

Weekly Current Affairs PDF JULY 17 to JULY 23, 2022

Current Affairs PDF- JULY 23, 2022

INTERNATIONAL

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

NATIONAL

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

OBITURY

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

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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

IMPORTANT DAYS

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

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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

RANKING

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.

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INTERNATIONAL

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.

NATIONAL

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.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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

IMPORTANT DAYS

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

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

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

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

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NATIONAL

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

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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

RANKING

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

BOOKS & AUTHOR

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

- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama 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 Dhama

Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer)

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

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NATIONAL

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 Rijju, 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

OBITURY

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

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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

IMPORTANT DAYS

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

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

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INTERNATIONAL

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

NATIONAL

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.

SPORTS

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

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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

OBITURY

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.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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

RANKING

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

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

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NATIONAL

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:

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

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.

SPORTS

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.

OBITURY

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

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

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

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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 Hummingbird 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

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NATIONAL

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

SPORTS

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

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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

IMPORTANT DAYS

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.).

SUMMIT'S & MOU'S

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

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

