

Weekly Current Affairs PDF July 31 to August 06, 2022

Current Affairs PDF- August 06, 2022

NATIONAL

Over 92% seats vacant under Haryana free education scheme

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

About Haryana:

Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya

Capital: Chandigarh

Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar

SPORTS

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

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

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

- Indian wrestler, Divya Kakran has won a bronze medal in the women’s 68 kg category at the Commonwealth Games 2022. In the bronze medal match, Kakran defeated Tonga’s Tiger Lily Cocker Lemalie in 26 seconds via Victory by Fall. Kakran bagged the medal in only 26 seconds via Victory by Fall.
- Divya Kakran (born 1998) is a freestyle wrestler from India. Divya has won 60 medals, including 17 gold medals in the Delhi State Championship, and has won the Bharat Kesari title eight times.

She has been vocal about being disappointed by the lack of support from the government of Delhi in her pursuit for a medal at the Asian Games in 2018, despite writing to the government about her poor financial background. Divya is presently employed with the Indian Railways as senior ticket examiner.

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

- Indian Grappler or wrestler, Anshu Malik won the silver medal in the Women's Freestyle 57kg category in the Commonwealth Games 2022. She faced 3-7 defeat against Nigeria's Adekuroye in the gold medal match. Malik bagged the first medal for India in the wrestling of the Commonwealth Games 2022.
- Anshu Malik (born 5 August 2001) is an Indian freestyle wrestler. She won the silver medal in the women's 57 kg event at the 2021 World Wrestling Championships held in Oslo, Norway.
- She is the first Indian wrestler to win a silver medal at the World Championships in the women's division. In 2020, she won one of the bronze medals in the 57 kg event at the 2020 Asian Wrestling Championships held in New Delhi, India.
- In the same year, she won the silver medal in the women's 57 kg event at the 2020 Individual Wrestling World Cup held in Belgrade, Serbia.

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

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

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

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

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Ranjit Rath appointed as Chairman and MD of Oil India Limited

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

About Oil India Ltd:

Headquarters: Noida

Founded: 18 February 1959

Chairman & managing director: Ranjit Rath

IMPORTANT DAYS

Hiroshima Day 2022: 6th August

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

About Japan:

Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida Trending

Capital: Tokyo

Currency: Japanese yen

Population: 12.58 crores (2020) World Bank

About Hiroshima:

Population: 11.9 lakhs (2015) United Nations

Mayor: Kazumi Matsui

Metro population: 14,31,634

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

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

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

About Kerala:

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on August 5, 2022, raised the repo rate by 50 basis points (bps) to 5.4 per cent, taking it above the pre-pandemic levels of 2020, as has been speculated in a while. This is the third time that the RBI has raised the repo rate in a span of few months, by a huge 140 bps in three months, to be precise. One bps equals 0.01 percentage point.
- "The most likely scenario is that the impact of the rate hike will be passed on by the banks to the deposit rates," Shaktikanta Das, governor, RBI said. "Already the trend has started, quite a few banks have hiked their deposit rates and that trend will continue. When there is a credit offtake, obviously the banks can sustain and support that credit offtake only if they have higher deposits. They cannot be relying on central bank money on a perennial basis to support credit offtake.
- A hike in repo rate leads to a corresponding hike in interest as well as deposit rates. The repo rate is essentially the rate at which the RBI lends to banks and lending institutions. Now, the real estate sector, which was reeling under the double whammy of the pandemic-induced lockdown and lower buyer interest on account of factors, such as job losses, has given a mixed reaction to the hike in repo rate, saying that buyer sentiment could rise in the high-end segment, but could dip in the affordable housing category.

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

Jurisdiction: India

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Current Affairs PDF- August 05, 2022

NATIONAL

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

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

About Quality Council of India:

Founded: 1997

Headquarters: New Delhi

Membership: Individual & Organisation

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

Main organ: Governing Body

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

Founded: 2006, India

CEO: Atul Mohan Kochhar (Dec 2019)

Headquarters: New Delhi

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

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

About Madhya Pradesh:

Capital: Bhopal

Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel

SPORTS

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

- Sudhir claimed the gold medal in the men's heavyweight para powerlifting event at the Commonwealth Games 2022. Sudhir, an Asian Para Games bronze medallist, lifted 208kg in his first attempt before increasing it to 212kg in his second effort to gather 134.5 points and break the Games record. Ikechukwu Christian Obichukwu won the silver with 133.6 points, while Micky Yule bagged the bronze with 130.9 points.
- The 27-year-old Sudhir, who has an impairment due to the effects of polio, thus opened India's para sports medal account in the ongoing CWG.
- Sudhir had won a bronze in men's up to 88kg with the best lift of 214kg at the World Para Powerlifting Asia-Oceania Open Championship in South Korea in June. Sudhir, who had started powerlifting in 2013 in Sonipat, has also qualified for Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games, which was postponed to next year.

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

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

OBITURY

Former boxing world champion Johnny Famechon dies aged 77

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

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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

- Nalin Negi has been appointed as the new chief financial officer (CFO) of Fintech startup BharatPe. Earlier he was the CFO of credit card issuer SBI Card. In his new role, Negi will be

working towards making the company's EBITDA positive by March 2023 and leading the financial readiness for the company, which is getting ready for an initial public offering (IPO). Ebitda stands for earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization. He will report to Suhail Sameer, CEO, BharatPe and work closely with the Board of BharatPe.

- In April, the company announced the appointment of Smriti Handa as the Chief Human Resources Officer. The new appointment comes after BharatPe Co-founder Bhavik Koladiya moved on from the company to pursue other assignments. The company has seen several high-profile exits in recent months, including Ashneer Grover (who triggered a major controversy at the platform); Chief Revenue Officer Nishit Sharma; and Head of Institutional Debt Partnerships, Chandrima Dhar.

About BharatPe:

Headquarters : New Delhi

Founded: 20 March 2018

Founders: Ashneer Grover, Shashvat Nakrani

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

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

About Vodafone Idea Limited:

Founder: Kumar Mangalam Birla

Founded: 31 August 2018

Headquarters: Gandhinagar

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

IOCL and Bangladesh ink MoU to supply emergency petroleum products

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

About Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL):

Chairman: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 30 June 1959

About Bangladesh:

Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina Wazed

Capital: Dhaka

Currency: Bangladeshi taka

President: Mohammad Abdul Hamid

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

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

About International Dairy Federation (IDF)

Established: 1903

President: Piercristiano Brazzale

Current Membership – (31 countries)

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

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

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Bihar college astronomy lab on Unesco heritage list

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

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

About UNESCO:

Founded: 16 November 1945

Headquarters: Paris, France

Members: 193 countries

Head: Audrey Azoulay

About Bihar:

Governor: Phagu Chauhan

Capital: Patna

Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar

Current Affairs PDF- August 04, 2022

INTERNATIONAL

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

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

About UN General Assembly:

Headquarters: New York, United States

President: Abdulla Shahid

NATIONAL

Andhra Pradesh tops in Utilisation of Agriculture Infrastructure funds

- When it comes to using cash for agricultural infrastructure, Andhra Pradesh comes out on top (Agri Infra Fund). By placing a strong emphasis on infrastructure development at the farm gate, it

has become the best state. At a ceremony in New Delhi, Union Minister of Agriculture and Family Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar presented B. Srinivasa Rao, CEO of State Rythu Bazars, with the award for the best state in the nation in terms of utilising Agri Funds in the fiscal year 2021–22.

- Many states are falling behind in using agri-infra funding, according to Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, but Andhra Pradesh has surpassed all others by doing so and building extensive infrastructure at the rural level.
- The state government is building extensive infrastructure at the farm through multi-sponsored centres with the goal of tripling farmers' revenue.
- PACS has installed 4,277 godowns, including 2,977 dryers, 101 yellow polishers, 60 buffer godowns for the AP Civil Supplies Corporation, 830 cleaners for primary processing, and 4,277 drying platforms at RBK level.

About Andhra Pradesh:

Capital: Amaravati

Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan

Chief Minister: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

Founded: 1 November 1956

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

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

About Madhya Pradesh:

Capital: Bhopal (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel

Govt withdraws Data Protection Bill 2021, will present new legislation

- Indian government has withdrawn the Personal Data Protection Bill from Parliament as it looks to come up with a "comprehensive legal framework" for regulating online space including separate legislation on data privacy, the overall internet ecosystem, cybersecurity, telecom regulations, and harnessing non-personal data for boosting innovation in the country.
- According to IT Ministry sources, the government is targeting the winter session of Parliament to introduce the new legislation.

- This comes after nearly four years of the Bill being in the works, where it went through multiple iterations including a review by a Joint Committee of Parliament (JCP), and faced pushback from a range of stakeholders including tech companies and privacy activists.
- It set the rules for how personal data should be processed and stored, and lists people's rights with respect to their personal information. The Bill sought to establish a Data Protection Authority in the country for the protection of digital privacy of individuals.

SPORTS

Saurav Ghosal makes history with maiden singles medal in CWG squash

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

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

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

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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

- Senior-most judge of the Supreme Court of India, Justice U U Lalit, who is in line to become the next Chief Justice of India (CJI). He has been part of several landmark judgements including the one which held the practice of divorce through instant 'triple talaq' among Muslims illegal and unconstitutional. Justice Lalit is in line to become the 49th CJI of India on August 27, a day after incumbent Justice N V Ramana demits the office.
- If appointed, Justice Lalit will become the second CJI who was directly elevated to the apex court Bench from the Bar. Justice S M Sikri, who became the 13th CJI in January 1971, was the first lawyer to be elevated directly to the top court bench in March 1964.

- Justice Lalit, who was a renowned senior advocate, was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court on August 13, 2014.

Govt appoints Suresh N Patel as new Central Vigilance Commissioner

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

About the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):

Formed: February 1964

Jurisdiction: Government of India

Headquarters: New Delhi

First executive: Nittoor Srinivasa Rau

Appointer: President of India

SUMMIT'S & MOU'S

India observes Chabahar Day with emphasis on linkage with Central Asia

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

RANKING

LIC breaks into Fortune 500 list, Reliance jumps 51 places

- Indian statutory insurance and investment corporation, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has broken into the latest Fortune Global 500 list. The nation's biggest life insurer with revenue of USD 97.26 billion and a profit of USD 553.8 million, was ranked 98th on the just released Fortune 500 list. This is the first outing of LIC on the list, which ranks listed companies by sales.
- Reliance Industries jumped 51 places to 104 on the 2022 list. Reliance, with revenue of USD 93.98 billion and a net profit of USD 8.15 billion in the latest year, has been on the list for 19 years.

- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) rose 28 places to 142nd rank while Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) climbed 16 places to 190.
- The list had two Tata group firms — Tata Motors at 370 and Tata Steel at 435th spot. Rajesh Exports at 437th rank was the other private Indian company on the list.
- State Bank of India (SBI) climbed 17 places to rank 236th and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd 19 places to 295.

About LIC:

Chairperson: M R Kumar

Founded: 1 September 1956

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founder: Government of India

Current Affairs PDF- August 03, 2022

NATIONAL

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

- The fourth edition of the ONGC Para Games was officially launched in New Delhi's Thyagaraj Sports Complex by Union Minister of Petroleum, Natural Gas, Housing, and Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri. The 4th ONGC Para Games are being held by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) from August 2-4, 2022, and feature 275 Persons with Disabilities (PWD) who work for eight central oil and gas public organisations.
- ONGC Para Games is a fantastic platform for bringing inclusivity and equity to the human resource of the public businesses under the Ministry, according to Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, who opened the 4th ONGC Para Games.
- The Paralympic Committee of India has assisted ONGC in organising the Para Games on an international scale since their first edition in 2017.
- Many of the para-athletes competing in the ONGC Para Games have also represented India with distinction at the Paralympics.

About About ONGC:

Headquarters: Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

Founded: 14 August 1956

Director : Pomila Jaspal

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

- India will be part of the mega air combat exercise "Pitch Black 2022" among 17 nations, to be held in the Northern Territory of Australia. India's participation in the exercise, "Pitch Black", has been confirmed by the Australian government. Over 100 aircraft and 2,500 military personnel from 17 nations will be part of the drill. The exercise is scheduled to take place from August 19 to September 6.
- This year's participants include Australia, Canada, India, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the UAE, the UK and the US.

About Australia:

Prime Minister: Anthony Albanese

Capital: Canberra

Currency: Australian dollar

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

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

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Lieutenant Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena

Capital: New Delhi

SPORTS

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

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

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

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

- In the third match of the tie, Kidambi Srikanth went down 19-21 against Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong in the opening game.

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

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

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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

- Sashastra Seema Bal's director general in New Delhi, Dr. Sujoy Lal Thaoson assumed the additional responsibility of Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police. Dr. Thaoson is a Madhya Pradesh Cadre IPS Officer from the 1988 batch. Dr. Thaoson received the charge and traditional baton from IPS Sanjay Arora. The ITBP, established in 1962, patrols the Indo-Chinese border. Additionally, it is used for a number of internal security tasks, such as anti-Naxal operations in Chhattisgarh.
- 58-year-old Sujoy Lal Thaoson is a Madhya Pradesh-trained Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the 1988 batch.

About Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP):

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

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

Founded: 1962

Founder: Government of India

BOOKS & AUTHOR

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

- A book titled "Lion of the Skies: Hardit Singh Malik, the Royal Air Force and the First World War" is all about an "India's first fighter pilot" who participated in the World War, long before the Indian Air Force was born. The book has been written by author Stephen Barker, who describes in great detail, how challenging it was for an Indian to serve in the British armed forces, fighting racial discrimination – both institutional and interpersonal.
- During the First World War, Hardit Singh Malik served as a fighter pilot for both Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Air Force (RAF) for fighting the Germans. He is also the first Indian Ambassador to France.
- "Dangerous Earth" book by marine scientist and science communicator Ellen Prager.
- In Dangerous Earth, marine scientist Ellen Prager explores the science of investigating volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, landslides, rip currents, and—maybe the most perilous hazard of all—climate change. Each chapter considers a specific hazard, begins with a game-changing

historical event, and highlights what remains unknown about these dynamic phenomena. Along the way, we hear from scientists trying to read Earth's warning signs, pass its messages along to the rest of us, and prevent catastrophic loss.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

SIDBI partners with SVC Bank for empowering MSMEs

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

About SIDBI:

Founded: 2 April 1990

Headquarters: Lucknow

General Manager: Sanjeev Gupta

About SVC Bank:

Headquarters: Mumbai, India

Founded: 1906

MD: Ashish Singhal

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

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

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Current Affairs PDF- August 02, 2022

INTERNATIONAL

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

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

About South Korea:

Capital: Seoul

President: Yoon Suk-yeol

Currency: South Korean won

Prime Minister: Han Duck-soo

About United States (US):

Speaker: Nancy Pelosi (Democratic Party)

Capital: Washington, D.C.

President: Joe Biden

Currency: United States Dollar

About Japan:

Capital: Tokyo

Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida

Currency: Japanese yen

NATIONAL

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

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

About Deutsche Bank:

Headquarters: Frankfurt, Germany
CEO: Christian Sewing (8 Apr 2018–)
CFO: James von Moltke
Founded: 10 March 1870, Berlin, Germany

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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

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

About Aurangabad Smart City Development Corporation Limited (ASCDCL):

CEO : Astik Kumar Pandey
ASCDCL: Aditya Tiwari

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

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

OBITURY

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

- Former Philippine President Fidel Valdez Ramos, has passed away due to the complications of COVID-19. He was 94. Ramos served as the 12th president of the Philippines from 1992 to 1998. He was a military officer by profession.

- During his tenure, the Philippines was recognized as a budding “tiger economy”. Ramos became a hero to many for defecting from Marcos’s government, in which he led the national police force, spurring the dictator’s downfall during the 1986 popular uprising against his rule. He was from a military background, and became the chief of the Philippine Constabulary and then Vice Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines during the time of President Ferdinand E Marcos Sr.

About Philippines:

President: Bongbong Marcos

Capital: Manila

Currency: Philippine peso

Renowned Bengali Singer Nirmala Mishra passes away in Kolkata

- Renowned Bengali singer Nirmala Mishra has passed away. She was 81. She was born in 1938 in West Bengal’s South 24 Parganas district. She sang various songs in Bengali, Odia, and Assamese films. Her melodies in the Bengali language include ‘Eamon Ekta Jhinuk’, ‘Bolo to Arshi’ and ‘Eai Banglar Mati Te’.
- The West Bengal government has also awarded her ‘Sangeet Samman’, ‘Sangeet Mahasamman’ and ‘Bangabhibhushan’ awards. She has been conferred with the Sangeet Sudhakar Balakrushna Das Award for her lifetime contribution to Odia music.

About West Bengal:

Capital: Kolkata

Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee

Governor: Shri La. Ganesan

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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

- The World Bank has appointed Auguste Tano Kouamé as the Country Director for India, effective. He replaces Junaid Kamal Ahmad who recently completed a five-year term. He most recently served as the World Bank’s Country Director for the Republic of Türkiye, where he led the expansion of the Bank’s country program and deepened its support to Türkiye’s climate agenda.
- Prior to this, he served as Director of the Department of Human Development and Economic Management in the World Bank Group’s Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) from January 2017 to April 2019.
- Auguste took field assignments from 2002-05 as Senior Country Economist, based in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and, subsequently, as World Bank representative in Haiti.
- Prior to joining the World Bank as a Young Professional in 1996, he worked at the United Nations Development Program and taught Applied Economics in Côte d’Ivoire and France.

About World Bank:

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States

President: David Malpass

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

Motto: Working for a World Free of Poverty

Founders: John Maynard Keynes, Harry Dexter White

Centre names Satyendra Prakash as principal DG Press Information Bureau

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

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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

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

About Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR):

Founded: 9 April 1950, New Delhi

Founder: Abul Kalam Azad

President: Vinay Sahasrabudde

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

Director General: Kumar Tuhin

About Canada:

Capital: Ottawa

Currency: Canadian dollar

Prime Minister: Justin Trudeau

BOOKS & AUTHOR

Odisha CM Releases Book 'Lockdown Lyrics', A Collection Of Poems

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has released a book titled 'Lockdown Lyrics', a collection of poems written by Sanjukta Dash. The poems are an unadulterated narration of the author's experiences and exasperations during the pandemic. She has reflected all the trauma & tribulations and hope and aspirations of humanity during this most critical journey of society in a long time.

- Sanjukta Dash is a well-known name in Odia literature. She has three anthologies of poems in Odia- Antaswar, Amrut Anwasha and Apekshare Ebe Bi. Lockdown Lyrics is her debut endeavour in English literature published by Authors Press New Delhi.

About Odisha:

Governor: Ganeshi Lal

Capital: Bhubaneswar

Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik

Current Affairs PDF- August 01, 2022

INTERNATIONAL

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

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

About Zimbabwe:

Capital: Harare

Currency: United States Dollar

President: Emmerson Mnangagwa

NATIONAL

Kerala Tops & Karnataka second in hosting legislative sessions in 2021

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

- Kerala was followed by Andhra Pradesh with 20 regulations and Maharashtra with 15 ordinances.

About Kerala:

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

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

- The 4th Edition of India-Oman Joint Military Exercise 'AL NAJAH-IV' begins in Rajasthan at the Foreign Training Node of Mahajan Field Firing Ranges. The exercise takes place between contingents of the Indian Army and the Royal Army of Oman from August 01 to 13, 2022. The 3rd edition of Ex AL NAJAH IV was held at Muscat from 12 to 25 March 2019.
- The Indian Army will be represented by troops from the 18 Mechanised Infantry Battalion at the AL NAJAH-IV.
- The Royal Army of Oman contingent will be represented by the Sultan of Oman Parachute Regiment.

About Oman:

Capital: Muscat

Currency: Omani rial

Prime Minister: Haitham bin Tariq

About Rajasthan:

Governor: Kalraj Mishra

Capital: Jaipur (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot

SPORTS

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

- The organizers of the 2024 Paris Olympics unveiled "Games Wide Open" as their official slogan. The 2024 Summer Olympics are scheduled to take place from July 26 to August 11, 2024. The slogan was released alongside a video promising the Olympics and Paralympics would be "faster", "higher" and "stronger" — as well as "more inclusive, more brotherly, more beautiful."
- Athletes will compete in a total of 329 events in 32 sports. As Paris 2024 aims to be the most gender-balanced Olympic Games in history, the organizers have placed women's competitions in the spotlight.

About International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

President: Thomas Bach

Founded: 23 June 1894, Paris, France

Tokyo Olympians Elect Four New Members To IOC Athletes' Commission

- The four new members were appointed by International Olympic Committee President, Thomas Bach. The appointments were made in consultation with Emma Terho, Chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission. While the focus of the four newest members will soon shift to the elected positions as the Paris 2024 Summer Olympic Games approach.

- The IOC President may appoint up to 11 members to the commission to help ensure a balance between sports, genders, and regions.

Four Olympians have joined the IOC Athletes:

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

About International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

President: Thomas Bach

Founded: 23 June 1894, Paris, France

About Japan:

Capital: Tokyo

Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida

Currency: Japanese yen

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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

- Sanjay Arora, a Tamil Nadu-cadre IPS officer who oversaw the paramilitary ITBP, will assume control of the Delhi Police as Delhi Police commissioner. He is scheduled to retire in 2025. Sanjay Arora was named commissioner of the Delhi Police, replacing the previous Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana, an IPS officer from the Gujarat Cadre who retired after nearly 38 years of service.
- Rakesh Asthana, the departing commissioner of the Delhi Police, said that despite his retirement, he still has a strong desire to serve the public and the force.
- The IPS officer from the Gujarat cadre class of 1984 has made some significant reforms to the Delhi Police over the past year, including combining Police Control Room units with police stations and removing law and order from the investigative section.
- In August of last year, Arora was named Director General of the paramilitary Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). He also served in the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). His background is in electrical and electronics engineering, with a B.Tech.

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Capital: New Delhi

Lieutenant Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena

SUMMIT'S & MOU'S

Modi launches revamped distribution sector scheme in RR village

- Redesigned Distribution Sector Program that is based on reforms and results was adopted by the Union Cabinet, which is presided over by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. By giving DISCOMs conditional financial assistance for the bolstering of supply infrastructure, the Scheme aims to increase the operational efficacy and financial viability of all DISCOMs/Power Departments, excluding those in the private sector. The eligibility for the assistance will depend on the DISCOM completing pre-qualifying requirements and achieving basic minimum benchmarks that will be assessed using an agreed-upon evaluation system linked to financial improvements. Instead of

using a one-size-fits-all approach, the implementation of the Scheme would be dependent on the action plan developed for each state.

- The current approved projects for the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh under the Schemes of IPDS, DDUGJY, and PMDP-2015 are proposed to be incorporated into this Scheme, and the savings from their GBS would be included in the total expenditure of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme under the current terms and conditions until their expiration on 31 March 2022.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar to present Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Awards

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

Tamil Nadu Police received President’s colour from Venkaiah Naidu

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

About Tamil Nadu:

Governor: R. N. Ravi

Capital: Chennai

Chief Minister of: M.K. Stalin

Chief Secretary: V. Irai Anbu

Home Secretary: K. Phanindra Reddy

RANKING

Asia has a new richest woman as property crisis reshapes fortunes

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

About Jindal Steel and Power:

Founder: Om Prakash Jindal

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 28 September 1979, Hisar

About China:

President: Xi Jinping

Capital: Beijing

Currency: Renminbi

Current Affairs PDF- July 31, 2022

NATIONAL

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

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

About Haryana:

Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya

Capital: Chandigarh

Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar

SPORTS

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

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

About UEFA Women's EURO England 2022:

Location: England

Dates: 6 Jul 2022 – 31 Jul 2022

Teams: 16

Matches played: 30

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

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

About Max Verstappen:

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

Nationality: Belgian, Dutch

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

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

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

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

About commonwealth games 2022:

Closing ceremony: 8 August 2022

Motto: Sport is the beginning of all

Main venue: Alexander Stadium

Nations participating: 72 Commonwealth nations (expected)

Athletes participating: 5,054

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SUMMIT'S & MOU'S

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

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

- On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Independence, the NCB pledged to burn 75,000 kg of drugs as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

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