

Weekly Current Affairs PDF June 03 to June 09, 2022

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NATIONAL

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.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

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INTERNATIONAL

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

NATIONAL

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

OBITURY

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

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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 Thiruvagam, VC, AMET, Chennai

Formation: 1925 as Inter-University Board (IUB)

Location: India

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Kishwahili Language Day 2022: 7th July

- World Kishwahili Day is celebrated on the 7th of July every year following a declaration by UNESCO member states in this regard. Kishwahili 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.

SUMMIT'S & MOU'S

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

RANKING

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

BOOKS & AUTHOR

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

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

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INTERNATIONAL

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.

NATIONAL

Composer Ilayaraaja, 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.
- Ilayaraaja- Born in a Dalit household in a village in the Madurai district of Tamil Nadu, Ilayaraaja 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.

OBITURY

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

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

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.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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

RANKING

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

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

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NATIONAL

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.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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

OBITURY

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.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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

IMPORTANT DAYS

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.

SUMMIT'S & MOU'S

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.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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

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NATIONAL

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 Koshyari

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.

SPORTS

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.

OBITURY

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.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

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NATIONAL

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.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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.

SUMMIT'S & MOU'S

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.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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 75,887 cr (along with Rs 40,102 cr collected on the goods import and cess stood at Rs 11,018 crore (along with Rs 1,197 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

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INTERNATIONAL

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

NATIONAL

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

SPORTS

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.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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 strength 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

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.

RANKING

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)

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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