

CURRENT AFFAIRS



**JUNE
2022**



HAPPY ACADEMY



PREFACE

This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for various Central & State level Competitive Examinations, covering content from the month of June 2022.

The Magazine is divided into three sections:

Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short

The first section is dedicated to Topic Wise Current Affairs with a short description to provide information about all major happenings this month.

Section 2: Practice Questions with Answers

The Second Section contains 150 Multiple Choice Questions based on daily current affairs.

Section 3: Detailed Analysis of important Events

The Third Section covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. The content has been covered from various online & offline sources including reputed newspapers like The Hindu, Indian Express etc. All the news topics have been explained keeping in mind their underlying issues. Every issue has been covered comprehensively. Some of the information provided may not be directly relevant for the examination. As the content is very wide, we have only covered a limited set of issues. You can utilize it smartly along with the Daily Study of News Papers as well as your other sources.



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SECTION 1



Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short



1: Important Days



Global Parents Day : 01 June :-

Every year on June 1st, Global Parents Day is observed. The United Nations General Assembly declared the first-ever Global Day of Parents in 2012. Since then, the 1st of June has been set aside to honour parents from all over the world. Furthermore, this day emphasises the significance of developing a healthy relationship with parents based on trust and respect rather than authority or strict guardianship, as this has a positive impact on a child's social growth and development. The day's goal is to raise awareness about the importance of parenthood and its role in providing children with the protection and tools they need for positive development. The theme for Global Day of Parents 2022 is 'Appreciate all parents throughout the world.'



International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression : 04 June :-

On June 4 the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed annually to highlight the suffering of children worldwide who are victims of physical, mental, and emotional abuse. The day reaffirms the UN's commitment to protecting children's rights. The day honours the millions of people and organisations who work to protect and preserve children's rights. This day aims to raise awareness throughout the world about the consequences of cruelty or abuse directed at children in all forms. Also, to protect the rights of children, this day inspires organizations and individuals to create awareness and participate in the campaign.



World Environment Day : 05 June :-

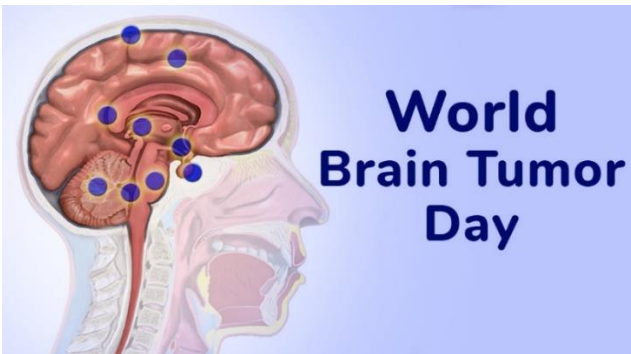
Every year on June 5, the world celebrates World Environment Day, which is regarded as one of the most significant days for environmental action. The UN Environment Program (UNEP) organises a variety of events to raise global awareness and action for the environment. The day's goal is to raise awareness among a growing number of people about the importance of taking action to protect the Earth's natural ecosystem. A healthy ecosystem directly translates to a healthy way of life. Every organism on the planet is reliant on its surroundings for food, air, water, and shelter. In 1972, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 5 to be World Environment Day. This year World

Environment Day is celebrated with the "Only One Earth" theme.



World Food Safety Day : 07 June :-

Every year on June 7, World Food Safety Day is observed. Its goal is to raise awareness and inspire action to help prevent, detect, and manage food-borne risks, thereby contributing to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism, and long-term development. After air and water, food is the third most essential component of life. It is the source of our energy, which keeps us healthy and promotes well-being. People often take for granted that it is safe, but in an increasingly complex and interconnected chain. As a result, World Food Safety Day allows WHO to continue its efforts to mainstream food safety into the public agenda and reduce the global burden of food-borne diseases. The theme for this year's World Food Safety Day is 'Safer food, better health'.



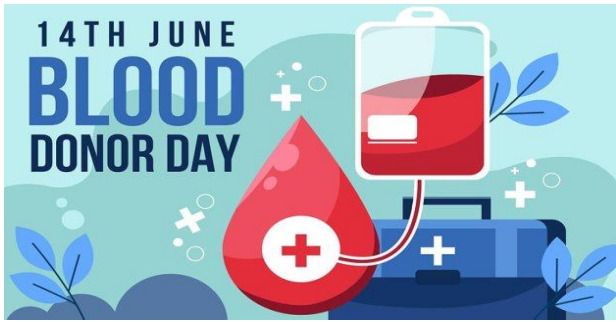
World Brain Tumour Day: 8 June :-

Since 2000, the 8th of June has been designated as World Brain Tumor Day. This day was established by the German Brain Tumour Association. This is a non-profit organisation that educates and raises public awareness about brain tumours. Cancer is defined as the unneeded growth of cells when the body does not require them. A brain tumour develops when abnormal cells proliferate in any part of the brain. Tumors are classified into two types: malignant and benign. Every day, more than 500 new cases of brain tumour are diagnosed worldwide. Symptoms can vary depending on tumour size, location, stage, and rate of growth. This year's theme for the World Brain Tumour Day is "Together We Are Stronger."



World Day Against Child Labour: 12 June :-

Every year on June 12th, the world observes World Day Against Child Labor. The day's goal is to raise awareness about the still-pervasive illegal practise of child labour. The goal of this day is also to raise awareness in order to completely eradicate it around the world. Child labour still exists, and children, mostly from low-income families, are forced to work in dangerous conditions despite employers' physical, mental, and social exploitation. Such children are deprived of their childhood, and many miss out on the opportunity to attend school. The International Labour Organization (ILO) first observed this special day in 2002. The theme for World Day Against Child Labour 2022 is "Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour."



World Blood Donor Day: 14 June :-

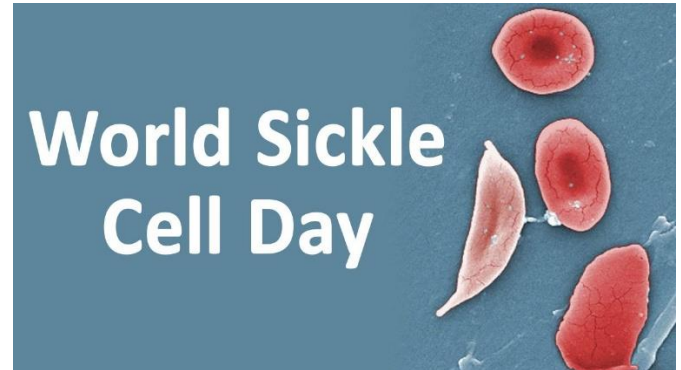
On June 14 every year, World Blood Donor Day is observed to raise awareness about the importance of blood donation as a lifesaving gift. Blood availability is critical for those who require it. World Blood Donor Day is observed on June 14, Karl Landsteiner's birthday anniversary. On June 14, 2004, the World Health Organization (WHO) initiated and declared this day. It emphasises the global need for more people to donate blood on a regular basis in order to contribute to the betterment of society's health. Every year, safe blood transfusion saves millions of lives. The Theme for this year's World Blood Donor Day is "Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives".



World Wind Day: 15 June :-

Global Wind Day, also known as World Wind Day, is observed on June 15. Apart from knowing and understanding its layman definition, wind energy is one of the many sustainable energy sources that everyone is encouraged to use. This day is celebrated to raise awareness about wind energy and how it can be utilised.

Not only that, but its advantages and workings are also examined. According to WindEurope, onshore wind is now the least expensive form of energy, particularly in Europe. Huge wind turbines are used in many areas around the world to harness wind energy. The theme for World Wind Day 2022 is the celebration and appreciation of wind energy and its benefits.



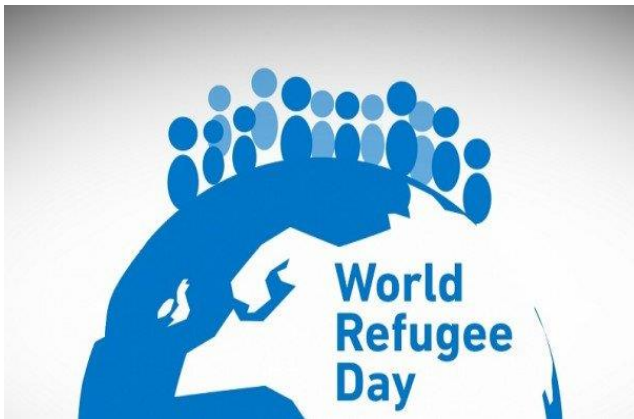
World Sickle Cell Awareness Day : 19 June :-

Every year on June 19, World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is observed to raise awareness and understanding of the disease and the challenges that its patients and families face. Patients with sickle cell disease have sickle-shaped red blood cells that can stick together and prevent blood flow and oxygen from reaching all parts of the body. It is a genetic blood disorder. People suffering from the disease may experience pain, anaemia, infection, and other serious health complications that may necessitate the assistance of a professional healthcare provider. 'Shine the Light on Sickle Cell' is the theme for World Sickle Cell Awareness Day 2022.



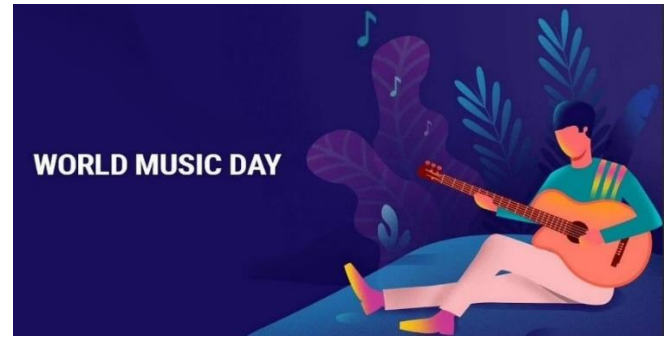
World Father's Day : 3rd Sunday of June :-

Every year on the third Sunday of June, Father's Day is observed. As a result, Father's Day 2022 falls on June 19. The day is observed on various dates around the world, each with their own cultural traditions. Europeans, for example, celebrate it on March 19, whereas Americans celebrate it on the third Sunday in June. It is observed in September in Australia. On June 18, 1972, the first official Father's Day was observed. Every year since then, the third Sunday in June has been designated as Father's Day.



World Refugee Day : 20 June :-

Every year on June 20, the world commemorates World Refugee Day to recognise and honour the courage and resilience of refugees worldwide. This day is observed by the United Nations to honour refugees who have been forced to flee their homes. The day's goal is to foster understanding and empathy for refugees establishing themselves in new countries. The day is observed around the world to draw attention to the plight of refugees and to mobilise political will and resources to assist people in rebuilding their lives as soon as possible. In December 2000, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 20 to be World Refugee Day. World Refugee Day 2022 theme is 'Whoever, Whatever, Whenever. Everyone has a right to seek safety'.



World Music Day : 21 June :-

Every year on June 21, World Music Day or International Music Day is observed. The International Yoga Day and Music Day share an anniversary. On this day, young and inexperienced musicians are usually encouraged to perform. On World Music Day, anyone is welcome to play their favourite instruments in public parks and open spaces. Free concerts and other musical events are organised by music enthusiasts. The first World Music Day was observed on the Summer Solstice in 1982 in France. Jack Lange, the then-French Minister of Culture, initiated the Fete de la Musique in Paris. The theme for World Music Day 2022 is "Music on the intersections".



International Yoga Day : 21 June :-

International Yoga Day is an annual event that originated in India but is celebrated every year on June 21st around the world. Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the concept of International Yoga Day during his speech to the United Nations General Assembly on September 27,

2014. In general, the significance of Yoga Day can be seen in the context of raising awareness and taking action on a pressing issue of well-being. The theme for this year's International Yoga Day is 'Yoga for Humanity'.



International Olympic Day : 23 June :-

Every year on June 23, the world celebrates World Olympic Day or International Olympic Day. Through pure Olympic values, the day embraces all. On this day, athletes from all over the world take part in sports activities such as runs, exhibitions, music, and educational seminars. World Olympic Day was established in 1948 to commemorate the June 23, 1894, birth of the modern Olympic Games at the Sorbonne in Paris. The goal of commemorating Olympic Day was to encourage people of all ages, genders, and athletic abilities to participate in sports around the world. The theme for this year's International Olympic Day is 'Together, For a Peaceful World'.



International Widow's Day : 23 June :-

International Widows Day is an annual global awareness day observed on June 23rd. The United Nations established the day in 2010 to raise awareness of the human rights violations that widows face in many countries following the death of their spouses. In many countries with traditional societies, women find themselves left in poverty when their husband dies. International Widows Day promotes action to achieve full rights for widows by emphasising the need for more research and statistics on the violence, discrimination, and poverty that widows face. This year's theme is – "Sustainable Solutions for Widows Financial Independence".



International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking : 26 June :-

Every year on June 26th, the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, also known as World Drug Day, is observed to raise awareness about drug issues and to seek international cooperation to combat their effects on health, society, and governance. The United Nations General Assembly designated June 26 as International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in its resolution 42/112 on December 7, 1987. This year the theme is "Addressing drug challenges in health and humanitarian crises".



On June 29, the late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis's birthday is observed as National Statistics Day. Mahalanobis, known as the "Father of Indian Statistics," was born on June 29, 1893, in Calcutta (now Kolkata), West Bengal. He established the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) and helped to design large-scale sample surveys. Mahalanobis is regarded as the father of modern statistics in India due to his contributions. Statistics is important in the health field and is used to conduct social surveys. The theme of National Statistics Day 2022 is 'Data for Sustainable Development'.

National Statistics Day : 29 June :-

2: Agreements



Uttarakhand Govt And BPCL Inked MoU For Renewable Energy Projects :-

In the presence of Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, an MoU was signed between the Uttarakhand government and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) for the expansion of the renewable energy sector and other projects in the state. On behalf of the state, Secretary Energy R Meenakshi Sundaram signed the MoU, while BPCL's chief general manager (renewable energy) Shelly Abraham and executive director Amit Garg signed the documents. Speaking about the development, CM Dhami stated that the pact would lead to advancements in renewable energy, particularly solar energy, in the hill state.



Fintech Startup Mahagram Partners With IndusInd Bank To Nurture Digital Payments :-

Mahagram, a rural fintech company, has partnered with IndusInd Bank to create a new-generation Indian bank that will digitise the country's payment ecosystem and provide a wider horizon for its customers in rural India. The Mahagram initiative was founded with the goal of transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. According to an official press release, the partnership aims to increase financial inclusion, encourage socio-economic development, reduce the risks of a shadow economy, and accelerate the growth of a cashless society. This organisation will also promote the use of e-payment methods, which will

make it easier for merchants across the country to accept digital payments, making it more accessible to everyone.



Tata Motors Inks Pact For Potential Acquisition Of Ford India's Plant In Gujarat :-

According to a regulatory filing by Tata Motors Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd (TPEML), a Tata Motors subsidiary, and Ford India Pvt Ltd (FIPL) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Gujarat government for the potential acquisition of FIPL's Sanand vehicle manufacturing facility, including land, buildings, vehicle manufacturing plant, machinery, and equipment. According to the MoU, all eligible employees of FIPL Sanand's vehicle manufacturing operations will be transferred, subject to the signing of definitive agreements and the receipt of relevant approvals. TPEML intends to invest in new machinery and equipment to commission and prepare the unit for vehicle production.



Gujarat Government Inked An Agreement With Isha Outreach To Conserve Soil :-

In the presence of Isha foundation founder Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev and Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel, the climate change department of the Government of Gujarat signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Isha Outreach of Isha foundation in Ahmedabad. The 'mati bachao'/Save Soil Memorandum of Understanding was signed under climate action-soil conservation. Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, founder of the Isha Foundation, has begun a 100-day bike journey covering 30 thousand kilometres for the Mati Bachao campaign. Through an MoU, Gujarat has become the first state to support the Save Soil campaign.



Tamil Nadu Govt signed MoU with IPPB for pensioner's digital life certificate :-

The Tamil Nadu government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to obtain life certificates from pensioners via the Postal Department's doorstep services. The State government recently issued orders for five modes of annual mustering of pensioners from July to September of this year, including IPPB doorstep services for obtaining digital life certificates through Jeevan Pramaan Portal to avoid the hardship of coming in person for aged pensioners/family pensioners. According to the agreement, the IPPB would provide doorstep services for

₹70 per digital life certificate, according to an official release.



HDFC Ties Up With Accenture For Digital Transformation :-

HDFC, a major housing finance company, has partnered with Accenture to digitally transform its lending business. The transformation effort aims to make HDFC's lending lifecycle paperless and agile. A cloud-native lending platform with digital workflows for every step of the customer journey, including application, loan processing, credit underwriting and decisioning, disbursement, and loan servicing, is a key component of the programme. The collaboration will improve HDFC's customer experience and business processes, resulting in increased operational agility and efficiency as well as business growth.



India & Canada Inked MoU On Climate Action For Stronger Cooperation:-

India and Canada have signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen bilateral cooperation on climate action, environmental protection, and conservation. On the sidelines of the Stockholm+50 meeting, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and his Canadian counterpart Steven Guilbeault signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The two countries have agreed to collaborate, exchange information and expertise, and support each other's ambitions in a variety of areas, including increasing renewable energy capacity, decarbonizing heavy industries, reducing plastic pollution, promoting chemical safety, and ensuring sustainable consumption.



Suryoday SFB And Mobisafar Services Partnered To Provide Banking Services Across India :-

One of India's leading small finance banks, Suryoday Small Finance Bank, has announced a partnership with Mobisafar to provide banking services across India through all of Mobisafar's franchisees and Business Correspondent networks. The collaboration aims to increase financial inclusion by providing key banking services digitally to underbanked customers in even the most remote parts of the country. Mobisafar's presence in 13000+ pin codes would help Suryoday Small Finance Bank onboard new customers digitally via eKYC and enable banking services such as savings account opening, money deposit/withdrawal, balance enquiry, and so on.



Fino Payments Bank
फिनो पेमेंट्स बैंक

Fino Payments Bank Collaborated With Go Digit For Shop Insurance Policy :-

Fino Payments Bank has partnered with Go Digit General Insurance Limited, one of India's fastest growing general insurers, to provide small and medium-sized business owners with shop insurance policies. Fino works as a corporate agent for Go Digit. The collaboration will allow small and medium-sized businesses to take advantage of Digit's My Business Policy in the event of a disaster. The one-year policy will cover loss or damage to inventory or stock caused by burglary, earthquake, fire, lightning, storm, flood, and riots, among other things. The policy will also include built-in coverages such as money in a safe, money in transit, and so on.

environmental protection, through joint research, personnel training, and information sharing on infrastructure and sustainable programmes, according to the MoU.



Memorandum Of Understanding Signed Between HDFC Bank And 100X.VC :-

To engage more deeply with the startup community, HDFC Bank has announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding with 100X.VC, a leading early stage venture capital firm. According to the joint release, the Bank will extend its full suite of specialised services and facilities tailored for start-ups, known as Smart-Up, to all firms associated with 100X.VC, as well as extend additional credit facilities and evaluate investment opportunities in these start-ups. The bank hopes to improve the ecosystem by fostering innovation and entrepreneurship through such collaboration.



BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center Has Signed MoU With A BRICS Bank :-

To facilitate bilateral cooperation and promote BRICS countries' common development the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) Innovation Center signed an agreement with the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) . The two sides will prioritise cooperation in fields such as artificial intelligence, the industrial internet, energy conservation, and



LinkedIn Tie-Up With UN Women To Create Employment Opportunities For Women :-

LinkedIn, the world's largest professional network, announced a USD 5,00,000 (Rs 3.88 crore) investment in collaboration with UN Women to advance women's economic empowerment. According to a statement, the project will launch a pilot in Maharashtra to cultivate the digital, soft, and employability skills of 2,000 women and present them with a variety of career-building opportunities via job fairs, mentoring sessions, and peer-to-peer networks. The three-year regional collaboration will digitally upskill women, giving them more job opportunities.



France Signs Agreement To Accept UPI Payments And RuPay Cards From India :-

NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Lycra Network of France for acceptance of UPI and RuPay Cards in France. With UPI service and

RuPay cards available in France, Indian tourists will be able to make seamless payments during their travel to that country. The NPCI international is also in talks to extend the UPI services in the US, other European countries, and West Asia.



Zomato Tie-Up With Jio-Bp To Accelerate EV Adoption :-

Jio-bp, a fuels and mobility joint venture between RIL and bp, and Zomato have agreed to support Zomato's commitment to The Climate Group's EV100 initiative, which aims to have a 100 percent EV fleet by 2030. Jio-bp will provide Zomato with EV mobility services as well as access to branded 'Jio-bp pulse' battery swapping stations for last-mile deliveries. Last year, Jio-bp built and launched two EV charging hubs in India, leveraging the RIL and bp's strengths in electrification. The Jio-bp pulse brand represents the JV's electric mobility business, which provides charging infrastructure to Indian consumers.

3: Appointments



JSW One Platforms Appoints Gaurav Sachdeva As CEO :-

Gaurav Sachdeva has been named CEO of JSW One Platforms, the company's e-commerce venture. "Gaurav Sachdeva takes over the role of CEO at JSW One Platforms after his successful tenure at JSW Ventures, where he led venture capital investments for the

fund," JSW Group said in a statement. Sachdeva will be responsible in his new role for developing a robust transparent platform that will facilitate the buying and selling of steel and other products for the country's manufacturing and construction MSMEs. According to the statement, Sachdeva worked at leading institutions such as Citibank, Bank of America, and Infosys before founding JSW Ventures in 2015.



Indian Officer Anwar Hussain Shaik Is New Chair Of WTO Committee :-

Anwar Hussain Shaik, after a gap of ten years an Indian government officer, has been appointed chair of the World Trade Organization's Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade, an official said. He will succeed Mexico's Elisa Maria Olmeda de Alejandro in this role."Our officer posted in PMI (Permanent Mission of India) Geneva has been made the chair of this TBT committee. Last time an Indian was a chair was ten years back," According to the official. The TBT Agreement aims to ensure that technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures are non-discriminatory and do not create unnecessary trade barriers.



Tokyo Bronze Medallist Lovlina Borgohain elected as IBA's Athletes' Committee Chair :-

The International Boxing Association (IBA) has announced that Lovlina Borgohain, an Indian boxer and Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist, received the most votes during the election held at the 2022 Women's World Championships and has thus been elected as the chair and a voting member on the Board of Directors for the IBA's Athletes' Committee. In addition, Indian boxer Shiva Thapa was elected as a member of the IBA Athletes Committee during the 2021 IBA Men's World Championships. Lovlina and Shiva were chosen by the boxers who competed in the Men's and Women's World Championships in October 2021 and May 2022, respectively.



Justice Mohanty Gets Additional Charge Of Lokpal Chairperson :-

After justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose completed his term as the Lokpal chief President Ram Nath Kovind has given justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty the additional charge of Lokpal chairperson. The Lokpal currently consists of six members. Two judicial positions have been vacant for over two years. The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, which provides for the appointment of a Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in states to investigate cases of corruption involving specific categories of public servants, was passed in 2013. On March 23, 2019,

President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office to Justice Ghose as Lokpal chairperson.



Indian origin academic Swati dhingra appointed to Bank of England monetary panel :-

Dr Swati Dhingra, a leading UK-based academic, has been appointed as the first Indian-origin woman as an external member to the Bank of England's interest rate-setting committee. Dhingra is an Associate Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics (LSE) having specialisation in international economics and applied microeconomics. Dhingra, who attended the University of Delhi and earned her Master's degree from the Delhi School of Economics, will begin a three-year term on the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on August 9. Michael Saunders, who has served as an external member on the MPC since August 2016, will be replaced by Dhingra.



Former SBI Officer Natarajan Sundar Joins NARCL As MD & CEO :-

Natarajan Sundar, a former State Bank of India (SBI) executive, has been appointed MD & CEO of the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) with effect from May 30. Sundar is a banking veteran who has worked for SBI for over 37 years and retired as deputy managing director and Chief Credit Officer on April 30, 2022, according to a statement from the bank. He was chosen through a competitive selection process based on an open advertisement and was interviewed on April 2022 by a panel of senior bankers from both the public and private sectors.



Rajesh Gera Appointed Director General Of National Informatics Centre :-

According to a Personnel Ministry order, senior scientist Rajesh Gera has been appointed as the Director General of the National Informatics Centre (NIC). Gera is currently the NIC's Deputy Director General. The appointment of Gera, Scientist, to the post of Director General, NIC, has been approved by the Cabinet Appointments Committee, it was announced. The NIC was established in 1976 by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) with the goal of providing technology-driven solutions to central and state governments. In another order, Kimbuong Kipgen was appointed as Secretary, Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) on a contractual basis for one year following his retirement.



Former SBI MD Ashwani Bhatia takes charge as whole-time member at SEBI :-

Ashwani Bhatia, a former managing director at the State Bank of India (SBI), has been appointed as a whole-time member (WTM) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The regulator had only two full-time members for the previous seven months, S K Mohanty and Anant Barua. Madhabi Puri Buch and G. Mahalingam's terms as WTM's ended last year. As a result, two full-time positions at Sebi were vacant. Madhabi Puri Buch was appointed Sebi's chief in February of this year. The government, however, has yet to appoint a fourth member.



A Manimekhalai Appointed As MD Of Union Bank :-

The government has named A Manimekhalai as the managing director of Union Bank of India and Swarup

Kumar Saha as the CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank. The Department of Financial Services had previously issued notifications in this regard, according to sources. Manimekhalai took over as executive director of Canara Bank after Rajkiran Rai G retired on May 31 after a five-year tenure. Manimekhalai becomes Union Bank of India's first female managing director with her appointment. Manimekhalai, a Master of Business Administration degree holder from Bangalore University, joined erstwhile Vijaya Bank as Officer in 1988.



Satish Pai Named As The New Chairman Of International Aluminium Institute :-

Satish Pai, the CEO of Hindalco Industries, has been named the new chairman of the International Aluminium Institute (IAI), the organisation that represents the world's primary aluminium industry. He succeeds Ben Kahrs, chief innovation officer of Alcoa Corporation, whom he previously served as vice-chairman. Pai, an engineer by education and profession, previously worked for Schlumberger in Paris, where he was responsible for Schlumberger's global operations. Commenting on his appointment, Pai said, "I'm excited to work even closer with my industry colleagues and to test the limits of what we can achieve together. Aluminium is clearly the material of choice of the 21st century and being endlessly recyclable, an integral part of the circular economy."



Alok Kumar Choudhary Takes Charge As MD Of SBI

:-

Alok Kumar Choudhary took over as managing director of State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest state-run lender, on June 7, and will be in charge of retail business and operations, the bank said in a statement. Choudhary has been with the SBI for more than three decades, beginning as a probationary officer in 1987. His previous position before being promoted to MD was that of Deputy Managing Director (Finance). He was the DMD (HR) and Corporate Development Officer at SBI before becoming the DMD (Finance). Choudhary also spent three years as the Chief General Manager (CGM) of the SBI's Delhi Circle.



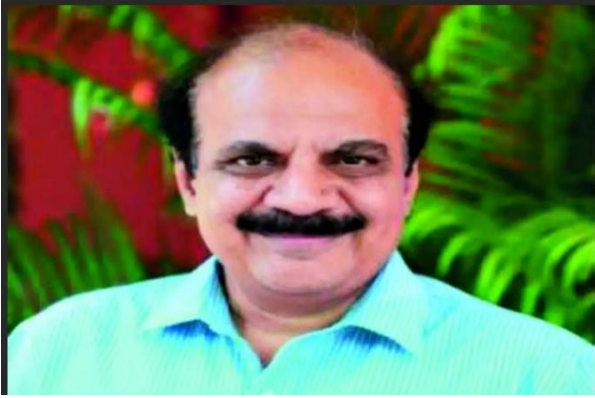
Prasar Bharati CEO Mayank Kumar Agrawal Assigned Additionally As Prasar Bharati Director :-

Mayank Kumar Agrawal, Director-General of Doordarshan News, has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the country's public broadcaster Prasar Bharati. The decision was made with the approval of Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur to give the additional charge to the 1989-batch Indian Information Service (IIS) official until further orders or regular appointment to the post. A senior officer at IIS, Agrawal has over three decades of experience in public communication, with a focus on broadcast and digital media. The step was taken after Shashi Shekhar Vempati stepped down as Prasar Bharati's CEO on June 8.



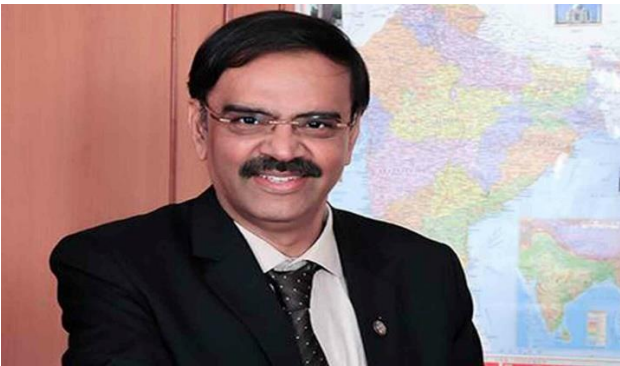
Indian Diplomat Amandeep Singh Gill Appointed As UN Chief's Envoy On Technology :-

The United Nations Secretary-General has appointed senior Indian diplomat Amandeep Singh Gill as his Envoy on Technology, describing him as a "thought leader on digital technology" with a solid understanding of how to leverage the digital transformation responsibly and inclusively for progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. Gill is the Chief Executive Officer of the International Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence Research Collaborative (I-DAIR) project, which is based at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. He was India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva from 2016 to 2018.



N J Ojha Appointed As MGNREGA Ombudsman :-

N J Ojha, former in-charge registrar and university engineer at MS University, has been appointed as MGNREGA ombudsman for a two-year term under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which is operational in all eight talukas of Vadodara district. The state government approved Ojha's appointment for the Vadodara district, Sajjansinh Amarsinh Padwal's appointment for the neighbouring Panchmahal district, and Dr Ranjitsinh Nayak and Bhargav Trivedi's appointments for the Central Gujarat districts of Dahod and Chhota Udepur.



R Subramaniakumar Appointed As MD & CEO Of RBL Bank :-

R Subramaniakumar, a banking industry veteran with over 40 years of experience, will take over as CEO of the private sector RBL Bank on June 24, succeeding interim MD & CEO Rajeev Ahuja. Ahuja took over as interim MD

& CEO of the bank following the abrupt dismissal of the previous CEO, Vishwavir Ahuja, in late December 2021, who was placed on leave with immediate effect. RBL Bank Chairman of the Board Prakash Chandra stated that Subramaniakumar is an industry veteran whose experience and support will help the organisation.



Pramod K Mittal Named As Chairperson Of COAI For 2022-23 :-

COAI has appointed Pramod K Mittal, President of Reliance Jio Infocomm, as the association's new Chairperson for 2022-23. Mittal previously served as Vice Chairperson of the Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI), which includes Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea (VIL) among its members. Mittal will take over as COAI Chairperson from Ajai Puri. Puri held the position for two terms in a row. P Balaji, Chief Regulatory and Corporate Affairs Officer of Vodafone Idea (VIL), has been named Vice Chairperson of COAI.



Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai Appointed As New PCI Chief :-

Ranjana Prakash Desai, a retired Supreme Court judge, has been appointed as the first woman chairperson of the Press Council of India (PCI), with the government formally announcing her appointment. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issued a gazette notification in this regard. A committee comprised of Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, and PCI member Prakash Dubey recently approved the name of 72-year-old Justice Desai for the post of PCI chairperson.



B S Patil Sworn In As Lokayukta Of Karnataka :-

On the recommendation of Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, former Karnataka high court judge Justice B S Patil has been appointed as the state's new Lokayukta. Justice Patil had been the Upa Lokayukta in the Karnataka Lokayukta's office. The decision to appoint Justice Patil as the Lokayukta comes nearly six months after the previous Lokayukta, Justice Vishwanath Shetty, completed his term in January. Following Bommai's recommendation in the Karnataka state legislature, the governor appointed Justice Patil.



Sowmyanarayan Sampath Named CEO Of Verizon Business :-

According to a Verizon press release, Indian American Sowmyanarayan Sampath will take over as CEO of Verizon Business on July 1, 2022. Sampath joined Verizon in 2014 and will continue to serve as Chief Revenue Officer for Verizon Business until the end of June. According to the press release, Sampath has demonstrated strategic planning prowess in various roles during his time with the company. He graduated from St. Xavier's College in Kolkata, earned a Chartered Accountancy from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, and earned an MBA from Boston University.



Appointment Of New Chief Justices To Six High Courts Approved :-

The appointment to six high courts was announced by the Ministry of Law and Justice in Delhi, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, and Gauhati. Satish Chandra Sharma, Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court, has been transferred in the same capacity to the Delhi High Court. The other five high court justices

have been elevated to the position of chief justice. The acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, Vipin Sanghi, has been appointed in the same capacity in Uttarkhand. Telangana High Court Justice Ujjal Bhuyan has been appointed Chief Justice of Telangana High Court.

4: Awards



Rolls-Royce India President Kishore Jayaraman Receives British Honour :-

Kishore Jayaraman, President, India and South Asia for Rolls-Royce, has been appointed an honorary Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Her Majesty The Queen, according to a statement from the British Deputy High Commission in Mumbai. "He received the award for services to international trade and investment, with a key focus on promotion of India-U.K. trade," according to the statement. Mr. Jayaraman serves on the board of the UK-India Business Council, which helps UK companies establish themselves in India. He has also been instrumental in promoting bilateral ties by establishing a strategic ecosystem for boosting manufacturing in India using technology from the United Kingdom.



French Riviera Film Festival: Nawazuddin Siddiqui Honoured With Excellence In Cinema Award :-

Nawazuddin Siddiqui, a Bollywood actor, received an award for Excellence in Cinema at the French Riviera Film Festival in Cannes. Vincent De Paul, an American actor-producer, did the honours. Prior to this, Nawazuddin was chosen as one of India's delegates to accept awards at the Cannes Film Festival. Nawazuddin shared warm greetings from talented performers from all over the world at the French Riviera Film Festival. Nawazuddin Siddiqui attended Cannes 2022 prior to the French Riviera Film Festival. The actor was part of an 11-person celebrity delegation that walked the red carpet to represent the country.



Shaunak Sen's Documentary 'All That Breathes' Wins L'OEil D'Or Award At Cannes Film Festival :-

All That Breathes, a documentary by Shaunak Sen, has won the L'OEil d'Or award for 2022. The L'OEil d'Or documentary award, also known as The Golden Eye award, was established in 2015 in collaboration with the Cannes Film Festival by the French-speaking authors' society LaScam. "It's an inspirational journey in observation of three Don Quijotes who may not save the whole world but do save their world," the jury said in a note posted on the L'OEil d'Or website. The award comes with a cash prize of 5,000 euros. Payal Kapadia won the award in 2021 for her documentary A Night of Knowing Nothing.



Sanjit Narwekar Conferred With V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award At MIFF 2022:-

The 17th edition of the Mumbai International Film Festival of India (MIFF 2022) honours noted author and

documentary filmmaker Shri Sanjit Narwekar with the Dr. V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award to commemorate his exquisitely deep, remarkably diverse, and inspiring body of work. The award was presented to Shri Sanjit Narwekar by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, along with other dignitaries at the opening ceremony. The prize includes a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakhs, a trophy, and a citation. "It is gratifying to receive the award in the name of Dr V. Shantaram, a person whom I have revered throughout my life, whose films I have always studied, analysed and spoken about." Shri Narwekar said upon receiving the prestigious award.



World Health Organization honored Jharkhand with award for tobacco control :-

The World Health Organization (WHO) has chosen Jharkhand for the World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Award-2022 in recognition of its efforts to reduce tobacco consumption, according to an official. The award was given to the State Tobacco Control Cell of the Health Department on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day in New Delhi, according to Jharkhand's nodal officer of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), Lalit Ranjan Pathak. "It's a great achievement for Jharkhand, which could be possible only due to political and administrative supports that tobacco control cell has got in implementing the programme," Mr. Pathak said.



Former West Indies Skipper Darren Sammy Conferred With The Sitara-E-Pakistan Award :-

The legendary West Indian cricketer and head coach of the Peshawar Zalmi, Darren Sammy, has finally received the civil honour "Sitara-e-Pakistan" for his "outstanding contribution" to the revival of international cricket in Pakistan. Darren Sammy is well-known for leading the West Indies to victories in the ICC T20 World Cups in 2012 and 2016. Aside from representing the West Indies in all three formats, the cricketer has extensive T20 experience. He has played in popular T20 tournaments such as the Indian Premier League (IPL) and the Pakistan Super League (PSL), as well as over 300 T20 matches all over the world.



Young Women Entrepreneur Rashmi Sahoo Wins Times Business Award 2022 :-

Rashmi Sahoo, Director of Ruchi Foodline, Eastern India's leading food brand and Odisha's No.1 spices company, has been awarded the Times Business Award 2022. Sahoo received the award from renowned Bollywood actor and social activist Sonu Sood at the recently held 3rd Times Business Awards. The award was given in the category of Leading READY-TO-EAT brand in Eastern India. She founded and ran Frozit, Odisha's first frozen food company, while working as the director of Ruchi Foodline. She not only transformed the food processing industry in Odisha, but she also changed the lives of thousands of women by providing them with job opportunities.



Meghalaya Wins Best Project Award At UN World Summit :-

In Geneva, Switzerland, the Meghalaya government's primary e-proposal system, which is part of the Meghalaya Enterprise Architect, was awarded a prestigious UN Award-World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS) prize. According to the agency's report, the state received the best project award in the category of governments' roles in promoting ICTs for development. During the WSIS Forum Prizes 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland, Houlin Zhao, Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union, presented Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma with the winner award. Australian, Chinese, Argentine, and Tanzanian projects also competed with Meghalaya's.



WHO Award For PGI Chandigarh Centre For Tobacco Control :-

The WHO has awarded the Regional Director Special Recognition Award to the Resource Centre for Tobacco Control (e-RCTC) of the Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh for its efforts in advancing tobacco control. According to Sonu Goel, Director of the e-RCTC, the Resource Centre for Tobacco Control provides information related to tobacco control in India, such as circulars and orders, policies and legislations, and multidisciplinary publications. The centre was established in 2018 by 25 organisations working on tobacco control in India with the goal of highlighting tobacco control initiatives.



Maharashtra Governor Presents Honorary Doctorate To Industrialist Ratan Tata :-

Ratan Tata, an industrialist and philanthropist, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Literature by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari at Raj Bhavan Mumbai. Mr. Ratan was awarded an honorary doctorate at the HSNC University's First Special Convocation Speaking on the occasion, the Governor stated that Ratan Tata's honour represents the honour of the entire Tata family and Tata Group. he said, Ratan Tata has honoured the HSNC University by accepting the honorary doctorate.



Angelo Mathews And Tuba Hassan Crowned ICC Players Of The Month For May :-

Sri Lankan all-rounder Angelo Mathews and Tuba Hassan of Pakistan were named the ICC's 'Player of the Month' for May in their respective categories. Mathews was named the stand-out male player after accumulating runs during his team's convincing ICC World Test Championship series victory over Bangladesh. Mathews is the first Sri Lankan player to be named Player of the Month since the award's inception in January 2021, beating out fellow nominees Asitha Fernando (Sri Lanka) and Mushfiqur Rahim (Bangladesh).



'Rashtriya Puruskar Portal' Launched By The Government :-

To ensure transparency and public partnership, the Union Government has launched the Rashtriya Puruskar Portal, which invites nominations for various awards given by various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies. The government created this common portal to consolidate all awards onto a single digital platform. The Portal aims to make it easier for citizens to nominate individuals and organisations for various Government of India awards. In a statement, the Ministry of Home Affairs stated that nominations and recommendations for Padma Awards are currently open until the 15th of September this year, and nominations for Sardar Patel National Unity Awards will be open until the 31st of next month.

Prime Minister's Award For Outstanding Contribution For Promotion Of Yoga Announced :-

One of the most coveted honours in the field of Yoga, the Prime Minister's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Development and Promotion of Yoga, has been announced for the year 2021. The award was given to two individuals, Shri Bhikkhu Sanghasena Leh, Ladakh, and Shri Marcus Vinicius Rojo Rodrigues, Sao Paulo, Brazil, as well as two organisations, The Divine Life Society, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand, and the British Wheel of Yoga, United Kingdom. Nominations were considered for four different categories, namely International Individual, International Organization, National Individual, and National Organization.

5: Banking



SBI Launched Real Time Xpress Credit On YONO Platform :-

State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, has launched Real-Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) on YONO. The bank's personal loan product for salaried customers, Xpress Credit, will be available digitally. SBI announced that eligible customers will now be able to obtain personal loans of up to 35 lakh through YONO with no paperwork. "Under Real-Time Xpress Credit, Central/State Government and Defence salaried

customers of the bank will no longer require to visit the branch to avail a personal loan," the bank said.



HDFC Bank And Retailio Launched Co-Branded Credit Cards :-

The launch of co-branded credit cards has been announced by private bank HDFC and B2B pharmacy marketplace Retailio. The cards will be available to over 1 lakh Retailio customers as well as new customers, and are aimed at chemists and pharmacies. During its initial phase of implementation, the partnership will cover over 1.4 lakh merchants. The co-branded credit card offers reward points, cashback on tax payments, and cashback on business essentials like telecom and utilities, as well as up to 50 days of interest-free credit. The card also provides no-cost and low-cost EMI options for all credit card customers, as well as term loan eligibility for business needs.



HDFC Securities Launched Robo-Advisory Platform 'HDFC Money' :-

HDFC Securities has announced the launch of HDFC Money, which will facilitate mutual fund investments as well as a variety of other financial services. According to a press release, HDFC Money is a 100 percent digital platform that does not require the opening or maintenance of a Demat Account. It stated that, in addition to Mutual Funds, one can manage other aspects of finances such as accessing, managing, and tracking portfolios, beginning goal planning, insurance planning, creating E-wills, and managing/filing taxes. HDFC Money Robo advisory will assist investors in planning and executing with a more defined objective while keeping risk and tenure in mind.



India Post Payments Bank Introduced Issuer Charges For AePS :-

Account holders of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) who use Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS) transactions will now have to pay fees to use the services. The first three AEPS transactions, such as AEPS cash withdrawal, AEPS cash deposit, and AEPS mini statement, will be free each month. However, after the free transactions, each transaction (cash withdrawal or cash deposit) will cost Rs 20 plus GST, while the mini statement transaction will cost Rs 5 plus GST. These fees will go into effect on June 15, 2022. AePS is a bank-led model that enables online interoperable financial inclusion transactions at PoS (MicroATM) via any bank's Business correspondent using Aadhaar authentication.



BOB Financial and HPCL Launched a co-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card :-

BOB Financial Solutions (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) have announced the launch of the HPCL BoB co-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The card is intended to reward customers for purchases made at HPCL gas stations and through the HP Pay app. It also provides accelerated rewards for utility, grocery, and department store purchases. The JCB network allows this card to be used at merchants and ATMs worldwide. HPCL BoB RuPay Contactless Credit Card holders will be able to earn up to 24 reward points (per INR 150 spent).



LIC Launches Savings Life Insurance Plan Bima Ratna :-

Life Insurance Corporation of India, India's largest insurance company, has launched a savings life insurance plan called Bima Ratna. Individual non-linked, non-

participating schemes provide a variety of protection and savings options. The Bima Ratna plan is designed to provide financial support to the policyholder's family in the event of the policyholder's untimely death during the policy term. It also provides periodic payouts for the policyholder's survival at specified intervals to meet various financial needs. If the scheme lasts 15 years, the insurer will pay 25% of the basic sum assured at the end of each 13th and 14th policy year.



Kiya.Ai Launches India's First Banking Metaverse Kiyaverse :-

Kiya.ai, a digital solutions provider to financial institutions and governments, has announced the launch of Kiyaverse, India's first banking metaverse, in Mumbai, with the goal of connecting real-world and metaverse banking application cases through avatar-based interactions. Through Kiyaverse, Mumbai-based Kiya.ai aims to enable consumers to transact, access banking information, and obtain various banking products virtually from the comfort of their own homes. "Kiyaverse provides cross-functional multi-experience using personalised avatars across real world, mixed reality & virtual reality environments," said Rajesh Mirjankar, MD and CEO, Kiya.ai.



ICICI Bank Partners With ZestMoney To Expand 'Cardless EMI' Facility :-

To expand its "cardless EMI" facility for offline and online purchases ICICI Bank has announced a partnership with ZestMoney, a digital equated money instalments (EMI) /pay later platform. Through the collaboration, ICICI Bank customers will have access to pre-approved cardless credit to purchase products and services "instantly" via EMI via ZestMoney. The service is now available on select e-commerce websites and, according to the companies, will be available in retail stores soon. Collaborations will allow both parties to capitalise on each other's core competencies and leverage cross-industry innovation. This collaboration will help to expand the cardless EMI/digital pay later category and scale it to its full potential.



Ather Energy Partners SBI For Customer Retail Finance :-

Ather Energy, an electric two-wheeler manufacturer, has partnered with State Bank of India to offer vehicle financing to customers. As part of the agreement, Ather Energy customers will be able to obtain instant loans with interest rates as low as 9.55 percent per year. Pre-approved loans will also be made available, based on the buyer's creditworthiness. SBI will offer vehicle loans through their YONO mobile application as well as their branch network, as the public sector lender ensures buyer convenience. Customers will be eligible for loans

up to 85 percent of the on-road price of electric two-wheelers, depending on their profile.



RBI Increased Individual Housing Loan Limit For Co-Operative Banks :-

Taking into account the rise in house prices, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the limits for individual housing loans extended by Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) and Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs) by more than 100%. Accordingly, the limits for Tier I /Tier II UCBs have been revised from ₹30 lakh/ ₹70 lakh to ₹60 lakh/ ₹140 lakh, respectively. As regards RCBs, the limits have been increased from ₹20 lakh to ₹50 lakh for RCBs with assessed net worth less than ₹100 crore; and from ₹30 lakh to ₹75 lakh for other RCBs. Individual housing loan limits for UCBs and RCBs were last set in 2011 and 2009, respectively.



Indian Bank Launched Digital Renewal Scheme For KCC Holders :-

PSU lender Indian Bank has launched its KCC Digital Renewal scheme, which allows eligible customers to renew their Kisan Credit Card accounts digitally. The project 'WAVE' - World of Advanced Virtual Experience - is part of the bank's digital transformation. Account renewals can be completed through Indian Bank's IndOASIS mobile app, internet banking, and website. According to a statement, the service is available via SMS for feature phone users who do not have or have limited access to the internet. However, it is currently only available to customers with outstanding loans of less than Rs.1.60 lakh.



RBI Lifted The Restrictions On Mastercard :-

Almost a year after imposing them, the Reserve Bank of India lifted Mastercard's business restrictions. MasterCard had achieved "satisfactory compliance," according to the regulator. Last year, on July 14, 2021, the regulator barred Mastercard from accepting new domestic customers, including debit, credit, and prepaid cards, onto its card network for failing to comply with the RBI circular on Payment System Data Storage. According to this rule, all foreign payment operators that store card and customer data must do so on servers physically located in India.



Equitas Small Finance Bank Launched "ENJOI" Kid's Savings Account :-

Equitas Small Finance Bank has announced the launch of the 'ENJOI' savings account for children. The savings account is intended to introduce young children to the financial world and encourage them to start saving early. According to the Chennai-based bank, ENJOI will allow children aged 0 to 18 to open savings accounts under the supervision of their parents. Minors aged 10 and up will also be able to obtain a personalised debit card. To encourage greater savings growth, the account will pay 7% interest on savings balances ranging from 5 lakh to 2 crore.



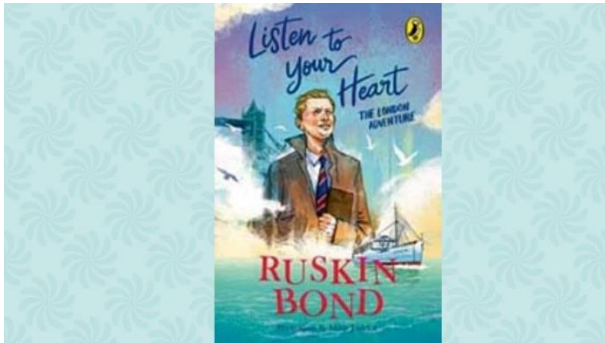
Dhan Sanchay: A New Life Insurance Product From LIC India :-

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has introduced Dhan Sanchay, a non-linked, non-participating individual savings life insurance plan that offers both protection and savings. This plan provides financial assistance to the family in the event that the life assured dies unexpectedly during the policy's term.

According to a LIC press release, it also provides a guaranteed income stream from the date of maturity until the end of the payout period. Maturity benefit will

be paid in the form of Guaranteed Income Benefit and Guaranteed Terminal Benefit if the life assured survives the specified date of maturity.

6: Books and Author



Ruskin Bond's Book Titled 'Listen To Your Heart: The London Adventure' Released :-

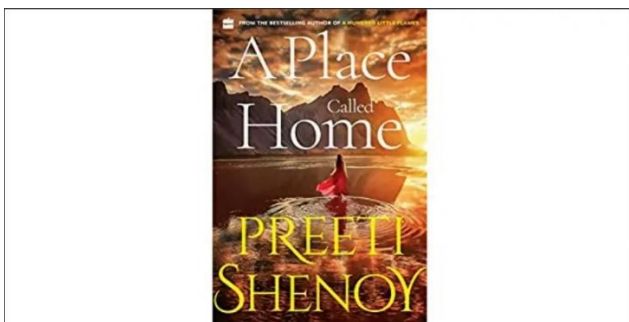
On Ruskin Bond's 88th birthday, Penguin Random House India (PRHI) published a new book titled "Listen to Your Heart: The London Adventure." Ruskin Bond was born in Kasauli (Himachal Pradesh) and raised in Jamnagar (Gujarat), Dehradun (Uttarakhand), New Delhi, and Shimla (Himachal Pradesh). His most recent book takes readers on a journey through the four years he spent in the Channel Islands and England. The fifth – and final – volume of his memoir details how he deals with loneliness, changes jobs, falls in love, and pursues his big dream of becoming a famous writer.

Bestselling author Preeti Shenoy is set to release a new novel titled "A Place Called Home," which is set in a coffee estate in Sakleshpur, Karnataka, and features a strong female protagonist. The new book is about secrets, family, and discovering oneself. The book will be released in June 2022 by HarperCollins Publishers India. Talking about the book, Preeti Shenoy said, "This book is also an important social commentary on the class system that exists in India, narrated through the protagonist Alka's eyes in an easy-to-read style."



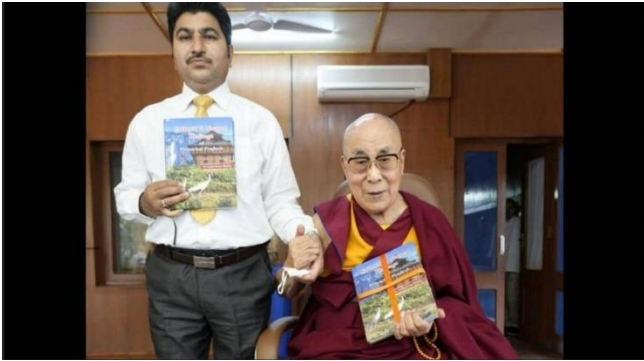
'Business of Sports: The Winning Formula for Success' India's 1st Sports Marketing Book :-

The International Institute of Sports Management (IISM), India's leading sports management college, recently published India's first book on Sports Marketing as part of a series aimed at providing students with industry knowledge. The Governor of Maharashtra, Honourable Shri Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, launched the first book, titled 'Business of Sports: The Winning Formula for Success,' authored by Vinit Karnik, Head-Sports, Esports, and Entertainment at GroupM South Asia. The book was released under the imprint Popular Prakashan. The



'A Place Called Home' by Preeti Shenoy :-

Honourable Governor congratulated the author and IISM on the publication of the book.



Dalai Lama releases book on cultural and natural heritage of Himachal :-

At his McLeod Ganj residence, Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama released a book titled "Cultural and Natural Heritage of Himachal Pradesh." Sanjay Kumar Dhiman, a senior Himachal Administrative Service (HAS) officer, wrote the book. Dhiman's book delves into the state's people's relationship with flora and fauna. It explains the significance of different animal and plant species found in the hills to the local population. "The book also carries a special message from His Holiness the Dalai Lama for the conservation of nature," said Dhiman, who has already published 12 books.



Kiran Bedi's book 'Fearless Governance' launched in Hindi :-

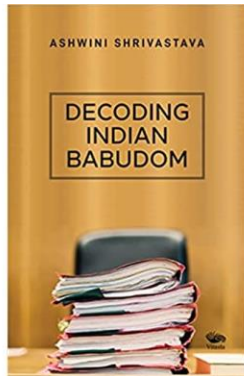
In New Delhi, the Hindi edition of 'Fearless Governance,' a book by former Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Kiran

Bedi, was released. Smita Prakash, Editor of ANI, published the book 'Nirbhik Prashan.' The release of the Hindi edition coincided with the birthday of Kiran Bedi. Kiran Bedi, the first woman to join the Indian Police Service (IPS), said the book provides a practical model of "accessible, accountable and people-centric governance, something which is being encouraged by the country's present leadership". "Many of the measures listed in the book are being practised in Delhi by the newly-appointed Lieutenant Governor. It is heartening to see this," she said.



Books 'Loktantra ke Swar' and 'The Republican Ethic' having selected speeches of the President Ramnath Kovind Launch :-

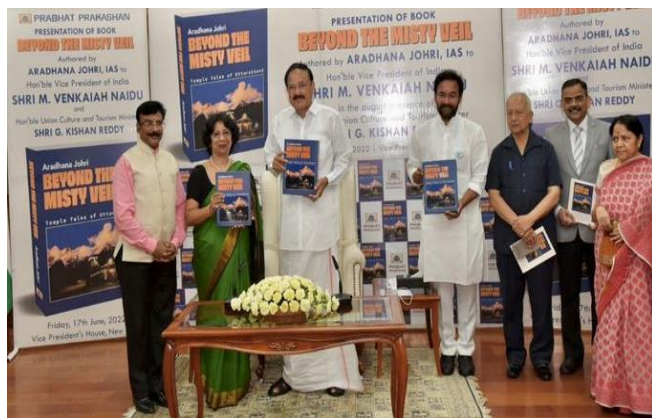
Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Education, Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship, and Anurag Thakur, Union Minister for Information, Broadcasting, and Sports, have released books titled 'Loktantra ke Swar' and 'The Republican Ethic,' which contain excerpts from President of India Ram Nath Kovind's speeches. This is the fourth volume in the series, which covers Ram Nath Kovind's fourth year in office. The collection includes speeches on a variety of topics. On the occasion, e-books were also released. The Minister emphasised that this book captures the President's thoughts on a variety of topics, including public service, ethics, education, our youth's aspirations, and current global issues.



Decoding Indian Babudom: Book on bureaucracy :-

Ashwini Shrivastava, a senior journalist based in Delhi, has written a book on Indian bureaucracy, Decoding Indian Babudom, based on his 15 years of experience documenting Indian bureaucracy. The author presents 15 sutras of good governance to ensure effective and efficient administration in the country, highlighting what ails the Indian bureaucracy. The book was recently released by Vitasta Publishing Private Limited and is the author's first book. For the book, Shrivastava consulted former bureaucrats, some of whom were commissioned in 1964, retired and serving bureaucrats from various services, journalists, and non-governmental organisations.

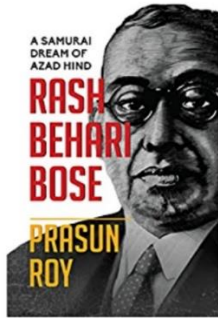
Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has launched a book about temples in Uttarakhand, saying that Indian culture, art, heritage, and mythology are all very inspiring. The book 'Beyond the Misty Veil,' written by former bureaucrat Aradhana Johri, contains detailed stories about hundreds of temples in the hill state of Uttarakhand. In reference to these stories, Naidu stated that given the importance of old temples, their background and relevance cited in historic texts such as the Puranas, the book can help the younger generation preserve our culture. Union minister G Kishen Reddy was also present at the launch of the book, published by Prabhat Prakashan.



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched a book on temples in Uttarakhand :-

Indian constitution: untold stories, a book by senior journalist Ram Bahadur Rai :-

The book "The Indian Constitution: Untold Stories," written by senior journalist Ram Bahadur Rai, was launched at New Delhi's Ambedkar International Centre. Senior government officials such as Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Dharmendra Pradhan, Union HRD minister, and others attended the event. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke at the event as well. Prabhat publication's 500-page book primarily recounts the creation of the constitution and its significance. The book was supposed to be released in December, but it was delayed due to the death of ex-CDS General Bipin Rawat.



**Prasun Roy's book - A Samurai Dream Of Azad Hind
Rash Behari Bose Launched :-**

The launch of Prasun Roy's book "A Samurai Dream Of Azad Hind Rash Behari Bose" took place at Kolkata's leading bookstore chain Starmark, in collaboration with Vitasta Publishing and AHAVA Communications. Mr. Koichi Nakagawa, Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, was the event's chief guest. A Samurai Dream of Azad Hind is also the story of thousands of other men and women involved in the armed struggle to free India, as well as the vast support network they built not only in India, but around the world – from California to Mongolia to Japan.

7: Defence



**26-Year-Old Abhilasha Barak Becomes The Indian
Army's First Woman Combat Aviator :-**

By becoming the first woman to join the Indian Army's Aviation Corps as a combat aviator Captain Abhilasha Barak has created history. The Coveted Wings were awarded to the 26-year-old captain from Haryana, along with 36 other army pilots, by Director General and Colonel Commandant Army Aviation. Growing up in military cantonments across India, Captain Abhilasha Barak, the daughter of Col. S. Om Singh(Retd), knew that joining the defence forces was a natural career choice. In September 2018, the Captain was commissioned into the Army Air Defence Corps. While women officers in the

Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy have been flying helicopters for long, the Indian Army paved the way for women pilots in 2021 by starting the 'Army Aviation course'. Till recently, women were only part of ground duty in the Indian Army.



**GRSE Launched Indian Navy Survey Vessel 'INS
Nirdeshak' :-**

'Nirdeshak, the second of four Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) Projects being built for the Indian Navy by GRSE in collaboration with L&T shipbuilding, was launched at Kattupalli, Chennai. The SVL ships will collect oceanographic data by replacing the existing Sandhayak

Class survey ships with new generation hydrographic equipment. The Survey Vessel (Large) ships have a deep displacement of approximately 3400 tonnes and a crew of 235 people. The ship is designed to cruise at 14 knots and reach a top speed of 18 knots. Bow and Stern Thrusters have been designed for improved manoeuvrability at low speeds, which is required during shallow water survey operations. The hulls of these ships are made of Steel Authority of India Limited's indigenously developed DMR 249-A steel.



Border Coordination Conference Between The BSF And The BGB Held In Bangladesh :-

According to officials, top BSF officers from the Northeast travelled to Bangladesh to attend a high-level meeting with BGB commanders in Sylhet. Led by BSF's Inspector General of Tripura Sumit Sharan, the top officers of the Indian security force are meeting officers of Bangladesh's BGB at the Border Coordination Conference, which was concluded on June 2. "During the conference, issues of common concern pertaining to trans-border crimes such as smuggling through the International Border are being deliberated upon," a BSF spokesperson said. Bottlenecks in infrastructure and development work on both sides of the border are also being addressed through discussions, he said.



Rajnath Singh Approves New Defence Estates Circle For Uttarakhand :-

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the proposal to establish a new Defence Estates Circle solely for the state of Uttarakhand. Given the challenges of managing large tracts of defence land in the state, as well as the demand of cantonment residents in Uttarakhand, the MoD will establish an independent office of Defence Estates in Dehradun, with a sub-office in Ranikhet. The establishment of a new Defence Estates Circle in Dehradun specifically for Uttarakhand will allow residents and organisations to gain timely and quick access to various defence land management services. Raksha Mantri has also approved the establishment of a sub-office in Ranikhet in order to further decentralise the governance structure.



Defence Ministry Signs Rs 2,971-Crore Deal For Indigenous Astra BVR Missiles :-

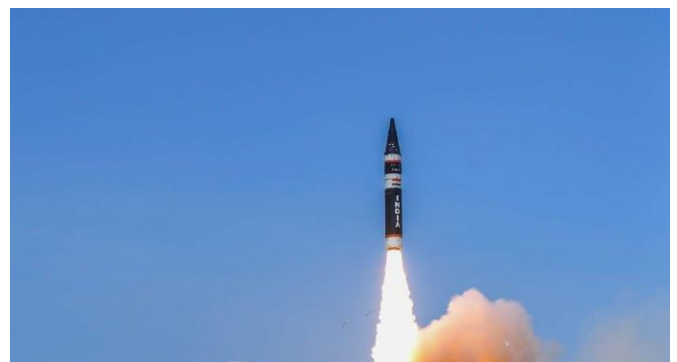
The Defence Ministry has signed a contract with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), a defence public sector undertaking, for the supply of indigenously developed Astra Mk-I Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air to air missiles and associated equipment for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Navy at a cost of Rs 2,971 crore. "Astra Mk-I missile and all associated systems for its launch, ground handling and testing has been developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in coordination with the IAF," a Ministry statement said. "This missile is technologically and economically superior to many such imported missile systems," the Ministry said.



India-Bangladesh Joint Military Sampriti-X Exercise

:-

Ex SAMPRITI-X, a joint military training exercise, is being held at Jashore Military Station in Bangladesh from June 5 to June 16, 2022, as part of the ongoing India-Bangladesh bilateral defence cooperation. SAMPRITI is a significant bilateral defence cooperation effort conducted alternately by both countries that aims to strengthen and broaden the aspects of interoperability and cooperation between both armies. The exercise's goal is to improve interoperability between the two armies and to better understand each other's tactical drills and operational techniques. A Battalion of the DOGRA Regiment is representing the Indian contingent of company strength.



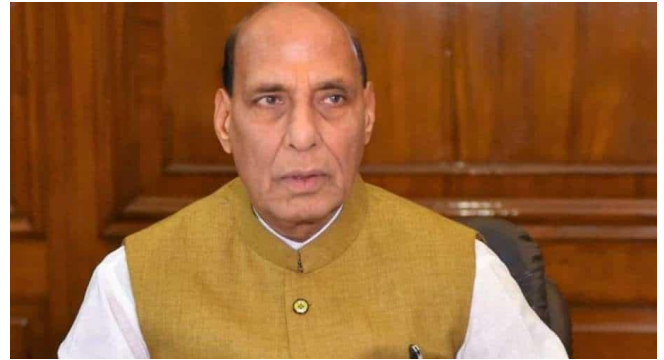
India Successfully Tested Nuclear- Capable Agni-4 Ballistic Missile In Odisha :-



Centre Appoints S L Thaosen As Director General Of Sashastra Seema Bal :-

The Union government has appointed two senior IPS officers, SL Thaosen and Zulfiquar Hasan, as the new director generals of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), respectively. In an order appointing SL Thaosen as SSB chief, the department of personnel and training stated, "The Appointments Committee of the cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for appointment of SL Thaosen, IPS (MP:88), presently working as Special DG, BSF as Directors General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) with pay at Level-16 of Pat Matrix from the date of joining the post and up to 30.11.2023 i.e date of his superannuation or till further orders whichever is earlier."

India has successfully launched a nuclear-capable Agni-4 ballistic missile from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha at night, providing a significant boost to the country's military capabilities. The missile has a range of around 4,000 kilometres and is primarily seen as part of India's deterrence against China. The successful test of Agni-4, according to the defence ministry, reaffirms India's policy of having a 'credible minimum deterrence capability.' "The successful test was part of routine user training launches carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command," it said.



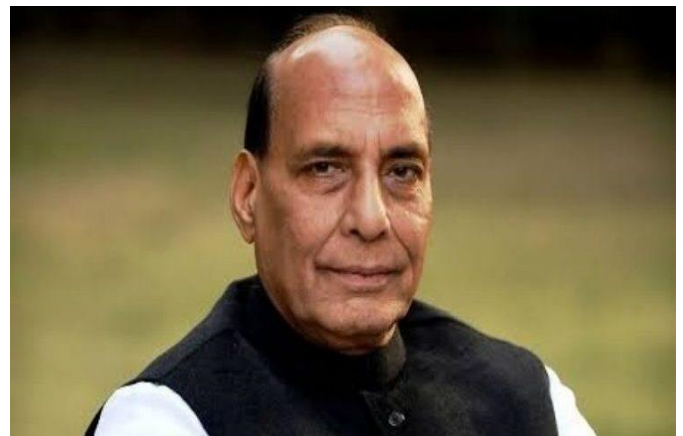
Union Defence Minister And DAC Approves To Buy Military Equipment Worth Rs 76,390 Crores :-

The defence ministry has approved the procurement of military equipment and platforms worth Rs 76,390 crore from domestic industries, in a significant step. According to the ministry, the procurement proposals were approved by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), which is chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The DAC approved the procurement of next generation corvettes (NGCs) for the Indian Navy at an estimated cost of Rs 36,000 crore. The NGCs would be built using cutting-edge shipbuilding technology based on a new in-house design developed by the Indian Navy, the ministry said in a statement.



Indian Army Contingent Participates In The "Khaan Quest 2022" Exercise :-

Mongolia hosted the Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise "Ex Khaan Quest 2022," which included military contingents from 16 countries. Mr Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh, Mongolia's Hon'ble President, inaugurated the Exercise in an impressive ceremony held at the exercise site in Mongolia. A contingent from the LADAKH SCOUTS represents the Indian Army. The 14-day exercise aims to improve interoperability, build military-to-military relationships, develop peacekeeping operations, and increase military readiness among participating nations. The exercise will also allow the Armed Forces of participating nations to share best practises and will include field training exercises, combat discussions, lectures, and demonstrations.



Defence Minister Increased Funding For The DRDO's TDF Scheme To Rs 50 Crore :-

Enhancement of funding under Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme of Ministry of Defence to Rs 50 crore per project from Rs 10 crore has been approved by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh. The TDF scheme, managed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), encourages MSMEs and start-ups to develop indigenous components, products, systems, and technologies. The TDF Scheme aims to give a significant boost to the defence manufacturing sector by encouraging the industry to innovate and develop defence technologies in order to put India on a self-reliance path, as well as to give further impetus to the vision of 'Aatmanirbharta in defence.'



38th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol Conducted In Andaman Sea :-

The 38th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy Units of Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) and the Indonesian Navy took place in the Andaman Sea and the Malacca Straits from June 13 to June 24, 2022. The 38th CORPAT is the two

countries' first post-pandemic Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT). India and Indonesia have particularly close relations, encompassing a wide range of activities and interactions that have grown stronger over time. Since 2002, the two Navies have been conducting CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).



Indian Coast Guard Inducts New Advanced Light Helicopter Squadron 840 CG :-

The Eastern Region of the Indian Coast Guard inducted the indigenously designed and developed Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mark III as the first aircraft of the newly formed "840 Squadron." The capabilities of the Coast Guard Region East's first ALH MK-III aircraft would expand the unit's operational footprint. The new squadron will be based in Chennai, the Coast Guard's Eastern Region headquarters. Three more ALHs will be added to '840 Squadron's' inventory shortly. The aircraft is also equipped to carry out target neutralisation operations, utilising its mounted heavy machine gun.

8: Economy



Card-Less Cash Withdrawals Stage Across All ATMs Set By RBI :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed all banks to offer Interoperable Card-less Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) at their ATMs. "All banks, ATM networks and WLAOs may provide the option of ICCW at their ATMs. NPCI has been advised to facilitate Unified Payments Interface (UPI) integration with all banks and ATM networks. While UPI would be used for customer authorisation in such transactions, settlement would be through the National Financial Switch (NFS) / ATM networks" stated the RBI in a notification.



SEBI Revoked The ICEX's Permanent Recognition :-

The Indian Commodity Exchange Limited (ICEX) has been denied recognition by market regulator Sebi. According

to a press release issued by the regulator, "The Securities and Exchange Board of India has withdrawn the recognition granted to the Indian Commodity Exchange Limited, vide notification dated May 18, 2022,". The withdrawal of recognition follows a Sebi order issued on May 10 after the bourse was found to be non-compliant on several grounds, including net worth and infrastructure requirements. Following the withdrawal, ICEX has been directed to transfer funds from ICEX's Investor Protection Fund and Investor Services Fund to Sebi's Investor Protection and Education Fund.



RBI Allowed Trade Transactions With Sri Lanka To Be Settled In Indian Rupees :-

Because exporters were having difficulty receiving payments from crisis-hit Sri Lanka, the RBI allowed trade transactions to be settled in Indian rupees outside of the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) mechanism. In March, the government guaranteed a USD 1 billion term loan extended to Sri Lanka by the State Bank of India (SBI) to finance the island nation's purchase of essential goods from India. The arrangement allows for the financing of exports of eligible goods and services from India, subject to certain conditions, and whose purchase may be agreed to be financed by SBI under the agreement.



RBI Issued Guidelines For Certified Jewellers' Gold Import :-

The RBI has issued guidelines to facilitate physical gold imports via the India International Bullion Exchange IFSC (IIBX) or a similar authorised exchange by Qualified Jewellers in India. In addition to the agencies designated by the RBI and the DGFT, Qualified Jewellers (QJ) approved by the International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) were allowed to import gold in January. The guidelines were issued by the RBI to allow resident Qualified Jewellers to import gold through IIBX or any other exchange approved by IFSCA and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). "The advance remittance for import of Gold should not be leveraged in what-so-ever form for importing gold worth more than the advance remittance made," the Reserve Bank of India said.



RBI reduces net-worth requirement for non-bank Bharat Bill Payment units :-

To encourage more players in the segment, the RBI has reduced the net-worth requirement for non-bank entities to set up Bharat Bill Payment operating units to Rs 25 crore. A net worth of Rs 100 crore is currently required to obtain authorization for a non-bank BBPOU (Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units). Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) is an interoperable bill payment platform, and its scope and coverage extends to all types of billers who raise recurring bills. The reduction in net-worth requirements comes after the central bank announced it in April.



MUFG Bank Of Japan Receives Approval To Open A Branch At GIFT City :-

MUFG Bank has announced that it is the first Japanese bank to be granted permission to open a branch in Gujarat's GIFT City. This is the sixth branch of the bank in India. The Tokyo-based bank received approval to open the branch from the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and the Financial Services Agency in Japan, according to an official statement on its website. MUFG Bank, which opened its first branch in India in Mumbai in 1953, now has five locations in New Delhi, Chennai, Bengaluru, and Neemrana. The GIFT City branch will open in the first half of 2022 at Brigade International Financial Centre in GIFT SEZ.



HINDUSTAN ZINC

CCEA Cleared Sale Of GoI's 29.5% Stake In Hindustan Zinc :-

According to sources, the government has approved a proposal to sell its 29.5 percent stake in Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL), which is expected to fetch around Rs 38,000 crore to the exchequer. According to sources, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) made a decision in this regard at its meeting in New Delhi, which was presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They noted that because the government has budgeted Rs 65,000 crore for PSU disinvestment and strategic sale in fiscal year 2022-23, the decision would give it a boost. According to sources, selling a 29.5 percent stake representing over 124.96 crore shares would net the government around Rs 38,000 crore at current market prices.



RBI's Banknote Survey: Rs 100 Is The Most Preferred Banknote :-

According to a Reserve Bank of India survey of a diverse sample of 11,000 respondents, people in India prefer Rs 100 denomination banknotes, while Rs 2,000 banknotes are least preferred. Among coins, Rs 5 is the most popular, while Rs 1 is the least popular. At least seven out of ten respondents were pleased with the new series of banknotes. The survey was carried out to assess consumer demand for cash as well as denomination preferences. It also attempts to gauge consumer awareness of various security features of banknotes.



World Oceans Day: 8 June :-

On June 8, World Oceans Day is observed to highlight the importance of the oceans. World Oceans Day is observed every year on June 8 to remind us of the importance of the oceans in sustaining our livelihoods and the importance of protecting them from destruction. According to the United Nations (UN), oceans are our planet's lungs, a major source of food and medicine, and an essential component of the biosphere. Furthermore, it is observed to raise awareness about human activities such as plastic pollution, garbage disposal, and oil leaks in order to send a message to save the oceans. The theme for World Oceans Day 2022 is 'Revitalisation: Collective Action for the Ocean'.



Govt Collects Rs 1.41 Lakh Crore GST In May :-

For the month of May, the GST revenue was Rs 1,40,885 crore. The figures have increased by 44 percent compared to the previous fiscal's corresponding period of Rs 97, 821. GST collection has surpassed the 1.40 lakh crore mark for the fourth time since the inception of GST, and for the third month in a row since March 2022. This month, revenue from imported goods increased by 43 percent. The robust collection in May will further boost government's fiscal position and cushion some of the impact from the tax cuts it carried out recently to fight inflation. The CGST accounted for Rs 25,036 crore, SGST for Rs 32,001 crore and IGST for Rs 73,345 crore.



India's Economic Growth Expected To Be 8.7% In FY22 :-

India's economic growth slowed to 4.1 percent in January-March 2021-22, a four-quarter low, reflecting in part the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic's Omicron wave on the manufacturing sector and contact-intensive services. In the recently released data, the National

Statistical Office reduced its year-on-year gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for the fiscal year 2021-22 to 8.7 percent, down from 8.9 percent in February. In 2020-21, the economy experienced a 6.6% contraction. Manufacturing increased by 0.3% during the October-December quarter.



Centre Distributes Rs 86,912 Crore To States And Settles GST Compensation Debts :-

The Centre has released the entire compensation of Rs 86,912 crore due to states ahead of the end of the GST compensation regime in June. This step was taken to assist states with resource management. It was also to ensure that their programmes, particularly capital expenditure, were successfully carried out during the fiscal year, according to the finance ministry. Even though the cess fund had a meagre balance of Rs 25,000 crore, the full compensation was paid. Since the start of the GST regime, states have received compensation from the compensation fund.



Airtel Payments Bank Partnered With Muthoot Finance To Offer Gold :-

Airtel Payments Bank announced a partnership with Muthoot Finance to provide gold loans via the Airtel Thanks app. There will be no processing fee on the loan, and Muthoot Finance will lend up to 75% of the pledged gold value. Anyone can obtain a gold loan by pledging gold jewellery they own against financial aid. This, according to the company, eliminates the hassle of breaking an existing investment, particularly for a short-term requirement. The loan amount can be used for any personal or professional need. Furthermore, the gold is kept safe by the institution until the loan is paid off, according to the payments bank.



India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Have Surpassed USD 600 Billion :-

According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves increased by USD 3.854 billion to USD 601.363 billion for the week ended May 27 due to a sharp increase in the country's foreign currency assets. After falling for ten weeks in a row, the country's foreign reserves have risen sharply for the second week in a row. During the week ending May 20, forex reserves increased by USD 4.23 billion. According to the Reserve Bank of India's weekly statistical supplement, all components of forex reserves increased during the week ended May 27, led by a significant increase in foreign currency assets.



RBI Monetary Policy: RBI Raises Repo Rate By 50 Bps To 4.90% :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the key repo rate by 50 basis points to 4.90%. "The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) vote was unanimous and has decided to keep stance withdrawal from accommodative," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das stated. As a result, the Standing Deposit Facility Rate has been reduced to 4.65 percent, while the Marginal Standing Facility Rate and Bank Rate to 5.15 percent. The MPC noted that the global economy is still dealing with multi-decadal high inflation and slowing growth, as well as persistent geopolitical tensions and sanctions, elevated crude oil and other commodity prices, and lingering COVID-19-related supply chain bottlenecks.



WhatsApp Launched SMBSaathi Utsav To Support Small Businesses :-

WhatsApp India announced the launch of SMBSaathi Utsav, an initiative to assist small businesses in adopting digital mediums such as the WhatsApp Business App to run their operations. WhatsApp announced the launch of the initiative in Jaipur's Johri Bazaar and Bapu Bazaar, where 500+ small businesses will be trained on various aspects of running their businesses online. WhatsApp's initiative, developed in collaboration with Josh Talks, aims to educate and assist small businesses in unlocking the potential of their business through WhatsApp. As part of WhatsApp's initiative, trained volunteers are providing one-on-one digital training to businesses in Jaipur's Johri Bazaar and Bapu Bazaar.



CRE8 India's First Rupee-Based Crypto Index, Launched By CoinSwitch :-

India's largest cryptocurrency investing app, CoinSwitch, has launched the country's first benchmark index, which will track the performance of the rupee-based cryptocurrency market. The CRE8 index will track the movements of eight popular cryptocurrency assets, including Bitcoin and Ethereum. These assets account for more than 85% of the total market capitalisation of crypto coins traded in Indian Rupees. The CoinSwitch app has over 18 million registered users, and the index is based on their actual trades. CRE8 differs from other platforms in that it allows us to understand how Indians invest in cryptocurrency and make decisions based on that information.



RBI Cancelled Licence Of Mudhol Co-Op Bank, Bagalkot, Karnataka :-

The Reserve Bank has cancelled The Mudhol Co-operative Bank Limited's licence in Bagalkot (Karnataka), preventing it from repaying deposits and accepting new funds. The bank lacks adequate capital and earnings prospects, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which announced the licence cancellation. According to the bank's data, more than 99 percent of depositors are entitled to receive the full amount of their deposits from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). The DICGC has already paid Rs 16.69 crore of the total insured deposits, according to the RBI.



Tencent Bought Stake In Flipkart Worth Rs 2,060 Crore :-

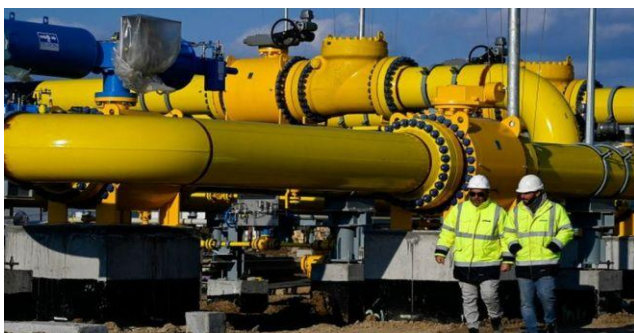
According to official documents, Chinese technology conglomerate Tencent has purchased a \$264 million (approximately Rs 2,060 crore) stake in Flipkart from its

co-founder Binny Bansal via its European subsidiary. Flipkart, headquartered in Singapore, operates solely in India. Bansal now owns approximately 1.84 percent of Flipkart after selling a portion of his stake to Tencent Cloud Europe BV. Following the transaction, Tencent's arm owns 0.72 percent of Flipkart, which is worth around \$264 million based on the e-commerce firm's most recent valuation of \$37.6 billion disclosed in July 2021.



XPay.Life: First Blockchain-Enabled UPI Service Provider In India :-

UPI services have been launched by XPay.Life, a blockchain-enabled transaction framework. XPay.Life is collaborating with regional rural banks (RRBs) and district co-operative central banks (DCCBs) to improve banking services and increase financial inclusion in rural areas. With the launch of its UPI services, XPay.Life's million customers in 15 states and over 1 lakh villages will have improved access to financial services. Together with NABARD, NPCI, and the state government, the fintech firm is working to make payment digitization a reality by enabling RRB and DCCB last mile links.



Russia Overtakes Saudi Arabia To Become India's 2nd Biggest Oil Supplier :-

According to industry data, Russia has surpassed Saudi Arabia to become India's second-largest oil supplier, trailing only Iraq, as refiners snap up Russian crude available at a deep discount following the Ukraine conflict. In May, Indian refiners purchased approximately 25 million barrels of Russian oil or more than 16% of total oil imports. According to the data, Russian-origin crude accounted for 5% of India's total seaborne imports in April for the first time, up from less than 1% in 2021 and Q1 2022.



Rajesh Exports To Invest \$3 Billion For India's First Display Plant :-

The state government announced that jeweller Rajesh Exports has agreed to invest \$3 billion in India's southern Telangana state to establish the country's first electronic-display plant. As a shortage has hampered the auto and electronics industries and highlighted the world's reliance on a few sources, such as Taiwan, for vital supplies, India and many governments around the world have raced to subsidise the construction of semiconductor and display factories. The ICEA estimates that display demand in India will be nearly \$60 billion between 2021 and 2025.



WPI Inflation Spiked To 15.88% In May 2022 :-

In May, wholesale price-based inflation reached a new high of 15.88% due to rising food and crude oil prices. In April, Wholesale Price Index-based inflation was 15.08 percent, up from 13.11 percent in May of last year. WPI inflation has remained in double digits for the 14th consecutive month since April of last year, and has been on an upward trend for three months in a row. In May, food inflation was 12.34%, with prices of vegetables, wheat, fruits, and potatoes rising sharply over the previous year.



2020-21: Female Labour Participation Increased To 25.1% :-

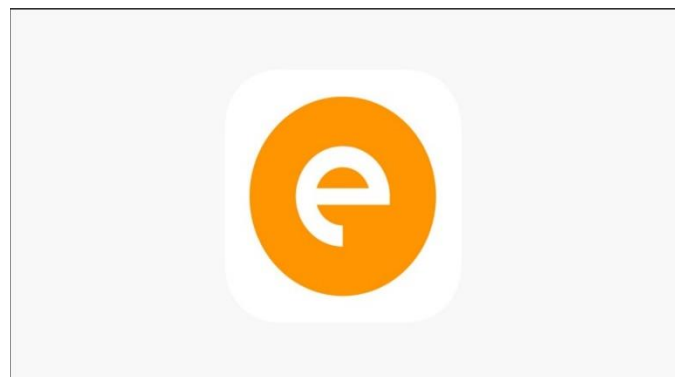
According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) annual report for July 2020-June 2021, the all-India female labour force participation rate (LFPR) in usual status increased 2.3 percent in 2021 to 25.1 percent, up from 22.8 percent the previous year. Female labour force

participation in rural areas has increased by 3% to 27.7 percent, while female labour force participation in urban areas has increased by 0.1 percent to 18.6 percent over the previous year. The overall all-India LFPR for people of all ages in regular status has risen slightly from 40.1 percent in 2019-20 to 41.6 percent in 2020-21.



Trade Deficit Of India Broadens To \$24.29 Billion In May 2022:-

According to a government statement, India's May trade deficit increased to \$24.29 billion from \$6.53 billion the previous year. Imports increased 62.83 percent year on year to \$63.22 billion in May, while exports increased 20.55 percent to \$38.94 billion, according to revised trade data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. In May, India's merchandise exports increased by 20.55 percent to \$38.94 billion. Imports increased by 62.83% to \$63.22 billion. In May 2021, the trade deficit was \$6.53 billion.



CASHe Has Launched An Industry-First Credit Line Service On WhatsApp :-

CASHe, an AI-powered financial wellness platform, has launched a service on WhatsApp that uses its AI-powered chat capability to provide customers with a quick and convenient way to access an instant credit line by typing their name. The company also stated that it is the first fintech player to provide this service, which promises an instant credit limit without the need for any documents, app downloads, or lengthy application forms. Any customer can use this service by starting a conversation on CASHe's WhatsApp number +918097553191 and saying "Hi."



Adani Transmission's \$700 Million Loan Gets 'Green Loan' Tag :-

Sustainalytics designated Adani Transmission Limited's (ATL) USD 700 million revolving loan facility as a "green loan." Sustainalytics, a Morningstar Company, provides institutional investors and companies with analytical environmental, social, and governance (ESG) research, ratings, and data. A revolving loan facility is a versatile financing tool that allows the borrower to draw down or withdraw, repay, and withdraw again. The projects associated with the USD 700 million revolving facility are being implemented in Gujarat and Maharashtra.



Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Gets SEBI's Nod To Float IPO :-

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank, a private sector lender, has received approval from capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial share sale. According to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP), the Initial Public Offering (IPO) consists of a new issue of 1,58,27,495 equity shares and an Offer For Sale (OFS) of up to 12,505 equity shares by shareholders. The OFS consists sale of equity shares by D Prem Palanivel, Priya Rajan, Prabhakar Mahadeo Bobde, Narasimhan Krishnamurthy, M Malliga Rani and Subramanian Venkiteswaran Iyer.



HSBC India Announced \$250 Million Lending Support For Indian Start-Ups :-

HSBC India has announced \$250 million in lending support for high-growth tech-led startups in India. "This will be used to lend to and support the growth aspirations of tech-led startups in India's fast growing start-up ecosystem, pegged as the third-largest in the

world,” it said in a statement, adding that the lending will be sector agnostic and used to leverage opportunities across a wide range of industries in the start-up ecosystem. This lending assistance will be provided to companies in the early stages of development, according to the statement.



China Becomes The Largest Importer Of Indian Broken Rice:-

According to a trade data analysis, China emerged as the top buyer of Indian rice during the pandemic, importing 16.34 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) — or 7.7 percent — of India's total rice export of 212.10 LMT in fiscal year 2021-22. According to the analysis, nearly 97 percent, or 15.76 LMT, of China's total rice import from India was broken rice, which has seen a surge in demand from that country. In fact, China is now the largest buyer of Indian broken rice, which was previously primarily exported to African countries.



RBI Raises Limit Of E-Mandates For Transactions Up To Rs 15,000 :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) limit for recurring e-mandates on cards, Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs), and UPI from Rs 5,000 to Rs 15,000 per transaction. It implies that for a payment of Rs 15,000 per transaction, no additional authentication is required. Over the last decade, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has implemented various safety and security measures for card payments, including the requirement of AFA, particularly for 'card-not-present' transactions.



Live more, Bank less

DBS Bank India Purchase 9.9% Share In Svakarma Finance :-

DBS Bank India Ltd (DBIL) has purchased a 9.9% stake in Svakarma Finance, a non-banking finance company that will provide financial solutions to micro enterprises through a combination of direct lending and co-lending. The transaction value, however, was not disclosed by the bank, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of DBS Bank Ltd., Singapore. According to the bank's statement, DBIL's strategy for its expanded franchise across 300+ locations and 500+ branches anticipates significant growth in SME and consumer businesses.



Millath Co-Operative Bank's Licence Suspended By The RBI :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Millath Co-operative Bank Ltd, which is based in Davangere, Karnataka, and has stated that all depositors will be paid. "As on May 18, 2022, DICGC has already paid Rs 10.38 crore of the total insured deposits under the provisions of Section 18A of the DICGC Act, 1961, based on the willingness received from the concerned depositors of the bank," the Reserve Bank of India said in a press release, referring to the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.

9: International



Israel And The United Arab Emirates Signed The First Arab Free Trade Deal :-

Israel has signed a free trade agreement with the United Arab Emirates, its first major trade agreement with an Arab country and a move aimed at increasing trade between the two Middle Eastern countries. After months of negotiations, Israel's Minister of Economy and Industry Orna Barbivai and her counterpart, UAE Minister of Economy Abdulla bin Touq al-Marri, signed the agreement in Dubai. Dorian Barak, President of the UAE-Israel Business Council, stated that the trade agreement defined tax rates, imports, and intellectual property, encouraging more Israeli companies to establish offices in the UAE, particularly in Dubai.



New Law Introduced In Canada Aims To 'Freeze' Handgun Ownership:-

The government of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau proposed legislation that would prohibit the import, purchase, or sale of handguns. Trudeau stated that the number of handguns in Canada is being limited. The regulations to limit the proliferation of privately owned handguns are expected to be enacted this fall. According to the prime minister, it will be illegal to buy, sell, transfer, or import handguns anywhere in Canada. Canada has already announced plans to ban 1,500 types of military-style firearms and implement a mandatory buyback programme beginning at the end of the year. Background checks have already been expanded.



Indian American Harini Logan Wins 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee :-

Harini Logan, a 14-year-old Indian-American from Texas, won the prestigious 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee, defeating Vikram Raju in a marathon, first-of-its-kind spell-off in which contestants were tested on how many words they could correctly spell in 90 seconds. Logan, who won the USD 50,000 cash prize and the Scripps Cup trophy, as well as awards from Merriam-Webster and Encyclopedia Britannica, correctly spelled 21 out of 26 words, while Raju, a 12-year-old boy from Denver, correctly spelled 15 out of 19 words. Vihaan Sibal, a 13-year-old from Texas, came in third, followed by Saharsh Vuppala, a 13-year-old eighth-grader from Washington.



UN Approves Turkey's Request To Change Name To Türkiye :-

According to a UN spokesman, Turkey's request to change its name to Türkiye has been granted. Speaking to reporters, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' spokesman, Stephane Dujarric, said the change took

effect immediately after the world body received a letter from Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu requesting that the country's name be changed. Turkey began the transition to Türkiye as its internationally recognised official name in English in December, after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan issued a memorandum requesting that the public use Türkiye to describe the country in all languages.



NATO conducts naval exercises in Baltic Sea with NATO allies and partners :-

NATO began a nearly two-week naval exercise on the Baltic Sea led by the United States, with over 7,000 sailors, airmen, and marines from 16 nations, including two aspiring members, Finland and Sweden. The BALTOPS naval exercise, which began in 1972, is not held in response to any specific threat. Before their governments decided to apply to join NATO in May as a direct result of Russia's February 24 invasion of Ukraine, Finland and Sweden both had a long history of military non-alignment.



UN To Grant Humanitarian Assistance Of \$48 Million To Sri Lanka Amid Crisis :-

In the midst of Sri Lanka's ongoing disastrous financial crisis, which has resulted in severe food, power, and fuel shortages, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe told Parliament that the UN plans to provide \$48 million in humanitarian assistance to the island nation's food, agriculture, and health sectors over a four-month period. Wickremesinghe informed Parliament in his address that the UN has organised a worldwide public appeal to raise funds for humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka. Wickremesinghe thanked India for assisting Sri Lanka in his speech.



India's Krishna Srinivasan To Head IMF's Asia-Pacific Dept :-

Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, announced the appointment of Indian national Krishna Srinivasan as Director of the Asia and Pacific Department (APD) beginning June 22. According to an IMF announcement, Srinivasan will succeed Changyong Rhee, who announced his retirement from the Fund on March 23. Srinivasan, an Indian national, has been with the Fund for over 27 years, beginning in the Economist Program in 1994. He is currently a Deputy Director in APD, where he oversees the department's surveillance work on a number of large and systemically important countries,

including China and Korea, as well as smaller Pacific states like Fiji and Vanuatu.



AR Rahman Appointed Ambassador Of Indo-UK Culture Platform :-

AR Rahman, the music maestro, has been named ambassador of The Season of Culture, which commemorates India's 75th anniversary of independence. It was officially launched by Britain's Deputy High Commissioner to India, Jan Thomson, and British Council Director (India), Barbara Wickham. The Season of Culture aims to improve India-UK cooperation in the arts, English, and education. AR Rahman has been appointed as its ambassador in this regard. Speaking about it, the renowned musician stated that it is a privilege for him as an artist to be a part of an innovative cultural programme that promotes creative excellence and artistic appreciation while bringing together diverse audiences.



World's First 'Right To Repair' Law For Digital Electronics Passed By New York Legislature :-

In a world first, the New York state legislature passed a bill "right to repair" requiring digital electronics manufacturers to make parts, tools, information, and software available to consumers and independent repair shops. The "Fair Repair Act" was enacted in response to federal pressure to enforce consumers' rights to repair and refurbish purchased goods. This is huge news for independent repair shops because it means they will finally be able to compete with manufacturers, resisting the repair market consolidation caused by manufacturers restricting access to parts and tools.



European Parliament Votes To Ban Sale Of New Petrol And Diesel Cars By 2035 :-

Members of the European Parliament voted to prohibit the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2035. The initiative aims to accelerate the development of electric vehicles, which will aid in the fight against climate change. Members of Parliament voted against an amendment that would have allowed some auto emissions from new vehicles after 2035. In Strasbourg, France, the European Union assembly voted to require automakers to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 100 percent by the middle of the next decade. The mandate would effectively prohibit the sale of new cars powered by gasoline or diesel in the EU's 27 member states.



Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Switzerland Elected To The UNSC :-

For the 2023-2024 term Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland were elected as non-permanent members to the United Nations Security Council, taking over from India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, and Norway on January 1, 2023. India's two-year term as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council will come to an end in December 2022, when it will also hold the Presidency of the powerful UN body. For years, India has been at the forefront of the 15-nation Council's reform efforts, claiming that it is entitled to a permanent seat on the body, which does not reflect the geopolitical realities of the twenty-first century in its current configuration.



Britain's Queen Becomes The World's Second-Longest Reigning Monarch :-

Queen Elizabeth II, the head of the British royal family, has just become the world's second-longest reigning monarch. The queen has ruled the realm for 70 years and 127 days, having ascended to the throne on February 6, 1952. She has just surpassed former Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej's long reign, which lasted from 1946 until his death in 2016. King Louis XIV of France remains at the top, having reigned for more than 72 years after ascending to the throne at the age of four and dying in 1715.



Ambassador Rabab Fatima Appointed UN Under-Secretary-General :-

Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Rabab Fatima, has been appointed as the UN's Under Secretary General. Ambassador Fatima's appointment was announced by Secretary General Antonio Guterres. She will also serve as the United Nations High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS). She succeeds Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica who was appointed as the Chef de Cabinet. Ambassador Rabab Fatima is Bangladesh's first female diplomat in this position. Rabab Fatima has been appointed as Bangladesh's highest-ranking official within the UN system.



UNGA Adopts Resolution On Multilingualism, Mentions Hindi Language For 1st Time :-

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted a resolution on multilingualism sponsored by India that, for the first time, recognises the Hindi language. "This year, for the first time, the resolution has a mention of Hindi language. The resolution encourages the UN department of global communications to continue disseminating important communications and messages in official as well as non-official languages, including in hindi language. The resolution also mentions Bangla and Urdu for the first time. We welcome these additions," Ambassador TS Tirumurti, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, stated.



India Finalised Deals For Cheetahs From South Africa & Namibia :-

Officials say India will release cheetahs from South Africa and Namibia into the wild at Kuno Palpur in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district by the end of this year, as the government finalises deals to reintroduce the world's fastest animals, which became extinct in the country in the middle of the last century. This would kickstart India's ambitious plan to relocate cheetahs across the continent. To begin, there will be 12 South African cheetahs and eight Namibian cheetahs. More would follow in the coming years.



Arati Prabhakar To Be Appointed As Science Adviser To The President Of US :-

Dr. Arti Prabhakar, a leading Indian-American scientist, has been nominated by Joe Biden as a top science advisor to the US President, a decision hailed as "historic" by the White House and the Indian-American community. Dr. Prabhakar, if confirmed by the Senate, would be the first woman, immigrant, or person of colour to lead the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). She will also be the latest highly qualified Indian-American professional to be named to a key position in the Biden administration.



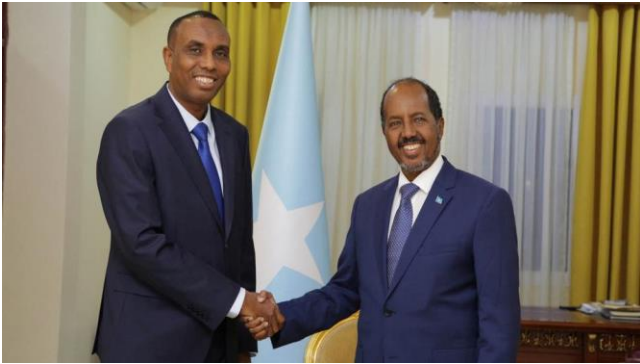
APEDA Organized Mango Festival In Bahrain To Boost Export Of Mangoes :-

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) launched an eight-day Mango Festival in the Kingdom of Bahrain on June 13 in collaboration with the Indian Embassy and Al Jazira Group. At the show, 34 varieties of mangoes from the eastern states of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha were displayed at eight different Al Jazira group supermarkets in Bahrain. All mango varieties were obtained directly from farmers and two Farmer Producer Organizations.



Indian American Radha Iyengar Plumb Nominated by Biden to Top Pentagon Position :-

Indian-American Radha Iyengar Plumb has been nominated for a top Pentagon position by US President Joe Biden. Ms. Plumb, who is currently the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, was nominated to the position of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment. Plumb, a skilled policy researcher with extensive experience in trust and safety issues, began working as the Chief Of Staff to Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen H Hicks in February 2021 after a year at Google.



Hamza Abdi Barre Appointed As PM Of Somalia :-

The president of Somalia has appointed Hamza Abdi Barre, a former chairman of the Jubbaland state election commission, as prime minister. Former President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, who attempted to extend his presidency, and former Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble had a bitter feud, with security forces splintering into factions supporting either man. The political crisis has also diverted attention away from a growing humanitarian crisis that has forced more than six million Somalis to rely on food aid.



World's Biggest Plant Discovered Off Australian Coast :-

After genetic testing at the seagrass meadow, scientists discovered the world's largest living plant in the shallow waters off the coast of Western Australia. *Posidonia australis*, also known as ribbon weed or fibre-ball weed, is found in Shark Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The seagrass meadow is 180 kilometres long. According to the research team, the existing 200 square kilometres of ribbon weed meadows appear to have grown from a single, colonising seedling.



'Fujian,' China's Third Most Advanced Domestically Built Aircraft Carrier Launched :-

China has unveiled its third and most advanced aircraft carrier, at the Jiangnan Shipyard in Shanghai, with new combat systems that experts say are quickly catching up with the United States. The ship, dubbed "Fujian," is China's first domestically designed and built catapult aircraft carrier, according to state-run media. China names its aircraft carriers after coastal provinces, beginning in the northeast with Liaoning and ending in the east with Shandong. Fujian, in the southeast, is the province closest to Taiwan, separated by a strait less than 80 miles (128 kilometres) wide at its narrowest point.

10: Miscellaneous



Narinder Batra Resigned As President Of The Indian Olympic Association :-

Narinder Batra resigned as president of the Indian Olympic Association and confirmed that he would not run for IOA president again. Batra also expressed his hope that India would continue its efforts to bring home the 2036 Summer Olympics. Meanwhile, Batra will continue to serve as the FIH's president. Previously, the CBI had opened a preliminary investigation into Batra for alleged misuse of Rs 35 lakh in Hockey India funds. According to the report, the central investigation agency received a complaint against Batra and launched a preliminary investigation, which is the first step in establishing prima facie criminality.



A new species of Arunachal Macaque named Sela Macaque Discovered :-

Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered a new species of monkey in Arunachal Pradesh. The new species has been named "Sela Macaque" after Arunachal Pradesh's famous Sela Pass. "This monkey is genetically different from the other species in the region," said a ZSI official. According to the ZSI, Sela Pass separates this new species of monkey from the Arunachal macaque of Tawang district. According to ZSI scientists, the Sela Pass has kept the two macaque species separate for approximately two million years.



Sachin Tendulkar To Continue As UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador For 20th Year :-

Sachin Tendulkar will remain UNICEF's 'Goodwill Ambassador' for a record 20th year, working to improve the lives of underprivileged children. For many years, the legendary cricketer has been involved with UNICEF for a variety of causes. In 2003, he was chosen to lead an initiative in India to raise awareness and promote polio prevention. Later in 2008, he was enlisted to create and promote hygiene and sanitation among communities, which he has done ever since. He was appointed UNICEF Ambassador for South Asia in 2013 to promote good hygiene and sanitation throughout the region.



Union Minister Anurag Thakur Launches Nationwide Fit India Freedom Rider Cycle Rally :-

On the occasion of World Bicycle Day 2022, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur has launched a nationwide 'Fit India Freedom Rider Cycle Rally' from Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in Delhi. Anurag Thakur and 750 other young cyclists completed a 7.5-kilometer cycle rally that began at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium. The goal of the country's cycle rallies is to encourage and motivate people to incorporate cycling into their daily lives for physical fitness and to keep them immune to health disorders such as obesity, stress, anxiety, and diseases.



Javier Oliván Taking Over As The Meta New Chief Operating Officer :-

Meta's new chief operating officer (COO) will be Javier Oliván (formerly Facebook). The announcement came after Sheryl Sandberg announced her resignation as COO after 14 years in the position. After Zuckerberg, Sandberg was the second-in-command. She was in charge of

driving changes in Facebook and its apps, including Instagram, Messenger, and WhatsApp. She plans to leave the company in the fall of this year to focus on her foundation and philanthropic work. She will, however, continue to serve on Meta's board of directors.



Instagram Launched A New Feature To Help Find Missing Children :-

Instagram has announced the launch of a 'alert' feature to assist in the search for missing children. The photo-sharing app has collaborated with a number of organisations around the world to implement the feature. If a user is in an area where an active search is taking place, the feature will display details about missing children on their Instagram feed. " Chances of finding a missing child increase when more people are on the lookout, especially in the first few hours," Emily Vacher, Meta's Director of Trust and Safety, wrote in a blog post. The Meta-owned platform's alerts will include information such as a child's photo, description, and location of the abduction.



ISRO Chairman Inaugurates New Spacecraft Manufacturing Facility :-

The chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Dr S Somanath, has inaugurated ANANTH Technologies' spacecraft manufacturing unit at the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) Aerospace Park. The new cutting-edge spacecraft manufacturing facility can handle the assembly, integration, and testing of four large spacecraft at the same time. Somanath said, "At ISRO, our objective is not just to pursue space science research and planetary exploration, it is also to harness space technology for the nation's development. India has earned worldwide recognition for its space programmes and we feel that collaboration between government and private players can further boost the growth of this sector."



Tamil Nadu CM Flags Off Luxury Cruise Liner "Empress" :-

MK Stalin, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, flagged off the luxury cruise liner "Empress" from the port of Chennai. The eleven-story tourist ship can accommodate up to 2,000 passengers and 800 crew members. According to the operator, the packages include sailing to the high seas from the city port and returning, as well as anchoring at Puducherry and Visakhapatnam harbours. The three packages are two, three, and five days long. This is the state's first luxury cruise liner, and state officials say a few other prominent operators have expressed interest in offering sea-based tourism services.



Tata Projects Wins Bid To Build UP's Jewar Airport :-

After outbidding the Shapoorji Pallonji Group and Larsen & Toubro for the contract, Tata Projects will construct the national capital region's new airport at Jewar. Tata Projects, the Tata group's infrastructure and construction arm, will build the Noida International Airport's terminal, runway, airside infrastructure, roads, utilities, landside facilities, and other ancillary buildings. The new airport is scheduled to open in 2024. With the completion of the EPC contract, the first phase of the



Rubber Board's Electronic Trading Platform 'MRube' To Go Live :-

KN Raghavan, Executive Director, Rubber Board, inaugurated the Beta launch of 'mRube', the e-trading platform for natural rubber, at the Rubber Research Institute of India in Kottayam. He said, "The day will be marked as a red-letter day in the history of rubber trading in the country. The turn of the last century witnessed much advancement in IT, and the increased acceptance of IT tools is because of the factors such as easiness to use, effectiveness and the security aspects. The present system of rubber trading is efficient but still there is a need for upgrading this through the employment of IT tools assuring transparency and ease to do business."



Microsoft's Internet Explorer Retiring After 27 Years :-

Microsoft has decided to discontinue the consumer version of Internet Explorer. It announced the plan last year, and Internet Explorer 11 was designated as the final version. Internet Explorer debuted on Windows desktop computers in 1995 and had captured 95% of the market by 2004. The popularity of Internet Explorer was harmed by the release of faster browsers such as Chrome and Firefox, as users embraced new applications to navigate platforms such as Google Search, Facebook, and YouTube. The rise of smartphones arguably dealt the fatal blow, with Apple's pre-installed Safari browser and Google Chrome on Android phones aiding in the shift of internet access and usage to mobile devices.



Bajaj Finance launches financial education initiative 'Har Time EMI On Time' :-

The lending arm of Bajaj Finserv Limited, Bajaj Finance Limited, has announced the launch of its public awareness campaign, 'Har Time EMI On Time.' This digital campaign aims to raise awareness about the importance and benefits of developing good financial habits in order to have a secure financial future. The company stated in a statement that the campaign aims to educate the general public about the benefits of paying their monthly loan EMIs on time and the negative long-term consequences of missing their loan payments.



Canara HSBC Life Rebrands Due To PNB Exit :-

Canara HSBC OBC Life has changed its name to Canara HSBC Life following the withdrawal of its third partner, Punjab National Bank (PNB). Following the merger of Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC), PNB acquired a stake in the company. Canara Bank currently owns 51 percent of the insurance arm, while HSBC owns 26 percent and

PNB owns 23 percent. Following PNB's decision to exit, existing shareholders are likely to acquire the stake. Canara HSBC Life MD Anuj Mathur announced the company's rebranding and stated that the company has turned a profit despite Rs 500 crore in additional claims due to Covid-19.

11: National



Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022: PM Modi Inaugurated India's Biggest Drone Festival :-

At Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022, India's largest drone festival. According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), PM Modi interacted with Kisan drone pilots as well as startups in the drone exhibition centre during the drone festival event. In addition, the Prime Minister has witnessed open-air drone demonstrations. Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022, India's largest Drone Festival, was a two-day event held on May 27 and 28, 2022, at Pragati Maidan in the national capital, according to a PMO statement.



Government Re-Established The Central Advisory Board On Archaeology :-

The Central Advisory Board on Archaeology (CABA) that is meant to strengthen contacts between the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and those in the field of archaeological research has been re-constituted. The ASI reconstituted the board in a notification, with the Culture Minister as chairperson and members including officials from the Culture Ministry and ASI, MPs, nominees of State governments, representatives of universities, scientists, and experts on Indus Valley script. The board will meet once a year and will advise the Centre on "archaeology-related matters" referred to it by its members.



The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme Extended Through FY26 :-

The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) has been extended until the fiscal year 2025-26, with a total outlay of Rs 13,554.42 crore, according to the government. According to the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, the scheme will generate long-term employment opportunities for approximately 40 lakh people over the next five fiscal years. The scheme will be extended for five years, from 2021-22 to 2025-26, during the 15th Finance Commission cycle. PMEGP aims to increase employment opportunities for youth across the country by assisting them in establishing micro-enterprises in non-farm sectors.



NCTE Launches Online Portal To Simplify Process Of Teacher Education Programme :-

To simplify the process of recognition of teacher education programs in higher education institutions National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has launched an online portal. The portal launched to streamline the process aims to assist from the time applications are invited for courses until the stage of issuing recognition orders, which includes inspection of institutions. According to an official statement, applications for the recently launched four-year integrated teacher education programmes (ITEP) will be processed through this portal. According to the official statement, this portal aims to bring about a paradigm shift in the way NCTE operates.



PM Announces 'Yoga For Humanity' Is The Theme Of Eighth International Day Of Yoga :-

The theme for the International Day of Yoga in 2022 'Yoga for Humanity' has been chosen by the Union Ministry of Ayush, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in his monthly Mann ki Baat address. The eighth International Day of Yoga will be held on June 21, with the main event taking place in Mysuru, Karnataka. Modi also urged Indians to participate in the the celebrations with enthusiasm. The theme for this year was chosen after much deliberation and consultation, and it appropriately depicts how yoga served humanity in alleviating sufferings during Covid-19, Modi said. The theme of last year's event was 'Yoga for Wellness'.



IAF Heritage Centre To Come Up In Chandigarh :-

According to officials, a heritage centre will be built in Chandigarh to highlight the Indian Air Force's role in various wars and its overall operation. The 'IAF Heritage Centre' will be established in collaboration with the Chandigarh administration and the force, they said. An agreement was signed between the Union Territory of Chandigarh and the IAF to establish the centre. Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit and Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari attended the ceremony. "This joint project of Administration of UT Chandigarh and IAF is planned to be completed by October," said an IAF official.



National Air Sports Policy 2022 Launched By Civil Aviation Minister :-

Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister of Civil Aviation, has launched the National Air Sport Policy 2022 (NASP 2022). By providing a safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable, and sustainable air sports ecosystem in India, NASP 2022 aims to make India one of the top sports nations by 2030. Air sports, as the name implies, include a variety of sports

that involve the medium of air. These include activities such as air racing, aerobatics, aero modeling, hang gliding, paragliding, paramotoring, and skydiving, among others. India has the potential to be one of the world's leading nations in the field of air sports.



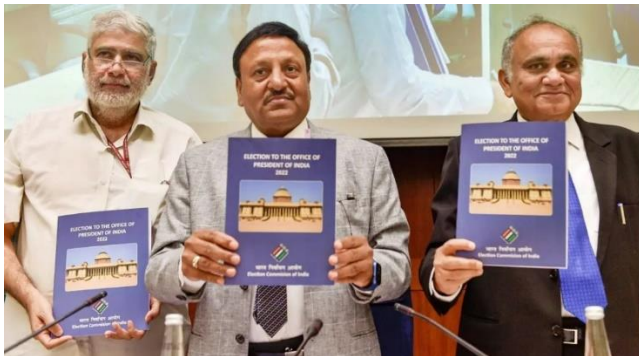
PM Modi Launches New Series Of Coins With Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Design:-

During the iconic week celebration of the Ministry of Finance in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi releases a special series of coins. The coins in the denominations of Re 1, Rs 2, 5, 10, and 20 will have the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) design and will be circulated. "These new series of coins will remind people of the goal of amrit kal and motivate people to work towards the development of the country," Modi said during the Ministry of Finance's iconic week celebration. Meanwhile, lenders such as HDFC Bank and Axis Bank have stated that these special coins will be distributed through a limited number of branches.



Amit Shah Inaugurates New Building Of National Tribal Research Institute In New Delhi :-

Amit Shah, Union Home and Cooperation Minister, has inaugurated the National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI) in Delhi, which he says will play a role in nation-building. The NTRI will be the premier national institute for the promotion and preservation of tribal heritage and culture, as well as the focal point for tribal research issues and matters in academic, executive, and legislative settings. According to him, the institute will collaborate and network with prestigious research institutes, universities, and organisations, as well as academic bodies and resource centres. He claims that tribal children can even bring Olympic medals because sports are a part of their culture.



Presidential Election 2022 To Be Held On 18 July :-

The Election Commission of India has set July 18 as the date for presidential elections to select the successor to incumbent Ram Nath Kovind. The BJP is likely to ensure an easy victory for its nominated candidate due to its strength in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, as well as many state assemblies. The EC will allow nominations for the upcoming elections on June 29 after issuing a notification on June 15, according to Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar. On July 21, the counting will take place in Delhi. A total of 4,809 electors will vote, including 776 MPs and 4,033 MLAs.



NHAI Set A Guinness World Record For Constructing A 75-Kilometer Motorway In 105 Hours :-

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that the NHAI set a new Guinness World Record by laying 75 kilometres of bituminous concrete in a single lane on NH53 in 105 hours and 33 minutes. Gadkari congratulated all of the engineers, contractors, consultants, and workers from NHAI and Raj Path Infracon Pvt Ltd on the project's efficient execution, which contributed to the successful completion of this world record. He stated that the project was carried out by 720 people, including a team of independent consultants who worked around the clock to complete the task.



EASE 5.0 'Common Reforms Agenda' Launched By Nirmala Sitharaman :-

Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, has launched the fifth edition of Enhanced Access and Service Excellence-EASE 5.0, which outlines the common reforms agenda for public sector banks (PSBs) under the EASENext programme. PSB Managing Directors, CEOs, and other senior executives virtually attended the launch event. PSBs will continue to invest in new-age capabilities and deepen ongoing reforms under EASE 5.0 to respond to evolving customer needs, changing competition, and the technological environment. Simultaneously, each PSB will develop a bank-specific three-year strategic roadmap.



India's First Centralised AC Railway Terminal In Bengaluru Becomes Operational :-

On June 6, the ultra-luxurious Sir M Visvesvaraya Railway Terminal in Karnataka's capital city Bengaluru became operational. The 4,200-square-meter station building will serve 50,000 people per day. All platforms will be linked by a footbridge and two subways. In addition to seven platforms, the terminal has eight stabling lines and three pit lines. The terminal can handle up to 50 trains per day. To facilitate passenger movement, escalators and lifts will connect seven platforms. With the operation of the newly constructed AC terminal, more express and direct trains from across the country will be able to travel to Bengaluru.



In Ahmedabad, Prime Minister Modi Inaugurates IN-SPACE :-

Inaugurating the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) headquarters in Bopal, Ahmedabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised India's space mission, calling it the most significant recognition of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. "The global space industry is valued at 400 billion US dollars today. By 2040, it has the potential to become a 1 trillion-dollar industry. India currently has participation in the industry at only 2%. India would have to increase its share, and there's a big role of the private sector in the same," said the PM.



India's 1st Private Train Service Flagged Off Under 'Bharat Gaurav Scheme' :-

The Indian Railways has flagged off India's first privately-run train under the scheme 'Bharat Gaurav,' marking a significant milestone. Approximately 11, 000 passengers boarded the train from Coimbatore to Shirdi, according to reports. In November 2021, the scheme was launched, allowing private entities to operate theme-based train services across various circuits. South Star Rail provides services for this train. This company is a subsidiary of Future Gaming & Hotel Services Private Limited.



Ashwini Vaishnaw: India To Have 5G Services By March 2023 :-

Union Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw stated at the Viva Technology 2022 event that India will have full-fledged 5G services by March 2023. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has finally approved the DoT's 5G spectrum auction, through which spectrum will be assigned to bidders to provide 5G services to the public and enterprises. According to Shree Vaishnaw, the 5G spectrum auction will be completed by the end of July.



Govt Establishes 10% Quota For Agniveers, Alters Upper Age Limit :-

The Ministry of Home Affairs announced a significant decision to reserve 10% of vacancies in the Central Armed Police Forces and Assam Rifles for Agniveers. In a series of tweets, the Ministry of Home Affairs said, "The Ministry of Home Affairs decides to reserve 10% vacancies for recruitment in CAPFs and Assam Rifles for Agniveers." "The MHA also decides to give 3 years age relaxation beyond the prescribed upper age limit to Agniveers for recruiting in CAPFs & Assam Rifles" Further, for the first batch of Agniveer, the age relaxation will be for 5 years beyond the prescribed upper age limit," the MHA added.



IISc Centre For Brain Research Officially Inaugurated By PM Modi :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Centre for Brain Research (CBR), which he laid the foundation stone for at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru campus. According to officials, the CBR is a one-of-a-kind research facility that focuses on conducting vital research to provide evidence-based public health interventions to manage age-related brain disorders. During the programme, the Prime Minister also laid the foundation for the 832-bed Bagchi Parthasarathy Multispeciality Hospital.

12: Obituaries



Bollywood Singer KK (Krishnakumar Kunnath) Passed Away :-

KK (Krishnakumar Kunnath), a well-known Bollywood singer, died at the age of 53. Initially, it was reported that he died of a cardiac arrest while performing at Nazrul Manch in Kolkata. KK, on the other hand, was "feeling heavy" after arriving at his hotel and soon collapsed, according to officials. He was taken to a nearby private hospital, where doctors declared him dead, according to reports. Krishnakumar Kunnath was a well-known singer who recorded songs for films in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, and Gujarati. He was regarded as one of his generation's most versatile singers.



Punjabi Singer Sidhu Moose Wala Shot Dead :-

Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, a Congress leader and Punjabi singer known as Sidhu Moose Wala, was shot by unidentified people while travelling. He was 28. The shooting also injured two other people. The incident occurred just one day after the Punjab government removed the security of 424 people, including Moose Wala. The security cover was removed as part of the Bhagwant Mann administration's effort to crack down on VIP culture. Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu went by the stage name Sidhu Moose Wala. The 28-year-old was from the Moosa village near Mansa and had several superhit songs in recent years.



Former Albania President Bujar Nishani Passes Away :-

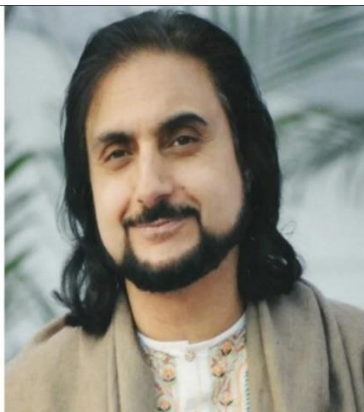
Former Albanian President Bujar Nishani died as a result of a serious health problem, according to the country's presidential office. He was 55. Nishani was president from 2012 to 2017. He was elected as the youngest and sixth president of post-communist Albania at the age of 45, with only lawmakers from then-Prime Minister Sali Berisha's center-right Democratic party backing him. Opposition lawmakers boycotted the vote in order to force a consensus candidate. Albania's presidents are chosen by the 140-member Parliament. Nishani previously served as the country's interior and justice

ministers. His political career began a few years before he was elected to the legislature in 2005.



J&K National Panthers Party Chief Bhim Singh Passes Away :-

In Jammu, Professor Bhim Singh, the founder of the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP), passed away. He was 81. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences on Bhim Singh's death, saying he would be remembered as a grassroots leader who dedicated his life to the welfare of Jammu and Kashmir. Bhim Singh was a Supreme Court advocate, author, and human rights activist. In December 2016, he was re-elected unopposed as a senior executive member of the Supreme Court Bar Association. According to party sources, Singh provided free legal aid to thousands of poor prisoners, farmworkers, and youth across the country.



Santoor Maestro Bhajan Sopori Passes Away :-

Santoor maestro and Padma Shri awardee Bhajan Sopori died on June 2 at the age of 73 in Fortis Hospital in Gurugram. The santoorist was born in 1948 in Sopore, Kashmir Valley, and belonged to the Sufiana gharana of Indian classical music. He was the great-grandson of Pandit Shankar Pandit, who created the 'Sufi Baaj' (style) based on Sufiana Qalam and Hindustani Classical music. Sopori was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1992, as well as the Padma Shri in 2004. For his contributions to Indian classical music, he received the Baba Allaudin Khan Award in 2009 and the M N Mathur Award in 2011.



Freedom Fighter Anjalai Ponnusamy Passes Away :-

Anjalai Ponnusamy, a freedom fighter who fought for India's independence from colonial Britain, died at the age of 102. Anjalai joined the Rani of Jhansi Regiment, the Indian National Army's women's regiment, at the age of 21 in the hope of freeing the Indian people from the yoke of British colonialism. Bose was a prominent figure in India's independence struggle and a contemporary of Mahatma Gandhi, who shared his vision of a free India from British rule. To accomplish this, he established the Indian National Army in 1943, albeit with Japanese assistance, during World War II.



Sony Ex-CEO Nobuyuki Idei Passes Away :-

According to the company Nobuyuki Idei, who led Japan's Sony from 1998 to 2005, guiding the company's growth in the digital and entertainment industries, has died. He was 84. Mr Idei made a significant contribution to Sony's evolution as a global company during his seven years as CEO beginning in 1998. Sony Chief Executive Kenichiro Yoshida said "In particular, the prescience and foresight with which he predicted the impact of the Internet and engaged proactively with digitalization across Sony amazes me to this day. He and the company were indebted to Idei's vision in preparing Sony for the Internet age."



Eminent Urdu scholar Gopi Chand Narang passes away :-

Prof. Gopi Chand Narang, eminent Urdu scholar and former president of the Sahitya Akademi, died in the United States. He was 91. Prof. Narang was instrumental in making literary criticism a full-fledged branch of knowledge in Urdu literature through his perceptive analysis, academic rigour, and theoretical grounding.

Prof. Narang was a prolific writer with over 60 books to his name. His seminal work Urdu Ghazal aur Hindustani Zehn-o Tahzeeb is remembered for examining and tracing the origins of the Urdu ghazal.



Legendary Mumbai Doordarshan newscaster Pradeep Bhide passes away at 68 :-

Pradeep Bhide, Marathi television's most well-known newscaster, died at the age of 68. The illustrious voice artist pioneered the art of reading bulletins and hosting shows on Mumbai Doordarshan, where he worked for 35 years. Bhide had been diagnosed with brain cancer. Bhide helped shape DDK Mumbai's newscast since its early days, joining in 1974, just two years after the channel's October 2, 1972 launch. During his 40-year career, he produced approximately 5,000 advertisements, Films Division documentaries, and interviews with luminaries ranging from Balasaheb Thackeray to Babasaheb Purandare.



Asia's 'Longest-Tusked' Elephant Bhogeshwara Dies Of Natural Causes :-

According to officials, Bhogeshwara, the elephant with the longest tusks in Asia, died of natural causes at the age of 60. Also known as Mr Kabini, the wild elephant was discovered dead in the Gundre range of Karnataka's Bandipur Tiger Reserve. It died three or four days ago, according to officials. According to forest department officials, one of Bhogeshwar's tusks measured 2.54 metres and the other was 2.34 metres. Wildlife enthusiasts who have observed Bhogeshwara claim that his calm demeanour and long tusks drew tourists to Kabini.



Long Distance Running Legend Hari Chand Passes Away :-

Hari Chand, a two-time Olympian and two-time Asian Games gold medalist, died at the age of 69. He was born in Ghorewah village in Punjab's Hoshiarpur district and was one of India's greatest long-distance runners. Hari Chand finished eighth in the 10,000 m at the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal with a time of 28:48.72, a

national record that stood for 32 years until Surendra Singh broke it. He then competed in the 1980 Olympic Men's Marathon, finishing with a time of 2:22:08 at Lenin Stadium in Moscow. Hari Chand was also awarded the Arjuna Award for his contributions to sports.



Veteran Photojournalist R. Raveendran Passes Away :-

R Raveendran, the well-known photojournalist who captured the iconic image of Delhi University student Rajiv Goswami setting himself on fire during the Mandal Commission agitation, which intensified protests leading to the resignation of the VP Singh government, died after a brief illness. He was 69. The image appeared on the front pages of almost all newspapers in the country, and the iconic image fueled increased agitation, ultimately leading to the demise of the then-VP Singh government. He worked for AFP and was the Photo Editor for ANI at the time of his death.

13: Ranks & Reports



WEF's Travel And Tourism Competitiveness Index 2021: India Ranks 54 :-

In the global travel and tourism development index 2021, India is ranked 54th. The country has come down from 46th position in 2019, however, has still remained on top within South Asia. The Travel and Tourism Development Index 2021 places Japan first, followed by the United

States, Spain, France, and Germany. With a score of 4.2, India is ranked 54th, eight places lower than in 2019. According to the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Development Index 2021, which includes 117 countries, despite positive trends, the travel and tourism sector is still facing challenges in its recovery.



Kolkata Becomes First Metro City To Get Its Biodiversity Register :-

According to Kolkata mayor Firhad Hakim, the city is the first in the country to create a detailed biodiversity register. The Kolkata Municipal Corporation published the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR), a document that contains information about the city's floral and faunal varieties, as well as its land use and human activities. The document was created by the civic body's biodiversity management committee (BMC), with assistance from non-governmental organisations (NGOs). "On the eve of UN International Biodiversity Day, we released the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) for the city, the first-of-its-kind report of any Indian metro," he said.



Moody's Cuts India's Economic Growth Forecast To 8.8% For 2022 :-

Moody's Investors Service has reduced India's economic growth forecast for 2022 to 8.8 percent from 9.1 percent previously, citing high inflation. Moody's said in an update to its Global Macro Outlook 2022-23 that high-frequency data suggests that the growth momentum from the December quarter 2021 carried over into the first four months of this year. However, rising crude oil, food, and fertiliser prices will put a strain on household finances and spending in the coming months. It stated that raising rates to prevent energy and food inflation from spreading will slow the demand recovery's momentum.



According To SBI Report, India's GDP Growth To Be 8.2-8.5 Percent In FY22 :-

According to the State Bank of India's research report Ecowrap, India's GDP growth in FY22 is expected to be in the range of 8.2 to 8.5 percent. Uncertainties plague Q4FY22 GDP numbers because customary quarterly data revisions are difficult to understand, but it will hit the 3 to 3.5 percent threshold, according to a report released by SBI's Economic Research Department. On May 31, the government has released Q4 FY22 GDP figures. SBI noted in the report that the numbers are difficult to understand because a flurry of customary quarterly revisions in FY22 on May 31st could make it a forecaster's nightmare.



US Overtakes China As India's Largest Trading Partner In FY22 :-

In 2021-22, the United States surpassed China to become India's top trading partner, demonstrating the two countries' strong economic ties. According to commerce ministry data, bilateral trade between the United States and India was worth US\$119.42 billion in 2021-22, up from US\$80.51 billion in 2020-21. Exports to the United States increased to US\$ 76.11 billion in 2021-22, up from US\$ 51.62 billion the previous fiscal year, while imports increased to US\$ 43.31 billion, up from around US\$ 29 billion in 2020-21. According to the data, India's two-way trade with China totaled US\$ 115.42 billion in 2021-22, up from US\$ 86.4 billion in 2020-21.



TCS Holds Its Tenth Place Among Global BPM Providers In 2021 :-

According to the estimates by outsourcing consultancy Everest Group, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has retained its 10th position among the top global BPM

(business process management) providers in 2021. The ranking is based on a composite score of revenue, which was over \$3 billion for TCS, and revenue growth, which grew by 14-16% over 2020. Everest refers to the segment as BPS, or business process services. The Everest Group's top 50 ranking is determined by revenue as well as year-over-year growth. Revenues account for 75% of the composite score, while growth accounts for 25%. According to Everest's report, the top 50 BPM providers grew at a rate of 12.5-13 percent versus 1-2 percent in 2020.



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

India was ranked last out of 180 countries assessed by US-based institutions for their environmental performance. Denmark topped the 2022 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) released recently by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Center for International Earth Science Information Network at Columbia University, followed by the United Kingdom and Finland, both of which received high marks for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in recent years. The EPI provides a data-driven summary of the global state of sustainability. The EPI ranks 180 countries on climate change performance, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality using 40 performance indicators across 11 issue categories.



World Bank Cuts India GDP Forecast To 7.5% :-

The World Bank reduced its 2022-23 (FY23) real GDP growth forecast for India to 7.5% from 8%, citing inflationary pressures, supply-chain constraints, and geopolitical tensions caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The multilateral institution also reduced its global growth forecast for calendar year 2022 to 2.9 percent from 4.1 percent in its most recent Global Economic Prospects report. The World Bank has revised its GDP growth forecast for India in FY23 for the second time. In April, it reduced its forecast from 8.7 percent to 8%.



Union Health Minister Releases FSSAI's 4th State Food Safety Index :-

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya released the FSSAI's 4th State Food Safety Index (SFSI) on World Food Safety Day, which measures states' performance across five food safety parameters, and felicitated the winning states/UTs based on their ranking for the year 2021-22. Tamil Nadu ranked first among large states. "Among the

smaller states, Goa stood first followed by Manipur and Sikkim. Among UTs, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh secured first, second and third ranks," the ministry said in a statement. He emphasised that healthcare has seen holistic development in the country in recent years.



OECD Slashes India's GDP Growth Forecast To 6.9% For FY23 :-

According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), India's real GDP will grow by 6.9 percent in fiscal year FY 2022-23 and 6.2 percent in fiscal year FY 2023-24, as the country's economy loses momentum due to high inflation and rising global energy and food prices. This is less than the 7.2 percent increase predicted by the Reserve Bank of India. The RBI recently raised the key repo rate by 50 basis points (bps) to 4.9 percent in an effort to contain the country's soaring inflation. It began tightening monetary policy in May, with the goal of anchoring inflation expectations and limiting second-round effects.



UNCTAD's World Investment Report: India Ranked 7th :-

Foreign Direct Investment inflows to India fell by USD 19 billion in 2021 to USD 45 billion, but the country remained among the top ten global economies for FDI last year, according to the United Nations. Flows of foreign direct investment recovered to pre-pandemic levels last year, totaling nearly USD 1.6 trillion according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) World Investment Report. According to the report, the Ukrainian conflict will have far-reaching implications for international investment in economic development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in all countries.



Fitch Cuts India's Growth Forecast To 7.8% :-

Fitch Ratings has reduced India's GDP growth forecast for fiscal year 2022-23 to 7.8 percent from 8.5 percent previously announced in March, citing inflationary effects of the global commodity price shock. "However, this is a downward revision from our 8.5 per cent forecast in March as the inflationary impacts of the global commodity price shock are dampening some of the positive growth momentum," the global ratings agency said. According to Fitch Ratings, India's inflation rate for fiscal year 2022-23 will be 6.9 percent.



NeSDA Report 2021: Kerala Topped Among States :-

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science and Technology, has released the second edition of the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) 2021. The NeSDA 2021 report has been prepared to assess the effectiveness of states, UTs, and central ministries in providing online services to citizens. Meghalaya and Nagaland are the leading State Portals in the North-East and Hill States. Among the remaining states, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh had more than 85 percent compliance. Kerala had the highest overall compliance score among all states and UTs.



Global Startup Ecosystem Ranking: Kerala Ranks Top In Asia In Global Report :-

In the Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER), Kerala's startup ecosystem was ranked first in Asia and fourth in terms of Affordable Talent. Kerala is highlighted in the

report for enhancing startup and economic growth. The ranking assesses the ability to attract and retain technical talent. It also cited government support and tech talent as reasons for startups to relocate and thrive in Kerala. Kerala was ranked fifth in Asia and twentieth in the world in the first GSER published in 2020.



RBI's 'Payments Vision 2025' Aims For A Three-Fold Increase In Digital Payments :-

The RBI has released its 'Payments Vision 2025' document, which aims for a three-fold increase in digital payments, an increase in debit card usage, and less cash in circulation. In light of emerging geopolitical risks, the document also discusses ring-fencing domestic payment systems, including the need to mandate domestic processing of payment transactions. According to the document, the volume of cheque-based payments is expected to be less than 0.25 percent of total retail payments, with a more than three-fold increase in the number of digital payment transactions.



Hamad International Airport Named World's Best Airport 2022 :-

For the second year in a row, Hamad International Airport (HIA) has been named the "Best Airport in the World" by SKYTRAX World Airport Awards 2022. For the eighth year in a row, the airport has been named the "Best Airport in the Middle East." The rankings were based on passenger satisfaction and voting submitted by air travellers across 39 key performance indicators for airport services and products such as check-in, arrivals, transfers, shopping, security, immigration, and departure. HIA was named the best airport in the world out of 550 others.



TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys And LIC Featured Among The Top 100 Global Biggest Brands :-

The top positions in the Kantar Brandz, 2022 Most Valuable Global Brands report have been retained by Indian IT services and banking companies. This year, India has four brands in the Global Top 100: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Infosys, and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). According to the report, that is more than Japan, Italy, or the United Kingdom combined. TCS jumped 12 places to 46th in 2021, from 58th. However, LIC, a life insurance company, fell 19 positions to 92, and its brand value fell by 4% compared to 2021.



THE Asia University Rankings 2022: 4 Indian Institutions In Top 100 :-

The Times Higher Education (THE) has published the most recent Asia University Rankings. The 2022 edition includes 616 universities from 31 countries and territories, with India ranking third with 71 institutions. Last year, 62 Indian institutions took part in the rankings. With 42 rank, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore is the only institute to make the top-50 list. The JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research debuts in 65th place, followed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar in 68th place and IIT Indore in 87th place.

14: Schemes & Committees



SC Appoints 3-Member Committee To Oversee The Functioning Of AIFF :-

To handle the day-to-day operations of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) the Supreme Court has appointed a three-member administrative committee. A bench led by Justice DY Chandrachud appointed the All India Football Federation's administrative committee, which will be led by a former Supreme Court judge. The Supreme Court also stated that the proposed constitution will be circulated and any suggestions/objections will be presented to the committee of administrators by June 30. In 2017, the Delhi High Court expressed its view that the Rules of the AIFF are in breach of the National Sports Code and the Model Guidelines for the conduct of elections and set

aside the results of the elections of the AIFF declared on December 21, 2016.



Uttarakhand Formed Panel To Implement Uniform Civil Code :-

The Uttarakhand government has formed an expert committee led by a retired Supreme Court judge to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and review all relevant laws that govern personal matters for Uttarakhand residents. According to a state government order, a five-member committee will be led by Ranjana Desai, a retired Supreme Court judge who currently chairs the Delimitation Commission of India. Retired Delhi High Court judge Pramod Kohli, social activist Manu Gaur, retired IAS officer Shatrughan Singh, and Doon

University Vice-Chancellor Surekha Dangwal are also on the committee.



IRDAI Established Committees To Recommend Changes To Insurance Industry :-

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has formed various committees through the General Insurance Council (GIC) to suggest reforms in several areas of general, reinsurance, and life insurance such as regulation, product, and distribution, among others, to overhaul the insurance sector. These panels would make recommendations for changes to regulations and legislation that would be considered by Irdai and the Department of Financial Services. According to a GIC spokesman, these panels include leaders from private and public sector insurance companies, Irdai members, and GIC representatives. GIC was established by Irdai to act as a liaison between the insurance regulator and the non-life insurance industry.



PM Narendra Modi Unveils PM CARES For Children Scheme :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced benefits under the PM CARES for Children Scheme for children whose parents have died as a result of COVID-19. Modi stated that Rs 4,000 is provided to these children each month through other schemes for other daily needs. They will receive Rs 10 lakhs once they reach the age of 23, according to the Prime Minister. In addition, the fund will provide an education loan for professional courses and higher education. Children are also receiving Ayushman Health Cards through 'PM Cares for Children,' with free treatment up to Rs 5 lakhs available.



Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar Launched "SHRESHTA" Scheme :-

Dr. Virendra Kumar, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, launched the "SHRESHTA"-Scheme for Residential Education for High School Students in Targeted Areas. The Scheme will benefit SC students who are unable to pursue higher-level education. This initiative will result in significant changes for the betterment of their lives. The Scheme for Residential Education for Students in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA) was created with the goal of providing quality education and opportunities to even the most disadvantaged students. The students from the Scheduled Caste communities, for long been subjects to inequality, were

kept out of quality education and a situation that perpetuates the disadvantages carried forward for generations of lack of adequate education.



Tamil Nadu Launched Nalaya Thiran Skilling Programme For College Students :-

The Tamil Nadu government will train nearly 50,000 college students in computer science, electronics, and information technology, preparing them to solve problems using technology. This is to assist businesses in obtaining skilled labour. According to IT Secretary Neeraj Mittal, a programme called Nalaya Thiran will be launched soon under the Naan Mudhalvan umbrella programme of Chief Minister MK Stalin to give students hands-on experience with problems. The Covid pandemic cost over 20 million jobs worldwide. While the economy is improving, job creation has been challenged, particularly in the aftermath of the pandemic, he said.



SEBI Advisory Committee On Mutual Funds Restructured :-

Sebi, the market regulator, has restructured its mutual fund advisory committee. Usha Thorat, former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), will chair the 25-member advisory committee. The regulator has appointed Neeraj Choksi, Chairman of NJ India Invest, to the advisory committee. Sunil Gulati, Independent Trustee at SBI Mutual Fund, and Dharmishta Narendraprasad Raval, Independent Trustee at DSP Mutual Fund, were also included. The committee's mandate is to advise Sebi on issues concerning mutual fund regulation and development. It can also advise the regulator on disclosure requirements and measures needed for a legal framework change.



Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Launched New Logo For 'Ayurveda Aahar' :-

On the occasion of World Food Safety Day, Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya unveiled the 'Ayurveda Aahar' logo. He claims that the logo, like any other standard logo on food products, will allow for "easy identification" and will create a "unique identity of 'Ayurveda Aahar'." This metric may also "reinforce the quality" of Ayurvedic products. "This comprehensive initiative will ensure manufacturing of quality Ayurveda food products and help in expanding the international market for Make-In-India products. The Ministry of Ayush is confident these regulations will further strengthen India's global positioning as a custodian of Ayush system," said in an official statement.



For The Season 2022-23, Cabinet Increases MSP For Kharif Crops :-

On June 8, the Cabinet raised the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the Kharif Marketing Season 2022-23. The approved prices adhere to the principle of keeping MSPs at at least 1.5 times the all-India weighted average cost of production. Sesamum (Rs 523/quintal), Moong (Rs 480/quintal), and Sunflower seed (Rs 385/quintal) have been recommended as having the highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year. The MSP for common grade paddy, the main kharif crop, has been raised by Rs 100 to Rs 2,040/quintal for the 2022-23 crop year, up from Rs 1,940 the previous year.



Andhra Pradesh Govt Launched YSR Yantra Seva Scheme :-

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, launched the state-level mega distribution of tractors and combine harvesters through the YSR Yantra Seva Pathakam in Guntur. He described the new scheme as yet another initiative aimed at developing the farm sector with a focus on farmer welfare. At the Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) level - Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs) - a total of 3,800 tractors and 1,140 other farm machinery have been distributed. Another 320 combine harvesters will be distributed at the cluster level to 320 CHCs.



Karnataka Govt Launched 'FRUITS' Software For Farmer Schemes :-

The Karnataka government has launched software for Aadhar-based, single-window registration for the schemes to ensure that farmers have easy access to benefits distributed under various government schemes. The initiative covers the state government's departments of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, revenue, food, civil supplies, and fisheries. The Farmer Registration & Unified Beneficiary Information System or FRUITS software, facilitates single registration using an Aadhar card and Karnataka's Bhoomi digitised land record system for authenticating ownership. Farmers can benefit from a variety of schemes, including PM Kisan's Direct Benefit Transfer, by creating a single digital identification through FRUITS.



GoI Launched Agnipath Military Recruitment Scheme :-

The government has launched its new Agnipath recruitment scheme for all three services. The new defence recruitment reform, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security, will take effect immediately, and soldiers recruited under the scheme will be referred to as Agniveers. Under the new scheme, approximately 45,000 to 50,000 soldiers will be recruited each year, with the majority leaving the service within four years. Only 25% of the total annual recruits will be allowed to continue under permanent commission for another 15 years. This, in turn, will significantly reduce the defence pension bill, which has been a major source of concern for governments for many years.



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav Launches 'StartUps For Railways' Policy :-

In New Delhi, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav launched "Start-Ups for Railways." This Start-Ups policy aims to improve the operational efficiency and safety of Indian Railways by leveraging innovative technologies developed by Indian Startups, MSMEs, Innovators, and Entrepreneurs. The policy, which is part of the Indian Railways Innovation Programme, will bring scale and efficiency to operations, maintenance, and infrastructure creation by enlisting the participation of a large and untapped startup ecosystem. Mr Vaishnav, speaking on the occasion, stated that through this platform, start-ups will have a good opportunity to connect with Railways.



Anand Mahindra, Venu Srinivasan, Pankaj Patel, And Ravindra Dholakia Appointed To RBI Central Board :-

The Central Government has appointed Anand Gopal Mahindra, Venu Srinivasan, Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel, and Dr Ravindra H. Dholakia to the Reserve Bank of India's Central Board of Directors as part-time non-official directors. Mahindra Group's chairman is Anand Gopal Mahindra. TVS Motor Company's chairman emeritus is Venu Srinivasan. Zydus Lifescience's chairman is Pankaj Ramanbhai Patel. Ravindra Dholakia is a former faculty member at IIM Ahmedabad. The appointment will be for four years, beginning on June 14, 2022, according to the Central Bank.



Tamil Nadu Launched Ennum Ezhuthum Scheme To Bridge Learning Gap :-

As schools reopened in June after a month-long summer vacation, Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the Ennum Ezhuthum scheme to close the learning gap caused by the COVID pandemic among students under the age of eight. By 2025, the scheme aims to ensure basic literacy and numeracy. The education department will distribute workbooks to students in Classes 1 through 3 as part of the programme to assess and bridge the learning gap. The programme is designed to help each child individually and a high-level committee has been formed for the purpose.



Beneficiaries Of The PFRDA Pension Scheme Increased By 24% :-

Subscribers to PFRDA's two flagship pension schemes increased by more than 24% year on year to 5.32 crore as of May 31, 2022, according to official data. "The number of subscribers in various schemes under the National Pension System (NPS) rose to 531.73 lakh by the end-May 2022 from 428.56 lakh in May 2021 showing a year-on-year increase of 24.07 per cent," said the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) in a release. The number of NPS subscribers among central government employees increased by 5.28 percent to 22.97 lakh.

15: Science & Technology



Delhi Government Inducted Two Robots In Their Firefighting Fleet :-

According to an official statement the Delhi government has added two robots to the city's firefighting fleet, which will be able to navigate narrow lanes, reach spaces inaccessible to humans, and perform tasks that are too dangerous for humans. The cutting-edge firefighting robots will provide a much-needed boost to the national capital's fire department, which has seen an increase in fire incidents. It stated that the heat, smoke, and fire resistant robots equipped with modern technology will aid in the reduction of casualties among firefighters by fighting flames from a distance of up to 100 metres. According to Delhi's Home Minister Satyendar Jain, these robots will "be major troubleshooters for firefighters."



Uttarakhand becomes first state to roll out drone in healthcare :-

Redcliffe Labs launched its first commercial drone corridor from Uttarkashi to Dehradun in the remote hills. According to the company's press release, the recently completed project was part of the Redcliffe and Skye Air collaboration. They have completed 40 successful trials in North India over the last three months. The company also announced that from June 10th, Redcliffe Labs will operate two flights daily for both routine and specialised test sample collection, in an effort to provide affordable and high-quality diagnostic services. The distance between Uttarkashi and Dehradun by road is 144 kilometres, which takes 6-8 hours by car and 12 hours during a landslide. This distance, however, was covered in 88 minutes using drone technology, with only one battery swap in between.



Param Porul Supercomputer Inaugurated At NIT Tiruchirappalli :-

A state-of-the-art Supercomputer, PARAM PORUL, was inaugurated at NIT Tiruchirappalli as part of a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST). NIT, Tiruchirappalli has been conducting research in societal interest areas such as Health, Agriculture, Weather, and Financial Services. Phase 2 of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) includes the establishment of the PARAM PORUL supercomputing facility. The majority of the components used to construct this system were manufactured and assembled in the country. This includes the indigenous software stack developed by C-DAC, in line with the Make in India initiative.



India to introduce made in India TB infection skin test called "c-TB" :-

A newly approved skin test for tuberculosis diagnosis will be introduced in the country soon, according to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who added that the low-cost kit made in India will be of great benefit to other high-burden countries as well. Mandaviya emphasised the importance of increasing TB prevention activities, saying, "Starting later this year, we will introduce a newly approved made in India TB infection skin test called c-TB." He also stated that a new initiative, "Adopt people with TB," based on Indian collectivist values, will be launched this year, inviting corporates, industries, organisations, political parties, and individuals to come forward and adopt TB-infected

people and families, providing nutritional and social support.



Delhi Customs Launches Project 'NIGAH' At ICD Garhi Harsaru, Gurugram :-

Shri Surjit Bhujabal, Chief Commissioner, Delhi Customs Zone, inaugurated project 'NIGAH' at ICD Garhi Harsaru, Gurugram. Project NIGAH is a container tracking initiative that will use ICTM (ICD Container Tracking Module) to improve visibility of container movement within the ICD. It will assist Customs in expediting long-standing containers and monitoring timely clearances, enhancing the Ease of Doing Business while also ensuring lead preventive checks. ICTM was created in collaboration with Custodian M/s. GRFL. All participants were given a live demonstration of the project. The function was virtually attended by Officers and Custodians of Other ICDs of the Patparganj Commissionerate.



Jaisalmer: Adani Green Commissions India's First Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Facility :-

The Adani Group announced the completion of India's first wind and solar hybrid power generation plant in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. Adani Hybrid Energy Jaisalmer One Limited (AHEJOL), a subsidiary of Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), has completed the construction of a 390 megawatt (MW) wind-solar hybrid power plant in Jaisalmer. According to the company, the hybrid power plant integrated through solar and wind power generation harnesses the full potential of renewable energy by resolving generation intermittency and provides a more reliable solution to meet rising power demand. AGEL now has a total operational capacity of 5.8 GW following the successful commissioning of this plant.



North India's First Industrial Biotech Park Inaugurated At Kathua In J&K :-

Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), and Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated the north India's first Industrial Biotech Park at Ghatti near Kathua. The Lt Governor stated on the occasion that the Industrial Biotech Park in Kathua will transform the economy and enable scientists to address climate change challenges. He added that the enabling infrastructure will fuel a new wave of innovation and have an impact on a variety of sectors, ranging from health and agriculture to cosmetics and materials. The

biotech park, he claims, will accelerate change by combining advances in data analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence.



Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai Launched AAYU App :-

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has launched AAYU, a new health and wellness app that uses yoga and meditation to address and heal chronic diseases and lifestyle disorders. Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA) collaborated with RESET TECH, an AI-driven integrated health-tech platform, to create the app. According to the app developers, the app is available in multiple languages and aims to reach and impact over five million chronic disease patients in the next five years. According to them, AAYU goes beyond temporary care to address the root cause of diseases, restoring lost health and aiming to cure diseases.



PARAM ANANTA Supercomputer Commissioned At IIT, Gandhinagar :-

According to an official statement, the government has deployed an indigenously developed Param Ananta supercomputer with 838 teraflops computing power capacity at IIT Gandhinagar as part of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM). The supercomputer can perform 838 lakh crore calculations per second. On October 12, 2020, IIT Gandhinagar and the Centre for Development in Advanced Computing (C-DAC) signed a memorandum of understanding to establish this 838 TeraFlops Supercomputing Facility under NSM. Previously, the government installed 12 supercomputers at leading academic institutions such as IIT Kharagpur, IIT Roorkee, and the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune.



US Frontier Overtakes Japan's Fugaku As World's Most Powerful Supercomputer :-

Fugaku, a supercomputer developed jointly by RIKEN and Fujitsu Ltd., topped the supercomputer benchmarking index in 2020. Two years later, a Western-built machine dethroned the Japanese machine. According to the Top500 list of the world's most powerful supercomputers, Frontier, a supercomputer built using Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) architecture and equipped with Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) processors, outperformed Fugaku to become the world's fastest supercomputer. The supercomputer was built for the United States Department of Energy's Oak Ridge

National Laboratory (ORNL) and has a Linmark benchmark score of 1.1 exaflops, making it the world's first supercomputer to break the exascale speed barrier.



Country's First Liquid Mirror Telescope Comes Up In Uttarakhand :-

The first liquid mirror telescope in the India and the largest in Asia - commissioned atop Devasthal, a hill in Uttarakhand - will now keep a watch on the overhead sky to identify transient or variable objects such as supernovae, gravitational lenses, space debris, and asteroids. The Indian Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) will aid in surveying the sky, allowing observers to observe several galaxies and other astronomical sources simply by staring at the overhead strip of sky. The novel instrument, created by astronomers from India, Belgium, and Canada, uses a 4-meter-diameter rotating mirror made of a thin film of liquid mercury to collect and focus light.



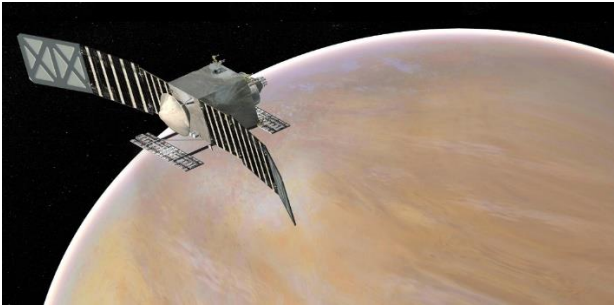
Maruti Suzuki Installed Asia's Largest 20 MWp Solar Plant At Manesar, Haryana :-

Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) has installed Asia's largest 20 MegaWatt Peak (MWp) solar power plant at its Manesar, Haryana, manufacturing facility. The solar plant will provide the facility with 28,000 MegaWatt Hours (MWH) of power per year, which is equivalent to 11.5 percent of the facility's total energy requirements. This energy will be enough to produce more than 67,000 cars per year at the production facility. The carmaker is aligning its efforts with the government's vision of making India rich in renewable energy sources through this initiative.



'Gaganyaan' India's First Human Space Mission Scheduled To Launch In 2023 :-

Jitendra Singh, India's space and earth sciences minister, stated that the country will achieve the unique distinction of launching the first human space mission "Gaganyaan" as well as the first manned human ocean mission in 2023. Jitendra Singh, speaking at the World Ocean Day celebrations in Delhi, stated that trials for both the space and ocean manned missions have advanced and that the unique feat will most likely be accomplished in the second half of 2023. Singh also stated that the Union government will soon unveil the "Blue Economic Policy," and that ocean-based industries will employ an estimated 40 million people by 2030.



NASA's DAVINCI Mission Is Set To Launch In 2029 :-

In 2029, NASA will launch a mission that will fly by Venus and descend through its harsh atmosphere. DAVINCI, or Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry, and Imaging, will be the first mission to study Venus via both flybys and descent. The spacecraft is expected to explore Venus's layered atmosphere and reach the planet's surface by June 2031. The DAVINCI mission will be able to collect data on Venus that scientists have been hoping to collect since the early 1980s.



Minister Of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan Launches Polyversity :-

At an event held at the AICTE Auditorium, IDS launched Bharat Blockchain Network (Academic Blockchain Consortium) and Polyversity (Educational Metaverse) in the presence of Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Education, Skill and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, and AICTE officials. The goal of the event is to upskill or reskill one million students in emerging technologies. Polyversity is India's Largest Educational

Metaverse, with over 100 Academic Partners setting up virtual campuses to make education more accessible, immersive, and meaningful. Polyversity's academic partners will be assigned land parcels. Both initiatives are supported by AICTE and powered by IDS, giving their vision wings.



India's First COVID-19 Vaccine For Animals 'Anocovax' Launched :-

Narendra Singh Tomar, Agriculture Minister unveiled Anocovax, the country's first homegrown COVID-19 vaccine for animals developed by the ICAR-National Research Centre in Haryana. Anocovax is an animal vaccine against SARS-CoV-2 Delta (COVID-19). "It is due to the untiring contributions of scientists that the country stands self-reliant in developing its own vaccines more rather than importing. This is really a big achievement," Tomar said after the virtual launch of the COVID-19 vaccine and diagnostic kits for animals developed by the ICAR-NRC.



Amara Raja to open a green hydrogen fuel outlet for NTPC in Leh :-

Amara Raja Power Systems, a subsidiary of the USD 1.3 billion Amara Raja group, has been awarded a contract by NTPC to build India's first green hydrogen fueling station in Leh. Amara Raja Power Systems said in a statement that the pilot project is being set up in Leh's extreme conditions at a height of 3,600 metres above sea level. This is consistent with the government's goal of reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. This would be a precursor to large-scale green hydrogen mobility and storage projects, as well as useful for studying and deploying multiple fueling stations across the country, according to the National Hydrogen Energy Mission.



Mumbai Airport Launched Vertical Axis Wind Turbine & Solar PV Hybrid System :-

The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) in Mumbai has become India's first airport to launch a one-of-a-kind Vertical Axis Wind Turbine (VAWT) & Solar PV hybrid (Solar Mill) to investigate the use of wind energy at the airport in an innovative

approach. The CSMIA has launched this pilot programme in collaboration with WindStream Energy Technologies India Pvt Ltd, which ensures continuous energy generation, harnessing maximum energy through wind power systems, and enabling a highly efficient and low-carbon future for aviation.



IIT Madras Creates Robots To Clean Septic Tanks :-

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras' researchers has developed a robot that can clean septic tanks without the need for human intervention. Ten HomoSEP units are planned to be deployed across Tamil Nadu, and researchers are in contact with sanitation workers to identify the locations, according to officials. They said Gujarat and Maharashtra are being considered for the deployment of robots developed with the goal of eliminating manual scavenging in the next phase. After receiving relevant training and appropriate guidance, sanitation workers will be able to operate the HomoSEP on their own.

16: Sports



Shikhar Dhawan Becomes First Player To Hit 700 Fours In IPL History :-

Shikhar Dhawan opening batter of the Punjab Kings has become the first player in Indian Premier League (IPL) history to hit 700 fours. Dhawan accomplished this feat at the Wankhede Stadium during the final league stage match of the IPL 2022 between PBKS and Sunrisers

Hyderabad. The batter now has 701 IPL fours to his name. With 577 and 576 fours, respectively, he is followed by David Warner and Virat Kohli. In the match, Liam Livingstone's unbeaten 49-run knock helped PBKS chase down a 158-run target in 15.1 overs with five wickets remaining. Apart from them, Dhawan and Jitesh Sharma each scored 39 and 19 runs.



IPL 2022 : Gujarat Titans Won The Title :-

On May 29 at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022 ended with Gujarat Titans (GT) lifting the trophy by defeating inaugural champions Rajasthan Royals (RR). Hardik Pandya's all-round performance of 34 runs with the bat and three wickets with the ball propelled the Gujarat Titans to a seven-wicket win over the inaugural champions Rajasthan Royals here at the Narendra Modi stadium. Hardik's team won the trophy to cap off a fantastic debut season. Pandya took 3-17 and bowled flawlessly to limit Rajasthan to 130-9 after Sanju Samson won the toss and chose to bat.



Women's T20 Challenge: Supernovas Beat Velocity :-

The Women's T20 Challenge 2022 was won by Supernovas with a four-run victory over Velocity in the final. Deandra Dottin, a West Indies T20 specialist, shone with both bat and ball as Supernovas won their third Women's T20 Challenge title with a four-run victory over Velocity. The BCCI organises the Women's T20 Challenge, an Indian women's cricket 20-20 tournament. Dottin batted first and hit 62 off 44 balls to help Supernovas post a competitive 165-7 after being put in to bat first. She returned to grab two wickets for 28 runs in her four overs and played a major role in restricting Velocity to 161-8.



India Win First Ever Medal At The IBSA Judo Grand Prix :-

India won its first-ever medal at the IBSA Judo Grand Prix in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan. Judoka Kapil Parmar of the Indian Blind and Para Judo Association received heartfelt praise for bringing medals to the country. It's worth noting that 18 of the 21 competing countries won medals. As a result, several countries, including Iraq, Switzerland, and India, earned their first medals in the IBSA Grand Prix. Nur-Sultan is already a universal figure. This Kazakh city hosted the IBSA Grand Prix, and it was here that we saw the universality of countries as well as the challenge of earning any medal come to life.



Mens Hockey Asia Cup: India Win Bronze With 1-0 Win Over Japan :-

The young Indian men's hockey team put on a spirited performance to defeat Japan 1-0 and take bronze in the Asia Cup in Jakarta, Indonesia. Following an exciting 4-4 draw with South Korea, defending champions India came out with purpose and scored a field goal through Raj Kumar Pal as early as the seventh minute of the game, then defended in numbers to seal the deal. South Korea won its fifth Asia Cup title with a 2-1 victory over Malaysia in the summit match.



India Beat Poland 6-4 To Clinch Inaugural FIH Hockey 5s Title :-

India won the inaugural FIH Hockey 5s championship in Lausanne, Switzerland, defeating Poland 6-4 in the final. India dominated the match against Poland, taking a 5-0 lead at halftime thanks to goals from Sanjay, Raheel, Gursahibjit Singh, and Mandeep Mor. Earlier in the day, India defeated Malaysia 7-3, scoring four goals in the second half in a stunning display, before defeating Poland 6-2 in the second match of the day. After the round-robin league stage, India led the five-team standings with 10 points from three wins and one draw. India defeated Switzerland 4-3 and drew 2-2 with archrival Pakistan.



Sakshi Malik, Mansi, And Divya Kakran Won Gold In The Bolat Turlykhanov Cup :-

Sakshi Malik, Rio Olympics bronze medallist, won her first international gold medal in almost five years at the Bolat Turlykhanov Cup wrestling tournament in Almaty, Kazakhstan, a UWW Ranking Series event. Mansi Ahlawat and Divya Kakran from India also finished on top of the podium in their respective weight categories. Sakshi Malik began with a technical victory over Kazakhstan's Irina Kuznetsova, and then defeated



Shreyas G Hosur Became 1st Indian Railways Officer To Complete 'Ironman' Triathlon :-

Shreyas G. Hosur made history by becoming the first officer from the Indian Railways to complete the gruelling 'Ironman' Triathlon, which is regarded as the toughest single-day sports event in the world. This event includes 3.8 kilometres of swimming, 180 kilometres of cycling, and 42.2 kilometres of running. He finished the event in Hamburg, Germany, in 13 hours and 26 minutes. The event's finishers are commonly referred to as "Ironman" because of the mental and physical strength required. Shreyas is also the first officer from the non-uniformed Civil Services to finish the event.



Mithali Raj Announced Retirement From International Cricket :-

Mithali Raj, a legendary Indian cricketer, has announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket. She took to Twitter to thank everyone and share a statement. Mithali ends her career as the leading run-scorer in women's ODIs. She played 232 matches for India, scoring 7805 runs at an average of 50.68. She had earlier announced her retirement from T20 internationals. Mithali made her international debut in an ODI against Ireland in June 1999. She captained India in the ICC Women's World Cup earlier this year in New Zealand, where India was eliminated in the quarterfinals.



Virat Kohli Becomes The 1st Indian To Reach 200 Million Followers On Instagram :-

Former Indian captain Virat Kohli has become the first Indian to reach 200 million Instagram followers. Kohli, one of the world's most popular cricketers, is known for breaking records on the field. In fact, Kohli is the most followed cricketer on Instagram, with only Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo having more followers than the prolific batter. Kohli recently stepped down as T20I captain following the 2021 T20 World Cup and was removed as ODI captain because the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) wanted a single captain for the limited overs formats.



R Praggnanandhaa Won Norway Chess Group A Open Chess Tournament :-

Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa won the open Norway Chess Group A tournament with 7.5 points after 9 rounds. The rising Indian star finished one point ahead of

second-place finishers Marsel Efoimski and Jung Min Seo. The top-seeded 16-year-old GM remained unbeaten through nine rounds and was in excellent form throughout the tournament. R Praggnanandhaa defeated IM V Praneeth in the final round. Meanwhile, Magnus Carlsen won the Norway Chess 2022 competition, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.



Teenager Rahul Srivatshav Becomes India's 74th Grandmaster :-

Rahul Srivatshav P of Telangana has become India's 74th Grandmaster, breaking the 2500 (Elo points) barrier in live FIDE ratings at the 9th Cattolica Chess Festival 2022 in Italy. After drawing his 8th round game against Grandmaster Levan Pantsulaia in the Cattolica event, the 19-year-old player reached the 2500 Elo live rating mark. The 19-year-old Rahul got the first three GM norms in 2019 and then had to wait for two years because of the pandemic break to be back in the circuit to finish joint-winner in the 2021 US Masters championship and earn the fourth GM norm.



Haryana Won Khelo India Youth Games 2021 Title :-

With Maharashtra leading the medals tally at the start of the day, Haryana boxers put on a dominant performance to win ten gold medals out of the 20 available in boxing to help hosts Haryana win the overall championship trophy on the final day of the Khelo India Youth Games at Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex. While Haryana topped the medal tally with 52 gold, 39 silver, and 46 bronze medals, Maharashtra could only add four gold medals on the final day to finish second with 45 gold, 40 silver, and 40 bronze medals.



Neeraj Chopra Sets New National Record With 89.30 Metre Javelin Throw :-

Neeraj Chopra, India's top javelin thrower, set a new national record with a throw of 89.30 metres at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland. Chopra's previous national record was 88.07m, which he set in Patiala last March. On August 7, 2021, he won gold at the Tokyo Olympics with a throw of 87.58m. Neeraj Chopra is India's first Olympic gold medalist in athletics and only the country's second individual Olympic gold medalist. Neeraj Chopra took silver in the event with his throw. Neeraj was competing for the first time since winning the historic gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics.



Neeraj Chopra To Lead 37-Member Athletics Team For CWG 2022 :-

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has named a 37-member Indian athletics team for the upcoming Commonwealth Games, led by Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, with the selection committee picking the athletes along expected lines with no major surprises. The AFI selection committee chose 37 athletes, 18 of whom are women, including star sprinters Hima Das and Dutee Chand, who qualified through the women's 4x100m relay team. Despite being chosen, some of the athletes will have to demonstrate their form and fitness prior to the Birmingham Games.



FIFA Announces 2026 World Cup Venues Across U.S., Canada And Mexico :-

Fifa has announced the cities that will host the 2026 World Cup, which will be co-hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The United States will host 60 of the tournament's 80 matches, including every game from the quarterfinals onward. Canada and Mexico will each host ten matches. The tournament will be the first to feature 48 teams, up from the current capacity of 32. Fifa has yet to announce which venues will host knockout stage matches. In United States Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Kansas City, Dallas, Atlanta, Houston, Boston, Philadelphia, Miami, and New York/New Jersey will all host games.



Olympic Champion Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold At Kuortane Games In Finland :-

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra won the javelin throw event at the Kuortane Games in Finland, defeating reigning world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada. Chopra's opening throw of 86.69m proved to be the winning distance for the 24-year-old. Chopra made a stunning return to competition following his historic gold medal in the Tokyo Olympics with a stunning throw of 89.30m, shattering his own national record. Chopra's previous national record was 88.07m, which he set in Patiala last March. On August 7, 2021, he won gold at the Tokyo Olympics with a throw of 87.58m.

17: State



OLYMPIC VALUES EDUCATION PROGRAMME

India's First Olympic Values Education Launched In Odisha :-

The International Olympic Committee's (IOC) first 'Olympic Values Education Programme' (OVEP) in India was launched in Odisha. The OVEP was officially launched by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and IOC Member Nita Ambani. OVEP will be integrated into Odisha's school education system. The programme is being developed in collaboration with the Odisha Government, the Department of School and Mass Education, and the Abhinav Bindra Foundation Trust. The program's goal is to spread this values-based curriculum in order to help children become active, healthy, and responsible citizens. The launch of OVEP, a landmark initiative in India's Olympic movement, comes as a build-up to the prestigious IOC 2023 Session.



Rajasthan Has Approved New Guidelines For Indira Gandhi Shehri Rozgar Guarantee Yojana :-

Ashok Gehlot Chief Minister of Rajasthan has approved new guidelines for the 'Indira Gandhi Shehri Rozgar Yojana' implementation. Gehlot announced the scheme in the 2022-23 budget to provide employment in urban areas similar to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Families residing in urban areas will be provided with 100 days of employment per year under the new urban employment scheme. According to an official statement, the state government will spend Rs 800 crore per year on this ambitious scheme. According to the statement, the work will be approved and carried out through committees at the state and district levels under the scheme.



Punjab Government To Start E-Stamp Instead Of Paper Stamp :-

The Punjab government has abolished physical stamp papers in order to increase efficiency and reduce state revenue pilferage. Stamp papers of any denomination can now be obtained through e-stamp, i.e. computerised printouts from any stamp vendor or state-authorized bank. Revenue Minister Bram Shanker Jimpa stated that previously, the e-stamping facility was only available for items worth more than Rs 20,000. "We are extending the facility to stamp papers for all denominations starting from Re 1," he said. He said a notification had been issued for the implementation of the e-stamp system.



Delhi Govt To Name Colonies & Streets After Babasaheb Ambedkar :-

Following the Central Government's advice against using the word 'Harijan,' the Delhi government plans to remove the word 'Harijan' from the names of colonies and streets and instead name them after Babasaheb Ambedkar. In this vein, Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam has proposed renaming all Delhi Government streets and colonies 'Harijan' after Dr. Ambedkar. The Social Welfare Minister also presided over an important meeting with senior officials in this regard to expedite the process with officials from the relevant departments to act on the matter and issue a notification on the same.



Rajasthan's Special Health Care Abhiyan 'Anchal' Launched For Pregnant Women :-

In Rajasthan, the 'Anchal' Special Health Care Abhiyan for Pregnant Women has been launched in the Karauli district. This Abhiyan has benefited over 13 thousand women. This one-of-a-kind campaign was launched at the initiative of District Collector Ankit Kumar Singh to provide all necessary medical aid to pregnant women during the pre- and post-natal stages in order to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates. This campaign also ensures that Auxiliary Nurse Midwife and ASHA workers in the district maintain constant contact with pregnant women in their respective areas and provide them with necessary counselling and treatment as needed.



NABARD Chairman Launches My Pad My Right Programme In Leh :-

Dr. GR Chintala, Chairman of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, launched the My Pad My Right programme in Leh. Nabard's NabFoundation launched the programme with machinery and materials costing seven and a half lakh rupees. Dr. GR Chintala announced an additional one lakh in funding to upgrade the machinery used to manufacture sanitary pads that meet the needs of women of various ages. NABARD Chairman GR Chintala stated on the occasion that efforts are being made to economically empower rural women through menstrual hygiene. According to him, this will enable women to participate in the country's economic development.



National Food Laboratory Of FSSAI Inaugurated In Raxaul, Bihar :-

Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, inaugurated the Raxaul National Food Laboratory (NFL) built by the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India. Food items were previously tested at the Kolkata NFL, which is 700 kilometres away from Raxaul. He stated that the NFL was established as part of an Indo-Nepal bilateral agreement to shorten the time it takes to test imported food or fruit samples brought to Raxaul from Nepal. Mandaviya also stated that Nepalese exporters will find it easier to send more food items to India. The NFL will now test the quality of food and other items imported from other countries.



Rajasthan CM Introduced Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award In The State For Sportspersons :-

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has announced the establishment of the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for athletes in the state. He stated that the state government is making major decisions for the development of sports in the state and assured that the medal-winner incentive amounts would continue to rise. The Rajiv Gandhi Rural Olympics, according to the chief minister, will begin on August 29, 2022, with over 27 lakh players of all ages participating. The event will serve as a major platform for the state's talent search. According to him, an online portal has been launched to make the process more accessible.



Blue Duke Declared As The State Butterfly Of Sikkim :-

During World Environment Day celebrations, Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang named Blue Duke the State Butterfly of Sikkim. Blue Duke, a Sikkim native butterfly species, defeated another contender, Krishna Peacock, to be named the State Butterfly of Sikkim. According to the Forest Department, the State Butterfly was chosen through online voting between April and September. The online poll received 4,036 votes, 3700 of which came from Sikkim. Blue Duke received 57 percent of the 4036 votes cast, while Krishna Peacock received 43 percent.



Andhra Pradesh Launched '14400 App' To Report Corrupt Officials :-

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the ACB 14400 app to combat corruption in state government offices. People can file corruption-related complaints against State officials using the Anti-Corruption Bureau's (ACB) app. Previously, people could file a complaint by dialling 14400, but they were less likely to include evidence. As a result, the ACB would be unable to resolve cases due to a lack of substantial evidence to investigate the matter. Taking note of the gaps in the process, the CM directed officials to create an app that would solve all problems and provide the people with a foolproof solution.



Goa CM Launches 'Beach Vigil App' For Holistic Management Of Beaches :-

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant launched the "Beach Vigil App" to ensure the holistic management of beaches. Speaking at the occasion, Sawant said, "The Beach Vigil

App shall benefit the institutions working in beach tourism sector and tourists. The collaboration of information technology with the tourism sector shall open many avenues in future." "The development of tourism and safety is an all-around and collective effort. With these kinds of Apps, the ecosystem shall enhance in the future," he added.



'Sital Sasthi' Festival Celebrated In Odisha :-

Sital Sasthi is an annual sacred Hindu festival celebrated in Odisha. This week-long special festival celebrates Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati's marriage. Sital Sasthi is observed on the sixth day of the Jyestha month during the Shukla Paksha, according to the Hindu calendar. People who celebrate this festival believe that Lord Shiva represents the sweltering heat of summer and Goddess Parvati represents the first rain. As a result, this holy and lavish wedding is held in the hopes of a good monsoon. This festival is typically celebrated as a grand carnival.



Tamil Nadu's CM Unveils The 44th Chess Olympiad's Logo, Mascot :-

MK Stalin, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, unveiled the mascot named 'Thambi' and logo for the FIDE Chess Olympiad in Chennai. In Tamil, 'Thambi' means "younger brother." From July 28 to August 10, the international event will be held in Mamallapuram, near Chennai. The event will feature over 2,000 participants from 186 countries. This edition features India's largest ever contingent. This is Chennai's second major international chess event, following the World Championship match between India's Viswanathan Anand and Magnus Carlsen in 2013.



Kerala CM Inaugurates Cancer Research Centre In Kochi :-

Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala has dedicated a cancer diagnostics and research centre in Kochi, which will be the country's first oncology laboratory providing comprehensive cancer diagnostic services. The advanced cancer diagnostics and research centre at Karkinos Healthcare will serve as a central lab for analysing specimens at the molecular and genomic levels to aid in personalised targeted therapy, predicting possible response to treatment, and evaluating response via liquid biopsy. In announcing the lab's opening, Vijayan stated that the state is encouraging more private-public collaboration in the healthcare sector to benefit people.



Himachal Pradesh Becomes The First Indian State To Approve A Policy For Drones :-

The Himachal Pradesh government has approved a drone policy that will allow the use of drones and similar technology for various public services in the hill state. The chief minister, Jai Ram Thakur, approved the 'Himachal Pradesh Drone Policy 2022,' saying, "The policy envisions creating a holistic drone ecosystem built upon the foundation of Governance and Reforms Using Drones (GARUD)." Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country to formally recognise the public use of drones with this new drone policy.



PM Modi Inaugurates Jagatguru Sreesant Tukaram Maharaj Shila Mandir In Pune :-

According to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sant Tukaram has become a beacon of hope not only for the present but also for the future. The Prime Minister made the remarks while speaking to devotees following the inauguration of Jagadguru Sant Tukaram Maharaj's Shila Mandir in Dehu village near Pune. Sant Tukaram was a Warkari saint and poet best known for his Abhanga devotional poetry and community-oriented worship through spiritual songs called Kirtans. Following his death, a Shila Mandir was constructed, but it was not formally structured as a Temple.



'Agniveers' To Be Prioritised By UP Govt. For Recruitment :-

According to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the government will give priority to 'Agniveers' — soldiers recruited on short-term contracts in the Army, Navy, and Air Force under the special 'Agnipath' scheme — in recruitment to police and related

services in the state. This comes a day after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the 'Agnipath scheme,' which allows for short-term contractual recruitment of soldiers in the tri-services (Army, Navy, and Air Force) for up to four years.



PM Modi Inaugurates Jal Bhushan Building And Gallery Of Revolutionaries At Raj Bhawan In Mumbai :-

The Jal Bhushan Building and Gallery of Revolutionaries at Raj Bhawan in Mumbai was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Among those present were Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. In his address to the gathering, the Prime Minister stated that Maharashtra has inspired the country in many ways. He went on to say that Maharashtra has a long history of social reformers, dating back to Jagatguru Shri Sant Tukaram Maharaj and Babasaheb Ambedkar.

18: Summits & Conferences



Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, Attended The 7th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting :-

Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, participated via video conference in the 7th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting on May 24, 2022, hosted by the People's Republic of China, with participation from all BRICS Member Nations. Under the

theme “Establishing a Cultural Partnership Featuring Inclusiveness and Mutual Learning among BRICS” a discussion was held to advance and expand cultural activities among BRICS countries. The discussion focused on promoting the development and cooperation on cultural digitalization, strengthening cooperation on cultural heritage protection, and advancing the development of BRICS countries' cultural exchange platforms.



MeitY Hosts Digital India BHASHINI Brainstorming Session:-

On May 24, 2022, MeitY held a brainstorming session with researchers and startups. The purpose of the session was to help shape the strategy for Digital India BHASHINI, India's AI-powered language translation platform. The government wants to include startups in the process of technological innovation, development, and consumption. MSMEs, startups, and individuals will be able to access AI and Natural Language Processing (NLP) resources through the Bhashini Platform. The platform is interoperable and will help to accelerate the entire digital ecosystem. The Mission aims to establish and nurture a national ecosystem involving Central, State Government agencies, as well as startups, to develop and deploy innovative products and services in Indian languages.



First-Ever National Conference Of Female Legislators Inaugurated By President :-

The National Women Legislators' Conference-2022 was inaugurated in Thiruvananthapuram by India's President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind. The Kerala Legislative Assembly hosted the Conference as part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.' In his remarks to the gathering, President stated that it is only fitting that the National Women Legislators' Conference be held as the country prepares to commemorate the 75th anniversary of its independence. We have been holding memorial events under the banner of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' for over a year now. People's enthusiastic participation in various functions demonstrates their desire to connect with the past and rediscover the foundations of our Republic for themselves.

भारतीय डाक



India Post

Postal Department And India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) Aarohan 4.0 Begins In Shimla :-

AAROHAN 4.0, a two-day meeting of senior Postal Department and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) officials, has begun in Shimla. The meeting's agenda was to discuss and deliberate ways to further deepen the country's Financial Inclusion drive and provide banking solutions to every Indian citizen. Together with the IPPB, the Postal Department is working on the Prime Minister's Digital India initiative to promote digital payments and bring digital banking services to every nook and corner of the country in a customer-friendly manner. IPPB uses the world's largest postal network, the Department of Posts, to provide interoperable banking services to senior citizens, farmers, migrant labourers, and women, among others.



Jitendra Singh Inaugurates India's First 'Lavender Festival' In Baderwah :-

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology, has inaugurated India's "First Lavender Festival" in Jammu's Baderwah. The Union Ministry of Science and Technology launched the Purple or Lavender Revolution in 2016 through the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Aroma Mission. Lavender is a source of employment and research, opening many development paradigms, according to Singh, who added that the festival was attended by scientists, progressive farmers, and agri- entrepreneurs from across the country. According to Singh, the CSIR-Aroma Mission, which is part of the Ministry of Science and Technology, aims to develop aroma-related science and technology for end users such as farmers, industry, and society.



Prime Minister Modi Chaired The 40th PRAGATI Interaction :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presided over the 40th edition of PRAGATI, the ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation that includes the Centre and State governments. The meeting took nine agenda items for review, including eight projects and one programme. Among the eight projects, two projects each were from the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas along with one project each from the Ministry of Power and Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. During the interaction, the Prime Minister also reviewed 'National Broadband Mission' Programme.



118th India-Pakistan Bilateral Meeting On The Indus Water Treaty :-

The 118th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC), comprised of Indus Commissioners from India and

Pakistan, was held in New Delhi on May 30-31, 2022. Shri A.K. Pal, the Indian Commissioner for Indus Waters, led the Indian delegation, and Mr Syed Muhammad Mehar Ali Shah, the Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters, led the visiting Pakistan delegation. During the meeting, the PIC's annual report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022 was finalised and signed. The meeting went off without a hitch. The Commission appreciated the two parties' commitment to interact frequently and resolve issues through bilateral talks under the Indus Water Treaty.



President Inaugurates The Akhil Bhartiya Ayurved Mahasammelan's 59th Maha Adhiveshan :-

Shri Ram Nath Kovind, President of India, inaugurated the 59th Mahaadhiveshan of Akhil Bhartiya Ayurved Mahasammelan in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. The President stated that we are fortunate to have traditional Ayurvedic knowledge. But now is the time for certification and quality research and investigation. This is the time to delve deeper into Ayurvedic knowledge, adhering to scientific evidence and modifying technical parameters to meet current demands. The President stated that the Government of India has taken several measures from time to time to protect and promote Indian medical systems.



Prime Minister Modi Virtually Addressed Rotary International Convention 2022 :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stated that India is the land of Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi, who demonstrated in action what it means to live for others. While virtually addressing the Rotary International World Convention, the Prime Minister made the remark. Prime Minister Modi said, quoting Swami Vivekananda, "We all



The National Education Ministers' Conference Held In Gujarat :-

In Gandhinagar, Gujarat, a two-day National Education Ministers' Conference was held. This conference was inaugurated by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who was joined by other Union Ministers and Education Ministers from states and union territories. Speaking on the occasion, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan stated that the discussions during this two-day conference will aid in the implementation and enhancement of the National Education Policy-2020 vision. He stated that the discussions will also help to strengthen the country's educational ecosystem. Mr. Pradhan stated that the National Education Policy 2020 focuses on school skilling and digital initiatives such as the National Digital Education Architecture and the National Educational Technology Forum.

exist in an interdependent, interrelated and interconnected world. That is why it is important that individuals, organisations and governments work together to make our planet more prosperous and sustainable." He praised Rotary International for its "hard work" on a variety of environmental issues.



12th WTO Ministerial Conference Held At Geneva, Switzerland :-

After a five-year hiatus, the twelfth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference convened on June 12, 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland. The key areas of discussion and negotiations at this year's conference include the WTO's response to the pandemic, negotiations on fishery subsidies, and agriculture issues such as public stockholding for food security. Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, is leading a large Indian delegation to the Conference. India has a vital interest in protecting the interests of all stakeholders in the country, as well as the interests of developing and poor countries that look to India's leadership in multilateral forums such as the WTO.



1st-Ever India-EU Security And Defence Consultations Held In Brussels :-

The first-ever India-European Union (EU) Security and Defence Consultations were held in Brussels in response to a decision made at the India-EU Summit in July 2020, according to a release from the Indian Embassy. The consultations were co-chaired by Indian Ministry of Defence Joint Secretary (IC) Somnath Ghosh and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Joint Secretary (Europe West) Sandeep Chakravorty, from the Indian side and from the EU side EU Director Security and Defence Policy Joanneke Balfoort. The extensive discussions focused on the changing security situation in Europe, India's neighbourhood, and the Indo-Pacific region.



47th Meeting Of GST Council To Be Held In Srinagar :-

According to the Ministry of Finance, the 47th meeting of the GST Council will be held in Srinagar on June 28-29, 2022. The GST Council, which is made up of finance ministers from the Centre and the states, is expected to discuss, among other things, the GoM interim report on rate rationalisation. Notably, the GST implementation will complete five years on July 1, 2022. The Group of Ministers (GoM) is expected to discuss possible changes to the tax slab, according to officials, who added that the panel's final report would take some time.



National Summit On Cyber Security And National Security Held New Delhi:-

In New Delhi, a National Conference on Cyber Safety and National Security was held. The conference is part of the country's efforts to raise public awareness about cybercrime prevention. The conference was attended by Home Minister Amit Shah, Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy, Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra, and representatives from various organisations. The conference is part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which commemorates India's progress and achievements in its 75th year of independence.

SECTION 2



Practice Questions with Answers



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following is the theme of Swachh Survekshan 2023?

- A) Waste to Wealth
- B) Waste to Fortune
- C) Waste is Best
- D) Demolition To Wealth

2. Due to difficulties faced by exporters in receiving payments RBI has allowed trade transactions settlement in INR with which of the following country?

- A) Iran
- B) Iraq
- C) Nepal
- D) Sri Lanka

3. Which of the following author has authored a new book titled 'Listen to Your Heart: The London Adventure'?

- A) Harneet Singh
- B) Pushpa
- C) Riya Dev
- D) Ruskin Bond

4. According to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Travel and Tourism Development Index 2021, what is the rank of India?

- A) 57
- B) 56
- C) 55
- D) 54

5. According to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Travel and Tourism Development Index 2021, which of the following country has secured the top position?

- A) Brazil
- B) France
- C) Japan
- D) USA

6. To overhaul the insurance sector which of the following organisation has formed various committees through the General Insurance Council (GIC)?

- A) SEBI
- B) RBI
- C) LIC
- D) IRDAI

7. Who among the following has received the International Booker Prize for Translated Fiction 2022 for her Hindi Novel 'Tomb of Sand'?

- A) Arundhati Roy
- B) Geetanjali Shree
- C) Namita Gokhale
- D) Preeti Shenoy

8. Recently, state-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL) has decided to divest how much stake in the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL)?

- A) 15%

- B) 25%
- C) 30%
- D) 35%

9. What is the name of the 2nd survey Vessel that was launched in May 2022 for the Indian Navy?

- A) Jalprahar
- B) Nirdeshak
- C) Samudrakhoj
- D) Samudrayaan

10. Which of the following country has become India's largest trading partner in the year 2021-22, overtaking China?

- A) Japan
- B) US
- C) Russia
- D) Spain

11. The first Global Report on Assistive Technology (GReAT) was jointly launched by which of the following organisations?

- A) WHO
- B) UNICEF
- C) IMF
- D) Both A and B

12. According to the Reserve Bank of India's newly released norms how much net-worth is required to set up Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOU) for non-banking companies?

- A) Rs 25 crore

- B) Rs 50 crore
- C) Rs 75 crore
- D) Rs 80 crore

13. As per the Moody's Global Macro Outlook 2022-23, what is India's GDP forecast for calendar year 2022?

- A) 7.9%
- B) 8.2%
- C) 8.5%
- D) 8.8%

14. Which of the following company became the first gas producer to trade domestic gas on the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)?

- A) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- B) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- C) Hindustan Petroleum Limited
- D) Bharat Petroleum Limited

15. Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises, has acquired how much stake in General Aeronautics Private Ltd?

- A) 50%
- B) 45%
- C) 25%
- D) 20%

16. In which of the following district of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) north India's first Industrial Biotech Park was inaugurated?

- A) Kathua
- B) Kupwara

- C) Reasi
- D) Udampur

17. Who among the following will preside over the Cotton Council of India constituted by the Government of India?

- A) Chirag Trivedi
- B) Piyush Goyal
- C) Raghav Kumar
- D) Suresh Bhai Kotak

18. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) recently launched which of the following savings life insurance plan?

- A) Aadhaar Stambh
- B) Bima Jyoti
- C) Bima Ratna
- D) Jeevan Lakshya

19. Which of the following country secured top position in the 7th edition of the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia List?

- A) Australia
- B) China
- C) India
- D) Japan

20. Who among the following was elected as the Chairman and a voting member of the International Boxing Association (IBA)'s Athletes Committee?

- A) Amit Panghal
- B) Lovlina Borgohain
- C) Mirabai Chanu

- D) Vijender Singh

21. KK (Krishnakumar Kunnath) has been passed away recently. What was his profession?

- A) Politician
- B) Singer
- C) Music Director
- D) Writer

22. The Risk Management Review Committee (RMRC) reconstituted by the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will be headed by which of the following?

- A) Gopalarathinam
- B) JR Varma
- C) Madhabi Puri Buch
- D) Sriram Krishnan

23. Which of the following state/UT recorded the highest accident severity according to the recently released 'Road accidents in India - 2020' report?

- A) Assam
- B) Himachal Pradesh
- C) Kerala
- D) Mizoram

24. Who among the following was appointed as the additional charge of Lokpal chairperson?

- A) Archana Ramasundaram
- B) Bharat Lal
- C) Dinesh Jain

D) Pradip Kumar Mohanty

25. Who among the following was appointed as a part-time member of the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA) by the central government?

- A) Madhavi Das
- B) Pankaj Sharma
- C) RV Verma
- D) Vandita Kaul

26. Which of the following company has signed Rs 2,971 crore deal with Defence Ministry for the Supply of ASTRA MK-1 BVR missile?

- A) HAL
- B) DRDO
- C) Bharat Electronics
- D) Bharat Dynamics Limited

27. According to WDMMA's Global Air Powers Ranking (2022), what is the rank of Indian Air Force (IAF) globally?

- A) 2nd
- B) 3rd
- C) 4th
- D) 6th

28. Which of the following Indian filmmaker has won the prestigious Golden Eye award at the 75th Cannes Film Festival?

- A) Vipul Shah
- B) Shaunak Sen
- C) Sanjay Leela Bhansali

D) Rohit Shetty

29. Which of the following country has been named the first 'Country of Honour' at the 'Marche' Du Film' in France?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) India
- C) Spain
- D) Ukraine

30. Who among the following was appointed as the MD and CEO of the NARCL?

- A) Karnam Sekar
- B) Malvika Sinha
- C) Natarajan Sundar
- D) Padmakumar M Nair

31. In which following year the Government of India has targeted to achieve 100 million tonnes (MT) of coal gasification?

- A) 2025
- B) 2028
- C) 2030
- D) 2040

32. As a part of the joint initiative "Leadership for Industry Transition (LeadIT)" which countries hosted the Industry transition Dialogue?

- A) India
- B) Sweden
- C) Spain
- D) Both A and B

33. A new health insurance vertical to focus on new innovative health products was recently launched by which of the following insurance company?

- A) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- B) Cholamandalam MS General Insurance
- C) Edelweiss General Insurance
- D) SBI General Insurance

34. To offer financing solutions for used-cars which of the following bank has partnered with CarTrade Tech Ltd?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) IDFC FIRST Bank
- D) RBL Bank

35. Who among the following has secured top position in the Fortune 500's list of the World's top 10 highest paid Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in 2021?

- A) Jensen Huang
- B) Elon Musk
- C) Reed Hastings
- D) Tim Cook

36. In which of the following state the two-day 'National Education Ministers' Conference' was held?

- A) Mumbai
- B) Gujarat
- C) Delhi
- D) Assam

37. Who among the following was appointed as MD & CEO of National Assets Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL)?

- A) Dr Swati Dhingra
- B) Natarajan Sundar
- C) Rajesh Gera
- D) N Vijayaditya

38. When is the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) going to launch the GSAT-24 communication satellite?

- A) July 1
- B) June 22
- C) June 15
- D) June 10

39. India's wheat consignment was rejected by which of the following country recently?

- A) US
- B) Turkey
- C) Israel
- D) Hungary

40. In Asia Cup Hockey 2022 which of the following country's team bags the bronze medal in men's event?

- A) Malaysia
- B) Japan
- C) Indonesia
- D) India

41. Which of the following was declared the winner in two categories in the RBI's first global hackathon 'Harbinger 2021'?

- A) Pine Labs
- B) TATA Capitals
- C) ToneTag
- D) None of the Above

42. According to Forbes's report who among the following became the first active NBA player to become a billionaire?

- A) Michael Jordan
- B) LeBron James
- C) Kevin Durant
- D) Chris Paul

43. Who among the following was appointed as the MD & CEO of Union Bank of India?

- A) Dr Swati Dhingra
- B) Natarajan Sundar
- C) A Manimekhalai
- D) N Vijayaditya

44. Who among the following was appointed as the MD & CEO of the Indian Overseas Bank?

- A) Dr Swati Dhingra
- B) Ajay Kumar
- C) Rajesh Gera
- D) N Vijayaditya

45. Who among the following was appointed as the MD & CEO at the Punjab & Sind Bank?

- A) Rajesh Gera
- B) Natarajan Sundar
- C) Swarup Kumar Saha
- D) Dr Swati Dhingra

46. The Central Government has approved how much rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) deposits for 2021-22?

- A) 8.3%
- B) 8.2%
- C) 8.1%
- D) 8.0%

47. To set up the first-of-its-kind Indian Air Force (IAF) Heritage Centre which of the following state/UT has signed an MoU with the Indian Air Force (IAF)?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Jammu and Kashmir
- C) Chhattisgarh
- D) Chandigarh

48. Which of the following is the India's first banking metaverse launched by Kiya.ai?

- A) Kiyaverse
- B) Kiyameta Digital
- C) Kiyameta Banking
- D) Kiya Banking

49. Kotak Investment Advisors has launched which of the following investment management platform recently?

- A) Kotak Diamond
- B) Kotak Gold
- C) Kotak Platinum
- D) Kotak Cherry

50. According to the latest Bloomberg Billionaire Index who among the following

became the richest man in India as well as in Asia as of June 3, 2022?

- A) Azim Premji
- B) Gautam Adani
- C) Lakshmi Mittal
- D) Mukesh Ambani

51. India along with which of the following country has conducted a joint military training exercise 'Ex SAMPRITI-X 2022'?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) France
- C) Indonesia
- D) Thailand

52. To increase bilateral cooperation on climate action, environmental protection and conservation which of the following country has signed an MoU with India?

- A) Spain
- B) Maldives
- C) France
- D) Canada

53. According to the estimates by outsourcing consultancy Everest Group which company secured the 10th position among the top global Business Process Management (BPM) providers in 2021?

- A) Wipro
- B) Tech Mahindra
- C) Tata Consultancy Service
- D) HCL Technologies

54. A financial education awareness campaign named 'Har Time EMI on Time' was launched by which of the following financial company?

- A) Muthoot Finance Ltd
- B) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd
- C) HDB Financial Services Ltd
- D) Bajaj Finance Ltd

55. General Major Bajram Begaj was elected as the new president of which of the following country?

- A) Albania
- B) Austria
- C) Bulgaria
- D) Croatia

56. The National Health Authority (NHA) has revamped public dashboard with new features for which of the following scheme?

- A) Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana
- B) Janashree Bima Yojana
- C) Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
- D) Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana

57. Where did Maruti Suzuki India installed Asia's largest 20 MegaWatt Peak (MWp) carport-type solar power plant?

- A) Tumkur, Karnataka
- B) Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh
- C) Kheda, Gujarat
- D) Gurugram, Haryana

58. Ahead of its original schedule of November 2022 India has achieved how much target of ethanol blending in Petrol?

- A) 30%
- B) 20%
- C) 15%
- D) 10%

59. What is the rank of India globally according to the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2022?

- A) 185
- B) 180
- C) 176
- D) 130

60. Which country has secured top position as the world's most sustainable country according to the 2022 Environment Performance Index (EPI)?

- A) Denmark
- B) Finland
- C) United Kingdom
- D) Australia

61. Which of the following institute has launched India's First Agri Land Price Index named "ISALPI"?

- A) IIM Ahmedabad
- B) IIM Bangalore
- C) IIM Kozhikode
- D) IIM Lucknow

62. Along with India which of the following country has signed a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)?

- A) Poland
- B) Germany
- C) France
- D) Canada

63. Which of the following trading platform in India has launched India's First Rupee-Based Crypto Index 'CRE8'?

- A) ZebPay
- B) WazirX
- C) Unocoin
- D) CoinSwitch

64. To launch the co-branded contactless credit card which of the following bank has partnered with the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)?

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) Axis Bank
- C) RBL Bank
- D) YES Bank

65. Who among the following Indian cricketer announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket?

- A) Jhulan Goswami
- B) Mithali Raj
- C) Deepti Sharma
- D) Shafali Verma

66. Which of the following institute has signed an MoU with NHIDCL for sharing knowledge and technologies in the field of highway engineering?

- A) IIT Guwahati
- B) IIT Indore
- C) IIT Kanpur
- D) IIT Roorkee

67. According to the QS World University Rankings 2023, which of the following institute ranked 155?

- A) IIM-Bangalore
- B) IISc-Bengaluru
- C) IIT- Delhi
- D) IIT- Madras

68. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised its repo rate to how much percent?

- A) 4.90
- B) 4.80
- C) 4.70
- D) 4.50

69. Who among the following was named as the ambassador of 'India-UK Together Season of Culture'?

- A) Priyanka Chopra
- B) Ayushmann Khurrana
- C) A R Rahman
- D) Akshay Kumar

70. What is the name of the India's first human space mission scheduled to launch in 2023?

- A) Aditya-1
- B) Chandrayaan-3
- C) Gaganyaan
- D) Shukrayaan

71. In Para Shooting World Cup 2022 who among the following has clinched gold in 10m air rifle standing SH1 event?

- A) Avani Lekhara
- B) Bhavina Patel
- C) Krishna Nagar
- D) Mariyappan Thangavelu

72. Ministry of Tourism along with which of the following organisation has launched the 'National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism and Responsible Traveller Campaign'?

- A) World Economic Forum
- B) World Bank
- C) UNEP
- D) FAO

73. Who among the following has become the first Indian on Instagram to have 200 million followers?

- A) Virat Kohli
- B) Shah Rukh Khan
- C) Priyanka Chopra
- D) Rahul Dravid

74. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently handed over 12 high-speed guard boats to which of the following country?

- A) Indonesia

- B) Malaysia
- C) Maldives
- D) Vietnam

75. Who among the following has become the first batsman to twice score three consecutive centuries in one-day internationals?

- A) Babar Azam
- B) Ben Stokes
- C) David Warner
- D) Joe Root

76. Which of the following Bank has announced its collaboration with ZestMoney to Expand its 'Cardless EMI' Facility?

- A) Bank of Baroda.
- B) HDFC Bank.
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) State Bank of India.

77. Who among the following took charges as Director of Asia and Pacific Department at the International Monetary Fund?

- A) Alok Kumar Choudhary
- B) Krishna Srinivasan
- C) Rajesh Gera
- D) Sandip Pradhan

78. To purchase how much percentage stake of IIFL Home Finance Limited, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) will invest Rs 2200 crore?

- A) 35%
- B) 30%

- C) 25%
- D) 20%

79. With which of the following nation Algeria has suspended its two-decades-old friendship treaty?

- A) Spain
- B) Portugal
- C) Italy
- D) Germany

80. On which of the following wrestler the Wrestling Federation of India has imposed a life ban?

- A) Yogeshwar Dutt
- B) Satender Malik
- C) Mohit Dahiya
- D) Deepak Punia

81. Which of the following Indian language has been adopted as a resolution on multilingualism, in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)?

- A) Hindi Language
- B) Urdu Language
- C) Bangla Language
- D) None of the Above

82. Along with India which of the following country has signed the Line of Credit (LoC) agreement of \$55 million for the procurement of Urea Fertiliser?

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) China

- C) Nepal
- D) Afghanistan

83. To which of the following planets is NASA planning the launch of DAVINCI mission for the year 2029?

- A) Jupiter
- B) Mars
- C) Saturn
- D) Venus

84. Where did the 12th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference was organized?

- A) Washington DC, USA
- B) Singapore
- C) Paris, France
- D) Geneva, Switzerland

85. Who among the following took charges as the MD & CEO of RBL Bank?

- A) Mansukh Mandaviya
- B) Mayank Kumar Agrawal
- C) R Subramaniakumar
- D) Shashi Shekhar Vempati

86. In which of the following Indian state an Abnormal Titanosaurid Dinosaur Egg was discovered?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Jharkhand
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Telangana

87. To enhance the quality of 3D maps which of the following organisation has Collaborated with MapmyIndia?

- A) DRDO
- B) HAL
- C) ISRO
- D) Survey of India

88. Which edition of Foundation Day of BIMSTEC was celebrated in 2022?

- A) 10th
- B) 25th
- C) 50th
- D) 60th

89. Which of the following fintech firm has launched India's first blockchain-enabled transaction UPI services targeted at rural areas?

- A) CoinSwitch
- B) XPay.Life
- C) Pine Labs
- D) PhonePe

90. Who among the following won the 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee competition?

- A) Balu Natarajan
- B) Gokul Venkatachalam
- C) Harini Logan
- D) Vikram Raju

91. Along with India which of the following country has conducted Coordinated Patrol

(CORPAT) in the Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca?

- A) USA
- B) Indonesia
- C) Qatar
- D) Iraq

92. Which of the following country has become India's 2nd-biggest oil supplier by surpassing Saudi Arabia?

- A) USA
- B) Russia
- C) Qatar
- D) Iraq

93. Which of the following bank has announced that it will lend USD 250 million to startups in India?

- A) HSBC India
- B) DBS Bank India
- C) CSB Bank
- D) Citibank

94. Which of the following company has partnered with TotalEnergies to build the world's largest green hydrogen ecosystem?

- A) Tata Group
- B) Reliance Industries
- C) Aditya Birla Group
- D) Adani

95. Which of the following state government has launched the 'Ennum Ezhuthum' scheme?

- A) Andhra Pradesh

- B) Karnataka
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Telangana

96. Which of the following state became the first Indian state to approve drone policy and public use of drones?

- A) Punjab
- B) Jharkhand
- C) Himachal Pradesh
- D) Bihar

97. The Baikho festival was celebrated in which of the following state?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Kerala
- D) Assam

98. To facilitate bilateral cooperation which of the following bank has signed an MoU with the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) Innovation Centre?

- A) World Bank
- B) New Development Bank
- C) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- D) African Development Bank

99. To support the start-up community which of the following bank has signed an MoU with 100X.VC?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) IndusInd Bank

D) YES Bank

100. Who among the following took charges as the new Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)?

- A) Gopal Sharma
- B) Kumar Rajesh Chandra
- C) S L Thaosen
- D) Surjeet Singh Deswal

101. As per World Competitiveness Index 2022 what is the rank of India?

- A) 43
- B) 53
- C) 37
- D) 34

102. An industry-first instant credit line service on WhatsApp was introduced by which of the following company?

- A) CASHe
- B) Koppr
- C) Refyne
- D) ZingUpLife

103. Which of the following country has secured top position in World Competitive Index 2022?

- A) Denmark
- B) Kenya
- C) Singapore
- D) Switzerland

104. Hamza Abdi Barre has been elected as the Prime minister of which of the following country?

- A) Kenya
- B) Nigeria
- C) Somalia
- D) Uganda

105. India successfully test-fired which of the following indigenously developed nuclear capable missile from an integrated test range in Chandipur, Odisha?

- A) Prithvi-I
- B) Prithvi-II
- C) Agni-II
- D) Agni-I

106. Padma Awardee Gopi Chand Narang has passed away recently. What was his profession?

- A) Teacher
- B) Writer
- C) Doctor
- D) Politician

107. According to the Renewables Global Status Report (GSR) 2022, what is the rank of India in the world for total renewable power capacity additions in 2021?

- A) 5th
- B) 3rd
- C) 2nd
- D) 1st

108. A savings account for kids named 'ENJOI' was launched by which of the following Small Finance Bank?

- A) Ujjivan SFB
- B) Jana SFB
- C) Equitas SFB
- D) Capital SFB

109. SEBI has constituted a seven member Building Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of which of the following to advise and assist on premises-related matters?

- A) Navneet Munot
- B) N. R. Narayan Murthy
- C) G Mahalingam
- D) B K Katyal

110. India's total merchandise exports is projected to reach at \$117.2 billion in the 1st quarter (Q1) of FY23, according to the Export-Import Bank of India.

- A) \$ 89.2 billion
- B) \$ 95.5 billion
- C) \$ 100 billion
- D) \$ 117.2 billion

111. Where did India's 1st Government MLD Desalination Plant for Industrial Use was inaugurated?

- A) Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh
- B) Dahej, Gujarat
- C) Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- D) Haripur, West Bengal

112. Which of the following airport has introduced Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID)?

- A) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport
- B) Indira Gandhi International Airport
- C) Kempegowda International Airport
- D) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport

113. Along with Switzerland which of the following country co-hosted the World Trade Organization's (WTO) 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) in Geneva?

- A) Belgium
- B) Czech Republic
- C) Kazakhstan
- D) Kenya

114. To offer motor insurance on the PhonePe platform which of the following Insurance company has partnered with PhonePe?

- A) SBI General Insurance
- B) Kotak Mahindra General Insurance
- C) Cholamandalam MS General Insurance
- D) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

115. Which of the following company has launched India's first multiplex named 'Xstream multiplex' in the Metaverse platform?

- A) Airtel
- B) BSNL
- C) MTNL
- D) Vodafone Idea

116. The 8th meeting of the Heads of the Border Services of the member states of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held under the chairmanship of which of the following country?

- A) Uzbekistan
- B) Pakistan
- C) India
- D) China

117. Due to insufficient capital and earning prospects which of the following Co-operative Bank license was cancelled by the RBI?

- A) Saraswat Co-operative Bank
- B) Millath Co-operative Bank
- C) Janata Co-operative Bank
- D) Abhyudaya Co-operative Bank

118. Who among the following was elected as the 1st leftist President of Colombia?

- A) Sergio Fajardo
- B) Rodolfo Hernandez
- C) Marelen Castillo
- D) Gustavo Petro

119. Who among the following bags the Formula One Canadian Grand Prix 2022?

- A) Carlos Sainz
- B) Lewis Hamilton
- C) Max Verstappen
- D) Sergio Pérez

120. Which of the following is the theme of International Yoga Day 2022?

- A) Yoga For Wellness
- B) Yoga for Humanity
- C) Yoga for Heart
- D) Yoga for Health

121. Which of the following country's coalition government has decided to dissolve the parliament?

- A) Israel
- B) Italy
- C) Tajikistan
- D) Turkey

122. In FY 2021-22 which of the following country became India's largest trading partner?

- A) US
- B) UK
- C) UAE
- D) Russia

123. The largest freshwater fish was recently discovered in which of the following country?

- A) Vietnam
- B) Malaysia
- C) Indonesia
- D) Cambodia

124. Captain Pieter Seelaar of which of the following country has announced his retirement from international cricket?

- A) Ireland
- B) Netherlands

- C) New Zealand
- D) Scotland

125. When the World Rainforest Day was observed?

- A) June 23
- B) June 22
- C) June 21
- D) June 20

126. Who among the following has released a book titled 'Indian constitution: untold stories' authored by Ram Bahadur Rai?

- A) Rajnath Singh
- B) Smriti Irani
- C) Narendra Modi
- D) Piyush Goyal

127. To supply three nuclear steam turbines which of the following organisation has signed a USD 165 million pact with GE Steam Power?

- A) BHEL
- B) NTPC
- C) Power Grid Corporation of India
- D) THDC India Limited

128. Which of the following country will continue to be on the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) 'Grey List' of countries?

- A) Nepal
- B) Pakistan
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Bhutan

129. Which of the following country has signed an MoU with the NIPL to accept the UPI and RuPay Cards?

- A) France
- B) Saudi Arabia
- C) Spain
- D) Switzerland

130. Who among the following became India's 74th Grandmaster?

- A) Raja Rithvik R.
- B) Rahul Srivatshav P
- C) Harshit Raja
- D) Bharath Subramaniam

131. Which of the following state has launched India's first Balika Panchayat?

- A) West Bengal
- B) Gujarat
- C) Punjab
- D) Andhra Pradesh

132. What is the rank of India in the World Gold Council's (WGC) report titled 'Gold refining and recycling'?

- A) 5th
- B) 4th
- C) 3rd
- D) 2nd

133. Which among the following country has secured top position according to the World Gold Council (WGC) report titled 'Gold refining and recycling'?

- A) USA
- B) Russia
- C) China
- D) UAE

134. Neobanking platform Freo has partnered with which of the following Small Finance Bank (SFB) to launch its digital savings account 'Freo Save'?

- A) Ujjivan SFB
- B) Jana SFB
- C) Equitas SFB
- D) Capital SFB

135. To launch the Life Insurance Savings Plan which of the following Insurance Company has partnered with Policybazaar.com?

- A) Aegon Life Insurance
- B) Aviva Life Insurance
- C) Bharti AXA Life Insurance
- D) Max Life Insurance

136. Which of the following airport has become India's 1st airport to run on hydro and solar power for its consumption needs?

- A) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport
- B) Indira Gandhi International Airport
- C) Kempegowda International Airport
- D) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport

137. Industry's 1st Customizable Credit Card was launched by which of the following Small Finance Bank (SFB)?

- A) Ujjivan SFB

- B) Jana SFB
- C) Equitas SFB
- D) AU SFB

138. Who among the following became India's 1st weightlifter to Win Gold Medal at the IWF Youth World Championships 2022?

- A) Vijay Prajapati
- B) Sathish Sivalingam
- C) Omkar Otari
- D) Gurunaidu Sanapathi

139. When the International Olympic Day was observed?

- A) 24 June
- B) 23 June
- C) 20 June
- D) 18 June

140. When the United Nations Public Service Day was observed?

- A) 24 June
- B) 23 June
- C) 21 June
- D) 20 June

141. The World's biggest plant was recently discovered in which of the following Australia's Gulf?

- A) Shark Bay
- B) Botany Bay
- C) Broken Bay
- D) Spencer Gulf

142. Who among the following has become the most followed creator on TikTok?

- A) Addison Rae
- B) Dwayne Johnson
- C) Khaby Lame
- D) Will Smith

143. _____ has bagged the first prize in the National MSME Awards for Outstanding Development of the MSME Sector.

- A) Gujarat
- B) Odisha
- C) Telangana
- D) Uttar Pradesh

144. The entire capacity of GSAT-24 satellite has been leased out to _____.

- A) Airtel
- B) Dish TV
- C) Sun Direct
- D) Tata Play

145. Who among the following took charges as the new Director General of NIA?

- A) S. K. Singhal
- B) Prashanta Kumar Agrawal
- C) Dinkar Gupta
- D) Ashish Bhatia

146. According to the Economic Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Global Liveability Index 2022, what is the rank of the India's national capital New Delhi?

- A) 150

- B) 112
- C) 96
- D) 80

147. Which of the following organization has launched Dhan Sanchay Savings scheme?

- A) Max Life Insurance
- B) Life Insurance Corporation of India
- C) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- D) HDFC Standard Life Insurance

148. Which of the following ministry launched Policy & Portal of e-auction for Commercial earning & Non-Fare Revenue (NFR) contracts?

- A) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
- B) Ministry of Railways
- C) Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- D) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

149. Who among the following bags the 2022 Women's Prize for Fiction for the novel "The Book of Form & Emptiness"?

- A) Susanna Clarke
- B) Ruth Ozeki
- C) Maggie O'Farrell
- D) Kamila Shamsie

150. Which of the following organisation has appointed Parameswaran Iyer as its CEO?

- A) NITI Aayog
- B) NSDL
- C) SEBI
- D) SIDBI

ANSWERS

1. Correct Answer: A

Center has launched Swachh Survekshan 2023 designed with the theme of 'Waste to Wealth'.

2. Correct Answer: D

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the trade settlement in INR with Sri Lanka due to economic and political crises in the South Asian island country.

3. Correct Answer: D

Eminent author Ruskin Bond has authored a new book titled 'Listen to Your Heart: The London Adventure'.

4. Correct Answer: D

India Ranks 54th in World Economic Forum's (WEF) Travel and Tourism Development Index 2021.

5. Correct Answer: C

Japan has grabbed the top spot in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Travel and Tourism Development Index 2021.

6. Correct Answer: D

To overhaul the insurance sector, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed various committees through the General Insurance Council (GIC).

7. Correct Answer: B

Tomb of Sand, written by Geetanjali Shree and translated by Daisy Rockwell, has won the 2022 International Booker Prize for Translated Fiction.

8. Correct Answer: B

State-owned Coal India Ltd said it is planning to divest 25 per cent stake in its unlisted arm Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL).

9. Correct Answer: B

Nirdeshak, the second of the four Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) Project being built for Indian Navy was launched at Kattupalli, Chennai.

10. Correct Answer: B

Reflecting strengthening economic ties between the two countries, the US surpassed China to become India's top trading partner in 2021-22.

11. Correct Answer: D

The World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has jointly launched the first Global Report on Assistive Technology (GReAT).

12. Correct Answer: A

According to the Reserve Bank of India's new norms, non-banking companies now need Rs 25 crore minimum net worth to set up Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOU).

13. Correct Answer: D

In its update to Global Macro Outlook 2022-23 Moody's Investors Service has lowered its gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for India to 8.8 per cent for calendar year 2022 (CY22).

14. Correct Answer: A

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has said it has become the first gas producer to trade domestic gas on the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX).

15. Correct Answer: A

Adani Defence Systems and Technologies has signed an agreement to acquire a 50% stake in General Aeronautics Private Ltd.

16. Correct Answer: A

Union Minister Jitendra Singh has inaugurated north India's first industrial Biotech Park in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir.

17. Correct Answer: D

The Union Government has announced the formation of the Cotton Council of India under the Chairmanship of Suresh Bhai Kotak.

18. Correct Answer: C

Recently a new savings life insurance plan named Bima Ratna has been launched by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

19. Correct Answer: C

India secured the top position in the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia List 2022.

20. Correct Answer: B

India's Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain has been elected as chairman and voting member on the Board of Directors for the IBA's Athletes Committee.

21. Correct Answer: B

Playback singer Krishnakumar Kunnath, popularly known as KK, has been passed away recently. He was 53.

22. Correct Answer: B

Capital markets regulator SEBI has restructured its Risk Management Review Committee (RMRC), which will be headed by IIM Ahmedabad Professor JR Varma.

23. Correct Answer: D

According to the 'Road accidents in India - 2020' report Mizoram has recorded the highest accident severity, followed by Bihar and Punjab in 2020.

24. Correct Answer: D

President Ram Nath Kovind has given justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty the additional charge of Lokpal chairperson.

25. Correct Answer: B

The Centre has appointed Pankaj Sharma, Joint Secretary in Department of Financial Services (DFS) as part-time member of the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA).

26. Correct Answer: D

Bharat Dynamics Limited has signed Rs 2,971 crore deal with Defence Ministry for ASTRA MK-1 BVR missile.

27. Correct Answer: B

According to the WDMMA's Global Air Powers Ranking (2022) Indian Air Force has ranked third in the world.

28. Correct Answer: B

Indian Filmmaker Shaunak Sen's documentary 'All That Breathes' won prestigious - 2022 L'Oeil d'Or also known as Golden Eye award at the 75th Cannes Film Festival.

29. Correct Answer: B

India has been named as the official 'Country of Honour' at the 'Marche' Du Film', organised alongside the Cannes Film Festival, in France.

30. Correct Answer: C

Former State Bank of India executive Natarajan Sundar has been appointed as the MD and CEO of the National Assets Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL).

31. Correct Answer: C

India aims for 100 million tonnes (MT) coal gasification by 2030 with investments worth over Rs. 4 lakh crores.

32. Correct Answer: D

India and Sweden hosted the Industry Transition Dialogue in Stockholm, as a part of their joint named initiative Leadership for Industry Transition (LeadIT).

33. Correct Answer: D

In a bid towards scaling up its healthcare business, SBI General Insurance has launched its new health insurance vertical.

34. Correct Answer: C

Automobile buying and selling platform CarTrade Tech Ltd has entered into an alliance with IDFC First Bank to offer easy and smart financing for used cars.

35. Correct Answer: B

Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX and Tesla, has topped the 2021 Fortune 500 list of the World's top 10 highest paid Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in 2021.

36. Correct Answer: B

The two-day National Education Ministers' Conference was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

37. Correct Answer: B

Former State Bank of India executive Natarajan Sundar has been appointed as MD and CEO of National Assets Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL).

38. Correct Answer: B

India's communication satellite GSAT-24 will be launched by Arianespace from Kourou in French Guiana on June 22.

39. Correct Answer: B

Turkish authorities have denied permission to Indian wheat consignment prompting a ship to initiate its return journey on May 29.

40. Correct Answer: D

The Indian men's hockey team beat Japan and settled for the bronze medal at the Asia Cup 2022 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

41. Correct Answer: C

ToneTag, a brand of Naffa Innovations Pvt Ltd, has been declared the winner in two categories in the RBI's first global hackathon 'Harbinger 2021'.

42. Correct Answer: B

According to Forbes's report Los Angeles Lakers superstar LeBron James became the first active NBA player to become a billionaire.

43. Correct Answer: C

The government has appointed A Manimekhalai as managing director of Union Bank of India. With her assuming the charge, Manimekhalai becomes the first woman managing director of Union Bank of India.

44. Correct Answer: B

Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been appointed for the position of MD & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank.

45. Correct Answer: C

The government has appointed Swarup Kumar Saha as MD & CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank.

46. Correct Answer: C

The government has approved 8.1 per cent rate of interest on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for 2021-22, which is the lowest since 1977-78.

47. Correct Answer: D

The UT administration, Chandigarh and the Indian Air Force (IAF) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for setting up the Indian Air Force (IAF) heritage centre.

48. Correct Answer: A

A Mumbai-based fintech company, Kiya.ai, has launched India's first banking Metaverse, Kiyaverse, which will be used by banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) to enable virtual interactions.

49. Correct Answer: D

A subsidiary of Kotak Mahindra Bank, Kotak Investment Advisors has launched 'Kotak Cherry' a curated open architecture investment management platform.

50. Correct Answer: D

According to Bloomberg's Billionaires Index, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani has regained the position of India as well as Asia's richest man with net worth of \$99.7 billion as of June 3, replacing Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani.

51. Correct Answer: A

A joint military training exercise Ex SAMPRITI-X between India and Bangladesh is set to conduct in Bangladesh from 5th to 16th June 2022.

52. Correct Answer: D

India and Canada signed an agreement to increase bilateral cooperation on climate action, environmental protection and conservation.

53. Correct Answer: C

Tata Consultancy Service (TCS) has retained its 10th position among the top global BPM (business process management) providers in 2021, as per estimates by outsourcing consultancy Everest Group.

54. Correct Answer: D

Bajaj Finserv Limited's lending arm Bajaj Finance Limited has announced the launch of its public awareness initiative 'Har Time EMI On Time'.

55. Correct Answer: A

General Major Bajram Begaj has been elected as the new president of Albania.

56. Correct Answer: C

The National Health Authority (NHA) under its flagship scheme of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) released the revamped public dashboard with new features that provides information on the scheme implementation data in a comprehensive manner.

57. Correct Answer: D

Maruti Suzuki has installed a 20 MWp carport-type solar power plant at its Manesar facility in Gurugram, Haryana.

58. Correct Answer: D

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India has achieved the target of 10% ethanol blending in petrol 5 months ahead of the November 2022 deadline.

59. Correct Answer: B

India scored the lowest among 180 countries in the 2022 Environment Performance Index (EPI), an analysis by researchers of Yale and Columbia University which provides a data-driven summary of the state of sustainability around the world.

60. Correct Answer: A

Denmark has secured top position as the world's most sustainable country according to the 2022 Environment Performance Index (EPI).

61. Correct Answer: A

Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad (IIM-A), in collaboration with agri-land marketplace SFarmsIndia, has announced the launch of IIMA-SFarmsIndia Agri Land Price Index (ISALPI).

62. Correct Answer: A

India and Poland have signed a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) on criminal matters to help both countries in investigation and prosecution of crimes

63. Correct Answer: D

CoinSwitch, India's largest crypto investing app, has launched the country's first benchmark index named CRE8 that will track the performance of the rupee-based crypto market.

64. Correct Answer: B

Axis Bank and Indian Oil Corp.Ltd. (IOCL) in partnership with National Payments Corp. of India

(NPCI), have announced the launch of a co-branded contactless INDIANOIL AXIS BANK RuPay Credit Card.

65. Correct Answer: B

Mithali Raj, captain of India women's ODI and Test teams has announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket.

66. Correct Answer: D

An MoU was signed between the National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) and IIT-Roorkee for sharing knowledge on innovative ideas as well as technologies in the field of highway engineering.

67. Correct Answer: B

According to the QS World University Rankings 2023, IISc Bengaluru, IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi ranked 155, 172 and 174 respectively. IISc Bengaluru has emerged as the fastest rising South Asian university among the top 200 universities

68. Correct Answer: A

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised its main policy rate, the Repo rate for the second time in over a month by an expected 50 basis points to 4.90 per cent.

69. Correct Answer: C

Music Maestro AR Rahman has been appointed as ambassador of British Council's 'India-UK Together Season of Culture'.

70. Correct Answer: C

Union Minister of State, Jitendra Singh said India will achieve the unique distinction of simultaneously launching the first human space mission "Gaganyaan" as well as the first manned human ocean mission in 2023.

71. Correct Answer: A

Indian Paralympic champion Avani Lekhara clinch Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1 gold with a world record in Chateauroux 2022 World Shooting Para Sport World Cup in France.

72. Correct Answer: C

The tourism ministry, along with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and Responsible Tourism Society of India (RTSOI) has launched the National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism and Responsible Traveller Campaign.

73. Correct Answer: A

Former Indian captain, Virat Kohli became the first Indian to have 200 million followers on Instagram.

74. Correct Answer: D

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh handed over to Vietnam 12 high-speed guard boats built under a USD 100 million Line of Credit granted to the Southeast Asian country by India.

75. Correct Answer: A

Babar Azam became the first batsman to twice score three consecutive centuries in one-day internationals after his 103 helped Pakistan beat West Indies.

76. Correct Answer: C

ICICI Bank has announced that it has partnered with ZestMoney, to expand its 'Cardless EMI' facility for purchases on retail and e-commerce platforms.

77. Correct Answer: B

India's Krishna Srinivasan has been appointed as Director of the Asia-Pacific Department at the International Monetary Fund.

78. Correct Answer: D

Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) bought 20% stakes in IIFL Home Finance with an investment of Rs 2,200 crores through a wholly-owned subsidiary.

79. Correct Answer: A

Algeria is "immediately" suspending a two-decades-old friendship treaty with Spain after Madrid reversed decades of neutrality in the Western Sahara dispute.

80. Correct Answer: B

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has imposed a life ban on wrestler Satender Malik after he thrashed referee Jagbir Singh during Commonwealth Games 2022 trials.

81. Correct Answer: A

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted a resolution on multilingualism sponsored by India that acknowledges the Hindi language for the first time.

82. Correct Answer: A

The Indian government has decided to extend a Line of Credit (LOC) of USD 55 million to Sri Lanka for the procurement of Urea Fertiliser.

83. Correct Answer: D

NASA's DAVINCI mission to planet Venus is scheduled for launch in year 2029.

84. Correct Answer: D

The WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) took place on 12-15 June 2022 at WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

85. Correct Answer: C

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of R Subramaniakumar as MD and CEO of RBL Bank.

86. Correct Answer: C

An Abnormal Titanosaurid Dinosaur Egg has been discovered in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district.

87. Correct Answer: C

Indian navigation firm MapmyIndia said it has collaborated with India's space agency ISRO which will enhance the quality of its 3D maps.

88. Correct Answer: B

The 25th Founding Day of BIMSTEC was celebrated in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 6th June 2022.

89. Correct Answer: B

Fintech startup XPay.Life has launched UPI services to offer better banking facilities and drive financial inclusion in rural areas.

90. Correct Answer: C

Fourteen-year-old Harini Logan won the 2022 the Scripps National Spelling Bee held in Maryland, USA.

91. Correct Answer: B

The 38th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between the Indian Navy Units of Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) and Indonesian Navy is being conducted from June 13 to 24 2022.

92. Correct Answer: B

Russia surpassed Saudi Arabia as India's second largest oil supplier in May 2022.

93. Correct Answer: A

Foreign lender HSBC India has announced that it will lend USD 250 million to startups in the country.

94. Correct Answer: D

Adani and energy supermajor TotalEnergies of France, have entered into a new partnership to jointly create the world's largest green hydrogen ecosystem.

95. Correct Answer: C

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the 'Ennum Ezhuthum' scheme to bridge the learning gap that was caused due to the COVID pandemic among students aged below eight.

96. Correct Answer: C

The 'Himachal Pradesh Drone Policy 2022' was approved by the CM Jai Ram Thakur. With this new drone policy, Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country to formally acknowledge the public use of drones.

97. Correct Answer: D

The festival of Baikho is annually celebrated by the Rabha Tribe of Assam.

98. Correct Answer: B

The BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) Innovation Center signed an MoU with the New Development Bank to facilitate bilateral cooperation.

99. Correct Answer: B

HDFC Bank has announced signing a MoU with 100X.VC, venture capital firm, to engage more deeply with the startup community.

100. Correct Answer: C

Senior IPS officer S L Thaosen has been appointed as the new Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

101. Correct Answer: D

India secured 34th position on world competitiveness index 2022.

102. Correct Answer: A

AI-driven financial wellness platform, CASHe, has launched a service using its AI-powered chat capability on WhatsApp to provide customers with a fast and convenient way to access instant credit line.

103. Correct Answer: A

Denmark has secured top position in has secured top position World Competitiveness Index 2022.

104. Correct Answer: C

Somalia's president has nominated Hamza Abdi Barre, as the Prime minister.

105. Correct Answer: B

India has successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile with a strike range of 350 km.

106. Correct Answer: B

Eminent Urdu scholar, literary critic and former chairperson of Sahitya Akademi, professor Gopi Chand Narang passed away recently.

107. Correct Answer: B

According to the Renewables Global Status Report (GSR) 2022 India ranked 3rd globally for total renewable power capacity additions with 15.4 GW in 2021.

108. Correct Answer: C

On the occasion of Father's Day, Equitas Small Finance Bank announced the launch of exclusive savings account for kids named 'ENJOI'.

109. Correct Answer: D

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has formed a Building Advisory Committee, which will advise and assist it in all the premises related matters such as planning, acquisition and furnishing. The seven-member committee will be headed by B K Katyal.

110. Correct Answer: D

The country's total merchandise exports are likely to be at \$117.2 billion in the first quarter of FY23, according to Export-Import Bank of India.

111. Correct Answer: B

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has inaugurated India's first government desalination plant only for industrial use at Dahej in Bharuch, Gujrat.

112. Correct Answer: B

Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi has introduced personalised baggage tag, enabled by radio frequency identification (RFID) technology.

113. Correct Answer: C

The WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) began on 12 June 2022 at WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The Conference is co-hosted by Kazakhstan.

114. Correct Answer: B

Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited has announced that it has partnered with PhonePe, India's leading digital payments platform to offer motor insurance to customers on the PhonePe platform.

115. Correct Answer: A

Airtel has announced India's first multiplex in the metaverse. Named Xstream multiplex, Airtel's

metaverse offering will be a 20-screen platform available on the Xstream application.

116. Correct Answer: C

The 8th meeting of the heads of the border services of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization was held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of India.

117. Correct Answer: B

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the license of Millath Co-operative Bank Ltd., Davangere in Karnataka, due to inadequate capital and earning prospects.

118. Correct Answer: D

Gustavo Petro, the former guerrilla fighter has been elected as Colombia's first leftist President.

119. Correct Answer: C

Red Bull's Max Verstappen claimed his sixth win of the 2022 F1 season at the 2022 Canadian Grand Prix.

120. Correct Answer: B

The theme for International Yoga Day 2022 is 'Yoga for Humanity'.

121. Correct Answer: A

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett announced on June 20, that his government will introduce a resolution to dissolve the Knesset (Israeli parliament) and call for fresh elections in the coming days.

122. Correct Answer: A

India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry latest data shows that the US has become India's largest trading partner, exceeding China with bilateral trade reaching USD 119.42 billion.

123. Correct Answer: D

Scientists say the world's largest recorded freshwater fish, a giant stingray, has been caught in the Mekong River in Cambodia.

124. Correct Answer: B

Netherlands skipper Pieter Seelaar has announced his retirement from international cricket due to back problems that have bothered him for the last 4 years.

125. Correct Answer: B

Every year June 22 is observed as World Rainforest Day all over the world.

126. Correct Answer: C

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually released Ram Bahadur Rai's book 'Indian constitution: untold stories.'

127. Correct Answer: A

GE Steam Power has announced that it has inked a USD 165 million pact with state-run engineering firm BHEL to supply three nuclear steam turbines.

128. Correct Answer: B

According to a report Pakistan will continue to be on the "Grey List" of countries under increased monitoring of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

129. Correct Answer: A

NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Lycra Network of France for acceptance of UPI and Rupay Cards in France.

130. Correct Answer: B

Rahul Srivatshav P of Telangana has become India's 74th Grandmaster during the 9th Cattolica Chess Festival 2022 in Italy.

131. Correct Answer: B

The country's first-ever girl Panchayat, "Balika Panchayat" has been started in several villages of Gujarat's Kutch district.

132. Correct Answer: B

According to the WGC report titled 'Gold refining and recycling', India has emerged as the fourth largest recycler in the world.

133. Correct Answer: C

According to the WGC report titled 'Gold refining and recycling', China topped the global gold recycling chart as it recycled 168 tonnes of the yellow metal.

134. Correct Answer: C

Bengaluru-based neobanking platform Freo has launched its digital savings account 'Freo Save' in partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank.

135. Correct Answer: D

Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. has partnered with Policybazaar.com to launch 'Max Life Smart Fixed-return Digital Plan', a non-linked, non-participating, individual life insurance savings plan.

136. Correct Answer: B

Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport, Delhi has switched to hydro and solar power for its consumption needs.

137. Correct Answer: D

The largest small finance bank and one of the fastest-growing retail banks in India AU Small Finance Bank

has launched the industry's 1st Customizable Credit Card.

138. Correct Answer: D

Gurunaidu Sanapathi has become India's first weightlifter to win a gold at the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) Youth World Championships 2022 in Leon, Mexico.

139. Correct Answer: B

Every year International Olympic Day is observed on June 23.

140. Correct Answer: B

Every year United Nations Public Service Day is observed on June 23.

141. Correct Answer: A

Scientists discovered the world's largest living plant in the shallow waters off the coast of Western Australia. Posidonia australis, also known as ribbon weed or fibre-ball weed, is found in Shark Bay.

142. Correct Answer: C

On the short-form video sharing app Khaby Lame swept past Charli D'Amelio to become the most popular creator on TikTok.

143. Correct Answer: B

The Odisha government's MSMEs Department has bagged the first prize in the category 'National MSME Award 2022 to States/UTs for outstanding contributions to the promotion and development of the MSME sector.

144. Correct Answer: D

The Indian government-owned enterprise NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) has leased the entire GSAT-24 satellite capacity to Tata Play.

145. Correct Answer: C

Former Punjab DGP Dinkar Gupta has been appointed as the new Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

146. Correct Answer: B

India's national capital New Delhi has been ranked 112th in the list of most liveable cities. While India's financial capital Mumbai is ranked at 117th position.

147. Correct Answer: B

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a new plan called Dhan Sanchay, which is a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings life

insurance plan that provides both protection and savings.

148. Correct Answer: B

Ministry of Railways has launched Policy & Portal of e-auction for Commercial earning & Non-Fare Revenue (NFR) contracts.

149. Correct Answer: B

Ruth Ozeki has bagged the 2022 Women's Prize for Fiction for her novel "The Book of Form and Emptiness".

150. Correct Answer: A

Parameswaran Iyer has been named the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the NITI Aayog to succeed Amitabh Kant, whose term is scheduled to end on June 30.

SECTION 3



Detailed Analysis of Important Events



Economics

What is Liquid Nano Urea?



During his visit to Gujarat, Prime Minister inaugurated the country's first liquid nano urea plant at Kalol.

Liquid Nano Urea (LNU)

- Urea is a white chemical fertiliser that artificially supplies nitrogen, a critical ingredient needed by plants.
- LNU is basically urea in a nanoparticle form.
- The plant absorbs it after being sprayed directly on the leaves.
- As they are absorbed by the stomata, pores located on the epidermis of leaves, fertilisers in nano form deliver a focused supply of nutrients to crops.
- Liquid nano urea, according to IFFCO, has 4% total nitrogen (w/v) uniformly distributed in water.
- A nano nitrogen particle can range in size from 20 to 50 nm. (One billionth of a metre is equal to one nanometer.)

Significance of LNU

- This proprietary solution is anticipated to improve farm output in addition to replacing imported urea.
- It aims to lessen the unbalanced and indiscriminate use of traditional urea in addition to lowering the nation's subsidy expense.
- In addition to decreasing soil, water, and air pollution, it will aid in boosting crop output.

Using LNU

- The half-litre container of liquid nano urea made by Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO) Limited costs Rs 240 and is currently subsidy-free.
- A farmer pays about Rs 300 for a 50 kg bag of highly discounted urea, in contrast.
- A bottle of the nano urea, according to IFFCO, can successfully replace at least one bag of urea.

How efficient is LNU?

- While liquid nano urea can have an efficiency of up to 85%, conventional urea typically only has an efficiency of about 25%.
- Because it is frequently administered wrongly and the nitrogen in it is wasted as a gas or vapour, conventional urea does not have the desired effect on crops.
- During irrigation, a lot of nitrogen is also carried away.
- Farmers do not need to be concerned about liquid nano urea "caking" when it comes into contact with moisture because it has a one-year shelf life.

Understanding SEBI Rules on Passive Funds



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently issued a circular on passive funds covering matters related to transparency, liquidity and operational aspects of exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and index funds.

What are Passive Funds?

- A passive fund is an investment tool that bases its investment decisions on the performance of an index of the market or a particular market sector.
- The fund manager does not select the securities the fund holds, in contrast to an active fund.
- Due to the lack of time-consuming research and opportunity analysis required by active funds, passive funds are typically less expensive to invest in.
- Passive funds include tracker funds like index funds and ETFs (exchange traded funds).

What is a passive ELSS scheme?

- A underlying index is mimicked by passive funds. Active funds, on the other hand, are actively managed by fund managers.
- The SEBI has now included the category of passive equity-linked saving plans (ELSS), which would allow investors another way to take advantage of tax advantages.
- The circular states that the passive ELSS plan will be based on any index made up of equity shares

from the top 250 market capitalization businesses.

- A fund house will only be able to operate one active ELSS plan or one passive ELSS scheme as of July 1.

What are the norms for debt ETFs?

- Passive debt funds are now divided into three categories:
 1. Corporate debt funds with exposure to corporate bonds
 2. G-Sec funds investing in government securities, and
 3. Hybrid funds where allocation is a combination of corporate bonds and government securities
- At the moment, only AAA-rated instruments are purchased by debt funds in the passive category.
- In accordance with the Sebi circular, portfolio exposure restrictions to each sector, the issuer (based on rating), and the group are introduced.
- The implementation of these provisions ought to reduce the concentration risk associated with debt ETFs and index funds.

What about tracking error?

- Passive funds are required by Sebi's circular to include information on "tracking error" and "tracking difference" in their monthly fact sheets.
- To keep investors better informed, these indicators show how the fund's performance differs from that of its underlying index.
- Passive funds are required to adhere to the circular's limits for tracking error and tracking difference.

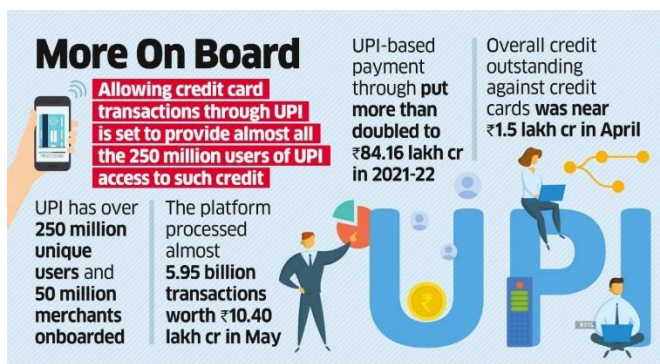
What is the mandate on disclosing NAVs?

- ETF prices may differ significantly from the net asset value (NAV) of the fund due to low liquidity for ETFs on the secondary market in India.
- The value of the ETF's underlying asset is reflected in the NAV of the fund.
- The stock exchange must continuously disclose NAV (indicative) throughout the day in accordance with the Sebi circular.
- Although the practise currently exists, Sebi rules formalise it.
- One can avoid engaging in a transaction at a substantial premium or discount by consulting the NAV.

Can one execute ETF transactions directly?

- ETF units can only be purchased or sold by investors on stock exchanges.
- Large purchase or sell orders, however, can also be placed directly with the fund house.
- According to Sebi, requests for redemption or subscription that total more than 25 crore rupees alone can now be made directly with the asset management business (AMC).

RBI plans to link Credit Cards with UPI



The RBI has proposed to allow the linking of credit cards with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

Integrating Credit Cards to UPI

- The integration will first begin with the indigenous RuPay credit cards.
- Both the RuPay network and UPI are managed by the same organisation – the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

What is UPI?

- UPI is an instant real-time payment system developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) facilitating inter-bank transactions.
- The interface is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India and works by instantly transferring funds between two bank accounts on a mobile platform.

Why such move?

- Given the broad acceptance of UPI, it's possible that the connection between UPI and credit cards would lead to a sharp increase in credit card usage in India.
- The integration also makes it possible to establish UPI credit in India, where several firms, including Slice, Uni, and One, have developed in recent years.
- The move might possibly be an attempt to spur adoption by leveraging UPI's substantial user base.
- UPI has only recently been able to link to bank accounts and debit cards.
- Users will benefit from more convenience, and it will expand the potential of digital payments.

What could be the hurdles?

- Before the linking takes place, a few regulatory issues need to be resolved.

- In the case of UPI transactions made with credit cards, it is unclear how the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) will be applied.
- Because there are no fees associated with UPI and RuPay transactions, this is a major factor in the widespread adoption of UPI by consumers and businesses alike.
- The payments sector has opposed the standard.
- It has suggested that this constrains the aggregators' capacity to build and sustain the financial foundation of the payment ecosystem.
- Other card networks, such as Visa and Mastercard, may not have yet been integrated with UPI for credit cards due to the applicability of zero-MDR.

Note: MDR is a fee that a merchant is charged by their issuing bank for accepting payments from their customers via credit and debit cards.

What is the big picture?

- With over 26 crore unique users and five crore businesses using the platform, UPI has grown to be the most inclusive method of payment in India.
- In recent years, UPI has made unmatched progress.
- Many other nations are working with us to implement comparable practises in their nations.
- Since its introduction in 2016, UPI has handled 5.95 billion transactions totaling over Rs 10 trillion. In May, this number reached a new high.
- Soon, NPCI hopes to handle one billion transactions daily.

First train under Bharat Gaurav Scheme inaugurated



The 'Bharat Gaurav' train service from Coimbatore to Shirdi, a first of its kind in the country, was inaugurated at the Coimbatore North Railway Station.

What are Bharat Gaurav trains?

- Bharat Gaurav express trains are operated by private players, who have the right to use the rail infrastructure provided by the Indian Railways.

About Bharat Gaurav Scheme

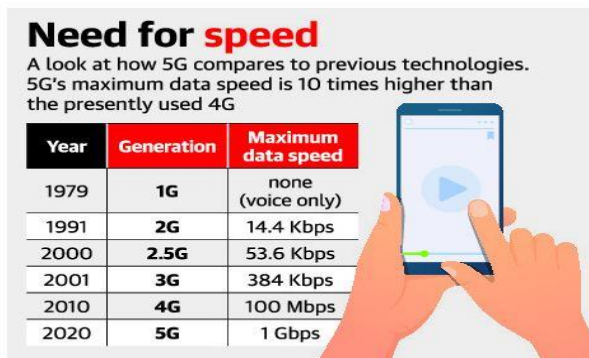
- The Ramayana Express-style theme-based tourist circuit trains can be operated by either private or state-owned companies under this Scheme.
- The Railways previously had passenger and freight parts.
- The Bharat Gaurav will now have a third category for tourism.
- Many State Governments, including those of Odisha, Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, have expressed interest in the programme, which was designed after extensive stakeholder consultations.

Key features

- The subjects and circuits will be chosen at the discretion of the service providers, which may be an individual, business, society, trust, joint venture, or consortium.

- Tourists will be able to choose from an all-inclusive package that includes rail transportation, hotel accommodations, sightseeing plans, visits to historical and heritage sites, tour guides, and more.
- They are completely free to choose how much the package will cost.
- The service providers will also have the option to brand or advertise inside and outside the train, as well as design and decorate the coaches' interiors in accordance with the concept.

Cabinet approves mega 5G auction



The Union Cabinet has approved the auction of airwaves capable of offering fifth generation, or 5G, telecom services, including ultra-high-speed Internet, and gave its nod for setting up of captive 5G networks by big tech firms.

What is the news?

- By the end of July, the spectrum above 72 GHz will be put up for sale.
- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, the industry regulator, has suggested reserve prices for the auctions (TRAI).
- TRAI had previously suggested a 39 percent decrease in the reserve price, often known as the

"floor price," for the sale of 5G spectrum for mobile services.

What is 5G technology?

- The most recent improvement to long-term evolution (LTE) mobile broadband networks is called 5G, or fifth generation.
- It primarily operates in the low-, mid-, and high-frequency spectrums, each of which has specific applications and constraints.

Three bands of 5G

(1) Low band spectrum

- Although the highest bandwidth is 100 Mbps, it has demonstrated significant potential in terms of coverage and internet and data interchange speed (Megabits per second).
- Telcos can use and deploy it for commercial mobile users who do not have specific requirements for very high-speed internet, but the low band spectrum might not be the best fit for the industry's specialised needs.

(2) Mid-band spectrum

- Although it provides faster speeds than the low band, the signal's coverage and penetration are constrained.
- The telcos and businesses who have taken the lead on 5G have suggested that industries and specialised factory units may use this spectrum for establishing captive networks that may be tailored to the requirements of that particular industry.

(3) High-band spectrum

- Although it delivers the fastest speed among the three bands, its range and signal quality are incredibly constrained.

- While the greatest internet data speed for 4G has typically been recorded at 1 Gbps, testing of the high-band spectrum of 5G has revealed internet rates as high as 20 Gbps (gigabits per second).

Where does India stand in the 5G technology race?

- India had planned to launch 5G services as soon as feasible in 2018, on par with other major players in the world, in an effort to take advantage of the enhanced network strength and speeds that the technology promised.
- Private telecom companies in India have been pleading with the DoT to provide a clear roadmap for 5G frequency bands and spectrum allotment so that they may schedule the launch of their services accordingly.
- However, one significant barrier is the absence of enough capital and cash flow at some enterprises as a result of their AGR obligations.

Global progress on 5G

- Global telecom firms have started constructing 5G networks and deploying it to their clients on a trial basis more than governments.
- Some businesses have assumed the initiative when it comes to putting out commercial 5G for their subscribers in nations like the US.
- On the other hand, a South Korean company, which had begun investigating 5G technology back in 2011, has taken the lead when it comes to developing the

hardware for 5G networks for a number of businesses.

What are Private Captive Networks?

The Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) wrote a letter urging the government against allotting 5G spectrum to private captive networks, claiming that it will diminish their revenue to the point where offering 5G will be pointless.

What is a Private Captive 5G Network?

- In essence, a private captive 5G network is a network created by a private corporation for usage by a single organisation.
- In that only the company in question will use the 5G service provided by this captive network, it is comparable to a captive coal mine.

Why are telecom providers against it?

- According to the COAI, businesses are the primary users of 5G networks.
- The retail revenues of TSPs (telecom service providers) will decrease if private firms are permitted to provide captive networks to businesses.
- According to COAI, "the needs of voice and data of the entire nation is being fully covered by the TSPs through their 4G networks today," there is currently little need for 5G.

Environment & Diversity

Environmental Performance Index (EPI), 2022



India has objected to a report, called the EPI, 2022, that places the country last (along with Nigeria) on a list of 180 countries on managing climate change, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality.

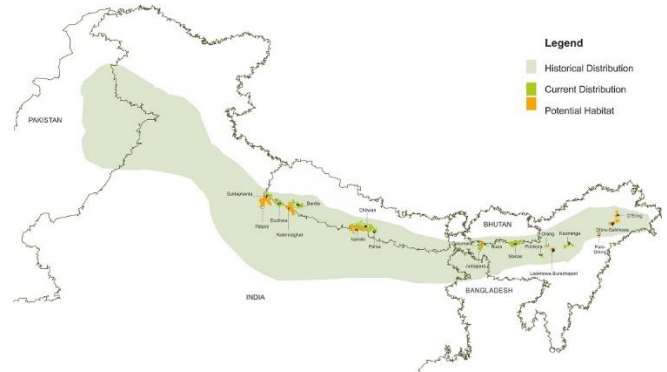
Environmental Performance Index

- Researchers from Yale and Columbia universities created the report.
- It offers a data-driven overview of the global sustainability situation.
- The EPI ranks 180 countries on their performance in addressing climate change, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality using 40 performance indicators across 11 issue areas.
- These metrics offer a gauge of how near nations are to achieving set environmental policy objectives on a national level.
- For nations aspiring to move toward a sustainable future, the EPI offers a scorecard that identifies leaders and laggards in environmental performance.

Why the report is inherently biased?

- The US was ranked 43rd overall and 20th among the 22 affluent democracies in the western world.
- Due to the relatively low score, the rollback policies implemented by the Trump administration are solely to blame.
- It continues to advocate that emerging nations need not choose between sustainability and economic security.

Rhino reintroduction a hit in Assam Reserves



The one-horned rhinos of western Assam's Manas National Park, bordering Bhutan, are expected to have high life expectancy and significant growth in population, the 14th Assam rhino estimation census has revealed.

Indian Rhino

- The Indian rhinoceros is a rhinoceros that is indigenous to the Indian subcontinent. It is also known as the bigger one-horned rhinoceros and the huge Indian rhinoceros.
- It is a Schedule I animal under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 and is rated as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- It previously covered the entire northern Indian Subcontinent, from Pakistan to the border with Myanmar, along the basins of the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra rivers.
- The single biggest factor contributing to the decline of the Indian rhino became poaching for rhinoceros horn.

Why in news?

- At least 2613 rhinos, including calves, were tallied at the 14th Rhino Population Estimation / Census in Kaziranga National Park, an increase of 200 rhinos over the previous census in 2018.
- The national park was then counted to have at least 2413 rhinos.

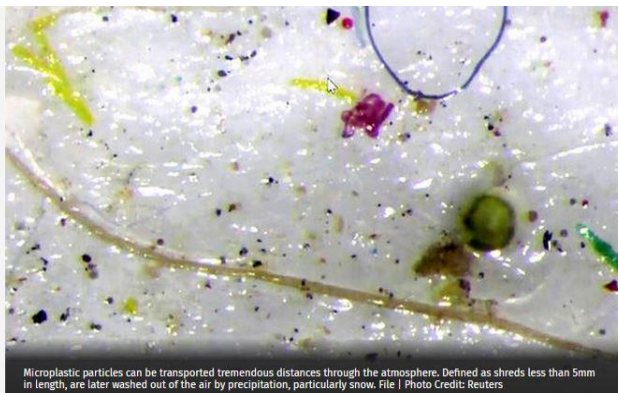
Threats to Rhinos

- Traditional Chinese medicine uses ground rhino horn as an aphrodisiac and to treat a variety of illnesses, from hangovers to cancer.
- Owning a rhino horn is seen as a prestige symbol in Vietnam.
- Due to the demand in these nations, rhino poaching pressure is ongoing and must be prevented at all costs.

Various protection moves

- In accordance with the Indian Rhino Vision 2020, a programme for reintroducing rhinos was launched in 2006.
- In addition to orphans raised by hand at the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation in Kaziranga, rhinos from those parks and the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary had to be relocated.

Microplastics found in Antarctica



Scientists have found microplastics — plastic pieces much smaller than a grain of rice — in freshly fallen Antarctic snow for the first time.

What are Microplastics?

- Microplastics are minute fragments of several kinds of plastic that are present in the environment.

- By using this nomenclature, they can be distinguished from "macroplastics" like plastic bottles and bags.
- The dimensions of microplastics are not agreed upon by all parties. Less than 5 mm in length is the definition of microplastic.
- However, as the authors of this study were interested in quantifying the amounts of plastic that may penetrate cell membranes and permeate throughout the body through the bloodstream.
- As a result, they settled on 0.0007 millimetres as the maximum particle size.

Why in news?

- Researchers have found microplastics in the snow samples from the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica.

Threats posed by Microplastics

- Microplastics has the potential to influence the climate by accelerating melting of ice.
- They limit growth, reproduction, and general biological functions in organisms, as well as humans.

Back2Basics: Ross Ice Shelf



- The Ross Ice Shelf, which is about the size of France, is the largest ice shelf in Antarctica.
- The thickness is several hundred metres.
- More than 600 kilometres long and rising between 15 and 50 metres (50 and 160 feet) above the water's surface, the nearly vertical ice front to the open sea.
- However, 90% of the floating ice is submerged beneath the ocean.
- Ross Dependency, which is claimed by New Zealand, contains the majority of the Ross Ice Shelf.
- It floats in and completely engulfs Roosevelt Island, which is situated in the east of the Ross Sea, and a sizable chunk of the Ross Sea's southern region.

- They have an extremely low capacity to retain nutrients and water.
- The possibility of aerodynamic lift exists in the dunes.
- This push enables things to go upward. The force that opposes weight is this one.

Mineral composition of Theris

- There are both heavy and light minerals present in the red sand dunes, according to study.
- These include biotite, ilmenite, goethite, rutile, garnet, zircon, diopside, tourmaline, quartz, feldspar, and quartz.
- The soil's iron-rich heavy minerals, such as ilmenite, magnetite, garnet, hypersthene, and rutile, have been dissolved by surface water.
- Because of the favourable semi-arid climate, they were subsequently oxidised.

How did they form?

- Theris resembles a gently undulating landscape.
- The lithology of the region suggests that it may have once been a paleo (ancient) shore.
- Limestone is found in numerous locations, which suggests maritime intrusion.
- After the sea receded, beach sand may have been spatially constrained to produce the current theris.
- Sand grains moved and dunes accumulated as a result of the Western Ghats' strong winds blowing east.

Another story of their formation

- Another perspective holds that these geological formations developed over a few hundred years.

Theri Desert in Tamil Nadu



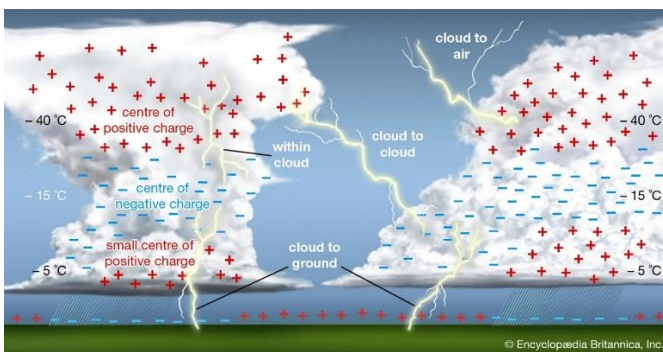
Most of us may not know the small desert situated in the state of Tamil Nadu. It consists of red sand dunes and is confined to the Thoothukudi district.

Theri Desert

- The Tamil word for the red sands is theri.
- They are composed of marine sediments that date back to the Quaternary Period.

- The south-west monsoon winds from May to September transport the red sand from the surface of a wide band of red loam in the plains of the Nanguneri region (approximately 57 kilometres).
- The Western Ghats' Aralvaimozhi gap and Mahendragiri hill drain the moisture from the winds, which then hit the arid plains in the foothills where there is no flora.
- Wind erosion is said to be mostly caused by deforestation and a lack of vegetation in the Nanguneri plains and Aralvaimozhi gap.

Explained: Occurrence of Lightning



At least 70 people died in lightning strikes across Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

What is lightning?

- According to science, lightning is a sudden, intense, and partially earthward directed discharge of electricity.
- The discharges are produced in enormous, 10–12 km towering clouds that are rich in moisture.
- These clouds typically have a base within 1-2 km of the surface of the Earth and a top 12–13 km above it.
- These clouds' tops had temperatures between -35° and -45°C.

Its formation

- The drop in temperature causes water vapour that is rising in the cloud to condense.
- The water droplets become into tiny ice crystals as they move to temperatures below zero degrees Celsius.
- They continue to ascend, gaining bulk until they are about to plummet to Earth due to their extreme weight.
- This results in a system where smaller ice crystals are travelling up and bigger crystals are coming down at the same time.
- Electrons are released as a result of collisions, which is a process that is quite similar to the creation of electrical sparks.
- A chain reaction results from the liberated electrons' movement, which increases collisions and electron production.
- The top layer of the cloud becomes positively charged as a result of this process, whilst the middle layer becomes negatively charged.
- Between a billion and ten billion volts separate the electrical potential of the two layers, which is a significant difference.
- A huge current, between 100,000 and one million amperes, begins to flow between the layers in a remarkably short period of time.

Types of lightning

- Broadly, there are three forms of lightning:
 1. Inter-cloud
 2. Intra-cloud
 3. Cloud-to-ground
- Lightning that strikes from the clouds to the earth can cause significant property damage and

kill people in addition to killing cattle and animals.

- The Earth is electrically neutral even though it is a superb conductor of electricity.
- It becomes positively charged in contrast to the cloud's centre layer, though.
- As a result, between 15 and 20 percent of the current is also directed at the Earth.
- This current flow causes harm to both human life and property on Earth.

How intensely does it strike?

- A typical lightning flash has 30,000 amps and 300 million volts.
- Household current is 120 volts and 15 amps, for comparison.
- A 100-watt incandescent bulb may be lit by a lightning strike for nearly three months.

Why does lightning kill so many people in India?

- More than 70% of fatalities occurred as a result of individuals standing under lone, towering trees, which is one of the reasons for the high death toll.
- A quarter of the victims suffered open wounds.
- Additionally, extremes brought on by climate change are directly propagated by lightning.

Mitigating lightning incidents

- In India, lightning is not regarded as a natural disaster.
- However, recent initiatives have led to the establishment of an early warning system that is already saving many lives.
- Over 96 percent of lightning-related fatalities take place in rural regions.

- Therefore, the majority of public education and mitigation campaigns must target these communities.
- Devices for preventing lightning strikes are inexpensive and quite simple. However, their current level of deployment in rural regions is incredibly low.
- Similar to heat action plans, states are encouraged to create and implement lightning action plans.
- Additionally, plans are being made to establish an international centre of excellence for lightning research to improve early detection and warning systems.

Odisha's Mo Bus: Recipient of the UN's prestigious public service award



Mo Bus, the bus service of Odisha's Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) authority, has been recognized by the United Nations as one of 10 global recipients of its annual Public Service Awards for 2022.

Mo Bus service

- On November 6, 2018, the Mo Bus service debuted.
- Through the use of smart technology, service benchmarking, and customer satisfaction, it aspired to ensure transformation of the urban public transportation scenario in the city and its hinterland.

- Smart technologies including free on-board Wi-Fi, digital announcements, security cameras, and electronic ticketing are integrated into the architecture of the buses.
- According to CRUT, it is committed to making sure that 50% of Mo Bus Guides (conductors) are female in order to boost women's participation in the industry and to give female passengers a sense of security.

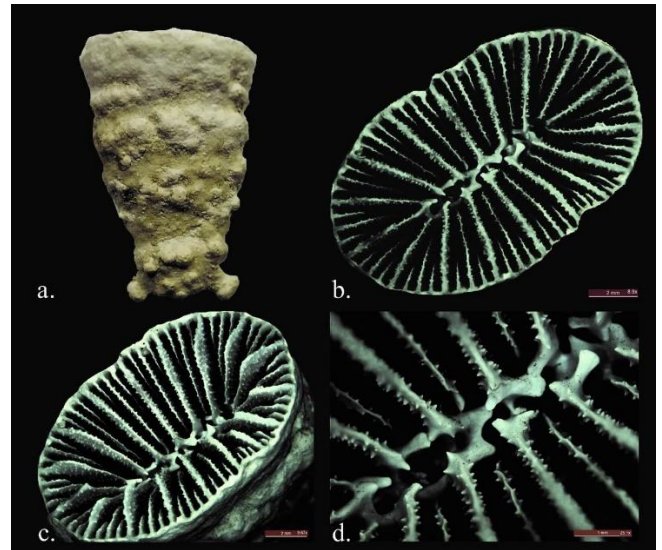
What is the recent award?

- Awarded for "promot[ing] gender-responsive public services to fulfil the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)," the public transportation system.
- According to the UN, the "effect" is that 57% of city commuters now take the Mo Bus.
- According to estimates, Mo E-Ride will cut emissions by 30% to 50%.

About UN Public Service Award

- The "most distinguished international acknowledgement of achievement in public service," according to the UN, is the Public Service Awards.
- Since the 2003 inaugural Awards presentation, the UN has received "an increasing number of nominations from all across the world."
- It is meant to honour the innovative efforts and contributions of public service organisations that improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of public administration in all nations.
- The UN Public Service Awards encourage the importance, professionalism, and exposure of public service through an annual competition.

Four new corals recorded from Indian waters



Scientists have recorded four species of corals for the first time from Indian waters. These new species of azooxanthellate corals were found from the waters off the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

What are Azooxanthellate Corals?

- A group of corals known as azooxanthellate corals lack zooxanthellae and obtain their nutrition from catching various types of planktons rather than from the sun.
- They serve as deep-sea representatives, with the bulk of their species being found between 200 and 1,000 metres below the surface.
- In contrast to zooxanthellate corals, which are limited to shallow waters, they have also been found in shallow waters.

Which are the news species found?

- In the past, the families Flabellidae (*Truncatoflabellum crassum*, *T. incrustatum*, *T. aculeatum*, and *T. irregulare*) have been discovered in the waters off of Australia, the Philippines, and Japan.
- Only *T. crassum* was identified as having a distribution range in the Indo-West Pacific.

Significance of the discovery

- The majority of hard coral research in India has focused on reef-building corals, whereas little is known about non-reef-building corals.
- These new species add to our understanding of solitary corals that don't form reefs.

How do they feed themselves?

- Corals and zooxanthellae, a type of single-celled algae, have a symbiotic interaction.
- The algae gives the coral food and nutrients that they produce through a process called photosynthesis with the help of sunlight.
- In return, the algae receives a habitat and vital nutrients from the corals.
- Additionally, corals' vibrant colour is provided by zooxanthellae.

Governance

Back in news: Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)



A national helpline for women deserted in Non-Resident Indian (NRI) marriages and the need for a dedicated fund to provide assistance to them are among the recommendations made at a consultation organized by the National Commission for Women (NCW).

What are the issues faced by NRI wives?

- Abandon after marriage
- Inconclusive divorces filed abroad
- Child custody disputes

Classification of Overseas Indians

Overseas Indians, officially known as Non-resident Indians (NRIs) or Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), are

people of Indian birth, descent or origin who live outside the Republic of India:

(A) Non-Resident Indian (NRI)

- Strictly asserting non-resident refers only to the tax status of a person who, as per section 6 of the Income-tax Act of 1961, has not resided in India for a specified period for the purposes of the Act.
- The rates of income tax are different for persons who are “resident in India” and for NRIs.

(B) Person of Indian Origin (PIO)

Person of Indian Origin (PIO) means a foreign citizen (except a national of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Iran, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and/or Nepal), who:

- at any time held an Indian passport OR
- either of their parents/grandparents/great-grandparents were born and permanently resident in India as defined in Gol Act, 1935 and other territories that became part of India thereafter provided neither was at any time a citizen of any of the aforesaid countries OR
- is a spouse of a citizen of India or a PIO.

(C) Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)

- After multiple efforts by leaders across the Indian political spectrum, a pseudo-citizenship scheme was established, the “Overseas Citizenship of India”, commonly referred to as the OCI card.
- The Constitution of India does not permit full dual citizenship.
- The OCI card is effectively a long-term visa, with restrictions on voting rights and government jobs.

What are PM Shri Schools?



Union Education Ministry is planning to set up “PM Shri Schools”.

PM Shri Schools

- PM Shri Schools will be the laboratory of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- They will be fully equipped to prepare students for the future.

Likely features of these schools

- It might adopt the NEP's 5+3+3+4 (to replace the 10+2 schooling system) model, which emphasises ECCE, teacher preparation, and adult education.

- To prepare students to be 21st-century global citizens, skill development will be integrated with academic instruction and mother tongue learning will be prioritised.
- The Right to Education Act will now encompass students from the ages of 3 to 18, as the NEP 2020 extends its coverage period.

Explained: 5+3+3+4 Schooling System

- Children will spend 5 years in the Foundational stage, 3 years in the Preparatory stage, 3 years in the Middle stage, and 4 years in the Secondary stage, according to the new school education system of 5+3+3+4 defined in NEP 2020.
- The phases have been divided according to the stages of cognitive development that a child experiences during early childhood, the school years, and secondary stage.
- The age distribution of the various levels of the new school education system is as follows:

(1) 5 years of Foundational stage:

For ages: 3 to 8, **For classes:** Anganwadi/pre-school, class 1, class 2

- According to the national education policy, the foundational stage of education will consist of two years of primary school followed by three years of preschool or anganwadi education (classes 1 and 2).
- This stage will emphasise linguistic skill development and play-based or activity-based teaching techniques.

(2) 3 years of Preparatory stage:

For ages: 8 to 11, **For classes:** 3 to 5

- The development of language and numeracy abilities will continue to be the key priorities in the preparatory period.

- Play and activity-based instruction would be used in this situation, along with classroom interactions and the aspect of discovery.

(3) 3 years of Middle stage:

For ages: 11 to 14, For classes: 6 to 8

- According to NEP 2020, this phase of schooling will concentrate on critical learning objectives, which is a significant change from the rote learning techniques that have long been used in our educational system.
- The focus of this phase will be on experiential learning in the humanities, social sciences, arts, and sciences.

(4) 4 years of Secondary stage:

For ages: 14 to 18, For classes: 9 to 12

- Classes 9 and 10, as well as classes 11 and 12, will be covered in these two parts.
- The primary change in these classes is the transition to a multidisciplinary system, where students will have access to a range of topic combinations they can select based on their talents and interest areas rather than being tightly split into Arts, Science, and Commerce categories.
- Again, this level will emphasise the need for expanded critical thinking and mental flexibility.

Children in Street Situations (CiSS) Application



The National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has launched a "CiSS application" under the Baal Swaraj portal to help in the rehabilitation process of Children in Street Situations (CiSS).

CiSS Application

- The CiSS application is used to track the rescue and rehabilitation of children who are living on the streets by collecting data from all the states and union territories.
- The Supreme Court of India has given the order to take the initiative.
- The initiative embodies Article 51(A) of the Indian Constitution by giving the general public and organisations concerned with children's welfare a platform to report any youngster in need of aid.
- The platform's primary purpose is to gather data, which is then reported to the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) so they can take the appropriate action.
- Additionally, it offers a forum for experts and organisations to assist children in need in whatever way they can.
- Open shelters, counselling, medical care, sponsorships, addiction recovery programmes, educational services, legal/paralegal services, volunteering, and other forms of assistance are all possible.

Its working framework

- If a child lives on the streets with their family, lives on the streets during the day, or lives on the streets alone, they are all classified as "Children in Street Situation."
- Families moving from rural to urban regions in quest of a higher quality of living is the main source of this phenomena.

How does it work?

It follows six stages framework for the rehabilitation of children.

1. Information on the child is gathered, and the gateway is used to do this.
2. Investigating the child's background using a social investigating report (SIR). The District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) engages the child in conversation and offers counselling while doing this under the direction of the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU).
3. creating a child's Individual Care Plan (ICP).
4. based on the SIR delivered to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).
5. distributing the programmes and advantages that the beneficiary can use.
6. A checklist is created to assess the progress, including (Follow Ups).

What is National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)?



The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has curtailed the tenure of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) and moved him to the Border Security Force (BSF).

What is NATGRID?

- NATGRID is a network for exchanging intelligence that gathers information from separate databases maintained by various ministries and departments of the Indian government.
- It is a counterterrorism mechanism that gathers and compiles a variety of data from government databases, including tax and bank account information, credit/debit card transactions, records of visa and immigration applications, and rail and air travel itineraries.
- Additionally, it will have access to the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), a database that connects crime data from 14,000 Indian police stations, including First Information Reports.
- As of 2019, Ashish Gupta, an officer with the Indian Police Service (IPS), is in charge of NATGRID.

Its establishment

- The 26/11 terrorist siege in Mumbai back in 2008 exposed the deficiency that security agencies had no mechanism to look for vital information on a real-time basis.

Access to NATGRID

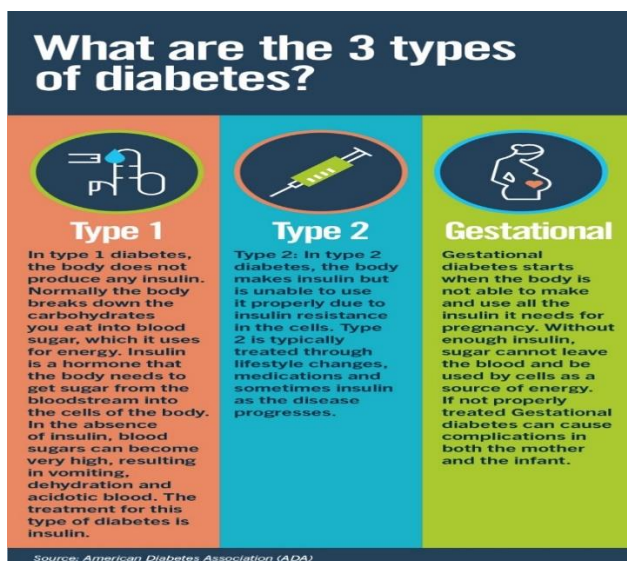
- Prominent federal agencies of the country have been authorized to access the NATGRID database.
- They are the:
 1. Central Bureau of Investigation
 2. Directorate of Revenue Intelligence,
 3. Enforcement Directorate
 4. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

5. Central Board of Direct Taxes (for the Income Tax Department)
6. Cabinet Secretariat
7. Intelligence Bureau
8. Directorate General of GST Intelligence
9. Narcotics Control Bureau
10. Financial Intelligence Unit, and
11. National Investigation Agency

Future prospects

- Ten user agencies and 21 service providers will be connected to the NATGRID in the first phase, and around 950 more entities will be added in succeeding phases, per the plan.
- More than 1,000 organisations will continue to be included into the NATGRID during the ensuing years.
- Records pertaining to immigration admission and exit, banking and financial activities, and telecommunications are some of these data sources.

Managing Type 1 Diabetes



Last week, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) released guidelines for the diagnosis, treatment, and management for type-1 diabetes.

Why such move?

- India is regarded as the diabetes capital of the world, and individuals who already had the condition were disproportionately affected by the pandemic.
- However, Type 1 or childhood diabetes receives less attention despite the fact that it can be lethal without correct insulin administration.
- Less people have type 1 diabetes than type 2. Only 2% of all diabetes hospitalizations in the nation are type 1 cases.

What is Diabetes?

- Diabetes is a long-term (chronic) illness that affects how your body converts food into energy.
- The majority of the food you consume is converted to sugar, commonly known as glucose, and then released into your bloodstream.
- Your pancreas releases insulin when your blood sugar levels rise.

What is Type 1 Diabetes?

- When a person has type 1 diabetes, their pancreas ceases entirely to produce insulin.
- Insulin is the hormone in charge of regulating blood glucose levels by altering how much glucose is absorbed by the body's cells, including the liver, fat, and other tissues.
- This is in contrast to type 2 diabetes, which makes up more than 90% of all instances of diabetes in the nation and in which the body either produces less insulin or its cells develop resistant to it.

How lethal diabetes is?

- Children and teenagers are the age groups most commonly diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.
- Despite having a lower frequency, type 3 is significantly more severe than type 2.
- If a person with type 1 diabetes quits taking their insulin, they will die within weeks, unlike type 2 diabetes, which may be treated using a variety of medications because the body produces some insulin.

How rare is it?

- Over 10 lakh children and teenagers worldwide have type 1 diabetes, with India having the greatest prevalence.
- 90,000 to 1 lakh of the 2.5 lakh people in India who have type 1 diabetes are under the age of 14.
- In order to provide some context, 7.7 crore individuals in India had diabetes as of 2019.
- Type 2 diabetes affects 25.3% of people under the age of 25 who get the disease.

Who is at risk of type 1 diabetes?

- Type 1 diabetes is assumed to be an auto-immune disorder in which the body's immune system attacks the islets cells on the pancreas that make insulin. The precise aetiology of type 1 diabetes is uncertain.
- It depends on a person's genetic makeup whether they develop type 1 diabetes.
- When the mother, father, or sibling all have the condition, the chance of the disease in the kid is 3%, 5%, and 8%, respectively.
- The existence of specific genes is also very strongly linked to the illness.

ASI Act to be made more flexible



Union Culture Minister said the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was working on an amendment to make the law that provides for the preservation of monuments and archaeological sites “more flexible and people-friendly”.

What is the news?

- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act 1958 is being amended by the ASI.
- The current 100-meter forbidden zone around designated monuments is specifically intended to be changed to site-specific restrictions.

What is the AMASR Act?

- Ancient and historical monuments, archaeological sites, and prehistoric remains are all protected under the AMASR Act.
- Additionally, it makes provisions for the control of archaeological digs as well as the preservation of carvings, sculptures, and other similar artefacts.
- Under the guidelines of this legislation, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) conducts its operations.
- The guidelines state that any place within 100 metres of the monument is off-limits.
- The vicinity of the monument within 200 metres is a restricted area. Buildings in this region need

authorization before doing any repairs or changes.

About Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- The ASI functions as a department within the Ministry of Culture.
- Alexander Cunningham, who also served as its first Director-General, formed it in 1861.
- The ASI oversees more than 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites, and remnants of national significance in accordance with the terms of the AMASR Act of 1958.
- These can range from mosques, churches, tombs, cemeteries, and temples to forts, palaces, stepwells, and rock-cut caves.
- Ancient mounds and other remnants of ancient habitation, such as comparable sites, are also maintained by the Survey.
- The Director-General of the ASI is supported by 17 Directors, two Joint Directors General, an Additional Director General, and two Joint Directors General.

Enemy Property in India



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered some cases on allegations that huge losses to the exchequer was caused by leasing out prime-value land

under the Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEPI) on forged documents.

Why in news?

- Hectares of commercial land located in Uttar Pradesh were leased out at nominal rates in favour of the lessees through manipulation.

What is "Enemy Property"?

- People moved from India to Pakistan in the aftermath of the 1965 and 1971 India-Pakistan conflicts.
- The Government of India seized the assets and businesses of persons who adopted Pakistani nationality in accordance with the Defence of India Rules created under the Defence of India Act, 1962.
- The Custodian of Enemy Property for India received these "enemy properties" from the federal government.
- After the Sino-Indian War of 1962, the same was done with respect to property left behind by people who migrated to China.
- A paragraph in the Tashkent Declaration of January 10, 1966 said that India and Pakistan would talk about returning the property and assets that had been taken by either side as a result of the fighting.
- However, the Pakistani government sold off every one of these assets in that nation in 1971.

Dealing with enemy property

- The Custodian of Enemy Property for India was given continuing ownership of enemy property under the 1968 Enemy Property Act (CEPI).
- The Custodian, an agent of the federal government, is in charge of numerous hostile states' property.

- Some movable assets are also classified as adversary assets.
- The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971, and The Enemy Property

Act, 1968, were both revised by The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016, which was passed by Parliament in 2017.

History

Who was Nadaprabhu Kempegowda?



A bronze statue of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, credited to be the founder of Bengaluru, will be unveiled soon at the premises of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), Bengaluru.

Who was Nadaprabhu Kempegowda?

- Bengaluru is said to have been founded in the sixteenth century by Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, a commander of the Vijayanagara empire.

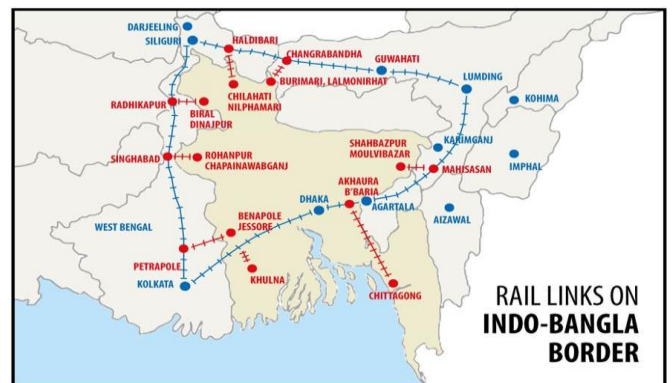
- It is reported that he had the idea for a new city while out hunting with his minister. He then designated the territory of the new city by building towers in each of its four corners.
- Around 1,000 lakes were built in the city by Kempegowda to meet agricultural and drinking demands.
- He was from south Karnataka's predominately agrarian Vokkaliga community.

Political motives behind

- The second-most powerful Vokkaliga community in Karnataka, behind the Lingayats, reveres Kempegowda as a legendary person.
- By honouring Kempegowda, political parties hope to win over the Vokkaliga community.

International Relations

India Bangladesh Relations



Two years after they were stopped due to the onset of the pandemic, passenger train services between India and Bangladesh resumed with the Bandhan Express setting off from Kolkata for Khulna and the Maitree Express starting its run from Dhaka for Kolkata.

History of Rail Connectivity

- By reactivating a long-forgotten train connection between Kolkata and Khulna, Bangladesh's third-largest city and an industrial centre, the Bandhan Express was once again running.
- The Barisal Express used to travel this route in 1965, however it was discontinued because of the India-Pakistan war.
- In 2017, the Bandhan holiday was revived by the Sheikh Hasina administration and the Modi government.
- After the Maitree Express was introduced between Kolkata and Dhaka Cantonment in April 2008, the Bandhan Express was the second train to be flagged off.
- In order to meet the needs of citizens from both nations, it travels the distance between Kolkata and Khulna via the Petrapole and Benapole border routes.
- By reactivating a long-forgotten train connection between Kolkata and the industrial city of Khulna, the Bandhan Express was restarted in 2017.

Beyond passenger travel

- Along with using passenger trains, the governments of the two nations have been trying to improve the rail connection.
- The two sides resumed normal freight train service between the recently rebuilt link between Haldibari in India and Chilahati in Bangladesh in August 2021.

- The Haldibari-Chilahati rail link between India and the former East Pakistan was also in use until 1965 until it was terminated as a result of the conflict.
- At the time of Partition, this was a section of the broad gauge main line running from Kolkata to Siliguri.
- On this route, the two sides plan for at least 20 freight trains to cross the border each month.

Rail infrastructure

- Trains continued to travel between the two nations after the Partition since they were formerly a part of a unified, seamless railway network when under British control.
- Therefore, the necessary infrastructure for a railway connection between the two sides was mostly in place.
- Policymakers on both sides saw this as a chance to strengthen diplomatic ties by utilising cross-border passenger and cargo flows.
- Five train connections between India and Bangladesh have so far been restarted:

Petrapole (India)-Benapole (Bangladesh), Gede (India)-Darshana (Bangladesh), Singhabad (India)-Rohanpur (Bangladesh), Radhikapur (India)-Biorol (Bangladesh) and the Haldibari-Chilahati link

What are Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs)?



The CBI is in the process of sending requests to several countries seeking information under the MLATs about those involved in the online sexual abuse of minors and circulation of child pornographic material on social media platforms.

What are MLATs?

- The MLATs in criminal proceedings are bilateral agreements made between nations to provide international aid and collaboration.
- These agreements permit the signatory nations to exchange information and proof in criminal and related cases.

Benefits of Treaty

- Through collaboration and reciprocal legal support, it increases the effectiveness of member nations in the investigation and prosecution of crime.
- It will offer a comprehensive legal framework for locating, stopping, and seizing the assets used to fund terrorist activities as well as the proceeds and tools of crime.
- It will be crucial to getting better information and insights into how terrorists and organised criminals operate.
- These in turn can be utilised to improve internal security policy selections.

Enforcing MLATs in India

- The central authority for requesting and giving mutual legal help in criminal law proceedings is the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- When such requests are forwarded through diplomatic channels by these Ministries, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) may be involved in the process.

- According to Section 105 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), the Center must make reciprocal agreements with foreign governments.

China to host BRICS Virtual Summit



Chinese President Xi Jinping will host a virtual summit of the leaders of the BRICS countries. PM Modi is expected to join.

Why in news?

- China is eager for the organisation to consider growth and adding new members from emerging nations.
- Leaders of invited emerging nations are anticipated to attend the upcoming summit under the "BRICS Plus" format.

What is BRICS?

- The world's top five emerging economies—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—together referred to as BRICS.

- Every year, the BRICS Leaders' Summit takes place. It is an annual meeting of the five supreme presidents of different countries, not an organisation.

Its inception

- The word "BRIC" was first used to refer to the four rising economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China on November 30, 2001 by Jim O'Neill, a British economist who was then the chairman of Goldman Sachs Asset Management.
- On the basis of econometric projections that the four economies would collectively and individually occupy a significantly greater economic space and rank among the greatest economies in the world during the next 50 years or so, he argued in favour of BRIC.

How it has formed?

- The alliance was formally established at the inaugural BRIC Foreign Ministers conference,

which took place in September 2006 in New York on the sidelines of the UNGA.

- In 2009, the Russian Federation hosted the inaugural BRIC Summit, which had as its main topic the reform of the world financial system.

Who are the members?

- In December 2010, South Africa received an invitation to join BRIC, which led to the name BRICS being used for the group. After that, in March 2011, South Africa went to the Third BRICS Summit in Sanya, China.
- According to the alphabet B-R-I-C-S, the forum chairmanship is cycled among the members each year.
- The significance of the BRICS is clear given that they account for 40% of the world's population, 30% of its land area, 24% of its GDP, and 16% of its commerce.
- The G-20 includes the five BRICS nations.

Polity

E-Vidhan System for Paperless Legislation



A delegation of MLAs from Gujarat visited the UP Legislative Assembly to learn about the novel e-Vidhan system for paperless proceedings that has been recently adopted by the UP state assembly.

E-Vidhan System

- The National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) is a platform for digitising the Parliament and all Indian state legislatures on a national level.
- It has a mobile app and a website.
- The portal will have access to the house proceedings, questions and replies with stars and without stars, committee reports, etc.
- In March of this year, Nagaland became the first state to deploy NeVA.

Significance of NeVA

- The government has recently shifted its focus toward digitization.
- NeVA aspires to reduce paper from daily operations and streamline information pertaining to multiple state assemblies.
- In November 2021, PM Modi made reference to the concept of "One Nation, One Legislative Platform."
- Our parliamentary system receives the required technological boost from a digital platform, which also unites all of the democratic institutions in the nation.

Has this been done elsewhere?

- In 2014, the Legislative Assembly of Himachal Pradesh put NeVA's pilot project into practise, replacing paper on the MLAs' desks with touch-screen computers.
- Governments around the world are moving toward accepting the digital mode, even though neither of the Houses of Parliament have fully embraced it yet.
- The Dubai government went completely paperless in December of last year, making it the first government in history to do so.
- It declared that all processes had been fully digitalized.
- According to a government statement, this will save 14 million man hours and USD 350 million in expenses.

What are the challenges?

- Particularly for lawmakers representing remote communities, access to gadgets, dependable internet, and electricity was a problem.
- Some more recent challenges on the path to digitalization include a lack of training and growing security concerns.

Back in news: Article 142 of the Constitution



The Supreme Court has crafted a victory for a disabled student by using its special powers under Article 142 to declare the successful completion of her Master of Designs course from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

What is Article 142?

Article 142 titled 'Enforcement of decrees and orders of the Supreme Court and orders as to discovery, etc.' has two clauses:

[1] Article 142(1)

- In the course of exercising its authority, the Supreme Court may issue any judgement or order that is required to provide full justice in any case or subject that is before it.
- Any rule or decree enacted in this manner is valid over the entirety of India.
- It may be done in accordance with any rules established by a legislation passed by Parliament, or, in the absence of such rules, according to any guidelines the President may by order provide.

[2] Article 142(2)

- The Supreme Court shall have all and every power to make any order for the purpose of securing the attendance of any person, the discovery or production of any documents, or the investigation or punishment of any contempt of itself.

Important instances when Article 142 was invoked

- The SC decided that "prohibitions or limitations or provisions contained in ordinary legislation cannot, ipso facto, function as prohibitions or limitations on the constitutional powers under Article 142" and awarded the victims of the Bhopal Gas tragedy \$470 million in compensation.
- The Supreme Court mandated that the Center draught a plan for the creation of a trust to erect

Ram Mandir at the Babri Masjid demolition site in Ayodhya.

- Liquor sale ban case: In order to prevent drunk driving, the Supreme Court forbade liquor stores from being within 500 metres of both national and state highways.
- Ex-PM Assassin case: In the Perarivalan case, the Supreme Court cited Article 142(1), which gave it the authority to issue any orders necessary to fully uphold the law in any case that came before it.

Science, Technology, Art & Culture

Astra MK-I Air-to-Air Missile: Features, strategic significance



The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) for the supply of the Astra Mark-1 for deployment on fighter jets of the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy.

Astra Missile

- A beyond visible range (BVR) air-to-air missile is the Astra Mk-1 (AAM).
- Early in the new millennium, the Astra project was formally introduced, with criteria set and potential future iterations suggested.
- Defense Research and Development Organization created and developed the missile (DRDO).
- It will be used on fighter aircraft like the Mig-29K of the Navy and the Sukhoi-30 MKI and Tejas of the IAF.
- Beyond a distance of 20 nautical miles or 37 kilometres, BVM missiles can engage.

Range and its Variants

- While the Astra Mk-1 has a range of approximately 110 km, the Mk-2 has a range of

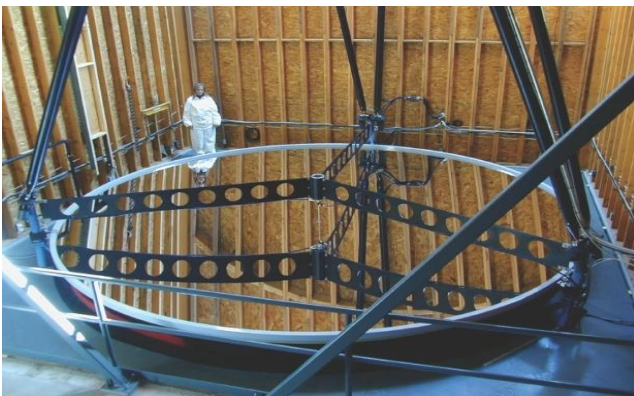
over 150 km and the Mk-3 version is planned to have a larger range.

- Astra is also being developed in a second iteration with a range that is shorter than the Mk-1.

Strategic significance

- The missile was created using specifications provided by the IAF for both close-combat engagement and BVR, decreasing reliance on outside resources.
- Large stand-off ranges are provided to owning fighter aircraft by AAMs with BVR capabilities.
- It can disable enemy airborne assets without disclosing enemy air defences.
- Stand-off range refers to the distance at which the missile is launched, allowing the attacking side to elude the target's defending fire.
- Astra is more advanced than many such imported missiles in terms of technology and economy.
- The missile is incredibly adaptable for air combat because it can fly at speeds greater than four times the speed of sound and reach a maximum altitude of 20 kilometres.

International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT)



The four-meter International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) saw the first light recently, gazing out from its vantage on Devasthal, a hill in Uttarakhand.

What is the ILMT?

- An international team of scientists from Canada, Belgium, and India worked together to build the telescope.
- On the Devasthal Observatory site of the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), in the Nainital district, it is situated at a height of 2,450 metres.
- The rapid rotation of a big pool of mercury in a vessel causes it to curve into a parabolic form. This form aids in concentrating the reflected light because mercury is reflective.
- A paraboloid mirror with a diameter of about 4 metres and a thickness of only 4 mm is created by vigorously spinning nearly 50 litres of mercury, which weighs around 700 kilogrammes.
- The mercury is covered in a thin layer of mylar to keep the wind out.
- The telescope will gather gigabytes of data once it begins making observations, which will need to be analysed using artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI and ML) capabilities.

It's utility

- The telescope will enable sky surveys and produce photos that may be used to study fleeting occurrences.
- In other words, keeping an eye on the skies will aid in the analysis of phenomena like supernovae and the recording of the presence of space debris or meteorites.

What is the first image?

- Several stars and the 45 million light-year-distance galaxy NGC 4274 were visible in the telescope's first photograph.
- The liquid primary mirror of the telescope prevents it from being turned or oriented in any other direction.
- As the earth revolves, it "stares" at the zenith and scans the sky, providing a view of many things.
- This characteristic can be used to scan and survey the sky, as well as to watch for meteorites and other transients and moving objects.
- It will cooperate with the 3.6-meter Devasthal Optical Telescope already in place.

- Multimedia content can also be transmitted directly to phones via D2M.

Benefits of D2M

- It allows broadcasting video and other forms of multimedia content directly to mobile phones, without needing an active internet connection.
- It promises to improve consumption of broadband and utilisation of spectrum.

Why need D2M?

- The system is designed with the possibility of direct broadcasting of information geared toward citizens in mind.
- Along with other things, it can be used to combat fake news, send out emergency notifications, and aid in disaster management.
- In addition, it can be used to stream live sports, news, and other content to mobile devices.
- Furthermore, no internet bandwidth should be used while the content streams without any buffering at all.

What is D2M Technology?



The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and India's public service broadcaster Prasar Bharati are exploring 'direct-to-mobile' (D2M) broadcasting.

What is D2M Technology?

- The technology, which enables mobile phones to receive terrestrial digital TV, is based on the convergence of broadband and broadcast.
- It would function similarly to how FM radio is heard on mobile phones, where a receiver can pick up radio frequencies.

What could be the consumer and business impact of this?

- A solution like this would enable users to access multimedia content from platforms that offer Video on Demand (VoD) or Over The Top (OTT) services.
- They will be able to do this at a low cost and, more significantly, without using up all of their mobile data.
- The technology will also make it possible for residents of rural areas with little or no access to the internet to watch videos.
- The ability of telecom service providers to transfer video traffic from their mobile network

onto the broadcast network is one of the technology's major advantages for enterprises.

- Thus, it aids in clearing valuable mobile spectrum.
- Additionally, by improving mobile spectrum usage and freeing up bandwidth, these actions will assist to decrease call dropouts, boost data speeds, and other things.

What is the government doing to facilitate D2M technology?

- To investigate the viability of a spectrum band for providing broadcast services directly to users' cellphones, the DoT established a committee.
- It is planned for the band 526-582 MHz to cooperate with broadcast and mobile services.
- A committee has been formed by DoT to investigate this band.
- The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting now uses this frequency for TV transmitters all around the nation.

What are the possible challenges to the technology's rollout?

- The main obstacle to widely implementing D2M technology will be gaining the support of important stakeholders like cell operators.
- Infrastructure modifications and certain legislative adjustments will be necessary for the technology to be rolled out widely.

What are eVTOL Aircrafts?

THE HINDU

What are electric aircraft?

The Union Aviation Minister while speaking at the seventh edition of the India Ideas Conclave in Bengaluru, stated that India is in 'conversation' with a number of eVTOL producers. But how are Electric Vertical Take off and Landing aircraft structured? And what are they capable of ?

Vertical Aerospace VA-X4
*Electric Vertical Take Off and Landing

Propulsion: Eight Rolls-Royce electric motors

Luggage hold

V-tail with rudders

Pilot and four passengers

Rear vertical rotors

Front rotors

Take-off and landing: Rear vertical rotors fan out, front propellers orientate vertically

Stowed

Open

Flight: Rear rotors fold into *stowed* position. Undercarriage withdraws. Front propellers tilt for forward motion

Cruise speed:	241km/h
Range:	161km
Payload:	450 kg
Wing span:	15m
Length	13m
Height:	4m

Sources: Vertical Aerospace, Future Flight, Business Wire Picture: Vertical © GRAPHIC NEWS

The Union Civil Aviation Ministry is exploring the possibility of inviting manufacturers of Electric Vertical Take-off and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft to set up base in India.

What is eVTOL?

- Electric propulsion is used by EVTOL aircraft to hover, take off, and land vertically.
- The majority of eVTOLs also employ distributed electric propulsion technology, which entails fusing a sophisticated propulsion system to the airframe.

- Numerous motors are present to perform a variety of tasks more effectively and safely.
- Based on advancements in motor, battery, fuel cell, and electronic controller technologies, it uses electric propulsion.
- The demand for innovative automobile technology that guarantees urban air mobility also fuels it (UAM).

Features of eVTOL

- For the demands of transportation around the world, eVTOL is emerging as a technological option independent of runways.
- To make the idea of UAM come to life, at least 250 eVTOL ideas are being perfected.
- Multi-rotor, fixed-wing, and tilt-wing designs, supported by sensors, cameras, and even radar, are some of them.
- The word "autonomous connectivity" is crucial here. Several of these are now undergoing testing.
- EVTOLs have been compared as "the third wave of an aerial revolution," the first two waves being the development of commercial aviation and helicopter technology, respectively.

What are the developments in powering eVTOLs?

- The capabilities of onboard electric power and battery technology determine the functions that eVTOLs can play.
- Power is needed during the critical flying phases, including takeoff, landing, and flight (especially in high wind conditions).
- There is a "Diamond Nuclear Voltaic (DNV) technology" that makes self-charging batteries out of tiny amounts of radioactive carbon-14 waste encapsulated in stacked industrial diamonds.

- Depending on the flight mission, several industry experts are looking at hybrid technologies like hydrogen cells and batteries instead of solely using batteries.

What are the challenges?

- The areas of focus include "crash avoidance systems" because the technology at this point consists of both manned and unpiloted aircraft.
- Other concerns include assuring safety in the event of rotor or power plant failure.
- Another area of focus is the defence of aircraft from cyberattacks.
- The use of technology when operating in challenging terrain, hazardous operational settings, and inclement weather is a third area.

Chinese astronauts enter Tiangong Space Station



Three Chinese astronauts floated into the country's new Tiangong space station for a three-month mission.

Tiangong Space Station

- Tiangong is short for "Heavenly Palace."
- It measured 10.4 metres in length, 3.35 metres in width, and 8.6 metric tonnes at its widest point.

- In late 2016, it hosted two Chinese astronauts for 30 days, making it China's longest manned space mission to date. It was launched on September 15, 2016, and the mission lasted 30 days.
- The Tiangong-1, China's first space station, plummeted into the southern Pacific Ocean on April 1, 2018, after Chinese scientists lost control of the craft. The recently decommissioned space lab followed Tiangong-1.
- Tiangong-1 was launched by China in 2011 as a technology demonstration for upcoming stations.
- By the end of 2022, the Tiangong will be completely operational.

Features of this Space Station

- The two robotic arms of Tiangong are a noteworthy feature.
- Prior to now, the US had expressed concern about its capacity to snag satellites and other items from space.
- Previously, the 10-meter-long arm was shown successfully seizing and manoeuvring a 20-ton Tianzhou-2 cargo ship during a test.
- The Shenzhou-14 crew's notable job is to test and operate the huge and tiny
- The little arm is very flexible and capable of more precise operations.

Ancient sculptures recovered from Australia, US

Ten antiquities (sculptures) retrieved from Australia and the United States were handed over to the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Some of the returned antiquities, and how they had gone missing:

(1) Dvarapala:

- This stone sculpture, which was retrieved from Australia in 2020 and dates to the Vijayanagar dynasty's reign during the 15th and 16th centuries,
- He has one leg raised to the level of his knee while clutching a gada in the other.
- In 1994, the sculpture was stolen from Tirunelveli's Moondreeswaramudayar Temple.

(2) Nataraja:



- This image of Nataraja, a representation of Shiva in his divine cosmic dancing form, was retrieved in 2021 from the US. He is seated on a lotus pedestal and is in the tribhanga pose.
- It is from the 11th or 12th century. Perhaps the Dance of Bliss, or ananda tandava, is depicted here.
- 2018 saw the theft of the sculpture from Punnainallur Arulmigu Mariyamman Temple in Thanjavur.

(3) Kankalamurti:



- Kankalamurti is portrayed as a terrifying element of Lord Shiva and Bhairava in the 2021 retrieval from the US.
- The sculpture has four arms and is carrying damaru, trishula, and other ayudhas in the upper hands while holding a bowl and a toy for the deer in the lower right hand.
- The idol, which dates to the 12th or 13th century, was taken from Tirunelveli's Narasinganadhar Swamy Temple in 1985.

(4) Nandikeshvara:



- This bronze representation of Nandikeshvara, which was returned from the US in 2021, dates to the 13th century.
- The figure is depicted with his arms folded in the tribhanga position, an axe and a fawn held in the upper arms, and his forearms in the namaskara mudra.
- In 1985, this sculpture was taken from Tirunelveli's Narasinganadhar Swamy Temple.

(5) Four-armed Vishnu:



- Retrieved in 2021 from the US, originating from the later Chola era, and dating to the 11th century.
- In the sculpture, Lord Vishnu is depicted standing on a padma pedestal and holding the chakra and Shankha in two of his hands, with his lower right hand in the abhaya mudra.
- In 2008, it was taken from the Arulmigu Varadharaja Perumal Temple in Ariyalur.

(6) Goddess Parvati:



- The picture, which was retrieved in 2021 from the US, shows an 11th-century Chola sculpture.
- Her left hand is seen grasping a lotus while her right hand is dangling down next to her kati.
- In 2008, the Arulmigu Varadharaja Perumal Temple in Ariyalur also had this sculpture stolen.

(7) Standing child Sambandar:



- Retrieved in Australia in 2022. One of the Muvar, the three main saints of South India, is Sambandar, a well-known child saint from the seventh century.

- The sculpture originates from the eleventh century.
- The baby Sambandar allegedly dedicated his life to writing poems in favour of Lord Shiva after receiving a bowl of milk from Goddess Uma.
- The saint is depicted as having a childish character while simultaneously possessing the wisdom and leadership of a spiritual leader.
- Between 1965 and 1975, it was taken from Nagapattinam's Sayavaneeswarar Temple.

Dostarlimab: The New Wonder Cancer Drug

A trial on 18 colorectal cancer patients in the US found that cancer could be treated without chemotherapy or surgery. The world is sitting up and taking note of Dostarlimab, which has been called a wonder drug.

What is Dostarlimab?

- Dostarlimab is an unproven medication. It includes compounds created in a lab.
- It serves in place of antibodies. It is offered under the Jemperli brand name.
- In 2021, both the European Union and the United States approved it for medicinal use.
- Vomiting, joint discomfort, itching, rash, fever, and other side effects are among them.

What are the findings?

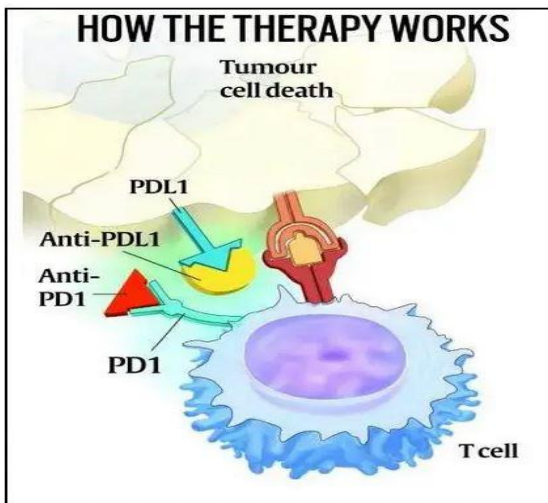
- The research demonstrated that immunotherapy was effective on its own, without the need of traditional cancer treatments like chemotherapy, radiotherapy, or surgery.
- Patients with a specific type of rectal cancer known as "mismatch repair deficient cancer" could be totally cured.

- All 12 patients had finished their treatment and were thereafter monitored for the following six to 25 months.
- During the follow-up, no cases of progression or recurrence had been reported.
- The response was very quick, with 81 percent of patients experiencing symptom relief nine weeks after beginning the medication.

Is Dostarlimab actually very effective?

- Dostarlimab is a combination of medications that have already been licenced for use in immunotherapy; it is not a brand-new drug.
- Dostarlimab might help rectal cancer patients have a better prognosis and survival rate, but to describe it as a wonder medicine for curing cancer is entirely exaggerated.

How does this drug cure?



- A protein called PD1 controls immune response and can occasionally prevent T cells from eliminating cancerous cells.
- PD1 blockades were utilised in the trial's treatment to enable T lymphocytes to attack cancer cells.

- The colorectal, gastrointestinal, and endometrial malignancies are the most frequently diagnosed with "mismatch repair deficient" malignancy.
- Patients with this disorder lack the genes necessary to fix mistakes in the DNA that naturally occur when cells replicate.
- PD1 blockades, which include immunotherapy, are now preferred over chemotherapy and radiotherapy for the treatment of such malignancies.

Will Indian patients get access to the drug?

- Currently, it appears that Indian physicians are often hesitant to recommend Dostarlimab to their patients.
- The results of a current experiment, in which a group of rectal cancer patients exhibited no symptoms of a tumour after taking the medicine for six months, have been characterised as positive by experts.
- Nobody who took part in the study reported any serious negative effects.
- However, doctors claim they want to gauge how long the response lasts.

What do we know about the clinical trial?

- All of the patients had cancer, which was successfully treated and was not visible on physical examination, endoscopy, positron emission tomography, or magnetic resonance imaging.
- Therefore, the idea that cancer can be cured without chemotherapy or surgery is prevalent.

Is it too early to celebrate?

- The future of precision medicine is already beginning to emerge, according to cancer

doctors, but they still need to test more individuals with more diverse cancers.

- A specific form of cancer was treated with the medicine combination on a small number of patients.

- In the universe, spherical, compact objects known as pulsars are about the size of a large city but have more mass than the sun. They are more massive than the sun.
- Although they frequently resemble blinking stars, they are not stars.

What are Fast Radio Bursts (FRB)?

How Fast Radio Bursts Work

Fast radio bursts are brief, energetic blips of radio waves that originate far across the universe. At least one repeats, which has added to the challenge of explaining what might be creating them. A new model accounts for past observations and predicts specific features that should be seen going forward.

- 1 A magnetar releases a flare of electrons and other charged particles.
- 2 The flare collides with the remnants from an old flare, creating huge magnetic fields.
- 3 In the ensuing shock, gyrating electrons generate energetic radio waves. As the shock slows, the radio signal downshifts to lower frequencies.

Why in news?

- The newly published paper in Nature discusses the 2019 discovery of FRB 20190520B.
- It differs from many other FRBs in that it emits radio waves in regular, recurring bursts.
- Additionally, it continuously produces weaker radio waves in between bursts.
- FRB 190520B is connected to a dwarf host galaxy with a high specific star formation rate and co-located with a compact, persistent radio emission.

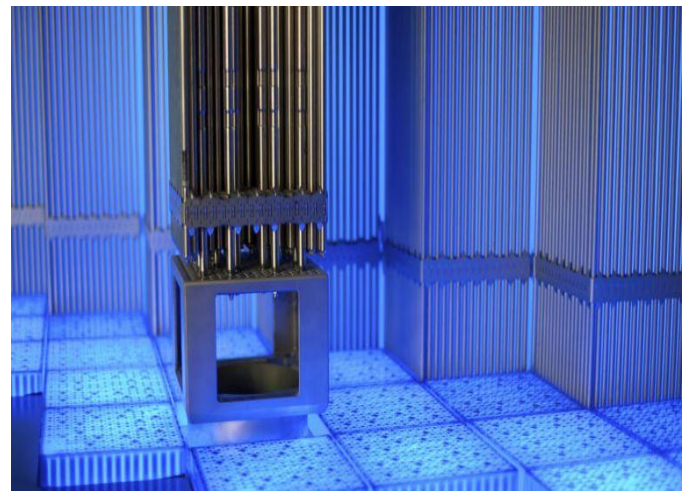
In a paper published in Nature, astronomers have reported a fast radio burst (FRB) whose characteristics are different from almost all other FRBs previously detected.

Such news makes us think about alien and extraterrestrial life at the first. Do not get carried away with such thoughts. Its simply a space based phenomena.

Fast Radio Burst (FRB)

- FRBs are very powerful, millisecond-long radio wave bursts that originate from unknown origins in the far reaches of space.
- When researchers sifted through old pulsar data in 2007, they made their initial discovery.

What is TVS-2M Nuclear Fuel?



Russia has supplied the first batches of more reliable and cost-efficient nuclear fuel over the existing one, the TVS-2M nuclear fuel, to India for the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP).

What is TVS-2M Nuclear Fuel?

- The TVS-2M FAs contain gadolinium-oxide which is mixed with U-235 enrichments.
- The core does not contain BARs (Burnable Absorbers Rods).

How are they prepared?

- Uranium may be transformed into nuclear fuel after enrichment.
- In order to create uranium dioxide (UO₂) powder, the solid form of UF₆ is heated until it turns into a gas at a nuclear fuel fabrication facility.
- Following compression, the powder is converted into tiny ceramic fuel pellets.
- To create fuel rods, the pellets are piled and sealed inside of long metal tubes with a diameter of roughly one centimetre.
- The fuel assembly is created by bundling the fuel rods together.
- 179 to 264 fuel rods are contained in each fuel assembly, depending on the kind of reactor.
- There are typically 121 to 193 fuel components inside a reactor core.

Benefits offered

- The benefits of TVS-2M gasoline assemblies make them more reliable and economical.
- One TVS-2M assembly has 7.6 percent more fuel material than a UTVS assembly, indicating that the new fuel has a higher uranium capacity.
- ADF-2, a new generation anti-debris filter, is another unique feature of Kudankulam fuel, safeguarding fuel assemblies effectively.
- The reactor will begin operating with an 18-month fuel cycle after the new TVS-2 M fuel is used in the following refuelling.

- It implies that the reactor will now need to be shut down every 18 months rather than every 12 months for the removal of used fuel, insertion of new fuel bundles, and related maintenance.

What is Web 5.0?

Former Twitter CEO recently announced his vision for a new decentralized web platform that is being called Web 5.0 and is being built with an aim to return "ownership of data and identity to individuals".

Various versions of Web

- The earliest iteration of the global network for digital communications was known as Web 1.0. It is frequently referred to as the "read-only" Internet since it consisted of static web pages and only permitted passive interaction.
- The "read and write" Internet was Web 2.0. Because users could now communicate with servers and other users, the social web was born. The World Wide Web that we use today is like this.
- The term "Web 3.0" is in use to describe the next iteration of the Internet, which is a "read-write-execute" web with decentralisation at its core. It makes use of blockchain technology and will be powered by AI and machine learning.
- Web 4.0 is an alternative to what we now have, not exactly a new version. Web had to change to fit its mobile environment. Real-time connections between physical and digital devices are made possible by Web 4.0.

What is Web 5.0?

- The goal of Online 5.0 is to create a more decentralised web that gives you control over your data and identity.

- Web 5.0, which would enable users to "own their identity" and "manage their data," is essentially Web 2.0 plus Web 3.0.
- Web 3.0 and Web 5.0 both foresee an Internet free from the threat of government or big tech censorship and without concern for lengthy disruptions.

What are the use cases for Web 5.0?

- Identification management: A digital wallet that securely controls user identity, data, and permissions for connections to and use of external apps.
- Ownership of personal data: Let's say we give any music app access to our settings and preferences so it can carry over our customised music experience to other music applications.

What is Black Death?



In a study published in the Science journal, researchers have claimed that the bubonic plague was originated in modern day northern Kyrgyzstan around 1338-1339 – nearly 7-8 years before it ravaged large parts of the world.

What is Black Death?

- The bubonic plague that swept through Western Asia, Northern Africa, the Middle East, and Europe in 1346–1353 is referred to as the "Black Death."
- The majority of academics concur that the Black Death, which claimed millions of lives, was brought on by the bacteria *Yersinia pestis* and disseminated by fleas carried by rodent hosts.
- The *Y. pestis* germ propagated to human populations, who eventually passed it on to others either directly through the respiratory system or by the vector of a human flea.

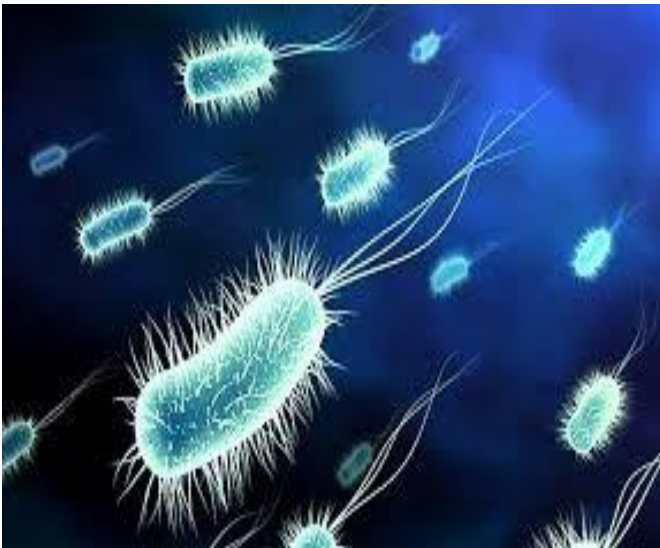
Why this plague was called the Black Death?

- According to popular belief, the Black Death's name derives from the black markings that some of the victims' bodies exhibited after contracting the disease.
- Due to the demographic damage it wreaked, the outbreak was known as the "great pestilence" or "great death" in the 14th century.
- The huge number of deaths caused by the epidemic gave the globe black a dark, depressing emotional tone.

Why is the new discovery significant?

- It has been disputed for centuries where the epidemic originated geographically.
- Some historians argue that Italian traders who first arrived in Europe through Crimea in trading caravans were responsible for spreading the disease throughout the continent from its origins in China.
- According to another legend, the Mongol army threw plague-infested bodies into the city while it was under siege in Caffa (Crimea), which contributed to the disease's spread.

Typhi: A more drug-resistant Typhoid



The bacteria causing typhoid fever is becoming increasingly resistant to some of the most important antibiotics for human health.

What is the news?

- The largest genomic analysis of Salmonella Typhi (S. Typhi) also reveals that resistant strains have moved to neighbouring nations about 200 times since 1990, practically all of them coming from South Asia.
- Typhoid fever, which results in over 100,000 deaths annually and 11 million infections, is a major public health concern worldwide, according to the experts.
- Typhoid fever infections can be successfully treated with antibiotics, but the advent of resistant S. Typhi strains poses a threat to their efficacy.

What is Salmonella Typhi?

- Blood and the gastrointestinal tract are both infected by Salmonella Typhi (S. Typhi) bacteria.
- Typically, contaminated food or water is how it is disseminated.
- S. Typhi bacteria proliferate and spread throughout the bloodstream after being consumed or ingested.
- Typhoid fever is the name of the illness. S. Paratyphi bacteria cause a related but less severe sickness with the same name.
- In general, the duration of paratyphoid is less than that of typhoid.
- Typhi and S. Paratyphi are widespread in impoverished nations with inadequate sewage and water treatment infrastructure.

How does it spread?

- Only humans are home to Salmonella Typhi.
- Typhoid fever patients have the germs in their blood and intestines.
- Long-lasting high fever, exhaustion, headaches, nausea, abdominal pain, and constipation or diarrhoea are other symptoms.
- There may be a rash on certain people. Serious complications or even death could result from severe cases.
- Blood tests can be used to determine if someone has typhoid fever.

Security Issues

Next-Generation Corvettes for Indian Navy



The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has given the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the procurement of next-generation Corvettes for the Indian Navy at an approximate cost of Rs 36,000 crore.

What is a Corvette?

- The smallest class of naval vessels, the corvette, is below the warship class of the frigate.
- These extremely manoeuvrable ships fall into the categories of swift attack naval vessels, anti-submarine ships, coastal patrol boats, and missile boats.
- The word corvette itself has French and Dutch ancestry.
- Corvette was the name given to ships that were utilised in anti-submarine warfare during World War II.

- Modern Corvettes can carry up to 2,000 tonnes, which keeps them manoeuvrable.

What kind of Corvettes does the Indian Navy possess?

- The Project 28-class Kamorta corvettes are currently in service with the Indian Navy.
- These ships are made in Kolkata by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers and serve as anti-submarine vessels.
- The Indian Navy's four Kamorta Class Corvettes are known as INS Kamorta, INS Kadmatt, INS Kiltan, and INS Kavaratti.
- The first of them was started in 2014, and the final one will be finished in 2020.

What new capabilities will the new generation Corvettes have?

- The next-generation Corvettes will be built for a variety of purposes, including coastal defence, escort operations, deterrence, surface action group operations, and surveillance missions.
- It is important to note that these functions will be in addition to the anti-submarine tasks presently carried out by the Navy's current Corvettes.
- The Indian Navy will build corvettes based on a new internal design using the most recent shipbuilding technologies.
- They would help advance the government's aim to promote regional security and economic growth (SAGAR).

Prithvi-II Missile successfully test-fired



Successfully test-fire of indigenously developed, nuclear-capable Prithvi-II Missile was recently held.

Prithvi-II Missile

- The 350 km attack range of the Prithvi-II surface-to-surface missile is impressive.
- It is propelled by dual liquid-propulsion engines and has a warhead carrying capacity of 500–1,000 kilogrammes.
- In 2003, it was added to the arsenal of the Indian armed forces.
- It is a single-stage, liquid-fueled missile that is nine metres tall.
- Modern missile uses manoeuvrable trajectory and sophisticated inertial guiding system to hit target.

- The Integrated Guided Missile Development Program's first missile created by the DRDO is this one (IGMDP).

Other variants of Prithvi

- For use by the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and Indian Navy, three variants of the Prithvi missile were developed.
- The Integrated Guided Missile Development Program's basic project framework describes the variants in the following way:
 1. **Prithvi I (SS-150)** – Army version, 150 km range with a payload of 1,000 kg
 2. **Prithvi II (SS-250)** – Air Force version, 350 km range with a payload of 500 kg
 3. **Prithvi III (SS-350)** – Naval version, 350 km range with a payload of 1,000 kg

Significance of the test-fire

- It was created as a battlefield missile, but it can also serve as a tactical nuclear weapon by being able to carry a nuclear warhead.
- In recent weeks, a nuclear-capable, highly manoeuvrable missile has conducted two similar test fires.

Trivia

Festivals in news: Mela Kheerbhawani



Kashmiri Hindus, locally known as Pandits, will celebrate the Zyestha Ashtami at the Mata Kheerbhawani temple at Tulumulla in central Kashmir's Ganderbal.

Kheerbhawani Temple

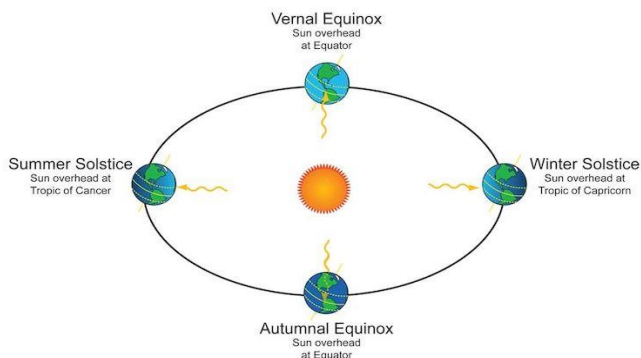
- Ragnya Devi is the goddess honoured in the temple.

- After the yearly Amarnath Yatra, the event known as Mela Kheerbhawani hosts the largest gathering of Hindus in Kashmir.
- It is one of the most revered Hindu pilgrimage destinations in Kashmir and is located 30 miles from the city of Srinagar.
- The milk and rice pudding that pilgrims pour into the spring inside the temple complex as a sacrifice to the goddess gave the temple its name.
- Additionally, hundreds of local Muslims typically take part in the festivities.

Legend of the festival

- According to legend, the spring water in the temple changes colour from white to red and black.
- It is believed that the colour of the water can foretell the future.
- If it becomes dark, it is interpreted as unlucky or as a sign of approaching doom.
- According to Kashmiri Pandits, the water had already turned black when they were compelled to leave Kashmir in the wake of the 1990 unrest.

Summer Solstice 2022: What is it and how is it significant?



Yesterday, June 21 was the day of the summer solstice in the northern hemisphere.

What is Summer Solstice?

- Latin for solstice is "sun stays still."
- For anyone who live north of the equator, June 21 will be the longest day in 2021.
- A bigger amount of energy from the sun is experienced on this day.
- Technically speaking, this day—the longest day of the summer season—is known as the summer solstice.
- It happens when the sun is directly over the Tropic of Cancer, or more specifically, when it is directly over the latitude of 23.5 degrees north.

The Southern Hemisphere receives most sunlight on December 21, 22 or 23 when the northern hemisphere has its longest nights— or the winter solstice.

Why do we have summer solstice?

- The Northern Hemisphere receives more direct sunshine each day between March and September because Earth revolves on its axis.
- This also signifies that this is the summer season for residents of the Northern Hemisphere.
- The Southern Hemisphere receives more sunlight during the rest of the year.
- The Earth's axis, around which the planet rotates once every day, is tilted during the solstice such that the North Pole faces the sun and the South Pole faces away from it.

Some interesting facts

- The north pole is tilted more directly toward the sun at the June solstice compared to any other time of the year, and the south pole is tilted more directly away from the sun.

- As a result, days are longer than 12 hours in all regions north of the equator and shorter than 12 hours in all locations south.
- On the summer solstice, the sun's journey across the sky is curved, NOT straight.
- The summer solstice rotates between June 20, 21, and 22 based on Earth's current orbit and is not fixed because it is determined by the mechanics of our solar system and not by human calendar.

- He had baptised Jesus Christ in the Jordan River by John the Baptist.
- The villages of Harmal, Baga, Siolim, and Terekhol in North Goa, as well as Cortalim in South Goa, are known for their exuberant Sao Joao celebrations.
- The private Sao Joao parties and pool parties that have taken place in Goa throughout the years, however, have become a "full bundle of laughter and joy" for tourists.

Festival in news: Sao Joao Festival



As in every monsoon, Catholics in Goa will celebrate Sao Joao, the feast of St John the Baptist.

Note: The name typically sounds like a North-Eastern festival, but it is not.

What is Sao Joao and where is it celebrated in Goa?

- All Roman Catholic Church holidays are observed in Goa, including the feast of St. John the Baptist on June 24.

Course of celebration

- The main attraction of the feast is the water bodies - wells, ponds, fountains, rivers - in which the celebrants "jump of joy," including wearing crowns made of fruits, flowers, and leaves.
- The celebration, which is enjoyed by both kids and adults, also features boat races, feni dishes, playing the traditional gumott (percussion instrument), and a seat of honour for new sons-in-law.

What does jumping into water bodies symbolise?

- The youth of Goa relish in this occasion and pull off daring stunts by diving into overflowing wells or rivulets.
- The lads can be seen joyfully leaping into the water in remembrance of St. John's alleged leap of delight while in the womb of his mother St. Elizabeth when virgin Mary visited her.



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