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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pink diamond found in Angola believed to be largest in 300 years

- A rare pure pink diamond, believed to be the largest found in 300 years, has been unearthed in Angola, a country in Central Africa. The Lulo Rose is a type 2a diamond, meaning it has few or no impurities. It is the fifth largest diamond recovered from the Lulo mine – a joint venture between Australia's Lucapa Diamond Company and the Angolan government.
- Similar diamonds have been bought for tens of millions of dollars in the past, with one – known as Pink Star – selling at a Hong Kong auction for \$71.2m (£59m) in 2017.
- Pink diamonds are extremely rare – but the same physical attributes that make the stones scarce also make them very tough, and not easy to work into shapes. The largest known pink diamond is the Daria-i-Noor, discovered in India, which experts believe was cut from an even larger stone.

About Angola:

Capital: Luanda

Currency: Angolan kwanza

President: João Lourenço

Continent: Africa

India, France, UAE hold trilateral talk to boost maritime security

- The focal points for India, France, and the United Arab Emirates met in trilateral fashion. Maritime Security, Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief, Blue Economy, Regional Connectivity, Cooperation in Multilateral Fora, Energy and Food Security, Innovation and Startups, Supply Chain Resilience, and Cultural and People-to-People Cooperation were some of the potential areas of trilateral cooperation that the three sides discussed.
- The three parties discussed potential trilateral cooperation in the areas of maritime security, Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), blue economy, regional connectivity, participation in multilateral fora, cooperation on energy and food security, innovation and startups, supply chain resilience, and cross-cultural and people-to-people exchange.
- Both countries want to advance their own communities through the blue economy while protecting the environment and coastal and marine biodiversity. Both nations seek to advance scientific understanding, promote ocean conservation, and maintain the ocean as a global common, an area conducive to free trade and the application of the law.

About France:

President: Emmanuel Macron

Capital: Paris

Prime minister: Élisabeth Borne

Currencies: Euro, CFP franc

About UAE:

Capital: Abu Dhabi

Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham

President: Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Prime minister: Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Russia says it will quit the International Space Station after 2024

- President Vladimir Putin was informed by the newly appointed head of Moscow's space agency that Russia has made the decision to leave the International Space Station after 2024. The declaration comes amid heightened hostilities between Moscow and the West over Moscow's military action in Ukraine and several rounds of previously unheard-of sanctions against Russia.
- The International Space Station (ISS), which has been in orbit since 1998, has been jointly developed by Russia and the United States.
- One of the few areas where cooperation between Russia, the United States, and its allies had not been ruined by tensions over Ukraine and other issues up until now was space exploration.
- One of the Soviet space program's major achievements and a significant source of national pride in Russia is the launch of the first satellite in 1957 and the sending of the first man into space in 1961.

About Russia:

President: Vladimir Putin

Capital: Moscow

Currency: Russian ruble

Prime minister: Mikhail Mishustin

About Ukraine:

President: Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Capital: Kyiv

Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia

Prime minister: Denys Shmyhal

Wasifa Nazreen becomes first Bangladeshi to scale world's second highest peak K2

- Mountaineer Wasifa Nazreen became the first person from Bangladesh to ascend Pakistan's administered K2, the second-highest mountain peak. She scaled the K2 mountain peak, which is 8611 metres (28,251 ft) high, and then descended to the base camp. When a climber descends from the mountain and returns to base camp, the summit is said to have been reached.
- The 39-year-old mountaineer Wasifa paid respect to all the known and unidentified martyrs of Bangladesh, from the language campaign to the liberation war, after completing this historic job.
- She urged her people to never lose up and draw strength from the past.
- Wasifa greeted Bangladesh on its 50th anniversary and thanked everyone who had assisted her from the top of the world's most treacherous mountain, stating, "Happy 50th Bangladesh, here's to the next great 50."

About Bangladesh:

Capital: Dhaka

Currency: Bangladeshi taka

President: Mohammad Abdul Hamid

Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina Wazed

China launches second space station module, Wentian

- China launched the second of the three modules needed to complete its new space station. This was the most recent development in Beijing's ambitious space programme. A Long March 5B rocket launched the unmanned spaceship with the call sign Wentian from the Wenchang launch facility on China's tropical island of Hainan. A representative from the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) confirmed the launch's "success."
- In April 2021, Beijing launched the main module of the Tiangong space station, which is Chinese for "heavenly palace."
- In the case of a failure, Wentian will also act as a backup platform for managing the space station.
- Tiangong, which should have a lifespan of at least 10 years, is anticipated to be completely operational by the end of the year after the third and final module docks in October.
- China has made significant progress in catching up to the United States and Russia, countries having astronauts and cosmonauts who have extensive space exploration expertise.
- The CSS (Chinese Space Station) will be built in one and a half years, making it the fastest modular space station ever built.

About China:

President: Xi Jinping

Capital: Beijing

Currency: Renminbi

Official language: Mandarin

Kuwaiti emir appoints Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as new Prime Minister

- The Kuwaiti emir on Sunday issued a decree appointing Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as the prime minister and tasking him with forming the new cabinet.
- As required by the constitution, the prime minister-designate will then inform the National Assembly of his nomination before assuming office, according to the Center for Government Communication of Kuwait.
- In May, the Kuwaiti emir approved the resignation of then Prime Minister Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his cabinet, in which Ahmad served as first deputy prime minister and minister of interior.
- Ahmad was born in 1956 as the eldest son of Kuwaiti Emir Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He served as the Kuwait National Guard Deputy Commander between November 2020 and March 9, 2022.

About Kuwait:

Capital: Kuwait City

Currency: Kuwaiti dinar

Emir of Kuwait: Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

UAE honours Kamal Haasan by granting him Golden Visa

- Kamal Haasan, a prominent figure in the Tamil cinema industry, has been given the prestigious Golden Visa by the United Arab Emirates. The Golden Visa has been given to others besides actor Kamal Hasan. Actors Nasser, Mammooty, Mohanlal, Tovino Thomas, Parthiepan, Amala Paul, and Shah Rukh Khan all have received it before Kamal Hasan.

- Kamal Haasan was last spotted, in the box office sensation Vikram.
- The leading actors of Lokesh Kanagaraj's Vikram include Kamal Haasan, Vijay Sethupathi, and Fahadh Faasil.
- Supporting actors included Kalidas Jayaram, Narain, Gayathrie, Vasanthi, and Santhana Bharathi. Raaj Kamal Films International produced the movie, and Udhayanidhi Stalin's Red Giant Movies distributed it throughout Tamil Nadu.
- The UAE Golden Visa is an extended resident visa programme which lasts between five and ten years.

About UAE:

Capital: Abu Dhabi

Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham

President: Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Prime Minister: Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Dinesh Gunawardena sworn in as Sri Lanka's New Prime Minister

- Senior politician, Dinesh Gunawardena has been appointed as the new and 15th Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, by President Ranil Wickremesinghe. He succeeds former prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who has been sworn in as the country's 9th president. Gunawardena, parliamentarian of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party, took his oath in the capital Colombo in the presence of other senior legislators.
- Gunawardena had been appointed Home Minister in April by then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. With Gotabaya fleeing the country and resigning from his position, earlier prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as the eighth President of Sri Lanka on July 21.

About Sri Lanka:

Capitals: Colombo

President: Ranil Wickremesinghe

Currency: Sri Lankan rupee

Italian PM Mario Draghi resigns after coalition partners desert him

- Prime Minister of Italy, Mario Draghi has stepped down from his post after key coalition parties withdrew their support for his government on measures tackling the high cost of living. Draghi submitted his resignation to President Sergio Mattarella. However, Draghi's government will continue to function under a caretaker capacity till a new leader is elected. He was elected as Prime Minister of Italy in February 2021.
- Draghi's exit will also be a setback to the western alliance against Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Italian leader has taken an uncompromising stand towards Moscow and was a key architect of the tough sanctions against Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- Italy's inflation rate hit 8 per cent in June, its highest level since 1986, according to the statistical agency. Faltering on a tight schedule of promised reforms would also jeopardise Rome's ability to receive €200bn from the EU recovery fund.

About Italy:

Prime Minister: Mario Draghi

Capital: Rome;

Currency: Euro

Amid global aviation chaos, UK launches passengers' charter to address airport disruption issues

- The British government has launched an “Aviation Passenger Charter” to help passengers know their rights if they are faced with problems at airports after the widespread disruption seen this year. The new charter will help passengers know what to do if they are confronted by cancellations, delays or missing baggage. It has been developed by the British government in partnership with the aviation sector & travel industry.
- Long queues and cancelled flights caused by staff shortages have caused chaos at times, prompting airlines to cut back their schedules as the industry struggles to keep up with a surge in demand after the COVID-19 pandemic. Last month, the government published a 22-point support plan to avoid further disruption, including telling airlines to run “realistic” summer schedules and promising to speed up security checks.

About British Government:

Capital: London

Prime minister: Boris Johnson

Queen: Queen Elizabeth II

Chancellor: Kit Malthouse

Currency: Pound Sterling

Pope Francis names women to bishops advisory committee for first time

- The Vatican announced that Pope Francis has appointed three women two nuns and a laywoman to a formerly all-male committee that assists him in choosing the world’s bishops. In an exclusive interview with Reuters earlier this month, Pope had made the announcement, emphasising that he wished to give women more high and powerful posts in the Holy See.
- The three women are Argentine laywoman Maria Lia Zervino, head of the World Union of Catholic Women’s Organizations, UMOFC, French nun Yvonne Reungoat, a former superior general of a religious order, and Italian sister Raffaella Petrini, who is currently the deputy governor of the Vatican City.
- The Dicastery for Bishops, which screens applicants and counsels the pope on which priests should become bishops, was founded by the appointment of 14 persons, including the three women.
- Locally, bishops begin the process by recommending priests to archbishops who they believe would become good bishops.

About Argentina:

President: Alberto Fernández

Capital: Buenos Aires

Currency: Argentine peso

Continent: South America

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson resigns after more than 50 MPs quit government

- United Kingdom Prime Minister, Boris Johnson has announced his resignation as Conservative Party leader after he was abandoned by his close allies in the wake of a series of scandals that rocked his government, triggering a leadership election for a new Tory

leader who will go on to become his successor. Johnson will remain in charge at 10 Downing Street until the process of electing a new leader is completed – expected by the time of the Conservative Party conference scheduled for October.

- Johnson's resignation comes after he weathered numerous scandals during a tumultuous three years in power in which he brazenly bent and sometimes broke the rules of British politics. He survived a no-confidence vote last month. But recent revelations that Johnson knew about sexual misconduct allegations against a lawmaker before he promoted the man to a senior position in his government led to Johnson's resignation.

About United Kingdom:

Prime Minister: Boris Johnson

Capital: London

Currency: Pound sterling

Ukraine economy could shrink by up to 35% in 2022, says IMF

- According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Ukraine's economy could shrink by up to 35% in 2022 due to the effects of the war with Russia. The IMF warned Ukraine with an initial assessment, that the loss of life, damage to critical infrastructure, trade disruption, and an outflow of refugees would lead to the gross domestic product failings by a minimum of 10% in 2022.
- While addressing the Ukraine recovery conference in Switzerland, Shmyhal said that the Ukrainian economy has started to recover from the shock coma of the first weeks of the conflict.
- According to Shmyhal, the government has successfully carried out a grain sowing campaign and resumed logistics across the western border.

About Ukraine:

Prime Minister: Denys Shmyhal

Capital: Kyiv

President: Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia

About IMF:

Founders: John Maynard Keynes, Harry Dexter White

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

Managing Director: Kristalina Georgieva

Headquarter: Washington, D.C.

Yair Lapid officially becomes Prime Minister of Israel

- Leader of Yesh Atid Party, Yair Lapid has been officially became the 14th prime minister of Israel, after replacing the Naftali Benett. He is a former journalist who serving as PM of Israel since 1 July 2022. Yair Lapid's term could be the short one as he take over the caretaker government ahead of Israel's election which was scheduled to take place on November 1.
- Yair Lapid is an Israeli politician and a former journalist. He also previously served as the Alternate Prime Minister of Israel and the Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2021 to 2022. Before entering politics, Yair Lapid was an author, TV presenter, and news anchor.

About Israel:

Capital: Jerusalem
Currency: New Shekel
President: Isaac Herzog

Dictator's son Ferdinand Marcos Jr. takes oath as Philippine president

- Ferdinand Marcos Jr, the son of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos Sr, won the elections on 9th May with 31.6 million votes and was sworn as the 17th President of the Philippines. He took the oath at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Manila before the Supreme Court Justice, Alexander Gesmundo. The former President's daughter and his running mate, Sara Duterte Carpio, swore as vice president on 19th June. The two will be serving the nation until 2028.
- Marcos Jr. is more popularly known as "Bongbong" in the country and won on the platform of national unity, promising more jobs, lowering prices, and increasing investment in agriculture and infrastructure.
- Ferdinand Marcos Sr. was a dictator who ruled the country from 1965 to 1986 and was laid off due to abuse of human rights and increased corruption. During his reign, the country observed martial law from 1972-1981, where several people were tortured, imprisoned or killed for criticizing the government.

About Philippines:

Capital: Manila
Currency: Philippine peso

NATIONAL NEWS

Third edition of Vietnam-India bilateral army exercise "Ex VINBAX 2022" to begin at Chandimandir in Haryana

- The 3rd edition of Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise "Ex VINBAX 2022" is conducted at Chandimandir, Haryana from August 1 to 20, 2022. The theme of Ex VINBAX 2022 is the "Employment and deployment of an Engineer Company and a Medical Team as part of United Nations Contingent for Peace Keeping Operations". The exercise will further strengthen the bilateral relations between India and Vietnam.
- The conduct of Ex VINBAX – 2022 as a field training exercise with enhanced scope from previous editions of bilateral exercise will strengthen mutual confidence, and interoperability and enable sharing of best practices between the Indian Army and Vietnam People's Army.
- A Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief demonstration and equipment display will showcase India's capacity to undertake rescue and relief operations during natural and manmade disasters utilising indigenous solutions.

About Haryana:

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

Sports Department of Punjab to hold 'Khed Mela' from Aug 29

- The Punjab Sports Department will host the Punjab Khed Mela, which will feature 30 sporting activities in six age divisions for competitors between the ages of 14 and 60. The

event's goals are to find talent, create a welcoming environment for sports, and raise public awareness of health. There will be competitions in the age ranges of 25 to 40, 40 to 50, and 50 to 60 in addition to the previously conducted under-14, under-17, and 17 to 25 age groups.

- On August 29, National Sports Day, the Punjab Khed Mela, which will take place from the block to the state level, will officially begin. Sports Minister Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer made this announcement in Chandigarh.
- According to the Minister, Khed Mela Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann would be present for both the opening and closing ceremonies.
- Three lakh Punjabi athletes are expected to take part in the Sports Mela, according to the sports minister.

About Punjab:

Capital: Chandigarh

Governor: Banwarilal Purohit

Chief minister: Bhagwant Mann

Sports Minister: Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer

PM Modi launches India's first international bullion exchange in Gujarat

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX)', at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) near Gandhinagar, Gujarat. IIBX is India's first international bullion exchange. The exchange, which was announced in Budget 2020, will sell physical gold and silver. The exchange will be open for jewellers with a net worth of Rs 25 crore and above to participate.
- This will allow qualified jewellers to directly import gold through IIBX. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) is the regulator of IIBX. IIBX is promoted by five market institutional investors i.e., CDSL, India INX, NSDL, NSE and MCX.
- Ashok Gautam will head IIBX as MD and CEO. He took charge in February 2022 and worked with IDBI Bank before this. He has earlier worked with the State Bank of India (SBI).

About Gujarat:

Capital: Gandhinagar

Governor: Acharya Devvrat

Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel

About SBI:

Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1 July 1955

Parent organization: Government of India

Chhattisgarh CM to flag off 'Mahtari Nyay Rath' for awareness among women about their rights, laws

- To educate the state's women about their constitutional rights and laws, the Chhattisgarh Women Commission will host the Mukhyamantri Mahtari Nyay Rath Yatra. On the occasion of the Hareli Tihaar festival, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will set off the "Mukhyamantri Mahtari Nyay Rath". Through short films, messages, and booklets, the chariots will visit all of

the districts to educate people about the legal protections for women and their constitutional rights.

- Two attorneys will ride in each chariot, listening to women's complaints and offering information and counsel. Through these carts, women will be able to apply to the Women's Commission for the resolution of their complaints.
- According to Dr. Kiranmayi Nayak, chairperson of the state women's commission, every woman, whether educated or not, needs to be aware of the women's commission, as well as the laws and regulations that apply to them, as well as their legal rights.
- Nationally recognised instructional short films in Hindi and Chhattisgarhi will be shown on a sizable LED screen.

About Chhattisgarh:

Capital: Raipur (Executive Branch)

Governor: Anusuiya Uikey

Chief Minister: Bhupesh Baghel

Bharat Forge inks an agreement with Talgo India to manufacture high-speed trains

- A joint venture to produce high-speed passenger trains has been established by BF Infrastructure Ltd., a fully owned subsidiary of Bharat Forge Ltd., and Talgo India Pvt Ltd., a fully owned subsidiary of Spanish manufacturer Patentes Talgo S.L. The cooperation will take advantage of forthcoming local requirements in the field as well as new economic prospects in the railways sector.
- The Atmanirbhar Bharat programme of the Union government is anticipated to benefit from this collaboration. It will assist in bringing cutting-edge, high-speed rail technology and solutions.
- The planned partnership will concentrate on establishing a hub for production, maintenance, and life cycle support for the next generation of lightweight, energy-efficient high-speed trains made of aluminium.
- The project comes after the Indian Railways issued a tender for the production and upkeep of 100 new generation, lightweight, and energy-efficient trains.

About Bharat Forge:

Owner: Kalyani Group

Headquarters: Pune

Key person: Baba Kalyani (Chairman)

Founded: 19 June 1961

Union Cupboard adopts a \$1.6 billion BSNL revitalization plan

- Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Union Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology, said that the Union Cabinet approved the Rs. 1.64 lakh crore revival package for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). Package announced by the Central government in 2019 has contributed to stabilising BSNL's financial situation.
- The cabinet has accepted a proposal to convert Rs 33,000 crore in statutory dues into equity as part of the de-stressing of the balance sheet, and an equal amount of bank loans will be repaid through the issuance of low-interest bonds.

- A plan to combine BSNL and Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) was also approved by the federal cabinet.
- Through this merger, BSNL would have access to 5.67 lakh kilometres of extra optical fibre that have been installed throughout 1.85 lakh village panchayats nationwide with the help of the country's Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

About BSNL:

CEO: Pravin Kumar Purwar (Jun 2019–)

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 15 September 2000

Founder: Government of India

CM Manohar Lal Khattar launches Smart e-beat system in Gurugram

- Chief Minister of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar launched an app-based 'Smart E-Beat' system for police attendance and real-time monitoring of patrolling by personnel in Gurugram. CM Khattar launched the system at an event at the office of the Commissioner of Police and flagged off 119 motorcycle police riders connected with it. The app-based system has been introduced in Gurugram under the Smart Policing Initiative (SPI) and it will help these policemen to mark their attendance and in the monitoring of their rides.
- The Smart E-Beat system would cover the area of all the 33 police stations located in the urban area of Gurugram. As many as 119 motorcycle riders will be deployed, and 714 policemen will give duty on the rider in three shifts a day, Gurugram Police has identified 2,056 sensitive locations in the city, which mainly include ATMs, petrol pumps, residences of senior citizens, schools, colleges, religious places, and crime-affected areas for monitoring.

About Haryana:

Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya

Capital: Chandigarh

Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar

A&N Command over historic Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island to Andaman Administration

- The historic Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island was transferred from the Andaman and Nicobar Command to the Andaman & Nicobar Administration for further development of the island's infrastructure and tourism. During the formal ceremony, which took place today on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island, Commander-in-Chief of A&N Command Lt. General Ajai Singh symbolically gave Dy. Commissioner, South Andaman Suneel Anchipaka control of the island. He also recalled the significance of this island historically and the sequence of events connected to it. He anticipated the island's general growth as a tourism attraction under the management of the administration.
- The Lt. General continued by stating that over the past few years, NITI Ayog and Island Development Agency have taken a number of measures to develop these Islands in accordance with Act East Policy.
- Since 1967, INS Jarwa has had administrative control over the island. Up until the Japanese took control of the island in 1942, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island served as the administrative centre for British rule in the islands.

- The Chief Commissioner Bungalow and other buildings on the island were devastated during the Second World War. In 1943, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose visited Andaman and Nicobar and stayed on the island as well.
- In December 2018, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island was given a new name by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It was formerly referred to as Ross Island. The island welcomes visitors and is a popular tourist destination.

Tata Advanced Systems delivers Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicle-Medium to Indian Army

- Tata Advanced Systems successfully delivered the locally developed Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicle to the Indian Army. The contract to provide QRFV-Med vehicles to the Indian Army was successfully completed. These armoured vehicles will increase the nation's protector's ability to fight in all weather and terrain situations and will offer protection while moving.
- These vehicles will improve the Indian Army's operational capability during future battles.
- In the last four years, from 2018–19 to 2021–22, the expenditure on defence procurement from foreign sources decreased from 46% of the total expenditure to 36% as a result of the steps implemented by the Centre to promote the manufacture of indigenous defence equipment.
- The initial group of QRFV was inducted by former Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane.
- The QRFV, Infantry Protected Mobility Vehicle (IPMV), Ultra Long Range Observation System, Monocoque Hull Multi-Role Mine-Protected Armoured Vehicle, and Ultra Long Range Observation System were all introduced by the Army Chief.

CEC LAHDC Kargil inaugurates 2 days colorful Ladakh Festival Kargil

- The Ladakh Festival Kargil 2022 was inaugurated in Ladakh by CEC LAHDC Kargil Feroz Ahmad Khan at Khree Sultan Chow Stadium in Bemathang Kargil. The Department of Tourism and Culture Kargil UT Ladakh was in charge of organising the festival. The Chief Guest, the Secretary of Tourism for UT Ladakh, and the Executive Councilor for Tourism for LAHDC Kargil visited and inspected the many stalls set up by volunteers, NGIs, and SHGs, among other groups, and they were pleased with the work.
- Later, Feroz Ahmad Khan and another visitor opened this event's horse polo match and archery competition. On this day, a variety of cultural troupes delivered vibrant cultural performances. The Festival lasted for two days, with the inaugural Incredible India Kargil Half Marathon taking place on April 24.

About Ladakh:

Lieutenant Governor: Shri Radha Krishna Mathur

Union territory: 31 October 2019

Districts: 2

Capital: Leh, Kargil

Administering Country: India

About LAHDC Kargil:

CEC: Feroz Ahmad Khan

Last election: August 2018

Seats: 30 Councillors

Madhya Pradesh's Burhanpur becomes first Certified 'Har Ghar Jal' district in Country

- Burhanpur district of Madhya Pradesh, popularly known as the 'Darwaza of Dakhin', became the first Certified 'Har Ghar Jal' district in the Country. Only district in the country, people from each of 254 villages in Burhanpur have declared their villages as 'Har Ghar Jal' through a resolution passed by Gram Sabhas. Accordingly, it certifies that all people in the villages have access to safe drinking water through taps, ensuring that 'No One is Left Out'.
- When Jal Jeevan Mission was launched on August 15, 2019, only 37,241 rural households (36.54%) out of a total of 1,01,905 households in Burhanpur had potable drinking water through tap connections. Now, within a span of 34 months, all the 1,01,905 rural households have access to potable drinking water through tap connections. Furthermore, all 640 schools, 547 Anganwadi centres and 440 other public institutions have tap connections.

About Madhya Pradesh:

Capital: Bhopal (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel

Grand statue of Chandrashekhar Azad to be installed in Bhopal

- In Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal, a large statue honouring Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad will be erected. The statue site will be created as a source of inspiration for young people, with soil from Azad's hometown of Bhabra being used at its base. On the 116th anniversary of Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad's birth, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan spoke at the opening ceremony of the first state-level Youth Mahapanchayat, which was held in Bhopal.
- Anurag Thakur, the Union Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Sports, and Youth Affairs, also spoke to the programme electronically from New Delhi.
- Anurag Thakur, a union minister, added that no challenge is too great for Indian youth. In the next 25 years, he urged the youth to elevate India to the status of Vishwa Guru and work assiduously to create an independent India.

About Madhya Pradesh:

Capital: Bhopal (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel

Navies of India and Japan Participate in Maritime Partnership Exercise in the Andaman Sea

- A Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) was conducted between Japan Maritime Self Defense Force and Indian Navy in the Andaman Sea. INS Sukanya, an offshore patrol vessel and JS Samidare, a Murasame class destroyer, undertook various exercises including seamanship activities, aircraft operations and tactical manoeuvres as part of the operational interaction.
- The two countries have been carrying out regular exercises in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) aimed towards reinforcing maritime association. The exercises conducted were aimed at enhancing interoperability and streamlining seamanship and communication procedures.

This exercise is part of the ongoing efforts between the two navies toward ensuring safe and secure international shipping and trade in the IOR.

About Japan:

Capital: Tokyo

Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida

Currency: Japanese yen

India to set up joint theatre commands of tri-services: Rajnath Singh

- DM Rajnath Singh announced the setting up of joint theatre commands of the tri-services to enhance coordination among the armed forces.
- The defence minister also said India is moving quickly from being the world's largest importer of defence equipment to an exporter.
- He was speaking during a programme organised by the Jammu Kashmir People's Forum here to pay tributes to the martyrs of the Indian Armed Forces.
- "Keeping in view (joint operations as seen in Operation Vijay in Kargil), we have decided to set up joint theatre commands (in the country)," Singh said.
- Paying tributes to the Kargil martyrs, the defence minister said the country cannot forget their supreme sacrifice to safeguard the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty.
- "It is the duty of the society and the people to give their utmost respect to the martyrs and their families," he said.
- "Whatever support you can offer, do to for their families. It is the responsibility of each citizen," he added.

About Ministry of Defence Minister:

Officeholder: Rajnath Singh (Minister)

Formed: 1776; 246 years ago (as Military Department); 15 August 1947; 74 years ago (as Ministry of Defence)

Jurisdiction: Government of India

Departments: Bharat Dynamics, Border Roads Organisation

Centre amends Flag Code to allow people to display tricolour 24X7

- If the national flag is flown in the open and is raised by a member of the public, it may now fly through the night. The Flag Code of India 2002 was revised by the Ministry of Home Affairs to permit the flying of the national flag even at night as the federal government begins its Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. The flag could previously only be flown between sunrise and dusk.
- The ministry stated that clause XI of paragraph 2.2 of the Flag Code has been substituted by the following phrase: "where the flag is displayed in the open or displayed on the house of a member of the public, it may be flown day and night."
- India is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to mark 75 years of independence.
- From August 13 to August 15, the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign urges people to fly the flag in their residences.
- Additionally, in a letter to all government agencies on the campaign, Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla included files that outlined the key elements of the flag code as well as the updates made on December 30, 2021, and July 20, 2022.

About Ministry of Home Affairs:

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 15 August 1947

Jurisdiction: India

Ministry executive: Ajay Kumar Bhalla, IAS, (Home Secretary)

Officeholders: Amit Shah (Minister)

Droupadi Murmu Takes Oath As India's 15th President; First Tribal Woman To Hold Highest Constitutional Post

- Draupadi Murmu took oath as the 15th President of India. She is now the first tribal and the second Woman to be the president of India. In the Central Hall of the Parliament, Draupadi Murmu administered the Oath by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana. The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior politicians.
- Draupadi Murmu was nominated by the National Democratic Alliance.
- She was the former governor of Jharkhand and she was the first female governor of Jharkhand.
- Her opponent in the Presidential election was Yashwant Sinha, whom she defeated by a huge margin.
- She got the lead in the second round of counting where she won 809 votes of MLAs out of 1138 in 10 states.
- Draupadi Murmu was appointed as the Governor of Jharkhand on 9th May 2015. She became the first female governor of Jharkhand.

Himachal Pradesh turns into the first Indian state to attach all registered business autos

- Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country to connect all registered commercial vehicles equipped with Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD) with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS). Now, these vehicles can be tracked anywhere in the country through VLTD. More than 9,423 vehicles have been registered and linked with ERSS. Now it will be monitored by both the police and the transport department.
- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur formally inaugurated the system at a program organized at Peterhof, in Shimla. He also introduced the facility of panic buttons for the safety of women and children in public vehicles.

About Himachal Pradesh:

Capital: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter);

Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur;

Governor: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar.

INDIA'S FIRST PASSENGER DRONE -VARUNA UNVEILED BY PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled Varuna, India's first passenger drone. PM Modi is seen watching the demonstration of the drone. Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted that the current government has ensured last-mile delivery of services with the help of technology, including drones. The Prime Minister was there to address the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) seminar 'Swavlamban' which took place at Dr Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.

- The makers of this indigenous pilot-less 'Varuna' drone startup Sagar Defence Engineering demonstrated this in his presence.

About PMO India:

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

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

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

Minister responsible : Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India

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

Draupadi Murmu Becomes 15th President Of India

- Daughter of a tribal family coming from a very ordinary house in Odisha, Draupadi Murmu has been elected as the 15th President of India. The 2022 Indian Presidential Election was the 16th presidential election that was held in India on the 18th of July 2022. Murmu becomes India's first woman tribal president. She also becomes the second woman to hold the post after Pratibha Patil. The tenure of incumbent president Ram Nath Kovind will end on 24 July.
- The counting of votes has started to elect India's new president. Out of a total of 771 MPs entitled to vote (05 vacant) and a total of 4,025 MLAs entitled to vote (06 vacant and 02 disqualified), over 99 per cent cast their votes.
- However, 100% voting by MLAs was reported from Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Puducherry, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu."
- The counting of votes takes place in room number 63 of the Parliament of India which is also the strongroom for the boxes that arrived from all state capitals and Union Territories having a legislature.

Mobile Electric Charging App released by MSME Minister Narayan Rane

- At the Fueling India 2022 event in Mumbai, Union Minister of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Narayan Rane introduced Repos Pay, a platform for Mobile Electric Charging, and Phy-gital a platform for fintech. On the Repos Pay platform, users can order mobile electric charging vehicles and use them to charge their cars. A Fintech platform called Phy-gital will use technology to enable consumers to use credit to fuel purchases (Buy Now Pay Later). Fuel-on-credit options for large users will be facilitated through the energy fintech platform.
- P. Udaykumar, chairman of the National Small Industries Corporation, praised the aspiring businesspeople who are making waves in the energy sector despite the fact that the majority of start-ups in the nation are in the IT and digital industries.
- Speaking about the MSME ministry's and NSIC's support of the nation's micro, small, and medium-sized businesses, Shri Udaykumar said that their goal is to establish a very beneficial MSME ecosystem. India is currently the focus of attention from the entire world. Even throughout COVID, the country's MSME sector persevered.

About National Small Industries Corporation:

Headquarters: NSIC Bhawan, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi, India

Founded: 1955

Key people: P Udayakumar (Chairman & MD)

Areas served: India and Africa

India's first AI-powered digital Lok Adalat launched in Rajasthan

- During the 18th All India Legal Services Authorities' convention, which was held here, National Legal Services Authority Chairman Uday Umesh Lalit unveiled the first digital Lok Adalat driven by artificial intelligence. Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority's (RSLSA) digital Lok Adalat was created by Jupitice Justice Technologies, the organization's technological partner.
- N V Ramana, the Chief Justice of India, opened the two-day event in the presence of Kiren Rijiju, the Union Minister of Law and Justice, and Ashok Gehlot, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan.
- India's increasing litigation backlog has recently made attention, particularly during the pandemic when courts were temporarily halted.
- The NITI Aayog report also estimated that it would take 324 years to resolve every case now outstanding in India.

About Rajasthan:

Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot

Governor: Kalraj Mishra

Capital: Jaipur

Assam, Arunachal Pradesh Agree To Resolve Decades-Old Border Dispute

- According to the chief ministers of both states, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have taken a step toward settling their seven-decade-old boundary dispute by signing the Namsai Declaration. Following their third round of discussions on the matter, the Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu and his Assam colleague Himanta Biswa Sarma signed the declaration in Namsai.
- The 804-km long shared border between the two states. Although there was initially no conflict, over time, claims that citizens of one state were encroaching on the territory of the other have resulted in arguments and even violence. Since 1989, a lawsuit about the matter has been pending before the Supreme Court.
- There were 123 border settlements that were in contention earlier. They have now decided to limit that to 86 villages. Additionally, they have decided to remedy the problem by September 15 of this year.

About Assam:

Chief Minister: Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma

Capital: Dispur

Governor: Jagdish Mukhi

About Arunachal Pradesh:

Chief Minister: Pema Khandu

Capital: Itanagar (Executive Branch)

Governor: B. D. Mishra

Telangana govt announces DiCRA in partnership with UNDP

- Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture (DiCRA), the newest entry in the Digital Public Goods Registry, was announced by the State government in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The platform, which uses artificial intelligence to power it, aims to improve food security and food systems. DiCRA becoming a digital public good, according to IT Minister KT Rama Rao, is a significant step in our commitment to open data policy, service delivery to farmers, and anticipatory governance to address the world problem of food security.
- With UNDP Accelerator Labs and partner organisations, they are thrilled to support this first-of-its-kind digital commons to promote climate action not only for Telangana but for the entire world, said DiCRA of its cooperation with Telangana's thriving innovation ecosystem.
- Climate change has multiple effects on agriculture, impacting crop output, nutrient quality, and livestock productivity. DiCRA can distinguish between farms that are highly vulnerable to climate change and those that are climate change-resilient using remote sensing and pattern identification algorithms.

About Telangana:

Founded: 2 June 2014

Capital: Hyderabad

Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan

Chief Minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao

About United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

Headquarters: New York, United States

Founded: 22 November 1965, United States

Subsidiary: United Nations Volunteers

Kerala Become The First State With Its Own Internet Service, KFON Gets ISP Licence

- Kerala is now the first and only state in the country to have its own internet service, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who made the announcement. The announcement followed the Department of Telecommunications' granting of an Internet Service Provider (ISP) licence to the IT infrastructure project of the Kerala Fiber Optic Network Ltd (K-Fon), which aims to provide everyone in the state access to the internet.
- The principle behind the establishment of K-Fon is "non-discriminatory" treatment, which means that no service provider or business segment receives preferential treatment, as recommended by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
- K-Fon or Kerala Fiber Optic Network Ltd is a state government initiative that aims to eliminate the digital gap. As per the government, the infrastructure created by this project is expected to complement the state's current telecom ecosystem.

About Kerala:

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan;

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram;

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan.

India To Develop Comprehensive Framework For 'Right To Repair'

- The Department of Consumer Affairs has formed a committee under the leadership of Additional Secretary Nidhi Khatri in an effort to provide an overall framework for the Right to Repair. Anupam Mishra, Joint Secretary DoCA, Justice Paramjeet Singh Dhaliwal, G.S. Bajpai, Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala, Ashok Patil, Chair of Consumer Law and Practice, and members from stakeholders like ICEA, SIAM, consumer activists, and consumer groups make up the committee.
- Spare components are under the exclusive responsibility of manufacturers (regarding the kind of design they use for screws and other). A repair industry monopoly violates the customer's freedom to choose.
- Digital warranty cards make sure that a customer loses the ability to make a warranty claim if they purchase a product from a non-recognised business.

About Department of Consumer Affairs:

Additional Secretary: Nidhi Khatri

Joint Secretary: Anupam Mishra

Formed: 2 September 1946

Headquarters: Sansad Bhavan, New Delhi

Jurisdiction: Republic of India

Departments: Department of Food and Public Distribution, Department of Consumer Affairs

Officeholders: Piyush Goyal (Minister), C. R. Chaudhary (Minister of State)

Govt Launches 'Jagriti' Mascot For Empowering Consumers & Generating Awareness

- Jagriti is a mascot created by the Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) with the goal of empowering customers and raising awareness of their rights. Jagriti will be shown as an educated consumer who is advocating for her rights and finding answers to the issues she encounters. The Jagriti mascot will be employed to raise consumer awareness of a variety of Departmental topics, including the provisions of the 2019 Consumer Protection Act, hallmarking, the National Consumer Helpline toll-free number 1915, provisions of the Weights and Measures Act, decisions of the Central Consumer Protection Authority, and consumer testimonies regarding grievance redressal.
- Aiming to reinforce a young, empowered, and knowledgeable consumer as a top-of-mind consumer rights awareness recall brand, DoCA is integrating the Jagriti Mascot to its consumer awareness campaign. In all of its media campaigns, the Jagriti mascot and slogan Jago Grahak Jago must be displayed. The two are now synonymous with young consumers who are aware of their rights and are a strong force for consumer rights education and advocacy.

About Department of Consumer Affairs:

Additional Secretary: Nidhi Khatri

Joint Secretary: Anupam Mishra

Formed: 2 September 1946

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Jurisdiction: Republic of India

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Officeholders: Piyush Goyal (Minister), C. R. Chaudhary (Minister of State)

IIT Delhi inaugurates new Census Data Workstation for academicians and researchers

- A new census workstation has been unveiled by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi in the Economics Lab of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Census Data Workstation was officially opened by Dr. Vivek Joshi, the Registrar General and Census Commissioner for India. According to Dr. Joshi, the new workstation aims to make it easier for academics and researchers to access census microdata. Additionally, it will contribute to raising awareness of the enormous amount of data that was gathered during Census activities.
- According to a release from IIT Delhi, the idea was praised by Professor Ashok Ganguli, Deputy Director (Strategy and Planning), and Professor Angelie Multani, Head of the Department.
- Ajay Garg, DCO Delhi, and Professor Ganguli also signed a contract between the Directorate of Census Operations, Delhi, and the IIT Delhi.

About Indian Institutes of Technology:

Founder: Jawaharlal Nehru

Established: 15 September 1956; (65 years ago)

Location: 23 cities in India

Parent institution: Ministry of Education, Government of India

MoS Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal Opens The Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav- 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2022

- India is celebrating the 75th year of Independence as Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. This is celebrated by the Ministry of Culture, and on this occasion, the National School of Drama (NSD), New Delhi, organized “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav-22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2022” from 16th July to 14th August 2022. The occasion was facilitated by the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture, Government of India, Shri. Arjun Ram Meghwal, Ms. Malini Awasthi, Padma Shree Awardee, renowned Indian folk singer, and Shri. Arvind Kumar and Director, Ministry of Culture.
- The National School of Drama is one of the leading theatre institutions in the world and the only one of its kind in India. In 1959, it was set up by the Sangeet Natak Akademi as one of its constituent units. It became an independent entity and registered as an autonomous organization under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 in 1975.
- Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal addressed the occasion by remembering the unsung heroes of the Indian freedom struggle and he suggested that the National School of Drama (NSD) should come forward to prepare plays based on those incidents which should perform across the country to make the citizens aware.

Varanasi Becomes The First Cultural And Tourism Capital Of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

- The holy city of Varanasi showcasing India’s culture and traditions over the ages will be declared the first “Cultural and Tourism Capital” of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Varanasi will become the “Cultural and Tourism Capital” of the SCO for 2022-23 under a new rotating initiative by the eight-member organisation to promote people-to-people contacts and tourism among the member states.

- Each year a city of the cultural heritage of a member country that will take over the rotating Presidency of the organisation will get the title to highlight its prominence.
- The organisation's new initiatives ahead of this year's Heads of the State summit of the SCO scheduled to be held at Samarkand in Uzbekistan on September 15-16 this year.
- The new initiative will come into force after the Samarkand summit following which India will take over the Presidency and host the next Heads of the State summit.

About Shanghai Cooperation Organisation:

Headquarters: Beijing, China

Founded: 15 June 2001

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

Govt launches 'Jute Mark India' logo to promote jute products

- The government of India introduced the certification of authenticity for jute products manufactured in India. The Union Textile Secretary unveiled the logo "Jute Mark India". This project is an initiative to protect and promote Indian jute products.
- The Jute Mark India (JMI) will be a hallmark of the jute products manufactured in India.
- This certification is expected to increase the domestic market and export of Jute products made in India to other countries.
- The Jute Mark India will contain a unique QR code and when the customers scan the code, they'll get to know about the product.
- The promotion of Jute and Jute products in India is managed by the National Jute Board, which works under the Union Textile Ministry.
- The National Jute Board is governed by the National Jute Board Act 2008, as framed by the Minister of Textile, the Government of India, and enacted by the Parliament on 12 February 2009. The board works to research and engage human resource development programs to explore and increase the use of Jute in both organized and decentralized sectors.

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar to launch e-NAM Platform to promote agricultural trade

- On the eve of the State Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers' Conference in Bengaluru, Karnataka, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, unveiled the Platform of Platforms (POP) under the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM). A total of 1,018 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) received equity grants totaling more than Rs 37 crore, which will help 3.5 lakh farmers.
- Along with Shri Tomar, other dignitaries in attendance included Shri Basavaraj Bommai, the Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri Basavaraj Bommai, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, and Ms. Shobha Karandlaje and Shri Kailash Choudhary, the Union Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, respectively, Shri BC Patil, the Agriculture Minister of Karnataka, and other senior officers.
- POP covers 41 service providers from multiple platforms who provide a range of value chain services, such as trade, quality assurance, warehousing, fintech, market intelligence, transportation, etc.
- A digital ecosystem that will be created by the POP will profit from the knowledge of many platforms in various areas of the agricultural value chain.

About Karnataka:

Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot

Capital: Bengaluru (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Basavaraj Bommai

NRTI in Gujarat renamed as Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, gets central university tag

- National Rail and Transportation Institute upgraded as Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, the deemed to be university will be upgraded to a central university. The university has been renamed as Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya. The Union Cabinet gave its approval to introduce a Bill in Parliament, namely, the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2022 to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009 for setting up of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV).
- The amendment would help in converting the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), a Deemed-to-be university into Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, a Central University. The NRTI offers BSc in transportation technology, BBA in transportation management courses, and MSc in railway system engineering and integration.

About National Rail & Transportation Institute (NRTI):

Campus: Urban

Established: 5 September 2018

Chancellor: Chairman, Railway Board (Presently Mr. Suneet Sharma)

Vice-Chancellor: Mrs. Alka Arora Misra (IRPS, interim)

Delhi Government announces pilot project with UNICEF for employment opportunities to DSEU students

- Students of the Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) will now have access to job opportunities thanks to a new pilot project the Delhi government announced with United Nations INTERNATIONAL Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). Which have introduced 'Career Awareness Sessions' for students. Skill Varsity of Delhi joins hands with YuWaah (Generation Unlimited India) at UNICEF to enable access to employment opportunities, assist students in becoming job ready as well as listen to and amplify the voices of young people.
- Another pillar of the partnership is the 'YuWaah Step Up – Bano job ready', a six-month pilot being conducted by Flywheel Digital Solutions Pvt with DSEU students and other job-seekers in Delhi to enhance the reach of young job-seekers on the new age job portals, the government said in the statement. The pilot will run at the Ambedkar DSEU Shakarpur-I campus starting July 20.

About UNICEF:

Founded: 1946

Headquarters: New York City, USA

Director General: Catherine M. Russell

Membership: 192

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Lieutenant Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena

Capital: New Delhi

India's 1st elevated urban expressway to be operational by 2023, says Nitin Gadkari

- The Dwarka Expressway, which is being developed as the first elevated urban expressway in India, will be operational in 2023, said Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari. Dwarka Expressway will reduce pressure on the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway (part of the Delhi-Jaipur-Ahmedabad-Mumbai arm of the Golden Quadrilateral) and arterial roads that experience severe traffic congestion, primarily from the commuters of West Delhi.
- It will be a 16-lane access-controlled highway with the provision of a minimum three-lane service road on both sides.
- The Expressway connecting Dwarka in Delhi to Gurugram in Haryana is being developed at a total cost of Rs 9,000 crores. It has a total length of 29 km, out of which 19 km falls in Haryana and the remaining 10 km is in Delhi.

About Gurgaon - Delhi Expressway:

Length: 27.7 km

Constructed: 23 January 2008

Highway system: Indian National Highway System

West end: Manesar (Gurgaon)

Major cities: Gurugram, Delhi

Haryana: Union minister Piyush Goyal inaugurates new NIFT campus in Panchkula

- The 17th campus of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in Panchkula was officially opened by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Union Minister Piyush Goyal, who referred to it as the “fulcrum of development of the textile sector in the state.” According to Khattar, 20% of seats at this institute will be earmarked for people from Haryana in accordance with NIFT rules. He said that this campus’ foundation stone was set on December 29, 2016, by Smriti Irani, who was the Union Textiles Minister at the time.
- The CM stated that the institute building, which was constructed across 10.45 acres of land in cooperation with the textile ministry, cost Rs 133.16 crore to build.
- The new NIFT campus will launch three online hybrid courses in photography for e-commerce, social media marketing, and digital designing for textiles.

About Haryana:

Capital: Chandigarh

Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya

Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar

PM Modi inaugurates Deoghar Airport and other development projects in Jharkhand

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially inaugurated and set the cornerstone for a number of construction projects totaling more than 16,800 crores of rupees in Deoghar. At a public event held on the grounds of Deoghar College, the prime minister declared that the government is funding religious institutions in order to preserve our culture and faith for future generations.
- According to PM Modi, all religious sites that have been built with modern amenities have drawn an increased number of visitors and followers.

- Under the PRASAD programme, modern amenities have also been increased in Baba Baidyanath Dham.
- The development of Varanasi, the prime minister said, has helped small vendors, sellers, and artisans do more business. He used the Varanasi-Kashi corridor as an example.
- The prime minister reaffirmed the motto Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Vikas, stating that our government has been working hard to promote development in all of the nation's underdeveloped regions.

About Jharkhand:

Governor: Shri Ramesh Bais

Founded: 15 November 2000

Capital: Ranchi

Chief Minister: Hemant Soren

AAI Leh Airport is being built as India's first carbon-neutral airport

- The Airports Authority of India, Leh airport is being built as a carbon-neutral airport, a first in India. A "Geothermal system" in hybridization with Solar PV Plant will be provided in the New airport Terminal Building for heating and cooling purposes. This system works by exchanging heat between the air and the ground as its heat pumps are used for space heating and cooling, as well as water heating.
- The main feature of this process is that naturally existing heat is concentrated and used. It is estimated that 900 tons of carbon emissions per year will be reduced after adopting the Geothermal system at the Leh Airport Terminal Building project.

About Airports Authority of India:

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 1 April 1995

Chairman: Sanjeev Kumar

Meghalaya set to invest Rs 300 crore in early childhood education programmes

- Meghalaya Chief Minister, Conrad K Sangma has announced Government that the government has earmarked Rs 300 crore from the externally aided projects to make investments in early childhood education programmes. An estimated amount of Rs 8.33 crore has been spent on the construction of the DERT. The state and has come up with a road map to invest in early childhood education programmes.
- The Government aims to achieve the larger goal of making each individual product that will enable every individual to contribute for the growth and development of the State. The Government has been making investments to overhaul the education infrastructure, teachers training at the grassroots level to ensure an enabling environment for learning."

About Meghalaya:

Capital: Shillong

Chief Minister: Conrad Kongkal Sangma

Governor: Satya Pal Malik

India's CBI now has access to Interpol's INTERNATIONAL Child Sexual Exploitation database

- India has joined Interpol's INTERNATIONAL child sexual exploitation (ICSE) database which will allow it to draw links between victims, abusers, and crime scenes using audio-visual data. The CBI, which is India's nodal agency for Interpol matters, joined the database making India the 68th country to connect to it, according to a statement from Interpol.
- An intelligence and investigative tool, the database allows specialized investigators to share information on cases of child sexual abuse.
- Through the image and video comparison software, the investigators can nail down the criminals by identifying victims and places of crime.

About Interpol:

Headquarters: Lyon, France;

President: Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi;

Founded: 7 September 1923, Vienna, Austria.

President Ram Nath Kovind addressed Yuva Sammelan organized by 'My Home India'

- The Yuva Sammelan, which was hosted by "My Home India" in New Delhi, was attended by Ram Nath Kovind, the President of India. The President stated that youth are a nation's present and future when speaking at the event. Their skills have a distinct impact on elevating a nation. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that today's youth will write tomorrow's history. According to the President, there are more adolescents and young people in India than anywhere else in the world. This phenomenon, known as the "Demographic Dividend," presents an opportunity for our nation.
- India is home to one unicorn out of every ten found worldwide today. Additionally, he mentioned that as of May 2022, 47 businesses worldwide have attained the status of "decacorn," including four start-ups in India, three of which were led by young people.
- Pandemic has caused significant socioeconomic suffering globally, even during this time our young entrepreneurs have set a wonderful example of courage and talent. He pointed to the increase in the number of unicorns in India even during the COVID-19.
- My Home India" had established prizes like "One India" and "Karmayogi." He mentioned the extensive social work that this NGO is also involved in.

About President of India:

Party: Bharatiya Janata Party

Presidential term: 25 July 2017

Previous office: Governor of Bihar (2015–2017)

Organization founded: Fifteenth Finance

Andhra Pradesh CM Jagan unanimously elected as lifetime president of YSRCP

- Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress (YSRC) elected Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, as its "president for life." Following a change to the party's constitution, the following decision was made following the two-day plenary of the YSRC. Jagan Mohan Reddy would be given lifetime leadership of the YSRCP, according to Vijayasai Reddy, the leader of the YSRC's Parliamentary Party.

- In order to assist her daughter YS Sharmila in Telangana, YS Vijayamma, the mother of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, stated that she is considering resigning from her position as honorary president of the YSRCP.
- She also launched the YSR Telangana Party in 2021 with the intention of challenging the state's assembly elections.
- After parting with the Congress in March 2011, Jagan Mohan Reddy founded the YSRCP.

About Andhra Pradesh:

Capital: Amaravati

Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan

Chief Minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

Founded: 1 November 1956

About YSRCP:

President: Y. S. Vijayamma

Leader: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

Headquarters: Plot no. 13, Suryadevara Township, Tadepalli, Guntur Dist

Founder: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

Union Min Jitendra Singh To Inaugurate IS4OM For Safe & Sustainable Space Environment

- With the help of the ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operation and Management (IS4OM), India has increased its ability to protect its space assets on its own. Mr. S Somanath, Secretary of the Department of Space and Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization, are slated to officially launch the IS4OM in the presence of Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences.
- The IS4OM system was developed with a comprehensive viewpoint, according to ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation), to assure the safety and sustainability of the space environment while enjoying the benefits of sustainable use of space for national development.
- Additionally, as part of IS4OM, specialised labs for space debris reduction and cleanup, compliance verification of UN/Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) recommendations, and diverse R&D activities have been set up.
- A dedicated control centre for operations aimed at monitoring, tracking, and safeguarding India's space assets was opened by ISRO in December 2020.

About ISRO:

Chairman: Shri S. Somanath

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founded: 15 August 1969

Founder: Vikram Sarabhai

Pariman: National Capital Region Planning Board's geo-portal now accessible for public

- Geo-Portal for NCR known as 'PARIMAN' was launched on 31.08.2021 in the 40th meeting of the Board by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairman, NCRPB and Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs. For the purpose of effective utilization of remote sensing and GIS technology, a web geo-portal has been developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC), initially for use

by the National Capital Region (NCR) participating states and the office of the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB).

- This Geo-Portal will help to improve decentralized planning and management in the NCR region. The Portal consists of around 179 Layers presented as Line, Point & Polygon features covering details of various sectors like Land Use, Transport, Industries, Water, Power, Health, Shelter, Heritage & Tourism, Disaster Management, etc.

About National Informatics Centre (NIC):

Director General: Shri Rajesh Gera

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 1976

PM Modi attends first 'Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture' in Delhi's Vigyan Bhavan

- In the nation's capital, at Vigyan Bhavan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the inaugural Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture (AJML). Throughout the occasion, he will also address the group. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Senior Minister, Government of Singapore, will give the opening keynote speech at the first AJML on the topic of "Growth through Inclusivity, Inclusivity through Growth." After the presentation, Mathias Cormann, the secretary-general of the OECD, and Arvind Panagariya will participate in a panel discussion (Professor, Columbia University).
- The first Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture was held, according to a PMO press release, in honour of the former union minister's significant contributions to the country.
- The Prime Minister will also engage in conversation with the participants attending the three-day Kautilya Economic Conclave (KEC), which runs from July 8 to July 10.

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Capital: New Delhi

Lieutenant Governor: Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena

After A Gap Of Two Years, 2022 Kharchi Festival begins In Tripura

- A week-long traditional Kharchi festival, offering prayer to 14 gods and goddess, began with thousands of devotees converging at Khayerpur on the eastern outskirts of the Tripura. Kharchi Puja is predominantly a tribal festival but it owes its origins to Hindu religion. Devotees and sadhus from across India and neighbouring Bangladesh have also participated in the festival.
- According to Tripura royal family's "Rajmala", Queen Hiravati once went to take a bath in the river Maharani and noticed a wild buffalo chasing the 14 gods. With the help of the queen's cloth the gods managed to kill the beast. Happy with Hirabati's help, the gods visited the palace and the royal family offered puja by sacrificing wild buffaloes.

About Tripura

Capital: Agartala;

Chief Minister: Dr. Manik Saha;

Governor: Satyadeo Narain Arya

Kejriwal govt launches 'Mission Kushal Karmi' to hone skills of construction workers

- Manish Sisodia, the deputy chief minister of Delhi, started Mission Kushal Karmi to help construction workers improve their abilities. According to a formal press release, the Delhi government developed this programme with assistance from the Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) and Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.
- This DSEU programme to increase the skills of construction workers, in collaboration with Simplex, NAREDCO, and India Vision Foundation, is particularly unique. Workers will upskill as part of this 15-day special training programme, which will increase their salaries in the future.
- This will contribute to an increase in worker salary of up to Rs 8,000. Under this scheme, the government wants to train 2 lakh workers in one year.

About National Real Estate Development Council:

Founded: 1998

Parent organization: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Key people: Rajeev Talwar (Chairman) Niranjan Hiranandani (Vice Chairman) Rajan Bandelkar (President)

Abbreviation: NAREDCO

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Lieutenant Governor: Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena

Capital: New Delhi

PM Modi inaugurates Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam in Varanasi; Says NEP aims to elevate education from narrow mind-sets to modern ideas

- According to a press release from the Prime Minister's Office, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam on the National Education Policy in Varanasi. The Prime Minister told the audience that "our education system and young generation carry a large role of realising the vows of the "Amrit Kaal." He bowed to Mahamana Madan Mohan Malviya, wishing the Samagam all the best. The Prime Minister opened the Akshay Patra Mid-Day Meal Kitchen at LT College earlier in the day.
- PM claimed that the high level of talent displayed by the students with whom he interacted is a sign of the work required to develop such talent.
- The National Education Policy's fundamental tenet is to liberate education from constrictive thinking and integrate it with contemporary concepts.
- The Shiksha Samagam is being put on by the Ministry of Education. Eminent academics, policymakers, and academic leaders will have a forum to deliberate, exchange their experiences, and discuss the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 implementation roadmap.

About Prime Minister's Office:

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

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

Headquarters: South Block, Secretariat Building, Raisina Hill, New Delhi, India

Minister responsible: Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India

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

Rashtrapati Bhavan organises 2-day workshop on 'Disaster Management of Museums and Heritage Buildings'

- At the Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum, Rashtrapati Bhavan has organised a workshop on "Disaster Management of Museums and Heritage Buildings" in collaboration with the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM). The President's Secretariat announced today that the goal of this training is to raise knowledge of disaster management among Rashtrapati Bhavan staff and other stakeholders, with a special focus on heritage buildings, museums, and cultural heritage.
- Participants will take part in various sessions over the course of the two-day workshop to learn about the different facets of the Disaster Management Act, the Disaster Management framework and guidelines, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), the Prime Minister's 10 Point Agenda on Disaster Risk Reduction, etc.
- The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) is India's top training and capacity-building organisation for dealing with natural catastrophes on a national and regional level. The Disaster Management Act 2005, which was approved by the President of India on January 9, 2006, renamed the National Centre of Disaster Management (NCDM), which was established by an Act of Parliament in 1995, to give it the current name of National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM).

About Rashtrapati Bhavan:

Opened: 1929

Former names: Viceroy's House (until 1947); Government House (1947–1950)

Alternative names: Presidential House

Current tenants: Ram Nath Kovind; (President of India); Savita Kovind; (First Lady of India)

About NIDM:

Founded: 1995

President: Union Home Minister of India

Formerly called: National Centre for Disaster Management; (Upgraded to present status on 16 October 2003)

Executive Director: Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal

SVANidhi Mahotsav Portal launched by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri

- On the occasion of second anniversary of the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbharNidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, the Housing and Urban affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri launched the 'SVANidhi Mahotsav,' which will be celebrated from 9th to 31st of July. The festival will be organized in 75 cities across all states and Union Territories, and showcase various cultural activities, digital training activities and loan melas. It will also have functions for felicitation of distinguished Street vendors.
- The festival aims to celebrate 75 years of independence with the nano-entrepreneurs and it is the first of its kind for the financial inclusion of street vendors. He further added that three thousand six hundred crore rupees has been distributed to beneficiaries of the scheme. The PM SVANidhi programme was launched by the modi government in July 2020

to provide financial assistance through loans to street vendors who were reeling under the devastating effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

About Housing and Urban affairs Minister:

Officeholder: Hardeep Singh Puri (Union Minister)

Formed: 1952; 70 years ago

Headquarters: Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi

Ministry executive: Durga Shanker Mishra, IAS, Secretary (Housing and Urban Affairs)

Departments: Housing and Urban Development Corporation, NBCC (India) Limited

HM Amit Shah virtually unveils 'Statue of Peace' of Swami Ramanujacharya in Srinagar

- Union home minister, Amit Shah virtually unveiled the 'Statue of Peace' of Swamy Ramanujacharya in Srinagar, located in a temple in the Sonwar region. Saint Ramanujacharya, also known as Ramanuja, is considered to be a great thinker, philosopher and social reformer, a south Indian Brahmin born in Tamil Nadu's Sriperumbudur.
- Ramanuja is known to have revolted against the discrimination of untouchability and played a role in bringing a big change in society. He is a follower of Vaishnavism and taught people the principles of salvation.
- He wrote many books, including Sri Bhashya, Vedartha Sangraha and Bhagavad Gita Bhasya, based on his belief that is different from the teachings of Adi Shankaracharya. The saint is known for judging people not by their caste at birth, but by their character.
- He is believed to be the first Hindu acharya to initiate women into 'sanyasa' (renunciation of the world). He is also known for blending Vedanta methodology with 'bhakti'. After Ramanuja's demise, the female community of 'sanyasinis' faded away.

About Ministry of Home Affairs:

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 15 August 1947

Ministry executive: Ajay Kumar Bhalla, IAS, Home Secretary

Departments: Intelligence Bureau, National Investigation Agency

Officeholders: Manish Tiwari (Joint secretary to the Government of India)

Western Railways opens its longest skywalk connecting Bandra Terminus to Khar station in Mumbai

- The Western Railway's (WR) longest skywalk from the Khar Road railway station to the nearby Bandra Terminus has been opened for the passengers to reach the platforms to board trains easily. The skywalk spans 314 meters long and is 4.4 meters wide. Western Railway's noted that the skywalk will allow passengers to reach Bandra (T) directly by deboarding at Khar station & taking south Foot Over Bridge.
- This skywalk has made travelling very convenient as earlier passengers travelling by suburban trains had to get down at Bandra or Khar Railway station to reach Bandra Terminus by walking.
- The new skywalk was built at an estimated cost of Rs 14 crore. Around 510 MT structural steel, 20 MT Reinforcement steel and 240 cum of concrete was used for the construction. This skywalk will connect all foot over bridges of Bandra Terminus.

About Maharashtra:

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

Rajasthan govt moving fast in the direction of 'Right to Health': Gehlot

- The Rajasthan government is soon likely to introduce in the Assembly the Right to Health Bill, "the first of its kind in India", which aims to commit to quality and affordable health care services through government and private health care providers. In January, the government had prepared a draft bill that defines the rights of patients, their attendants and health care providers, as well as a system for addressing grievances of the stakeholders.
- The right to health bill is part of the Rajasthan government's bid to expand and strengthen medical services in the state.
- Recently, the chief minister approved Rs 117 crore towards expansion of the facilities in Mahila Chikitsalaya (women's hospital) at Sanganeri Gate in Jaipur.
- The state has also ensured health security of every family by providing free treatment up to Rs 10 lakh to the people through Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana.
- Along with this, an accident insurance of up to Rs 5 lakh is being given to the families registered in the scheme.
- Also, medicines and tests of the patients coming to government health facilities are being provided free of cost.

About Rajasthan:

Governor: Kalraj Mishra;
Capital: Jaipur;
Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot.

Delhi To Host 30-Day Mega Shopping Festival In 2023 With Concerts & Food Walks

- Delhi will host its first ever government-backed shopping festival from January 28 to February 26 next year, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal announced. The festival will have 200 concerts for entertainment, food walks and will also offer huge discounts on products. This will be the biggest ever shopping festival in India.
- The Delhi Shopping Festival was one of the ambitious projects proposed in the Rozgaar Budget 2022-23 presented by deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia in March this year.
- During the festival, huge discounts will be offered on products to customers and awards will also be given to keep the quality of the festival high.
- There will be exhibitions on spirituality, gaming, wellness and technology. For 30 days during the festival, Delhi will be decked up like a bride.

About Delhi:

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

Composer Ilaiyaraaja, athlete P T Usha among four nominated to Rajya Sabha

- The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has nominated four noted personalities from the southern states to the Rajya Sabha.

The four nominated personalities are:

- PT Usha - Popularly known as the 'Payyoli Express', PT Usha is one of India's most iconic sportspersons. She has represented the country and won medals at various international sporting events, including the World Junior Invitational Meet, Asia Championships, and Asian Games. She is a recipient of the Arjuna award and the Padma Shri.
- Ilaiyaraaja- Born in a Dalit household in a village in the Madurai district of Tamil Nadu, Ilaiyaraaja is regarded as one of India's greatest music composers. In a career spanning more than five decades, he has composed over 7,000 songs for more than 1000 movies and performed in more than 20,000 concerts across the globe. In 2018, he received the Padma Vibhushan. He has also been awarded the Padma Bhushan.
- Veerendra Heggade has served as the Dharmadhikari of the Dharmasthala Temple in Karnataka since the age of 20. He has been a devoted philanthropist for more than five decades. He has led various transformative initiatives for rural development and the promotion of self-employment.
- KV Vijayendra Prasad-Born in Kovvur in Andhra Pradesh, KV Vijayendra Prasad has written the story for many prominent Telugu and Hindi movies. He is the father of SS Rajamouli, one of the country's most famous film directors.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Digital India Week 2022 at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Digital India Week 2022 at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The theme of this Digital India Week is 'Catalyzing New India's Techade' to transform the nation into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Digital India Week 2022 will also have a three-day long orientation program 'India Stack Knowledge Exchange- Showcasing India Stack and India's Digital Products and Service' from 7th July.
- Mr. Modi has also launched 'Digital India Bhashini' that will enable Indians an easy access to the internet and digital services in vernacular languages.
- He also launched 'Digital India GENESIS' – Gen-next Support for Innovative Startups- a national deep-tech startup platform. The total budget of 750 crore rupees has been envisaged for these schemes.
- The Prime Minister has also dedicated 'MyScheme', which will provide access to government schemes at a single place.

About Gujarat:

Capital: Gandhinagar

Governor: Acharya Devvrat

Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel

DRDO successfully carries out maiden flight of unmanned fighter aircraft

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out the Maiden flight of Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator from Aeronautical Test Range at Chitradurga in Karnataka. The flight operated in a fully autonomous mode. The aircraft exhibited a perfect flight, including take-off, way point navigation and a smooth touchdown.
- The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) powered by a small turbofan engine.

- It has been designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru, one of the research laboratories of DRDO.
- The focus is now on Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence and the government has urged the armed forces to buy the indigenous platforms and less imports. This year in the Union Budget, Rs 70,221 crore has been set aside for domestic defence procurement, and this accounts for 63 percent of the defence capital budget.

About DRDO:

Founded: 1 January 1958;

Headquarters: New Delhi;

Chairman: G. Satheesh Reddy;

Motto: Strength's Origin is in Knowledge.

Rahul Narwekar, is India's youngest Speaker

- Mumbai lawyer and first-time legislator, Rahul Narwekar has been elected as the youngest Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and also becomes the youngest ever in India to hold this august Constitutional post. Narwekar scripted history to become the youngest legislator to be elected as the 16th Speaker (since 1960) and also is now the youngest ever lawmaker to occupy the coveted top legislative post in the country.
- Narwekar received a total of 164 votes in support and 107 went to Shiv Sena candidate's account. During the Speaker elections, 12 members were absent and 3 legislators abstained from the voting. Narwekar (45), a sitting MLA from Colaba, left Shiv Sena in 2014 to contest the 2014 Lok Sabha polls from Maval constituency as a NCP candidate. However, he suffered defeat but was elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Council and remained its member till 2019.

About Maharashtra:

Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari

Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde

Capital: Mumbai

PM to inaugurate Bundelkhand Expressway next week: CM

- The Bundelkhand Expressway is likely to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the first week of July. The expected dates, announced by the government are July 6 or 7. The Bundelkhand Expressway is 296.07 km and connects the Bundelkhand region of Agra to the National Capital Region and Delhi. A senior state government official said, "The Prime Minister's office has conveyed July 6-7 as tentative dates for the inaugural ceremony of the Bundelkhand Expressway. But the final decision on the dates is yet to be taken." The Bundelkhand Expressway originates at Bharatkoop in Chitrakoot district and it merges with Agra-Lucknow Expressway at Kudrail village in Etawah district.
- Under the Yogi Government, the inauguration of the Bundelkhand Expressway will be the second mega event. On 3rd June, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present as the chief guest at the third groundbreaking ceremony in the state. The Expressway was completed ahead of its deadline only 28 months after its inauguration on 29th February 2020 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The actual target set for the completion of this Expressway was 36 months. With this project, the Yogi Government has saved 1,132 crore, which is

approximately 12.72% of the original estimated cost. The four-lane Bundelkhand Expressway is expected to expand to six-lane in the coming year and it has 14 interchange points that connect seven districts of the state. The inauguration of the expressway will be done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a village called Katheri in the Jalaun district.

About Uttar Pradesh:

Governor: Anandiben Patel

Capital: Lucknow (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath

Steel Ministry integrates itself with GatiShakti portal using BiSAG-N app

- The Ministry of Steel said that it has joined the PM Gati Shakti Portal and uploaded the geo coordinates of important projects in an effort to detect and address connection gaps in the infrastructure. According to a press release, the ministry registered itself on the National Master Plan portal with the help of the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BiSAG-N) app.
- All of the central public-sector enterprises' (CPSE) steel plants' geolocations have been published to the portal. All of these CPSEs' mine locations were in the process of being uploaded.
- The ministry also intends to post the locations of the country's more than 2,000 steel production facilities.
- Future updates will also provide more pertinent information, such as production capacity and product specifics for each unit and mine.

INDIAN ARMY ORGANISES "SURAKSHA MANTHAN" ON BORDER AND COASTAL SECURITY

- The Desert Corps of the Indian Army organised the "Suraksha Manthan 2022", on aspects of Border & Coastal Security at Jodhpur (Rajasthan). During the course of the discussions, aspects of interoperability, operational cohesion and logistics were ironed out in order to enhance overall security along the International Boundary (IB) and coastal sectors.
- A joint training calendar was also formulated to achieve a higher degree of interoperability and jointness amongst the security forces. Current security threats and challenges, along with joint mitigation response, were deliberated upon and such scenarios would now form part of the forthcoming exercises. It was further decided to create an enabling security environment and develop a tangible capability development road map to achieve the same.

Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal Launches A Three-Day "Grand Hackathon" On Agriculture Domain To Promote Open ECommerce Network

- Union Minister Piyush Goyal has virtually kicked off a three-day Grand Hackathon that the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is hosting in association with NABARD. The physical portion of this event took place at the Fort, Mumbai location of the Bombay Stock Exchange. The Grand Hackathon is divided into two categories: the Agri Grant Challenge and the Agri Innovation Hackathon, both of which will highlight innovations that will help the agriculture sector adopt eCommerce.

- Speaking at the event, Shri Goyal stated that the newly created ONDC-NABARD Grand Hackathon will give start-ups a platform to collaborate with ONDC and develop creative solutions for some of the most urgent problems in the agri-sector.
- Even though it might seem like a tiny move right now, in the long run, this will give farmers all throughout the nation more influence. Early signs suggest that this will likely affect not only the way e-commerce operates in India but maybe the entire world.

NMCG creates Namami Gange Amrit Vatika at Kalindi Kunj Ghat on River Yamuna in New Delhi

- With the installation of 75 trees as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) established Namami Gange Amrit Vatika at Kalindi Kunj Ghat on the River Yamuna in New Delhi. The project Yamuna Ghat par Vriksharopan served as the umbrella organisation for the plantation works. The Union Government of India authorised the Namami Gange Program, an integrated conservation mission, as a “Flagship Program” in June 2014 with a financial commitment of Rs. 20,000 crore.
- Speaking at the event, Director General of NMCG G. Asok Kumar stated that one of the Namami Gange Program’s main areas of concentration is cleaning up Ganga tributaries, particularly Yamuna. The attendees were inspired by him to join the Clean Yamuna initiative. The National Mission for Clean Ganga regularly hosts a cleanliness drive on the River Yamuna in Delhi on the fourth Saturday of each month.

India's largest floating solar project commissioned in Telangana

- NTPC Ltd has declared the Commercial Operations Date (COD) of the last part capacity of 20 MW out of 100 MW Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project in Telangana. Ramagundam Floating Solar PV Project is India’s largest Floating Solar Plant commissioned by NTPC. Now the total commercial operation of Floating Solar Capacity in Southern Region has reached 217 MW. Prior to this, NTPC declared Commercial operation of 92 MW Floating Solar at Kayamkulam (Kerala) and 25 MW Floating Solar at Simhadri (Andhra Pradesh).
- According to the ministry, the total installed capacity of the company is 69,134.20 MW having 23 coal based, seven gas based, one Hydro, 19 renewable energy projects. Under JV, NTPC has nine coal based, four gas based, eight hydro and five renewable energy projects.

About NTPC Ltd:

Founded: 7 November 1975

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

PM Modi inaugurates Bosch India's 'smart' campus in Bengaluru

- The new smart campus of Bosch India, a top provider of technology and services in Bengaluru, was essentially inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. According to a business statement, Modi noted in his inauguration address that this year is a historic one for both India and Bosch India as both countries mark their 75th anniversaries of independence.
- Bosch first arrived in India as a German corporation a century ago; now, it is equally as Indian as it is German. This is a fantastic illustration of Indian energy and German engineering.

- Leading the way in creating cutting-edge goods and solutions for both India and the rest of the world is this campus. Prime Minister implore Bosch to plan for the next 25 years and consider doing more in India.
- By converting its headquarters in Aduvodi, India, into a new smart campus named Spark, Bosch India announced that it is increasing its AIoT (Artificial Intelligence of Things) efforts in that country.
- Bosch claimed to have spent Rs 800 crore over the previous five years building the campus, which has the capacity to house 10,000 associates.

About Karnataka:

Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot

Capital: Bengaluru (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Basavaraj Bommai

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 Australian and Indian officers, 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)

SPORTS

England beat Germany 2-1 in extra time to win Euro 2022

- The European Championship final saw England defeat Germany 2-1 to claim its first significant women's soccer championship. After Germany failed to successfully clear a corner, Chloe Kelly scored the game-winning goal on a rebound in the second period of extra time. At Wembley Stadium, the score was tied 1-1 after 90 minutes thanks to goals from Germany's Lina Magull and England's Ella Toone. The result was decided in extra-time.
- After leading her native Netherlands to victory in 2017, England coach Sarina Wiegman made history by becoming the first manager to win the Euros with two separate teams.
- The fans sang their national anthem, Sweet Caroline, as the England players danced after the final horn.
- Lina Magull, a substitute, gave Germany a chance to tie the game and force extra time, but Kelly came up big to win it for England and excite the home crowd.
- In the warm-up, Germany was dealt a blow when striker Alexandra Popp, who had six goals in five games in her debut Euros, had to leave the game due to a muscle injury. Lea Schuller was inserted into the lineup in her place.

About UEFA Women's EURO England 2022:

Location: England

Dates: 6 Jul 2022 – 31 Jul 2022

Teams: 16

Matches played: 30

Max Verstappen pulls away in F1 standings after victory at Hungarian GP

- Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) has won the Formula One (F1) 2022 Hungarian Grand Prix 2022. This is his overall 28th race win and the 10th win of the 2022 season. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) stood second and George Russell (Mercedes – Britain) came third.
- Max Emilian Verstappen is a Belgian-Dutch racing driver and the 2021 Formula One World Champion. He competes under the Dutch flag in Formula One with Red Bull Racing. He is the son of former Formula One driver Jos Verstappen.

About Max Verstappen:

Born: 30 September 1997 (age 24 years), Hasselt, Belgium

Nationality: Belgian, Dutch

Dates joined: 2016 (Red Bull Racing), 2015 (Scuderia Toro Rosso)

CWG 2022: Gururaja Poojary wins bronze in men's 61kg weightlifting

- Indian weightlifter, Gururaja Poojary has won a bronze medal in the men's 61kg final at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022. Poojary successfully pulled off a combined lift of 269kg, (118kg in snatch and 151kg in clean and jerk) to ensure India's second medal of the Games. The Indian lifter registered a score of 118 (kg) in Snatch and 151 (kg) in Clean & Jerk to put forward a total of 269 (kg) at the event and claim the third podium place. He was involved in a close battle with Canada's Youri Simard but managed to beat him in the end for the medal.

- Malaysian, Aznil Bin Bidin Muhammed wins gold with a commonwealth games record of 285 Kgs. 127 Kg in snatch and 158 Kg in clean and jerk. Papua New Guine, Morea Baru bagged the silver medal with a total effort of 273 kg.

About commonwealth games 2022:

Closing ceremony: 8 August 2022

Motto: Sport is the beginning of all

Main venue: Alexander Stadium

Nations participating: 72 Commonwealth nations (expected)

Athletes participating: 5,054

Commonwealth Games 2022 : Mirabai Chanu wins first gold Medal for India

- Daughter of India, weightlifter Mirabai Chanu has won India's first Gold Medal at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in the Women's 49Kg weightlifting category. She aggregated a total of 201kg (88kg+113kg) to stamp her authority in the competition and achieve a Commonwealth Games record in the process. The silver went to Mauritius' Marie Hanitra Roilya Ranaivosoa (172kg) and the bronze to Canada's Hannah Kaminski (171 kg).
- Last year, Chanu won a silver medal in the 49kg category of Women's weightlifting event at the Tokyo Olympics. And with that, she became the first Indian weightlifter to win a silver medal in Olympics. Chanu also become the second Indian weightlifter to win an Olympic medal after Karnam Malleswari bagged bronze in the 69kg category at the 2000 Sydney Games when the weightlifting arena was opened to women for the first time.

About commonwealth games 2022:

Closing ceremony: 8 August 2022

Motto: Sport is the beginning of all

Main venue: Alexander Stadium

Nations participating: 72 Commonwealth nations (expected)

Athletes participating: 5,054

Bindyarani Devi wins CWG 2022 silver with record-breaking lift in 55kg final

- Another Weightlifter of India, Bindyarani Devi (55kg) has clinched a silver in the women's 55kg as India continued its medal rush at the Commonwealth Games. She lifted a total weight of 202kg (86kg+116kg). Nigeria's Adijat Adenike Olarinoye also obliterated the Games record in snatch and total effort with an aggregate of 203kg (92kg+111kg) to win the gold medal. Local favourite Fraer Morrow finished third with a total lift of 198kg (86kg+109kg).
- Manipur's Bindyarani Devi Sorokhaibam (born 27 January 1999) is an Indian weightlifter who competes in the 55 kg weight class. She won gold at the 2019 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships and silver at the 2021 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships. She also won gold in clean and jerk at the 2021 World Weightlifting Championships.

About commonwealth games 2022:

Closing ceremony: 8 August 2022

Motto: Sport is the beginning of all

Main venue: Alexander Stadium

Nations participating: 72 Commonwealth nations (expected)

Athletes participating: 5,054

Jeremy Lalrinnunga wins gold in Men's 67kg weightlifting finals

- India's Jeremy Lalrinnunga has won the gold medal in men's 67 kg category weightlifting at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. The 19-year-old Youth Olympic champion lifted a total of 300kg (140kg+160kg) to get the first position. This is the second gold for the country and fifth medal overall. Samoan weightlifter Vaipava Nevo Ioane secured a silver medal with a lift of 293 (127kg + 166kg) and Nigeria's Edidiong Joseph Umoafia won bronze, 290kg (130kg+160kg).
- Jeremy Lalrinnunga is an Indian weightlifter from Aizawl, Mizoram. He represented India in the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires. He won the gold medal in the Boys' 62 kg category weightlifting with a lift of 274 kg (124 kg in snatch and 150 kg in clean and jerk). It was India's first gold medal in the Youth Olympics Games. Jeremy won the silver medal in the Asian weightlifting championship. At the 2019 World Weightlifting Championships, Lalrinnunga finished at 21st rank at the Men's 67 kg event.

About commonwealth games 2022:

Closing ceremony: 8 August 2022

Motto: Sport is the beginning of all

Main venue: Alexander Stadium

Nations participating: 72 Commonwealth nations (expected)

Athletes participating: 5,054

Weightlifter Achinta Sheuli lifts record 313 kgs, clinch gold medal in Commonwealth Games

- India's weightlifter, Achinta Sheuli (73 Kg representative) bagged the gold medal in The Commonwealth Games 2022. The 20-year-old claimed the yellow metal with a combined effort of 313 Kilograms (143kg in snatch and 170kg in clean & jerk). India has been performing exceptionally well in weightlifting as the contingent has already bagged 6 medals in this edition.
- Malaysia's Erry Hidayat Muhammad, who gave Sheuli a tough competition, ended as the second-best lifter in the event. He had the best effort of 303kg (138kg 165kg). Canada's Shad Darsigny was third with a total lift of 298kg (135kg 163kg).

About commonwealth games 2022:

Closing ceremony: 8 August 2022

Motto: Sport is the beginning of all

Main venue: Alexander Stadium

Nations participating: 72 Commonwealth nations (expected)

Athletes participating: 5,054

Four-time Formula One champ Sebastian Vettel to retire at end of the season

- Four-time Formula One champion, Sebastian Vettel who is currently a part of Aston Martin announced his retirement. The 35-year-old German driver declared that he will retire at the end of the season. He is one of the most successful drivers in the F1 race is currently third

on the list of all-time Grand Prix winners with 53 victories, trailing only Lewis Hamilton and Michael Schumacher.

- Sebastian Vettel won his first three F1 titles consecutively from the year 2010 to 2013 with Team Red Bull. His previous race win was in the year 2019 with Ferrari. In his career, Vettel has driven for BMW Sauber, Toro Rosso, Red Bull, Ferrari, and Aston Martin. He is the youngest World Champion in Formula One and has 122 podium finishes, and 57 pole positions.

About Sebastian Vettel:

Born: 3 July 1987 (age 35 years), Heppenheim, Germany

Current team: Aston Martin Aramco Cognizant F1 Team

Leicester Cricket Ground of England named after Indian legend Sunil Gavaskar

- England's Leicester Cricket Ground has been named after India's legendary cricketer, Sunil Gavaskar. The Leicester Cricket Ground, the ownership of which lies with Bharat Sports and Cricket Club, has decided to name the ground after Gavaskar to acknowledge his immense contribution to uplifting Indian Cricket to a certain height.
- There has been a ground already named after Sunil Gavaskar in the Kentucky area of the United States of America (USA) and there is another ground going through its finishing touches in the Zanzibar area of the African nation Tanzania which is also named after the former Indian opener.
- He was the first cricketer to score 10,000 runs and once held the record for most number (34) of centuries.
- During the 70s and 80s, when West Indies were ruling world cricket, Gavaskar was impressed with his impressive technique against the Windies' fast bowlers. He was also part of the Indian team that won the 1983 World Cup.

About England:

Capital: London

Currency: Pound sterling

Prime Minister: Boris Johnson

FIFA Women's World Cup: Cabinet approves signing of guarantees for hosting

- The signing of the guarantees for hosting the FIFA Under 17 Women's World Cup in India in 2022 has been accepted by the Union Cabinet, which is presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 is slated to take place in India from October 11 to October 30. The seventh iteration of the biennial youth competition will mark India's first-ever hosting of a FIFA women's championship.
- The nation is getting ready for a historic time for women's football, when the top young female footballers from across the world will be demonstrating their skills to lift the prized trophy, continuing the positive legacy from the FIFA Under-17 Men's World Cup 2017.
- The budgetary allotment for the Scheme of Aid to National Sports Federations will be used to cover the financial outlay of Rs 10 crore assistance to the All India Football Federation (AIFF) for field of play maintenance, stadium power, energy & cabling, stadium & training site branding, etc.

- At the moment, Spain is the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup champion. The seventh iteration of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup will take place in India in 2022 will include 16 nations, including India.
- Three locations have been suggested by the AIFF for the competition matches, Bhubaneswar, Navi Mumbai, and Goa. The FIFA Under-17 Men's World Cup India-2017 was successfully held in India at six different locations.

About FIFA:

President: Gianni Infantino

Founded: 21 May 1904, Rue Saint Honoré, Paris, France

Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland

PV Sindhu, Manpreet Singh named India's flagbearers at Commonwealth Games opening ceremony

- Ace India badminton player P.V. Sindhu has been chosen as the flagbearer of the Indian contingent for the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games 2022. The opening ceremony will be held on July 28, 2022, at Alexander Stadium in Birmingham. She was the flag-bearer at the opening ceremony of the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, where she won silver in the women's singles event.
- Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, who was also the defending champion in the Commonwealth Games having won the gold in Gold Coast four years ago, was expected to be the flag-bearer. But a groin injury following his silver medal at the World Championships forced him to pull out and the Indian Olympic Association picked Sindhu to be the flagbearer from a three-member shortlist. The 2022 edition of the Commonwealth Games has the largest contingent of female athletes in the history of the Games.

About P.V. Sindhu:

Born: 5 July 1995, Hyderabad

Full name: Pusarla Venkata Sindhu

Awards: Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, MORE

ICC awards membership status to Cambodia, Uzbekistan, Cote D'Ivoire

- The International Cricket Council has awarded membership status to three countries during the ongoing ICC Annual Conference in Birmingham. Cambodia and Uzbekistan from Asia, and Cote D'Ivoire from Africa, were all awarded Associate membership status, taking ICC's total members to 108 countries, including 96 Associates. The two Asian teams take the total count of Asian countries to 25 while Cote D'Ivoire is the 21st country from Africa.
- A major criteria to gain ICC Membership is detailed in 'Participation and domestic structures' of Clause 2.1 (d) of the ICC Membership Criteria.
- This includes having in place a proper structure with minimum team requirements for 50-over and 20-over tournaments, aside from clear junior and women's pathways.
- The three new countries satisfied these conditions, with the Cricket Federation of Uzbekistan's (CFU) women's cricket plan involving 15 teams playing organised competitions with a pathway programme for their Under-19 and Under-17 players.

About International Cricket Council (ICC):

Founded: 15 June 1909

CEO: Geoff Allardice
General Manager: Wasim Khan
Chairman: Greg Barclay
Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Membership: 108* members

Swiss Open 2022: Casper Ruud battles back to defeat Matteo Berrettini in Gstaad, claims ninth career title

- Norway's Casper Ruud has won the Swiss Open Tennis Tournament 2022 held in Gstaad, Switzerland. He defeated Italy's Matteo Berrettini in the final by 4-6, 7-6(4), 6-2. It was Ruud's 9th Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) title. The Swiss Open is Ruud's 3rd title in 2022, the other two titles are Buenos Aires and Geneva Open. Ruud had also won the 2021 Swiss Open title.
- Ruud snaps the 12-match unbeaten streak of Berrettini, who lifted trophies in Stuttgart and London earlier this year. It was Casper Ruud 9th ATP Title. Earlier this year, Ruud finished as the runner-up at the French Open, losing to Spanish ace Rafael Nadal.

About Swiss Open:

Founded: 1955
Location: Basel (2022); Switzerland
Venue: St. Jakobshalle (2022)
Prize money: USD\$180,000 (2022)
Most titles (female): 3; Ra Kyung-min
Most titles (male): 3; Kim Dong-moon

Music composer AR Rahman unveils anthem 'Vanakkam Chennai' for 44th International Chess Olympiad

- Grammy and Oscar-winning music composer, AR Rahman has come up with the 'Vanakkam Chennai' (Welcome Anthem) for the upcoming International Chess Olympiad, 2022. Directed by Vignesh Shivan, the music video features chief minister MK Stalin, grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand, and music maestro AR Rahman, who has composed and sung the theme song. The music video also features director Shankar's daughter as a Bharatanatyam artiste. The terrific music video has been praised by netizens for showing the culture of Tamil Nadu impressively.
- This year, the Fédération Internationale des Échecs will organise the 44th International Chess Olympiad in Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu.
- The 44th International Chess Olympiad, the world's biggest chess event, will be held at Poonjeri Village in Mamallapuram from July 28 to August 10. The venue is a UNESCO heritage site, located about 50 kilometres from Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

India land rights to host 2025 Women's ODI World Cup in 2025

- International Cricket Council (ICC) has confirmed that India will host the ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2025. BCCI will leave no stone unturned to make it a memorable event for everyone concerned. The infrastructure is in place and will have a very successful edition of the World Cup. The hosts were selected via a competitive bidding process overseen by a

Board sub-committee chaired by Martin Snedden along with Clare Connor, Sourav Ganguly and Ricky Skerrett.

- The ICC Board accepted the recommendations of the committee who conducted a thorough review of each bid along with ICC management. India, Bangladesh, England and Sri Lanka were named as the four hosts for ICC women's white-ball events from 2024-27.

About ICC:

Founded: 15 June 1909

CEO: Geoff Allardice

General Manager: Wasim Khan

Chairman: Greg Barclay

Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Membership: 106* members

New A+ Category Introduced For Umpires By The BCCI

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has introduced a new A+ category for its umpires and Nitin Menon, along with ten other officials, have been grouped in the category. Umpires in A+ and A categories are paid Rs 40,000 a day for a first-class game while Rs 30,000 a day are paid in the B and C category.
- The others in the A+ category include four international umpires: Anil Chaudhary, Madangopal Jayaraman, Virender Kumar Sharma and K N Ananthapadmabhanan.
- Rohan Pandit, Nikhil Patwardhan, Sadashiv Iyer, Ulhas Gandhe and Navdeep Singh Sidhu are also part of the A+ category.
- Twenty umpires including C Shamshuddin form the A group, 60 are in Group B, 46 in Group C and 11 in Group D which falls in the 60-65 age bracket.

About BCCI:

President: Sourav Ganguly

Secretary: Jay Shah

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: December 1928

India wicketkeeper-batter Karuna Jain announces retirement from all formats of cricket

- Former India wicketkeeper-batter Karuna Jain has decided to hang up her boots as she announces retirement from all formats of cricket. She made her debut against West Indies in Lucknow in 2004. She has represented India in 44 ODIs, five Tests and nine T20Is between 2004 and 2014.
- Jain scored an unbeaten 68 on her ODI debut and became just the fifth Indian woman to score a fifty on debut. The Bangalore-born also holds the third-highest score in women's ODI by a wicketkeeper-batter on debut after Reshma Gandhi's 104* and Anju Jain's 84* in women's ODIs.

Casper Ruud wins Swiss Open, claims his ninth ATP title

- Top seed Casper Ruud beat Italy's Matteo Berrettini to win the Swiss Open on Sunday. Ruud staged a terrific comeback in the final, winning 4-6, 7-6(4), 6-2. The Norwegian has won the

ninth ATP title of his career and third in the ongoing season. Ruud snaps the 12-match unbeaten streak of Berrettini, who lifted trophies in Stuttgart and London earlier this year.

About Swiss Open:

Prize money: €482,060 (2017)

Singles: Casper Ruud

Location: Gstaad; Switzerland

Draw: 32S/32Q/16D

Venue: Roy Emerson Arena

Surface: Clay / outdoors

Neeraj Chopra creates history, become, first Indian ever to win silver at world Athletics Championship

- Neeraj Chopra makes history by winning silver in the World Athletics Championships for the first time ever. Neeraj Chopra grinned after his 88.13m throw in the fourth round. His greatest throw in the men's javelin throw final in Eugene, US, allowed him to move into the provisional podium spot in second place, which helped to lessen the tension.
- With a throw of 88.13 metres, Neeraj Chopra, 24, who entered the competition as a heavy favourite, won the medal.
- Neeraj didn't get off to the best of starts as he started with a foul throw and finished the first three rounds with 82.39 and 86.37 metres.
- He regained his rhythm with a strong throw in the fourth round—88.13 metres, his fourth career-best effort—which propelled him into second place, which he retained all the way to the finish. His throws number five and six were fouls.

F1: Max Verstappen Wins French Grand Prix after Charles Leclerc Crashes Out

- Charles Leclerc of Ferrari crashed out of the race on lap 18 but was unharmed, and Max Verstappen of Red Bull took first place at Paul Ricard. Lewis Hamilton and George Russell of Mercedes finished third and fourth, respectively. At Le Castellet, where the track temperature was high, tyre management was essential. After Verstappen pitted on Lap 17, it was up to Leclerc to step up. His race was finished in a harsh snap of oversteer at Turn 11, which also caused him to shout in rage and brought out the Safety Car. Hamilton and Red Bull's Sergio Perez pitted and started chasing Verstappen after the restart. Verstappen continued to run and took over the lead.
- Verstappen, who is currently leading the championship, had a comfortable lead when the race restarted on lap 22.
- By lap 30 of 53, he had opened a four-second gap over Hamilton and had gone on to win by more than ten seconds.
- At the start of the race, Perez dropped to P3 behind Hamilton and was unable to keep up with him.

First Khelo India Fencing Women's League to start on 25th July at Talkatora Indoor Stadium

- The first Khelo India Fencing Women's League, which will begin on 25 July, 2022, will be hosted by Talkatora Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. The first-of-its-kind national fencing

competition for women will take place through the 29th of this month, according to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. It will take place in three stages.

- The Sports Authority of India has sanctioned a total of Rs. 1 crore 54 lakh for the league's operations. Over 17 lakh rupees have been set aside as prize money for each phase.
- Twenty-one States and more than 300 women have enrolled to take part in the tournament.
- Bhavani Devi, an athlete from the Tokyo Olympics and the Target Olympic Podium Scheme, will compete in the league's Senior category Sabre event. She is playing on behalf of the Tamil Nadu State.

About Khelo India Youth Games:

Headquarters: New Delhi

First event: 2018

Occur every: Annual

Tokyo to host 2025 World Athletics Championships

- The World Athletics Council has selected Tokyo (Japan) to host the 2025 World Athletics Championships. At the World Athletics Council Meeting in Oregon, USA, the Council also announced that the 2024 World Athletics Cross Country Championships will be held in Medulin and Pula in Croatia and the 2026 World Athletics Cross Country Championships will be held in Tallahassee, Florida.
- The 18th edition of the World Athletics Championships begins in Oregon USA while Budapest in Hungary will host the 2023 event.
- The 2022 edition is currently being organized in Oregon, USA, which was originally scheduled to be held in 2021 but postponed by one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

About Japan:

Capital: Tokyo

Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida

Currency: Japanese yen

Chess: Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram wins tournament in Spain

- Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram has emerged winner in the 41st Villa De Benasque International Chess Open in Spain. Chithambaram's coach R B Ramesh praised his ward for the title. He defeated Armenia's Robert Hovhannisyan and compatriot Raunak Sadhwani on the basis of a tie-break score here. Sadhwani finished in third place behind the Armenian. Chithambaram is also a former national champion.
- The 17-year-old Sadhwani remained unbeaten through the 10 rounds, scoring six wins to go with four draws. An inferior tie-break score hurt his chances of claiming the top spot.

About Spain:

Prime minister: Pedro Sánchez

Capital: Madrid

Currency: Euro

Praggnanandhaa wins Paracin Open chess title with a dominant, unbeaten run

- The Paracin Open 'A' chess competition 2022 in Serbia was won by young Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa, who finished with 8 points after nine rounds. The 16-year-

old finished with a score of 0.5 points higher than the competition. Alisher Suleymenov and India's AL Muthaiah, both of whom scored 7 points, were surpassed by Alexandr Predke, who finished in second place with 7.5 points. Due to a higher tie-break score, Suleymenov took third place.

- V Pranav, a young Indian international master, lost to Predke in the decisive round and earned 6.5 points overall. Arjun Kalyan, an Indian GM, finished in seventh place with 6.5 points.
- Praggnanandhaa, who was destined for the Olympics, was in excellent form, winning his first six games before Predke held on for a draw in round seven.

IOA announced 322-member strong squad for Commonwealth Games

- Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has announced a 322-member Indian contingent including 215 athletes and 107 officials and support staff to represent the country at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham, United Kingdom. The Games are scheduled to be held in British city from July 28 to August 8, 2022 Team India will compete in 15 sporting disciplines as well as four disciplines in the para-sports category.
- Rajesh Bhandari, vice president of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), is the Chef de Mission of the squad. Team India will compete in 15 sporting disciplines as well as four disciplines in the para-sports category.

About Indian Olympic Association (IOA):

President: Anil Khanna (Acting)

Founded: 1927

Headquarters: New Delhi

Secretary General: Rajeev Mehta

Founders: Harry Buck, Arthur Noehren

Singapore Open: Sindhu wins maiden Super 500 title of the year

- PV Sindhu won the first Super 500 title of her career when she defeated reigning Asian champion Wang Zhi Yi of China 21-9, 11-21, 21-15 in the final of the Singapore Open. This is her first 500 or better since the world championship win in 2019. This is her first 500 or better final in 2022. This is an important marker for the world No 7 while the rankings are still frozen.
- Anthony Sinisuka Ginting won the men's singles title at badminton's Singapore Open 2022. Olympic bronze medallist Ginting from Indonesia beat unseeded Japanese player Naraoka Kodai in a closely fought final.

About Singapore:

Currency: Singapore dollar

President: Halimah Yacob

Capital: Singapore

BCCI President Sourav Ganguly Felicitated by The British Parliament

- Former India captain and current BCCI president, Sourav Ganguly was felicitated by the British Parliament. The Indian cricket legend was felicitated on the same date July 13 when

he led India to Natwest final win in 2002 and exactly 20 years later on the same day he was honoured in the same city. He was elected as the President of BCCI in 2019.

- Sourav Chandidas Ganguly, affectionately known as Dada, is an Indian cricket administrator, commentator and former national cricket team captain who is the 39th and current president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. He is popularly honoured as Maharaja of Indian Cricket.
- Ganguly was awarded the Padma Shri in 2004, one of India's highest civilian awards.
- Ganguly was awarded with the Banga Bibhushan Award from the Government of West Bengal on 20 May 2013.

About BCCI:

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: December 1928

President: Sourav Ganguly

Fastest 150 Wickets in One Day INTERNATIONAL: Mohammed Shami becomes fastest Indian to take 150 ODI wickets

- Mohammed Shami became the fastest Indian bowler to 150 ODI wickets in first India vs England ODI at the Kennington Oval. The seamer needed 80 matches to 150 ODI wickets. Shami achieved the feat with his second wicket of the match. Overall, Shami is third joint-fastest to reach 150 ODI wickets.
- Shami also became the joint-third fastest ever to take 150 ODI wickets along with Afghanistan's Rashid Khan. Australia's Mitchell Starc (77 matches) and Pakistan's Saqlain Mushtaq (78 matches) hold the top-two positions for the fastest bowlers to reach 150 ODI wickets.

About Mohammed Shami INTERNATIONAL Carrier:

Test – 60- wkt: 216

ODI- 80 -wkt: 151

T20 - 17- wkt: 18

Fastest Indian to take 150 wickets in ODI format

Mohammed Shami: 80 games

Ajit Agarkar: 97 games

Zaheer Khan: 103 games.

Jonny Bairstow, Marizanne Kapp Wins ICC Player of The Month for June 2022

- INTERNATIONAL Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the ICC Player of the Month awards for June 2022. England's in-form batter Jonny Bairstow bagged the Men's Player of the Month title while South Africa's power-hitting batter Marizanne Kapp was awarded with Women's Player of the Month.
- Jonny Bairstow received the title after his remarkable performances last month against New Zealand. He defeated his team-mate Joe Root and New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell in the race of receiving the "Player of the Month" award.
- South African batter Marizanne Kapp's last month was also full of solid and powerful performances. Kapp's classic stroke play got her more votes than her teammate Shabnim

Ismail and England's Nat Sciver. With this feat, Kapp has become South Africa's first ICC Women's Player of the Month winner since Lizelle Lee, who was crowned in March 2021.

About ICC:

Founded: 15 June 1909

Chairman: Greg Barclay

CEO: Geoff Allardice

ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

94-Year-Old Bhagwani Devi Clinches Gold at World Masters Athletics in Finland

- Bhagwani Devi Dagar, a 94-year-old Indian sprinter, won the gold medal in the 100-meter sprint at the Tampere, Finland, World Masters Athletics Championships. She finished first in the gold with a timing of 24.74 seconds and took home the bronze in shot-put. For competitors 35 years of age and older, the World Masters Athletics Championships is a competition organised in the sport of track and field.
- Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, tweeted his congratulations to Bhagwani Devi. The 94-year-native old's Haryanans, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, also expressed their congratulations. Khattar said that at 94 years old, she is now a source of encouragement for everyone. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, and Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal also congratulated Bhagwani Devi Dagar by tweeting their congratulatory messages to her on the social media platform.

About Finland:

Prime Minister: Sanna Marin

Capital: Helsinki

Currency: Euro

President: Sauli Niinistö

About Haryana:

Chief Minister: Shri Manohar Lal Khattar

Governor: Shri Bandaru Dattatreya

Capital: Chandigarh

GM Gukesh wins Gijon Chess Masters

- India's D. Gukesh won the Gijon Chess Masters, with eight points out of nine rounds. GM Alexandr Fier of Brazil finished second with 6.5 points while INTERNATIONAL Master Pedro Antonio Gines of Spain came third scoring six points. With the win, Gukesh took his FIDE rating to 2693. If he crosses the Elo rating of 2700, Gukesh could well become the sixth Indian to do so after Viswanathan Anand, Krishnan Sasikiran, P. Harikrishna, Vidit Gujarati and B. Adhiban.

FERRARI'S CHARLES LECLERC FIGHTS FOR AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX WIN AFTER HOLDING OFF RED BULL'S MAX VERSTAPPEN

- Ferrari's Charles Leclerc held off world champion Max Verstappen to win the Austrian Grand Prix 2022. Red Bull's Max Verstappen had to settle for second and Mercedes' seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton was a distant third, after starting eighth, to complete the

podium for the third race in a row. Leclerc, whose victory is his first in Formula 1 had not started on pole position, has now closed the gap to Verstappen in the drivers' championship standings to 38 points.

- The 2022 Austrian Grand Prix was a Formula One motor race held on 10 July 2022 at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria. It was the second Grand Prix weekend of the 2022 season to utilise the Formula One sprint format.

About Max Verstappen:

Born: 30 September 1997, Hasselt, Belgium

Nationality: Belgian, Dutch

Dates joined: 2016 (Red Bull Racing), 2014 (Scuderia Toro Rosso)

Rafael Nadal's first win at Wimbledon against Cerundolo

- In Wimbledon, Rafael Nadal overcame his fear in the opener. Nadal played for the first time since his 2019 Wimbledon semi-final loss against Roger Federer. Rafael Nadal opened his championship for his third Wimbledon title with an impressive but hard-fought four-set win against the Argentina player Francisco Cerundolo on Tuesday. At first, the two times champion Rafael Nadal looked in control of the contest and played the first two sets roughly. By this time, people expected that Francisco Cerundolo will not delay in going above in the other two sets. However, Nadal soon gained the lead and controlled the proceedings of the two sets, and reeled off the final four games to take a 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, and 6-4 win.

About Rafael Nadal :

Born: 3 June 1986. Manacor, Spain

Grand slams won (singles): 22

Nationality: Spanish

Books: Rafa

Novak Djokovic wins seventh Wimbledon title and 21st Grand Slam

- Serbia Novak Djokovic won a seventh Wimbledon men's title and 21st Grand Slam crown with a four-set triumph over Nick Kyrgios. Kyrgios gave his best to challenge the more experienced rival in his first Major final, but he could take only one set, propelling Djokovic toward the 21st Major crown.
- Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina made a brilliant comeback after being set down to beat Tunisian third-seed Ons Jabeur 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 and win the Women's Singles title at Wimbledon. Rybakina became the first-ever Kazakh female player in the Open Era to win a WTA title on grass and is also the Kazakh female player with the most WTA-level titles in the Open Era (3). The 23-year-old also became the youngest female player to win the title in Wimbledon since Petra Kvitova in 2011.

About Novak Djokovic :

Born: 22 May 1987, Belgrade, Serbia

Grand slams won (singles): 21

Nationality: Serbian

Gujarat to host 36th National Games from September 27-October 10

- Bhupendra Patel, the chief minister of Gujarat, declared that the 36th National Games will be held in his state from September 27 to October 10 for the first time ever. Due to a number of factors, including the coronavirus pandemic since 2020, the prestigious event is being hosted after a seven-year hiatus; the previous one was in Kerala in 2015. The chief minister claimed in another post that Gujarat has world-class athletic facilities and that the sporting world is experiencing a resurgence. The government will do everything possible to make the national games the best athletic event ever.
- In both indoor and outdoor competitions, athletes from all over the nation are anticipated to display their prowess in sports including athletics, hockey, football, volleyball, lawn tennis, table tennis, judo, wrestling, kabaddi, kho-kho, mallakhambha, and yoga.

About Gujarat:

Chief Minister: Shri Bhupendra Patel

Capital: Gandhinagar

Governor: Acharya Devvrat

CARLOS SAINZ WINS THRILLING BRITISH GRAND PRIX FROM SERGIO PEREZ AND LEWIS HAMILTON AT SILVERSTONE

- Ferrari's Carlos Sainz registered his first Formula One win at British Grand Prix 2022, with the Spaniard finishing ahead of the Red Bull driver Sergio Perez and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton. Carlos Sainz claimed his first Formula One victory in his 150th race.
- World Championship leader Max Verstappen struggled with his car after suffering a puncture early on, which saw him finish the race in P7, whilst Leclerc couldn't hold on towards the end of the race on his older set of hard tyres and slipped to finish P4 from leading the race on lap 43. Fernando Alonso, Lando Norris, Mick Schumacher, Sebastian Vettel and Kevin Magnussen rounded out the top 10, while six drivers failed to finish the race at Silverstone.

Bumrah breaks Lara's world record, smashes most runs in a single Test over against Broad

- India captain Jasprit Bumrah bludgeoned a hapless Stuart Broad for 29 runs to create a world record for maximum runs off a single over in Test cricket, beating the legendary Brian Lara's feat by one run. The world record stayed with Lara for 18 years, he had hit South African left-arm spinner Robin Peterson for 28 runs in a Test match in 2003-04, which included four fours and two sixes off six legal deliveries.
- Broad, who had also been hit for six sixes in an over by Yuvraj Singh in the inaugural World T20 in 2007, gave away 35 in the 84th over of the Indian first innings in the fifth rescheduled Test here. There were six extra runs — five wides and a no-ball. The Indian skipper was not out on 31 off 16 balls with four boundaries and two sixes.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO earns \$279 million in forex through satellite launches for 34 countries

- Dr. Jitendra Singh, India's Minister of State for Science and Technology, said in front of the parliament that the launch of foreign satellites by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) brought in \$279 million in foreign currency. Antrix, the commercial arm of ISRO,

made this money by launching 345 foreign satellites from 34 different nations. 56 million of these gains were paid out in dollars, while 223 million were paid out in euros (220 million Euros). There are 2,226 crore rupees in the total.

- The first nations to use ISRO's services to launch satellites were Germany and South Korea. After 2015, 83% of the international launches took place. US spacecraft account for 66% of ISRO's international launches, which also includes non-government satellites.
- The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV) of ISRO were used to launch each of these spacecraft. Since 1975, the Indian government has launched 342 foreign spacecraft in addition to 129 domestic ones, which illustrates the success of ISRO's commercial satellite programme.

About ISRO:

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founded: 15 August 1969

Founder: Vikram Sarabhai

Chairman: Shri S. Somanath

IIT Kanpur's incubation centre launches NIRMAN Accelerator Programme

- Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at IIT Kanpur has launched "NIRMAN" Accelerator Programme, supported by the department of science and technology, the government of India. The programme will focus on the manufacturing startups engaged in healthcare and agriculture domains to help them overcome the challenges from their prototype-to-market journey.
- A total of 15 startups will be selected under the programme. They will be given the opportunity to accelerate their product's journey from lab to market.
- The best performing startups among the cohort of 15 startups will receive a cash award of up to ₹10 Lakh.
- SIIC comes with a vast experience of working with promising innovators and startups that can leverage optimum social impact. This collaboration with the department of science and technology aims to revive the manufacturing domain in the country.

About Uttar Pradesh:

Governor: Anandiben Patel

Capital: Lucknow (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath

Syngenta launches unique biodiversity sensor project to monitor farm insects

- A unique biodiversity sensor project is launched by Syngenta, a global agri-business major. It claimed to be the first such project in India. Syngenta has launched this project in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, Punjab (IIT-R). This project will help in studying the behavior of insects around farms, particularly bees and butterflies.
- Along with this, the firm flagged off the Drone Yatra which will cover 10,000 Km across the country. This project will monitor to identify and quantify insect life around farms to get real-time data on biodiversity through a sensor.
- This project includes a centralized biodiversity data repository that can be shared and tracked.

- The biodiversity monitoring will be done by a modem-like sensor that has cameras to capture real-time images of the bees and butterflies.
- The blueprint of the project will also be made accessible for everyone to share ideas for development.

About Punjab:

Capital: Chandigarh

Governor: Banwarilal Purohit

Chief Minister: Bhagwant Mann

Defence minister Rajnath Singh launched Y-3023 Dunagiri, Project 17A frigate

- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the fourth P17A stealth frigate 'Dunagiri' into the Hooghly River in Kolkata. The Project 17A frigate is built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders Limited. The P-17A class is a follow-on of the P-17 Shivalik Class with improved stealth features & advanced weapons.
- The first two ships of the P17A Project were launched in 2019 and 2020 at MDL and GRSE respectively. The third ship (Udaygiri) was launched at MDL on 17 May 22 earlier this year.
- Security challenges in the Indian Ocean region and Indo-Pacific are constantly increasing. In order to achieve the Prime Minister's Vision of 'SAGAR', i.e., Security and Growth for All in the Region' and to protect, preserve and promote India's national maritime interests, the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and other organizations have to increase the infrastructure and assets so that the country stays ahead of the curve in dealing with these challenges.

Kerala reports India's first monkeypox case

- The first case of monkeypox was confirmed in India after a person who had returned to Kerala from UAE developed symptoms of the disease. His samples were sent to National Virology Institute in Pune which confirmed the disease. It was first found in monkeys in 1958.
- According to the WHO, monkeypox is a viral zoonosis (a virus transmitted to humans from animals) with symptoms similar to those seen in the past in smallpox patients, although it is clinically less severe. It is usually a self-limited disease with symptoms lasting two to four weeks.
- As infection turns acute, red lesions will appear on the body and the itching-like chicken pox is triggered. The incubation period ranges from five to 21 days.

About Kerala:

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

Agnikul Cosmos opens India's first private rocket engine factory in Chennai

- Space tech startup, Agnikul Cosmos has inaugurated India's first-ever factory to manufacture 3D-printed rocket engines in Chennai. The facility will use additive manufacturing technology to build 3D printed rocket engines and will be used to produce engines for its own in-house rockets. It was unveiled by Tata Sons chairman N

Chandrasekaran and ISRO chairman S Somanath in the presence of Pawan Goenka, the chairman of IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre).

- The company facility will use additive manufacturing technology to build 3D printed rocket engines and will be used to produce engines for its own in-house rockets. This will allow the factory to produce eight engines every month and build the number of engines required to launch Agnibaan – its two-stage launch vehicle, expected to launch by the end of the year.
- Agnikul was founded in 2017 by Srinath Ravichandran, Moin SPM and SR Chakravarthy (professor of IIT-Madras). In December 2020, Agnikul signed an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) under the IN-SPACe initiative to have access to the space agency's expertise and its facilities to build rocket engines.

About Tamil Nadu:

Governor: R. N. Ravi

Capital: Chennai

Chief Minister: M. K. Stalin

Samsung develops the world's fastest graphics DRAM chip

- Samsung announced the creation of a new graphics dynamic random-access memory (DRAM) chip with increased speed and power efficiency. According to a statement from the manufacturer, the 24-gigabit Graphics Double Data Rate 6 (GDDR6) uses third-generation, 10-nanometer technology and boasts a data processing speed that is over 30% quicker than competing products.
- The new DRAM chip, which Samsung claims to be the fastest in the world, can process visual images at a pace of up to 1.1 terabytes per second, which is the same as processing 275 full HD movies in a second.
- Graphics DRAMs are frequently found in powerful 3D games, personal computers, laptops, and equipment that plays high-resolution videos.
- The new chip will likely be quickly adopted by the graphics and artificial intelligence industries because it complies with JEDEC industry standards.

About Samsung:

Founder: Lee Byung-chul

Chairman: Lee Kun-hee

Headquarters: Suwon-si, South Korea

Indian scientists develop novel mechanism to inactivate SARS-CoV-2

- New synthetic peptides that can both prevent the SARS-CoV-2 virus from entering cells and clump the virus particles together to lessen their capacity to infect living cells have been created by Indian scientists. With the help of this innovative technique, viruses like SARS-CoV-2 can be rendered dormant, opening the door for a new family of peptide antivirals.
- According to the Ministry of Science and Technology, scientists from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology have created a novel mechanism to inactivate the COVID (SARS-CoV-2) virus by preventing its entry into cells and lowering its capacity to infect people.

- The COVID-19 vaccines' effectiveness against the SARS-CoV-2 virus has been reduced by the quick emergence of new strains, necessitating the development of fresh methods for preventing virus infection.

DCGI approved India's first qHPV vaccine against cervical cancer

- The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved the market authorization of India's first quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) against cervical cancer. The Serum Institute of India (SII) will produce this vaccine. CEO of The Serum Institute of India Adar Poonawalla tweeted the information. For the first time, an inexpensive and widely available HPV vaccination made in India will be available to treat cervical cancer in female patients. Later this year, SII hopes to launch it, and we are grateful to the DCGI, MoHFW INDIA, for their approval.
- Following an assessment of the clinical trial results for the vaccine, the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) recently gave its approval to the qHPV. The Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus (qHPV) vaccine against cervical cancer, which was produced domestically by Serum Institute of India (SII), was recommended for standard market authorization on June 15. After the vaccine's phase 3 data were deemed to be satisfactory, suggestions were made.

About Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI):

Headquarters: New Delhi

About Serum Institute of India:

CEO: Adar Poonawalla

Founder: Cyrus S. Poonawalla

Founded: 1966

First Pic Of Earliest Galaxies Formed After Big Bang

- US President Joe Biden has released one of the James Webb Space Telescope's first images in a preview event at the White House in Washington. This first image from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope is the deepest and sharpest infrared image of the distant universe to date.
- Known as Webb's First Deep Field, this image of galaxy cluster SMACS 0723 is overflowing with detail. Thousands of galaxies including the faintest objects ever observed in the infrared have appeared in Webb's view for the first time.
- This slice of the vast universe covers a patch of sky approximately the size of a grain of sand held at arm's length by someone on the ground.

About United States:

Attorney general: Merrick Garland

Capital: Washington, D.C.

President: Joe Biden

Population: 32.95 crores (2020) World Bank

Gross domestic product: 20.94 lakh crores USD (2020) World Bank

Currency: United States Dollar

About James Webb Space Telescope:

Launch date: 25 December 2021

Cost: 1,000 crores USD (2016)

Rocket: Ariane 5 ECA (VA256)

Operator: STScI (NASA)

Nokia, IISc Set Up Networked Robotics Centre Of Excellence

- Nokia has partnered with the Indian Institute of Science to set up the Nokia Center of Excellence in networked robotics at IISc Bengaluru. The Center of Excellence (CoE) will promote inter-disciplinary research involving robotics and advanced communication technologies in 5G and Artificial Intelligence (AI). It will also develop use cases across industrial automation, agriculture and disaster management.
- The center will facilitate engagement and cooperation between academia, start-ups and industry ecosystem partners to research and develop these use cases. The research projects undertaken by the CoE will include the design of advanced robotics, AI and automation solutions built upon next-generation telecom networks and their applications for solving societally relevant problems.
- Nokia has been present in India since the last 22 years and deployed all technologies that have been used for mobile communication starting from 2G in 2000, 3G in 2011, 4G in 2012 and gearing up for commercial 5G.

About Nokia:

President: Pekka Lundmark;

CEO: Pekka Lundmark;

Founded: 12 May 1865;

Headquarters: **Espoo, Finland**

IIT Madras develops AI-based tool "PIVOT" to identify cancer-causing genes

- IIT Madras researchers have developed a revolutionary method that can identify a person's cancer-causing genes. Based on patient DNA profiles, the "Pivot," an AI-based tool, will help clinicians create individualised treatment programmes for patients. The tool is built on a machine learning model that classifies genes into cancer-preventing tumour suppressors, oncogenes that cause cancer, and neutral genes.
- In order to identify the gene that causes cancer in an individual, or more specifically to identify unusual genes that cause cancer, the model will analyse data such as the frequency with which a gene mutates, its properties, the sorts of mutations, and the quantity of harmful mutations.
- It is well recognised that the patient's overall health will suffer as a result of current cancer treatments.
- According to the research team, understanding the genes responsible for the development and spread of cancer in patients can aid in choosing the drug and therapy regimen that will have the greatest positive impact on their prognosis.

About Tamil Nadu:

Governor: R. N. Ravi

Capital: Chennai

Population: 6.79 Crores (2012)

Chief Minister: M. K. Stalin

Greenko signs MoU with IIT Hyderabad to set up School of Sustainable Science & Technology

- In order to establish a school where students would be trained toward sustainable goals like climate change mitigation, circular economy, energy transition, among others, the renewable energy company Greenko has partnered with IIT-Hyderabad. The Greenko School of Sustainable Science and Technology (GSSST) will open toward the end of this year, according to a statement from the company, and by June 2023, the first batch of students will be admitted for the MTech and Ph.D. programmes in sustainable science and technology, followed by the BTech programme.
- It will be the nation's first institution solely focused on teaching sustainable science and technology.
- Dharmendra Pradhan, the Union Minister for Education, was present when the MoU was signed.
- Dharmendra Pradhan stated that in order to achieve self-sufficiency and advance global welfare, we must innovate and create our own models.

About Telangana:

Founded: 2 June 2014

Capital: Hyderabad

Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan

Chief Minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao

OBITUARY

Punjabi singer Balwinder Safri passes away at 63

- Veteran Punjabi singer Balwinder Safri has passed away. He was 63. Punjab-born Safri, who was based in Birmingham, was part of the UK bhangra scene since 1980 and formed the Safri Boyz Band in 1990.
- Safri, known for hit Punjabi tracks such as "Rahaye Rahaye" and "Chan Mere Makhna", slipped into coma in April after suffering brain damage following a heart surgery. He was discharged from New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton on July 15 after recovering from coma and was moved to a specialist rehabilitation centre.

About United Kingdom:

Queen: Queen Elizabeth II

Capital: London

Prime minister: Boris Johnson

Currency: Pound sterling

Bengal's famous 'one rupee doctor' Sushovan Bandyopadhyay passes away

- Padma Shri Sushovan Banerjee famous as Bengal's 'one rupee doctor' has passed away. Based in Bolpur, Birbhum district, Banerjee was known for treating patients for nearly 60 years at Re 1 per visit. In 2020, he was conferred with the Padma Shri for his contribution in the field of medicine. In the same year, his name found a place in the Guinness World Records for treating the maximum number of patients.
- Banerjee did his graduation from R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata and his PG degree in Pathology from Calcutta University. He then moved to London for a diploma in

Haematology. Banerjee is also a former MLA from Bolpur. In 1984, he contested on a Congress ticket and won the election from Bolpur.

About West Bengal:

Capital: Kolkata

Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee

Governor: Shri La. Ganesan

Atulananda Goswami, eminent Assamese writer, passes away at 87

- Veteran Assamese litterateur and winner of the Sahitya Akademi Award, Atulananda Goswami, has passed away. He was 87. Goswami was known as a short story writer, a litterateur and a novelist par excellence. He was awarded the Sahitya Academy award in 2006, for his novel 'Seneh Jorir Ganthi' in 2006.
- Some of his other notable works include 'Namgharia' 'Hamdoi Pulor Jon', 'Rajpaat', 'Polatok' and 'Ashray'. He had translated many English, Bengali and Odia works into Assamese, and also Assamese texts into English.

Renowned Marathi writer Anant Yashwant Khare passes away

- Renowned Marathi writer Anant Yashwant Khare, better known as Nanda Khare, passed away in Pune due to prolonged illness. He was 76. Besides biographies, Mr Khare wrote 19 books on various topics like science, sociology, and geography with some of his most noted works being 'Antajichi Bakhar', 'Bakhar Antakalachi' and 'Udya'.
- He received numerous awards from foundations like Granthali, Vidarbha Sahitya Sangh, Lokmangal and Shabd: The Book Gallery. In 2010, he received the state government's Bhai Madhavrao Bagal Award for his book 'Kahani Manav Pranyachi'. Mr. Khare was offered the Sahitya Akademi award for his novel 'Udya' in 2020 but he politely refused as by then he had decided not to accept any awards.
- Mr. Khare had also worked on the editorial board of 'Aajcha Sudharak' newspaper for close to eleven years and was a member of the Marathi Science Council.

Capital IIS Director Ajay Parida Dies at the age of 58

- Noted scientist and director of the Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Dr Ajay Kumar Parida has passed away at the age of 58. He was awarded the Padma Shri Award by the President of India in 2014 for his outstanding contribution in the field of Science and Engineering. He had also served as an Executive Director in M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. His research are mainly focused on developing climate resilient crop varieties with abiotic stress tolerance.

About Institute of Life Sciences:

Headquarters: Bhubaneswar

Founded: 1989

Noted artist Achuthan Kudallur died at 77

- Noted artist Achuthan Kudallur has passed away recently at the age of 77. A civil engineer by training, Achuthan Kudallur was a self-taught abstract artist and a highly respected name in contemporary art circles of south India. He was a part of the Madras Art Club, which

operated within the Government College of Art, Chennai and later shifted to painting abstracts.

- Achuthan Kudallur is a recipient of the national and Tamil Nadu State Lalit Kala Akademi Awards. He was born in 1945 in Kerala, but lived alone in Chennai, pursued a degree in Civil Engineering and revelled as an Indian Asian Modern and Contemporary painter.

About Tamil Nadu:

Governor: R. N. Ravi

Capital: Chennai

Chief Minister: M. K. Stalin

Veteran singer Bhupinder Singh passes away at 82

- Legendary ghazal singer, Bhupinder Singh passed away due to suspected colon cancer and COVID-19-related complications. He was 82. Singh was best known for songs such as 'Duniya Chhute Yaar Na Chhute' ("Dharam Kanta"), 'Thodi Si Zameen Thoda Aasman' ("Sitara"), which he sang with the late legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, 'Dil Dhoondta Hai' ("Mausam"), 'Naam Gum Jayega' ("Kinara").
- In his five-decade-long career, the singer, born in Amritsar, Punjab, had worked with the biggest names of the music industry such as Mohammed Rafi, R D Burman, Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle and Bappi Lahiri, among others. The couple sang many popular songs, including 'Do Diwane Shahar Mein', 'Naam Gum Jayega', 'Kabhi Kisi Ko Mukammal' and 'Ek Akela is Shehar Mein' among others.

Former Punjab speaker and senior SAD leader Nirmal Singh Kahlon dies at 79

- Former Punjab Speaker and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader, Nirmal Singh Kahlon has passed away at the age of 79. He was the Rural Development and Panchayat Minister from 1997 to 2002 and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly from 2007 to 2012.
- Kahlon was elected MLA from Fatehgarh Churian in 1997 and 2007. Kahlon was the minister for rural development and panchayat in the Akali government from 1997 to 2002. He was also the Speaker of Punjab Vidhan Sabha from 2007 to 2012. He lost the 2012 and 2017 Assembly elections to Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa of the Congress. In this year's Assembly polls, Akali Dal fielded Lakhbir Singh Lodhinangal from Fatehgarh Churian and gave Kahlon's son Ravi Karan Singh Kahlon the ticket from Dera Baba Nanak. Both lost.

About Punjab:

Capital: Chandigarh

Governor: Banwarilal Purohit

Chief Minister: Bhagwant Mann

Former Mexican President Luis Echeverria dies at 100

- As told by his son Benito Echeverria, Luis Echeverria Alvarez, who presided over Mexico from 1970 to 1976, passed away at the age of 100. Echeverria passed away in his house in Cuernavaca, the state capital of Morelos in south central Mexico. The family and friends of the former leader received a tweet from Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador expressing his respectful condolences.

- Career attorney and Institutional Revolutionary Party member Echeverria prioritised Mexico's foreign affairs and is renowned for, among other things, advocating for the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States at the United Nations in 1972.
- During his time serving as Interior Secretary under the Dáz Ordaz administration, political repression increased.

About Mexico:

Capital: Mexico City

Currency: Mexican peso

President: Andrés Manuel López Obrador

Noted social worker Padma Shri Awardee Avdhash Kaushal dies at 87

- Padma Shri winning noted social worker Avdhash Kaushal passed away recently following a prolonged illness. He was 87. He was the founder of the NGO named Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra (based in Dehradun, Uttarakhand). He was known for his fight against human rights and the conservation of the environment. Kaushal had been close to former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- In 2003, Kaushal was invited by the United Nations to the World Summit in Geneva, to chair the panel on a discussion on the importance of local content within information and communication technology. Kaushal was also nominated as a member of the INTERNATIONAL committee to probe into war crimes and disappearances in Sri Lanka in the aftermath of the civil war in that country.

About Uttarakhand:

Governor: Gurmit Singh

Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami

Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)

British composer Monty Norman, known for James Bond theme, passes away at 94

- Monty Norman, a British composer who wrote the theme tune for the James Bond films, has died at the age of 94. He was hired by producer Albert "Cubby" Broccoli to compose a theme for the first James Bond film, "Dr. No," released in 1962.
- Born Monty Noserovitch to Jewish parents in the East End of London in 1928, Norman got his first guitar when he was 16. He performed with big bands and in a variety of double acts with comedian Benny Hill before writing songs for early British rockers Cliff Richard and Tommy Steele and composing for stage musicals including "Make Me an Offer," "Expresso Bongo," "Songbook" and "Poppy."

Renowned archaeologist Padmashree Enamul Haque passes away

- Prof. Dr. Enamul Haque, a well-known archaeologist, historian, expert in art, and former director general of the Bangladesh National Museum, is no longer alive. At the time of his passing, he was 85. At his Dhaka home, he passed away. He served as the National Museum's director general from September 28, 1983, to February 6, 1991. He received the Ekushey Padak in 2016, the Swadhinata Padak in 2020, and the Indian Padma Shri award in honour of his contributions.

- Enamul Haque was a Bangladeshi museologist who lived from 1 March 1937 to 10 July 2022. The Government of Bangladesh presented him with the Ekushey Padak in 2014 and the Independence Day Award in 2017.
- In 2020, the Indian government also gave Haque the Padma Shri award, the fourth-highest civilian honour in the country, in recognition of his outstanding work in the fields of archaeology and museology.

Former Angolan president Jose Eduardo dos Santos dies at 79

- Former President of Angolan, Jose Eduardo dos Santos has passed away at the age of 79. He was one of Africa's longest-serving heads of state, who ruled for almost four decades as president of Angola. He stepped down from the president's post in 2017. He had also fought for the continent's longest civil war and turned his country into a major oil producer.
- Santos ruled his country for 38 years, from Agostinho Neto's death in 1979 — four years after Angola won independence from Portugal — until 2017 when he stepped down voluntarily as president.

About Angola:

President: João Lourenço

Capital: Luanda

Currency: Kwanza

Former VSNL chief, 'father of internet in India', BK Syngal dies

- Brijendra K Syngal, former Chairman of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd (VSNL), passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 82. Syngal, who has been acknowledged as the father of the Indian Internet, was known for his strong views and fearlessness in taking on the establishment. As the Chairman of VSNL, he was unofficially known as the 'bulldozer' for his ability to push through bureaucratic hurdles, as a result of which VSNL grew from a \$125 million company in 1991 into a \$1.65 billion communications giant by 1998.
- Born in Ambala a year after World War II broke out, he started his schooling at DAV Model School in 1945, in Lahore. After the partition in 1947, he moved with his family to Delhi. During his school days, he took a liking for cricket and stamp collection. In 1957 he got into the Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur, where he pursued electrical engineering.

About VSNL/ Tata Communications:

CEO: Amur Swaminathan Lakshminarayanan (Jul 2019)

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1986

Founder: Government of India

Freedom fighter Gandhian P Gopinathan Nair dies at 100 in Kerala

- Freedom fighter P. Gopinathan Nair has passed away at the age of 100. He was known for following Gandhian ideology in his life and was honoured with the Padma award. He had participated in the freedom struggle. He had taken part in the Quit India Movement of 1942 and had worked alongside Vinoba Bhave to promote Bhoodan and Gramdan movements. The Government of India awarded him the fourth highest civilian honour of Padma Shri in 2016 for his contributions to society.

About P. Gopinathan Nair:

Born: 7 July 1922

Died: 5 July 2022

Occupation: Social worker Gandhian

Years active: Since 1942

Known for: Mahatma Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Shanti Sena & Bhoodan Movement

Awards: Padma Shri, Jamnalal Bajaj Award, Stallions Social Service Award & SUTIC Honor

Mohammad Barkindo, OPEC Secretary-General, Dies at 63

- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Secretary-General, Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, passed away. He was born in April 1959 in northeast Nigeria's Adamawa state, Barkindo assumed the office of the OPEC Secretary-General in 2016. His tenure was scheduled to expire in July.
- OPEC is a permanent, intergovernmental organization, created at the Baghdad Conference in 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela. It aims to manage the supply of oil in an effort to set the price of oil in the world market, in order to avoid fluctuations that might affect the economies of both producing and purchasing countries. It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria. OPEC membership is open to any country that is a substantial exporter of oil and which shares the ideals of the organization.

About OPEC:

Headquarters: Vienna, Austria

Founded: September 1960, Baghdad, Iraq

Founders: Juan Pablo Pérez Alfonzo, Abdullah Tariki

Veteran Bengali film director Tarun Majumdar passes away at 92

- Veteran Bengali film director, Tarun Majumdar has passed away at the age of 92. Tarun Majumdar was known for helming popular Bengali films such as Smriti Tuku Thak, Shriman Prithviraj, Kuheli, Balika Badhu, Dadar Kirti, Chander Bari, among others in his lifetime. He created a significant impact in uplifting the Bengali film industry during the 60s, 70s and 80s.
- Tarun Majumdar was the recipient of the prestigious Padma Shri Award in 1990. He's the recipient of four National Awards, 7 BFJA Awards, 5 Filmfare Awards, and an Anandalok Award.

Visionary British theatre director Peter Brook dies aged 97

- Peter Brook, one of the world's most innovative theatre directors who perfected the art of staging powerful drama in bizarre venues, has died aged 97. The British director mounted productions ranging from challenging versions of Shakespeare through international opera to Hindu epic poems. He brought a stunning nine-hour adaptation of the Sanskrit epic "The Mahabharata" from France to New York in 1987.
- Brook was called many other things: a maverick, a romantic, a classicist. But he was never easily pigeonholed. British by nationality but based in Paris since 1970, he spent years in commercial theater, winning Tony Awards in 1966 and 1971 for the Broadway transfers of

highly original productions of Peter Weiss's "Marat/Sade" and Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Former India goalkeeper EN Sudhir dies after suffering from gall bladder complications

- Former India international EN Sudhir, who played as a goalkeeper for India in the 1970s, died in Mapusa, Goa. Sudhir, who made his international debut against Indonesia in Rangoon (currently Yangon) in the Olympic qualifiers in 1972, represented India in 9 matches. He was also part of the national team in the 1973 Merdeka Cup and the Asian Games squad in 1974.
- At the domestic level, he played for three different states in the Santosh Trophy Kerala (1969 and 1970), Goa (1971, 1972, 1973), and Maharashtra in 1975. Sudhir also played for Young Challengers (Kerala), Vasco Sports Club (Goa), and Mahindra & Mahindra at the club level.

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.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

IFS Pranay Kumar Verma has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to Bangladesh

- Pranay Kumar Verma, an experienced diplomat and IFS official from the 1994 batch, has been chosen to serve as India's next High Commissioner to Bangladesh. He is currently the ambassador of India to Vietnam. The Delhi-based Ministry of External Affairs made this announcement. Vikram Doraiswami, the current High Commissioner of India to the UK, is rumoured to be taking over, thus he is expected to start the job soon in his stead.
- In addition to Washington DC, Ambassador Pranay Kumar Verma has held diplomatic positions in Kathmandu, Hong Kong, San Francisco, and Beijing.
- Sandeep Arya, an IFS officer from the 1994 batch, has also been named as India's new ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
- Sandeep Arya is currently employed by the Ministry of External Affairs as an Additional Secretary.

About Bangladesh:

Capital: Dhaka

Currency: Bangladeshi taka

President: Mohammad Abdul Hamid

Prime minister: Sheikh Hasina

Coca-Cola takes 'Limca' to no-fizz segment, signs on Neeraj Chopra

- Coca-Cola has signed Olympic gold medalist, Neeraj Chopra for Limca Sportz promotion. Recently, Neeraj Chopra has become the first-ever Indian to win a silver medal at World

Athletics Championships with his best throw of 88.13 m. Also, Neeraj Chopra has been ruled out of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 in England due to an injury he picked up at World Athletics Championships.

- Coca-Cola India and its bottling partners are investing around \$1 billion (around Rs 7,990 crore) to expand the production capacity by up to 40 per cent. Besides, the beverage major is also launching Limca Sportz, which comes with glucose and electrolytes.

About Neeraj Chopra:

Born: 24 December 1997 (age 24 years), Khandra (Haryana)

Medals: Athletics at the 2020 Summer Olympics – Men's javelin throw

Awards: Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal

About 'Limca':

Manufacturer: The Coca-Cola Company

Introduced: 1977

Related products: Coca-Cola, 7 Up, Sprite

Banking Veteran Nakul Jain Joins As CEO Of Paytm Payments Services

- Paytm's parent One97 Communications has appointed Nakul Jain as the CEO of Paytm Payments Services Ltd (PPSL). Praveen Sharma, who is now serving as the acting CEO of PPSL, has been promoted to oversee the organisation's commerce vertical in addition to his other duties.
- Jain earlier served as managing director of private banking, priority banking, deposits and branch banking at Standard Chartered Bank. He holds over 22 years of experience in retail banking and has worked in sub-sectors such as branch banking, wealth management, product and segments, distribution, retail assets and acquisition.

About Paytm:

MD and CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Founded: August 2010

Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

Center appointed Sanjay Kumar Jain as NLMC interim head

- The Centre, as part of its efforts to make National Land Management Corporation (NLMC) operational, has appointed a joint secretary to the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) interim chief executive officer (CEO) of the special purpose vehicle, which has been tasked with monetising the surplus land and buildings of public sector undertakings (PSUs).
- The interim CEO's job is learnt to have gone to Sanjay Kumar Jain, and the government has appointed its nominees to the board of the corporation.
- The government looks to initiate the process of monetising 3,479 acres of surplus land, identified by nine PSUs, and building assets, an official said.
- Other PSUs and government departments have been asked to prepare a list of assets that can be monetised through NLMC.

Vodafone Idea elevates Akshaya Moondra as CEO

- Vodafone Idea, a telecom Company, said that Akshaya Moondra, who currently serves as chief financial officer, has been promoted to CEO with effect from August 19. According to

the filing, Ravinder Takkar, the business's current managing director and chief executive officer, will remain on the board of the company when his tenure is up as a non-executive and non-independent director.

- On August 19, 2019, Takkar was chosen as the organization's MD and CEO for a three-year tenure that will expire on August 18.
- According to the filing, the company will soon make an announcement regarding a new CFO.
- A subsidiary of Vodafone's promoter was given permission by the VIL board to receive warrants convertible into an equal number of equity shares at a price of Rs 10.20 per warrant, for a total of up to Rs 436.21 crore.

About Vodafone:

Founder: Gerry Whent and Ernest Harrison

CEO: Ravindra Takkar (Akshaya Moondra to take charge soon)

Headquarters: Berkshire, United Kingdom

Founded: 17 July 1984, Newbury, United Kingdom

IAPH appoints Ennarasu Karunesan as its representative in India

- Ennarasu Karunesan has been named as the International Association of Ports and Harbors' (IAPH) official representative in India. IAPH is the world's port industry's forum for cooperation and excellence. Karunesan has over 33 years of leadership experience in the marine and port industries. He began his career in the port industry with the Mumbai port and later worked as the general manager of operations and CEO of the Westport Container Terminal in Port Klang, Malaysia, from 2001 to 2004.
- According to an IAPH press release, Ennarasu Karunesan relocated to India to serve as Director and CEO of Chennai Container Terminal Ltd., Dubai Ports World, and CEO of the Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone, Gujarat, India.
- Patrick Verhoeven, the managing director of the IAPH, stated that they are happy to have Ennarasu join them in order to raise their profile and activity with Indian ports.

About IAPH:

Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan

Type of business: NPO & NGO

Founded: 1955

Managing director: Patrick Verhoeven

Vinayak Pai appointed as managing director of Tata Projects Ltd

- Vinayak Pai has been named as the managing director of TATA Projects, the company announced. Vinayak Deshpande, who had been in charge of operations for more than 11 years, had been replaced by Pai. Pai has worked with top engineering and EPC firms for more than three decades, holding significant positions on teams that worked on engineering design, technology licencing, project management, business development, and operations.
- He graduated from the College of Engineering in Pune with a Bachelor's degree, and he also possesses an Executive MBA in Business Administration and Management from IIT Bombay. Symbiosis in Pune awarded him a Master's degree in Management Studies. The business has experience carrying out substantial and intricate urban and industrial infrastructure projects.

About Tata Group:

Owner: Tata Sons

Founder: Jamsetji Tata

Founded: 1868, Mumbai

Headquarters: Mumbai

ONGC Videsh appoints Rajarshi Gupta as its new managing director

- Rajarshi Gupta has been appointed as Managing Director of ONGC Videsh. He was recommended for the position by the Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB). He has more than 33 years of wide-ranging experience in supervisory, managerial and strategic planning capacities in domestic and international operations of ONGC and ONGC Videsh.
- Gupta spent 13 years in ONGC Videsh during 2006-2019, working across the globe in diverse geographical and fiscal regimes, in Business Development, Merger & Acquisitions, and Project Management of Exploration and Development projects.
- As Country Manager and President of ONGC Videsh's US subsidiary, he set up the Geological and Geophysical Centre of Excellence in Houston. He was also instrumental in framing the international business vision in ONGC's long-term vision document, the Perspective Plan 2030.

About ONGC Videsh Limited:

Headquarters location: New Delhi

Founded: 1965

La Ganesan takes oath after being given additional charge as West Bengal Governor

- Following the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar, who has been selected by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) as its vice presidential candidate, La. Ganesan took the oath of office as the new governor of West Bengal. In the presence of the speaker, Mamata Banerjee, various state ministers, and Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, Prakash Shrivastava, he was sworn into office.
- According to a statement from Rashtrapati Bhavan, President Ram Nath Kovind has accepted West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation after the NDA nominated him to run for vice president.

About West Bengal:

Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee

Capital: Kolkata

Governor: La Ganesan

Established: 26 January 1950

Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court: Prakash Shrivastava

Ranil Wickremesinghe elected new President of Sri Lanka, but not by the people

- Veteran Sri Lankan politician and six-time Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe has been elected as the 9th President of the Island nation by the Parliament. He secured 134 votes in the presidential election by the 225-member parliament. The 73-year-old Wickremesinghe will serve the remaining term of former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, which ends in 2024.

- Wickremesinghe will replace Gotabaya Rajapaksa who fled the country and resigned after public anger over the country's worst economic crisis exploded on the streets 10 days ago.
- Indeed, the bulk of Wickremesinghe's support came from the Rajapaksas' Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party which witnessed a split within its ranks, but not enough to dent Wickremesinghe's candidature.

About Sri Lanka:

Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte

Currency: Sri Lankan rupee

RattanIndia Power hires Brijesh Gupta as managing director

- RattanIndia Power announced hiring Brijesh Gupta as its new managing director. He has experience working across the renewable, steel, mining and commodities sector in India and abroad. He has over three decades of experience in the industrial sector. Brijesh Gupta held leadership positions in Adani Enterprises, Essar Group, Welspun and Atha Group. Other than this, he also has global experience by working across geographies in the USA, Middle East, Iran and the Indian Subcontinent.
- RattanIndia Power is a private power generation company, with an installed capacity of 2,700 MW thermal power plants at Amravati and Nashik (1,350 MW at each location) in Maharashtra, with investments of Rs.18,615 crores (US\$ 2.5 billion). The power plants are spread over an area of 2,400 acres. The company counts marquee funds like Goldman Sachs and VardePartners, the USA as investors in the business.

About RattanIndia Power:

Founded: 2007

Headquarters: India

Subsidiaries: Sinnar Thermal Power Limited

Former SC Judge Vineet Saran Takes Over as BCCI Ethics Officer

- Former Supreme Court judge, Vineet Saran has taken over as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) ethics officer and ombudsman. He has succeeded Justice (Retd) D. K. Jain, whose term ended in June last year. Saran, 65, is a former Chief Justice of Odisha High Court, and also served as a judge in Karnataka and Allahabad High Court.
- Justice Vineet Saran graduated from Allahabad University in 1976. Subsequently, he obtained an LL.B degree. He practised in the Allahabad High Court from 1980 till 2002 on the constitutional, civil and criminal sides. He also served as the Additional Advocate General for the State of U.P. in the year 1995.
- Vineet Saran J was appointed as a permanent judge in the Allahabad High Court on February 14th 2002, where he served 13 years. He was then transferred to the Karnataka High Court on February 16th 2015.

About BCCI:

President: Sourav Ganguly;

Secretary: Jay Shah;

Headquarters: Mumbai;

Founded: December 1928.

About Supreme Court of India:

Founded: 26 January 1950, New Delhi

Established: 26 January 1950

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

Composition method: Collegium of the Supreme Court of India

Judge term length: Mandatory retirement at 65 years of age

Ashishkumar Chauhan set to become NSE MD, CEO; Sebi clears his appointment

- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has announced the appointment of Ashish Kumar Chauhan as its new managing director and CEO. He will succeed Vikram Limaye whose 5-year term ended on 16 July 2022. He was one of the founders of NSE where he worked from 1992 to 2000. He is best known as the father of modern financial derivatives in India due to his work at NSE.
- This is Chauhan's second tenure in the BSE and under SEBI guidelines, a candidate cannot be appointed as MD & CEO for more than two tenures. BSE is also searching for a new CEO in place of Chauhan. As per Sebi norm, the MD and CEO of a stock exchange has to apply and compete with other candidates for the top job after the completion of the five-year term.

About National Stock Exchange:

Headquarter: Mumbai, Maharashtra;

Founded: 1992;

Chairperson: Girish Chandra Chaturvedi.

About SEBI:

Founded: 12 April 1992

Headquarters: Mumbai

Agency executive: Madhabi Puri Buch (Chairperson)

Type: Statutory corporation

Jurisdiction: India

About BSE:

Location: Mumbai, India

Founded: 9 July 1875; 147 years ago

Key people: Just. SS Mundra; (Chairman);

(MD & CEO) : Ashish Chauhan

Narinder Batra resigns as FIH chief and IOC member citing personal reasons

- Veteran sports administrator, Narinder Batra has resigned as President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), as well as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), citing "personal reasons". Mr Batra ceased to be President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) when the Delhi High Court, on May 25, struck down the post of 'Life member' in Hockey India, courtesy of which he had contested the IOA elections and won back in 2017.
- The 65-year-old Mr Batra took charge of the IOA for the first time in 2017 and was eligible to contest for re-election.
- The IOA elections were due in December last year but could not be held as per schedule due to ongoing amendments in the election process.

About Indian Olympic Association (IOA):

President: Anil Khanna (Acting)

Founded: 1927

Headquarters: New Delhi

Secretary General: Rajeev Mehta

Founders: Harry Buck, Arthur Noehren

About International Hockey Federation (FIH):

Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

CEO: Thierry Weil (Apr 2018–)

Founded: 7 January 1924, Paris, France

Membership: 137 national associations

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar is NDA's vice presidential candidate

- The BJP has announced West Bengal Governor, Jagdeep Dhankhar as the NDA's vice-presidential candidate, with party chief J P Nadda lauding him as a "Kisan Putra (farmer's son)" who had established himself as "a people's governor". With the NDA having a clear majority in the electoral college comprising MPs of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Dhankhar is expected to win the August 6 election to vice-president. He will succeed M Venkaiah Naidu, whose term ends on August 10.
- Dhankhar entered public life after getting elected as the Member of Parliament from Jhunjhunu in the 1989 Lok Sabha elections. He also served as a Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs in 1990. In 1993, he was elected to the Rajasthan Assembly from the Kishangarh constituency in Ajmer district.

About West Bengal:

Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar

Capital: Kolkata

Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee

Shri V K Singh takes charge as Director (Technical) of REC Limited

- V.K. Singh has taken charge as Director (Technical) of REC Limited. Before this elevation, Singh was Executive Director in REC holding a portfolio of key business areas including Private Sector Project Management, Entity Appraisal and Procurement and is also a Director on the Board of REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited.
- Singh holds a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Roorkee and has a career spanning more than 33 years across power sector PSUs, NTPC, PGCIL and REC. In his 15 year stint with REC, he has delivered in key operations of the company involving Policy formulation, Project & Entity Appraisal, Business Planning, Stressed Assets Management and MoU negotiations besides heading operations at REC's subsidiary for some time.

About REC Limited:

Owner: Power Finance Corporation (52.63%)

Headquarters: National Capital Region

Founded: 25 July 1969

Formerly: Rural Electrification Corporation Limited

Mustafizur Rahman appointed as Bangladesh's next High Commissioner to India

- The Bangladesh Government has appointed Mustafizur Rahman as the next High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India. He is currently serving as Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Offices in Geneva and the Ambassador to Switzerland. He will succeed Muhammad Imran as the new High Commissioner.
- Ambassador Rahman is a career foreign service officer belonging to the 11th batch of Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) Foreign Affairs cadre. In his diplomatic career, he has served in various capacities in Bangladesh Missions in Paris, New York, Geneva and Kolkata.
- He has also served as the Bangladesh High Commissioner to Singapore. At the headquarters, he occupied various positions primarily in the United Nations Wing. Rahman is a medical graduate from Sir Salimullah Medical College, Dhaka.

About Bangladesh:

Capital: Dhaka

Currency: Bangladeshi taka

President: Mohammad Abdul Hamid

Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina

RBI approves appointment of Meena Hemchandra as part-time chairman of Karur Vysya Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has authorised Meena Hemchandra's appointment as the Karur Vysya bank's temporary chairperson for three years, according to private sector lender Karur Vysya Bank. Hemchandra's application for the position of non-executive independent (part-time) chairperson of the bank had been recommended by the bank to the RBI in May.
- Hemchandra's (64) term is approved for 3 years beginning on the day he assumes office.
- She has over 35 years of banking expertise in a variety of RBI areas as a career banker.
- From June 2015 to November 2017, Hemchandra served as the RBI's Executive Director.
- Karur Vysya Bank shares were down 0.63 percent from the previous close, trading at Rs. 47.40 per share on the BSE.

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Headquarters: Mumbai (Bombay), Maharashtra, India

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

About Karur Vysya Bank:

Headquarters: Karur

Founded: 1916

Founders: M. A. Venkatarama Chettiar, Athi Krishna Chettiar

Sanjay Kumar gets selected for CMD, RailTel Corporation

- The public enterprise's selection board (PESB) has selected Sanjai Kumar for the post of Chairman & Managing Director, RailTel Corporation of India Ltd (RCIL). Currently, he is serving as Director (Network Planning & Marketing) and (Project, Operations & Maintenance – Additional Charge) in Railtel.

- Mr. Kumar holds a bachelor's degree in technology in electronic and telecommunication engineering from the University of Allahabad and a post-graduate diploma in management from Management Development Institute, Gurgaon.
- He is an officer of the Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineers ("IRSSE") and joined the service on November 30, 1992.

About RailTel Corporation:

Owner: Indian Railways

Number of employees: 730 (2019)

Headquarters: India

Founded: 26 September 2000

Key people: Puneet Chawla, Chairman & Managing Director

Advent INTERNATIONAL hires Pratik Pota to lead Eureka Forbes

- Pratik Pota was appointed by PE firm Advent INTERNATIONAL to run Eureka Forbes, one of its portfolio companies. Pratik will join Eureka Forbes as Managing Director & CEO. Pratik will guide the management group in continuing to grow the company and produce cutting-edge goods. Pratik will start at Eureka Forbes on August 16.
- The CEO of Jubilant Foodworks Ltd. was Pratik. The JFL expanded into new areas under his direction, including Turkey and Bangladesh.
- Over the course of his more than 30-year career, Pratik has held executive positions with PepsiCo, Airtel, and Hindustan Unilever Ltd. before JFL.
- Eureka Forbes, formerly a member of the Shapoorji Pallonji Group and currently a portfolio company of Advent INTERNATIONAL, offers products for cleaning, air purification, vacuuming, and home security.

About Eureka Forbes:

Key people: Marzin Shroff; (MD & CEO)

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1982

IFAD chooses its top finance executive, Alvaro Lario, as next president to lead response to the global food crisis

- The governing council of the INTERNATIONAL Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has been appointed as Spain's Alvaro Lario new President. Lario will take office on 1 October 2022 and serve a four-year term. He will succeed Gilbert Houngbo who has led the organisation since 2017.
- Lario, who would become IFAD 7th president, will lead the UN agency at a crucial time when global food prices are surging, induced by the Ukraine war, climate change, and the pandemic, with the World's poorest countries hardest hit.
- New figures published by five UN agencies including IFAD showed the world falling further behind in efforts to end hunger and poverty in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
- The State of Food Security and Nutrition report showed that hunger globally rose to as many as 828 million in 2021, an increase of about 150 million since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

About INTERNATIONAL Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):

Founded: December 1977, Rome, Italy.

Head/President; Gilbert Hounbo

Headquarters: Rome, Italy

RK Gupta appointed deputy Election commissioner

- Senior bureaucrat R K Gupta was appointed as the deputy election commissioner, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said. He comes in place of T Sreekanth. Gupta, a Central Secretariat Service (CSS) officer, will serve as deputy election commissioner (Joint secretary level) till 28 February next year, the date of his superannuation.

R. Dinesh elected President Designate of CII for 2022-23

- R Dinesh, Executive Vice-Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, has been chosen as the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) President Designate for the years 2022–2023. He previously served as the Chairman of the National Committees on Logistics, the CII Family Business Network India Chapter Council, the CII Tamil Nadu State Council, and the CII Institute of Logistics Advisory Council. From 2018 to 2019, he served as the Chairman of the CII Southern Region.
- Sanjiv Puri, Chairman and Managing Director of ITC, was elected as the Vice-President of CII at a meeting of the CII National Council held in Delhi. For 2022–2023, Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman and Managing Director of Bajaj Finserv Ltd., will continue to serve as CII President.
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), an advocacy and trade association with its main office in New Delhi, India, was established in 1895. To influence the global, regional, and industrial agendas, CII works with business, governmental, intellectual, and other leaders of society. The organisation is based on membership.

About Confederation of Indian Industry (CII):

President: Sanjiv Bajaj

Director General: Chandrajit Banerjee

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

Founded: 1895

Motto: Charting Change Enabling Development

Jadavpur University VC appointed president of Association of Indian Universities

- The Jadavpur University Vice-Chancellor, Suranjan Das was appointed as the president of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). His tenure as president will be for one year from July 1. Das said he will take up the issue of executing the new education policy's (NEP) salient features, raising central funding for state varsities involved in important research activities, and work on taking the standards of Indian universities to global levels. Das, an eminent historian, was appointed the vice-president of AIU a year ago.
- Association of Indian Universities is an organisation and association of major universities in India. It is based in Delhi. It evaluates the courses, syllabi, standards, and credits of foreign Universities pursued abroad and equates them in relation to various courses offered by Indian Universities.

About Association of Indian Universities (AIU):

Secretary General: Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal
President: Col. Dr. G Thiruvassagam, VC, AMET, Chennai
Formation: 1925 as Inter-University Board (IUB)
Location: India

Aviva Life Insurance announces Asit Rath as new CEO

- Aviva India has appointed Asit Rath as chief executive officer and managing director. Rath will succeed Amit Malik who is leaving the business after 10 years. The appointment will come into effect on July 11. Currently the CEO of Prudential Myanmar Life Insurance, Rath comes with 22 years of banking and insurance experience in India and Myanmar and has strong distribution experience with ICICI Bank and ICICI Prudential Life in India.
- Aviva Life Insurance Company India Limited is a joint venture between Dabur Invest Corp and Aviva International Holdings Limited, a UK-based insurance group. Aviva International has been associated with India since 1834.

About Aviva Life Insurance:

Headquarters: Gurugram

Founded: 2002

Parent: Aviva plc; Dabur

FanCode brings Ravi Shastri onboard as its new brand ambassador

- Former team India coach and cricketer, Ravi Shastri has been appointed the new brand ambassador for FanCode, a live content, sports statistics and e-commerce marketplace. FanCode is set to host some of the best cricketing action with exclusive rights to India's tour of the West Indies and ECB's The Hundred; and Shastri will bring out FanCode's 'fan-first' proposition by leading the upcoming campaigns for these properties.
- Shastri has been one of cricket's most recognisable faces having served in a variety of roles throughout his distinguished career, including his on-field duty for India between 1981 to 1992, stint as a commentator, and his role as Team India's head coach.
- His in-depth understanding of the sport and popularity among sports fans will be leveraged through this association with FanCode. Starting July 22 as it becomes the first-ever platform to host a Team India bilateral only on digital.

Singapore's T Raja Kumar appointed president of Financial Action Task Force

- T. Raja Kumar of Singapore has been appointed as the president of Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the anti-money laundering watchdog. Kumar has replaced Marcus Pleyer who was holding the post till now, and will discharge his service for next two years.
- Kumar has been working against global terror financing for quite a long time. Soon after taking over the charge, Kumar presented his objectives for the coming Plenary period (July 2022 -June 2024) to strengthen the FATF. During the Singapore Presidency, the FATF will continue its core work of identifying and analysing money laundering and terrorist financing methods and trends, developing and refining the FATF Standards, and evaluating and supporting the assessments of countries within the Global Network

About FATF:

Headquarters: Paris, France

Purpose: Combat money laundering and terrorism financing

Founded: 1989

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Ranger Day 2022: 31st July

- World Ranger Day is observed on 31st July every year. The International Ranger Federation established this day to honour the contribution of Park Rangers to the preservation of nature. World Ranger Day offers a chance to support their vital work, which ranges from environmental campaigning to education. The day is also an opportunity to pay tribute to rangers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.
- A ranger is a person, who is tasked with maintaining and guarding parks and other naturally protected places. Rangers typically collaborate with staff personnel and other volunteers to maintain footpaths, bridges, stiles, and gates. They spend most of their time outside and serve as the national park authority's eyes and ears. They serve as a point of contact for locals and tourists as well as the national park authorities
- The International Ranger Federation was founded in 1992. The SCRA (Scottish Countryside Rangers Association), the CMA (Countryside Management Association), and the ANPR (U.S. Association of National Park Rangers), which represents rangers in Wales and England, came together and established it.

World Nature Conservation Day 2022: 28th July

- World Nature Conservation Day is observed on July 28 every year. The objective is to spread awareness regarding the preservation of nature and biodiversity for a healthy environment which is required for stable and prospering humankind. It is also marked as the day to create positive opinions about climate change. World Nature Conservation Day acknowledges that a healthy environment is a foundation for a stable and healthy society.
- This year World Nature Conservation Day will be celebrated under the theme "Cut Down on Plastic."
- The World Nature Conservation Day also creates awareness of the management and utilization of the resources. While the exact origin of the day is unknown, the aim of celebrating the day is to introspect on how we have exploited nature so far. Not only this but also to ponder upon the steps that we have been taking to reverse our actions and to conserve our mother earth. There is no denying the fact that it is due to the over-exploitation of natural resources that humans are facing the wrath of global warming, various diseases, natural disasters, increased temperature, etc.

International Tiger Day 2022: 29th July

- International Tiger Day is observed globally on 29th July every year. The day is celebrated to raise awareness among individuals, organisations, and governments about the importance of the conservation of tigers. This day aims to encourage all to take appropriate action to save the wild cats. As per World Wildlife Fund, approximately 95 per cent of the population of tigers has declined in the last 150 years.

- This year's theme for International Tiger Day 2022 is "India launches Project Tiger to revive the tiger population". They support initiatives that collaborate with regional people to safeguard tigers and also take strong action against poaching and illegal trade.
- The day seeks to protect and expand tiger habitats apart from preserving these species. International Tiger Day is observed by many international organisations, including the World Wide Fund for Nature, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, and the Smithsonian Institution. The current wild cat population is 3,900, according to the WWF. India is home to nearly 70% of the world's tiger population.

About World Wildlife Fund:

Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland

Founded: 29 April 1961, Morges, Switzerland

Director: Marco Lambertini (Director General)

Founders: Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh,

Awards: MTV Australia Good Karma Award, Peabody Award

Nominations: MTV Australia Good Karma Award

World Hepatitis Day 2022: 28th July

- World Hepatitis Day is observed each year on 28 July to raise awareness of viral hepatitis, which causes inflammation of the liver that leads to severe disease and liver cancer. This day is an opportunity to step up national and international efforts on hepatitis, encourage actions and engagement by individuals, partners and the public and highlight the need for a greater global response as outlined in the WHO's Global hepatitis report of 2017.
- On World Hepatitis Day 2022, WHO is highlighting the need for bringing hepatitis care closer to the primary health facilities and communities so that people have better access to treatment and care, no matter what type of hepatitis they may have.
- The theme for world hepatitis day 2022 is 'Bringing hepatitis care closer to you.' The main theme is to focus on raising awareness of the need to make hepatitis care more accessible.

About World Health Organization (WHO):

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Founded: 7 April 1948

Director-General: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

CRPF 84th Raising Day 2022: 27th July

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), observed its 84th Raising Day on 27 July 2022. The day celebrates the immense and unparalleled contribution of the force in upholding the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the nation. CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force, which operates under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- CRPF came into existence as the 'Crown Representative's Police' on 27 July 1939. After Independence, it became the Central Reserve Police Force on the enactment of the 'CRPF Act' on 28 December 1949, which constituted CRPF as an armed force of the Union.
- After Independence, CRPF contingents were tasked to check infiltration and trans-border crimes in Kutch, Rajasthan, and Sindh borders. They were, subsequently, deployed on the Pakistan border in Jammu & Kashmir following Pakistan's infiltration.

- CRPF personnel were also sent to Haiti, Namibia, Somali, Maldives, Kosovo and Liberia to deal with the law and order situation there, as a part of another UN Peacekeeping Mission.

About CRPF:

Director General: IPS Kuldip Singh.

Formed: 27 July 1939; (as Crown Representative's Police); 28 December 1949; 72 years ago

Headquarters: CGO Complex, New Delhi, INDIA

International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem 2022: 26th July

- International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem is observed every year on July 26. The day is observed to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as “a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem” and to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation and uses.
- The goal of the day is to promote sustainable management, conservation and utilisation of mangrove ecosystems and to bring attention to the significance of these ecosystems as unique, special, and vulnerable ecosystems.

World Drowning Prevention Day 2022: 25th July

- World Drowning Prevention Day is observed every year on July 25 and was established by the UN General Assembly Resolution “Global drowning prevention” from April 2021. This international advocacy event provides a platform to draw attention to the devastating and deep effects drowning has on families and communities while also outlining life-saving strategies to stop it.
- A General Assembly decision declared April 20, 2021, as World Drowning Prevention Day.
- Each year, this international advocacy event provides a platform for highlighting the catastrophic effects of drowning on families and communities as well as providing suggestions for its prevention.
- Every stakeholder is encouraged to observe World Drowning Prevention Day by emphasising the need for coordinated, urgent, and multi-sectoral action on tried-and-true drowning prevention measures.
- This includes UN agencies, civil society organisations, governments, the private sector, academia, and individuals.

About UN General Assembly:

Headquarters: New York, United States

President: Abdulla Shahid

About World Health Organization (WHO)

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Founded: 7 April 1948

Founders: United States, United Kingdom, Brazil, Turkey, Australia & more

Parent organization: United Nations

Aaykar Diwas or Income Tax Day 2022: 24th July

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) observed the 162nd Income Tax Day (also known as Aaykar Diwas) on 24 July 2022. The purpose of this tax was to compensate for the losses

incurred by the British regime during the first war of independence against British Rule in 1857. The day was first celebrated in 2010.

- On 24 July 1980, Income Tax was introduced for the first time in India by Sir James Wilson. The purpose of this tax was to compensate for the losses incurred by the British regime during the first war of independence against British Rule in 1857.

About Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT):

Chairman: Nitin Gupta

Established: 1924

Headquarters: New Delhi

World Brain Day 2022: 22nd July

- The World Federation of Neurology (WFN) celebrates World Brain Day on every July 22, focusing on a different theme each year. According to WHO, good brain health is a state in which every individual can realize their own abilities and optimize their cognitive, emotional, psychological and behavioural functioning to cope with life situations.
- World Brain Day (WBD) 2022 is dedicated to the theme “Brain Health for all” as our brains continue to be challenged by pandemics, wars, climate change and the myriad of disorders impacting human existence globally.

About World Federation of Neurology:

Headquarters location: London, United Kingdom

Founded: 22 July 1957

President: Prof. Wolfgang Grisold

World Chess Day 2022: 20th July

- World Chess Day is celebrated annually on July 20 globally. The day marks the date of the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924. On this day, we can observe the day by teaching someone or learning how to play the game. Also, we can consider a 24-Hour Marathon or share your story about your own chess strategy.
- On 12 December 2019, the General Assembly proclaimed 20 July as World Chess Day to mark the date of the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924. It is believed that the game of chess, which was once known as “Chaturanga”, dates back almost 1500 years and originated in India. It later made its way to Persia, where it flourished under Arab rule and eventually spread to Southern Europe. In Europe, chess evolved into its current form during the 15th century. It changed into a modern sport by the end of the 15th century.

About International Chess Federation (FIDE):

Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

President: Arkady Dvorkovich

Founded: 20 July 1924, Paris, France

Membership: 200 national associations

World Day for International Justice 2022: 17th July

- World Day for International Justice is observed on July 17 to commemorate the organisations that work to bring justice to the victims of international criminal acts. It also

commemorates the establishment of modern court systems in the world. The day focuses on the advocacy of fundamental human rights and the promotion of international criminal justice.

- World Day for International Justice aims at lauding the efforts of the ICC and uniting everyone in promoting justice for the victims of international crimes. The ICC mainly focused on crimes against humanity (extermination, murder, etc.), genocide (deliberately harming one community), war crimes (willfully causing suffering, torture, etc.), and crimes of aggression (military occupation, annexation, etc.).

World Youth Skills Day 2022:15th July

- World Youth Skills Day 2022 is observed annually on July 15. It focuses on the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship. This day is to equip young people around the world with essential skills for employment, work, and entrepreneurship. This day is meant to commemorate, acknowledge and celebrate the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment and entrepreneurship.
- Every year, World Youth Skills Day is marked with a certain theme set by the United Nations. The theme for 2022 is 'Transforming youth skills for the future'.
- In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared 15 July as World Youth Skills Day, to celebrate the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.

About United Nations General Assembly:

Headquarters: New York, United States

President: Abdulla Shahid

World Paper Bag Day 2022:12th July

- Every year, World Paper Bag Day is observed on July 12 to raise awareness of the importance of using paper bags instead of plastic bags. This day is dedicated to spreading awareness of the ill effects of plastic and how detrimental they are to our environment. Paper bags can easily be used to replace one-time-use plastic bags which are non-biodegradable or, in other words, take hundreds of years to decompose in landfills.
- The theme for Paper Bag Day this year is, "If You're 'fantastic', Do Something 'dramatic' To Cut The 'Plastic', Use 'Paper Bags'."
- The significance of Paper Bag Day is to discourage the use of plastic bags and generate consciousness about how harmful they are to the environment as it takes thousands of years to decompose. However, paper bags are biodegradable and an important cornerstone to preserving our planet.

World Malala Day 2022:12th July

- INTERNATIONAL Malala Day is celebrated every year on July 12 on the occasion of young activist Malala Yousafzai's birthday. The United Nations (UN) designated this date to be marked as Malala Day to honour the young woman who has been advocating for female education. The day is used as an opportunity to appeal to world leaders to ensure compulsory and free education for every child.

- On July 12, 2013, then 16-year-old Pakistani activist delivered a moving speech at the headquarters of the United Nations. She highlighted the need for access to women's education globally and called the world leaders to reform their policies.
- Malala was widely appreciated for her remarkable speech. Since July 12 was her birthday, therefore the UN promptly declared that the day will be celebrated as 'Malala Day' to honour the young activist.

National Fish Farmers' Day 2022: 10th July

- NFF Day is celebrated on 10th July every year to demonstrate solidarity with all fisher folk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders throughout the Country. It is 65th National Fish Farmers Day being celebrated across the Country. National Fisheries Development Board, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India celebrated the National Fish Farmers Day virtually at National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) Hyderabad.

World Kiswahili Language Day 2022: 7th July

- World Kiswahili Day is celebrated on the 7th of July every year following a declaration by UNESCO member states in this regard. Kiswahili is one of the most widely spoken languages in Africa and the most widely spoken in sub-Saharan Africa. Kiswahili is also the only African language that is an official language of the African Union.
- This first celebration of the World Kiswahili language day will be held under the theme 'Kiswahili for peace and prosperity'. The mission of the annual celebration is to promote the use of Kiswahili language as a beacon for peace, and enhanced multiculturalism.

World Zoonosis Day 2022: 6th July

- World Zoonoses Day is marked annually on 6 July to commemorate the first vaccination administered against a zoonotic disease like influenza, ebola and West Nile virus. Zoonotic diseases are caused by viruses, parasites, bacteria and fungi. These germs can lead to several kinds of illnesses, ranging in severity, in people and animals. Some can even cause death. Unlike in humans, animals may often appear healthy even when they carry such germs.
- World Zoonoses Day was instituted on 6 July 1885 to educate and raise awareness about zoonotic diseases that can transmit from animals to humans. It commemorates French biologist Louis Pasteur, who administered the first dose of the first vaccine against rabies.

International Plastic Bag Free Day 2022: 3rd July

- The International Plastic Bag Free Day is held on July 3 around the world to spread awareness that a plastic bag free world is possible and that sound environmental alternatives to single use plastic bags are available. 2022 is the 13th edition of the celebrations. The day is an initiative by Bag Free World for the purpose of getting rid of the single-use of plastic bags around the world and promoting environmental conservation by encouraging us all to stay away from the use of plastic bags and instead look for more eco-friendly alternatives.

- The main goal of the day is to raise awareness of the growing harm that the use of this non-biodegradable substance is causing to the environment. It is concerning to learn that a plastic bag takes 1,000 years to disintegrate in a landfill, despite the fact that collective efforts over the past 10 years have drastically decreased the impact thus far.

World Sports Journalist Day 2022: 2nd July

- World Sports Journalists Day is observed on July 2 every year to celebrate the services of sports journalists for the promotion of sports. Sports journalism is a form of reporting that focuses on matters pertaining to any subject or topic related to sports. It is an essential component of every media organization. Sports journalists work on various media platforms including print, broadcast, and the internet. There are several local and national journalism organisations active in sports reporting.
- World Sports Journalist Day is intended to encourage and recognise various sports journalists for their outstanding efforts. It motivates the journalists to set good examples for future generations and inspires them to pursue a career in sports journalism. On this day, many media organisations conduct special events to felicitate their sports journalists.

International Day of Cooperatives 2022: 2nd July

- International Day of Cooperatives is marked annually on the first Saturday of July. This year, the day will be observed on 2 July to highlight the contributions of the cooperative movement. The aim of this celebration is to increase awareness about cooperatives by highlighting how the United Nations shares similar goals and objectives as the international cooperative movement.
- On July 2, cooperatives all around the world will celebrate the 100th International Day of Cooperatives (#CoopsDay). A decade on from the UN International Year of Cooperatives, which showcased the unique contribution of cooperatives to making the world a better place, this year's #CoopsDay slogan — "Cooperatives Build a Better World" — echoes the theme of the International Year.

World UFO Day 2022: 2nd July

- The World UFO Day (WUD) is held on July 2 every year globally. It is a day dedicated to the undoubted existence of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) by World UFO Day Organization (WUFODO). WUD aims to raise awareness about the existence of UFOs and encouraging people to think about the possibility of us not being alone in the Universe. The World UFO Day provides an opportunity to these explorers and enthusiasts to discuss, decode, and deduce multiple theories related to UFOs.
- The day is observed to acknowledge all the theories that are associated with UFOs, although there is no conclusive evidence to support the sightings. On this day, space enthusiasts run their imagination wild and have themed parties. Many go on investigative hunts and research in hopes of finding evidence of UFOs.

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

SUMMITS AND MOU'S

Amit Shah to inaugurate conference on drug trafficking, national security in Chandigarh

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah spent all day in Chandigarh where he inaugurated a symposium on drug trafficking and national security. Along with Shah, other speakers at the national conference included Banwarilal Purohit, the chief ministers of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, the lieutenant governor of Jammu & Kashmir, and the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- An official announcement states that Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) teams from Delhi, Chennai, Guwahati, and Kolkata will burn and dispose of more than 30,000 kg of drugs during the conference.
- On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Independence, the NCB pledged to burn 75,000 kg of drugs as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

About Haryana:

Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya

Capital: Chandigarh

Chief minister: Manohar Lal Khattar

Indian, Malaysian bodies ink pact to promote palm oil

- The Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) and the Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand their cooperation in promoting the usage of palm oil. The MoU is anticipated to increase collaboration in areas of shared interest and to advance the production and consumption of palm oil from Malaysia and palm oil with the MSPO certification. Through cooperative actions and assistance for product and market development, it would advance the interests of producers, processors, users, and consumers.
- In order to increase the acceptance of Malaysian palm oil among Indian consumers, food producers, and other end users, MPOC has partnered with IVPA.
- The Malaysian Sustainability Palm Oil (MSPO) certification standards, whose goals include demonstrating sustainability practises in the Malaysian palm oil industry, are used as a benchmark in the MoU's effort to raise public awareness of Malaysian palm oil.

About Malaysia:

Capital: Kuala Lumpur

Currency: Malaysian ringgit

Prime Minister: Ismail Sabri Yaakob

About Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA):

Established: 1977

Located in: New Delhi

International Conference on Chemistry and Applications of Soft Materials from Monday

- The CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram, will host an International Conference on Chemistry and Applications of Soft Materials (CASM 2022) as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations to mark 75th year of Independence. Discussions on a variety of subjects, including self-assembly and supramolecular materials, soft material chemistry, physics, rheology, and photophysics, responsive and smart materials, gels, liquid crystals, polymers, macromolecules and framework materials, and functional nanomaterials, as well as soft material applications in electronics and energy, will take place at the conference.
- The event will be opened by renowned scientist T Pradeep from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.
- The conference, according to Ajayaghosh, Director of CSIR-NIIST and Conference Chair, will give researchers and students the ideal setting to share ideas and create new partnerships in the field of soft materials.
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) will sponsor a session on soft materials for energy applications, and presentations showcasing the technology development initiatives at CSIR-NIIST will also be presented, according to Narayanan Unni, Scientist at CSIR-NIIST and Convener of the Conference.

About Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR):

Founder: Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar

Founded: 26 September 1942

President: Narendra Modi

Parent institution: Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India

13th Petersberg Climate Dialogue: Kick-off for UN climate negotiations

- The 13th Petersberg Climate Dialogue began in Berlin, Germany. The two-day informal ministerial meet is being chaired by Germany and Egypt, hosts of this year's annual climate meet (COP-27). The informal ministerial meeting proposes to build consensus and provide political direction to resolve divergences aimed at improving the implementation of climate action, the core goal of COP-27.
- Ministers and delegations from several countries recalled the urgency to move to the implementation of all the previous resolutions made during the last meeting in order to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- As per the previous resolution, the fight against climate change requires the preservation of the Congo Basin forests, which alone absorb 1.2 billion tonnes of carbon globally per year.

About Germany:

Chancellor: Olaf Scholz

Capital: Berlin

Currency: Euro

President: Frank-Walter Steinmeier

52nd BGB-BSF Director General Level Border Conference Started in Bangladesh

- The Indian delegation, led by DG, BSF Pankaj Singh, arrived in Dhaka early on the first day of the 52nd BGB-BSF Director General level Border conference in Bangladesh. On the first day, a variety of topics including border management, drug trafficking, smuggling of weapons and ammunition, trafficking in women and children, and other development initiatives within 150 yards of the international boundary were discussed.
- During the conference, there was discussion about joint initiatives to implement the Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP) as well as information exchange on various armed groups, extremist groups, and terrorist organisations.
- The two nations talked about methods to increase confidence between the BGB and BSF and to further solidify the already existent bilateral ties.
- Director General of the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB), Major General Shakil Ahmed, is in charge of the 20-person Bangladesh delegation.
- Along with Pankaj Kumar Singh, the DG of the Border Security Force (BSF), several senior representatives from the Ministries of Home Affairs and External Affairs attended the conference on behalf of India.

About Bangladesh:

Capital: Dhaka

Currency: Bangladeshi taka

President: Mohammad Abdul Hamid

Prime minister: Sheikh Hasina

RBI and Bank Indonesia sign MoU to improve mutual cooperation

- An agreement was reached between the Reserve Bank of India and Bank Indonesia to increase collaboration in payment systems, digital financial innovation, anti-money laundering, and countering the funding of terrorism (AML-CFT). On the sidelines of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Bali, the two central banks agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to further their mutual cooperation.
- By signing this MoU, RBI and BI agreed to improve communication and collaboration in the field of central banking, including payment systems, technological advancements in payment services, and the regulatory and supervisory framework for AML-CFT.
- The MoU will be put into practise through policy discussion, technical collaboration, information sharing, and teamwork.
- In the presence of RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and BI Governor Perry Warjiyo, it was signed by Deputy Governors of the RBI Michael Debabrata Patra and the BI Dody Budi Waluyo.
- The MoU will also serve as a solid foundation for fostering intercultural understanding, creating effective payment systems, and attaining cross-border payment connectivity, according to the RBI.

About Reserve Bank of India:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Headquarters: Mumbai (Bombay), Maharashtra, India

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

About Bank Indonesia:

Currency: Indonesian rupiah; IDR (ISO 4217)

Headquarters: Central Jakarta, Indonesia

Founded: 1 July 1953

Founder: People's Consultative Assembly

Jurisdiction: Indonesia

Governor: Perry Warjiyo

A Two-Day Meeting Of The BIMSTEC Expert Group On Cyber Security Cooperation Got Underway In New Delhi

- A two-day meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Cyber Security Cooperation is being organised in New Delhi by the National Security Council Secretariat of the Indian Government. The BIMSTEC Expert Group will create an Action plan to address cyber security concerns in the BIMSTEC Region, as agreed upon during the conference of the BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs held in Bangkok in March 2019.
- Lt. Gen. Rajesh Pant, the national coordinator for cyber security, will serve as the meeting's chair. Delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand will also be present.
- This meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group is primarily focused on developing an action plan that will improve coordination and cooperation between the BIMSTEC Member States in order to boost cyber security when using ICTs.

About BIMSTEC:

Headquarters location: Dhaka, Bangladesh

Founded: 6 June 1997

President : Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Vedanta partners IIT Madras incubated start-up for AI based safety technologies

- In order to implement safety incident detection, metal and oil and gas company Vedanta has partnered with Detect Technologies, a startup established at IIT Madras, and deployed T-Pulse HSSE Monitoring System across all of its business units. The partnership is consistent with the Vedanta Group's objective to achieving zero harm through the implementation of AI-enabled safety monitoring of workplaces, which is a key priority in its roadmap for digital transformation.
- The technological stack offered by T-Pulse is centralised, scalable, and intended for plug-and-play implementation.
- Detect Technologies, a startup supported by IIT Madras, was chosen as the Vedanta SPARK 1.0 initiative's winner.
- Vedanta Spark is a worldwide corporate innovation, accelerator, and ventures programme that aims to support start-ups that use innovative and sustainable technology to have a significant impact on society in collaboration with Vedanta group enterprises.

About Vedanta Group:

CEO: Shri Sunil Duggal
Founder: Dwarka Prasad Agarwal
Headquarters: Mumbai
Parent organization: Vedanta Resources

PM Modi attends maiden I2U2 virtual summit with leaders of US, Israel, UAE

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the first virtual I2U2 Summit. The I2U2 is a four-nation grouping, where “I” stands for India and Israel, and “U” for the US and the UAE. PM Modi was joined by United States President Joe Biden, Israeli PM Yair Lapid and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- The main focus of the virtual meeting was on the food security crisis and clean energy.
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) also announced an investment of USD 2 billion to develop a series of integrated food parks across India to help tackle food insecurity in South Asia and the Middle East.
- India will provide “appropriate land” for “food parks” across the country that will be built in collaboration with Israel, the United States and the United Arab Emirates.
- The I2U2 Group also declared that it will support a “hybrid renewable energy project” in Gujarat, consisting of 300 megawatts (MW) of wind and solar capacity. The project is expected to be another step in India’s quest for “500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030”.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi inaugurates 6th National Conclave on Mines and Minerals; stresses on Self Reliance in Mining Sector

- The 6th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals was held as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav legendary week celebrations in New Delhi, according to the Ministry of Mines. Shri Amit Shah, the Union Minister of Housing, was the chief guest at the colloquium that will be held at the Dr. Ambedkar INTERNATIONAL Center. The one-day conclave was officially opened by Union Minister of Mines, Coal, and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi in the presence of Minister of State for Mines, Coal, and Railways Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve, Secretary Ministry of Mines Shri Alok Tandon, and other senior ministry officials.
- The launch of three modules of the Mining Tenement System (MTS), awards for 5-Star rated mines for the years 2020–21, and the National Geo Science Awards–2019 were some of the highlights of the conclave. Other highlights included the presentation of the national level Rashtriya Khanij Vikas Puraskar to the best performing States in the field of mining. The conclave’s opening session included a technical presentation from the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) and a discussion on mining automation. During the round table discussions, the CEOs of various mining businesses did come up with crucial ideas related to India’s mining industry.

Coffee Board & ISRO Team Up to Develop Climate-Resistant Coffee Varieties

- State-run Coffee Board is planning to focus on developing new varieties that will be resistant to the changing climatic patterns. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Coffee Board and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) was signed with regard to

breeding climate-resilient varieties and assessing the carbon sequestration potential in coffee among others.

- The Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) in the Chikmagalur district of Karnataka conducts plant-related research activities under the Board in the areas of plant breeding, agronomy, agriculture chemistry and soil science, plant physiology, pathology, entomology, and post-harvest technology, among others. In recent years, coffee growers in the country have borne the brunt of changing climatic patterns. The number of extreme weather events affecting growers, such as excessive rain in a short period or deficit rainfall, is increasing.

About ISRO:

Founded: 15 August 1969;

Headquarters: Bengaluru;

Chairman: S Somanath

Ex-NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant to be India's new G20 Sherpa

- The former CEO of Niti Aayog, Amitabh Kant, will take on the role of G-20 Sherpa. Piyush Goyal, a Union Minister, would be replaced by Kant because he is expected to resign owing to workload. Later this year, India will preside over the G-20. It should be highlighted that the nation requires a full-time G-20 Sherpa, which Goyal is unlikely to provide as he already holds a number of cabinet positions.
- The Sherpa would need to dedicate a lot of time to several meetings that will be held in various regions of the country because India will hold the G-20 presidency this year.
- According to the source, Union Minister Piyush Goyal is responsible for a number of ministries in the Modi government, which takes up a lot of his time. The Minister is also charged with additional urgent tasks, much like the Rajya Sabha Leader.

About Niti Aayog:

CEO: Parameswaran Iyer

Formed: 1 January 2015

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairperson: Narendra Modi

Shri Parshottam Rupala inaugurated India's first ever Animal Health Summit

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala inaugurating First India Animal Health Summit 2022, he called for greater use of Ayurveda for ensuring better animal health. First India Animal Health Summit 2022 was held at NASC Complex, New Delhi understanding the significance of animal health towards the broader objective of the country's food and nutrition security, rural incomes and prosperity and overall economic development.
- 'India Animal Health Summit 2022' organized by Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) and the Agriculture Today Group. The two-day event will host a plethora of panel discussions ranging from topics such as Animal Health policy initiatives to Business environment & investment opportunities in the Animal Health sector. The deliberations evolved will later be documented and presented to authorities.

Tata Power, TN govt ink MoU to set up mega solar mfg plant worth Rs. 3,000 crore

- Tata Power revealed that it has reached a deal with the Tamil Nadu government to invest Rs. 3000 crore in the construction of a new solar cell and module manufacturing facility in the state's Tirunelveli district. According to the agreement, both parties will endeavour to promote the switch to renewable energy and the creation of jobs in the state. The investment in the facility must take place over a period of more than 16 months and must result in the creation of jobs, the majority of which will be for women.
- Tata Power revealed that it has reached a deal with the Tamil Nadu government to invest Rs. 3000 crore in the construction of a new solar cell and module manufacturing facility in the state's Tirunelveli district.
- According to a corporate statement, Tata Power, one of India's leading integrated power firms, has struck an agreement with the Tamil Nadu government to invest roughly Rs 3,000 crore to build a 4GW solar cell and 4GW solar module manufacturing facility in the Tirunelveli region of Tamil Nadu.

About Tata Power:

CEO: Praveer Sinha (1 May 2018)

Founder: Dorabji Tata

Headquarters: Mumbai

IGSS Ventures Plans INR 25,600 Crore Semiconductor Park In Tamil Nadu

- In the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Tamil Nadu and the Singapore-based M/s. IGSS Ventures Pte Ltd to build a 300-acre semiconductor high-tech park in the State with an investment and grants of 25,600 crore. At the function held at the Secretariat were Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu, Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu, and other top officials. In the next five years, the project is expected to directly employ more than 5,000 individuals, according to an official press release.
- By using renewable energy to cook, IGSS Ventures intends to take part in the India Semiconductor Mission and Project Surya, both of which aim to lessen air pollution and global warming.
- For a semiconductor fab that will produce wafers in three different technology nodes, including 28 nm, 45 nm, and ≥ 65 nm, as well as an industry ecosystem infrastructure that includes semiconductor circuit designers, material suppliers, equipment suppliers, and outsourced semiconductor assembly and test players, Tamil Nadu has allocated nine strategic sites, including two near Chennai.
- According to the consortium, 1,500 semi-skilled and skilled workers might be employed when commercial production begins in two years.

About Tamil Nadu:

Governor: R. N. Ravi

Capital: Chennai

Chief Minister: M. K. Stalin

Edelweiss General Insurance-Avanse to offer student travel insurance

- Avanse Financial Services, an NBFC with an emphasis on education, and Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI) have teamed to offer student travel insurance to international students who are supported by Avanse. Student travel insurance from Edelweiss General Insurance covers medical costs and guards against emergencies and financial losses. The Edelweiss General Insurance plan ensures students have a worry-free time while studying and staying by providing comprehensive coverage against medical, lodging, and travel inconvenience-related covers. Additionally, students will have the option to modify their plan with optional covers in accordance with their demands and university standards.
- The number of Indian students choosing to pursue higher education overseas is increasing quickly. According to industry forecasts, this number is anticipated to reach 1.8 million by 2024, increasing spending as a result. According to the company, this makes student travel insurance essential, particularly to cover medical costs given that healthcare costs abroad are far higher than in India.

Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi inaugurates Fifth Global Film Tourism Conclave in Mumbai

- At the Novotel Mumbai Juhu Beach in Mumbai, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Union Minister for Minority Affairs, officially inaugurated the fifth Global Film Tourism Conclave (GFTC). In collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) organised the fifth GFTC with the subject "Unleashing the Power of Cinematic Tourism."
- For Film Commissions, Tourism Boards, and Production Houses, GFTC offers a distinctive platform for promoting their sites, incentives, and services to the thriving Indian film industry. When a spectator is persuaded to travel to a specific site after seeing it in a movie, this is known as film tourism.
- According to Mr. Naqvi, both Indian and international films have contributed significantly to spreading a relevant message about the dangers of terrorism, violence, and extremism.
- Shri Naqvi also praised the nation's directors, producers, writers, performers, and technicians for their work in bringing Indian cinema to foreign markets.

NIUA's C-Cube and WRI India launch the India Forum for Nature-Based Solutions

- 11th World Urban Forum in Poland, the National Institute of Urban Affairs' (NIUA's) Climate Centre for Cities (C-Cube), World Resources Institute India (WRI India), and other partners inaugurated India's first national coalition platform for urban nature-based solutions (NbS). Ecosystem-based services and nature-based solutions are quickly becoming viable, affordable options for tackling climate change-related problems such as heat waves, urban flooding, pollution of the air and water, and storm surges.
- Building resilience in the disadvantaged and vulnerable urban neighbourhoods that are most affected by climate change-related disasters is one of the many societal concerns that NbS seeks to address in addition to reducing the effects of climate change.
- The goal of the India Forum for Nature-based Solutions is to bring together NbS entrepreneurs, government agencies, and organisations with similar goals in order to scale urban nature-based solutions by defining a common language and communicating benefits that guide local actions, such as expanding already-existing NbS interventions.

NATO Summit 2022 Concludes in Madrid

- The 2022 NATO Madrid Summit was held in Madrid, Spain, from June 28 to 30, 2022. This was the 32nd edition of the summit, since the first summit meeting held in Paris in 1957. The Summit was chaired by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. The heads of state and heads of government of NATO member and partner countries participated in the three-day Summit. NATO summit meetings is a platform for member countries to evaluate and provide strategic direction for Alliance activities.
- During the Summit, 22 NATO members agreed to launch the NATO Innovation Fund. It is a multi-sovereign venture capital fund that will invest 1 billion euros (\$1.05 billion) in startups and other venture capital funds that develops emerging technologies for both civilian and military use.
- NATO leaders on Wednesday agreed to strengthen the alliance's forward defenses, enhance the bloc's battlegroups on its eastern flank and increase the number of high readiness forces to more than 300,000.

About NATO:

Formation: 4 April 1949

Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium

Secretary General: Jens Stoltenberg

Total Member: 30

Last member of NATO: North Macedonia

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Indian Origin Professor Kaushik Rajashekara wins Global Energy Prize

- Kaushik Rajashekara, an Indian-origin professor of engineering at the University of Houston, has won the prestigious Global Energy Prize for outstanding contributions to transportation electrification and energy efficiency technologies while reducing power generation emissions.
- Only three people in the world were selected this year for the honour, bestowed by the Global Energy Association, out of a record 119 nominations from 43 countries.
- Rajashekara is joined as a 2022 laureate by Viktor Orlov, chief specialist of the Centre for Innovative Technologies (Rosatom in Russia) and pioneer in thermonuclear physics; and Mercuri Kanatzidis, professor of chemistry and materials science at Northwestern University and senior researcher at the Argonne National Laboratory.

Filmmaker KP Kumaran bags JC Daniel Award, Malayalam cinema's highest honour

- Malayalam filmmaker, KP Kumaran has been honoured with Kerala's highest film award, the JC Daniel Award. Kumaran won the award for his contribution to the Malayalam film industry. The award comprises of a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, a citation, and a plaque. The 2021 jury included singer P Jayachandran, director Sibi Malayil, film academy chairman Ranjith, and Rani George, the principal secretary of the Department of Cultural Affairs.
- The filmmaker made his directorial debut with Athithi in 1975 and earned fame for his films like Rugmini, which won the National Award for a Best feature film in Malayalam and the Kerala State Film Award in 1989.

- He is also known for films like Thenthulli, Laxmivijayam and Thottam. The filmmaker's last directorial venture was 2020's Gramavrikshathile Kuyil. The film chronicles the life of Kumaran Asan, a philosopher, poet, social reformer and industrialist.
- JC Daniel Award is Kerala's highest award in Malayalam cinema. It is presented annually by the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy, a nonprofit institution under the Department of Cultural Affairs. Instituted in 1992, the award is given to honour the recipients for their outstanding contribution to Malayalam cinema.

About Kerala:

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

NAARM gets ICAR Sardar Patel Award

- The National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) has bagged the Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institute Award 2021 (in the Large Institute Category) for its overall performance. Ch Srinivasa Rao, Director of NAARM, received the award from the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar in New Delhi. The awards were given away at a function to mark the 94th Foundation Day of the ICAR.
- The National Academy of Agricultural Research Management is a national-level Natural Resource Service training institute for ARS cadre located in Hyderabad, Telangana, India. It was established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 1976, to address issues related to agricultural research and education management, in India.

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

- Development Bank of Singapore Limited (DBS Bank) has been recognized as the 'World's Best SME Bank' by Euromoney for the second time (the first time in 2018). The bank has established its position as a global industry leader in association with Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to enhance growth and development. DBS' latest global best SME bank accolade comes from leading UK-based financial publication Euromoney, which has honoured DBS with the 'World's Best SME Bank' title for the second time since 2018.

About DBS Bank:

Founder: Government of Singapore

Headquarters: Singapore

CEO: Piyush Gupta

Japan Govt To Honour Slain Leader Shinzo Abe With Country's Highest Order Posthumously

- The Japanese government announced its decision to honour former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with the country's highest decoration "the Collar of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum" posthumously. Shinzo Abe will be the fourth former premier to receive the honour under the postwar Constitution. Before him, former Prime Ministers Shigeru Yoshida, Eisaku Sato and Yasuhiro Nakasone were conferred with the same honour.
- Notably, Emperor Meiji of Japan introduced the Grand Cordon of the Order in 1876. Later in 1888, the Collar of the Order was added to it. Unlike its European counterparts, Japan has the right to award it posthumously. The grand cordon is the highest honour that a Japanese

national can receive in his/her lifetime. As of now, as many as 44 Japanese nationals have been awarded with the grand cordon, apart from the Imperial Family.

About Japan:

Capital: Tokyo

Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida

Currency: Japanese yen

Governor presents Mother Teresa Memorial Award to Dia Mirza, Afroz Shah

- The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) National Goodwill Ambassador Ms Dia Mirza, and Environmental Activist Mr Afroz Shah were felicitated with the prestigious Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice 2021. The award is given by the Governor of Maharashtra Hon. Bhagat Singh Koshiyari at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai. Both were awarded for their commendable and notable achievements in Environmental Sustainability.
- Ms Dia Mirza was awarded for her astounding and notable efforts in leading pivotal environmental campaigns across India as the Goodwill Ambassador of UNEP, India.
- Mr Afroz Shah was awarded for his impeccable and seminal efforts to lead one of the world's largest beach clean-up movements in India that have inspired people around the world.

About United Nations Environment Program (UNEP):

Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya

Founded: 5 June 1972, Nairobi, Kenya

Head: Inger Andersen

Parent organization: United Nations

India's Pallavi Singh bags the Mrs Universe Divine Crown in South Korea

- India's Pallavi Singh has won the Mrs Universe Divine Title at the finals held at Yeosu City, South Korea. She hails from Kanpur, India, and has made her country proud in this contest that saw participation from 110 countries. This is a proud moment for India. Pallavi Singh was the contestant from Asia in the Mrs Universe contest and has demonstrated the strong will and commitment of Indian women to excel in all walks of life.
- Pallavi Singh won the title of Mrs India held in Jaipur in 2020. She then won the title of Mrs Indo-Asia Universe in the Asia-level competition held in Delhi in October 2021. She was the contestant from India and Asia in the Mrs Universe contest, which saw her taking away the crown.

About South Korea:

Capital: Seoul

President: Yoon Seok-youl

Currency: South Korean won

Prime Minister: Han Duck-soo

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh announces setting up of Dr Rajendra Prasad Memorial Award in public administration in field of academic excellence

- In honour of India's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Award in Public Administration has been established, according to Science and Technology Minister Dr.

Jitendra Singh in New Delhi. Dr. Singh presided over a meeting of the Executive Council of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). To achieve the objectives established by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the institute must have a futuristic vision for the following 25 years.

- IIPA has the ability and must continue to perform by maintaining a broad pool of professionals and a diverse range of activities.
- Dr. Jitendra, who is also the Union Minister of State (independent charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (independent charge) for Earth Sciences, as well as the MoS for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy, and Space, expressed his congratulations to the IIPA Director General and staff for receiving the ISO 9001:2015 certification while presiding over the 320th meeting of the Executive Council of IIPA.

About Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA):

Founder: Paul H. Appleby

President: Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India

Founded: 1954

Ukraine's Maryna Viazovska second woman to win prestigious Fields Medal for Mathematics

- Ukrainian maths professor, Maryna Viazovska, who won the top mathematics prize, the Fields Medal 2022. Viazovska and three other mathematicians received the Fields Medal, dubbed the Nobel prize in maths, in Helsinki after the ceremony was moved from Saint Petersburg to the Finnish capital in response to Moscow's war.
- Maryna is only the second woman to receive the award, which is awarded to mathematicians under 40, since it was created in 1936. The other female laureate, Iran's Maryam Mirzakhani, died of breast cancer in 2017 just three years after winning the prize.
- The Fields Medals were first awarded in 1936 in Oslo, Norway. The Fields medals were conceived by John Charles Fields, a Canadian mathematician.

The four awardees of the prestigious prize include:

1. France's Hugo Duminil-Copin (36 years)- Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques
2. US-based June Huh (39 years) – Princeton University
3. Britain's James Maynard (35 years) – University of Oxford
4. Ukraine's Maryna Viazovska (37 years) – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology

About Ukraine:

Prime minister: Denys Shmyhal

Capital: Kyiv

President: Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia

21-year-old Sini Shetty from Karnataka crowned Femina Miss India World 2022

- Sini Shetty has won the title of Femina Miss India 2022. She will now represent India at the 71st Miss World pageant. Shetty was crowned Femina Miss India World 2022 by her predecessor Miss India 2020, Manasa Varanasi at JIO World Convention Center in Mumbai. Femina Miss India 2022's first runner-up is Rubal Shekhawat from Rajasthan, while the second runner-up is Shinata Chauhan, who hails from Uttar Pradesh.

- Hailing from Karnataka, Shetty was born in Mumbai in 2001. The 21-yr-old, who holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and financing, is currently pursuing a course in Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).
- The jury panel of Femina Miss India 2022 comprised actors Neha Dhupia, Dino Morea and Malaika Arora, and legendary cricketer Mithali Raj. The panel also included Rahul Khanna, Rohit Gandhi and Shiamak Davar.

About Karnataka:

Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot

Capital: Bengaluru (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Basavaraj Bommai

UK Parliament honours AIIA Director Tanuja Nesari with Ayurveda Ratna award

- Tanuja Nesari, Director of All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) was awarded with the Ayurveda Ratna Award by the UK Parliament. The UK's All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indian Traditional Sciences (ITSappg) conferred the award recognising her contribution to promoting the growth of Ayurveda in India and abroad.
- Dr Nesari has been honoured for her exceptional service of the highest order for the promotion of Ayurveda by an ITSappg committee represented by dignitaries, including Amarjeet S. Bhamra, Ambassador for Ayurveda and Yoga in Great Britain; Virendra Sharma, MP, UK Parliament and Chair, ITSappg; and Bob Blackman, MP, UK Parliament and Chair, ITSappg.
- The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indian Traditional Sciences was formed in 2014 with an aim to spread the knowledge of Ayurveda, Yoga, Jyotish, Vastu, Unani and Sangeetam in United Kingdom and abroad.

About United Kingdom:

Prime minister: Boris Johnson

Capital: London

Currency: Pound sterling

HCL Technologies receives Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards 2022

- HCL Technologies was recognised at Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards 2022, for innovation and implementing customer solutions based on Microsoft technology. HCL Tech bagged Microsoft Partner of the Year Award for Healthcare and Life Sciences (global winner) and the 2022 UK Microsoft Partner of the Year Award (country winner). The IT company was also named a finalist in the 2022 Microsoft Partner of the Year Award for Internet of Things (domain finalist).
- The Awards recognise Microsoft partners that have developed and delivered outstanding Microsoft-based applications, services, and devices during the past year. More than 3,900 nominations were filed from 100+ countries worldwide, for the annual Awards. Microsoft Partner of the Year Awards are announced annually before the company's global partner conference, Microsoft Inspire, which will take place on July 19-20 this year. The HCL Microsoft Ecosystem Unit enables organizations to transform into more agile and adaptive enterprises with a focus on maximizing business value from industry leading innovation and transformation on the Microsoft cloud.

About HCL Technologies:
CEO: C Vijayakumar (Oct 2016)
Founded: 12 November 1991
Headquarters: Noida

Ashok Soota conferred with the prestigious CII Quality Ratna Award 2021

- Ashok Soota, founder and Executive Chairman of Happiest Minds Technologies, has been conferred with CII Quality Ratna Award 2021. The Annual CII Quality Ratna Award constituted in the year 2019 is in recognition of outstanding leadership, contribution, and distinguished service to the Quality Movement in India. The CII Awards Committee unanimously concurred to bestow the 2021 Award to Mr. Soota considering his significant contribution to building the competitiveness of the Indian industry through quality Initiatives.

About Happiest Minds Technologies:

Founder: Ashok Soota
Founded: 30 March 2011
Headquarters: India

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.

RANKING

Parle continues to be India's top FMCG brand - Kantar Report

- According to Kantar India's annual Brand Footprint study, locally produced biscuit brand Parle continued to be the most popular brand among fast-moving consumer goods in India in 2021, topping the rankings for the eleventh year in a row. Based on Consumer Reach Points (CRPs), the report assessed the FMCG brands that consumers will choose in 2021. CRP are evaluated based on the actual purchases made by customers and the regularity with which they occur throughout a given year. In other words, CRP gauges a brand's mass appeal based on its penetration and how consumers feel about it based on how frequently they purchase it.
- After Parle, the other top brands on the list are Amul, Britannia, Clinic Plus, and Tata Consumer Products. For a record-breaking tenth year in a row, Parle is in first place with a CRP score of 6531 (million).

About Parle Products:

Founder: Mohanlal Dayal Chauhan
Founded: 1929

Headquarters: Vile Parle (East), Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Subsidiary: Parle Biscuits Pvt. Ltd.

India's R&D expenditure is one of the lowest in the world

- According to a report by the government think tank NITI Aayog and the Institute for Competitiveness, India has among of the lowest R&D expenditures worldwide. In fact, R&D spending in India has decreased, falling from 0.8 percent of GDP in 2008-09 to 0.7 percent in 2017-18. According to data, India has a lower GERD than the other BRICS countries. Spending amounts for Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa are respectively 1.2 percent, 1.1 percent, over 2 percent, and 0.8 percent. Around 1.8 percent is the global average.
- According to the India Innovation Index 2021, India has generally spent a small amount of money on research and development. The overall share of gross expenditure on R&D (GERD) as a percentage of GDP, which was roughly 0.7 percent, reflected this.
- The biggest R&D expenditure per GDP is made by Israel, which is 4.5 percent.
- India's GERD needs to significantly improve and reach at least 2 percent in order for the country to reach its aim of having a \$5 trillion GDP.
- At \$43 per person, India has one of the lowest rates of GERD worldwide. India performs far worse than its BRICS and ASEAN rivals Brazil, Malaysia and Russia.

About NITI Aayog:

Formed: 1 January 2015

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairperson: Narendra Modi

Vice Chairman: Suman Bery

CEO: Parameswaran Iyer

NITI Aayog proposes bringing a 'full-scale' digital bank licence

- The "Digital Banks" paper from NITI Aayog presents a rationale for a licencing and regulatory framework for digital banks as well as a template and a path for implementing it. It focuses on preventing any regulatory or policy arbitrage and provides both incumbents and challengers with an even playing field. In front of other officials, the report was released by Suman Bery, CEO of NITI Aayog, Parameswaran Iyer, Senior Advisor Anna Roy.
- This paper examines the current gaps, the neglected niches, and the global regulatory best practises for licencing digital banks because it is crucial to properly use technology to meet India's banking demands.
- The components of these four characteristics are then compared to Singapore, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Australia, and South Korea, five benchmark jurisdictions.
- The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and India Stack have recently propelled India's rapid advancements in financial inclusion.
- Financial inclusion has become a reality for Indians over the past several years because to digitization, which was brought about by the Jan Dan-Aadhar-Mobile (JAM) trinity and Aadhaar.
- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which has seen unprecedented acceptance, has only served to reinforce this. In October 2021, UPI counted more than 4.2 billion transactions totaling 7.7 trillion.

About NITI Aayog:

Formed: 1 January 2015

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairperson: Narendra Modi

Vice Chairman: Suman Bery

CEO: Parameswaran Iyer

World's most powerful passports in 2022: India ranks 87th

- The Henley Passport Index has recently released the list of the World's Most Powerful Passports for the year 2022. Three Asian nations Japan, Singapore and South Korea bagged the top three positions on the list, reversing pre-pandemic rankings that were dominated by European nations. India is ranked 87th on the list of the world's most powerful passports in 2022, according to the latest Henley Passport Index from Henley & Partners, an immigration consultancy.
- India's neighbouring country Pakistan reportedly has the fourth worst passport in the world, according to Henley Index.
- Among other countries from Asia, India, along with Mauritius and Tajikistan, has been ranked 87th, with its passport providing access to 67 countries.
- China ties with Bolivia for the 69th spot, with each of their passports allowing access to 80 destinations.

About Henley Passport Index:

Headquarters: London

Launched: 2005; 17 years ago

Gautam Adani now world's 4th richest, overtakes Bill Gates: Forbes' real-time billionaires list

- As per the Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List, India's richest person, Gautam Adani has now also become the fourth richest person in the world, leaving behind Microsoft founder Bill Gates. This increment came as Gates announced that he would be donating \$20 billion of his wealth to his non-profit organisation — Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- Elon Musk is the richest person with a \$230 billion net worth, followed by Bernard Arnault of Louis Vuitton at the second spot and Amazon's Jeff Bezos at third on the list.
- Mukesh Ambani was placed 10th on the Forbes list (net worth: \$88 billion).
- In February this year, Adani overtook fellow countryman Ambani to take Asia's richest spot on the back of the jump of his personal fortune, which made him the world's biggest wealth-gainer this year.

About Forbes:

Company: Integrated Whale Media Investments, China (Hong Kong) (95%); Forbes family (5%)

Editor: Randall Lane

Frequency: Twice quarterly

Based in: Jersey City, New Jersey, U.S

Categories: Business magazine

First issue: September 15, 1917; 104 years ago

Tamil Nadu, UP top in Smart City Fund utilisation

- Tamil Nadu tops the list of states so far as utilisation of funds under the government's flagship Smart City Mission is concerned. While Tamil Nadu has spent over Rs 3932 crore out of the Rs 4333 crore released by the Centre, Uttar Pradesh is in the second position with the utilisation of Rs 2699 cr out of the Central share release of Rs 3142 crore. As on 8 July 2022, the Centre has released Rs 30,751.41 crore for 100 Smart Cities, out of which Rs 27,610.34 crore (90%) has been utilised.
- Government data showed that states including Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan have also spent major amounts on projects under the Smart City Mission.
- While Karnataka recorded utilization of Rs 2420 crore from the Central release of Rs 2618 crore, Maharashtra showed over Rs 2453 crore utilization out of a total release of Rs 2454 crore by the Centre.

About Tamil Nadu:

Governor: R. N. Ravi

Capital: Chennai

Chief Minister: M. K. Stalin

Expat Insider Rankings for 2022: Mexico tops the list, India on 36th rank out of 52 countries

- Mexico has topped the Expat Insider Rankings for 2022, which was released by the InterNations recently, while India has been ranked on 36th position out of the 52 countries on the list, with a high affordability score. Kuwait is the worst country for expats in the ranking.
- Top 10: Mexico, Indonesia, Taiwan, Portugal, Spain, UAE, Vietnam, Thailand, Australia, Singapore.
- The Expat Insider 2022 survey report surveyed 11,970 respondents to evaluate their life abroad. These respondents represented 177 nationalities and lived in 181 countries or territories worldwide.
- A total of 52 countries have been ranked on the list.

About Mexico:

Capital: Mexico City

Currency: Mexican peso

President: Andrés Manuel López Obrador

Gender Gap Report 2022: India ranks low at 135th globally for gender parity; worst for health & survival

- India ranks 135 among a total of 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2022 of the World Economic Forum (WEF). It is the worst performer in the world in the "health and survival" sub-index where it is ranked 146. India also ranks poorly among its neighbours and is behind Bangladesh (71), Nepal (96), Sri Lanka (110), Maldives (117) and Bhutan (126). Only Iran (143), Pakistan (145) and Afghanistan (146) perform worse than India in south Asia.
- The Global Gender Gap Index benchmarks gender parity across four key dimensions or sub-indices — economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and

survival, and political empowerment. It measures scores on a 0 to 100 scale, which can be interpreted as the distance covered towards parity or the percentage of the gender gap that has been closed.

- The Global Gender Gap Report 2022 is the 16th edition of the annual publication by WEF. The Global Gender Gap Index was first introduced by the World Economic Forum in 2006 to compare countries' gender gaps across four dimensions: economic opportunities, education, health and political leadership.

About World Economic Forum (WEF):

Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland

Founder: Klaus Schwab

Chairperson: Børge Brende

Founded: January 1971

Kerala And Ahmedabad Feature In World's Greatest Places Of 2022 By TIME Magazine

- Two locations from India have been named among "50 extraordinary destinations to explore" this year by TIME Magazine. The southern state of Kerala and Ahmedabad, the capital city of Gujarat were the two Indian entries into the list of the world's greatest places of 2022.
- "Kerala is one of India's most beautiful states. With spectacular beaches and lush backwaters, temples, and palaces, it's known as "God's own country" for good reason," TIME Magazine said.
- About Ahmedabad, TIME Magazine said that "as India's first UNESCO World Heritage City, Ahmedabad "boasts both ancient landmarks and contemporary innovations that make it a mecca for cultural tourism, from the serene Gandhi Ashram that sits on 36 acres on the banks of the Sabarmati River to Navratri, a vibrant nine-day celebration billed as the longest dance festival in the world."

About TIME Magazine:

First issue date: 3 March 1923

Categories: News magazine

Based in: New York City

Total circulation (2020): 1.6 million

About UNESCO:

Headquarters: Paris, France

Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom

Founders: India, United States, China, France, United Kingdom & etc....

President: Altay Cengizer

Jharkhand secures 1st rank in Delta Ranking for RURBAN Mission

- According to a formal announcement, Jharkhand came out on top in the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Rurban Mission's delta ranking for the month of June with a composite score of 76.19. As a result, the state has moved up to number eight in the mission's overall ranking. The state's score in the delta ranking increased by 1.93 points from the previous month, the most increase among the 34 states and union territories.

- The mission was started by the Center in 2016 with the goals of promoting regional economic growth, upgrading essential services, and developing well-planned Rurban clusters.
- According to state rural development department secretary Dr. Manish Ranjan, the improved work done in each of the areas is what has caused the good improvement, which is reflected in Jharkhand's ranking.
- According to state MGNREGA commissioner Rajeshwari B, the Union Ministry of Rural Development has announced the delta rating for the month of June, in which Jharkhand placed first nationwide in the delta ranking and ninth overall.

About Jharkhand:

Founded: 15 November 2000

Capital: Ranchi

Chief Minister: Hemant Soren

Governor: Shri Ramesh Bais

Number of undernourished people in India declines to 224.3 million: UN report

- India's population of 224.3 million undernourished people has decreased over the past 15 years according to the UN report. However, the number of obese adults and anaemic women has increased in the world's second-most populous nation. According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022 report, which was released by the World Health Organization (WHO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNICEF, World Food Programme (WFP), and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 828 million people worldwide were suffering from hunger in 2021, up about 46 million from 2020 and 150 million since the COVID-19 pandemic's outbreak.
- There were 224.3 million undernourished persons in India in 2019–21, down from 247.8 million in 2004–06.
- The number of stunted children under the age of five decreased from 52.3 million in 2012 to 36.1 million in 2020 and the number of overweight children under the age of five decreased from three million to 2.2 million in 2020.

About United Nation (UN):

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

Headquarters: New York, United States

Secretary general: António Guterres

Awards: Nobel Peace Prize, Academy Award for Best Documentary (Short Subject), Peabody Award

Odisha ranks No 1 in NFSA 2022 ranking, becomes role model for world

- Odisha has ranked number one for the implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Uttar Pradesh is ranked second and Andhra Pradesh is ranked third as announced by the Central Government on Tuesday. The State Ranking Index for NFSA 2022 was released by the Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal during a conference of the state food ministers on the food and nutrition security of India. In a special category which includes the north eastern states, Himalayan states, and Island states, Tripura was ranked number one, Himachal Pradesh second and Sikkim is at the third position for the

implementation of the National Food Security Act. The report said, “despite the logistical limitations in these areas, they displayed a high degree of accomplishment in completing with the general category states.”

About Odisha:

Governor: Ganeshi Lal

Capital: Bhubaneswar

Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik

Jayshree Ullal, billionaire Indian-American CEO, among richest self-made women in US

- Indian-American Jayshree Ullal, CEO of Arista Networks, an American computer networking company, and a member of the board of directors of Snowflake, was ranked near the top of 8th annual Forbes' America's Richest Self-Made Women, with a net worth of \$1.7 billion as of May 2022. The list, released in June 2022, ranks her at #15, below Alice Schwartz, co-founder of Bio-Rad Laboratories, and above reality TV star Kim Kardashian.
- Other Indian American women who made it to the Forbes list are Neerja Sethi, co-founder of Syntel; Neha Narkhede, co-founder and former CTO of Confluent; former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi, and Reshma Shetty, co-founder of Ginkgo Bioworks. Diane Hendricks, co-founder and chairman of ABC Supply, topped the list for the fifth year.

About Arista Networks:

CEO: Jayshree Ullal (Oct 2008)

Founded: October 2004, Menlo Park, California, United States

Headquarters: Santa Clara, California, United States

Owners: Andy Bechtolsheim - 15.3%

Founders: Andy Bechtolsheim, David Cheriton

About United Nations (UN):

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

Headquarters: New York, New York, United States

Secretary General: António Guterres

Haryana & Rajasthan register highest unemployment rate in June: CMIE report

- The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) released a report according to the figures, the nation's jobless rate increased to 7.83% in April from 7.60% in March. According to the figures issued, the jobless rate in urban areas was higher at 9.22% compared to 8.28% in March. India's unemployment rate increased to 7.80 percent, with Haryana and Rajasthan at top in list in unemployment rate.
- In April, the unemployment rate in rural areas was 7.18 percent, down from 7.29 percent in March.
- According to the report, Haryana had the highest unemployment rate (34.5%), followed by Rajasthan (28.8%), Bihar (21.1%), and Jammu & Kashmir (15.6%).

About Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE):

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 13 April 1976

London ranked best city for students, Mumbai tops in India

- According to the QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2023, released by global higher education consultancy Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), Mumbai ranked at 103 has emerged as India's highest-ranked student city. The other Indian cities in the rankings include Bengaluru at 114, Chennai at 125 and New Delhi at 129.
- London (UK) has topped the list ranked 1 followed by Munich (Germany) and Seoul (South Korea) ranked 2nd and Zurich (Switzerland) ranked 4th. The ranking provides students with independent data regarding a range of factors relevant to their study decisions: affordability, quality of life, the standard of university, and the views of previous students that have studied in that destination.

Top 5 Cities based on QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2023

Rank 1 – London (UK)

Rank 2 – Munich (Germany)

Rank 2 – Seoul (South Korea)

Rank 4 – Zurich (Switzerland)

Rank 5 – Melbourne (Australia)

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Book "Dilip Kumar: In the Shadow of a Legend" authored by Faisal Farooqui

- A new book on the legendary actor of Indian cinema, Yusuf Khan, better known as Dilip Kumar, has been released by author Faisal Farooqui. The book is titled "In the Shadow of a Legend: Dilip Kumar". The book is a tribute to Dilip Kumar the man more than Dilip Kumar the actor. Farooqui is the founder and CEO of Mouthshut.com, one of India's leading review and rating platforms.
- In the book, Dilip Kumar: In the Shadow of a Legend, the author paints an intimate portrait of the actor, throwing light on some little-known anecdotes from his illustrious life. The book brings to us the real Dilip Kumar, away from the large screen that made him such an endearing figure for his fans. Dilip Kumar was much more than the actor that we have revered all these years.

CM Dharami unveils 'Beyond The Misty Veil, Temple Tales of Uttarakhand' by ret'd IAS officer

- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dharami released the book "BEYOND THE MISTY VEIL", Temple Tales of Uttarakhand written by Ms Aradhana Johri (Senior IAS) on the temples of Uttarakhand. This book will be known as an authentic introduction to the divine temples of Uttarakhand in the country and abroad. Former IAS officer Aradhana Johri who had served earlier as the District Magistrate of Nainital.
- The book based on the mythological temples of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand informs us about our culture and mythology. Apart from Chardham, religious tourism should also be promoted. The book talks about the temples of Uttarakhand, their significance and the tales associated with them. This will connect the main temples coming in different areas of the state and will promote religious tourism by developing them in the form of circuits.

About Uttarakhand:

Governor: Gurmit Singh

Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dharami

Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)

Jaishankar to launch 'Connecting through Culture', an anthology on India's soft power

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar launched 'Connecting through Culture', an anthology of essays on various aspects of India's soft power strengths, at Sushma Swaraj Bhavan in New Delhi, India. The Minister described the book as the "good cop" in diplomacy and said that it can be used to encourage others to work with India because "it creates a comfort about India."
- It takes different aspects of India and to some degree, it brings out the familiarity with different facets of India." The anthology in many ways is a very notable contribution to understanding India, appreciating India, and in many ways valuing India.

About Ministry of External Affairs:

Departments: Embassy of India

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 2 September 1946

Officeholders: V. Muraleedharan (Minister of State), S. Jaishankar (Minister), Meenakshi Lekhi (Minister of State)

Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar releases book The McMAHON LINE: A CENTURY OF DISCORD

- The Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, recently released a book titled "The McMahon line: A century of discord". The book has been authored by General JJ Singh (Retd), the former Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and former Chief of Army Staff (CoAS). The book is based on the experiences and research of General JJ Singh on the India-China border dispute. A short film related to the McMahon line was also screened. This is the second book written by him.
- General JJ Singh (Retd) had penned down his experience, research and practical knowledge, which could prove beneficial.
- General JJ Singh (Retd) had written a book on a sensitive issue. The book had laid emphasis on politics, history, structure and geography of the McMahon line.

About Himachal Pradesh:

Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur

Governor: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

Capitals: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)

Book 'Getting the Bread: The Gen-Z Way to Success' launched by Sakshi Malik

- Young YouTuber Prarthna Batra's debut book 'Getting the Bread: The Gen-Z Way to Success' launched by sporting icon Sakshi Malik. In Getting the Bread: The Gen-Z Way to Success, Prarthna Batra shares her worldview as well as her experiences of interviewing eminent leaders, entrepreneurs, and media personalities for her popular YouTube channel.
- This book gives young millennial readers valuable insights about following their dreams and becoming successful in a competitive world without losing touch with their humanity. Well-researched, smart, and extremely readable, Getting the Bread: The Gen-Z Way to Success redefines success for the youth of today.

- Prarthna Batra runs the YouTube channel 'Power People and Prarthna' and is passionate about animal rights, sustainability and more opportunities for women in India. She launched a YouTube series about entrepreneurship in 2020, featuring achievers from different fields of work. In this series she interacted with Barkha Dutt, Prajakta Koli, and Sakshi Malik. Her book captures these conversations.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Union Bank sets up "RACE" goal as part of its plan to be among top 3 PSBs

- Manimekhalai, MD & CEO of Union Bank of India (UBI), wants Union Bank of India to surpass other Public Sector Banks and take the third-largest Public Sector Bank position in a time of few years. Union Bank of India may even take into consideration buying a bank along the route. Manimekhalai, who became UBI's first female leader on June 7th, emphasised that the bank has set "RACE" as its aim for the year.
- The MD of Union Bank of India wants the bank to rank among the top three PSB lenders, be the industry leader in a few niche markets, and be a contender in government-sponsored programmes.
- Regarding the fundamentals of being one of the top three PSBs, the bank's profitability and net interest margin should rise, the non-performing asset ratios should drop, and the capital to risk-weighted asset ratio must rise.
- Union Bank of India, sometimes known as Union Bank or UBI, is a government-owned bank in India with over 120 million clients and US\$106 billion in annual revenue.

About Union Bank of India (UBI):

CEO: A. Manimekhalai (3 Jun 2022–)

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 11 November 1919, Mumbai

Owner: Government of India (89.07%)

Bandhan Bank opens first currency chest in Patna

- Bandhan Bank opened its first currency chest in Deedargunj, Patna. As per the bank, this currency chest will assist individuals, MSMEs, and small business owners by supplying currency notes to bank branches and ATMs as needed. The currency chest would provide storage for the bank branches, which will also benefit from Patna's frequent cash transactions.
- In this fiscal year, the bank intends to establish more than 530 additional bank locations throughout the nation.
- The distribution of the new branches will mostly be in North, West, and South India.

About Bandhan Bank:

MD and CEO: C S Ghosh

Headquarters: Kolkata

Founder: Chandra Shekhar Ghosh

Founded: 2001

Chairperson: Anup Kumar Sinha

About Bihar:

Capital: Patna

Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar

Governor: Phagu Chauhan

HDFC Mutual Fund launches HDFC NIFTY Next 50 ETF, HDFC NIFTY 100 ETF

- In an effort to broaden its selection of HDFC MF index solutions, HDFC Mutual Fund has announced the introduction of HDFC Nifty Next 50 ETF and HDFC NIFTY 100 ETF. These funds provide exposure to the large-cap market in India. The asset management firm claims that the HDFC Nifty Next 50 ETF's benchmark, the Nifty Next 50 Total Returns Index (TRI), offers benefits for stock and sector diversification as well as the possibility for longer-term greater risk-adjusted returns compared to the Nifty 50. Additionally, this index has a greater chance of growth because it can include members of the NIFTY 50's upcoming league.
- By concentrating on the top 100 firms based on entire market capitalization, the benchmark of HDFC Nifty 100 ETF—Nifty 100 TRI—offers exposure to the Indian large-cap area and improves market representation.
- While tracking the behaviour of the combined portfolio of the Nifty 50 and Nifty Next 50 Indices, it offers more balanced diversification than the Nifty 50 Index.

About HDFC Bank:

CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan (27 Oct 2020–)

Owner: Housing Development Finance Corporation

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: August 1994, Mumbai

Ajay Piramal-led Piramal Enterprises gets RBI nod to start NBFC operations

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given the organisation permission to begin conducting business as an NBFC to Piramal Enterprises. The licence is required to start an NBFC that does not accept public deposits. RBI has granted the company a certificate of registration allowing it to start operating as a non-banking financial institution without taking deposits from the general public.
- The company gained agreement from the shareholders to demerge its pharmaceuticals division and streamline its corporate structure, the RBI granted its approval.
- The company paid Rs 34,250 crore to buy Dewan Housing Finance (DHFL).
- The company had previously stated that the acquisition will increase the retail loan book by up to five times, hence diversifying Piramal Enterprises' loan book towards retail financing.

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Headquarters: Mumbai (Bombay), Maharashtra, India

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

About Piramal Enterprises:

Founder: Ajay Piramal

CEO: Peter DeYoung

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1984

President: Viral Gandhi

Mastercard set to replace Paytm as title sponsor for all BCCI matches in India

- Mastercard is all set to replace Paytm as the title sponsor for all international and domestic cricket matches organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Paytm held the rights till the end of 2023. Paytm requested BCCI to assign its India Home Cricket title rights to credit card major Mastercard. Paytm had reportedly missed the July deadline to request a reassignment. However, BCCI has been willing to consider its delayed request due to their 'long standing' relationship.
- Mastercard will reportedly be assigned the rights till 2023, as per the original terms of the Paytm deal and will continue to pay INR 3.8 Cr per match. Paytm, on the other hand, will have to pay a re-assignment fee of around INR 16.3 Cr – 5% of the original deal value (INR 326.8 Cr).

About MasterCard:

Founded: 16 December 1966, United States

Headquarters: New York, United States

CEO: Michael Miebach

Executive Chairman: Ajay Banga

Wipro wins five-year digital transformation deal from Nokia

- Wipro Ltd., a company with its headquarters in Bengaluru, announced the signing of a new, five-year contract for digital transformation with Nokia of Finland. The new contract expands on a connection that was first formed more than 20 years ago. Wipro will provide business services in support of Nokia's updated operating model, putting a special emphasis on process optimization, touchless processing, and improved user and customer experience across order management, supply chain, finance, and accounting operations.
- Even though an official statement about the agreement was released, Wipro highlighted that it had mentioned the deal in the press release released along with the financial results of FY22 without mentioning the client or providing term or size information.

About Wipro:

Founder: H. Hasham Premji

CEO: Thierry Delaporte

Chairman: Azim Premji

About Nokia:

Founder: Fredrik Idestam, Eduard Polón and Leo Mechelin

Chairman: Sari Baldauf

Headquarter: Espoo, Finland

Canara Bank Launches New Mobile Banking App; To Be One-Stop Solution

- Canara Bank has launched "Canara ai1", its mobile banking app. The banking app would be a one-stop solution with more than 250 features to cater to the banking needs of its customers. It is aimed to eliminate the need to have multiple mobile apps working in silos for availing of different specific services. The app is available in 11 languages to cater to multiple sections of society in their preferred language.

- The app has advanced features such as an intuitive user interface (UI) and user experience (UX) with multiple themes and menus that can be personalised as per the user's choice.
- It also offers a dark theme to improve visual ergonomics, reduce eye strain, adjust the brightness to current lighting conditions, and facilitate screen usage in dark environments, all while conserving battery power.

About Canara Bank:

Headquarters: Bengaluru

CEO: Lingam Venkat Prabhakar

Founder: Ammembal Subba Rao Pai

Founded: 1 July 1906

Forex Reserves Dive By \$7.5 Billion As RBI Uses War Chest To Help Rupee

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) most recent data shows that during the ending week of July 15, India's foreign exchange reserves decreased by \$7.5 billion to \$572.7 billion. The reserves have dropped to their lowest level in 20 months, or since November 6, 2020, when they were \$568 billion. The report showed that foreign currency assets, which decreased by \$6.5 billion over the week, were the main cause of the reduction in foreign exchange reserves.
- Shaktikanta Das, governor of the RBI, stated that the existing level of foreign exchange reserves is sufficient.
- According to the July RBI report, the foreign exchange reserves at \$580.3 billion on July 8, 2022, were sufficient to cover 9.5 months' worth of anticipated imports for the years 2022–2033.

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Headquarters: Mumbai (Bombay), Maharashtra, India

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

Government declares 'zero coupon zero principal instruments' as securities

- The government has designated "zero coupon zero principal instruments" as securities in preparation for the creation of a social stock exchange. A Not for Profit Organization (NPO) that will be registered with the social stock exchange segment of a recognised stock exchange will issue a zero coupon, zero principal instrument. According to a formal announcement released on Friday, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) will establish the laws that would apply to these instruments.
- The Social Stock Exchange (SSE), a revolutionary idea in India, aims to benefit private and nonprofit sector providers by increasing their access to money.
- Nirmala Sitharaman, the finance minister, proposed the concept in her Budget Speech for 2019–20.

About Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi):

Founded: 12 April 1992

Headquarters: Mumbai

Agency executive: Madhabi Puri Buch (Chairperson)

Jurisdiction: India

Federal Bank has launched its new online tax payment service in partnership with the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)

- Federal Bank and the Central Board of Direct Taxes have teamed to let taxpayers use the e-filing portal's e-pay tax function. Taxes can now be paid promptly by anyone using methods including cash, NEFT/RTGS, a debit/credit card, UPI, net banking, etc. Through the bank's branches, NRIs, domestic clients, and any tax-paying citizen can create tax challans and submit payments.
- The Bank had been given the go-ahead by the Center to begin collecting direct taxes on July 1 of the previous fiscal year.
- For starters, there is no necessity for PAN/TAN registration or verification for taxpayers, eliminating any potential for late tax payments.
- Federal Bank's President and Country Head for Wholesale Banking, Harsh Dugar, claims that this will make it easier for clients to pay their taxes by using any of their payment options, and it will also allow non-customers to pay at their branches' counters.

About Federal Bank:

Headquarters: Aluva

CEO: Shyam Srinivasan (23 Sept 2010–)

Founder: K.P Hormis

Founded: 23 April 1931, Nedumpuram

Urban co-operative banks to have four-tiered regulatory framework: RBI

- In order to improve the financial soundness of Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs), the RBI has decided to create a straightforward four-tiered regulatory framework. A panel of experts led by former RBI deputy governor N S Vishwanathan had presented a number of suggestions for improving UCBs. In addition to other recommendations, the committee had suggested a four-tiered regulatory structure depending on the size of the banks' deposits and the regions in which they operated.
- For important factors such net worth, the Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR), branch expansion, and exposure limitations, a differentiated regulatory approach was primarily advised. A crucial component of the recommendations was belonging to an umbrella organisation. The RBI has agreed to a number of committee recommendations.
- According to the RBI, this will help the banks become more financially resilient and improve their capacity to finance business expansion.

About Reserve Bank of India(RBI):

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Headquarters: Mumbai (Bombay), Maharashtra, India

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Asian Development Bank cuts India GDP forecast for FY23 to 7.2% on Covid, Ukraine war impact

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB), has slashed India's GDP growth forecast to 7.2 per cent for FY23. Earlier this was estimated at 7.5 per cent. Meanwhile, the Manila-based

multilateral development bank has revised down FY24 growth forecast to 7.8 per cent, from 8 per cent estimated earlier. It, however, raised the inflation forecast for India to 6.7% for FY23 from the 5.8 % estimated earlier.

- ADB added that private investment would soften due to the higher cost of borrowing for firms as the RBI continues to raise policy rates to contain inflation. The RBI's monetary policy committee hiked the repo rate by 90 basis points in two consecutive months, May (an off-cycle policy review) and June, raising the repo rate to 4.9%.
- ADB, in the supplementary outlook, also said that net exports would shrink due to subdued global demand and a rising real effective exchange rate eroding export competitiveness despite a depreciating rupee.

About Asian Development Bank:

Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines;

President: Masatsugu Asakawa;

Founded: 19 December 1966.

FICCI Survey: India's GDP growth forecast for 2022-23 downgraded

- Industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) has downgraded India's economic output estimate for this financial year by 40 basis points to 7% for 2022-23. In April, FICCI had estimated India's growth at 7.4% for 2022-23. Owing to geopolitical uncertainties and their impact on Asia's third largest economy.
- However, in its latest round of Economic Outlook Survey (July 2022), it revised the growth projection on account of geopolitical uncertainty and its repercussions for the Indian economy. The present round of surveys that drew responses from leading economists representing the industry, banking, and financial services sector, was conducted in the month of June 2022.

About FICCI:

Founded: 1927

Headquarters: New Delhi

Secretary General: Dilip Chenoy

Presidents: Sanjiv Mehta, Uday Shankar

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

- American brokerage Morgan Stanley cut its FY23 real GDP expansion estimate for India by 0.40 per cent to 7.2 per cent on slower global growth and GDP growth will slow down to 6.4 per cent in FY24. A majority of watchers are expecting FY23 GDP growth to come at over 7 per cent levels. The RBI estimate also stands at 7.2 per cent.
- Global growth, Morgan Stanley said, is likely to slow to 1.5 per cent YoY in the quarter ending December 2022 from 4.7 per cent in the quarter ended December 2021. Slower trade growth, tighter financial conditions and changes in commodity prices are the three main reasons, it said, is why they see the pace of global growth slow going ahead.

About Morgan Stanley:

CEO: James P. Gorman (1 Jan 2010)

Headquarters: New York, United States

Founded: 5 September 1935 New York, United States

Founders: Henry Sturgis Morgan, Harold Stanley, Dean G. Witter

IndusInd Bank's board approves fund raising up to Rs 20k cr via debt securities

- The board of private lender IndusInd Bank has authorised a plan to raise Rs 20,000 crore in debt to finance company expansion. In a meeting, the bank's board of directors approved the proposal, according to a statement from IndusInd Bank. The board authorised the issuance of debt securities in any permitted manner through a private placement on the condition that the total amount raised does not exceed Rs 20,000 crore.
- As required, it may also be raised in foreign currencies with the consent of the bank's members and after receiving any additional governmental or regulatory permissions.

About IndusInd bank:

Headquarters: Mumbai

CEO: Sumant Kathpalia (24 Mar 2020–)

Founder: S. P. Hinduja

Founded: April 1994, Mumbai

Owners: Life Insurance Corporation, Hinduja Group

JSW Steel partners BCG to help with decarbonization journey

- Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and JSW Steel have worked together on a decarbonization and sustainability strategy. In order to help JSW Steel on its path to being a net-zero carbon emitter, BCG will make use of its unique CO2 AI platform as well as its top-tier digital and analytics skills. During this time, BCG will also put an emphasis on employee training and improving the sustainable culture throughout our manufacturing operations. Their sustainability measures will need to be scaled up as a result of this revolutionary initiative.
- BCG will use JSW's patented and exclusive CO2 AI solution to manage change effectively and make an impact. The successful Digital Transformation partnership led to their second strategic engagement with JSW Steel.
- The rollout across the manufacturing activities will be coordinated by a group of sustainability advocates. A roadmap will be created for all medium- to long-term activities with the goal of introducing new technologies and initiatives, such as the usage of hydrogen and carbon capture and storage, among others.

About Boston Consulting Group:

Founder: Bruce Henderson

Founded: 1963

Headquarters: Boston, Massachusetts, United States

Executives: Rich Hutchinson, Nikolaus S. Lang & Carol Liao

About JSW Steel:

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founder: Sajjan Jindal

Founded: 1982

L&T Tech to obtain captive 5G spectrum directly, deploy solutions for parent

- The first IT company to publicly indicate interest in the government's direct distribution of spectrum for exclusive 5G networks is L&T Technology Services. According to CEO Amit

Chadha, it will acquire spectrum to set up a 5G private network and develop use cases for the technology. In addition, the engineering and research and development services company will roll out 5G solutions for parent company Larsen & Toubro globally.

- India recently published regulations allowing businesses that are not in the telecom industry to purchase spectrum directly from the telecom department for the construction of private 5G networks.
- To supply 5G automation services and quick integration of open radio access network technologies that they will launch jointly, the company has partnered with network software provider Mavenir.
- According to regulations for private 5G networks, the Department of Telecommunications will carry out demand assessments and then ask the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India for recommendations before granting spectrum.

About L&T Technology Services:

CEO: Amit Chadha (1 Apr 2021)

Headquarters: Vadodara

Founded: 14 June 2012

Formerly: L&T Integrated Engineering Services

RBI imposes restrictions on Mumbai-based Raigad Sahakari Bank

- Due to the lender's worsening financial situation, the RBI imposed a number of limitations on Mumbai-based Raigad Sahakari Bank, including a withdrawal cap of Rs 15,000 per customer. The cooperative bank is subject to a number of restrictions, including the inability to issue loans, make any investments, or take new deposits without RBI's prior approval.
- The Reserve Bank stated that a depositor may be permitted to withdraw up to Rs 15,000 of their entire balance across all savings bank, current, or other accounts.
- The RBI added that it would be incorrect to interpret the directives given to Raigad Sahakari Bank as the revocation of its banking licence.
- On September 30, 1960, the Raigad Sahakari Bank or Raigad District Central Co-operative Bank was founded. The bank received a banking licence from the Reserve Bank of India on November 11th, 1995. In 1997, Jayant Prabhakar Patil (MLC) became the bank's chairman.

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Headquarters: Mumbai (Bombay), Maharashtra, India

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Bharti Airtel announces successful trial of India's first 5G private network

- The nation's first 5G private network was successfully tested by Bharti Airtel at Bosch Automotive Electronics' plant in Bengaluru. The trial occurs in advance of a 5G spectrum auction in the midst of a conflict between telecom and IT firms over the allocation of airwaves for private networks. Using the government-allocated trial spectrum, Airtel deployed two industrial-grade use cases at Bosch's facility for quality enhancement and operational efficiency.

- In both quality enhancement and operational efficiency, automated activities were driven by 5G technology, including mobile broadband and ultra-reliable low-latency communications, providing faster scale-up and fewer downtimes, the business said in a statement.
- The private network, which was set up as a test, can handle hundreds of linked devices and provide throughput of several GBPS.
- According to Ajay Chitkara, director and CEO of Airtel Business, Airtel is committed to assisting India's digital transformation and the growth of its business as it aspires to achieve global size.

About Bharti Airtel:

CEO: Gopal Vittal (1 Mar 2013)

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founder: Sunil Bharti Mittal

Parent organization: Bharti Enterprises

OneCard is India's 104th unicorn, raises \$100 mn in Series D led by Temasek

- OneCard, a mobile-first credit card company, raised \$100 million in a series D round of funding backed by Temasek, making it the 104th unicorn in India. India has created more than 20 financial unicorns so far in 2022, including OneCard, Open, Oxyzo, and Yubi (formerly CredAvenue). Existing investors including QED, Sequoia Capital, and Hummibird Ventures also made investments in OneCard's most recent round, which is owned by FPL Technologies of Pune.
- According to Mohit Bhandari, managing director, investment (India), of Temasek, OneCard is not affected by the PPI guidelines because it was not a PPI issuer and like some of the other businesses, which now have to restructure their business models.
- OneCard offers technological solutions to banks. The banks issue legitimate credit cards. Of course, OneCard participates in that as a provider of technological solutions.
- As part of its Series C fundraising, FPL Technologies earlier this year received \$75 million. Existing investors QED Investors, Janchor Partners, Sequoia Capital India, Matrix Partners, and others helped to raise the round.

About Credavenue Private Limited:

Founded: 2017

Parent organization: Vivriti Capital Private Limited

Managing director, investment (India), of Temasek, OneCard: Mohit Bhandari

Bharti Airtel OKs preferential share allotment to Google for 1.2% stake

- Telecom operator Bharti Airtel has allotted over 7.1 crore equity shares to internet major Google for Rs 734 a piece. The allotment is part of Google's commitment to invest USD 1 billion with Airtel, which included equity investment in the company worth USD 700 million, about Rs 5,224 crore. Google now holds a 1.2% stake in India's 2 telecom service providers. The investment follows Google's USD 4.5 billion investment in Reliance Jio in July 2020 for India Digitization Fund.
- Google made the investment as part of its USD 10-billion India Digitization Fund. Google will hold approximately 1.2 per cent of the total post-issue equity shares of the company—

approximately 1.17 per cent on a fully-diluted basis. Google has also invested Rs 33,737 crore (about USD 4.5 billion) to buy a 7.73 per cent stake in Jio Platforms just a couple of days after it made an announcement about the India Digitization Fund.

About Bharti Airtel:

CEO: Gopal Vittal (1 Mar 2013–)

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founder: Sunil Bharti Mittal

Parent organization: Bharti Enterprises

Owners: Google, Bharti Enterprises, Singapore Telecommunications Limited

Kotak Mahindra Bank completes integration with new tax portal

- As one of the first private banks to be fully connected with the new portal, Kotak Mahindra Bank has announced the completion of its technical integration with the new income tax e-filing system. According to a statement from the lender, Kotak Mahindra Bank clients can now pay their direct taxes online through the e-pay tax page of the portal using Kotak net banking or in person at a branch. For its clients, this will make the tax payment procedure quick, easy, and convenient.
- Following the ruling allowing all banks to engage in government operations, Kotak Mahindra Bank claimed to have become the first scheduled private sector bank to be approved as a partner in tax collecting in October 2021.
- They are quite proud of our personnel for having quickly integrated the comprehensive tax payment solution into our banking systems.
- With the addition of this capability, Kotak Bank joins the pioneers in providing an ecosystem for direct tax payments through all of our channels.

About Kotak Mahindra Bank:

CEO: Uday Kotak (1 May 2018–)

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founder: Uday Kotak

Founded: February 2003

Joint managing director: Dipak Gupta

Trade deficit rises to record \$26.1 billion in June as imports surge, up 172% YoY

- India's merchandise trade deficit widened to a record \$26.18 billion in June, wider than the government's earlier estimate of \$25.63 billion, after the Commerce Ministry revised upwards both the exports and imports figures for the month. The previous record monthly merchandise trade deficit was \$24.3 billion in May. Last month's trade deficit was almost three times as wide as the \$9.6 billion shortfall recorded in June 2021.
- While goods exports increased 23.5% year-on-year in June to exceed \$40.1 billion (the preliminary estimate was \$38 billion), imports outpaced, surging 57.5% to \$66.3 billion on the back of higher purchases of coal, gold and petroleum products.

Nasscom joined with Google for DigiVaani Call Center to help rural women entrepreneurs scale up business

- Nasscom Foundation and Google have announced setting up a call centre in collaboration with a not-for-profit body Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP) to help women farmers scale up their business. The “DigiVaani Call Center” project is being run on a pilot basis and initially around 20,000 rural women entrepreneurs shall be covered across six states, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana and Rajasthan.
- DigiVaani will be one place where rural women entrepreneurs will be able to call and get information around various schemes available for them, which can help them scale up their business, be it government schemes or any other information that can be of help for them.
- A DigiVaani call centre has been set up at the Delhi and Lucknow offices of ISAP. The project is funded by Google, through its philanthropic arm Google.org.

About Google:

CEO: Sundar Pichai;

Founded: 4 September 1998;

Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States;

About Nasscom:

Chairperson: Krishnan Ramanujam;

Headquarters location: New Delhi;

Founded: 1 March 1988.

WPI-based inflation declines marginally to 15.18% for the month of June, 2022

- The annual rate of inflation based on the all-India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is 15.18 per cent for the month of June, in a marginal drop from May when the figure stood at 15.88 per cent. The latest figure has bucked the three-month rising trend but remained in double-digit for the 15th straight month. Figures have been in double digits since April last year.
- The high rate of inflation in June is primarily due to the rise in prices of mineral oils, food articles, crude petroleum and natural gas, basic metals, chemicals and chemical products, food products etc. as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year.
- In the “Fuel and Power” category, the index increased by 0.65 per cent to 155.4 in June from 154.4 per cent for the month of May 2022. “Prices of Mineral Oils (0.98%) increased in June 2022 as compared to May,”.
- The Food Index consisting of ‘Food Articles’ from the Primary Articles group and ‘Food Product’ from the Manufactured Products group have increased from 176.1 in May 2022 to 178.4 in June. The rate of inflation based on the WPI Food Index increased from 10.89 per cent in May to 12.41 per cent in June.

Infosys to acquire Danish firm BASE life science for Rs 875 cr

- Infosys bought BASE Life Science, a company based in Denmark, for around 110 million euros (roughly Rs. 875 crore). The acquisition will expand Infosys’ knowledge in the life sciences industry and expand its presence in Europe. This purchase strengthens Infosys’ broad life sciences expertise, increases our foothold in the Nordics and across Europe, and scales our industry-specific cloud-based digital transformation solutions.
- The transaction is anticipated to be completed in the second quarter of this fiscal year.

- Domain professionals with knowledge of business, medicine, digital marketing, clinical, regulatory, and quality are brought to Infosys by BASE.
- With a heavy emphasis on data and artificial intelligence, it can bridge and combine business logic with technology to produce insights that lead to better health outcomes.

About Infosys:

CEO: Salil Parekh (2 Jan 2018–)

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founder: Narayan Murthy

Founded: 2 July 1981, Pune

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

- Nomura has cut its 2023 forecast for economic growth in India, as measured by the gross domestic product (GDP), to 4.7 per cent from its earlier projection of 5.4 per cent amid recession fears and rising interest rates. Exports have started to struggle, while elevated imports are pushing up monthly trade deficits to record highs. Higher inflation, monetary policy tightening, dormant private CAPEX growth, the power crunch and the global growth slowdown pose medium-term headwinds.
- Meanwhile, the recent economic releases have not been too encouraging. India's retail inflation rate – the CPI – came in at 7.01 per cent versus 7.04 per cent in May. This is the sixth consecutive month that the CPI inflation has remained above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) comfort zone of 2 – 6 per cent. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP), however, grew at a faster clip of 19.6 per cent in May, as compared to 6.7 per cent in April, data showed.

About Nomura Holdings:

CEO: Kentaro Okuda (1 Apr 2020)

Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan

Founder: Tokushichi Nomura II

UBI rolls out MetaVerse Lounge, Open Banking Sandbox environment

- Union Bank of India (UBI) has introduced a Metaverse Virtual Lounge – Uni-verse, & Open Banking Sandbox environment in collaboration with Tech Mahindra in an effort to elevate consumers' banking experiences. In the beginning, movies and information on the bank's deposits, loans, government assistance programmes, digital initiatives, etc. will be hosted by Uni-verse. Customers will receive a special banking experience thanks to it.
- The bank will work with fintechs and start-ups to develop cutting-edge banking products under the Open Banking Sandbox environment, according to reports.
- The bank currently serves over 120 million customers through a network of over 9500 domestic branches, over 13300 ATMs, and over 11700 BC Points with more than 75000 workers.

About Union Bank of India:

CEO: A. Manimekhalai (3 Jun 2022)

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 11 November 1919, Mumbai

Owner: Government of India (89.07%)

RBI penalises Federal Bank and Bank of India for violating its regulations

- Due to shortcomings in regulatory compliance, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) fined Federal Bank Rs 5.72 crore. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) (financial services provided by banks) Directions, 2016 has strict penalties for violations. Federal Bank did not make sure that the insurance company did not compensate any of its employees providing corporate agency or insurance broking services with incentives (cash or non-monetary).
- The private lender's standalone net profit increased by 13.13% to Rs 540.54 crore in Q4 FY22 over Q4 FY21 on a 2.72 % increase in total income to Rs 3948.24 crore.
- Treasury, corporate or wholesale banking, retail banking, and other banking operations make up Federal Bank's four business segments.

About federal bank:

Headquarters: Aluva

CEO: Shyam Srinivasan (23 Sept 2010)

Founder: K.P Hormis

Founded: 23 April 1931, Nedumpuram

About bank of India:

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 7 September 1906, Mumbai

Founder: Ramnarain Ruia

CEO: Atanu Kumar Das

PNB Signs Mou With Indian Air Force For 'PNB Rakshak Plus Scheme'

- Public sector bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force (IAF) under its flagship scheme, PNB Rakshak Scheme. The MoU focus on providing a bouquet of benefits along with specially designed products for the IAF personnel, including personal insurance cover.
- This scheme includes personal accident insurance as well as air accidental insurance to serving, retired as well trainees of the defence forces. It also covers retired defence pensioners, along with personnel of the central armed police forces, state police force, and metro police.
- Financial assistance of Rs. 1 lakh (per year) for 4 years or the actual expenditure whichever is less, for the education of two surviving and dependent children (male or female).
- Other benefits include facilities such as zero balance saving account for family members and concession in locker rent charges.
Education loan under "PNB Pratibha" for wards of primary account holders seeking admission in premier institutes and educational institutions.

About PNB:

Headquarters: New Delhi

CEO: Atul Kumar Goel (1 Feb 2022)

Founded: 19 May 1894, Lahore, Pakistan

Founder: Dyal Singh Majithia

Parent organizations: Government of India, Ministry of Finance

ICICI Bk, HDFC Bk and Axis Bk can give fin services for overseas procurement for Defence Ministry

- The Defence ministry gave three private sector banks permission to offer financial support to it for the purchase of military equipment abroad. These banks include ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, and HDFC Bank Ltd. For services like the issuance of letters of credit and direct bank transfers to the ministry for overseas purchase, only authorised public sector banks have been used up until now.
- The ministry has allotted three private sector banks to supply the LoC and direct bank transfer business for foreign procurement in accordance with the Department of Financial Services' further openness of the distribution of government business to private sector banks.
- For a period of one year, concurrent LC business in the amount of Rs 2,000 crore may be assigned to the chosen banks on both the capital and revenue sides (Rs 666 crore for each bank under both capital as well as Revenue)
- Regular monitoring of these banks' performance will allow for the necessary follow-up action to be taken as needed.

About ICICI Bank:

CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi (15 Oct 2018)

Headquarters: Vadodara

Founded: 1994, Vadodara

Founder: Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India

About HDFC Bank:

CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan (27 Oct 2020)

Owner: Housing Development Finance Corporation

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: August 1994, Mumbai

About Axis Bank:

CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry (1 Jan 2019)

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1993, Ahmedabad

Edelweiss General Insurance launched India's First mobile telematics motor based Insurance

- In accordance with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority's (Irdai) Sandbox programme, Edelweiss General Insurance has introduced SWITCH, a comprehensive motor insurance product. The motor insurance policy SWITCH is entirely digital and telematics-based. Customers will find the app convenient and hassle-free because it immediately activates insurance when the car is driven and senses motion, according to a statement from the insurer.
- Customers of SWITCH can save money if they drive safely. This usage-based model assesses the quantity and quality of driving and determines premiums in accordance with those findings.
- Customers receive a driving grade based on a number of factors, including speeding, distracted driving, and stopping suddenly, among others.
- You may purchase SWITCH online. Customers can download the SWITCH app from the Google Play Store and the iOS App Store after making a purchase to view their policy.

About Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI):

Founded: 1999

Headquarters: Hyderabad

Chairperson: Debasish Panda

Key people: Debasish Panda, IAS (Chairperson)

NHA join hands with Irdai to develop National Health Claims Exchange

- Irdai and National Health Authority (NHA) will develop a National Health Claims Exchange as a digital platform to settle health claims. The National Health Claims Exchange will be developed as a digital platform, for settling the health claims.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI):

- IRDAI is a regulatory body, set up under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance. It helps in regulating and licensing the insurance and re-insurance industries across country. It was constituted in accordance with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999. IRDAI headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana. It was moved from Delhi to Telangana in 2001.

The National Health Authority (NHA):

- National Health Authority implements India's public health insurance or assurance scheme called "Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)". NHA was set up for implementing PM-JAY at the national level. In the States, State Health Agencies (SHAs) have been set up as a society or trust. SHAs have been given full operational autonomy, for the implementation of this scheme. SHAs are free to extend coverage of scheme to non SECC beneficiaries. NHA is the successor of National Health Agency, which was formed on May 23, 2018.

About Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI):

Founded: 1999

Headquarters: Hyderabad

Chairperson: Debasish Panda

Key people: Debasish Panda, IAS (Chairperson)

About National Health Authority (NHA):

Founded: 2018

SBI Card Joins Hands With Aditya Birla Finance, Launches New Lifestyle Credit Card

- SBI Cards and Payment Services announced that it has entered into a strategic partnership with Aditya Birla Finance (ABFL), the lending subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital for the launch of 'Aditya Birla SBI Card'. The card has been designed to give customers significant reward points on their spending around telecom, fashion, travel, dining, entertainment, and hotels, among others.
- This partnership will enable us to issue credit cards to Aditya Birla Group's customer base, thereby providing them a great product for all their spending needs. This is in line with our strategy of enhancing value for both customers and co-brand partners. The customer acquisition process will be completely digital, thereby ensuring an enhanced customer experience.

About SBI Card:

Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana

Managing Director & CEO: Rama Mohan Rao Amara

SBI Life signs bancassurance pact with Paschim Banga Gramin Bank

- A bancassurance agreement has been reached between the Paschim Banga Gramin Bank and SBI Life Insurance. Through the cooperation, SBI Life's assortment of protection, wealth development, credit life, annuity, and savings products will be made available at all Paschim Banga Gramin Bank branches throughout West Bengal, therefore enhancing the region's access to life insurance solutions.
- Arun Kumar Patra, general manager of Paschim Banga Gramin Bank, and Jayant Pandey, regional director of SBI Life, both signed the contract. An agreement between a bank and an insurance firm known as "bancassurance" enables the latter to market its products to the clients of the lender.

About SBI Life Insurance:

CEO: Mahesh Kumar Sharma (9 May 2020)

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: March 2001

Star Health, Allied Insurance and IDFC FIRST Bank announce Bancassurance tie-up

- For the distribution of its health insurance options, the insurer and IDFC FIRST Bank have inked a corporate agency agreement. In accordance with this strategic partnership, Star Health and Allied Insurance Company will use IDFC FIRST Bank's cutting-edge digital platform and extensive distribution network to offer its best-in-class health insurance products to the Bank's customers.
- With a focus on going digital, IDFC FIRST Bank provides customer service through its mobile app and net banking platform, which supplement its network of branches, ATMs, and lending centres.
- As the first independent health insurance provider in India, Star Health and Allied Insurance Company began doing business in 2006. It specialises in health, personal accident, and international travel insurance.

About IDFC FIRST Bank:

Headquarters: Mumbai

CEO: V. Vaidyanathan (19 Dec 2018)

Founded: October 2015

BESCOM develops 'EV Mitra' mobile app to provide info on EV charging stations in Bengaluru

- The Bengaluru Electricity Company BESCOM has developed EV Mitra mobile app to provide information about EV charging stations in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The information on charges in each station for the electric vehicles to recharge are also mentioned in the app. The user-friendly app can be used by electric vehicle users to book in advance a slot in the station.
- BESCOM had earlier introduced the EV Jagruthi Web portal as a joint initiative of NITI Ayog and the United Kingdom. The web portal gives state specific information on the availability of electric vehicles, incentives, support mechanisms and initiatives of the state government regarding electric mobility.

- ESCOM has started 136 charging stations in Bengaluru and another 152 such stations will be started soon.

Government recasts Banks Board Bureau into FSIB

- The government has transformed Banks Board Bureau (BBB), the headhunter for directors of state-owned banks and financial institutions, into Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) by making some amendments. Guidelines for selection of general managers and directors of public sector general insurance companies have been made part of FSIB.
- The amendments were required as the Delhi High Court in its order last year said the BBB is not a competent body to select the general managers and directors of state-owned general insurers.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has asked the Department of Financial Services to carry out necessary modifications in the Nationalized Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme of 1970/1980 with the approval of Finance Minister, and then notify the government resolution for establishing FSIB as a single entity for making recommendations for appointments of whole time directors and non-executive chairman of banks and financial institutions.

About Banks Board Bureau:

Chairperson: Bhanu Pratap Sharma

Founded: 28 February 2016

GST collections surge to Rs 1.44 lakh cr in June, 2nd highest since rollout

- Gross GST collection in June 2022 is the second-highest collection next to the April 2022 collection GST collection crosses Rs 1.40 lakh crore mark 5th time since the inception of GST; 4th month at a stretch since March 2022. The gross GST collection in June 2022 is the 2nd highest collection subsequent to the April 2022 GST collection of Rs 1,67,540 crore.
- The total GST revenue collected in the month of June 2022 would be Rs 1,44,616 cr of which CGST would be Rs 25,306 cr, SGST is Rs 32,406 crore, IGST stands at Rs 75887 cr (along with Rs 40102 cr collected on the goods import and cess stood at Rs 11,018 crore (along with Rs 1197 crore collected on import of goods).
- There is a settlement of Rs 29,588 crore to CGST and Rs 24,235 cr to SGST from IGST done by the government. Moreover, the center initiated a settlement of Rs 27,000 cr for IGST on the grounds of ad-hoc in the ratio of 50:50 between the center and states/UTs in the same month.

Axis Bank partners with EazyDiner to launch Dining Delights, a premium dining experience

- Axis Bank, a private lender, has announced the introduction of Dining Delights for bank clients in collaboration with EazyDiner, a top platform for table reservations, cuisine discovery, and restaurant payments. Numerous advantages will be provided by the service, including the ability to select from over 10,000 upscale restaurants in India and Dubai, fast confirmation of table bookings, and special discounts for reservations made through the EazyDiner app.

- In comparison to pre-Covid days, the number of clients who choose to find and eat at upscale restaurants has increased by about 132 percent, according to EazyDiner real-time data analytics.
- Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, and Bengaluru are in the forefront of this huge rebound, followed by Goa, which has recently begun to gain in popularity.

About Axis Bank:

CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry (1 Jan 2019)

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1993, Ahmedabad

RBI revises norms on banknote authentication, sorting

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published guidelines ordering banks to test their currency sorting equipment every three months. Following the release of the new series of banknotes, the central bank updated the preexisting standards for authentication and sorting. The Reserve Bank stated that vendors will need to re-calibrate the equipment in the event of inconsistencies during the sorting.
- According to new changes, banks must prepare a test deck containing at least 2,000 pieces of dirty notes, including mutilated and phoney Indian currency notes.
- The machine must be tested using notes in various denominations, including Rs. 100 notes from the old and new series, Rs. 200 notes, Rs. 500 notes, and Rs. 2,000 notes.
- According to statistics in the RBI's annual report for 2021–22, banknotes are now issued in the following denominations: Rs 2, Rs 5, Rs 10, Rs 20, Rs 50, Rs 100, Rs 200, Rs 500, and Rs 2000.
- In terms of value, the combined proportion of the Rs. 500 and Rs. 2000 banknotes made up 87.1 percent of the banknotes in use.

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

CCI approves Google International's buy of 1.28% stake in Bharti Airtel

- In an investment agreement (IA) signed by Google and Airtel, the buyer offers to buy a 1.28 percent minority and non-controlling part in the company's equity share capital. The roughly \$1 billion for 1.28 percent investment in Bharti Airtel by Google was approved by the Indian Competition Commission. The proposed merger was accepted by the CCI based on the Acquirer's amendments (Google International LLC).
- In accordance with the terms of the Investment Agreement (IA) signed by Google and Airtel, the Acquirer is planning to buy a 1.28 percent minority and non-controlling holding in the equity share capital.
- As part of Google's investment in Jio last year, JioNext, a low-cost smartphone, has already been launched in partnership with Reliance Jio. JioNext runs an optimised version of the Android operating system. The holding company of Reliance Jio, Jio Platforms, also acquired a \$5.7 billion investment for a 9.99 percent ownership from Facebook, now Meta.

About Competition Commission of India (CCI):

Founded: 14 October 2003

Jurisdiction: India

Headquarters: New Delhi

First executive: Dhanendra Kumar

Agency executive: Ashok Kumar Gupta (Chairperson)

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

- Domestic rating agency Crisil has cut the real GDP growth forecast for India to 7.3 percent in FY23 (FY 2022-2023). Earlier this was estimated at 7.8 percent. It attributed the downward revision to higher oil prices, slowing of export demand and high inflation.
- Crisil said there are a slew of negatives like high commodity prices, elevated freight prices, drag on exports as global growth projections get lowered, and the largest demand side driver of private consumption remaining weak. Inflation, which has been pegged to average at 6.8 per cent in FY23 as against 5.5 per cent in FY22, reduces purchasing power and would weigh on revival of consumption the largest component of GDP which has been backsliding for a while, the agency said.

About CRISIL:

CEO: Amish Mehta (1 Oct 2021)

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1987

Gross NPA ratio of banks fell to six-year low of 5.9% in March: RBI

- In March 2022, banks' gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio decreased to a six-year low of 5.9 percent from a high of 7.4 percent in March 2021, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) most recent Financial Stability Report (FSR). According to stress testing, the GNPA ratio of commercial banks may go from 5.9% in March 2022 to 5.3 percent by March 2023 due, among other things, to higher-than-anticipated bank loan growth and a downward trend in the stock of GNPA's, according to the research.
- Since the provision for outstanding loans has not been taken into account when calculating net NPAs, GNPA's do not actually result in a loss for lenders.
- According to the FSR, the GNPA ratio might increase to 6.2 percent and 8.3 percent, respectively, if the macroeconomic situation deteriorates to a medium or severe stress scenario.
- However, under the severe stress scenario, public sector banks' GNPA ratios could rise from 7.6 percent in March 2022 to 10.5 percent a year later, while private sector banks' GNPA ratios would increase from 3.7 percent to 5.7 percent and foreign banks' GNPA ratios would increase from 2.8 percent to 4.0 percent over the same time period.

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Headquarters: Mumbai (Bombay), Maharashtra, India

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

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