The entire array involving floats and solar panel modules had to be towed for 3 kilometers on a sea-linked National waterway, which was 15 meters deep, exposing the solar modules to high winds and gushing tides often reaching a height of about 3.5 meters.

About Tata Power Solar Systems:

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1989

SBI gets regulator's nod to set up operations support subsidiary

- The Reserve Bank of India has given the State Bank of India preliminary approval for its proposed operations support subsidiary, which aims to reduce the cost-to-income ratio. Before introducing the new subsidiary across India, the bank will soon begin a pilot programme in a select areas. Dinesh Kumar Khara, the chairman of SBI, said that a subsidiary for operations assistance is being established. It aims to allay the worry over the cost to income ratio. They already have RBI's in-principle permission, and we'll be starting a trial programme soon.
- Khara stated that the subsidiary will allow the lender to utilise its expensive labour for more beneficial services in an interview.
- SBI's cost to income ratio increased by 240 basis points from FY19 levels to 53.3% in FY22.
- In contrast, the top three private banks have cost to income ratios that are between 35 and 40% lower than SBI's. Therefore, the subsidiary designed to increase operational effectiveness can eventually aid India's largest bank in significantly increasing its profitability.

AI adoption to add \$500 billion to India's GDP by 2025: Nasscom

- Nasscom, an Indian non-governmental trade association and advocacy group, claims that an integrated AI and data use plan could boost India's GDP by \$500 billion by 2025. The Nasscom, in collaboration with EY and with backing from Microsoft, EXL, and Capgemini, has introduced a AI Adoption Index to track sectoral progress on AI adoption in the nation.

- The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) is a non-governmental organisation in India that works to promote the country's technology sector. NASSCOM was founded in 1988 and is a nonprofit organisation. NASSCOM launched a programme in 2013 to support 10,000 businesses in India by 2023. NASSCOM supports activities aimed at Indian startups.
- The index was the first comprehensive analysis of AI adoption trends in India, starting with four important industries: banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI), consumer packaged goods (CPG), retail, healthcare, and industrials & automotive.
- Together, these industries could account for more than 60% of AI's potential value-add to the nation's GDP by 2025, which is estimated to be between \$450 and \$500 billion.

About NASSCOM:

Chairperson: Krishnan Ramanujam

Headquarters location: New Delhi

Founded: 1 March 1988

Founders: Dewang Mehta, Nandan Nilekani

BOB Financial & Nainital Bank Launch Co-Branded Contactless RuPay Credit Card

- The Nainital Bank-BoB co-branded Contactless RuPay Credit Card has been launched, according to BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda and Nainital Bank, which was founded by Bharat Ratna Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant in 1922 and has been under Bank of Baroda management since 1973. The card, which is being introduced in Nainital Bank's centennial year, is intended to reward users for everyday spending categories including groceries and department stores.
- Spending on groceries, department stores, and movies will earn cardholders of Nainital Bank – BoB RuPay Contactless Credit Card 5X, or 5 reward points (every Rs. 100 spent).
- Cardholders will receive one reward point for every Rs. 100 spent on any other purchases. Additionally, cardholders will gain access to a 1% Fuel Surcharge Waiver while buying fuel.
- Additionally, the co-branded credit card provides free Personal Accidental Death insurance. The card is available with no application fee and a little yearly fee that is waived on expenditures of Rs. 25,000 annually. Customers can apply utilising a 100 percent digital method to ensure rapid and easy acquisition of the co-branded card.

About Nainital Bank:

CEO: Dinesh Pant (1 Apr 2019–)

Founded: 1922

Indian Economy May Touch \$30 Trillion In Next 30 Years: Union Minister Piyush Goyal

- India's economy, according to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, is among the fastest-growing in the world and is predicted to reach \$30 trillion in the next 30 years. Goyal remarked that if India grows at a compound annual growth rate of 8% annually, the economy will double in nine years while speaking to exporters in Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu. According to the minister, the country's economy is currently worth approximately \$3.2 trillion and will be worth roughly \$6.5 trillion in nine years.
- Describing the growth Piyush Goyal said that, India would have a \$13 trillion GDP in nine more years, or 18 years from now.

- India's economy will be worth \$26 trillion in nine more years, or 27 years from now.
- After that, it follows that the Indian economy will presumably be worth \$30 trillion in 30 years.
- According to the Union Commerce and Industry Minister, despite the current difficult circumstances brought on by the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine and the CoVD-19 pandemic, India's economy is expanding at a healthy rate.

GST Council May Discuss Changes In Law To Set Up Tribunals; GoM Report On Online Gaming, Casinos

- The Goods and Service Taxes (GST) Council is going to talk about changing the law to make it easier to create GST tribunals. A report by a Group of Ministers (GoM) on online gambling, casinos, and racetracks will also be discussed by the Council. The GoM has proposed that rates and valuation standards for the 28 percent GST that will be imposed on casinos, racetracks, internet gambling, and lotteries be uniform. It said that no distinction should be made between games of skill and games of chance for the purposes of the levy.
- It is advised that in the case of online gaming, the full value of consideration will take into account any contest entry fees, player participation fees, etc., whereas in the case of racetracks, the full value of bets placed with bookmakers and pooled in the totalisator should be taken into account.
- In the case of casinos, the entire face value of any chips or coins that customers purchase from a casino will be taken into account.

Equitas Small Finance Bank to launch exclusive savings account for kids

- Equitas Small Finance Bank is set to launch kids' savings account called ENJOI, on Father's Day. The SFB announced that this account introduces "young kids" to the financial world, encouraging them to develop an early habit of saving. It added that an ENJOI account will also help the kids to take their first step towards a new age and technology-oriented banking experience.
- ENJOI will allow kids of 0-18 years to open savings accounts under the supervision of their parents. Minors aged 10 and above will also get the option for a personalised debit card.
- To promote higher growth in savings, the account will offer 7 per cent interest for savings balances between Rs 5 lakh to Rs 2 crore. Upon written consent from parents, minors aged 10 and above can also avail of self-operating accounts with limited transaction limits.

About Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd:

Founded: 2016

Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu

MD & CEO: Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan

Tagline: It's Fun Banking

Fitch Revises Outlook on 9 Indian Banks' IDRs to Stable; Affirms IDRs

- Fitch Ratings upgraded nine Indian institutions, including SBI, ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank, from negative to stable. Bank of Baroda (BOB), Bank of Baroda (New

Zealand) Ltd, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB), and Union Bank of India are among the other lenders. Fitch Ratings has upgraded 9 India-based banks' Long-Term Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) to Stable from Negative, while upholding their IDRs.

- The IDRs are based on Fitch's evaluation of the sovereign's ability and tendency to offer extraordinary support for these institutions, which takes into account Fitch's assessment of the sovereign's ability and inclination.
- It takes into account the government's track record of backing systemically important banks, the lenders' relative systemic importance, and their various ownership structures.
- Fitch also changed the outlook on the Export-Import Bank of India's (EXIM) Long-Term IDR from negative to stable.

About Fitch Ratings:

Headquarters: New York, United States

CEO: Paul Taylor (2 Apr 2012)

Founded: 24 December 1913, New York, United States

Founder: John Knowles Fitch

RBI's 'Payments Vision 2025' aims to establish India as powerhouse of payments globally, say experts

- The Reserve Bank's Payments Vision 2025 plan, which wants to triple the volume of digital payments, is progressive, according to industry players, and intends to build India as a worldwide payments powerhouse. In light of rising geopolitical threats, the RBI released its Payments Vision 2025 document, which discusses ring-fencing domestic payment networks, as well as the necessity to enforce domestic processing of payment transactions.
- One of the most important forward-looking initiatives is the internationalisation of UPI, RTGS, NEFT, and RuPay cards, where bilateral treaties with countries, particularly those covering the USD, GBP, and Euro, will greatly benefit Indian residents and their counterparts abroad with online realisation at lower costs.
- With a steady push from the government and the rise of rural fintechs, Dilip Modi, founder of Spice Money, noted that while the epidemic raged over the country, India was on its way to realising its payments vision, and digital payments grew dramatically in volume and popularity.
- It is encouraging to see the RBI taking steps to improve safety and security for rural residents, where digital and financial literacy remain major concerns.

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Headquarters: Mumbai (Bombay), Maharashtra, India

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Ministers met on GST rationalisation fails to reach consensus

- According to insiders, a group of state ministers working on GST rate rationalisation was unable to achieve an agreement because some members were opposed to modifications to tax slabs and rates. They stated that the Group of Ministers will provide a status report to the GST Council on the consensus reached at the Group of Minister's previous meeting on November 20, 2021.
- They added that the GoM will seek an extension to deliver its final report, and that tax rate problems will be discussed at the forthcoming Council meeting later this month.
- The GST Council, which is chaired by Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, will meet in Srinagar on June 28 and 29.
- Last year, the Council convened a seven-member council of state ministers, led by Karnataka Chief Minister Shri Basavaraj Bommai, to recommend measures to increase revenue by lowering tax rates.

About Karnataka:

Chief Minister: Shri Basavaraj Bommai

Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot

Capital: Bengaluru (Executive Branch)

47th GST council meet to be held in Srinagar on June 28-29

- The 47th meeting of the GST Council will be held on June 28 and 29, 2022 in Srinagar. The GST Council is chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. This is the second time that the GST Council meeting is being held in Srinagar. Before the launch of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on July 1, 2017, the 14th meeting of the Council was held on May 18 and 19 in the city.
- The Council had last year set up a seven-member panel of state ministers, headed by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, to suggest ways to augment revenue by rationalising tax rates. The GoM had last met in November 2021.
- The 47th GST Council meeting assumes significance as it is expected to discuss the report of the panel of state ministers on rate rationalisation and also the tax rate on casinos, race courses and online gaming.
- The Group of Ministers (GoM) is likely to discuss possible changes in tax slabs, the sources said, adding that the final report of the panel would take some more time.

About Jammu & Kashmir:

Founded: 14 May 1954

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

Lieutenant governors: Manoj Sinha

World's central banks unleash most hawkish campaign since 1980s

- Central bankers around the world are enacting what could be the most dramatic tightening of monetary policy since the 1980s, risking recessions and upsetting financial markets as they try to deal with an unexpected spike in inflation. The week began with a surprise move on Wall Street to price in a Federal Reserve rate hike of 75 basis points. Chairman Jerome Powell declared himself fully committed to bringing inflation back down, the greatest step by the US central bank since 1994.

- Switzerland surprisingly boosted rates, while the Bank of England raised rates for the fifth time, this time by 25 basis points, and indicated that it will soon double the rate.
- The bond market's reaction to the coordinated removal of stimulus was so ferocious that the European Central Bank called an emergency meeting on Wednesday to address rising yields in some euro-zone countries.
- Borrowing costs have risen in emerging markets from Brazil to Taiwan to Hungary, with Australia, South Korea, India, New Zealand, and Canada among those planning further action.

RBI lifts restrictions on Mastercard, allows onboarding of new customers

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relaxed the limitations placed on Mastercard Asia/Pacific Pte Ltd on onboarding new domestic clients. For non-compliance with RBI standards for data storage in India, Mastercard has been barred from onboarding new domestic users (debit, credit, or prepaid) onto its card network as of July 22, 2021. The RBI had given Mastercard almost three years to comply with the regulatory directives, but it was unable to do so.
- This irritated foreign participants because domestic payment companies, especially e-commerce firms, were exerting pressure on the government to store data within India.
- Under the Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007, Payment System Operators such as Mastercard, Visa, and the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) are authorised to operate a card network in India.
- The RBI is responsible for the regulation and supervision of payment systems in India under the Act.
- The RBI's payment system enables payments to be made between a payer and a beneficiary and includes the clearing, payment, and settlement processes, or any combination of them.

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

WPI inflation hits 30-year peak of 15.88% in May

- Wholesale price inflation spiked to 15.88% in May, the highest since September 1991 as a surge in price pressure in food and fuel overwhelmed a moderation in the dominant manufactured product segment. In April, the WPI inflation was recorded at 15.08%. Inflation based on the wholesale price index (WPI) has remained in double digits for 14 months now, mirroring elevated global commodity prices, especially of oil, according to the official data released.

Adani Transmission gets 'green loan' tag for \$700 mn revolving facility

- Adani Transmission Limited's, \$700 million revolving facility has been tagged as a 'green loan' by Sustainalytics. This assures the green loan framework for the revolving facility. Sustainalytics had issued the independent SPO on the alignment of the reviewed framework with the current market standards and the extent to which the eligible project categories are credible and impactful.

- A revolving loan facility is a flexible financing tool that provides the borrower with the ability to draw down or withdraw, repay, and withdraw again.
- The projects associated with the USD 700 million revolving facility are being implemented in Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- In October 2021, the company in a regulatory filing had announced raising USD 700 million for its under-construction transmission asset portfolio through the definitive agreements signed with leading international banks.
- MUFG Bank has acted as Green Loan Coordinator to the issuer for arranging the SPO on Green Loan Framework prepared by Adani Transmission.

About Adani Transmission Limited:

CEO: Anil Kumar Sardana

Founder: Gautam Adani

Founded: 9 December 2013

Headquarters: Ahmedabad

Indian Bank launches digital renewal scheme for Kisan credit card holders

- Indian Bank launched its KCC Digital Renewal scheme, enabling eligible customers to renew their Kisan Credit Card accounts via digital modes. The initiative is part of the bank's digital transformation under project 'WAVE' – World of Advanced Virtual Experience. The account renewals can be done using Indian Bank's IndoASIS mobile app and internet banking. Out of the total agriculture portfolio of Rs 88,100 crores, KCC constitutes Rs 22,300 crores with 15.84 lakh customers.
- The bank expects the digital initiative to come in handy for customers and intend to enhance the threshold limit to cover more KCC account holders. In April this year, the bank had launched its first end-to-end digital product – Pre-Approved Personal Loan.

About Indian Bank:

Founded: 15 August 1907

Headquarters: Chennai

CEO: Shri Shanti Lal Jain

Tagline: Taking Banking Technology To The Common Man.

India's retail inflation eases to 7.04%

- According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India's headline retail inflation rate eased to 7.04 percent in May from April's near-eight-year high of 7.79 percent thanks to a favourable base effect. The fall in inflation in May is unlikely to do much to slow down the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) rate hike cycle. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation was 7.79 per cent in April. In May 2021, the retail inflation stood at 6.3 per cent.
- Meanwhile, a rise in price across all items from fuel to vegetables and cooking oil pushed WPI or Wholesale Price Inflation to a record high of 15.08 per cent in April and retail inflation to a near eight-year high of 7.79 per cent.
- Retail inflation tracked by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures changes in prices from a retail buyer's perspective.

- The Reserve Bank, which factors in the CPI in its monetary policy, had earlier this month raised the inflation forecast for the current financial year to 6.7 per cent from its previous estimate of 5.7 per cent.

RBI raises limit for individual housing loan extended by coop banks

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to increased the existing limits on individual housing loans provided by cooperative banks, taking into account the rise in housing prices since the limits were last revised and considering customers' needs for larger loans. RBI has also permitted the Rural Cooperative Banks (RCB) for financing residential real estate projects, in a bid to support affordable housing and inclusive growth.
- Accordingly, the limits for tier 1/tier 2 urban cooperative banks (UCBs) stood revised from ₹30 lakh/ ₹70 lakh to ₹60 lakh/ ₹140 lakh. As regards rural cooperative banks (RCBs), the limits have been increased from ₹20 lakh to ₹50 lakh for RCBs with assessed net worth less than ₹100 crore; and from ₹30 lakh to ₹75 lakh for the rest. These limits were last revised for UCBs in 2011 and for RCBs in 2009.

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Headquarters: Mumbai (Bombay), Maharashtra, India

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Fino Payments Bank partners exclusively with Go Digit for shop insurance policy

- Fino Payments Bank Limited has partnered with Go Digit General Insurance Limited, one of India's fastest growing general insurers, to provide small and medium business owners with shop insurance coverage. Fino Payments Bank serves as a corporate representative for Go Digit. Through the partnership, small and medium businesses are allowed to take advantage of Digit's My Business Policy in the case of a catastrophe.
- The insurance is for one-year that will cover loss or damage to inventory or goods caused by burglary, earthquakes, fire, lightning, storms, floods, and riots.
- The customers of Fino Bank can join Go Digit's coverage for Rs 550 per year (for a sum insured of Rs 3 lakh), which will rise to Rs 2,600 per year (for a sum insured of Rs 15 lakh).

About Fino Payments Bank:

Founded: 4 April 2017

Headquarters: Juinagar, Navi Mumbai

MD & CEO: Rishi Gupta

Tencent Buys Stake Worth Rs 2,060 Crore in Flipkart from Binny Bansal

- Chinese technology conglomerate Tencent has bought stake worth USD 264 million (about Rs 2,060 crore) in Flipkart from its co-founder Binny Bansal through its European subsidiary, according to official documents. Singapore-headquartered e-commerce firm Flipkart has operations in India only. Bansal holds around 1.84 per cent stake in Flipkart after selling part of his stake to Tencent Cloud Europe BV.
- Post the transaction, Tencent arm holds 0.72 per stake in Flipkart which is valued at around USD 264 million, as per last valuation of USD 37.6 billion disclosed by the e-commerce firm

in July 2021. The company's valuation surged to USD 37.6 billion after raising USD 3.6 billion (about ₹26,805.6 crore) in funding round led by Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC, CPP Investments, SoftBank Vision Fund 2 and Walmart.

About Tencent:

Founded: 11 November 1998

Headquarters: Shenzhen, Guangdong, China

Chairman, CEO: Pony Ma

President: Martin Lau

Ather Energy partners with SBI to provide financing options to electric scooter buyers

- Electric two-wheeler manufacturer Ather Energy has partnered State Bank of India to provide customers with vehicle financing. As part of the association Ather Energy customers will get instant loans at interest rates as low as 9.55 percent per annum. Pre-approved loans will also be administered, depending on the buyer's creditworthiness. SBI will offer the vehicle loans on their YONO mobile application as well as at their branch network, as the public sector lender ensures ease of adoption for the buyers.
- With this collaboration, the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) aims to accelerate the growth of the electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem in the country. The customers, depending on their profiles, will be eligible to avail loans up to 85 percent of the on-road prices of the electric two-wheelers. The approved loan amount will be credited directly to the dealer's account. Customers can avail the loan through YONO at an EMI of as low as Rs 251 per Rs 10,000 under SBI Easy Ride loan.

About Ather Energy

Owner: Hero MotoCorp

Headquarters location: Bengaluru

Founders: Tarun Mehta, Swapnil Jain

ICICI Bank Teams Up with ZestMoney to Expand Cardless EMI Facility

- ICICI Bank has announced that it has partnered with digital EMI/pay-later platform ZestMoney, to expand its 'Cardless EMI' facility for purchases on retail and e-commerce platforms. The partnership enhances affordability of customers of the Bank who can use pre-approved cardless credit to instantly buy products/ services using ZestMoney and take care of the cost into Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs).
- Customers can convert transactions up to Rs 10 lakh into EMIs by simply putting their registered mobile number, PAN and OTP (received on registered mobile number) at the check-out of the e-commerce website/app or at the PoS machine in retail outlets, without using cards.
- The facility, in partnership with ZestMoney, is live on select e-commerce websites and will soon be available at retail stores.
- With this partnership, the Bank's customers will be able to use ZestMoney's wide merchant base. They will also be able to use ZestMoney's flagship 'Pay-in-3' offering, where they can split the bill into three EMIs without extra cost.

About ZestMoney:

CEO & Co-Founder: Lizzie Chapman

Established: 2015

Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka

About ICICI Bank:

CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi (15 Oct 2018)

Headquarters: Vadodara

Founded: 1994, Vadodara

Founder: Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India

Reserve Bank of India cancels the license of "The Mudhol Co-operative Bank Limited

- The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the licence of "The Mudhol Co-operative Bank Limited, Bagalkot (Karnataka)", thus restricting it from repayment of deposits and acceptance of fresh funds. The bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said while announcing the cancellation of licence. RBI also said that bank with its present financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in full.
- RBI said that bank with its present financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in full.
- As per the data submitted by the bank, RBI said more than 99 per cent of the depositors are entitled to receive full amount of their deposits from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).
- On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount up to Rs 5 lakh from the DICGC.
- DICGC has already paid Rs 16.69 crore of the total insured deposits based on the willingness received from the concerned depositors of the bank, the RBI added.

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Headquarters: Mumbai (Bombay), Maharashtra, India

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

About DICGC:

Chairperson: Michael Patra;

Headquarters: Mumbai;

Founded: 15 July 1978.

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

- From FY19 through FY22, Enhanced Access and Service Excellence-EASE evolved over four year editions, catalysing improvements in a variety of areas in Public Sector Banks. The EASENext program's EASE 5.0 'Common reforms agenda' was designed for Public Sector Banks and was introduced by Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman through video conference in New Delhi.
- Virtually present were Managing Directors and CEOs, as well as other senior officials from Public Sector Banks.

- In his introductory remarks, Sanjay Malhotra, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, stated that all PSBs are now profitable and have better balance sheets, and that PSBs must take use of this position of strength to greatly boost their competitiveness.
- He said PSB Manthan 2022, which was held in April 2022 with functional chiefs of Public Sector Banks and opened the ground for the development of a wider and bolder programme – EASENext – which would include two main initiatives: EASE 5.0 and a bank-specific strategic three-year roadmap.
- PSBs will continue to invest in new-age capabilities and deepen ongoing changes under EASE 5.0 in order to respond to changing consumer needs, competition, and the technological environment.

About Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs:

Headquarters: Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi, India

Agency Executives : Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Corporate Affairs

Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs

Over 1.18 Crore payment devices deployed across country till April: RBI data

- The Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme had deployed more than 4.11 lakh PoS, mobile PoS, and other physical devices across the country as of April 30, 2022, according to the RBI. The scheme also had deployed 1,14,05,116 digital devices, including interoperable QR code-based payments such as UPI QR and Bharat QR.
- The Reserve Bank's PIDF programme, which will be operative from January 2021, subsidises the implementation of Points of Sale (PoS) infrastructure (physical and digital modes) in tier 3 to tier 6 cities and the country's northeastern states.
- Beneficiaries of the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi Scheme) in tier-1 and tier-2 centres were also covered as of August 26, 2021.
- The Reserve Bank, licenced card networks, and card producing banks all contribute to the PIDF, which now has a corpus of Rs 811.4 crore.

About Reserve Bank of India:

Governor: Shri Shaktikanta Das

Headquarters: Mumbai, India

Founder: British Raj

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

RBI hikes repo rate by 50 bps to 4.90%

- The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) led by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das voted unanimously to raise repo rate by 50 basis points to 4.90 percent. The Monetary Policy Committee has raised the repo rate in order to tackle elevated inflation. Standing Deposit Facility and Marginal Standing Facility rates also raised by 50 basis points. Standing Deposit Facility rate now 4.65 percent, and Marginal Standing Facility rate now 5.15 percent.

Various rates are as under:

Policy Repo Rate: 4.90%

Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): 4.65%

Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 5.15%

Bank Rate: 5.15%
Fixed Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
CRR: 4.50%
SLR: 18.00%

About RBI:

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

Sebi rejigs mutual fund advisory committee

- SEBI, the market regulator, has revamped its mutual fund advisory committee. According to the latest update with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), the 25-member advisory council will be chaired by Usha Thorat, a former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Previously, the panel consisted of 24 people.
- The committee's mission is to advise the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on problems relating to mutual fund regulation and development.
- It can also advise the regulator on disclosure requirements and steps necessary for a change in the legal framework to bring mutual fund laws closer to simplification and transparency.
- Neeraj Choksi, Chairman of NJ India Invest, has been appointed to the advisory council by the regulator.
- Sunil Gulati, Independent Trustee at SBI Mutual Fund, and Dharmishta Narendraprasad Raval, Independent Trustee at DSP Mutual Fund, are among the other members.
- Prathit D Bhobe, MD and CEO of Tata Asset Management, Vinay Tonse, MD and CEO of SBI Funds Management, Swarup Mohanty, CEO of Mirae Asset Investment Managers (India), MD and CEO of Sundaram Asset Management Company.
- The panel also includes Sunil Subramaniam, Navin Agarwal, MD and CEO of Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company, and A Balasubramanian, Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

About SEBI:

Founded: 12 April 1992
Sector: Securities market
Jurisdiction: India
Headquarters: Mumbai

Suryoday SFB Bank Partners with neo bank startup Mobisafar

- Suryoday Small Finance Bank, one of India's premier small finance banks, has established a cooperation with Mobisafar to provide banking services across India through all of Mobisafar's franchises and Business Correspondent network. The cooperation aims to increase financial inclusion by providing vital banking

services to underbanked customers digitally, even in the most distant corners of the country.

- Mobisafar's 1.38 lac Banking Mitras will assist Suryoday Small Finance Bank in onboarding new clients digitally using eKYC and enabling banking services like savings account establishment, deposit / withdrawal of money, balance inquiry, and so on.
- Suryoday Small Finance has been educating and promoting the advantages of social security systems like PMSBY, PMJJBY, and APY.
- Through the cooperation, Mobisafar will be able to provide additional underbanked customers with access to these programmes.
- Mobisafar intends to deliver Biometric enabled Digital Banking services at our Mobisafar MITRA's in collaboration with the Bank in order to provide unrivalled reach in the country's most remote areas, as well as access to a previously untapped customer base and assist them in accessing Banking services as well as other multiple services.
- During the pandemic, Mobisafar served as a crucial collecting location for Direct Benefit Transfers and ensured that individuals had access to banking services.

RBI issues standard assets provisioning norms for upper-layer NBFCs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in light of the growing involvement of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) in the financial system, has issued a set of standards for provisioning for standard assets by large NBFCs. The RBI published a framework for NBFC scale-based regulation in October of last year. NBFCs have a four-layer regulatory structure based on their size, activity, and perceived riskiness.
- The central bank defined rates of provision for outstanding loans given by 'NBFC-Upper Layer' in a circular issued.
- Individual housing loans and loans to Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs) have a provision rate of 0.25 percent, whereas housing loans with teaser rates have a provision rate of 0.5%.
- Individual housing loans and loans to Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs) have a provision rate of 0.25 percent, whereas housing loans extended at teaser rates have a provision rate of 2 percent.
- After one year from the day on which the rates are raised, the latter will drop to 0.4%.
- The rate of provision for the Commercial Real Estate Residential Housing (CRE – RH) sector is 0.75 percent, while the rate for CRE other than residential housing is 1%.
- The provision rate for medium-sized businesses has been set at 0.4%.
- The NBFCs in the higher layer are those that the RBI has identified as warranting increased regulatory requirements based on a set of parameters and scoring methodology.
- Regardless of other factors, the top ten qualifying NBFCs in terms of asset size will always be in the upper stratum.

About RBI:

Headquarters: Mumbai, India

Founder: British Raj

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Bajaj Finance launches Financial Education Initiative, 'Har Time EMI On Time'

- Bajaj Finance Limited, the lending arm of Bajaj Finserv Limited, a global financial services conglomerate, has launched Har Time EMI On Time, a digital campaign to raise awareness about the importance and advantages of good financial habits for a secure financial future. The campaign aims to inform the general public about the advantages of paying their monthly loan EMIs on time, as well as the long-term consequences of missing payments on their overall financial health.
- The advertisement also emphasises the significance of developing a disciplined habit of sticking to payment commitments in order to reap the benefits of the market's varied financial products.
- The brand campaign portrays the adorable Gupta Ji of Savdhaan Rahein Safe Rahein renown teaching Tinku Ji, in an engaging and musical style, the simple means of paying his monthly EMIs on time.
- Tinku Ji educates consumers and the general public about the various implications of non-payment or late payment of instalments, as well as the importance of timely repayments in order to improve one's credit score, which may affect future borrowing opportunities.
- The multilingual digital campaign will be viewed on Bajaj Finance Limited's website, social media platforms, customer portal, interactive voice response (IVR), mobile app, and other media infotainment channels.

About Bajaj Finserv Ltd:

CEO: Sanjiv Bajaj (20 Feb 2008)

Headquarters: Pune

India's digital payments market will triple to \$10 trillion by 2026: PhonePe-BCG study

- The digital payment markets in India are expected to increase triple from the current three trillion dollars to ten trillion dollars in the coming four years, which is by 2026. This was confirmed by the report issued by PhonePe after the collaboration with Boston Consulting Group (BCG), the report was titled 'Digital Payments in India: A \$10 trillion opportunity. The report highlights the growth of India's digital payments in the last five years. The growth in five years has resulted in aiming those digital payments will aim to constituting two out of three payment transactions by 2026.
- The report highlights the in-depth scenario of the growth of digital payments in India and focuses on factors and enablers to understand and unleash the potential of digital payments and its massive growth in the Country.

- The head of the strategy and investor relations, PhonePe, Karthik Raghupathy said in the report that “This report is part of the PhonePe Pulse initiative, which was launched last year, in our effort to give back to the fintech ecosystem.
- PhonePe Pulse has been received by all the key stakeholders in the ecosystem. As India’s fintech platform we have seen the growth of a unified payments interface (UPI) over the last few years.
- UPI has helped with India’s transition to non-cash payments when it comes to both person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions.
- UPI saw about a nine times transaction volume increase in the past three years, increasing from five billion transactions in FY19 to about 46 billion transactions in FY22: accounting for more than 60% of non-cash transaction volumes in FY22. This indicates that digital payment has gained acceptance across the country.
- While tier 1 and tier 2 cities have witnessed the acceptance of digital payments, penetration in tier 3 – 6 cities shows headroom for growth. The next wave of growth is expected to come from tier 3-6 locations, as evidenced in the past two years wherein tier 3-6 cities have contributed to nearly 60-70% of new customers for PhonePe,”

About Boston Consulting Group:

Headquarters: Boston, Massachusetts, United States

Founder: Bruce Henderson

Founded: 1963

About PhonePe:

Founded: 2015

CEO: Sameer Nigam (Dec 2015)

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Tone Tag emerges winner in 2 categories of RBI's first global hackathon

- The Reserve Bank of India had launched its first global hackathon – “HARBINGER 2021 – Innovation for Transformation” with the theme ‘Smarter Digital Payments’ which was communicated. The hackathon received encouraging response with 363 proposals submitted by teams from within India and from 22 other countries including the USA, UK, Sweden, Singapore, Philippines, and Israel. The Hackathon ran in three phases with shortlisting of proposals in the first phase, solution development in the second phase followed by the final evaluation in the third phase.
- The third phase of final evaluation was held on May 26-27, 2022 in Bengaluru wherein 24 finalist teams presented their solutions for the problem statements to the jury of external experts who evaluated and selected the winners and runners-up based on parameters like innovation, technology, demonstration, user experience, security, ease of implementation.

Results of the Hackathon are :

S. No	Problem Statement	Results
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1	Innovative, easy-touse, non-mobile digital payment solutions for converting small-ticket cash transactions to digital mode.	Tone Tag (Brand of Naffa Innovations Pvt. Ltd.) (INDIA)
2	Alternate authentication mechanism for digital payments	napID Cybersec Pvt. Ltd.(INDIA)
3	Context based retail payments to remove the physical act of payment	Tone Tag (Brand of Naffa Innovations Pvt. Ltd.) (INDIA)
4	Social Media Analysis and Monitoring tool for detection of digital payment fraud and disruption	TrustCheckr (INDIA)

Tata Projects wins bid to build Jewar Airport, beats SP Group and L&T

- Tata Projects will build the national capital region's new airport at Jewar, after outbidding the Shapoorji Pallonji Group and Larsen & Toubro for the contract. While the deal size has not been disclosed, sources pegged it at over Rs 6,000 crore. Tata Projects, the infrastructure and construction arm of the Tata group, will construct the terminal, runway, airside infrastructure, roads, utilities, landside facilities and other ancillary buildings at the Noida International Airport.
- The new airport is expected to be functional by 2024.
- With the closure of the EPC contract, the first phase of the airport is on track to be delivered within three years of the commencement of the concession period.
- According to the contract terms for the Jewar airport, a fine of Rs 10 lakh per day will be levied on the developer of the upcoming Noida International Airport in case of a project delay.

About Tata:

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founder: J. R. D. Tata

Founded: 1945, Mumbai

Government approved 8.1 percent rate of interest on EPF deposits for 2021-22

- The government has approved 8.1 per cent rate of interest on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for 2021-22, an over four-decade low for about five crore subscribers of retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). Earlier in March this year, EPFO had decided to lower the interest on provident fund deposits for 2021-22 to 8.1 per cent from 8.5 per cent provided in 2020-21.
- The Ministry of Labour and Employment has conveyed approval of the central government to credit 8.1 per cent rate of interest for 2021-22 to each member of the EPF scheme.
- The labour ministry had sent the proposal to the Ministry of Finance for its concurrence.

- Now, after the ratification of the interest rate by the government, the EPFO would start crediting the fixed rate of interest for the fiscal into the EPF accounts. The 8.1 per cent EPF rate of interest is the lowest since 1977-78, when it stood at 8 per cent.

About EPFO:

Founded: 4 March 1952, New Delhi

Headquarters: New Delhi

HDFC ties up with Accenture to digitally transform lending biz

- NBFC giant, HDFC has announced the collaboration with global information technology services and consulting firm, Accenture to digitally transform its lending business. The tie-up will revamp HDFC's customer experience and business processes to provide greater operational agility and efficiency, and drive business growth.
- The collaboration is aimed at making HDFC's lending lifecycle paperless and nimble. HDFC highlighted that a key element of the program is a cloud-native lending platform with digital workflows for every step of the customer journey including application, loan processing, credit underwriting and decisions, disbursement, and loan servicing.
- It leverages a machine learning-based decision engine aimed at improving risk mitigation and driving agility by standardizing the credit underwriting process.
- Further, the platform includes a user-friendly mobile application and a web-based portal for customers. Developed using human-centric design principles, the intuitive mobile application and web portal will enable digital-native experiences and significantly reduce the time taken for customer onboarding.
- Also, the platform will offer customers real-time visibility into their home loan application status and other related service requests anytime, anywhere.

About HDFC Bank Ltd:

MD & CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan

Establishment: 1994

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Tagline: We Understand Your World

Centre releases ₹86,912 crore GST dues to States

- The Central government has handed Rs 86,912 crore to state governments, the SGST (State Goods and Services Tax), fully compensating them for the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Despite only having roughly Rs 25,000 crore in the GST compensation pool, the Centre made the whole amount. The remaining funds were paid from the Centre's own funds while the cess was being collected.
- Compensation of Rs 47,617 crore was due up to January, Rs 21,322 crore was due for February-March, and Rs 17,973 crore was due for April-May, out of the Rs 86,912 crore released to states.
- New Delhi is required by present laws to compensate states for any revenue lost as a result of the GST till June 30.
- Following the implementation of the GST on July 1, 2017, the government expected yearly revenue growth of 14%.

- To compensate states for lost revenue, a cess was imposed on a variety of luxury items and so-called sin goods to raise funds.
- However, a faltering economy and the COVID-19 pandemic stifled cess collections, exacerbating the gap between what was owed and the compensation fund's available funds.

Government of India:

Formation:	26 January 1950
Head of state:	President Ram Nath Kovind
Head of government:	Prime Minister Narendra Modi
Chief Justice:	N. V. Ramana

India's economic growth estimated at 8.7% in FY22, Q4 GDP slows to 4.1%

- India's economic growth fell to 4.1 percent in January-March 2021-22, a four-quarter low, reflecting the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic's Omicron wave on the manufacturing sector and contact-intensive services. The National Statistical Office reduced its year-on-year gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for the full fiscal year 2021-22 to 8.7%, down from 8.9% anticipated in February. In the years 2020-21, the economy shrank by 6.6 percent.
- GDP growth in the fourth quarter was lower than the 5.4 percent recorded in the October-December quarter, but higher than the 2.5 percent experienced in January-March 2021.
- The GDP figure for FY22 is noteworthy since it shows growth in the year following the outbreak of the Covid-19 epidemic in 2020.
- The most recent estimate of GDP growth is lower than the second advance estimate of 8.9% (published on February 28) and the first advance estimate of 9.2%. (released in January).
- India's GDP growth rate is expected to be 7.2 percent in 2022-23, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- In Q4 of FY22, private final consumption expenditure — a measure of individual consumption of goods and services — increased by 1.8% year on year.
- **Gross fixed capital creation** (GFCG) increased by 5.1 percent, which is a proxy for investment activity. Government final consumption expenditure increased by 4.8 percent in January-March, bolstering the economy.
- **Gross Value Added** (GVA) increased by 8.1 percent in FY22, compared to a decline of 4.8 percent the previous year. In nominal terms, which account for inflation, GDP is expected to expand by 19.5%, compared to a fall of 1.4% last year.
- Separately published statistics for government accounts revealed that the fiscal deficit for 2021-22 was 6.71 percent of GDP, lower than the 6.9 percent forecast by the Finance Ministry in the updated Budget Estimates. According to another statistic issued, the output of eight infrastructure sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement, and power — increased by 8.4% in April, compared to a 62.6 percent increase the previous month. In March, it increased by 4.9 percent.

GST collections jumped 44% to almost ₹1.41 lakh Crore in May 2022

- GST revenue for May stood at nearly Rs 1.41 lakh crore, a 44 per cent increase over the same month last year, the Finance Ministry. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues came in lower than the record high collection in April at Rs 1.68 lakh crore. In March GST revenues were at Rs 1.42 lakh crore, while in February it was Rs 1.33 lakh crore.
- The collection in May, which pertains to the returns for April, the first month of the financial year has always been less than that in April, which pertains to the returns for March, the closing of the financial year.
- The gross GST revenue collected in the month of May 2022 is Rs 1,40,885 crore of which CGST is Rs 25,036 crore, SGST is Rs 32,001 crore, IGST is Rs 73,345 crore (including Rs 37469 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 10,502 crore (including Rs 931 crore collected on import of goods).
- This is the fourth time that the monthly GST collection has crossed the Rs 1.40 lakh crore mark since the inception of GST and the third straight month since March 2022.
- The total number of e-way bills generated in the month of April 2022 was 7.4 crore, which is 4 per cent lesser than the 7.7 crore e-way bills generated in the month of March 2022.

Tata Motors, Ford India ink pact with Gujarat govt for Sanand manufacturing plant acquisition

- Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Limited (TPEML), a subsidiary of Tata Motors Ltd, and Ford India Private Limited (FIPL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Gujarat (GoG) for the potential acquisition of FIPL's Sanand vehicle manufacturing facility. The MoU includes the potential acquisition of the facility's land & buildings, vehicle manufacturing plant, machinery and equipment and transfer of all eligible employees of FIPL Sanand's vehicle manufacturing operations, subject to the signing of definitive agreements and receipt of relevant approvals.
- The Ford India vehicle manufacturing site at Sanand is a state-of-the-art site. TPEML would invest into new machinery and equipment which is necessary to commission and make the unit ready to produce its vehicles. With the proposed investments, it would establish an installed capacity of 300,000 units per annum, which would be scalable to more than 400,000 units.

About Tata Motors Ltd:

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founder: J. R. D. Tata

Founded: 1945, Mumbai